

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 additional information, visit www.riverstoneranchhoa.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 McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Shredding event planned

Frost Bank, located at 9990 Almeda 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.

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 25, there were 200 active cases in 77089, up four from the previous week. This marked the first time in approximately seven months for the number to reach 200.

To date, 138 from the ZIP code have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 139 deaths the previous week.)

In ZIP code 77075, there were 19 active cases, down nine from the previous week. To date, there have been 82 deaths in the ZIP code. (Harris County reported 84 deaths the previous week.)

In 77034, there were 21 active cases, down five from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 93 deaths the previous week.)

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 www.covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

Gulf Freeway closures set

One northbound frontage road lane and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed at Scarsdale Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, May 1, to make emergency repairs to low-hanging wires.

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.

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 519/Main Street in La Marque to Sailfish Street in Hitchcock 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 Sailfish Street in Hitchcock to the Galveston Causeway Bridge in Tiki Island daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

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

Beltway closures planned

One southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Spencer Highway to Fairmont Parkway will be closed continuously through 7 a.m. Monday, May 15.

One northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Fairmont Parkway to Vista will be closed continuously through 7 a.m. Monday, May 15.

One southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Genoa-Red Bluff to SH 3/Old Galveston will be closed continuously through 7 a.m. Monday, May 15.

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

Local school board elections set for May 6

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

Multiple local school board elections are scheduled to take place Saturday, May 6, including Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek ISD and the San Jacinto College District.

In the Pasadena ISD election, the race is shaping up to be a contest between the old guard and the new, with a bloc of the longtime incumbents campaigning against a loosely knit consortium of challengers.

The bloc of incumbents is composed of Position 5 incumbent Kenny Fernandez, Position 6 incumbent Marshall Kendrick and Position 7 incumbent Vickie Morgan. Fernandez is being challenged by Larry Savala; Kendrick will face opponents David Gonzales and Andy Garcia; and Morgan will be challenged by Irene Tamayo and Jeff Snover.

The incumbents are touting their extensive experience. Combined, the incumbent candidates have nearly 80 years of experience on the board.

Morgan has served 37 years; Kendrick has served 33 years; and Fernandez has served eight years.

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

The bloc of three Pasadena ISD incumbents will host a meet and greet at the *Leader* office, 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8, 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. Davis-Rouse is the only incumbent who filed for re-election. 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 additional San Jacinto College election information, visit www.sanjac.edu/about-san-jac/board-trustees/election-information/board-election-may-2023.

The cities of Friendswood, South Houston and Pasadena will also hold simultaneous elections. The City of Pearland will hold a joint election with Brazoria County.

Early voting is currently underway and will continue through Tuesday, May 2. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nearby early voting locations include the Harris County Scarsdale Annex, 10851 Scarsdale, and El Franco Lee Community Center, 9500 Hall Road.

On Election Day, voters who reside in Harris County may now cast their ballot at any polling location regardless of their precinct.

Nearby Election Day polling sites include the following locations:

- Beverly Hills Community Center 10201 Kingspoint.
- Lone Star Flight Museum 11551 Aerospace.
- South Belt Elementary 1801 Riverstone Ranch Road.
- El Franco Lee Community Center 9500 Hall Road.
- Milstead Middle School 338 Gilpin.
- SJC South (Jones Technical Building) 13735 Beamer.
- Genoa Staff Development Center 12900 Almeda Genoa.

Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. To see a complete list of polling locations or a sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.com.

Meet the candidates

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. A free bouncy house will be available for kids.

SJC celebrates mascot naming



San Jac College recently selected the name Poe for its districtwide Raven mascot, unveiling it at a celebration at the South Campus followed by the other two campuses. The name was one among five finalists. The Raven moniker, once designated solely for Central Campus, will now represent all of the college's campuses, as the school moves to unify the separate sites. SJC Chancellor Brenda Hellyer (right) is shown at the unveiling, as colleagues Kacie Allen (left) and Mandi and Ali Cartzenadner launch T-shirts into the crowd. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Sagemont Church volunteers help needy

1DayHouston program also beautifies schools

Between Monday, April 24, and Sunday, April 30, hundreds of volunteers from Sagemont Church will join thousands of others from across the city for 1DayHouston, a program aimed at helping the area's less fortunate.

According to Sagemont officials, approximately 50,000 volunteers from around 300 local churches and fire departments are expected to take part in the event.

A team of Sagemont volunteers are planning to distribute 26 pallets of food, toiletries and cleaning supplies. The items will be distributed to approximately 200 needy residents who have been selected by local social workers.

Health screenings will be provided at the church Monday, April 24, and Friday, April 28.

Representatives from the Small Business Administration will be available at Sagemont

through Thursday, April 27, to help residents still dealing with tornado damage from this past January.

On Saturday, April 29, approximately 1,000 volunteers from Sagemont Church will visit 10 local schools to make beautification efforts. Similar improvements will be made at 50-60 different locations throughout the city, church officials said.

The week-long program will culminate Saturday, April 29, and Sunday, April 30, with a pair of concerts at the Toyota Center. Performers include Tim McGraw, Toby Nwigwe, Parker McCollum, Kari Jobe and Conner Smith.

This exclusive concert is a reward for volunteers, and tickets can't be purchased.

For additional information or to register to volunteer, visit www.1dayhouston.com.

DWI suspect arrested following chase

Precinct 2 deputies arrested a DWI suspect Sunday, April 16, following a crash and short police chase on Beltway 8.



Alexis Ibarra

Deputies with the Precinct 2 Toll Road Division responded to a call from a reporter who was following a vehicle that had crashed into him and fled the scene. The caller advised the driver of the vehicle was possibly intoxicated.

Deputies were able to locate and stop the vehicle before it could cause any more damage. During the course of the investigation, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were administered, and it was determined the driver was intoxicated.

The driver was identified as 28-year-old Alexis Ibarra, who had recently been convicted of a prior DWI, making this her second DWI offense.

The driver was taken into custody and charged with felony DWI (second offense) and failure to stop and render aid following an accident.

Nehls accepting service nominations

The office of U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, whose U.S. House District 22, represents much of the South Belt community, is currently accepting applications for military service nominations.

"One of my greatest honors in Congress is having the ability to nominate a future leader to one of our nation's esteemed military academies," said Nehls.

Admission to a service academy is a two-tiered process. First, the candidate must meet the minimum standards set by the individual academy. Second, the candidate must complete the congressional application by Oct. 6, to be considered for an interview in the congressional of-

fice with the nomination review board. Applicants should note the ultimate selection of appointees rests solely with academy officials and is based on their competitive evaluation of all nominees.

All applications must include a typed, 500-word essay; a high school transcript; a college transcript (if applicable); at least two letters of recommendation; and at least one SAT or ACT score record.

All materials must be submitted by Oct. 6.

To learn more about the nomination process, visit nehls.house.gov/service-academy-nominations or call Nehls' office at 346-762-6600.

CCISD to expand pre-K program

Clear Creek ISD is hoping to expand its tuition-based pre-kindergarten program, according to district officials.

The school district has a goal to offer pre-kindergarten to any family in search of a quality early education by 2030. While the school district currently offers pre-kindergarten on a tuition basis, seats are limited and vary depending on the incoming class of early learners who qualify for pre-kindergarten under federal guidelines.

Research shows that providing a high-quality education for children before they turn five years old yields great medium- and long-term benefits for students.

In Clear Creek ISD early childhood education develops a lifelong love of learning and sets the foundation for the necessary cognitive, social,

emotional and physical development essential for future success, officials said.

For those who are interested in a tuition-based early learning program through Clear Creek ISD, the district is asking for families to fill out an interest form. While this does not guarantee placement, it will inform where and how many potential classes to add in the future.

Tuition for full day pre-kindergarten will be \$550 per month over ten months. Students will follow the CCISD academic calendar and the elementary school schedule.

Pre-K and kindergarten enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is currently open.

For more information on pre-kindergarten and enrollment in Clear Creek ISD, visit www.ccisd.net/prek.

City of Houston to hold job fair April 27

Turnaround Houston! to offer 1,600+ jobs

The City of Houston invites all job seekers to attend the Turnaround Houston Job and Readiness Fair Thursday, April 27.

The event, held by The City of Houston's Office of Business Opportunity, in partnership with Council Member Tiffany Thomas, District F, and Workforce Solutions, will take place at the Alief Community Center Gymnasium from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. It is part of the Turnaround Houston initiative launched by Mayor Sylvester Turner in 2016 to help Houstonians overcome employment barriers.

"Turnaround Houston has led to opportunities for countless individuals who need a second chance," said Turner. "They have built strong collaborative partnerships with some of our city's finest businesses and organizations. Industries include construction, technology, telecommunications and many more. Jobs give people a sense of pride, allowing them to care for their families and meet personal goals. I encourage all job seekers, regardless of employment or criminal history, to attend this free event and take advantage of the exciting career possibilities that await."

More than 30 employers and resource organiza-

tions will be present at Turnaround Houston, and job seekers will also have the opportunity to participate in on-the-spot interviews with hiring managers.

"Jobs and workforce development have always been my priority," said Thomas. "I am excited to work with the Office of Business Opportunity and assist Houstonians in

Continued on Page 4

Veterans to host benefit garage sale

A garage sale will be held Saturday, May 6, at the home of 1st Sgt. Jimmy F. De Los Santos, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, to raise funds to provide final honors for fellow veterans.

Benefiting the nonprofit Semper Fi #3 memorial Honor Detail, the garage sale - organized by a group of local veterans - will take place at 11618 Sageglen Drive from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For additional information, contact De Los Santos at 281-793-9811 or jfdmarine@yahoo.com.



Gadd saves C&D remnant

Longtime area resident and Sagemont Church Associate Pastor Emory Gadd (left) recently saved a souvenir from C&D Burger Shoppe, as the local restaurant shuttered its doors after serving the South Belt community since 1981. The closure was planned prior to the April 13 death of former owner David Craddock, who had already sold the restaurant. The plaque recognizes the winners from the *Leader's* annual high school football picks contest, a tradition dating back several decades. Gadd, a regular participant in the picks, is shown with *Leader* sports writer John Bechtel, who also participates in the game predictions. See related photo and obituary on Page 2.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Ellis celebrates birthday



Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis (left) celebrated his 69th birthday Thursday, April 13, with a celebration at the downtown Sam Houston Hotel. The commissioner's actual birthday was April 7. Among the many notables in attendance was Asim Tufail (right), owner of Blackline Engineering, who serves as the chief engineer for Clear Brook City MUD.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Hickman shares good done at Pasadena ISD

One of the many things I love about Pasadena ISD is the number of options provided our students and the understanding that a "one size fits all" approach is not in their best interest. Whether our graduates continue their education at a university, community college, trade school, or go straight into the workforce, we are charged with making sure they are prepared for that next step. The robust and extensive Career and Technical Education programs offered in Pasadena ISD are one example of how our district is preparing students for their future. Currently, there are more than 10,000 students enrolled in CTE courses at all high school campuses in the district. These students have 26 different program of study options available to them, everything from health science and computer science to welding and construction. With the support of hundreds of industry partners to guide curriculum, equipment needs/requirements, and certification offerings to ensure high school students are preparing for jobs of the future, our PISD students earned more than 4500 industry-based certifications just last school year.

These certifications help open doors of opportunity in terms of job placement for our graduates going straight into the workforce or as a way of financing their college education in a position that they are passionate about and one that offers a higher hourly wage. A great example of this is the 100+ PISD students who graduated as EKG technicians last year and were able to step right into the medical field to begin a career or help fund their college education while building a strong network and skillset that will set them apart from their peers as they begin applying for fulltime positions.

The opportunities provided to our high school students are limitless. The knowledge base they are acquiring from following a four-year program of study that ends in one or more industry certifications makes them highly sought after by local businesses. We work hand-in-hand with our business partners to ensure there is a direct pipeline from high school straight into industry for students who choose that path. Our Pasadena ISD students are in high demand to fill the ever-growing labor shortage, and thus, are provided very lucrative opportunities while in high school in terms of internships and job placement. While joining a union training program following graduation is presented to our students as an option and may be a good fit for some, the reality is that the training and certifications they are receiving in their CTE program of study are providing them the skills necessary to immediately enter the workforce and make a livable wage.

In fact, our Board of Trustees, district administration, and community believes in CTE so much that we were one of the first districts in the region to open a career and technical high school back in 2014. Since then, our district has been a model for others to visit and take inspiration as they build similar facilities. However, I am most proud of our student success stories that are the result of a collaborative effort between our amazing CTE teachers, everyone of our high school campuses, the district administration, and community partners with full support of our current school board.

To learn more about the vast opportunities in CTE in our district, follow @pisdcareertech on all social media platforms. Please support the continuation of this work by voting in the upcoming May 6 election for Kenny Fernandez, Marshall Kendrick and Vickie Morgan.

Karen Hickman
Retired Deputy Superintendent

Dokhani grateful to The Gardens staff
South Belt Youth Soccer Club, a community based youth non profit organization would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Carmen and The Gardens Houston for saving the day and offering their venue to us to take our Spring team pictures.

We usually have this event twice a year

at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, but this year we were denied the use of the building because of a double booking and a last minute cancellation.

Carmen and her staff were very accommodating and went above and beyond to meet our needs, we are very grateful. We are fortunate to have The Gardens in this area and would ask the community to support this business.

Alex Dokhani
President

King relates Metro's declining ridership

Recently, I have been asking people if they think Metro is carrying more or fewer riders than it did 25 years ago. Universally, they have assumed it must be much more. After all, Harris County has grown by about 50% over the last quarter century, so it only stands to reason that Metro must have, at least, grown proportionately.

But the sad fact is, after taxpayers have invested nearly \$9 billion in Metro and it has run up \$2.3 billion in debt over the last 25 years, in 2022 Metro carried 38% fewer riders than it did in 1998. To be fair, transit ridership globally has been dramatically affected by the pandemic for the last three years. But even before that pandemic, Metro's ridership was about 7% lower than 1998.

In 1998, when Metro relied exclusively on buses, it carried 96.6 million riders. It gradually increased ridership over the next several years, exceeding 100 million riders for the first time in 2000. But ridership swooned in the wake of the economic downturn in the early 2000s before gradually recovering. By 2006, Metro's ridership had grown to 103 million riders.

However, that would turn out to be the all-time high for Metro. For the next two years, ridership drifted lower then turned down dramatically with the financial crisis in 2009, hitting a low of 81 million riders in 2010. Over the next decade, ridership increased very gradually. It reached 89 million in 2019 before being slammed by the pandemic. Metro's ridership numbers have mostly reflected the trends for national transit ridership.

I think there are two principal takeaways from this data.

The first is that light rail did absolutely nothing to increase Metro's ridership. While ridership on the light rail has increased whenever Metro has opened a new line, there has been an almost identical, corresponding decrease in bus ridership. So, the only thing we accomplished by spending billions of taxpayer dollars on light rail was to change the mode of conveyance for some riders from a cheaper, more flexible alternative to a more expensive, inflexible one.

The second takeaway is we still do not have a clear idea of what the mission of Metro is. Most people think that the purpose of transit is to reduce traffic congestion. But Metro has a very minimal effect on the traffic congestion because it accounts for such a tiny fraction of our daily trips.

The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that the average American makes four trips per day. Harris County had about 4.6 million residents, so that comes out to about 18.5 million trips per day. Before the pandemic, Metro was averaging about 250,000 trips daily or about 1.3% of all trips in Harris County each day. That is not enough reduction in daily trips to make any noticeable dent in traffic congestion.

However, Metro does provide transportation to thousands of our neighbors who either cannot afford an automobile or who are not physically capable of operating one. It is an important and critical service to our community.

I think we would have better results at a more affordable cost if we were focused on that aspect of Metro's role instead of building grandiose vanity projects that end up doing little to help the people that need reliable and convenient transportation. Like say, for example, spending \$200 million on luxury, dedicated bus lanes in the toniest neighborhood in Houston that ends up having almost no riders.

Bill King

Publisher's Opinion

Chance to meet board members

On Friday, April 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the *South Belt Leader* office, the three incumbent Pasadena Independent School District board members who are up for re-election will be in attendance, hoping to meet some area taxpayers and parents. Included in the festivities will be a free bouncy house, popcorn, ice cream and water.

The board election is invited. It is a great time to meet the board incumbents.

The board election is extremely important. More so this year than in previous years since one issue some of the challengers keep bringing up is replacing the superintendent.

Since I began reporting about the dis-

trict, in 1975, a year before Bobby Griffin and I started the paper, I have been in close contact with the various superintendents.

And I can tell you, Dr. DeeAnn Powell is the best you can get. Without a doubt, none is better than she is.

She came up through the district and has worked her way to superintendent. We need to keep DeeAnn. Anyone who wants her gone, does not understand our district.

Come by, meet the candidates, ask all your questions. Let your kids enjoy the free bouncy house and refreshments.

See you there,
Marie Flickinger, publisher

Garcia's questionnaire received

The following was sent timely for last week's issue but not received due to computer error



Name: Andy Garcia; **Age:** 23
Occupation: Biomedical-Aerospace Engineer
Education: B.S. Biomedical Engineering, Columbia University

Marital Status/Children: Single & no children (yet!)

What makes you best qualified to serve the residents of Pasadena ISD (background and reason for interest)? (100 words or less)

I am a home-grown Pasadenaan, the son of two outstanding educators (one of whom is in Pasadena ISD!), an Ivy-League trained engineer, and a shining example of what students coming from the public schools of Pasadena ISD have the potential to become. As someone who just recently went through the first two milestones (high school/college) of the American education pipeline, I carry a valuable perspective of the successes and shortcomings of our system. I care about enabling student achievement. From the student perspective, I know exactly what we need to not only aim high, but also make it fair.

What do you believe is the role board members play in the success of the district? (100 words or less)

Board members play a limited but key role in the success of the school district. While trustees can invite a vision for the students and families within, the success ultimately lies with the administrators who plan it, and really, the teachers and front-line employees who infuse their world-view with it in implementation. Claiming or accepting credit for these victories of our community is both egotistical and indicative of an obsession with oneself and one's role.

How long have you lived in the district? (50 words or less)

My entire life has been spent within Pasadena ISD's boundaries, with the sole exception of my stint in college. Upon my college graduation, I immediately returned—I not only care deeply for this area, I see so much potential waiting to be unleashed. I'm ready, and our community is

ready.

List your participation as a volunteer in Pasadena ISD schools, district, parent clubs and community and civic organizations.

Frequently volunteer with Pasadena ISD schools and City of Pasadena events

NASA JSC Hispanic Employee Resource Group Secretary, with placed emphasis on areas served by Pasadena ISD

Padena ISD Coalition South Houston-Pasadena Barrios Coalition Inaugural BakerRipley Young Leaders Academy

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Pasadena ISD? (100 words or less)

The two biggest challenges we face in Pasadena ISD are student discipline and thinking of how we best approach serving such a diverse socio-economic community. In an area as large as Pasadena ISD, our leaders look at the tough question of how to best serve an area that has sub-areas that are so environmentally distinct. This is no easy feat, and in my opinion, requires skilled integrators who can connect several parts of the community towards a common answer. I hope that our community can see beyond façades and recognize when a candidate can connect to several groups authentically.

What are your thoughts about face-to-face learning versus virtual instruction during this ongoing pandemic? (100 words or less)

Most of us can agree that, as a society, we have largely moved beyond the pandemic that plagued our world in the last few years. In the midst of this unprecedented challenge, however, most of our regular education activities were uprooted and rethought. I studied virtually. My father taught elementary-aged students virtually. My mother managed a district department and teachers virtually. None of this was ideal, but some surprises did appear for some populations. As with most things in life, I say this: take what works and make note of it, leave everything else.

If elected, what specific issues would you address in the district? (100 words or less)

Two of my rallying causes in running have been student achievement and student discipline. If elected, I will use my voice to advocate for and bring ideas to the table for experiential programs and initiatives that will provide solid mentors to our students looking to aim high in their collegiate search. This applies, albeit differently, to students who wish to enter the workforce or a trade upon graduation. Regarding student discipline, I believe experiences I carry as a member of this younger generation will prove invaluable in thinking creatively about how to resolve widespread student discipline issues.

How do you view the relationship between the trustee board and district's administration? (100 words or less)

I see (most of) the current relationship between the board and district administration as a conflict of interest and a possible source of turbulence. Many folks on our board of trustees have been in those positions for so long that personal relationships begin to muddy the water that should be strictly professional. Trustees certainly have an obligation to build bridge-

es with the folks running our district, however, we work in coordination, not as one and the same. This distinction is important. Without it, how can we ensure the voice of our community is present in decisions made?

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City adopts Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

The City of Houston has become the fifth and largest city in the United States to adopt a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights to ensure full opportunity for children to access nature.

The City celebrated adoption of the COBOR April 18, with a proclamation by Mayor Sylvester Turner.

As the fourth most populous city in the country, Houston is mindful of its responsibility to lead the way in improving well-being of children and increasing their access to nature. Developed by the Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative, a national partnership between the National League of Cities and the Children & Nature Network, and led by the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement, Houston aligns with the city's commitment to recognize children's rights.

The City has adopted the Children's Bill of Rights in sports and has been designated the first city in the United States as a candidate for the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative. Increasing access to the proven benefits of nature for young Houstonians is included in Resilient Houston, the City's comprehensive resilience strategy.

The bill includes outdoor experiences and activities each Houston child has the

right to:

1. Safe and accessible routes to outdoor spaces in their communities.
2. Adequate shade outdoors.
3. Connect with nature on their school grounds.
4. Equitably funded public parks regardless of ZIP code.
5. Discover leadership opportunities to be stewards of nature.
6. Be included and accommodated with accessible outdoor environments.
7. Green spaces that mitigate climate change.
8. Experience mental health and holistic wellness benefits of engaging with nature.
9. See and experience native wildlife and plants in their local park and green spaces.
10. Free or low-cost outdoor programming.
11. Breathe fresh, clean air.
12. Learn how to be safe in the outdoors.

An intergenerational committee of local youth and community leaders convened to discuss the priority issue areas impacting nature accessibility in the Greater Houston area and determined the rights that would be included in the bill. The inclusion of youth in the committee aligns with the COBOR's fifth right. "I hope the Houston COBOR can lead to more youth en-

agement and prompt youth to get more active in our society," said Samiaht Busari, youth committee member. "When youth see changes happening, they are more likely to get involved themselves."

"Equitable access to nature, and its many benefits, is critical to the mental, physical, civic, and cultural well-being of children," said Jaime Gonzalez, the Healthy Communities director of The Nature Conservancy in Texas and committee member.

For information on this initiative, contact Fernanda Marrero Hi, Youth Engagement manager at fernanda.marro@houston.tx.gov.

Gwendolyn Reené Belsha Hooper



Gwendolyn Reené Belsha Hooper, 63, of Houston, passed away Monday, April 17, 2023. Visitation was held Friday, April 21, at Watson & Sons Funeral Home in Center, Texas.

Funeral service was held Saturday, April 22, at Watson & Sons Chapel. Interment followed at Old Center Cemetery in Panola County. Mike McMahon officiated.

Born Nov. 13, 1959, in Shreveport, La. Reené was the daughter of Elton Lamar Belsha and Zelma Hughes Belsha. Her hobbies included gardening and photography. She was a member of William Carroll Crawford Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Reené was of the Christian faith.

She is survived by her

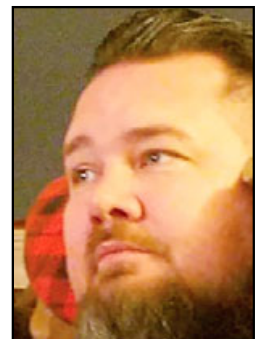
Deaths

husband, Duane Hooper of Houston; children, Timothy D. Hooper of Los Angeles, Robert Brian Hooper and wife Rachel of Shreveport, Alicia Dianne Hamilton and husband Jeff of Joaquin, Texas, William Preston Hooper and wife Shasta of Houston, Callie Reené Briggs and husband Jackie of Logansport, La., Amy Diane Fonseca and husband José Loera of San Antonio and Alex Hooper and wife Evette of Houston; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents. Pallbearers were Alex Hooper, José Loera, Robby Hooper, William Hooper, David Spratley and Bobby Dale Schwartz. Honorary pallbearer was Tim Hooper.

Online condolences and tributes can be sent to www.watsonandsonsh.com.

David Craddock



David Craddock was born on Dec. 7, 1974, to Helen Jean and Joe George Craddock. He died on April 13.

He was the youngest of three children. David was born in Dallas, but grew up in the South Belt community. In his younger days, he enjoyed biking with his brother and riding around in his truck with his friends. He owned C&D Burger Shoppe for the majority of his life, where he worked with his family. He was married with four children and his dog Homer, whom he loved.

David was preceded in death by his father, his mother and his sister Shannon Gries.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Jill Craddock, his daughter Haley Craddock; his sons John Craddock and Griffin and Brent Hall; his brother Chad Craddock; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

David had many friends, family and acquaintances who will all miss him greatly.

The memorial service celebrating David's life will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 30, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

C&D Burger shuts doors



C&D Burger Shoppe on Fuqua recently shuttered its doors after serving the South Belt community since 1981. The business was a staple in the South Belt community, sponsoring several local sports teams over the decades. The closing was unrelated to the April 13 death of former owner David Craddock who had already sold the restaurant. (See related obituary on Page 2.) Craddock had run the area restaurant since the 2013 of his father Joe Craddock. The elder had previously run a Dairy Queen franchise at the location in the 1970s. Joe named C&D after his sons Chad and David Craddock. A truck is shown above hauling away the last load of belongings from the business. See related photo on Page 1.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

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.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m. Outdoors storytime for all ages. Plan to enjoy a good story at Bracewell in the fresh outdoors, weather permitting.

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

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

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Moore Elementary's first grade performs "Texas, Our Texas"



Moore Elementary's first-grade students recently performed a show all about Texas called, "Texas, Our Texas" for students and parents. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Lexxa Martinez, Maximilliano Valles, Adri-el Castaneda, Diego Chacon, Jacob Oviedo, Angel De La

Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Aldo Gonzalez, Emmanuel Barcenas, Alexis Cantu, Edwin Ortiz-Servin, Leia Garcia, Brit-tany Nunez, Brianna Alba, Allison Villarreal, (back row) Esmeralda



Garza, Sophia Nguyen, Lorelai Mayorga, (middle row) Roxanne Carbajal (teacher), Cassie Harris, Tino Garcia, Gabriella Guerra, Lilyana Martinez, Jacob Martinez, Mat-thew Mejia-Castillo, Aliyah Taylor, Alivia Castro, (back row), Trinity Blockmon and Sheryl Munn, music teacher.

Shown above are, (front row) Andres Roncancio, Lilly Cardenas, Tyler Vance, Katalina Contreras, Abel Martinez, (middle row) Zoey Hernandez, Ella Lara, Arie Marron, Isaac Valdez, Jessica Tran, Adalynn Anaya, Aar-

Stuchbery names honor, merit roll students

Stuchbery Elementary officials released the names of the honor and merit roll students for the third nine weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Honor roll
Third grade
 Efrain Avilez, Ayden Farris, Julian Juarez, Luke Perez, Aidan Shaffner, Timothy Tran and Timothy Tran.

Fourth grade
 Sophia Cavazos, Raul Cruz III, Annie Flores, Charlotte

Merit roll
 Kearnby, Damian Lopez, Adalynn McMullin, Hai Nguyen, Kenton Nguyen, Gift Obah, Delano Oliver-Cooper, Leonardo Segovia, Soraya Shah and Samantha Villanueva.

Third grade
 Leila Arrieta, London Ferguson, Dylan Salmeron and Mikayla Whitecalf.

Fourth grade
 Emiliano Aguirre, Maddys-on Gill and Daniel Moreno.

Wolverines crush state science fair

After considerable research and strenuous effort, Clear Brook High School seniors Vicky Nguyen, Catherine Nguyen, Nicholas Ng and Teddy Garza advanced from the regional Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH) to compete in the Texas Science and Engineering Fair (TXSEF).

Vicky Nguyen was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Deere Family for her project titled "Using Electroencephalogram and Machine Learning to Predict the Implicit Bias towards Cancer Patients with Chemotherapy Induced Alopecia."

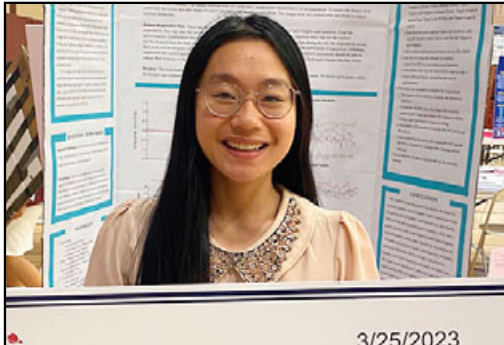
Following SEFH back in late January, Vicky placed third in the Behavioral and Social Sciences category and moved to state from there.

Their hard-earned time spent at TXSEF resulted in them winning a SpaceX award for \$2,500. Garza placed second in the

Chemical Engineering Materials Science category at SEFH and advanced to state with his research centered on creating lighter, yet still protective, sporting equipment. He competed alongside his peers at TXSEF.

Ng and Catherine Nguyen placed first in Aerospace Engineering category, as well as second in the Dilorio Foundation, with their study of improving airplane technology through the study of aerial animals.

They were not the only Wolverine to perform well at state, though. At regionals, seniors



Vicky Nguyen stands with her Texas A&M Scholarship from the Deere Family.



Nicholas Ng and Catherine Nguyen smile holding their SpaceX Scholarship award.

Meador Elementary crowns Math Bee champ



Congratulations are in order for the first-place winner of Meador Elementary's first-ever Math Bee, Matthew Warren, and runner-up Gael Lopez. Third- and fourth-grade students were awarded points by answering math problems correctly, giving an explanation of the strategy used and the amount of time required to answer. Pictured above, left to right, are Connie Daumas, math campus coach; Jennifer Chavez, principal; Warren, fourth-grader; Lopez, fourth-grader; and Kevin Fox, assistant principal.

Thompson celebrates students

Thompson Intermediate officials recently released the names of their honor roll students for the fifth six-weeks period of the 2022-2023 school year.

Seventh grade
 Miranda Aguilar, Alec Alvarez, Kayla Briscoe, Aileen Castillo, Diana Chicas Lopez, Adam Cid, Jeff Cuyuch Ordonez, Brandon Davis, Brooke Davis and Yenzi Gomez.

Eighth grade
 Aiden Aguilar, Reemas Alazh, Syed Alijafri, Isabella Allen, Kaleigh Antoine, Jaslyn Arellano, Edelyn Balderas, Adeliz Barahona, Daniel Blas, Adelle Bongfen, Lali Bowman, Naiven Buendia, Hadassah Burgett, Jasmine Cabrera and Barbara Chapa.

Cuthbert Chau, Khloe Coronado, Leslie Costa, Lyla Crane, Aidan De La Rosa, Kyleigh Dorsey, James Duncan, and

Harry and class support Christian

Moore second-grade teacher, Shelly Blair keeps her student Christian Garcia and his family updated on what is going on at school when he cannot attend. Christian is bravely taking on the challenge of embry-onal rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare childhood cancer.

Due to his treatment he misses school weekly. Through the program Monkey In My Chair, Blair is able to keep Christian abreast on what is happening in class. When Christian is out his monkey, who he named Harry, "takes his place" in class. Blair and her students make sure to document, through photos and in writing, the many experiences Harry has throughout the day.

The Monkey In My Chair program is sponsored by the Love, Chloe Foundation, it was designed for children who are away from school due to a cancer diagnosis. The program helps schools explain the situation their classmate is facing and how it affects them.

Christian's journey can be followed on the Facebook page Christian Beats Cancer, donations can be made to his GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/524356d3>.



Shown above, left to right, are (first row) Christian Garcia, holding Harry, Lillah Oliphant, Daniel Calva, Walker Nguyen, (second row) Fable Masone, Ava Almanza, Ruby Salinas, Jeremiah Maturey, Ryan Nguyen, Aahil Alam, (third row) Makala Rowdy, Natalia Escobar, (fourth row) Shelly Blair (teacher) and Jordan Villarreal.

Farewell for Pullen set

Join Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for a special master works concert as they bid farewell to the beloved artistic director, Milton Pullen.

CCISD releases pre-K, kindergarten registration dates for upcoming year

Clear Creek ISD announced pre-K and kindergarten online enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. CCISD elementary campuses will be open by appointment May 1-5, 2023, from 8:30-11:30 a.m., to assist parents with enrollment and receive supporting documentation.

Clear Creek ISD offers free, full-day early learning programs for those who qualify, as well as a tuition-based pre-K program for residents who live within the district boundaries.

Pre-K in CCISD
 For children turning 4-years-old on or before Sep. 1, 2023, and who reside in the district, CCISD offers tuition-based pre-K, on a space available basis, and free pre-K for families who qualify.

For the tuition-based program, parents and guardians are asked to fill out the form here, [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z391BzW9mUaVLZ0x?i=CXs-bFKkdai0-RLvVhLTXoB9SJUM0paVDNK](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z391BzW9mUaVLZ0x?id=z391BzW9mUaVLZ0x?i=CXs-bFKkdai0-RLvVhLTXoB9SJUM0paVDNK)

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Qualifications for free pre-K range from limited English proficiency or economically disadvantaged, to child of a parent in the military, as well as several other factors. For a complete listing of qualifications for free pre-K, parents and guardians may visit ccisd.net/prek.

Kindergarten in CCISD
 To enroll in CCISD's full-day kindergarten program, students must reside within the district's boundaries and turn 5-years-old on or before Sep. 1, 2023.

Early learning education options in CCISD
 CCISD's early learning programs include monolingual and bilingual classrooms and early childhood special education.

The district provides pre-K programming at 20 elementary campuses. To identify the

tee Hines, Jady N Jaso, Marlon Lopez Anariba, Paige Martinez, Emme Mejia, Julian Moreno, Ava Morin, Hailey Naughton and Emily Nazario.

Hana Nguyen, Yen Nguyen, Stirling Oviedo Ayala, Heidi Padron, Trinity Pafford, Gabriela Ramirez, Michelle Rivera, Taylor Scott, Madison Soto, Dexter Sullivan, Natalie Vazquez and Hyrum Wheeler.

Continued on Page 4

pre-K campus that services their school zone, families may visit ccisd.net/prek and select "Pre-K Locations in CCISD."

Additionally, the District will hold a pre-K and kindergarten registration fair June 12-14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McWhirter Elementary, 300 Pennsylvania, Webster, to help families through the registration process.

CCISD bilingual (English and Spanish) enrollment and data specialists will be on hand to help parents and guardians register for the coming year.

Special services
 Through the Special Education Evaluation Center (SEEC), Clear Creek ISD also provides evaluation services for children between the ages of two and five, who are not in a district pre-K program and are not yet kindergarten age, to determine if a child has a special education disability and if there is a need for special education services.

The Early Childhood Spe-

cial Education (ECSE) program, serving children beginning on their third birthday, meets the needs of students identified as needing these services.

To schedule an evaluation, parents and guardians may call 281-284-0330.

Visit www.ccisd.net/enroll for more information on qualifications to enroll in Clear Creek ISD's pre-K and kindergarten programs, as well as step-by-step registration instructions and a listing of necessary documentation.

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CTHS earns AVID Emerging Schoolwide Site certification

Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School (CTHS) was named an AVID Emerging Schoolwide Site for the 2022-2023 school year on Feb. 8, 2023, after meeting AVID's implementation expectations and submitting required data documentation that supports program effectiveness and student process.

This certification was designed to assist AVID sites in achieving their college and career readiness goals that are precursors for academic success in high school and beyond.

"We are working to incorporate these research-based strategies so that once students are in college they are prepared to succeed," said Steve Fleming, principal of CTHS.

Since 2014, CTHS has incorporated AVID's learning methodologies, which underscore skills such as writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading skills, into its core, elective and CTE programs of study.

This implementation has been crucial to ensuring the success of CTHS students who plan to attend college. According to AVID.org, students nationwide, from every demographic, have outperformed national benchmarks in college readiness.

Students who are first-generation, low-income AVID alumni who go to college are four times more likely to graduate than their national peers.

AVID Site Coordinator, Carol Patterson, believes this certification is a testament to the quality of work orchestrated by the CTHS AVID site team.

"I am thankful to my wonderful site team and administration for supporting me. As a site team we have been able to achieve this new status with hard work and dedication. Going forward, we will continue to strengthen our AVID strategies across campus," said Patterson.



Proud recipients of the AVID certification are members of the CTHS and Pasadena ISD staff, left to right, Brandi Collins, AVID district director; Christina Flores, AVID counselor; Jessica McCoy, assistant principal and overseer of AVID; Carol Patterson, AVID teacher/site coordinator; Tammy Gernander, College Now counselor; Gary Chattman, social studies content specialist; and Jenni Jett, English content specialist.

Thompson celebrates honor roll students

Continued from Page 3

Anahi Echeverria, Emma Espino, Alana Espinoza, Alyssa Espinoza, Delilah Evans, Alina Farooq and Macy Figueroa.

James Fortson, Fabian Fraide, Ariel Gallegos, Diego Garay, Samuel Garcia, Kaylah Gibson, Romeo Gill, Caela Griffin, Jaylyn Guevara, Dezirae Hall-garner, Vivian Hang, Muzna Hasan, Mykah Havard, Julian Hernandez, Julius Hernandez, Kingston Hernandez, Prince Hill and Alexia Hoang.

Chelsea Hua, Brianna Huesca, Anthony Jennings, Marina Kostikoglou, Duy Lam, Anthony Le, Huy Le, Kim Le, Sheyla Le, Genesis Leal, Hayden Limas, Leyla Limon, Allyson Marquez, Aaden Martinez and Ashley Martinez.

Miah Martinez, Kacey McDonald, Jaiden Medina, Adlin Mena, Mohammad Mian, Karen Mier, Nikolai Miranda, Dylan Mohwinkel, Morgan Momie, Aden Moore, Evan Mora, Samuel Moreno, Junied Munshi, Zainab Naveed, Anh Nguyen and Hayly Nguyen.

Justin Nguyen, Nicholas Nguyen, Quynh Nguyen, Ijeoma Nmezi, Louisa Obah, Lilly Oliva, Nathaniel Padilla, Michael Pettis, Jonny Pham, Queana Pham, Andy Pineda, Cullen Ponder, Samantha Portillo, Kendrick Ramos, Jazalynn Randall and Melany Rangel Uribe.

Jeremy Rangel, Nicolas Rangel, Olivia Razo, Ana Reyes, Aubree Rodriguez, Maylene Rodriguez, Nelson Rodriguez, Christopher Rubio, Kaylee Salazar, Isaac Salinas, Eduardo Sanchez, Jonathon Sanchez and Manuel Sanchez.

Sophia Saucedo, Zaire Scott, Alyza Silva, Krystal Silva, Christiane Simpson, Persephone Soria, Samyria Spriggs, Jayda Stewart, Kendra Tamez, Aiden Teran, Delonnie Torres, Jaylyn Torres, Anne Tran and Katie Tran.

Sandra Trevino, Elijah Ugalde, Issac Urquieta, Mariyah Usher and Alan Vallejo.

Faith Vazquez, Isabella Velasquez Pineda, Adrian Villatoro, Alex Vouffo and Xamira Zambrano.

Bridge to host fashion show

Bridge Over Troubled Waters is hosting its annual fashion show April 27.

The Bridge is a domestic and sexual violence crisis center in Pasadena which serves Harris County.

This year they celebrate 45 years of serving the community.

The fashion show is the only fundraising event The Bridge hosts each year and is open to the public.

Visit this link to purchase tickets, <https://www.classy.org/event/2023-fashion-show/e459494/register/new/select-tickets>. Contact 281-501-1877 for details.

Scouts host spaghetti dinner

Boy Scout Troop 468 will be hosting its 18th Annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser April 29, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, in Pearland from 4 to 8 p.m.

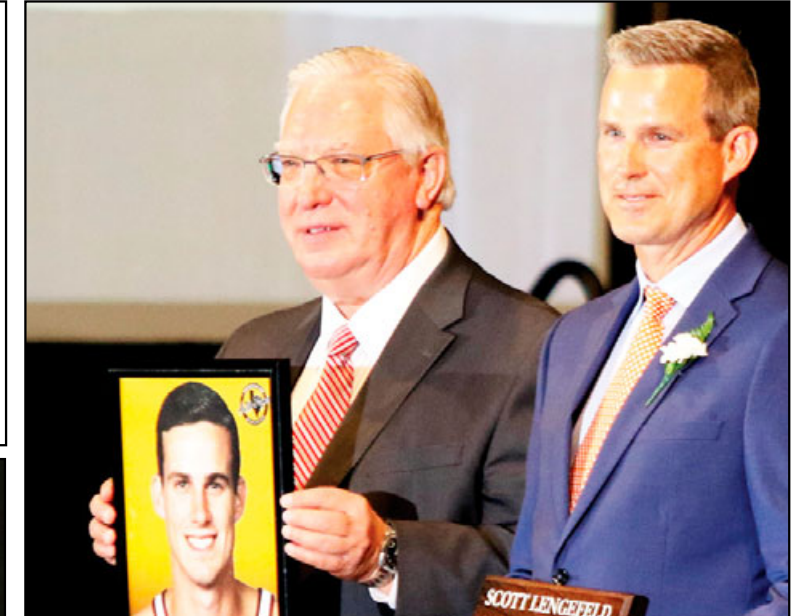
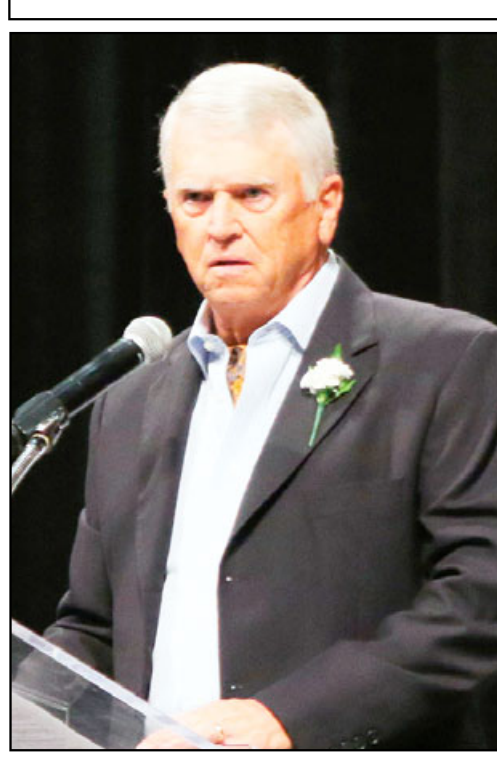
Each dinner includes a serving of spaghetti with or without meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and drink for \$10, eat-in or take-out.

Additional 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.

PISD honors inductees

Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame chair Bill Barmore (left) is shown (clockwise) with Class of 2023 inductee Scott Lengefeld, who won two district cross-country titles at Dobie and later enjoyed a storied career at Texas A&M. Legendary coach Rhonda Foster, who coached multiple state championship teams at Dobie, admires her Hall of Fame induction plaque. The 1981 Dobie state championship track and field team was inducted as part of the 2023 class. Members included, left to right, Paul Miller, Greg Johnson, coach Mike McKinney, head coach John Bryan, Gawain Guy, Sammy Shimmfessel and Lawrence Mitchell. Former longtime Houston Astros voice Bill Brown was the emcee for the 2023 event.



Remember When

45 years ago (1978)
Annette Argo of Sagemont filed charges against her neighbor after Argo was reportedly attacked by the neighbor with a "Mexican-type" baseball bat.

Residents of South Belt and Clear Lake had the opportunity to help plan public transportation for the region.

40 years ago (1983)
Clear Lake High School Assistant Principal Ralph Parr was named principal of Clear Creek High School.

Representatives of Kirkwood, Kirkwood South and Sagemeadow agreed to form the South Belt Security Alliance.

35 years ago (1988)
Dobie graduate Michelle Marie Chapman was crowned Miss Pasadena Strawberry at the Strawberry Festival.

The Pasadena ISD Board of Education spent half an hour attempting to clarify a decision made at the last meeting to not allow an eighth-grade end-of-the-year social event at the intermediate schools.

30 years ago (1993)
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce urged local residents and businesses along Scarsdale Boulevard to oppose installation of a waterline from Highway 3 to Beamer, in favor of another location. Members of the chamber asked city and county officials to consider running the line down Astoria or Dixie Farm Road instead of Scarsdale. It was estimated the street could be torn up for two years while the city completed the project.

Two businesses on Fuqua, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Walgreens, were robbed by gunmen over the past couple of weeks. At press time, no arrests had been made and Houston police were investigating.

Thompson Intermediate's academic team advanced to national semifinals following the team's drubbing of Baltimore, Md., 65-36.

San Jacinto College South biology student Linda Roberts of Kirkwood was listed among the cream of the crop in the nation's two-year colleges when she appeared in the April 29 issue of USA TODAY 1993 All-USA Academic Teams for Community and Junior Colleges. She was one of 20 students named to the First Team as a representative of the nation's outstanding academic talent.

25 years ago (1998)
The Fire in the Hole cookoff team was awarded the overall championship for the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.

Farmers Insurance agents donated \$750 to Dobie's Project Graduation.

20 years ago (2003)
In the 37-team National Academic Decathlon competition, Dobie came in third behind Moorpark High School of Ventura County, Calif., and Waukesha West High School in Wisconsin.

Sagemont resident Nita Fields was hospitalized when the fireplace in her home collapsed as she was removing a game from the mantel.

15 years ago (2008)
Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's deputies made two arrests in one day in which they recovered merchandise and possessions that had been stolen. A deputy was patrolling the 10800 block of Sagegreen when he spotted a vehicle being driven with its lights off. The driver sped off and eventually wrecked the vehicle on Meadowhawk and then took off on foot. The car turned out to be stolen and contained several hundred dollars worth of hair and nail products.

The owners of two stores later positively identified the stolen merchandise. Long Nguyen, 36, was arrested and charged with evading in a stolen vehicle, possession of stolen goods and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Later that morning, two motor vehicles within a block of each other were burglarized. One vehicle, a Ford Expedition in the 8900 block of Kirkwood, had electronics taken from it. The second vehicle, a Comcast Cable van in the 9900 block of Kirkwood, had tools taken from it. Deputies were dispatched to the scene where a neighbor notified them that a possible suspect might be at a house on Kirkwood. The deputies found Joshua Marshall, 21, in the backyard highly intoxicated. He then told deputies where the stolen items had been stashed. The suspect was arrested and charged with felony theft.

Sagemont Church announced its plan to invest roughly \$25 million in a renovation and beautification project. Designs called for a new sanctuary, an educational space, extensive landscaping and a 170-foot cross to be erected on the church grounds. In all, the renovations would provide 115,000 square feet of new building space.

The Washington Mutual bank in the 10900 block of Scarsdale was robbed. A man entered the bank and handed the teller on duty a note saying to give him money and not to set off any silent alarms. He subsequently showed the teller a handgun. The teller handed the man a bag with an undisclosed amount of money. The man then fled in a plum-colored, four-door sedan that was waiting for him in front of the bank. No immediate arrests were made.

10 years ago (2013)
Joe Craddock, owner of C&D Burger Shoppe, died after a long illness. Craddock was a longtime South Belt resident and was very active in the community. He previously managed the Fuqua Dairy Queen before buying the building and changing it to C&D.

According to police, a man approached a 31-year-old woman around 1 a.m. in the parking lot of the Walmart on Rowlett and pulled a gun on her and forced her into her own vehicle. Police said the man then forced the woman to drive to another location where he raped and robbed her in her vehicle. Following the assault, the woman drove herself to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and called police. No immediate arrests were made.

5 years ago (2018)
Steve Stockman, a former Republican congressman who represented much of the South Belt community, was found guilty of 23 felony charges, after defrauding wealthy donors of \$1.25 million. The 12-person jury convicted Stockman, 61, after 16 hours of deliberations over three days, following a month-long trial. Charges included mail and wire fraud, conspiracy, making false statements to the Federal Elections Commission and money laundering. He was found not guilty on one count of wire fraud. He was later sentenced to 10 years in federal prison.

1 year ago (2022)
The Walgreens located in the 10800 block of Scarsdale at Beamer was robbed at gunpoint around 11:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21. According to officials with Precinct 2 constable's office, two young black males entered the store, displayed handguns and forced an employee toward the office and demanded he open the store's safe. The suspects fled the store with approximately \$5,000. No one was injured during the robbery. No immediate arrests were made.

The 10th annual Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place Thursday, April 28, at the Pasadena Convention Center. In honor of the event's 10th anniversary, 10 recipients were inducted. Inductees included Charlie Goehring - Track and Cross-Country Coach (1971-2007); TJ Mills (deceased) - Football Coach (1977-2005); Wilburn Raby - Track Coach (1952-1980); Steve Prentice - Swimmer, South Houston (Class of 1970); Bryan Willingham - Football, Pasadena (Class of 1971); Ron Schroeder - Golf, Sam Rayburn (Class of 1975); Marlen Esparza - Boxing, Pasadena (Class of 2007); Bo Snelson - Football, Pasadena Memorial (Class of 2009); Snelson Family, including Billie (deceased), and her two sons John and Andy Snelson; and Dobie Girls Softball Team, 1993 State Champions.



City of Houston to hold annual job fair April 27

Continued from Page 1

"At Turnaround Houston, we work with reputable employers and resource organizations who are eager to connect with job seekers and those needing assistance related to their job search," said Marsha E. Murray, director of the Office of Business Opportunity. "My office and our community partners are looking forward to welcoming Houstonians to this event."

To register for this event, go to tinyurl.com/pwfbv39.

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Over The Back Fence by Natalie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAY!
Best wishes are sent April 27 for a wonderful birthday to former Leader staffer, Dobie and UT graduate Jay Do from friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 27 through May 3.

Atkinson Elementary
The day for a party for Ashley Garza is May 3.

Burnett Elementary
Erika Gonzalez enjoys a birthday May 3.

Bush Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting to Nicole Holguin on May 3.

Stuchbery Elementary
Happy birthday wishes are sent April 27 to Iris Montemayor.
Fred Roberts Middle School

Melissa Jimenez enjoys a birthday May 2.
Melillo Middle School
The day for a birthday celebration for Jacqueline Carmona is April 27.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Break out the cake and ice cream April 27 for Lancey Graves.

Thompson Intermediate
Light the candles April 29 for a special celebration for Nicole Horne-Sherman. Maria Lopez celebrates a birthday May 3.

Dobie High
A double-layer birthday cake April 30 is in order for Erica Moreno and Mathew Ortiz. The day for a party for Marcia Griffin is May 2.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, April 27: Emily Walker, Amber Allan and Penelope Villeda; Friday, April 28: Ralph Jackson, Kelly Schwell, Jason Stonestreet, Monica Rasmussen and Carrie Ramirez; Saturday, April 29: Kevin James, Jonathan Ellis, Ben Bryant and Melissa Rahman; Sunday, April 30: Walter Trojanowsky, Norma Partida, Cindy Munoz, Diana Guzman, Scott Koplin and Mathew Ortiz; Monday, May 1: Jacob De La Rosa, Kenneth Zermeno, Ladonna Alvarez, John Anderson, Elizabeth Lastovica, Vareck Herrera, David Payne, Shanna Mounce, Clint Simmons and Stephanie Sirt; Tuesday, May 2: Chris Weatherford, Douglas Redhun, Troy Goffney, David Tho; and Wednesday, May 3: Craig Pittman, Keith Richards, Tanya Morales and Brandie Ash.

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

Patel tabbed Dobie boys' hoops leader

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
 Dobie High School has announced Timir Patel as its new leader of the boys' basketball program, and Patel is excited to lead the Longhorns into the future after a lengthy stay in Katy ISD.

A Cinco Ranch High School graduate and one-time basketball standout in his own right, Patel made several collegiate stops along the way after high school, including Prairie View A&M, Blinn and Houston Baptist University, now Houston Christian University. He graduated from HBU in 2008.

He's experienced professional play overseas in China, Romania and India, and has most recently been part of four deep postseason tournament runs courtesy of a three-year stop at Paetow and then last season at Jordan, where the 28-9 Panthers reached the regional Final Four last season.

Now after beginning his coaching career at HBU under legendary head coach Ron Cottrell and four seasons as a varsity assistant in Katy, Patel has joined Dobie.

Patel is commuting to Dobie several times a week for athletic period workouts as he finishes the school year at Jordan.

While getting to know players and other staff members in a hurry this spring, Patel is ready to be able to soon dedicate his full attention to the Longhorns.

"I'm so thankful to coach Cottrell for en-

Continued on Page 8



Dobie senior catcher Bella Perez (5) and her teammates will look to avenge a 2022 bidistrict playoff series loss when they meet Summer Creek for a second straight season. The Longhorns won 20 overall games this season, including a 10-2 record in District 22-6A action that earned the team the second seed. Summer Creek, 23-10-1 overall, went 10-4 in league play for third place overall.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Bidistrict softball Dobie, Summer Creek to revive playoff battle

The Class 6A varsity softball postseason starts April 28-29 as Dobie, the No. 2 seed out of District 22-6A, takes on 21-6A's Summer Creek for the second straight season.

In 2022, Summer Creek ousted Dobie after 7-0 and 10-0 wins as Sam Flores led the Bulldogs' offense with six hits in seven at-bats with seven runs batted in.

The Bulldogs also got consecutive shutout pitching performances from Miranda Pena, who allowed just seven hits in all while fanning 19 over 14 innings.

Yet while those might be the facts from a season ago, Dobie is intent on changing the outcome as a group of seniors led by collegiate signees Marisa Perla, Bella Perez and Sandra Quiroz lead the way.

Perla is hitting .520 with a team high 20 extra-base hits and 37 runs batted in, while Perez is hitting .506 with 19 hits for extra bases, including five homers and 33 runs batted in.

Bidistrict Softball

Dobie vs. Summer Creek

Best-of-Three Series

Game 1: April 28, at PISD Complex, 6 p.m.

Game 2: April 29, at Summer Creek, 5 p.m.

Game 3: April 29, at Summer Creek, 6 p.m.

(if necessary, 30 minutes after Game 2)

Harris earns regionals



Region III track and field qualifier Stacie Harris is the 22-6A and 21-6A/22-6A area-round long jump champion as she represents Dobie at regionals April 28-29.

Longhorns win 22-6A baseball crown convincingly

2014. That's the answer to the question that will pop up in the coming days as the Dobie baseball program celebrates winning the District 22-6A championship for the first time since...2014.

The Longhorns got the job done by being as consistent on the baseball diamond as any program in the region.

Dobie went extra innings against Deer Park before losing 6-2 but then reeled off 11 consecutive victories to claim the league title and the No. 1 playoff seed out of District 22-6A.

The 22-6A regular season ends April 28, but the Longhorns have a bye after having finished their schedule. In the final two-game set against

South Houston, Dobie first topped the Trojans April 18 by a 17-9 count at South Houston, then blanked the Trojans 10-0 April 21 to set up a big celebration at Longhorn Field on the Dobie campus. In the 17-9 win, Omar Serna went deep, drove in

four runs and scored twice. Juan Estrada went 3 for 3 and scored three times and Daniel Delgado had two hits and scored three runs. Sophomore Cruz Torres improved to 10-0 on the mound in the 10-0 clincher April 21 as Serna again knocked in four runs and

Delgado crossed the plate three times. As for Torres, his 10-0 record includes an earned run average of just 0.68 with 52 strikeouts over 51 frames of work.

The Longhorns, 21-6 this season, dropped a playoff tune-up at Episcop

copal 9-6, but that figures to be of little consequence moving forward.

The Class 6A bidistrict baseball playoffs open May 4-6, with the Longhorns set to face the yet-to-be-decided fourth-place finisher out of District 21-6A.

Poised with the program's fresh district title, the Longhorns are now intent on making a deep playoff run.

Brook baseball makes a late push

A clutch sixth district win over Clear Springs has the Clear Brook varsity baseball team in prime position to snag a playoff berth as the locals close the regular season against Dickinson.

The Wolverines took on the Gators after press time April 25 and will end the regular season April 28 at Dickinson, beginning at 6 p.m. Clear Springs

is at 8-4 to lead the way in the standings and has completed its regular season. Clear Falls is at 7-5 and ends its regular season with a pair of games against Clear Creek.

The Wolverines entered the final week at 6-4 looking to make a big climb up the standings, while Clear Lake and Brazoswood also meet in the final week.

The Wolverines' 6-2

win over the Clear Springs Chargers April 21 is looming large as the locals make a late-season push.

Ismail Hatamleh doubled and drove in two runs, while Francisco Leija drove in two runs and scored two more. Santiago Leija started the game and got relief help from Tyler Gaudet, with no earned runs allowed along the way.

win over the Clear Springs Chargers April 21 is looming large as the locals make a late-season push.

Ismail Hatamleh doubled and drove in two runs, while Francisco Leija drove in two runs and scored two more. Santiago Leija started the game and got relief help from Tyler Gaudet, with no earned runs allowed along the way.

Freshman Shelton, senior Thompson lead Brook track's run to regionals

Freshman 400-meter sensation Joshua Shelton came up with his second postseason win in as many weeks while senior thrower Kennedy Thompson delivered a personal record in the discus as the pair led Clear Brook's run to the Region III Track and Field Championships.

Shelton and Thompson moved a step closer to the ultimate goal of reaching the state level as they won gold at the District 23-6A/District 24-6A area meet April 21 at Challenger Stadium in Webster.

Next up is the Region III meet April 28-29 at Turner Stadium in Humble as athletes will aim for two-two finishes in each event, which brings an automatic Class 6A state championship berth in Austin May 13.

Shelton doubled down on his 24-6A crown in the 400 as he went 49.30 seconds at the 23/24 area meet to again take gold and the regional berth. Jack Musgrove of Clear Lake grabbed the other re-

gional berth as his time of 49.43 was second best.

Thompson, the two-time District 24-6A discus champion, came up with a personal record of 136 feet, 9 inches to take the gold at areas and punch her invitation to regionals.

The senior, a Mississippi College signee, finished her high school career in the shot at the area meet as her top throw of 35-8 was sixth.

Another senior, Ray-

mond Felton, saw his final season with the Wolverines extend to the Region III meet in the 200 as his time of 21.25 was third for a bronze medal in the event.

Felton also competed in the 100 at areas, clocking in at 10.76 for fifth. Teammate Jaylon Owens was also seventh in the 200 in a time of 21.87. Felton and Owens will be joined by Kartier Johnson and Joshua Akinola in the 4x200

relay at regionals after the program record-holding foursome was second at areas in a time of 1:26.19.

Jizzale Davis, a junior, is also headed to the Region III meet as she clocked in at 24.24 for third place in the 200.

Clear Brook sophomore Darwin Bolden capped his solid season in the discus with a throw of 137-02 for sixth place at the area level.

A time of 2:21.29 landed Clear Brook's Azayla Smith eighth in the 800 at the area meet, and the Wolverines were fourth in the 4x400 relay to advance to the regional round.

See related photos on Page 6.



At right, Clear Brook freshman 400 runner Joshua Shelton is unbeaten this track postseason as he heads to the Region III Track and Field Championships April 28-29 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium. Shelton claimed the 22-6A/24-6A area title in a time of 49.30 seconds as he reached the regional round with a legitimate chance to advance to state.



Timir Patel has enjoyed plenty of success first as a player in Katy ISD and then as an assistant coach at both Paetow and Jordan, and he envisions the same possibilities at Dobie as the varsity boys' basketball head coach.

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Harris, boys' relay to regionals

Dobie sophomore Stacie Harris is headed to the Region III Track and Field Championships as the 21-6A/22-6A area round long jump champion, with the regional round set to play out April 28-29 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium.

Winning the long jump gold medal at 18 feet, 4 inches, Harris wound up as the Dobie girls' lone automatic Region III qualifier following what was, as expected, a hyper-competitive area round meet dominated by team champion Kingwood (180 points) and two other District 21-6A programs.

Atascocita was second with 165 points and Summer Creek had a third-best 112 points.

The rest of the field was considerably further back, including Dobie with 32

points for fifth place.

Deer Park, the 22-6A girls' champion, was tied with Dobie for fifth place as the top-performing programs from 22-6A.

Harris also clocked in at 26.52 seconds in the 200, taking the fourth qualifying spot from the area round as she will be part of both the field and running events.

In the varsity boys' division, Dobie advanced to regionals in the 4x100 relay with a fourth-place finish of 43.26 seconds as Derrick Woodley, Jeremiah Davis, Demarcus Hodges and Marcus Jones teamed for the Longhorns.

Atascocita dominated the boys' team standings with 214 points, followed by Summer Creek with 136 for second place. Dobie totalled 14 points for ninth place.

While Harris will return to Humble and be just one huge step away from state, there were several other Longhorns who saw their season come to a close at the 21-6A/22-6A event.

Mia Sanchez was sixth in a time of 27.20 in the 200, and 22-6A 400 champion Ashley Dunn took sixth in the area round at 1 minute, 06.86 seconds.

In the 800, Dobie's Ashlee Garcia clocked in at 2:28.44 for fifth place, while Dunn's time of 2:38.19 was eighth best.

Dobie's Lauren Garza captured fifth in a time of 5:54.09 in the 1,600, with teammate Kyla Lobo's time of 6:20.94 good for ninth.

Led by the gold medalist Garcia, the Dobie girls had gone 1-2-3 in the 3,200 at the district level but went 5-6-7 at

the area meet. Garcia was fifth (12:52.04), followed by Garza (12:54.18) and Lobo (13:08.54).

A time of 57.86 placed Dobie's Jordan Davis sixth in the 300 hurdles, and the Longhorns were fifth best in the 4x100 relay as Sanchez, Harris, Kylar Joseph and Tailin Curtis teamed in the event.

It was Sanchez, Sophia Perez, Curtis and Bre'Yanna Williams for fifth place in the 4x200 relay in a time of 1:48.73, with a time of 4:25.58 landing Dobie seventh.

That group included Dunn, Perez, Garcia and Harris. Williams went 15-00 1/2 for seventh in the long jump.

Aside from the 4x100 relay regional qualifier, the Dobie boys' contingent also saw the 2023 season come to a close.

Woodley took seventh at 23.53 in the 200, and Tariq Riley went 52.52 for sixth in the 400. Also at the 400 distance, Dobie's Jovanni Avila was at 2:05.23 for fifth at the 800 distance.

At 4:53.82, Dobie's Christopher Lopez was eighth in the 1,600, with Avila in at 10:23.62 for eighth in the 3,200.

Yohander Mercado was eighth at 44.57 in the 300. Woodley, Hodges, Jackson and Davis teamed in the 4x200 relay for seventh place in a time of 1:34.49, while Riley, Charles Richard, Ariel Cortez Amaya and Jackson combined for sixth in the 4x400 relay at 3:34.71.

Jackson made his way to 20-04 in the long jump for seventh, and Hodges was seventh in the triple jump at 43-00.

At 47-9 1/2, the Longhorns' Roderick Drumgo was sixth in the shot, while his throw of 126-02 was seventh best in the discus as he finished off a solid junior season in the field events.

Region III track meet April 28-29

At right, the Clear Brook boys' 4x200 relay team of, left to right, (seated) Jaylon Owens, (top row) Kartier Johnson, Raymond Felton and Joshua Akinola advanced to the regional meet by taking second place and a silver medal April 21 at the 23-6A/24-6A Area Championships at Challenger Stadium in Webster. At regionals, relay teams and individuals will aim for top-two finishes, which come with state berths. The Class 6A state championship meet is May 13 in Austin. The 4x200 relay team has already bettered the school record in the event four separate times this season. Felton will also compete in the 200.



In the varsity boys' division, Dobie advanced to regionals in the 4x100 relay with a fourth-place finish of 43.26 seconds as, left to right, Demarcus Hodges, Jeremiah Davis, Marcus Jones and Derrick Wood-

ley, teamed for the Longhorns. Next up is the Region III Track and Field Championships April 28-29 at Turner Stadium in Humble as athletes look to reach the state meet May 13.

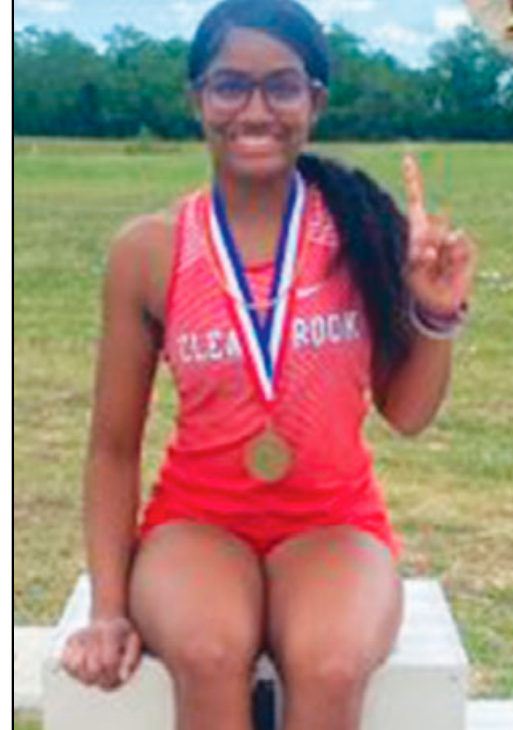


Raymond Felton, a member of Brook's 4x200 relay team that qualified for regionals, will also compete at regionals in the 200.



The Clear Brook girls' 4x400 relay squad of, left to right, (front row) Azayla Smith, Julisa Hudson, (back row) Ja'Delle Major and Jizzale Davis.

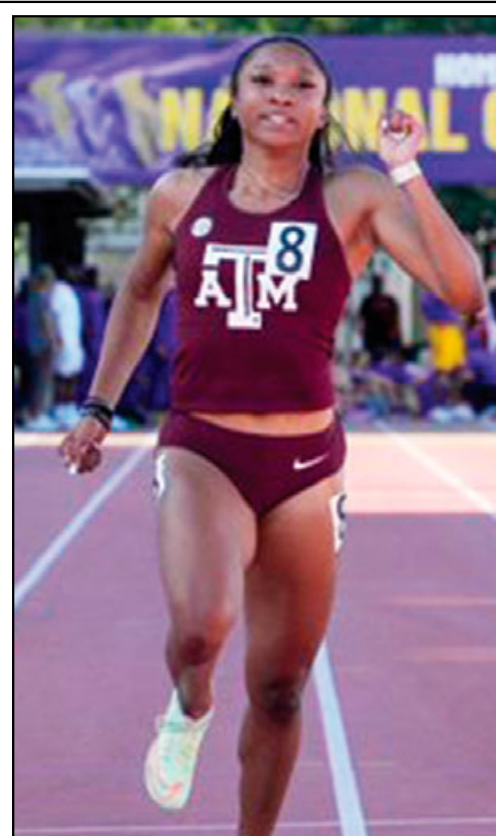
At right, the Dobie varsity baseball team won its first district championship since 2014 with an 11-1 run through the 22-6A ranks this season. Those involved in the celebration included, left to right, (front row) Gavin Carrillo, Isaiah Correa, Fabian Rodriguez, Juan Estrada, A.J. Hernandez, (middle row) Austin Sutton (bat boy), Omar Serna, Daniel Delgado, Ian Johnson, Liam Vasquez, Julian Valencia, Jordan Peralez, Juel Martinez, (back row) coach Kevin Schulba, Michael Montano, Fernando Flores, coach Will Joiner Jr., Will Joiner III, Eduardo Loera, coach Frank Mora, Matthew Torres, Cruz Torres, Connor Mohwinkel, Austin Silva, Junior Orozco, Steven Oviedo, coach Daniel Sawyer, coach Doug Sawyer, Aiden Sanchez and head coach Miguel Torres.



A personal record throw of 136 feet, 9 inches earned Brook's Kennedy Thompson a regional berth.

Dickson posts speedy 200 clocking

At right, Texas A&M women's track star Camryn Dickson set a big personal best in the 200 April 22 at the LSU Invitational in Baton Rouge, clocking 22.86 (w/-0.5) into a headwind to finish as the top collegian. The mark makes her the No. 11 performer in Texas A&M history and ranks as the No. 5 freshman mark in the NCAA. Dickson, a Class of 2022 Clear Brook High School graduate, has set or equaled her personal best time in every 200 race this season.



Lady Oilers' 8U softball goes unbeaten

At right, the Lady Oilers' 8-under squad went undefeated over a seven-game run to win its age group championship at the South Belt Girls' Softball Association's Trophy Hunt Invitational at El Franco Lee Park. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Sophia Morales, Rylee Flores, Jasmin Martinez, Montserrat Villa, Maria Esquivel, Arianna Correa, (middle row) Rosmar Jimenez, Arianna Limon, Sophia Vasquez, Torynn Casiano, Ava Rodriguez, Adriane Guzman, (back row) assistant coaches Fernando Martinez, Junior Casiano, Joseph Correa, Rene Rodriguez Jr., head coach Pete Guzman III and assistant coach Michael Limon.



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website 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.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Bay Area Genealogical Society** - meets in person at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Potluck luncheon will be held. Visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. 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 At-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

12-2 p.m.
Noon **Food Drive** - New Covenant Christian Church hosts food drive at 10603 Blackhawk Blvd, Houston. Call 281-484-4230.
SUNDAY, APRIL 30

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

MONDAY, MAY 1

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for exhibit tours, offered 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older meets for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg., room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, MAY 2
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **Local NARFE Meeting** - National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1321, meets at Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Pkwy. Lunch is \$6.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Quilt Guild** - Meets at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program at 7 p.m. Visit www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild or call Carol at 713-253-2521 for information. Visitors may attend two meetings free.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets virtually at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. Visit the website or call Karen at 832-722-9061.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Call 713-444-6744.
9:30 a.m. **Young at Heart Senior Club** - Meets at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Jan at 832-298-9480.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's 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, is open. 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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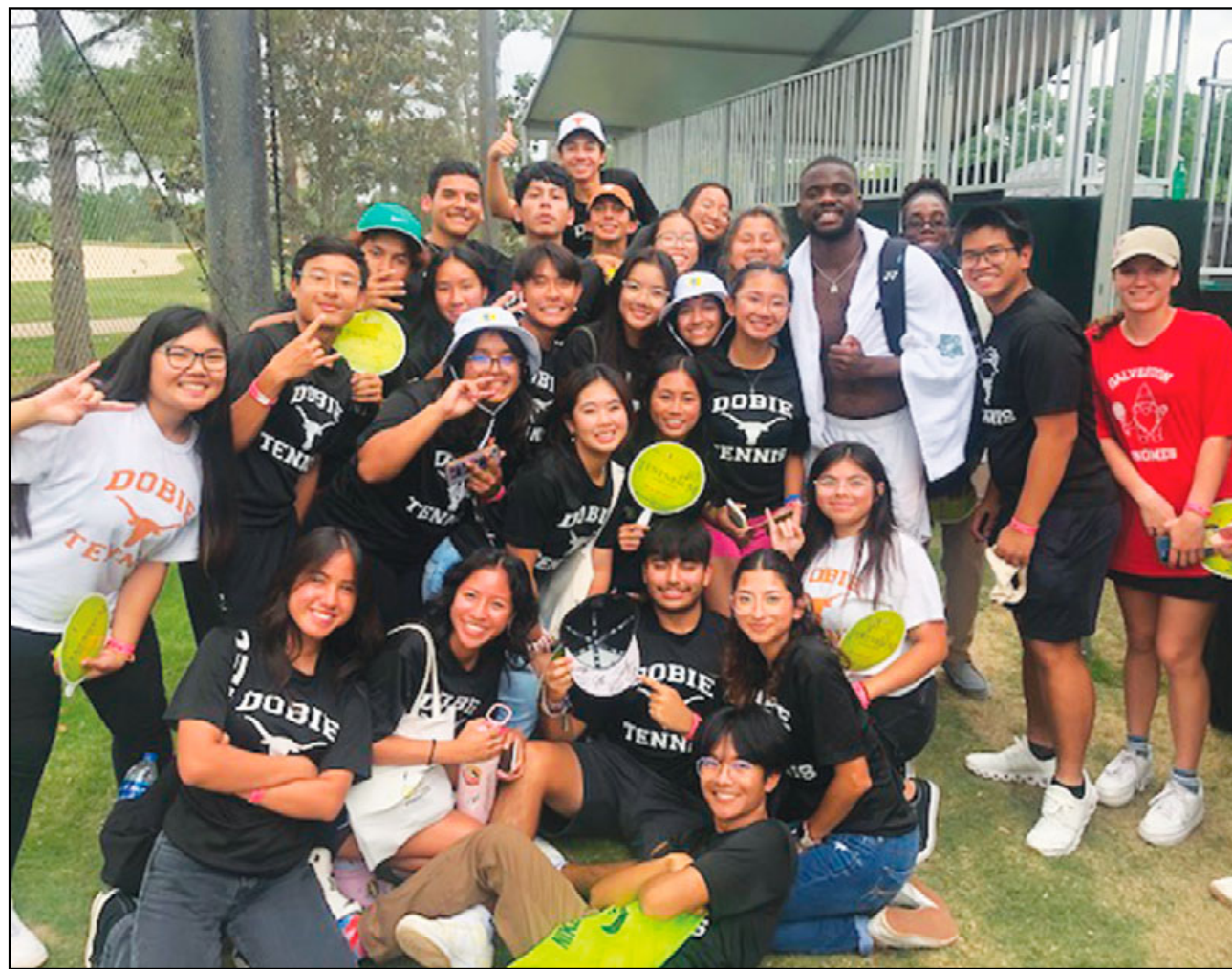
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Dobie tennis meets Tiafoe at event

At right, the Dobie tennis program visited with professional tennis star Frances Tiafoe in River Oaks at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships. The Dobie group included, left to right, Vyvy Do, Kayla Tran, David Caballero, Ryan Le, Leslie Figueroa, Dulce Flores, Kayla Lam, Amalia Reyes, Thang Tran, Tiffany Tran, Ashley Huynh, Natalie Vo, Hailey Maldonado, Leena Pham, Tiffany Nguyen, Pitou So, Diego Flores, Aaron Charles, Nestor Garza, Rigoberto Alanis, Robert Ramirez, Valerie Huynh, Abigail Panza, Janice Padilla, (Frances Tiafoe), Isaac Reynolds, William Ho and Molly Carnes. Days later, Tiafoe scored a 7-6(1), 7-6(6) victory against Tomas Martin Etcheverry in the final at the Faye Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship to return to the winner's circle for the first time since his maiden trophy run in 2018 at Delray Beach, Fla.



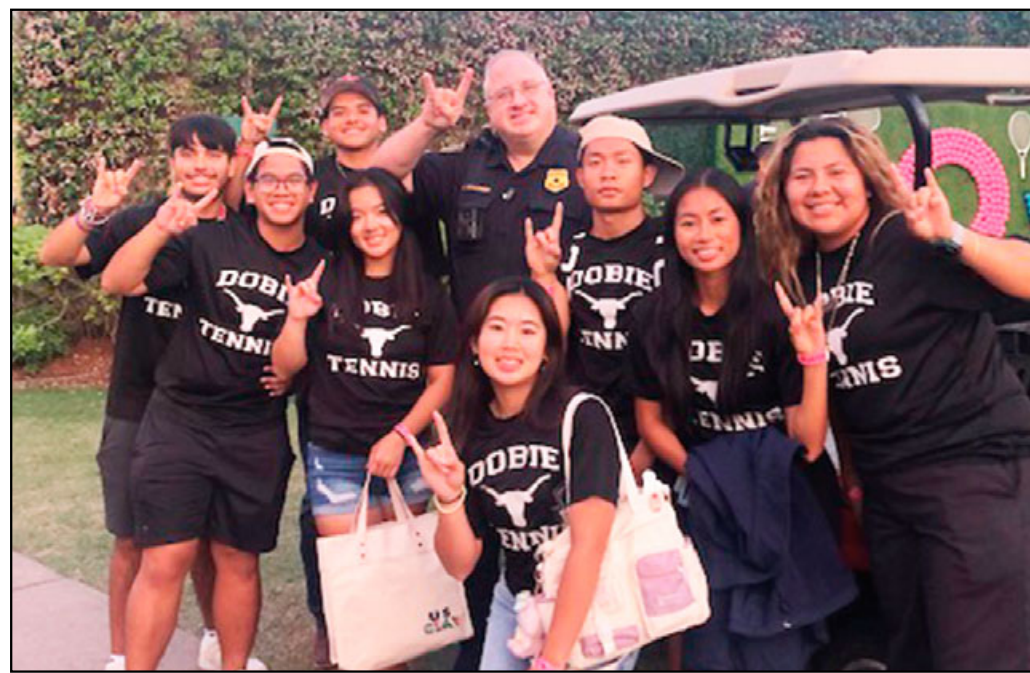
Brook mixed doubles reaches quarters



The Clear Brook mixed doubles team of Brandon Than (left) and Catherine Nguyen reached the quarterfinal round of the Region III tennis championships at Deer Park High School as they celebrated a successful spring season run. The Wolverine pair won their round of 16 regional opener 6-0, 6-0, then lost 7-5, 6-3 to a Tompkins duo in the quarters.

JFD netters meet alumnus at River Oaks

At right, several members of the Dobie tennis program attended the action at the Men's Clay Court Championship at the River Oaks Country Club, where they met Class of 1988 Dobie graduate and Houston Police Officer Darren Schlosser as he worked security. Those with Schlosser (back row, second from left) included, left to right, (front row) David Caballero, William Ho, Ashley Huynh, Tiffany Nguyen. (back row) Aaron Charles, Thang Tran, Natalie Vo and Janice Padilla.



San Jac softball eyes championship finish

Two-time defending Region XIV champion San Jacinto is determined to make it three in a row as the race to the top boils down to a few key games. With a two-game set at Galveston coming May 3 to close the regular season for both programs, the Ravens have put themselves in position to fend off the Whitecaps down the stretch. After surrendering the conference lead following a 12-4 loss to Galveston April 17 in the first of two games, San Jacinto responded with a 5-3 win as Arianna Wright slammed a home run and drove in three, with Dobie graduate Leslie Longoria driving in

a pair of runs with a double. Raven starting pitcher Reanna Nieman allowed a home run to Dobie graduate Karlie Barba but went the distance for the win. With five straight wins heading into a two-game set against Blinn April 26 after press time, San Jacinto was 15-3 in league play, tied with the Whitecaps for the conference lead. Wright has been one of the top producers in the conference this season as a freshman, hitting .523 with 69 hits, 17 doubles, 12 home runs and 54 runs batted in, all team bests. San Jacinto's Emma Garcia has hit .393, and teammate Chloe Foster

has hit .357. Longoria, a four-year starter who played little as a freshman a season ago, is hitting .360. San Jacinto's Christin Haygood, who as a freshman in 2022 was the conference Pitcher of the Year, is bidding for a repeat this go-around with a 15-2 re-

cord and 0.96 earned run average to this point, and Nieman has won five of seven decisions overall. The race to the regular season title seems destined to go down to the wire as Galveston, now ranked 15th nationally, looks to take down the champions in the final week.

San Jacinto at Angelina

April 29, 5 p.m./7 p.m.

San Jacinto at Galveston

May 3, 2 p.m./4 p.m.

Patel to lead JFD hoops as program's head coach

Continued from Page 5
 encouraging me to take this path, and then being able to work with coach (Mike) Niemi at Paetow and coach (Charlie) Jones at Jordan. All of these coaches and more have helped prepare me for this role." A look at Dobie's pre-season roster from the 2022-2023 campaign shows that first-team All-District performer Camren Fowler will graduate next month along with seniors Jaden Shanklin, Jeremiah Jackson, Ameriess Jones and Tristan Turrubiarres. Graduating seniors are always missed from one season to another, but eight players from that same pre-season roster are eligible to return. To this point, Patel is familiarizing himself with the personalities and skill sets of those varsity returnees, including first-team All-District pick Dylan Jackson, second-teamer Julio Cisneros, honorable mention picks Malachi Hobbs, Kai Conerly and Waymond Hayes, as well as Ryan White and Israel Pinkney. There will be others who can make a case for promotion within the Dobie program, and it all starts this summer as Patel settles in locally. "I feel I am ready to lead a program, and I think of some of my past coaches that I have played with and coached alongside during this journey," Patel

said. "The Longhorns experienced the ups and downs associated with a 7-5 league mark last season but did rally to finish fourth and make the playoffs. And while league co-champions Deer Park, South Houston and Memorial will all return first-team All-District talent led by league Most Valuable Player Robert Miller III, the Longhorns will surely benefit from both a new voice and fresh outlook as they look to improve upon this past season's fourth-place finish. "The guys in the program are buying in and are receptive to what I have given in terms of leadership so far," Patel said. "For me personally, I'm excited to be able to come in and lead a program at Dobie that has a rich tradition in my first role as a head coach. "We are going to out-work teams, we are going to be gritty on offense and try to use our defense to create opportunities offensively. "This is a great opportunity, one I am more than ready for, and I can't wait to get there full time, have a summer and off-season with the guys and be ready when the first tipoff comes. "Everybody has been great as I work to get acquainted. I'm excited. I have no doubt we can continue to build."

Pioneer girls' golf wins 5A district crown



The Lutheran South Academy varsity golf team fired an 18-hole team total of 379 to claim top honors April 17 at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A District 5 tournament at Pecan Grove Country Club. Members of the winning team are, left to right, head coach Geoff Stressman, Addison Trahan, Emma Poffinbarger, Lucia De Luca, Audra Poffinbarger and Olivia Rivas. The Pioneers are now preparing for the regional tournament May 2 at the Victoria Country Club. From there, LSA will aim to reach the May 8-9 at Squaw Valley Country Club.

LSA golfers earn District 5 top 10 medals

At right, Lutheran South Academy golfers took home top-10 medals after competing in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A District 5 tournament at Pecan Grove Country Club. Those medalists included, left to right, Olivia Rivas (106 for ninth place), Addison Trahan (82 for second place), Emma Poffinbarger (92 for fourth place), Audra Poffinbarger (99 for sixth place) and boys' golfer Michael Perusse (73 for eighth place). The LSA girls were also the district team champions while the boys' team took second place.



Whaley a WPF draft choice



University of Pittsburgh women's softball star and graduate student Yvonne Whaley became the first Pitt Panther to hear her name called at the inaugural Women's Professional Fastpitch Draft April 17 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Whaley was selected as the first pick in the sixth round, 21st overall, by the Oklahoma City Spark. Whaley is currently batting .442 (50-for-113) this season and leads the nation with 17 doubles. The Dobie High School graduate is statistically the toughest batter to strike out in the Atlantic Coast Conference, fifth toughest batter of any player in the NCAA, recording just three strikeouts in 114 at-bats. Whaley made an immediate impact after joining the Panthers roster for the 2022 season. The All-ACC third team selection appeared and started in all 41 games at shortstop, leading the team in batting average (.344), hits (45), runs (21) and stolen bases (8). Whaley became the first player since Giorgiana Zeremenko (2018) to hit above .340 in a single season. The WPF is entering its second year as a league and consists of four teams: Smash It Sports Vipers, USSSA Pride, Oklahoma City Spark and the Texas Smoke. The 2023 WPF season runs from June 15 through August 7 with the playoffs beginning on August 11 and concluding with a three-game championship series August 15-17. Athletes are unable to sign a contract with their respective WPF team until they have exhausted their NCAA eligibility.

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