

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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County hosts groundbreaking

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Juneteenth Park at 10 a.m. Friday, June 16.

Located around the new South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin near Beamer and Dixie Farm Road, this project is a joint endeavor with the Clear Brook City MUD, which contributed approximately \$1 million in beautification efforts. Car show set for Father's Day

Car show set for Father's Day

The Father's Day Classic Meet/Pop-Up Market car show will take place Sunday, June 17, at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 8601 Alameda Genoa, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by OceanView Classics, the free event will feature a disc jockey, food, prizes, vending and raffles. For more information, call or text 713-865-1342. See related ad on Page 3.

Knights host spaghetti dinner

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a spaghetti fundraiser at St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Road, Friday, June 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, and a drink will be \$10. All proceeds will go to support KC charities.

Kirkwood meeting canceled

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 29, has been canceled. Meetings, typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month, will resume next month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Sagemeadow meets June 15

Sagemeadow HOA's monthly meeting is at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer. It will feature a workshop from Harris County Tax Assessor's Office. All Sagemeadow meetings are open to the public. For additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

PW Library begins summer

Parker Williams Library's Summer Reading Program is currently underway. One can sign up for the SRP, games, a camp photo booth, s'mores by the "campfire," potted plants, butterfly tie dye, story time, friendship bracelets and more. Concurrently, Friends of the Library will have a book sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All unpriced books are 4/\$1, DVDs are 4/\$1, and pocket paperback books are 5/\$1. This is an opportunity to load up on summer reading material or to start a library at home.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 15, as part of the weekly Coffee With the Constable series. For information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Beltway closed for repairs

All westbound Beltway 8 main lanes near the Gulf Freeway will be closed through Thursday, Aug. 31, to make emergency repairs, according to Texas Department of Transportation officials.

All westbound traffic will be forced to exit the main lanes at SH 3/Old Galveston Road and be diverted to the Beltway 8 frontage road lanes.

The westbound entrance ramps will be closed at SH 3/Old Galveston Road, Crenshaw and Genoa Red Bluff. The westbound main lanes will reopen at Beamer. Eastbound Beltway 8 main lanes and all connector ramps to the Gulf Freeway will remain open. TxDOT officials say the closures are necessary to make emergency repairs near the westbound Sabo exit, where the ground is sinking. The closures are expected to cause traffic delays.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remained roughly on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials. As of Tuesday, June 13, there were 217 active cases in 77089, up one from the previous week. To date, 140 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. In ZIP code 77075, there were 16 active cases, no increase from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 18 active cases, no increase from the previous week. To date, 91 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues. Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

Gulf Freeway closures set

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30. One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 in League City to FM 2004/ Camp Wallace Access Road in Dickinson/Texas City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30. One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access in Dickinson to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

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

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

Baseball groups meet responding to Commissioner Rodney Ellis' call to "play ball" to be put to a vote

The ongoing saga between two competing youth baseball leagues over who will access the El Franco Lee playing fields continues, with Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis now getting involved. (See In My Opinion Page 2.)

In a recent letter to South Belt Area Sports Association Chairman Joe Bennett, Ellis expressed

strong opposition to the group's recent decision to suspend baseball at the area park. (See related letter on Page 2.)

"It is impossible for me to state strongly enough my disappointment and disagreement with the board's arbitrary and unilateral decision, which if pursued will end nearly six decades of a

cherished South Belt community tradition: children, families and neighbors bonding over baseball," Ellis said in the June 9 letter. "While we might disagree about the reasons the board took this action, it is beyond argument that the consequences will fall on just one group: the children who want to play baseball."

The five-member Sports Association board unanimously voted Thursday, June 1, to tempo-

rarily halt all summer baseball at El Franco Lee Park, following recent allegations from a parent that former South Belt Little League president and current South Belt Baseball League president Johnny Ramirez mishandled funds.

The commissioner said in the letter that while the county will refrain from acting as a mediator in the issue, it will take on a leadership role

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Car falls into Beamer Ditch



A vehicle recently fell into the Beamer Ditch at Scarsdale Boulevard during a two-car collision at the area intersection. According to Precinct 2 officials, two drivers suffered non-life-threatening injuries in the accident and were transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. The crash reportedly caused extensive traffic delays.

Former deputy charged with murder

Charges have been filed against a former Precinct 2 deputy arrested in the fatal shooting of a man that took place about 11:35 a.m. Sunday, June 11, in the 10500 block of Kirkglenn Drive.



Frankie Vernagallo

The suspect, Frankie Luke Vernagallo, 79, was charged with murder in the 482nd State District Court.

At press time, the identity of the deceased male was pending verification by the Harris

County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

Precinct 2 officials said Vernagallo left the department in 1998 amid an investigation into him. Records of the investigation, however, have been destroyed, as they are more than 20 years old, officials said.

According to homicide investigators, Vernagallo had a years-long dispute with the victim, whom he claimed to run a crime ring out of his parents' home.

Vernagallo frequently wrote the *Leader* and local police agencies, including the Houston Police Department and the Precinct 2 constable's office, reporting suspected criminal activity at his neighbor's house. Alleged Crimes ranged from drug

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City launches summer reading program

Mayor Sylvester Turner invites Houstonians to participate in One Houston, One Book, a special citywide program that promotes literacy, diversity, and community conversations by encouraging Houstonians to come together, read and discuss books with a common theme.

"This program is designed so that every single

person in Houston can participate from the young to the not so young, from the avid reader to the new reader," Turner said at a recent press conference to launch the program. "There are print and digital options for everyone."

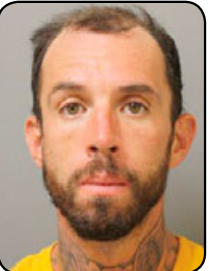
The Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy is en-

Continued on Page 2

Man with knife arrested at Food Town

Suspected thief charged after threatening others

A suspected thief was arrested on aggravated assault charges around



Sean Alarcon

1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 4, after threatening employees with a knife at Food Town, in the 10900 block of Scarsdale at Beamer.

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, deputies took a male into custody after reports came in about an unknown individual who threatened the lives of the Food Town employees.

According to witnesses, the incident began after the male, later identified as Sean Alarcon, left the store without paying for merchandise. He was followed and confronted by the complainant and other witnesses outside the store.

Alarcon displayed a knife and made threatening comments to the complainant.

The Precinct 2 Constable's office was notified, and within minutes, a nearby deputy found Alarcon not far from the scene. He was apprehended without incident.

Alarcon was then arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was transported to the Harris County Jail.

No one was injured and there were no reports of any other encounters with the arrested male.

City, county unveil downtown murals

Project features 25 artists, highlights UN goals

Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis recently took part in an unveiling of more than two dozen large murals on downtown buildings, as part of Big Art. Bigger Change – a pet project of his. The commissioner was joined at the unveiling by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Curated by the nonprofit group Street Art for Mankind, Big Art. Bigger Change is an outdoor art exhibition spanning more than a mile from the Hilton Americas Houston Hotel to the Historic District and another mile from the banks of Buffalo Bayou to south downtown.

"In our homes, we hang photos and paintings to honor our past and express our values," said Ellis. "In our city, we install public art to remind us of our history and unite around the values and causes that define us. In Houston, you don't need an admission ticket to take in breathtaking displays and one-of-

a-kind pieces. The expansion of this project brings art to the people, and I'm grateful to Street Art for Mankind's efforts to democratize an essential part of community life."

The new murals bring the total to 29 in the Big Art. Bigger Change project. Internationally recognized street artists created the artworks. The murals were reviewed by a committee of Houston community and arts leaders to reflect the United Nations General Assembly's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which include gender equality, quality education, climate action and clean water.

According to event organizers, the unprecedented series of murals aims to amplify social and environmental justice in Houston and beyond, and to beautify and revitalize the downtown area and make Houston a new street art destination.

The recent unveiling of 19 murals – part of Big

Continued on Page 8

South Belt celebrates Fourth of July

July 4 parade returns after 3-year hiatus

After a three-year hiatus due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the annual South Belt Fourth of July parade will resume this year Tuesday, July 4.

All residents, organizations and businesses are welcome to participate in the event. Participants are encouraged to decorate their vehicles and floats, as prizes will be awarded in various categories.

The theme for this year's parade is A Salute to Ellington Field.

Fighter jets from Ellington field did a fly-by over the start of the inaugural South Belt Fourth of July parade, held in 1988. Organizers are currently in talks with Ellington officials about a possible repeat appearance.

A grand marshal of the parade will be an-

nounced at a later date.

The parade will begin at Beverly Hills Intermediate, located at 11111 Beamer Road. The route will then head north on Beamer to Fuqua, then east to Sabo/Hughes Road, before traveling south onto Beamer to the parade's final destination of San Jacinto College South. Participants are urged to arrive at least an hour early.

Community and nonprofit groups may sign up for the parade at no charge, unless they wish to be eligible for a prize. A \$50 fee is charged for commercial entries. Noncommercial entries may enter the contest for \$25.

Entry forms are available on Page 6, www.southbeltleader.com and the *Leader* office, located at 11555 Beamer.

DOJ concludes city investigation

Settlement reached, promoting One Clean Houston program

The Justice Department announced Tuesday, June 6, that it has secured a settlement agreement in its environmental justice investigation into the City of Houston's response to illegal dumping in black and Latino neighborhoods.

The agreement builds upon the city's recently announced One Clean Houston initiative, a comprehensive plan to address pervasive illegal dumping and its negative impacts on the health, safety and quality of life of Houston residents. The agreement memorializes the city's cooperation with the Justice Department as it implements these new steps to combat illegal dumping and develops improved waste management services for residents across Houston.

"Houston's illegal dumpsites have contam-

inated water and soil, attracted vermin and created blight in historically under-resourced neighborhoods across the city," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "I appreciate Mayor Turner's leadership in addressing these concerns and his resolve in developing One Clean Houston. This agreement will ensure that Houston fully addresses chronic illegal dumpsites, provides access to adequate waste management services and improves quality of life in communities of color. The Justice Department will continue advancing environmental justice and ensuring that people of color across our nation live in safe, clean and healthy

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Deputies arrest suspected prostitutes

Women charged with indecent exposure

Two suspected prostitutes were arrested around 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 6, in the 8300 block of the Gulf Freeway on charges of indecent exposure.

Deputies with Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Night Shift Patrol observed a pair of suspicious females walking along the freeway frontage road in a high crime area that is known for prostitution and various other criminal activity. The females in this case were both wearing clothing consistent with prostitution and portraying behavior consistent with prostitution in this area.

As one of the deputies passed by the females, he observed them both to be wearing minimal

clothing, that was completely see through and was exposing the females' private parts. The deputy followed the females and contacted the Harris County District Attorney's Office. After explaining the facts of this case, the District Attorney's office advised that they would accept misdemeanor indecent exposure charges on both females.

At this time, the deputy made contact with both females and was able to place them both into custody without incident. Makala Harris, 21, and Alicia Nash, 22, were both then transported to the Harris County Jail on these misdemeanor charges.



Makala Harris



Alicia Nash

Garcia aids homeless efforts



Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (front row, center) recently took part in a joint effort to decommission a homeless encampment behind the Walgreens at Fuqua and Sabo. In all, eight homeless individuals were housed and the encampment was totally removed. The Houston Police Department, Homeless Outreach Team, (H.O.T.), HPD's Differential Response Team, Houston Public Works Department, the Coalition for the Homeless and Hope Haven assisted in cleaning up the encampment, which has been an issue for more than a decade. Shown above with Garcia are Jonathan Spears, Hope Haven (front row, left); Jess Dimanno, Coalition for the Homeless (front row, right); and Chris Castillo, HPD (back row). See full story in next week's *Leader*.

In My Opinion

Commissioner Ellis weighs in on baseball

Mr. Joe Bennett, President South Belt Area Sports Association Inc. Dear Mr. Bennett:

I write in response and opposition to last week's decision by the South Belt Area Sports Association ("South Belt") Board of Directors to suspend all youth baseball activities at El Franco Lee Park, effective this Thursday, June 8.

It is impossible for me to state strongly enough my disappointment and disagreement with the Board's arbitrary and unilateral decision, which if pursued will end nearly six decades of a cherished Southbelt community tradition: children, families, and neighbors bonding over baseball. While we might disagree about the reasons the Board took this action, it is beyond argument that the consequences will fall on just one group: the children who want to play baseball.

South Belt was entrusted with its current concessionaire agreement for one purpose: to organize and conduct a baseball league at El Franco Lee Park. Whatever challenge South Belt faces in negotiating through the current controversy between competing community organizations does not relieve South Belt of fulfilling that charge. I expect South Belt to fulfill its responsibility to provide the children of your community with the chance to learn and play baseball.

Precinct One will not mediate between competing community organizations. That task is the responsibility of those like you who are leaders in that community. However, we will take leadership to give your children what matters most: baseball. Accordingly, I have directed our team to pursue two steps intended to address the current situation and also ensure baseball continues on the playing fields at El Franco Lee Park in the future. First, for the near term, to work with the Board to develop a plan to complete all currently scheduled 2023 spring post-league play, as well as a modified summer schedule.

Second, for the longer term, initiate a process to select a new non-profit entity to organize and manage baseball league play, starting with the spring 2024 season. While we will solicit input from the Board and the community, Precinct One will manage the selection process and submit the successful applicant to Commissioners Court for approval.

Our team has already reached out to you about both steps, which I believe are the best practical way to move past the current controversy. We owe it to our children.

Rodney Ellis

Harris County Commissioner Precinct 1

Publisher's comment:

The Leader would like to thank Commissioner Rodney Ellis for stepping in and getting this issue off dead center. How sad for this issue to be tearing the community apart. We urge him to stay on this issue as more information is available. The Leader just learned this week that people who the Pony president does not get along with, have been blocked from registering. Additionally, a child of a young mother who complained about having to pay the \$100 volunteer fee even though she was volunteering as a team mom, was punished by not getting to play, even though he had been registered.

Marie Flickinger

West explains Little League problem

To: Rodney Ellis Harris County Commissioner Pct. One

In response to a letter that you sent to the President of the SOUTH BELT AREA SPORTS ASSOCIATION INC. and that has been shared on social media in which you stated disappointment and disagreement with the decision to suspend youth baseball at El Franco Lee Park, I would like to share my opinion of the matter with you. You stating that the decision was arbitrary indicates that you have been misinformed on our communities youth baseball controversy and who is to blame for it. The nearly six decades of cherished Southbelt community tradition: children, families, and neighbors bonding over baseball that you referred to in your letter and that hopefully will soon again be genuine, wholesome, sanctioned, LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL. The kind of baseball where sportsmanship, fair play, trying hard and doing ones best is more important than winning rings and trophies.

Several years ago our SOUTHBELT LITTLE LEAGUE (formerly SAGEMONT BEVERLY HILLS LITTLE LEAGUE) became infiltrated with a group of volunteers that seemed to support our LITTLE LEAGUE program. Many improvements were made to the fields and facilities and sponsorship was accumulated while we were SOUTHBELT LITTLE LEAGUE. At some point the group of volunteers that was SOUTHBELT LITTLE LEAGUE's board of directors formed or became Southbelt Baseball. This Southbelt Baseball group had an agenda. Their agenda was to end our communities cherished, decades old affiliation with LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL and form a new league that they could control. They didn't like the rules of LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL and wanted to make their own rules. So just before the 2023 spring season began and after most ballplayers had registered to play LITTLE LEAGUE, the league's directors called a meeting on New Year's Eve where some league officials resigned and they held their vote to quit LITTLE LEAGUE. This Southbelt Baseball group decided that the new league would be Southbelt Baseball PONY League and they transferred ball-player's LITTLE LEAGUE registration to PONY LEAGUE. They mislead parents to believe that there was no longer a LITTLE LEAGUE in our community. However, SOUTHBELT LITTLE LEAGUE still existed but due to the high-jacking of all of their registered ballplayers, their ball fields, their facilities, their funds, etc. LITTLE LEAGUE had minimum resources to pull from. Teams had uniforms, schedules, and were practicing by the time the community and most parents knew what was happening, and many still don't. This Southbelt Baseball group used connivery, thievery, misinformation, and outright lies to achieve their goal to end LITTLE LEAGUE in our community and are completely responsible for our current state of

John Wenske

When the end doesn't justify the means

I am writing to hopefully clarify some recent events, but also to share my concerns with the South Belt Area Sports Association (SBASA), or the association and the manner they came to the decision to end baseball.

Historically, and per their constitution, the association's objective is "...to provide management of the recreational land and facilities for the community youth sports organizations." It does not specify certain organizations or certain leagues. It was, in my opinion, purposefully left vague to support the idea that any sports league that participates is represented by the association, regardless of that sports league's affiliation (i.e. Little League, Pony League, USA Softball, BAFL, etc.).

Furthermore, the members of the association are defined the Board of Directors, which include an "...Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Construction Co-Directors and Financial Director), other positions as may be deemed necessary by the acting board, and appointed representatives of each participating youth sports leagues". The appointed representatives have historically been defined as the presidents of their respective leagues (baseball, soccer, football and softball).

Additionally, the executive members have two-year terms, but can run again and be elected again. As of this letter, and well over several years, all terms for all executive members have expired and

affairs. Their selfish agenda to bring what they may believe to be a more competitive and more lucrative program by recruiting players and teams from outside the South Belt community and by supporting the building of power teams for tournament play and select ball. There is a place for highly competitive, practice every day, win at all cost youth baseball. They call it travel or select ball. They should select somewhere to travel to and leave El Franco Lee Ball Park to be the home field for our cherished SOUTHBELT LITTLE LEAGUE... the way it was intended.

Please recognize that EVERY FAMILY THAT REGISTERED A CHILD TO PLAY BASEBALL AT EL FRANCO LEE PARK PRIOR TO JAN. 1, 2023 REGISTERED TO PLAY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL (NOT PONY). Any and all player registration, corporate sponsorships, volunteering, improvements, transactions, business etc. before Jan. 1, 2023 was LITTLE LEAGUE (NOT PONY) with SOUTHBELT LITTLE LEAGUE money... or was part of their scheme to change it. SOUTH BELT AREA SPORTS ASSOCIATION INC., SOUTHBELT LITTLE LEAGUE, and possibly other community leaders decided to allow the newly formed and ill-conceived PONY league to play out their spring season at El Franco Lee. (To be clear... the PONY league has NO right to be at the fields but was allowed by LITTLE LEAGUE to play there). Although the decision was made with the best interest of the ballplayers and their families, it may have been a mistake because it allowed the PONY league directors their reign over the park all the while tooting their own horns about the improvements they made and building the cult-like support of misinformed subjects. I urge that you and your team be careful not to fall victim to the deception and seek out good information from reliable sources. The best source for accurate information including the long history of LITTLE LEAGUE baseball in our community is Marie Flickinger of our local newspaper The South Belt-Ellington Leader. (281-481-5656 mynews@southbeltleader.com)

I appreciate the efforts of the South Belt Area Sports Association Board of Directors and support the decision to temporarily suspend all baseball activities at El Franco Lee baseball fields until the PONY group's prompt, complete, and permanent evacuation is achieved so that our communities cherished LITTLE LEAGUE can resume play on our home fields. I suggest that the next letter penned by your office to the South Belt Area Sports Association should be in recognition of their dedication to our youth athletic programs and should apologize for condemning their efforts.

Forgive me for rambling on or seeming to rant, but having good, wholesome, genuine LITTLE LEAGUE baseball is very important for our kids and our community. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Randy West

Wenske on rural voters immigration rural

It might seem hard to understand how the debates of Washington affect the daily lives of rural Texans. One important issue Texans want tackled is the immigration crisis at our southern border. Countries from the Texas border to the coastal bend to North Texas have all declared an invasion of peoples that have decimated the lives of many rural folks. Farmers are all too familiar with waking up to police sirens blaring down their county road only to find out that some human trafficker has run through their barbed-wire fence and now twenty unknown, desperate illegal migrants are roaming their cattle ranch. Congressman Colin Allred's party and boss, Joe Biden, have proven themselves nothing but inept in addressing this disaster. The support of catch and release policies has flooded our country with nationals from all continents that the Department of Homeland Security has no record of.

Ninety-eight people on the terrorist watch list crossed illegally into the U.S. in fiscal year 2022, almost four times higher than the last five years combined. Senator Ted Cruz has visited the border numerous times throughout his tenure to see the immigration crisis firsthand. Senator Cruz has also proposed legislation to build a border wall, fund CBP and ICE agents, and increase the efficiency of the immigration court system. As rural Texans, we need to unite behind Senator Cruz and offer him our unfettered support to keep our communities and families safe.

John Wenske When the end doesn't justify the means

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Orths celebrate 60 years



Dick and Jimmie Sue Orth celebrated their 60th anniversary which was on June 10, on June 11 with a large community celebration at The Gardens. They are the parents of Lori Johnson, Ami Orth and Mandi Gullede. Lori and her husband, Jeff reside in Manvel and have four children: Brandi Hutchison, Brittini Gerdes, Blakeli Lamb and Nikki Johnson and 10 grandchildren. Ami has one son, Jacob Miller. Mandi and husband Kelly Gullede live in La Porte and have two sons, Joshua and Jarred. The family has been members of Sagemont Church for 56 years and was in attendance the first day it opened. They currently live in Sagemeadow. They say the key to a healthy marriage is putting one's spouse's needs ahead of your own. The Orths opened Any Season Pest Control in the early 1980s. Grandson Jacob, third generation is running the business.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

therefore hold no authority or should not be recognized as members of the association. The only recognized members per their constitution should be the presidents of soccer, Little League baseball, Pony League baseball, football and softball until these members vote in new executive members.

With this in mind, certain executive members held a vote (where the representatives of all sports leagues, the presidents, were not made aware of that meeting including, soccer, Pony baseball or softball) to end baseball for all. When I inquired why we were not made aware of the vote, I was told it was an executive vote. Per their constitution any voting must be done by the Board of Directors, which again not only includes the Executive Committee, but also the league reps (the presidents).

Also, it is my understanding that the Executive Committee appointed new members for the vote, which again, per the constitution, any appointments require approval by the Board of Directors, which did not take place.

I wanted to share this as not only did the association act in an irresponsible

manner, but also decided to end baseball for all families, without the proper authority. From previous meetings, their motivation, I was told to do what is best for the kids. Canceling baseball seems to be contrary to that goal.

I sincerely hope the association corrects its ways and truly acts in the best interests of our community and not for the sole purpose of achieving a desired result. From the beginning, my goal is to make sure the association acts in an unbiased and responsible manner to serve as a mediator between both baseball parties. The Pony representatives do have some questions to answer, and they should, and the Little League members do have valid concerns, but again, both parties deserve a fair opportunity to get those questions answered. Unfortunately, the association, in its recent decision, did not do so. Kind regards,

Ruben Garcia

President, South Belt Girls Softball Association

Publisher's comment: We believe Ruben may have some good points, but all is null and void with Rodney's stepping in and taking charge. **Marie Flickinger**

Elected officials share their words From Mayor Pro Tem, Dave Martin, Dist. E

This week, my City Council colleagues and I will vote on the City's \$6.2 billion proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year, which for the first time includes an Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust contribution. The OPEB Contribution will total \$10 million with a general fund contribution of \$8 million and the remaining funds are a combination of Enterprise and Special Funds. This is a huge step towards increasing financial security for the City of Houston and I could not be prouder to have been the catalyst behind this new strategy for the City. The proposed budget includes pay raises for all City of Houston employee groups: 3% pay raise for municipal workers, 3% pay raise for police, and a 6% pay raise for firefighters. The 6% pay raise for firefighters included in this budget represents the 3rd year of an 18% cumulative pay raise for Houston firefighters valued at \$115 million.

This budget includes plans to invest in repairing and maintaining roads, bridges, and drainage systems helping to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety, and increase resiliency for Houstonians. There is a \$47 million increase in transfers to the Dedicated Drainage Street and Renewal Fund (DDSRF), or Rebuild Houston, to support streets and drainage projects in the Capital Improvement Plan, coupled

with a decrease in debt service of \$7 million, for a net increase of \$40 million for pay-as-you-go and debt. The City of Houston is investing in parks and recreational facilities, including new parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities. This investment will provide more opportunities for outdoor activities and promote a sense of community. Information related to the City's proposed budget can be found online here.

As we, just kicked off the start of hurricane season residents should take note the budget also includes increased funding for emergency management services, improved communication systems, and enhanced infrastructure to mitigate the impact of flooding. The City of Houston Disaster Preparedness Guide is updated every year and helps Houstonians plan for emergencies. The guide is free and can be downloaded in six languages from the City's Office of Emergency Management's website here. Additionally, I encourage all residents to sign up for emergency alerts through Alert Houston. Alert Houston delivers critical information to Houston residents regarding current conditions, expected impacts, and protective actions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

Wishing everyone a safe summer and a reminder the District E will be closed Monday, June 19 in Observance of Juneteenth.

AARP extends invite to events

AARP Chapter 199 Webster area organizes day trips for members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost.

The next bus trip will be on Tuesday, June 20, to tour Houston Police Department S.W.A.T. and the Houston Toy Museum. Lunch will be at Katz's Heights. The cost is \$13. per person plus lunch.

The following bus trip will be on Friday, July 21, to see the musical "All Shook Up" at College of the Mainland. Dinner will be at Gus' Restaurant. The cost of this trip is \$13. per person plus dinner.

For those interested in joining Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8.00 per year per person.

However, one must be a member of national AARP and provide proof of current national membership card to join any local chapter.

AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP.

For more information, or to register for the upcoming day-trips, contact Lynne Justis at 832-212-5417, aarpchapter199@yahoo.com.

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

281.481.2003

www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

Deaths

Opal Jean Ferraro



Opal Jean Ferraro, 88, of Houston, peacefully went to be with the Lord June 6, 2023. Jean was born to Bruce and Virgie Ray Majors in Center, Texas, on June 8, 1934.

After graduating from Galveston Ball High School, she met the love of her life, Joe Ferraro, and they were married in 1955. They had three sons, Bruce, Keith and David Ferraro. The couple lived in the South Belt area for the past 65 years as faithful members of South Belt Church.

Jean was a remarkable and loving wife who embodied the true essence of selfless love. Her unwavering devotion to her husband and her compassionate nature will forever be remembered and deeply missed. Jean was also an amazing mother, grandmother and friend. She was kind, gentle, always smiling and loved hosting weekly family gatherings and holiday celebrations. If one visited Jean, they were well fed, their cup was never empty and she made sure to cheer up any who were downhearted. She will always be remembered for her hugs, welcomed advice and sharing her whole heart with family and friends. She truly loved each of them. Those who her knew

her were assured of her love. She will be dearly missed.

Jean loved reading and solving crossword puzzles; she could have been the best "Jeopardy!" contestant to never appear on the show. She knew trivia and sharing those games and TV shows with her grandchildren gave her some of the greatest joy in life. Jean also loved attending church, where Joe was a deacon, as well as seeing her friends every week. Her favorite part of the service was singing the hymns, and the three that meant the most to her were "It Is Well With My Soul," "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Blessed Assurance." It's no wonder these meant the most to her. These songs taught her that life's trials and burdens helped her build, endure and later flourish. Through her faith, she had the strength to face any adversity with a steadfast heart.

Jean is preceded in death by her parents; sisters Willie B. Alexander, Thelma Wiggins and Linda Majors; and her brother, A.V. Majors. She is survived by her husband, three sons, and their wives, Bruce and Janet Ferraro of Houston; Keith and Susan Ferraro of Manvel; and David and Debra Ferraro of Alvin; sister Joyce Milner of Austin; and her grandchildren and their spouses Joseph and Tamara Ferraro, Andrew and Dana Ferraro, Todd and Natalie Ferraro, Gina and Ovie Thomas, Anthony and Jennifer Ferraro, Amy and Paul Flanigan, Selena and Jeremy Hann, Lisa and Luke Pearce, Joey Urbino, and Shelly Ex-trom.

Jean is also survived by great-grandchildren, Kayla and Joseph Ferraro Jr., Camden, Ellie and Brady Ferraro, Noah and Colton Ferraro, Jade Anderson, Zoey and Meah Thomas, Jacob and Kynlee Ferraro, Kristopher

Neighbors, Alexis Ferraro, Elizabeth and Cameron Coffman, Easton and Carter Hann, Lauren Comstock and Levi Pearce, Gabe Urbino, James Leining, and Alysa and Layla Tello. She is also survived by two great-granddaughters, Parker Kate Ferraro and Anna-Lisa Winters.

Services will be held at Forest Park East Cemetery Friday, June 16. Visitation begins at 1 p.m., and the service is at 2 p.m. The graveside service is at 3 p.m.

Mary Ann Leos Correction



In last week's publication of the Mary Ann Leos obituary, some last names were incorrectly listed. The correct names are surviving grandchildren Justin Palos, Gabby Perez, Lauren Palos, Elizabeth Leos and Ian Leos; and five surviving great-grandchildren, Josiah Perez, Jade Rodriguez, Alex Cavazos, Aidan Hymas-Palos and Gabriel Cavazos.

A memorial service for Mary will be held at Temple Jerusalem Assembly of God Church, 1110 Washington St., South Houston, TX on June 24, 2023, from 2 to 4 p.m. A private graveside service will be held in Ganado, Texas at a later date.

The Leader regrets the listing of the incorrect names.

City launches reading program

Continued from Page 1

gated and can accommodate adults at all reading levels. The summer program will include events at Houston Public Library branches. Programs and events include author talks, read-ins, book clubs, story

and craft times, critical conversations, camps, block parties, open houses and a special grand finale event.

The program will feature three book selections: one for children, one for teens and one for adults. Featured titles had

yet to be revealed at press time.

The city's One Houston, One Book summer literacy program will run now through September.

For additional information on the program, visit houstonlibrary.org/ohob.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingsport. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Thursday, June 15, 11 a.m. – noon. Family storytime. Registration required.
Thursday, June 15, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
Wednesday, June 21, 2 – 3 p.m. Professor Universe: Into the deep. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.
Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing. The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Thursday, June 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.
Thursday, June 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m. ESL conversation club.
Tuesday, June 13, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. D&D.
Wednesday, June 14, 11 a.m. – noon. Tech time.

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

– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.
– Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
– Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
– Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.
Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

South Belt Elementary announces end-of-year student awards

South Belt Elementary officials recently awarded exemplary students, listed below.

Kindergarten Math wizards

CJ Herrera, Annora Nguyen, Eli Sutton, Odalys Bedolla, Taryn Chavez, Leon Cha, Reyana Harmouche, Konner Lee, Caleb Castillo, Yamileth Davila, Kaila Espinoza, Sherry Franco, Zayd Gill, Jasmine Guevara, Max Leal, Tristan Molina, Devyn Nguyen and Jazmine Partida.

Marquez Powell, Kaylin Ramos, Elias Ruiz, Lincoln Ward, El-Jireh Udomah, Brooklyn Trinh, Scarlett Thomas, Zay'Lah Saylor, Ivan Punzo, Ryan Musawji, Tobias Mitchell, Adrien Joseph, Irene Gurning, Harvest Davis, Layla Alvarez and Parva Zabipour Arabi.

Stephen Arevalo, Zainiel Erguiza, Paris Guy, Husna Khan, Ava Miller, Jaylen Romero, Malachi Santos, Shirley Wallace, Zaelynn Lewis, Madisen Baskin, Anthony Doan, Bryce Garcia, Suzy Gardiner, Aliyah Gonzalez, Nicholas Gutierrez, Felix Medrano, Olivia Mendoza, Trace Mitchell, Leyla Giaccardi, Jonathan Portillo and Evelyn Saldana.

Reading All-Stars

Melanie Arreola, Madilyn Davis, Arwin Gautam, Ava Granados, Bryson Allen, Alanzo Allison, Josiah Babalola, Brian Cao, Caleb Castillo, Yamileth Davila, Kaila Espinoza, Sherry Franco, Zayd Gill, Jasmine Guevara, Max Leal, Miguel Medrano, Tristan Molina, Ayanna Munoz, Adrika Nepal, Devyn Nguyen, Jazmine Partida, Marquez Powell, Kaylin Ramos and Elias Ruiz.

Lincoln Ward, El-Jireh Udomah, Brooklyn Trinh, Eli Monnat, Reyanna Harmouche, Konner Lee, Ashlyn Segovia, Parva Zabipour Arabi, Emma Du, Zaimiel Erguiza, Paris Guy, Husna Khan, Ava Miller, Jaylen Romero, Malachi Santos, Shirley Wallace, Zaelynn Wallace and Emma Du.

Perfect attendance

Maya Villerreal.

Good citizen

Jocelyn Salazar, Sebastian Rodriguez, Kailee Wilson, Matthew Machado, Abby Hernandez, Stephen Arevalo, Jonathan Portillo and Evelyn Saldana.

First grade Math wizards

Christian Gonzales, Bryce Johnson, Zaiden Lazo, Miguel Medrano, Jake Monnat, Paxton Nhem, Shelby Tran, Clark Bekkers, Preston Davis, Taelynn Davis, Zayd Gill, Liam Gonzales and Luke Garcia.

Aliza Jimenez, Cherry Rodriguez-Zepeda, Jayden Martinez, Khloe Nguyen, Abraham Ortiz, Alexia Yemek, Alonzo Banda, Brian Cao, Caleb Castillo, Sherry Franco and Arwin Gautam.

Jasmine Guevara, Bareerah Khan, Max Leal, Niko Martinez, Thien Nguyen, Noah Pakaz, An Phan, Estrella Salinas, Jesus Vazquez, Emma Vong and Adrian Alvarez.

Caleb Banda, Mahmood Harmouche, Abraham Hernandez, Danica Mendoza, TJ Molina, AJ Munoz, Jerome Offei, Aarilee Rivas, Travis Alba, Aria Banda, Gabrielle Carmouche, Emma Canales, Lucas Davila and Kase Elmore.

Ava Granados, Chloe Kamgang, Jordyn Lasker, Mason Medina, Richard Mendiola, Evalinh Moore, Alex Nguyen, Carter Nguyen, Ella Nguyen, Miles Peace, Alessia Perez, Lathen Picquet and Elias Ruiz.

John Thomas, Lewis Tulud, Jariyah Adams, Zachary Carrington, Vivian Molina, Dan Ngo, Devyn Nguyen, Maryella Portillo, Kaylin Rae Ramos, Jolene Pineda, Alex Rodriguez, Liam Katsikes, Ethan White, Amaya Corronco and Samantha Reyna.

Reading All-Stars

Alexis Adelu, Torian Braxton, Cash Broussard, Christian Gonzales, Miguel Medrano, Jake Monnat, Paxton Nhem, Jazmine Partida, Avery Pavlock, Shelby Tran, Zoie Yarbrough, Elna Abedrabo and Preston Davis.

Zayd Gill, Liam Gonzales, Aliza Jimenez, Adrika Nepal, Abraham Ortiz, Alexia Yemek, Brian Cao, Caleb Castillo, Carla Deleon, Sherry Franco, Caleb Gonzalez, Jasmine Guevara and Bareerah Khan.

Max Leal, Niko Martinez, An Phan, Estrella Salinas, Jesus Vazquez, Emma Vong, Adrian Alvarez, Caleb Banda, Mahmood Harmouche, Abraham Hernandez, TJ Molina, AJ Munoz and Jerome Offei.

Aarilee Rivas, Arya Poudel, Travis Alba, Aria Banda, Gabrielle Carmouche, Ava Granados, Chloe Kamgang, Richard Mendiola, Evalinh Moore, Alex Nguyen, Carter Nguyen and Ella Nguyen.

Miles Peace, Alessia Perez, Lathen Picquet, Elias Ruiz, John Thomas, Lewis Tulud, Jariyah Adams, Zachary Carrington, Isabella Garza, Ariel Hernandez and James Mason.

Vivian Molina, Dan Ngo, Devyn Nguyen, Jolene Pineda, Maryella Portillo, Kaylin Rae Ramos, Alex Rodriguez, Adam Palomo, Liam Katsikes, Ayama Corronco and Ariadna Hernandez.

Principal's award

Shelby Moon, Paxton Nhem, Cash Broussard, Avery Pavlock, Bentley Phand, Jason Ngo, Chesney Rouse, Miguel Medrano, Alexis Adelu, Zaiden Lazo, Shelby Tran, Zoie Yarbrough, Ryland Bell, Elna Abedrabo, Clark Bekkers and Preston Davis.

Taelynn Davis, Liam Gonzales, Aliza Jimenez, Adrika Nepal, Khloe Nguyen, Long Nguyen, Gabriella Arkins, Abraham Ortiz, Marcos Aviles, Allison Thao and Brian Cao.

Carla Deleon, Lucia Fonseca, Sherry Franco, Arwin Gautam, Jasmine Guevara, Bareerah Khan, Max Leal, Niko Martinez, Jocelyn Melendez, Noah Pakaz, An Phan, Estrella Salinas, Donnie Thomas, Jesus Vazquez and Emma Vong.

Kathaleya Ramos, Adalyn Aleman, Adrian Alvarez, Caleb Banda, Ayven Gonzales, Mahmood Harmouche, Abraham Hernandez, Romeo Labra, Aubree Martinez, Emma Medina, Danica Mendoza, TJ Molina and Meganne Montoya.

AJ Munoz, Jerome Offei, Lia Palacios, Aarilee Rivas, Christopher Santos, Kadi Tran, Arya Poudel, Travis Alba, Aria Banda, Gabrielle Carmouche, Emma Canales, Lucas Davila, Kase Elmore, Ava Granados, Jaysean Henderson and Chloe Kamgang.

Jordyn Lasker, Mason Medina, Richard Mendiola, Evalinh Moore, Alex Nguyen, Carter Nguyen, Ella Nguyen, Miles Peace, Alessia Perez, Lathen Picquet, Elias Ruiz, John Thomas and Lewis Tulud.

Jariyah Adams, Zachary Carrington, Jonathan Delgado, Ja'Shiah Dillon, Isabella Garza, Noah Garzon, Ariel Hernandez, James Mason, Vivian Molina, Dylan Montoya, Dan Ngo and Devyn Nguyen.

Neveah Salinas, Jolene Pineda, Maryella Portillo, Kaylin Rae Ramos, Alex Rodriguez, Nicholas Torres, Adam Palomo, Levie Benavides, Isabella Cruz, Sophie Franklin and Adalynn Gonzalez.

Juan Gonzalez, Ashlynn Langley, Arielle Maldonado, Madison Monford, Vincent Nguyen, Jeremiah Ramirez, Zanyiah Thompson, Daniel Velasquez, Darien Jackson, Samantha Reyna, Amaya Corronco and Ariadna Hernandez.

Perfect attendance

Jake Monnat, Ian Paz, Arya Poudel, Travis Alba and Alex Nguyen.

Good citizen

Jason Ngo, Chesney Rouse, Aliza Jimenez, Liam Gonzales, Max Leal, Jocelyn Melendez, Aarilee Rivas, Adrian Alvarez, Ava Granados, Lewis Tulud, Isabella Garza, Adam Palomo, Aman Adil, Kelly Tran and Samantha Reyna.

Second grade Math wizards

Mason Campos, Avery Rouse, Charlotte Riley, Abby Peterson, Adelyn Mendoza, Rhett Sullivan, Kenneth Hernandez, Robyn Morin, Eli Pineda, Mason Linder, Ryder Orlea and Christian Gonzales.

Bryce Johnson, Zaiden Lazo, Miguel Medrano, Jake Monnat, Paxton Nhem, Shelby Tran, Jordan Alvarez, Isidro Garcia, Giovanni Gomez, Miabella Ledesma, Ethan Martinez, Emilio Mata and Aulahna Moore.

Isabella Robinson, Kaptian Scott, Pouyan Zabihpour, Jacob Lozolla, Ezekiel Reyes, Arian Segovia, Rafay Shoaib, Ethan Aljets, Leo

Stuchbery awards honor and merit rolls

Stuchbery Elementary officials recently announced the honor and merit roll students for the third nine-weeks period of the 200-2023 school year.

Honor roll

Ayden Farris, Julian Juarez, Timothy Tran, Luke Perez, Aiden Shaffner, Hector Sanchez, Efrain Avilez, Javier Balanta, Carlos Velazquez, Dylan Salmeron and Alina Castro.

Fourth grade

Daniel Moreno, Arianna Moreno, Valerie Reyes, Leonardo Segovia, Raul Cruz, Konar Dillard, Annie Flores, Delano Oliver-Cooper, Leonardo Segovia and Jocelyn Arredondo.

Aarilee Rivas, Arya Poudel, Travis Alba, Aria Banda, Gabrielle Carmouche, Ava Granados, Chloe Kamgang, Richard Mendiola, Evalinh Moore, Alex Nguyen, Carter Nguyen and Ella Nguyen.

Bonilla, Faith Cavazos, Raul Godinez and Jonathan Herrera.

Liam Lising, Royanne Montoya, Chyenne Moon, Lillian Mwaniki, Sophia Sepulveda, Holley Truong, Michael Esposito, Mohammed Adi, Lorelei Cabrera, Brady Capers and Jonathan Thomas.

Gabriel Torres, Armondo Gamino, Aliyah Bhakta, Afanyu Bongfen, Alexandra Flores, Christian Machado, Nicolas Mancillas, Dominic Pena, Emiliano Perez, Jer Saffary, Jordan Serrano, Isaiah Uouzkwu, Isabel Vivier and Karsyn Wiley.

Reading All-Stars

Alina Posadas, Jase Garcia, Luke Spillers, Elian Torres, Mason Campos, Robyn Morin, Kenneth Hernandez, An Truong, Charlotte Riley, Isaiah Gonzales, Rhett Sullivan and Abby Peterson.

Adelynn Mendoza, Ryder Orlea, Alexis Adelu, Torian Braxton, Cash Broussard, Christian Gonzales, Miguel Medrano, Jake Monnat, Paxton Nhem, Jazmine Partida, Avery Pavlock and Shelby Tran.

Zoie Yarbrough, Jordan Alvarez, Aliyah Chisholm, Isidro Garcia, Giovanni Gomez, Miabella Ledesma, Ethan Martinez, Emilio Mata, Conner McCoy, Lennox Moses, Samuel Munoz, Kaptian Scott and Jake Blandon.

Landon Cancino, Dominic Hernandez, Brooke Kelinske, Connor Linder, Jacob Lozolla, Mila Maldonado, Ezekiel Reyes, Arian Segovia, Rafay Shoaib, Miguel Bedolla, Leo Bonilla and Faith Cavazos.

Gabriel Cavazos, Raul Godinez, Liam Lising, Ariella Maldonado, Royanne Montoya, Chyenne Moon, Lillian Mwaniki, Alaina Perez, Jonathan Herrera, Fabian Salazar, Alanie Pequeno, Syrus Benavides and Alani Branch.

Wyatt Bullin, Lorelei Cabrera, Santiago Calderon, Isabella Davila, Bethany Dean, Darius Hawkins, Charlotte Huynh, Penelope Sepulveda, Jonathan Thomas, Gabriel Torres and Mila Verdin.

Peteronio Silva, Aliyah Bhakta, Afanyu Bongfen, Alice Duong, Alexandra Flores, London Jade, Christian Machado, Nicolas Mancillas, Zyien Marks and Charlize Nunez.

Dominic Pena, Emilia-norez, Jet Saffary, Jordan Serrano, Devin Spears, Isaiah Uouzkwu, Khai Van, Isabel Vivier, Karsyn Wiley, Aulaha Moore, Isabella Robinson and Pouyan Zabihpour.

Principal's award

Mason Campos, Eleazar Escobar, Jase Garcia, Kenneth Hernandez, Mason Linder, Adelynn Mendoza, Robyn Morin, Abby Peterson, Charlotte Rilet, Luke Spillers, Alina Posadas, Rhett Sullivan and Elian Torres.

An Truong, Olivia Rodriguez, Harielquin Thomas, Ryder Orlea, Shelby Moon, Paxton Nhem, Cash Broussard, Avery Pavlock, Bentley Phand, Jason Ngo, Chesney Rouse, Miguel Medrano, Alexis Adelu and Zaiden Lazo.

Shelby Tran, Zoie Yarbrough, Ryland Bell, Jordan Alvarez, Isidro Garcia, Thomas Garcia, Ethan Martinez, Emilio Mata, Conner McCoy, Adan Mendoza, Lennox Moses, Samuel Munoz, Jada Pacheco, Isabella Robinson, Kaptian Scott, Olivia Villanueva and Jake Blandon.

Karleigh Brown, Landon Cancino, Kaleb Coronado, Karsyn Cyres, Dominic Hernandez, Brooke Kelinske, Connor Linder, Jacob Lozolla, Jacob Medina, Mila Maldonado, Shreesadh Pandit, Ezekiel Reyes and Kaleb Sherman.

Rafay Shoaib, Landon Turner, Jaslene Valencia, Desiree Vazquez, Ethan Aljets, Miguel Bedolla, Leo Bonilla, Lexander Buendia, Faith Cavazos, Gabriel Cavazos, Eric De La Garza, Jonathan Herrera and Michael Esposito.

Sammie Gause, Liam

Anabel Gomez, Kimberly Ibarra, Emiliano Aguirre, Maddyson Gill, Hai Nguyen, Kenton Nguyen, Sophia Cavazos, Charlotte Kearbey, Soraya Shah, Damian Lopez, Adalynn McMullin, Gift Obah and Samantha Villanueva.

Merit roll

Leila Arrieta, Christian Flores, Perla Hernandez, Allison Ortiz, Derek Thompson, London Ferguson, Shane Ogaga, Jackson Pham and Dorianne Hood.

Fourth grade

Martin Valenzuela, Jon Carlo Legoenaga, Alyssa Reyes, London Toles and Paula Guevarra Gonzalez.

Lising, Ariella Maldonado, Royanne Montoya, Chyenne Moon, Lillian Mwaniki, Alaina Perez, Sophia Sepulveda, Holley Truong, Mohammed Adi, Annett Arvizo and Christopher Aviles.

Alani Branch, Lorelei Cabrera, Brady Capers, Anthony Carite, Isabella Davila, Bethany Dean, Charlotte Huynh, Julianna Perez, Penelope Sepulveda, Jonathan Thomas, Gabriel Torres and Mila Verdin.

Carlos Rivera, Aliyah Bhakta, Afanyu Bongfen, Alice Duong, Alexandra Flores, London Jade, Aniyah Leonard and Christian Machado.

Nicolas Mancillas, Charlez Nunez, Emiliano Perez, Gia Baeza, Jet Saffary, Devin Spears, Khai Van, Isabel Vivier and Karsyn Wiley.

Perfect attendance

Jake Monnat, Lennox Moses, Jonathan Herrera and Aliyah Bhakta.

Good citizen

Elian Torres, Abby Peterson, Jason Ngo, Chesney Rouse, Isidro Garcia, Olivia Villanueva, Ezekiel Reyes, Jaslene Valencia, Ariella Maldonado and Leo Bonilla.

Antonio Corronco, Liam Hernandez, Annett Arvizo, Mohammed Adi, Nohely Hernandez, Isreal Gonzalez, Afanyu Bongfen and Gia Baeza.

Third grade Honor roll

Mia Granados, Gabriella Padilla, Nolan Gonzales, Agnelia Ochvila, Cesar Reyna, Jax DeSoto, Sofia Garcia, Amadeus Garcia, Emma Hernandez, Nicholas Hinojosa, Tyler Thomas and Eduardo Hernandez.

Ismail Nolley, Haven Orsua, Madelyn Rangel, Camila Aguirre, Clayton Davis, Alex Hinojosa, Ezekiel Infante, Jillyna Stewart, Emmanuel Thomas, Clint Huynh and Adeline Torres.

Merit roll

Tarrod Braxton, Payton Meyer, Raymond Strong, Robin Castillo, Dominic Mendoza, Zoey Rodriguez, Tyson Amos and Penelope Castellanos.

Jacoby Yanez, Andres Bonilla, Kinsley Elmore, Ava De Ochoa, Lam Hoang, Maribel Gonzales, Calvin Nguyen and Emma Torres.

Principal's award

Kaitlyn Atkins, Tarrod Braxton, Raquel Castaneda, Theodore Franklin, Natalia Gallegos, Geordan Gardiner, Kai Gibbs, Mia Granados, Noah Lozolla, Jordan Melchor and Payton Meyer.

Ethan Perez, Landen Picquet, Raymond Strong, Robin Castillo, Drew Cotton, Skylla Duncan, Amari Edwards, Vicente Flores, Heliana Forero, Jayden Le, Adrian Luna and Christopher Martinez.

Dominic Mendoza, Jonathan Ochoa, Gabriella Padilla, Benjamin Pham, Keenan Ploucha, Lylah Richards, Zoey Rodriguez, Kayli Salinas, Enzo Tabora, Rafe Tinney, Kaitlyn Atkins, Tarrod Braxton and Raquel Castaneda.

Theodore Franklin, Natalia Gallegos, Geordan Gardiner, Kai Gibbs, Mia Granados, Noah Lozolla, Jordan Melchor, Payton Meyer, Ethan Perez, Landen Picquet, Raymond Strong, Tyson Amos and Andres Bonilla.

Penelope Castellanos, Mason Esposito, Ma'nyiah Florence, Manuel Graciano,

CCISD celebrates record-breaking robotics season

Clear Creek ISD had a record year as 33 robotics teams competed at their respective world championship competitions.

The FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, saw Chips and Robonauts, both districtwide teams with students from all five comprehensive high schools and Clear Horizons Early College High School. Chips had their best season yet finishing 11th in the FIRST in Texas District season long points race to qualify for the team's first world championship.

Robonauts picked up an all-time FIRST record seven blue banners this season, including being named one of the five Championship finalists for the FIRST Impact Award. Blue banners are only presented for the highest awards at an event. Robonauts finished first in the season long district points race, earning the highest percentage of points ever in a season for any district. The team also broke the record for most matches won in a season with an overall record of 88-16. At the world championships, Robonauts advanced to the fourth round of the playoffs before being ousted by the eventual division champions.

The world championships

continued at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center in Dallas for the VEX Robotics Competition High School Championships where 31 CCISD teams competed.

In the VEX Robotics Competition High School Championship, CCISD was represented by two teams of AstroBots from Clear Brook High School and one team of Bolt Bots from Clear Springs High School. The Bolt Bots had the top finish, making it to the first round in their divisional playoffs.

In the VEX Robotics Competition Middle School Championship, CCISD was represented by 10 teams, five each from Westbrook Intermediate and League City Intermediate. The Muffins of Westbrook had the top finish reaching the quarterfinals of their division, along with Westbrook's No Clue and League City Intermediate's Red Rover also making the playoff rounds. League City Intermediate's ElectroFrogs earned the Inspire Award and AIMBOT, also from League City Intermediate, earned the Innovate Award and were also presented their trophy for the CAD Engineering Challenge.

Emma Martinez, Jacob Martinez, Anna Nguyen, Cesar Reyna, Kambrie Smith, Liam Tamez, Lily Tran and Jacob Yanez.

Christopher Cavazos, Jax De Soto, Kinsley Elmore, Sofia Garcia, Amadeus Garcia, Emma Hernandez, Nicholas Hinojosa, Emma Nguyen, Jake Sanchez, Avery Thomas, Tyler Thomas, Alex Urias, Penelope Sepulveda, Jonathan Thomas, Gabriel Torres and Mila Verdin.

Carlos Rivera, Aliyah Bhakta, Afanyu Bongfen, Alice Duong, Alexandra Flores, London Jade, Aniyah Leonard and Christian Machado.

Nicolas Mancillas, Charlez Nunez, Emiliano Perez, Gia Baeza, Jet Saffary, Devin Spears, Khai Van, Isabel Vivier and Karsyn Wiley.

Perfect attendance

Jake Monnat, Lennox Moses, Jonathan Herrera and Aliyah Bhakta.

Good citizen

Elian Torres, Abby Peterson, Jason Ngo, Chesney Rouse, Isidro Garcia, Olivia Villanueva, Ezekiel Reyes, Jaslene Valencia, Ariella Maldonado and Leo Bonilla.

Antonio Corronco, Liam Hernandez, Annett Arvizo, Mohammed Adi, Nohely Hernandez, Isreal Gonzalez, Afanyu Bongfen and Gia Baeza.

Third grade Honor roll

Mia Granados, Gabriella Padilla, Nolan Gonzales, Agnelia Ochvila, Cesar Reyna, Jax DeSoto, Sofia Garcia, Amadeus Garcia, Emma Hernandez, Nicholas Hinojosa, Tyler Thomas and Eduardo Hernandez.

Ismail Nolley, Haven Orsua, Madelyn Rangel, Camila Aguirre, Clayton Davis, Alex Hinojosa, Ezekiel Infante, Jillyna Stewart, Emmanuel Thomas, Clint Huynh and Adeline Torres.

Merit roll

Tarrod Braxton, Payton Meyer, Raymond Strong, Robin Castillo, Dominic Mendoza, Zoey Rodriguez, Tyson Amos and Penelope Castellanos.

Jacoby Yanez, Andres Bonilla, Kinsley Elmore, Ava De Ochoa, Lam Hoang, Maribel Gonzales, Calvin Nguyen and Emma Torres.

Principal's award

Kaitlyn Atkins, Tarrod Braxton, Raquel Castaneda, Theodore Franklin, Natalia Gallegos, Geordan Gardiner, Kai Gibbs, Mia Granados, Noah Lozolla, Jordan Melchor and Payton Meyer.

Ethan Perez, Landen Picquet, Raymond Strong, Robin Castillo, Drew Cotton, Skylla Duncan, Amari Edwards, Vicente Flores, Heliana Forero, Jayden Le, Adrian Luna and Christopher Martinez.

Dominic Mendoza, Jonathan Ochoa, Gabriella Padilla, Benjamin Pham, Keenan Ploucha, Lylah Richards, Zoey Rodriguez, Kayli Salinas, Enzo Tabora, Rafe Tinney, Kaitlyn Atkins, Tarrod Braxton and Raquel Castaneda.

Theodore Franklin, Natalia Gallegos, Geordan Gardiner, Kai Gibbs, Mia Granados, Noah Lozolla, Jordan Melchor, Payton Meyer, Ethan Perez, Landen Picquet, Raymond Strong, Tyson Amos and Andres Bonilla.

Penelope Castellanos, Mason Esposito, Ma'nyiah Florence, Manuel Graciano,

CCISD celebrates record-breaking robotics season

Clear Creek ISD had a record year as 33 robotics teams competed at their respective world championship competitions.

The FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, saw Chips and Robonauts, both districtwide teams with students from all five comprehensive high schools and Clear Horizons Early College High School. Chips had their best season yet finishing 11th in the FIRST in Texas District season long points race to qualify for the team's first world championship.

Robonauts picked up an all-time FIRST record seven blue banners this season, including being named one of the five Championship finalists for the FIRST Impact Award. Blue banners are only presented for the highest awards at an event. Robonauts finished first in the season long district points race, earning the highest percentage of points ever in a season for any district. The team also broke the record for most matches won in a season with an overall record of 88-16. At the world championships, Robonauts advanced to the fourth round of the playoffs before being ousted by the eventual division champions.

The world championships

continued at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center in Dallas for the VEX Robotics Competition High School Championships where 31 CCISD teams competed.

In the VEX Robotics Competition High School Championship, CCISD was represented by two teams of AstroBots from Clear Brook High School and one team of Bolt Bots from Clear Springs High School. The Bolt Bots had the top finish, making it to the first round in their divisional playoffs.

In the VEX Robotics Competition Middle School Championship, CCISD was represented by 10 teams, five each from Westbrook Intermediate and League City Intermediate. The Muffins of Westbrook had the top finish reaching the quarterfinals of their division, along with Westbrook's No Clue and League City Intermediate's Red Rover also making the playoff rounds. League City Intermediate's ElectroFrogs earned the Inspire Award and AIMBOT, also from League City Intermediate, earned the Innovate Award and were also presented their trophy for the CAD Engineering Challenge.

Meyer, Raymond Strong, Skylla Duncan, Keenan Ploucha, Christopher Cavazos, Haven Orsua, Sean Rodriguez, Maribel Gonzales, Calvin Nguyen and Emma Torres.

Outstanding citizen

Theodore Franklin, Payton Meyer, Dominic Mendoza, Gabriella Padilla, Penelope Castellanos, Jacoby Yanez, Emma Hernandez, Amadeus Garcia, Eduardo Hernandez and Arianna Molina.

Fourth grade Honor roll

Amelia Hoang, Jorge Sanchez, Victor Hernandez, London Moses, Dannie Nguyen, Audryna St. Romain, Daniel Patterson, Aleena Robinson, Tyler Ragin, Nolan Gonzales, Agnelia Ochvila and Cesar Reyna.

AJ Arce, Claudette Reyna, Madeline Herrera, Nathan Chavez, Phuc Nguyen, Andrew Duong, Audi Gallegos, Jacob Gonzales, Zayan Jafri, Emma Villa, Jessie Alvarez and Jose Tenorio.

Merit roll

Aubrey Barajas, Isabelle Garcia, Rahim Rafri, Alesio Nmezi, Tristan Vigil, Ava

Enriquez, Jessica Escobar and Emily Espinoza.

Karla Fernandez, David Flores, Mya Flores, Issabella Gaitan, Alexander Garcia, Gisele Garcia, Isabella Garcia, Jacqueline Garcia, Miguel Garcia, Adrian Gonzalez and Ethan Guerrero.

Damian Gutierrez, Elizabeth Hernandez, Luna Hernandez, Mia Hernandez, Natalie Hernandez, Sebastian Hernandez, Ineke Hicks, Lizbeth Hinojosa and Huyen Hoang.

Angela Huynh, Monserat Jaime, Jason Jasso, Zaria Johnson, Andrea Lara, Alexander Limachi, Ava Lopez, Miguel Loredano, Ashley Ly, Emery Lynn, Karely Maldonado, Isaias Martinez Gamez and Cayson Martinez.

Hammad Matin, Kyndall Mcclain, Brady Medrano

Matthew Abdin, Aiden Aguilar, Deacon Akinloye, Jordan Alanis, Reemas Alazze, Syed Aljafri, Isabella Allen, Kaleigh Antoine, Jaslyn Arredondo, Edelyn Balderas and Adeliz Barahona.

Daniel Blas, Adelle Bongfen, Lali Bowman, Naiven Buendia, Hadassah Burgett, Jasmine Cabrera, Gloria Castaneda, Barbara Chapa, Cuthbert Chau, Jayvian Chavez and Lyla Coleman.

Khloe Coronado, Leslie Costa, Christopher Covarubias, Lyla Crane, Mariah Davis, Aidan De la Rosa, Shawn Deedman, Stephanie Delgado, Kyleigh Dorsey, James Duncan and Anahi Echeverria.

Emma Espino, Alana Espinoza, Alyssa Espinoza, Delilah Evans, Alina Farooq, Macy Figueroa, James Fortson, Fabian Fraide, Ariel Gallegos, Samuel Garcia, Kareli Garza and Kaylah Gibson.

Romeo Gill, Ezequiel Gonzalez, Alyssa Goree, Caella Griffin, Jaylyn Guevara, Andrea Gutierrez, Vivian Hang, Muza Hasan, Mykah Havard, Mayrin Hernandez Lopez and Julian

Hermandez.

Julius Hernandez, Kingston Hernandez, Prince Hill, Alexia Hoang, Chelsea Hua, Brianna Huesca, Anthony Jennings, Amaira Johnson, Marina Kostikoglou, Duy Lam, Anthony Le, Huy Le, Sheyla Le and Genesis Leal.

Hayden Limas, Leyla Limon, Andrea Lopez, Ava Lopez, Esther Lopez, Allyson Marquez, Laila Martin, Aaden Martinez, Alexis Martinez and Ashley Martinez.

Kacey Medonald, Madeline Medina, Adlin Mena, Mohammad Mian, Karen Mier, Nikolai Miranda, Dylan Mohwinkel, Morgan Mommie, Aden Moore, Katelinh Moore, Evan Mora, Samuel Moreno and Aidden Moses and Alena Moya.

Junied Munshi, Zainab Naveed, Emily Negrete, Anh Nguyen, Cody Nguyen, Haylyn Nguyen, Justin Nguyen, Nicholas Nguyen, Quincy Nguyen and Ijeoma Nmezi.

Louisa Obah, Lilly Olivia, Ariel Ortiz, Nathaniel Padilla, Jordan Parga, Geovanny Perez, Michael Pettis, Jonny Pham, Queana Pham, Andy Pineda and Cullen Ponder.

Continued on Page 4

Castro, Cullen Chau, Arianna Gomez, Kenzie Mariscal, Alaina Melchor, Max Ochoa, Isabella Vega and Josiah Salazar.

Tyson Amos, Penelope Castellanos, Jacoby Yanez, Andres Bonilla, Emma Rios, Adanna Bayley, Damian Alvarez, Jesiah Gilbert, Ashlyn Gissendanner, Alessandra Gutierrez, Jana Harmouche, Rameen Hussain and Lynncee Srun.

Principal's award

Nour Adi, Zyon Babini, Naomi Duong, Isabella Garcia, Julian Glenn, Zach Gonzales, Rahim Jafri, Charlie Mathew, Quan Nguyen, Tarcario Nolen, Mateo Romero, Kelsie Snook-Bolling, Kaimie Tran and Courtney Gibson.

Alora James, Israel Luna, Thu Le Nguyen, Victor Estrada, Jenson Mendiola, Dannie Nguyen, Jorge Sanchez, Amelia Hoang, London Moses, Amelia Nmezi, Alexandra Soto, Audryna St. Romain, Ava Baeza and Ava Castro.

Cullen Chau, Natalia Flores, Amiyah Hemmings, Chelsea Huynh, Kristine La, Kenzi Mariscal, Alaina

Thomson, Dawson Tran, Kathan Tran, Kathleen Tran, Tammy Tran, Yen Tran, Gabriel Trevino, Olivia Trevino, Anthony Vasquez, Omar Vega, Kiet Vu, Victoria Vu, Julian Wagner Gonzales, Du-rand Williams, Ethyn Ybarra, Emilio Zavala and Candi Zuniga.

Perfect attendance

Alesio Nmezi, Luke Sanchez, London Moses, Alesio Nmezi, Luke Sanchez, Kristine La, Julian Herera, Emmanuel Osizugbo, Jeremiah Ramirez, Sophia Franklin, Tristen Ayers, Agnelia Ochvila, Anna Nguyen, Kambrie Smith, Nathan Chavez, Audi Gallegos and Nicholas Simpson.

Outstanding citizen

Julian Glenn, Aubrey Barajas, London Moses, Danny Nguyen, Jacob Ramirez, Isreal Luna, Daniel Patterson, Chelsea Huynh and Vincent Nguyen.

Adalynn Gonzalez, Penelope Castellanos, Jacoby Yanez, Phuc Nguyen, Claudette Reyna, Ta'nyiah Mitchell, Zayan Jafri, Rameen Hussain and Luke Burch.

Perfect attendance

Alesio Nmezi, Luke Sanchez, London Moses, Alesio Nmezi, Luke Sanchez, Kristine La, Julian Herera, Emmanuel Osizugbo, Jeremiah Ramirez, Sophia Franklin, Tristen Ayers, Agnelia Ochvila, Anna Nguyen, Kambrie Smith, Nathan Chavez, Audi Gallegos and Nicholas Simpson.

South Belt-Ellington Leader, Thursday, June 15, 2023

South Houston High School announces final honor roll

South Houston High School officials recently awarded their honor roll students for the final six weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Ninth grade
Yessenia Acevedo, Melo-dy Acosta, Za'nyah Agege, Ariana Aguirre, Sasha Aguirre, Ludvin Aleman Retana, Judit Almaguer, Abel Alvarez Recendiz, Jaire Andrews, Jose Angulo and Erik Arana.

Audel Arellano Duarte, Jefferson Argueta, Manuel Arredondo Garcia, Francisco Avila Contreras, Christopher Avila, Isabella Avila and Ruby Ayala.

Devon Barnwell, Natalia Barrera, David Bataolo, Alan Bello, Zaid Betancourt, Ronald Brown Toirac, Alejandro Castillo, Arellyn Castillo, Luis Castro, Alina Chapa-Cordova and Katia Chavez.

Samuel Conde, Tiana Costa, Emanuel Cruz Mont, Andres Cruz, Kristal Delacruz, Henezis Duarte Luna, Angela Duarte, Jennifer Ebeling, Oscar Escamilla Barrientos, Nicole Escobar and David Flores.

Gideon Fowler, Diego Franco Morales, Anthony Funez, Sofia Galdamez Osorio, Alejandro Galindo, Jacinto Gallego Cobo, Joheli Garcia Gonzalez, Yoandri Garcia Gonzalez and Angel Garcia.

Dayana Garcia, Vanessa Garza Gutierrez, Lizeth Garza, Rodrigo Garza, Ladarius Glover, Jose Godoy, Ariana Gomez, Carlos Gomez, George Gonzalez Agulla, Lestat Gonzalez and Raul Gonzalez.

Meagan Grays, Sumayah Guadalupe, Gervyn Gutierrez Guillen, Wendy Hernandez Vega, Ana Hernandez, Saleste Hernandez, Dayanis Hinojosa, Ann Hounmettin and Mariela Ico Ojiam.

Anthony Jaime Fraga, Teyana Jenkins, Angelina Idrobo, Averié Lasalle, Anahi Ledesma, De'Markus Lewis-Jefferson, Axel Lopez Carbajal, Jaqueline Lopez, Anjali Lule and Evonny Madrigal.

Dayris Malasquez Montalvo, Tekayla Mann, Helen Maradiaga Munoz, Diego Martinez, Dylan Martinez, Gerardo Martinez, Yair Martinez, Carlos Mejia Benitez and Gensil Melgar Molina.

Maximo Mendoza, Kinereth Meraz Zelaya, Beatriz Meza, Jonathan Mojica,

Leyla Montoya, Isai Morales, Juan Morales, Keyvin Ochoa Arce and Juan Oliva Herrera. Arianda Ortiz, Ra'tavia Osborne, Lia Otero Cuza, Genesis Palma Romero, Madelaine Palma, Ria Pandya, Andrea Patino, Hector Pena, Jayden Pena and Vladimir Perdomo Rodriguez.

Wendy Perez Morales, Alexa Pineda, Gabriela Portillo, Kentrell Price, Jessica Pulido, Johana Ramirez, Jazlin Ramirez-Rivera, Ovidio Ramos Ramos, Reggie Rangel Quinones, Alexis Rangel, Ceasar Rasso and De'Asia Raymond.

German Realejo Morataya, Katherin Realejo Morataya, Adriana Reyes, Michelle Reyes, Yasmine Reyes, Martha Reyes-Lechado, Benjamin Reyna, Samir Rivera Garcia, Stefany Rivera Valdez, Jacob Rivera and Grecia Rodriguez Agraz.

Junior
Rodriguez Ramirez, Antonio Rodriguez, Valerie Rodriguez, Alexia Romero, Rubi Rosario Cruz, Jade Ruiz, Evelyn Sainz, Freddy Sanchez Lopez, Sheryl Sanchez Ortiz, Jhazmany Sanchez, Ricardo Sanchez, Brandon Sanders, Alejandra Santiago, Sophia Saucedo, Gabriel Serrato, Shannon Shaw, Andrea Silva and Eric Silva.

Grace Sonnier, Edgar Sorto, Kayla Suarez, Sarah Suarez, Erendira Torres, Hayden Tran, Valery Trevino, Noah Urias, Diego Valdes Legra, Vanessa Vargas, Isabel Vasquez, Amairani Vega, Joseph Velasquez Crisanto, Katherine Villalobos, Clarita Villanueva, Markevia Willis, Annethe Zacarias Trevizo, Emely Zarate and Estrella Zavala.

10th grade
Dalilah Acosta, Agustín Aguilar, Jazlyn Aguillon, Michael Alcantar, Omar Alfaro, Ashley Alvarez, Carolina Alvarez, Kevin Alvarez, Anderson Amaya Urias, Jocelyn Aranda and Joshua Ariaga.

Jonathan Ayala, Galia Barbosa, Aryanna Benitez, Jazmin Bocanegra, Suany Bonilla Acosta, Alyssa Bowshier, Jordan Buckner, Carlos Burgos Reyes, Reynaldo Cabrera, Benito Cadena, Yesison Carbajal and Gabriella Castaneda.

Emiliano Castilleja, Ad-

amari Castillo, Natalia Castillo, Melanie Chaverria, Cesar Chavez, Fenix Chavez, Da'jonae Citizen, Barbara Collazo and Perla Colmenero.

Rosa Contreras, Victoria Contreras, Lester Cortes Varela, Nataly Coto-Chong, Jeady Cruz, Bryan De Leon, Krystal Delgado, Lorenzo Delgado, Nathan Diaz, Kayleen Erwin and Aaron Escareno.

Ruby Espinoza, Dariana Fierro, Alyssa Flores, Jennifer Flores, Jose Franco, Brianna Garcia, Brittany Garcia, Carlos Garcia, Diego Garcia, Lupita Garcia, Xzaviana Garcia, Rogelio Garibay and Alinna Garza.

Brizeida Garza, Mia Gaytan, Deborah Getu, Cecilia Gomez, Christopher Gomez, Evelyn Gomez, Rachel Gonzalez, Ryan Gonzalez, Diana Gracia, Jonathan Guerra Chacon and Amy Guerra.

David Guevara, Karina Guillen, Rayne Hale, Ana Herrera, Kaitlyn Houston, Adrian Jimenez, Aniya Johnson, Marina Joya Campos, Navya Karunaratne, Angel Kelly, Jennifer Leanos-Avina, Allison Lopez, Antonio Lopez, Jazmin Lopez, Juan Lopez, Luis Lopez, Felix Lozano, Patricia Luna Argueta, Raquel Malbro, Alonso Marquez, Daniel Martinez, Eduardo Martinez and Joanith Martinez.

Leonila Martinez, Ramiro Martinez, Raphael Martinez, William Martinez, Ximena Martinez, Valentin Medina, Cindy Molina, Jonathan Morales, Kevin Morales, Yasmine Moreno and Kiara Moya de la Rosa.

Morayma Munoz, Daniela Murcia Reyes, Guadalupe Murillo Galloso, Gerald Murillo, Camila Navarro Moran, Kimberly Negrete, Kristi Nguyen, Leslie Oliveros, Danny Olmos and Eric Orellana.

Diego Osejo, Leonardo cuza, Axel Otto, Ilian Pacheco Villafraña, Noah Parras, Kelly Patel, Christopher Pena, Christian Perez, Victoria Perrett, Thien Pham, Jack Phu, Jovanny Portillo and Valerie Portillo.

Jonathan Quezada, Jovanny Quezada, Felipe Quinteros-Amaya, Christy Ram, Fatima Ramirez, Tatyana

Ramos, Roselyn Rangel, Abigail Retiz, Yaneli Reyes, Joselin Rios, Cassandra Rivas, Carlos Rivera, Jennifer Rivera, Chelsea Robertson, Allison Robles, Mahia Rodriguez Agraz, Angel Rodriguez Castillo, Aldamaris Roman Tellere, Alexis Romero and Luis Rosales.

Rosalinda Salazar, Anthony Salinas, Carlos Salinas, Alex Sanchez Canelas, Deevanay Sanchez, Jeilyn Sanchez, Lindsey Sanchez, Jovante Sandles, Diego Santillan, Madison Scott, Sonia Sevilla, Irma Sosa Villafraña, Joel Tapia Coutino, Natalie Terrones, Jakeya Toliver, Betzabet Trinidad Yopez, Joaquin Vargas and Jonathan Vargas.

Maniah Velez, Ruby Vences, Sairah Villalobos, Devon Whitaker, Corbin Wright, Courtney Wright, Cristian Zavala, Marlen Zavala, Evelyn Zavaleta, Yaira Zavalija Garcia and Ruby Zuviri.

11th grade
Mikaela Acosta, Devon Aikens, Lyndon Alexander, Jessica Alfaro, Christopher Almanza, David Alvarado Paz, Georgianna Alvarado, Pedro Alvarez, Daniel Arias, Milton Arias and Alejandra Avalos, Andrea Ayala, Emily Baena, Amy Becerra, Christopher Bowshier, Ovidio Bustillo, Dora Caballero, Marissa Caballero, Ashley Cadena, Alfredo Calderon, Rosa Campos and Gustavo Cano-Mercado.

Jeremias Cantillano Paxon, Jose Cardozo, Abel Castellano, Jenny Chau, Aaron Chavarría, Ashley Cruz, Angelina Damian, Arlet Delgado, Paola Diaz Galvan, Aiden Diaz, Abraham Escareno, Everth Flores, Jessica Flores and Natalie Funes.

Manuel Gamboa, Aldo Garcia Loya, Alexia Garcia, Naomi Garcia, Nathalie Garcia, Zoe Garcia, Alexis Garza, Emily Garza, Ethan Garza, Trinitiy Garza, Dahliana and Julie Gonzales.

Angel Gonzalez Torres, Lilitana Gonzalez, Nefertiti Guzman, Will'aysia Harris, Edwin Hernandez Angeles, Cristian Hernandez, Mia Hernandez, Valeria Hernandez, Angela Herrera and Elisba Herrera.

Kayla Hughes, Benjamin Jimenez, Yanelli Jimenez, Jose Labra, Abril Leon, Khe-

yara Lewis, Stormy Lindsey, Carlos Lopez Montoya, Francisco Lopez Tejada, Valeria Lopez, Yair Lopez, Carmen Lule Zamora, Daniela Maldonado, Judith Martinez, Kassandra Martinez, Luis Martinez, Raul Martinez, Ariana Mendoza and Josue Miranda.

Alondra Morales Cordon, Edgar Najera, Aldo Navarro Moran, Iliana Olivarez, Anamarie Olvera, Emily Parra, Ryan Pham, Junior Pineda Zuniga, Adrian Pineda, Evin Ponce, Fernando Pruneda, Giselle Quintero, Kaylee Ramirez, Joanna Ramos, Alejandra Rangel Rodriguez, Gerardo Reyes, Rosa Reyes, Maria Rivera Robles, Kimberly Rivera and Stacie Rivera.

Cheyenne Robertson, Karina Robledo, Josephine Robles and Silvio Rodriguez Suarez, Mansa Rogers, Carlos Roman, Victoria Romano, Monika Romero and Rigoberto Ruiz Mendez.

Natalie Salinas, Roselyn Sanchez, Axel Saucedo Estrada, Roselin Serna, Urva Shah, Salomon Sosa, Adrian Soto, Miracle Soto, Bryanna Suarez, Lapidis Thurman, Gabriel Valenzuela, Jamileth Vasquez, Noemi Vasquez, Daniel Vazquez, Oscar Vilchis, Angela Villafraña, David Villarreal and Stephen Williams.

12th grade
Edith Acosta, Denise Aguilar, Andrea Aguilar-Perales, Jamie Aguirre, Nevaonna Alfred, Alejandra Arredondo, Steve Ayala, Nelson Banks, Stephanie Barrientos, Samantha Gonzalez, Roland Benavides and Cristian Briagas.

Jocelyn Caballero, Krystela Cabrera, Jami Calderon-Ventura, Cristal Camacho Najera, Isaac Camacho, Briana Camarillo, Ariana Cantu, Guillermo Cardenas, Ami Cardona and Daniel Carrillo.

Gael Castillo, Saul Castillo, Angeles Chamorro Hernandez, Joseph Chavez, Cesar Conde, Moises Contreras, Brittany De Leon, Hannian De Leon, Diego Espinosa, Joseph Ferguson, Isaac Flores, Heidi Franco, Danielle Fuentes, Sara Gaeta Regin, Mariela Galeana, Manuel Galindo, Cesia Garcia Velasquez, Kimberly Garcia, Aida Garza

and Natalie Garza. Marisol Gomez Camero, Aimee Gomez, Angel Gomez, Nathalie Gomez, Xavier Gonzalez, Secia Gutierrez, Ashley Hernandez, Maylyn Hernandez, Melanie Hernandez and Nicolas Hernandez.

Jeremiah Horton, Christina Houston, Amy Jimenez, Ashley Jimenez, Jazlyn Jimenez, Jacob Juarez, Carolina Julian, Ashley Lara, Sindi Lemus Ruiz, Krystal Lira, Noel Loera and Joseph Longoria.

Victor Lopez Morales, Aileen Lopez, Jesiel Lopez,

Kimberly Lopez, Sonia Lopez, Joel Luque, Matthew Macias, Stephanie Maldonado, Ivy Martinez, Natalia Martinez, Angel Mejia Mercedes, Daisya Mendoza, Richard Mendoza, Esmeralda Meza, Tomas Meza, Mi'jai Muckles, Emily Milanda, Alejandra Miranda, Mauricio Molina, Maribel Montalvo, Stephanie Montes and Nathanael Morales.

Cristina Moreno, Brittany Muniz, Kevin Murillo-Galoso, Juan Nava, Rigoberto Orellana, Isaiha Orta, Amariya Pattum, Jose Pellicer Torres, Dominique Perez, Viet

Pham and Saul Quintanilla. Santos Ramirez Garcia, Daisy Ramirez, Govany Ramirez, Janeth Ramirez, Jesenia Ramirez, Maritza Ramirez, Sebastian Ramirez, Jose Ramos and America Regin.

Erick Renteria, Angel Rivas, Katerin Rivera Diaz, Diana Rivera, Alyssa Rodarte, Fernanda Rodriguez Limas, Angel Rodriguez, Cesar Rodriguez, Kathryn Rodriguez, Leslie Rodriguez, Leniz Romero and Karen Sagredo Galan.

Jailyñ Saldana, Leiby Sanchez Lopez, Nicolas

Sanchez Ramirez, Destiny Sanchez, Ingrid Sanchez, Stephanie Sandoval, Josue Saucedo Sorto, Shakia Scott and Jeremiah Sheppard-Rubio.

Jayden Sherman, Stephanie Silva, Ximena Solis Rodriguez, Mark Tabor, Olufunmilayo Talabi, Maybel Tinoco, Robert Torres, Zariya Turner, Eber Ulloa Gomez, Andrea Valadez Alviso, Evelyn Valdez, Alexandra Vazquez Garcia, Daniel Villanueva, Demarcus Whitaker, Ariel Zamora, Cynthia Zavala, Josue Zuniga and Angie Zuviri.

Thompson's year-end honor roll students

Continued from Page 3
Samantha Portillo, Isabella Ramirez, Mia Ramos, Kendrick Ramos, Mia Ramos, Jazalynn Randall, Jeremy Rangel, Nicolas Rangel, Oziel Rangel, Olivia Razo, Ana Reyes Abilyn Rivera-Martinez, Kaylee Robles, Aubree Rodriguez, Maylene

Rodriguez, Nelson Rodriguez, Romana Rodriguez, Christopher Rubio, Jasmine Russell, Kaylee Salazar, Isaac Salinas and Erik Sanchez Ortiz.

Carlos Sanchez, Eduardo Sanchez, Jonathan Sanchez, Manuel Sanchez, Sophia Saucedo, Zaire Scott, Alyza

Silva, Krystal Silva, Christiane Simpson and Persephone Soria.

Samyria Spriggs, Jayda Stewart, Aiden Teran, Dezae' Thompson, Delonnie Torres, Jailyñ Torres, Anne Tran, Katie Tran, Phuc Tran, Sandra Trevino, Nina Truong and Jeremiah Turner.

Elijah Ugalde, Madisson Urbina Cruz, Abella Urioste, Anson Urioste, Mariyah Usher, Alan Vallejo, Isabella Velasquez Pineda, Adrian Villatoro, Alex Vouffo, Angelina Vu, Allison Walker, Rajanae Woods, Jaya Yadav and Xamira Zambrano.

Former Pct. 2 deputy charged with murder

Continued from Page 1
The lengthy letters, written in all caps, were often rambling and incoherent. They were also delivered to dozens of others, including the Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, HPD Chief Troy Finner, the FBI and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

The *Leader* had reached out to law enforcement about the escalating situation in recent months and was told that both HPD and Precinct 2 had reached out to the suspect about mental health support to no avail. Otherwise,

his residence following the shooting. Officers were able to get Vernagallo out of his residence without further incident and found a weapon in his possession.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was consulted and Vernagallo was subsequently charged for his role in the shooting. The investigation is continuing.

Anyone with additional information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600.

Little League, Pony meet in response to Ellis

Continued from Page 1
to ensure children can continue play at the local fields and encouraged community leaders to work together for a common cause.

and its rudimentary duties, such as paying taxes and providing necessary insurance, Bennett dove headfirst into his compromised proposal, suggesting Pony League finish its summer play before relinquishing the El Franco Lee fields to Little League this fall for their upcoming season.

ents wishing to access the EFL fields for the fall season.

Despite some tension, both camps agreed to put the future Pony vs Little League matter to a vote among parents.

The meeting concluded with a vote tentatively being scheduled to take place at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 8. See future editions of the *Leader* for additional information.

“Precinct One will not mediate between competing community organizations,” said Ellis. “That task is the responsibility of those like you who are leaders in that community. However, we will take leadership to give your children what matters most: baseball.”

Ramirez was noticeably absent from the often-heated and confrontational function.

After a short introduction from Sports Association board member Karen O'Connor describing the volunteer nature of the group

Acting on the commis-

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Beltway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center

45 years ago (1978)
The Harris County Organized Crime Unit arrested an alleged Sagemont drug dealer estimated to have been doing a \$27,000 worth of business a day in the sale of drugs such as methaqualone (qualude) and precludin, an appetite suppressant.

President Jimmy Carter visited Ellington Air Force Base. During his speech, he announced that the base would not be released for public sale.

40 years ago (1983)
The Pasadena ISD secondary student attendance jumped 1.79 percent.

Fourth- and fifth-graders from Frazier Elementary School interviewed astronaut Col. Jack Loumsa for the national "Today" show.

35 years ago (1988)
Houston's annexation program did not include the South Belt area even though the area would be a potential target in future years.

Pasadena Independent School District 35-year veteran Glenn White announced his retirement from the district.

30 years ago (1993)
Former Clear Brook High School assistant principal Sandra Mossman was named new principal for the school at a board meeting, replacing Jerry Somerford, who retired.

The Pasadena school board reaffirmed its original plans for the Challenger School, a drastic departure from what the school had been over the past year. The board approved the administrative recommendation the school serve intermediate-age youngsters instead of high school students, as it was doing at the time. The next year, it would serve only fifth- and sixth-grade students. Challenger would also move to a smaller facility, the Guidance Center on Lafferty, to allow the overcrowded Guidance Center to expand.

The toddler park for children 6 and under opened at El Franco Lee Park. The park was co-sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington Rotary Club.

25 years ago (1998)
Sagemont Park residents garnered nearly 500 names on a petition to have a stop sign erected at the corner of Kirkshire and Sabo Road.

1994 J. Frank Dobie graduate Angela Demel was

named pitcher of the year for four straight seasons at the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

20 years ago (2003)
Whitney Gerrard Carson Sr., 33, was sentenced to 50 years imprisonment at a Texas Department of Corrections facility by Judge Denise Collins of the 208th Criminal Court for the murder of his wife, Jocelyn Cuby-Carson.

Tamara Spencer, a Dobie graduate, was recognized by the Houston 100 Club as officer of the year of the League City Police Department.

15 years ago (2008)
A man was found dead inside a motel room in the 12400 block of the Gulf Freeway at N. Featherwood on Saturday, June 14. Houston police said Ronald S. Taylor, 59, had black bruises around both of his eyes, but no other visible signs of injury. Another man had been found dead at the same motel the previous November.

10 years ago (2013)
Longtime Pasadena Independent School District teacher Mary Ruth Quade, 72, died Thursday, June 13, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. During her tenure at PISD, Quade taught at both Stuchbery Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate. She began teaching fifth grade at Stuchbery in 1977 and continued through 1981. After a three-year hiatus, Quade returned to the district in 1984, teaching English at Beverly Hills. In 1998, she became the school's peer facilitator, where she remained until her retirement in 2003. A 1959 graduate of Milby High School, Quade began her teaching career in the Houston Independent School District.

5 years ago (2018)
Nearly six months after the Jan. 20 murder of That Huu Le in the parking lot of H-E-B at Blackhawk and Beltway 8, Houston police made an arrest in the case. The suspect, Reginald Hawkins, 18, was charged with capital murder. According to police, Le, 75, had reportedly been followed by two

male suspects to the store from a nearby Wells Fargo Bank, where he had made a cash withdrawal. As Le was exiting his vehicle, one of the suspects approached him, and an altercation ensued. During the dispute, the suspect fired multiple shots at Le. The suspects then fled the scene in an older model gold Infiniti, four-door sedan. The vehicle was later recovered by investigators. Le was transported to Clear Lake Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cash withdrawal was reportedly still in Le's pocket when he was discovered. When he was charged, Hawkins was already in custody for another crime. In that case, Hawkins was arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon after he and another suspect reportedly fired multiple shots at two victims — an adult and a 15-year-old — during an alleged robbery

outside a Shell station in the 4400 block of South Loop the previous April. Additional suspects are being sought in the H-E-B incident, and the investigation is ongoing.
A home invasion took place Friday, June 8, in the 10700 block of Sagewillow in the Kirkwood South subdivision. The suspects reportedly fled the scene in both a silver Kia Optima and a black Infiniti.
1 year ago (2022)
A fatal crash took place around 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, in the 13900 block of Beamer near Dixie Farm Road. According to Houston Police Department officials, Donna Davis, 58, was driving a red Kia Soul northbound at the above address when she had a medical episode, lost control of the vehicle, drove over the grassy median and into southbound lanes of traffic. The Kia struck a Chevrolet Trailblazer traveling south on Beamer. Paramedics trans-

ported Davis to nearby Memorial Hermann Southeast, where she was pronounced dead. A passenger in the Kia and driver of the Chevrolet were transported to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Davis was discovered to have suffered a heart attack prior to the crash.
Murder charges have been filed against a suspect accused of fatally shooting a man the previous January at an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. Eddrell Antonio Brown, 28, is charged with murder in the 230th State District Court. He is accused in the Jan. 28 killing of Lee Mayfield, 30. According to police, officers responded to a report of a person down at an apartment complex at the above address. Upon arrival, officers found signs of forced entry to an apartment and the victim's body inside. He had multiple gunshot wounds and appeared to be in the early stages of decomposition. Further investigation identified Brown as the suspect in this case. Brown was arrested Wednesday, June 1, without incident.

Remember When

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

BILL CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Local businessman Bill Winning celebrates his birthday June 15. Best wishes are sent from his wife Carol, family and friends and staff at the South Belt Leader.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARCUS!
Happy birthday wishes from friends at the Leader go to Marcus Anderson who enjoys a birthday June 15. He is a Precinct 2 officer who has served the South Belt area.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHUCK!
Birthday greetings are sent June 17 to longtime South Belt resident and businessman Chuck Maricle who serves as the district chief of staff for the U.S. Coast Guard's 8th Coastal Region. He is a veteran U.S. Army engineer and is active in several local chambers of commerce.

SANDY ENJOYS 84th BIRTHDAY
Longtime South Belt resident Sandy Robb, who is active with her daughter Stacy Waugh in the Leader Christmas program and many community events, celebrates her 84th birthday June 18. Birthday wishes are sent to Sandy from her daughter who says, "You are forever young!"

DAVID TURNS 20
David Garcia is celebrating his 20th birthday on June 18. Happy Birthday wishes are sent from Sandy Robb and Stacy Waugh.

ISABELLA CELEBRATES 18TH!
Best wishes for a happy 18th birthday June 20 are sent to Isabella Abarca from her dad Jose Abarca and wife Natalie Abarca; siblings Kelvin Lopez, Noah and Elliana Abarca; grandpa David Flickinger (Leader president) and Mimo Ellie Flickinger; and great-grandpar-

ents David and Marie Flickinger.

BIRTHDAY WISHES SENT TO EMORY
Best wishes are sent June 21 to the Rev. Emory Gadd, associate pastor and longtime youth counselor who is active in many areas at Sagemont Church, from friends and the Leader staff. He is also active in community organizations, sports and various events.

NATALIE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Wishes for a happy birthday are sent June 21 to Natalie Abarca from husband Jose Abarca; children Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Elliana and Isabella Abarca; her mother Ellie and husband David Flickinger; grandparents Marie and David Flickinger; and friends at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 15 through June 21.

Frazier Elementary
June 14 is the day of celebration for Danielle Webster. Enjoying a birthday June 17 is Emily Siscoe. The day for a double-layer cake for Candace Kliesing and Katie Posey is June 19. Marking a special birthday June 20 is Dolores Medrano.

Genoa Elementary
Join in the fun birthday celebration June 20 for Angel Perez.

Stuchbery Elementary
Remember to wish Lauren Nalepa a happy birthday June 22.

Melillo Middle School
Remember to send a birthday greeting June 16 to Lauren Sanchez.

Roberts Middle School
June 21 is the day for a birthday party for Elizabeth Arrambide.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Give a birthday shoutout June 14 to Yesenia Lopez. The day for a double-layer birthday cake for Thelma Beaza and Carla Castillo is June 15.

Thompson Intermediate
MaryBeth Nicol and Meagan Mancuso celebrate birthdays June 16. Silvia Saucedo enjoys a birthday June 20. Send birthday greetings June 17 to John Kneisler. On June 18, light the candles for a birthday cake for Lachee Payne.

Dobie High
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, June 15: Margarita Duron, Oscar Guevara, Jen Joyce, Corrie Galloway, Jason Evans and Derek Gray; Friday, June 16: Arturo Ayala, Melissa Farr and Caitlin Caughlin; Saturday, June 17: Patrick Thomas, Steven Bryant, Rick Bailey, Christine Thomas, Michelle Miller and Stephanie Hartman; Tuesday, June 20: Lawrence Henry, Scarlett Benzkofer, Courtney Patel, Paul Sharplee, Aperture Prod and Laura Longoria-Ortiz; Wednesday, June 21: Becky Benner, Monica Webster, Lynee Fehler, Kyle McMullen, Priscilla Villa and Celina Clark.

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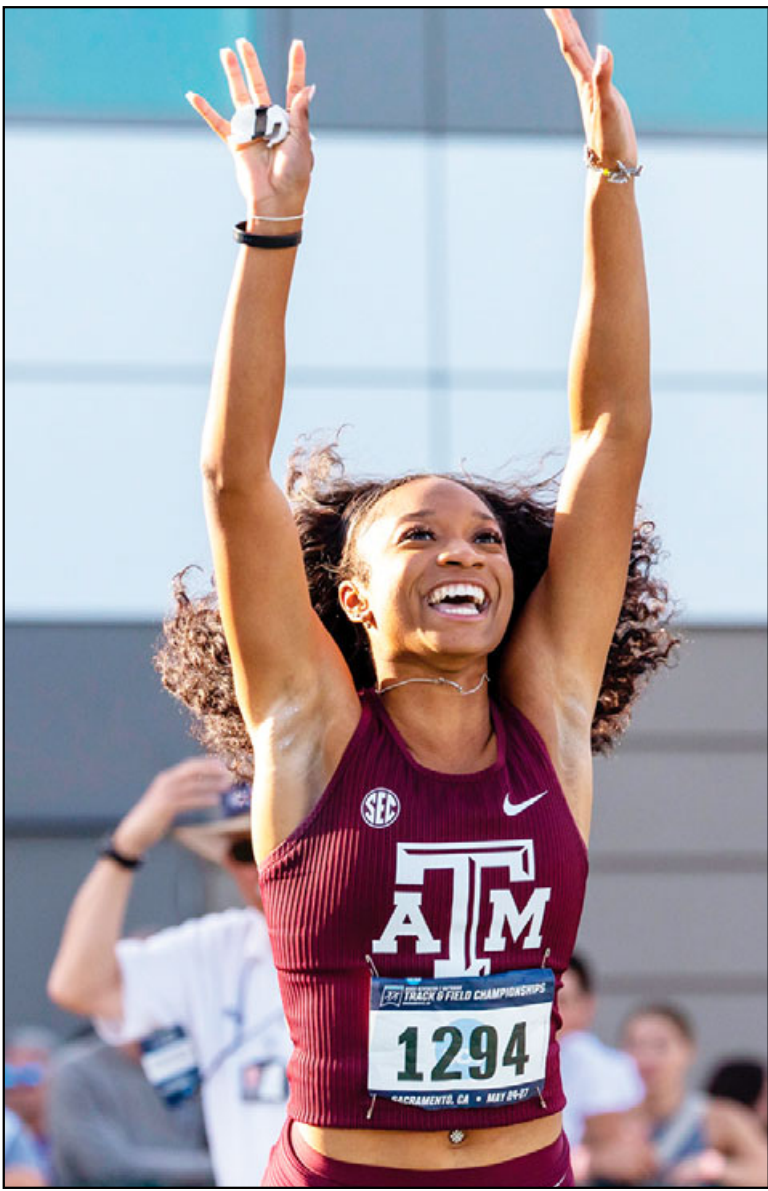
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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dickson, TAMU teammates compete at NCAA track and field



The Texas A&M track and field program completed its June 7-10 run at the NCAA Division I National Championships in Austin, with the women's team placing fifth overall with 36 points.

The Aggies claimed their fourth straight top five finish, giving TAMU head coach Pat Henry a total of 20 top-five team finishes in his time with Texas A&M.

Meet-host Texas won the meet with 83 points, while Florida finished runner-up with 51 points and

Arkansas was third with 46 points.

Aggie freshman Camryn Dickson concluded what was a solid first outdoor season, going 11.27 in the 100 for 17th place and clocking in at 23.28 for 22nd place in the 200.



Texas A&M freshman Camryn Dickson will compete in the 100 and 200 at the USA Track and Field U20 Outdoor Championships July 6-9 at prestigious Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene.

At left, Texas A&M sprinter Camryn Dickson concluded her freshman season with the Aggies with an appearance at the NCAA Division I Track and Field National Championships June 7-10 in Austin. The Class of 2022 Clear Brook High School graduate reached nationals in the 100 and 200, and also joined TAMU teammates for the 4x100 relay. That unit ran a season-best of 43.30 to take fourth in their heat and grab a second team All-American honor for its efforts.

TAMU photo

The women's 4x100 squad of Jania Martin, Dickson, Kennedy Wade and Semira Killebrew finished fourth in their heat, clocking a season best 43.30, the tenth fastest time of the day.

The time tops their previous best of 43.35 from the NCAA West First Round meet and secured a second team All-American status.

For Dickson, it meant competing in three sprint events in the span of roughly two hours. Welcome to collegiate track and field.

The biggest takeaway for Dickson after a whirlwind first season with the Aggies?

"I feel confident that I belonged, and I along with my teammates competed in a lot of big events this year," Dickson said.

"It's a privilege to be out there with the best of the best, and these experiences can only help as we move forward. Having the experience of knowing what to expect is only going to help moving forward.

"Beyond that, the goal is to continue to train properly and to train consistently and be ready. I came out of this season healthy, and I don't ever

take that for granted."

This is Dickson's first collegiate offseason, but she isn't quite ready to take a break. She will for sure compete in the 100 and 200 at the USA Track and Field U20 Outdoor Championships July 6-9 at prestigious Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene.

According to the meet schedule set for Oregon Dickson and the other sprinters may very well take part in 100 and 200 qualifying heats within minutes of one another.

"I'm excited to go to the U20s and see where I stack up," Dickson said. "It's been a long year, but I feel like I've adjusted well along the way.

"In the fall semester, I had to really focus on making sure I had my class schedule handled where travel for indoor track came into play, and it got to be a little bit more of a routine in the spring semester.

"Overall, I'm very pleased with how my first year went. Maybe you're never satisfied in this sport, but it's up to us individually to do the training and to go out there and do the best we can. I feel like I did that this year, so I'm happy."

Dobie youth basketball camp

Registration is now open for the Dobie Longhorns Basketball Skills Camp to be held June 27-29, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at the Dobie High School main campus.

The skills camp is open to any male or female students entering the first through ninth grades as of the 2023-2024 school year, with first- through fifth-grade participants attending from 8 to 10 a.m.

Sixth- through ninth-grade students will attend the camp from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost of the camp is \$50 per student, payable with cash in person or online payment only.

Dobie basketball coaching staff members will direct the camp, with volunteer coaches assisting in some of the drills including shooting, ballhandling, rebounding and passing fundamentals.

There will also be 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 games and a Hot Shot competition included.

Camp T-shirts are not guaranteed as of now but could be available.

Direct any questions about registration or other camp details to Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Jasmine Hartman at jhartman@pasadenaisd.org.

Dobie volleyball youth clinics

Dobie High School volleyball coaching staff is offering a variety of summer camps for youth players of all ages and skill levels this summer.

The purpose of these camps is to improve the skills of each girl by enhancing strengths and correcting weaknesses. The basic rules and strategies of the game will be taught along with the skills of the game. These skills include passing, setting, hitting, serving, blocking, offense and defense.

Girls entering the third through eighth grades as of the 2023-2024 school year will attend the camp July 18-20, with those entering the third through sixth grades attending each day from 9 to 11 a.m., and seventh- and eighth-grade students attending from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$50 per student.

Girls entering the ninth grade as of the 2023-2024 school year will attend the camp July 24-26 from 1 to 4 p.m. at \$60 per student.

Girls entering the 10th through 12th grades as of the 2023-2024 school year will attend the camp July 24-26 from 9 a.m. to noon at \$60 per student.

To register for any of the camps or to get additional camp details, direct email to Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton at ds Sexton@pasadenaisd.org.

Cowboys plan conditioning

In anticipation of the 2023 Bay Area Football League season, the Sagemont Cowboys will host a conditioning camp July 17-18 and July 20 at the program's game site at El Franco Lee Park, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each evening. Youths taking part in the drills should wear shorts, a T-shirt, proper football shoes and bring a personal water bottle.

Wolverines at TABC showcase

The Clear Brook boys' basketball program will compete at the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Showcase June 16-17 at Tompkins High School in Katy, going against Hightower June 16 at 1:20 p.m. On June 17, Clear Brook goes against Duncanville at 9 a.m. before closing against LaVega at 1:25 p.m.

Berry invited to All-Star Game

Clear Brook High School Class of 2022 graduate and subsequent Hill College women's basketball star Alyssa Berry has been selected as one of the top 40 NJCAA Student-Athletes to participate in the 15th annual NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Weekend.

The All-Star Weekend this year will be July 20-23, 2023 in Atlanta, Ga. Berry, an All-American performer during the 2022-2023 season for Hill College, announced earlier this month that she plans to continue her collegiate career at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

2022 Dobie graduate named to All-South Conference

Barba paces Galveston College softball's resurgence

Nine Galveston College softball players were selected to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Region 14 All-South Conference first team and the All-Region second team, while the Whitecaps also claimed the All-Region Coaching Staff of the Year.

Included in that group for Galveston College was freshman Karlie Barba, a Class of 2022 Dobie High School graduate and four-year varsity softball player for the Longhorns.

One of the top off-

ensive players in the history of the program at Dobie, Barba quickly made the transition to the JUCO game, helping to lead the Whitecaps to the Region XIV South Zone championship.

In going 19-5 to win the South Zone crown by a game over defending champion San Jacinto College, Galveston had many offensive standouts along the way.

As for Barba, she hit .371 with a team-best 30 extra-base hits, including 16 doubles to lead the

team. She tied two teammates for the home run lead with 11 and drove in 54 runs while scoring 51 runs, second on the team.

A key performer in the middle of Galveston's lineup, Barba also excelled as a left-handed starting pitcher for the Whitecaps, going 14-3 with a save over 16 starts and making 22 appearances overall.

Barba boasted an earned run average of 3.43 over 104 innings pitched. With first-year head coach Raines leading the way, Galveston earned a

national ranking for much of the 2023 season after having a losing record the season prior.

At the Region XIV postseason tournament, the Whitecaps suffered losses to Angelina and San Jacinto College that brought the campaign to a quick halt, but Barba and several others are set to return in 2024 as the Whitecaps look to continue their program-wide momentum.

Following the 2023 season, Barba, catcher Maria Andrade, infielders Avi-

ana Gonzalez and Emily Parks, outfielder Jessica Munro and utility player Gabby Guzman were all selected to the Region 14 All-South Conference first team and All-Region second team, while infielder Samantha Gonzalez was named to the All-South Conference second team. Guzman, who won 17 games, will move on.

Smith cherishes final Seton Hall softball run



At left, Shelby Smith helped Lutheran South Academy win a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state softball championship in 2018 and then signed to join the Seton Hall University program. After a bumpy ride that included the 2020 pandemic-shortened season, Smith capped her career by leading the Pirates to the Big East Tournament title. In doing so, Smith was named the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament as Seton Hall was invited to play in the NCAA Austin Regional. See more about Smith's career at Seton Hall on Page 6.

Seton Hall athletics photo

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LSA baseball's Aguilon, Coronado earn TAPPS all-state honors



Lutheran South Academy right-handed pitcher Roland Aguilon (left) was named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools All-State first team and shared co-Most Valuable Player honors after a brilliant junior season that saw him invited to take part in the Greater Houston Baseball Coaches Association's Futures Game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land. At right is Pioneer head baseball coach Aaron Schneider.



Lutheran South Academy shortstop Victor Coronado (left) was named to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools All-State honorable mention team and shared co-Most Valuable Player honors. Coronado was also selected to compete in the Greater Houston Baseball Coaches Association's Futures Game at Constellation Field in Sugar Land. At right is Pioneer head baseball coach Aaron Schneider.

Whaley to make WPF league debut June 15 22-6A MVP as senior at Dobie in 2018

At right, former Dobie High School star Yvonne Whaley, who went on to enjoy successful collegiate stints at both Texas Tech and Pittsburgh, will make her Women's Professional Fastpitch league debut June 15 as her Oklahoma City Spark team takes on the Smash It Sports Vipers in the opener of a three-game series that runs through June 17. The WPF, founded by USA Softball, has expanded to four teams for 2023 and includes the Spark, the Vipers, the Texas Smoke and USSSA Pride. The 21st overall pick in the 2023 WPF Draft, Whaley was a first-team All-ACC and Women's Fastpitch Coaches Association Mid-Atlantic All-Region selection after hitting .439 with 17 doubles in her final season at Pittsburgh. A four-year varsity starter at Dobie, Whaley scored 22-6A first-team honors four times and was the District 22-6A Most Valuable Player in 2018.



Smith leads Seton Hall softball program to Big East crown to highlight career

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

As she stood side by side with her teammates as part of the celebratory photo all those miles away from home, Shelby Smith surely felt as though the goal had been met.

The one-time Lutheran South Academy star had first led the Pirates to a state championship during her senior season in 2019, just months before joining the Seton Hall University program.

There were ups and downs, no doubt, but on May 13, 2023, there Smith was as she and the Pirates celebrated a Big East post-season tournament championship game victory, having downed Villanova 6-1 at Burrill Family Field on the UConn campus in Storrs, Conn.

Smith, a standout two-way performer for the Pirates, was 2-for-4 with a double in the championship finale as Seton Hall won its first Big East conference title since 2005.

But that two-hit performance in the championship game only told part of the story about Smith's dominant weekend performance.

In the conference tournament winner's bracket a day earlier, Smith rocked a grand slam as Seton Hall, seeded third in the Big East post-season tournament, dropped top-seeded UConn 6-4, paving the way to the eventual crown.

Smith was ultimately chosen as the Big East post-season tournament's

Most Outstanding Player as the Pirates continued their finest season in years.

While Seton Hall struggled a week later at the Austin Regional with consecutive losses to Austin and Texas State, the honors continued to roll in for Smith, who has one year of on-field eligibility remaining and will soon officially transfer.

Academically, Smith earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with an emphasis on management and entrepreneurship.

Five members of the Seton Hall softball team were named to the College Sports Communicators' Academic All-District Team, including junior Hannah Alexander, sophomore Olivia Gilbert, senior Abby Wingo, junior Kelsey Carr and Smith.

On the field, three Pirates were named to the National Fastpitch Coaches' Association Mid-East All-Region Team, including Carr and Wingo, who were each named to the All-Region First Team, while Shelby Smith received All-Region Third-Team honors. Seton Hall was one of five Big East schools to place student-athletes on an All-Region Team.

Smith led Seton Hall during the Big East Tournament run, going 8-for-13 with two home runs, three doubles, 11 runs batted in, 15 1/3 innings pitched and a 3-0 record.

Overall, Smith batted .340 with eight home runs

and 38 RBIs while going 16-7 with a 2.87 ERA and 142 strikeouts in the circle.

On April 22, Smith tossed the 21st no-hitter in Seton Hall history in a victory over Providence, the first no-no by a Pirate since 2010.

Smith also reached a pair of milestones in 2023, as she struck out her 300th career batter back on April 1 against St. John's and picked up her 100th career base hit on May 11 against Villanova.

"Obviously, it was very rewarding to celebrate those achievements both personally and with my teammates," Smith said this month.

"We really started to turn the corner as a program last season even though we didn't qualify for the Big East tournament. To put it all together and have the season that we did this year is something we can remember forever."

So just how did Smith end up at Seton Hall University despite surely never knowing much about the program while in high school?

It all started with a situation that is more common than the casual observer might think.

Members of the then Seton Hall coaching staff were here in the state recruiting players and had been watching a particular athlete during summer club play, only to notice Smith as she subdued said offensive player while in

the circle.

Long story short, Smith verbally committed to the Pirates during the summer of 2018 and remained with the Seton Hall decision even as she guided Lutheran South to a TAPPS Division II state championship in the spring of 2019.

Yet the first two of Smith's seasons with the Pirates, while fair, weren't entirely for what Smith had hoped. The 2020 pandemic-shortened season was partly to blame.

As a freshman in 2020 Smith primarily pitched during the pandemic-shortened campaign, appearing 10 times in the circle and posting a 2-0 record and an ERA of 3.86. The Pirates, meanwhile, were 10-14 overall.

The 2021 season saw Smith play in 27 games, logging 79 innings with 75 strikeouts. At the plate, Smith hit .270 and had six doubles to go with eight runs batted in.

Yet it was when former Hartford University head coach Angie Churchill arrived in June of 2021 that the Seton Hall program began to hunt larger expectations.

Churchill, though new to the surroundings at Seton Hall as the first-year head coach, immediately welcomed the idea of Smith both pitching and hitting as much as possible.

In 2022, Smith's junior season, she was named to All-Big East second team as she led the conference in innings pitched during

the regular season (163 2/3) and had nearly 30 more innings pitched than any other Big East pitcher during league games (109).

Overall, Smith pitched in 30 total games and started 24 of them, compiling 19 complete games and having 134 strikeouts.

Enjoying more and more playing time on offense, Smith capitalized on her opportunities as she owned the second-highest batting average on the team among qualified hitters (.311) along with a team-best seven home runs.

As a highlight to her work at the plate, Smith on Feb. 20, 2022, hit two home runs and drove in six runs in a Seton Hall win over Saint Joseph's.

As for her final season with the Pirates, Smith was 16-7 with a 2.87 earned run average as she appeared in 30 total games in the circle with 19 starts. She threw 406 2/3 innings in her career, going 32-32 overall with 366 strikeouts.

At the plate in 2023, Smith hit .340, driving in 38 runs, smacking nine doubles to go with eight home runs.

Over her career, Smith hit .315 with 23 doubles, 15 home runs and 70 runs batted in.

The capper was the Pirates winning the Big East Tournament championship and getting to the postseason.

"It was a great way to wrap up my career there,"

said Smith. "We did some great things as a team, and it's a beautiful campus. There are some great sights to see there in South Orange, and once I convinced my parents that I needed a car there, I was able to see a lot more things there."

"The program is in

great shape and will continue to thrive in my opinion. I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish."

This summer, Smith plans to finalize plans for her Super Senior season. She will work toward a master's degree wherever she ends up, as Smith will be required to maintain a

full course load of at least 12 hours to semester.

Her plan to open and operate a brewery will come to fruition when the time is right. If Smith ends up with an opportunity to continue playing professionally, she will certainly weigh those options. For now, Smith has done most

of the heavy lifting to get her education squared away and will take some time to smell the roses.

Smith no doubt left the Seton Hall softball program in a great spot, and she'll have a lifetime of memories to prove it. Now, she can contribute to another program.



Lutheran South Academy Class of 2019 graduate Shelby Smith was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Big East Tournament as she led Seton Hall to its first post-season tournament crown since 2005, which led by a spot in the NCAA Austin Regional. Smith is now set to play her Super Senior season perhaps closer to home.

4th of July Parade Entry Form

A parade will be held in conjunction with the July 4th Spectacular. Parade lineup will be at 9 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate, 11111 Beamer.

The parade will begin at Beverly Hills Intermediate at 10 a.m. and will continue to San Jacinto College on Beamer Road. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to build floats and participate in the parade.

NO WATER BALLOONS, WATER GUNS, ETC.

For more information, contact Connie Cabrera at 832-876-9909 or email Connie917@yahoo.com.

All entries must be received by July 2.

Name of entry _____
Name of Organization or Business _____
Person to Contact _____
Email _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Truck (2 axle) Car Float Truck (3 axle) Other

Due to the length of this parade, we request participants do not attempt to walk.

All entries for community and nonprofit groups are free of charge—unless those participants wish to be eligible for a trophy in the judging contest. These contest entries require a \$25 entry fee.

ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS.

All entries for business require a \$50 entry fee. Commercial float: \$50

Noncommercial for trophy: \$25 Noncommercial, not competing: no charge

* Each entrant is liable for the entry & participants involved with their entry.

Adult supervision is a must!

Please complete this entry form & email or drop off at South Belt-Ellington Leader office (11555 Beamer) before July 2nd.

Undefeated 6-under Astros win Southbelt's Shetland division title



Southbelt Baseball's 6-under Astros went undefeated to win the Shetland Division championship with a terrific team performance throughout the season. Members of the team are left to right, (front row) Devan Gay Jr., Layla Alvarez, Darion Rangel-Puga, Ezekiel

Garcia, Kingsley Stevenson, Luis Ledesma Jr., Celine Rose Viscarra, Noah Ramos, Evelyn Nguyen, Nathan Nguyen, Carter Lopez, Ethan Vazquez, (back row) coaches Luis Ledesma, Quan Nguyen, Mike Martinez and Devan Gay, and Gay's son, Jeremiah Gay.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 15
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom attendee preference. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website or call 281-485-3634.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.

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 before class.
Jam-3:30/ Bands-6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Bluegrass Association** - bluegrass music show and jam session at Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave. Pickers may come early. Visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg., room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Meetings are free, open to the public. Email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - monthly dance at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding serviced, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - worships at 11456 Space Center Blvd. in the back of a medical/retail community. Stop by or call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
2 p.m. **Local NARFE Meeting** - Chapter 941 meets at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Call 713-734-1461 or EFL Center at 281-464-9708.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Club #05324194 meets virtually at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. Visit the website or call 832-722-9061 for information.
7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). Contact Cathy@houstonkyscrapershadows.org or call 713-332-6294.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society** - For individuals interested in earth sciences. Meeting at League City Library, Helen Hall Library, 100 W Walker St.

MONDAY, JUNE 19
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for tours of exhibits.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older meets at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real. Call 713-444-6744.
10 a.m. **The Community Club** - meets at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Highway. Charitable organization. Email Jmopry@yahoo.com.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpy Dance** - 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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Ellis promotes art for change



Harris County Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner recently unveiled 19 large murals on downtown buildings as part of the Big Art. Bigger Change project, bringing the number in the series to 29. A pet project of the commissioner's, the project pays tribute to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Artist Sebastien "Mr. D" Boileau shown above painting. (See additional photos next week.)

Ellis unveils downtown murals

Continued from Page 1
 Art. Bigger Change Season 2 – followed the success of Season 1, which was unveiled last fall. Artists featured in Season 2 include Aches, AEC, Alex Arzu, Adry del Rocio, Emmanuel Jarus, Ernest Zacharovic, Giselle Oviedo, Hera Hopare, Icy and Sot, Louis Masai, Moh Awudu, Mr Cenx, Mr D, Nomad Clan, Smug, Vesod, Vinie and W3r3on3. Artists featured in Season 1 include Ana Marietta, Benjamin, Bimbo Adenugba, Carlos Alberto, Case Maclain, Emily Ding, Lula Goce, Ricky Lee Gordon, Sonny Sundancer, and Victor Ash. For information on this project or artists involved visit streetartmankind.org/bigartbiggerchange.

St. Luke the Evangelist Asociación Guadalupanas awards scholarships



St. Luke the Evangelist Asociación Guadalupanas awarded scholarships to five area seniors at St. Luke's annual graduation brunch on May 13, 2023. Congratulations to these outstanding students and all South Belt area graduates. Shown from left to right are Jose Estrada (scholarship committee head), Dobie High School seniors Emily Salazar, Janet Armenta, Jordan Peralez, Steven Oviedo, Clear Brook High School senior Tan Hoang and Leticia Aguilar Cruz (Asociación Guadalupana president).

Photo by Adele Roby

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SEP. 1-3

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DOJ concludes investigation

Continued from Page 1
 communities." A similar sentiment was shared by U.S. Attorney Alamar S. Hamdani. "No one should have to live next to discarded tires, bags of trash, rotting carcasses, infected soils and contaminated groundwater, caused by illegal dumping," said Hamdani. "For too long now Houston's underserved and low-income communities have had to bear the burdens of the inaction and misdeeds of others. My hope is that this resolution is an important step in remedying those wrongs."

In July 2022, the Justice Department launched its investigation after it received a civil rights complaint filed on behalf of Houston residents alleging that the city discriminated against black and Latino residents of the Trinity/Houston Gardens neighborhood in northeast Houston in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits recipients of federal funds from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin in their federally funded programs and activities.

The department's 10-month investigation focused on Houston's efforts to address illegal dumping, a persistent and pervasive problem that occurs more frequently in the city's black and Latino neighborhoods. In March 2023, the city announced its One Clean Houston initiative. One Clean Houston focuses on rapid cleanup, better enforcement and prevention and education. In addition to confirming the city's commitment to One Clean Houston, the agreement establishes a three-year period of federal monitoring; data reporting obligations; enhanced community outreach with impacted neighborhoods, including engagement with residents with limited English proficiency; consideration of additional actions to combat commercial sources of illegal dumping and reduce restrictions for residents seeking to use waste depositories; and a federal civil rights training program for specified city employees.

Turner said the matter is personal to him. "To me, this is personal," said Turner. "I grew up and still live in these neighborhoods, and my life's work has been to lift these neighborhoods. As mayor, I prioritized the needs of communities of color that are historically under-resourced and underserved and built a Complete Communities program that is a model for public-private investment in neighborhood revitalization. I have worked throughout my administration to fight environmental injustice, and to have an allegation like this, despite all we have done and are doing, it is unfair and disappointing. With this voluntary resolution, we agree with the Department of Justice to move together as partners towards a solution - to carry forward a shared vision of One Clean Houston. Today's announcement isn't a time to celebrate, but we can appreciate progress." The Civil Rights Division's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section conducted this investigation in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas.

Addressing discriminatory environmental and health impacts through enforcement of the nation's civil rights laws is a top priority of the Civil Rights Division. The recent announcement marks the second environmental justice settlement under federal civil rights statutes. Last month, the Division announced the resolution of its environmental justice investigation into the Alabama Department of Health and Lowndes County Health Department in Lowndes County, Ala. In April 2022, the Justice Department launched its Office of Environmental Justice and its Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy.

Individuals who believe their civil rights have been violated or have environmental justice concerns can file a complaint with the Civil Rights Division by visiting www.civilrights.justice.gov/report.

For more information on Houston's One Clean Houston program, visit www.houstontx.gov/onecleanhouston.

Hurricane safety tips given

Hurricane season officially began June 1, and CenterPoint Energy is encouraging customers, especially those who rely on life-sustaining equipment, to make preparations for service outages and consider what precautions should be taken ahead of severe weather.

CenterPoint is committed to the safety and well-being of the communities it serves and is prepared with an Emergency Operations Plan in which employees from across the company's service territories participate through planned assignments in their regions. With extensive experience in managing the impact of severe weather events, CenterPoint Energy reminds everyone to prepare now for potential hurricanes and related hazards.

Customers should review these tips to encourage safety and minimize disruptions during the hurricane season:

Create a hurricane preparedness kit: Build an emergency kit that includes essential items such as non-perishable food, water, flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit and any necessary medications.

Don't forget to have a battery-powered radio and a portable charger for mobile devices.

Develop an emergency plan: Establish a family plan and discuss it with all household members. Designate a safe meeting place, communicate evacuation routes and make sure everyone understands the plan.

Stay informed: Stay updated on weather conditions and warnings or advisories issued by local authorities. Pay close attention to announcements from CenterPoint Energy through the company's Storm Center, social media channels and local news outlets for important information regarding power outages and restoration efforts. To get information on individual outages, sign up for Power Alert Service and track outages through CenterPoint Energy's Outage Tracker.

Do not turn off natural gas service at the meter: CenterPoint Energy strongly advises customers not to turn off natural gas at the meter. The natural gas meter should be left on to maintain proper pressure in the natural gas piping within the house and to prevent water from entering the lines in the event of flooding.

If one wishes to discontinue natural gas service, natural gas can be turned off at each appliance. Later, to restore natural gas service to an appliance, one may follow written instructions located on the appliance for re-lighting. If one is unable to locate instructions or don't feel comfortable re-lighting, call a qualified plumber/technician.

If advised to evacuate, follow the instructions of local authorities promptly. Stay away from low-hanging, downed power lines or lines that could be submerged in standing water. Treat all downed power lines as if they are energized.

Report outages and emergencies: To report downed power lines or a power outage, contact CenterPoint Energy at 713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143.

To report a natural gas leak, call 713-659-2111 or 888-876-5786. Do not attempt to handle gas-related issues yourself; leave it to a qualified technician.

CenterPoint has implemented protocols and trained dedicated teams to respond safely in the face of severe weather events. In the case of disruption to service, crews are ready to restore electric and natural gas services as safely and quickly as possible.

Visit CenterPointEnergy.com/stormcenter and follow @CNPAAlerts for updates during inclement weather events.

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