

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 45 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, February 11, 2021 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 46, No. 2

### Drive-thru fish fry begins

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, will host a drive-thru fish fry Fridays, Feb. 19 - March 26, 4 to 7 p.m. in the rear parking lot. Dinner consists of a breaded USA catfish fried fillet, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob, French fries, tartar sauce and a drink. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities. Cost is \$10. Cash and credit are accepted.

### Free Garden Pop Up spaces

The Gardens Pop Up Shop will host a Valentine's Day event Feb. 13 and Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Gardens Houston, 12001 Beamer Road. In support of community small businesses and crafters, Carmen Garza, owner of The Gardens, is allowing vendors the opportunity to have a booth space in the parking lot at no cost. For more information, visit The Gardens Houston Facebook Group or call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Frazier offers scholarships

Frazier Elementary is offering five scholarships to graduating Dobie seniors who attended Frazier Elementary School.

### COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, Feb. 10, there were 103 confirmed deaths among South Belt residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, up two from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

### Annual family fun events canceled

The fifth annual Family Fun Fest and Strut Your Mutt event, originally scheduled to take place March 21 at Clear Brook City Park, has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

### Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from the Gulf Freeway to SH 288 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, Feb. 11.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 to FM 518 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31.

### Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Feb. 11 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Feb. 12 (second Friday of the month). February is for junk waste, but tree waste will also be accepted.

### PPD offers Explorer program

The Houston Police Department Southeast Division Post 8300 is offering its Explorer program every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the HPD Southeast Patrol Station, located at 8300 Mykawa, to area youth considering a career in law enforcement.

# Friday Feb. 12 last day to file for education boards

Friday, Feb. 12, will mark the last day to file to run in the upcoming May 1 school board elections. All applications must be accepted by 5 p.m. Voters will decide who will fill four spots on the Pasadena ISD board, two spots on the Clear Creek ISD board and three spots on the San Jacinto College District board.

## Cash donations add to questions on Diaz

While Chris Diaz may have lost his 2020 re-election bid for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable, the former official continues to face allegations of wrongdoing.

## Two PISD deaths in 2-day period

Two local Pasadena ISD staff members died this past week in a two-day period. Dobie teacher Melissa "Missy" Gutierrez, 45, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, from issues associated with the COVID-19 virus.

## Annual family fun events canceled

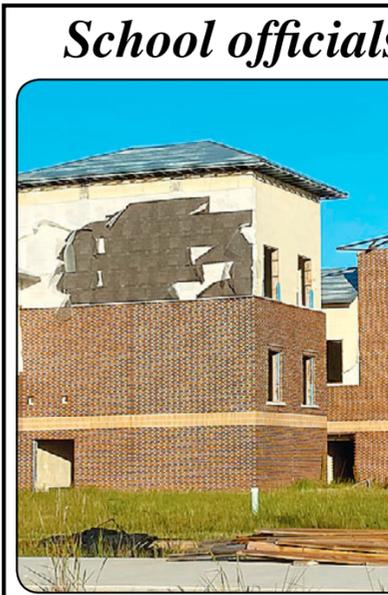
The fifth annual Family Fun Fest and Strut Your Mutt event, originally scheduled to take place March 21 at Clear Brook City Park, has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.

## Paul's meeting on school delayed

Plans are still being ironed out for a meeting to discuss the future status of the controversial charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision.

## School officials uncooperative

A public meeting hosted by Rep. Dennis Paul to discuss the future of the half-constructed Elite College Prep Academy charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision has been placed on hold after officials from the school have failed to cooperate with event organizers.



A public meeting hosted by Rep. Dennis Paul to discuss the future of the half-constructed Elite College Prep Academy charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision has been placed on hold after officials from the school have failed to cooperate with event organizers, often refusing to even accept calls from Paul's office or the Leader. While school officials claim they still intend to open the campus, its construction has been met with multiple problems and has drawn the ire of several in the community who see the property, located at Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, as an eyesore. Photo by Marie Flickinger

the only incumbents who had filed for re-election at press time.

Quijano is being challenged by Crystal Davila, while Yen Huynh Rabe has filed to challenge Sullivan.

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According to Pasadena ISD officials, Gutierrez contracted the COVID-19 virus over the Christmas break and never returned to campus for in-person instruction.

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## Trotter, 22, charged with sexual assault

A man has been charged with sexually assaulting two separate women the same day at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of Beamer near Fuqua.

## Firefighters save Sagemont home

A house caught fire around 5:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, in the 11000 block of Sagetrial.

## Good guys fighting area crime

Several incidents of crime have been addressed in the community in the last few days.

## Rodeo, livestock show not to be

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on Wednesday, Feb. 3, announced the cancellation of this year's competitions, concerts and entertainment, carnival and other attractions and activities, which were recently rescheduled for May 4 - 23, due to the ongoing health situation.

## Mother, daughter die of COVID

An effort is currently underway to raise funds for a local 12-year-old boy who recently lost both his mother and grandmother to the COVID-19 virus.

## Home invasion

Police are searching for multiple suspects, accused of taking part in a home invasion Thursday, Feb. 4, in the Clearview Village, located near Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway.

## Firefighters save Sagemont home

It was determined that the fire started from aluminum wiring that had been installed for an outdoor addition. The fire was declared unintentional. The blaze caused approximately \$7,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save around \$188,000 in property.

to fill Jack Bailey's Position 4 seat. At press time, it remained unclear if Bailey, who has held the position since 2010, planned to run again.

Bledsoe had previously filed to challenge Quijano for the Position 2 seat but has since refiled to run for the open Position 4 spot.

## Mother, daughter die of COVID

12-year old boy now focus of fundraiser

An effort is currently underway to raise funds for a local 12-year-old boy who recently lost both his mother and grandmother to the COVID-19 virus.

Jaiden "J.J." Torres lost both his mother, Sandra Torres, and his grandmother, Maria Diaz, within one week of each other.

At the time of their deaths, the youth was residing with the two women.

A Beverly Hills Intermediate School student, Torres is active in youth sports, and his mother served as secretary for the Southbelt Dolphins.

A benefit in Sandra Torres' honor was recently held at Beamer's Place, raising approximately \$13,000.

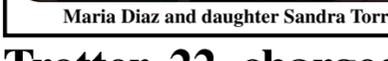
"It was overwhelming," said event organizer Cheryl Arnesen, who serves as the Southbelt Dolphins president.

Arnesen said she initially started the drive to help pay for Sandra Torres' bills as she was suffering from COVID-19, but within two weeks, she had succumbed to the virus. One week later, Diaz also died.

"Then it (the benefit) turned to J.J.," Arnesen said.

According to Arnesen, Torres' aunt, his mother's sister, is planning to now move from The Valley area to stay with the youth in his current home and will also have support from his father and stepmother. "He has plenty of people looking after him," Arnesen said.

To donate funds, call Arnesen, 713-459-4330. Donations may be made by Venmo, Cash App or Zelle. At press time, Arnesen said discussions were being made about possibly also starting a GoFundMe page.



Maria Diaz and daughter Sandra Torres

## Trotter, 22, charged with sexual assault

A man has been charged with sexually assaulting two separate women the same day at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of Beamer near Fuqua.

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According to Darla Massey-Jones, Pasadena ISD election administrator, it is legal under state law for a candidate to change the position for which they are running, as long as they cancel the previous filing through the Secretary of State's

office by Feb. 12.

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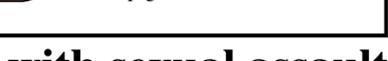
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# Deaths

## Sheressa Lei Clements Moon



Sheressa Lei Clements Moon, 57, known as "Resa," was a light to those that crossed her path and a friend to those in need of one. Her love and passion for family was only surpassed for her love of the Lord. The Lord gave her many gifts, but the one she loved to use to honor and glorify Him was her gift of praise and worship. She went to be with her Lord and Saviour Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021. Her family and friends rejoice in knowing that she is singing again in heaven.

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Wharton and Kaylei Diane Chau; her stepson John Moon III, his wife Vennessa and their children Lori and Henry; Donovan Moon and his wife Julia; her mother, Sherley Clements; and her siblings, Nick Clements, Cory Clements and Sheli Stringer.

The family received friends Thursday, Feb. 4. The funeral service was Friday, Feb. 5. Services were held at Life Community Church, 9529 W. Fairmont Pkwy., in La Porte. Interment was at San Jacinto Memorial Park.

## Lacita Joann Childs



Longtime South Belt resident Lacita Joann Childs, 87, died Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, in San Angelo, Texas. She was born Jan. 30, 1933, in Texarkana. She married James W. Childs of Texarkana June 10, 1950. Later they moved to Houston and celebrated 57 beautiful years of marriage. She was a repeat member of the Million Dollar Club with Wallace Realtors.

Lacita was baptized as one of Jehovah Witnesses Jan. 1, 1972. Through the years she and J.W. helped many individuals learn about Jehovah and his hope for mankind.

She was the matriarch of the family, caring for her parents later in their lives and she and J.W. spent many summers soaking up the sun with their grandchildren in their travel trailer on Galveston Island. They loved to visit Gaido's Seafood Restaurant,

where they had celebrated their honeymoon.

Lacita was preceded in death by her husband; brother Robbie Smith; mother Mary Smith and father Emerson Smith.

She is survived by sons Mark Childs and wife Carolyn and Dennis Childs and wife Pam; grandchildren Jennifer McInnis Fadel and husband Ali; Denver Childs and wife Karmen; Jacqueline Childs; Crystal Allen and husband Brent; Brittany Childs; and great-grandchildren, Michael McInnis and wife Katherine, Taylor McInnis and husband Zachary, Arden Harrison and husband Colby, Morgan Childs, Emma Childs, Logan Childs and Mila Allen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association.

## Norma Jean Penny



Norma Jean Penny died in Pasadena, Feb. 1, 2021, one month short of her fifty-third birthday. Norma was born in San Antonio March 6, 1968. She graduated from Freer High School in 1986.

She went on to earn her Bachelor of Education in 1991 from then Texas A&I in Kingsville. She followed that degree with graduate work at Texas A&M - Kingsville, earning a Master of Science in counseling and guidance, and the University of Houston - Clear Lake, earning a Master of

Science in education. She earned State Board for Educator Certificates to practice as a school counselor and as a principal.

She started her path as an educator at Miller Intermediate where she served her students for three years as a reading teacher and three years as a student counselor.

She was promoted to assistant principal and moved to Thompson Intermediate School where she served for three years.

She was recognized as a leader in the Pasadena Independent School District and rose to the ranks of principal, serving across a 15-year tenure as principal at Carter Lomax Middle School.

Norma married Vaughan Penny June 14, 1997. She continued her career in education and was honored as the Principal of the Year for her achievements as a middle school principal for the school year 2016-2017.

Carter Lomax Middle School, under her leadership, was recognized with a State of Texas Five Star Distinction Award for the 2017, 2018, and 2019 school years.

Carter Lomax Middle School was only one of two campuses in the nation to be named an inaugural recipient of the Summit Learning RISE Award.

This award recognizes schools that demonstrate a commitment to improving the quality of teaching and building the systems, structures, and culture to achieve those goals.

Norma accepted this award on behalf of her team Dec. 16, 2020.

Norma was one of the happiest people in the world, she made everyone feel like they were her best friend. She was more genuine than poetry could capture.

Her love and devotion brightened every room she entered. Her pure heart shown in everything she touched.

Norma was loved by students, teachers, peers, and friends. Everyone adored Norma. She enjoyed following her children and their activities. She enjoyed following their swimming achievements.

Both of her children were accomplished athletes. She was loved by the swimmers and especially by the swim parents.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents Servando Medellin Sr. and Estrella Medellin.

She is survived by her husband; daughter Alexandria Penny and son Evan Penny. Norma is lovingly remembered by her sister Geraldine Moncada and her husband Hector; her brother Servando Medellin and his wife Corina; her sister Elizabeth Lopez; her nephew Emmanuel Moncada; and her great-nieces and great-nephews.

The visitation followed by a celebration of Norma's life was held Monday, Feb. 8, at the South Main Baptist Church, 4300 East Main Houston Pkwy. S. Interment was Feb. 9 at the Hahl Memorial Cemetery in Freer, Texas Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The funeral service was Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, at Peevey Funeral Home, with visitation. Interment followed at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Dickinson.



Wayne Finney, 60, lost his fight with cancer Jan. 28, 2021, peacefully at home with his family.

Wayne was a longtime resident of the South Belt area and coached for the Southbelt Dolphins for more than 20 years.

He remained a fan following them into the playoffs in 2020. Wayne was a huge fan of Dobie sports where his daughter Katherine played on the volleyball team and his sons Michael and Taylor played football and baseball. He was 'Coach Wayne' to so many and friend to many more.

Wayne leaves behind Sharon, his wife of 37 years; daughter Katherine Finney;

sons Michael Finney and Taylor Finney; brother Vinnie, sister Cenita Finney; nephew Jeremy Ward and wife Liza and their daughter Emerald; uncle Bob Martin and aunt Beth Martin; and many friends and family.

Wayne cooked on several barbecue teams during the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Cook-off and loved cooking for family and friends.

A barbecue and Celebration of Life for Wayne will be scheduled at a later date in 2021.

## Elma "Sue" Mesa



South Belt resident Elma Susan Mesa, died Jan. 19, 2021. Known to many of her friends as "Sue," she worked for Pasadena ISD as part of the office staff of Teague Elementary for 18 years.

She was a devoted and loving wife and an amazing mother. Her faith in the Lord was absolute.

The love she expressed to her family was unconditional. She had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a passion for the fine arts.

She gave people hope and yet asked for nothing in return.

She was preceded in death by her parents Lucio and Beatrice Segovia. She is survived by Israel Mesa, her husband of 43 years, and her son Phillip A. Mesa.

She also leaves behind her sister Sarah and husband Ronald Block. Known as 'Aunt Sue,' she will also fondly be remembered by her nephew Ethan and his wife Taryn Block, as well as their two sons Ian and Cailan Block. A memorial service will be held at a future date.

"I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself. A small bird will drop frozen dead from a bough without ever having felt sorry for itself."

- D.H. Lawrence  
A memorial service will be held at a future date.

## South Belt Graphics & Printing

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# CTE students of the month



Daylan Cadoree, a CTHS sophomore Maritime student is shown throwing the mooring line. He is shown with a group of students in the Maritime tenth-grade class.



CTHS archery students are, left to right, Ilse Martinez and Susana Schuster and Alan Masters, archery instructor. The archery team qualified for state tournament. Fifteen of the 18 students are academic archers, having a 90 or above grade average.



Jonan Dewey, a CTHS senior culinary student is holding a fish he is preparing as part of a class lesson.

## Local library events set

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

### Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library, is located at 9002 Kingspoint. For information, visit [https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items\\_per\\_page=200#events](https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events) or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> or call 832-393-2580.

### Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. All overdue fines/fees will be waived through Jan. 1, 2021. To use HPL To Go:

1. Place a hold through the online catalog or by phone.
2. Receive email or phone call of notification prior to scheduling a time for pickup.
3. Upon arrival, park and stay in the vehicle and call to notify staff of arrival.
4. Have MY Link card number and PIN ready.

### Parker Williams Library

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

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
  - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
  - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
  - Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
  - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Curbside hours are: Monday - 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](http://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>.

Thursday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join Mr. John Harbough and Mr. Jason Cruz for a virtual Toddler Time through Microsoft Teams. Designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome. Sign up once with a valid email address at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation. #toddlertime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #harriscountyp #HCPL.

Thursday, Feb. 11, 4:30 p.m. Anime Club shows "Discord." Join Jason Cruz and John Harbough on the Discord Anime Channel for the new Winter 2021 season. To join, email [john.harbough@hcpl.net](mailto:john.harbough@hcpl.net) to be added to the channel. #anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp #HCPL.

Friday, Feb. 12, 5 p.m. Is It Wrong to Watch So Much Anime? - Episode 11: The Love Boat February is a time for romance. What better place to find these than anime? Is love war? Join John and Jason to find out some favoriteships. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp #HCPL.

Friday, Feb. 12, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez. Residents will need pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join Mr. John (John Harbough) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) Program will be on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp #HCPL.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring doodles, numbers and letters. Videos will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Contact [tanner.adams@hcpl.net](mailto:tanner.adams@hcpl.net) for details.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 5 p.m. Virtual Teen Advisory board. Looking for a way to volunteer? Need to get some hours in for National Honor Society? Join Mr. John Harbough. For an invitation, email [john.harbough@hcpl.net](mailto:john.harbough@hcpl.net). #volunteer #volunteering #community #harriscountyp #HCPL.

## Friday last day for election filing

Continued from Page 1

Terms are four years. For additional information on the Pasadena ISD election, visit [www.pasadenaisd.org/school\\_board/election\\_information/election\\_may\\_1\\_2021](http://www.pasadenaisd.org/school_board/election_information/election_may_1_2021).

To be decided in the Clear Creek ISD election are the District 4 seat currently held by Page Rander, the District 5 spot currently held by Jay Cunningham and the At Large Position A seat currently held by Jennifer Broddle. At press time, Christine Parizo had

filed to run for the District 5 position, while Jonathan Cottrell had filed to run for the At Large Position A seat. Rander was running unopposed.

Terms are three years. For additional information on the Clear Creek ISD election, visit [www.ccisd.net/explore\\_ccisd/boardoftrustees/board\\_election\\_information](http://www.ccisd.net/explore_ccisd/boardoftrustees/board_election_information).

Up for grabs on the San Jacinto College District San Jacinto College District board are the Position 5 seat currently held by John Moon Jr., the Position 6 seat currently held

by Dan Mims; and the Position 7 seat currently held by Keith Snior. All three board members have filed to maintain their positions.

While San Jac College officials said there has been some interest from challengers in the open spots, no additional candidates had filed the necessary paperwork to run at press time. Terms are six years.

For more information about the San Jacinto College election, visit [www.sanjac.edu/about-san-jac/board-trustees/election-information/board-election-may-2021](http://www.sanjac.edu/about-san-jac/board-trustees/election-information/board-election-may-2021).

## Male charged with sexual assault

Continued from Page 1

Two hours later, the suspect allegedly assaulted a second woman who was walking through the complex under the pretense of buying some used clothes from her.

Once the pair met, the male suspect allegedly produced a pistol, then robbed and raped the woman.

The parking lot of a law enforcement agency. Houston Police Department officials said the case is part of an open investigation.

Investigators are searching for additional victims. Anyone with any information about this case is urged to contact Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Police encourage residents to use caution when making purchases from online sellers and to meet others in a safe space, such as

the parking lot of a law enforcement agency. Houston Police Department officials said the case is part of an open investigation.

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## In My Opinion

### When will heavy trash be picked up?

When is heavy trash going to be picked up?!?!?! We live in Sagemont (77089) in Houston and have lived here since 1971.

Our heavy trash has not been picked up AGAIN and the street looks like a dump! Our street, Sagecanyon, is the

last street in Sagemont (before the Sagemeadow Section) and it is often forgotten or ignored when it comes to heavy trash. I'm tired of our street looking like it's own dumping ground!!!

I am forwarding this to our area newspaper, the South Belt-Ellington Leader. I know they will be interested in this information!

VERY UPSET in Sagemont!  
Duane McClendon

### Melissa "Missy" Marie Rios-Gutierrez



Melissa "Missy" Marie Rios-Gutierrez, 45, daughter of the late Jose Rios and Lupita Rios-Wahl, was born May 15, 1975, in Wesla-

### Wayne Finney



Wayne Finney, 60, lost his fight with cancer Jan. 28, 2021, peacefully at home with his family. Wayne was a longtime resident of the South Belt area and coached for the Southbelt Dolphins for more than 20 years. He remained a fan following them into the playoffs in 2020. Wayne was a huge fan of Dobie sports where his daughter Katherine played on the volleyball team and his sons Michael and Taylor played football and baseball. He was 'Coach Wayne' to so many and friend to many more. Wayne leaves behind Sharon, his wife of 37 years; daughter Katherine Finney;

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member on the Neighbors App posted that there was a home invasion Thursday, Feb. 4, between 1 - 2 p.m., in Clear View Village. The suspects were in a black Chevy Traverse. The story was shared on other social media pages. If anyone has information they are encourage to contact local police.

Another member from the same app posted a video of two men walking up the member's driveway. The men were scared away by the spotlight and the barking dog. Local authorities were called and were asked to patrol the area.

A member of the Nextdoor page posted that a vehicle was broken into Saturday, Feb. 6, around 2:30

p.m., at Target on Beltway 8 and Pearland Parkway. The member states that the back passenger side window was smashed and a large black heavy duty suitcase with expensive dental equipment inside belonging to a specialist was taken. The member is hoping that anyone with any information will contact the member.

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Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar  
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(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukecatholic.com](http://www.stlukecatholic.com)

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(Modified during COVID-19)

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Sunday	10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

\*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

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

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# Drug use by children: administrators learn signs

By Kadey Heidrich  
Pasadena ISD  
Communications

In an effort to better understand, recognize and ultimately prevent the usage of drugs by children, approximately 200 Pasadena ISD administrators including principals, assistant principals, counselors, police officers and nurses participated in a training by Tall Cop Says Stop.

The webinar training, titled "High in Plain Sight," was hosted by Officer Jermaine Galloway AKA Tall Cop.

Galloway began hosting drug prevention trainings in 2009 and has won numerous awards for his efforts. Since that time, Galloway has worked to educate community members about new drug trends using the mantra, "You can't stop what you don't know."

During the training, administrators learned about the latest trends in drug paraphernalia and concealment, along with general details about drug use. Galloway personalized the webinar for Pasadena ISD by performing a community scan several days before his presentation.

"For me, the most impactful piece about his training was the community scan he conducted," said Alyta Harrell, Pasadena ISD associate superintendent of campus development.

"A couple of days before the training, he purchased paraphernalia and took pictures from local shops in our district.

"They were then used as examples in his presentation. Instant connection!"

Galloway's presentation also included helpful tips that educators can use to identify individuals who are abusing drugs.

Attendees learned about common identifiers, terms and logos associated with drug use.

Participants also learned about different ways that drugs can be concealed, such as stash pockets and other clothing items.

The presentation received overwhelmingly positive reviews from attendees.

"Learning the newest jargon, trends and paraphernalia related to the current drug culture is very helpful, even to those of us working in elementary schools," said one attendee.

"Unfortunately, we deal with parents under the influence and see drug-related incidents. This impacts our students, so the more we know the better."

Drug addiction does damage to communities.

Thanks to this training, Pasadena ISD's administrators may be able catch substance abuse early on and help students who need to conquer a drug dependency.

# Livestock Show & Rodeo canceled

Continued from Page 1

ly, it has become evident that the current health situation has not improved to the degree necessary to host our event," said Chris Boleman, president and CEO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

"While this is an extremely heartbreaking decision for our rodeo volunteers and the larger rodeo community, we believe this decision is in the best interest of the health and well-being of our community."

Several factors contributed to the decision, from a community health and safety perspective, as well as a financial one.

Above all, the health and safety of the community is the rodeo's top priority, and after much consultation with local and state officials and medical experts, rodeo officials concluded that canceling the 2021 event was the right decision, with community health at the forefront of the decision.

"Throughout these uncertain times, we have remained committed to upholding our mission and our support of Texas youth and education," Boleman said. "We are proud to host Texas 4-H and FFA members, as well as the Horse Show exhibitors, who will all be participating this March.

And, thanks to the support of our 35,000 dedicated volunteers, we were able to commit nearly \$21.7 million in 2021 educational support."

In addition, the downtown rodeo parade, trail ride activities, Rodeo Un-corked! Roundup & Best Bites Competition and the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest are canceled for 2021.

The Rodeo Run will be held in a virtual format, with details to be announced once available.

"The rodeo and our volunteers are committed to continuing to provide fans with a community event that all can be proud of," Boleman said.

"We look forward to welcoming rodeo fans back to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in 2022 for our 90th anniversary celebration."

Mayor Sylvester Turner lauded the organization's difficult decision to cancel this year's event.

"The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is one of the most significant events held in Houston every year. It is part of our western heritage, draws guests from around the world and provides more than a \$220 million boost to the local economy and valuable scholarships to young people pursuing higher education," Turner said.

"I commend the HLSR for maintaining its commitment to award more than \$21 million in scholarships this year to help students attend colleges and universities despite the cancellation. I know that canceling the 2021 Rodeo was a difficult decision for president and CEO Chris Boleman and the thousands of dedicated volunteers, vendors, workers and competitors who make the show successful. I support their decision and look forward to a bigger Houston rodeo in 2022."

Dates and information for the 2022 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be announced once available.

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# PISD chooses February Teacher of the Month



Vanessa Gil

This month Pasadena ISD is celebrating teachers throughout PISD. Simply put, the district staff members love their teachers. At the suggestion of Bush Elementary, Vanessa Gil, a second-grade dual language teacher at Bush, is being spotlighted. Gil has served at Bush Elementary for five years and is known around campus for her love of learning. Those who know Gil best describe her as a model teacher who strives to excel in every endeavor. "When faced with a challenge, she adapts and looks for solutions," said Stephanie Miller, principal at Bush. "She sets high expectations for herself and considers all students as her students." Many who know and work with Gil say she is a kind teacher who is always willing to lend a helping hand and provide resources and support to other educators. Student success is Gil's main priority and she has found creative ways to reach students and help them to become successful. "Vanessa is one of those teachers that students will always remember," said Miller. "We are proud to say that Vanessa is a member of our Bush Bear school family."

# Meador celebrates Great Kindness Challenge

Elementary staff members participated in the annual Great Kindness Challenge Jan. 25-29. Students received kindness checklists, bookmarks, bracelets and posters to promote and celebrate kindness on campus and at home. The staff members were treated to room

service and the Meador Kindness Cart went on the road to deliver treats to two other elementary campuses. Below, Beverly Bolton, Meador principal, posed as the 'I' in 'kind' and encouraged staff and students during the challenge.



During the kindness challenge week Tara Merida, Meador Elementary counselor, wore a shirt promoting kindness and gave two thumbs up for a photo with Meador staff members.



As part of the challenge Meador staff members loaded and delivered the Meador Kindness Cart to Frazier Elementary, providing special treats for its staff. Shown with the cart are, left to right, Tara Merida, Meador counselor; Susan Blue, Frazier counselor; Beverly Bolton, Meador principal; Amy Clowers, Meador assistant principal; Wendy Wiseburn, Frazier principal; and Martina De La Garza, Frazier registrar.



Meador Elementary School staff members visited Teague Elementary School and gifted a brightly colored kindness basket filled with snacks. Standing, left to right, are Tara Merida, Meador counselor; Lorie Morris, Teague principal; and Beverly Bolton, Meador principal.



Fourth-graders left chalk messages for students and staff as encouragement throughout the week. Shown, left to right, are Cesar Gonzalez, Alyssa Picarro and Sophia De Jesus Bustillos. Tiffany Jackson is shown with room service snacks that were delivered to her.

# PISD highlights career, technical ed students of month



South Houston High School CTE students take time to feed and care for their model babies. Shown holding the baby dolls are, left to right, Tiara Hyson, Caylynn Leonard, Zariya Turner, Odette Mar and Javiana Johnson as Dr. Allison McCagg, SHHS Human Development Class, watches.



A class of culinary students at the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School recently cooked beef tenderloin, sautéed shallots and seared mushrooms with garlic. Preparing one of the dishes is Phillip Cahoon.



Pasadena ISD CTHS criminal justice students Nailea Cerda (left) and Kelly Velasco practice the art of documenting fingerprints.



Criminal justice students learned how to retrieve a latent print, roll a 10-print card and compare the two prints to obtain a match. This match would be presented in court as evidence in a trial. They learned the different minutiae points and were given the opportunity to see their prints up close using a balloon. Examining fingerprints is Bryan Mata, a CTHS criminal justice student.



Another CTHS culinary student, Edwin Vasquez, is shown preparing a generous portion of beef tenderloin, which will be cooked with sautéed shallots and seared mushrooms with garlic.

# Thompson selects students of the month



Audrie Deroos, a Thompson seventh-grader, was selected the January Student of the Month. She was picked for her hard work and dedication to her classwork.



Ryan Chau, a Thompson seventh-grader, was selected as a Student of the Month for January for his Lion pride and leadership of his peers.



Andre Reyes, eighth-grader at Thompson Intermediate, was selected as Student of the Month. Reyes has demonstrated outstanding grades and hard work in his classes.



Natalie Espinosa, eighth-grader at Thompson Intermediate, was selected as Student of the Month. Espinosa has shown hard work and dedication in all her classes.

# Board of trustees approves order for May election

The San Jacinto College board of trustees unanimously approved to call for an election for three positions at its regularly scheduled meeting Feb. 1.

Positions 5, 6 and 7, currently held by Mr. John Moon Jr., Mr. Dan Mims and Mr. Keith Sinor, respectively, will be on the ballot in May.

The first day for candidates to file for a place on the ballot for the San Jacinto College board of trustees election was Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021.

The filing period will close Friday, Feb. 12, 2021.

Those who wish to run for election to the San Jacinto Community College District board of trustees must meet all of the following requirements:

- Must have lived continuously in one of the independent school districts comprising the San Jacinto

- Must have lived continuously in Texas for 12 months preceding the filing deadline.
- Must be a qualified voter.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Must not be a convicted felon.
- Must be aware of the nepotism law.
- Must serve without compensation.
- Must not have been determined mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court.

The location for filing in person or by mail for the election is the San Jacinto Community College District Administration Building located at 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Suite 200, in Pasadena.

The hours for filing are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Completed applications may also be sent via email to elections@sjcd.edu or faxed to 281-998-6324 by the filing deadline of Feb. 12, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Voters in the following school districts elect the seven San Jacinto Community College District Trustees: La Porte, Deer Park, Pasadena, Galena Park, Channelview, Sheldon and portions of Clear Creek, Pearland and Humble.

Elections for the San Jacinto College board of trustees occur every two years, in odd-numbered years. The board is elected in numbered at-large positions, 1 through 7, and serve six-year terms.

**About San Jacinto College**  
Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving in-

dustry, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the citizens of East Harris County since 1961.

San Jacinto College is among the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020.

The college spans five campuses serving approximately 45,000 credit and noncredit students annually and offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce.

San Jacinto College's impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs.

The college is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

For additional information about San Jacinto College, call 281-998-6150, visit sanjac.edu or join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

# Frazier names rolls

Frazier Elementary School staff announced the second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Third grade**  
Gabriella Griffin, Mia Martinez and Dorin Murray.

**Fourth grade**  
Nevaeh Bumgarner, Carlee Guerrero, Kayden Mitchell and Izaiah Rivas.

# Schools earn first-ever nationwide recognition

**By Maria Mata Pasadena ISD Communications**

Red Bluff Elementary and Sparks Elementary were named America's Healthiest Schools by Healthier Generation, a nationwide recognition program that honors schools for implementing best practices that support learning and child development.

Sparks received a silver award and Red Bluff received a bronze award.

"The Campus Health Advisory Committees at both Sparks Elementary and Red

Bluff Elementary have done an amazing job of promoting health and wellness on their campuses, including engaging families," said Alise Neff, Coordinated School Health specialist.

Amber Macneish, PE, health and wellness coordinator, echoed Neff's sentiments. "We are so proud of the work these campuses are doing to ensure that their students, staff and families are healthy," Macneish said.

In addition to their status as one of "America's Healthiest Schools," Red Bluff and Sparks also received the or-

ganization's first-ever Family Engagement Distinction award. Both campuses are among only 96 schools selected receive the national recognition.

Sponsored by Kohl's and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, the Family Engagement distinction honors schools that strive to strengthen the partnership between families and educators.

While the submission data for this new distinction was received prior to COVID-19, these efforts helped to set a solid foundation to help weather the pandemic as

schools toggled between in-person and remote learning.

"Parents and caregivers are the bedrock to building healthy home environments that will help children thrive," said Tara Geiter, Kohl's director of community relations.

"We congratulate these award-winning schools for their commitment to building stronger relationships with families and for engaging them in health-promoting solutions to bolster the physical, social and emotional well-being of students - especially during such a tumultuous year."

To view the complete list of award recipients, visit HealthiestSchools.org.

# Roberts announces honor rolls

Fred Roberts Middle School officials announced the second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Fifth grade**  
Alondra Aguilar, Fabian Almazan, Annie Andrews, Dario Antunez, Gissella Arellano, Liliana Armenta, Jesiah Avendano and Valerie Aviles.

Abrey Banda, Leah Basilio, Carlos Beltran, Melissa Betanco, Luke Bhatti, Nicholas Black, Ta'lia Brittingham, Naomi Burton and Ambrianna Bustos.

Victor Cacho Martinez, Jeison Cacho Martinez, Ashby Caniff, Gianni Cardenas, Daisy Clara Deblas, Isaac Cumpian, Elaina Daniel, Brian Dao and Paulina Davila.

Angelica Elizalde, Juan Escalante, Carlos Flores, Avigail Franco, Ryan Galang, Adrian Garcia Jasso, Alejandro Garfias Villarreal, Jessie Garza and Devland Guillory.

Natalia Guzman, Myranda Hernandez, Lexi Hernandez, Mateo Hernandez, Khloe Hinojosa, Erik Hoang, Lariah Houston, Brandon Ingersoll and Alfonso Jimenez.

Sebastian Juarez, Branom Lareau, Javier Legaspi, Wendi Li, Anjalie Liceaga, Roy'elle Lizzcano, Vincent Lopez and Marlon Lopez Anariba.

Aiden Ly, Giselle Martinez, Caden Martinez, Matrida Masau, Brandon McNeal, Noah Murphy, Aubrey Navarre and Nhi Nguyen.

Jade Nguyen, Sophie Nguyen, David Nguyen, Thai Nguyen, Aurelia Ochwila, Manuel Olivias, Emma Olvera, Penelope Perez and Vincent Pineda.

Karla Pineda Garfias, Alejandra Quintanilla Linares, Emory Rodgers, Leah Rojas, Christopher Romero, Joshua Sandoval, Alyssa Sanmiguell, Divante Santana and Yaha Shaikh.

Emma Stone, Qurattulayn Suleman, Jade Tagle, Jaward Tahir, Juan Tamayo, Ruby Tamez and Cayla Tang.

Melina Torres, Layla Torres, Selena Trujillo, Yarezi Valdivia, Ava Vega and Carlos Vega.

**Sixth grade**  
Giselle Achuo, Tyler Albert, Syed Allijafri, Nathan Arriaga, Ibrahim Asif, Adeliz Barahona, Yaneli Brenskie, Naiven Buendia and Diana Calderon.

Emery Cardenas, Kordai Clay, Alissa Colon-Nunez, Urias Del Angel, Faith Duenas, Paige Duong, David Flores, Diego Garay and Destinee Garcia.

Izreal Garza, Alexa Gonzalez, Caela Griffin, Wendy Guerrero Celay, Muzana Hasan, Anthony Jennings, Diego Juarez Mendez, Valeria Lamarque Rios and T'nyah Lee.

Brittney Llanas, Stephen Loyd, Abigail Martinez, Annakaren Melchor, Samuel Moreno, Chloe Morse Zavala, Zainab Naveed and Quynh Nguyen.

Nam Nguyen, Anh Nguyen, Andy Pineda, Jazalynn Randall, Genesis Rodriguez, Jasmine Russell, Christopher Salinas, Julian Silva and Nolan Thomas.

Damian Torres, Jaylyn Torres, Elijah Ugalde, Jose Vela-Puerto, Adrian Villatoro, Jaylen Young and Xamira Zambrano.

# Genoa honor rolls set

Genoa Elementary School officials announced the second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Third grade merit roll**  
Genesis Castillo.

**Fourth-grade - A honor roll**  
Valeria Galan, Eli Mendoza and David Coleman.

**Fourth-grade merit roll**  
Santiago Vega, Aliza Bhatti, Emilio Cadena Guerrero and Latifah Meite.

# PISD hosts National School Counseling Week

**By Maria Mata Pasadena ISD Communications**

Pasadena ISD joined school districts across the nation in celebrating National School Counseling Week, Feb. 1-5, which recognized school counselors for making a positive impact on students and helping them achieve success and plan their careers.

Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), the theme for this year's observance is "School Counselors: All in for All Students."

"School counseling programs help to increase student achievement and provide much-needed resource(s) for students, parents, teachers and administrators. School counselors are

integral to student success," said Jill Cook, ASCA executive director.

School counselors have the unique task of examining students' abilities, strengths, interests and talents and focusing on positive ways to enhance students' academic and social/emotional development.

Their guidance often helps students re-

alize their potential.

School counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master's degree in school counseling. This powerful combination of training and experience makes counselors an integral part of the total education program.

More than 100,000 school counselors participated in the festivities nationwide.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1976)**  
The J. Frank Dobie La-iaettes Drill team won a sweepstakes trophy for the second year in a row at the Annual Blue and Gold Drill Team Contest.

County Commissioner Tom Bass, State Rep. Bill Caraway and Houston City Councilman Frank Mancuso took similar positions at Pasadena and South Houston high schools respectively.

Sagamont Jaycees and Almada Mall sponsored a country-western dance at the mall to benefit the family of Rochelle Townley, a student at Frazier Elementary who had been struck with herpes encephalitis.

**35 years ago (1986)**  
A bridge connecting the Sageglen and Green Tee subdivisions was under construction by Harris County Flood Control.

Dr. B.J. Garner, PISD board of trustees president, was selected by the board to seek placement on the Texas Association of School Boards.

**30 years ago (1991)**  
Dobie decathlon won regional match scoring 4,000 points ahead of its nearest competitor, Deer Park.

Former Dobie football player and 1986 graduate Sedic White died after being shot several times following an argument in the 5900 block of Southwind which is off Cullen and Bellfort.

**25 years ago (1996)**  
Approximately 80 percent of the South Belt area had to change their numbers to the newly created 281 area code following a 2-1 vote of the Public Utilities Commission.

John Wayne Sammons of Sageglen, 43, died of an apparent heart attack after collapsing on the Harris County jogging trail adjacent to Scarsdale Boulevard.

**20 years ago (2001)**  
Sixty-five residents attended a meeting to discuss securing a Weber school replacement.

Dobie cheerleading squad took sixth place in the small varsity division at the UCA

national finals.

Southbelt Dolphin Youth football league reported approximately \$15,000 worth of equipment stolen.

Roseanne Salas, 26, Darrell Bishop, 19, and James Santos, 26, were identified as the three suspects arrested by Houston Police for robbing 17 insurance agencies.

**15 years ago (2006)**  
A \$1.3 million software program caused chaos inside PISD. Administrators and counselors were experiencing great difficulty in

retrieving necessary reports regarding attendance, discipline, tardies and student whereabouts at a particular time.

Clear Brook High School student Samantha Underwood raised the grand champion steer at the 24th annual livestock show. Underwood's steer was sold for \$7,500. The total amount earned by Brook students was more than \$83,000.

**10 years ago (2011)**  
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held

a banquet to celebrate its 27th anniversary. Houston Mayor Annise Parker was the guest of honor at the annual event. A former small business owner, Parker stressed the importance of local chambers of commerce, as well as Houston's role in international business.

Pariyanan Vaduganathan, M.D., was elected chief of the medical staff by his physician peers at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. A board-certified cardiologist, Vaduganathan would

act as a liaison between the medical staff and hospital employees and administrative staff during his two-year term.

The South Belt community was struck by a hard freeze with temperatures dipping into the mid-20s. While the area was spared the snow that was predicted, icy conditions led to the closure of many local schools, businesses and nonemergency government entities. While road closures and traffic accidents were widespread

across the Greater Houston area, local problems were limited.

**5 years ago (2016)**  
Two South Belt siblings were killed early Sunday, Feb. 7, in a house fire that took place in Pasadena. Jesse Walker, 19, and Taylor Walker, 20, were pronounced dead at the scene. Both were Dobie graduates.

A local man was killed Saturday, Feb. 6, in an auto-pedestrian accident at the corner of Scarsdale and Beamer. Cedric Roby, 59, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Roby was attempting to cross the street when he was struck by a vehicle heading north on Beamer. Witnesses said driver had a green light. No charges were filed.

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# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**LILY TURNS THREE!**  
Special happy birthday wishes are sent to **Lilian (Lily) Margaret Scarberry** who celebrates her third birthday Wednesday, Feb. 12, from dad **Austin**, mom **Tiffany** and big sister **Jade Scarberry**; grandparents **Jannie and Robert Scarberry**, former longtime South Belt residents; aunts **Jenny (Hayes) Laney** and **Stacey (Hayes) Flowers**; uncles **Stephen Flowers**, **Joey Hayes** and **Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden and Bayley Espinosa**, **Olivia Moreno**, and **Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers**.

**DEAN CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
**Dean Baier**, longtime South Belt resident and director of operations at Clear Brook City MUD, is wished a happy birthday Feb. 16 from his new bride Barb, his son **Ryan Baier**, granddaughter **Payten Worden**, friends and the **Leader** staff. He is active in the community, serving as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter for Harris County Southeast Fire Department and chairing the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off. Dean and Barb married Feb. 13.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 11 through Feb. 17, 2021.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Give a birthday shoutout Feb. 12 to **Eileen Guinon**. The day for a party for **Diana Trevino** is Feb. 14. Blow out the birthday candles for **Ludivina Perez** Feb. 17.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Send a happy birthday greeting Feb. 13 to **Carla Reyes**.

**Frazier Elementary**  
**Maritza De La Garza** enjoys a birthday Feb. 15.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Light the birthday candles Feb. 11 for **Elva Moreno**. The day for a party for **Alma Nava** is Feb. 12.

**Meador Elementary**  
Remember to wish **Erika Rodarte** a happy birthday Feb. 12. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Yolanda Arebalo** Feb. 13. Blow out the birthday candles for **Natalie Aviles** Feb. 15. The day for a birthday celebration with cake and ice cream for **Tania Castillo** is Feb. 16.

**Moore Elementary**  
Join in the birthday fun Feb. 12 with **Kristy Chapa**.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Marking a birthday Feb. 12 is **Melissa Cerda**.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Break out the balloons and party favors Feb. 12 for **Jean Deleon**.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 12 is **Michelle Rush**. The day for a birthday cake for **Gabrielle Creagh** is Feb. 14.

**Roberts Middle School**  
Send a special birthday greeting Feb. 13 to **Esmeralda Rodriguez**.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Feb. 11 is the day to wish **Ronnie Thomas** a happy birthday. Sing a happy birthday song with **Yessenia Ramirez** Feb. 12. Birthday wishes are in order Feb. 15 to **Barbara Henderson**.

**Dobie High**  
**Holly Peel** enjoys a wonderful birthday Feb. 13. Remember to wish **Andrew Kirkpatrick** a happy birthday Feb. 15. The day for birthday balloons and party favors for **Samantha Poullard** and **Willard Joiner** is Feb. 16.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Feb. 11: **Cesar Ramirez, Ron Martinez** and **Jennifer Zanders**; Friday, Feb. 12: **Greg Banhart, C.J. Jareo III, Chris Smith, Melinda Poplawski, Cynthia Tavera, Clyde Jones, Lisa Jones, Jacqueline Preston, Alex Lerma** and **Robert Barbosa**; Saturday, Feb. 13: **Celeste Beaty, Trisha Waguespack, Cristi Skerrett** and **Randy Harms**; Sunday, Feb. 14: **Cathi Brockman** and **Jon Baker**; Monday, Feb. 15: **Mark Wilson, Laura Allison, Gene Cernal** and **Kelley Huebner**; Tuesday, Feb. 16: **Yvonne Rojas, Linda Soria, Danielle Cunningham, Mary Nell Dees, Rhonda Stallbaumer, Sharla Fufts** and **Lisa Fernandez**; and Wednesday, Feb. 17: **Jeanne Nelson, Monica Gonzales, Dawn Armstrong, Jeri Joslin, Donn Reichelt, Russell Janacek** and **Susan Slater**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com noting "OTBF" or "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" for birthdays by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## League champ Dobie to take on West Brook

### Feb. 12 – noon start PISD Brown Relays to invade Auxiliary

Clear Lake, Deer Park and La Porte will join the five host PISD schools as Pasadena ISD continues its long-standing run of the Brown Relays Feb. 12 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the University Interscholastic League is limiting high school track and field meets to eight boys' and eight girls' teams per meet during the 2021 season.

Dobie's boys' and girls' teams will be joined by those from Memorial, Pasadena, Rayburn and South Houston in addition to those from Clear Lake, Deer Park and La Porte.

Per UIL guidelines, attendance will be restricted to adhere to appropriate social distancing measures, and face coverings and/or masks must be worn by those in the seated areas.

The meet will start at noon with the distance medley relays in addition to field events. The boys' and girls' 4x800-meter relays come at 2 p.m., and the running events commence at 3 p.m.

All events will be considered as finals as there will be no preliminaries.

A significant cold front possibly accompanied by rain is forecasted for the area on the eve and day of the meet.

District athletics officials have said the Brown Relays cannot be contested earlier or delayed, so Feb. 12 is the date for sure.

The first goal met, the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team is now looking for an extended stay in the postseason as the bidistrict round tips off Feb. 11.

**Bidistrict Hoops**  
**Dobie (19-4) vs.**  
**West Brook**  
**Feb. 11, 6 p.m.**  
**Dayton H.S.**

Dobie, the champion of District 22-6A, will go against Beaumont West Brook, the fourth-place finisher out of District 21-6A Feb. 11 in that first-round matchup at Dayton High School. Game time is 6 p.m.

The Lady Longhorns closed out the regular season Feb. 3 with an easy 55-36 victory over Pasadena to finish off a perfect 12-0 run through District 22-6A play, which helped the locals go 19-4 overall to this point in the season.

Dobie head coach Jasmine Hartman got the Lady Longhorns to the postseason in each of her first two seasons.

Now in her third, Hartman and the Dobie girls have a District 22-6A championship to relish, and more is wanted.

"I think every team's goal is to win the district title or be one of the four teams to go to the playoffs, especially at the beginning of a season," Hartman said.

"However, it can be hard to stay the course with having such a long season and even more with the Covid-19 pandemic now existing. They just kept the vision and played together. They are resilient.

"This team, through it all, has made history.

Nothing is guaranteed and surely this season can say that. We celebrate this title!"

As for taking down West Brook and advancing to the area round to face Pearland or Clear Creek,

it's all about sticking to what has gotten the Lady Longhorns to this point.

"This time of the year, any team can win," Hartman said.

"It's who puts together and applies the best game plan. We are not the fastest, we are not the tallest, or even ranked, but we will focus a lot on our non-negotiables to help us be successful."

For Hartman, it's what champions do.



Dobie guard Kendall Brown (11) drives past a Deer Park defender earlier this season as the Lady Longhorns continued their perfect run through District 22-6A. With the league championship now in hand, the locals will turn their attention to District 22-6A fourth-place finisher Beaumont West Brook Feb. 11 in the bidistrict playoffs. Dobie is in its third straight postseason under head coach Jasmine Hartman.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

### Dobie's Joseph AGH; LSA's Hutchins, too

What a week it's been for Dobie senior defensive end Gerard Joseph, who is fresh off joining the University of Texas-El Paso football program after signing a letter of intent with the Miners on National Signing Day.

Joseph, who earlier this offseason earned District 22-6A Defensive Player of the Year accolades, has now been named as an All-Greater Houston second team defense member.

The defensive end turned in quite a season in 2020 while leading a Dobie defensive unit that surrendered just over 10 points per game in district play.

For his part, Joseph registered 52 total tackles, including nine stops for loss.

He had 4.5 sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery over 11 games as his Dobie squad went unbeaten during a regular season for the first time since 1999.

Lutheran South Academy junior receiver Joel Hutchins, who set a program record for receptions and reception yards in a single game in 2020, was named to the All-Greater Houston Private School honor squad.

It was a great campaign for Hutchins.

Continued on Page 6

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### EFLP eyes March reopening goal

El Franco Lee Park, the home competition and practice facility to several South Belt area youth sports leagues but closed to said activities for the better part of a year, could be nearing a reopening sometime next month.

In an email to Southbelt

Little League, South Belt Youth Soccer Club and South Belt Girls Softball Association leaders earlier this month, William Taylor, a staff member within Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis' office, indicated to local youth league officials that, pending

an agreement among the commissioner's office and league officials involved, the park could be set for reopening in March.

The next step is to agree on the necessary steps that need to be taken in order to ensure safety protocols are in place to mitigate

the potential spread of COVID-19 among athletes, coaches and spectators within the park.

Needless to say, the move to perhaps inch closer to a reopening of El Franco Lee Park after nearly a full year of

Continued on Page 6

2019-2020 leading scorer Brandon Andrews to graduation, the Wolverines have continued to impress during this pandemic-affected season under the guidance of third-year head coach Nathan Janak.

In its only loss of the season to Clear Lake last month, the Wolverines weren't as solid as they would have liked to have been in a one-point loss to the Falcons at Krueger Field House.

This time around, junior Kemo Millender, who a game earlier eclipsed the 1,000-point-career-scoring

Continued on Page 6

### Wolverines, 21-1, capture 24-6A crown

The Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team continued to deliver on the best regular season in program history, winning the District 24-6A championship by taking down visiting Clear Lake 61-53 Feb. 6.

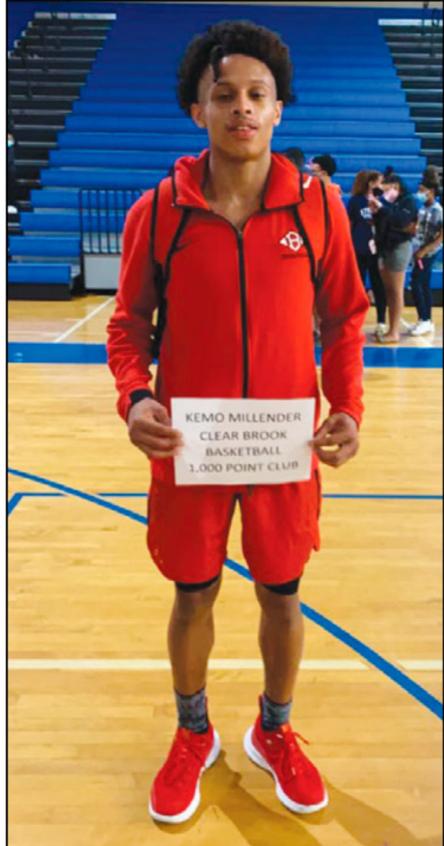
The win awarded the

league title to the Wolverines, who at 21-1 overall have led the way in the District 24-6A ranks all season.

Clear Brook turned a few heads a season ago

while winning 26 overall games and pushing a very good Summer Creek team to the brink in the Class 6A area playoffs before losing.

And even after losing



Clear Brook junior Kemo Millender eclipsed the 1,000 career-points-scored mark in a win over Clear Springs and then had a game-high 24 against Clear Lake as the Wolverines clinched the 24-6A crown.

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# Battle-tested Lady Longhorns expect great run

There really couldn't be any more excitement surrounding the start of a season.

With all eight of its senior players having officially signed to play collegiately, the Dobie varsity softball program is set to begin what it expects to be a memorable 2021 campaign.

Dobie, with quite a few of its core players contributing then, was off to a very good start in 2020 before the coronavirus shut down the season.

Fast forward to now, with players like Karlie Barba, Jasmin Benitez, Yessenia Pena, Leslie Longoria and others back to lead the offense and sophomore Marisa Perla among those set to command the pitching circle, Dobie understandably has very high hopes.

It all gets started Feb. 15 as the Lady Longhorns head over to neighboring Clear Brook to take on the Lady Wolverines.

The Lady Longhorns will then play six games in three days at the Lone Star Invitational, hosted by the Friendswood, Clear Springs and Clear Creek programs.

Leading up to the 2021 season opener, the Lady Longhorns have made the rounds on the scrimmage circuit.

On Feb. 2, the Lady Longhorns played Dickinson to a 6-6 tie as Perla went 3 for 3 and drove in two runs, while Karlie Barba had two hits and batted in two more.

Longoria had two hits and scored twice, and Perla struck out 11 over five innings in the circle.

Three Dobie errors led to three unearned runs for Dickinson as the game wound up tied.

On Feb. 6, Dobie first lost to Friendswood 10-5 as the Lady Mustangs scored six unearned runs courtesy of four Dobie miscues.

Karlie Barba had two hits and knocked in a pair of runs to pace the Lady Longhorns' offense.

**Lone Star Invitational**  
*Feb. 18 at Clear Springs*

**11 a.m. – Dobie vs. Elkins**  
**1 p.m. – Dobie vs. Clear Springs**

**Feb. 19 at Friendswood**

**1 p.m. – Dobie vs. St. Agnes**  
**5 p.m. – Dobie vs. Friendswood**

**Feb. 20 at Clear Creek**

**11 a.m. – Dobie vs. Galv. Ball**  
**3 p.m. – Dobie vs. Clear Creek**

Later in the day, Dobie defeated Clear Creek by an 8-4 count.

In that one, Karlie Barba had a solo home run and Benitez tripled.

Kristen Barba, Perla, Celeste Salazar and Pena doubled in the win as the Lady Longhorns had six extra-base hits.

Claire Ramirez got the pitching win.

# Andrade, LSA softball have high hopes in 2021

Just four games into the 2020 season, things came to an end for the Lutheran South Academy softball program, perhaps bringing more anticipation to this season than in recent memory.

Head coach Nicole Andrade, who led the Pioneers to a state championship in 2019, feels as though she has the players in place to make another run this season.

Veteran catcher Lolo Whitney has moved on to college, and Jackie Latchley must be replaced in center field, but the lineup otherwise returns largely intact from the all-too-brief 2020 season.

"We have a great group of seniors and juniors, so I feel like we have the experience coming back that you need to be able to have a great year," said Andrade, who played high

school softball at Dobie and then collegiately at San Jacinto College.

"We have players who play three sports here. That's something that we promote is to be versatile, so we will have to get everybody back from basketball and soccer.

"That, and it's been about 10 or 11 months since we have played much competitive softball. We are going to have

to shake off the rust, and I could see that in our first scrimmage, but I think we can have a really great season. We have worn our masks and followed our safety measures to get this far, and now we have to continue to do those things as we move forward, but I think we will be fine."

Offensively, Andrade is counting on players like Ashley Foret, a four-year performer who should be

at first base.

There's juniors Cayden Koster, Evany Gonzalez, Lily Psencik and Olivia Munoz, as well as freshman Kat Maldonado who seems to be ready to make an immediate impact on the program.

In the circle, McKenzie Clark is a transfer from Galveston Ball, and Krista Van Aken is in at catcher as the team looks to replace Whitney.

"Like any team, we have to pitch well, play defense behind our pitchers and come up with the timely hits," Andrade said.

"The ladies are excited to be out there on the field. I think we realize how fortunate we are to be out there on the field. I think we are going to have a great season."

LSA opened its season Feb. 10 against Houston Christian after press time.

# El Franco Lee Park could reopen next month

Continued from Page 5  
closure is welcomed by league officials.

The Southbelt Little League, formerly the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League until undergoing a name change in recent weeks, normally begins its regular season in March.

As for the baseball league, divisional try-

outs have begun, and late registration has concluded.

With practices coming very soon, it's very possible SLL could see a seamless transition to the start of the 2021 regular season should the park reopen.

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club, meanwhile, has been in a holding pattern since its 2020 spring

season was cut short due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The league subsequently endured some financial losses due to the need to refund registration monies that were tied to financial institution debit and credit card fees, etc.

SBYSC President Alex Dokhani elected to suspend further registration

opportunities within the league until El Franco Lee Park reopens.

Currently, registration for the South Belt Youth Soccer Club's 2021 spring season is on hold.

The South Belt Girls Softball Association has concluded registration for the spring 2021 season and, like the Southbelt Little League, is merely wait-

ing on the reopening of El Franco Lee Park.

The news is certainly also welcomed by the Sagemont Cowboys of the Bay Area Football League, who play their home games at Denny Wranich Sr. Field within El Franco Park.

With the park closed during the 2020 fall season, the Cowboys prac-

ticed at a local church and played their home games in Pearland.

In this stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, very little is certain of course, but there does appear to be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel as the county and league officials eye a safe solution to a return to action.

# Brook boys' basketball rolling as playoffs near

Continued from Page 5  
mark with the Wolverines, had a game-high 24 points in the championship clincher.

The ultimate success of the Wolverines' season may boil down to the length of their stay in the postseason.

However, a one-loss regular season with a sin-

gle game remaining at Clear Falls after press time Feb. 10 is special.

"This group has been locked in all year," Janak said after the 24-6A clincher.

"They have a strong will to win, but what has been exceptional about them is their ability to consistently bring effort and inten-

sity to every practice and game.

"Our players play with a tremendous amount of passion and energy. They have done a great job of putting aside their individual goals and sacrificing to help this team win. You don't see that very often."

And at 21-1, Janak has seen the Wolverines be

able to deliver on their potential literally each night. Yes, Lake was able to hand the locals their first and only loss of the season, but Brook reacted positively to close out the title march.

"A lot of teams struggle to see the big picture and are not able to get to the level of celebrating their

teammates' successes," Janak said.

"This group just wants to win. Our coaching staff has done a tremendous job of not only preparing our kids to be successful on the court, but also instilling a mindset in our players to be unselfish and play for the team's success.

"I am extremely proud

of the success this group has had this season so far. Claiming the District 24-6A title was a special moment. Our next challenge will be to remain focused and push forward in an effort to win playoff games."

Strake Jesuit, currently fourth in District 2-6A, stands as Brook's bidistrict opponent.

# Longhorn swimmers finish up at regionals

The Dobie swimming team wrapped up a successful season by taking 12th at regionals.

Joseph Lukner was fourth in the 100 back and sixth in the 200 free to highlight the Longhorns' efforts at the meet.

Lukner also joined the Dobie boys' 400 free relay squad that took 10th at regionals as Lukner was joined by Bruce Nguyen, Jaylne Humphrey and

Hayden Fell.

Dobie's 200 medley relay of Nguyen, Fell, Humphrey and Malcolm McGhee placed 12th in the event.

Nguyen took 13th place in the 100 free event.

As for the 200 free relay, the Longhorns were able to grab 14th place at the regional level as Humphrey was joined by Isaac Garcia, Fell and McGhee in the event.

# JFD boys' hoops assured No. 2 seed

The good news for the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team?

Winners of their last eight games in league play, the Longhorns are 9-2 with a single game remaining Feb. 10 against South Houston and are assured of no worse than a No. 2 playoff seed.

The bad news? Pasadena is one Feb. 10-win over-Sam Rayburn away from an 11-1 finish, which will give the Eagles their first league championship

since the 1992-1993 campaign.

The Longhorns, once 1-2 in the District 22-6A race following consecutive losses to Rayburn and Pasadena, have come away with nothing but Ws since that time and are now 13-10 overall with one game remaining.

If there is a tie for the top spot between Dobie and the Eagles, Pasadena ISD officials have said the two teams would then go head-to-head, likely Satur-

day, Feb. 13, to determine postseason seeding.

Pasadena is 10-1 with a game against Rayburn left, while Dobie is 9-2 with one left. Those play-

off seeds are 1-2 in either order.

South Houston is 5-6 and seeded third, with three teams still in play for the fourth seed.

The school record came as Hutchins had 10 catches for 327 yards and four touchdowns against St. Joseph Victoria.

# Hutchins is AGH pick

Continued from Page 5  
For the entire 2020 season, Hutchins reeled 47 catches for 989 yards with 14 touchdowns.

In addition, Hutchins had eight carries for 38 yards and a score along

with 11 kickoff returns for 261 yards, all of it over just eight total games.

# Dobie girls' soccer trails in District 22-6A race; boys get even



Dobie senior Marina Vasquez (8) dribbles the ball during the first half of the Lady Longhorns' 3-0 loss to Memorial Feb. 8 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Lady Longhorns are now 1-3 in District 22-6A action.  
Photo by Donna Alsdorf



The Longhorn varsity boys' soccer team, including Max Parra, came up big in a must-win game, blanking Memorial 7-0 Feb. 8 at Veterans Stadium as Jonathan Torres had two goals and Parra, Alejandro Vigil, Gerardo Martinez and Sergio Tenchon also scored. Isaac Cortez had a goal and two assists.  
Photo by Donna Alsdorf

# Dobie Longhorn Softball 2021 Varsity Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 6	at Alvin scrimm.	11 a.m.
Feb. 8	at Angleton scrimm.	5 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Clear Brook	6 p.m.
Feb. 18	Elkins (at Cl. Springs)	11 a.m.
Feb. 18	at Clear Springs	1 p.m.
Feb. 19	St. Agnes (at Frwd)	1 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Friendswood	5 p.m.
Feb. 20	Gal. Ball (at Cl. Creek)	11 a.m.
Feb. 20	at Clear Creek	3 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Pearland	6 p.m.
March 2	*at Channelview	6 p.m.
March 4	Angleton (at Dobie)	9 a.m.
March 4	Klein Collins (at Dobie)	3 p.m.
March 5	Humble (at Dobie)	11 a.m.
March 5	Brazoswood (at Dobie)	1 p.m.
March 6	Cy-Fair (at Dobie)	9 a.m.
March 6	Heights (at Dobie)	1 p.m.
March 9	*Pasadena (at Dobie)	4 p.m.
March 12	*at Deer Park	7 p.m.
March 23	*Memorial	6 p.m.
March 26	*Rayburn	7 p.m.
March 30	*S. Houston (at Dobie)	4 p.m.
April 1	*Channelview (at Dobie)	4 p.m.
April 6	*Dickinson (at Dobie)	4 p.m.
April 9	*Pasadena	6 p.m.
April 13	*Deer Park	6 p.m.
April 16	*Memorial	6 p.m.
April 20	*Rayburn	6 p.m.
April 23	*S. Houston	6 p.m.
*District 22-6A games		

# Lutheran South Softball 2021 Varsity Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 22	St. Pius	5 p.m.
Feb. 24	Kinkaid	5 p.m.
March 2	St. Joseph's	5 p.m.
March 5	at Second Baptist	5 p.m.
March 6	at Hou. Lamar tourn.	TBA
March 9	Frassati	5:45 p.m.
March 11	Concordia Lutheran	5:15 p.m.
March 19-20	at BACS tourn.	TBA
March 23	at TWCA	5:30 p.m.
March 25	at Fort Bend Christian	5:30 p.m.
March 29	Bay Area Christian	5 p.m.
March 30	Cristo Rey	5:30 p.m.
April 1	at St. Joseph's	4:30 p.m.
April 6	Second Baptist	5 p.m.
April 9	at Frassati	4:30 p.m.
April 13	at St. John's	5 p.m.
April 16	TWCA	5:30 p.m.
April 20	Fort Bend Christian	6 p.m.
April 23	at Cristo Rey	4:30 p.m.
April 24	at Hou. Lamar tuneup	11 a.m.

# Sports notes, news items

**Hall of Fame scholarship applicants sought**  
Pasadena ISD high school students are encouraged to apply for the PISD Athletics Hall of Fame scholarship award, presented annually to deserving students.

Sponsored by the PISD Education Foundation, the scholarship award will be presented later this spring. The deadline to submit applications for the two scholarships totaling \$2,500 each to one deserving male student and one female student is March 26.

To access the application, visit [www.pasadenaisd.org](http://www.pasadenaisd.org), choose departments, choose athletics and then choose hall of fame scholarships 2021. For more information or help with accessing the scholarship online, call 713-740-0838.

**Harris scholarship fund accepting donations**  
Barry E. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund co-founder Shane Brown is accepting donations to help fund the 2021 scholarship that will be awarded to a deserving Dobie High School student in May.

The fund is in honor of Harris, who was a longtime educator at Dobie High School and supporter of Pasadena ISD athletics. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 65 due to complications from cancer.

Brown is also raising donations for the Harris scholarship fund by taking part in a 1.5-mile run beginning Feb. 19 as he will complete as many 1.5-mile loops over a 48-hour time span as possible. For additional information or to donate, direct email to [rbrown@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:rbrown@pasadenaisd.org).

**Lajaunie tennis tourney seeks funds**  
Event organizers are busy with early plans for the 10th annual Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund tournament, with 2021 fundraising efforts underway.

While the 2020 event did not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Lajaunie fund awarded two youth scholarships as well as six others to deserving Dobie High School senior tennis players.

As for 2021 fundraising efforts, those are being accepted both on the Lajaunie tournament site on Facebook at Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund as well as [www.DLTennisScholarships.com](http://www.DLTennisScholarships.com).

For additional information on donations or tournament sponsorship opportunities, call tournament founder Camille Lajaunie at 281-480-6933.

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# CALENDAR

**7 p.m.**  
Pearland Area Republican's Club - Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. For details, email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
7 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
6:30 p.m.  
Bay Area Genealogical Society - Meets online virtually. Registration required. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.  
7 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.  
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are online. Join the 7 p.m. Friday or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service and visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org/calendar and click on calendar link. For details, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html.  
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 and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
7:30 a.m.  
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 A.m.  
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.  
11 a.m.  
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addicts, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787. Visit http://www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html for more information.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
8 p.m.  
AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
Noon  
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets on a virtual site at https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/. To be a guest, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access. For more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.  
7 p.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bldg., room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**  
7 a.m.  
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
Noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
7 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
7 a.m.  
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
Noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
7 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
7 a.m.  
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
7:30 a.m.  
Rotary Club of Pearland - See Thursday's notice.  
Noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
7 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
7 a.m.  
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.  
7:30 a.m.  
Rotary Club of Pearland - See Thursday's notice.  
Noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
7 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Thursday's notice.

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# Houston USO celebrates 80th anniversary



On Feb. 4 the Houston United Service Organization celebrated the 80th anniversary of the USO. The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to our nation. The USO is a nonprofit organization formed by congress in 1941 with the mission to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families. Today the USO operates more than 200 locations worldwide, servicing more than eight million military service members and their dependents each year. Terri Riemer, senior center operations supervisor, was the recipient of the USO Ovation award for her tireless efforts to keep support going for military in the community, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Shown are, left to right, Denise Burleigh, USO volunteer; Barry Burleigh, USO volunteer; Loren Westerfield, USO director; Michele Hamby, USO volunteer; Merry Perkins, USO volunteer; and Riemer.

# Ash Wednesday service set

## 1st Christian Church of Pasadena

First Christian Church of Pasadena will hold Ash Wednesday service Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. One will be able to view on Facebook or in person with COVID protocols in place. First Christian Church of Pasadena is located at 4848 Preston Road, Pasadena, 77505.

# Green Thumb set for Feb. 16

Green Thumb Gardening will host a lecture series: Spring Vegetable Gardening by Harris County Master Gardeners with Harris County Public Library System on Feb. 16, from 11 a.m. until noon. This is a free virtual lecture, no registration is required. Watch via Facebook Live at facebook.com/harriscountyp/live.

# Two PISD deaths in 2-day period

**Continued from Page 1**  
walk into her classroom at any given time and walk out laughing. She was a bright light and a downright good person." This sentiment was shared by former student Holly Williams Lyons. "She was loved and adored within the class of '93," Lyons posted on Facebook. "She was always kind and wonderful! I know she will be missed by all who knew her and loved her."

Funeral services for Gutierrez were held Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Mount Olivet in Dickinson. The service was live-streamed online. See related obituary on Page 2. Norma Jean Penny, Lomax Middle School principal, also recently died, passing away Feb. 1 at the age of 52. Pasadena ISD officials said Penny's death was unexpected, and her cause of death remained unknown at press time. Penny had reportedly just received her second COVID-19 vaccine the day of her death. Penny began her career at Miller Intermediate, where she served three years as a

reading teacher and three years as a student counselor. She was then promoted to assistant principal at Thompson Intermediate, where she served three years, before being promoted to principal at Carter Lomax Middle School, where she served 15 years. While at Lomax, Penny was named Pasadena ISD's Middle School Principal of the Year. A private visitation was held Monday, Feb. 8, at South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena, followed by a celebration at Hahl Memorial Cemetery in Freer Feb. 9. See related obituary on Page 2.

# South Belt names VIPs for February



South Belt Elementary has announced its VIPs for the month of February. The students were chosen by their teachers, based on their ability to display the character trait of the month: Generosity. Shown above are, left to right, (first row) Desiree Vazquez, Catherine Bravo, Kadi Tran, Christian Mayfield, Jaslene Valencia, Abigail Pina (second row) Mila Maldonado, Katalaya Razo, Damian Alvarez, Jax DeSoto, Chyenne Moon, Christopher Mayfield (third row) Saad Shahid, Vincent Nguyen, Madison Monford, Arianna Gomez, Kelsie Snook (fourth row) Isabella Rembert, A.J. Rodriguez, Mia Palacios, Hannah Walker, Liam Thomas (fifth row) Gabriella Franklin, Melody Ramirez, Melanie Martinez, Makayla Gomez, Christina Vu and Carissa Cortez. Not shown are Madelynn Contreras, Christian Garza, Elia Gaskill, Liana Hernandez, Aisley Mariscal, Christopher Martinez, Clint Nguyen and Drake Nguyen. Photo by Lakitha Thomas, counselor

# Lopez spelling winner



Imelda Lopez, a Genoa Elementary School fourth-grader, represented Genoa at the district's spelling bee.

# Learn self-defense!

The American Society of Karate is starting new self-defense and martial arts virtual courses for children, teens and adults. The self-defense classes which began Feb. 5 are appropriate for ages 13 through adult. To access these virtual classes, visit the website https://tinyurl.com/askselfdef. In addition to these classes, details on other martial arts virtual courses which began this month are found at askkarate.com-->Online Classes-->Mind Body Site. For additional information, email online@askkara.com or call 281-571-3697 for information.

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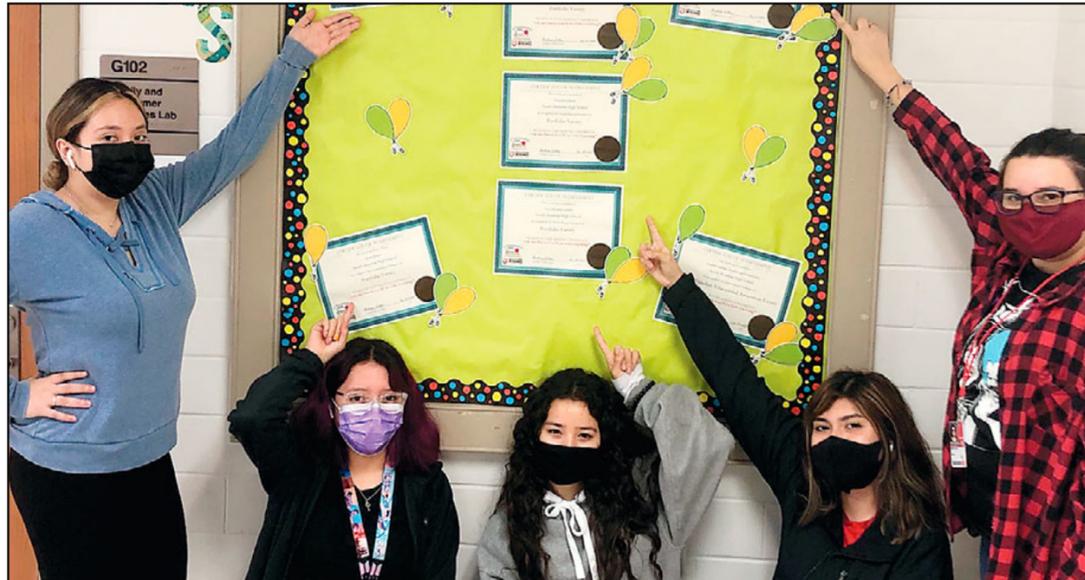
# Hands across Pasadena captures future handprints

By Maria Mata Pasadena ISD Communications  
The Richey Street renovation project that began in 2018 is nearing completion and Pasadena ISD, multiple Pasadena ISD campuses are participating in "Hands across Pasadena," an on-going beautification initiative where students and principals will get to display their handprints on ceramic tiles. The tiles will be installed on Richey Street for the whole city to see. Campuses participating in the project include Kruse Elementary, Morales Elementary, Richey Elementary, De Zavala Middle School, Jackson Intermediate and Pasadena High School. "The 'Hands across Pasadena' project is a great example of the partnership the City of Pasadena has developed with Pasadena ISD since the election of Mayor Jeff Wagner," said Tish Eubanks, City of Pasadena educational liaison. "Using the student's handprints from area schools gives students ownership of their community and their handprints will be there forever." Each participating school gathered handprints to fill four 18-tile sections. Every section included colored handprints labeled with students' initials and their graduation year. Once all the handprints have been gathered, Pasadena High School art students and teachers will bake the tiles in ceramic kilns to bring out their shine and prepare them for installation. Installation is expected to take place sometime in March. Once the installation is complete, there will be an official unveiling of the project later this spring. This is part of an ongoing initiative. Please stay tuned for more information.

# Cash donations add to questions

**Continued from Page 1**  
the missing and reported unaccounted \$61,655 funds. One former employee told the Leader he made over \$10,000 donations to Diaz's re-election campaign, which was to be made all in cash. Multiple other employees who worked for Diaz were allegedly told to make cash contributions to the constable's campaign or face retaliation. The accusations made headlines in December 2019 when roughly a dozen Precinct 2 staff members sued Diaz, accusing the constable of requiring them to donate to his re-election campaign or face retaliation, such as demotion or termination, if they refused to do so. According to a February 2020 analysis by the Houston Chronicle based on Diaz's campaign finance reports, roughly 38 percent of the \$491,000 the former constable raised since taking office in 2013 came from Precinct 2 employees or their relatives. Former and current Precinct 2 employees also claimed they were punished for cooperating with a Texas Rangers investigation into Diaz's misconduct. The Chronicle article further noted that there were several inconsistencies and inaccuracies in Diaz's financial reporting, including multiple misspelled names and missing information. This latest accusation caps off the embattled constable's two-terms in office that have been fraught with ethical and criminal allegations. Following Hurricane Harvey in 2017, an investigative report conducted by KHOU Channel 11 News claimed that Diaz had used clothing donated to flood victims and displaced residents to make T-shirts that read "Team Diaz" that were distributed at local events. While Diaz stated the move was part of his "community outreach," others saw it as a clear campaign violation and ethical issue. Also after Harvey, a top Diaz official Kim Bellotte, who served as senior lieutenant, was accused of falsifying time sheets to receive more than \$20,000 in overtime pay. Bellotte resigned following the allegations.

# South Houston TAFE students headed to state



South Houston High School Technical and Further Education students are headed to state competition after being awarded their certificates. Shown pointing to their certificates are, left to right, Stephanie Estrada Herrejon for Project Visualize, Educational Awareness and Professional Portfolio; Alexis Alvarez for Professional Portfolio; Amy Melendez Leonzo for Professional Portfolio; Samantha Galindo for Professional Portfolio; and Emily Govea for Professional Portfolio.

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