South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, April 6, 2023 | **Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com** | **www.southbeltleader.com** | **Vol. 48, No. 10**

Holiday closures set

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The *Leader* offices will be closed Friday, April 7, for the 2023 Easter holiday. Offices will reopen Monday, April 10, at 9 a.m. Potential news stories may be emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Clear Brook City MUD

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Friday, April 7, in observance of Easter. They reopen Monday, April 10, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who have trash pickup Tuesday/Friday will have service Good Friday, April 7. All trash should be curbside no later than 6 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup will be serviced Tuesday, April 11. Residents with Monday/Thursday service are not affected.

Lakes of Golfcrest to meet

Lakes of Golfcrest's annual meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at the Sagemeadow MUD Building, located at 10755 Hall Road at Blackhawk. (Sign-in will begin at 6:50 p.m.)

Shredding event planned

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

Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, April 13 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, April 14 (second Friday of the month).

April is for junk waste but tree waste will also be accepted. Due to recent staffing shortages, pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Local COVID cases reported

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

As of Tuesday, April 4, there were 182 active cases in 77089, up 13 from the previous week. To date, 138 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 21 active cases, up four from the previous week. To date, there have been 83 deaths in the ZIP code, up one from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 22 active cases, down three 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 covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

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

Two outside southbound lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Texas City Railroad to SH 6/SH 146 in La Marque nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

Beltway closures planned

One southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Spencer Highway to Fairmont Parkway will be closed continuously through 3 p.m. Friday, April 14.

One northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Fairmont Parkway to Vista will be closed continuously through 3 p.m. Friday, April 14.

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

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

Senior staff of state Rep. Jolanda Jones resign

Staff members complain of harassment, hostile work environment

Three senior staffers for newly elected state Rep. Jolanda "Jo" Jones resigned in unison this past week, citing an "abusive and hostile" work environment.

"We, as a collective of senior staff, have repeatedly attempted to curb your behavior and address the type of work environment you have bred over the last month," a resignation letter read. "But, to no avail; we haven't seen any success, You have continued to endorse, encourage, and create an abusive and hostile work environment in the workplace without accountability for you or your relatives' actions."

One of the relatives in question is Jones' son Jiovanni, whom staffers allege had an inappropriate relationship with a significantly younger intern.

"His relationship with an office intern displays disrespect for the workplace and diminishes the morality of the office," the resignation letter stated. "We are deeply troubled by the fact that you have actively covered up your son Jio's inappropriate relationship with one of our interns, who is significantly younger than him and is in a power imbalance, and are now using your position to intimidate and silence your own staff members."

Resigning staff members included Chief of Staff Kory Haywood, Legislative Director Catherine Mouer and District Director Yesenia Wences. Haywood is the husband of Harris County Justice of the Peace Dolores Lozano, who recently replaced longtime judge George Risner.

The staffers further allege that Jones would often exhibit physically threatening behavior and demand they perform non-work-related duties, such as taking her to the airport in the early morning hours.

Jones released a statement but did not directly address the allegations.

"Working in the Texas legislature is a stressful and demanding job, especially when you are in a daily fight to protect your constituents from attacks on their families, their civil rights, their schools and their ability to control their own bodies," said Jones. "Some of my staff have decided this job is not for them. I wish them good luck and success in their next endeavors."

The Texas House General Investigating Committee is reportedly launching an investigation to see if any wrongdoing took place.

Elected to the Legislature last year, Jones replaced longtime representative Garnet Coleman. A four-time national track-and-field champion and All-American basketball star, Jones previously served as a Houston City Council member and Houston ISD trustee.

County holds Easter egg hunt

Harris County held its annual Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 1, at El Franco Lee Park. Held the week before Easter each year, the event featured complimentary hot dogs, snow cones, drinks and popcorn. Hosts shown above at the event are, left to right, Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia; Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Judge Jo Ann Delgado; and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia. *Photo by Nicolas Listerguier, Harris County*

HPD: 3 shot outside Beltway 8 store

At least two of those shot were teens

Three people were shot during an incident around 1 a.m. Friday, March 31, outside a gas station at Beltway 8 and Beamer – at least two of who were teens.

According to Houston Police Department officials, emergency responders from both HPD and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office responded to a weapons disturbance at the Shell gas station parking lot to find evidence of a gunfight.

While patrolling the area for suspects, Precinct 2 Corporal Ponce discovered a vehicle stopped in a moving lane of traffic in the 11500 block of Fuqua. Upon making contact with the vehicle, Ponce discovered two 16-year-old gunshot victims who had been involved in the reported disturbance.

Both of the teens were transported to the hospital, one in critical condition and one in stable condition.

HPD officials said a third individual, age unknown, had been taken to the hospital by private vehicle to the hospital with critical injuries.

At press time, there had been no reported fatalities associated with the incident, despite rumors to the contrary. According to police, it was unclear what led up to the shooting. The case remained under investigation at press time.

Driver, 49, killed in Sageglen crash

A driver was killed around 6:10 p.m. Thursday, March 30, in the 11500 block of Sageglen Drive at Grapewood Drive.

According to investigators, a male driver was operating a maroon Nissan Frontier pickup truck on Sageglen when he failed to stay in a single lane of traffic and struck a tree on the south side of the road. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash and was killed by injuries sustained in the accident.

Investigators believe a medical issue may have contributed to the crash.

The deceased driver resided on Sagevale, officials said. It was the driver's 49th birthday.

At press time, the accident remained under investigation.

City to combat illegal dumping

Officials launch $18M One Clean Houston program

Mayor Sylvester Turner announced Wednesday, March 29, the City of Houston will allocate $18 million over the next two years to help clean up illegal dumping.

"Illegal dumping is a pervasive problem that negatively impacts the health, safety and quality of many communities throughout the City of Houston," Turner said at a press conference. "The quality of life within our neighborhoods should not be compromised through the blights created by illegal dumping. Everyone deserves the right to live in a healthy and safe environment, and we are all responsible for keeping our communities clean and free of dumping and other environmental hazards. We must all work together to create One Clean Houston."

According to city officials, the One Clean Houston program will focus on the following three areas of impact: rapid cleanup; better enforcement; and prevention and education.

Rapid cleanup

– Increase funding for heavy trash dumping and litter removal - $11.5M in additional contract abatement services over three years.

– Improve complaint routing and interagency coordination - clearly define roles and streamline processing of 311 service requests and tipline.

– Improve the efficiency of collections equipment - $3M to purchase single-operator grappler trucks.

– Attract and retail solid waste drivers - $200K

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Work resumes on Beamer Ditch

New contractor to complete abandoned job

The Harris County Flood Control District recently resumed construction on Mud Gully (Beamer Ditch) Channel Conveyance Improvements Project A120-00-00-C004.

The project had been dormant for several months after the original contractor, Complete Concrete, abandoned the job in spring 2022. In January, HCFCD selected Rebel Contractors as the company to complete the work.

Rebel Contractors began construction in Segment 1, which is located between Sagedowne Lane and Scarsdale Boulevard. The project includes constructing approximately 55,911 square yards of concrete channel lining to widen A120-00-00 (Mud Gully) and removing and replacing storm sewer system components.

Residents near the project area may begin to see increased construction activity, which will include trucks and heavy machinery. Residents

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Nehls hosts congressional art contest

U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, whose House District 22 represents much of South Belt, is inviting area students to enter the 2023 Congressional Art Competition, which is currently accepting submissions. The closing date is Friday, April 28.

Each spring, a nationwide high school arts competition is sponsored by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Artistic Discovery Contest is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in the 22nd Congressional District.

The Artistic Discovery Contest is open to all high school students in our district. The winning artwork of the district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. The exhibit in Washington will include the winning artwork from all participating districts from around the country. The winning artwork is also featured on House.gov's Congressional Art Competition page.

The following is a summary of the Congressional Art Competition rules:

Continued on Page 3

School board voting to begin April 24

PISD, CCISD, SJC to hold May 6 elections

Early voting for local May 6 school board elections will begin Monday, April 24, and continue through Tuesday, May 2.

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

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

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

For additional Pasadena ISD election informa-

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TxDOT's Paul addresses BAHEP

Engineering director discusses ongoing projects

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership welcomed Eliza Paul as its featured speaker for the BAHEP general membership meeting held March 22, at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, Texas. Paul has been with the Texas Department of Transportation for more than 30 years and currently serves as the Houston District Engineer for the six-county Houston District.

Paul spoke of many issues during her presentation including what TxDOT is doing regarding safer driving; population changes in the U.S. and in Texas; the economic impact of moving freight and supply chains in the state; and ConnectSmart, a transportation app designed for Houston, by Houston providing intermodal travel options for daily commutes. Her detailed and educational presentation offered the following information:

The big picture

– Texas is one of the fastest growing states in the nation.

– More than 310,000 new residents between July 2020 and July 2021.

– The economy keeps going strong.

– All-time record total jobs.

– One in every 8 jobs in Texas is generated by the multimodal freight transportation and logistics sector.

Multimodal freight/supply chain

– More than 23,000 miles of highways.

– Class I and III (short line) railroads.

– 10 maritime ports.

– Gulf Coast Intercoastal Waterway.

– 10 air cargo airports.

– 15 commercial vehicle international border crossings.

– Five rail international border crossings.

Congestion decreases supply chain reliability and increases the cost of moving goods. Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth were in the top 10 U.S. metro areas for trucking congestion costs in 2019. These costs include value of time and excess fuel costs, and both metrics are higher for trucks than for personal automobiles. Economic losses from Texas-Mexico border delays are estimated to increase more than 50 times from $2.3 billion in 2019 to $116 billion in 2050 without investment.

2023 UTP forecast

The Unified Transportation Program is TxDOT's 10-year plan that guides the development of transportation work across the state. Organized into 12 funding categories, with each one

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BAHEP holds luncheon

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership held a general membership meeting March 22, featuring TxDOT District Engineer Eliza Paul (third from right) as the guest speaker. Shown above with Paul at the event are, left to right, Anthony Robinson and Marty Chenault, Gulf Coast Limestone; Lisa Holbrook, AMOCO Federal Credit Union; Brian Freedman, president, BAHEP; and Gail Figueroa, AMOCO Federal Credit Union. (See related picture Page 3.)

Meador names teachers of the year

Congratulations are in order for third-grade teacher Anissa Ramirez (pictured above, second from right) named Meador Elementary's New Teacher of the Year. Shown with her, left to right, are Kevin Fox, assistant principal; Jennifer Chavez, principal; and Tara Merida, counselor. Below are Fox, Chavez and Merida celebrating with Corin Culpepper, fourth-grade teacher. Culpepper was named Meador's Teacher of the Year.

In My Opinion

Muecke pushes for Hartsook support

To all,

I need your help and involvement. Hartsook road from North Broadway to the barricade. Key map shows a private road. Took months of prodding and then with the help of Jordan with At Large Alcorn, legal made it clear it is now a city street. That is good as the new Milstead Middle school road, we now know who will do the Maintenace, signs, and street markings. Road will not open until August as the school property needs some summer adjustment work.

Now Hartsook road extension, I have been pushing/working with the District E staff and Houston Public Works for over a year to purchase a short distance of available property to extend the Hartsook road to South Shaver. This is being proactive as we have the Catholic church, the new church across the street, the other church, the large apartment project at Shaver and many homes and property for development. With the new school road more traffic. A new road will not be built soon, but it would sure help traffic flow. So I'm asking all of you to step up and get involved to make this road extension happen. Not sure why Public works is stalling on this suggestion. Director Carol Haddock is the person to contact and the District E staff. Thanks

Jim Muecke

King considers crime, statistics

During the last election, the severity of crime in Harris County was hotly debated. The final numbers for 2022 are now available from the Texas Department of Safety and they paint a mixed picture. In some of the more serious categories, there was some improvement last year but the levels remain well above where they stood a decade ago. Robberies and burglaries both continued a long-standing trend downward, but other property crimes continued to climb with double digit increases in 2022.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Houston was going through its last crime wave. Homicides topped out in 1990 at 734. However, from there, homicides steadily declined for the next twenty years, hitting a low of 264 in 2011. Considering the population of Harris County grew by about 70% during that same period, the decline was truly remarkable.

However, after 2011, homicides began creeping up and then skyrocketed higher in 2020 and 2021. The 631 homicides in 2021 was the highest level since 1990. In 2022, homicides declined slightly to 578 (-8%) but were still nearly double the number of homicides a decade ago.

The trend for rapes and assaults tracked fairly close to homicides.

Interestingly, the trend for robberies and burglaries was almost the opposite of homicides, rapes and assaults. Both began the last decade well below the peak in Houston's last crime wave in the early 1990s and have continued to track lower. Robberies took a particularly sharp downturn starting in 2021 and fell again in 2022 to just over 9,000. That is as low a level as I could find going back for thirty years.

The DPS has two categories of theft that it reports in its Index Crime Summary - larceny and auto theft. Larceny is basically any kind of theft that does not involve physically taking someone's property from them by force, which is robbery, and breaking into a home or business to steal something, which is burglary.

Both larceny and auto theft have also been generally declining for the last thirty years. Improvements in vehicle security systems resulted in a large reduction when those technologies were first rolled out.

However, both reached their nadir in 2018 and have been steadily climbing since. Both saw an 11% increase in 2022 alone.

I have been watching Houston's crime stats for nearly thirty years. I have learned over that time that crime is an incredibly complex phenomenon, which defies simple explanations as to why it goes up or down. Also, while local factors like the effectiveness of the local criminal justice system and a community's cohesiveness play a large part, there are also national marco factors that effect it. For example, our nation's decision to largely deinstitutionalize mental health care in the 60s and 70s has tremendously affected the criminal justice system.

Many have speculated that the pandemic affected crime rates, citing various possible effects. While some of that conjecture seems to make some intuitive sense, it is hard to find much support for the pandemic having any outsize effects in the stats. For example, some speculated that the stress of the pandemic and associated lockdowns would cause more violence, especially family violence. But while homicides certainly took a spike upward at the beginning of the pandemic, assaults have slightly declined throughout the pandemic.

However, I do not think that it can be seriously doubted that the more lenient bond practices of many of the Democratic judges elected since 2018, combined with the huge case backlogs, have contributed to much of the increase in serious violent crimes, especially murders, in Harris County recently. Crime Stoppers has documented more than enough specific instances to show that has been a significant driver of the increase.

The precipitous drop in violent crime in Harris County that began in the early 1990s was a national phenomenon. Nationally, the murder rate in the U.S. dropped by half between 1990 and 2006. And for most of the last decade, the rates have remained relatively low. Those lower levels of crime became our new norm. So, it is hardly surprising that Americans would be anxious about the spike in violent crime over the last three years. Unless and until we return to those norms, I expect that crime will continue to be on the public's mind and a leading issue in elections.

Bill King

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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Deaths

David Andre Riojas

David Andre Riojas was born Jan. 8, 1966, and passed away with family and friends by his side on March 24, 2023, at the age of 57.

David is preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Riojas "Troquille" and his father, Jose Riojas. He is survived by his three daughters, Ashleigh Riojas, Meghan Riojas and Dakota Riojas; the mother of his children, Karen "Shadow" Riojas; his brother Joseph Riojas; and his sisters Scarlett Troquille and Jennifer Shaver of Louisiana.

David was also a beloved uncle, cousin and great friend to many.

He was a great man, who was always willing to help his family, neighbors or a stranger in need, no matter how big or small the task.

Also known as "Rio," he spent his early career working at a Boys Ranch in Nacogdoches, where he helped many get back on their feet. Some of those boys, now men, say he played a pivotal role in helping to save their life. Big Dave spent 25 years working in the Petro-Chemical industry at Dow, formerly known as Rohm and Haas, as a process technician. Well known for his cooking, it was this passion of his that oftentimes brought everyone together at the dinner table.

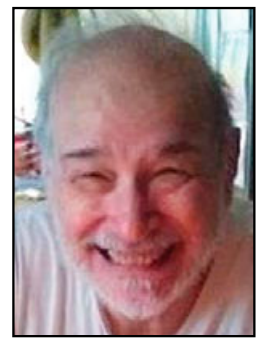
David's love for hunting and fishing remains unmatched and could not be rivaled by many. He shared his love of outdoors with family, friends, and anyone who could cast a line or shoot a gun. "Vit" to his brother completed the infamous "Riojas Duckmen Team" of Sagemont. Any morning with the team will never be forgotten.

David's football career started early at the local neighborhood football fields, advancing to the Thompson Intermediate School Lions and the Dobie High School Longhorns.

David then played two years at Tyler Jr. College as a starting right tackle. He earned a college degree in criminal justice, playing offensive lineman for Stephen F. Austin State University.

Services for David were held April 1. Serving as pallbearers were Chris Herrera, Bill Bradshaw, Russell Peveto, Brent Peveto, Kenneth Wright, Chris Henry and Mike Hebert. Addie Guillory, Jeff Pyle, Nick Newman, Lowell Pomerantz, Eric Basco, Chris Cowden, Burt Riojas, Russell Allen, Randy Clements, Mark Harkness and Lawrence Anthony served as honorary pallbearers.

Fernando Mendiola



Fernando Mendiola was born Oct. 4, 1948, in Laredo, Fernando lost his fight with colorectal and bladder cancer on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

He received a bachelor's degree in computer science from Lamar University in 1979, and an MBA in finance from Houston Baptist University in 1994. He moved to Port Arthur in 1974 to work at the local shipyard. He then moved to Houston in 1980 to work at an insurance company. Later he became a contract worker for NASA. Most notably he worked at Chase Bank as the vice president in the loan department for 13 years. He retired in 2001 to dedicate himself to his son.

He enjoyed watching mysteries on PBS, playing Minecraft, and was constantly learning something new. He had the warmest smile, goofiest laugh and a humble presence.

He always wanted to provide for those for whom he cared. He was tough on his family, but he was so to prepare them for his departure. He was a jack-of-all-trades and wanted to pass down his expansive knowledge to his family.

He is survived by his wife, Myrna Mendiola and his son, John Mendiola.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, April 4, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer.

Barbara Ann Darlene Switzer Mixon

Barbara Ann Darlene Switzer Mixon passed away on April 1, 2023, at the age of 90.

Barbara was born March 16, 1933, in Brownstown, Ill. to Pluma Barricklow and Jesse Switzer. Barbara was the fourth of five girls in her family.

Barbara graduated from the Brownstown Community High School in Brownstown, Class of 1951.

She worked as a bank teller from 1953 to 1964 and then was the bookkeeper for a family-owned commercial warehouse rental business. She was actively involved in local bowling leagues and The First Baptist Church of South Houston.

Barbara is preceded in death by her parents and sisters, Mary Goldhagen, Betty Coale and Shirley Perkins.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband of 65 years, Thomas V. Mixon; and her four children and three grandchildren, son Bart Mixon and his wife Laura and their son Andrew, son Bret Mixon and his wife Susan, daughter Melody Mixon and son Thomas Mixon and his wife Cynthia and their two daughters Harper and Grace. She is also survived by her younger sister, Ramona Philpot.

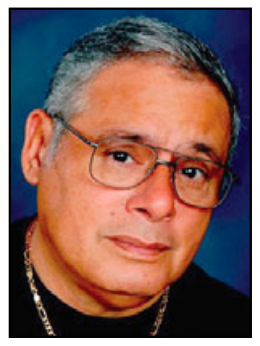
Barbara enjoyed bowling, playing cards and dominoes, watching "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy" and reading James Patterson novels.

The family would like to thank longtime friend Jimmie Bacon for her decades of friendship and Viviana Morales for the care and companionship she showed Barbara in her final years.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.ForestParkLawndaleFH.com for the Mixon family.

Her funeral will be Thursday, April 6, at Forrest Park Lawndale Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale. Public visitation is 1 p.m., with the chapel service at 2 p.m. followed by the burial at 3 p.m.

Ivan Ontiveros



Ivan Ontiveros, age 74, of Houston, passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at the veteran's hospital.

He was born in Houston on Feb. 22, 1949, to Higinio and Estella Ontiveros. He married Matilde (Matty) Mata in 1969 after having met on a blind date. To this union they enjoyed the birth of their three sons.

Ivan graduated from San Jacinto High School in 1967. He then started working right after high school for the U.S. Postal Service. In 1969 Ivan took a leave from the post office and joined the Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War. Ivan returned to work at the post office and retired after 38 years at the age of 55. After retirement he spent his time taking care of his grandchildren with his wife.

He enjoyed golfing and was looking forward to catching up with his buddies at the Silver Eagles Golf Club. Fishing and hunting were also a must every season. He enjoyed volunteering as a DJ at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church for Veterans Day, because just being there making people enjoy the "old school" music was a great way to spend his music skills. He also served as a DJ at the American Legion.

Ivan is survived by his wife; his sons Ivan Jr. Ontiveros and wife April; Ricardo Ontiveros and wife Emily; Vicente Ontiveros and wife Jennifer; grandchildren Ivan Ontiveros III, Zoey Ontiveros, Olivia Ontiveros, Bianca Ontiveros, Vicente Ontiveros Jr., Bella Cruz, Lilly Cruz and Lila Cruz; his sister Juliet Rodriguez; his brother Gustavo (Kyle) Ontiveros and numerous nieces and nephews that he enjoyed spending time with.

Ivan is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Roberto Ontiveros (who died 18 days before Ivan); and his brother-in-law Joe E. Rodriguez whom he loved like a brother.

He belonged to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church and was looking forward to attending Mass at the new location. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the St. Luke Building Fund. One can donate at https://stluke.breezechms.com/give/online.

A visitation for Ivan will be held Wednesday, April 12, from 9 a.m to noon at American Heritage Funeral Home, 10710 Veterans Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77038.

A funeral service will occur there Wednesday, April 12, from noon to 12:45 p.m. A committal service will occur Wednesday, April 12, at 1:15 at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive, Houston.

Dobie Lariaettes to perform April 28, 29

The J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes, Lassos, and Dance department will be holding their annual spring show, "Dare to Dream," April 28 and 29 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Dobie High School. Admission is $10, and tickets can be purchased on dobielariaettes.com under "Upcoming Events" starting April 9. Support the Lariaettes, Lassos, and Dobie Dance Department as they perform for the last time during the 2023-2024 school year.

Elected officials share their words

Sen. Mayes Middleton, passes 1st bill

I am proud that the first bill I've passed in the Senate is Senate Bill 15 to Protect Women's College Sports. This bill will protect fair play in women's sports and defend Title IX, which women have fought generations for. If Congress won't stand for fairness, if the White House won't stand for fairness, if the US Department of Education won't stand for fairness, if the NCAA won't stand for fairness in women's college sports, then Texas will.

Senator Mayes Middleton

Comptroller Hegar rescinds decision

Monday,, April 3, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar rescinded his determination from February that Harris County illegally reduced funding for the Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office. The Comptroller's reversal of his decision comes just weeks after Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee filed a lawsuit against him over this matter.

"I'm glad the Comptroller admitted his error and is no longer holding Harris County's budget process hostage," said Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee. "I hope that in the future, we can talk through these types of allegations, as the law requires, before the Comptroller makes a final decision. Texans expect their elected representatives at different levels of government to be able to get on the phone and solve problems, even when they disagree. I urge the Comptroller to talk to us next time instead of forcing us to file a lawsuit."

Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis stated, "I'm happy this is over. I served in the Texas Legislature with Comptroller Hegar years ago. We talked then and we can talk now. I look forward to a dialogue between the state and the county next time an issue like this arises."

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia stated, "The Comptroller's withdrawal reflects what we have known all along: Harris County fully funds law enforcement. I would like to thank County Attorney Christian Menefee, who knew from the beginning we had the facts on our side and the law on our side. Now we can resume our work to serve and protect the people of Harris County."

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones stated, "This rescission is a win for all. As a proud, native Texan and Harris County resident and Commissioner, I am pleased by and committed to the State and Harris County working together to find solutions that best serve our shared community."

Comptroller Hegar's rescission of his determination means the county is free to adopt its tax rate (It is not limited to adopting the no new revenue rate.).

The Comptroller had previously determined that Harris County violated Texas Local Government Code Chapter 120. He made that determination by taking the Pct. 5 budget for the County's 2022 short fiscal year, annualizing it, and then reasoning because that annualized number was greater than Precinct 5's budget for fiscal year 2023, the County violated Chapter 120. The County's lawsuit made clear the Comptroller's conclusion was legally incorrect, even applying the Comptroller's own math. Chapter 120 states that if a county's overall budget decreases from one budget year to the next, a prohibited funding reduction occurs only if the police agency's share of the county's overall budget has decreased over that same period. Harris County did not violate that standard because using the Comptroller's math, Harris County's overall budget decreases from his annualized version of the 2022 short fiscal year budget to the County's fiscal year 2023 budget, while Precinct 5's share of the County's budget increases.

Comptroller Glenn Hegar

Astronauts train for extended spaceflight

Someone who is alive today could step on the surface of Mars. While this idea is thrilling, the gravity associated with spaceflight and the cognitive stress of lengthy confinement present significant challenges for human physiology.

The upcoming Spaceflight Human Optimization and Performance Summit, to be held at University of Houston-Clear Lake April 27-29, will connect thought leaders in strength and conditioning, sport science, psychology, nutrition and other related disciplines in a forum to address the readiness of astronauts for extended-duration spaceflight.

"UH-Clear Lake has always been connected with NASA – we were in fact a university originally built for NASA," said Bill Amonette, associate professor of exercise science and executive director for the health and human performance institute. "It's an honor as a university to host an event such as this, introduce our students and community to some fascinating science, and have the opportunity to be contribute to the discussion about strength and conditioning for astronauts in missions to the moon and Mars."

Amonette said college students may assume the only way to have a career in space is by working in science or engineering at NASA or for one of its contractors. "This is no longer the case," he said. "Now, with commercial space flight, there are many more opportunities in all scientific and engineering disciplines. We are a university with NASA in our backyard. Discussing these ideas bring more voices to the table, introduces the community to the logistics of a trip to the moon and Mars, where we are in our general understanding of exercise and how it can prevent catastrophic decrements in performance."

Astronaut strength and conditioning specialist Corey Twine added that many disciplines encompass optimal performance for spaceflight.

"Behavioral psychology is a big part of extended-duration missions," he said. "Team dynamics, personality, and skills will all play a role in the success of a mission. Astronauts need nutritionists, biologists, chemists, strength and conditioning coaches, athletic and physical trainers as well as mechanical and biomedical engineers who can create the devices and equipment that provides loading to the human and prevents significant loss of bone and muscle mass."

The keynote speaker is retired astronaut Capt. Chris Cassidy, whose presentation "Do One More Rep!" explores habits of effective leaders and how they can motivate teams to overcome obstacles. Cassidy, a retired Navy SEAL, accumulated 378 days in space and has 54 hours and 51 minutes of spacewalk time, placing him in an elite group of four U.S. crew members with 10 spacewalks. He is currently president and CEO of the National Medal of Honor Museum.

Featured speakers include Judith Hayes, chief science officer for NASA; Suzanne Bell, lead of Behavioral Health and Performance Laboratory at NASA and professor of psychology at DePaul University; Bianca Cerqueira, a human performance research scientist at Lackland AFB within KBR's Human Performance Research Division; and Barry Spiering, lead sport scientist for New Balance, and former scientist at NASA and the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine.

Topics of discussion include postflight reconditioning; nutrition as fuel for astronaut performance; wearable technology and remote monitoring; confinement, performance and extended-duration spaceflight; and the future of human performance and spaceflight.

Twenty-two years after the first humans began living in low arth orbit on the International Space Station, NASA aims to return to the moon in the near future, but with different goals, and many additional agencies and partners working together requiring astronauts to be equipped to endure much lengthier stays in space.

"Exercise is critically important to maintain cardiovascular capacity, and muscle and bone density of astronauts on the moon or in transit missions to Mars," Amonette said. "Within our lifetime, it's possible that humans could establish a permanent base on the moon for extended missions. But we have to be prepared to deal with the maladaptations that will come with it — changes in astronauts' sensorimotor function, coordination, metabolic capacity, and other issues can impair functional capabilities."

Twine said the more we learn about exercise and nutrition, the better we will be able to address these problems. "Until now, these were used to maintain function and avoid critical loss so the individual could recover and rehabilitate on Earth," he said. "With extended-duration missions, maintaining strength, coordination, power and metabolic capacity will be essential to continue living and working on an extraterrestrial surface."

The SHOP Summit-23 is an inaugural event made possible through a partnership between KBR and UHCL. Continuing Education Units through the National Strength and Conditioning, Texas Physical Therapy Association and the board of certification for the athletic trainers are available for conference attendees. Registration includes breakfast and lunch both days. To register, or for more information, go to www.uhcl.edu/hhpi/shop-23/.

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Nehls hosts multimedia congressional art contest

Continued from Page 1

Artwork entered in the contest may be up to 28 inches by 28 inches, may be up to 4 inches in depth, and not weigh more than 15 pounds. If the artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must arrive framed and must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions.

– Paintings – including oil, acrylics and watercolor.

– Drawings – including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink and markers. (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)

– Collages – must be two dimensional.

– Prints – including lithographs, silkscreen and block prints.

– Mixed media – use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.

– Computer-generated art.

– Photography.

All entries must be original in concept, design and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).

The rules, checklist and release form for the competition were posted in early February on House.gov.

This year, submissions will be accepted online only. A high-resolution image of the artwork and completed forms should be emailed to TX-22ArtComp@mail.house.gov and arrive no later than Friday, April 28. Only one piece of artwork per student is accepted, no artwork is accepted in office, and no late submissions will be allowed. The winner will be announced on Friday, May 12, and the winner gets two free plane tickets to D.C. to tour the capital.

Youth Art Competition

This year's contest will have a Youth Art Competition.

The Youth Art Competition will be broken into two separate categories: elementary and middle school.

Submissions will be accepted online only. A high-resolution image of the artwork and completed application should be emailed to TX22ArtComp@mail.house.gov and arrive no later than Friday, May 6.

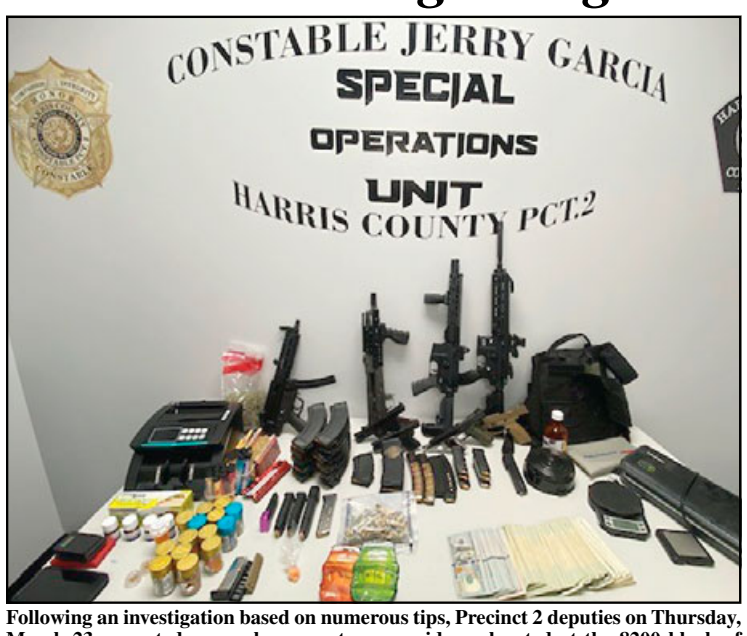
The top five from each category will be placed on the website for District 22 constituents to vote on. Voting will be open May 8-12. Only one piece of artwork will be accepted per student. No artwork is accepted in the office, and no late submissions will be allowed.

The winner will be announced Friday, May 19.

Campbell-Fox recognized in Austin

Shown at the capitol in Austin are, left to right, Trent Lilley, Rebecca Lilley, state Rep. Ed Thompson, Dr. Mary Campbell-Fox, Tara Fox, Ryan Fox, Karissa Fox holding Makenzi Fox and Debbie Naquin. Campbell-Fox was heralded Brazoria County Physician of the Day as Brazoria County celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Pct. 2 makes large drug bust



Following an investigation based on numerous tips, Precinct 2 deputies on Thursday, March 23, executed a search warrant on a residence located at the 8200 block of Park Place, confiscating mushrooms, Xanax, Oxycodone, marijuana and Adderall. Deputies also seized more than $12,000 in cash. After initially t\attempting to flee, Jonathan Gonzales, 29, was arrested and charged with multiple felonies.

South Belt awards faculty

South Belt Elementary officials recently celebrated their faculty members of the year. Shown above are Francelli Monreal (left), awarded as New Teacher of the Year and Sheryl Tomaskovic, awarded as Teacher of the Year. Below is Juliet Barron, who was named Paraprofessional of the Year. The students and staff at South Belt Elementary greatly appreciate all their hard work and dedication.

Horns' character awarded

Dobie seniors Destiny Ramirez (left) and Isabella Lara were each recently awarded a $500 scholarship from the Show Up. Give a Flip. Repeat Taylor Whitley Show Up Foundation. Both girls were nominated for their strong character and outstanding work in the community.

Combating dumping

Continued from Page 1

to increase hiring incentives.

Better enforcement

– Expand video surveillance - $419K for additional cameras to catch dumpers.

– Improve enforcement of heavy trash violations - $620K for a dedicated team of inspectors in SWM to enforce heavy trash violations.

– Launch HPD Environmental overtime program - $100K in OT for FY23 to aid in investigation efforts.

– Make it easier to report dumping and violators - report dumping and dumpers through various channels: 311, HPD online crime reports, Crimestoppers (for up to $5,000 reward).

– Increase the number of successful prosecutions - prosecute cases DA declines to accept in municipal courts and improve investigation processes to better identify defendants.

– Target major repeat property owner offenders - aggressively pursue property owners who allow dumping on their property.

– Grow partnerships with local law enforcement agencies - $1.9M for additional cameras and contract services with Harris County Precinct One Environmental Crimes Unit.

Prevention and education

– Improve access to neighborhood depositories - pilot neighborhood drop-off program in areas severely impacted by dumping & increase equipment at depositories to reduce wait times.

– Establish a dumpsite maintenance and control program -use tools such as barricades, landscaping and signage at chronic dumpsites.

– Improve community engagement - educate communities on heavy trash policies and provide neighborhood clean-up opportunities.

For additional information about the initiative and how the funds will be allocated, visit www.houstontx.gov/onecleanhouston.

School voting to begin April 24

Continued from Page 1

tion, 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.

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 election, voters will select who will fill the Position 1 seat currently held by Erica Davis-Rouse and the Position 2 seat currently held by Ruede Wheeler.

Rouse is the only incumbent who filed for re-election. She is 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.

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

Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

Beamer Ditch work resumes

Continued from Page 1

are urged to respect all warning signs as work crews move around the area. The Flood Control District will distribute additional information on the timing of the Astoria Boulevard bridge closure as it is solidified.

In addition, project teams are coordinating with local stakeholders, including Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and San Jacinto College South, on the upcoming closures and traffic pattern changes to ensure no adverse impacts.

The Mud Gully (Beamer Ditch) Channel Conveyance Improvements project is funded and constructed as part of the Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Management Project.

Once construction is complete, the channel bottom will be widened to 45 feet, with a side slope range that is typically two to three feet horizontal and one foot vertical. Since the width of the channel is limited by Beamer Road on both sides, the concrete lining allows for the maximum volume of water to be conveyed within the channel, decreasing the water surface elevation, which provides the benefit of helping to reduce flood damage risk. Although the flow in the channel will increase, areas downstream will not be impacted because the additional flow will be mitigated by the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin, which was substantially complete in fall 2022.

For additional information on the project and the traffic control plan, visit hcfcd.org/Mud-Gully.

TxDOT's Paul addresses BAHEP

Texas Department of Transportation District Engineer Eliza Paul (left) was the guest speaker March 22 at a luncheon held by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. The wife of state Rep. Dennis Paul, whose House District 129 encompasses much of the South Belt community, Paul spoke on a variety of ongoing and future TxDOT projects in the Bay Area. Paul is shown at the event with BAHEP President Brian Freedman, who recently replaced Bob Mitchell who retired after 20 years of service.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Webb achieves Eagle Scout rank

Travis Alexander Webb displays his hard-won Eagle Scout badge.

Seth and Kim Webb, parents of Travis Alexander Webb, left, proudly announce the successful completion of their son's journey to the Eagle Scout rank. Travis' journey started 11 years ago, culminating in earning the highest achievement in the Boy Scouts of America. Travis, a senior at J. Frank Dobie High School and a member of the National Honor Society, has maintained exceptional grades his entire academic career while engaging in leadership roles in the marching band and in FFA. He has been accepted into the College of Engineering at Texas A&M College Station and plans to attend this fall. Travis is a proud member of Troop 1513 located at American Legion Post 490. His parents expressed the following sentiment, "Travis, we want you to know that we love you and are extremely proud of your accomplishments. We know that you will make a difference no matter what you do or where you go."

Moore second-graders dazzle with "Music Across the States"

The second-graders from Moore Elementary performed, "Music Across the States," on Feb. 7 for students and parents. The program, which included special performances as well as pieces including the entire grade level, represented the culture and customs of some of the area surrounding Texas. Sheryl Munn, music teacher, directed the performance.

One performance included playing instruments and singing for "Rocky Mountain." Shown above are Lilah Oliphant (left) and Ruby Salinas.

Shown here are performers Ava Almanza (left) and Fable Masone.

Jordan Villarreal smiles for the camera behind his instrument.

Mikayla Castaneda is also ready to perform "Rocky Mountain."

The students above performed a ribbon routine to the song, "Let's Go Fly a Kite" from the Broadway musical, "Mary Poppins." Shown, left to right, are (front row) Onell Gutierrez, Rebecca Martinez-Lopez, Isabella Licon, Nataly Delgado, (back row) Aiden Delgado, Johnny Bonilla and Victor Hernandez.

At left, left to right, are (front row) Jazlyn Tran, Abigail Oviedo, Ivan Duncan, Sophia Arzate, (back row) Trey Fonseca, Jayda Wilson, Gianni Coppens, Leya Romero and Brayden Noise who performed the "Crawfish" dance from Louisiana.

The students at right performed "Kapulu Kane" using puili sticks from Hawaii. Shown, left to right, are (front row) Daisy Sordia, Ethan Nguyen, Damian Hudson, Ruben Aguayo, (back row) Mikayla Castaneda, Reece Hayden, Anaya Lemons and Makayla Marr.

Photos by Guadalupe Hudson

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)

Construction work began on the 4.3 acre site that would become the Sagemont Village shopping center.

In a two-hour period, Houston Police were called to a disturbance on Beamer Road, to investigate speeding on Kirkglen, to check on a suspicious male suspected of trying to break into the Shakey's Pizza Parlor, to investigate a robbery on Sagetree and to a disturbance on Tiltree.

40 years ago (1983)

State District Judge Ted Poe ordered John Ballenger to pay $150 a month to Teri and Summer Martin for child support for four years. Ballenger was charged with the murder of Tommy Martin, the husband of Teri Martin and father of Summer Martin.

County Judge Jon Lindsay told members of the South Belt Community Improvement Association that providing a toll road could be the only way the South Belt would get built.

35 years ago (1988)

The Environmental Protection Agency was to give the Brio Total Cleanup Task Force, a recently formed local citizens committee, 30 days to present any documentation that could alter the agency's plans for cleanup of Brio.

Many candidates were trying a second time to gain their party's blessing for the upcoming runoff election.

30 years ago (1993)

With only two weeks remaining before the May 1 election, neither the Clear Creek nor Pasadena school boards had taken a formal stand on the three proposed constitutional amendments dealing with school finance. Officials in the PISD supported passage of the amendments, while their counterparts in CCISD had trouble swallowing the first of the three propositions.

Weeks after the long-delayed opening of Beltway 8 from Interstate 45 to Beamer, it was announced that the next portion of the beltway, from Beamer to Telephone, would open within two weeks.

25 years ago (1998)

George A. Thompson's academic team defeated Atlanta 62-34 to advance to the final four of the National Academic League tournament.

Sagemont resident, Carmen Fonseca, was sentenced to life in prison for the capital murder of her husband. Fonseca was charged and convicted of plotting the shooting of her husband.

20 years ago (2003)

City of Houston police sought unknown individuals who shot into a 2003 silver Honda Accord on the Gulf Freeway between Fuqua and Beltway 8.

Dr. Eddie Weller, San Jacinto College South Honors Program director, won the 2002 Mary Jon and J.P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award. He received a certificate and a check for $2,500.

15 years ago (2008)

A recent study that ranked high schools in the Greater Houston area prompted concern from area residents and officials at the Pasadena Independent School District, due to low showings from schools in the district. The study was conducted by the nonprofit group Children at Risk.

It was the eighth anniversary of the death of Dobie student Jonathan Barrica, who was shot in the face as he answered the door to his home on Sagepark.

This week marked the anniversary of the disappearance of three South Belt residents who were lost at sea during a fishing trip out of Freeport. Austin Childs, Scott Keller and John Zimmerman left one evening to go on an offshore fishing trip on Zimmerman's 28-foot boat. The trip was similar to many the trio had made before.

The Ellington Field Salutes Our Veterans fundraising event was held at Ellington Field. The full-day event would benefit the Helping A Hero foundation, a local nonprofit organization that supports severely injured military personnel and their families.

San Jacinto College Foundation scheduled its annual Monopoly masquerade to be held at South Shore Harbour Resort. In its seventh year, the event would raise funds to help students at the school through scholarships.

10 years ago (2013)

The Sagemeadow and Kirkmont municipal utility districts each announced they would hold bond elections on the same day. The extra funds were needed to make repairs to the districts' aging water and sewer lines that were damaged by recent droughts. Voters in the Sagemeadow MUD would decide on a $15 million proposal, while Kirkmont residents woul vote on a $10 million bond.

5 years ago (2018)

South Belt resident Chuck Maricle as presented the U.S. Coast Guard's Meritorious Service medal for his support during Hurricane Harvey. Maricle serves as the district chief of staff for the USCG's 8th Coastal Region.

1 year ago (2022)

During a special called board meeting on Feb. 15, the Pasadena ISD board of trustees unanimously called for a $305 million bond referendum for the May 7 ballot. If approved, the proposed bond package would include major safety, security and technology upgrades. The bond was to be divided into three ballot propositions (Proposition A, Proposition B and Proposition C) that residents would have the opportunity to vote on individually. Proposition A ($281,269,000) would replace four aging elementary campuses (Bailey, Jessup, Parks and Williams, all of which were constructed more than 60 years ago); Proposition B ($14,921,000) would address technology upgrades; and Proposition C ($8,810,000) would address athletics needs.

AARP invites new and existing members

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 Senior Health and Wellness Expo in collaboration with the title sponsor, UTMB Health, invites seniors on Thursday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m. to the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook, in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

The program will be a Community Health and Wellness Expo at the Bay Area Community Center from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The program is organized as a come-and-go event. All are cordially invited to join the local AARP chapter for a continental breakfast, an introduction to the chapter, many informative health screening opportunities and door prizes. This event is open to all members of the community 50 years of age and older. If someone has an AARP membership card, members are asked to bring it with them. If not, nonmembers are still invited to come and partake in all activities.

The AARP chapter also organizes day trips for chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next bus trip will be to tour The Brenham Heritage Museum and The Brenham Fire Museum on Wednesday, April 12. Call Nancy Mason at 281-415-0575 for information on registering for this trip. Only members of local chapters are invited to participate in bus trips.

The public is invited to come to the meetings and enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the 10 a.m. meeting.

If anyone is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are $8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and have a current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact Lynne Justis at 832-212-5417, aarpchapter199@yahoo.com.

Vet town hall held at Ellington

A Texas Veterans Town Hall event took place Monday, March 27, at Ellington Airport. Sponsored by multiple veterans groups, the event promoted veteran causes and veteran-owned businesses, while also educating attendees about various programs available to veterans. The event also allowed veterans to share their stories. For additional information on the event, visit www.TexasVeteransTownHall.com. Shown above at the function are Bob Gebhard, who served as master of ceremonies, and Dorothy Menbok, who chaired the event.

TxDOT's Paul speaks at BAHEP

Continued from Page 1

addressing a specific type of work, the UTP authorizes the distribution of construction dollars expected to be available over the next 10 years.

– The 2023 UTP includes a total of $85.1 billion dollars distributed across the 12 UTP funding categories.

– Some categories allocate funding around the state by formula.

– Funding in other categories is distributed to specific projects.

– Projects in the UTP are selected by TxDOT Districts, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, or the Texas Transportation Commission using performance-based selection processes.

The Houston district letting volume over the next four fiscal years totals $5.661 billion. Letting is the official receipt and opening of bids and determination of the apparent low bidder. TxDOT conducts its statewide low-bid construction and maintenance contract letting in Austin on two consecutive days each month.

To learn more about TxDOT and ongoing projects, visit www.txdot.gov.

(See related photo on Page 3.)

CCART meeting set for April 11

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its April meeting on Tuesday, April 11. The meeting will be held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook with a musical program presented by the Noteables.

The social gathering will start at 10 a.m. for coffee and cookies. The business meeting will begin at 10:30 am. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are $50.

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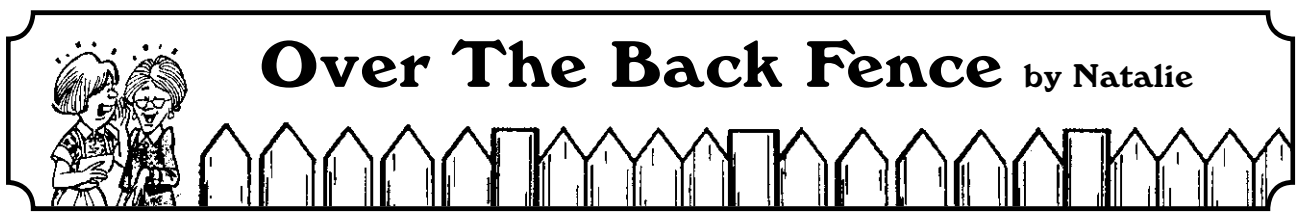

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHEILA

Sheila Brantner, longtime South Belt resident, celebrates a birthday April 12. Birthday wishes are sent from daughter **Amanda Brantner**; twins **Tiffany** and **Courtney Brantner**; and friends. Sheila has contributed many hours to the community. She volunteers at her church and at the *South Belt Leader* Toy Drive.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 6 through April 12.

Atkinson Elementary

Send a happy birthday greeting April 11 to **Jessica Rocha**.

Frazier Elementary

A special birthday greeting is sent to **Lupe Moreno** April 11.

Genoa Elementary

Join in the birthday celebration April 9 for **Lisa Hance**. **Melissa Portillo** enjoys a birthday April 12.

Meador Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout April 7 to **Mike Gill**.

Moore Elementary

Maria Vega celebrates a birthday April 9.

Stuchbery Elementary

Remember to wish **Robin Salinas** a happy birthday April 8.

South Belt Elementary

Kristian Drees celebrates a birthday April 6.

Fred Roberts Middle School

Birthday greetings go out to **Salma Cortez Mora** April 6. Bring in the birthday fun for **Alysia Mauricio** April 10.

Melillo Middle School

Enjoy a double-layer cake April 6 with **Genesis Torres** and **Charlene Gronewold**. Birthday greetings go out to **Perla Silva** April 10. April 11 is the day for a fun celebration for **Felipa Resendiz**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Laura Dossman celebrates a birthday April 8. Send birthday greetings April 10 to **Irene Malloy**. April 11 is a day of celebration for **Rene Nixon**.

Thompson Intermediate

Break out the balloons and party favors for **Kevin Cowart** April 6. Remember to wish **Jennifer Spray** and **Ashley Vercher** a happy birthday April 10. Enjoy a double-layer cake April 11 with **Araceli Cavazos** and **Lenora Dawson**.

Dobie High

Give a birthday shoutout April 6 for **Tracie Richeson**. Cheers for a happy birthday are sent to **Andrew Barrett** and **Amrian Millard** April 8. Break out the balloons and party favors April 9 for **Cody Blanchard**. April 12 is the day for a birthday celebration for **Stacey LeBlanc**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, April 6: **Carol Barber, Jason Weston, Lena West** and **Jerry Devila**; Friday, April 7: **Deborah Belmarez**, **Larry Higgs** and **Jeff White**; Saturday, April 8: **Adriel Rodriguez**, **Alexander Restrepo** and **Ruth Scotton**; Sunday, April 9: **Greg Black**, **Jennifer Pareya**, **Victoria Grissom**, **Yvonne Longoria** and **Keith Harrison**; Monday, April 10: **Mackie Caves**, **Jennifer Spray**, **Coby Bellamy**, **April Simmons**, **Kristina Koncaba**, **Traci Rothermund** and **Skip Fell**; Tuesday, April 11: **Quinn Fox**, **Amanda Mancia**, **Dian Audas**, **Matt Black**, **Luke Ditta**, **Celina Monroe** and **Brandy Kennedy**; and Wednesday, April 12: **Elysia Thomas** and **Shelly Little**.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Jordi Garcia (10) of Dobie advances the ball during the Longhorns' 1-0 area round playoff win over Alief Elsik March 28. Dobie has now reached the Region III Final Four for the first time since 2017. *Photo by Donna Alsdorf*

Unbeaten Dobie boys' soccer reaches Final Four

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

The legend that is Dobie boys' soccer rolls on April 7 as the Longhorns return to the Region III Final Four tournament at Deer Park ISD's Abshier Stadium.

Katy ISD's Seven Lakes will take on Clear Springs (13-6-7) in the first boys' semifinal at 5:30 p.m., with the Longhorns then going against Katy Jordan at 7:30 p.m.

The Region III boys' championship match is set for April 8 at Abshier Stadium, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Dobie is seeking to reach its second state tournament, having last won the Region III crown in 2017.

A winner of nine consecutive district championships, this Dobie team is in the midst of the best run in program history.

Unbeaten through 27 matches at 23-0-4, the Longhorns punched their regional final four ticket with a 3-1 win over Pearland March 31 at The Rig in Pearland.

Dobie's Jordi Garcia gave the locals a 1-0 lead eight minutes in with a goal, and Miguel Azua and Alex Escobar added second-half goals for a 3-0 lead before the Oilers scored with 14 minutes left.

Dobie reached the regional quarterfnals for the first time in five seasons after blanking the Alief Elsik Rams 1-0 March 28 at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium.

Now, it's time to finish the deal.

While Seven Lakes and Dobie came into the season boasting state rankings, Clear Springs and Jordan have had to battle their way to the final four. Matter not, the opportunity remains for each of the four at this point.

Still, Manrique said the Jordan program is stacked with club-level talent, and the regional semifinal will be a challenge.

"I'm so proud of these guys for getting to this point and overcoming each test put in front of us," Manrique said.

"Our guys play for each other, and are willing to make the sacrifices for the betterment of the team. We don't have stars and club players and so forth, but we take pride in beating the teams that do.

"We're in this position, and won't take it for granted. This is an opportunity to again show the type of program that we have built, and it's going to be great to go out there and test our skills. No matter the outcome, we can all be proud of how far we have come."

Dobie's Daniel Blanco defends against Alief Elsik during the Longhorns' 1-0 shutout win March 28 at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium. Dobie, now 23-0-4, subsequently downed Pearland 3-1 March 31 at The Rig in Pearland, reaching the Class 6A Sweet 16 for the first time since winning the Region III crown in 2017. The Longhorns have allowed a single goal in three playoff wins. *Photo by Donna Alsdorf*

Region III Final Four

Seven Lakes (24-1-1) vs. Clear Springs (13-6-7)
April 7, 5:30 p.m.
Dobie (23-0-4) vs. Jordan (11-7-3)
April 7, 7:30 p.m.
Region III Championship
April 8, 1:30 p.m.
All games at Abshier Stadium

Matthews paces JFD boys

Dobie track and field squads ready as 22-6A event nears

The District 22-6A Track and Field Championships are coming to Pasadena ISD's Auxiliary Stadium April 11-12, and the Dobie girls' and boys' team appear ready for the challenge.

Dobie competed at the South Houston Invitational March 30, and there were plenty of standout performances.

The Lady Longhorns came up with 77 points for fourth place in the event, with Stacie Harris delivering a gold medal in the long jump at 18 feet, 7 inches to lead the way.

Dobie's Bre'yanna Williams, like Harris a sophomore, won a bronze medal for third place as she went 16-6 1/2 in the long jump.

The Longhorns also excelled in the 3,200 as Kyla Lobo's time of 12 minutes, 45.243 was good for second place while teammate Ashlee Garcia went 13:09.995 for third place and a bronze medal.

At 50.431, the Longhorns were bronze medalists in the 4x100 relay as Harris was joined by Mia Sanchez, Chloye Matthews and Tailin Curtis in the event.

Dobie was also third-best in the 4x200 relay in a time of 1:49.554 as Williams, Sanchez, Sophia Perez and Curtis teamed in the event.

Dobie's Chistina Rodriguez chipped in as she was third for a bronze medal in the 400 at 1:04.596.

Continued on Page 6

Dobie's Kyla Lobo (left) and Ashlee Garcia will look to advance out of the District 22-6A Championships as track and field's postseason begins in April. At the South Houston Invitational March 30, Lobo was second and Garcia third at the 3,200 distance as they helped the Longhorn varsity girls to 77 team points. Garcia was also fourth-best in the 800 at South Houston.

Dobie baseball stands atop 22-6A

The Dobie varsity baseball team has put together a masterful first half of play while sitting atop the District 22-6A standings at 5-1.

But as the Longhorns prepared to travel to Channelview for a game against the 3-1 Falcons, head coach Miguel Torres promised there will be no looking ahead. It's all about taking things one game at a time.

"We have started the race at 5-1 and like where we are, but even at 15-5-2 overall, we can always look back at other games and see where a key play here or there would have helped," Torres said.

"We came into the season with what we felt like was a great situation with our pitching. It was all about staying healthy. In district play, Aiden Sanchez and Cruz Torres have been great for us. They have given us a chance to win every time out, and we have come up with clutch hits to come away with the win."

The 22-6A format features a weekly two-game set between the same two teams.

In week three, the Long-

Continued on Page 6

JFD softball eyes top-two seeding

The Dobie varsity softball team has turned its attention to finishing the regular season with 20 wins and securing the No. 2 playoff seed in District 22-6A as Region III champion Deer Park has swept the season series from the locals.

Host Deer Park plated two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and two more in the bottom of the sixth to defeat Dobie 7-4 March 31, staying unbeaten in league play as Dobie fell to 5-2 with five games remaining.

Against Deer Park, Dobie's Bella Perez led the offense as she drove in a pair, and Claire Ramirez scored a run and drove in another.

Dobie, which also dropped a nondistrict game to Shadow Creek 9-5 March 28, went into action April 4 after press time at 15-9-2.

Despite an eventual loss to Shadow Creek, Marisa Perla was a force for the Longhorns, homering and driving in three runs and scoring three times.

Emily Delgado scored a run and drove in a run, and Miriam Castillo also drove in a run. Shadow Creek's four-run fourth inning was the difference in the victory.

Dobie's Figueroa, Ortiz headed to regional tennis

At right, the Dobie varsity tennis program challenged the field at the District 22-6A Spring Tennis Championships March 29-30 at Deer Park High School as Leslie Figueroa and Dominic Ortiz qualified for regionals after placing second in the mixed doubles bracket. At right, the Longhorns' top finishers, left to right, were Ryan Le and Thang Tran, third place boys' doubles; Figueroa and Ortiz, second place/regional qualifiers mixed doubles; and Tiffany Tran and Natalie Vo, third place girls' doubles. The Region III tournament is April 13-14 at Deer Park High School. See story on Page 8.

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Omar Serna (26) of Dobie slides into third base ahead of the throw with an RBI triple during the Longhorns' 1-0 victory over Memorial March 28 at Dobie. The Longhorns blanked Memorial 3-0 March 31. *Photo by Donna Alsdorf*

Great pitching efforts lift JFD baseball to 5-1

Continued from Page 5

horns topped Memorial 1-0 at home March 28 as Sanchez went the distance, blanking the Mavs on a two-hitter with five strikeouts.

Omar Serna scored Daniel Delgado with an RBI triple in the bottom of the third inning, and Sanchez handled the rest.

Fast forward to March 31 at Memorial, and Torres, who has formed a terrific sophomore duo with Sanchez, also went the distance, striking out seven Memorial hitters.

Gavin Carrillo, Serna and Ian Johnson all had a pair of hits, and Johnson plated a pair of runs as the Longhorns won their fifth straight game overall.

Even as his team stood at 5-1 prior to the start of the Channelview pair, Torres knew both Deer Park aand Channelview had just one loss at 3-1, while South Houston was at 4-2.

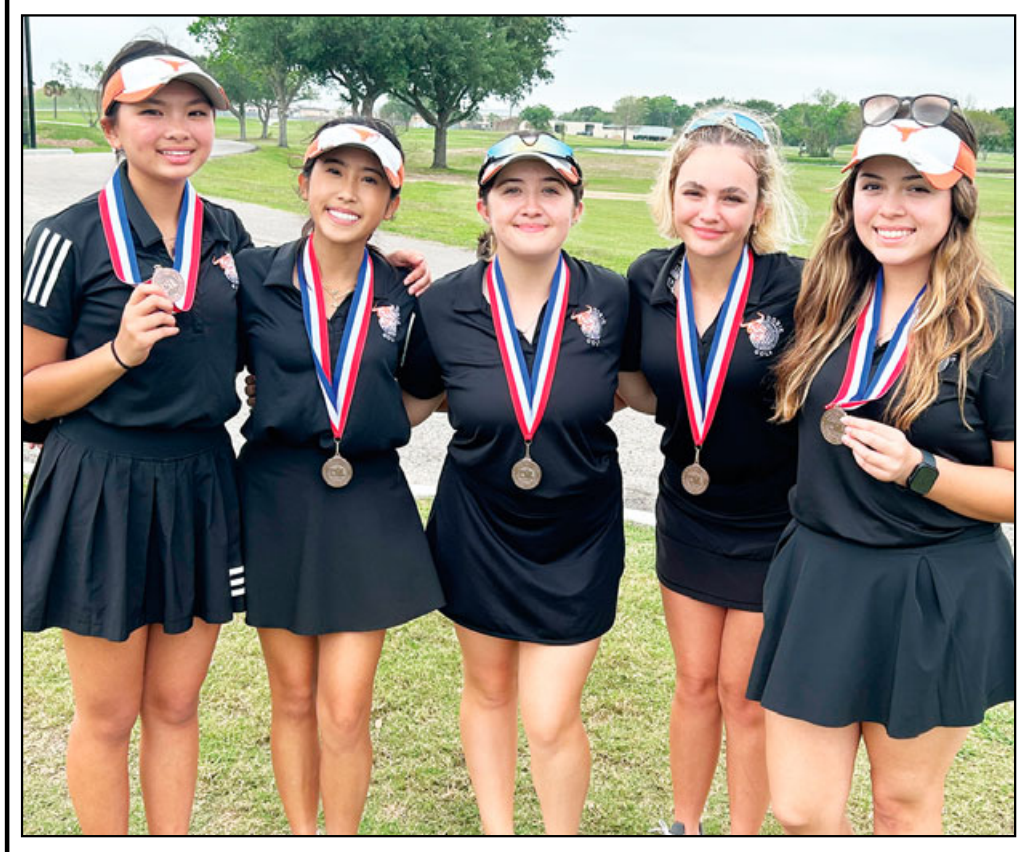
"Every day is a new day, and that's the way we have to approach it," Torres said. "I know it's a cliche, but it really is about playing one game at a time. We are glad to be where we are, but nothing is won yet. It's about staying focused and playing that next one."

Dobie will host Channelview April 6 at Dobie beginning at 4 p.m., then will go against Rayburn at home April 11, also at 4 p.m.

The Dobie/Rayburn series concludes April 14 at Maguire Field in Pasadena, with a 4 p.m. start time.

Dobie baseball hosts Channelview
April 6, 4 p.m., at Dobie
Dobie baseball hosts Rayburn
April 11, 4 p.m., at Dobie
Dobie baseball vs. Rayburn
April 14, 4 p.m., at Maguire Field

Dobie girls 3rd; Brasfield, Dinh advance



The Dobie girls' golf team placed third at the District 22-6A Championships at Pasadena Municipal Golf Course. Members of the team included, left to right, Kirsten Duong, Ana Dinh, Olivia Tamez, Isabel Brasfield and Aliyah Sanchez. Brasfield and Dinh advanced to the Region III Championships as individual medalists and will compete April 17-20.

Dobie boys' golf 4th at District 22-6As

The Dobie boys' varsity golf team competed in the District 22-6A Championships at Pasadena Municipal Golf Course, placing fourth in the tournament. Members of the team, left to right, included Kalen Hicks, Khoi Nguyen, Alex Rivera, Max Garza, Jaylen Hernandez and Evan Amezcua.

Atkinson Eagles stand out at PISD's Get Fit Jog

At right, Atkinson Elementary third- and fourth-grade students stood out during the Pasadena ISD's annual Get Fit Jog program, which called for the district's students to jog 40 miles or more during the school year to be eligible for the districtwide Get Fit Jog final race at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena March 25. The third-grade and fourth-grade course was just more than a mile. In the third-grade boys' race, Adrian Manzanarez captured first place and Gael Ramirez grabbed second place from Atkinson. Those representing the Eagles included, left to right, (front row) Braylon Gutierrez (third grade), Jacob Lainez (third grade), (middle row) Cayden Nguyen (fourth grade), Adrian Salgado (third grade), Ramirez (third grade), (back row) Leo Ramirez (third grade), Eliana Garcia (fourth grade), Manzanarez (third grade) and John Navarez (third grade).

Longhorn track medals at South Houston

Continued from Page 5

Garcia made her way to fourth place in the 800 at 2:33.317, and Sanchez was fifth-best in the 200 in a time of 27.279. At 5:56.079, Lobo was fourth in the 1,600.

Sophomore Cameron Matthews was a gold medalist for the Longhorns as he claimed the top spot in a time of 22.354.

He went to the tape with a chance to take the 100 as well but took silver for second place in a time of 11.253.

The Longhorn boys medaled in the 4x400 relay to end the day as a time of 3:34.569 was runner-up for a silver behind the effort of Tariq Riley, Charles Richard, Jeremiah Jackson and Ariel Cortez.

Jeremiah Jackson came back to campus with a silver medal as his best of 41-2 was second in the triple jump, and teammate Demarcus Hodges was fourth with an effort of 40-1.

Rodrick Drumgo also medaled, this time a silver, as he posted a throw of 141-10 in the discus. At 43-10, Drumgo was fourth in the shot event.

The Longhorns were fourth in the 4x100 relay in a time of 43.783 as the group included Derrick Woodley, Marcus Jones, Hodges and Jeremiah Davis. A time of 52.328 placed Riley sixth in the 400.

Chris Lopez of Dobie clocked in at 10:39.699 for seventh place in the 3,200.

Clear Brook tracksters turn heads at Hanna Relays

A preview of what is to come just days from now at the District 24-6A Championships played out at Sam Vitanza Stadium for the C.L. Hanna Relays as host Dickinson was joined by Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Clear Falls, Clear Springs and more in both varsity boys' and girls' divisions.

The Clear Brook girls continued their strong season with a medal collection at the Hannas even as some athletes chose to compete at the Texas Relays April 1 in Austin.

High jumper Kamryn McLaurin cleared 5 feet, 2 inches in the high jump for second place.

In Dickinson, Brook junior Jizzale Davis was third in the 100 for bronze in a time of 12.50 seconds.

As for the 200, the Wolverines' Julissa Hudson, a sophomore, finished at 26.37 for fifth.

Clear Brook junior Azayla Smith clocked in at 59.83 for a bronze medal in the 400, and she, Davis and Hudson were joined by McLaurin for second place and a silver medal at 1 minute, 42.23 seconds in the 4x200 relay.

At 4:07.18, the Wolverines were fourth in the 4x400 relay as the meet concluded.

Clear Brook freshman Aailslyn Blanks competed in the varsity girls' throws as her best of 96-4 was eighth in the discus.

There was plenty of competition on the boys' side of things as Dickinson's Marquis Johnson won gold medals in the 100, 200 and long jump and helped the Gators' 4x100 relay to another win.

Dickinson and Clear Creek of 24-6A went 1-2 in the 4x100 relay as the Wolverines' time of 42.76 seconds was third-best.

As for the 4x200, Brook was second to Beaumont West Brook, with the Wolverines in at a minute, 57.22 seconds as Raymond Felton and Jaylon Owens were joined by Josh Akinola and Christian Wright

In the 4x400 relay finale, the Wolverines went 3:25.68 for fifth place.

The field in the 100 at the Hannas was headlined by the Gators' Marquis Johnson as he won gold in a time of 10.69, with Felton second for silver at 10.89 and Brook's Owens third with a time of 10.90.

Johnson claimed a second gold in the 200 with an effort of 21.37, and Owens was next for silver at 21.96. Felton's time of 22.68 was seventh.

Clear Brook freshman Joshua Shelton continued his standout debut season as he was second in the 400 at 50.24 as Todd Woods of Elkins won the event with a time of 49.87.

Wolverine junior Matthew Trevino will look to score medals in the distance events at the 24-6A meet.

At the Hanna event in Dickinson, he was second for a silver medal at the 3,200 distance with a time of 9:52.77.

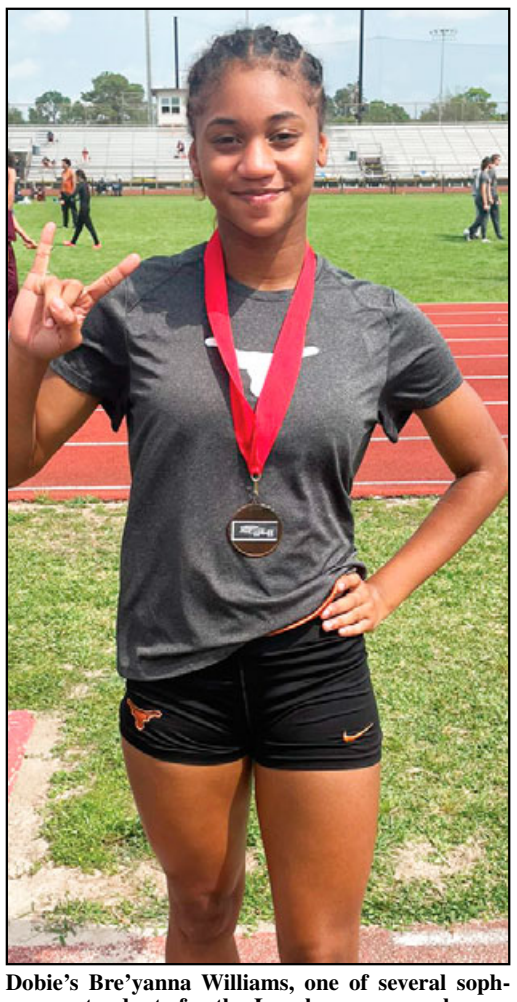
Trevino also contested the field in the 1,600 as his time of 4:35.66 was fifth-best.

Wolverines' sophomore Darwin Bolden threw the discus 124 feet, 7 inches for 10th in the event.

22-6A Track Championships
April 11-12, Auxiliary Stadium

Dobie sophomore Stacie Harris highlighted the varsity girls' performance at the South Houston Invitational as she was the gold medalist in the long jump at 18 feet, 7 inches.

24-6A Track Championships
April 10 &12, Challenger Stadium



Dobie's Bre'yanna Williams, one of several sophomore standouts for the Longhorns, won a bronze medal for third place as she went 16-6 1/2 in the long jump.

Conference champion San Jacinto plays at Galveston

Two-time defending Region XIV softball champion San Jacinto College was set to conclude the first half of conference play April 5 with a pair of games at Galveston College as the race to the postseason heats up.

The Ravens, with single losses to Blinn and Alvin, were at 8-2 in conference entering the set with Galveston. Overall, the Ravens have won 28 of 40 games.

Freshman Arianna Wright continues to pace the Ravens offensively as the team leader in batting average (.530), doubles (15), home runs (8) and runs batted in (38).

Sophomore Emma Garcia has hit .373 and freshman Chloe Foster has hit .357, but with just 15 home runs in the 40 total games, the Ravens have relied heavily on defense and pitching.

The Ravens have seen sophomore Christin Haygood go 11-1 with a 1.06 earned run average as she has delivered the goods after being named the Region XIV Pitcher of the Year as a freshman.

The locals have also seen Reanna Nieman emerge as a game two starter as she is 6-5 with a 1.42 earned run average, and Hannah Benavides and Kristina Nash have also thrown well as San Jacinto boasts a 3.71 team ERA.

But as the Ravens finish the first half of conference play, they trail in the standings as Galveston has emerged from a several-season slumber.

At 28-4 overall, a top-12 national ranking and an 8-0 start to Region XIV play at press time April 4, the Whitecaps had delivered one of the top turnarounds across the nation after finishing at 19-24 overall in 2022.

With a team batting average of .353 and 51 home runs through 32 games, the Whitecaps received contributions from many players.

Yet the season of Dobie Class of 2022 graduate and current Galveston freshman Karlie Barba deserves a special look.

At the plate, Barba led the Whitecaps with 42 hits and 15 doubles and was second teamwide with nine home runs.

Her 38 runs batted in were second on the team, while Barba also hit .404 through 32 games, third-best among Whitecap regulars.

And while sophomore Gabriella Guzman had stepped up in a lead role in the circle at 12-2 with a 3.61 earned run average, Barba was 9-0 with a 3.16 as she had emerged as Galveston's game two starter.

The first half of a league race does not make a full season, but the Whitecaps and, for that matter, Blinn, have given the Ravens plenty of competition as the race proceeds to the finish line.

The Region XIV regular season's final week features Galveston at San Jacinto May 3 for a pair of games, and it very well could decide seeding in the conference tournament May 12-15 at Bossier City, La.

San Jacinto will host LSU-Eunice for two non-conference games April 7.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

7 a.m. **AA** – "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., 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 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 7

7 a.m. **AA** – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

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

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – All services are live and on Zoom. For details, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

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

9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – See Friday's notice.

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

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

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

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

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery –** A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Almeda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.

8 p.m. **AA** – See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, APRIL 10

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for tours.

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 volunteers teach lessons with a different dance rhythm each month. Call 281-554-1180.

6 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 832-715-9658.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** – Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. 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. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

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

7 p.m. **NA –** See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

7 a.m. **AA** – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – See Monday's notice.

10:00 a.m. **CCART** – The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome.

10:30 a.m. **Tri County Republican Women** – General meeting will be held at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr. Lunch available for $15. Exact cash or a check requested. To RSVP, visit www.tricountyrw.club/ or call 832-250-8901.

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

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

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** – The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club meets in person. Visit southeasthouston.toastmastersclub.org or call 281-467-1880.

7 p.m. **NA –** See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

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

Noon **AA –** Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday notice.

12:30 p.m. **–** 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance –** at Hometown Heroes Park. 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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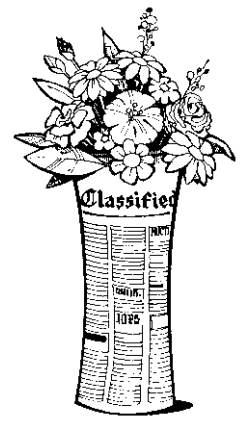

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JFD's Myers picks college, stays local

Dobie Class of 2023 senior, first-team All-District girls' basketball player and All-Academic team honoree Aubree Myers, shown above at left with her mother, Cassy Burton, will continue her education and playing career at North American University after signing a letter of intent with the Stallions. North American University is based in Houston and competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Myers was part of Dobie's District 22-6A championship squad in 2021-2022 and then helped this season's squad to a 10-2 second-place finish. *Action photo by Donna Alsdorf*

CB's Castillo is tabchoops all-region

At left, Clear Brook sophomore Rezia Castillo, the two-time District 24-6A Most Valuable Player in the varsity girls' basketball ranks, has been honored by tabchoops.org (Texas Association of Basketball Coaches) as a member of its All-Region III team. Those joining Castillo include Lyric Barr of Katy, Madison Bob of Hightower, Paige Bonner of Pearland, Justice Carlton of Seven Lakes, Cy-Creek's Amari Chambers, Jacei Denley of Beaumont Westbrook, Aniyah Foy of Cinco Ranch, Nataliyah Gray of Alief Taylor, Rylee Grays of Pearland, Riley McCloskey of Memorial, Zachara Perkins of Summer Creek, Kameryn Phillips of Shadow Creek, Nikki Polocheck of Memorial, Summer Creek's Jorynn Ross, Olivia Shook of Cy Ridge, Macy Spencer of Tompkins, Andrea Studivant of Fort Bend Austin, Jersey Village's Ja'Nya Thomas and Melinda Winston of Alief Hastings.

LSA's Robbins earns TAPPS all-state

Lutheran South Academy star basketball player Makynna Robbins (5) was named a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A All-State first-team selection after logging 21 double-doubles (points/rebounds) during the 2022-2023 season. An All-State Academic honoree, the junior also eclipsed 1,000 career points scored during the season. Robbins averaged 17.6 points and 14.2 rebounds per game.

Dickson is SEC's Freshman of the Week

Camryn Dickson, a Class of 2022 Clear Brook High School graduate, has gotten off to a fast start for the Texas A&M women's track and field team as she was named the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Week for the final week of March after winning the 200 in a personal best time of 23.20 seconds and joining her 4x100 relay teammates for the win in the event at 44.10 at the Victor Lopez Invitational at the University of Houston.

LSA's Baumann to St. Edward's baseball program

Lutheran South Academy senior outfielder Trey Baumann will continue his education and baseball career at St. Edward's University in Austin after signing a letter of intent with the Hilltoppers. Thus far in 2023, the Hilltoppers spent several weeks in the NCAA Division II national rankings. The Hilltoppers compete in the Lone Star Conference. In 2022, Baumann helped Lutheran South win the regional title and play in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state semifinals.

JFD netters Figueroa, Ortiz advance

Junior Leslie Figueroa and playing partner, senior Dominic Ortiz, will represent Dobie as the Region III Spring Tennis Championships play out April 11-12 at Deer Park High School.

The Longhorns were involved in three playback matches in all as regional berths hung in the balance. Figueroa and Ortiz emerged.

"All of the kids gave a great effort, and Leslie and Dominic advanced as the No. 4 seeds (when play began)," said Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr.

"I am proud of all of our kids for giving their all, and giving themselves a chance to advance."

Texas Invitational basketball tournament founder Meador joins HOF

Editor's Note: The following is the eighth of nine weekly features recognizing the Class of 2023 Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame inductees.

In the April 13 issue of the *Leader*, the 1981 Dobie state championship track and field team will be featured.

By Al Carter
PISD Hall of Fame

An eager participant in athletic and academic endeavors in high school, Ben Meador has left an indelible mark in all phases of life in the Pasadena area through his affiliations with various community and business organizations.

But, most especially, with the many initiatives he has undertaken on behalf of the Pasadena ISD.

In 1999, he founded the McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament, now a high school sports institution in and around Pasadena, across Houston and across the state.

The tournament, one of the largest preseason high school tournaments in the nation, has raised an estimated $3 million since its launch, with most of the proceeds going to the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation.

Tournament organizers proudly – and accurately – proclaim that the road to the state tournament "starts here."

But the event's own road to success started with Meador, who held the position of tournament chairman from its inception until 2015, when he turned the reins over to former Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. Kirk Lewis.

Meador, a 1957 Pasadena High graduate, will be one of eight individuals inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame at a gala banquet on April 20 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Seven of the inductees are being recognized for either their athletic or coaching achievements.

Special recognition will also be given to the 1981 state champion Dobie track team.

Meador's selection notes his "meritorious community support" – his many years of devoting time and resources for the benefit of Pasadena ISD students and for his initiative in organizing and maintaining the McDonald's Texas Invitational.

Under Meador's leadership, the tournament rapidly grew into a broad-based community event featuring 80 boys' and girls' teams and incorporating the efforts of 300 volunteers.

As the chairman and CEO of Meador Staffing Services, Meador used many of his own corporate resources to ensure proper planning and staging of the tournament.

Meador's appreciation for organization and versatility were evident during his school days at Pasadena High.

He played football and basketball – and his senior year participated as a member of the Eagles' state championship track squad. He also served as sports editor of the school yearbook.

Meador was a mainstay on student council, a junior class favorite and even a class "good-looker" as a sophomore.

Shortly before graduation, Meador was chosen for the school's highest honor – Mr. PHS.

After graduating from Lamar University in 1962 with a degree in business administration, Meador went to work for Diamond Shamrock as a staffing director.

In 1968, he established what would become Meador Staffing Services. The firm now maintains offices in Clear Lake, Deer Park, Pearland and The Woodlands, as well as its corporate office in Pasadena.

Meador's service to the local community includes two terms as president of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and three years as a member of the San Jacinto College board of trustees.

He was a founding member of the South East Economic Development Council, now known as the Houston Port Alliance.

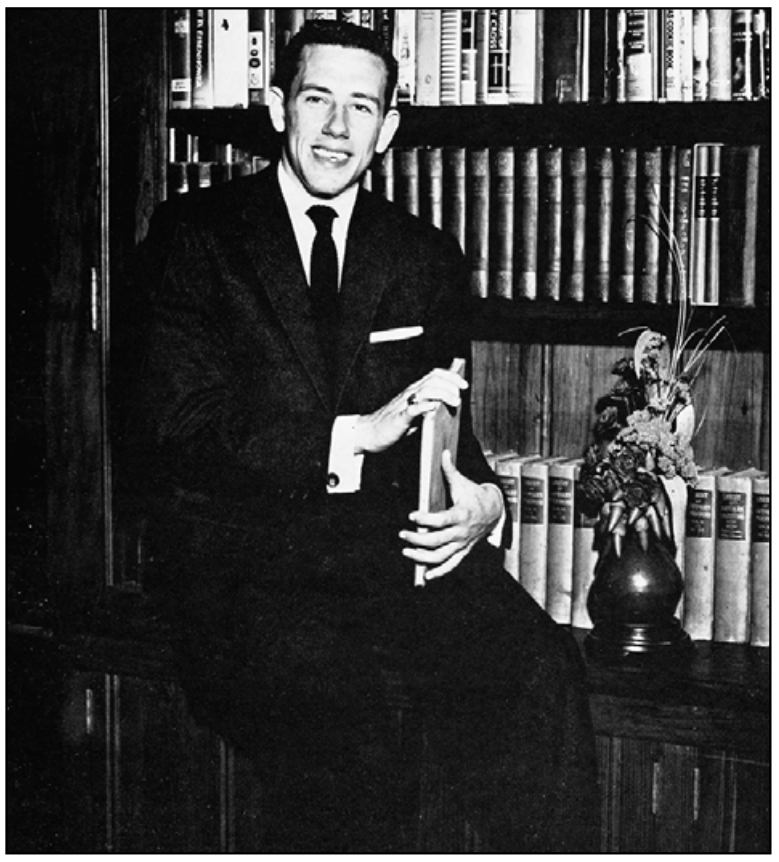
Meador also served as chairman of the Pasadena Second Century Corporation, the city's $4 billion economic development board.

In 1991, he was recognized by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce as the city's Citizen of the Year. And in 2000, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Pasadena ISD.

Semiretired, Meador and wife Janice now make their home in the Bryan-College Station area.

For details on tickets and other event details, contact Kathy Richardson at the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation office, by phone: 713-740-0246, or email: KRichardson@pasadenaisd.org.

In 1999, Ben Meador (right) and his wife, Janice, founded the McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament, now a high school sports institution in and around Pasadena, across Houston and across the state.



A 1957 graduate of Pasadena High School, Ben Meador founded Meador Staffing Services and remains chairman and CEO today. He will be inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame April 20.

PISD Athletics Hall of Fame 2023 Induction Banquet

April 20, Pasadena Convention Center

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