



South Belt-Ellington Leader

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The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Sagemont hosts water sale

Sagemont Church is partnering with Hope Springs Water in helping to provide clean water in areas around the world where water resources are limited. The church will be hosting a communitywide water sales event on Sunday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sagemont Annex. Cases of bottled water (24 bottles) are \$5 each, with all proceeds going to Hope Springs. Cash and credit card will be accepted.

PIP meeting set for April 27

The Houston Police Department's monthly PIP meeting, originally scheduled for April 20, has been postponed until Tuesday, April 27. Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, all PIP meetings are currently being held virtually. To join the Zoom meeting, visit zoom.us/j/3156156498?pwd=USTtVHlMeUhuZ1krR2SLZkxwZ3VvQT09 and use Meeting ID 315 615 6498 and Passcode 1234. For additional information, contact HPD Senior Officer Richard Buitron at 281-642-3484 or richard.buitron@houstonpolice.org.

Blood drive at Cabrini

MD Anderson is conducting a blood drive at the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church parking lot (10727 Hartsook), Sunday, May 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to support recovery of Denis Ermis - a retired HPD police officer, frequent blood donor and longtime South Belt resident. COVID-19 procedures will be followed; wear a mask. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins will be assigned next available appointment. Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/sfcc0521>. For more information, call Janie Perales 713-505-9515 or Val Comeaux 713-582-5358.

COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, April 21, there were 143 confirmed South Belt deaths due to COVID, up five from last week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 5,461 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 107 remain active. To date, 58 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up three from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 101 of the 3,939 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 45 from the ZIP code have died, up two from the previous week. Of the 4,037 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 88 remain active. To date, 40 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there have been 387,012 total confirmed cases. Of those, 373,014 have recovered, while 9,983 cases remain active. A total of 3,996 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 publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Noel-Coronavirus.

Gulf Freeway closures set

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road on the I-45 will be closed from NASA Road 1 to SH 96 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Dec. 31.

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528.

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. through Thursday, Sept. 30.

At least one northbound lane and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 30.

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31. Both the northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps between IH 610 South Loop and Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

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.

Prayer scheduled for schools

School Prayer Walks USA will host a conference call Sunday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. with a focus of praying for the protection, safety and guidance of school staff and students in the Pasadena ISD. Those interested should call 281-484-0901 prior to the event.

Beltway 8 closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway frontage road lane will be closed from Furman to Scott Street/Fellows Road daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through April 23. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through May 4. At least one southbound Beltway frontage road lane will be closed from Malone to Red Bluff continuously through 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 5.

Highway 3 closing named

At least one northbound lane on SH 3/Old Galveston will be closed from El Dorado to FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through April 26. At least northbound lane and one southbound lane on SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed from FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard to NASA Road 1 daily (excluding Sundays) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through May 31.

Pearland OKs CUP permit for Thompson Intermediate

By James Bolen

Pearland City Council on Monday, April 19, approved a Conditional Use Permit that allows a 21-acre plot of land on Hughes Road to be used for a public school, paving the way for construction to begin on the new Thompson Intermediate campus.

Council voted 6-1 in favor of the measure, with the lone dissenting vote coming from a member who dissented due to a conflict of interest.

Pearland Mayor Kevin Cole and multiple City

Council members were complimentary of Pasadena ISD and heaped praise on Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell, also a Riverstone Ranch resident, who was in attendance.

"I will say to Pasadena ISD and the superintendent, thank you for your patience," said Cole. "Obviously, living in the neighborhood, you know the importance of working with the city and the neighbors and how we got there, but I just appreciate your time and effort and the sensitivities to traffic and other concerns around it. I would ask our staff to work with Pasadena ISD

as they submit plans and permitting, so we may move that along as quickly as possible so they can get this school under construction and open for business."

Similar praise was offered by City Council Member Woody Owens.

"Our hats go off to Pasadena for doing that and working together," Owens said in reference

to the school district relocating the campus from its original location out of safety and traffic concerns.

Originally to be constructed on Highland Meadows Drive in the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek subdivision, the project was met with opposition from residents of both the Riverstone

Continued on Page 8

County offers no-appointment shots

Harris County Health officials announced Monday, April 19, that all residents 16 and older may now receive a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment at NRG Park.

Hours have also been extended until 9 p.m. to accommodate working families. Additionally, the Community Vaccination Center hours of operations have changed from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. to noon - 9 p.m. to further accommodate daytime workers.

To be distributed at the FEMA CVC, the vaccines at NRG Park will be the two-dose Pfizer

variety. Although it is preferred for residents to register in advance, as it guarantees a vaccine is available at a time and location of their choice, people can show up, driving or on foot, at the NRG Park CVC to get vaccinated. Residents walking in or driving up into NRG Park without an appointment should enter via Gate 16A off Main Street. Staff working the site are ready to receive and assist residents when they arrive.

Continued on Page 2

Alvarado files gambling bill

State Sen. Carol Alvarado, whose district encompasses much of the South Belt community, and Rep. John Kuempel jointly filed SJR 49 and HJR 133 to establish destination resorts in Texas and authorize the licensing, regulation and taxation of casino-style gaming. The legislation seeks to amend the Texas Constitution and give Texans the opportunity to vote on this issue on the November ballot.

The legislation specifically calls for development of four destination resorts in Texas's major markets that would include state-of-the-art entertainment complexes, four- to five-star hotel accommodations, substantial convention and meeting spaces, casino gaming, live performance and entertainment venues, destination retail shopping, nightclubs, world-class spas and a wide

Continued on Page 3

JFD coach arrested on charges by ex

A Dobie coach was arrested on campus Thursday, April 15, on charges associated with revenge porn. Irvin Theodile was charged with a felony count of unlawful disclosure of intimate visual material.

According to court documents, Theodile had at one point been in a dating relationship with the female complainant. After their breakup, Theodile allegedly sent nude photos of the woman to three of her contacts. The female in question was of legal age and not a student.

Prosecutors in the case contend the com-

plaintain had a reasonable expectation that such photos would remain private.

Theodile told police he did not recall sending the texts but may have done it when he was drinking. Theodile further told police the female was out to ruin his life and get him fired from his job.

The woman has written letters critical of Theodile to both Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD superintendent, and Franklin Moses, Dobie High School principal.

At press time, Theodile is on administrative leave pending investigation.

CCISD online enrollment open

Clear Creek ISD announced pre-kindergarten and kindergarten online enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is now open. CCISD Elementary campuses will be open by appointment until April 23 to assist parents with enrollment and receive supporting documentation.

Clear Creek ISD offers free full-day early learning programs for those who qualify, as well as a tuition-based pre-K program for residents who live within the CCISD boundaries.

Pre-kindergarten in CCISD

For children turning 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 and who reside in the district, CCISD of-

fers tuition-based pre-K, on a space available basis and free pre-K for families who qualify.

Qualifications for free pre-K range from limited English proficiency or economically disadvantaged to child of a parent in the military, as well as several other factors. For a complete listing of qualifications for free pre-K, parents and guardians may visit ccisd.net/prek.

Kindergarten in CCISD

To enroll in CCISD's full-day kindergarten program, students must reside within the district's boundaries and turn 5 years old on or before

Continued on Page 4

City heavy trash guidelines set

The Leader has been receiving a number of phone calls regarding late pickup of trash for the city. Residents are asked to show patience and comply with the guidelines for collection.

Residents may dispose of their tree waste and junk waste at their curbside. Tree waste is collected during the odd-numbered months of January, March, May, July, September and November. Junk waste is collected during the even-numbered months of February, April, June, August, October and December. This method of

collecting large waste comes with the benefits of diverting materials that can be recycled from landfills, saving landfill space and valuable tax dollars.

Tree waste is accepted during junk waste months; however, to ensure one's tree waste is recycled, one may hold tree waste materials until the next tree waste designated month or take it to a Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Center.

The city guidelines include:

Continued on Page 8

JFD honors varsity cheerleaders



Dobie High School cheerleaders finished the season with a banquet celebration. The varsity cheerleaders who won awards at the Dobie Cheer Banquet are, left to right, sophomore Sarah Salazar - Most Congenial; junior captain Damaris O'der - Longhorn Leader; sophomore Isabella Lara - Most Dedicated; and senior captain Maddy Spray - Most Versatile. See related photo on Page 8.

BSTF responding to noise concern



Steps have been taken to alleviate noise coming from a blower at the Brio Superfund site near Dixie Farm Road and Beamer. According to inspectors, roughly 500 hertz noise was being emitted from the blower, annoying Ashley Pointe residents who complained they couldn't sleep. A worker is shown above installing a plywood enclosure around the unit to muffle the sound until a more permanent fix can be made. Neighbors said the enclosure helped significantly. Photo by Marie Flickinger

BSTF responds to concerns

The Brio Site Task Force has responded to some Ashley Point residents' concerns of loud mechanical noises coming from the Brio Superfund site near Dixie Farm Road and Beamer.

"(I'm) unable to sleep due to the loud noise of the pump or machine, whatever it is," Ashley Point resident Perla Avila said in an email correspondence with officials from the Environmental Protection Agency. "(I've) been living in Ashley

Point two years already with that noise, not sure how much longer we have to deal with it."

A noise-abatement contractor for the task force was able to identify the equipment responsible for the sound and isolate the frequency.

"The contractor hired by the Brio Task Force found that there is a 500 hertz noise being emitted from a blower unit," said Nathaniel Applegate

Continued on Page 4

HPD seeks Solis in March 2 shooting



Dioncio Solis

Charges have been filed against a suspect wanted in the shooting of a man that took place around 11:55 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2, in the 12000 block of the Gulf Freeway near Alameda Mall.

The suspect, Dioncio Solis, 21, is charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the

228th State District Court. At press time, he remained at large.

Solis is accused of shooting Marco Garcia, 25, who was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

According to police, Garcia and his girlfriend were inside the Ojos Locos Sports Cantina lo-

cated in the Alameda Mall parking lot when an argument involving three unknown males and their friend became physical. When Garcia tried to intervene, the suspects turned their attention to him and his pregnant girlfriend.

Garcia and his girlfriend got into their vehicle and attempted to leave the parking lot when a male suspect armed with a rifle began firing at them. The suspect fired multiple shots, striking Garcia in the neck, back and head.

Paramedics transported Garcia and his girlfriend to the hospital. The girlfriend was not struck by the gunfire.

The suspect fled the scene in a maroon Ford F-150 pickup truck.

Further investigation identified Solis as a suspect in this case. Anyone with information in this case or the whereabouts of Solis is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

CCISD mask mandate for 2021-2022

The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees approved a CCISD committee's recommendation to maintain COVID-19 protocols for the remainder of this school year, conduct summer activities as scheduled with certain revisions to face covering requirements and develop procedures for the 2021-2022 school year for a mask-optional environment for all CCISD facilities.

The school district reconvened the Safely Re-open CCISD Committee shortly after Gov. Greg Abbott lifted the face covering mandate in Texas. This committee is the same group which developed the highly successful recommendations that have kept Clear Creek ISD open with minimal disruptions this year.

In this regroup session, the school board asked the committee to address the governor's executive order, consider revisions to current quarantine prac-

tices and provide general aspirations related to the summer.

The committee's recommendations were then shared with the public for input. More than 10,000 parents, staff, students and community members submitted their preferences which ultimately supported the committee's recommendations. The recommendations and public feedback can be viewed at https://ccisd.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_645402/File/CCISD%20Safely%20Re-open%20Committee%20Recommendations.pdf.

"The committee's recommendations provide us direction to finish out the school year with current practices and begin the transition process from required face coverings to optional face coverings," said Dr. Eric Williams, superintendent of schools. "We are deeply appreciative of the

Continued on Page 4

Hobby features new play area, chapel

The travel industry is highly competitive and Hobby airport continues to thrive with innovations which includes a new play area and chapel.

Children's play area at Hobby

With the passenger in mind, Hobby Airport recently opened a second children's play area. The newest children's play area can be found in the central concourse across from the food court. The first play area is in the west concourse near Gate 1.

"Young passengers at Hobby have an exciting new interactive children's play area where they can expend energy before flights or during layovers."

Houston Airports customer service manager Trai Hicks said.

The new children's play area features a wing slide for aspiring future pilots, interactive smart screens and a parachute structure. Children can have fun and parents can sit comfortably while waiting for their flights. With health and safety in mind, the play area is constantly deep cleaned.

Interfaith chapel at Hobby

"Another new amenity we are happy to offer to passengers is a brand new interfaith chapel," Hicks

Continued on Page 3

In My Opinion

Gadd endorses PISD election incumbents

Much attention has been given to our national presidential, congressional, county and city elections. As important as those are, I believe that our local school board elections are of equal importance. The students of today are the future of our country tomorrow. What happens in our schools matters and this is not the time to be passive about our school board.

I never thought in my lifetime I would see our nation's values, standards, morals, and ethics being challenged the way they are. We must meet those challenges at the grass-roots level if we and our future generations are going to make a difference in this world. Our schools are where we start.

I, along with my wife and two sons, are products of Pasadena ISD schools. I have been blessed to minister and serve in this community for more than fifty years, in my church, with our school district, and the Board of Directors of the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce. I have had the privilege of being a part our PISD schools, and for many years have watched very closely the decisions made by our school board and administrators.

I am begging the South Belt area to rise to the defense of our administrators and school board. They have served us and our children well. I strongly endorse the election of Nelda Sullivan, Mariselle Quijano, Noble Alix Jr., and Casey Phelan for positions on the school board of the Pasadena Independent School District.

It is not time to be apathetic. It is time "to continue the success!"

Emory Gadd

Dr. Smith endorses in CCISD election

Please join me in supporting the re-election of incumbent Page Rander for CCISD Trustee in District 4. Trustee Rander has a history of supporting not only the students in District 4 but all 40,000 students. She has done this by thinking strategically, utilizing financial resources conservatively, which includes reducing the tax rate by 13 cents and making sure students in District 4 have access to all programs including Special Education, Gifted and Talented Education, STEM expansion at Brookside Intermediate School and Elementary Science expansion at Hall Elementary School.

Page Rander has a gift and makes time for advocacy because she is not afraid to get involved in what is in the best interest for CCISD students, parents, and staff. As the former superintendent in Clear Creek ISD, Ms. Rander held me accountable, listened to concerns openly, asked hard questions and made tough decisions.

Vote For Incumbent Page Rander, District 4 Candidate. Early Voting April 19-27 and Election Day is May 1.

Greg Smith

Pleasants: thoughts on PISD election

My family and I have been in the South Belt area for decades. We are zoned to CCISD, and my familiarity with Pasadena ISD is as a retiree with 20+ years of service. My school was named twice in your article about "separating fact from fiction," I was impressed by all of the Board candidates, and I have some related facts and opinions to convey.

First: Your newspaper does an excellent service to the community by providing comprehensive information about the School Board candidates. Every candidate named in the April 8 edition seems qualified to be an asset on the Board.

However, if you were to ask educators to identify which one of the candidates truly speaks the thoughts which are on their own minds, a large majority might say it's Crystal Davila. I don't know her personally, but I can tell you that her answers to your questions are amazingly close to what I and my esteemed colleagues said, when we spoke together often with our passion, for our students and their success.

Second: District employees are frequently given the impression that the Board deserves much appreciation for quite a lot of what happens which enriches employees' lives and those of our students. So, it's understandable that the status quo would be supported readily in Board elections, because its members collectively are seen as the top of the ladder of importance, above the Superintendent.

In other words, it's not easy to vote for an educator when the incumbent is favored. Yet, it's important to "be the change that you want to see in the world," which is exactly what the educators as candidates are doing.

Elect educators! Educators do what needs to be done. As an example for your readers: You probably know what AARP contributes to the well-being of seniors in our country; AARP was founded by — you guessed it — an educator.

Third: My school was Parks Elementary — probably one of the five smallest schools in the district — from August 1997 through June 2020. Many of us there had the impression our campus rarely would be "the squeaky wheel that gets the grease." However, we were a supportive school family which believed in our mission as educators, and even more so in the potential of our students and the community.

Within the last 10 years or so, a new roof for Parks was included in a bond election. However, the new roof was not done promptly. We heard that the years of delay were due to overruns in the budgets of "new construction" projects in that bond. So, it was easy to postpone the expense of our new roof for a later year.

Then, some of the leaks continued even beyond the "new roof." At one point, we were told the leaks were related to overhead plumbing, rather than a consequence of the roof itself.

For approximately 5+ years, we experienced persistently leaking ceilings in various parts of the building, often requiring pails in position for many days, to collect the flow. Sometimes classrooms had to be emptied due to damages from leaks. In my workspace areas — library, kiva, library office, and AV workroom — I experienced many ceiling leaks of varying significance during a span of more than five years.

Near the campus office entrance, there was a specific hallway where the mold smell was frequently obvious, and where an interior wall appeared to grow mold repeatedly. We had a teacher who moved from an old classroom in the building, to a newer one, to avoid the upper respiratory symptoms she believed were caused by the old room. However, she eventually transferred to another school after she realized the entire building was unhealthy for her.

Fourth: My school received no floor replacement that I recall, except for specific rooms or areas where there were defects in

the floor due to glue seepage, or damages due to leaking ceilings. In fact, my workspace had the same carpet for over 20 years.

Fifth: If I lived in the district, it would not be easy for me to vote against any of the incumbents, as I feel loyal appreciation to the Board members. Yet, as an educator, it would be my mission to use my expertise beyond classroom walls. Educators will support educators with full awareness of the mission — to be effective for what is in students' best interests.

Catherine Pleasants

Rabe opposes admin on election issues

I am an Educator by choice because I care about the future of our students. I testified at the Texas Senate Committee on Education in Austin.

That being said, I have a business degree in Economics from Carnegie Mellon University. I know a deficit when I see one no matter how the administration tries to explain it away.

On one hand, teachers and support workers are pressured by the principals to save money because of the deficit and on the other hand the administration is painting a rosy picture to the public that we have ample emergency reserves for a \$27M admin building.

The concension by the administration may work with the current board but with your votes, they will be dealing with a more knowledgeable board. There will be better OVERSIGHT.

There will be no rubber stamping of a \$27M admin building when schools are in disrepair like Stuchbery Elementary, Morris Middle, Bondy Intermediate, South and Houston High School.

Vote for qualified educators- Crystal Davila, Yen Huynh Rabe and Al Bledsoe for PISD School Board, Position 2, 3 & 4.

Yen Huynh Rabe

Bailey proudly backs PISD admin, etc.

There is so much to be proud of in the administration, support departments and classrooms of Pasadena ISD. I am proud to share a few more of these positives as the everyday delivery of a great educational experience and extra-curricular activities continue on a daily basis in the district. Pasadena ISD enjoys partnerships, recognition and support from numerous entities in our local community and beyond.

I noticed an article in the April 8th edition of the *Leader* in which the Pasadena ISD Finance Department was referred to as "Pasadena ISD's award-winning finance team". Elaboration on that description is worthy.

TASBO (Texas Association of School Business Officials) recently recognized PISD with their new TASBO Award of Excellence in Financial Management. Pasadena was one of only eight districts out of the just under 1,000 Texas school districts to receive this prestigious award. The district has received a Superior Rating for the last 19 consecutive years from the Texas Education Agency's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System).

In addition, the PISD Purchasing Department was recently awarded the TASBO Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations for the fifth consecutive year. This year, only 51 Texas school districts were recognized with this prestigious award, again out of a total of just under 1,000 districts.

On a slightly different note, I would like to share a few facts regarding the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation a 501(c)(3). This group, comprised of up to 35 board members is tasked with supporting the district as noted in its Mission Statement as follows, "The mission of the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation is to collaborate with the school district and community to reward innovative teaching, promote educational excellence and provide opportunities to recognize the students and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District."

An important part of accomplishing this mission is the annual funding of mini-grants to classroom teachers. The Education Foundation awards mini-grants once a year to Pasadena ISD educators for campus or classroom projects to enhance student success. Funding for these mini-grants, written by classroom teachers, is generated in large part through donations from PISD employees, businesses, industry, community members and service organizations. In total, the Education Foundation has funded 763

of these mini-grants totaling \$2,800,000. That's 2.8 million educational dollars outside any PISD budget item to fulfill grants of classroom teachers.

One important group of folks who support the foundation are members of the Cornerstone Club which is comprised of PISD employees who have chosen to donate to the Education Foundation through payroll deductions. Over the past 10 years the Cornerstone Club has donated \$1,069,309 to the PISD Education Foundation.

The foundation currently also hosts four annual fund raisers, as follows with their ten-year fundraising totals: PISD Athletic Hall of Fame - \$336,845, McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament - \$1,776,368, Texas Invitational Golf Classic - \$283,313 and the Shining Stars Gala - \$636,883. In aggregate over the last ten years these four events and the Cornerstone Club have raised a total of \$4,102,718.

Of course, during the pandemic these events could not be safely held and 2020 proceeds suffered. In a bold move the Education Foundation stepped up in late 2020 promoting and producing a virtual telethon billed as Back 4 the Future. This event was wildly successful as well as entertaining and raised \$227,000 plus two designated gifts (STEM and scholarship funding) totaling \$104,000 were also received and recognized during this period.

You may have read it on a campaign mail piece or in last week's South Belt Leader. Or you may have heard it last Friday in the Pasadena Chamber's "Meet the Candidate" of alleged deficiencies in PISD such as lack of drinking water and lack of air conditioning from the current PISD Board of Trustee candidates that bill themselves as "Educators For Pasadena ISD". Can you imagine that these basic needs are even close to a real issue? Can you imagine the type of support and partnerships the district would receive from employees, business partners, community members, civic organizations, municipalities and churches in this community if the district could not provide adequate supplies of drinking water and functioning air conditioning? And if these were actually problems why in the world are we just hearing about them in this election season?

I do not buy it for a minute and I bet you do not either. I know for a fact none of these outlandish claims are reality except in the routine cycle of normal downtime situations that are addressed and repaired ASAP. One other note I ask you to consider, in the last 11 years of my time serving on the PISD Education Foundation board I do not know of a single teacher turning in a mini-grant application for drinking water or air conditioning...

That is why I am voting for and supporting Mariselle Quijano, Nelda Sullivan, Noble Alix, Jr and Casey Phelan.

Jack Bailey

Broddle defines role of board members

The role of a school board member isn't one of power, it is one of service. It is the expression of sacrifice for your community that goes unsung. It requires one to check pride at the door, because it WILL be hurt. Your "wish" doesn't matter. Your dreams must become those of all 42,000 CCISD students.

As parent of a current student, a 2020 CCISD graduate and 20 year taxpayer, I have a deep, vested interest in the leadership in CCISD. I have spent 13 years working with PTAs, district committees, strategic planning teams, and various non-profits that directly and indirectly support students and families. Soon I will complete my service as CCISD Trustee At Large.

In the trustee role you will only serve the students and community best if you come to the Board room with no agenda of your own and a willingness to work WITH ALL people.

Before casting your vote in this election, please research the candidates and reflect on the impact these individuals will have on today and the CCISD students education and future.

I believe humble people listen to the needs of others and discern what is the best path forward. They have a track record of investing in and contributing to the CCISD community. That is why I am endorsing the following: Page Rander (incumbent, Dist 4), Jay Cunningham (incumbent Dist 5) and Jonathan Cottrell (At Large A).

Please vote May 1 for these candidates.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Broddle

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

Visit <http://hpl.lib.tx.us/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library> for library information.

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. All overdue fines/fees will be waived through June 30, 2021. To use HPL To Go:

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.

- A pickup time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Curbside hours are: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Thursday, April 22, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join John Harbaugh and Jason Cruz virtually for family fun. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation. #toddertime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL

Thursday, April 22, Earth Craft Day: Recycle & Remake. Join Jasmine Washington, and recycle items to make a piñata. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Friday, April 23, 5 p.m. Anime: Episode 17: "Oldies But Goodies." Join John and Jason walking down memory lane. The video will be on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #anime #anime fan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL

Monday, April 26, 10 a.m. Pretzel Day Video. Join Tanner Adams and Jasmine Washington in making soft pretzels from scratch for Pretzel Day. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, April 27, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join John and Celeste Plew on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL

Tuesday, April 27, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez. Join in for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, April 28, 11 a.m. Bilingual Vietnamese Storytime in English and Vietnamese.

Wednesday, April 28, 1 p.m. Spanish story time with Jason.

Wednesday, April 28, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams over Discord online. No prior experience is required. Email tanner.adams@hcpl.net for details.

Publisher's Opinion

PISD election, one of the most important

If you are a regular reader of the *South Belt Leader*, then you know of some of the many successes our Pasadena Independent School district has had.

I have lived in the district 54 years. My family moved into the area after researching area school districts and we picked PISD as the place we wanted our kids to be raised. We have never regretted that decision. Our district is at a strange crossroads and I hope all our readers who read this will do so with an open mind, and a willingness to do what is best for the district.

I have been very close to the district offices especially after starting the South Belt newspaper more than 45 years ago.

Sometimes the relationship has been good, and in past times not so good.

I can honestly tell you, I believe the district has never been under a more capable administration than it is today. And at a time that life, particularly in the education field, is more challenging than ever. Our administration has a harder job than any time during the past 45 years I have been covering stories with the district.

And during this time, they have done a fantastic job and have been recognized by many different independent groups for the great job they are doing. They have many recognitions and awards for financial management to education of student issues from these independent groups.

As many of you know, our paper has had numerous letters on both sides of the election. We print all letters. Those that come in past our deadline are run the following week. Unlike many newspapers, we do not pick and choose whose local letters to run. We run them all. Those we agree with, and those we don't.

But I must tell you, I am extremely concerned about the outcome of this election. More than any other election I remember.

There is probably no one who has worked harder or more enthusiastically than candidate Yen Rabe has.

She is certainly enthusiastic. She also, when talking to her, can make sense. Unfortunately, I have to disagree with her on many issues. If you know about district finances, you would know much of the information she gives is flat out wrong.

I believe her heart may be in the right place, but she takes a slant on issues that is totally wrong and misleading. In many cases, it is totally false.

I have tried talking to her for many hours, but her mind is made up and facts just do not get through to her.

This includes the issue of a new administration building. If you are raising a house

full of kids, you know you have to clothe and feed them. But if the foundation of your home is crumbling to the point it becomes dangerous to live in, you also need to fix your home or move to a new one. That is the problem with which the district is faced.

Fortunately, they have been aware of this for some time. Now the problem has gotten to the point it must be fixed, they have set aside enough money for fund the new facility without a tax increase, and without having to go out for a bond election.

This is a tremendous achievement. But Yen tells me she does not want the building to be moved from its current location. She would prefer the district rent space for all the offices in the administration building for however long it takes to tear down the building and rebuild in the same place.

She is using this as a strong campaign issue around the old administration building.

The district was given a free piece of land at another location. District officials have studied and determined moving to this new location would be financially more beneficial to taxpayers. I believe they are right. Why throw away 100s of thousands of dollars to rent and stay in the same location because Yen thinks it is better for those residents nearby, and then still have to pay millions to repair a facility that is 50 years old plus when you are done.

I remember when PISD got that location. It was an empty mall, which was transformed into an office building. The administration building was moved before, and it is OK to move it again.

I trust our administration to know what is best. They have been doing a great job. Let's support them. If they would have been messing up the last few years, then let's fight them. But come on, they've done a great job, if one would only look at the facts.

Bottom line is I believe Yen is sincere, but would be bad for our district.

Another major problem is, we do not have a city election. South Houston and Pasadena do. Consequently South Belt is very poor at getting out to vote.

If you care about your schools, and tax rate, you must vote. I urge you to vote for the slate of Nelda Sullivan, Mariselle Quijano, Noble Alix Jr., and Casey Phelan.

Some of the other candidates may be good people, but I know where these four are coming from and they are out to continue a successful district for PISD kids.

If you are in CCISD, educate yourself on those candidates. Whatever you do, vote, and know truly what your candidate stands for.

Marie Flickinger, Publisher

Deaths

Tracy Lynette Bates Howard



Tracy Lynette Bates Howard, 57, was born June 23, 1963, and died April 13, 2021. Tracy was born in San Diego, Calif., to Jerry (deceased) and Jennie Bates. She had two brothers, Gerald (deceased) and Glenn. Tracy was a cheerleader in junior high and a proud member of the J. Frank Dobie Lariatettes and Queen of the Lariatette Ball.

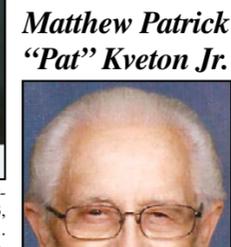
Tracy was married to Keith Howard for 17 years before the marriage ended. She worked for Thomas O'Brien, DDS for 17 years. Tracy loved sports — she and her dad enjoyed going to many Oilers, Rockets, Astros and Texans games together. Tracy was a Daddy's girl and had a difficult time when he passed. People who knew Tracy knew her as kind, lovable and caring person with a beautiful smile. Her loved ones are thankful that Tracy has a new body with no more pain or suffering.

Tracy is survived by her

mom; her brother Glenn; and a very special man Larry Mims, who was a God-send, loving and caring for her 11 years, until the very end.

The memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, April 23, 2021, at Peevey Funeral Home on Beamer Road.

Matthew Patrick "Pat" Kveton Jr.



Former longtime South Belt resident, Matthew Patrick "Pat" Kveton Jr., 87, went to be with the Lord Monday, April 12, 2021, after a brief bout with COVID-19.

He was born Jan. 10, 1934, in Yoakum, Texas, to Matthew Patrick Kveton Sr. and Gladys McMurrey Kveton.

Pat was raised in Galveston and after graduating from Ball High School, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard. While serving, he married the love of his life, Mara Beth Chesnut, in June 1955. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Houston while working

full-time and raising a family. Pat was a tenderhearted, kind, gentleman who never met a stranger. His people skills and easy-going manner made him a natural salesman and always put people at ease. During their years in the South Belt area, he was in sales with Perry Homes.

Pat, Mara Beth and their children Keith and Sharon were active members of Sagemont Church. Both children are graduates of J. Frank Dobie High School.

Being the life of the party and nothing pleased Pat more than making others laugh. Over the years, he and Mara Beth have shared countless, cherished friendships. Since retiring to Yoakum 21 years ago, they have been faithful members of First Baptist Church. Pat loved God and loved people.

Pat is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mara Beth of Yoakum; son Keith Kveton and wife Debbie of Bryan; daughter Sharon Shaw and husband Sam of Spring; grandchildren Kasey Scullion and husband Jonathan, Kristen Williams and husband Caleb, Stephen Shaw and Brandon Kveton and wife Jenna; and great-grandchildren Lucas and Ethan Scullion and Reagan and Hannah Williams.

He is also survived by a host of extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Ann Carter.

Due to COVID, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been made by Thiele Cooper Funeral Home in Yoakum.

No-appointment shots available

Continued from Page 1

Residents can visit Ready Harris.org, vacstrac.hctx.net or call the HCPH Vaccine hotline at 832-927-8787 for assistance.

With the recent registration changes, residents who sign up for a vaccine from Harris County Public Health are now given appointment at all

HCPH vaccination sites immediately after registering for a vaccine, while supplies last.

Harris County reiterates its commitment to providing vaccines efficiently, fairly and equitably by eliminating barriers to registration and providing information in multiple languages online and via phone. The county also continues to

prioritize vaccines for vulnerable communities by offering vaccines at mobile sites in hard-hit ZIP codes, conducting targeted outreach, offering transportation for those who cannot drive to an appointment on their own and collaborating with community organizations to support vaccine distribution.

THESE HOMES HAVE A HISTORY
MAY 1, 2, 8, & 9, 2021
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WWW.GALVESTONHISTORY.ORG

TGRE PRESENTS GALVESTON ISLAND BEACH REVUE
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FOOD AND VINTAGE VENDORS | CRAFT BEER
REVUE PREVUE PARTY & THE BATHING BEAUTIES CONTEST!
TICKETS AT BEACHREVUE.COM

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Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

*Also Available on Facebook Live

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.

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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.

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San Jacinto College sets in-person graduation for Saturday, May 15

San Jacinto College will hold in-person commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 15, 2021, at NRG Stadium.

The college will hold two ceremonies honoring the classes of 2020 and 2021. The first will take place at 10 a.m., featuring all graduates with Associate of Arts and Associate of Arts in Teaching degrees.

The second ceremony will be at 3 p.m. and will honor graduates with Associate of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees and all Certificates of Technology.

"We are so excited to be able to return to in-person ceremonies for our graduates," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor.

"We understand the importance of this day for those students who have worked so hard to earn their certificate or degree and we look forward to celebrating them again in person."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 spring and fall commencement ceremonies were moved to virtual events.

Those graduates have been invited to walk in the 2021 spring ceremony. All COVID-19 protocols that are in place at NRG Stadium will be strictly followed at both commencement ceremonies.

Sen. Alvarado files gambling bill

Continued from Page 1

These destination resorts would provide robust economic development benefits for Texas, with tens of thousands of permanent new jobs for hotels, convention centers, restaurants, retail and entertainment venues and billions of dollars in new revenue for state and local governments.

casino gaming across Texas," said Alvarado. "Texas loses billions of dollars a year to our neighboring states that allow gaming and this measure would bring that revenue back to Texas, create tens of thousands of jobs and also cut down on illegal gambling. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation and give Texans the chance to vote on this issue."

by Kuempel. "The people of Texas have spoken on this issue, with 90 percent of them wanting the opportunity to vote on bringing casino-style gaming to the state," said Kuempel. "The jobs and revenue generated from these transformational destination resorts in Texas would bolster our economy, diversify revenue services and fund important critical infrastructure."

The chapel features include an electronic visitor's log, seating, kneelers and prayer rugs. Occasions like funerals or deployments can magnify the inherent stress already present in travel, even more so during the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.

Play area, chapel . . .

Continued from Page 1

Hobby's interfaith chapel offers a retreat where people of all faiths can give thanks or meditate. Every religion and sect are recognized and each tradition is respected.

These protocols include wearing a face covering at all times while on property, individuals in the same groups sitting together, encouraging social distancing and more. In order to view the NRG Stadium Health and Safety Reminders, visit the NRG Park website at <https://www.nrgpark.com/nrg-park-health-and-safety-reminders/>.

COUPON

\$200 OFF FOUNDATION REPAIR OR SEWER REPAIR (on jobs \$2,500 & up)

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per house.

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FREE ESTIMATES



Mariselle Quijano



Noble J. Alix, Jr.



Nelda Sullivan



Casey D. Phelan

Supported by Educators From A-Z

Your vote will ensure the continuation of Pasadena ISD's outstanding schools!

Re-Elect
Mariselle Quijano • Nelda Sullivan

Elect
Noble J. Alix, Jr. • Casey D. Phelan

We're proud to be supported by 100s of PISD educators. Below are just a few who urge you to vote for our slate to keep great education in PISD.

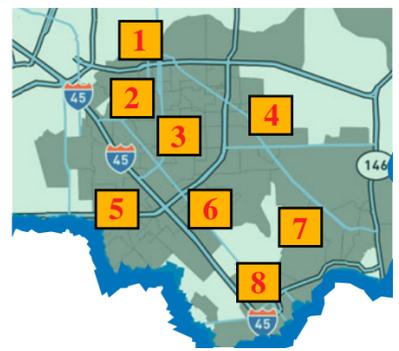
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|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Aaron Smith | Christina Serna | Jackie Crawford | Katie Murphy | Martha Clorio | Selena Contreras |
| Aldo Prado | Christine Coppedge | Jaclyn Sweet | Katie Rhodee | Martha DeLeon | Selene Ramirez |
| Alex Sanchez | Christine Veltman | Jamie Adamson | Katy Grose | Martha Riddick | Shannon Hall |
| Allison Lewallen | Cindy Resendez | Jamie Otto | Kayla Duncan | Martina Estrada | Sharon Matthews |
| Allison Tamez | Clara Hayes | Jan Teague | Keith Thomas | Mary Jenna Berner | Shelly Mitchell |
| Allison Zamarripa | Claudia Ramos | Jan Landree | Kelly Cook-Costley | Mary Sullivan | Sherry Green |
| Alyta Harrell | Colton Hinson | Janet Liscano | Keon Wortham | Megan Sullivan Beard | Stacey Barber |
| Amy Dougherty | Courtney Garza | Jared Mellen | Kim Dean | Melissa Istre | Stacey Redwine |
| Amy E Clowers | Courtney Merilatt | Jasmin Castilleja | Dr. Kirk Lewis - | Melissa McCalla | Stefanie Cantin |
| Andrea Lynn | Courtney Tindale | Jason Lesniewski | <i>Ret. Superintendent</i> | Mike Kaatz | Stephanie Peterson |
| Andrea Wenke | Cynthia Rosenbaum | Jay Forrest | Kim Villarreal | Mikie Escamilla | Stephanie Talley |
| Angela Garza | Cynthia Stanaland | Jean Cain | Kimberly Phelps | Missy Messenger | Steve Martin |
| Angela Stallings | Daisy Villanueva | Jenna Berner | Krishelle Lagman | Monica Acosta | Steven Skripka |
| Anna Segovia | Dan Eble | Jennifer Delgado | Kristi Donaho | Monica Gomez | Tanis Griffin |
| Ann Jablonski | Dan Hoppie | Jennifer Guerrero | Kristin Still | Nancy Teichelman | Tanya Hagar |
| Art Del Barrio | D'Ann Hunt | Jennifer Morton | Kristopher Barras | Nicholas Furman | Tanya Robinson |
| Ashley Bothuel | Deborah Jimenez | Jennifer Teichelman | Kristopher Petree | Nick Oinonen | Tara Merida |
| Ashley Ingram | Denise Moody | Jeremy Purvis | Lali Guerrero | Nikki Seymour | Ted Miller |
| Barbara Birkhead | Dennis Teichelman | Jeremy Richardson | Larri Hicks | Norma Garcia | Tiffany Bennett |
| Becky Benner | Derek Moody | Jerry Krampen | Laura Allison | Olivia Smith-Daugherty | Tim Mikolajchak |
| Bertha Evans | Diane Phelan | Jessica Delacruz | Laura Austin | Paige Schwartz | Tim Williams |
| Bethany Welch | Diane Wheeler | Jessica Herring | Laura Estrada | Pam Affleje | Tish Eubanks |
| Beverly Bolton | Donna Duke | Jessica Martinez | Laura Gomez | Pamela Raley | Tobi White |
| Bianca Yanez | Dulce Vargas | Jessica Rios | Laurie Mellen | Patricia Braden | Toni Lopez |
| Bobbye McCain | Edgar Lopez | Jessica Swenson | Leah Edgell | Patricia Chavez | Traci Goodwin |
| Brittany Hogue | Elizabeth Brodowski | Jill Lacamu | Lidia Peña | Patty House | Traci Powell |
| Candace Franco | Elizabeth Ferguson | Joe Saavedra | Linda Flores | Penny Erskin's | Tracy Skripka |
| Candy Howard | Elizabeth Walker | Johnesha Maxie | Lindsey Fagan | Rashad See | Travis Regner |
| Carla Merka | Erica Pecina | Johnna Mikolajchak | Lindsey Lesniewski | Rebecca Dietz | Travis Teichelman |
| Carla Moody | Erica Salazar | Jorly Thomas | Lisa Vavricka | Rhonda Jacobs | Tyler Carmona |
| Carrie Schultz | Frankie Moon | Joseph Garza | Lizeth Montelongo | Robin Cate | Valiza Castro |
| Catherine Gaither | Franklin Moses | Joy Brown Johnson | Lorena Carrasco | Robin Lewis | Vanessa Reyes |
| Catherine Leach | Gabe Garcia | Judy Diaz | Lorie Edwards Morris | Rocio Nuncio | Vicky Basye |
| Catherine Sieraski | Gayle Holder Carter | Judy Horstman | Maria Toledo | Roseann Valdez | Wendy Wiseburn |
| Chad Phillips | Haley Cernosek | Karen Hickman | Marianela Mendez | Samantha Lapointe | Zinnia Lerma |
| Chase Coppedge | Holly Montemayor | Karyn L Johnson | Maribel Espinoza | Sandra Buckner | |
| Cherie Steadman | Iris Munoz Jones | Kassandra Sanchez | Maribel Velazquez | Scott Harrell | |
| Cheryl Harris | JT Powell | Kathy Bailey | Marlyn Newman | Scott Horstman | |
| Chriselda Martinez | Jack Bailey | Kathy Harrington | Marsha Jones | Scott Pollack | |

Plus 100s more!

Local Early Voting Locations

Harris County registered voters are able to vote at any Harris County polling location.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 John Phelps Courthouse
101 S. Richey Street
Pasadena 77506 | 3 Cleveland Ripley Neighborhood Center
720 Fairmont Parkway
Pasadena 77504 | 6 Multi Cultural Center
951 Tristar Drive
Webster 77598 |
| 2 City of South Houston Municipal Court
1019 Dallas Street
South Houston 77587 | 4 East Harris County Activity Center
7340 Spencer Highway
Pasadena 77505 | 7 University of Houston Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston 77058 |
| 5 El Franco Lee Community Center
9500 Hall Road
Houston 77089 | 8 Webster Civic Center
311 Pennsylvania Avenue
Webster 77598 | |



George, Alyson Roberts celebrate 50 years



George (Buddy) Roberts and Alyson English met in San Bernardino, Calif., on a group blind date in November 1970. Buddy was a pilot in the Air Force and Alyson worked as a juvenile probation officer. They were immediately attracted to each other and became engaged in two and a half months. They planned a wedding to be held six weeks later in San Bernardino because Buddy was scheduled to be transferred to Puerto Rico when he finished his training in California. At the last minute, his orders were changed to Ft. Worth, so they started married life there and have lived in Texas ever since. After Buddy separated from the Air Force, the couple lived in the Rio Grande Valley, Beaumont and Austin where Alyson earned a master's degree in social work at UT. They moved to Sageglen in 1979 and continue to live in the same house today. Alyson retired from full-time work with the Dept. of Family and Protective Services (CPS) in 2000. However, since that time she has continued to work as a part-time social work consultant

in the child abuse field. Buddy retired from Continental Airlines in 2002 and has provided private pilot services to a variety of companies and aircraft owners through the years. Alyson is an active volunteer with Southeast Area Ministries and has sung with the Bay Area Chorus for 27 years. Buddy has been actively involved since 1997 in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the volunteer arm of the Coast Guard. Despite their busy careers, family has always been important to Buddy and Alyson. Their son and his wife, Scott and Amanda Roberts, live in Pearland. Their daughter and her husband, Kim and Eric Aaberg, live in Lake Worth, Fla. They have three adult grandchildren, Jaxon Scofield and James and Katie Roberts. The pandemic caused the Roberts' celebration plans to be scaled back considerably. Their 50th wedding anniversary was happily celebrated at a family dinner at Pappas Seafood restaurant on March 21. Those who wondered if this whirlwind romance of 50 years ago could actually last are no longer wondering.

CCISD mandate . . .

Continued from Page 1
committee's time and effort to come to consensus on a set of recommendations that reflect the changing dynamics of this pandemic."
In the board-approved recommendations, the school district will only require face coverings to be worn when six feet of distance cannot be maintained for both indoor and outdoor activities.

This will take effect June 1. Currently, face coverings are to be always worn unless eating or drinking.

Recently, CCISD conducted a poll among staff to gather information on vaccine rates among employees. Of the 2,039 employees who responded, 79 percent indicated they had received a COVID-19 vaccine and 92 percent felt Clear Creek ISD has provided sufficient information about vaccination availability.

When polled, 76 percent of respondents agreed that face coverings should remain a requirement for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and 67 percent of respondents agreed that the school district should develop protocols for the 2021-2022 school year to allow for optional face coverings.

The recommendation for the CCISD 2021-2022 school year was framed as an aspiration since it fell outside the charges and guidelines approved by the school board.

The superintendent will work with the school board to identify next steps as the Texas Education Agency requires school boards to officially take action to modify face covering requirements considering Executive Order (GA-34.)

Bush celebrates Saddle Up



Bush Elementary staff and students celebrated Saddle Up and Read for the third nine-weeks. The students who excelled in reaching reading goals were presented a certificate for their accomplishments and participated in a raffle for prizes. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Kylie Tinajero, Clarissa Melo, Sophia Castellon, (back row) Mario Moreno and Caleb Tapia. Photo by Monica Rincon

UHCL's Finner HPD's chief

For the second time in 11 years, the Houston City Council has appointed a University of Houston-Clear Lake alum as the city's chief of police. Troy Finner, who completed his Master of Arts in Criminology in 2009, was unanimously elected to the city's highest law enforcement position on March 24.

Finner, a 31-year veteran of HPD, was elevated to the top position after HPD Chief Arthur Acevedo announced his intention on March 15 to become chief of police in Miami.

He's not the only UHCL alum to take Houston's highest office in law enforcement. Acevedo's predecessor, Charles McClelland, Jr., also served as HPD's chief from 2010 - 2016 and is a UHCL Distinguished Alumnus.

UHCL Professor of Criminology Everette Penn said that Finner's appointment to the city's highest law enforcement role was a reflection of UHCL's Criminology program's success in teaching students to apply theory to real-world practice.

"Our curriculum helps students understand the diversity of the most diverse city in the country—Houston," Penn said. "I taught Troy in a class

called 'Race and Crime.' The goal is to explore issues surrounding diversity, race, class and how they relate to criminal justice so that equality can be applied in all areas. Our curriculum teaches a good theoretical base that students can apply to practice in leadership roles in criminology and law enforcement."

Penn said among Finner's top priorities as police chief is to continue improving relationships between Houston's youth and the police.

"The events of the summer of 2020 are always in our mind, so this is our opportunity to grow with him at the head, as a national model," he said. "UHCL's minor in Youth and Police Studies offers students a chance to participate in experiential learning with the Teen and Police Service Academy (TAPS). With Troy Finner as chief, it's a new day in Houston. He will ensure better relationships between youth and police; he'll be that listening ear and stay actively involved in creating better relationships."

Penn said that TAPS would continue developing and with Finner's support, would take the lead in building better youth-police relations in Houston.

"The essence of Troy Finner is, he's making sure bridges are built," he said. "The seeds are there, with our Criminology program and our minor in youth and police studies."

He said he believed that with Finner as chief of police, Houston could become a model for better youth and police relations. "We are ecstatic to have him in this leadership position," he said.

In addition to McClelland and Finner, another UHCL alum, Pedro Lopez, Jr. is the chief of police at Houston Independent School District.

"UHCL is the place where police chiefs are made," Penn said.

For more information about UHCL's Criminology program and Youth and Police Studies minor, visit www.uhcl.edu/human-sciences-humanities/departments/social-cultural-sciences/criminology/ and www.uhcl.edu/academics/degrees/youth-police-studies-minor.

Ruiz named to San Jac College diversity position

Dr. Eddy Ruiz has been named to the new position of assistant vice chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity at San Jacinto College.

Ruiz began in the new position last month, which was created by the college to facilitate resources that build a culture of inclusion for students and employees and to advance diversity, equity and inclusion work across the district.

"This opportunity at San Jacinto College was a great one for professional growth, as well as the perfect opportunity to return to an institution with a high minority representation," said Ruiz. "San Jac is one of those places where equity, prosperity and equality are important. People care about change here and I do, too."

Ruiz has spent most of his career in higher education. He spent the last five years as the associate director for the University Honors Program and First-Year Seminars at the University of California, Davis. Previously, he worked in the Carson Center for Student Success at Washington State University and in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Idaho. He has experience as director of Student Success & Innovative Education at the University of Maine and in research at UCLA.

Ruiz says that it is important for institutions of higher education and organizations to have a position that focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure that students and employees have the right connection to engage in dialogue so that there is cohesion throughout the institution or organization. He plans to visit each San Jacinto College campus over the next few months to meet students and staff, ask questions, engage in conversations, listen and understand how people engage and interact with their communities.

"Dr. Ruiz brings to San Jacinto College exceptional knowledge and background in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusivity," said Dr.

Allatia Harris, vice chancellor for strategic initiatives and the college's chief diversity officer. "We understand that by embedding diversity, equity and inclusivity into our college culture, we will be a stronger institution and better able to focus on our commitment to student success."

As a former community college student, Ruiz feels he can connect with today's students and is excited about helping to get more students like him into the higher education pipeline.

"I learned the importance of community and caring about others while I was in community college," he said. "That gave me the opportunity to realize who I was. It was a second chance."

Applications are now

open for the 2021-2022 school year and parents may visit the website at <https://clearconnections.ccisd.net/> to learn more about the new virtual school and to submit an application.

Clear Creek ISD provides pre-K programming at 20 elementary campuses.

To identify the pre-K campus that services their school zone, families may visit ccisd.net/prek and select "Pre-K Locations."

CCISD enrollment . . .

Continued from Page 1
fore Sept. 1.

Early Learning Options
Clear Creek ISD's early learning programs include monolingual and bilingual classrooms, early childhood special education, and, if funded by the Texas Legislature, a full-time virtual school for students pre-K through 12th grade. The state will make the determination by May 2021.

Applications are now

Hometown Heroes resumes dances

The City Council of League City voted to lift COVID-19 restrictions on city facilities and enable ballroom dance activity at the League City ballroom at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway.

Ballroom dances are now open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the 3,630-square-foot activity room equipped with a floating hardwood floor.

These are not dance lessons but are casual dances. Everyone including dancers with skill levels ranging from modest to advanced are welcome.

Afternoon dance attire is "comfortable." The dances are made available by ballroom dancers volunteering for the city.

The dances are free to anyone who has an activity card, which is required by the city for all activities.

For additional information, call the park office at 281-554-1180.

CCISD Give-A-Grant raises fund record

The Clear Creek Education Foundation (CCEF) kicked off its new Give-A-Grant Rally the week of March 29 - April 2, during which CCEF promoted its mission and rallied community support which resulted in raising \$125,024 for CCISD teacher grants. This amount exceeded the original goal of \$100,000. In addition to the \$125,024 raised for teacher grants, CCEF partners pledged \$54,700 that will support other programs that benefit the students and teachers of CCISD, bringing the grand total raised to \$179,724. As the community is aware, teachers need support now more than ever and with the cancellation

of in-person spring events, this rally week enables CCEF to continue to provide innovative learning materials to students of all ages, both in the classroom and virtually.

Each day during the rally week, a teacher testimonial video was featured and showed the inside scoop to really understand why teacher grants and community partnerships are so important from a teacher's perspective.

Special thanks to Miriam Bailey (Landolt Elementary), Debbie Adams (Falcon Pass Elementary), Julie Edwards (Bayside Intermediate) and Shirley Cook-Dickey (Clear Lake High School). The CCEF board of directors

formed teams and had a fun, fierce competition between each team on who could raise the most money. Each day, a different team reported to the call center which was held at Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake, and rallied community support. Team Joiner took first place bringing in a total of \$45,300!

"We are so overwhelmed with the support from our partners during Give-A-Grant Rally Week," stated Deborah Laine, CCEF executive director. "This event truly represents everything we stand for and our mission to support teachers and students through innovative materials in the classroom and online. We

know this community loves our teachers and students and they definitely showed it last week."

A list of all the donors and the teacher testimonial videos can be found on CCEF's website at www.ClearCreekEducationFoundation.org/give-a-grant.

This event would not be possible without the support of all the generous Headline Sponsors which include Chemical Process and Production, Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital, Joiner Architects, Moody Bank, PBK Architects, Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, Ron Carter Cadillac Hyundai and UTMB Health.

Dr. Victor Van Phan, an orthopedic surgeon from Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, was the featured speaker at the event.

1 year ago (2020)
Gov. Greg Abbott held a press conference Friday, April 17, in which he issued three new executive orders to begin the process of reopening the state of Texas with respect to the coronavirus pandemic, while revising hospital capacity and certain social distancing guidelines. Within the orders, select activities and services that posed minimal threat of spreading COVID-19 were allowed to reopen using a "retail-to-go" model; certain restrictions on surgeries were loosened; and schools were to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

The results from the Sagemeadow maintenance committee's April 18 board election were tallied. In the race for vice chair, Carlos Lopez Jr. defeated challenger Mariana Guzman, receiving 69 percent of the vote to Guzman's 31 percent. Marie Rose handily won the contest for treasurer, as she only faced write-in candidates. Rose received 92 percent of the vote, while write-in candidates received 8 percent of the vote.

45 years ago (1976)

Fred Lozano of Scarsdale, Anthony "Tony" Schillaci of Sagemeadow and the new "Modulance," an emergency treatment ambulance designed to give on-the-spot treatment to the patient, purchased by the City of Houston, were stationed at Fire Station #70.

The boundary line for the John H. Burnett Elementary School was up for approval by the Pasadena Independent School District.

40 years ago (1981)

The county's general superintendent for Precinct 1 said construction of another bridge at Scarsdale Boulevard and Beamer was a high priority, but she did not know when funds for construction would be available.

A Security Transport Corp. armored van was robbed of an estimated \$500,000 at the Gulf Freeway near Scarsdale Boulevard.

35 years ago (1986)

Al Carter, noted Houston Chronicle sports columnist, was one of six former San Jacinto College students to be named as Distinguished Alumni.

Renewed interest in a school's crossing at Scarsdale and Sageglen spurred by a child being hit by an automobile, resulted in several changes and additions near the scene of the accident. But the most desired addition of a school crossing guard had resulted in zero positive actions.

30 years ago (1991)

With the possibility of litigation imminent, the federal government reached an accord with one Southend homeowner giving the family a \$65,000 home outright.

District 70 Fire Chief Travis Ezeil retired after 31 years of service.

25 years ago (1996)

Atkinson, Frazier, Genoa and Stuchbery elementaries and Pasadena and South Houston high schools approved standardized dress.

Chris Williams, 29-year-old West Point graduate, was killed in a Fort Sill training accident. John Williams, his father, thoroughly studied the Joint Collateral Accident Investigation and using that investigation, made recommendations to prevent future accidents. The Army listened and informed him of the changes made as a result of his recommendations.

20 years ago (2001)

Thompson Intermediate's Academic Team defeated the previous year's champion, Masterman Academy from Philadelphia, with a score of 45-36, winning a place in the finals of the National Academic League Tournament for the fifth time in nine years.

Memorial Hospital announced a \$70-million expansion including expanding the emergency center, intensive care unit and cardiac catheterization lab; increasing inpatient bed capacity; replacing and expanding outpatient surgery sites; expanding women's services; and adding parking capacity.

15 years ago (2006)

The 10th annual South Belt Cook-off, which raises money for the South Belt July Fourth fireworks, was held. A record 60 teams participated.

Shirley Neeley, commissioner of education for Texas, said she would approve the PISD board of trustee request for a waiver which would allow Kirk Lewis to be named superintendent of PISD.

Class A assault charges were filed on a Clear Creek Independent School District teacher after she reportedly sprayed a female with pepper spray after a road rage incident on Scarsdale Boulevard.

Houston Police Department investigated a burglary that occurred at the Time Out sports bar on Fuqua. A suspect was arrested in

10 years ago (2011)

Former Houston City Councilmember Joe Roach died in a local hospital following a month-long bout with an undisclosed illness. Roach, 49, was on the council from 1994 to 1999, serving one term as South Belt's District E councilmember before winning two terms in an at-large seat. A graduate of Southern Methodist University's law school, Roach also worked as a criminal attorney and spent seven

years as a prosecutor with the Harris County District Attorney's office.

5 years ago (2016)

Longtime Sageglen resident Mary Maddox hosted the inaugural Strut Your Mutt Doggy Parade Saturday, April 16, at Clear Brook City Park. The event included multiple contests, including prettiest dog, ugliest dog, largest dog, smallest dog, best trick, best dog and owner costume, female diva dog and male macho dog.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon April 20 to honor the top graduates from Dobie High School, Lutheran South Academy and Clear Horizons High School.

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ENJOY THE DAY, KENNETH!

Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Kenneth Griffin** April 24 from his wife **Bobby**; son **David Griffin** and wife **Angela** and their children **Robert** and **Kenneth** and wife **Lacie**; daughter **Tracy Giles** and husband **Jim** and their children **Kristen**, **Cody** and **Aaron** and wife **Ashley**; great-grandchildren **Jaxon** and **Jace Giles** and **Ellie Vera Griffin**; and friends at the **Leader**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAY!

Best wishes are sent April 27 for a wonderful birthday to former **Leader** staffer, **Dobie** graduate and UT student **Jay Do** from friends and the **Leader** staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 22 through April 28.

Genoa Elementary

Remember to wish **Debbie Blair** a happy birthday April 23. Join in the birthday celebration April 26 for **Portia Alvaro**.

Moore Elementary

Send a happy birthday greeting April 25 to **Dee Dee Pitts**.

South Belt Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles for **Robin Sanders** April 22. Give a birthday shoutout to **Lesley Cooper** on April 23.

Stuchbery Elementary

Best wishes for a great birthday April 23 are sent to **Charyl Lyons**. Break out the birthday cake and ice cream April 26 for **Carolyn Eastburn**. Happy birthday wishes are sent April 27 to **Iris Montemayor**.

Melillo Middle School

On April 24, light the birthday candles for **Nicole Ram**. The day for a birthday celebration for **Jacqueline Carmona** is April 27.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send a birthday greeting April 24 to **Criselda Bocanegra**.

Dobie High

Nataly Gonzalez-Hernandez and **Tiffany Lambert** enjoy a birthday on April 23. Blow out the birthday candles April 24 for **Lynn Capell**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbelt-leader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate

Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, April 22: **Barbara Eikenburg**, **Sandy Young**, **Jenny Nguyen** and **Dawne Goforth**; Friday, April 23: **Lewis Reyna**, **Mandy Lewis** and **Ashley Coppens**; Saturday, April 24: **Dakota Golightly**, **Charles Chassay**, **Theresa Flower**, **Lisa Castellano** and **Claudia Espinoza**; Sunday, April 25: **Rebecca Castonguay**, **Anne Seaton**, **Steve Jones**, **Misty Kuehn** and **Liana Pena**; Monday, April 26: **Traci Thompson**, **Steve Patterson**, **Stephen Brady** and **Dan Fortson**; Tuesday, April 27: **Emily Walker**, **Erika Gonzalez**, **Christopher Malek**, **Pam Navarre**, **Mary Pinkerton**, **Freda Mathews**, **Paula Morley**, **Amber Allan** and **Penelope Villeda**; and Wednesday, April 28: **Ralph Jackson**, **Kelly Schwell**, **Jason Stonestreet**, **Monica Rasmussen** and **Carrie Ramirez**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbelt-leader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Region III's April 23-24

Campa, Jones lead JFD group

Senior Alberto Campa, the greatest Dobie distance runner of the past two-plus decades, will headline the Longhorns' appearance at the Region III Track and Field Championships, set for April 23-24 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium.

From there, the first- and second-place finisher in each individual event and also the three relay events will compete at the University Interscholastic League's State Championships for all classifications May 8 in Austin.

Campa, a state qualifier in cross-country as a junior in 2020, is now a

step away from Austin after winning the 1,600 and 3,200 runs in breath-taking fashion at the District 21-6A/District 22-6A Area Championships April 15 at Galena Park ISD Stadium.

Campa won both events by nipping two different Atascocita opponents at the wire. At the 1,600 distance, Campa finished at 4 minutes, 22.59 seconds for the gold medal, with Atascocita senior Nahim Abdullah second in a time of 4:23.00.

Campa went stride-for-stride with Atascocita sophomore Michael Archie in the 3,200 run, with Campa claiming the gold at 9:30.16 and Archie in for silver at 9:30.21.

Dobie also advanced its boys' 4x400-meter relay team to regionals courtesy of a fourth-place finish at areas as that foursome included Damian Garcia, Tyquaris Irchil, Jeremiah Jackson and Zach Wallace.

Continued on Page 6

At right, Dobie distance runner Alberto Campa won the 1,600 and 3,200 runs at the District 21-6A/District 22-6A Championships and will now look to advance to state as he competes at the Region III Championships April 23-24 in Humble. The state meet is May 8 in Austin. Campa in 2019 was a state cross-country qualifier as a junior.



Longhorn softball earns second seed

The Dobie varsity softball team will enter the state playoffs as the No. 2 seed out of District 22-6A after run-ruling Memorial 18-2 April 19 at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

Leslie Longoria, Jasmin Benitez and Marisa Perla combined for 11 hits, nine runs batted in and eight runs scored as the Lady Longhorns improved to 9-2 in league play with a

game coming against Rayburn. Deer Park, 11-0 with two wins over Dobie, is the 22-6A champion.

The Lady Longhorns tuned up for the postseason by smacking nine extra-base hits against the Mavericks.

In turn, Perla allowed a single hit through four frames in the circle, while Sandra Quiroz-Catalan

Continued on Page 6

Dickson posts nation's best 200

Clear Brook sprinter Camryn Dickson owns the nation's fastest time in the 200 as she prepares to take on the field in the Region III track and field championships April 23-24 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium.

Dickson, a state qualifier in the 100 as a freshman in 2019 and now a junior, starred at the District 23-6A/District 24-6A Area Championships as she advanced with wins in the 100 and 200 while also helping the Lady Wolverines move on in the 4x400 relay.

At 23.48 in the 200, Dickson posted the nation's best time of the high school outdoor season as compiled by Texas Mile Split. Best of all, she punched her ticket in the event at the Region III meet and is now one step away from a return to Austin.

Dickson, equally impressive in the 100 this

season, finished at 11.83 to win at areas and will look to get back to that event in Austin as well.

As for the 4x400 relay, Dickson anchored the Lady Wolverines' fourth-place finish of 3 minutes, 58.45 seconds as the group earned at least one more run at things at regionals. Brook's 4x4 group also includes Azayla Smith, Amanda Benjamin and Ja'Delle Major.

Smith, a freshman, will also compete in the 400 at regionals as she earned a bronze medal for third

Continued on Page 6

Clear Brook junior sprinter Camryn Dickson will enter the Region III Track and Field Championships with the nation's fastest 200-meter time at 23.48 seconds and will also look to advance to state in the 100 for a second time.



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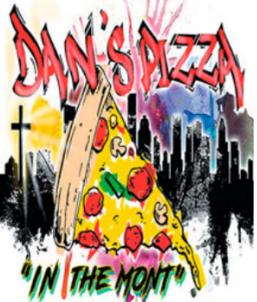
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JFD trio makes tennis regionals

Brian Nguyen in boys' singles and the mixed doubles pairing of Ashley Huynh and William Ho will represent Dobie in the Region III Championships April 27-28 at Deer Park's South campus.

The trio highlighted the Longhorns' efforts at the District 22-6A Championships April 14 and April 17 as host Deer Park managed to land each of the regional top seedings moving forward.

Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. knew up front that several if not

each of the five brackets would likely pit his Longhorns against Deer Park, and he was right.

Nguyen was the No. 3 seed entering the boys' singles action and defeated No. 2 seed Jacob Lambert of Deer Park 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in the semifinals.

In the finals, No. 1 seed Will Marker of Deer Park took down Nguyen 6-2, 6-1, and there was no playback with both play-

ers advancing to regionals. As for the mixed doubles, Huynh and Ho, seeded third entering play, lost in the semifinals to the No. 2 seeded team from Deer Park and then defeated the fourth-seeded squad from Memorial 6-2, 6-1.

Deer Park's top-seeded squad then defaulted in the playback match, guaranteeing Huynh and Ho a spot at regionals.

Dobie's Jennifer Ho

and Megan Rodriguez were seeded third in girls' doubles and finished third. Ditto for Dobie boys' singles player Tristan Pedraza, who was seeded fourth and ended his run fourth.

In an all-Dobie third-place match in boys' doubles, Hayden Lazo and Lael Martinez were seeded third and won third place over Kyle Redmon and Kiet Nguyen.

Brook ensures 24-6A baseball co-crown

Weather delayed Clear Brook's scheduled game with Dickinson all the way from April 16 to April 20 after press time, with the Wolverines needing one win in their final two games to win the District 24-6A championship outright.

Aaron Calhoun tossed a gem April 13 against Bra-

zoswood as the Wolverines kept the victory train rolling with a 2-0 win over Brazoswood.

The senior and University of Oklahoma signee struck out 14 and walked just one, allowing three hits during a 98-pitch effort as the Wolverines won their ninth in 10 games.

Joseph Lamm and

Landon Hunt knocked in runs, and Calhoun took care of the rest in the win.

The win over the Bucs ensured the Wolverines at least a share of the 24-6A, with Clear Springs still in the mix.

Brook goes against Clear Springs April 23 to close out the regular season.

Memorial losses send JFD to third

Consecutive home-and-home series losses to Deer Park and Memorial had the once 5-0 Dobie Longhorns needing a bounce-back effort or two heading into their series with Rayburn beginning April 20 after press time.

Rey Izaguirre scored from third base on a wild pitch to give the Mavs a 4-3 lead in the top of the seventh inning, and Ian Rincon finished off a brilliant five-inning relief effort in the bottom half.

The result was the Mavericks taking a 4-3 win in the series finale April 17 at Dobie in a game postponed a day by rain. Jacob Perez had a two-run single for the Longhorns,

and Ryan Saxton and Juan Estrada scored runs as Dobie held an early 3-1 lead before Memorial climbed back.

Izaguirre victimized the Longhorns in both games, leading his Mavs to a 7-1 win in the first game April 13 at Memorial.

Dobie opened District 22-6A action with a 1-0 win over South Houston courtesy of a shutout performance by pitcher Noah Torres and then swept past Channelview and Pasadena to take the league lead at 5-0.

Since then, though, the Longhorns have now lost four straight (5-4) and will finish with the two games

Continued on Page 6

At left, the Dobie tennis program celebrated as a trio of players qualified for the Region III Championships as the No. 2 seeds out of the District 22-6A ranks following the league tournament April 17 at Deer Park High School. From left, Dobie's qualifiers include Ashley Huynh, William Ho and Brian Nguyen. Huynh and Ho claimed the No. 2 spot out of 22-6A in mixed doubles, while Nguyen was the No. 2 finisher in boys' singles. The Region III Championships will be held back at Deer Park High School April 27-28.

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Dobie boys' 4x4 relay among Region III qualifiers; Jones as well

Continued from Page 5

Summer Creek was the boys' 4x1 and 4x4 winners at the 21/22 area meet, with the Bulldogs' 4x4 win coming at 3:19.45.

It was Atascocita and Kingwood second and third with Dobie fourth at 3:29.31 behind the efforts of Garcia, Irchirl, Jackson and Wallace.

The Lady Longhorns saw Ambreon Jones advance to regionals in the high jump as she and Humble's Ciara Glover both cleared the 5 feet mark, with Glover the gold medalist by virtue of fewer attempts to succeed at 5-0. Jones was the silver medalist.

In several instances, it was a frustrating ending to the track and field season.

The top four finishers in each event will move on to regionals, yet Dobie, the District 22-6A champion in both divisions,

had more than a couple of fifth-place finishes.

Jones moved on in the high jump but came up just short in the 300 hurdles with a fifth-place time of 47.57.

Dobie senior Jhancarlos Carpio, a great teammate and training mate of Campa's across two sports, was fifth in the 1,600 at 4:24.65 as his career at Dobie came to a close.

It was memorable for Carpio as he posted a personal best time in the event.

Ditto for University of Texas-El Paso football signee Jeremiah Ballard, who won the 110- and 300-meter hurdles at district and then was fifth in the 110s at areas.

In the boys' shot, the Longhorns' Dekarey Ramsey will look ahead to 2021-2022 as he was fifth with a toss of 41-4.

The Lady Longhorns' Briana Haywood was fifth

in both the 100 and 200 dashes her stellar Dobie career came to a close at 13.29 in the 100 and 26.95 in the 200.

Amari Singleton, a two-sport standout for the Lady Longhorns over four varsity seasons, saw her run end as she was fifth at the 800 distance in a time of 2:29.24.

The Lady Longhorns swept the relays for 60 key team points to win the 22-6A crown but was fifth and well back in the 4x1, 4x2 and 4x4.

It was Jones, Donyea Porter, Deaira Jackson and Briana Haywood in the 4x1 at 49.29, while Donyea Porter, Denim Boone, Deaira Jackson and Camryn Ridge contributed to a time of 1:48.79 in the 4x2.

Dobie's 4x4 foursome, which included Mia Sanchez, Sophia Perez, Jones and Amari Singleton, finished at 4:15.24.

Dobie junior Natalie Onozie, also a varsity volleyball standout, was fifth in the long jump at 16-7.

So it's down to a select few for Dobie as the track and field season inches closer and closer to the state championships.

The Dobie athletes are into the final 32, and that's a pretty good place to be.

At right, the Dobie boys' 4x400-meter relay team of Zach Wallace, Jeremiah Jackson, Tyquaireis Irchirl and Damian Garcia finished fourth at the District 21-6A/District 22-6A Area Track and Field Championships at Galena Park ISD Stadium and will now be among 32 regional qualifiers April 23-24 at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium as a berth in the UIL state championships will be on the line. Dobie distance runner Alberto Campa will also compete along with high jumper Ambreon Jones. Photo by Gloria Wallace



Region III Track and Field

Turner Stadium, Humble

April 23-24, TBA

Top two event finishers advance to state

Dickson headlines Brook at RIIs

Continued from Page 5

place in the event at the 23/24 areas at 58.83.

Dickson and her teammates prepare for what will be the toughest test of 2021 at the Region III event as only the top two finishers in each event will

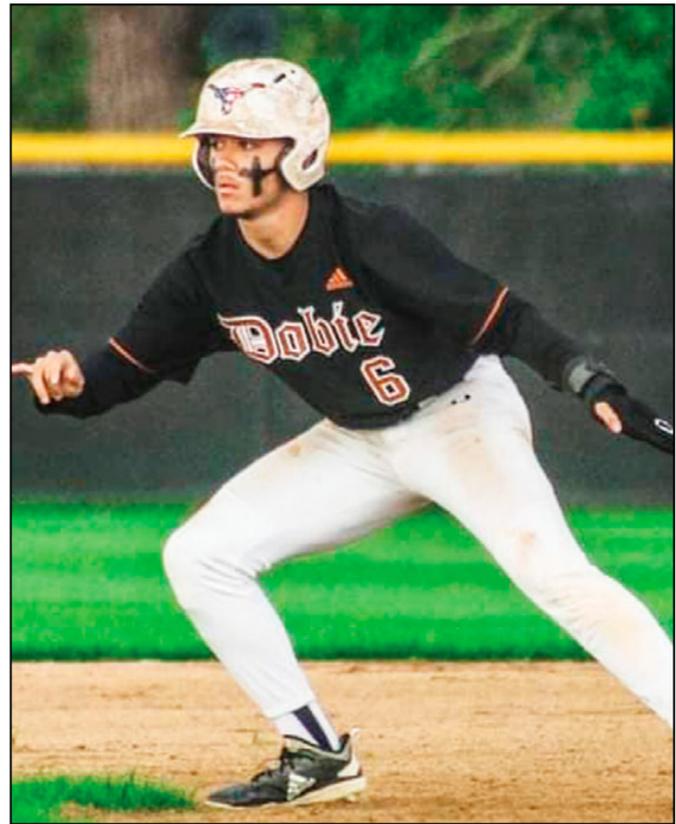
automatically qualify for the state meet.

The regional qualifying races will begin with 32 athletes before being pared down to an eight-athlete final. From there, the winner and runner-up will move on to Austin.

Dickson is unbeaten in the 100 and 200 this season and owns that national-best time in the 200, yet is far from satisfied. She'll now head to Humble with Austin on her mind. It's down to the best of the best.



The Clear Brook girls' 4x400 relay squad was fourth at the District 23/District 24-6A Area Championships to qualify for the Region III meet April 23-24 in Humble. The Lady Wolverines' foursome includes, left to right, Amanda Benjamin, Camryn Dickson, Azayla Smith and Ja'Delle Major.



Dobie's Kyle Wallace (6) and his Longhorn teammates have seen their District 22-6A seeding drop to third and will now look to finish the regular season strong with two games against Rayburn and another against South Houston. Photo by Gloria Wallace

22-6A football champions kick off spring workouts

The Dobie football program kicked off spring drills April 19 as head coach Kevin Berneathy and his staff eyed the program's most extensive reloading efforts of Berneathy's tenure.

Upon his arrival prior to the 2018 season, Berneathy took a fresh approach as then sophomores Johnathan Baldwin, A.J. Garcia and Darius Pamplin took over key roles, with Rushad Ball, Jalen Hollins and others also contributing heavily.

Kicker Joshua Hernandez also was in his second season of what became a four-year varsity run. There are other long-term contributors due to graduate next month, leaving vacancies yet opportunities within the program. It's all underway as the Dobie program continues spring workouts April 26-28, May 3-6 and May 10-13.

That gifted sophomore group helped Dobie win 25 of 30 regular-season games over the 2018, 2019 and 2020 seasons. "This group of seniors that is leaving certainly contributed heavily to the success of the program," said Berneathy, who has guided Dobie to consecutive nine-win regular seasons, including the 2020 District 22-6A championship group.

"That said, we're also pleased to have a solid group of returnees coming back. Of course we have our quarterback (third-year starter Cameron Gray) and a pretty good group of running backs, plus the majority of our offensive line."

Defensively, the Longhorns' secondary will be the key area of address

this spring, but once again Berneathy is confident things will come together. As the Longhorns work toward the 2021 opener Aug. 27 against Alief Elisik at Crump Stadium, a new wave will be welcomed.

"We're excited to get the guys back out on the field in the spring," he said. "Last year's classes missed this opportunity, and I think it's always a benefit when you can get guys accustomed to the speed of the game and the physicality."

"Staying healthy is the key, but other than that, we just want to get some good work in on a daily basis. Hopefully by the 14th and 15th workout we will see a big jump from some of these guys."

Dobie will play a spring game May 13 on campus to conclude spring drills, and the Longhorns will also compete in a 7-on-7 league and enter a state qualifier, both in June.

For now, the most important thing for the Longhorns is merely having workouts on the green grass as the 2021 off-season returns to form.

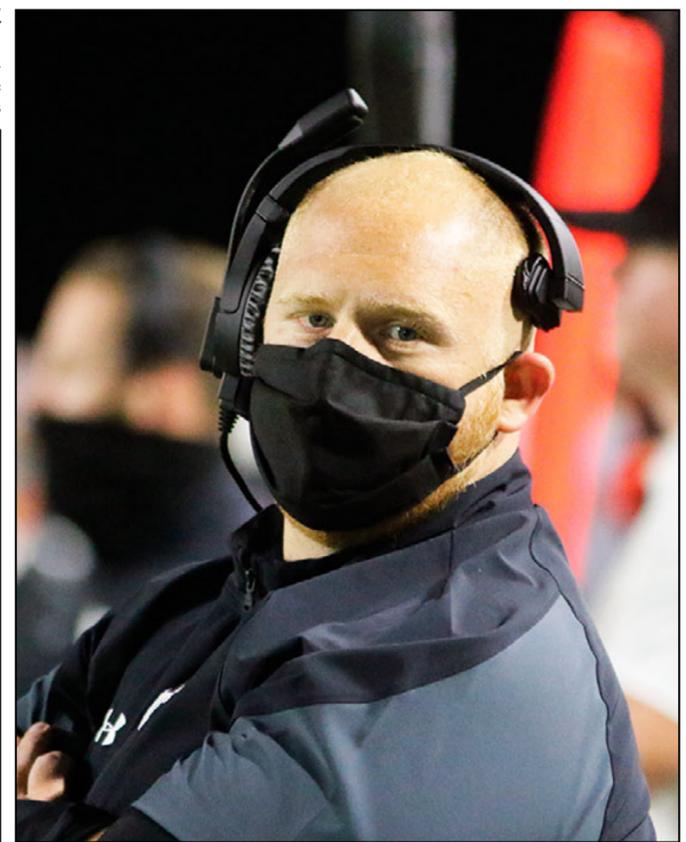
For now, the most important thing for the Longhorns is merely having workouts on the green grass as the 2021 off-season returns to form.

For now, the most important thing for the Longhorns is merely having workouts on the green grass as the 2021 off-season returns to form.

McKnight powers No. 14 SJC softball



Tamera McKnight (above) drove in four runs over two games as 14th-ranked San Jacinto College moved to 33-8 overall and 10-2 in Region XIV softball play with a 5-1, 9-1 doubleheader sweep over Coastal Bend April 19 on the South campus. Jules Garcia had four hits and scored twice in the opener, and Abby Forrester also knocked in a pair.



Dobie varsity football head coach Kevin Berneathy acknowledges the vacancies created by a class of 2021 seniors that helped produce 25 wins over three seasons but is excited about the team's returnees as well as the potential of varsity-level newcomers as spring drills continue.

Lady Longhorns snag second spot

Continued from Page 5

surrendered a hit in her inning of work. Karisa Hernandez also had two hits and scored two runs for the Lady Longhorns, now 18-9 overall this season.

The victory was a nice bounce-back effort after Deer Park secured the 22-6A crown with a 9-6 victory April 13 at the Pasadena ISD Complex.

Deer Park, which walked off Dobie with a 3-2 win in the first game between the two teams,

used a six-run fourth inning to surge ahead after trailing 4-2. It added up to a 9-6 victory for the Lady Deer in the end.

Karlie Barba tripled twice for Dobie, scored twice and knocked in a pair of runs.

Yessenia Pena had a hit and drove in a pair, and Bella Perez doubled twice for the Lady Longhorns.

Following a final game against Rayburn, Dobie is likely to see Summer Creek or Kingwood in the bidistrict round.

Dobie baseballers slip to third place

Continued from Page 5

against Rayburn and a single game against South Houston. Best-case scenario for the Longhorns would seem to include winning out and nabbing the No. 3 playoff seed.

Meanwhile, Memorial

needs just one win in its series against Pasadena to secure no worse than the No. 2 playoff seed.

At 8-0, the Mavericks are tied for the top spot in 22-6A with Deer Park, which has been dominant in getting to 8-0 in the standings.

SBGSA 10U Tigers finish second at La Porte



The 10-under Tigers of the South Belt Girls Softball Association finished second in their age group at the La Porte Invitational. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Savannah Sandoval, Bella Uribe, Miia Soto, Lucia Gonzalez, Melaynee Resendez, Adrianna Robinson, Sophia Robinson, Kailynn Scott, (back row) coaches Osvaldo Uribe, Warren Robinson and Arturo Resendez. Not pictured are players Jazelle Saucedo and Anna Bankson and coach Juan Saucedo.

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CALENDAR

It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit <https://aaohouston.org/meetings/>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for Al-Anon meetings, visit <https://www.houstonalananon.org/online-meetings.html>.

NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - Visit <https://aclunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> or email at jpochsner@aol.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" at First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aaohouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Details are on Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under calendar.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, Monday -Thursday, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, visit <https://aaohouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners> or call 713-686-6300.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's open group, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church. Call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/> for details.
FRIDAY, APRIL 23
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
Noon
Hometown Heroes - Ballroom dances are open Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 - 3:30 p.m. and Fridays, noon - 1:30 p.m. on the 3,630 sq. ft. room equipped with floating hardwood floor. These are not dance lessons but casual dances. For details, call the park office at 281-554-1180.
2 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - Bluegrass is back with many events April 23-24 at the Couthatte Ranch and RV park in Bellville, Texas. Plan to attend for food, fun and music. Friday is free; Saturday is \$10 cover. For details, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church. Call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All in-person events are canceled at this time. All services will be performed online. To join the 7 p.m. Friday night service or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, email President@Shaarhashalom.org to get the link.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, APRIL 24
7:30 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
1 p.m.
Bay Area Bluegrass Association - Bluegrass is back with many events April 23-24 at the Couthatte Ranch and RV park in Bellville, Texas. Plan to attend for food, fun and music. Friday is free; Saturday is \$10 cover. For information, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.
SUNDAY, APRIL 25
8 p.m.
AA - at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, APRIL 26
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets on a virtual site at <https://youngprofessionaltoastmasters.com/>. Call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.
7 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801 for more information.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, APRIL 27
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
Narcotics NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
Narcotics NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit bayareaturningpoint.org.
8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - CrossRoads UMC meeting. See Friday's notice.
THURSDAY, APRIL 29
7 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association - meets on a conference call meeting temporarily. Civic club meeting conference dial-in is 605-475-6006 Access Code: 4382419. Visit the Facebook page of Kirkwood Civic Club or call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990 for additional information.

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San Jacinto College announces summer camp sessions for community members

San Jac College announced its lineup of fun, engaging, and educational summer camps and career days for ages 6-18, spanning music, STEM, career exploration and more. Sessions will be held in June and July, both in person and online.

Currently, all San Jacinto College COVID-19 protocols – including wearing a face covering, completing a daily prescreening questionnaire and social distancing – will remain in effect at all campuses, college facilities and college events, including summer camps, until further notice.

To learn more about these summer camps and career days and to register, visit sanjac.edu/summer-camps.

trip to Space Center Houston, NASA Johnson Space Center Mission Control and the Sonny Carter Neutral Buoyancy Lab.

Industry career fairs
Choose a half-day or full-day session and learn about various careers in process technology, instrumentation, environmental health and safety, electrical, inspection, and welding with hands-on activities at the college's new LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy and Technology.

Agnes: 16-18; registration fee: \$5 per session.
Dates/time: June 2-3; 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1-5 p.m.
Location: San Jac Central campus, building C45.

Firefighting Career Day
High schoolers interested in exploring the firefighting profession will get an inside look at the college's firefighting facilities as they learn about what it takes to join this exciting field. Attendees will observe a variety of firefighting and rescue skills, see how fire spreads through a building, and participate in hands-on activities.

Agnes: 16-18; registration fee: \$5.
Dates/time: June 4-25; 9 a.m. - noon.
Location: Maritime Technology and Training Center.

Maritime Career Day
This camp is a fun way to explore exciting careers in the area's thriving maritime industry. Activities include a tour of the ship simulator, fire field, water survival tank, lifeboat davit, and hands-on training aids. Attendees should bring a change of clothes and a towel for the first day of each session.

Agnes: 16-18; registration fee: \$5.
Dates/time: June 3-4, June 24-25; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (June 3 and June 24) and 9 a.m. - noon. (June 4 and June 25).
Location: Maritime Technology and Training Center.

Transportation Institute
High school students can get an inside look at the transportation industry during this three-week camp that focuses on the land, water, and air transportation sectors and the education and experience necessary to be successful. STEM knowledge will be emphasized, along with employability and interpersonal skills.

Agnes: grades 9-12 for the 2020-2021 school year; registration fee: none.
Dates/time: June 7-25; 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: San Jac Central Campus Transportation Center, building C26.

Pathway to the Stars
Campers will experience hands-on STEM activities that focus on space exploration and NASA's journey to Mars such as human health in space, radiation effects on spacesuits, energy resources, and navigation and communication technology. Supplies will be provided for pick-up at the college with information provided after registration.

Agnes: grades 4-5 and 6-8; registration fee: none.
Dates: June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 12-16, July 19-23 and July 26-30
Times: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. - noon on Friday.
Location: Online

Robot Ruckus Camp
Robot Ruckus provides opportunities to have fun while learning about science, math, technology, teamwork and problem solving through robotics creating their own robots using Ozobots, Spheros, and LEGO robots, drones and gyroscopes.

Agnes: 9-11; registration fee: \$200.
Dates/times: June 28-July 1; 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Location: San Jac Central campus, building C18.

Pathway to the Stars
Campers will experience hands-on STEM activities that focus on space exploration and NASA's journey to Mars such as human health in space, radiation effects on spacesuits, energy resources, and navigation and communication technology. Supplies will be provided for pick-up at the college with information provided after registration.

Agnes: grades 4-5 and 6-8; registration fee: none.
Dates: June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 12-16, July 19-23 and July 26-30
Times: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. - noon on Friday.
Location: Online

Pathway to the Stars
Campers will experience hands-on STEM activities that focus on space exploration and NASA's journey to Mars such as human health in space, radiation effects on spacesuits, energy resources, and navigation and communication technology. Supplies will be provided for pick-up at the college with information provided after registration.

Agnes: grades 4-5 and 6-8; registration fee: none.
Dates: June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 12-16, July 19-23 and July 26-30
Times: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. - noon on Friday.
Location: Online

Dobie cheerleaders win awards



Dobie High School cheerleaders finished off the season with a banquet celebration. Shown above are JV cheerers holding their plaques, left to right, freshman Audrey Paredes – Most Dedicated; freshman Kimberly Tovar – Most Congenial; and freshman Alyssa Allen – Most Versatile. See related photo on Page 1.

Career Tech archery team competes



Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School officials congratulated their archery team that participated at the state competition. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Malik Elhinnawi; Suzanna Schuster; Ilse Martinez; Jazmine Rivas; Alan Masters, coach; (back row) Brandie Gwaltney, coach; Nicholas McCartney; Addison Masters; Justice Sears; Edwin Vazquez; Alejandro Mendez; Logan Vaneek; Carson Hutcherson; Clayton Goforth; Angel Corea; Alexis Benestante; Timothy McCartney; Chloe Korzekwa; and Alana Gibson.

Thompson gets Pearland go-ahead

Continued from Page 1

Following the historic storm, Thompson students were temporarily housed at Beverly Hills Intermediate for five months, while school officials and an independent committee studied the issue.

Construction of the new \$45 million school, which will permanently replace the Thompson campus on Sage-downe, is slated to begin in July, with an expected completion date of March 2023. The school is scheduled to open in August 2023.

Powell assured Pearland officials the school district would be a good steward of the property moving forward. "We look forward to being good members of Pearland good neighbors of course," Powell said. "Thompson Intermediate is an outstanding school doing outstanding things."

When we heard about the discontent of our South Belt members in Green Tee and even some of our Riverstone Ranch friends, we got together as a school district and a school board and decided we were going to do the best thing, regardless of the price tag, which was quite hefty," said Powell. "We only have about two blocks of homes in Green Tee that go to Pasadena ISD, but we still want to be good partners, not only to the city but to the folks in the neighborhoods we serve."

New plans call for relocating the Thompson campus to a piece of property in the 8700 block of Hughes Road in the Pearland city limits.

The current Thompson campus suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Harvey.

City of Houston trash guidelines set

Continued from Page 1

– No more than 8 cubic yards (about two pickup trucks).
– If more than 8 cubic yards, materials will not be collected. A max of 4 cubic yards of the 8 total cubic yards may be of building material generated by the resident in connection with the maintenance of the residential property, excluding roofing shingles, brick, plaster and concrete.

– Tree/junk waste from contractors working on residential property will not be collected.

– Contractors are responsible for the removal of their debris and waste. This debris includes, but is not limited to, trimming and removal of trees, remodeling, new construction and roofing.

– If authorized items are mixed with unauthorized items, the material will not be sorted and will not be collected.

The city is running behind of scheduled heavy trash days but they are trying to get it together considering there is more trash than usual.

Residents who wish to dispose of waste before their scheduled once-per-month collection may use one of six Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Centers.

Visit the Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Center web page at <https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html> for more information or call 311.

If a resident would like to know what days their heavy trash, trash bins and recycle bin days are, then they may visit <https://mycity.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=63ed96f439fe404387c9f9e479cd4965>.

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Thompson Intermediate awarded Nancy O'Connell for Paraprofessional of the Year. The staff is thankful for all that she does to support the students.

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