



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 48, No. 34

### JFD homecoming parade set

The annual Dobie homecoming parade will take place Wednesday, Sept. 27, beginning at 5 p.m. The route will begin at Dobie on the Southbluff side, then proceed to Blackhawk and Hall Road, before returning to campus. Once back at Dobie, the event will feature a disc jockey and food trucks. The community is invited to participate.

### Knights sell barbecue

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue fundraiser at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Sept. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost will be \$15 for a two-meat plate with brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad and drink; \$10 for chopped beef sandwich with chips and drink; and \$6 for sausage-on-a-stick. Proceeds will benefit the church's capital campaign.

### Sagemeadow seeks vendors

Sagemeadow is seeking local vendors with handmade/homemade items for its second annual fall festival, set to take place Nov. 4 at Sagemeadow Park. Local businesses are also welcome. If interested, email events@sagemeadow.org.

### Kirkwood to meet Sept. 25

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are now scheduled for the last Monday of the month, rather than the last Thursday. For more information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

### Sagemeadow meets Sept. 21

Sagemeadow subdivision's monthly HOA meeting will be held at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Road Thursday, Sept. 21, at 7:15 p.m. The guest speakers, Judge Jo Ann Delgado and Attorney Charles Daughtry, will provide a review of new laws passed by the Texas Legislature. This and all meetings are open to the public. For the meeting agenda or any information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

### New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, will distribute food the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food to community people in need. For information, call 281-484-4230.

### Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event is Sept. 21. For additional information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community once again increased in ZIP code 77089 this past week but remained stagnant in the area's remaining two ZIP codes, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 19, there were 131 active cases in 77089, up 10 from the previous week. To date, 142 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 13 active cases, no change 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 23 active cases, up one from the previous week. To date, 92 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 Road in Dickinson/Texas City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from 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 Sept. 30.

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

### Sagemont to meet Oct. 3

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

## South Belt receives nearly 3 inches of rain

### City remains in Stage 2 of drought plan, despite much-needed rainfall

The South Belt area received some much-needed rainfall this past week, as the community begins to recover from the extreme drought conditions of the summer.

According to the Harris County Flood Control District, the rain gauge at the Beamer Ditch

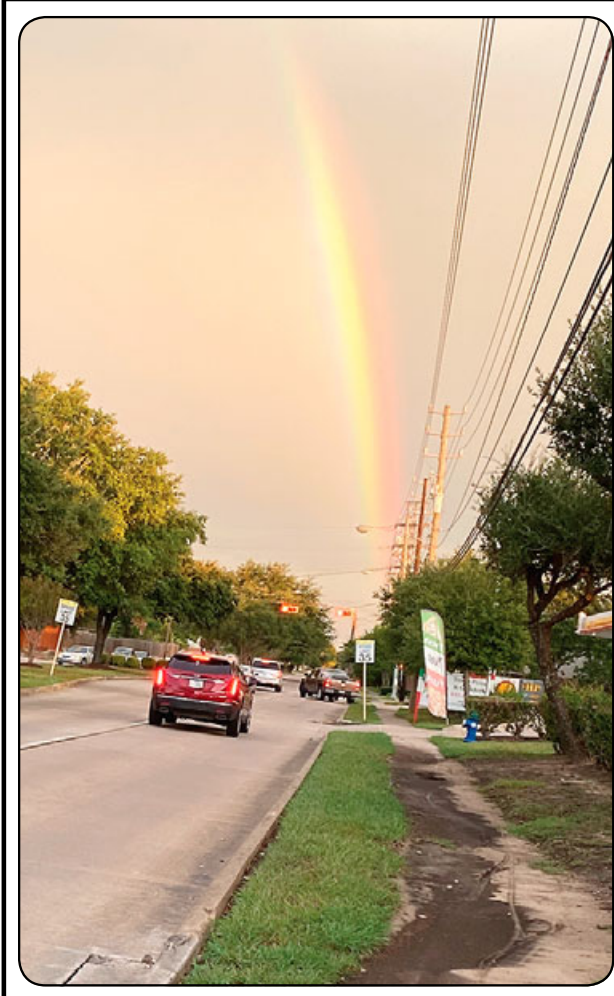
and Hughes Road recorded nearly 3 inches of rain between Thursday, Sept. 14, and Saturday, Sept. 16, with the vast majority falling Saturday.

On Thursday, the gauge recorded 0.16 inches of rainfall; the gauge recorded 0.64 inches on

Friday; and 2.16 inches of rain fell on Saturday.

Despite the rainfall, the City of Houston remains in Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency

Plan, which limits residential water use. Residents serviced by local utility districts are not affected by the water restrictions.



### A welcomed rainbow graces South Belt

A lucky South Belt resident may have stumbled across a pot of gold the evening of Saturday, Sept. 16, as a rainbow appeared to end roughly in front of Tony's Pizza & Grinders along Blackhawk near Dobie High School. The rainbow shown to the left formed at a lucky 7:11 p.m., following hours of downpours that left the South Belt community with approximately 3 inches of rain in just three days, with the vast majority falling Saturday, Sept. 16. Despite the rainfall, the City of Houston remains in Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency Plan, which limits residential water use.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## County educates on prostate cancer

### September marks Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

As September marks Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Harris County Public Health wants to raise awareness about prevention to reduce the impact of this prevalent disease.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers among men, but the risk can be significantly reduced through early detection and informed lifestyle choices.

Prostate cancer affects the prostate gland, a small organ located below the bladder in men. The prostate gland produces fluid that nourishes and transports sperm, making it an essential part of the male reproductive system. When the cells in the prostate gland start to grow uncontrolled, a tumor can form, leading to prostate cancer. This

type of cancer usually progresses slowly and may not produce noticeable symptoms during its initial stages.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately 13 percent of men in the U.S. will develop prostate cancer during their lifetime, and two to three men will die from it. Certain factors may increase a man's chances of a diagnosis:

- Age (Almost all prostate cancer occurs in men 50 and over).
- Race (Black men have a higher risk of being diagnosed).
- Family history (One is reportedly at a higher

Continued on Page 2

## National Night Out set for Oct. 3

### Annual event aims to bring police, residents together

The 39th annual National Night Out is set to take place Tuesday, Oct. 3.

Begun in 1984, NNO is a nationwide program to foster better relationships between local police departments and the communities they serve.

"NNO is a chance to bring neighborhoods together with the men and women who protect them," said Houston Police Officer Emilio Reyes. "The safety of our communities depends on both law enforcement and the citizens they serve, and NNO events can enhance that cooperation. Prevent-

ing and solving crime is a community effort. NNO is an excellent program that helps the department build relationships with citizens and create safer neighborhoods."

More than 17,000 communities, representing all 50 states, took part in last year's campaign, attracting roughly 38 million participants.

The event formerly took place in August, but organizers have since changed the NNO's Texas date to give residents an opportunity to enjoy cooler

Continued on Page 8

## Pct. 2 deputies bust auto-theft ring

### Pasadena Police Department assists with investigation

Deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office recently busted an auto-theft ring.

Precinct 2 was assisted by the Pasadena Police Department in the operation.

An investigation led by Garcia's Special Operations Unit took deputies to a location in the 300 block of Calvin Street in Pasadena, where investigators believed suspects were operating a potential auto-theft ring.

A request was made to the Pasadena Police Department Auto Theft and Precinct 8 Hot Spot Units to assist with this investigation. While conducting this investigation deputies observed several suspects transferring parts from stolen vehicles parked at the above location.

Deputies and Pasadena Police eventually in-



Jazon Elizondo

tervened and were able to identify three stolen vehicles parked at the location. Two suspects who were on location were also taken into custody and charged with multiple felonies without incident.

Jazon Elizondo, 24, was arrested and charged with felony theft, and Jonathan Mendez, 21, was arrested and charged with felony unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Garcia took to Facebook to thank the Pasadena Police Department for their help in this operation.

"Thank you to the Pasadena Police Department for the collaborative effort with this case and for taking down this auto-theft group," Garcia posted on his Facebook page. "Please stay safe and God bless."



Jonathan Mendez

## Pct. 2 cracks down on beltway DWIs

### At least 9 such arrests made in just 2 weeks

Deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Toll Road Division have been cracking down on DWIs along Beltway 8, making at least nine such arrests in just a two-week period.

On Aug. 23, Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's office conducted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle in the 6100 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway East.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were administered, and it was determined that the driver was intoxicated. The driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 38-year-old, Edna Yadira Perez.

On Aug. 24, Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's office conducted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle in the 9800 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway East.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were administered, and it was determined that the driver was intoxicated. The driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 27-year-old, Jaynay Green.

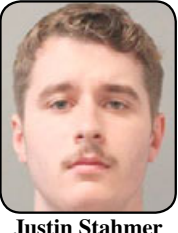
On Aug. 26, at approximately 2:20 a.m. Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's office conducted a traffic stop in the 11700 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway, on a speeding vehicle that was also failing to drive in a single lane.



Edna Perez



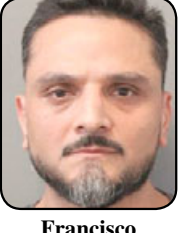
Jaynay Green



Justin Stahmer



Archie Umberger



Francisco Martinez

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were administered, and it was determined that the driver was intoxicated.

The driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 21-year-old Justin Stahmer.

On Aug. 27, Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's office while patrolling the 4000 block of South Sam Houston Parkway East, located a vehicle stopped in a moving lane of traffic, when deputies approached the vehicle they located a white male asleep behind the wheel.

Deputies immediately checked the welfare of the male and noticed the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication.

Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were administered, and it was determined that the driver was intoxicated. The driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 44-year-old, Archie James Umberger.

On Aug. 31, Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's office conducted a traffic stop in the 7100 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway East, on a speeding vehicle that was traveling 100 miles per hour.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were refused, and a blood warrant was drafted and executed. The driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 46-year-old Francisco Martinez.

On Saturday, Sept. 2, Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's office conducted



Michelle Dinh



Mark Bowers



Phillip Pham



Giavani Prince

## House catches fire on Flushing Meadows

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, in the 12100 block of Flushing Meadows near Astoria.

According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find fire coming through the roof of a one-story house and made an offensive attack.

They conducted a primary search and notified CenterPoint to remove the meter to the home due to extensive damage to the roof.

The crews extinguished the fire and requested HFD Arson investigators to determine the cause and origin. Investigators determined the fire to be accidental in nature (unspecified).

The fire caused an estimated \$70,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save approximately \$165,000 in property. No injuries were reported.

In all, 36 personnel were dispatched to this incident, including firefighters from stations 23, 70, 71, 52, 93, 94, 24 and Rehab 17.

## Deputies bust stolen car ring



Deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit recently conducted an investigation into an alleged auto-theft ring that led to a major bust in Pasadena. The investigation led to the arrest of two suspects who now face felony charges. The Pasadena Police Department assisted in the investigation.

# In My Opinion

## King reexamines the rationale for transit

In polling, Americans consistently support more transit. Yet, ridership on transit flatlined about 15 years ago before collapsing in the pandemic. Ridership has recovered since the lows of the pandemic but is still almost 40% below the all-time highs in 2008. Some transit analysts believe that ridership will eventually recover to the pre-pandemic levels but others doubt that it will ever recover, as transit faces the new headwinds of the work-at-home paradigm and ubiquitous rider sharing services like Uber and Lyft.

This lackluster performance is despite an investment by American taxpayers of about \$60 billion each year in transit.

It seems that this dichotomy between how Americans view transit and the reluctance of 99% of them to use it, raises some fundamental questions about what we believe the purpose of a transit system is in the first place. I would like to hear your thoughts on this subject and have prepared the attached survey asking about the purpose(s) of a transit system. I would greatly appreciate your participation. I am going to let this run for about a week and I will share the results with you.

Thanks for your help. **Bill King**

## Muecke appreciative of Finner, vice versa

Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 Chief Finner, I see you have made some changes and I guess over all I agree. But we cannot forget from a broken stop light to a killing, we have a police issue, and each one has to be addressed. The Houston Chronicle has played this up big time, not the many positive stops but the few where an innocent is killed. We never want to lose a life in this situation. But criminals are with us unfortunately and you and the troops need to respond. Now this Saturday Sept. 16, 2023 is **Thank a police officer day**. We that live in the Edgebrook corridor want to thank you (Commander Cruz) and the troops with a big **Thank you. James E. Muecke** Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023

From: **Finner, Troy R.**  
To: Muecke, James E.  
Thanks for your support James.....  
Sept. 17, 2023

Police Chief Finner took the time from his busy schedule to thank me. Not hard to thank them, wish more did so. Look at what he underlined. Our police/firefighters are not supported as well in pay for the job they do. So when you do see one thank them including active military.

**Jim (James E. Muecke)**

# Cracking down on beltway DWIs

Continued from Page 1

A traffic stop in the 8900 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway East, on a speeding vehicle that was failing to maintain a single lane.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were performed. A breath sample was collected and the driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 34-year-old Michelle Dinh.

On Saturday, Sept. 2, Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's Office while on proactive patrol observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Deputies observed the vehicle make several abrupt speed adjustments and lane changes. Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9000 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway East.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety

9900 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway East.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were refused. A blood warrant was drafted and executed. The driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 49-year-old Phillip Pham.

On Saturday, Sept. 8, Toll Road Deputies with Constable Jerry Garcia's Office conducted a traffic stop in the 6100 block of the South Sam Houston Tollway East, on a speeding vehicle that was failing to maintain a single lane.

During the course of the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were performed. A breath sample was collected and the driver was safely arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail for driving while intoxicated. The driver was identified as 24-year-old Giovanni Eugene Prince.

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# Elected officials share their words

## Commissioner Adrian Garcia on budget

Sept. 19, after unanimous approval of the proposed budget, Harris County taxpayers will be paying a reduced property tax rate for the 5th straight year. The approved cumulative (county plus flood control, hospital district, and Port Houston rates combined) tax rate will be 0.53029 (down from .53058) per \$100 of assessed value.

Commissioners Court also approved the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, prioritizing spending in key areas such as public safety. Setting a budget shows what the county government's values are, and the budget passed Tuesday shows how Commissioners Court is investing in Harris County by Building a Better Tomorrow.

Building a Better Tomorrow means building infrastructure with safe roads, maintaining and improving flood control projects, good quality jobs, and combating the climate crisis with clean energy while lowering costs and improving the supply chain.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia has issued the following statement:

"What we've accomplished by Building a Better Tomorrow reflects why Harris County will continue to be a place where people want to live so they can thrive. Public

safety remains a top priority, making up more than half of our budget. I'm also proud that for the 5th straight year, we have lowered the property tax rate, while not sacrificing our ability to rebuild our aging infrastructure, create a workforce for jobs today and into the future, and combat the climate crisis with clean energy. Meanwhile, we are lowering costs by reducing the price of tolls and by shoring up the supply chain with expanded capacity at Port Houston. This budget proves we are working hard for the hardworking families of Harris County."

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# County educates on prostate cancer

Continued from Page 1

Screening for prostate cancer aims to find cancer early enough to treat and cure it. The two most common methods of detecting prostate cancer are a blood test called the prostate-specific antigen test and a physical examination known as a digital rectal exam. If the results from either test are concerning, one's doctor may recommend a biopsy to confirm a diagnosis of prostate cancer.

Taking care of one's health can lower the chances of developing prostate cancer. This involves adopting healthy habits, such as eating a balanced diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. One should stay physically active and limit amount of processed foods and red meat one consumes. One should talk with their doctor to determine if screening is right for them. Scheduling routine check-ups and screenings with one's health care provider is important to stay on top of their health. Early detection saves lives. For information, visit CDC's Prostate Cancer page at [www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate/index.htm).

Prostate cancer symptoms differ between persons. Most men do not have symptoms at all. Although some of these symptoms may be caused by conditions other than prostate cancer, one should see their doctor right away if they have any of the following:

- Difficulty starting urination.
- Weak or interrupted flow of urine.
- Urinating often, especially at night.
- Trouble emptying the bladder completely.
- Pain or burning during urination.
- Blood in urine or semen.
- Pain in back, hips, or pelvis that doesn't go away.
- Painful ejaculation.

# ARB seeks potential 2024 applicants

Applications for Appraisal Review Board (ARB) members are being accepted by District Judge Latosha Lewis Payne, administrative judge for the state district courts in Harris County and presiding judge of the 55th District Court.

Service on the ARB would begin in January 2024. Applications from Harris County citizens interested in ARB service must be submitted by the applicant to Judge Payne through the Harris Central Appraisal District human resources division to be considered. Applications from third parties will not be accepted.

Applications are being accepted until vacancies are filled. The ARB is a citizen board that sits as a single-member panel or in panels of three to hear testimony and review evidence in order to determine property owner protests which cannot be resolved informally with HCAD. Members will be required to serve at the HCAD offices and will be expected to be prepared and capable of conducting virtual hearings on their personal computer.

The ARB is not part of the appraisal district. If selected to

serve on the ARB, the member would not be an employee of HCAD or qualify for benefits. Service on the review board does not constitute a full-time job, but members are compensated per diem when conducting hearings and attending ARB meetings. ARB members are required to attend ARB meetings in addition to serving on panels for actual ARB hearings.

The Harris County ARB conducts hearings throughout the year. However, board service is generally a full-time commitment during the peak hearing season, which runs from mid-May through October. The scheduling volume during this time period requires that members be available to serve all day, every weekday and several Saturdays. ARB members are not always scheduled every day but must be available to serve if needed.

Candidates for the ARB must be current residents of Harris County, having resided in the county for at least two years; must be up to date on property tax payments for property in Texas or show the tax is being paid under an in-

stallment agreement; and must not have served all or part of three previous terms as an ARB member. Persons who fall into any of the following categories are not eligible to serve:

- An individual currently employed by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, or who is a member of the governing body, an officer, or a full- or part-time employee of a county, city, school district, community college district, MUD, or any other entity supported by local property taxes. Former governing body members, or officers of a taxing unit served by HCAD, are ineligible for service on the ARB for four full years from the date they ceased to serve.
- Anyone who personally, or whose spouse has a contract with local government or an appraisal district.
- Persons who have appeared before the ARB for compensation as a tax consultant, accountant, appraiser, or representative of a property owner less than two years before the date the person is appointed.
- A person who has served all or part of three previous

# Deaths

## Christiane Ingrid Colton



With heavy hearts, the family of Christiane Ingrid Colton announce the passing of Christiane Ingrid Colton. Born on Oct. 18, 1933, in Brestlau, Germany, she passed May 3, 2023, at the age of 89, in Houston with loving family by her side. A refugee of WWII, Christiane as a child had to endure many hardships. When she arrived in America in 1953, she taught herself English and became a United States citizen.

She carried the same pride, love and courage raising her three boys, Michael Colton, Charlie Colton and Robert Colton. Christiane loved working in her gardens, she had a true green thumb. She loved painting, dancing and being young at heart while living life to the fullest. She always had a contagious smile.

Christiane volunteered at the American Legion Post 490 Auxiliary at Ellington Air Force Base. She is deeply missed and loved by her sons and grandchildren, Jason Colton, Daniel Colton, Michael C. Colton, Sean P. Colton, William Colton and Alexander Colton. Christiane will be laid to rest next to her husband, Willard B. Colton, a 21-year veteran of the United States Army whose service included tours of duty in Korea and Vietnam.

Services will be held Friday, Sept. 29, at 10:30 a.m. at the Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive. Attendees are asked to arrive by 10:15 a.m. in Lane 1 to be escorted to the service.

Christiane volunteered at the American Legion Post 490 Auxiliary at Ellington Air Force Base. She is deeply missed and loved by her sons and grandchildren, Jason Colton, Daniel Colton, Michael C. Colton, Sean P. Colton, William Colton and Alexander Colton. Christiane will be laid to rest next to her husband, Willard B. Colton, a 21-year veteran of the United States Army whose service included tours of duty in Korea and Vietnam.

Services will be held Friday, Sept. 29, at 10:30 a.m. at the Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive. Attendees are asked to arrive by 10:15 a.m. in Lane 1 to be escorted to the service.

## Mark Kelly Roberts



Mark Kelly Roberts was born in Houston on Feb. 23, 1955, to Jack and Barbara Roberts. He was delivered into the arms of Jesus on Sept. 17, 2023, after an 11-year struggle with Alzheimers disease. He is survived by his loving wife, Sherry Roberts of 46 years; two children, Tiffany Roberts Deal (Michael) and Grant Roberts; granddaughter Vivienne Deal; sister Stephanie Campo (Sergio); and brother Shawn Roberts (Debbie); and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was a 1973 graduate of J. Frank Dobie High School and received an associate degree from San Jacinto College. He owned Intersign Group for 42 years with his wife. Mark was considered an amazing man who was referred to as the "Dr. Phil of the Sign Industry" at trade shows. For many years, he wrote monthly contributing editorial columns for *Sign Business* magazine and *Sign Builder Illustrated* magazine. He wrote "How To" sign manuals and produced various DVDs and audiotapes on marketing to sell to other sign business owners.

Mark was invited to speak and lead workshops at various sign trade shows across the country. Many of his signs are still displayed at numerous businesses in Houston and across America. Mark loved Jesus. He volunteered for 15+ years in the media ministry at Sagemont Church. His life impacted many and he will be dearly missed. A family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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# Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca  
A member of *people of sagemont* Facebook group posted Sunday, Sept. 17, that he believes someone keeps trying to break into his vehicle. The member posted a photo of the window seal of the vehicle and wants to alert the community to keep a lookout in the Kirkmont area.

J. Frank Dobie homecoming parade will be held Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 5 p.m. It will follow their traditional route, beginning at the corner of Blackhawk and Southbluff Drive. The parade will continue up Blackhawk to Hall and then to the Dobie band parking lot for a parking lot party. There will be a DJ and food trucks.

J. Frank Dobie homecoming parade will be held Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 5 p.m. It will follow their traditional route, beginning at the corner of Blackhawk and Southbluff Drive. The parade will continue up Blackhawk to Hall and then to the Dobie band parking lot for a parking lot party. There will be a DJ and food trucks.

# Mealer endorses Fred Flickinger

Fred Flickinger, candidate for Houston City Council District E, recently announced the endorsement of Alexandra Mealer, former Republican nominee for Harris County judge.

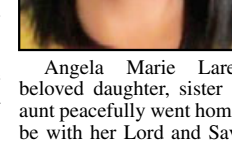
"I am pleased to announce my endorsement of Fred Flickinger for Houston City Council District E," said Mealer. "I know Fred to be an experienced leader who I can trust to always do the right thing and be a strong voice to improve our city and the lives of all Houstonians. His business and financial expertise will be a major benefit as the council works to address our pressing financial challenges."

"A business leader and Houston resident for over 50 years, Fred Flickinger understands the unique challenges we face at City Hall. Fred's plan will get us 'back to the basics' by returning our focus to fighting increased crime, prioritizing flooding and infrastructure improvements such as the Lake Houston Dam, supporting our first responders, and eliminating wasteful and unnecessary spending," said Mealer.

"I am honored to earn the endorsement and full support of Alex Mealer," added Fred Flickinger. "Her steadfast commitment to our City and County is admirable and I look forward to building upon these efforts as your next City Councilman in District E to ensure our district remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family."

In addition to this endorsement, Flickinger recently announced the endorsement of the Harris County Republican Party, the Republican Party of Texas, the Kingwood TEA Party, Rep. Briscoe Cain, Representative Dennis Paul, Constable Phil Sandlin and every state Republican executive committee member

# Angela Marie Laredo



Angela Marie Laredo, beloved daughter, sister and aunt peacefully went home to be with her Lord and Savior

Visitation was Tuesday Sept. 19. The Celebration of Life was Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Grace Church. Her final resting place will be at Forest Park Lawnside.

Flowers can be sent to Angela Laredo c/o Forest Lawn Funeral Services, 8706 Alameda Genoa Road, Houston TX 77075. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made online at [www.samaritanpursure.org](http://www.samaritanpursure.org) to Samaritan's Purse in honor of Angela Laredo.

Flowers can be sent to Angela Laredo c/o Forest Lawn Funeral Services, 8706 Alameda Genoa Road, Houston TX 77075. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made online at [www.samaritanpursure.org](http://www.samaritanpursure.org) to Samaritan's Purse in honor of Angela Laredo.

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Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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# CCISD wins TAEA top visual arts education award

For the second year in a row, Clear Creek ISD was named a District of Distinction from the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). Only the top 5.5 percent of visual arts programs in the state earned the award for 2023.

CCISD received this honor for providing a well-rounded education that advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and build social emotional learning that connect learners to their community and beyond. Only 68 districts met the high standard based on documentation from the 2021-2022 school year.

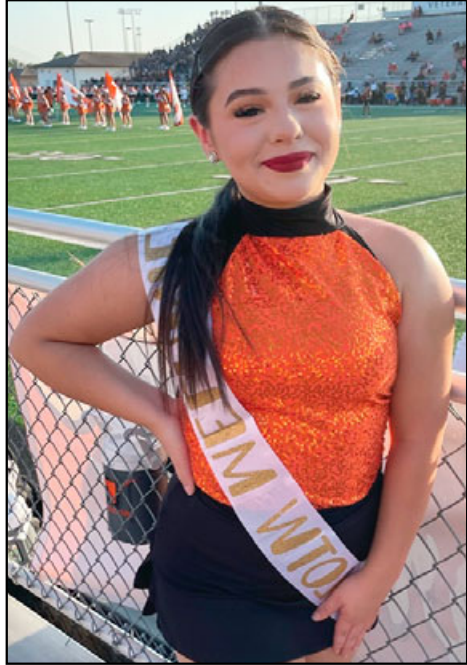
"The visual and performing arts department is incredibly proud of our visual art students and teachers for receiving this award," said Greg Goodman, director of visual and performing arts. "It emphasizes the importance of the visual arts in CCISD and how each art teacher strives daily to connect with their students, while engaging in the arts as a form of creativity and self-expression."

TAEA will recognize winning districts during the Administration and Supervision Division meeting and General Session during the TAEA Fall Conference on Nov. 17, 2023.



Pictured are CCISD's elementary school art teachers, left to right, (front row) Kim Lasserre, Julie Landry, Amy Johnson, Chloe White, Jacquelyn Stephens, Michelle Portis, Robyn Marrie, Kim Cridler, (middle row) Carmen Bass, Samantha Buford, Shara Mills, Ashley Atherton, Travis Eck, Stacy Cates, Erika Asiala, Corrin Bettis, Esther Robbins, Trencia Jackson, (back row), Devin Cleary, Jessica Jones, Carly Dugosh, Ruthi Clement, Kayleigh Hoffmaster, Tamara Cornor, Alphonse Argieard and Jenifer Gilmore.

## Lariaette of the Week, Aug. 25



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the Week of Aug. 25 is sophomore Melanie Sanchez. She is a first-year line member.

## Lariaette of the Week, Sept. 1



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the week of Sept. 1 is sophomore Esbeyd Fonseca, a first-year line member.



Left to right are CCISD's high school art teachers, (front row) Mary Goldner, Nathan Cummings, Kenzie McGoldrick, Sarah Godfrey, Nina Makepeace, Stephanie Perkins, Rebekah Holmes, Elizabeth Welch, Aileen Kelly, (back row) Jeff Samp, Peter Storms, Greg Goodman, Paul Hart, Jillian Green, Michelle Cabler, Jordan Perry, Eric Pearce and Ann Albritton.



Shown, left to right, are art teachers from CCISD's intermediate schools, (front row) Femi Russell, Kandise Wells, Devon Grigsby, Lesly Shaffner, Laura Case, Nicole Kolkmeier, (middle row) Stephen Silva, Kersten Conway, Chuck Pierce, Eboni Johnson, Gabriele Vila, Kathleen So, (back row) Kelly Kelemen, Jamie Presley, Suzanne Wheeler, Paige Young, Cheyenne Ramos and Edgar Bustillos.

## Laura Bush honors positive male role models



Watch D.O.G.S. member Oscar Martinez (right) is all smiles with step-daughter Isabella Sanchez.

Members of the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) Program at Laura Bush Elementary School were recently honored for their participation in the program.

Fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles and other father figures volunteer on campus throughout the year.

They help provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.

They also provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security, reduce bullying and provide a greater sense of campus safety allowing students and teachers to focus on learning and instruction.



Elias Melo (left) is a Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer and is shown with daughter Clarisse Melo.



Jose Sanchez (right), Watch D.O.G.S. member, takes time to pose with daughter Izabella Sanchez.



Jose Hernandez (right), a member of Watch D.O.G.S., is shown with daughter Lorena Hernandez.

## Laura Bush Elementary hosts Family Fun Run



The Lopez family enjoyed the run. Shown left to right are (front row) Noah, Jayden, (back row) Abel and Veronica Lopez.

Laura Bush Elementary recently hosted their Family Fun Run. Said Maria Murillo, parent and special programs coordinator for PISD, "Families had a great time learning about the importance of staying hydrated as well as participating in a 30-day water challenge."



At left, Clarisse Melo (left) and her father, Elias Melo, participated in the Family Fun Run together.



At right, Michael Pierson holds onto his son, Michael Pierson II as they cool off in the sprinklers.

# Meador Elementary celebrates Grandparents Day with folklorico performance



Meador Elementary recently had more than 300 grandparents attend their special Grandparents Breakfast on Sept. 8. Grandparents were invited to enjoy breakfast at school with their grandchildren and to take a fall family picture. They also enjoyed a special performance by the ballet folklorico "Corazones Alegres" of Pasadena. Shown above are performers, left to right, Maria Cas-

tro, Maria Morales, Martha Martinez, Socorro Coco Sanchez and Veronica Torres.

Shown at right, left to right, are (front row) Camila Ramirez, (middle row) Arya Ramirez, pre-K student Elias Ramirez, third-grader Nicolas Ramirez, (back row) and grandparents Lucy and Rudy Trevino.



Kindergartener Rogelio Hinojosa (center) took a family photo with his grandparents Paola (left) and Rogelio Hinojosa.

## Frazier Elementary receives Platinum Award



Frazier Elementary's Wellness Team was given the PISD Platinum Award for the 2022-2023 school year. They achieved the highest honors for creating a campus wholly focused on child health. Shown are, left to right, (front

row) Candace Kliesing, Mayra Villarreal, Araceli Rodriguez, Deidra Garza, Luisa Lewis, (back row) Olga Uresti, Wendy Wiseburn (principal), Dina Edwards (coach), Patricia Perez, Jennifer Cantu (nurse) and Diana Moreno.

## Wolverine varsity cheer gets ready for season



Shown, left to right, are Clear Brook High School's varsity cheerleaders, (front row) Gennesis Guerra, Capt. Sydney Nguyen, (back row) Makayla Gallego, Pressley Saifi, co-Capt. Aubrei Vega, Bella

Durgan, Social Capt. Sofia Gonzales, Dezine Johnson, Alia Peoples and Bella Podesta.

Photo by Kelvin Lopez

## Moore Elementary celebrates grandparents



Moore Elementary students recently recognized grandparents on Grandparents Day. Shown is Kaitlyn Falcon (center) with her grandfather Sergio Cerda (left) and grandmother Rosie Cerda.

Sigrid Dabney (left) visited with granddaughter Sophia Stevens during the celebration.

Kindergartener Evalette Ortiz (right) poses for a picture with her grandmother, Jean Fletcher.

# Remember When

**5 years ago (1978)**  
U.S. Rep. Bob Gammage and his opponent, Ron Paul, were guests at the Beverly Hills Civic Club meeting.

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved a recommendation by the school administration to appeal the State Tax Assessment Practices Board Values.

**40 years ago (1983)**  
A security patrol car began traveling the streets of the South Belt area due to the Sagement Security Patrol Project. Project coordinators raised \$30,000 to pay for the car.

Jose Estrada was re-elected president of the South Belt Area Pony-Colt baseball league.

**35 years ago (1988)**  
An unexpected conflict between the South Belt Security Alliance and Constable Precinct 2 Paul McClure's office caused the termination of the contract for additional deputies in the South Belt area.

The Dobie Longhorn football team helped to break in one of the largest pieces of equipment in the Pasadena ISD athletic program - the new \$500,000 artificial turf at Memorial Stadium, while they dominated the Pasadena Eagles.

**30 years ago (1993)**  
Dobie senior Brian Smith escaped serious injury when his pickup collided with an 18-wheeler coming down the beltway from Pearlland. Smith's passenger, Heather Sewell, 18, underwent surgery to repair a broken leg and received severe lacerations and a back injury. Smith reportedly ran a red light.

Jon Rascoe's Dobie High ag students dominated in the Pasadena Rodeo's livestock judging, taking five grand championships - including the grand champion steer - and winning more awards than the three other Pasadena high schools or Girls and Boys Harbor, which also took

part in the annual competition. Pasadena school trustees approved the switch from Prucare to Kelsey-Seybold for roughly a fourth of its district employees. The vote came at the recommendation of the Employee Insurance Committee.

**25 years ago (1998)**  
Construction of Roy Shifflett Realtors on Beamer began.

Fifth-graders from Atkinson Elementary visited Orlando, Fla., on their Earth Shuttle week-long educational trip.

**20 years ago (2003)**  
The Bulgier family company J.T.B. Services provided the demolition service for three buildings at the port of Galveston to make way for the new \$30 million cruise terminal.

A member of the 147th

Air National Guard flying an F-16C Fighting Falcon from Ellington field crashed 200 miles northeast of Houston. The pilot ejected safely before the crash.

**15 years ago (2008)**  
The controversial decision to remove the stop sign at Blackhawk and Amanda's Crossing near Weber Elementary was put on hold while Harris County studied the matter, according to Harris County Road and Bridge Superintendent Deotis Gay.

The murder trial of Lance Baxter Williams in the 208th State District Court ended in a mistrial, as the result of a hung jury. Williams, 21, was charged with the June 8, 2006, shooting of Beverly Hills resident Erik Garcia.

In the wake of Hurricane

concerned many South Belt residents. Local wastewater plants were without power several days and were operating off gas-generated power. While the use of a generator to treat waste was preferable to doing nothing, it was insufficient, according to former City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Assistant Operations Manager Steve Buckman.

He referred to the waste as, "poorly treated" sewage, rather than "raw" sewage.

**10 years ago (2013)**  
A former teacher at Beverly Hills Intermediate School was sentenced to four years in prison for multiple felony counts involving inappropriate behavior with students.

LaShawn Simmons, 41, pleaded guilty to engaging in improper relationships with four students.

Simmons, who taught math at the area school, had been employed at Beverly Hills Intermediate for 14 years.

Former U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay was exonerated when a Texas appeals court overturned a 2010 felony money-laundering conviction. DeLay, whose District 22 encompassed much of the South Belt area, was forced out as Republican House majority leader in 2005 after being accused of illegally funneling federal campaign contributions to state races in an effort to elect Republicans to the Texas Legislature.

**5 years ago (2018)**  
A man was found fatally shot at Beverly Hills Park, 10201 Kingspoint, around 7:55 a.m. on Friday, Sept.

14. David Alaniz was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, he had been shot multiple times in the head and torso. A passer-by discovered the body and notified police. No immediate arrests were made.

**1 year ago (2022)**  
An 80-year-old man was pistol-whipped during a robbery attempt that took place in broad daylight at the Wells Fargo bank in the 10000 block of Alameda Genoa at Rowlett. The incident took place after the elderly victim withdrew money from an ATM at the bank and was approached by a masked man with a gun, who demanded the money. Fearing for his life, the victim grabbed the barrel of the gun and began to fight with the would-be robber.

During the struggle, the suspect pistol-whipped the elderly man, lacerating his head. The commotion drew the attention of other customers, some of them honking their horns - possibly scaring off the suspect, who fled the scene with no money.

No immediate arrests were made.

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## Over The Back Fence by Natalie

**HAVE A GREAT BIRTHDAY, CHRIS!**  
Birthday greetings are sent to **Dr. Chris Durham** Sept. 26, from his wife Courtney, daughters **Abigail** and **Penelope** and son **Jackson**; mother-in-law **Leslie** and husband **Fred Flickinger**; sister-in-law **Kimberly Lipina** and husband **Matt**; and both sets of grandparents **Marie** and **David Flickinger** and **Olive Falkowski** and **John Fairchild**.

**JOHN CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY!**  
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **John Laurino** Sept. 27, from his friends and family.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 21 through Sept. 27.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
**Christopher Bui**, Atkinson principal, enjoys a birthday Sept. 27.

**Bush Elementary**  
The day for a birthday gift for **Kassandra Aguilar** is Sept. 24.

**Frazier Elementary**  
**Dina Edwards** marks a day of celebration Sept. 26.

**Genoa Elementary**  
**Abigail Ortega** enjoys a birthday Sept.

22. Sept. 24 is the day for a party for **Elizabeth Tijerina** and **Diana Perales**.

**Meador Elementary**  
The day for a party for **Rosario Reyes** and **Celeste Skipper** is Sept. 23. Marking a birthday Sept. 26 is **Connie Daumas**.

**Moore Elementary**  
The day for a birthday cake and ice cream for **Celena Hudspeth** is Sept. 26.

**South Belt Elementary**  
The day for a double-layer cake and ice cream for **Raquel Cavazos** is Sept. 22.

**Roberts Middle School**  
**Erik Ramos** enjoys a birthday Sept. 23. Remember to wish **Luz Faz** a happy birthday Sept. 26. **DeRonda Pitre-Preston** enjoys a birthday Sept. 27.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Break out the balloons and the birthday cake Sept. 22 for **Stacey Barber**. Light the birthday candles Sept. 25 for **Grant Pector**.

**Dobie High**  
Share a slice of a double-layer cake Sept. 21 with **Jermaine Gasaway** and **Manuel Moreno**. Blow out the candles on a cake Sept. 22 for **Monika Mackley**. The day for a party for **Denice Smajstrla** is Sept. 23. **Martha Varela** enjoys a birthday Sept. 24.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Sept. 21: **John Neal**, **Laura Arispe**, **J. Cruz Aannette**, **Cesar D'Agostino**, **Kim Kapsiak**, **Jennifer Paling**, **Susan Silva** and **April Carson**; Friday, Sept. 22: **Joe Garza**, **Larry Swann**, **Michael Rummel**, **Shawnie Moses** and **Gwen Ohman**; Saturday, Sept. 23: **Marcus Anthony**, **Carla McKay**, **Cheney Tamez**, **Gloria Tran**, **Cynthia Rodriguez** and **Lauren Allen**; Sunday, Sept. 24: **Paola Medel**, **Harold Barron**, **Lissa Stephens-Bell**, **Lindy Hoggard**, **Brenda Flewellen**, **Karl Wilkerson**, **Obed Valdez**, **Jason Rendon**, **Debra Kendrick**, **Kim Martinez** and **Angela Shaulis**; Monday, Sept. 25: **Key Voh Patches**, **Jamie Olivares**, **Melonie Conaway**, **Ronell Ram** and **Kevin Sockwell**; Tuesday, Sept. 26: **Dina Edwards**, **Tripp Harris** and **Mike Finni**; and Wednesday, Sept. 27: **Nicole Garcia**, **Yvette Rodriguez** and **Ashley McGuinty**.

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

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Dobie volleyball quickly rebounds in 22-6A play

Putting a loss to Deer Park in the District 22-6A opener quickly behind it, the Dobie varsity volleyball team entered play Sept. 19 at home against Channelview with 23 overall wins and very much looking like a top-tier 22-6A program.

The 2021-2022 squad won 25 overall matches, the most in head coach Dawn Sexton's tenure at Dobie. This team will surpass that. And with senior and four-year varsity standout Lexie Gonzalez

surpassing 1,000 career digs in a sweep of Pasadena Sept. 12, the versatile talent is in line to become one of the most productive players in program history.

A Lamar University commit, Gonzalez needs fewer than 100 kills for 1,000 in her career. She surpassed 1,000 career digs Sept. 12 against the Eagles, and last season eclipsed 1,000 career assists. With at least 10 matches remaining in her high school career, Gonzalez very well could get past

the 1,500 career assists mark. By Gonzalez showing the way, Dobie has come up big this season as nine seniors have played a key role along with freshman Amaya Langellier.

In the 25-18, 25-16, 25-11 sweep of Pasadena, Gonzalez had 11 kills and Ariana Garza had 10 of her own.

Moving ahead to Sept. 15 at Memorial, Dobie came away with a 25-15, 21-25, 25-19, 25-18 win as the team moved to 2-1 early on in district action.



Since falling to Deer Park to open league play, the Dobie varsity volleyball team, including senior libero Aly Frias, has gotten back on track as it looks to finish the first half strong. The Longhorns play at Rayburn Sept. 22.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

## JFD's Garza is silver medalist at La Porte cross-country run

Dobie's Lauren Garza again challenged Alief Elsie's Bissinatt Abdela-sis at the La Porte Invitational cross-country meet at Northwest Park in La Porte Sept. 15, with Bissinatt holding on for top overall medalist honors in the 5,000-meter varsity girls' division.

Bissinatt championed the event at 19 minutes, 05.37 seconds, while Garza clocked in at 19:10.22, a personal record for the sophomore.

As a team Dobie was fourth as the group continued to prep for the Oct. 12 District 22-6A Championships. After Garza, the Longhorns' Kyla Lobo was 17th overall at La Porte in the varsity girls' 5,000-meter event.

of 25:35.83 placed Leyla Martinez 63rd.

Madison Puente of Dobie earned 66th in a time of 23:43.89, and a time of 23:45.80 had the Longhorns' Mariah Medina 67th.

**JFD boys also third**

Chris Lopez earned a top-three finish at La Porte, and teammates Johan Viazza llavencio (sixth) and Francisco Dunn (14th) chipped in to help the Dobie boys to third place at Northwest Park.

With a time of 16:13.40 over the 5,000-meter course, Alief Elsie's Haza-el Perez was the top overall medalist as he helped the Rams to the team crown, and Manvel's Christian clocked in at

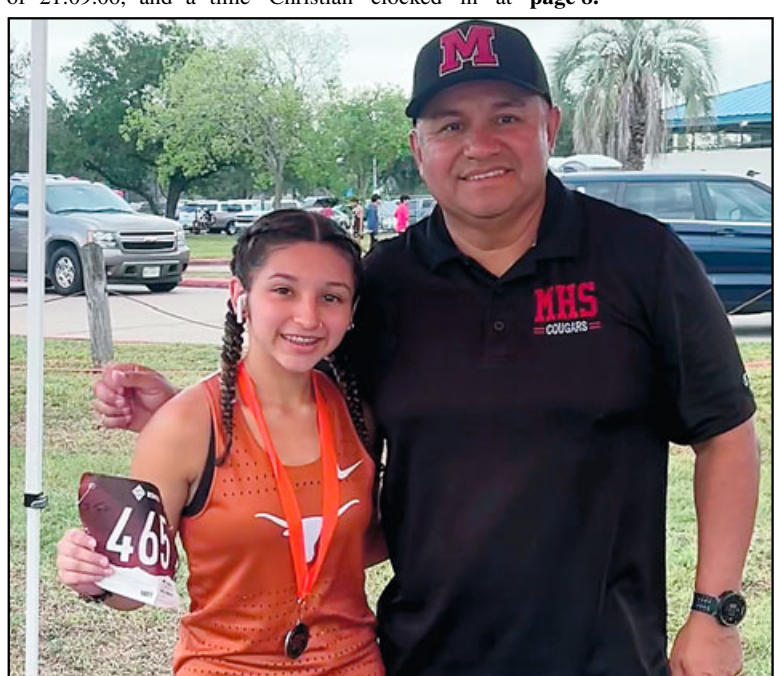
16:15.60. Then came Lopez, a junior, who turned in a third-place time of 16:24.59.

The sophomore Villavencio ran well yet again as his time of 16:57.50 was good for sixth place. Dunn, meanwhile, was in at 17:16.14 for 14th place.

Also scoring for the Longhorns were Conner Torres and Damian Rosas, with Torres' clocking of 17:59.53 placing him 33rd. Rosas, 34th overall, clocked in at 18:05.11.

At 18:44.17, Dobie's Simon Sepulveda was 53rd, while teammate Janiel Lebron placed 57th with his timing of 18:46.46.

See related photos on page 8.



Kyla Lobo (left) of Dobie is shown with Thomas Valles following the completion of the La Porte Invitational cross-country meet Sept. 16 at Northwest Park in La Porte. Lobo, who will help lead the Longhorns into the Oct. 12 District 22-6A Championships, was 17th overall at La Porte in the varsity girls' 5,000-meter event.

## LSA boys run at elite TAMU event

Some of the top-ranked individual runners and, therefore, their programs, competed in the Texas A&M University High School Invitational Sept. 15 in College Station. Lutheran South Academy, with boys' runners Marcus and Matthew Gaitan very much aiming at a return to state in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools classification, was among those in

attendance. Bridgeland junior Benjamin Montgomery was the winner of the varsity boys' 5,000-meter event at 15 minutes, 29.40 seconds. Sam Golla, who reached regionals last season as a member of Clear Lake High School, was second in a time of 15:36.70 while running for Clear Lake Christian School.

As for the Gaitans, Marcus Gaitan was in at

16:30.50 for 18th place, with his brother, Matthew Gaitan, finishing in a time of 17:07.10 for 58th overall.

Also for the Pioneers, freshman Jeremy Gaitan finished at 18:43.10, with sophomore Reid Toner posting a time of 19:06.30. LSA freshman Nicholas Pena crossed the finish line in a time of 20:45.70, and senior Andrew Morales was in at 21:29.60.

## Texans shut out Dobie FB



Dobie defensive backs Terrance Thomas (5) and C.J. Richard (7) close in on Houston Lamar's Dustin Howard (4) during first-half action Sept. 14 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Howard played a key role in the Texans' 43-point explosion in the first half that wound up a 53-0 win for the unbeaten Texans. The Longhorns will now shift their focus to District 22-6A play, at Deer Park's Abshier Stadium Sept. 22.

Photo by David Flickinger

## 22-6A football race starts as Deer appear at 4-0

Dobie, Deer Park and Channelview have taken equal turns at hoisting the District 22-6A varsity football championship trophy over the past three seasons, and now is the time to decide just who will reign supreme in 2023.

Were statistical data the only item on which to base the future, the undefeated Deer Park Deer, who host Dobie in a 22-6A opener Sept. 22 at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park, would be the clear frontrunner.

Head coach Austin Flynn's team swept its non-district schedule, putting up 183 points over the four games and allowing just 54. And with the top seed in the Division I playoff bracket likely at stake against Dobie, the

Deer will look to win their third straight in the series against the Longhorns.

The Deer Park offensive attack has been quite balanced through four games, with dual-threat quarterback Landon Keiselhorst leading a charge that has collected right at 900 yards rushing to go with 800 more through the air.

Still, it's the Deer defense that has turned heads this season with nondistrict wins over La Porte, Clear Creek, Beaumont West Brook and Clear Brook.

With Dave Campbell's Texas Football's preseason Defensive Player of the Year pick Luke Webb anchoring the front seven, the Deer have allowed just 900 yards of total offense

through the four games.

A season ago, it was Channelview that slowed Deer Park's roll, winning the head-to-head matchup en route to the 22-6A championship as head coach Avion Hurts and the Falcons ruled things.

But after tossing for more than 2,300 yards and 29 touchdowns, eventual district Most Valuable Player Darius Clark-James has taken his talents to C.E. King, and the Falcons have felt the void.

At 1-3 overall through nondistrict action, the Falcons have scored just 52 total points. They draw the week one bye before opening league play Sept. 29.

returning one for a touchdown against Westside.

While Webb is far and away the straw stirring the drink at South Houston and Mathews is the focal point of Dobie's attack, both programs would appear to be solid postseason hopefuls ahead of Memorial, Rayburn and Pasadena.

At this precise time a season ago, Pasadena senior Ruben Lara had a district-leading 757 yards rushing and seven scores to pace the Eagles to a 2-2 start, while Elijah Cruz was No. 2 in rushing with more than 600 of his own.

This time around, the Eagles' 2-2 start has been fueled by sophomore tailback Malachi Gamble and his 721 yards and nine touchdowns.

Senior quarterback Cameron Murray has thrown for more than 800 yards and 11 scores, while Cruz is currently the leading receiver in 22-6A.

Similarly, Sam Rayburn

is 2-2 with sophomore quarterback H'Rei Jones accounting for nine total scores. Memorial, also 2-2, is led by tailback Lorenzo Delgado.

## Collins exceeds 1,000 assists



Lutheran South Academy sophomore setter Aniston Collins eclipsed 1,000 career assists at the varsity level in the Pioneers' district win over The Woodlands Christian Academy Sept. 14 as the locals improved to 27-6 overall. She had 574 assists a season ago as a freshman as Lutheran South won 30 overall matches en route to the state semifinals.

## Lexie passes 1,000 digs



Dobie senior and four-year varsity standout Lexie Gonzalez (11) surpassed 1,000 career digs in the Longhorns' Sept. 12 sweep of Pasadena and needs fewer than 100 kills this season to get to 1,000 for her career. The Lamar University commit last season reached 1,000 assists for her career and is likely to finish her Dobie career with more than 1,500.

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Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (far right) made what has become an annual visit to the U.S. Open in New York as he reconnected with former Longhorn players, left to right, Jisha Jobe, Martin Zuber and Nirali Desai (Class of 2010), along with his daughter, Kelsey Moreno at the U.S. Open, enjoying third-round match between Alexander Zverev and Grigor Dimitrov at Louis Armstrong Stadium. As Dobie's head coach for 25 seasons, Moreno has kept in touch with many past players, and his silver anniversary celebration Oct. 7 figures to include many familiar faces.

## Dobie tennis to celebrate Moreno Jr. Sat., Oct. 7

Oct. 7 is shaping up to be a very special day for the Dobie High School tennis program as dozens of former players are expected to be on hand to celebrate Manuel Moreno Jr., the program's longtime head coach and also the man who has for 25 years now helped both develop players' tennis skills and teach them about being part of a true team.

Moreno and his 2023 fall team squad are currently in the midst of the District 22-6A race, and the bidistrict playoffs get started Oct. 9-10 across the state. But on Oct. 7 as the program's annual Exes Matches takes place beginning at 9 a.m., the focus will be on Moreno as well as all of the players, both past and present, who have contributed on and off the court since Moreno took charge of the program as the 1998-1999 school year began.

Himself a youth player at Galveston's O'Connell High School under head coach Vince Stiglich Jr. Moreno was skilled enough to play collegiately at Lamar University in Beaumont. There, he played for legendary head coach Ron Wesbrooks as he excelled with the Cardinals.

His relationship with Wesbrooks has endured, with the Longhorns annually attending the fall high school team tennis invitational named in honor of Wesbrooks at Lamar University.

The lessons that came from Stiglich and Wesbrooks were many, but perhaps the one that stuck

with Moreno is the sense of team. Dobie has not been a regional power during Moreno's stay. Many of his players over the years have simply chosen to play the sport upon their arrival at Dobie, then literally taking their first swings with and under the watchful eye of their head coach.

Moreno turns no players away; everyone gets an opportunity to be part of the team, which is always beneficial in the development of young student-athletes. Above all then, Dobie tennis is about family, sportsmanship and representing the South Belt community, Dobie and the team in the brightest possible lights.

Moreno says he learned a sense of team from Stiglich, with O'Connell scoring the last of 14 straight state titles during Moreno's senior year.

Once he arrived at Lamar University, Moreno played for Wesbrooks, a converted former track and field coach. "I was in tremendous condition," Moreno said. "He believed in running. I'll never forget some of those track workouts."

With Wesbrooks, Moreno also gained a deep feeling of the importance of family, even as it was in the form of the Cardinals' tennis squad.

"We worked hard on the court, but coach Wesbrooks also took us on team trips," Moreno said. "I was the product of a single mom, and I never got to do much as a kid. Once I became a tennis coach, it's always been important to me to cultivate a sense of family. I credit coach Wes-

brooks for that."

Moreno has given 50 years of his life to youth tennis in all, including half of those at Dobie. He, however, never expected a 25-year stay.

"I interviewed with (then head football coach) Mike Stephens, and the interview was about five minutes long. Steve Jamail was the principal, and Johnny Lee an assistant principal. I had known them both from O'Connell.

"Honestly, I was going to stay one year and use the experience to move on. But coach Jamail was the reason I stayed. He was always so supportive of the tennis program and did everything he could to support what we were doing."

And, of course, Moreno has enjoyed the players. "They work hard, they are friendly and supportive of one another. And, really, in my mind, we have been one of the two most successful athletic programs at Dobie.

"I just feel blessed. To see so many of these former players do well in life is what it's about. It's been 25 of the best years of my career. I've always been fully invested and feel like I could have been around for more of my kids', Kelsey and Mitchell, things, but I think it's all worked out fine.

"I'm excited about Oct. 7. I hope we have a great turnout. It's a chance for a lot of us to get together again."

The event will take place at Dobie's tennis court. For more information see future *South Belt Leaders*.

## South Belt football predictions

					
Deer Park at Dobie	Deer Park	Dobie	Deer Park	Dobie	Deer Park
Pearland at Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Pearland	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek
Clear Brook vs. Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls
Clear Creek at Brazoswood	Brazoswood	Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Brazoswood	Brazoswood
Dickinson at Clear Springs	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
Friendswood at Richmond Foster	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood
Manvel at Magnolia West	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel
La Porte at Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill
Goose Creek Memorial at Baytown Lee	Baytown Lee	Baytown Lee	Baytown Lee	Baytown Lee	Baytown Lee
Lutheran South hosts St. John's	Lutheran South	Lutheran South	St. John's	Lutheran South	St. John's
Last Week's Results	9-1	8-2	9-1	7-3	9-1
Season record	32-8	29-11	32-8	28-12	32-8

## 24-6A football race could run deep

Top 24-6A, varsity football contenders implications will clash in week one of league play as Dickinson travels to Clear Springs Sept. 22 with the Division I playoff seed likely to be decided out of the chute.

Elsewhere, Clear Creek plays at Brazoswood in a game that could have big implications in the Division II postseason picture, while Clear Falls and Clear Brook will also meet.

After the first month of the season, is there much evidence not to pencil in Dickinson and Clear Springs as the Division I playoff reps from 24-6A, with Clear Falls coming out of Division II? Not much.

The Gators and Chargers will finish well within the top four of the standings, and, based on enrollment, will advance as the Division I postseason seeds in either order.

As for Division II, there very well could be a tough competition for the two available spots.

A season ago, Brazoswood wound up being the surprise of the 24-6A race as head coach Joe

Cary's squad put together its finest season in many. And while early hopes of a district championship run were dashed with losses to Clear Springs, Clear Falls and Dickinson, the Bucs still went 7-3 overall and took wins over Division II playoff contenders Clear Lake, Clear Creek and Clear Brook on the way to a bidistrict playoff berth.

Brazoswood has done nothing to diminish hopes thus far in 2023, but both Clear Lake and Clear Creek also won three of four in nondistrict action and have to be considered contenders for a berth.

Clear Falls has enjoyed a heck of a three-year run, winning 26 total games over that span. Quarterback Landon Vessel is off to a great start with six scoring passes through four games, and receiver Nathaniel Cox has 23 grabs for 324 yards.

An 0-3 start should be considered misleading as the Knights lost to proven playoff contenders Pearland, Summer Creek and Houston Lamar. And while Falls has had to reload on the defensive side

of the football, this group is still very much in the thick of a playoff hunt.

As for Brazoswood, the Bucs have not played the strongest of nondistrict schedules over the past two seasons, but a 7-1 record, 3-1 this season, is solid nonetheless.

Bucs' running back Joe Trevino led the district in rushing through three weeks and had scored seven touchdowns. First-year quarterback Kelan Pullen had thrown for six scores.

And while the Bucs have to be pleased with a 3-1 start, count both Clear Lake and Clear Creek as possible suitors to Division II postseason berths.

The Wildcats simply have more playmaking ability this season, with Donovan Coffman averaging more than five yards a rush, and quarterback Bryson Drake also providing added production.

## Dobie 17, Pasadena Memorial 2

- Boys' doubles**
- 1) Nestor Garza/Ryan Le (D) def. Shane Daly/Khang Phan, 6-3, 6-2.
  - 2) Diego Flores/Nolan Tran (D) def. Carlos De La Garza/Aaron Jones, 6-0, 6-2.
  - 3) Rigo Alanis/Pitou So (D) def. Oscar Lima/Lane Ramos, 6-0, 6-1.
- Girls' doubles**
- 1) Leslie Figueroa/Hailey Maldonado (D) def. Cameron Hernandez/Bianca Pinto, 6-1, 6-0.
  - 2) Leena Pham/Kayla Tran (D) def. Angelique Carrasco/Morgan Schnettler, 6-0, 6-0.
  - 3) Abby Panza/Hallie Vu (D) def. Ibtihaj Mubashir/Rachel Tran, 6-0, 6-2.
- Mixed doubles**
- 1) Amalia Reyes/Tre Ramirez (D) def. Victoria Chioreanu/Jacob Condado, default.
- Boys' singles**
- 1) Diego Flores (D) def. Khang Phan, 6-1, 6-2.
  - 2) Shane Daly (M) def. Nolan Tran, 6-2, 1-6, 14-12.
  - 3) Ryan Le (D) def. Oscar Lima, 6-1, 6-0.
  - 4) Nestor Garza (D) def. Aaron Jones, 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.
  - 5) Pitou So (D) def. Lane Ramos, 6-1, 6-0.
  - 6) Rigo Alanis (D) def. Carlos De La Garza, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2.
- Girls' singles**
- 1) Victoria Chioreanu (M) def. Hailey Maldonado, 6-3, 6-0.
  - 2) Leslie Figueroa (D) def. Bianca Pinto, 6-2, 6-1.
  - 3) Kayla Tran (D) def. Cameron Hernandez, 6-1, 6-0.
  - 4) Amalia Reyes (D) def. Angelique Carrasco, 6-0, 6-3.
  - 5) Abby Panza (D) def. Rachel Tran, 6-0, 6-2.
  - 6) Hallie Vu (D) def. Morgan Schnettler, 6-1, 6-0.
- Dobie, prior to Tuesday's District 22-6A match with Channelview, is 6-15 overall, 2-1 district.*

**24-6A Opening Week**

Dickinson at Clear Falls

Clear Brook vs. Clear Falls

Clear Creek at Brazoswood

## Dobie netters top Mavs, eye two seed

A 17-2 win over Pasadena Memorial has the Dobie varsity team tennis squad in control of its own destiny for the No. 2 playoff seed as the District 22-6A race plays out this month into October.

A challenging nondistrict schedule combined with a relatively inexperienced lineup added up to a lengthy winless start for the Longhorns, but now wins in five of seven overall have provided for plenty of momentum.

"I'm happy for the kids first and foremost but also proud of the way they have continued to work and play for a better result," Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said.

"We knew coming into the season that kids would have to play in (singles ladder) spots maybe higher than they are accustomed or immediately ready for, but they have battled and come together.

Our overall record is not what we would like, but doing well in district play and getting to the playoffs is what the true goal is."

Dobie is also working on a years-long winning streak against the other four Pasadena ISD programs, and with upcoming matches Sept. 22 against South Houston and then the finale Oct. 26 against Sam Rayburn, the locals are intent on locking up the second playoff seed

behind Deer Park.

"Our kids always play hard," Moreno said. "We did a great job with the doubles and led Memorial 7-0 heading into the singles, and our goal has always been to have a fast start in the doubles. We finished strong. I'm so happy for the kids. Our schedule has been tough and the wins have been hard to come by, but we have played hard and given everything we have."

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# CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.

6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale, 1-3 p.m. Email Liz Hicks at eroot\_rot@usa.net.

3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.

hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Noon **Food Drive** - New Covenant Christian Church hosts food drive at 10603 Blackhawk Blvd, Houston. Call 281-484-4230.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

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

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

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

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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 noon notice.

1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@juno.com

for details.

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

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

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

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

9 a.m. **American Begonia Society** - Houston Satellite meets at Helen Hall Library, 300 W. Walker. Call 281-481-2458.

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

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

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets in-person for a hybrid meeting at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org or call 832-722-9061.

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

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

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park. 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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**St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church**

**1ST ANNUAL Gala Night**  
Saturday, October 21, 2023  
6:30 p.m. - Midnight

Guest of Honor - Recognizing Marie Flickinger for her extraordinary dedication and service to the community.

The Gardens  
12001 Beamer Rd. • Houston, Tx 77089

**Dance • Dinner • Silent & Live Auctions**

Hosted by the St. Luke Steering Committee  
All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign

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# National Night Out

## Tuesday, October 3, 2023

### Participation Pledge Form

(This Form Should Be Returned As Soon As Possible)

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ we are  
Civic Association/Neighborhood Or Police Department  
 committed to participate in Houston/Harris County National Night Out 2023 by organizing block parties and activities that promote crime prevention and improve police/community relations.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Law enforcement Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Division \_\_\_\_\_

(For example, Clear Lake Division or Central Division, etc.)

What type of activity will you host? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the activity take place? (Address) \_\_\_\_\_

What time will the activity begin and end? \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to: Richard Buitron**

Attention: National Night Out Coordinator

Clear Lake Community Service:

2855 Bay Area Blvd. Houston, Tx 77058

Office: 832-395-1776

Cell: 281-642-3484

Richard.Buitron@Houstonpolice.org

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.146195 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of San Jacinto Community College District.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.146195 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.140269 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.150555 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for San Jacinto Community College District from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that San Jacinto Community College District may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that San Jacinto Community College District is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON October 2, 2023, AT 7:00 PM AT 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas 77504.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, San Jacinto Community College District is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Trustees of San Jacinto Community College District at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

**FOR the proposal:** Marie Flickinger John Moon Jr.  
 Keith Sinor Erica Davis Rouse  
 Dan Mims Michelle Cantú-Wilson  
 Larry Wilson

**AGAINST the proposal:**  
**PRESENT and not voting:**  
**ABSENT:**

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto Community College District last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto Community College District this year.

	2022	2023	Change
<b>Total tax rate \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.155605	\$0.146195	decrease of -\$0.009410, or -6.05%
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$157,169	\$170,800	increase of \$13,631, or 8.67%
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$244.56	\$249.70	increase of \$5.14, or 2.10%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$119,907,550	\$126,169,595	increase of \$6,262,045, or 5.22%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for San Jacinto Community College District at 713-274-8000 or [tax.office@tax.hctx.net](mailto:tax.office@tax.hctx.net), or visit [www.hctx.net](http://www.hctx.net) for more information.

## National Night Out will be Oct. 3

Continued from Page 1 weather.

Along with the traditional display of porch lights and front porch vigils, NNO will be celebrated by neighborhoods and communities with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, parades, flashlight walks, contests, youth programs and visits from local police.

County officials and local homeowner groups and civic clubs traditionally hold NNO events in the South Belt community, but no specific events were known at press time.

The HPD, Harris County Sheriff's Office and Harris County Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 constable offices will all be participating in various functions.

South Belt residents within the city limits who are planning a block party and wanting to have a police visit should contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 281-642-3484 or [Buitron@Houstonpolice.org](mailto:Buitron@Houstonpolice.org). Most residents outside of the city limits having parties should contact Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office at 713-477-2766.

## National Merit named

A total of 16 Clear Creek ISD high school students were named semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Each year, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) awards top high school seniors across the country for their academic success.

These CCISD students now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a scholarship award, the 16,000 semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 320 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Congratulations to the following students:

**Clear Creek High School**  
 Bryan L. Stevens and  
 Amelia L. Young.

**Clear Falls High School**  
 Christina E. Geppert and  
 Ethan H. Miles.

**Clear Lake High School**  
 Samir Abdelkhalq, Paul R. Bailey, Joshua S. Coghlan, Ethan Faulkner and Minasha Gunarathna.

Jonathan JHuang, Joshua Jiang, Chris Wang, Cody Wang, Richard Wang and Gunnar W. Wye-Rodney.

**Clear Springs High School**  
 Jared S. Dake.

## Lopez, Torres excel at La Porte meet



Dobie junior Christopher Lopez was third overall amid a talented field at the La Porte Invitational cross-country meet Sept. 16, turning in a personal record time and leading the Longhorns to third place in the Division I team standings at Northwest Park in La Porte.



Conner Torres continued his stellar cross-country season as he was the Longhorns' fourth overall finisher at the La Porte Invitational Sept. 16 over the 5,000-meter course at Northwest Park. Photos submitted

See related story on page 5.

## Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor includes Brook grads for 2023

By John Bechtle  
 Sports Editor

Clear Brook High School will join the party as two legendary female athletes from the Wolverines' athletic program will be part of Clear Creek ISD's Athletic Hall of Honor Class of 2023 during a Sept. 23 induction ceremony at Challenger Stadium in Webster.

Terri Hunter Bolden, a 1996 graduate, made her mark as a varsity girls' basketball star and also ran track in the spring. Bolden will join Wolverine multisport standout Jennifer Gordon Womack, also a 1996 graduate and former varsity basketball teammate of Bolden, as the first-ever Hall of Honor inductees from Clear Brook.

The CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor debuted in 2016 and focused on graduates of the district's two original high schools — Clear Creek, which opened in 1956 and Clear

Lake, which opened in 1972.

As of now, star athletes from Clear Falls or Clear Springs high schools are not yet eligible for induction. Inductees must have graduated from Webster, Clear Creek, Clear Lake or Clear Brook from 1948 through 2002.

Perhaps the most recognizable name within the 2023 CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor class belongs to Steve McKinney, a 1994 Clear Lake High School graduate who was a two-way star at tight end and defensive end for the Falcons before being recruited by and then joining the Texas A&M University program.

Yet not long into his career with the Aggies, McKinney shifted his focus to the interior of the offensive line, eventually playing 10 NFL seasons combined with the Indianapolis Colts and Houston Texans.

Tim Glover, a Clear Lake High School class

of 1990 graduate, was inducted as part of the Falcons' 1989 Class 5A

varsity boys' basketball championship team in 2020 and will now join the Hall of Fame as an individual.

Glover, who also played baseball at Clear Lake, went on to play basketball collegiately for two seasons at the University of Pittsburgh and then the University of Texas-San Antonio, where he competed in 50 total games, averaging more than 10 points per game as a senior in 1993-1994.

Cara Gibbs, a Clear Creek Class of 1994 graduate, helped the Wildcats reach the state girls' basketball tournament during a star-studded four-year varsity career, where she played for head coach Peggy Whitley, herself an Athletic Hall of Honor Class of 2020 inductee.

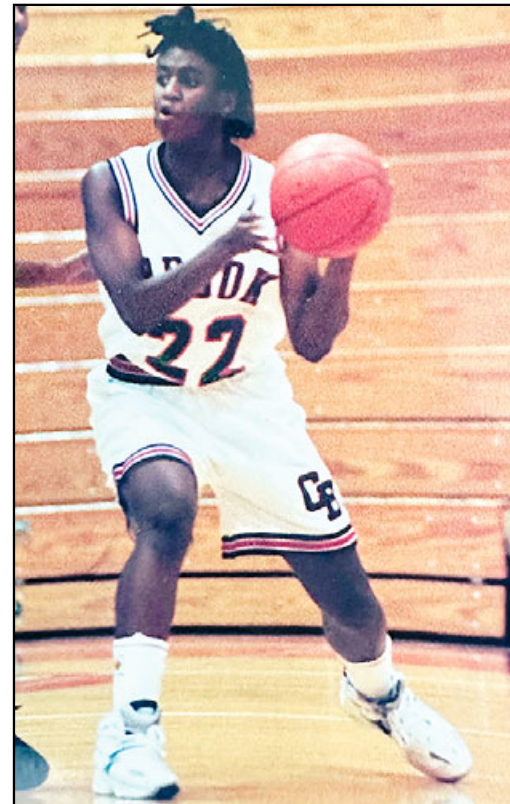
Gibbs played collegiately at Texas Tech University, where she lettered for three seasons

and played her final year in 1999.

Jamie Anderson Brown, who starred with the Clear Creek varsity girls' soccer program in the late 1980s, is included for 2023, as is Clear Lake boys' swimming star Kevin Ruskowski, Ali Uberecken of Clear Lake cross-country and track and field fame, and Clear Creek swimmer Rebecca Wolfe Damas.

The coaching honorees for 2023 include longtime Clear Creek girls' soccer head coach Dede MacPherson and E.J. Swindler, who for 13 seasons led state-level cross-country programs at Clear Lake High School.

State championship teams from Clear Lake High School, including the 1976 girls' swimming and diving, the 1976, 1977 and 1979 boys' swimming and diving teams and the 1978 boys' cross-country squad will also enter the hall of honor.



Terri Hunter Bolden was quickly elevated to the varsity girls' basketball team as a freshman in 1993 and turned her on-court talent and outstanding academics into a college career at the Air Force Academy.



Playing for head coach Pat McKenna, Terri Hunter Bolden helped put the Clear Brook varsity girls' program in the limelight. She now joins the 2023 Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor class of inductees.

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