

St. Luke's holds fish fry

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road (rear parking lot), will host a drive-thru fish fry each Friday from March 4 through April 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. (or until sold out).

Dinner consists of a breaded USA catfish fried fillet, hush puppies, corn on the cob, French fries, tartar sauce and a drink. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities. Cost is \$12. Cash and credit are accepted.

All money raised will benefit local and community projects. All are invited and welcome to attend.

SMF holds annual meeting

In accordance with its bylaws, the Sagemont Maintenance Fund (formerly known as Sagemont Maintenance Committee) will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. The meeting will be held to discuss SMF business and to elect two new directors.

COVID cases decrease

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community continues to decrease, with numbers declining for the third consecutive week.

As of Tuesday, Feb. 22, there had been 12,368 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866) – up 109 from the previous week. Of those, 991 remain active, down 272 from the previous week. To date, 113 from the ZIP code have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 115 deaths the previous week.)

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), there had been 9,046 confirmed cases, up 62 from the previous week. Of those, 881 remain active, down 200 from the previous week. To date, there have been 73 deaths in the ZIP code, up one from the previous week.

In 77034 (total population: 40,532), there had been 8,545 confirmed cases, up 68 from the previous week. Of those, 727 remain active, down 177 from the previous week. To date, 85 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Countywide, there had been 865,627 total confirmed cases. Of those, 798,662 have recovered from the disease, while 59,769 cases remain active, down 17,535 from the previous week. A total of 7,156 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit pub.lichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Re-sources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

The northbound entrance ramp from Bay Area Boulevard to the Gulf Freeway will be closed until further notice.

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

Both the northbound entrance and southbound entrance ramps from FM 518 in League City will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the northbound exit ramp to Holland/Hughes.

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

The northbound entrance ramps from both FM 519/Main Street and FM 1765/Texas Avenue in La Marque will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the next available northbound entrance ramp.

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

Kirkwood to meet Feb. 24

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes.

Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Sagemont to meet March 1

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings take place the first Tuesday of each month.

Dobie AFJROTC sells BBQ

The Dobie High School AFJROTC will hold a barbecue sandwich fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 26, at the area high school, located at 10220 Blackhawk, from noon until food is sold out. Cost is \$10.

County, state elections scheduled for March 1

Governor, senator, commissioner and judge positions to be decided

State and county primary elections are set to take place Tuesday, March 1.

Voters will decide who will win the nominations for governor, as well as several legislative and judicial positions. Two county commissioner

seats are also up for grabs.

Gov. Greg Abbott is campaigning to keep his job as state governor. Other Republicans seeking to unseat him include Paul Belew, Daniel Harrison, Kandy Kaye Horn, Donald Huffines, for-

mer Gov. Rick Perry, Chad Prather and Allen B. West.

Democrats seeking the position include Innocencio Barrientez, Michael Cooper, Joy Diaz, Beto O'Rourke and Rich Wakeland.

Abbott was first elected governor in 2014 and was re-elected in 2018. Before becoming governor, Abbott was a justice on the Texas Supreme Court from 1996 to 2001. He also served three terms as state attorney general from 2002 to 2015.

South Belt voters will help choose who will fill the state Senate District 11 seat being vacated by Sen. Larry Taylor.

Competing for the Republican nomination is longtime South Belt resident and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President Bob

Mitchell. Other candidates seeking the Republican nod are Robin Armstrong, Bianca Gracia and Mayes Middleton.

No Democrats filed to run for the position. South Belt voters will also help decide who will serve as Precinct 2 county commissioner.

Democratic incumbent Adrian Garcia is campaigning to maintain his position. Democratic challengers include George Risner and Gary Harison.

Candidates seeking the Republican nomination to serve as Precinct 2 commissioner include former Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman, former Pasadena Mayor John Manlove, Richard. See related questionnaire on Page 2.

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Chamber has Disco Fever



Members of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce danced the night away Friday, Feb. 18, at the group's 36th annual banquet. Titled *Friday Night Fever*, the disco-themed event included a John Travolta impersonator. Shown above with the actor at the event are, left to right, Rebecca Lilley, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital; Kristi Koncaba, Texan Bank; and Alyta Harrell, Pasadena ISD. Photo by Bruce Summers

Chamber holds annual banquet

Dozens of community leaders and elected officials gathered at the Palms Banquet and Event Center Friday, Feb. 18, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 36th annual banquet.

Titled *Friday Night Fever*, this year's event was disco-themed, and attendees donned their best 70s attire and danced into the evening.

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia was recognized as Citizen of the Year for his efforts in the community outside of his job.

Cecelia Ganje, who serves as general manager

of the Clear Brook City MUD, was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for her community efforts.

"Congratulations to the citizen of the year and volunteer of the year, Jerry Garcia and Cecelia Ganje," said Texan Bank President Kristi Koncaba, who organized the event. "You both contribute so much to the South Belt community and beyond."

Outgoing chamber president and *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger was honored at the event

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Garcia, Grahams honor Alvarez



Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (left) hosted a barbecue benefit and trail ride Sunday, Feb. 20, in honor of Arlene Alvarez, who was fatally shot by accident Feb. 14, during a robbery. Shown above with the constable are Sagemont residents Don Graham and *Leader* staff member Rosa Graham.

Garcia holds benefit for Arlene Alvarez

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia hosted a barbecue fundraiser and trail ride Sunday, Feb. 20, in honor of Arlene Alvarez, a 9-year-old victim of a recent shooting.

All proceeds from the event went to the Alvarez family to help with funeral costs.

Held at the courthouse annex on Scarsdale at Beamer, the event was originally to sell just 500 plates of barbecue but it grew from there, according to Garcia.

The trail ride traveled from Scarsdale down Beamer to Fuqua and back. A pony represented

Alvarez.

Alvarez was fatally shot Feb. 14, as she sat in the back of her family's vehicle near a drive-thru ATM in the 2900 block of Woodridge. Police said a man who had just been robbed at the ATM, identified as Tony Earl, fired into the car thinking it was the robber's getaway vehicle.

Earl, 41, was charged with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury. He was arrested and released on a \$100,000 bond.

At press time, the robbery suspect remained at large.

Dobie Hall of Honor set for Feb. 25

Dobie High School will host its annual Hall of Honor induction ceremony Friday, Feb. 25, in the school auditorium, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Now in its 10th year, the event recognizes students and staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and who have made significant contributions to the community.

This year's event will honor four graduates and one faculty member.

Alumni being inducted include Larry Neumann (Class of 1970), David Jackson (Class of 1981), Alysia Raycraft (Class of 1986) and John Evans (Class of 1986). David Chollett is the lone faculty member being recognized.

A star athlete at Dobie, Neumann returned to coach at his alma mater, as well as Nederland High School.

Jackson became a longtime employee at NASA.

Raycraft went on to become a filmmaker and costume designer for "The Office."

Evans became an award-winning Texas musician and artist.

Chollett served as the area high school's head track and field coach for nearly 30 years.

(The Feb. 17 edition of the *Leader* had the identities to the photos of Neumann and Jackson reversed. The *Leader* apologizes for any confusion.)

Drugs, gun hidden in toilet



Multiple arrests were recently made at a motel in the 12000 block of Beltway 8 at the Gulf Freeway that police say is a business known for high narcotics activity. The discovery of a stolen vehicle in the parking lot led police to search one of the motel rooms. While conducting the search, police found several syringes and a loaded handgun in the hotel toilet. Drugs and potentially stolen credit cards were also discovered in the room.

Man arrested for Redford shootings

Charges have been filed against a male suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of one man and the wounding of another in two separate incidents.

Both shootings took place near Edgemoor and the Gulf Freeway at The Redford Apartments, a complex

Houston police have dubbed a "hot spot" for violent crime in recent months.

Parys Burks-Henderson, 18, is charged with murder and attempted capital murder in the 185th State District Court.

Burks-Henderson is charged in the murder of Alexis Cantu, 21, and the attempted capital murder of a second male, 22.

On Sunday, Feb. 6, officers responded to a report of a shooting in the 1200 block of Redford about 11:40 p.m. Witnesses stated Cantu got into a physical altercation with a known suspect inside his apartment. The suspect, later identified



Parys Burks-Henderson

as Burks-Henderson, then shot Cantu and fled the scene. Cantu had suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead at the scene by Houston Fire Department paramedics.

Just two days later on Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 11 a.m., officers responded to a report of another shooting at the same complex. A male victim, 22, suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was transported to an area hospital in critical condition. Witnesses again identified the shooter as Burks-Henderson and stated he had entered the victim's apartment, walked to where the victim was sleeping, and shot him. Burks-Henderson then fled the scene.

Further investigation determined the male victim had been a witness to the fatal shooting on Feb. 6 and was subsequently shot by Burks-Henderson because he witnessed the shooting.

Investigators in both cases worked together to identify Burks-Henderson as the suspect in this case and witnesses confirmed he knew both victims.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, Burks-Henderson was arrested without incident by members of the Southeast Patrol Division's Crime Suppression

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Stolen vehicle leads to drug charges

Discovery of a stolen vehicle in a motel parking lot in the 12000 block of Beltway 8 at the Gulf Freeway led to multiple felony arrests.

On Saturday, Feb. 5, at approximately 3:10 p.m., Harris County Precinct 8 Deputy Morgan, along with his K-9 partner Duke, was conducting narcotic interdiction in the parking lot of a business known for high narcotics activity when the registration of a vehicle in the lot came back as being reported stolen out of Houston Police Department.

Upon further investigation, it was determined the subjects who were occupying the vehicle were staying in a motel room at that location, and one of them showed to have an open warrant.

Deputies Glover and Morgan made contact



Christopher Day

with the subjects in the motel room and detained three males and a female.

One of the males was identified as 33-year-old Christopher Allen Day and the female was identified as 39-year-old Shannon Renee Kimble. A check of Day's information revealed he had an open felony warrant for possession of a controlled substance out of Harris County Sheriff's Office and was placed in custody.

Upon a consent-based search, deputies located a loaded handgun and several syringes in the toilet tank where K-9 Duke alerted for the presence of narcotics. Deputies further recovered 1.7 grams of methamphetamine, several more syringes containing narcotics and identifying information.

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Shannon Kimble

In My Opinion

Cobb's thoughts on candidate Dixon

Throughout my college and professional football career, I learned that the best leaders on the field – like the best leaders in life – are the ones who will make the call and do the right thing, even when it's hard. That is a perfect way to describe Martina Lemond Dixon, the strongest candidate for Harris County Judge in the Republican Primary. Martina grew up in Harris County. She knows and understands our community. As a teacher and as President of the Humble ISD, she has consistently shown

a dedication to doing what's right for our families and students, and that includes standing up for freedom, even in the face of adversity. Simply put, she has integrity. I've known her all my life, and you can always count on Martina to do what she says she'll do, and we can all count on her to put Harris County, and the people who live here, first as County Judge. Martina Lemond Dixon is experienced, capable, and she is the only one who can win against Judge Lina Hidalgo in November. I urge you to vote for her this primary election.

Trevor Cobb

Chamber holds disco-themed gala



Rebecca Lilley (right) honors Cecelia Ganje as Volunteer of the Year.



Sen. Larry Taylor and Rebecca Lilley honor Leader publisher Marie Flickinger (center).



Shown above are, left to right, Olga Garcia, Constable Jerry Garcia, Marie Flickinger, David Flickinger and Cecelia Ganje. See related story, photo on Page 1.

Deaths

Beverly Lawrence Mills



Beverly Lawrence Mills, 81, of Keller, formerly of Houston, passed away Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. She was born April 14, 1940 in Longview. Growing up in East Texas, she graduated from Marshall High School in 1958. Beverly was a longtime resident of the South Belt.

In 1969, she and her husband moved from College Station, where she was employed at Texas A&M University. Continuing her career at San Jacinto College, she worked in the registration and business administration of the South and Central campuses. Beverly was promoted to the position of business director, working until retirement in 2005. Dedicating friendship and service to those in her community, she was active in Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority. Beverly and her husband lived in Houston during her retirement. Enjoying the company of their daughter and grandchildren, they moved to Keller in 2017.

She had a lifelong interest in sports, especially volleyball, and traveling. She combined volleyball and traveling to watch her daughter play volleyball, first at California State, Long Beach and then in Japan, where her daughter trained for a competition. Continuing her volleyball travels, Beverly watched her daughter professionally compete in Europe and California. In 2016, she traveled to Ariz., to watch her grandson graduate from high school. In 2018, she traveled to Dothan, Ala., to watch her granddaughter graduate from high school. When

her husband was in the Air Force, she traveled to various SAC bases and to College Station, where he mustered out of the Air Force. After retiring, they traveled to various Project Management Institute events throughout the country from Maine to California.

Beverly is preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Marie Lawrence. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Robert P. Mills; brother Leslie W. Lawrence and sister-in-law, Jhonnie Lawrence of Gilmer; son Kevin in Mills and daughter-in-law Yvonne Mills of Dothan; daughter Alicia Polzin and son-in-law Scott Polzin of Colleyville; grandson Duncan M. Mills of Dothan; granddaughter Makenah Mills of the University of Florida, Gainesville; grandson Alec Polzin; and granddaughter Elle M. Polzin of Colleyville.

The family plans a private celebration of to honor Beverly

Wendy Marie Sharpless



Wendy Marie Sharpless passed away Feb. 5, 2022 after a hard-fought battle with soft tissue sarcoma. Born on Feb. 24, 1971, in Baytown, she was the second of five children born to Jim and Frances Sharpless. A longtime choir teacher with Pasadena ISD, her love of music began at Frazier Elementary, where she participated in the district Olympiad and began piano lessons from the school music teacher, Pat McNamara. Moving to Thompson Intermediate, she joined choir and was selected to Region choir. Going on to Dobie HS, she was

selected for Region choir each year and in 1988 she made the Texas All-State choir under the tutelage of Janwin Goode, Debbie Tidwell and Linda Fletcher. Wendy participated in several school musicals, starting as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady." After completing her Bachelor of Music degree in music therapy in 1994 at Sam Houston State University, she worked for Richmond State School and began substitute teaching at several PISD schools. While working toward her Alternative Teaching Certificate she was a substitute for Special Education classes at Stuchbery, and used her knowledge of American Sign Language to work with deaf education students. She became a choral teacher at Thompson and finally head choral director at Dobie where she taught until her medical retirement in 2021. Her choirs won numerous awards and saw many of her students rise to the All-State choir level. She served the students of PISD for 26 years.

She participated in the People to People International Travel Program several years, going to Australia and Europe as a teacher/mentor, and she was a die-hard Astros fan. Her best accomplishments were her two children Samantha and Jacob Gilbreath, both of whom graduated from Dobie. She was very proud of being able to assist Dobie science classes with establishing and maintaining the Butterfly Garden on the trail close to Dobie, where she spent many hours in reflection admiring the butterflies. She became knowledgeable concerning the butterfly life cycle and appropriate plants for their survival.

Besides thousands of students who affectionately called her "mama" or "Ms. S," she is survived by her parents; siblings Brian Sharpless with wife Sarah, Laura with husband Justin Gissendanner and Christopher Sharpless; as well as nieces and nephews Elliott and Noah Sharpless, Ashlyn and Logan Gissendanner and Kyla, Haylee and Avery Sharpless. She was predeceased by her brother Paul as well as both sets of grandparents.

Prayers of thanksgiving go out from her family to all of her "Wendy's Warriors" supporters, her many students and teachers who came to her side during this time, and neighbors and friends who provided much physical and emotional support for Wendy, her parents and siblings. A Mass of Remembrance will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 5, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. A reception for everyone will immediately follow at the Dobie Cafeteria.



Rebecca Lilley (left) honors Constable Jerry Garcia as Citizen of the Year.



Alyta Harrell (left), Denise Burleigh (center) and Barry Burleigh get into the 70s spirit.

Stolen vehicle leads to multiple charges

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Deputies later confirmed that the identification cards, Social Security cards and the credit/debit cards found did not belong to any of the identified subjects.

While on scene, one of the male subjects stated he swallowed heroin and was transported to the hospital. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was

contacted and accepted charges for possession of a controlled substance on Kimble. The D.A.'s office denied charges on the male subjects for tampering with evidence.

Kimble and Day were taken into custody and transported to the Harris County Joint Processing Center for booking. Kimble's bond was set at \$2,500.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library, 9002 Kingspoint, is available to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays. Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m. Outdoors (weather permitting) storytime for all ages. Visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for reopening information or the main website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

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

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

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

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca
A member of People of Sagemont 2 Facebook page posted photos of two individuals that broke into the member's home on Feb. 19, around 4 p.m., in the Bay Knoll subdivision. The member said that their neighbors identified the burglars as the previous owner's granddaughter and her boyfriend. The member also stated that these individ-

uals took three TVs and her deceased mother's shoes and clothes. The member stated that this is a very unfortunate situation for her family but that what makes it even more unfortunate is that the burglars had their children with them.

The member later updated her post and identified the burglars by name.

Chamber holds annual banquet

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for her contributions to the South Belt community.

"Not only was Marie the founding president of this chamber but she was also the first woman to be elected to the San Jacinto College Board of trustees," said state Sen. Larry Taylor, who served as master of ceremonies for the event.

"She is longtime owner and publisher of the South Belt-Ellington Leader newspaper, as well as South Belt Graphics and Printing. Tonight, we salute you Marie and your continued dedication to our community."

Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado was at the event to swear in

all incoming 2022 South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce executive officers and board members.

New chamber executive officers sworn in at the event included Rebecca Lilley, chair of the board; Ezreal Garcia, vice chair; Denise Burleigh, secretary; and Graylin Beals, treasurer.

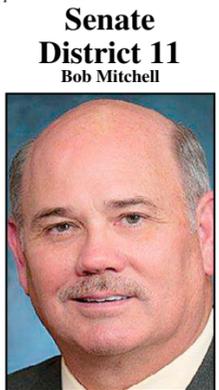
New board members sworn in included Karina Abdul, Noble J. Alix Jr., Anthony Cavazos, Chris Clark, Kenny Fernandez, Emory Gadd, Alyta Harrell, Rosanne Kerr, J. Aaron Knight, Kristi Koncaba, Reyna Lara Lagunas, Trae Morris Trenton Vick and Tristian Williams. See photos on this page.

With the construction of the Houston Spaceport, Ellington Airport has become the center for new development in recent years. Where do you see the future of Ellington? (100 words or less)

Questionnaires for seeking candidates of county, state elections

The Leader sent questions to all four candidates seeking the position of senator for Texas District 11. However, Bob Mitchell was the only contestant to respond, despite multiple attempts to contact the remaining campaigns. Other candidates vying for the seat include Robin Armstrong, Bianca Gracia and Mayes Middleton. All are Republicans. No Democrats filed to run in the race. All responses are published unedited.

Senate District 11 Bob Mitchell



Age: 67
Occupation: President, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
Marital status/children: Married, three sons
What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Senate District 11? (100 words or less)

I've worked in economic development for over 20 years bringing companies and jobs to the region. Under my leadership, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has partnered with the Houston Airport System, NASA Johnson Space Center, Port Houston, and academic institutions to protect jobs and create employment opportunities evidenced by the notable expansion of the Houston Spaceport, commercial space exploration partners for NASA and its many contractors, and maritime training creating a pipeline of career possibilities.

Do you have any political experience? (50 words or less)

Absolutely. Although I haven't yet been elected to political office, I have worked closely with elected leaders at the local, state, and federal levels

on issues involving flood protection, transportation, recovery efforts, education, and support of NASA's human space exploration program since becoming the BAHEP president in 2007.

What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)

I have received endorsements from 12 mayors within District 11 including Houston Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin. I was also honored to receive the endorsement of the Texas Parent PAC. This PAC supports state leaders who will consistently stand up for public education.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

I've lived and worked here my entire life and have deep knowledge concerning the district. I'm a graduate of Dobie, as are my three sons, and was inducted into Dobie's Hall of Honor in 2015. I also managed and coached the last Sagemont – Beverly Hills Little League State Championship.

If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

Economic growth affects all of us, and it defines the future for our children and grandchildren. Job creation, excellent educational institutions that graduate well-qualified candidates for those jobs, top-ranked healthcare systems, and dependable, quality infrastructure are vital for economic growth. Issues affecting these

priorities must be considered and acted upon.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

District 11, with our unique and outstanding resources, is very important to the state and to the nation. Without protection, a storm surge could shut down the nation's busiest port in foreign tonnage and shutter the largest petrochemical complex in the nation, which supplies 40 percent of the specialty chemical feedstock, 27 percent of the gasoline, and 60 percent of the jet aviation fuel to the nation. It is so vital to protect these assets. Construction of a coastal barrier system will be a top priority.

What do you see as the biggest hurdle for the Legislature? (100 words or less)

My biggest concern is the inability of legislators to work together for the good of the district and the state. I have a proven track record of convening individuals and groups to accomplish objectives at all levels of government. I pride myself in being engaged, strategic, collaborative, trustworthy, and ethical.

In August 2021, the Texas Supreme Court upheld Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on local mask mandates, overriding local municipalities that had – following CDC recommendations – put such mandates in place. Do you agree with this ruling? (100 words or less)

I agree 100 percent.

Do you support a private business's right to refuse service to unvaccinated patrons? (100 words or less)

I believe that it is the right of a private business to refuse service to unvaccinated patrons, but, personally, I would not do that if I were a small business owner.

In May 2021, Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law Senate Bill 8, also known as the Heartbeat Act, which bans all abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected. This can happen as early as six weeks, a time many women don't even know they're pregnant yet. Do you approve of this legislation? (50 words or less)

I support the sanctity of life.

Outgoing Sen. Larry Taylor was instrumental in getting Senate Bill 1160 passed, creating the Gulf Coast Protection District. Do you support the creation of a storm barrier to protect areas of District 11 from flooding? (100 words or less)

Since 2008, I have been a strong advocate for a coastal barrier system to protect the citizens and the economy of the upper Texas Gulf Coast. As I said before, without protection, a storm surge could shut down the nation's busiest port in foreign tonnage and shutter the largest petrochemical complex in the nation, which supplies 40 percent of the specialty chemical feedstock, 27 percent of the gasoline, and 60 percent of the jet aviation fuel to the nation. Last year Gov.

Abbott appointed me to serve on the GCPD board where I will continue these efforts.

With the construction of the Houston Spaceport, Ellington Airport has become the center for new development in recent years. Where do you see the future of Ellington? (100 words or less)

I played an instrumental role in initially creating the concept of a spaceport. As BAHEP's president, I worked with Axion Space, Collins Aerospace, Intuitive Machines, and Venus Aerospace on their decision to locate at the Spaceport; so, I am fully aware of the future growth potential of this amazing facility. I've also been very involved with San Jacinto College's EDGE Center initiative that is providing a pipeline of well-qualified candidates to fill

technical jobs created by the expansion of the Spaceport. These candidates are a critical component in a company's decision to locate at the Houston Spaceport.

Precinct 2 commissioner

The Leader sent questions to all eight candidates seeking the position of Harris County Precinct 2 commissioner. No responses were received from Gary Harison, Daniel Jason and Jerry Mouton, despite multiple attempts to contact their campaigns.

Candidate responses are published in the order they appear on the ballot. All responses are published unedited.

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 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)	
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County and state candidates return election questionnaire

Continued from Page 2
Jack Morman



Age: 43
Occupation: Attorney

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Law, Baylor University; Graduate, Baylor University Law School.

Marital status/children: Married. Two children.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Harris County Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I served two successful terms as the Precinct Two Commissioner. I'm the only one in the Republican Primary with the experience to start work on Day One.

Do you have any political experience? (50 words or less)

Elected Precinct Two Commissioner in 2010, reelected in 2014. Served in office from 2011 until 2019.

What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)

All major law enforcement groups and organizations, two former Harris County Sheriffs, Constable Ted Heap, former County Commissioner Steve Radack, Houston Chronicle, Kingwood Tea Party, State Rep. Briscoe Cain, and others.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

Family.

If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

Fight crime and provide good transportation, flood control, drainage, and quality of life programs.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

Wage a real war on crime. Bring down violent crime and murder rate and back law enforcement.

What do you see as the main role of Commissioners Court? (100 words or less)

Public safety, management of county budget, transportation and mobility, flood control, disaster response, taxation policy, and economic development.

What do you see as the biggest hurdle for Commissioners Court? (100 words or less)

Reversing the failed policies of Democratic leadership.

In recent years, Commissioners Court has become more divided among party lines. What steps would you take to mend these divides? (100 words or less)

Put common sense proposals on the table and let the Democrats know we are serious about getting things done.

In August 2021, the Texas Supreme Court upheld Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on local mask mandates, overriding local municipalities that had - following CDC recommendations - put such mandates in place. Do you agree with this ruling? (100 words or less)

Yes.

Do you support a private business's right to refuse service to unvaccinated patrons? (100 words or less)

The rights of private business owners should never be infringed upon.

Recent maps approved by the Democrat-led Commissioners Court effectively swapped the bulk of geographic areas in Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 - the two districts run by Republicans. Many viewed this as partisan and possible even vindictive. What are your thoughts on the measure? (100 words or less)

The recent redistricting process was driven by nothing more than a partisan power grab. Community service and making sure taxpayers and constituents get what they need was not a factor. It should always be the primary factor.

The recent redistricting measure also now places the South Belt community in Precinct 1 but leaves El Franco Lee Park in Precinct 1, upsetting many community leaders. What are your thoughts on this? (100 words or less)

If a park is in another precinct, a Commissioner can make sure there are no access issues. That's what I would do.

Constable funding has come under fire in recent years, as Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 - the two districts that patrol the South Belt community - receiving significantly less funding than their counterparts. Do you support

measures to make funding equal for all precincts? (100 words or less)

I support measures to back law enforcement. If those leaders say they need more funding, I'm committed to working with them to make sure they have all the tools they need.

The Harris County criminal court system has become backlogged with tens of thousands of cases. What steps would you take to improve this? (100 words or less)

Hold the judiciary accountable. That is the best way to address any backlog.

The current bail system has also come under fire in recent years, with opponents claiming dangerous criminals are routinely released on little to no bail, only to commit more crimes. What steps would you take to prevent this? (100 words or less)

Bail is not the only consideration here. This disaster we find ourselves in can be laid at the feet of Democrat judges who aren't tough enough on repeat lawbreakers.

A study of the county's contract constable program has been proposed to evaluate its efficacy. Do you support this measure? (100 words or less)

No. This was a political plan to defund constables more than they have been defunded.

Richard Vega



Age: 41

Occupation: Pastor

Education: Bachelors in Business Management, ARMY Logistics Specialist

Marital status/children: Married/ 7 children

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Harris County Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I'm an Army veteran with countless experiences beneficial for our county. I earned a bachelor's degree in business and have experience finding solutions to budgets that our county needs. I have served as a Pastor and thru humanitarian aid for the last 10 years as a community servant. I am for people and show it by conducting multiple food distributions, annual back to school drives as well as adopting over 400 homeless children for Christmas with partnering with local school districts. I am the best candidate for Harris County commissioner because I am qualified and have been serving my community.

Do you have any political experience? (50 words or less)

In the last four months, I have lobbied for young girls' rights at the state capitol. I have testified to the constitutional rights committee for save girl sports and went to Washington DC to support Ken Paxton as he testified to the United States Supreme court for the heartbeat bill.

What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)

Hispanic Republicans of Texas, Lexit Texas, Texas Latino Conservatives, Michael Kubosh Councilmember at Large, former state representative Gilbert Pena, Former Sheriff candidate Theodore Ted Perez, Dr. Greg Meyers Former President of Education of a local school-board are a handful of many of my endorsements.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

I was raised, raised my children, and live in the South Belt area. I've helped provide humanitarian relief and was a vital contact in the town hall meeting at CT Church that included the GLO and many HOA's when 140+ homes weren't restored in Harvey. I love my community.

If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

Flooding has been a major issue with our roads down Beamer, Blackhawk, and parts of Scarsdale, therefore working on the ditches and flow of water from the street to the ditches to help improve our community. The rise in crime in our area is a concern, therefore, getting constable Jerry Garcia the aid, which is currently eight new constables, to better serve our community would help improve our community as well.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

I am a community lead-

er and I completely disagree with what Adrian Garcia, the current county commissioner has done with El Franco Lee Park. The park has always been a part of the South Belt community; I played Little League baseball there as well as my children. I will do what I can to work with current county commissioner Rodney Ellis and see if we can come to an agreement for him to release the park back to the South Belt community.

Constable funding has come under fire in recent years, as Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 - the two districts that patrol the South Belt community - receiving significantly less funding than their counterparts. Do you support measures to make funding equal for all precincts? (100 words or less)

The role of Commissioners court is to properly maintain the county's budget, making sure government overspending is not seen at the county level and assuring the county is functioning at all capacities. The main role of the commissioner's court is to ensure the county's resources are functioning at the highest level of quality that Harris County citizens deserve.

What do you see as the biggest hurdle for Commissioners Court? (100 words or less)

One of the biggest hurdles Harris County's Commissioners Court is undergoing is the bail reform problems that we have. Currently we have a broken system that is allowing criminals of multiple felonies let out on our streets to continue to create heinous violent crimes in our communities. We must formulate an effective system in which we protect all citizens of the county and making sure criminals stay behind bars. I personally feel this needs to happen immediately on day one.

In recent years, Commissioners Court has become more divided among party lines. What steps would you take to mend these divides? (100 words or less)

Division among parties need to be mended, as the court is there to represent us all in Harris County. Our county has all sorts of strengths and weaknesses, and we need any problems to be resolved by our leaders. It's very important for our leaders to work together and adapt to new ideas to better improve our community. I will work side by side with all community leaders to improve our community the best way that we possibly can. It's not about improving myself or each party, it's about focusing on doing what's best for the community.

In August 2021, the Texas Supreme Court upheld Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on local mask mandates, overriding local municipalities that had - following CDC recommendations - put such mandates in place. Do you agree with this ruling? (100 words or less)

I do agree with Governor Greg Abbott's decision on overriding local municipalities mask mandates. I personally believe that wearing a mask does not help from COVID-19, however, I do believe that it is your right to wear one if you want to. I also believe that if a person doesn't want to wear a mask, it is their right to not have to wear one.

Do you support a private business's right to refuse service to unvaccinated patrons? (100 words or less)

I believe that business owners have the right to refuse business to anyone that doesn't comply with their business identity. I do not believe that this is a wise business decision because any good business owner would want to make sure that they could capitalize on all opportunities given to them by the consumers to come to their privately owned business. I do not believe any business should be forced to serve anyone outside of that business' identity.

Recent maps approved by the Democrat-led Commissioners Court effectively swapped the bulk of geographic areas in Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 - the two districts run by Republicans. Many viewed this as partisan and possible even vindictive. What are your thoughts on the measure? (100 words or less)

The gerrymandering that has taken place by the commissioner's court is wrong; they did it to improve the Democratic Party to take hold of Harris County for the next 10 years. Their plan is to make sure that the democratic party stays in control of our county and local governments. I completely disagree with the commissioner's court on the redistricting of the maps.

The recent redistricting measure also now places the South Belt community in Precinct 1 but leaves El Franco Lee Park in Precinct 1, upsetting many community leaders. What are your thoughts on this? (100 words or less)

Experience and the ability to beat Adrian Garcia in November. A strong campaigner and a successful businessman. Texas Businessman of

the Year, Baylor University Businessman of the Year. Long time advocate for veterans: Governor Rick Perry, Recognition of Preservation of Military Installations. John "Gonzales" Manlove is part Hispanic and bi-lingual in Spanish and English. John Manlove is only candidate that can engage the community and independents to support the conservative movement. Successful Mayor of Pasadena the largest city in Pct 2. John Manlove reduced crime by 23.9% as Mayor

Do you have any political experience? (50 words or less)

Served as City Councilman for 8 years City of Pasadena. Served as Mayor of Pasadena for 8 years. Candidate for US Congress 2008. Served as Trustee Port of Galveston, Chaired the Galveston Finance & Fiscal Affairs Committee and President of Galveston Island Redevelopment Authority.

What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)

John Manlove has the support of several former and current local Police Chiefs and working policeman and many Precinct Chairs. John Manlove has not sought or received any funds from Union Organizations. Manlove has not paid to be on any "pay to play" political voter guides.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

John Manlove, was born and raised in Southeast Harris County, he attended Deady Jr. High and Milby High School. He put himself through the University of Houston as a professional musician and substitute school teacher. John's children attended public schools here. John has built several successful businesses here.

If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

Our area has been neglected for decades by the current commissioner and former. We pay significant taxes and our representatives have allowed these funds to be redistributed to intercity Houston. I will bring those funds back to our community where they belong and are desperately needed for crime prevention and flood control.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

Reduce the out-of-control crime wave by funding and hiring more police, hiring more prosecutors, and stopping the ridiculous catch-and-release of known criminals. Stop the waste of our tax dollars on liberal political agendas and put those funds to use fighting crime. Accomplish a real flood "prevention" program instead of the current "reaction" program.

What do you see as the main role of Commissioners Court? (100 words or less)

Harris County's main role is to provide safety, infrastructure maintenance and flood control. The current court has an ideological bias towards social programs that reward their constituents. I will work to eliminate the Social Vulnerability Index that is currently being used to divert money for political purposes, stop the Restorative Justice program that rewards criminals and stop the Budgeting for Equity agenda.

What do you see as the biggest hurdle for Commissioners Court? (100 words or less)

Reducing the budget. It is time to reduce the bloated administration. I will fire the County Administrator and fire the partisan Election Administrator. I will work to manage the county like a business and stop the continuous application of "code red alerts" being used to create oppressive mandates. I will work to eliminate the hundreds of political appointees that are embedded in the system.

In recent years, Commissioners Court has become more divided among party lines. What steps would you take to mend these divides? (100 words or less)

As Mayor of Pasadena I understood there is nothing partisan about fixing a pothole. However, the current liberal majority is more concerned with the socialist ideology. By winning the election in precinct 2 the court will once again become more conservative. This is important to get the County back on track and mission. In addition, we need to stop electing career politicians who will do anything to keep their jobs. I'm not looking for a career, I'm on a mission.

In August 2021, the Texas Supreme Court upheld Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on local mask mandates, overriding local municipalities that had - following CDC recommendations - put such mandates in place. Do you agree with this ruling? (100 words or less)

Yes.

Do you support a private business's right to refuse service to unvaccinated patrons? (100 words or less)

I believe private business has the right to refuse service to whoever they choose, however, they will also have to deal with the consequences of that decision. I do not believe anyone should be forced to inject chemicals into their body by the government it is an enormous intrusion into our personal rights as American citizens.

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The redistricting maps composed by the democrat-led Court are clearly biased. The most abusive aspect of the plan is the fact that they have restricted as many as 1million voters from voting every 4 years. By flipping the district many conservative voters have lost the right to vote for commissioner for 6 years. It is a partisan vindictive plan put together by Rodney Ellis in order to preserve a liberal majority on the Court.

The recent redistricting measure also now places the South Belt community in Precinct 1 but leaves El Franco Lee Park in Precinct 1, upsetting many community leaders. What are your thoughts on this? (100 words or less)

As a community you were part of the El Franco Lee Park development. You should not be restricted from its use because of district lines. In addition, our public facilities have been virtually shut down by the Harris County Mask Mandates.

Constable funding has come under fire in recent years, as Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 - the two districts that patrol the South Belt community - receiving significantly less funding than their counterparts. Do you support measures to make funding equal for all precincts? (100 words or less)

This is the result of the County's continuous push for centralized control. The hiring of the County Administrator, an unelected bureaucrat, with a multimillion dollar budget is part of Liberal Lina's plan to consolidate control and reward liberal supporters. We need to return more control to the elected officials of Harris County - Commissioner and Constables that are responsible to the citizens to fight crime.

The Harris County criminal court system has become backlogged with tens of thousands of cases. What steps would you take to improve this? (100 words or less)

I would move to hire more prosecutors and vastly reduce the public defenders department to pay for it. I would also start having more working-shifts to speed up the processing of cases. We are all tired of crime and incompetence. It is time to stop the wasteful spending like the ridiculous program that believes planting trees reduces crime.

The current bail system has also come under fire in recent years, with opponents claiming dangerous criminals are routinely released on little to no bail, only to commit more crimes. What steps would you take to prevent this? (100 words or less)

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Hold the judiciary accountable. That is the best way to address any backlog.

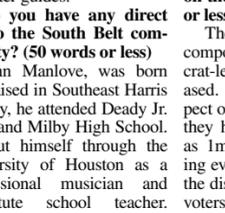
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Bail is not the only consideration here. This disaster we find ourselves in can be laid at the feet of Democrat judges who aren't tough enough on repeat lawbreakers.

A study of the county's contract constable program has been proposed to evaluate its efficacy. Do you support this measure? (100 words or less)

No. This was a political plan to defund constables more than they have been defunded.

George Risner



Age: 71

Occupation: Justice of the Peace Precinct 2

Education: Galena Park High School, University of Houston

Marital status/children: Married, 4 children, 7 grandchildren

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Harris County Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I am a lifelong resident of Precinct 2. At 19, I was elected Commissioner for Galena Park and afterwards spent 15 years as a Houston building inspector. In 1986, I was elected Justice of the Peace, managing court dockets, court staff, facilities, and the budget. I am part of the Precinct's business, community, and social organizations. My relationships and knowledge of Precinct 2, my political, business, and judicial experiences, my awareness of the needs of the Precinct, my leadership, and decades of public service make me better qualified to serve Precinct 2 as its Commissioner.

Do you have any political experience? (50 words or less)

At 19, I served as Commissioner for Galena Park, and later, as Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 for 35 years. In these positions, I managed budgets, oversaw personnel, and worked with state and local agencies on crime, traffic, truancy, environmental pollution, building standards, health, mental illness, and ethics issues.

What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)

I have the endorsements of the Houston Police Officers' Union, the Harris County Deputies Organization, the Pasadena Police Officer's Union and HarrisCountyDemocrats.com.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

I'm a member of Sagemont Church and serve as this community's Justice of the Peace. I've assisted in bringing relief supplies during Tropical Storm Allison, Hurricane Harvey, and Winter Storm Uri. I've helped engage state leaders to address issues with the General Land Office rebuilding homes within South Belt.

If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

I would make sure voices of South Belt citizens are heard regarding the newly redistricted El Franco Lee Park. I would improve drainage, air quality, and complete road and bridge repair. I will assist the Constables to make sure they have the resources and staffing to protect this wonderful community.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

It would be my priority to address the increase in crime in the Precinct, with additional prosecutors for the District Attorney's Office to be used to move cases more quickly through the justice system; with additional funding for the Sheriff's Department and the Precinct 2 Constable to address gang activity, gun violence, domestic violence, theft, and economic crimes; and with additional efforts in the assessment and treatment of mental illness.

The recent redistricting measure also now places the South Belt community in Precinct 1 but leaves El Franco Lee Park in Precinct 1, upsetting many community leaders. What are your thoughts on this? (100 words or less)

El Franco Lee Park, whether in Precinct 1 or Precinct 2, will still recognize the contributions and service of Commissioner Lee to Harris County. If elected, I would honor Commissioner Lee's memory by assuring the County's citizens that the El Franco Lee Park will be properly maintained and available for use as it always has been.

Constable funding has come under fire in recent years, as Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 - the two districts that patrol the South Belt community - receiving significantly less funding than their counterparts. Do you support

measures to make funding equal for all precincts? (100 words or less)

I support measures to back law enforcement. If those leaders say they need more funding, I'm committed to working with them to make sure they have all the tools they need.

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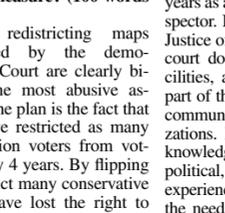
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Bail is not the only consideration here. This disaster we find ourselves in can be laid at the feet of Democrat judges who aren't tough enough on repeat lawbreakers.

A study of the county's contract constable program has been proposed to evaluate its efficacy. Do you support this measure? (100 words or less)

No. This was a political plan to defund constables more than they have been defunded.

Adrian Garcia



Age: 61

County, state candidates return election questionnaires

Continued from Page 3

I served on Houston City Council representing District H from 2004 to 2007. I was Mayor Pro Tem for part of my time on Council. I served as Harris County Sheriff from 2009 to 2015. I have served as Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 2, from 2019 to the present.

What, if any, endorsements do you have? (50 words or less)

The Houston Chronicle, Texas Gulf Coast AFL-CIO, Area 5 Democrats, SEIU Texas, Harris County Tejano Democrats, Houston Black American Democrats, Harris County Young Democrats, Texas Democrats with Disabilities, Bay Area Democratic Movement, LGBTQ+ Political Caucus, Sierra Club, Planned

Parenthood Action, Latino Labor Leadership Council of Southeast Texas and more.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

I am proud to have served the South Belt Community for a combined 10 years as Sheriff and County Commissioner, working to keep South Belt families safe and healthy and to help small business thrive. I recognize the importance of the growing unincorporated area of south Belt and that The Leader and the Chamber have done tremendous work in the community. I intend to stay very active there.

If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community? (50 words or less)

Flood improvement is one

of my priorities. We completed more than 1.2 million linear feet of ditch maintenance and broke ground on numerous projects. We continue to look for more revenue to fund the flood bond. I will continue to evaluate flood control and other infrastructure projects through an equitable lens.

What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

First among many priorities is increasing public safety. I have championed Shot Spotter, which helps law enforcement determine where guns have been fired in Harris County so they can respond immediately. I have supported \$132 million in increased law enforcement budgets since I took office, including major public safety investments: \$15 million

for body cameras, protective equipment, and new technology for law enforcement officers; \$3 million in overtime for the Harris County Sheriff's Office to round up dangerous criminals; \$2.6 million to put more Harris County deputies in violent crime hotspots; and \$500K for lighting improvements in parks.

What do you see as the main role of Commissioners Court? (100 words or less)

Each Harris County Commissioner is in charge of infrastructure, parks and outreach programs in their precinct. In addition, Commissioners set policies for the entire county and manage the budget for county departments and agencies. My focus has been on public safety, education, jobs, healthy families and flood protection.

I am just getting started and want to continue this work to improve the lives of Precinct 2 residents.

What do you see as the biggest hurdle for Commissioners Court? (100 words or less)

More local control. We need the state government to quit playing politics and let us do our job. It's our job to keep our residents safe and provide services. Yet, the governor and the legislature have stripped us of the power to protect our residents from COVID, flooded our communities with guns without background checks or required training, and choked off our ability to raise the revenue we need to do our job.

In recent years, Commissioners Court has become more divided among party

lines. What steps would you take to mend these divides? (100 words or less)

We need to all work together for the residents of Harris County. When I proposed the third straight property tax decrease for Harris County, I negotiated with our Republican commissioners to ensure that they would participate in a vote to set the tax rate and keep the county open. I am willing to work with all my colleagues to make Harris County the best it can be and provide the services our residents need and deserve.

In August 2021, the Texas Supreme Court upheld Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on local mask mandates, overriding local municipalities that had

— following CDC recommendations — put such mandates in place. Do you agree with this ruling? (100 words or less)

No one knows a community better than the people who live and work there. As I said above, the state needs to allow local elected officials to do their jobs. Protecting our community from COVID is a public health issue, not a political issue. We need everyone to mask up, social distance and get your vaccines and booster shots. We have distributed tens of thousands of vaccine doses to eligible seniors and essential workers.

Do you support a private

business's right to refuse service to unvaccinated patrons? (100 words or less)

Yes. If a businessperson wants to protect his or her customers and staff, they have the right to refuse service to unvaccinated persons. We need to keep our businesses open to ensure our economy stays strong. They cannot stay open if staff has to quarantine when they are exposed to COVID or customers refuse to patronize them because they don't feel safe there. I worked to ensure that Harris County's forgivable loan program funds went to small businesses in Precinct 2 so they could stay open during the pandemic, keeping our economy going and ensuring jobs are not lost.

Recent maps approved by the democrat-led Commissioners Court effectively swapped the bulk of geographic areas in Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 — the two districts run by Republicans. Many viewed this as partisan and possible even vindictive. What are your thoughts on the measure? (100 words or less)

I categorically reject those views. Populations are changing in Harris County. Boundaries for political entities should reflect the people who live in a community and not be concerned with which political party should win a particular

seat.

The recent redistricting measure also now places the South Belt community in Precinct 1 rather than Precinct 2 but leaves El Franco Lee Park in Precinct 1, upsetting many community leaders. What are your thoughts on this? (100 words or less)

It's unfortunate that El Franco Lee Park was not put into Precinct 2 with the rest of the South Belt community. I will personally appeal to my colleague Commissioner Ellis to re-consider allowing the annual Barbecue Cook-Off to be held there. If unsuccessful, I will diligently work to find another location, perhaps Challenger Park. I also commit to looking at the vacant, undeveloped county-owned property in South Belt for development into more green space in the community.

Constable funding has come under fire in recent years, as Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 — the two districts that patrol the South Belt community — receiving significantly less funding than their counterparts. Do you support measures to make funding equal for all precincts? (100 words or less)

Violent offenders should not be on our streets, period. Sadly, there is a lot of misinformation being spread for political purposes. Misdemeanor bail reform, which I support, is not connected to this crisis. Our judges are setting higher and higher bail amounts for violent offenders, but the bail bonds industry is giving higher and higher discounts to these offenders so they can get out of jail. We recently voted unanimously to ask the Bail Bond Board to require a ten percent minimum on bond payments. We should make it more difficult for violent offenders to get out of jail.

The Harris County criminal court system has be-

come backlogged with tens of thousands of cases. What steps would you take to improve this? (100 words or less)

In the Harris County budget, I won Commissioners' approval to add additional funding for the District Attorney's Office and Pre-Trial Services to help with the county's backlog of non-violent criminal cases, which will free up the justice system to focus on violent crime. We approved the creation of a new criminal court and the hiring of three visiting judges to clear the backlog in our criminal court that is contributing to crime.

The current bail system has also come under fire in recent years, with opponents claiming dangerous criminals are routinely released on little to no bail, only to commit more crimes. What steps would you take to prevent this? (100 words or less)

That proposal was withdrawn in 2019 and there are no plans for another study.

A study of the county's contract constable program has been proposed to evaluate its efficacy. Do you support this measure? (100 words or less)

That proposal was withdrawn in 2019 and there are no plans for another study.

Dobie cheer meeting set March 3

A mandatory Dobie cheer tryout meeting for parents and students for the 2022-2023 school year is set for March 3 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Dobie main.

If one has any questions, they may email Amber Allan, assistant cheer director, at AAllan@pasadenaisd.org.

Shooting suspect arrested

Continued from Page 1

Team, the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and members of the Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force.

Anyone with additional information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS.

Shootings have become commonplace in the apartment complex in recent months, with at least five already taking place just this year prior to these — one of

which was fatal.

Past incidents include the following:

— Jan. 5: Marilyn Lee Lambert, 70, and Marcus Ray Hawkins, 51, shot inside an apartment but survived.

— Jan. 8, victims, James Sipes, 41, and Kelvin Menefee, 57, shot inside an apartment but survived.

— Jan. 28: Lee Mayfield fatally shot inside apartment.

— Last September 2021, three victims — two males and one female — were all shot on the same night at the complex. All were transported to the hospital in stable condition.

County, state elections set for March 1

Continued from Page 1

Vega, Daniel Jason and Jerry Mouton.

Also to be decided is the

Precinct 2, Place 2 justice of the peace position being vacated by Risner, who is stepping down from the long-held

position to run for Precinct 2 commissioner.

Democrats seeking the position include Dolores Lozano and Blaire McClure.

No Republicans filed to run for the seat.

A candidate must receive more than 50 percent of the vote to automatically advance to the Nov. 8 general election. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two candidates will advance to a primary runoff.

Early voting is currently underway and will continue through Friday, Feb. 25.

Nearly early voting locations include the Harris County annex at 10851 Scarsdale and Beamer and the El Franco Lee Community Center at 9500 Hall Road.

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

To see a complete list of polling locations or a sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.com.

ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.com.

Nearby Election Day polling locations include the Harris County annex, 10851 Scarsdale; Frazier Elementary, 10503 Hughes; Beverly Hills Intermediate, 11111 Beamer; El Franco Lee Community Center, 9500 Hall; Genoa Staff Development Center, 12900 Almeda; Genoa; and Laura Welch Bush Elementary, 9100 Blackhawk.

Unlike in previous years, residents may now cast their ballots at any polling location, despite their specific precinct number.

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

To see a complete list of polling locations or a sample ballot, visit www.harrisvotes.com.

See related candidate questionnaire on Page 2.

Bay Area Quilt set for March 1

The Bay Area Quilt Guild will have their meeting March 1 at 7 p.m. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors may attend meetings for free. The annual dues are \$25.

For the month of March, they will have a silent and live auction. There will be many items for sale for individuals who love to sew and craft. This is an opportunity to learn and meet other members. If one has any questions they may call Carol Garcia at 713-253-2521 or visit the website at bayareaquiltguild.org.

MHSE surgeons perform 100th TCAR procedure



The Heart and Vascular Program at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital is proud to announce it has achieved a milestone in treating patients with carotid artery disease who are at risk for open surgery. The clinical team led by affiliated vascular surgeons, Dr. Naveed Saqib (front, right) and Dr. Gordon Martin (front, left), has performed its 100th TransCarotid Artery Revascularization (TCAR) procedure. TCAR is a clinically proven, minimally invasive and safe approach for high surgical risk patients who need carotid artery treatment. Carotid artery disease is a form of atherosclerosis, or a buildup of plaque, in the two main arteries in the neck that supply oxygen-rich blood to the brain. If left untreated, carotid artery disease can often lead to

a stroke. TCAR is unique in that blood flow is temporarily reversed during the procedure so that any small bits of plaque that may break off are diverted away from the brain, preventing a stroke from happening. A stent is then placed inside the artery to stabilize the plaque, minimizing the risk of a future stroke. Patients who undergo the TCAR procedure recover quickly with less pain, smaller scars and a reduced risk of future strokes. Shown with Saqib and Martin are, left to right, (front row) Akiko Tanaka, (back row) Carina Heffernan, Will Medina, Allison Gras, Marc Llamas, Sidney Aquino, Stephanie Macaluso, Jack Beeny, Nannette Baucom, Kelly Ochoa, Leigh Hernandez, Nicole Tristan, Gina Johnson and Marlen Ramos.

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)

State Rep. Bill Caraway, introduced House Bill 955 which set up a program to better acquaint high school students with state government.

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees held their regular meeting in which they discussed the boundaries for many elementary, intermediate and high schools. Among these schools were South Houston High School and Rayburn High School.

40 years ago (1982)

Four voting precincts in the South Belt area — those located at Frazier, Burnett, Thompson and Dobie — led the county in total votes cast in the \$425 million county bond election. Voters in those four precincts also soundly approved the sale of \$175 million bonds for flood control programs.

Five South Houston High seniors, Diana Beavers, Nina Copley, Danielle Pelfer, Karen Flint and Twila Lanier, were selected as Beauties of Troy.

Due to an outbreak in influenza, absenteeism in PISD on one particular Friday was more than 10 percent, up from the average 5 to 6 percent.

35 years ago (1987)

Houston police officers confiscated approximately \$67,000 in property from the residence of Charles Gene Cortes. Fifty guns, including a 1921 Thompson machine gun, and several appliances were among the property seized. Police said many of the guns had been verified as stolen.

A motion to retain Dexter Joyner, the district's tax attorney, for three more years was passed unanimously by the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees.

30 years ago (1992)

Sagegen resident Roger Davis was elected president of the Clear Creek Independent School District.

25 years ago (1997)

The Brio Superfund site's Community Advisory Group asked the Environmental Protection Agency to take over the Brio site.

The Dobie Academic Decathlon team placed third in state competition.

A 52-year-old construction worker was killed while working on the Gulf Freeway at Beltway 8. He was working inside a steel reinforcement cage for a 70-foot support column when it collapsed.

20 years ago (2002)

A letter from County Commissioner El Franco Lee to Mayor Tom Reid of

Pearland appeared to be the vehicle that will break loose a 10-year-long jam that had been preventing the connection of Scarsdale Boulevard to Yost Road.

Three students who worked as library assistants at Dobie High School were accused of tampering with government records by falsifying school-issued identification cards, which is a Class A misdemeanor.

15 years ago (2007)

Officials at Texas Equus Search confirmed that William Anthony Gutierrez had been found. Citing family problems, Gutierrez fled to Mexico City, where he called the American Embassy to check in.

Officials from Kroger announced plans to close its longtime location at 10998 Fuqua.

Preconstruction for a new Pasadena Independent

School District middle school on Hughes Road began.

Annexation meetings were held between the city of Houston and the Sagemeadow Municipal Utility District. At issue, were the regulation of fireworks and the collection of sales tax.

The appearance of two Harris County deputy sheriffs in Judge Jo Ann Delgado's court on Feb. 16 resulted in several people who had received traffic tickets changing their minds about pleading not guilty. Deputies Tommy Wilks and Bilsen Espinoza were responsible for writing more than 700 tickets in four months, but Harris County District Attorney Jeremy Maldonado offered those who appeared to contest the tickets an option whereby the state would dismiss one of the charges if the defendant would plead no contest or guilty to the other charge and pay a fine and court costs.

10 years ago (2012)

A suspect who allegedly struck two off-duty Houston police officers with his vehicle was shot by one of them outside a nightclub at Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. According to police, the two officers were working as security at the El Rodeo when they were alerted a suspect was breaking into a vehicle in the parking lot. The two officers went to the area. The suspect, Hector Lopez Jr., and his passenger, Jaime Acevedo, were backed into a parking spot as the officers approached. The officers gave Lopez commands to exit the vehicle, but instead he allegedly revved the engine and left the parking space quickly, striking one of the officers. Lopez put the vehicle in reverse and backed up quickly and hit the second officer. At that time, both officers discharged their weapons and struck Lopez, who was then taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Acevedo ran from the scene but was arrested a short while later. Lopez, 19, was charged with aggravated assault against a public servant and Acevedo, 32, with felony evading arrest.

A federal court in San Antonio issued new interim congressional and legislative maps pushing the primary elections to Tuesday, May 29. The redistricting debacle had already forced the primaries to be moved to April 3. The maps came after months of legal challenges from minority groups. At issue was whether the original boundaries drawn by the GOP-led Legislature violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act by failing to give minorities due representation.

5 years ago (2017)

The Dobie Academic Decathlon team excelled at the state competition, held in San Antonio from Feb. 23-26. The Longhorn team took home fourth place overall in the tournament and second place in Super Quiz, answering 34 of 36 questions correctly. Individual medal winners from Dobie include Christine Perry (Varsity Division: first place in literature and third place in essay), Adrian De Los Santos (Varsity Division: third place in literature and third place in art), Bill Huynh (Honors

Division: second place in social science and third place in literature) and Jay Do (Scholastic Division: first place in interview). De Los Santos was awarded fourth place overall individual in the Varsity Division, earning him a \$1,500 scholarship. Dobie Coach Steven Higginbotham was named the Academic Decathlon Coach of the Year for the state of Texas at the event. A member of the 1995 Dobie Decathlon team under the direction of former Dobie Decathlon Coach Richard Golenko (another Coach of the Year recipient), Higginbotham (now retired) consistently led his students to victory, claiming multiple regional and state titles since taking the reins in 2006.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held its 33rd annual installation banquet on Thursday, Feb. 23. Newly elected Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis served as guest speaker at the event. Dr. Victor Van Phan, an orthopedic surgeon from Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, was named the chamber's Citizen of the Year. The previous year at the chamber's annual top-10 graduate luncheon, Phan, 1988 Dobie graduate, pledged to donate \$10,000 annually in scholarship funds to local students. Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital CEO Kyle Preston accepted the award on Phan's behalf, as he was unable to attend the function due to a scheduling conflict with one of his children's events. The Chairman's Award was presented to Rebecca Lilley, who serves as director of Physician Resources at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. Lilley serves on several boards and nonprofit groups, and the hospital has flourished under her direction, taking home multiple awards and honors.

1 year ago (2021)

A house caught fire Friday, Feb. 12, in the 10000 block of Yolandita near Almeda Mall. According to fire department officials, the fire was caused by someone trying to keep their dog warm with a heated light bulb. Damage was estimated at approximately \$20,000. Investigators determined the fire was unintentional. No injuries were reported.

Over The Back Fence by Kenna



JIM ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Birthday greetings are sent Feb. 25 from family and friends to Jim Muecke, an Edgebrook area resident active with community volunteer work on road and drainage projects.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAROLYN!

Special birthday wishes are in order for long time South Belt resident Carolyn Friend who marks a birthday Feb. 26. She is active in Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mother of Unity #2292.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR JANIS

Happy birthday wishes are sent Feb. 27 to Janis Wright from the Catholic Daughters at St. Luke's and the South Belt Leader staff.

BRAYDEN CELEBRATES 20TH BIRTHDAY!

Brayden Espinosa turns 20 March 1. Lots of hugs and best wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent from proud grandparents Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents; mom Jenny (Hayes) and stepdad Josh Laney; sisters Baylee Espinosa and Olivia Moreno; uncle Tyler Scarberry; aunt Stacey (Hayes); uncle Stephen and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers; uncle Joseph Hayes; and uncle Austin, aunt Tiffany and cousins Jade and Lily Scarberry.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR YOLANDA

Best wishes for a happy birthday March 2 are sent to Consuelo Yolanda Dominguez from sons Roland J. Dominguez, MD; Capt. Richard A. Dominguez (USMC); and daughter Laura Dominguez Chan, Associate Dean of Career Development at Stanford University; as well as 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Yolanda's teaching career includes Stuchbery, Frazier and Jessup elementaries in

PISD. All three children are Dobie graduates.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 24 through March 2.

Atkinson Elementary

Birthday wishes go out to Lilian Moreno Feb. 24.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Michael Arroyo and Gary Warner celebrate a birthday Feb. 25. Alicia Jackson Ngala celebrates a birthday Feb. 27.

Dobie High

Break out the party favors and balloons Feb. 24 for Kevin Berneathy. Sharing a birthday Feb. 25 are Kha Nguyen and Derek Rochelle. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent Feb. 27 to Rachel Rodriguez. The day for birthday cake and ice cream for Shay Woodruff is Feb. 28.

Frazier Elementary

Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to Maria Munoz Feb. 27. Andrea Eguia celebrates a birthday Feb. 28.

Fred Roberts Middle School

Randall Sanchez celebrates a birthday Feb. 26. Light the birthday candles Feb. 28 for Gladys Segura. Enjoying a birthday March 1 is Valeria Franco.

Meador Elementary

Cake and ice cream are in order Feb. 24 for Nadya Munoz. Celebrating a birthday Feb. 28 is Linda Tije. Blow out the birthday candles March 2 for Connie Aviles.

Melillo Middle School

Angelica Banda celebrates a birthday February 25. Best wishes for a happy birthday

March 2 are sent to Maria Gonzalez.

Moore Elementary

Sharing a double-layer birthday cake Feb. 24 is Cindy Montemayor and Krystal Garza. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 28 is Adriana Ramirez. Priscilla Nguyen-Vu celebrates a birthday Feb. 29. Nayeli Rodriguez enjoys a birthday March 1.

South Belt Elementary

Yoo Yang-Kum celebrates a birthday Feb. 25. Stuchbery Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles Feb. 28 for Alexandra Whited.

Thompson Intermediate

Blow out the birthday candles Feb. 24 for Kristin Cortese. Brenda Umazor celebrates a birthday Feb. 27. Katrina Morris enjoys a birthday March 1. Remember to wish Jill Butler and Cynthia Lozano a happy birthday March 2.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, Feb. 24: Andrew Belmar, Ken Moore, L.A. Dalton and Rebecca Cappello. Friday, Feb. 25: Frank Acosta, Carla Burbach, Kayla Ferrell, Rene Hernandez, Kobe Ruiz-Estrada and Luciana Serrano; Saturday, Feb. 26: Jimi Cebulla, Leah Williamson and Mark West; Sunday, Feb. 27: Sarah Tremont, Cindy Banhart, Miguel Villarreal and Beth Northrup; Monday, Feb. 28: Jessica Shannon, Rudy Peralez and James Myers; Tuesday, March 1: Jacquie Farrey; Wednesday, March 2: Sunshine Lane.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line or "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" for a birthday by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

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Kendall Brown of Dobie (bottom) goes to the court while battling a Shadow Creek player for control during the two teams' area playoff round battle Feb. 17 at Clear Springs High School.

Brown's standout three-year varsity career ended as Shadow Creek's big second-half rally ended the Lady Longhorns' season. Photo by Gloria Wallace

Champs play King late

Dobie, the undefeated winner will face Dawson champion of District 22-6A, took on C.E. King in a bidistrict boys' basketball playoff game Feb. 22 after press time. The C.E. King/Dobie

Berneathy exits; chooses La Porte

Kevin Berneathy has been named the new varsity football head coach at La Porte High School, bringing a quick end to a widely successful four-year stay at Dobie.

A former La Porte football staff assistant coach, Berneathy gained the necessary approval of the LPISD Board of Trustees Feb. 17, signaling the start of his tenure with the Bulldogs.

Berneathy had days before informed both the Dobie administration and players and coaches within the school of his intention to move on.

La Porte has hired its third head football coach in four years. Anthony Renfro was there in 2019 and 2020 before returning to his roots at Clear Springs. Jackson Tan lasted one season with the Bulldogs in 2021.

Per state policy, the Dobie opening must first be officially posted for 10 days on the Pasadena ISD website.

From there, a search committee headed by Dobie principal Jorly Thomas will begin the process of hiring what will be just the 11th head football coach at the school since 1968.

Berneathy won 33 regular season games in four years and brought the school its first district championship in 21 years in 2020. Now he heads to La Porte, a Class 5A Region II program within District 8-5A.

Continued on Page 8

Area playoff round unkind to Brook, Dobie girls

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
 District champions Clear Brook and Dobie both saw their 2021-2022 varsity girls' basketball seasons come to a sudden end Feb. 17 following area round playoff losses.

The Lady Wolverines, undefeated champions of District 24-6A and a bidistrict playoff winner over Alief Hastings, held a second-half lead over North

Shore before the Lady Mustangs forced overtime. In the extra session, North Shore made the big shots when it mattered most, ending Clear Brook's season at 31-5 with a 68-62 overtime victory at Pasadena Memorial High School.

At Clear Springs High School, Dobie rolled out to a 17-1 lead after eight minutes and led 22-8 at

halftime. But Shadow Creek, co-champion of District 23-6A, stormed back in the second half to win 43-38. So while North Shore and Shadow Creek advanced to the Region III sweet 16 quarterfinal round, Clear Brook and Dobie now bid adieu to terrific senior classes while preparing for the offseason.

Clear Brook head coach Warren Brooks watched as leading scorer Alyssa Berry scored 25 points and had 10 rebounds in her final game with the Lady Wolverines.

Berry joins Amanda Benjamin, Tamia Moody and Ashlee Seymoure as significant graduation losses, no doubt.

But the Lady Wolverines also have a bright future after delivering the program's first-ever 30-

win regular season. Freshman Rezia Castillo was second on the team in scoring at around 12 per game and also averaged six rebounds and five assists, earning All-Tournament Team honors in three separate events.

Fellow freshman Chadel Terrell joined the varsity team for roughly half the season, averaging nearly 10 points per game, and Ja'delle Major is another key contributor on her way back for her senior campaign in 2022-

Continued on Page 6

Defending champs keep soccer co-lead

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
 The District 22-6A championship will very much be on the line Feb. 25 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena as Dobie goes against Pasadena in a matchup of co-leaders in the varsity boys' soccer standings.

As the Longhorns look to extend their supremacy that currently includes seven consecutive district championships, Deer Park no doubt lingers as a contender and could take control of everything down the five-game finish with a March 1 home game against the Longhorns coming.

For now, though, it's the Longhorns and Eagles, both 5-1-1 and tied for first place with 16 points, giving it a go for a second time after playing to a scoreless tie in the first

Continued on Page 6



Levani Pelaez (15) and the Longhorns take on Pasadena Feb. 25 at Veterans Stadium, with the winner taking sole possession of first place in District 22-6A. Match time is 6:30 p.m. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dawson basketball bounces Wolverines

Just like that, the Clear Brook Wolverines' once promising look at a deep Region III boys' basketball run is over.

En route to winning its 14th straight game overall, Dawson went on a 12-2 run over the final 11 minutes, 10 seconds of action, bouncing Clear Brook from the postseason with a 69-59 bidistrict round victory Feb. 21 at Manvel High School.

Clear Brook was 25-3 through 28 games and appeared to be en route to a District 24-6A championship repeat.

But a loss to Clear Falls to end the first half of district play was the start of a 3-5 run over the locals' last eight games, including

the loss to Dawson. Senior standout Kemo Millender, the team's leading scorer, did not play against the Eagles, bringing a disappointing ending to his illustrious career as one of the top scorers in program history.

The Wolverines, who got 22 points from Marcus Millender, trailed at the end of each of the first three quarters but rallied to tie the game at 57-57 with just over a minute to play.

Dawson, which will face the C.E. King/Dobie winner in the area round, improved to 28-4 with the win. Brook, which had been to the area round in both 2020 and 2021, finished at 28-8.

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 ★ NEW! Clearbrook Meadows - Gorgeous 5-2-2 completely updated! Both formals, kitchen, fireplace, huge game room! #KVL
 ★ NEW! SAGEGLEN - Elegant Parry Freeway home, 4-3.5-2det, game room, formal dining, island kitchen, screened in porch! #DAL
 ★ NEW! Sageglen - Beautiful 1-2-2, updated kitchen, formal dining, vaulted ceiling in den, covered porch! #DAL

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Dobie's Andres Hernandez takes a free kick earlier this season for the Longhorns, who have vaulted themselves into a first-place tie with Pasadena as the two longtime rivals meet Feb. 25. The Longhorns handed Channelview a 3-1 loss Feb. 18 as head coach Justo Manrique scored his 200th career victory. The Longhorns are 13-2-3 overall this season, including 5-1-1 in league play. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Lady Horns move to 5-1-1; PHS next

At right, Dobie senior midfielder Jacqueline Saucedo (11) battles a Memorial player for ball possession during the first half of league play. Also in on the action is Lady Longhorns' forward Maria Wence. Following a 5-0 Senior Night win over Channelview to open the second half of District 22-6A, Dobie is 5-1-1 heading into play against the Pasadena Eagles March 25 at Veterans Stadium, beginning at 8:30 p.m. Saucedo and Karen Hernandez had two goals each in the shut-out to go with another from Kori Pounds. As the regular season hits the final push for the postseason, Dobie also has a Feb. 28 home game back at Veterans Stadium against first-place Deer Park. That match will begin at 7:30 p.m. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



JFD boys chase another crown

Continued from Page 5
 Daniel Blanco, Kevin Guzman and Victor Hernandez dealt assists as the Longhorns began the second half of league play with a 3-1 win at Channelview Feb. 18. The win was significant in more ways than one. It kept the Longhorns in great position in their quest for another league title. It was also a career mark for head coach Justo Manrique as he collected career win No. 200, with 147 of those coming over parts of nine seasons at Dobie. After leading Houston MacArthur to the regional semifinals in 2013, Manrique was hired to take the reins at Dobie. The 2014 season ended with the Longhorns posting a losing record at 8-9-5 after a bidistrict loss to Deer Park. Over the next three seasons, Dobie lost just eight times total. The 2017 season brought the program's first-ever Region III crown and a state semifinal berth. That 2017 season also started a run of three with 20 or more wins, and the big picture shows Dobie has consistently been a Region III power with Manrique in charge. Dobie's run of consecutive league titles will end some year, but the 2022 group seems bent on that not happening now. For as much that has already played out during the Longhorns' 12-2-3 overall run to this point, these last five matches are huge. came back with an 11-3 victory over Manvel Feb. 18 but then came up short, 5-3, to Cypress Ranch. On the final day of action, Dobie first defeated San Antonio MacArthur 11-4 and then took down Abilene to get to 5-2 through one week of the season. The locals defeated Round Rock 4-1 but then fell to Incarnate Word 11-2 as part of opening-day play. The Lady Longhorns

Dobie softball wins five of seven during solid start

Heading into a road game Feb. 22 against Pearland after press time, the Dobie varsity softball team won four of six games at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Lead-Off Classic in Bryan to open the season at 5-2 overall. Bella Perez and Hailey Henderson have led the team in batting average at .526 each, while San Jacinto College signee Shellie Ferguson is at .500. Marisa Perla has a team-high 10 runs scored, and Karli Barba has driven in 10 runs. Dobie hit .390 as a team through seven games. In the circle, juniors Sandra Quiroz-Catalan and Perla both went 2-1 in the first week. Dobie is now set to compete in the Pearland High School program-hosted Haynie Spirit Classic Feb. 24-26.

Haynie Spirit Tournament Feb. 24-26 at Dobie

Feb. 24: Dobie vs. Jersey Village, 9 a.m.
 Dobie vs. Katy, 1 p.m.

Feb. 25 Dobie vs. C.C. Carroll, 11 a.m.
 Dobie vs. Cy-Woods, 3 p.m.

Feb. 26 Dobie vs. Friendswood, 11 a.m.
 Dobie vs. Foster, 3 p.m.

SC girls take out JFD hoops

Continued from Page 5
 At Dobie, the back-to-back District 22-6A champions finished at 18-9 overall and reached the area round for the second time in four seasons. Head coach Jasmine Hartman, who has guided Dobie playoff runs in each of her four seasons, now loses eight seniors including Georgetown University signee Victoria Rivera. Rivera, the 22-6A Most Valuable Player as a junior a season ago and heads an eight-player senior class that has contributed so much during the Hartman era. Along with Rivera, seniors Riana Benton, Kendall Brown, Jennifer Ibe, Aynaiya Jones, Ashley Pham, Keke Robinson and Peyton Smith played in their final games as Lady Longhorns.



Dobie head coach Jasmine Hartman encourages her team during the first half of action against Shadow Creek Feb. 17 at Clear Springs High School. Despite a Shadow Creek win, Hartman has guided Dobie to consecutive district titles and a pair of area round playoff appearances over her four seasons. Photo by Gloria Wallace

Former Dobie netter discovers his calling

Certified Master Racquet Technician. Owner of 1 A.M. Stringing. The official racquet stringer for the Rice University tennis program. There's no way Vinh Nguyen could have imagined these qualifications, roles and skills being pasted across the top of his Facebook page back when he graduated from Dobie High School in 2007. While Nguyen was indeed a top two or three boys' singles player while with the Longhorns' tennis program, his focus was on attending college to be an airline mechanic. For now, those plans are on hold as Nguyen has found his niche as a professional tennis racquet stringer, having already made his way across the country while working pro events such as the Miami Open and Indian Wells as well as the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships collegiately. "It's not what my intention was certainly out of high school," said Nguyen, now 33. "It was a way to pay for college. I'd string racquets at Bay Oaks Country Club, Golferest Country Club, Bay Area Racquet Club, really anywhere locally." Business certainly picked up when Nguyen scored the role as racquet stringer at Rice University. It's not uncommon for Nguyen to string as many as 50 racquets a week or perhaps as many as 200 monthly. And at \$20 per racquet, it can add up in a hurry. "It's a job of course but it's also fun to work some of the bigger events," Nguyen said. "I'll travel anywhere there's racquets to be strung. Obviously, I have a passion for the game, so it makes it feel like less of a job when you are having fun."



JFD'S Johnson to Dakota State



Dobie first team all-district defensive back Trevon Johnson will continue his education and playing career at Dakota State in Madison, S.D. The Trojans compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and went 6-4 during the 2021 season.

JFD's Gray to Miss. College



Dobie three-year starting quarterback Cameron Gray is set to continue his education and playing career at NCAA Division II Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., after signing a letter of intent with the Choctaws Nov. 2. The Choctaws went 4-6 overall in 2021, including 2-5 within the Gulf South Conference. Gray, a former Newcomer of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year in 22-6A, was a first team all-district pick at quarterback following last season.

Dobie's Chambliss picks DSU



Linebacker Gabriel Chambliss (left), an honorable mention pick within District 22-6A following the 2021 season, is headed to Dakota State University in Madison, S.D., after signing with the Trojans. DSU, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program, was 6-4 overall in 2021. Head coach Josh Anderson welcomed 66 signees as part of National Signing Day. With Chambliss is Dobie head coach Kevin Berneathy.

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CALENDAR

It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meeting prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous, visit <https://aahouston.org/>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com/; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/.
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - Activities daily. Visit <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/> for face-to-face and virtual games. Email jpochn@clearlakebridgeclub.org.
Volunteers Jerry and Edith Sanford teach dance lessons Mondays, 1:30 - 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate the Humpday Dance on Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. for casual ballroom dancing. Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m. Bay Area Genealogical Society - meets either online or at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Virtual attendees need to register for each webinar session. Visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m. Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6 p.m. Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Mondays (in person) at <https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/>. Visit the website or call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m. AA - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., Call 832-725-8479.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, MARCH 1
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
National Association of Retired Federal Employees - meets at Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Pkwy. Lunch is \$6. Call 713-944-2461.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m. Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 713-253-2521. Visitors may attend two meetings free.
7 p.m. NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. Carmelites - meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake. Meetings are open to those 55+, with no dues. Call 713-444-6744.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.

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Meador participates in kindness challenge

Meador Elementary participated in the annual Great Kindness Challenge the week of Jan. 24-28. Students and staff were given a kindness checklist to check off

their kind acts during the week. It was a fun week of promoting kindness. Students enjoyed dressing up and showing acts of kindness to classmates and teachers.



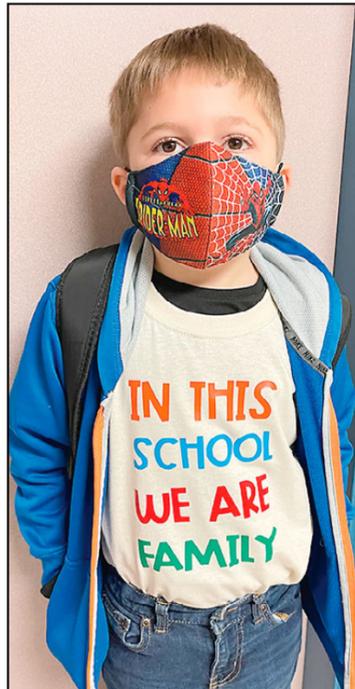
Shown above is fourth-grader Jaelyn Alvarez caught being kind with her orange vest in directing traffic.



Shown above is first-grader Freya Teniente caught being kind to fellow classmates.



Shown above, left to right, are Tara Merida, counselor; Beverly Bolton, principal; and Amy Clowers, assistant principal, who delivered room service for the staff which included a snack and a drink.



Shown above is first-grader Colton Foster with his school family shirt.

Berneathy takes La Porte gig

Continued from Page 5

Berneathy was named the new Dobie High School varsity football head coach after board approval Feb. 7, 2018.

Prior to applying for and subsequently getting the job at Dobie, Berneathy served as the offensive coordinator at Angleton High School for three seasons, where he helped lead the Wildcats to a 13-1 record and a 5A Division I Region 4 Championship in 2017.

His arrival came at a pivotal time in program history. In the 2015 and 2016 seasons, Dobie had missed the playoffs altogether. Missing the postseason on the regular at Dobie is deemed unacceptable.

Then Dobie principal Franklin Moses told the *Leader* during the coaching search that there had been more than 90 applicants for the opening.

Berneathy clearly stood out in the interview process then, and has since, delivered with his principles.

His 33 regular-season wins over four seasons is surpassed only by the 37 won between 1996 and 1999, when the Longhorns twice went three playoff rounds deep.

In 2020, the Longhorns' varsity team went undefeated over nine games, claiming the program's first district championship since the 1999 season.

Challenges remain
If postseason success is the ultimate measuring stick with a program, Dobie is solid but not great.

Four head coaches have held the top job since the Longhorns last won a playoff game under Tommy Kaiser in 2004.

One could argue that the biggest reason for Dobie's lack of playoff success is the bully that is North Shore.

The Mustangs have won five state titles in program history. Since 2011, North Shore has begun its postseason quest against Dobie eight times, winning all

eight.

Looking ahead, University Interscholastic League realignment for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 seasons again almost assuredly will have the Longhorns taking on either North Shore or Atascocita in the same first round. Simply put, there are few ways around it.

A less challenging postseason path is not solely responsible for the exit of

Berneathy. His previous ties to La Porte played a part.

These days, it's not uncommon to see frequent head coach movement. A stay of a decade or more is not common.

So the Kevin Berneathy era at Dobie is over. Dobie has hired from within just twice, with 10 men holding the job overall.

The process to find No. 11 will soon begin.



Kevin Berneathy was 33-10 overall in four seasons at Dobie with four straight playoff berths.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

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The Berneathy Era

2018: 7-4 (4th, 22-6A)

2019: 9-2 (2nd, 22-6A)

2020: 9-1 (22-6A title)

2021: 8-3 (2nd, 22-6A)

33 wins over four years is second in program history

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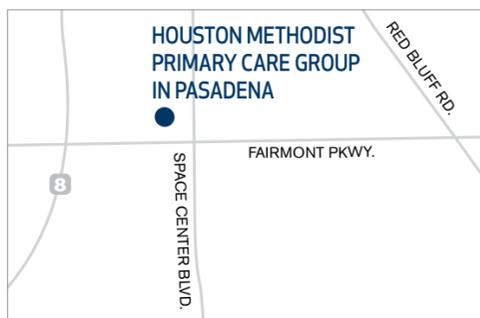
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