



South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 50, No. 11

Leader seeks submissions

The South Belt-Ellington Leader encourages local schools, groups and individuals to continue sending story ideas and photos they'd like to see included in the newspaper. Submissions have declined following the death of Leader publisher Marie Flickinger in November. Contributions may be submitted to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

County, MUD host egg hunt

Harris County Precinct 2 and Clear Brook City MUD will hold their annual Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 12, at Clear Brook City MUD, 11911 Blackhawk near Scarsdale, from 1 to 3 p.m. Hosted by Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado and Constable Jerry Garcia, the event will feature complimentary food while supplies last. Participants must bring their own Easter egg baskets. See related ad on Page 4.

Knights sell fish during Lent

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will hold a weekly fish fry at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, each Friday during Lent from 4 to 7 p.m. Dinners will include fried, grilled or baked fish with fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea for \$15. Dine-in or take-out dinners will be available. Desserts will also be available for purchase at the events, courtesy of Catholic Daughters Court 2292.

CBCMUD sets holiday hours

The Clear Brook City MUD will be closed from 3 p.m. Thursday, April 17, through 8 a.m. Monday, April 21, in observance of the Easter holidays. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

HPD to hold PIP April 15

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria in the CES Classroom on the first floor of the main building. Guest speaker to be announced. Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings typically take place the third Tuesday of each month. For additional information, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776 or Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org.

Lakes of Golfcrest to meet

Lakes of Golfcrest HOA will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Sagemeadow MUD Building, 10755 Hall Road at Blackhawk.

Sagemeadow meets April 17

Sagemeadow HOA will host its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. The meeting is open to the public and all Sagemeadow residents are encouraged to attend. For additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/Calder/Brittany Bay in League City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

City to collect heavy trash

City residents living in the South Belt community south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, April 10 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua (and west of the Gulf Freeway) will have heavy trash pickup Friday, April 11 (second Friday of the month). April is for junk waste but tree waste will also be accepted. Pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit www.houston.tx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Church celebrates Easter

Kirkwood South Christian Church, 10801 Kirkfair, will host its Easter celebration Eggventure! Friday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will feature craft stations, egg hunt, snacks and face painting. The event is free and open to the public.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, April 12, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.houston-solid-waste.org or call 311.

Amoco hosts SJC shred event

Amoco Federal Credit Union, in coordination with the San Jacinto College Foundation, will host a free community shred event Saturday, April 12, at San Jacinto College Central, 8060 Spencer Highway (main front parking lot), from 9 a.m. to noon. Shredding personal documents can help prevent identity theft.

Organizers gear up for 3rd annual cleanup

May 3 South Belt Cleanup to cover 6.25 miles; volunteers sought

Organizers are gearing up for the third annual South Belt Cleanup, set to take place Saturday, May 3. (Rain date is Saturday, May 10.)

A joint project between the Knights of Columbus Council 9201 and the Sagemont Civic Club, the cleanup has attracted a wide range of additional partners, including Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, Pasadena ISD, the Houston Police Department, Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department and the Leader.

Sponsors for this year's cleanup include Ace Hardware (Beamer), B&L Lock and Safe, Dominic and Dottie Cantalamessa, Food Town (Scarsdale), Precinct 2 Judge Jo Ann Delgado and

KBarbour Realtor. Lunch (hamburgers and hot dogs) will be provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Buses will be provided by Harris County and Pasadena ISD. Ambulance service and ice will be provided by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department. Police escorts will be provided by HPD, Precinct 2 and the Pasadena ISD Police Department. The Solid Waste Management Department will provide a roll-off dumpster.

Event organizer Mike Work, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 9201, said he organized the inaugural event after getting tired of seeing all the trash in the community, particularly along Beamer. To help promote the event, Work reached out to Sagemont Civic Club Presi-

dent Kay Barber, who he discovered was already working on a similar endeavor. The two then joined forces to create one larger event.

Work said he modeled the cleanup after a previous long-running cleanup done by the Knights of Columbus around a decade ago.

Organizers are expecting approximately 250 volunteers to take part in this year's event.

Volunteers will clean up from the Gulf Freeway to Blackhawk, east to west, and from Fuqua to FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road, north to south. Volunteers will not clean Dixie Farm Road out of safety concerns.

The thoroughfares encompass an area approximately 6.25-square miles in size.

Organizers are currently seeking volunteers.

All volunteers must sign a waiver. All supplies will be provided and lunch will be served by the Knights of Columbus following the event.

To register as a volunteer, visit docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf801H8XH9idGvPEkM-XWiEntO-KUgi8Cbex5kbkQTqHCWg/viewform.

Tax-deductible donations to the Sagemont Civic Club are also being accepted to offset costs.

The cleanup will begin at 9 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate, located at 11111 Beamer. Volunteers who have not preregistered are asked to arrive early. For additional information on this year's South Belt Cleanup, contact Work at mrwork2@att.net or 832-338-5156.



St. Luke breaks ground

On Saturday, April 5, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church officially broke ground on its new Family Life Center to be located at the parish's future Riverstone Ranch campus in Pearland. Shown above at the groundbreaking ceremony are, left to right, the Rev. Anthony Cisneros, parochial vicar at St. Luke; the Rev. Douglas Guthrie, head pastor at St. Luke; and George Bishop, chair of the Building Committee.

St. Luke set to begin construction

New Riverstone facility to replace Hall Road church

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church officially broke ground on its new Family Life Center Saturday, April 5, at a ceremony held at the parish's future Riverstone Ranch campus in Pearland.

The event was led by the Rev. Douglas Guthrie, head pastor at St. Luke. Other church officials in attendance at the groundbreaking included Jim Towe, president of Financial Council; Minerva Mendoza, chair of Pastoral Council; Michelle Holste, chair of Stewardship Committee; George Bishop, chair of Building Committee; Val Comeaux, chair of Steering Committee; and Felipe Mendoza Jr., chair of Campaign Committee.

The groundbreaking coincides with the area church's 50th anniversary.

After the ceremony, attendees were allowed to take home a small bag of soil from the property to spread at their own homes.

The future Riverstone Ranch campus is to be located across the street from South Belt Elementary and the new Thompson Intermediate. Despite the church owning the 20-acre site for approximately 20 years, this will mark the first construction at the property in around a decade.

The 25,000-square-foot Family Life Center is the second of five planned structures to be constructed at the site. A 10,000-square-foot structure dubbed the Cenacle Learning Center was erected in 2014.

Eventual plans call for an education center, a social hall, youth center, administration building and church to all be constructed at the site.

Funding for the new Family Life Center was made possible by a \$10 million loan from the archdiocese, along with donations from parishioners as part of St. Luke's Capital Campaign. To donate to the campaign, visit stlukescatholic.com/pages/capital-campaign.

Feds raid Scarsdale game room

Site just 1 of 40+ in city alleged in \$22 million operation

A game room located on Scarsdale at the Gulf Freeway was raided Wednesday, April 2, as part of a multi-agency operation that involved officers simultaneously executing search warrants on 40 such establishments across the Greater Houston area.

Investigators said the game rooms – all affiliated with each other – were part of an organized crime ring, led by Nizar Ali, a 61-year-old Pakistani national from Richmond.

In all, 720 law enforcement officers took part in the raids, representing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FBI, DEA, ICE, Houston

Police Department, Harris County Precinct 1 and Precinct 4 constable offices.

Led by Homeland Security, the investigation spanned at least five years, federal officials said. The FBI also executed search warrants at three separate residences in Richmond and Rosenberg.

In addition to Ali, officers arrested more than a dozen others allegedly involved in the crime ring, including members of Ali's family. Investigators said Ali routinely hired undocumented immigrants to work in the game rooms, often as

Measles case confirmed at Hobby

Health officials: Symptoms can be dormant for 21 days

The Houston Health Department has been notified of a confirmed case of measles in an unvaccinated individual who traveled from Mexico and through William P. Hobby Airport while infectious. Measles can be transmitted before symptoms develop.

The individual arrived at Hobby Airport on Sunday, March 30, and was present in several lo-

cations between 4 and 8 p.m.

The traveler went from Hobby Airport's Western Concourse to Customs, proceeded from baggage claim to retrieve luggage and then returned through security to the Central Concourse before checking in to their connecting flight for their final destination.

Continued on Page 4

Q&A with new PISD Superintendent Toni Lopez

Former local teacher, principal begins newest phase of 30-year PISD career

By Brooke Kushwaha

This article first appeared in the Houston Landing and is republished with permission.

Recently hired Pasadena ISD Superintendent Toni Lopez was recently interviewed as part of the Houston Landing's weekly "Pop Quiz" series.

Meet the interviewee

When Toni Lopez started as a PISD middle school math teacher nearly 30 years, she never planned to leave the classroom. The principal of Beverly Hills Intermediate School had other ideas.

"We call that getting tapped – someone tapped me and said, 'Hey, you need to do something bigger,'" Lopez recalled in an interview earlier this week.

Over the next three decades, Lopez climbed the ladder in Pasadena, serving as an assistant principal, principal, two high-ranking central office positions and deputy superintendent.

Lopez reached the top of the district this past week, when Pasadena's school board unanimously voted to make her the district's new superintendent. Lopez immediately replaces DeeAnn Powell, who served in the position for 12 years before announcing her retirement last fall.

Board members told the Houston Landing earlier this month that Lopez's many years of experience in the district put her in the best position to build on Pasadena's success. The district boasts above-average test scores in reading and math compared to similar districts, and also stands out for its high school graduates' college and career readiness.

In her time as deputy superintendent, Lopez said she is most proud of her work developing Pasadena's "Portrait of a Graduate," a start-to-finish education plan geared toward creating a motivated, well-rounded high school graduate.

"We're not just going to teach kids to read," Lopez said. "We're not going to just teach kids to do math. We're going to educate the whole child and make sure that they have the skill set to be successful in whatever next level that they're going to."

Lopez sat down with the Landing ahead of her official hiring to discuss her hopes for the position, the potential challenges ahead and how she'll continue Pasadena's steady course.

This interview has been lightly edited for length

and clarity.

What do you think your principal saw in you when you got tapped?

I care deeply about kids, and I am one of those people that – I'm just going to do whatever it takes to get the job done. It doesn't matter if it's at 4 o'clock in the morning or if it is at 10 o'clock at night. I'm one of those people like, "If this is what the kids need, then that's what I'm going to do to make sure I take care of the kids." I consider them my babies.

I was just actually texting with the principal last night, and one of her teachers at her campus was one of my former students, and he has a child that is going through some things. And I was like, "Hey, he was one of my babies in my classroom." You start to feel like those students are yours and you want to help them. So I think just having that passion and that background for kids, I think that's something she saw in me.

What made you interested in the superintendent role?

I don't know that there's one thing that I can point to. ... After I was principal, I took a role as an executive director in the curriculum and instruction department, and I was able to be very instrumental in launching our personalized learning program. There, I got to see a bigger picture and that I could influence more kids than just on one campus, and so that kind of opened up my eyes. The next role I played was being the associate superintendent of (Human Relations), which is very different from the academic world, but that role allowed me to see that what we do for employees matters greatly. If we're keeping our employees happy, they're doing great things for kids. And it's not just about teachers. We have lots of other employees in our district, not just teachers.

Then, of course, once I stepped over into the deputy superintendent role, I oversee academic achievement and HR, and so I get to see the big picture with students and with staff. Those are the things that led me here. And it's the right time in my life. My husband and I are empty nesters. Our children are successful. They both graduated from Texas A&M, they both have good jobs, and so it's not like they need us right now.

What does your vision for the next five, 10 years of Pasadena look like?

We are in the final stages of our 2030 strategic plan, and one of the things that I'm very excited about in that strategic plan is highlighting the journey of our students. We want to make sure they have a strong start, a strong journey and a strong finish.

Some of the things we're looking at is, what might pre-K3 (prekindergarten for 3-year-olds) look like? Could we do pre-K3? During Dr. Powell's tenure, we instituted full-day pre-K4, but what does pre-K for 3-year-olds look like? We want to investigate what that mar-

Continued on Page 4

Harvick named Teacher of Year



Cheryl Harvick (center) was named Thompson Intermediate's Teacher of the Year. Now in her third third year at Thompson, Harvick – a seventh-grade math teacher – was also named New Teacher of the Year during her first year at the school. Harvick is shown above at the area campus being presented the award by Thompson Principal Tanis Gibson (left) and math campus coach Gina Teston. Lorissa Kearbey (not shown) was named this year's New Teacher of the Year at Thompson. See related photos on Page 2.

In My Opinion

Hodges upholds Harrison for board

I am writing this letter in support of Judy Harrison for the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees Position 3. I have known Judy for over 30 years and worked with her at San Jacinto South for 22 years. She taught in the Physical Education department where she also served as department chair and interim director of the Early College High School program. We worked together on numerous college and district committees as well as served in the faculty senate. Judy is a natural at working with a variety of constituencies. I have found Judy to be patient, honest, ethical, and forthright. She has always been and continues to be an earnest supporter of San Jacinto College and education in general. Judy would be an outstanding trustee for SJCD, fairly representing all of its constituencies.

Sincerely,
Vickie J. Hodges
(retired SJCD faculty)

King urges city to manage overtime

You have probably seen news recently about the amount of overtime being paid by the City. The current kerfuffle was prompted by a report from the Controller's Office to the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee, which warned that overtime for the current fiscal year is on track to be the highest on record and will exacerbate the current budget deficit.

Generally speaking, relying on overtime is a poor business practice. First, most overtime pay must be paid at a premium rate. Also, most managers will tell you that the productivity of workers declines when pressed to work longer hours, something that has been supported by most academic research.

The City's reliance on overtime is nothing new. According to the Monthly Operating and Financial Reporters, the City has consistently clocked over 1,000 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in overtime for the past twenty years. However, it began to ramp up significantly in the last administration, reaching a high of 1,862 FTEs last year. While there are still three months left in the current fiscal year, it appears that overtime may top 2,000 FTEs this

year.1 Three departments account for almost all of the overtime: police, fire, and solid waste. Here are the year-to-date numbers through December. There have been two fundamental reasons for the City's reliance on overtime. The most important is the inability to recruit. That has been a chronic problem with the police and solid waste departments primarily because fewer young people are interested in the types of jobs available in those departments. The shortage in the fire department was more the result of the previous administration's feud with the firefighters and a toxic contract dispute.

The second reason is unexpected and exogenous events, such as hurricanes. The Controller's report notes peaks in overtime, which occurred in the aftermath of the Derecho and Beryl storms. You notice a similar spike in FY2008-2009, which corresponds to Hurricane Ike. In addition, the current administration was forced to conduct an extensive investigation after it was discovered that the police department has dropped over a quarter of a million cases with little or no investigation.

With the exception of the years during the Parker administration, the City's budgets have consistently and grossly underestimated the amount of overtime the City would spend in the upcoming year. During the Turner administration, its budgets consistently underestimated the number of overtime FTEs, averaging a 33% discrepancy, with the last budget missing the mark by 47%. However, the City is on track to miss the budget projection this year by a whopping 63%, primarily due to the two storms, the HPD scandal, and, I suspect, the fact that a newly elected City administration has only a few months after taking office to put together its first budget.

However, even if we exclude exogenous events, the City must do a better job of managing its overtime. Part of that would be to adopt a realistic budget, ensuring we do not have unanticipated overtime costs at the end of the year. Additionally, we should set aside a portion of our budget each year to cover the inevitable costs associated with weather events. Given the financial exigencies the City is facing, we can no longer afford to be sloppy with our budgeting or incur any overtime that is not absolutely necessary.

Bill King

Elected officials share their words

State Rep. Gamez promotes health benefits for mothers in workplaces

House Bill 1127 by Rep. Gamez (D-Brownsville) was unanimously passed out of the House Committee on State Affairs with a bipartisan vote of 12-0. HB 1127 promotes breastfeeding and ensures mothers can breastfeed and pump without interference or restriction.

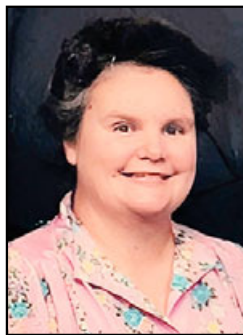
Rep. Gamez issued the following statement:

"No mother should have to choose between feeding her child and keeping her job. I am thrilled that my bill, HB 1127, is advancing the legislative process. This bill is a crucial step in protecting and promoting a mother's right to breastfeed and pump in the workplace."

"The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly endorses breastfeeding due to its well-documented health and developmental benefits. This is about Texas prioritizing basic dignity, public health, and making sure no parent has to fight for the right to care for their child. By supporting mothers in the workplace, we are supporting healthier babies, stronger families, and a better future for Texas."

Death

Sandy Farrias



Longtime South Belt resident Sandy Farrias passed away April 1, surrounded by family after a lengthy illness. She was 80 years old.

Sandy was born in Battle Creek, Mich. and moved to Corpus Christi as a teenager where she attended Flour Bluff High School. This is where she met and married Richard Farrias in 1961. She and her husband moved to their Sagewillow address in 1969. She was a housewife and also held various jobs as a master printer at Narmore Enterprises and as a customer service cashier with Rice Epicurean stores around Houston.

Sandy always enjoyed attending school and community events, and was a big supporter of Sagemont Beverly Hills baseball and softball association and was often seen running the concession stand. She enjoyed cooking for family get togethers, going on

camping trips and having her big family around. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and her smile and big heart will be missed. She was preceded in death by her father, Allen R. Narmore; mother, Iona Narmore and sister Carol Hagin.

She is survived by her husband; daughter Jerilynn Johns and husband Robert; son Richie Farrias and wife Stacey; son Michael Farrias and wife Sharon; son Joey Farrias; sisters Gayelynn Narmore and Charlotte Miller; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life for Sandy was held at Peevey Funeral Home, Wednesday, April 9.

Feds raid Scarsdale game room

Continued from Page 1 armed guards. ICE officials said 31 such workers were detained during the raids.

Sayed Ali, 59, and Stephanie Huerta, 35, were charged but not arrested and remained at large at press time.

Investigators said the illegal game rooms netted proceeds exceeding \$22 million. Ali allegedly attempted to launder the money through real estate and other high-value purchases. According to investigators, roughly \$4.5 million in cash was seized during the raids, while mil-

lions more were digitally seized from multiple bank accounts. More than 2,000 slot machines, 100 Rolex watches and eight guns were also seized. Investigators said this was one of the state's largest money laundering bust in recent history.

Thompson names educators of the year



Thompson Intermediate School officials presented staff members of the year who were chosen by their peers with certificates and gifts. Preston Hall (center) received Paraprofessional of the Year honors and was awarded a certificate and sweet gifts which were presented by Principal Tanis Griffin and assistant principal Kelli Moneyhun.



Lorissa Kearbey (third from left) eighth-grade reading language arts teacher, was awarded as New Teacher of the Year. Presenting her certificate and gift were, left to right, Assistant Principal Travis Teichelman, reading language arts instructional coach Denise Medina and Principal Tanis Griffin.

Stuchbery showcases at PISD science fair



Stuchbery Elementary chose a select amount of students to represent their school at the PISD science fair. Left to right, are (front row) Macie Salinas, Dante Segovia, (back row) Gilbert Reyes, Madelyn Jimenez and Anthony Nazario who received certificates for their projects.

HLSR visits South Belt Elementary

Volunteers from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo visited South Belt Elementary to share rodeo experiences and history. At right, Cowboy (center) showed off lasso tricks and shared cowboy stories with fourth-grader Whian Bantug (left), and first-grade teacher Anh Ton.



At left, are first-graders Christabella Martinez (left) and Alex Jimenez learned to dance to Texas music.

7MHD searches for volunteers

The 7 Marines Honor Detail (7MHD) is a nonprofit organization of Marines who serve veterans of all branches in the United States military. The group provides casket guard, rifle salute, taps, folding of the flag, color guards, local parades, Houston National Cemetery functions, Honor Flight receptions, VA hospital events and more.

The group is seeking fellow Marines to join their team in providing final honors for veterans' families. They outfit any Marine with a uniform and welcome both men and women, as well as associates who wish to help.

For more information about volunteering, call 832-329-7250 or 281-793-9811 and leave name and return number.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, April 10, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.
Thursday, April 10, 4 - 5 p.m. Family Storytime. Registration required.
Thursday, April 10, 5 - 6 p.m. Weekly English language classes. Registration required.
Monday, April 14, 11 a.m. - noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required.
Tuesday, April 15, 4 - 5 p.m. Board games at the Library. Registration required.
Wednesday, April 16, 6 - 7 p.m. Living English lessons. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstontlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

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.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Thursday, April 10, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Friday, April 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP free tax services.
Friday, April 11, 1 - 2 p.m. Adult computer basics class. Registration required.
Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. - noon. Tai Chi.
Monday, April 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP free tax services.
Monday, April 14, 1 - 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.
Monday, April 14, 4 - 5:30 p.m. 3D printer orientation. Registration required.
Monday, April 14, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Book buddies. Registration required.
Tuesday, April 15, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Wednesday, April 16, 1 - 3 p.m. Genealogy.
Wednesday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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

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

Online services

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

ENDORSED BY FELLOW TRUSTEES

Sal SERRANO

FOR SAN JACINTO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES POS. 3

Vote Saturday May 3

SerranoforSanJac.com @SalforSanJac

"LET'S CONTINUE STUDENT SUCCESS!"

Adv. Paid for by the Salvador Serrano Jr Campaign, Esmeralda Serrano, Treasurer.

Free COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

NEW DATE SATURDAY, APRIL 12 | 9AM - 12PM

San Jacinto College (Main Front Parking Lot)
8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

Along with free shredding, San Jacinto College Foundation will be in attendance collecting cash donations.

GARAGE SALE

SAT, APR 12
8AM - 2PM

Blackhawk HOA Community Wide
GARAGE SALE!

Neighborhood located at the corner of
Blackhawk and Astoria

Multi-family, electronics, furniture, baby items,
clothes, household items and much more!
Rain Date is April 26.

Time to clean out your garage and closets!

Durham Park Community Garage Sale

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 8 am - 2 pm

Rain or Shine

PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE SIDEWALK WITH YOUR ITEMS
POR FAVOR NO BLOQUEE LA ACERA CON SUS ARTICULOS

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.	

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord
in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care

Now Enrolling

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

281.481.2003

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

PRIMARY CARE

Personalized to You

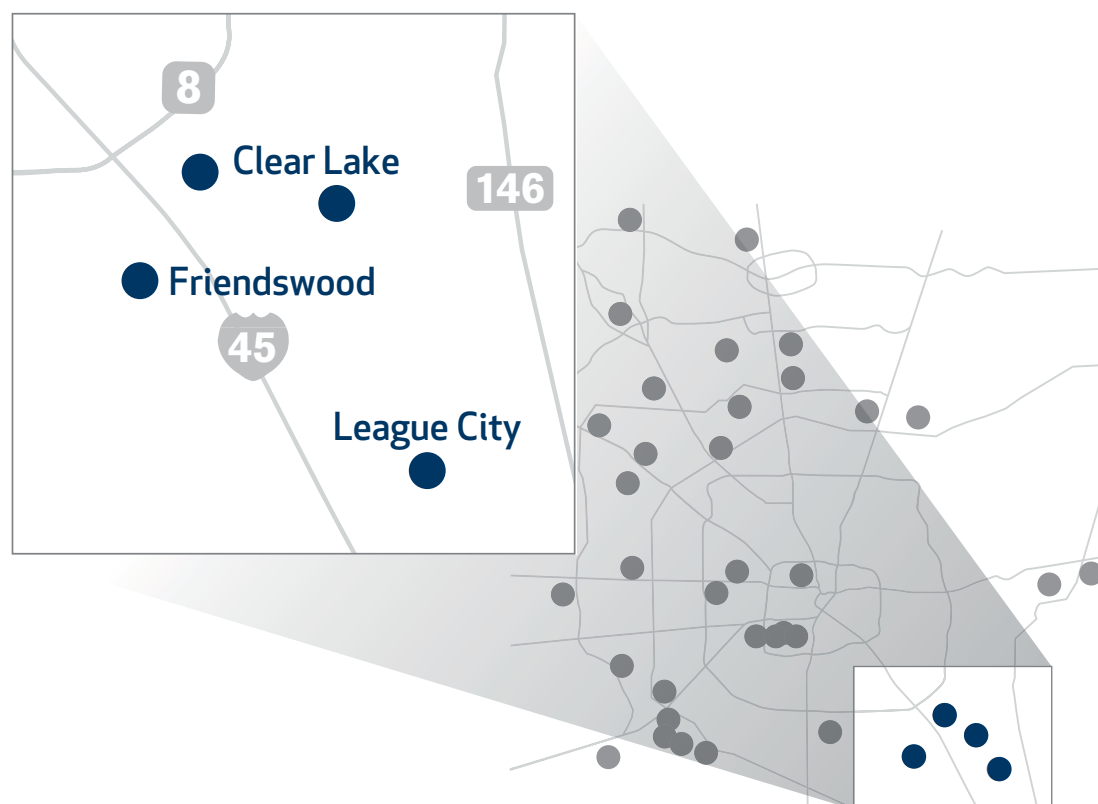


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Moore Elementary first-graders perform "Texas, Our Texas"



Moore Elementary first-graders celebrated Texas heritage by performing a "Texas, Our Texas" program, March 11 which included Texas songs and dances. Shown, left to right, are (front row) Andres Vasquez, Evalette Ortiz, Oliver Saucedo, Thomas Hernandez, (middle row) Jerimie Collier, Iris Alvarez, Jack Villanueva, Natalyn Gallegos, Sapphire Morgan, (back row) music teacher Sheryl Munn, Elijah Salinas, Paisley Henderson, Olivia Ramirez, Josiah Martinez, Milah Sanchez, Prince Shyne, Ayva Ramirez, first-grade teacher Katlyn Box and Julian Trevino.



Left to right, are (front row) Sofia Aguirre, Jose Castillo, Camila Romero, Abel Chavez, (back row) first-grade teacher Esmeralda Chacon, Raymond Juarez, Audrey Villarreal, Zuleyka Bustos, Daniela Gonzalez, Rafael Moreno and Munn.



Left to right, are (front row) Brenden Tran, Yazlynn Hernandez, Layla Ankenbruck, (middle row) Kristina Le, Savannah Trevino, Mario Alcorta, Raven Masone, (back row) first-grade teacher Roxanne Carbajal, De'Vine Sam, Arshaun Doorford, John Ixcoy, Javier Garcia Avila, Bobby Alcocer and Munn.



Left to right, are (front row) Sofia Aguirre, Jose Castillo, Camila Romero, Abel Chavez, (back row) Audrey Villarreal, Zuleyka Bustos and Daniela Gonzalez performing during the "Texas, Our Texas" program.



Left to right, are (front row) Eli Vega, Nathaniel Garza, Julianna Le, (middle row) Oliver Hayden, James Sanchez, Kamori Coleman, Catia Ramos, Michael McCaig, (back row) first-grade teacher Krystal Lam, Samuel Castillo, Audrey Omana, Kataliah Manriquez-Zapata, Violette Robles, Evan Vega and Munn.

Chamber hosts CCISD candidates' forum



The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held its Clear Creek Independent School District (ISD) candidates' forum for At-Large Position B on April 1, at the Sageglan Homeowners Association facility. Welby Financial sponsored the event, and d'lish Catering provided refreshments. Chris Clark (second from right), a chamber board member and chair of the Government Affairs Committee, served as the moderator for the evening, while Bruce Summers documented the event through photography. Pictured with Clark are, left to right, Scott Bowen, Rebecca Lilley, Anita Eakman, Lisa Holbrook and Noble Alix, Jr.

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)
A Saturday night fire at Garfield Elementary made it the fourth school damaged by fire in the previous year. Total damages were estimated to be \$1 million.
All incumbents were returned to office after local water district elections.
State Sen. Gene Jones expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on the Clear Lake watershed project in a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and various U. S. senators and congressmen.
40 years ago (1985)
Crape myrtles were planted in esplanades along Fluca in connection with the Relieaf Houston project.
An attorney and the Pasadena Independent School District's superintendent's office corresponded with the Texas Employment Commission about former superintendent C. Lee Meyer's recent request for unemployment compensation.

ferred in the stabbing death of Gail Totman, 51.
Harold Lundy, 21, and Scott Davidson, 22, survived a car crash into a concrete pillar, thought to be a fatality, with only broken bones.
San Jacinto students, Juan Rodriguez, Ricardo Rico, Natalia Bandasik and David Mitchell, were set to fly a NASA aircraft.
20 years ago (2005)
Three South Belt area men were lost in the Gulf of Mexico. Austin Childs, 19, John Zimmerman, 51, Scott Keller, 41, and a dog boarded Zimmerman's 28-foot boat at Freeport for an offshore fishing trip. Three days later, the boat was located floating adrift in the gulf. Six months later, there was still no sign of what happened to the men.
U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay asked Secretary of Homeland Defense Michael Chertoff to name Ellington Field as a regional headquarter for DHS.

On the fifth anniversary of Jonathan Barrica's death, there were still no leads in the case.
15 years ago (2010)
The Bracewell branch of the Houston Library System reduced its hours and began to close on Saturdays, despite great opposition from community members. The move was part of a citywide effort to save money. The system had roughly \$2.2 million less in its budget than it anticipated at the start of the 2010 fiscal year. Most of the city's 42 branches reduced from being open 71 hours a week to 51 hours - a 28 percent decrease. The Harris County Parker Williams Library branch was unaffected by the change.
South Belt Elementary School was officially dedicated. Located in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision, the campus opened at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

Rapid growth in the area and construction of the subdivision necessitated the need for a new elementary school, which voters approved in a 2004 bond referendum. Speaking at the event were Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Kirk Lewis, PISD Board President Fred Roberts, South Belt-Ellington Leader publisher Marie Flickinger and South Belt Elementary principal Candy Howard. A tour of the school followed the ceremony.
10 years ago (2015)
A second-grade teacher at Laura Bush Elementary School resigned amid allegations he took upskirt photos of an 8-year-old female student. Luis Rudolfo Pasos, 43, was later charged with two felony counts of indecency with a child. When initially confronted about the allegations by police, Pasos reportedly attempted to destroy his phone by

breaking it in half and throwing it into a storm drain. He later led police to the broken phone, where it was recovered and analyzed by experts.
5 years ago (2020)
During its online service Wednesday, April 8, Sagemont Church announced that Dr. Matt Carter would be coming to the area church "in view of a call" on Sunday, May 17. If accepted, the new pastor would replace the founding pastor, Dr. John Morgan, who served Sagemont faithfully for 53 years.
Morgan had announced the previous year that he would be stepping down. Longtime South Belt resident and Sagemont teaching pastor, Dr. Freeman Tomlin, had been delivering the church's primary sermons since Morgan's retirement, while executive pastor, the Rev. Chuck Schneider, filled in as interim senior pastor.

Carter is the founding pastor of Austin Stone Community Church which began in 2002. During his tenure, the church grew from a core team of 15 people to more than 8,000 weekly attendees spread over six campuses and with a budget in excess of \$24 million. Carter holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry in Expository Preaching from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Carter assumed the position in June.
1 year ago (2024)
A man was shot during a domestic disturbance April 10, in the 11400 block of Poplarwood in the Woodmeadow subdivision. According to police, the nonfatal gunshot was fired by Jamison Wilson, 25, during an argument with his stepfather. The victim was transferred to the hospital to be treated for unspecified injuries.

35 years ago (1990)
According to a formula provided by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, Southbend mothers experienced a 26 percent miscarriage rate, an alarmingly high percentage.
The long awaited road extension between Freehill and Old Galveston Road was nearly complete.
A suspect wanted in connection with area burglaries and home robberies eluded capture by fleeing on foot after being spotted inside a South-bend home.
Thompson Intermediate seventh-grader Rahat Ahmed was the only student in the Pasadena school district to compete in the state geography bee in Fort Worth.
25 years ago (2000)
Jonathan Barrica, 17, died one month and one day after the shooting in his South Belt home.
A \$31,000 reward was offered

for information on the whereabouts of Barrica's father, who was believed to be in the area at the time of the shooting.
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 10 through April 16.
Burnett Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting April 11 to Jessica Rocha. Blow out the candles April 14 for Jennifer Russell.

Bush Elementary
April 12 is the day for a fun celebration for Laura Alcaraz. Jean Starkey celebrates a birthday April 13.
Frazier Elementary
A special birthday greeting is sent to Lupe Moreno April 11. Birthday wishes are sent to Aimee Shelton April 15. Mary Zuniga celebrates a birthday April 16.
Genoa Elementary
Jazmin Culppepper enjoys a birthday April 15.
Hancock Elementary
Send a happy birthday wish April 10 to Rachel Purdom. Light the birthday candles April 11 for Arianna Yarbough.
Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday party for Denise Narvaez is April 16.
South Belt Elementary
Colton Dement enjoys a birthday April 12.
Melillo Middle School
Birthday greetings go out to Perla Silva April 10. Light the birthday candles April 13 for Melissa Martinez. The day for a cake for Carol Tekell is April 15.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
Sing a birthday song April 10 to Irene Malloy. April 11 is a day of celebration for Rene Nixon. The day for cake and ice cream with Janny Hinojosa is April 13. Birthday greetings go out to Ashley Carr April 15.

Thompson Intermediate
Remember to wish Araceli Cavazos a happy birthday April 11.
Dobie High
April 14 is the day for a birthday celebration for Susan Baffalo. Light the candles April 15 for Alexandria Yerrington. Send a happy birthday wish April 16 to Jekale Williams.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, April 10: Mackie Caves, Jennifer Spray, Coby Bellamy, April Simmons, Kristina Koncaba, Traci Rothmund and Skip Fell; Friday, April 11: Quinn Fox, Amanda Mancia, Dian Audas, Matt Black, Luke Ditta, Celina Monroe and Brandy Kennedy; Saturday, April 12: Elysia Thomas and Shelly Little; Sunday, April 13: Derek Rudewig and Laura Townsend; Monday, April 14: Deanna Morales and Michael Morris; Tuesday, April 15: Lorita Lynn Destin and Veronica Lopez; and Wednesday, April 16: Marissa Jones and April Carter-Akin.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations, and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

Remember When
A column of nostalgic articles and photos from the past.

PISD's Lopez Q&A

Continued from Page 1
ket looks like and how we can get kids in, because we have seen the fruits of our labor for pre-K4 already. Those kids are ready for kindergarten, and so starting them at pre-K3, we feel like would be something that just makes our kids stronger and stronger and stronger.
Other things that I would like us to continue to do is we've worked at the middle and intermediate level of making sure that our middle and intermediate students have opportunities for different experiences. One of the things we've started, I think, two years ago was A+ Academics challenges, where students can compete academically with one another. We've seen interest in it explode this year. ... So I'm very excited about that and what it gives our students at those middle and intermediate levels, a critical time in their lives for them to feel connected to the school. So that's something that I definitely want to see keep moving forward.
When you talk about accomplishments you're most proud of, Pasadena has particularly impressive numbers when it comes to college, career, and military readiness (CCMR). What do you credit for that success?
After COVID, maybe two, three years ago, we identified that our CCMR data was a problem. It was not where we wanted it to be. So we got people around the table and said, "Guys, this is a problem. How are we going to fix this?" And when I say we get people around the table, it's not just us. We're not afraid to ask for outside help. We had an organization that was helping us pull data on our kids and where they are with our CCMR, and we took that data, and then we had some really smart people create a data tracker for CCMR. And so we take it kid by kid, and campuses look at it kid by kid ... and then we make adjustments where we need to, to get the kids where they need to be. ...
We just take it kid by kid, because there's not one magic answer. Every kid is different, and so making sure we get down to the individual student level was very important, and that's really how we've done it. I know that sounds like, "How do you possibly do that for so many kids?" But everybody took a role and took part in it. And so that's really how we tackled it.
That kind of participation takes a lot of buy-in from the staff and from the community. How do you go about building that buy-in and establishing that kind of culture?
It's always difficult creating buy-in, but the one thing that I do know is, if we can show it's

good for kids, our people get behind it. When we make decisions with the kids in mind, our people get behind it.
We're also pretty stable with our leadership here, and that's very important, because we have people that are in our culture that do believe in our kids and believe in what our kids can accomplish. That goes all the way from the top, from a school board that's been consistent, that supports us. They push us to do better and better and better. That consistency matters. So when we need to create buy-in, if we can show it's good for kids, it becomes easier and easier.
One of the things when I spoke to board members that they mentioned was a priority was roots in the Pasadena community. Obviously you've spent a lot of time in the district, but how would you describe your relationship to the community here?
So in 28 years, I have built relationships. There were people from Pasadena at my kids' wedding. They're my family here in Pasadena ISD. ... But I will also continue the work that Dr. Powell has done building those relationships with the community at large, making sure that we're in conversation with the Pasadena mayor, the Chamber of Commerce, whether it be South Belt or Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, with San (Jacinto) College.
The Friday before spring break, I was at the Rotary Club, making sure that we're telling the story of Pasadena ISD. I feel like one of my roles, if I'm fortunate enough to be named superintendent, is to be the chief storyteller ... telling the great things that are happening in Pasadena ISD.
How would you describe your leadership style overall?
Let's see. I would say that I'm calm and consistent. That definitely is my leadership style. I will say that I make decisions based on what's best for kids, and then once I decide what's best for kids, then my next layer is what's best for our employees and the community. Always looking at the angle of what's good for the district as a whole with the kids being number one.
I feel like I'm open with folks and that I have developed good relationships with people in the district, so transitioning from one superintendent to another, I hope, is going to be a little smoother, because people do know me. They know my style. They know I'm approachable. They know they can come to me with whatever problems that we have going on. And so I just think if you ask people about me, they will say, "She's calm, cool and collected."

Measles case confirmed at Hobby

No additional cases connected to foreign traveler

Continued from Page 1
There are no additional confirmed cases in the city at this time. This case has no connection to any local measles cases in the Greater Houston area.
Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads through the air via coughing and sneezing. Individuals who were in William P. Hobby Airport during the specified time may have been exposed and are advised to monitor their health for the following 21 days and/or

through Sunday, April 20.
"If you were at Hobby Airport on March 30, 2025, between 4-8 p.m. and are concerned about possible exposure, please call your primary care provider before seeking in-person health-care. Do not visit an emergency room unless you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes or a rash and have called ahead to allow them to prepare for your arrival," said Dr. David Persse, chief medical officer for the City

of Houston. "The best protection against measles is vaccination. Measles can lead to serious complications, especially in young children and those with weakened immune systems. We urge everyone to check their immunization status and ensure they are up to date."
For more information on measles symptoms, the MMR vaccine, vaccination and steps to take if one may have been exposed, visit HoustonHealth.Org or call 832-393-4220.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

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

ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY, SALLY
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Sally Mitchell, former South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce executive director, who enjoys a birthday April 16, from her family, friends and the staff at the Leader.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KELVIN
Best wishes for a great 16th birthday are sent April 16 to Kelvin Lopez from parents Natalie and Jose Abarca and Kevin Lopez; siblings Noah and Eliana Abarca and Isabella and husband Sebastian Delgado; niece Esme Delgado; grandparents David and Ellie Flickinger; and great-grandparents David Flickinger and Kina Reyes.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 10 through April 16.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Areas next for Dobie track

Dobie's distance runners were the stars of the show for the locals as the District 22-6A Track and Field Championships played out over three days at Pearland ISD Stadium.

The 2024 Class 6A state runner-up Summer Creek girls dominated the competition at the championships, putting together 198 points for the team title in a thorough performance to start the postseason.

Meanwhile, the Sharks were in complete control on the boys side of things, winning the team championship with 195 points as the meet concluded April 2 at Pearland ISD Stadium.

Pearland was the runner-up in the boys' and girls' divisions, while Manvel was the third place team in both divisions to finish strong.

Looking ahead to the 21-6A/22-6A Area Championships, the top four finishers in each individual and relay event at the 21-6A and 22-6A will advance with an eye on earning a regional berth.

Bolstered by a strong showing in the field events, including two gold medals from senior Chris Torres, first in the 3,200 on the opening day of competition and another in the 1,600 two days later, the Dobie boys wound up fourth in the team standings with 89 points.

Senior Lauren Garza, the gold medalist in the 3,200 event, led the way for the Longhorn girls as they tallied 36 points for fifth place.

As reported just prior to press time in the April 3 issue, Dobie's distance running crew set the tone early on during the opening day of the meet as the 3,200 was held along with the field event finals March 31.

Torres came up with an impressive time of 9 minutes, 51.39 seconds to win the gold medal early in the day in the 3,200, with freshman teammate Jordan Roman in for the silver medal at 10:02.65.

Cruz Jasso, having previously missed the majority of the track and field season while playing varsity soccer for the Longhorns, wound up fourth in the event to advance to the areas as he put together a time of 10:18.38.

A gold medal already in his pocket two days prior in the 3,200, Torres was equally impressive in the 1,600 as he also captured a gold medal with a terrific run of 4:56.33.

Roman was in at 4:38.38 for fourth place as he also advanced to the area round.

Jasso, who turned heads as the 22-6A gold medalist during the cross-country season as a freshman, was at the 1,600 distance with a time of 4:48.78.

A time of 11:34.63 landed Garza the gold medal at the 3,200 distance in the varsity girls' division as the senior advanced to the area round.

One of the top performers in the history of Dobie's distance running program, Garza was also the 22-6A gold medalist during the fall 2024 cross-country season.

Garza also was part of the field in the 1,600 as she finished sixth overall with a time of 5:30.81.

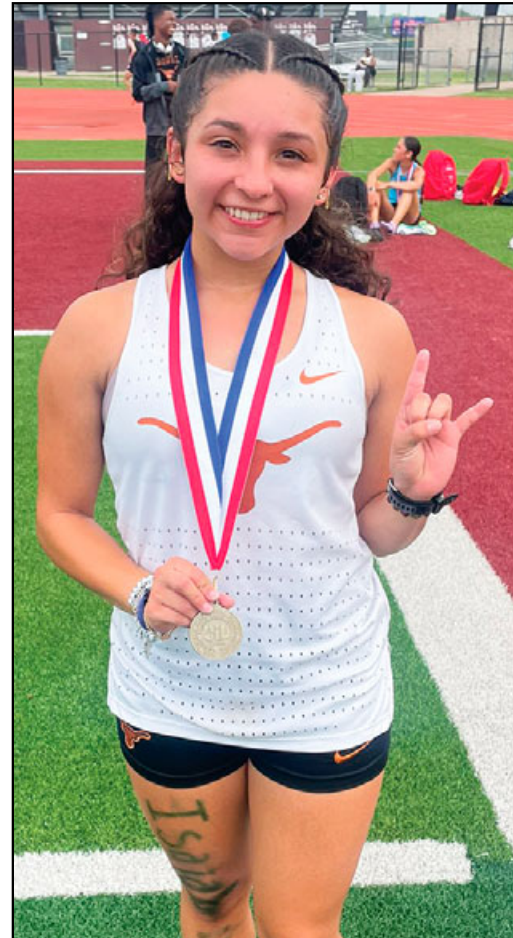
Dawson's Kylie Herpin was a dominant force in both throwing events and is a serious State contender moving forward, but Dobie's Miah Hypolite made a difference as well.

Hypolite also had a memorable day for the Longhorn girls March 31 as she earned herself a silver medal for a throw of 108 feet, 8 inches in the discus event as the senior punched her ticket for the area round.

Dobie senior Blessing Akinloye finished off a solid final season as she was fifth in the shot at 33-9. At 5-0, Dobie's Aniya Menefee was fifth in the high jump. Junior Kylar Joseph also went 35-0 in the triple jump for fifth place.

For the JFD boys in the field events, a distance of 43-9 has Dobie junior Da'Marcus Hodges advancing his way to

Continued on Page 6



Lauren Garza was the gold medalist in the 3,200 for Dobie at the 22-6A track and field championships as she advanced to the area round April 11 at Fort Bend ISD's Hall Stadium.



The Longhorns were third in the 4x100 relay in a time of 43.25 seconds to reach areas as the foursome included, from left, Titus Randle, Da'Marcus Hodges, Adrian Taylor and Marcus Jones.

Patel exits, JFD boys' hoops role opens

Timir Patel has resigned his role as Dobie's varsity boys' basketball coach, announcing via X April 4 that he will assume the same role at Morton Ranch High School. A Cinco Ranch High School graduate, Patel will enjoy a homecoming of sorts at Morton Ranch as he rejoins the ranks at Katy ISD. Dobie advanced to the postseason two seasons ago but struggled within the new alignment in District 22-6A this season. Junior-to-be Damon Miles was a first team all district performer for the Longhorns last season and will give the new head coach a building block along with several others.

Cowboys offer Fitzmorris scholarship

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls are now accepting applicants for the fourth Annual Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is dedicated to honoring the lives of two members of the organization, the parents of Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris.

In honor of Mary Beth and Tom, the organization will award a scholarship to a former participant of the Cowboys/Cowgirls program. Class of 2025 high school graduates who are former Cowboys or Cowgirls, having been part of the organization for at least four seasons, are eligible to apply.

Applicants must submit an essay explaining their time with the organization, what they are planning to study in college, including their career path after graduation. Each applicant will also be required to submit a copy of their high school transcripts with their essay.

All paperwork/documents must be submitted to the Sagemont Cowboys' organization no later than April 17, 2025.

Submit all information to dwranch82@gmail.com.

Fitzmorris supports Dobie staffer



Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris (left) showed his support of school custodian Stacey Walton, a Dobie Class of 1997 graduate. Walton, who plays basketball for the Pasadena Hornets and competes in the Special Olympics, was involved in a tournament at Alvin High School with his teammates.

24-6A track at Turner

The District 23-6A/ District 24-6A Area Track and Field Championships will be held April 11 at Turner Stadium in Humble as athletes vie for a berth in the Region III event later this month.

The Clear Brook Wolverines will have a big influence in the throwing events as well as the varsity girls' high jump. See Page 8 for additional details.



Dobie left-handed pitcher Richard Postel (15) got in on the fun as the Longhorns celebrated Senior Day on the varsity baseball field with an easy win over South Houston. For more on the team's big day, see Page 6.

Dobie baseball improves to 6-4

Angel Molina celebrated Senior Day with his Longhorn teammates as he doubled and tripled, driving in four runs to help lead Dobie to a 10-1 victory over the South Houston Trojans April 4 at Dobie main.

Molina was 3 for 4 overall in the game and Isaiah Jones stole a pair of bases and knocked in a pair of runs to support freshman Jaylen Aguilar's four no-hit, no-earned-runs pitching performance.

The victory capped a two-game sweep of the Trojans as the Longhorns improved to 6-4 in 22-6A play, remaining very much in the postseason hunt with a two-game series coming up against Sam Rayburn beginning April 9 after press time.

Austin Silva had a double, drove in three runs and scored twice as the Longhorns run-ruled South Houston 18-1 April 2 at South Houston.

Aguilar doubled in a run and scored twice to back the solid pitching performance of Tristan McKissick.

With the series against Rayburn, the Longhorns had a chance to solidify the fourth spot in the district race. First-place Dawson and second-place Pearland have separated themselves from the field, Alvin is third ahead of a two-game series against Dobie.

See more photos from the Longhorns' Senior Day celebration on Page 6.

JFD softball tied for third

District 22-6A leader Pearland scored two runs in the top of the fifth and another in the top of the sixth, then held off Dobie late for a 3-1 victory at Dobie main, securing the league championship along the way.

Dobie junior pitcher Vanessa De La Fuente recorded her 300th career strikeout in the game and allowed six hits and three earned runs in the game but suffered the loss. The Longhorns got an RBI single from Chloe Matthews in the bottom of the sixth inning for their lone run of the game.

Dobie, all but locked in as the No. 2 seed in the Division 1 playoff bracket, is 9-3 and should be 11-3 headed into a second-place showdown with Alvin April 15.

Alvin will be the top seed in the Division 2 bracket, with Dawson, Manvel and Shadow Creek all battling for fourth place at 7-6.



Vanessa De La Fuente recorded her 300th career strikeout against Pearland April 4 despite a 3-1 loss to the Oilers. The junior pitcher has more than 100 strikeouts during the 2025 season.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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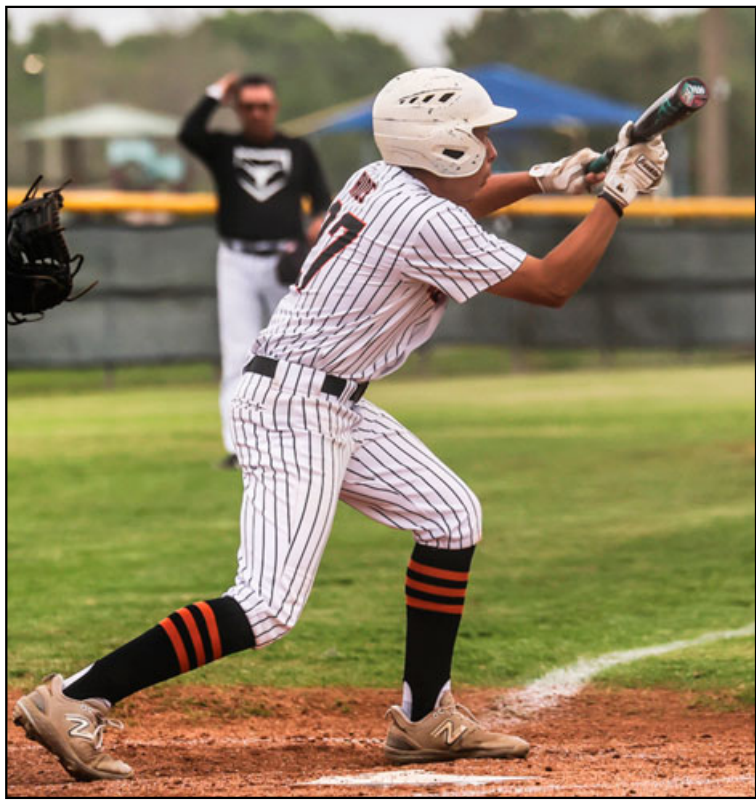
Highly successful 2025 JFD baseball class celebrates Senior Day with victory over South Houston



Dobie varsity baseball players celebrating Senior Day with their families included, left to right, (front row) Austin Silva, Diego Rios, Johan De La Paz, Andres Gutierrez, Derek Rodriguez, (back row) Joseph Salazar, Richard Postel, Miguel Mercedes, Julian Valencia, Cruz Torres, Aiden Sanchez, Kael Arredondo, Willard Joiner III, Eliseo Molina, Donny Cantu Jr. and Juelz Martinez.



Longhorn senior Aiden Sanchez and his teammates had little trouble swinging their way past South Houston on Senior Day to improve to 6-4 overall in league play.



Diego Rios (27) got in on the action during Senior Day at Dobie as the Longhorns polished off a two-game sweep of South Houston. The locals are in fourth place currently.



The Joiners, including Dobie varsity baseball assistant coach Williard Joiner Jr. (left) and his son, Longhorn player Williard Joiner III, were all smiles as they took in the festivities during the program's annual Senior Day against South Houston.



Angel Molina (2) of Dobie came up big against South Houston just when the Longhorns needed it as the locals improved to 6-4 in district action with a pair of wins over the Trojans.



Dobie's Chris Lopez (center) won his second gold medal of the 22-6A track and field championships as he was first to the tape in the 1,600 with a time of 4 minutes, 36.53 seconds. At 4:38.24, Manvel's Nathan Hubenak (left) was second for a silver medal, with Manvel teammate Isaac Rodas, also timed at 4:38:24, the bronze medalist. The Longhorns' Jordan Roman (far right) was fourth.

Dobie track and field standouts reach area round

Continued from Page 5
 the area round as he was fourth in the triple jump at the district championships. Hodges also had a top long jump of 21-1/2 for sixth place. Junior Johan Villavicencio posted a time of 1:59.16 for a personal record, third place and a bronze medal in the 800 as he advanced the areas. In the April 2 evening session to conclude the meet, Dobie junior Marcus Jones advanced in the 100 as he won a bronze medal for third place at 11.03. In the varsity boys' relays, the Longhorns were third in a time of 43.25 to reach areas as the foursome included Jones, Titus Randle, Hodges and Adrian Taylor. The Dobie girls were disqualified in the 4x100 relay. The Longhorns' 4x400 foursome of Deshaun Singleton, Maurice Bryant, Johan Villavicencio and Riley snatched bronze medals for third place in the event to advance with a time of 3:25.72. A time of 1:29.99 placed the Longhorns sixth in the 4x200 relay as that foursome included Broussard, Taylor, Bryant and Jones. The Longhorns' Jalen Broussard is also headed to the area round as he was fourth with a time of 22.51 in the 200. At the 400 distance, the Longhorns' Tariq Riley was also able to advance to the area round as he put together a time of 49.51. Joshua Shelton, formerly of Clear Brook and a two-time regional qualifier in the 400, was the 22-6A gold medalist in the event for Pearland as he crossed the line at 47.04. The Dobie girls finished their season in the 4x200 relay with a fifth-place time of 1:47.12 as the group included Daisha Jackson, Menefee, Joseph and Tailin Curtis. The Dobie girls posted a personal record of 419.35 in the 4x400 relay and finished fifth to conclude their season as the group included Christina Rodriguez, Menefee, Tiara Charles and Lilian Herte. Dobie senior Stacie Harris, a previous regional qualifier in the long jump, was fifth in the event as a senior at 17-10. Harris also advanced to the final in the 200 as a time of 26.58 placed her sixth. A throw of 128-8 landed Longhorn junior Cedric Gillespie sixth in the discus event as he concluded a strong season.

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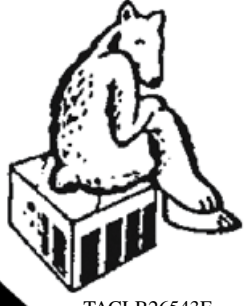
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Eunice Del Bosque: 4 wheeler (parts only), car parts, tools and miscellaneous.
Joseph P. Halligan: slot machine, furniture and shelves.
Vernon L. Williams: 1990 Hydrasports 16'4" (HSX A9162K091), '06 HMDE trailer (76690G) and outboard motor parts only.
Elma R. Correa: furniture and miscellaneous.
Juan C. Sanchez: 1999 F-150 (VIN: 1FTZX1729XKB51000).
Rusty Nelson: lawn equipment and parts.

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Kenneth Pietz: '94 Spectrum 12'0" (FMCD82LBL495), '87 Spor trailer (1BTA4GE18H114922), John Boat (parts only), ladder, oars, trolley motor.
Juan M. Lechuga: doors, cooler, shelving unit, scrap metal and household goods.
Jesse L. Kyle: 1969 Power Cat 17'0" (Serial#430), 1982 Johnson 115HP (J5692057), 1996 single axle trailer (TX-27VKKX).
Jessica M. Edwards: glass table/chair set and misc.
Julius Cannady: lawn mower, trimmer and grill.
Mark W. Vance: pool table, furniture, bikes, air pump, AC units, cabinets, mini fridge and toolbox.
Arturo Martinez: roofing tiles, restaurant equipment, refrigerators and concrete table sets.
Maria T. Robles: doors, heavy metal, trim, window units and appliances.
Eunice Del Bosque: kayaks, door, bed, fishing poles and misc.
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 11
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, APRIL 14
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Mondays - Fridays.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Ballroom Dancing** - See Monday's notice.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. 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>.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
SUNDAY, APRIL 13
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from noon to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. - **New Directions Singles Social Group** is a singles group for those 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held in the community room at Maplewood Crossing, 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will be a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For further information, call Carol at 281-508-1663. See their Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at Friend-

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Clear Brook track and field medalists headed to 23/24-6A area championships April 11



Ailslyn Blanks of Clear Brook repeated as the District 24-6A gold medalist as she delivered a toss of 126 feet, 5 3/4 inches at Sam Vitanza Stadium to qualify for the 23-6A/24-6A area championships.



Darwin Bolden II (left) was the gold medalist in the discus at the 24-6A championships for the second straight season as he qualified for the 23-6A/24-6A area round with an eye on making his way to regionals. The Wolverines' Kenneth Christian was a silver medalist in the shot at 46 feet, 11 1/2 inches, while Bolden was third in the event for a bronze medal at 46 feet.



Kamryn McLaurin, who advanced to state last year in the high jump, will move on to areas in the event as she was third at district with a leap of 5 feet to advance.

Longhorns' spring tennis players mix fun and adventure while excelling on the court

The annual high school spring season usually serves many purposes, from honoring and celebrating the seniors who have often contributed so much to a program to keeping a close eye on the returnees and what they might be able to contribute later this fall. There's also time to enjoy some team bonding.

come, Moreno said he has seen growth within his program and is ready to see how the postseason unfolds. "I think overall our kids as a whole have gotten better at winning the key points in matches," Moreno said. "Whether it be not rushing things and waiting for the right time to hit a key shot or just keeping the ball in play, I have seen our kids get better in the matches."

bles and Pitou So. In mixed doubles, Dobie will likely enter Vyvy Do with Vince Bui and Angelina Vu with Diego Flores.

the realignment that began this school year with the addition of Dawson, Manvel, Pearland and Shadow Creek, the competition was ramped up in all individual and team sports within the 22-6A ranks. During the fall team season, the Longhorns once again advanced to the postseason and worthy top program within Pasadena ISD. That was nice, but Moreno and his players concede virtually nothing and always aim to take out the best competition. Dawson in particular has

been one of the top programs within the region since its inception and will no doubt provide plenty of top competition in all of the brackets that the district championships will shake out. Regardless, I'm very proud of this group. They consistently root for each other and support each other both on and off the court. It's been a great group to work with and I am proud to be their head coach."



The Dobie varsity tennis program produced several standout performances at the Baytown Invitational No. 2, with, from left, Chloe Estes (third place, girls' B singles), Jacob Kostikoglou and Pitou So (second place, boys' B doubles) and Nestor Garza (winner, consolation boys' A singles) bringing home hardware from the event.

Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. and his players have done just that this spring and possibly more. Time will tell what will happen later this month at the spring District 22-6A Championships as players from each of the nine programs within a league vie for regional berths. Just two qualifiers in each of the boys' and girls' singles, boys' and girls' doubles and mixed doubles brackets will advance to regionals. Regardless of the out-

When the district tournament arrives, Moreno said he expects to see Chloe Estes and Dulce Mejia playing girls' singles, with Alena Morgan and Cindy Nguyen teaming in girls' doubles in addition to Hope Ortiz, Maddie Medina, Marina Kostikoglou and Vivian Hang combining. Nestor Garza and Jacob Kostikoglou will play boys' singles, with Rigo Alanis and Tre Ramirez teaming in boys' doubles along with Jordan De Ro-

There is little doubt that Moreno has done his best to put his players in position to be as successful as possible heading into the postseason and it will soon be time to let the results

head coach."



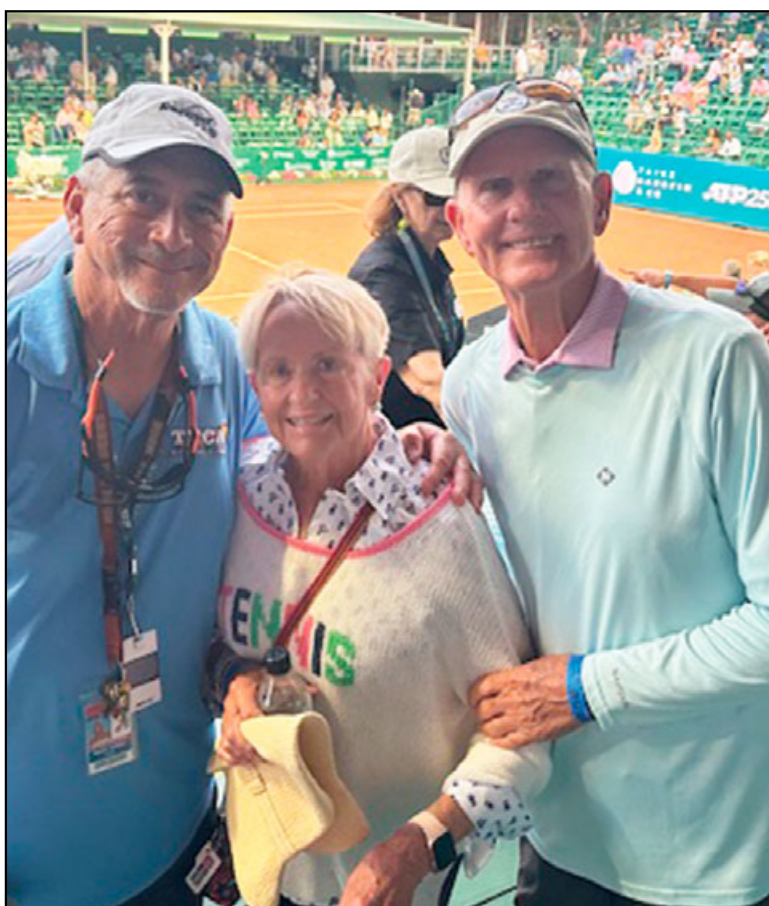
Dobie team captain Chloe Estes (left) poses with U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships singles runner-up Frances Tiafoe.



Dobie tennis graduate Lance Wilcox Class of '04, (right), and father, Bubba Wilcox (center) chat with Longhorns head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships.



In between one of his practice sessions, U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships singles quarterfinalist and last year's Wimbledon singles quarterfinalist Christopher Eubanks (second from left) poses for a picture with Dobie tennis players, left to right, Tre Ramirez, Dulce Mejia, Chloe Estes, Kevin Do and Trjah Smith.



Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (left) ran into his Lamar University coach, Ron Westbrook, and wife, Pat, at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships.



Dobie tennis players got to sit in the box seats at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships held at River Oaks Country Club in Houston. From, left to right, are (front row) Jordan De Robles, Logan Pham, Tre Ramirez, Nestor Garza, (middle row) Kevin Do, Marina Kostikoglou, Hania Matin, Vivian Hang, (back row) Tiffany Nguyen, Chloe Estes, Dulce Mejia and Trjah Smith.

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