

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Candidate questions inside

A questionnaire for candidates in the upcoming May 6 Pasadena ISD election appears on Page 2 of this issue.

Meet incumbents at Leader

The three incumbents in the upcoming May 6 Pasadena ISD trustee election will host a meet and greet Friday, April 28, in the Leader parking lot, located at 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8. Position 5 incumbent Kenny Fernandez, Position 6 incumbent Marshall Kendrick and Position 7 incumbent Vickie Morgan will host the event from 4 to 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Sage Meadow Park meeting

Harris County officials will hold a public meeting from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Sage Meadow Park, 11219 Sageyork, to get community input about possible updates to the area park as part of the Precinct 2 Parks and Trails Plan Project. Sage Meadow Park has been identified as a priority park in this plan. For Precinct 2 updates, visit www.hcp2.com.

Kirkwood to meet April 27

The Kirkwood Civic Club's April meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes near Beltway 8. Meetings are set for the last Thursday of the month. For additional information, call President Ericka McCrutchieon at 281-989-9990.

Shredding event planned

Frost Bank, located at 9990 Alameda Genoa, will host a document-shredding event Friday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a 10-box limit per person.

Sage Meadow HOA to meet

The Sage Meadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month. For meeting agenda, guest speaker or other additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community jumped this past week, with all three local ZIP codes reporting increases, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, April 18, there were 196 active cases in 77089, up 30 from the previous week. To date, 139 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 28 active cases, up 14 from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 26 active cases, up six from the previous week. To date, 93 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 in League City to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road in Dickinson/Texas City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road in Dickinson/Texas City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

Beltway closures planned

One southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Spencer Highway to Fairmont Parkway will be closed continuously through 3 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

One northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Fairmont Parkway to Vista will be closed continuously through 3 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

One northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to SH 225 daily from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

Riverstone holds garage sale

Riverstone Ranch HOA will host a community garage sale Saturday, April 29, and Sunday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Rain-out dates are Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7.) Only allowed twice a year in the subdivision, the individual sales are to be held in the resident's driveway or garage. For information, visit www.riverstoneranchhoa.com.

Voting for May 6 school elections to begin April 24

Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek ISD, San Jacinto College hold elections

Early voting for local May 6 school board elections will begin Monday, April 24, and continue through Tuesday, May 2. (See related questionnaire on Page 2.)

Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek ISD and the San Jacinto College District will all hold elections. All candidates are facing challengers.

In Pasadena ISD, three board members are up for re-election.

Position 5 incumbent Kenny Fernandez is being challenged by Larry Savala; Position 6 in-

cumbent Marshall Kendrick will face opponents David Gonzales and Andy Garcia; and Position 7 incumbent Vickie Morgan will be challenged by Irene Tamayo and Jeff Snover.

Savala briefly served on the Pasadena ISD board before, filling the spot vacated by Jerry Ross Speer from 2014 to 2015.

The three Pasadena ISD incumbents are campaigning as bloc, emphasizing their experience. The three will host a meet and greet at the Leader office April 28. (See related sidebar entry.)

For additional Pasadena ISD election information, visit www.pasadenaisd.org/school_board/election_information.

Voters in Clear Creek ISD will decide who will fill the District 2 position currently held by Michelle Davis and District 3 position currently held by Arturo Sanchez. Most South Belt residents will be ineligible to vote in the election, as neither district is in the immediate area.

Both incumbents have filed to maintain their positions. Davis will be challenged by Jamieson Mackay and Glencora Rodgers. Sanchez will be opposed by Peter Lauzon.

For additional Clear Creek ISD election information, visit ccisd.net/elections.

In the San Jacinto College District, voters will select who will fill the Position 1 seat currently held by Erica Davis-Rouse and the Position

2 seat currently held by Ruede Wheeler. Rouse is the only incumbent who filed for re-election. She is from the South Belt area. She is being challenged by Brad Hance. In the Position 2 race to replace Wheeler, Michelle Cantú-Wilson will face opponent Karen K. Wheeler-Hall.

For more San Jac College election info, visit www.sanjac.edu/about-san-jac/board-trustees/election-information/board-election-may-2023.

The cities of Friendswood, South Houston and Pasadena will hold simultaneous elections. Nearby early voting locations include the Harris County Scarsdale Annex, 10851 Scarsdale, and El Franco Lee Community Center, 9500 Hall Road. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For additional information or to see a complete list of polling locations and sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.com.

Martin meets Artemis II crew



Mayor Pro-Tem and City Council Member Dave Martin (center) was recently invited to attend the Artemis II crew announcement at the Ellington Airport. Many notable guests were in attendance, including Sen. Ted Cruz, Rep. Sheila Jackson and Canadian Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne. Artemis II Crew members shown above with Martin are, left to right, Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman and Christina Koch.

State offers emergency supplies tax-free

With the severe weather season on its way, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 22, and ends at midnight Monday, April 24.

"While we can't know in advance when the next flood, tornado or hurricane may strike, we can make sure our families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies," Hegar said. "This tax holiday can help Texans save money while stock-

ing up for emergency situations. Don't wait for disaster to strike. Take the time now to get prepared."

The comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save nearly \$2 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include the following:

- Household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75.

Continued on Page 2

Firefighters respond to house fire

A house caught fire around 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, in the 10900 block of Eddyrock Drive near Fuqua and Beamer.

Houston firefighters arrived on scene within four minutes to find smoke coming from a one-story house and made an offensive attack.

The utilities were controlled, and the home was ventilated.

A primary and secondary search was completed, and the fire was extinguished.

The fire caused approximately \$30,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save around \$151,000 in property.

An item was left too close to the stove and caught fire, investigators said.

No injuries were reported.

The blaze was determined to be unintentional in nature.

Crews from Houston Fire Department stations 26, 70, 52 and 61 responded to this incident.

Motorcyclist killed on Genoa Red Bluff

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that occurred about 3:20 p.m. Monday, April 17, in the 2500 block of Genoa Red Bluff Road near Beltway 8.

At press time, the identity of the dead male, 19, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the dead male was riding a black Yamaha motorcycle west, while the driver of a brown Freightliner Cascadia (18-wheeler) was traveling

east at the above address. The 18-wheeler was making a left turn going onto a private driveway when the motorcycle struck its trailer's tire and side railing.

The male motorcyclist was ejected. Paramedics transported him to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, where doctors later pronounced him dead.

The driver of the 18-wheeler remained at the scene and did not show signs of intoxication. He was questioned and released.

The investigation was ongoing at press time.

Work continues on Freeway Manor Park

Houston Mayor Pro-Tem and District E City Council Member Dave Martin would like to notify South Belt residents that Freeway Manor Park construction recently began and is on track to conclude by June.

The park is currently closed for construction, and demolition is scheduled to begin soon according to city officials.

The improvements at Freeway Manor Park will include resurfacing the parking lot, repairing the walking trail, replacing park benches, updating the baseball field, updating the picnic areas, repurposing the existing tennis court to a soccer mini-pitch and improving park lighting.

Construction activities will occur Monday through Friday, with occasional Saturdays, between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Earlier starts might be required for any concrete pouring in case of high temperatures.

Residents should be mindful of the active construction site and not enter areas surrounded by orange construction fencing.

City Council has approved two agreements

between the City of Houston and Houston Parks Board that underscored the commitment to this public/private partnership by appropriating almost \$6.2 million from the City of Houston's Parks and Recreation Dedication Fund and General Fund for this work to begin on the first 11 parks of the 50/50 Park Partners initiative.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the continuous operation and upkeep of the parks, examining and approving plans, and delivering the public funding commitment. Houston Parks Board is serving as the project manager and overseeing the private fundraising for the 50/50 Park Partners initiative in coordination with Greater Houston Partnership.

"These upgrades are much needed and those using the park will have the enjoyment of these upgrades," said community activist Jim Muecke, who serves as a liaison between the Freeway Manor subdivision and city officials. "Please be reminded this is our park, so when using please dispose of your trash in the containers and not on the ground. Obey all posted signs."

Deputies arrest driver in stolen car

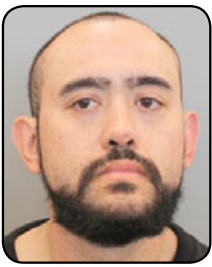
Passenger also arrested on drug charges

On April 7, deputies from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office arrested a driver in a stolen car following a brief pursuit.

The incident began at approximately 4:30 p.m. when Precinct 2 patrol deputies spotted the stolen vehicle near the intersection of Blackhawk and Beltway 8.

When deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver refused to stop, and a brief chase ensued.

The pursuit ended near the 9400 block of

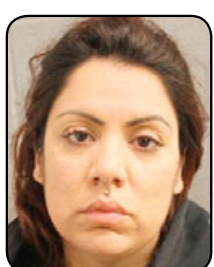


Charles Byrd

Fuqua near Blackhawk where the driver bailed out and ran into a wooded area.

With assistance from the Houston Police Department and HPD's K9 unit, the suspect was located and apprehended without further incident.

Charles Byrd was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The vehicle's passenger was also found to be in the possession of narcotics and was arrested for a felony drug offense. Gina Gallegos was charged with possession of a controlled substance.



Gina Gallegos

City seeks hazard mitigation input

The City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) leads the city's efforts in planning for all types of emergencies, disasters and hazards.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) aims to identify the city's major hazard risks, assess Houston's vulnerability to those hazards, and identify actions to reduce vulnerability, and serves as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster grants and assistance. FEMA requires that the city's HMP be updated every five years.

Hazard mitigation planning reduces the risk to people and property and reduces the cost of recovering from a natural disaster. Mitigation ef-

forts are most effective when they are based on a comprehensive, long-term HMP.

The city's planning team has completed the draft update to the HMP. To view the plan, visit houstonoem.org.

As part of the planning process, OEM is requesting that the public provide their feedback on the plan. Submit any comments you may have by Friday, April 21, 2023.

To submit your comments on the draft plan, send an email to Stevie Ann Hodgson-O'Donnell (shodgson@h2opartnersusa.com). In the email, make sure you provide the section number and page number. Residents may also submit comments over the phone at 713-884-4500.

Woman, 25, charged in fatal stabbing

Suspect charged with murdering Nathan Freeman, 32

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal stabbing of a man that took place around 8:45 p.m. March 20 in the 16300 block of El Camino Real near El Dorado.

Liliana Cervantes, 25, is charged with murder in the 482nd State District Court. She is ac-



Liliana Cervantes

cused in the death of Nathan Freeman, 32.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to an apartment at the above address and found Freeman inside suffering from a stab wound.

Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene.

Further investigation identified Cervantes, the victim's girlfriend, as the suspect in this case.

Cervantes was subsequently arrested and on Monday, April 3, charged for her role in the incident.

Park improvements underway



Freeway Manor Park is currently closed while city crews work on a construction project to make improvements to the aging park's baseball field, picnic areas, tennis courts, parking lot, walking trail, soccer field, benches, lighting and playground (shown in artistic rendering). The project is part of the city's 50/50 Park Partners initiative, which will make improvements at 11 area parks. The park is expected to reopen in June.

PISD board candidate South Belt Leader questionnaire answered

The *Leader* sent questionnaires to all candidates seeking a position on the Pasadena ISD school board. Multiple candidates failed to respond by the deadline. The following responses are unedited and in the order in which they appear on the ballot:

Dobie Lariaettes set spring show

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes, Lassos and DHS dance department will hold their annual spring show, "Dare to Dream," April 28 and 29 at 7 p.m. in the Dobie auditorium. Admission is \$10, and tickets can be purchased at dobielariaettes.com under "upcoming events." The public is invited to support the Lariaettes, as they perform for the last time during this school year.

Military officers are Justice Johnson, Evbu Edigin, Erin Perez and Frida Monreal. Social officers are Natalia Garcia, Heaven Vargas, and Leyla Torres. Members of the Lariaettes are Galilea de la Garza, Jenny Gallardo, Justice Garcia, Brianna Garza, Catherine Gomez, DaniElla Gonzales, Arlett Gonzales, Emily Grimaldo, Mia Hernandez Zara Hobson Leslie Jimenez, Mia Lozano, Kiana McCombs, Lilli Ramirez, Aimee Ramos, Angelina Rapalo, Angel Rhodes, Vanessa Rosalez, Emily Salazar, Lizbeth Serrano, Emilee Sulak, Dulce Torres, Alexa Villasenor, Megan Vu, Jamiyah and Washington, Jakayla Willrich.

Position 5 **Kenny Fernandez**



Name: Kenny Fernandez
Age: 48
Occupation: President/CEO Houston Shiping Agencies
Education: Atkinson/Beverly Hills/Dobie/San Jac College/Sam Houston State University
Marital Status/Children: Wife-Kacie / Son-Kaden Daughter-Kenzie

What makes you best qualified to serve the residents of Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less)
As a graduate of J. Frank Dobie High School, a life-long resident of the South Belt, son of a PISD retired teacher and parent of a PISD student, I am uniquely qualified to serve our schools as a Board member. When first elected in 2015, I quickly learned about our school district, and I clearly understand my role as a member of an eight-person team committed to ensuring our district runs efficiently and is meeting the needs of all students. I will continue to serve the PISD community in ensuring we keep students first in all decision making.

What do you believe is the role board members play in the success of the district? (100 words or less)
My role as a Board member is to safeguard the values, beliefs and priorities of our community which ensures our success as a district. Our Strategic Plan provides a multi-year timeline of what we want to achieve and where we want our district to be by 2025. I support the Superintendent in her efforts to run a district that is safe for all students, that challenges each child academically and prepares each child for the future. I will always keep students as the number one priority to ensure we are doing all we can for our community.

How long have you lived in the school district? (50 words or less)
I have lived in Pasadena ISD my entire life and I'm a proud member of the South Belt community, attending Atkinson Elementary, Beverly Hills Intermediate, J. Frank Dobie High School, and San Jacinto College before furthering my education Sam Houston State University.

List your participation as a volunteer in Pasadena ISD schools, district, parent clubs and community and civic organizations.
My volunteer efforts consist of my service as a Director on the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards, and I am an active member of Sagemont Church. In addition, I currently serve on the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and served as Chairman of the Board from 2020-2022. Other volunteer work includes active participation with the PISD Athletics Hall of Fame. I have previously served the South Belt area as a board member and coach at Sagemont Beverly hills Little League and coach for the Sagemont Cowboys.

What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities? (100 words or less)
The role of a Board member is very clear. Specifically, we are charged with the task of adopting goals and priorities through the adoption of policies and budget. We are also responsible for communicating with the community in a way that is responsive to our values, beliefs, and priorities. I believe it is imperative that Board members work collaboratively and cooperatively with the Superintendent and district administration to strategically manage the school district in such a way that is responsible, ethical, and legal. I am not afraid to ask questions and to seek clarity when necessary to make informed decisions.

Do you support the current Superintendent of Pasadena ISD? Why? (100 words or less?)
I support Dr. Powell and what she has done with the team of Pasadena ISD to address the needs of our students. I have learned through the years and numerous crisis situations that we have faced as a district that she is a steadfast leader who does not shy away from challenges but faces them head on and keeps students as her number one priority. I believe her vision for our district, along with her team, has helped create the successes we celebrate as a school district.

How do you view the relationship between the board of trustees and the district's administration? (100 words or less)
The superintendent is the one employee we supervise as a Board. However, we engage with district administration as we prepare for board meetings, review Strategic Planning, adopt policies, approve budget and any other important business brought to the Board for consideration. We are fortunate to currently have a positive, productive relationship with our district administration.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less)
Challenges we face are teacher recruitment and retention and student and staff safety. We are facing a critical teacher shortage in our area and our state. This leads to difficulty in recruitment and retention of our best teachers. While our state has created new opportunities such as Texas Teacher Incentive Allot-

ment, it does not address funding issues for our school district which is also a major challenge we face. While we have committed the necessary resources to ensure safety at all our campuses, we must continue to stay vigilant and prepared for any threats to our security, including cyberthreats.

What are your thoughts about face-to-face learning versus virtual instruction during this ongoing pandemic? (100 words or less)
The data shows that most of our students benefit greatly from face-to-face instruction. It was necessary during the pandemic to offer virtual learning and we were ready. The Board voted to provide the necessary resources; devices and connectivity so that all students and staff could continue their teaching and learning. I am PROUD of the work we accomplished during the pandemic and the efforts made once we were able to reconvene face-to-face to address any learning losses. As a Board member I understand the benefits of virtual learning, however students learn best in our Pasadena ISD classrooms with our teachers.

If elected, what specific issues would you address in the district if elected? (100 words or less)
I believe we must address the ESSER federal funding that will be going away and how we, as a district, will provide the resources to continue the successes we are experiencing with small group tutoring and extra tutorials. In addition, supporting efforts to recruit and retain our very best teachers to remain in our district is another issue I believe we must address so that our students receive the best education. I will continue to support taking care of our staff and students to ensure their success in our district.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less)
Increased pay for our employees for they have the toughest job on the planet. It is difficult to retain teachers because of burnout. This is difficult due to the legislation not setting the budget for the 2023-2024 school year until late July.

What are your thoughts about face-to-face learning versus virtual instruction during this ongoing pandemic? (100 words or less)
Nothing can compare to students and teachers face to face for a successful education. Virtual was necessary and mandated due to the pandemic, but woefully inadequate for educational and social growth for students. Thankfully, Texas is a state that used good sense during the pandemic and brought students back to classrooms early.

If elected, what specific issues would you address in the district if elected? (100 words or less)
I will continue to support the superintendent and the on-going evaluation of programs that are already in place and those being developed. I appreciate that at each board meeting different programs are highlighted and provide current data regarding their work including our early childhood program, CTE, ECHS, Advanced Academics, Intervention, and technology just to name a few. The board is given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and to request additional information as needed. These on-going sessions allow us to understand current programs and give guidance to the superintendent as necessary.

Position 6 **Marshall Kendrick**



What makes you best qualified to serve the residents of Pasadena ISD (background and reason for interest)? (100 words or less)
I have served this district as a trustee for nearly 34 years. My children attended Pasadena schools and graduated from Rayburn. When I was first elected, PISD had a 67 percent graduation rate, in 2022 our graduation was 90.9 percent.

What do you believe is the role board members play in the success of the district? (100 words or less)
We have an outstanding district, one of the best in the state. Our strategic plan is to provide the best education possible for our students. I have earned the respect and trust of our community. With my re-election we will keep first things first: the continued success of our students.

What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities? (100 words or less)
Picking the right Superintendent. I have served with four superintendents all moving us forward in student success. Our responsibility is approving the district budget, approving administrative personnel and approving policy. This includes approving resources for programs, technology and the strategic educational plan for our students. I have been a strategic thought partner for the superintendent when faced with challenging situations and decisions.

How long have you lived in the school district? (50 words or less)
I have lived in Pasadena ISD for 64 years.

List your participation as a volunteer in Pasadena ISD schools, district, parent clubs and community and civic organizations.
I serve on the steering committee of the McDonald's Invitational Basketball Tournament. I have been on the Mission Centers of Houston Charity Golf Tournament committee for 28 years. My wife and I have been members of South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena for 59 years. At South Main I serve as a Deacon, alternate Bible study leader and a member of the finance committee.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less)
Our primary roles are selecting and evaluating the superintendent and district governance. The board is responsible for en-

suring the district is financially conservative and prudent in how taxpayer dollars are utilized and accounted for. We work hand in hand with the Superintendent in supporting the safety, educational, emotional and facility needs for our students. Therefore, we approve the budget, set policy and hold the administration accountable for instructional programs to determine if or how successful they are.

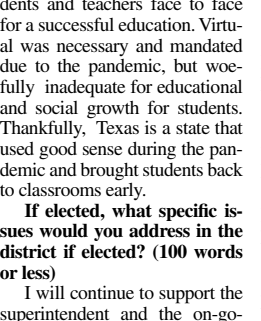
Do you support the current Superintendent of Pasadena ISD? Why? (100 words or less)
Definitely! Dr. Powell is an outstanding Superintendent, the best I have ever served with. She is a great communicator, leader and champion for our students and employees. She is highly respected by her peers and in my opinion, the best in the state.

How do you view the relationship between the board of trustees and the district's administration? (100 words or less)
Outstanding! We have great trust in our administration. They also trust us. We have the Superintendent's back and our employees know it. The administration knows what our role is and what it is not.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less)
Increased pay for our employees for they have the toughest job on the planet. It is difficult to retain teachers because of burnout. This is difficult due to the legislation not setting the budget for the 2023-2024 school year until late July.

What are your thoughts about face-to-face learning versus virtual instruction during this ongoing pandemic? (100 words or less)
Nothing can compare to students and teachers face to face for a successful education. Virtual was necessary and mandated due to the pandemic, but woefully inadequate for educational and social growth for students. Thankfully, Texas is a state that used good sense during the pandemic and brought students back to classrooms early.

Position 7 **Vicki Morgan**



Name: Vickie Morgan
Occupation: retired/homemaker
Education: University of Houston - studied microbiology
Marital Status/Children: Married/3 daughters/3 grandchildren

What makes you best qualified to serve the residents of Pasadena ISD? (background and reason for interest) (100 words or less)
My entire adult life, I have been involved with nurturing and supporting children. I have 37 years of uninterrupted and committed service on this Board of Trustees, currently serving as Board President, having served in every position on the Board. I have presented programs, several times over the years, at conventions, sharing my knowledge on various School Board topics, with board members across the state. I am an outspoken advocate for our district, our communities, all students and employees. My unwavering commitment to success for all, makes me best qualified to serve in this role.

What do you believe is the role board members play in the success of the district? (100 words or less)
I have lived in Pasadena ISD for 64 years.

List your participation as a volunteer in Pasadena ISD schools, district, parent clubs and community and civic organizations.
I have been involved with the Pasadena ISD community for 59 years. I have been a member of the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees for 37 years. I have been a member of the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees for 37 years. I have been a member of the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees for 37 years.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less)
Our primary roles are selecting and evaluating the superintendent and district governance. The board is responsible for en-

the success of the district? (100 words or less)

An effective school board, with the help of district personnel and community, approves the mission, vision and goals for the district and continually monitors programs, holding the district accountable for results. A successful board works collaboratively as a team, with the superintendent, reviewing data from all stakeholders and approving measures and setting policies to address current and future needs.

How long have you lived in the school district? (50 words or less)
I have lived in the district for 50 years, moving to Pasadena, after prayerfully considering where we wanted to raise and educate our children.

List your participation as a volunteer in Pasadena ISD schools, district, parent clubs and community and civic organizations.
I have enjoyed serving the youth and families in Pasadena through many years. I volunteered for more than 30 years with the PTA, beginning as room mother and continuing in all levels, including President at local, council and district levels. I organized the first PTA at the Intermediate level in our district, at ParkView Intermediate, seeing a need for continued parental involvement in a child's education, beyond elementary, where I served several years as President. I helped organize and chair several Project Graduations at Sam Rayburn High School, which provided a safe, post graduation party for all graduating seniors. I also served as Treasurer of the Tex-Ann Drill Team Booster Club. I continue to serve our community and school district

well and am currently a director for the district's Education Foundation and serve on the district's Safety and Security Committee.

I organized and was leader of three Girl Scout troops for many years, from Brownies to Cadettes, also serving as Neighborhood Vice Chairman, for the Golden Bluff neighborhood. I was a member of the Committee for Continuing Education at San Jacinto College and volunteered with the YMCA. I have served as Vacation Bible School and Sunday school director with South Main Baptist Church and have been involved in organizing many church-wide events.

I was one of the original city-appointed board members, serving for several years as Secretary for the Pasadena Second Century Corporation, a non-profit industrial development corporation. **Continued on Page 6**

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 Kingspoint. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Parker Williams Library
Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit the website at <https://www.hcp.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.

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, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
Hours are: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays. Visit <https://www.hcp.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Bridge to host fashion show

The Bridge Over Troubled Waters is hosting its annual fashion show April 27. The Bridge is a domestic and sexual violence crisis center in Pasadena serves Harris County.

This year The Bridge celebrates 45 years of serving the area. The fashion show is the only fundraising event The Bridge hosts and is open to the public.
Visit <https://www.classy.org/event/2023-fashion-show/e459494/register/new/select-tickets>. Contact 281-501-1877 for details.

In My Opinion

Gadd asks South Belt to help preserve PISD

I am begging our South Belt voters to go to the polls and help maintain and preserve our school district that is being challenged in the upcoming school board elections. Apathy cannot set in during this extremely important election. Traditionally school board elections do not generate large voter turnouts, but apathy must be defeated and voters must leave their homes and go to voting locations and cast their vote.

Once your children have gone through their school years and have graduated, their parents have a tendency not to vote, and more reason than not, these parents need to vote in order to continue our district's plans of achievement and quality. I have lived in this area for over 50 years and have worked very close with our district. I have observed the achievements and progress of the Pasadena Independent School District.

I know the administrators, board members and faculty. I have watched as they have made decisions for the betterment of our children and our community. I have observed that people have moved into the South Belt area and one of the main reasons was our school district.

The accomplishments of this district have been well documented. If apathy dominates this election and if voters stay away from voting due to not having school age children in their home any longer our district will be subject to change.

Please, please South Belt voters come and cast your vote to maintain our district's excellence by voting for the three incumbents, Marshall Kendrick, Vickie Morgan, and Kenny Fernandez. Protect our school district, get out and vote!
Emory Gadd

Nancy Teichelman urges re-election of trio

I am writing this letter in reference to the upcoming, important school board election in Pasadena. My husband, son, daughter-in-law, and myself have chosen Pasadena ISD as our choice of employment. The district has not disappointed us, and we continue to believe in Pasadena as one of the best school districts in the state. Part of the reason I feel as though the district is so strong is because of the leadership of our school board. They have been instrumental in the placing of an outstanding superintendent who has taken the lead in acquiring excellent administrators who are responsible for obtaining outstanding teachers and staff. Vickie Morgan, Kenny Fernandez, and Marshall Kendrick are running in the upcoming election, and I totally support them for re-election.

Since my retirement as a principal, I have worked with student teachers and new teachers who have been placed in Pasadena. Each year, we receive a list of students who want to be placed in Pasadena for their student teaching. Actually, there are so many we can not take them all.

As the student teachers complete their year, they have a strong desire to teach in Pasadena. Over the years, most of them have acquired positions in Pasadena, and that is because of the support they receive while completing their year of working with the students. For numerous years, 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 is outstanding, and they have received many awards. Academic teams have made the citizens of Pasadena very proud with their accomplishments. I attribute the success of the students as an affirmation to the administrators, teachers, and board members who have supported them.

ings and needed repairs and additions to schools. The food services department provides nutritional meals for the students.

Technology is an important part of each student's day. A hybrid method has been utilized to make sure their needs are met. A sound curriculum with differentiated instruction has been provided to meet the diverse needs of the students. They are one of the few districts who have provided computers and internet access for all students.

Students are able to attend San Jacinto College for free for 3 years including their industry certification programs. The graduation rate has continued to grow and is presently at 90.9%. This is above the state average. Each year students are provided with scholarships that help them achieve personal goals. The Career and Technical High School is an excellent place for students to learn in many areas. We invited a friend of ours to tour the school. He is a respected former employee of NASA, and he was so pleased with the school and the opportunities that are being provided by the campus.

Robotics, chess, and agriculture programs, continue to excel in the district. The important fact is that the students are able to enter a program that best meets their individual needs.

I can not stress enough how much I respect the dedication and leadership of Vickie Morgan, Kenny Fernandez, and Marshall Kendrick. They are committed to the success of the students in Pasadena. Please help Pasadena continue to be one of the best districts in the nation for serving students in poverty. They are absolutely committed to the success of the students in Pasadena. There will be a meet and greet on April 28 from 4-6 in the parking lot of the South Belt Leader. Please try to attend. Early voting is from April 24-May 2. The actual election is May 6.

Even if you don't have children, this is an important election. Pasadena has such a positive reputation over the years. The experience of the current board members who are seeking reelection is the reason.
Please vote Position 5- Kenny Fernandez; Position 6- Marshall Kendrick; Position 7- Vickie Morgan.
Sincerely,
Nancy Teichelman

Retired Stuchbery Elementary principal Turnipseed encourages PISD voters on election

As a lifelong resident of the South Belt, and former student of PISD schools, I am supporting the following candidates for the upcoming PISD School Board election: Vickie Morgan, Marshall Kendrick and Kenny Fernandez.

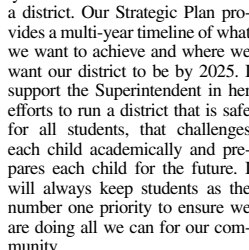
Combined, these incumbent candidates have nearly 80 years of experience on the board. Vickie Morgan has served 37 years, Marshall Kendrick has served 33, and Kenny Fernandez has served 8 years on the board. These numbers speak for themselves. This shows many voters agree, as I do, these board members continue doing a great job representing the Pasadena Independent School District.

They continue to make good decisions for the district, its students, staff and our community. They have done this, while always remaining fiscally responsible. I am certain they will continue to do the same when they are re-elected.

These members serve without pay and, if you talk to any of them, there is no question as to WHY they serve - they want to keep our school district GREAT and prepare each of our students for their future and for the future of our communities. Please remember that your voice is critical and your vote matters. I ask you to join me in supporting these committed and devoted candidates for this school board election: Vickie Morgan, Marshall Kendrick and Kenny Fernandez. Early voting begins April 24th and runs through May 2nd, with the General Election being held May 6th. I hope to see you at the polls!
Jeff Turnipseed

Deaths

Lillian Theresa Brooks



Lillian Theresa Brooks, 97, passed away March 29, 2023, from complications following a stroke. She was born April 6, 1925, to Felix Jean Baptiste Breaux and Florence Josephine LeBlanc in Pierre Part, La. She was the third of five children. She was married to Parker Lanier Cates, the father of Jo Ann, Monica Lea, and Deborah. She married Samuel Eustace Brooks, Jr. Dec. 30, 1957. They had two children Glenn Allen and Polly Anna. They were married 65 years at the time of her death.

Lillian worked for several companies, including SoHo Babyland, a daycare center for children. She retired in 1980 and began taking painting lessons and becoming an avid painter. She was a seamstress, quilt maker and terrific cook. Lillian was Sam's fishing companion and gardening partner. She was active in St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, including as president of the Women's Club and Altar Guild. She was a member of the Pasadena Art League and won several blue ribbons.

Lillian is preceded in death by her parents; siblings Alvin Breaux, Lydia Lizarraga, Livian Bourgeois, Harvey Breaux; and infant son Glenn Allen Brooks. She is survived by her husband; daughters Jo Ann Walton, Monica Hasty, Deborah Trahan and Polly Richards (Scott); stepson Guy Brooks; grandchildren Dee Dee Johnston (Troy), Christopher Heath (Debbie), Craig Heath (Veronica), Jennifer Eaves (Robby), Victoria Gary, Joseph "Matt" Hasty (Katherine Diershaw), Amber Friedman, Shawn Trahan (Tyler), Evan Richards and Julie Richards; great-grandchildren Nathan Johnston, Jacob Johnston (Sierra), Bryana Heath, Duncan Heath, Kayla Heath, Jordan Heath, Kya Eaves and Preston Eaves; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held April 13 at St. Frances Cabrini with a funeral Mass afterward. Donations can be made in Lillian Brooks' name to St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church at <https://www.osvhub.com/st-frances-cabrini-church-houston> or to the charity of your choice. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at Lillian Brooks Obituary at dignitymemorial.com.

James Edward Krafka



James Edward Krafka was born Dec. 17, 1937, to Anastasia (Studeny) and Charles R. Krafka in Harlingen. He was the second of five children in his family. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, older brother Charles Eugene and younger sisters Elaine Charlotte Krafka Dilley and Mary Ann Krafka Thornton. Jim was blessed to have been raised in a home with parents that practiced Jesus' teachings, such as respect and helping others, that quickly reflected on him.

Unfortunately, type 1 diabetes reared its head when Jim was an 18-year-old senior at Rio Hondo High School. Diabetes was a struggle and people saved his life during episodes of low blood sugar. First was his cousin Rudy Joe Krafka during a duck hunting trip in South Dakota in 1956, then numerous colleagues and friends and, of course, his wife Carole.

After taking a relaxing year off, he enrolled at Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos in pre-engineering. In his second year he met the love of his life, Carole Ann Harrington, and they were married on Sept. 2, 1961.

Jim graduated with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering in January 1963. Carole and Jim moved to Garland, Texas where Jim started work for LTV Electrosystems. They soon joined the Methodist church and Jim became very involved working with the youth in Sunday school and Bible study.

Shortly before the Apollo 11 moon landing he was recruited by Lockheed Martin at NASA until he retired in 2001. The NASA "Old Geezers," as they called themselves, met regularly. Their last meeting was Saturday, April 8, 2023. Jim was glad he got to see the guys that day and spent the whole night talking to Carole about it.

In March 1967, they welcomed their son John Michael Krafka and in December of 1968, Melissa Gale Krafka family.

Scouts to host spaghetti dinner

Boy Scout Troop 468 will be hosting its 18th annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser on April 29, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 East Broadway, in Pearland from 4 to 8 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway. Each dinner includes a generous serving of spaghetti with or without meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and drink for \$10, eat-in or take-out. Individual desserts will be available for separate purchase. There will also be a silent auction and baked goods sale. All proceeds benefit Troop 468's activities and equipment.

Tax free holiday set

Continued from Page 1
- Hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300.
- Portable generators priced less than \$3,000.
For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be purchased tax-free during the holiday.
For example, if one purchases a rescue ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.
Purchases that do not qualify include the following:
- Batteries for autos, boats and other motorized vehicles.
- Camping stoves and camping supplies.
- Chainsaws.
- Plywood.
- Extension ladders and stepladders.
- Tents.
A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the comptroller's website.

Moore round-up set

Enrollment at Moore Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year is open to 4-year-old children, preschool age and new kinder students who have not previously attended a PISD school. This registration will close June 29. For information, call Moore Elementary at 713-740-0656.

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Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

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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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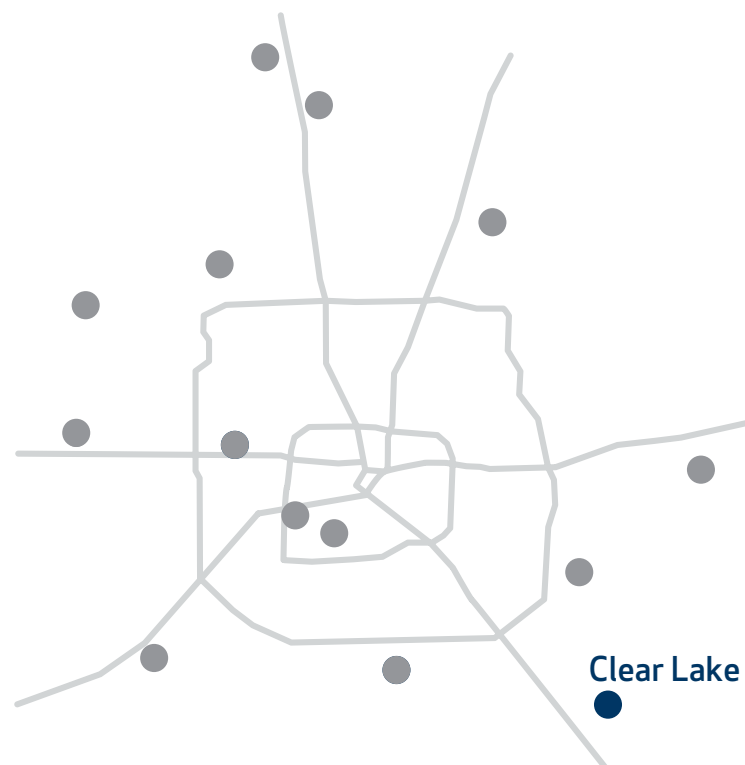
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3 alumni, 3 former teachers chosen for SoHo Hall of Honor

By Al Carter

Two Vietnam veterans are among three alumni and three former teachers selected for induction in the South Houston High Hall of Honor, the school's Alumni Association has announced.

The six will be inducted during the upcoming Homecoming ceremonies on Oct. 13. Those ceremonies will include an open house at the school, a pregame alumni mixer and the school's 65th homecoming game that night against Sam Rayburn. The open house will include a reception for the new inductees in the Reinartz Center.

The three alumni to be inducted are Larry Kerbow, Class of 1964; Becky Benner, Class of 1980 and Kenny Mercado, Class of 1981.

Former teachers to be inducted are Diane Stafford, a journalism and English instructor from 1966 to 1982; Tom Swan, a government teacher from 1973 to 1995; and Charlotte Eads, the school's orchestra director from 1985 to 2003. Kerbow and Eads will be honored posthumously. Kerbow and Swan both served as combat infantrymen during the Vietnam conflict. Their post-military careers were spent in the ranks of Pasadena ISD. Kerbow amassed 33 years as a district physical education teacher, most of it at Kruse Elementary.

Swan's 23-year career as a government teacher in the classroom at South Houston led to another 25 years in various positions at the administration level. His final assignment was a 14-year stint as principal of the district's Community School, a second-chance program that brought hundreds of dropouts into the ranks of high school graduates.

Stafford served as adviser to the school's award-winning newspaper and yearbook publications. Afterward, she became a noted magazine editor and award-winning author.

Stafford and Swan were classmates at Pasadena High, both graduating in 1962.

Eads, who graduated from Dobie in 1979, was married to Jerry Dunaway, a previous inductee in the Teacher Hall of Honor at South Houston. Dunaway, a science teacher who also coached the school's fencing team, died in 2011. Eads passed away in 2021.

Benner, a former science teacher at Dobie, now serves as Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction for the Pasadena ISD. Mercado is currently executive vice president of CenterPoint Energy

Here is a look at the six inductees.



Larry Kerbow

Larry Kerbow, Class of 1964, joined the Army after graduation and was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division for service in Vietnam. He earned two Air Medals for multiple aerial missions in a combat zone, two Bronze Stars for heroism in ground combat, a certificate of combat service and two Army Commendation medals.

Many other decorations came his way, including a Purple Heart. But just one Purple Heart. He turned down a second one.

His 33-year career as a physical education instructor included just two stops, one at Richey Elementary and the other at Kruse. He spent his retirement years in Arizona, but died suddenly last year. He was buried with full military honors at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix.



Becky Benner

Becky Benner, Class of 1980, has served as the Pasadena ISD's Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction for the past decade. This assignment placed her on the front line of curriculum development for all five district high schools, the district's career/tech high school and eight other early-college and alternative campuses.

The daughter of Lee Benner, longtime coach at South Houston High School, Becky earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Houston Baptist University in 1984. Before moving into public education, she worked as a medical researcher and as

a legal assistant. In 1994, she landed a teaching spot at J. Frank Dobie High School. She subsequently returned to South Houston as SUCCESS coordinator and in 2003 was named assistant principal.

In 2010, she made the jump to the administration building as the Instructional Specialist for science. In 2014, she was named to her current position.



Kenny Mercado

Kenny Mercado, Class of 1981, has applied his skills as an electrical engineer for more than 35 years to operations with CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies. He is currently executive vice president of the company's electric utility. In that role, he is responsible for directing electrical transmission, distribution and power delivery solutions in the greater Houston area and in Evansville, Ind., where he supervises power generation assets. In 2018, he led company efforts to integrate the assets of CenterPoint and Vectren Corp. The merger resulted in one of the largest energy delivery, infrastructure and services companies in the country, one serving more than seven million customers.

Two years ago, in the aftermath of a massive winter storm that led to widespread power outages, he directly advised Houston city officials on the matter and later testified before state lawmakers.



Diane Stafford

For Diane Stafford, reinventions have been a trademark of her professional career, one that shows no sign of slowing down.

Her present-day pursuits as an award-winning writer and editor continue to stock a grow-

ing body of work that includes 15 nonfiction and self-help books. Those publications have produced more than one million copies sold.

Her most popular book, "50,001 Best Baby Names," was a two-year best-seller, twice updated to now include "60,001 Best Baby Names." Today, she also edits college essays and guest-teaches at schools near her Newport Beach home.

Those teaching skills can be traced directly to her 16 years at South Houston High, where she served as adviser to the school's yearbook and newspaper publications, both of which earned state and national recognition during her tenure. Under her direction, the 1980 Palladium was named the best yearbook in Texas.

After leaving South Houston, Stafford wrote magazine articles, served as editor-in-chief of "Houston Home & Garden Magazine," and owned and edited "Houston Health & Fitness." But through it all, she says, her days at South Houston were the best of her career. "I had such bright, lovable students," she says. "SHHS kids are the best!"



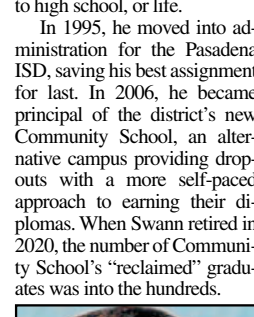
Tom Swan

Walking the halls of South Houston in his younger days – dressed in trendy shirts with flashy ties – Swan might have been mistaken for Ryan O'Neal or Steve McQueen. And although his classroom was indeed his stage, Swan very much played himself, a handsome and warmhearted social studies teacher only a few years removed from the jungles of Vietnam.

Swan graduated from Pasadena High in 1962. After earning his degree from the University of Houston, he landed a teaching job at Beverly Hills Intermediate. Then, in 1969, the call of Southeast Asia pulled him from the teaching ranks. He spent three years in the infantry, rising to the rank of sergeant. After his discharge, he returned to Beverly Hills Intermediate for a brief stint before joining the South Houston faculty in 1972.

There, he quickly endeared himself to students with his insights into government and his willingness to provide individual guidance on any topic related to high school, or life.

In 1995, he moved into administration for the Pasadena ISD, saving his best assignment for last. In 2006, he became principal of the district's new Community School, an alternative campus providing dropouts with a more self-paced approach to earning their diplomas. When Swan retired in 2020, the number of Community School's "reclaimed" graduates was into the hundreds.



Charlotte Eads

Over her 19-year tenure as director of South Houston's orchestra, Eads guided her student musicians to routine superior ratings at UIL and other competitions. At events in such faraway places as Florida, Colorado and Washington, D.C., South Houston earned best-in-class ratings.

But more significant than the awards bonanzas enjoyed by Eads' students was the indelible impression she made on her orchestra members. Blessed with an uproarious laugh, she exuded a sense of joy and optimism that enhanced her students' confidence in their musical abilities.

Her passion was the cello, an instrument she mastered while a student at Dobie High School. She studied under her mother, Dobie orchestra director Barbara Eads, through her junior year and captured multiple memberships in all-region and all-state orchestras. Upon her graduation in 1979, Eads received a four-year music scholarship to Southern Methodist University.

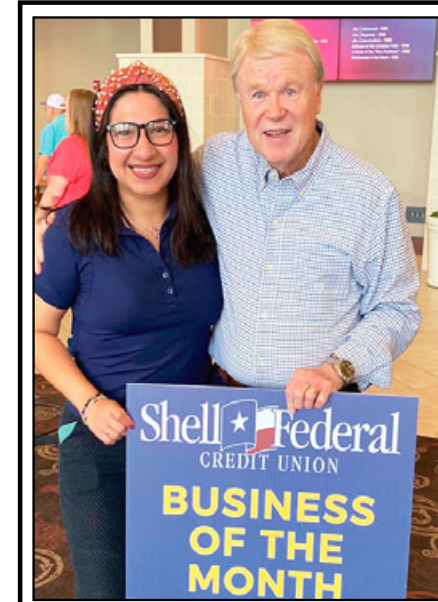
Her memberships and leadership assignments ran the gamut of music educator associations in Texas. From 1997-1998, she served as president of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association. Twice she was nominated for Disney Teacher of

the Year awards. She left the public-school ranks in 2003, but remained active as a private cello instructor and as a music lecturer at the University of Houston.

Her years at South Houston also provided Eads with the love of her life – and an unusual one, at that. She held a cello bow. He held a fencing rapier.

Her match was Jerry Dunaway, a science teacher at the school who also coached the fencing team. They were separated by Jerry's death in 2011. Eads passed away two years ago.

The Faculty Hall of Honor at South Houston now includes both Dunaway and Eads, two of South Houston's most esteemed educators.



Shell recognizes Sagemont Church

Shown above are Reyna Lagunas (left) of Shell Federal Credit Union and Emory Gadd of Sagemont Church. Shell Federal Credit Union recognized Sagemont Church as the Shell Federal Credit Union Business of the Month for March 2023. "This award is presented to businesses who provide a safe and positive working atmosphere, exceed customer expectations and actively participate in their community. We recognize Sagemont Church has met these expectations and demonstrated many other outstanding qualities to receive this reward," said Lagunas.

Hire Houston Youth seeks summer interns

The City of Houston is currently seeking applications for youths and young adults ages 16-24 seeking summer internships.

The internships are part of Mayor Sylvester Turner's signature program, Hire Houston Youth. According to Turner, the program will give interns an insight to local government, while gaining valuable work experience.

All candidates must be a Houston resident and must undergo a background check. All applicants must be able to work 32 hours a week for eight weeks, with internships taking place between June 12 and Aug. 3.

Interns will be compensated \$10 per hour.

For more information, visit hirehoustonyouth.org.

Hire Houston Youth
Turner recently joined other city officials and area business leaders for the kickoff of the 2023 Hire Houston Youth program.

Paid local jobs and internships are available with the City of Houston and the public, private, and philanthropic sectors. Turner has set a goal this year of providing 15,000 jobs, with a stretch goal of 20,000 jobs.

Employers interested in joining Hire Houston Youth may visit hirehoustonyouth.org or contact the City of Houston's Office of Education and Youth Engagement at ehy@houston.gov. The City of Houston is supported by the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund

and has partnered with SER

jobs and BankOn to teach a variety of topics, including budgeting, the value of building your credit score, personal loans and more.

The mayor was joined at the press conference by Houston ISD Superintendent Millard House II, Alief Independent School District Superintendent Anthony Mays, Retired McDonald's Owner and Operator Dave Moss, University of Houston Bauer College Dean Paul Pavlou, several council members and business leaders. Also present was former Hire Houston Youth intern Tommy Wan.

"Because of Hire Houston Youth, I now want to work in local government," said Wan. "It is an avenue for change focusing on urban policy, transportation, infrastructure and housing needs for the City of Houston. The experience and skills I obtained working with Council Member Tiffany D. Thomas in my home district, District F will take me beyond Hire Houston Youth, and I want to thank Mayor Sylvester Turner for this opportunity."

Over the past 40 years, Houston has grown from

a blue collar, industrial era economy to an international, high-tech economy. "The Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement has worked diligently to register employers that reflect current workforce trends and are diverse in nature," said Education and Youth Engagement Director Olivera Jankovska.

"United Airlines is proud to once again support and partner with Mayor Turner and the Hire Houston Youth program," said United Airlines' Director of Corporate and Government Affairs Darrin Hall. "United's participation in the program provides Houston's youth with an opportunity to work with one of the city's largest private employers."

Turner included Hire Houston Youth in his One Safe Houston campaign that seeks to reduce violence, prevent crime, provide increased crisis intervention, engage the community, and provide outreach opportunities to young people.

Hire Houston Youth ensures Houston's young adults have options and opportunity to explore different career paths, officials said.

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved the purchase of band uniforms for Thompson and Beverly Hills intermediates.

State Rep. Bill Caraway and his wife, Kippy, were guests at the Kirkwood Civic Club meeting.

40 years ago (1983)

Dobie High School junior Cyndi Bullard was crowned Strawberry Queen for the 15-17 age group at the Strawberry Festival.

Dobie's Terry Garza threw a one-hitter against the Baytown Lee Ganders in a 4-0 win.

Lawrence Mitchell, Dedrick Walker and Dobie's 400-meter relay team qualified for the Region IV Track Meet.

35 years ago (1988)

The Metro Transit Authority began to make its presence known in the South Belt area in anticipation of beginning bus service in the area in less than a month.

Grumman Corp. announced it would still make use of Ellington Field, despite the death of last year's plan to move its civil space systems division here.

30 years ago (1993)

A hail storm, some reported the size of a ping-pong ball, accompanied by fierce winds cut its destructive swath through the western portion of the South Belt area. Roofs and vehicles were left damaged. Many streets and driveways were covered with debris from the storm. By two days later, two local insurance claim centers had reported 150 vehicle-damage claims.

The opening of the beltway from Beamer to Telephone had been pushed back 10 more days than the date given recently by the project engineer, but it was still a month ahead of schedule.

Rick Schneider was named superintendent of the Pasadena Independent School District. Schneider held the position of interim superintendent for five months before being selected as superintendent.

25 years ago (1998)

The second annual South Belt Spectacular barbecue event was set at El Franco Lee Park. A real Texas longhorn was to be on hand to have pictures taken with area residents.

A car show was also scheduled.

Thompson's Academic team was scheduled to compete in the national finals of the Academic League Tournament. The team was one of two teams remaining in the competition which began with 32 teams nationwide. Thompson had placed in the finals four times in its six years of competing.

J. Frank Dobie High School released its annual dropout rate which was at an all-time district low of 0.6 percent – 14 students. According to spokesman for the district Kirk Lewis, it was the lowest dropout rate for PISD high schools since the district began compiling records, and probably the lowest ever attained by the district, even before records were compiled.

15 years ago (2008)

Longtime Sagemeadow resident Don Stapon presented a petition signed by 282 people to the Harris County Commissioners Court aimed at reducing speeding on Blackhawk.

A man jumped to his death from the Interstate 45 exit at Beltway 8, Gregory Kinchloe, 48, was last seen alive as he parked near the northbound exit, walked around his vehicle and dived headfirst onto the southbound service roads below. Police estimate the fall to be 100 feet. A similar incident occurred the previous May at the same location.

Mike Stephens was named athletic director of the Pasadena Independent School District. Stephens was the former head football coach at Dobie High School. He replaced Dick Nance, who retired.

A man died in a single-car accident at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Blackhawk. Heriberto Leizondo, 23, was westbound on the tollway around 1 a.m. when he lost control of his pickup truck and ran into a guard rail. Leizondo, who was not wearing a seat belt, was thrown from his vehicle, which then rolled over on him.

10 years ago (2013)

The Houston-based nonprofit Children at Risk released its 2013 rankings of local schools. The organization ranked more than 1,000 public high schools in Texas (150 in the Greater Houston area). This year marked the first time schools were assigned a letter grade (A-F) based on their comparative performance.

Dobie was the second highest Pasadena ISD high school on the list at 78th (C). Overall, the Clear Creek Independent School District fared better in the rankings. Scoring second for CCISD was Clear Brook at 38 (B).

5 years ago (2018)

Charges were filed against a suspect wanted for fatally shooting his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend outside the AMC movie theater at Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway on Saturday, April 14. The suspect, Adrian Mondragon, 22, was charged with murder in the 178th State District Court. According to police, the incident took place around 9:20 p.m., as Mondragon's ex-girlfriend and the victim were leaving AMC. Armed with a rifle, Mondragon reportedly confronted the couple, then fired a single shot, striking the victim in the chest. He was pronounced dead at the scene. While charges have been filed against Mondragon,

1 year ago (2022)

A man was fatally shot around 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 13, at an apartment complex in the 1300 block of Redford near the Gulf Freeway and Edgebrook. Robert Clark was pronounced dead at the scene. According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting at the above address and found the victim lying on a sidewalk unresponsive suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. No immediate arrests were made.

Dobie High School chemistry teacher Selene Verhofs-

he remained at large at press time.

An armed home invasion took place Thursday, April 11, in the 3100 block of Yost. According to police, the incident took place around 7 a.m. when the four men, wearing dark-colored hooded sweatshirts and masks, forced their way into the house and robbed the residents at gunpoint. The suspects fled the scene in the residents' blue Mercedes-Benz C300, which was later recovered nearby. No immediate arrests were made.

1 year ago (2022)

A man was fatally shot around 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 13, at an apartment complex in the 1300 block of Redford near the Gulf Freeway and Edgebrook. Robert Clark was pronounced dead at the scene. According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting at the above address and found the victim lying on a sidewalk unresponsive suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. No immediate arrests were made.

Dobie High School chemistry teacher Selene Verhofs-

tad won the 2022 Shell Urban Science Educator Development award. This national science award has been given to only seven teachers in the nation over the past eight years. This award provides support to diverse educators in pursuit of professional development with active participation at the National Science Teaching Association's National Conference on Science Education and serves to increase the science educator talent pool of minority educators to meet the education workforce challenge of the future. The award consists of \$1,800 to be used to participate in NSTA virtual conference offerings. Recipients will be invited to attend a variety of workshops and presentations that are of particular interest to urban teachers at the annual National Conference. Verhofsstad has been a science teacher at the area school for eight years, five of which have spent teaching chemistry. The esteemed educator is also a part of Pasadena ISD's Early College High School program.



Over The Back Fence by Natalie

CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY, AARON!

Special birthday greetings are sent to Aaron Giles who enjoys a birthday April 20, from wife Ashley and sons Jaxson and Jace; grandmother Bobby Griffin; parents Jim and Tracy Giles; sister Kristen; and brother Cody. Aaron is a 2012 Dobie graduate.

ANN MARKS A BIRTHDAY

Insurance business owner, former Dobie High journalism teacher and former longtime Sageglen resident, Ann Brannen celebrates her birthday April 20. Best wishes are sent from her many friends and the staff at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 20 through April 26.

Atkinson Elementary

Ana Garza enjoys a birthday April 21. Birthday greetings go out to Jessica Kidd on April 25.

Burnett Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to Keri Grayson April 20.

Genoa Elementary

Remember to wish Debbie Blair a happy

birthday April 23. Join in the birthday celebration April 26 for Portia Alvaro.

Meador Elementary

Break out the birthday cake and ice cream April 22 for Ana Moreno.

Moore Elementary

Sara Saxon and Maria Molinar enjoy a double-layer birthday cake on April 20. Send a happy birthday greeting April 25 to Dee Dee Pitts.

South Belt Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout to Lesley Cooper on April 23. Blow out the birthday candles for Roseann Herte April 26.

Stuchbery Elementary

Best wishes for a great birthday April 23 are sent to Charyl Lyons.

Melillo Middle School

On April 24, light the birthday candles for Nicole Ram.

Fred Roberts Middle School

Special birthday wishes go out to Allie Perry April 24.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

April 21 marks a special birthday for William Anders. Criselda Bocanegra cele-

brates a birthday April 24.

Thompson Intermediate

Special birthday greetings are sent to Daniel Birch-Merillas April 21.

Dobie High

Blow out the birthday candles April 24 for Lynn Capell.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, April 20: Andy Crawford and Shelly Nails; Friday, April 21: Michael Barlow and Carol Talbot. Saturday, April 22: Barbara Eikenburg, Jenny Nguyen and Dawn Goforth; Sunday, April 23: Mandy Lewis and Ashley Coppens; Monday, April 24: Theresa Flower, Lisa Castellano and Claudia Espinoza; Tuesday, April 25: Steve Jones, Misty Kuehn and Liana Pena; and Wednesday, April 26: Traci Thompson, Stephen Brady and Dan Fortson.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie track and field faces tough area field

The Dobie varsity track and field program will have plenty of chances to reach the Region III meet later this month as the Longhorns head to Turner Stadium in Humble for the April 20 District 21-6A/District 22-6A Area

Championships. Track and field's version of the postseason got started April 12-13 as Dobie was second as a team in both the varsity boys' and varsity girls' divisions at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

Deer Park took advantage of both talent and depth to sweep the 22-6A crowns. In the boys' division at the varsity level, the Deer won with 215 points, with Dobie's 133 points nipping Channelview (125 points) for second place.

Deer Park's varsity girls piled up 270 points for the team title, with Dobie second with 171 points. At the district level, the top four finishers in all relay and individual events automatically qualified for the area championships.

As for the area round, the top two finishers in all events will qualify for the Region III Championships. For 2023, Humble ISD will host the Region III meet at Turner Stadium April 28-29, while the Class 6A state meet will play out May 13 in Austin.

DP, Dobie 1-2
While Deer Park cruised to the varsity girls' 22-6A crown, runner-up Dobie delivered plenty of medal-claiming and top-four area performances.

The Dobie girls took gold in both the 4x200 and 4x400 relays to pick up 40 key points. Individually, senior Ashlee Garcia and sophomore Stacie Harris won gold in two events each to lead the charge. In the 4x200 relay, it was senior Mia Sanchez

and sophomore Tailin Curtis joining freshman Kylar Joseph and sophomore Bre'Yanna Williams taking the victory and gold medals at 1 minute, 48.13 seconds. The Longhorns turned to seniors Ashley Dunn and Sophia Perez along with freshman Christina Rodriguez and sophomore Stacie Harris for the gold-medal win in the 4x400 relay at 4:13.58.

Dobie and Deer Park went to the wire in the 4x100 relay, with the Deer taking the gold in a time of 50.29 and Dobie second for silver in a time of 50.50. Dobie's area-qualifying foursome included sophomore Chloye Matthews, Harris, Sanchez and Curtis. The Longhorns swept the medals in the 3,200, with Garcia taking gold at 12:41.02, with sophomore Lauren Garza second for silver at 12:52.94 and junior Kyla Lobo third for bronze with her time of 12:59.95. With a gold medal in

Wolverine tracksters qualify for area meet

Athletes from Clear Brook High School are off to the area track and field championships as the locals look to reach the Region III meet late this month.

Senior Kennedy Thompson was one of several stars for the Clear Brook girls, getting to 122 feet, 8 inches for her second straight 24-6A championship in the discus. She also threw the shot a personal best of 37-5 for fourth place and an area round invitation. Dickinson collected 142 points to win the 24-6A crown on the girls' side of things. Brook was fifth as a team with 86 points.

Clear Brook's 4x400 relay team blazed to a time of 3 minutes, 55.349 seconds for the gold medal win as the foursome included Jizzale Davis, Ja'Delle Major, Azayla Smith and Julisa Hudson. A time of 24.723 seconds earned Brook's Davis a silver medal for

second place in the 200. As for the 400, Brook's Smith posted a time of 58.925 for second place and the silver medal. At 2:22.242, Smith also reached the area round in the 800 as she was fourth. An effort of 34-5 in the triple jump was good for Kyra Freeman to advance as the fourth-place finisher.

At 49.284, the Wolverines were second in the 4x100 relay as the group included Kyra Freeman, Davis, Hudson and Twyla Penn. The locals also advanced to the area round in the 4x200 relay as the group of Ja'Delle Major, Freeman, Penn and Kamryn McLaurin came up with a clocking of 1:47.140.

The 24-6A boys' team championship went down to the final 4x400 relay as the Dickinson Gators collected 123 points to win the crown by a mere two



Clear Brook senior thrower Kennedy Thompson is now a two-time District 24-6A champion in the discus event after taking the gold medal and top honors at 122 feet, 8 inches at the leaguewide championship meet April 11 at Challenger Stadium in Webster. Her personal best of 37-5 in the shot was good for fourth place as she will now take part in the District 23-6A/District 24-6A Area Championships April 21, also at Challenger Stadium in Webster.



The Dobie girls swept the top-three medals in the 3,200 run at the District 22-6A Championships and will now look to advance to regionals as the 21/22 area meet plays out April 20 at Turner Stadium in Humble. From left, Dobie's Lauren Garza was the 22-6A silver medalist, Ashlee Garcia was the gold medalist and Kyla Lobo the bronze medalist. Garcia also won the 800.

21-6A/22-6A Area Track
April 20, Turner Stadium

23-6A/24-6A Area Track
April 21, Challenger Stadium

JFD baseball looks to keep winning

Barreling toward the District 22-6A varsity baseball title with nine straight wins, the Dobie baseball squad went into action against South Houston April 18 after press time looking to extend the

program's winning streak. Dobie, which will no doubt keep a close eye on the Deer Park/South Houston two-game series April 25 and April 28, will close out its 22-6A run of games April 21 with a 4

p.m. contest against South Houston at Dobie. The Trojans were at 4-4 in District 22-6A play at press time.

The Longhorns won their eighth and ninth straight league games, beating Rayburn 10-2 April 11 and then taking down the Texans 14-1 April 14.

Sophomore left-hander Aiden Sanchez struck out six and allowed two hits and no earned runs in a complete game April 11 to improve to 4-1 overall.

Daniel Delgado went 3 for 4 with three runs scored and Juelz Martinez had a hit to go with great defense in center field.

In the April 14 win, sophomore Cruz Torres

also went the distance to move to 9-0 this season as Delgado was 5 for 5 with a home run, two doubles and four runs batted in while scoring three runs.

Omar Sema went 2 for 3 with a home run, a double and two RBIs, while Martinez was 2 for 2 with two runs batted in and two runs scored.

Fernando Flores also had two hits and scored twice as the Longhorns delivered their ninth straight win in District 22-6A action.

JFD hosts
S. Houston
April 21, 4 p.m.
Dobie H.S.

Physicals
at Dobie
April 27

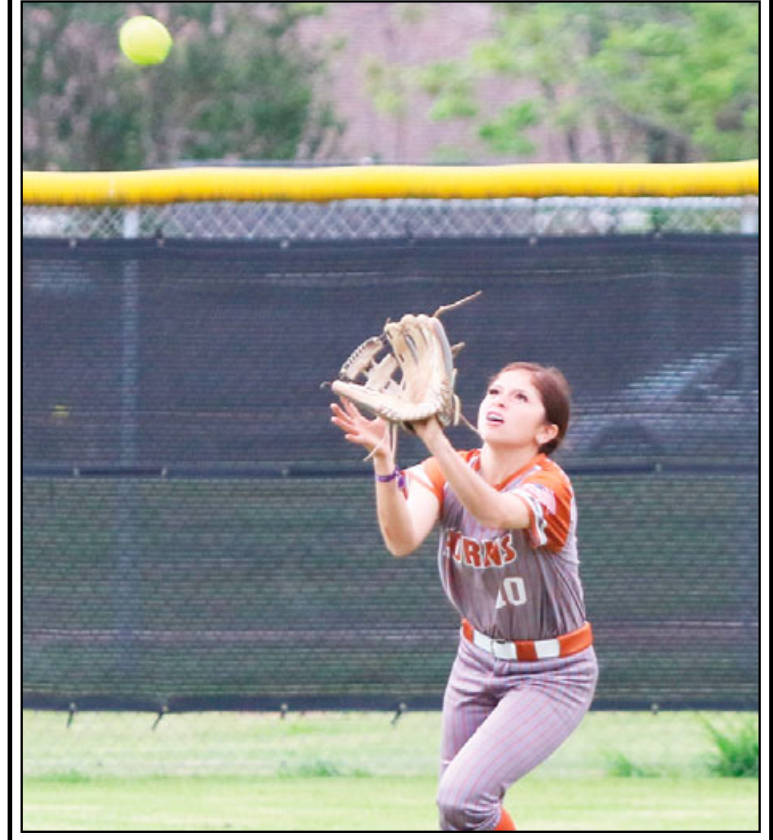
Dobie students involved in extracurricular activities including athletics, ROTC, Lariatets, band, etc. are encouraged to complete a UIL-required physical April 27 at the school.

The \$25 physicals will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. in the athletics field house. Required pre-event paperwork is available in the front office or field house.



Junior Orozco (1) and Dobie will aim to finish the District 22-6A slate of games strong after winning nine straight at press time April 18.

Dobie softball readies for bidistrict



The Dobie varsity softball team went for win No. 20 overall for the 2023 season while closing out District 22-6A action against South Houston April 18 after press time. Outfielder Emily Delgado (10) was heavily involved as the locals topped Rayburn 18-1 April 14 to improve to 9-2 in league play. The Longhorns will be a No. 2 seed when the playoffs start April 27. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Figueroa, Ortiz rep Dobie at RIIs

At right, Dobie's Leslie Figueroa (left) and playing partner Dominic Ortiz represented the Longhorns at the Region III Spring Tennis Championships April 11 at Deer Park High School. In the mixed doubles round of 16, the locals fell 6-2, 6-3 to Houston Memorial's Callie O'Neill and Colton Matthews as the spring season came to a close for head coach Manuel Moreno Jr.'s program. Figueroa, a junior, will return for her senior season at Dobie in 2023-2024 while Ortiz is a Class of 2023 senior.



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NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR TRUSTEES OF SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD

TO BE HELD ON MAY 6, 2023

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN DE SÍNDICOS DE LA JUNTA DEL DISTRITO DE SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A CELEBRARSE EL 6 DE MAYO DE 2023

2023年5月6日 SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY COLLEGE 行政區理事會理事選舉通知

THÔNG BÁO CUỘC BẦU CỬ ỦY VIÊN QUẢN TRỊ HỌC KHU SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ĐƯỢC TỔ CHỨC NGÀY 6 THÁNG NĂM, 2023

To registered voters of Harris County, Texas:
Para los votantes registrados del Condado de Harris, Texas:
致Texas州Harris縣登記選民:
Gửi các cử tri đã ghi danh bầu cử của Quận Harris, Texas:

San Jacinto Community College will hold an election on May 6, 2023, for the Board of Trustees Position No. One (1) and Position No. Two (2).
San Jacinto Community College celebrará una elección el 6 de mayo de 2023 para la Posición Nro. Uno (1) y la Posición Nro. Dos (2) de la Junta de Síndicos.
San Jacinto Community College 將於 2023年5月6日舉行一項選舉，籍此選出理事會第一 (1) 號席位和第二 (2) 號席位的人選。
San Jacinto Community College sẽ tổ chức một cuộc bầu cử vào ngày 6 tháng Năm, 2023 để bầu chọn Ủy Viên Hội Đồng Quản Trị Vị trí Số Một (1) và Vị trí Số Hai (2).

Early Voting Clerk Information:
Información del Secretario de votación anticipada:
提前投票書記官信息:
Thông tin Thư Ký phụ trách Bộ Phiếu Sớm:

Clifford Tatum
Harris County Elections Administration Office
Administration Building
1001 Preston Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 1148
Houston, TX 77251-1148
Phone/Teléfono/電話/Điện thoại: 713-755-6965
Email/Correo electrónico/電子郵件: voters@harrisvotes.com
Website/Sitio web/網站/Trang mạng: https://www.harrisvotes.com/

The main early voting polling location is:
El lugar principal de votación anticipada es:
主要提前投票地點為:
Địa điểm chính tổ chức bỏ phiếu sớm là:
County Attorney Conference Center
1019 Congress Avenue, Houston, TX 77002

Table with 4 columns: Early voting hours of operation, Horarios de atención de la votación anticipada, 提前投票辦公時間, and Giờ bỏ phiếu sớm.

Election Day polling locations listed below will be open Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Locations are subject to change. For a complete list of early voting and election day voting centers, please see the Harris County website: https://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers.

Los lugares de votación el Día de la elección indicados a continuación estarán abiertos el sábado 6 de mayo de 2023 de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. Los lugares están sujetos a cambios. Para ver una lista completa de los centros de votación para la votación anticipada y el día de la elección, consulte el sitio web del Condado de Harris: https://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers

下方載列的選舉日投票地點將於2023年5月6日上午7:00至晚上7:00開放。投票地點可能會變更。如欲獲得提前投票和選舉日投票中心的完整清單，請瀏覽Harris縣網站: https://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers

Các địa điểm phòng phiếu Ngày Bầu Cử ghi dưới đây sẽ mở cửa từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối thứ Bảy, ngày 6 tháng Năm, 2023. Các địa điểm có thể thay đổi.

Quý vị có thể tìm thấy danh sách đầy đủ các trung tâm bỏ phiếu sớm và bỏ phiếu trong ngày bầu cử trực tuyến trên trang mạng của Quận Harris: https://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers

Large table listing various polling locations (e.g., Newport Elementary School, Willow Creek Elementary School) and their addresses.

Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABBMs) must be received no later than the close of business on April 25, 2023.
Las solicitudes de boletas de votación por correo (ABBM) deben recibirse a más tardar al cierre del horario laboral del 25 de abril de 2023.
郵遞選票申請 (ABBM) 必須在2023年4月25日辦公結束前寄達。
Đơn xin lá phiếu bầu bằng thư (ABBMs) phải đến nơi trễ nhất là cuối giờ làm việc ngày 25 tháng Tư, 2023.

Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) must be received no later than the close of business on May 8, 2023.
Las solicitudes de tarjeta postal federal (FPCA) deben recibirse a más tardar al cierre del horario laboral del 8 de mayo de 2023.
聯邦明信片申請 (FPCA) 必須在2023年5月8日辦公結束前寄達。
Các đơn gửi qua Đường Bưu điện Liên bang (viết tắt tiếng Anh là FPCA) phải nhận được trễ nhất là cuối giờ làm việc ngày 8 tháng Năm, 2023.

For a complete list of due dates including but not limited to "late domestic ballots," please see the Texas Secretary of State's webpage: https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/advisory2022-37.shtml
Para ver una lista completa de las fechas límites, incluyendo, pero no limitándose a las "boletas nacionales atrasadas", consulte la página web de la Secretaría de Estado de Texas: https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/advisory2022-37.shtml
如欲獲得截止日期的完整清單，包括但不限於「逾期國內選票」，請參閱Texas州州務卿的網頁: https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/advisory2022-37.shtml
Để có danh sách đầy đủ các ngày đến hạn, bao gồm nhưng không giới hạn ở "các lá phiếu gửi trong nước đến muộn", vui lòng xem trang mạng của Tổng Chưởng Texas: https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/advisory2022-37.shtml

PISD board candidates answer key questions

Continued from Page 2
My focus has always been building on the success of our district and preparing our students for success, beyond high school graduation.
What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities? (100 words or less) Trustees must operate as "a body corporate," which means no single board member may act alone. With the involvement of others, the Board ensures creation of attainable and measurable vision and goals. They adopt policies and frequently review them for effectiveness. They hire a superintendent to serve as the district's CEO and evaluate his/her performance. The Board approves an annual budget, consistent with the district's vision and goals and sets the tax rate. The Board communicates with the public, listening and directing concerns to the appropriate individual, beginning at the lowest level.
Do you support the current Superintendent of Pasadena ISD? Why? (100 words or less) I totally support Dr. DeeAnn Powell, in her position as Superintendent. She has a proven record of excellence. She believes in and supports the district's mission, vision and goals. She is a leader and a shining example for others. She is thoughtful and thorough in all decisions. She is respected by many leaders in education and is a mentor for Superintendents across the state. Her experience and decision-making is valued by all, who have the opportunity to work with her. Through the years, she has deserved and should be given the title of Superintendent of the Year.
How do you view the relationship between the board of trustees and the district's administration? (100 words or less) The most important relationship is between the Board and the Superintendent of Schools. As board Members, we are elected and entrusted to steer our district toward a successful future, as outlined in our Strategic Plan. Our relationship with the district's administration is one of cooperation and thoughtful consideration of action items which are presented to us as a Board to consider. We are tasked with asking hard questions and doing our homework to ensure we provide sound governance in all decisions we make.
What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less) Safety is our top priority, and we must constantly evaluate what we do to ensure student and staff safety. In addition, the instructional losses due to COVID are another critical challenge we face. While we have made significant gains across all student groups, we must now handle the challenge of establishing budget priorities when Federal ESSER funding stops. We must advocate in a non-partisan way for our state legislators to commit to supporting public education, not diverting funds from public schools for voucher programs or private schools.
What are your thoughts about face-to-face learning versus virtual instruction during this ongoing pandemic? (100 words or less) I know some parents still fear sending their children to school due to the pandemic; however, I strongly believe our students learn best when they are in a classroom with our teachers. Data has shown this to be true and I want our students in classrooms to receive an excellent education that includes social and emotional learning, as well as academic learning. I realize virtual instruction is changing the face of education, and we must embrace blended learning methods that incorporate technology, so that our students are equipped with the skills necessary to succeed beyond high school.
If elected, what specific issues would you address in the district? (100 words or less) The specific issues I will continue to focus on, as a Board member, are all centered around students and staff. Ensuring our students receive the best educational opportunities in a safe school environment, surrounded by educators who care, is critical in today's world. I will also continue to advocate and support the need for resources to support our school safety initiatives. This includes resources for both securing our buildings and taking care of the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
Definitely! Dr. Powell is an outstanding Superintendent, the best I have ever served with. She is a great communicator, leader and champion for our students and employees. She is highly respected by her peers and in my opinion, the best in the state.

Occupation: Retired Nurse/St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
Education: South Houston High Graduate 1967; San Jac School of Nursing 1971; Attended UH; Mexican American Studies
Marital Status/Children: Widowed; 2 Daughters Natalia, Leticia Efficio, 2 Granddaughters
What makes you best qualified to serve the residents of Pasadena ISD (background and reason for interest)? (100 words or less) My interest in seeking this position is lack of representation of our communities in the PISD Board of Trustees. My status as a community member qualifies me to be a member of this board. I have lived over 60 years in the city of South Houston, and attended PISD Schools. I have the backing of community members that want a voice on the board.
What do you believe is the role board members play in the success of the district? (100 words or less) The board of trustees' role should be to represent the communities of PISD. Presently I do not believe that to be the case. There is a lack of communication with educators and parents. Their concerns should be heard.
How long have you lived in the school district? (50 words or less) I have lived in the PISD for over 60 years. I attended South Houston Elementary, Junior High, and High School. I graduated in 1967. After living in Houston several years, we moved back to South Houston so my children could attend PISD.
List your participation as a volunteer in Pasadena ISD schools, district, parent clubs and community and civic organizations. I have been a member of the South Houston Elementary PTA; served as Treasurer; was awarded PTA Lifetime Membership. Past member of the Beautification Committee of South Houston; Participated in Brighter Bites Program / Matthys Elementary. I was a member of the Sociedad Morelos helping with fundraisers and organizing Fiestas festivities and Parade; Past Secretary of the HCPLS South Houston Branch Friends of the Library; Participate with Amigos del Barrio that raises funds to give gift cards to needy student families at Christmas time: SHES and Pearl Hall Elementary. Served for 10 years / South Houston City Council.

What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities? (100 words or less) The board's basic responsibilities are to oversee policy and finance while being advocates for Quality Education for our students. EQUITY in education is very important in the implementation of Quality programs for our students. This includes being supportive of Educators and Students.
Do you support the current Superintendent of Pasadena ISD? Why? (100 words or less) The present Superintendent needs input from community representatives that will speak up for Educators and Students. There is a need for changes in the status quo. The problem of Recruitment and Retention needs to be addressed. Educators are faced with one year contracts year to year. Coaches in some instances can get longer contracts in other parts of Texas, yet in the same schools, teachers, majority of which are women get one year contracts. This is not fair.
How do you view the relationship between the board of trustees and the district's administration? (100 words or less) Board trustees should be proactive on behalf of students, educators, and parents, and encourage to have input in all matters before items are put up for a vote by the Superintendent. Administrators can always give advice or information regarding many matters that come before the board. NO ONE should feel offended because a question or clarification is requested.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less) The biggest challenge for PISD is dealing with the Communities that want a seat at the table. There appears to be rejection for equity; more programs that will further advance students' success such as investing more in the STEM: science, technology, engineering, and math and the fine arts programs.
What are your thoughts about face-to-face learning versus virtual instruction during this ongoing pandemic? (100 words or less) Virtual learning was useful during the Pandemic. I do not believe that it is as effective for the majority of students as face-to-face learning.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less) The biggest challenge for PISD is dealing with the Communities that want a seat at the table. There appears to be rejection for equity; more programs that will further advance students' success such as investing more in the STEM: science, technology, engineering, and math and the fine arts programs.

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What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less) The biggest challenge for PISD is dealing with the Communities that want a seat at the table. There appears to be rejection for equity; more programs that will further advance students' success such as investing more in the STEM: science, technology, engineering, and math and the fine arts programs.



Name: Irene Tamayo
Age: 74 yrs.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St. or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on Texas German immigrants. Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.
FRIDAY, APRIL 21
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - monthly dance at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on services, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY APRIL 25
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
9 a.m. **American Begonia Society** - Houston Satellite meets at Helen Hall Library, 300 W. Walker in League City. Call 281-481-2458.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesday (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn, at (832) 722-9061 for information.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

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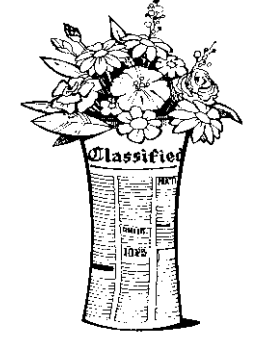
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Dobie track and field heads to April 20 area championships



Bettering the boys' program all-time record in the 4x200 relay for the fourth time this season, the foursome including, left to right, (bottom row) Kartier Johnson, Jaylon Owens, (top row) Joshua Akinola and Raymond Felton cruised to the gold medal for the win at 1 minute, 26.2 seconds at the April 14 District 24-6A Championships at Challenger Stadium in Webster.

Clear Brook track qualifiers ready as 23/24 area meet comes April 21

Continued from Page 5 points over Clear Creek, with Clear Lake third with 110 points.

The top four finishers in each of the relay and individual events were automatically invited to the District 23-6A/District 24-6A Championships at Challenger Stadium April 21.

The Wolverine boys were fifth in the final team standings with 79 points.

The school record was set in the 4x200 relay as the Wolverine foursome of Raymond Felton, Jaylon Owens, Joshua Akinola and Kartier Johnson produced the win and gold medals all around in a time of 1 minute, 26.214 seconds.

Freshman Joshua Shelton starred for the Wolverines in the 400 as he delivered a gold-medal effort of 48.718 seconds.

A time of 21.525 was good enough for Felton to take silver and second place, while teammate Owens was third for a bronze medal at 21.613.

Clear Brook came up with a time of 42.665 to place third in the 4x100 relay as Christian Wright, Kartier Johnson, Akinola and Jydius Williams

Continued from Page 5 4x400 and silver as part of the 4x200, the sophomore Harris was responsible for 29 team points.

Harris grabbed gold in the long jump as she went 18 feet, 4 inches for the win, with teammate Williams also advancing to the area round by virtue of her fourth-place finish of 15-10 1/2.

On the track, Harris also won gold with a time of 24.45 in the 200, while teammate Sanchez was the bronze medalist with a third-place time of 26.53.

It was a big meet for Dunn as she won a gold medal for her victory in the 400 in a time of 1:03.47.

Garcia picked up gold at the 800 distance as well, winning in a time of 2:30.70, while Dunn was the bronze medalist and third-place finisher in a

time of 2:33.82.

At 5:50.67, the sophomore Garza won the 1,600 for gold, with Lobo's time of 5:58.60 good for third place and a bronze medal.

Junior Jordan Davis also advanced to the area round in the 300 hurdles as she took bronze with a clocking of 53.61.

In the varsity boys' division, the Deer were the class of the league from a team standpoint, while the Longhorns also sent several big-time performers to the area round.

Sophomore Tariq Riley starred for the Longhorns as he captured gold in the 400 in a time of 52.30 and also anchored his 4x400 relay group to a gold medal-win in the meet finale.

In that 4x400, the Longhorns had juniors Ariel Cortez Amaya and Charles Richard join senior Jeremiah Jackson and

Riley for the victory in a time of 3:33.82.

Dobie also took the victory in the 4x200 relay in a time of 1:31.82 as senior Derrick Woodley, freshman Damarcus Hodges, Jackson and freshman Jeremiah Davis collected the gold medals.

Elsewhere, the Longhorns' Jackson went 20-8 in the long jump for a silver medal and second place, plus the area berth.

Hodges went 43-00 1/2 for second in the triple jump, with Jackson third at 41-07 as both medaled and advanced.

In the 200, Woodley was back at it as his time of 22.56 was third for a bronze medal.

Junior Roderick Drumgo threw the discus 124-02 for third place in the event, and his best of 45-06 was also third in the event as he reached areas

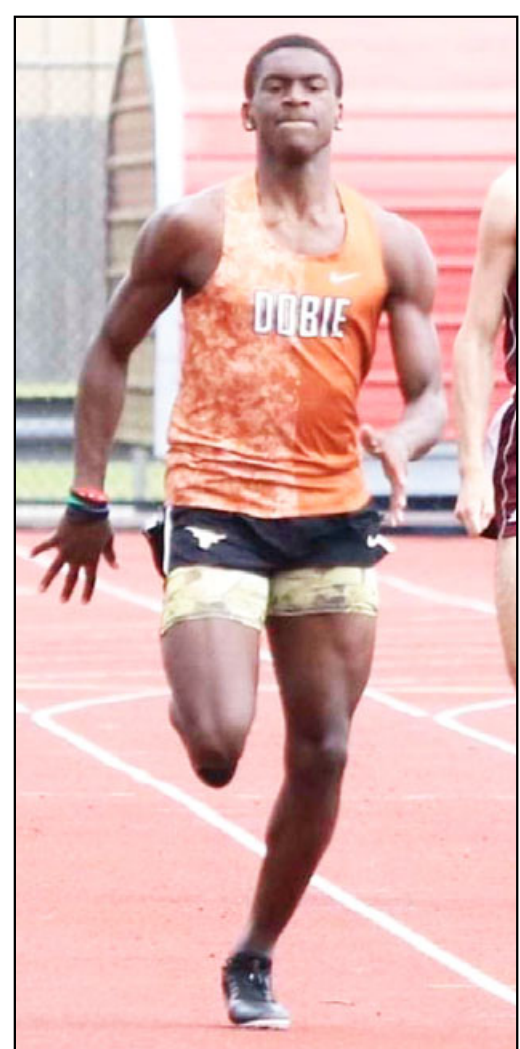
in both events.

The Longhorns' Yo-hander Mercado, a senior, made his way to the area meet in the 300 hurdles as his clocking of 43.86 was third-best for a bronze medal.

Senior Jovanni Avila extended his season as he was fourth with a time of 2:05.67 at the 800 distance, and Avila also moved on to the area round in the 3,200 as he was fourth at 10:30.19.

Dobie began the relays with a bronze for third place in the 4x100. There, Woodley, Davis, Hodges and freshman Marcus Jones posted a time of 43.26.

Sophomore Christopher Lopez advanced to the area round in the 1,600 as his time of 4:53.35 was fourth, and Davis was in at 11.16 for fourth in the 100.



Sophomore Tariq Riley starred for the Longhorns as he captured gold in the 400 in a time of 52.30 and also anchored his 4x400 relay group to a gold medal-win in the meet finale.



Dobie's Stacie Harris (left) won gold with a time of 24.45 seconds in the 200, while teammate Mia Sanchez was the bronze medalist with a third-place time of 26.53.



Standout Dobie varsity girls' distance runner Ashley Dunn won a gold medal for her victory in the 400 in a time of 1:03.47 at the 22-6A track and field championships, advancing to the area round.

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 - Betty Deardorff
 - Steve Dement
 - Lynda Dement
 - Ryan Dietz
 - Scott Dobyanski
 - Johney Isbell
 - Gary Jackson
 - Christi Jacobs
 - Amber Elliot
 - Victor Facundo
 - Kasie Fernandez
 - Marsha Fischer
 - David Flickinger
 - Marie Flickinger
 - Kevin Fox
 - Sean Fredrick
 - Shelley Fuller
 - Emory Gadd
 - Cecelia Ganje
 - Rebecca Garcia
 - Jensi Gardner
 - Ray Garvey
 - Nancy Garvey
 - Dianne Gebhard
 - Bob Gebhard
 - Sharon Goodman
 - Erin Graham
 - Scott Graham
 - Jose Guerrero
 - Brad Hance
 - Tony Heath
 - Jonathan Hibbs
 - Lindsay Hortsmann
 - Cheri Hutcherson
 - Rodney Hutcherson
 - Jeannie Isbell
 - Johnny Isbell
 - Gary Jackson
 - Teresa Jackson
 - Christi Jacobs
 - Denise Jennings
 - Dennis Jennings
 - Robert Jeter
 - Rhonda Kirshman
 - Phillip Kolar
 - Tommy Lee
 - Claudia Lively
 - Andy Lively
 - Stephanie Lozano
 - Ron Lyles
 - Darrell Mayfield
 - Kourine McBride
 - Sue McCauley
 - Mandy McClistar
 - Helen McClure
 - Dawn McDonald
 - Denton McDugle
 - Marsha McDugle
 - Laura McGrew
 - Bill McMillin
 - Lydia McMillin
 - Lisa Michela
 - Bobie Miller
 - Deb Morgan
 - Bill Morgan, Jr
 - Ralph Morrissey
 - Debbie Pace - Rowland
 - Alan Penn
 - Keith Peters
 - Casey Phelan
 - Ken Phelps
 - Jana Phelps
 - Steve Phelps
 - Lance Powell
 - Jack Price
 - Mariselle Quijano
 - Kevin Richards
 - Vicki Roberts
 - Fred Roberts
 - Phil Sandlin
 - Stephanie Lozano
 - Luke Scarborough
 - Joel Seybert
 - Kourine Seymour
 - Rae Sinoir
 - Keith Sinoir
 - Zach Skripka
 - Emma Skripka
 - Steven Skripka
 - Molly Smith
 - Carroll Smith
 - Randy Sparks
 - Kelly Sullivan
 - Ted Sullivan
 - Nelda Sullivan
 - Zana Thompson
 - Diana Toabor
 - Manny Torres
 - Rick Torrison
 - Melinda Torrison
 - Jeff Turnipseed
 - Marco Vela
 - Polly Vela
 - Jeff Wagner
 - Ginny Wagner
 - Jeff Warner
 - Paula Warner
 - George Watanabe
 - Wayne Webb
 - Becky West
 - Laura West
 - Michael West
 - Jan Wheeler
 - Luke Williams
 - Judy Williams
 - Herman Williams
 - Danny Williamson

- PASADENA AREA ENDORSERS***
- Robert Stock
 - Annette Stubbs
 - Mary Sullivan
 - Donna Summers
 - Jennifer Sumner-Graham
 - Tom Swan
 - Jessica Swenson
 - Stephanie Talley
 - Sharon Tate
 - Dennis Teichelman
 - Jennifer Teichelman
 - Travis Teichelman
 - Nancy Teichelman
 - Pam Tevis
 - Jorly Thomas
 - Erin Thompson
 - John Thompson
 - Michael Van Loenen
 - Christine Veltman
 - Kimberlee Villareal
 - Elizabeth Walker
 - Joan Walker Propp
 - Andrea Wenke
 - Diane Wheeler
 - Wendy Wiseburn
 - Roger Woest
 - Rhonda Wright
 - Sarah Wroblewski
 - Holly Yaple
 - E. Karina Zarzosa
 - Linda Alford
 - Noble Alix, Jr
 - Elizabeth Arrambide
 - Rodney Asher
 - Andy Crawford
 - Jeff Croft
 - Betty Deardorff
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 - Nancy Garvey
 - Dianne Gebhard
 - Bob Gebhard
 - Barbara Collins
 - Curtis Collins
 - Chase Coppedge
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