

County egg hunt April 3

Harris County officials will hold their annual Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 3, at El Franco Park, 9400 Hall Road, from noon to 1 p.m.

Hosted by Precinct 1 County Commissioner Rodney Ellis; Justices of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado and George Risner; and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, this year's event will be a drive-thru function out of COVID-19 concerns.

Also donating to the giveaways that day are the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District and the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

According to organizers, 1,000 bags of candy will be distributed.

The Easter Bunny will also be in attendance. All COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place.

Post 490 hosts egg hunt

American Legion Post 490, located at 11702 Highway 3/Old Galveston Road, will host an Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Easter Bunny will also be available for photos. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be additionally available.

The event is free. Masks will be required for everyone over six years old. Organizers request attendees bring their own Easter baskets. For more information, call Lisa Bodden at 713-751-9080 or Joyce Ortega at 832-259-5501.

COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, March 31, there were 126 confirmed deaths among South Belt residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, up three from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 5,332 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 193 remain active. To date, 53 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 122 of the 3,840 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 36 from the ZIP code have died, up one from the previous week.

Of the 3,957 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 120 remain active. To date, 37 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there are 376,154 total confirmed cases. Of those, 361,030 have recovered from the disease, while 11,444 cases remain active. A total of 3,661 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County.

To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Furman to Scott Street/Fellows Road daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Saturday, April 3.

At least one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from South Post Oak to Bellfort daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sunday, April 4.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, April 4. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Gulf Freeway closures set

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528.

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

Both the northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps between IH 610 South Loop and Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

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

Sagmont Civic meets April 6

The Sagmont Civic Club and Maintenance Committee will meet Tuesday, April 6, at 7 p.m. at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Road.

For more information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, April 8 (second Thursday of the month).

City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, April 9 (second Friday of the month).

April is for junk waste, but tree waste will also be accepted. 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.

CBC holiday hours set

The offices of Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will be closed Friday, April 2, in observance of the Easter holiday. They will reopen Monday, April 5, at 8 a.m. For convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash is allowed in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD - Trash pickup

Clear Brook City MUD residents who have regular trash service pickup on Tuesday/Friday will have service on Good Friday, April 2.

All trash should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup date will be serviced Tuesday, April 6.

Residents with Monday/Thursday service will not be affected.

Highway 3 closure set

At least one northbound lane on SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed from El Dorado Boulevard to FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard in Webster daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, April 26.

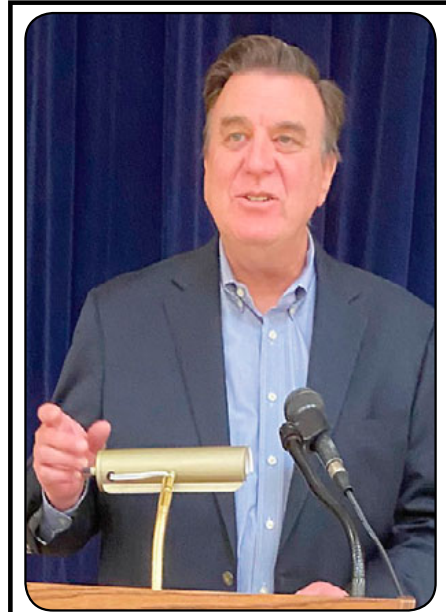
New Thompson Intermediate to break ground July 2021



Artist rendering of new Thompson Intermediate School set for groundbreaking this summer

Meeting unattended by school

More than 120 concerned residents crowded into Melillo Middle School Friday, March 26, to attend a public meeting on the future of the controversial charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision. (See related editorial, Page 2.)



State Rep. Dennis Paul hosted a community meeting regarding the charter school in Riverstone Ranch. None of the representatives from the school opted to attend in spite of being given two months of dates from which to choose so they could attend. Bob Wynne, attorney and representative for the school would not attend. Wynne claimed he had answered the community's questions although community members disagreed. Approximately 30 phone calls from the *Leader* have gone unanswered. (See related editorial, Page 2.) Photo by Marie Flickinger

In the making for months, the function was hosted by state Rep. Dennis Paul. *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger and Chelbi Mims, who serves as community engagement manager for the Texas Public Charter Schools Association also presented at the meeting.

A resident of Riverstone Ranch, Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell also attended the function, as did representatives from the subdivision's HOA.

"What are their intentions?" Paul asked at the beginning of the meeting, noting that officials from the charter school had refused to participate in the function.

Despite the widespread interest in the meeting, however, attendees left with few questions answered since representatives from the school refused to attend.

Paul said since the school is located outside the city limits, there is little that can currently be done to shut it down. Flickinger further said the Clear Brook City MUD is legally obligated to provide the campus with water and sewer.

Flickinger added, however, that a representative from the MUD personally visited the school and found contractors had covered up detected mold, rather than remediate it.

"I think they should tear it down and start over," said Flickinger.

Confounding matters, it was reported at the meeting that activity recently resumed on the half-constructed campus, which has been dormant for more than a year.

Event organizers said multiple invitations to officials from the Elite College Prep Academy were turned down. Several audience members said they had also tried to reach the charter school to no avail or had been directed to the academy's attorney, Bob Wynne.

One audience member said she was allegedly told by Wynne that at least he was getting paid for his work with the school.

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All adults now eligible for COVID shots

As of Monday, March 29, all adults in Texas are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Texas Department of State Health Services expects vaccine supplies to increase next week, and providers in multiple parts of the state have made great strides in vaccinating people in the current priority groups.

The state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccination to everyone who falls under the current Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorizations to protect as many Texans as possible.

"We are closing in on 10 million doses administered in Texas, and we want to keep up the momentum as the vaccine supply increases," said Imelda Garcia, DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services

and the chair of the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. "As eligibility opens up, we are asking providers to continue to prioritize people who are the most at risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death — such as older adults."

DSHS has directed vaccine providers to prioritize people 80 years old or older when scheduling appointments and accommodate anyone in that age group who presents for vaccination, whether or not they have an appointment, by immediately moving them to the front of the line. That will ensure vaccination of anyone 80 or older with as small a burden on themselves as possible.

Also next week, DSHS will launch a website to allow people to register for a shot through

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Sagedowne fire still being investigated

The cause of a house fire that took place early Sunday, March 14, in the 10900 block of Sagedowne near Beamer remained under investigation at press time, investigators said.

According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene at approximately 1 a.m. to find heavy wind-driven fire and smoke coming from the one-story house. They began an attack on the blaze, while HFD EMS crews assessed all of the residents for smoke inhalation.

A neighbor, one of four who heroically helped save the lives of the residence's seven occupants,

was treated on scene for a minor injury sustained while attempting to alert the residents that their home was on fire.

As a precaution, the residents of a nearby home were also evacuated. The utilities were secured, and firefighters quickly controlled and tapped out the fire.

Fire department officials estimated damage to be approximately \$120,000. The uninsured victims, who were renting the home, lost nearly all their possessions in the fire.

Firefighters from stations 70, 71, 93, 94, 61 and 24 responded to this incident.

CCISD offers full-time virtual

If funded through the Texas Legislature, the Clear Creek Independent School District will open a full-time virtual school in the 2021-2022 school year for students prekindergarten through 12th grade.

The district's Clear Connections Virtual School initiative would be an extension of the remote learning program in place this school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are pleased to offer this unique learning environment for students who truly thrive in an online learning environment," said Eric Williams, CCISD superintendent of schools. "We

are looking beyond COVID-19 and identifying the successful attributes of an online education. Clear Connections Virtual School will be a destination for families who love Clear Creek ISD but also enjoy the flexibility an online platform offers."

Some of those successful attributes include Clear Creek ISD curriculum delivered by CCISD teachers in synchronous and supported in asynchronous learning environments, enriched self-paced electives for high school students, virtual clubs, and the ability to join in person extracurricular activities.

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Construction on the Thompson Intermediate School replacement project is slated to begin July 2021 and will welcome students by August 2023 at a new location in the Riverstone Ranch neighborhood.

Construction on the \$45 million campus project was delayed about two years ago due to issues with the original location.

"The site was not advantageous for the community or the school district," said Shauna Gagneaux, facilities project manager.

After securing an agreement to swap land with Meritage, a real estate development company, the new building will be located near Melillo Middle School at Hughes Road and Riverstone Falls Drive. The 178,000-square-foot replacement school will be able to accommodate

1,200 students, which is roughly 200 more than Thompson's current enrollment.

The existing Thompson campus, located at 11309 Sagedowne Lane, endured flood water damage from Hurricane Harvey and forced students to continue instruction at Beverly Hills Intermediate while repairs were conducted.

Funding from the voter-approved 2017 completion bond will be used for the Thompson replacement project. The design will focus on energy efficiency, collaborative learning spaces and a centralized library.

"We instill a love for reading and wanted to make the library area a focal point for the new building. We will have a beautiful open concept library with learning stairs and flexible seating."

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Deputy visits with baby he saved



A South Belt family was recently reunited with the Precinct 2 deputy who helped save their one-month-old daughter's life. Deputy Travis Richardson (sitting) was responding to a separate call when he spotted a mother and father, Lelanie Rivera (front left) and Dennis Lagos (back left), flagging him down on Sageglen near Sagedowne, saying their newborn, Aleyza Rivera (front row), stopped breathing. Richardson proceeded to dislodge whatever was stuck in the child's throat, before paramedics could transport her to the hospital. "I was hysterical. I didn't know what to do," Rivera said. "I'm very thankful." Also pictured above is the child's brother, Elias Lagos, and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia who placed a letter of commendation in Richardson's permanent file. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Garfield school in election controversy

A recent Facebook post from Pasadena ISD Board of Trustee candidate Yen Huynh Rabe about conditions at Garfield Elementary sparked controversy, drawing a wide range of responses, including some from the school's principal and other district officials.

In her original post, Rabe shared a series of photos of the Garfield campus — reportedly taken from an anonymous employee — that showed the school in disrepair. At one point, the candidate

left up a response for several hours calling for the Garfield principal's resignation over the conditions, only removing it after receiving multiple complaints.

"More report from inside Garfield Elementary," Rabe's initial online post read. "We will keep exposing the shortcomings of this school board with their misplaced priorities. Stop the \$27M admin building and fix the schools."

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BAHEP hosts educators

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) hosted a virtual meeting with local educators Thursday, March 25, to discuss ongoing issues and concerns for area school districts during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Titled Wins, Challenges and the Path Forward, the online forum featured the following local superintendents: Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD; Dr. Eric Williams, Clear Creek ISD; Thad Roher, Friendswood ISD; Carla Voelkel, Dickinson ISD; and Dr. Walter Jackson, La Porte ISD.

Powell stressed that while the past two school years have been met with their obvious challenges, they have also brought out the best in many Pasadena ISD students and staff.

"We've had a lot of challenges, but we've had a lot of wins," Powell said. "We've seen the best come out in our students and our staff during this. They work so hard every day. So, seeing the instruction go on every day, whether it's face-to-face or virtual, and how much work is going into that and how much success they're having."

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Early voting set for PISD, CCISD

Early voting for the local May 1 school board elections will begin Monday, April 19, and continue through Tuesday, April 27.

To be decided are four spots on the Pasadena ISD board and three positions on the Clear Creek ISD board.

Up for grabs in Pasadena ISD are the Position 1 seat, currently held by Fred Roberts; the Position 2 seat, currently held by Mariselle Quijano; the Position 3 seat, currently held by Nelda Sullivan; and the Position 4 seat, currently held by Jack Bailey.

Quijano and Sullivan are the only incumbents seeking re-election.

In the Position 2 race, Quijano is being challenged by Crystal Davila, and in the Position 3 contest, Sullivan is being challenged by Yen Huynh Rabe and Sunil Nepal.

Paola Gonzalez Fusilier and Noble J. Alix Jr.

are seeking to fill the Position 1 seat being vacated by Roberts, while Al Bledsoe, Areef Bhuyan and Casey Phelan are competing for the Position 4 seat being vacated by Bailey.

This election cycle has proven unique in that two distinct camps of candidates have emerged — one including incumbents and one including challengers.

In one camp, incumbents Quijano and Sullivan have sided with Position 1 candidate Noble J. Alix Jr. and Position 4 candidate Casey Phelan.

In the opposing camp, Rabe, Davila and Bledsoe are all campaigning together to unseat what they consider to be the establishment candidates.

Terms are four years. At press time, Pasadena ISD early voting locations had yet to be announced. For additional information on polling locations, visit www.harriscountytexas.gov

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In My Opinion

Residents concerned about Brio noise

I was told to reach out to Marie Flickinger about this issue to see if she had any information. We live in the new subdivision of Ashley Point and for the last two years we've been dealing with a machine noise that is ok 24/7 coming from the Brio site. I've sent several emails to the EPA but they just keep saying they'll have a consultant come out to evaluate the noise of the machine and yet nothing is done.

Do you know of someone else that we can reach out to, to help with this issue? It's to the point where the noise is constantly in my head, anywhere I go it's now there and I can't get rid of it.

We are tired of hearing it. Several other people have complained about it in the next door neighborhood app and we basically just keep in touch with each other through that website with any new updates we hear from EPA.

Regards,
Perla Avila

Publisher's note:

I am happy to report the Brio Site Task Force is not only aware of this issue, but is in the process of finding a solution. You have heard and it is my understanding that the problem is being worked on. Initially, it was believed the problem might easily be addressed, but it proved to be more complicated.

Recently a noise consultant was brought in and has identified the problem area.

A fix to the problem is being researched. A date for a remedy to correct the problem is not yet known, but I assure you it is being worked on, and a solution will be identified and implemented.

Please check the front page of the *Leader* the next two weeks. More information should be available.

Thanks for your interest in our community and thanks also to the Brio Task Force for their efforts to correct this issue.

Marie Flickinger
Publisher

Teichelman touts support in election

I am writing this letter in reference to the important upcoming school board election in Pasadena. My son attended Pasadena schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade and we feel as though he had a great education. My entire family has made the Pasadena Independent School District our choice for our careers. The district has not disappointed us. Part of the reason I feel as though the district is so strong is because of the leadership of our school board. For the election in May, I support Noble Alix for Position 1, Mariselle Quijano for Position 2, Nelda Sullivan for Position 3, and Casey Phelan for Position 4.

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Quijano have proven themselves as excellent board members, and after talking to Mr. Alix and Mr. Phelan, I feel as though they will be an asset to the established school board. Their reasons for seeking a position on the board are student centered.

During the past, Pasadena students have excelled in so many areas. They have had numerous athletes who have gone on to play sports in college and even professional positions. The Fine Arts department has earned many awards including the most recent, a student from Sam Rayburn High School. Academic teams have made the citizens of Pasadena very proud with their accomplishments. I attribute the success of the students as an accomplishment to the administrators, teachers, and board members who have supported them.

The current school members have been instrumental in their support of the Personalized Learning. Pasadena continues to excel in this area and Lomax Middle School was named as a Rise Campus which is the highest award given to a school with personalized learning. Pasadena has produced so many successful students that have gone on to be the future of our nation.

The school board selected a superintendent that has excelled in so many areas. Through her leadership, qualified staff have been hired to lead our district. Dr. Powell trusts the system which makes sure that qualified individuals are selected to lead the schools.

They in turn make sure that qualified teachers and staff are selected to guide the students to success. The maintenance and operations departments in Pasadena have made sure that buildings are updated, repairs are made, and the result is the students having a safe place to learn.

Since March of 2020, school districts across the nation have been faced with many challenges. Pasadena has met the challenge by providing the students with the technology they need. Teachers have done an amazing job of teaching using a hybrid method. Online students and face to face students have been provided with a sound curriculum with differentiated instruction to meet their diverse needs.

I can not stress enough how much I respect the dedication and leadership Ms. Quijano and Ms. Sullivan have provided our district. Mr. Phelan has a long history with Pasadena and knows the community well. As a Pasadena policeman, he has worked hard at making our city safe. Mr. Alix has been a role model in the Sagemont area and is respected by those that know him.

I really want our district to continue to be as successful as it has been in the last few years. Please vote for Mariselle Quijano, Nelda Sullivan, Noble Alix, and Casey Phelan. You will not be disappointed.

Nancy Teichelman

Jackson shares thoughts on diversity

The current news of anti-Asian insults and assaults is both alarming and disturbing. It is sad to learn of any of this, especially the injuries and deaths. There is absolutely no reason for this in America. Thankfully, The South Belt Community has been, and will continue to be, the civil and supportive place we live and love.

It's said it's part of the human nature to be suspect of the unknown, or another way; Ignorance breeds Fear. I believe we have avoided -and will continue to avoid- the irrational acts committed against non-Whites throughout our country. And why? Because we are not fearful as we have made it a point to extend our hand to newcomers and say "Welcome."

We have a substantial Asian presence among us; they are our neighbors, our friends, our families. They are doctors and patients, teachers and students, business owners and shoppers. Their children are our children's classmates, teammates, and playmates. We use their services and they use ours. I can think of no way this sharing of ideas, cultures, and even cuisines hasn't benefited all of us.

Moreover, I believe we are all better and wiser from our shared engagement. And not just with the Asian community but with all the other diversity we have here; Hispanic, Black, Canadian and European. For they are Texans and Americans too. Or often working towards these goals.

They attend our churches and schools, our malls and libraries. They serve in our military and police agencies. They are judges and defendants, politicians and constituents. They volunteer in, and donate to, the same charities we do.

Too often we forget that all of us... or our forefathers... were once immigrants too. Today these "foreigners," from wherever they... or their forefathers... came, are now here. Here and contributing greatly to our economy; as producers and consumers, as employers and employees.

All of this offers us "natives" another chance to be the good people we aspire to be. They are the same as us. They are us.

Ed Jackson

Muecke shows honor toward Pollack

Principal Pollack,

I just read in the *South Belt Leader* where you were honored and named the PISD Elementary Principal of the year. But that was easy, your the Principal of the Milstadt Middle school named for Principal Milstadt of A. B. Freeman Elementary school. I emailed Supt. Kirk Lewis and recommended her. He came back immediately and said your correct, this we will do.

She was an outstanding Principal and Educator. I was the only male PTA member and each Fall we had a Fall Celebration. It was fun to see her handle things running in her tennis shoes.

Your next big step will be getting a second road in/out for better traffic flow. Still remember you out on Gilpin directing traffic.

This road should come in the next year or so. Something we have been advocating for a long time. I wish you well on your continued success at Milstadt.

Jim Muecke

PISD distinguished in education

I am writing today to share ways in which Pasadena ISD continues to distinguish itself in our community, in education associations across the nation and in our state government over the last decade. Obviously, the district's number one priority is the education of students. When we think about educating kids we might think of schools, classrooms and great teachers busy reaching students in those classrooms. In reality there are a myriad of facets and functions working in concert every day that support, improve and enhance the educational experience for both students and teachers alike.

Pasadena ISD is guided and directed by a Five-Year Strategic Plan to ensure adherence to the district's fidelity to its core beliefs, goals and vision. I was fortunate enough to spend a couple of days late in 2019 and early 2020 to help refresh and revise the latest such plan. It is now ensuring that everything the district spends resource-wise matches that plan with the education of PISD students as our ultimate goal and finished product. This goal is stated in our Mission Statement as follows: Pasadena ISD provides unlimited opportunities to engage students in positive relationships, rigorous curriculum, and innovative meaningful experiences. It is also reflected in its Mission Statement as follows: Pasadena ISD empowers students to become accomplished, self-directed, collaborative, lifelong learners who boldly contribute to an increasingly complex and evolving world.

As I shared, there is a brand new five-year strategic plan in place. The effectiveness of this type of vision, planning and implementation over the last several years has proven to pay dividends in accomplishing not just great educational opportunities but also excellent results.

The graduation rate of Pasadena ISD for the last several years has been 90% give or take a few tenths of a percent. The 2020 graduating class was just over that mark.

Obviously, that is not simply the result of their efforts and results during their senior years. It is the culmination of their time as a student in PISD. The current 90% graduation rate of the last several years is significant in that the graduating class of 2007 was 67.2%. The district made a determination that those results were unacceptable. Since then, the graduation rate has increased steadily: 2009 - 71%, 2011 - 86.2%, 2012 - 88.8% and in 2016 - 90.9% which eclipsed the state average.

That sort of growth or improvement

and then maintaining it does not just happen. It is the result of a concerted effort of every department in the district whose goal is educating of all our students. It is a process under constant scrutiny as to effectiveness of the educational processes and programs being devised and implemented by the district's Curriculum and Instruction department led by Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Karen Hickman.

It is also a dedication to staff development to any and all district employees and ultimately an absolutely heroic effort on the part of our district's classroom teachers and support staff. I am and have always been amazed at the dedication and commitment of the teachers of our district and their willingness to go above and beyond to ensure their delivery of a great education is presented in their classrooms on a daily basis.

Pasadena ISD's no excuses, excellence in academic education efforts also garner recognition and respect from the Armed Forces as well as colleges and universities. It was reported at the 2020 in-person PISD high school graduation ceremonies last June that the graduating classes of the PISD high schools had earned \$44,947,725.00 in scholarships! This figure represented and all-time high since the district has been keeping records of this figure. It is obvious that the students earned these scholarship dollars and have been recognized for their excellence through their hard work and dedication. In addition, their families and the district played a significant and vital role in providing these students the opportunity to flourish and excel. No doubt, the colleges and universities offering these scholarships recognized the value of the educational programs and the excellent academic opportunities afforded these students in their PISD careers.

Long-term continued success in any area does not just happen. It requires leadership, vision, management, evaluation and execution.

So, as you hear of the shortcomings claimed by a few of the folks currently running for the PISD Board of Trustees remember this 90% graduation rate that Pasadena ISD has maintained for the last several years. This column does not have room for all the wonderful things occurring in the lives of Pasadena ISD students today.

There are so many wonderful and amazing things occurring and being planned for the students and families in this district, even in what I hope and pray are the waning days of this horrible scourge we know as Covid 19. That 90% graduation rate speaks volumes! I trust you will consider carefully when you cast your vote in this important school board election.

Please join me in voting for Mariselle Quijano, Nelda Sullivan, Noble Alix, Jr. and Casey Phelan so that together we can Continue the Success!

Jack Bailey

Publisher's Opinion

School officials totally uncooperative!

I am amazed at how totally indifferent the charter school officials are who have been trying to build a school in the community for more than the past decade.

And in my mind, their attorney is doing them no favors. Community members, and our state Representative Dennis Paul worked very hard at setting up a meeting so questions could be answered. The attorney was given dates that spanned two months, but could not make time to answer questions. On that of that, he was not honest about his relationship with the community.

He said, as you can see in the article below this one, that he has provided answers

to the community. I personally have called his office in excess of 20 times and never once got an answer or a call back.

Many attending the meeting last week had the same experience.

We need to do something about the unfinished school. In my opinion, we should not expose children to the facility because I know the mold in the building was covered up, not remediated. What else did they cover up?

We must get help from our elected official to correct this problem. Stay tuned!

Marie Flickinger
Publisher

Emails to, from charter school attorney

From: Tamoria Jones
Date: January 27, 2021 at 5:58:04 PM CST
To: penningf@ngaschools.org

Subject: URGENT: Request For A Meeting with State Rep. Paul & Houston Gateway
Hi Superintendent Penning,
My name is Tamoria Jones, Senior Attorney & Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Texas Public Charter School Association. Your State Representative Paul has reached out to us to see if we could assist with inviting you to a community meeting to discuss the Elite Change Preparatory Academy Riverstone.

He has been receiving various complaints about the vacancy of the building and would like to know what the status and plan is for the building. He also advised, the neighbors have made attempts to reach out to the school but have been unsuccessful. They have proposed some dates and times, which I have posted below to have the community meeting. The meeting will take place at the Meillo Middle School, located at 9220 Hughes Road.

May you please advise which date and time would work best for you? You can reach me directly on my cell at 281.605.0893 to discuss this matter further.

Proposed Dates
- January 29th at 6pm
- February 5th at 6pm
- February 12th at 6pm.

Best regards,
Tamoria R Jones
Senior Attorney & Director of Regulatory Affairs; Texas Public Charter Schools Association

From: Bob Wynne
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:10 AM
Cc: John Dessalet <
Subject: FW: URGENT: Request For A Meeting with State Rep. Paul & Houston Gateway
Dear Ms. Jones,
I am legal counsel to The Houston Gateway Academy, Inc. I was forwarded your

email below. At this time, the School is not available to participate in the community meeting.

If you or the State Representative have any specific questions, please let me know. I will do my best to provide a response as soon as reasonably possible.

Along those lines, the School intends to complete the Riverstone campus, is in the process of requesting bids to do so, and has promptly remediated any complaints when brought to the School's attention. I have personally spoken to multiple neighbors and have provided responses to the questions posed to me. Likewise, I have personally received notifications from neighbors regarding their matters of concerns and have ensured that those matters were addressed by the School. Thank you,

Bob Wynne
Wynne & Poupore LLP
281-813-8959

From: Nadia Luna
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 4:54 PM
To: Bob Wynne
Cc: John Dessalet
Subject: Re: FW: URGENT: Request For A Meeting with State Rep. Paul & Houston Gateway

Thank you so much for your prompt response! Tamoria has been out of office today so she did not inform me that she had received a response. Crossed-communications.

Appreciate your response and I will make sure our CEO and Rep. Paul receive your response. Thank you. Have a great weekend.

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021
Bob Wynne wrote:
Dear Ms. Luna,
It is my understanding that you sent an email to The Houston Gateway Academy, Inc. earlier today in regards to this subject matter. The School's response is below, which was sent to Tamoria Jones yesterday morning.

Thank you,
Bob Wynne
Wynne & Poupore LLP

Dear Ms. Luna and Ms. Jones,

Last Friday (March 19, 2021), my office received a letter from Texas State Representative Dennis Paul in regards to a proposed public meeting on March 26, 2021, between the community and a representative of The Houston Gateway Academy, Inc. The purpose of the proposed public meeting was for the community to discuss their concerns about The Houston Gateway Academy, Inc.'s Riverstone campus.

For unknown reasons, however, Representative Paul addressed his letter to my paralegal John Dessalet. More so, Representative Paul's letter had an acerbic tone to it, contained factual inaccuracies, and unnecessarily expressed personal disappointment in Mr. Dessalet (again, even though Mr. Dessalet is a paralegal who does not serve as a legal representative for The Houston Gateway Academy, Inc.).

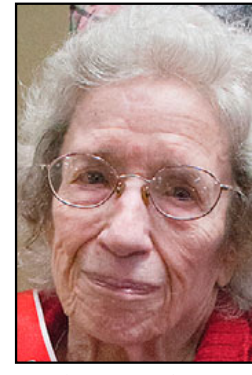
As indicated below, I am an attorney representing The Houston Gateway Academy, Inc. Likewise as indicated below, I am willing to speak to Representative Paul and/or his office. I left a voicemail message with Representative Paul's office yesterday morning, but have not heard anything from anyone there. I have a generic email address for Representative Paul's office, and have cc'd that email here.

Nonetheless, I suspect that you have a better contact person at the Representative's office with whom you can share this information more easily. Accordingly, please provide this response to Representative Paul's office. In doing so, please let Representative Paul's office know that it may contact me, not my paralegal, to discuss any concerns, albeit all the relevant information has already been repeatedly provided to community members and to the relevant governmental entities.

Bob Wynne
Wynne & Poupore LLP

Deaths

Helen Jane Bankey



Helen Jane Bankey, 92, of Houston, born June 20, 1928, died in her sleep March 23, 2021. She was a South Belt resident for more than 50 years. She is survived by her daughters-in-law Alma Quan, Joan Rogers and Laura Bankey; her son-in-law Robert Semler; and her grandchildren Pat and Lee Bankey, Tim, Rosilyn, Joy and Holly Semler, Charlene McKinzie, Christina Fontenet and Amanda Bankey.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings; and her beloved children Daniel Bankey, Michael Bankey, Marilyn Semler and Timothy Bankey. Jane was born in Ohio where she married Arnold Bankey and started their family. After some years, they moved to Texas and ended up in Houston where she finished raising her family, and later ran a babysitting business in her home. In retirement, she lived on Lake Livingston where she spent countless hours entertaining her grandchildren as they had fun visiting her at the lake house. Later, she moved back to Houston to be closer to her children and grandchildren.

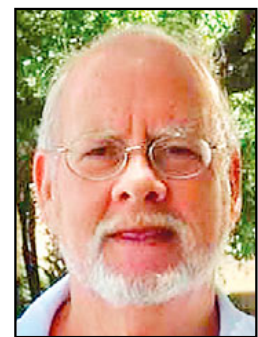
Jane was a happy Catholic all her life and received the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick just hours before her death. She had such a sweet tooth, especially for chocolate, and she would always give up sweets for Lent. Jane liked candy so much that she would get up very early on Easter morning so she could be the first to get to the Easter candy!

She will be remembered as a precious grandmother who always made sure those around her felt special. The children she babysat and all her grandchildren always knew how much they were loved because of her gentle care. Her grandchildren will always remember Grandma Jane teaching them to make holiday cookies, playing board games with them, singing songs, taking them on walks to find Peter Rabbit and picking raspberries!

She cared for their sunburns when they were out on the lake too much and comforted them when they were sad. Grandma Jane taught her family how to love.

She also showed how to live with strength and courage in the face of adversity. Her life was a living example of unconditional love that will ripple down through the generations. A visitation was held Monday evening, March 29, 2021, at Peevey Funeral Home. A funeral service was held Tuesday, March 30, at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church.

John Paul Reese



John Paul Reese, a resident of the Sagemeadow subdivision completed his life journey at the age of 65 on March 23, 2021, in Houston. He passed peacefully into the Lord's presence with his family holding his hand.

John Paul was born on June 14, 1955, in Houston, the only son of John Walter Reese and Sarah Welsh Reese. He was a painter and all-around handyman. He loved to cook and could whip up an amazing meal with just a few ingredients. He was an avid fan of baseball and loved the Astros. In his younger years, he was able to play the game and could hit homers, right or left swing.

John Paul spent some time incarcerated. He later repented and was forgiven by the Lord Jesus Christ.

He was a man known to give generously to those in need. His happy smile could warm the most downtrodden in spirit. He was a funny guy and loved to make people laugh. He never met a stranger he didn't like and was blessed with a gift of gab that allowed him to talk about anything with anyone.

John Paul was preceded in death by his wife Susan Reese; his parents; and his sisters Shelby Jean John and husband Bud and Amy Marie Varner and husband Bruce.

He is survived by his sons John Paul Reese Jr. and William (Bill) Daniel Reese; grandchildren Jonathan Reese, Zachary Reese, Mat-

Deaths

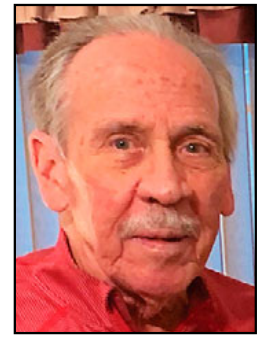
thew Reese, Lauren Reese, Danyel Reese and Colton Reese; his sisters Betty Rosalez and husband Eloy and Ruth Owen and husband Kenny; and numerous nieces, nephews and family friends.

At the end of his life he was under the care of a team of professionals at Memorial Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute at the Texas Medical Center which gave him the utmost care and concern.

A memorial service will be held celebrating the life of John Paul Saturday, April 10, 2021, at Arise Church located at 2121 Genoa Red Bluff Road in Pasadena at 1 p.m.

A visitation time with the family will follow the service. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Rex Paxman Bryan



Rex Paxman Bryan, 80, a longtime South Belt resident, died peacefully while surrounded by his family March 25, 2021.

He was a hard-working, loyal and dedicated husband and father as well as a super Papa to his grandchildren.

Rex was born April 28, 1940, in Payson, Utah, to Mark and Laverne Bryan. Rex was a very intelligent and ambitious man, receiving an MBA from the University of Utah in 1967 while also competing in track and football. He married the love of his life Linda Corbett. The couple were happily married for 57 years.

A successful business-

man and entrepreneur, Rex worked his entire career in the oil and gas industry - the last 48 years in the Houston area. He was instrumental in developing several key business operations within the infrastructure of both the Port of Houston and Port of Galveston.

When he wasn't working, Rex spent his free time coaching and mentoring his children in every sport to which he introduced them including hunting and fishing.

As an outdoor enthusiast, his hunting ranch in Oklahoma held a very special place in his heart where he and his family spent many a day improving the habitat for various wildlife species.

He enjoyed watching football and playing tennis with his wife Linda, taking trips to the casinos and horse racing tracks to gamble, and attending annual golf reunions across the country with his lifelong close friends from Payson, Utah.

He brought joy and love to everyone he encountered. He loved his wife, his kids and grandkids more than life and his gentle and loving nature will always be remembered by his family. Rex is also remembered by many for his extremely sound, ethical and moral principles, which led him to being a role model for many who knew him.

Rex is survived by his loving wife Linda Bryan; brothers Ricky Bryan and wife Judy, Johnny Bryan and wife Joann, and Brent Bryan and wife Diane; his sister Sherri Eaton and husband Jim; his brothers-in-law Kendall Corbett and Gary Corbett; and sister-in-law Nancy Maples. He is also survived by his sons Peri Bryan and Todd Bryan and his daughter Paige Thompson; grandchildren Tessini Bryan, Tristen Bryan, Kohner Bryan, Ashton Lunsford, Shelby Bryan, Colby Bryan, Hannah Thompson, Tye Thompson and Addie Thompson; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family held a private gathering for their beloved Rex (Papa) March 28, 2021.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is located at 9002 Kingsport. For information, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library/items_per_page=200#events. For virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events>. For general information, call 832-393-2580.

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Contactless curbside services, known as HPL To Go, are available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. To use HPL To Go:

- Place a hold through the online catalog or by phone.
- Receive email or phone call of notification prior to scheduling a time for pickup.
- Upon arrival, park and stay in the vehicle and call to notify staff of arrival.
- Have MY Link card number and PIN ready.

Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned with no overdue fees. The library continues to provide online resources so the public can enjoy the library at home. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop. Keep those items until further notice.

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 the digital resources and access the link to obtain 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 can be 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 robust collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog to determine if a previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

All overdue fines/fees will be waived through June 30, 2021, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, Wi-Fi service is still available by coming to the library standing/sitting within six feet of the building. A password is not needed. Go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi and connect to HPL - Public.

HPL is not accepting book donations at this time. For more information, visit www.houstonlibrary.org to chat with a librarian 24/7 or to send questions through HPL's email reference.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library will be closed Thursday, April 1, 5 p.m., through Sunday, April 4, for the Easter holiday. Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.

For tax help through AARP, call the library for an informational packet. Patrons will be given instructions on setting an appointment after receipt of packet.

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. 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 at the library, follow the instructions given.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Curbside hours are: Monday - 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 Face-

Varian chosen Teacher of Month



Thompson Intermediate congratulated Mark Varian as Teacher of the Month for March. According to his peers, Varian teaches orchestra to students who enjoy learning as he exudes much passion in his lessons throughout the day.

Melillo announces 3rd honor roll

Melillo Middle School staff announced the third nine-weeks honor roll.

Fifth grade
Abigail Aguilar, Miranda Aguilar, Affan Aleem, Noah Aleman, Alec Alvarez, Isaiiah Ambriz, Samantha Andalla, Xavier Arizmendez and Aja Breaux.
Abigail Brooks, Israel Cantu, Aileen Castillo, Elizabeth Cervantes, Diana Chicas Lopez, Adam Cid, Brooke Davis, Santiago Del Villar Rodriguez and Kenya Delong-Thompson.
Liliana Escudra, Emily Espinoza, Andres Franco, Yvette Franco, Sebastian Garza, Gracie Giang, Samuel Gonzales, Roberto Granados and Trinite Hines.
Julian Hinojosa, Rya Hurd, Nathalie Huynh, Nikolai Ibarra, Caleb Johnson, Crysta Keim, Sasha Lewis, Nina Lowtan and Isaiiah Machado.
Jayme Martinez, Angela Mena, Makayla Mendez, Luke Monford, Joshua Montes, Janie Montoya, Douglas Moreno, Julian Moreno and Ava Morin.
Alizae Munoz, Hailey Naughton, Ngoc Ngo, Thien Nguyen, Starling Oviedo Ayala, Heidi Padron, Genesis Paz Ramirez, Jacob Perez and Kinora Ploucha.
Nydia Proa, Garivey Ramirez, Gabriela Ramirez, Shaila Rivera, Alayna Rodriguez, Lexi Rodriguez, Makayla Rodriguez, Mariana Rodriguez and Taylor Scott.
Emiliano Servin, Bella Sherwood, Devin Smith, Brianna Soto, Dexter Sullivan, Juliana Swenson, Daniella Tamayo, Savannah Tellez and Danica Titus-Williams.
Leslie Torres, Marco Torres, Ca Tran, Ethan Tran, Khoa Tran, Natalie Vazquez, Isaac Verdin and Sophia Villarreal.
Johnathan Villela, Minh Vo, Hyrum Wheeler, Durand Williams, Evan Yanez, Elynn Ybarra and Saniyah Young.

Sixth grade
Aiden Aguilar, Steven Aguilar, Arlette Aguirre, Deacon Akinloye, Reemas Alazeh, Isabella Allen, Kaleigh Antoine, Daniel Blas and Adelle Bongfen.
Alyssa Cabrera, Jasmine Cabrera, Roland Cardoso, Massimo Carrasco, Barbara Chapa, Jayvian Chavez, Yanelli Contreras and Mia Creekmore.
Mariah Davis, Aidan De La Rosa, Charles De La Rosa, Carlos Delgado, Elizabeth Dinh, Kyleigh Dorsey, James Duncan, Emma Espino, Alina Farooq and Courtlyn Fletcher.
James Fortson, Kareli Garza, Romeo Gill, Ezequiel Gonzalez, Bryan Govea, Jaylyn Guevara, Dezirae Hall-Gamer, Vivian Hang and Julian Hernandez.
Julius Hernandez, Kings-

Street racing leads to arrest

More than 200 people were arrested on charges ranging from DWI to reckless driving during a countywide crackdown on illegal street racing this past weekend, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced Thursday.

The arrests were the result of a joint initiative including the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Houston Police Department and other law enforcement agencies.

Twelve vehicles were also seized.

"Flybys are being prosecuted. Street takeovers are being prosecuted. Street racing is being prosecuted. All of these crimes can land you behind bars because these actions can turn deadly," Ogg said. "It's wrong to put innocent people's lives at risk just for an adrenaline rush. This initiative saved lives."

The initiative focuses on arresting dangerous drivers to save lives on Houston's roads and highways.

"Hundreds of peace officers, prosecutors and support staff spent all of spring break protecting our community from dangerous street racers," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

"Thanks to them, not one motorist lost their life because of a street racer. I personally thank each of them for keeping our streets safe and saving lives."

In addition to the Harris County District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and HPD, the initiative also included the Chambers County Sheriff's Office and Texas DPS.

The partnership also involved the Houston Raceway Park. Owner Seth Angel has urged car race fans to practice their hobby on legal racetracks, not on public roads.

This is the fourth year of the annual anti-illegal street racing program, which took place March 17-21, 2021.

Prosecutors with the DA's vehicular crimes division worked over 115 combined hours over the five-night event to assist law enforcement with charges, search warrants and evidence collection. There were 222 arrests.

Charges filed included racing on a highway: 56; reckless driving: 30; obstruction of a highway: 14; deadly conduct: 10; evading arrest: 12; driving while intoxicated: 53; intoxication assault: 1; assault of a family member: 2; child endangerment: 1; possession of a controlled substance: 14; weapons charges: 18; car theft: 2; theft: 2; aggravated assault of public servant: 1; interfering with a police officer: 3; failure to identify: 1.

PISD students showcase artwork

In collaboration with Pasadena ISD's Fine Arts Department, Safe Routes Pasadena and Harris County Public Health, Pasadena ISD high school students competed in a contest to create crosswalk designs for several elementary schools in the district. Students with the winning entries will have their

crosswalk designs painted near a participating elementary school. After all entries were submitted, Safe Routes hosted a Facebook contest for Pasadena community to vote for their favorite design. The winning students also received a check and gift card to use toward their future artwork.



Above, left to right, showing off the 'Hook 'em Horns' hand sign are Katie Chennisi, Safe Routes Pasadena; Shannon Raygoza, fine arts coordinator; Valerie Phyl Yen, Dobie junior; Laura Huynh, Dobie junior; Alise Neff, coordinated school health specialist; and Amber Macneish, PE, health and wellness coordinator. Yen and Huynh's design went to Parks Elementary, Sparks Elementary and Gardens Elementary.

Shown left is Chloe Clark, a sophomore at Pasadena Memorial High School. Clark's creative design went to South Shaver Elementary.

Meador staff names honor, merit, bug rolls

Meador Elementary officials announced the third nine-weeks recognized, honor, merit and bug rolls.

First grade Recognized roll
Ellie Bacot, Gwen Bounds, Drayah Brown, Anthony Bui, Bethany Cabrales, Noemi Camacho, Yaritza Cazares, Gracelynn Corrales and Nathaly Cortez.
Cameron Escobar, Melany Fernandez, Ricky Flores, Denia Gonzalez, William Hawkins, Aires Holmes, Brielle Kay, Travis Lance and Kaden McCoy.
Issa Meza, Terrance Morris, Janessa Murray, Bella Nguyen, Julia Nguyen, Tina Nguyen, Adalyn Renteria, Azariah Rios and Alana Rivas.
Jorge Rivera, Zoey Robledo, Ava Rodriguez, Jessenia Salazar, Parker Smith, Isaac Solis and Kairi Texada.
Jimena Torres, Alexa Varela, Jaylene Vazquez, Ava Williams, Elijah Williams and Alexander Zarate.

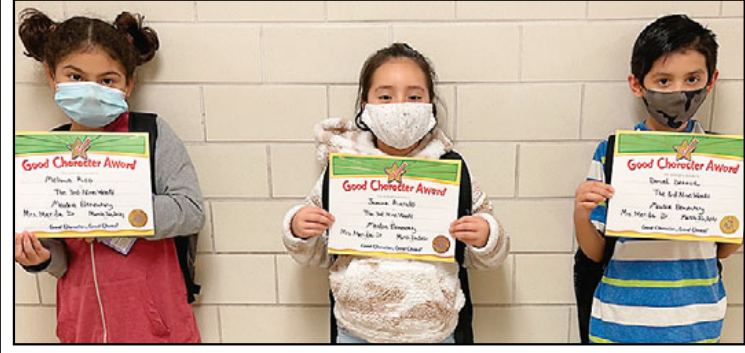
Bug roll
Drayah Brown, Noemi Camacho, Genesis Chirinos, Nathaly Cortez, Cameron Escobar, Gerardo Garza, Emiel Green, Jeremiah Henry and Jose Jimenez.
Aliyanna Knight, Joshua Lee, Kaden McCoy, Victor Rachal, Andy Reyes, Jorge

Meador honors good character students

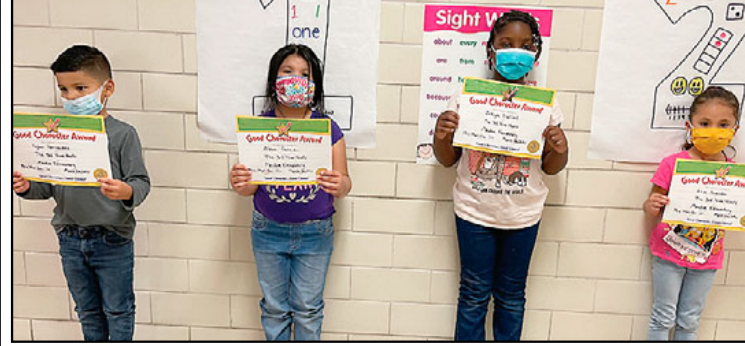


Meador Elementary staff congratulated their third nine-weeks Good Character Award recipients. These students showed their good character throughout the nine weeks. Recipients include kindergarteners through fourth-graders.

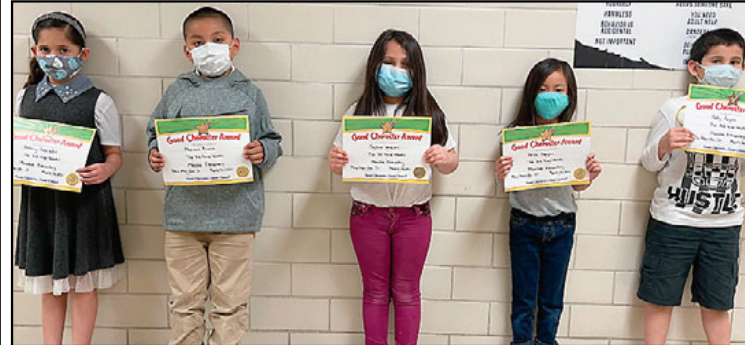
At left, hiding a smile behind her Good Character Award certificate is Joselin Gonzalez, kindergarten student.



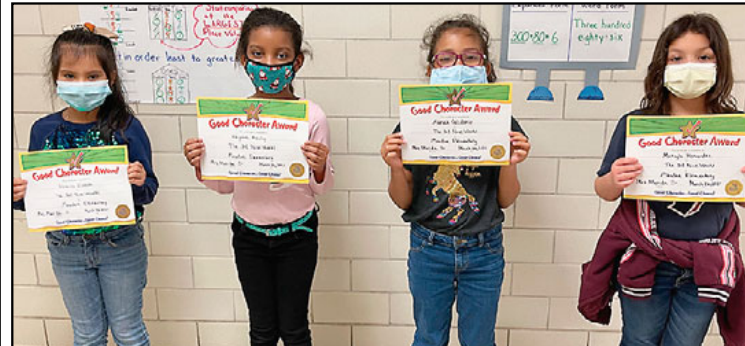
Shown above proudly displaying their certificates are third-graders, left to right, Melanie Rico, Jasmine Alvarado and Daniel Denova. Not shown is Timothy Graige.



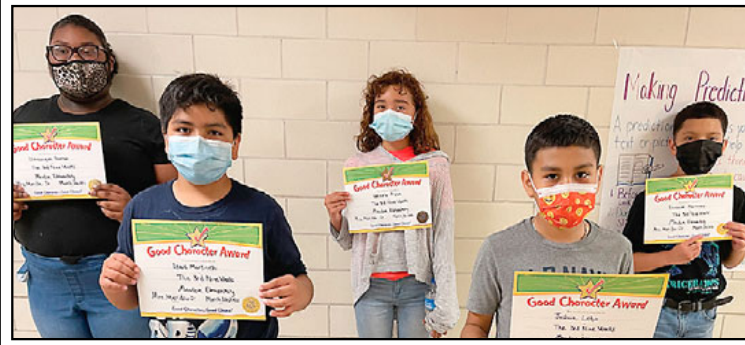
Above, left to right, kindergarteners Dylan Hernandez, Alexa Garcia, Zakiya Bradford and Elise Saucedo are thankful for their recognition.



Above, first-graders Bethany Cabrales, Maximus Rivera, Jaylene Vazquez, Bella Nguyen and Andy Reyes are headed in the right direction with character certificates.



Above, left to right, with certificates are second-graders Breanna Elizalde, Keyona Kelly, Azariah Calidonio and Makayla Hernandez. Not shown is Ashton Jones.



Standing tall with their awards are, left to right, (front row) Isaac Martinez, Joshua Lobo, (back row) Diamonique Burton, Grasiela Preza and Emmanuel Martinez.

BAHEP hosts area ISD educators

Continued from Page 1

As examples of some of its recent successes, the superintendent specifically noted Pasadena ISD being named a Model PLC District from Professional Learning Communities; the district board of trustees being recognized by the Texas Computer Educators Association; and the school district being honored by Kroger for serving the most meals to virtual students during the pandemic.

While all districts represented on the panel will continue to offer virtual learning programs for the time being

forming their peers that are remote. We do have some students that are very successful virtually, but that is not the norm."

A similar sentiment was shared by Williams, the newly appointed superintendent of Clear Creek ISD, who recently announced it will continue to offer virtual learning for those who want it, even after COVID-19 concerns fade. See related story on Page 1.

"Heading into next year, we're pleased to offer, for families who want it, virtual learning opportunities," Williams said. "We're setting up a secondary school and magnet programs at the elementary level. Now, for the overwhelming majority of kids, the best option is going to be in-person learning, but for those kids who thrive or whose parents choose this as an option, it's a win that we're going to be drawing from this past year to offer to our parents for next year."

Despite the current challenges, Powell said Pasadena ISD, along with other local school districts, is looking toward the future.

"We are excited in all of our school districts to finish strong like Thad (Rohr) said to have a successful end to our school year and celebrate all the success we have had," Powell said.

"But, we have a plan, and we have a plan to meet our kids where they're at and get them to where there need to be."

"So, whether that's each kid finishing with an associate's degree, or those college hours, or whether it's that career-tech certification that they're going to be ready to go in and work for those various jobs or if they continue their education at a trade school, you name it, we want our kids college- and career-ready and successful."

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of People of Sagemont 2 Facebook group posted photos of a vehicle with California plates in which a white male wearing a cap and a yellow work

vest was shown. The incident happened Saturday, March 27, at 1:52 p.m. in the Sageheather and Sagedowne area. The member stated that the man drove all the way into their driveway and parked,

then started grabbing her husband's tools while looking all around the outside of the house, until they knocked and yelled at him through the window and told him to put the things back because her husband was about to shoot him. The man yelled back saying that he fixes houses and wanted to buy the house.

The member suggested that other members be aware and be careful to lock their doors.

A member from a Facebook group posted a suggestion to residents that if one hears or suspects hearing gunshots, to pinpoint the direction from which they are coming. Asking others on social media if they heard shots or calling the police and simply stating one heard gunshots in one's area is not enough. In many cases the dispatched officers are not able to locate the source. If one is able, take the extra step to properly identify and confirm the direction before sharing or calling law enforcement. There were calls reporting gunshots as well as posts on Facebook about shots being heard near the Valero station on Beamer Monday night, March 22.

When officers arrived, they found nothing and were unable to identify the source.

Another member of the same app posted a video of a young girl in skates who stole a package from the front of the member's townhome. The incident happened Friday, March 26, at Windswept Townhomes. The member states that they know the girl and where she lives.

Another member from the same app posted a video of an individual walking and checking for unlocked car doors.

bank's ATM. The incident, which happened Friday, Jan. 29, shows a man with a hoodie that exit his vehicle and approach a victim at an ATM machine located at the Chase Bank on 11222 S. Sam Houston Pkwy. E. The video of the confrontation shows the victim kick, punch and pull off the suspect's hoodie, exposing his face. The suspect, who police say was holding a knife, fled the scene in a Ford Escape. Houston Police need additional information. Anyone with information about the event or the suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers Houston at 713-521-4600.

A member of the Neighbor's app posted that on Thursday, March 25, near the Kirkwood South Park area, someone walked through their backyard and was peering through the windows.

Another member of the same app posted a video of a young girl in skates who stole a package from the front of the member's townhome. The incident happened Friday, March 26, at Windswept Townhomes. The member states that they know the girl and where she lives.

Another member from the same app posted a video of an individual walking and checking for unlocked car doors.

The incident was reported Sunday, March 28, at Southway subdivision.

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Judge Delgado ready for egg hunt



Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado is shown above preparing for the annual Harris County Easter egg hunt, set to take place Saturday, April 3, El Franco Park, located at 9400 Hall Road, from noon to 1 p.m. To also be hosted by Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Constable Jerry Garcia, this year's function will be a drive-thru event due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Last year's Easter event was completely canceled due to coronavirus concerns.

CCISD offers full-time virtual

Continued from Page 1
ricular activities before and after school on the student's zoned campus.
For the school to be successful, families are asked to make a year-long commitment.
Clear Connections Virtual School also includes a magnet program at the elementary level.
Students in grades 6-12 who choose Clear Connections will be required to withdraw from their current campus and enroll in the virtual school which will be a stand-alone campus similar to Clear Horizons Early College High School and Clear View High School.
Clear Connections Virtual School will have its own class rank system and graduation.
At the elementary level, students will be virtually connected to an elementary school as is the STEM Magnet at Ed White Elementary and the Dual Language Program at McWhirter Elementary.
To find out if one's child is a strong candidate for an all-online learning environment, Clear Creek ISD hosted webinars for families.
The webinar sessions for Thursday, March 25, and Monday, March 29, were re-

FEMA seeks proof of occupancy

Survivors of the severe winter storms in Texas who apply for federal assistance must be able to prove they lived in the disaster-damaged primary residence before the storms. Once they provide proof, they may be considered for help from FEMA, such as housing assistance and some types of other needs assistance, including personal property assistance and moving/storage assistance.
All household members at the time of the disaster are considered occupants. FEMA will verify the applicants' occupancy when they register for assistance or when the applicant provides supporting documentation during the process. This applies to owners and renters of the disaster-damaged property.
If FEMA is unable to confirm an applicant's occupancy, the person may be asked to provide FEMA with any of the documents listed below.
FEMA also may request additional documents in cases where the name on utility bills does not match the name of the primary occupant of the damaged home. The following documents can prove occupancy:
- Utility bills dated within three months before the disaster:
- Electric, gas, oil, trash, water/sewer bills that show the name of the applicant or the co-applicant and the address of the disaster-damaged residence.
- Merchant's statement dated within three months before the disaster:
- Bank or credit card statement, phone bill, cable/satellite bill, etc., that show the name of the applicant or the co-applicant and the address of the disaster-damaged residence.
- Employer's statement, which must be dated within 3 months before the disaster:
- Pay stubs and similar documents that show the name of the applicant or the co-applicant and the address of the disaster-damaged residence.
- A lease/housing agreement that was in place at the time of the disaster:
- Copy of a written lease, housing agreement or landlord's written statement that includes the name of the applicant or co-applicant, the landlord's contact information, and the basic terms of tenancy, including the location of the damaged home, the amount of rent and duration of the lease. This is to confirm that the applicant lived there at the time of the disaster. Both the landlord and the applicant or co-applicant must sign the document.
- Rent receipts dated within three months before the disaster:
- Copy of a rent receipt or bank statement, including a canceled check, that shows the name of the applicant or co-applicant, the landlord's contact information, the address of the pre-disaster home, the amount of rent, and the landlord's signature.
- Public official's statement dated within the 18-month period of assistance:
- A written statement from an official (a police chief, mayor, postmaster, etc.) that includes the name of the applicant or co-applicant, the residence address, the period of occupation, and the name and contact information of the official.
- A driver's license, state-issued ID card or voter card that reflects the name of the applicant or co-applicant and the address of the damaged residence. These documents must be current at the time of the disaster.
For more information on the severe winter storms in Texas, visit fema.gov/disaster/4586. Follow the FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at twitter.com/FEMARegion6.

Area elections May 1

Continued from Page 1
risvotes.org.
Clear Creek ISD
To be decided in the Clear Creek ISD election are the District 4 seat currently held by Page Rander, the District 5 spot currently held by Jay Cunningham and the At-Large Position A seat currently held by Jennifer Broddle.
In the District 4 race, Rander is being challenged by Jeffrey Allan Larson; in the District 5 contest, Cunningham is being challenged by Christine Parizo and Keith Thomas Esthazy; and in the At-Large Position A race, Broddle is being challenged by Jonathan Cottrell, Michael John Creedon, Marlene Montesinos and Keven Oditt.
Terms are three years.
For additional information on the Clear Creek ISD election, visit www.ccisd.net/explore_cc_i_s_d/boardoftrustees/board_election_information.
San Jacinto College
The San Jacinto College District will not hold a board election this year, as all three incumbents are running unopposed.
The Position 5 seat, currently held by John Moon Jr.; the Position 6 seat, currently held by Dan Mims; and the Position 7 seat, currently held by Keith Sinor will all remain unchanged, as no one filed to challenge them.
Terms are six years.

1st portion of Beamer ditch done



The Harris County Flood Control District recently began work on a massive project to make drainage improvements along the Beamer Ditch. The endeavor will provide concrete lining on the area ditch from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road. The project will be broken down into three phases. Phase 1 will run from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 will run from Scarsdale to Astoria; and Phase 3 will run from Astoria to Beamer near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin. Construction of the \$10.7 million project is expected to take approximately two years to complete.
Photo by Marie Flickinger

Bridge foundation raising funds

The Bridge Over Troubled Waters completed the Mabee Foundation Challenge Monday, raising two-thirds of its \$6.8 million goal to build its new children's center.
The challenge was issued by the Mabee Foundation in April 2020 to give The Bridge until April 2021 to raise another \$1.2 million for their Bridge for Kids Campaign. After an outpouring of support from the surrounding community, only \$2.3 million is left to raise.
Chad Burke, president/CEO of Economic Alliance Houston Port Region and The Bridge For Kids, Capital Campaign chairman, said "Meeting the Mabee Foundation grant challenge and receiving their \$500,000 matching donation is a huge accomplishment for the entire Bridge team and a big step forward for The Bridge for Kids project.
"With the generosity of so many groups and individuals, the team has been able to raise over \$4 million of the \$6.8 million total needed for the project. With this momentum, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and this vital project will become a reality soon."
The Bridge for Kids will house all services for the children and youth that are served by The Bridge both in emergency shelter and non-residential clients.
The new center will allow The Bridge to double the number of children and youth they serve and deepen the impact The Bridge can make in the Greater Houston area and beyond.

All adults now eligible for COVID shots

Continued from Page 1
some public health providers.
The general public will be able to enroll in the Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler to identify locations of upcoming vaccine clinics hosted by DSHS or a participating local health department and be notified when new clinics and appointments become available.
People can continue to find additional providers though the DSHS Vaccine Information page at dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine.
As of Monday, March 29, all adults in Texas are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
The Texas Department of State Health Services expects vaccine supplies to increase this next week, and providers in multiple parts of the state have made great strides in vaccinating people in the current priority groups.
The state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccination to everyone who falls under the current Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorizations to protect as many Texans as possible.
"We are closing in on 10 million doses administered in Texas, and we want to keep up the momentum as the vaccine supply increases," said Imelda Garcia, DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services and the chair of the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. "As eligibility opens up, we are asking providers to continue to prioritize people who are the most at risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death - such as older adults."
DSHS has directed vaccine providers to prioritize people 80 years old or older when scheduling appointments and accommodate anyone in that age group who presents for vaccination, whether or not they have an appointment, by immediately moving them to the front of the line. That will ensure vaccination of anyone 80 or older with as small a burden on themselves as possible.
Also next week, DSHS will launch a website to al-

CSH offers virtual Judaism class

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is still offering a class about Judaism - this time virtually.
The class gives participants an opportunity to ask any and all questions regarding Judaism or the Jewish Community.
It examines the Jewish beliefs regarding God, the nature of man, life, death, sin, sacrifice, atonement, forgiveness, Satan versus the devil, the Messiah and the afterlife.
The class includes studying the Jewish holidays and Jewish Holy Days, the life cycle events and the manner in which Judaism responds to the controversial issues of today's world.
This class is required for those who wish to convert to Judaism at Shaar Hashalom, although one does not have to be interested in conversion to take the class.
These classes are open to the public.
The class meets on Zoom Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and is conducted by Rabbi Stuart Federow.
For more information, email adulted@shaarhashalom.org or visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/>.
The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area.

PPD offers Explorer program

The Houston Police Department Southeast Division Post 8300 is offering its Explorers program every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the HPD Southeast Patrol Station, located at 8300 Mykawa to area youth considering a career in law enforcement.
The Explorers program provides educational training programs for young adults on the purposes, mission and objectives of law enforcement. The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities and community service activities.
The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within law enforcement and to challenge them to become responsible citizens.
For additional information, call HPD Officer L.E. Anderson at 346-397-1363 or email lloyd.anderson@houstonpolice.org.

Aglow meets April 8

The NASA Aglow Lighthouse meeting will be held Thursday, April 8, 10 a.m. - noon, at Praise Chapel, 18516 Highway 3, in Webster. This is the same day as Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day.
There will be a ladies' fellowship lunch and painting small rocks with children's names and ages who were Holocaust victims, to be placed in the Houston Holocaust Museum Memorial Garden as a community outreach project. The event is an annual day of remembrance of the victims observed by Jewish communities worldwide.
For more information, send an email to nasaaglow74@gmail.com.

Remember When

45 years ago (1976)
A slated \$193 million bond issue for several improvements to the South Belt area went to the polls.
The annual wheelchair basketball game was battled between the Ex-Servicemen's Club at San Jacinto College and the Houston-based Easy Riders.
40 years ago (1981)
Final plans for a foot bridge to connect the Wood Meadow subdivision with Stuchbery Elementary were discussed at the site of the proposed bridge.
The Clear Creek School district's board of education set a date to receive bids for the new intermediate school to be constructed in League City.
35 years ago (1986)
Hobby Airport's \$10 million Express Auto Park directly across from Hobby Airport opened with 1,450 parking spaces.
A new teacher career ladder appeals process was adopted and was followed during appeals concerning placement for the 1985-1986 school year in the Pasadena school district.
30 years ago (1991)
Although a Southbend health study had not stopped, 90 percent of the 40 people working the survey moved or were in the process of moving from the subdivision after seeing the preliminary results.
Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League celebrated its 25th year in affiliation with Little League baseball.
25 years ago (1996)
Dobie 1992 graduate Amber Brannen was crowned queen of the 69th Texas Re-

SA's Silver Snoopy Award.
Cadet Daniel Edward Murphy, 20, of the Air Force Academy was killed in a one-vehicle accident while home on vacation.
15 years ago (2006)
A fatal shooting of a home invasion suspect was referred to a Harris County grand jury.
Thompson Intermediate was the site of much confusion after several incidents resulted in punishment for all students. Conflicting reports indicated between 18 and 63 students were involved and resulted in many students protesting the punishment by arriving late to their classes.
Local schools were preparing for the upcoming Jori Zemel bone cancer walk. The weekend included live music, rock climbing, moonwalks, sporting events for children, face painting, food and a memorial tribute.
The Dobie drama department presented its University Interscholastic League one-act play "Peter Pan" at Dobie High School March 16-19.
10 years ago (2011)
Three more arrests were made in connection to a string of home burglaries that police said dated back at least two years. Jesus Garcia, 18, Chris Munoz, 18, and Antoine Pham, 19, were all apprehended. Garcia was charged with possession of stolen merchandise, Munoz was charged with burglary of a habitation, and Pham was charged with hindering apprehension. The arrests brought the total number of charges to eight in connection with the area burglaries. All were former or current Dobie students.
Separate arrests were made that involved sex crimes that occurred in the South Belt area. Russell Evans Carver, 52, a Beverly Hills resident, was arrested for allegedly having inappropriate sexual contact with a 16-year-old girl from Michigan whom he met online.
Benjamin Childress, the director of the Dobie High School orchestra, was charged with online solicitation of a minor. The victim, a 15-year-old boy, was reportedly from outside the school district.

achievements, particularly among economically disadvantaged school communities.
5 years ago (2016)
Approximately 200 business and community leaders, as well as numerous elected officials gathered March 30 as the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held its 32nd annual installation banquet. Newly elected Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner was the featured speaker at the event.
Atkinson, South Belt, South Houston and Turner elementary schools were named Honor Roll Schools for the 2015 school year by the Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Productivity in Education. The Honor Roll is a national program highlighting student achievements, particularly among economically disadvantaged school communities.
1 year ago (2020)
The first known COVID-19 cases were reported in the South Belt community with incidents reported from local stores and a MET-RO bus line in the area. Under the circumstances, many events were canceled or delayed, including San Jacinto College's May 15 commencement which was postponed.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

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 FOUR!
Happy birthday wishes are sent April 4 to **Eliana Abarca** who turns four years old from parents **Natalie** and **Jose Abarca**; brothers **Kelvin** 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 April 1 through April 7.
Atkinson Elementary
Special birthday greetings are sent to **Melissa Chapman** April 2.
Meador Elementary
Break out the cake and ice cream April 5

for a celebration for **Sara Moore**. **Mike Gill** enjoys a memorable birthday April 7.
Stuchbery Elementary
Remember to wish **Laurie Chmarney** a wonderful birthday April 3.
Melillo Middle School
The day for a celebration for **Bertha Cantilla Salas** is April 5. Enjoy a double-layer cake April 6 with **Charlotte Anthony** and **Charlene Gronewold**.
Thompson Intermediate
Break out the balloons and party favors for **Kevin Cowart** April 6.
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, April 1: **Sharon Lay, Carol Baccaro, Charlie Heaton and Natasha Logan**; Friday, April 2: **Raven Brooks, Minerva Segovia, Stephen Hooper, Mona Valerio, Suzette Corona, Yvette Cheatwood, Cathy White, Edward Gish and Lisa Bourque**; Saturday, April 3: **Erika Saavedra, Lillian Lee, Aimee Salazar-Arroyo, Maria Keim and Sharon Rhoads**; Sunday, April 4: **Debbie Pitre, Monika Sandridge, Jenn Copeland, Wendy Banh Nguyen, Travis Doe and Katie Burns**; Monday, April 5: **Chris Gehringer, Davis Borschel, Jennifer Smith, Teri Polluck, Debbie Trellew, Cindy Russell and Don Adam**; Tuesday, April 6: **Carol Barber, Jason Weston, Lena West and Jerry Devila**; and Wednesday, April 7: **Denise Goodwin, Selena Conley, Deborah Belmarez, Larry Higgs and Jeff White**.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements etc., to mysnews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie boys soccer falls 1-0; girls ousted, too

Just like that, Dobie's varsity soccer season has come to a close in both boys' and girls' play courtesy of Kingwood.

The District 21-6A second-seeded Lady Mustangs

cruised on to the area round with a 4-0 victory over Dobie March 26 at Summer Creek High School.

Just hours later, the Kingwood boys sent Dis-

trict 22-6A champion Dobie home for the rest of the postseason following a 1-0 shutout win at Deer Park's Abshier Stadium. More soccer wrap up information will come April 1.

At right, Dobie senior midfielder Gerardo Martinez (99) battles for control of the ball with Ethan Knutson (25) of Kingwood during the Mustangs' 1-0 bidistrict playoff round victory March 26 at Deer Park ISD's Abshier Stadium. The Longhorns, seven-time champions of District 22-6A, saw their season come to a close at 16-4-1 overall. Kingwood advanced to face Alief Elsik in the area round after press time. At left in the photo is Dobie's Natanael Delgado (6), who also played his final match as a senior. Martinez finished 2021 with five goals and 10 assists. It marked the first time that Dobie had been blanked all season. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Noah Torres dazzles again; Horns' baseball is now 4-0

Dobie senior Noah Torres dazzled yet again, allowing one hit and fanning 11 over seven solid innings as the Longhorns defeated

Pasadena 5-2 March 29 at Pasadena ISD's Maguire Field.

Torres ran his overall record to 4-0 this season

with the win, and Jacob Perez had a triple among his two hits and drove in a run.

Ryan Saxton doubled and scored a run, and Juan Estrada had two hits, including a double. He also scored a run as the Longhorns stayed atop the standings along with Deer Park, also 4-0.

The Longhorns will host Pasadena April 1, beginning at 4 p.m. The locals will then take on Deer Park April 6 at home and April 9 at Deer Park in a two-game set likely to determine the league title.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Brook baseball wins; sits second in 24-6A

A tough stretch of losses to wrap up nondistrict action is very much in the past as the Clear Brook varsity baseball team has thrown itself firmly into the District 24-6A playoff picture with seven games to play.

Joseph Lamm and Ryan Dolezal each had three hits and two doubles, and Carson Wagner sparked in relief as the Wolverines rallied to down Dickinson 11-3 in a key league duel March 26.

Lamm scored three runs and drove in three more in the three hole, and cleanup hitter Dolezal scored twice and drove in two while Ayden Garcia also scored a run

and drove in another. Dickinson entered action unbeaten in District 24-6A play but committed six errors to hinder its effort.

Meanwhile, the Wolverines won for the fourth time in five league games as Wagner surrendered one hit while striking out seven over 3 1/3 shutout innings in relief.

Brook, which took on District 24-6A leader Clear Springs March 30 after press time, scored five times in the fifth inning and four more times in the sixth frame to distance itself from Dickinson.

Clear Springs leads District 24-6A at 4-0. Continued on Page 6

Dickson rolls ahead of 24-6A track

2019 state qualifier Camryn Dickson of Clear Brook is again among the featured standouts aiming at a return to Austin as the track and field season enters its postseason segment.

Dickson first made waves two seasons ago as she rolled to Austin in the 100, eventually placing eighth. COVID-19 wiped out the 2020 season for Texas competitors, and now Dickson has returned

as a junior and appears better than ever.

Texas Mile Split had Dickson fourth nationally in both the 100 and 200 events as the District 24-6A Championships played out March 31 after press

time at Dickinson ISD's Sam Vitanza Stadium.

At the Hanna Relays at the same Vitanza Stadium March 26, Dickson put on a show as she established those national rankings Continued on Page 6

JFD tracksters excel at Stampede

The Lady Longhorns stood out in the sprint relays and Jeremiah Ballard won the 110 hurdles as the Dobie programs hosted the Longhorn Stampede March 26 at Dobie High School.

Field points figure to be key to overall team

victory at the District 22-6A Championships, and Dobie clearly expects to excel in the relays.

Those 22-6A championships began March 31 at Deer Park.

a time of 49.76 and then came away with a time of 1 minute, 49.90 seconds for second place in the 4x200.

In the 4x400, the Lady Longhorns also took second place at 4:20.37.

300 hurdles (48.25), and Haywood had a time of 12.64 for second in the 100, and teammate Don-yea Porter came in at 27.70 for second in the 200.

Dobie's Mia Sanchez was runner-up at 1:04.25 Continued on Page 6

Dobie hosts Channelview Thurs., April 1 Dobie H.S., 4 p.m.

At right, Dobie's Marisa Perla (11) and her teammates are preparing for the second half of District 22-6A play as they host Channelview at Dobie. At 4-1 in league action prior to a March 30 game against South Houston, the Lady Longhorns are second in the standings. Perla has contributed heavily to the team's success both in the circle and at the plate with the team at 14-8 overall.



Photo by Gloria Wallace

JFD softball eyes first

The Dobie varsity softball team can now turn its attention to making a run at District 22-6A-leading Deer Park after finishing play at the Pearlland-hosted Lone Star Classic March 25-27.

The Lady Longhorns, who wound up with two wins in five tournament games, were 14-8 overall and 4-1 in league play heading into its March 30 matchup with South Houston after press time.

Dobie will begin the second half of District 22-6A play by hosting Channelview April 1 at Dobie High School. First pitch is set for 4 p.m.

action, downing Clear Lake 7-2 as Sandra Quiroz-Catalan got the win, tossing five innings and allowing just three hits and two earned runs.

Karisa Hernandez had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run, and Pena doubled, scored a run and knocked in two.

Longoria tripled, and Shellie Ferguson also drove in a run.

Ahead to March 26, Dobie scored three runs in the first inning en route to a 5-1 win over Manvel but then saw Alvin take a 6-3 win.

Against Manvel, Perla tripled among her two hits and knocked in two runs. Pena doubled twice, and Ferguson tripled among her two hits and drove in a pair.

Perla got the win in the circle as she went six frames, allowing three hits and an earned run.

Kristen Barba had a two-run homer for Dobie against Alvin, but the Yellowjackets used 12 hits to gain the eventual 6-3 win.

Dobie played Rayburn in 22-6A action that night as the locals used seven extra-base hits to win easily, 13-1.

In moving to 4-1 in league play, Dobie led 8-0 after two

innings and put together 16 total hits. Ashley Napper and Perla drove in three runs each.

Continued on Page 6

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Junior also TABC all-state

CB's Kemo Millender named 24-6A MVP; Wolverines dominate all-district selections

All-District 22-6A Varsity Boys' Hoops

Most Valuable Player
Kemo Millender, Brook

Offensive MVP
Alex Lee, Lake

Co-Defensive MVP
Patrick Williams, Dickinson
Noah Thomas, Springs

Newcomer of the Year
Vernon Glover, Dickinson

Coach of the Year
Nathan Janak, Brook

All-District First Team

Marcus Millender, Brook
Christian Bradshaw, Brook
Maurice Pinnock, Creek
Keith Cooper, Dickinson
Orlando Horton, Jr., Falls
Carson Lindsey, Falls
Lawrence Brown, Lake
Von Wells, Lake
Allen Singleton, Springs
Luke Sampson, Springs

All-District Second Team

Ty Sims, Brazoswood
Tosh Lyons, Brook
Coleman Kramm, Creek
Jeremiah Cams, Creek
Eligha Hagler, Creek
Donovan Pointer, Dickinson
Donovan Green, Dickinson
Corey Kelly, Falls
Jordan Thomas, Springs
Caleb Sampson, Springs



Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball junior Kemo Millender (5) turned in one of the finest individual seasons in program history, and has been steadily racking up the accolades since the campaign ended. Millender, who celebrated scoring 1000-plus career points earlier in the season, was named a Class 6A all-state selection by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches after averaging 25.3 points, 4.2 rebounds and 2.4 steals per game. The District 24-6A Most Valuable Player led the Wolverines to the league championship before a second straight area round playoff appearance.

Coyotes keep winning

The San Jacinto College softball team, ranked 14th in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association poll, cruised to a pair of home wins over Morton College March 23 in nonconference play. San Jac won the opener 15-0 and then took the second game 13-0, both in five frames, getting to 27-6 on the season. Alexis Uresti drove

in three runs in the first game, while Kaurie Winters and Tamera McKnight knocked in two apiece. Cassie Homniok got the pitching win, allowing a hit and fanning six over the five frames. Uresti had two hits and scored three runs in the second game. Jules Garcia was 3 for 3 with three runs scored, and McKnight homered, drove in three

and scored twice. Maggie Childs had two hits and had three runs driven in, and Abby Forster had a pair of hits. The run support was plenty for Kaylee Thomas, who allowed two hits and struck out five over five innings for the win. San Jacinto College will now focus on conference play for much of the rest of the way.

San Jac baseball now 24-6

Fourth-ranked San Jacinto College, winners of 24 of 30 overall games midway through the Region XIV race, is looking very much like a JUCO

World Series appearance could be in its future.

CB's Calhoun acquires B'wood

Continued from Page 5
Aaron Calhoun continued his masterful senior season, going the distance yet again as he pitched Clear Brook past Brazoswood 3-2 in District 24-6A action March 23 at Clear Brook. Calhoun, a University of Oklahoma signee, struck out seven and surrendered just two hits and an earned run to earn the win as the Wolverines moved to 3-1 in league play.

Pitcher Thomas Burbank has been one of the top performers nationally, as he leads the country with eight wins (8-0) and is second in earned run average at 0.23 over 42 innings of work. Hunter Hollan is 5-3 with a 2.84 ERA for the Gators, and Matthew

Tiedling is 4-0 with a 1.84 earned run average. Offensively, Sabin Ceballos is hitting .330 with team highs of 42 runs batted in, five homers and five triples.

Dobie softballers take down Mavs

Continued from Page 5

Dobie wins rivalry game
Dobie scored three unearned runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to get past Memorial 7-5 in a hotly contested District 22-6A matchup March 23 at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

scored the go-ahead run on an error with two outs. Kristen Barba doubled in two runs later in the inning for a 7-4 Dobie lead, and winning pitcher Marisa Perla finished off the win in the seventh despite giving up a run.

Chase Whitehead was 2 for 3 with a pair of runs scored, and Joseph Lamm, Ryan Dolezal and Chase Stanley drove in runs as the Wolverines kept pace in the league standings.

Leslie Longoria, who scored three runs for Dobie, singled to lead off the sixth and eventually

Yessenia Pena also scored twice for Dobie, which was playing for the first time in 10 days due to spring break.

South Belt's 10-under Tigers finish 2nd at So Ho Bash



The 10-under Tigers excelled at the South Houston Bash, reaching the final before taking second place at the event. Members of the Tigers are, left to right, (front row) Mia Soto, Alissa Collinsworth, Lucia Gonzalez, Adrianna Robinson, Melaynee

Resendez, (middle row) Sophia Robinson, Athena Hernandez, Kailynn Scott, Brooklyn Coronado, Savannah Sandoval, (back row) coaches Kenneth Scott, Warren Robinson and Arturo Resendez.

JFD track hits stride as District 22-6As arrive

Continued from Page 5
in the 400, and Amari Singleton was in at 2:32.21 in the 800 for third place.

At 15.45, Ballard won the boys' 110 hurdles, and his high jump of 5 feet, 10 inches placed him third.

Alberto Campa ran to the wire with Clear Lake's Bennett Cookson before finishing second in the 1600 at 4:29.50.

Jhancarlos Campa was second at 2:02.26 in the 800, and Jonathan Jean grabbed a silver medal for second place in the 200 at

22.93. Zach Wallace's time of 52.00 was third in the 400, and he also contributed to Dobie's second-place finish of 1:31.30 in the 4x200 relay. Dobie's time of 43.74 was third in the 4x100.

Galena Park ISD Stadium is the host site for the District 21/District 22-6A Area Track and Field Championships as athletes from the two districts vie for berths in the Region III Championships in Humble later this month.

Brook tracksters off to 24-6A meet

Continued from Page 5
with wins in the 100 at 11.51 seconds and the 200 at 23.57, which is tops in the state.

Dickson capped her scintillating performance at the Hanna Relays by anchoring the Lady Wolverines to victory in the 4x4 relay at 4:00.98 as she ran past leader Clear Creek for the team win and 20 points for Brook.

Amanda Benjamin, Azayla Smith and Ja'Delle Major ran ahead of Dickson in the 4x4. Also at the Hanna Relays to close out the regular season, Brook freshman Azayla Smith took third in the 800 at 2 minutes, 31.30 seconds.

The Wolverines' Mark Capuano placed third in the discuss with a top toss of 140 feet, 7 inches. In

a two-competitor 400, Brook's Cameron McCallister won at 50.99 over teammate Aidan Tran (54.02).

The UIL State Championships for all classes is May 9 in Austin.

On the boys' side of things, the Wolverines' Matthew Trevino has carried over his strong effort in the cross-country season into the spring.

The District 23-6A/District 24-6A Area Championships will play out April 16 at Alief ISD's Crump Stadium with the

For Dickson in particular, the time is now to shine brightest.

SBGSA's 8U Hustle goes unbeaten, takes La Porte championship



The 8-under Hustle of the South Belt Girls Softball Association went unbeaten to win the age group championship at the La Porte Girls Softball Association Invitational. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Nahliyah Grant, Adelia Resendez, Cecilia Bogany, Addie Gonzalez, Em-

eralda Marquez, Liliana Marquez, Penny Hernandez, Dominick Delfante, Storm Arredondo, Dazie Sandoval, Libby Ramirez, (back row) coaches Christina Marquez, Armando Gonzalez and Javier Hernandez. Photo submitted

Whaley paces Texas Tech offense



Dobie graduate Yvonne Whaley, now a junior at Texas Tech University, is off to a solid start with the softball program as the Red Raiders navigate Big 12 competition. She homered March 26 to lead off Tech's Big 12 opener against Baylor, but the Bears went on to win the game 5-3 and won the series. Whaley, a former District 22-6A Most Valuable Player and four-year letter winner for the Lady Longhorns, started 33 games as a freshman at Texas Tech in 2019 and was a member of the Academic All-Big 12 Rookie Team. She then hit .326 during the abbreviated 2020 season. Thus far as a junior, Whaley has hit .348 with 20 runs scored, six doubles, 10 runs batted in and six stolen bases. Texas Tech University photo

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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit <https://www.houstonanon.org/online-meetings.html>.

NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - The club is currently closed. Visit <https://aclbunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for games or email at jpochsner@aol.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Details are on Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under calendar.

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nas.tuff.com/>.

AA - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3
7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting - "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) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit <https://www.houstonanon.org/> for details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4
8 p.m.
AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, APRIL 5
10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 or visit <https://www.houstonanon.org/>.

Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets on a virtual site at <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. To be a guest, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access. For details, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061.

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 at 832-858-4617.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bldg., room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801 for details.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.nas.tuff.com](https://nas.tuff.com/) or visit <https://nas.tuff.com/>.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All in-person events are canceled at this time. All services will be performed online. To join the 7 p.m. Friday night service or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, email President@Shaarhashalom.org to get the link.

8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles. For details, call 281-484-9243.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - CrossRoads UMC meeting. See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Meets at Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster, remembering Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day. For details, call 281-910-1971, visit aglownet.org or see related article, Page 4.

11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South. Meetings are on the second Thursday at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland, TX 77584, Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group. See Thursday's notice for details.

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New Thompson Intermediate to break ground July 2021

Continued from Page 1
ing for collaborative work," said Tanis Griffin, Thompson Intermediate principal. "I am also very excited for the plans we have for our athletic area because it will personify *Lion Pride* and showcase the

strong school spirit we have." Flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey damaged the school's gym floor beyond repair. Before the flooring was replaced, the school's logo was safely removed. "Incorporated into the de-

sign for the new building will be the saved wood Thompson Lions logo from our gymnasium floor that had to be replaced due to Hurricane Harvey flood damage. This will serve as a constant reminder of the resilience and

pride our Thompson Family has," Griffin said. With all the uncertainty from Hurricane Harvey, the COVID pandemic and February's winter storm, Griffin said the school is ready for some normalcy at the brand-

new Thompson Intermediate School. "With all that we have gone through as a Thompson family, we are thrilled to move to our new facility. We are excited to see the new building become a reality," Tanis said.



The above shows the new location for the proposed Thompson Intermediate which is scheduled to be constructed at the corner of Riverstone Falls Drive and Hughes Road. The photo also shows new pavement which was recently built by the city of Pearland in anticipation of the new facility. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Officials refuse to attend charter school meeting

Continued from Page 1
Organizers encouraged attendees to continue pressuring the school for answers by calling and emailing both it and Wynne. "We need information," Flickinger said. The charter school's main number is 832-649-2700. The school can also be emailed via its website at www.hga.schools.org/apps/contact. Wynne's phone number is 281-813-8959 and email address is bob@wynnepouppore.com. Attendees posed several questions to the event's featured speakers. Below is a synopsis of some of the inquiries and their responses: Q: Can the property be bought? A: The property is already owned by the school and can be bought and sold at its

discretion. Q: Who is the current manager of the property? A: The school's attorney, Bob Wynne. Q: When will the school be torn down? A: The campus will not currently be torn down unless its current owners decide to do so. Q: Can the TEA revoke the school's state charter? A: Yes, the school's charter was already revoked this past year. Q: Are taxes being collected by the school? A: No, as a nonprofit, no taxes are levied against the school. Q: Has a traffic study been done on the campus? A: Yes, a traffic study was conducted by Harris County on the school, but it's been more than 10 years. Organizers recommended possibly getting a second study conducted. Q: Why doesn't the HOA

intervene on the school's appearance? A: The HOA has no jurisdiction, as the school is a commercial property. Q: Would you let your kids go there? A: "I wouldn't let my kids, grandkids or great-grandkids go there," Flickinger said to a roaring applause. Originally proposed more than a decade ago, Elite College Prep Academy - Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy, was to be constructed on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage. Since construction began in 2015, however, work on the campus has stopped multiple times. The proposed campus has been met with opposition since its inception - well before the current complaints arose - from area residents who feel the neighborhood already has

enough schools and an extra one would cause additional traffic congestion. Many residents now view the half-complete school as an eyesore and a threat to their property values. Multiple residents at the meeting also complained that green-tarp fencing that has now been erected around the facility creates a blind spot for drivers, causing a safety hazard. Event organizers pledged to look into this issue. Another common concern among residents in attendance was the possibility of the vacant property being inhabited by the area's growing homeless population. While there is currently no evidence to suggest this has taken place, Flickinger said Precinct 2 constable deputies will be asked to continue to monitor the property

for such activity. In April 2019, two top staff members from Houston Gateway Academy were indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing more than \$250,000 from the school. "We had a great relationship before the theft and embezzling," said Flickinger. The charter school is also the target of multiple civil lawsuits. Mims said her group, of which Houston Gateway Academy is not a member, plans to work the state to find a solution. "We're working with the TEA to put pressure on them," Mims said. Organizers said they also hoped to find an ally in Harris County, with both Paul and Flickinger saying they planned to enlist the support of Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "He could probably stop it," Flickinger said of the commissioner. See future editions of the *Leader* for more information.

Election produces controversy at Garfield

Continued from Page 1
Rabe has focused much of her campaign on opposing the construction of a new Pasadena ISD administration building, suggesting the money would be better spent on renovating/replacing some of the older campuses in the district instead. The shared photos allegedly included pictures of missing ceiling tiles, leaky

roofs and portable fans/heaters. Courtney Miller Merilatt, Garfield Elementary principal refuted, however, saying the photos shared were selectively chosen and that the school district has been cooperative in meeting her needs to make school necessary improvements throughout her 10-plus-year tenure. She further noted the equipment

to make the needed upgrades to AC/heating system has already been ordered by the school district but is merely delayed due to current shipping issues. "As the principal of Garfield Elementary for the last 12 years, I find this post misleading," Merilatt responded to Rabe's Facebook post. "I am not sure where the photos came from, nor when they were taken. Garfield was originally built in 1956, and is very well taken care of for a 65-year-old building. The PISD school board has been very supportive over the years on issues related to our aging building. In my years at Garfield, they have provided us with a new chiller, a new roof, a new kitchen with additional serving lines and are in the process of upgrading our boiler. You can see in the pictures that our maintenance department developed a work-around (industrial space heaters and fans to move the heated air) to keep our school heated while the parts are on order for the upgrade to the boiler. The 'leaks' shown in the photos are related to AC condensation, and work orders are placed as the issues occur. Damaged ceiling tiles are replaced by our fantastic custodians once the repairs are completed. I would gladly have provided complete and accurate information regarding Garfield's facilities had

I been asked, but you have chosen to use only select photos that serve your purpose." Merilatt went on to say Pasadena ISD's plans to construct its new administration building were justified. "While a new campus would be nice, it is not as necessary as a replacement for the administration building," Merilatt said. "The school board and the maintenance department have been very responsive in providing Garfield with repairs and upgrades that take care of our aging building, whereas, the administration building has structural issues that require more than simple upgrades or repairs." Pasadena ISD board member Mariselle Quijano defended Merilatt in the online thread. "Pasadena ISD has amazing principals that work extremely hard each and every day providing great education for our students," Quijano said. "They do not work for the board of trustees, only the superintendent does. Ms. Rabe should be focusing on her campaign and allowing the PISD staff to focus on the selfless job of serving all students and our community. Let's continue the real mission and vision for our district." Merilatt told the *Leader* she feels disheartened by the online incident.

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Roberts Middle School names honor rolls

Roberts Middle School officials have announced the third nine-weeks honor roll.

Fifth grade
Alondra Aguilar, Annie Andrews, Dario Antunez, Angela Argueta, Liliana Armenta, Jesiah Avendano, Valerie Aviles, Abrey Banda, Carlos Beltran and Melissa Betanco.

Luke Bhatti, Nicholas Black, Riley Blakely, Leyla Brensike, Naomi Burton, Victor Cacho Martinez, Jeison Cacho Martinez and Ashby Caniff.

Gianni Cardenas, Daisy Clara Deblas, Nathan Cubos, Isaac Cumpian, Elaina Daniel, Brian Dao, Paulina Davila, Angelica Elizalde and April Flores.

Carlos Flores, Avigail Franco, Ryan Galang, Adrian Garcia Jasso, Flint Gardner, Alejandro Garfias Villarreal, Alejandra Gonzalez-Hernandez, Devland Guillory and Felix Gutierrez.

Natalia Guzman, Lexi Hernandez, Khloe Hinojosa, Erik Hoang, Brandon Ingersoll, Alfonso Jimenez, Sebastian Juarez, Javier Legaspi and Antonio Lemos.

Wendi Li, Nicholas Lopez, Vincent Lopez, Cesar Lue Hernandez, Aiden Ly, Giselle Martinez, Caden Martinez, Matrida Masau and Brandon McNeal.

Abigail Molinar, Abigail Munoz, Aubrey Navarre, Nhi Nguyen, Jade Nguyen, Sophie Nguyen, David Nguyen, Thai Nguyen and Aurelia Ochwilu.

Manuel Olivas, Emma Olvera, Shakira Osorio Garcia, Vincent Pineda, Ileen Portillo, Alejandra Quintanilla Linares, Aliyah Rhodes, Emiry Rod-

ers and Christopher Romero.

Aden Ruiz, Joshua Sandoval, Alyssa Sanmiguel, Di-vante Santana, Mauro Siller, Quattrulayn Suleman, Jade Tagle, Juan Tamayo and Ruby Tamez.

Cayla Tang, Melina Torres, Layla Torres, Thanh Tran, Yaretzi Valdivia, Ava Vega, Carlos Vega and Hassan Zam-zam.

Sixth grade
Giselle Achuo, Victor Alatorre, Tyler Albert, Syed Ali-jafri, Nathan Ariaga, Ibrahim Asif, Adeliz Barahona, Valeria Benavidez and Yaneli Brensike.

Emery Cardenas, Kordai Clay, Alissa Colon-Nunez, Urias Del Angel, Santiago Diaz, Faith Duenas, Paige Duong, Alisha Escobar, David Flores, Diego Garay, Alicia Garcia, Destinee Garcia, Israel Garza, Alexa Gonzalez, Dennis Gonzalez Guardado, Caela Griffin, Wendy Guerrero Celay and Muzna Hasan.

Alyssa Hinojosa, Anthony Jennings, T'nyiah Lee, Brittany Llanas, Abigail Martinez, Isabella Martinez, Annakaren Melchor, Elianne Mendoza and Samuel Moreno.

Chloe Morse Zavala, Junied Munshi, Zainab Naveed, Anh Nguyen, Nam Nguyen, Quynh Nguyen, Toby Nguyen, Grace Ojeda and Juliana Olivo.

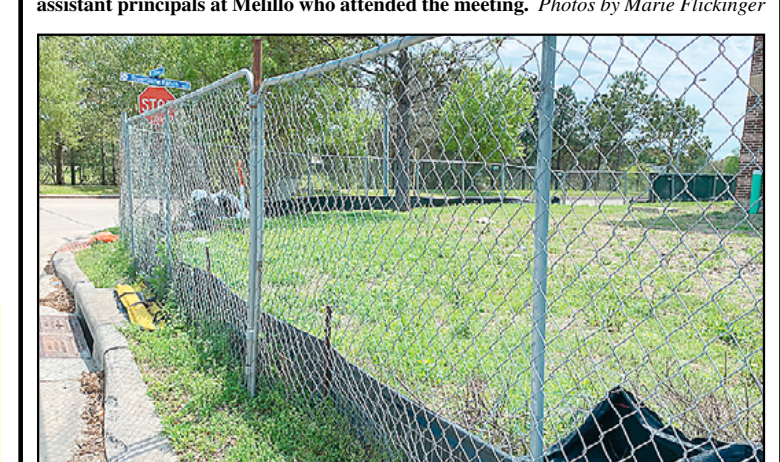
Andy Pineda, Jazalynn Randall, Genesis Rodriguez, Maylene Rodriguez, Jasmine Russell, Christopher Salinas, Geovanny Sanchez, Nolen Thomas and Damian Torres.

Jaylyn Torres, Elijah Ugalde, April Vazquez, Jose Vela-Puerto, Adrian Villatoro and Xamira Zambrano.

Community shares concerns



State Rep. Dennis Paul (top photo, second from left) hosted a public meeting at Melillo Middle School Friday, March 26, to discuss the future of the controversial Houston Gateway Academy charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision. The half-constructed campus (shown in bottom photo) has long drawn the ire of local residents who complain the campus is an eyesore and possible drain on their property values. Residents also complain the fence shown below surrounding the campus is a safety hazard, as it obstructs vision for drivers on the busy street. Constable Jerry Garcia told the *Leader* on Tuesday, he would check out the vacant building for concerns regarding the homeless possible of being in the structure and the tarp obstruction. Shown above with Paul are Texas Public Charter Schools Association representative Chelbi Mims (far left), Jennifer Saucedo and Chris Bui, assistant principals at Melillo who attended the meeting. Photos by Marie Flickinger



San Jac announces April events

San Jacinto College announced April events.

FAFSA Days and Nights
Every Monday in April the San Jacinto College financial aid office will host FAFSA Days, 10 a.m. - noon, and FAFSA Nights, 2-4 p.m. These sessions will help guide applicants through the FAFSA process. No appointment is necessary. www.sanjac.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid/fafsa-tasfa-help-events.

April 2-4
College closed for Spring holidays
The college will be closed from Friday, April 2 to Sunday, April 4.

April 5-18
Fall priority registration
Priority registration for current students for the fall 2021 session is open until April 18. For more information, contact a campus business office at 281-998-6150.

April 6
Grad TX scholarship info session
Does one have college credit but was unable to finish their certificate or degree? Grad TX can help one finish. Find out more Tuesday, April 6 at 11:30 a.m. Register at www.sanjac.edu/grad-tx-info-session.

April 8-29
San Jac home baseball games
All home games are played at the north campus John Ray Harrison field at Andy Pettitte Park (N-22) and are free and open to the public.

To see the full schedule, visit www.sanjac.edu/baseball/2021/schedule.

Thursday, April 8, 6 p.m.: vs. Wharton College
Saturday, April 17, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.: vs. Blinn College
Thursday, April 22, 6 p.m.: vs. Galveston College
Thursday, April 29, 6 p.m.: vs. Alvin College
April 9 - **Harris County Promise Deadline**
High School seniors from South Houston, Sam Rayburn, and Dobie high schools who applied and were accepted to the Harris County Promise at San Jac Program should apply to San Jacinto College through ApplyTexas.org by Friday, April 9. There is no cost to apply. The Harris County Promise is a San Jac Program that provides financial assistance to help cover the costs of attending college.

For more information, visit sanjac.edu/harris-county-promise-program or contact Chalen Rice at Chalen.Rice@sjcd.edu.

April 14 and 24
San Jac home softball games
All home games are played at the south campus softball fields and are free and open to the public.

To see the full schedule, visit www.sanjac.edu/softball/2020-2021/schedule.

Wednesday, April 14, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.: vs. Alvin College
Saturday, April 24, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.: vs. Lamar State College

April 16
Maritime info sessions
Learn more about the San Jacinto College Maritime

Technology and Training Center and the courses and programs they offer. To register, visit <https://www.sanjac.edu/form/maritime-information-session-registration>.

April 19
Fall registration opens
Registration for the fall 2021 session is open until July 29. For more information, contact a campus business office at 281-998-6150.

April 7-28
Free workshops with Continuing & Professional Development community
Engagement: RSVP for all at community.engagement@sjcd.edu.

Wednesday, April 7, noon - 1 p.m., hand therapy: symptoms, diagnoses, and prevention.
Thursday, April 13, noon - 1 p.m., colorectal cancer: It's more common than you think.
Wednesday, April 14, 10-11 a.m., sesión de información campamento de verano para Jovenes y nios (Spanish).
Friday, April 16, noon - 1 p.m., integrated pest management: Texas landscape maintenance.
Tuesday, April 20, 2-3 p.m., career info session: health occupations and safety.
Thursday, April 22, noon - 1 p.m., Texas recovering together: working from home with kids during a pandemic
Tuesday, April 27, noon - 1 p.m., long-term care insurance.
Wednesday, April 28, noon - 1 p.m., conversational Spanish.

Praise Chapel
LOVING PEOPLE BACK TO LIFE

Bill and Renee Morris **Ke'Erron Sims** **Nathan Rocha**

Come join us Easter Sunday, at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. We will have powerful praise and worship with Pastor Nathan Rocha, along with Gospel music favorites, Bill and Renee Morris.

At 6:00 p.m. we will be having a special night of worship with Ke'Erron Sims.

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www.stlukecatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

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

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

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