

Over The Back Fence by Jan



HAPPY 4TH BIRTHDAY, KENNEDY!
Kennedy Grace Flowers turns 4 years old on Dec. 15, and celebrated with an Ariel-themed (mermaid) party at grandparents Mike and Karen Flowers' house in Dickinson. Best wishes are sent to Kennedy from little brother Owen, parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers, grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry of South Belt, uncles Tyler, Austin and Joey, aunts Jenny and Nyssa, and cousins Brayden, Baylee and Jade.

ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY, LUCY
Lucy Peterson celebrates her birthday Monday, Dec. 19. She is wished a wonderful day from her family, especially her nine grandchildren, and the Leader staff.

JOEY CELEBRATES THE BIG '3-0'
Joseph "Joey" Hayes celebrates his 30th birthday Wednesday, Dec. 21. Best wishes and lots of love are sent from wife Nyssa; mom and dad, Jannie and Robert Scarberry; sister Jenny and children Brayden and Baylee; sister Stacey, husband Stephen and children Kennedy and Owen; brother Austin and daughter Jade; and brother Tyler. Joey was a member of the Dobie High School Class of 2000. He is currently in his eighth year in the U.S. Coast Guard.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 15 through Dec. 21.

Atkinson Elementary
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Dana DiMarco Dec. 21.

Bush Elementary
The day for a cake for Lilia Arrambide is Dec. 16. Birthday wishes are sent to Rebecca Aronson Dec. 18. Dec. 20 is the day to celebrate another year for Rolando Merchan.

Frazier Elementary
A special birthday greeting is sent to Rhonda Jacobs Dec. 15.

Meador Elementary
Dec. 15 is the day for a celebration for Cara Wildermuth. Tricia Moscarelli enjoys a birthday Dec. 19.

Stuchbery Elementary
Marking a birthday Dec. 16 is Kevin Albert. A birthday is enjoyed by Molly Angie Dec. 17. Dec. 18 is the day to celebrate for Debora Ruiz.

Melillo Middle School
On Dec. 15, Sheri Richardson is wished a happy birthday.

Morris Middle School
The day for a party for Michelle Ham is Dec. 17. Maria Ramos has a birthday Dec. 19. Greetings for a happy

birthday are sent to Elizabeth Hovland Dec. 20.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Dec. 15 is the day for a double-layer cake for Angela Butler and Velia Grado-Gutierrez. Blow out the birthday candles for Geraldine Jones Dec. 18. A special birthday greeting is sent to Mai Tram Tong on Dec. 20. Celebrating a birthday Dec. 21 is Jaimie Green.

Thompson Intermediate
A birthday is celebrated by Janice Frankum Dec. 15. Blow out the birthday candles for Jennifer Guerrero Dec. 16. On Dec. 20, birthday wishes are sent to Jerrell Hudson.

Dobie High
The day for a party for Willie Ansley and Matt Park is Dec. 15. Double birthday greetings are sent to Lazara Medrano and Melissa Zepeda Dec. 17. Celebrating a birthday Dec. 18 is Lilia Salas. Three cheers for a happy birthday are sent to Christine Roberts, Jeffrey Spencer and Maria Villegas who share a birthday Dec. 19.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
E-mail birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Burnett Fall Festival fun for all



Sylvia Lazard and Tammy Dayrit worked the moonwalks.

Burnett Elementary School held its first fall festival recently. The festival provided hours of enjoyment for families, staff and the community. Participants enjoyed activities such as festival games, moonwalks, vendor booths, prizes, a silent auction and, of course, the delicious food including smoked turkey legs and sausage-on-a-stick.



The cooking crew included Javier Paredes, Luis Fuentes and Luis Fuentes Jr.

Photos submitted



Snack walk participants pictured are, Apollo Contreras, Jessica Maldonado (parent), Devin Childs and Luke Wittenberg.



Members of the Thank You Bunch are, Eduardo Macias, Reyna Galvan, Lizbeth Flores and Victor Vasquez, all students in Robert Hughes' first-grade class.

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Frazier holds Reading Genre Night

Frazier Elementary held its first Reading Genre Night on Dec. 6. Each grade level focused on one reading genre, including poetry, fairy tales or humorous fiction. Families participated in fun activities as they learned about the different genres. Students, parents and faculty members had a great time wearing pajamas and enjoying cookies and milk. The teachers decorated the pods into Winter Wonderlands, and children were able to vote on their favorite grade-level presentation. According to those who attended, the night was a huge success.

At left: Albert and Victoria Ngo make crowns in Fairy Tale Land.



Evelyn Wheeler (middle) is greeted by Santa after a ride on the Polar Express while little sister, Olivia, looks on.



Nerieda Tamez poses with elf, Mary Tran (kindergarten teacher), in Poetry Land where the students participated in The Night Before Christmas activities.

Certificate courses in legal field

Get the skills needed to start a new career or enhance a current one with online courses offered by University of Houston-Clear Lake to prepare students for careers in fast-growing fields of paralegism. Registration is now open for classes running through Feb. 25, online.

Paralegal certificate courses teach basic legal concepts including the American legal system, terminology and ethics. Advanced courses build upon the basic knowledge with classes in specialized facets of contemporary law.

Legal Secretary, Law School Prep and Legal Nurse Consulting Training courses prepare students for careers in law or medicine and train medical professionals for a career as legal nurse consultants.

Fees cover tuition for seven-week courses, excluding textbooks. For more information on course fees and schedules or to register, visit <http://www.uhclearlake.edu/camp>, call UH-Clear Lake's Center for Advanced Management Programs at 281-283-3133 or 281-283-3121, or e-mail camp@uhclearlake.edu.

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Remember When

35 years ago (1976)
Rumors circulated regarding an attempt to establish a Houston Municipal School District, which would take all students living in Houston out of the Pasadena Independent School District.

The last portion of a \$17 million bond issue, which was approved by voters in 1972, was awarded at a special session of the PISD board of trustees meeting.

30 years ago (1981)
Lisa Bankard suffered a brain contusion and swelling from blunt trauma following a car accident at Hall Road and Beamer. She was taken to Ben Taub Hospital where she died in intensive care.

An area man was arrested by Houston police after he rammed his auto into two vehicles in the parking lot of Pizza Hut on Fuqua.

25 years ago (1986)
Personnel from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department stood by for 12 hours at a local Texaco station because of a leak in one of the station's gas tanks.

Harris County Commissioner's Court approved construction of a bridge spanning the Beamer Road ditch at Astoria Boulevard.

20 years ago (1991)
Sisters Karen Oswald and Lisa Lazenberry gave birth on the same day to Amanda Rose Oswald and Hugh Gardner Lazenberry Jr.

Four Sageglenn sixth-graders who transferred to Webster Intermediate from Weber Elementary School were denied bus service to Webster. This was despite the fact that a Webster bus with empty seats already stopped on their street.

15 years ago (1996)
For the second year in a row, the Dobie varsity cheerleaders placed first in the UCA state cheerleading competition held in San Marcus.

Lawrence Ruby Sherman, 39, a man thought to be homeless, was shot by a Precinct 8 constable deputy when Sherman allegedly attacked him with a two-by-four which had nails on the end.

10 years ago (2001)
Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital officials announced approval of funding for a \$70 million expansion to the 15-year-old facility. Thurman Hall, 26, was arrested and held without bond for theft and burglary. He was reportedly storing stolen tools

in his girlfriend's nonoperational vehicle. Police confiscated the tools, and when Hall reported them as stolen, he was arrested.

5 years ago (2006)
New offices in the Harris County Courthouse annex on Scarsdale at Beamer were ready for occupancy by Precinct 2 deputy constables.

Two purses stolen from cars within a 10-minute time frame prompted a warning for shoppers to keep windows up and doors locked.

Pasadena and Clear Creek school districts were preparing for changes to the upcoming school year's calendar. While in previous years the districts had been able to apply for waivers to begin classroom instruction early, new laws prohibited schools from starting before August 27.

During a PISD board of trustees meeting, South Belt resident and trustee Fred Roberts questioned the practice of adding money to a contract bid. This raised the lowest bid to an amount higher than the next lowest bidder, negating the benefit of paying the least amount.

1 year ago (2010)
Deputies Aaron Baldwin and Roland Rivera from the

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office responded to an alarm at a computer repair store in the 12300 block of Scarsdale. When the deputies arrived, they discovered a male suspect still in the store, who then broke through the building's back door and fled on foot. The deputies, joined by Deputy Jason Curry, gave chase through the surrounding neighborhood. The suspect, Gregory Shanks, was caught roughly 20 minutes later hiding at a residence on Poplarwood with bags of money from the store's safe. Shanks, 48, was subsequently arrested and charged with burglary of a business.

The Dobie High School Academic Decathlon Team won first place overall and first place in Super Quiz at the district meet with a score of 48,196. On the seven multiple-choice objective tests, the team achieved the highest score not only in Texas, but in the nation. This was the first time since 2001 that any team outside California had achieved the highest score on a test. The team would move on to Regionals, to be held at Clear Brook High School in January.

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Vultures on Blackhawk



Vultures were recently spotted on Blackhawk trying to get to a cat that had been hit by a car on the road by Bishop Park. There are 14 vultures in the photo, but there were many more circling around.

Photo by Valencia Barrientos, Thompson seventh-grade student

Frazier Elementary second-graders write to Santa

Continued from Page 5A

I want a PSP because I ben so good by Lisening to my Mom. Happy christmas Santa.

Gabriel
For crims I wat a drtbake. For crims I wat a frotwale and the new bopopit. I hafto hlmeit. I nede to be nise.

Jordan
You are the best. You give us Presint. I wat lick a ball for Crimles presintc. I like you cus you gived us presentc.

Vivianna
I wish you could give me a toy. I also want a DSI. Then, I want a book, too. Happy Christ-mas Santa.

Peter
How old are you? Also how do your rainders fly? Santa I want a playmobil casoul for chtrimsas please. Your so nice, genaris, kind, sweet for giving Everyone preants evey year.

Alana Paige Pogue
I want a DS3. I want a Monstr truk, race car and will fire.

David
Pam William's class
Did you have a nice day Santa? Santa how many rain-deers do you have? Do you give kids a lot of toys? Santa can you give me a fast car, psp, and a big bike. Santa how high do you fly in the sky?

Charles Baker
Can you please bring me a 3D DS? I will have Christmas at my House.

Christian
I'm glad Santa you give us presents. When it is Christmas is when you have fimly over

and cuis over and grandma over and grandpal over. Santa what is it like at your place?

Ja'Marian Bryan
I want a cloring book. I want a new pensle. I want toy cars. I want a xdox games. For Chrismis I want a movie. I want a book.

Ruben Castillo
May I git a PSP. May I git a Lego set. May I git a Laptop. May I git a xbox 360. May I git a blue pit. May I git a mongoosbick.

Jefferson Ford
For Christmas I want a Puppy. Santa you are nice and helpful. You are the best. I love you and my family. And I want a DSI and a psp for Christmas. Thank you Santa. You are the best Santa I ever have. I love you Santa Claus so much.

Rosie Loredo
You are so nice you give toys to kids and family. You are so nice. I like your hat. I hope you give them lots of toys. I love Santa Claus.

Emerie
I want a Xboxconnect games for my Xboxconnect. I am going to be in Noth Daco Da for Christmas. Santa can you put the presits in the living room? Can I have some transformers and some coen choclet?

Riley Mercer
I want a DsxiL for

Christmas and I want you to get my brother Jesse Mitchell a nother Xbox 360 because I broke the last one.

Donovan Mitchell
Can I Plees have a Ed ds, can I Plees have chranformrs. Can my siser have a ds i.

Alexander
I would like an ipod touch.

and a new boke. Just to let you know you are the best. Does it take a-lot of work to build toys? If it takes a-lot of work I'd like to help you but I can't help you because I have to go to school.

Joshua Svarplaitis
I wante a bird and a xbox 360 and a psp and a play

saytan and a lot of games and a dase and a ds 3D case for chrismes.

Jaydon Thomas
Those presents are really good. For Chirstmas may I please have a bike because mine broke. Do you steal have those deer? I ask because there nice and they don't

bite.

Khari Walker
I want a Easy Bake. I want a FurReal. I want a Figit. I want a Falries. I want a all the BRatz. I want a LaLaloopsy. tablit I pad, MonsteR High, Squinkies, Hello Kitty bike, Pink Razor, Dall house.

Alicia Davila

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Christmas tree safety tips offered

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are several hundred fires in the U.S. every year related to Christmas tree fires, with most occurring in late December to early January.

While, Christmas tree fires are not as common, when they occur, they are likely to be serious. On average, according to NFPA statistics, one of every 18 reported fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in death.

Most Christmas tree fires are related to electrical shorts in the lighting on the trees. In December through January of this past year's holiday season, Houston Fire Department responded to at least two major fires caused by electrical shorts of the Christmas tree lights. These fires caused more than \$100,000 in combined damages.

According to the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association, the drought has not made the trees drier; however, they are smaller this year. Growers have also been cutting their trees a little earlier to sell, meaning the trees will possibly dry out quicker than usual.

HFD reminds residents that when placing the tree, make sure it is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, candles, heat vents or lights. Also, make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1 to 2 inches from the base of the trunk and add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily. This safety tip is especially important since the trend this year is to purchase trees six to eight weeks prior to Christmas.

When lighting the tree, never use lit candles to decorate it, always use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory, and replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.

Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs, and be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed, and make sure a working smoke detector is in place.

After Christmas, get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed outside against the home.

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department will embark on its 21st year of Christmas tree recycling after the holiday by providing recycling drop-off sites throughout Houston.

For additional information about the city's recycling program, visit http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/christmastree_recycling.html for a list of locations and other information.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

6:00 P.M. – Support Group
@ Houston Obesity Surgery
4009 Bellaire Blvd., Suite K, Houston, TX

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH

9:00 A.M. – Surgical Weight Loss Seminar
10:00 A.M. – Support Group
@ Hilton at Houston Hobby Airport
8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

5:00 P.M. – Pre-Op Group
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7:00 P.M. – Support Group
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Top player, 5 defenders plus 3 on offense make District 22-5A varsity first team squad

Player of the Year
Andrew Robinson, Dobie, Sr., RB
Offensive Most Valuable Player
Austin Rainer, Deer Park, Sr., QB
Coach of the Year
Chris Massey, Deer Park
Newcomer of the Year
Reggie Turner, Memorial, Soph., RB/Rec.
Defensive Most Valuable Player
Casey Westmoreland, Deer Park, Sr., DE



Patrick Hurst, a junior running back at Dobie, got his first chance at the varsity level this season and made the most of it, earning a spot on the 22-5A first team.



The district's Newcomer of the Year a season ago, Dobie middle linebacker Jordin Harrison (30) followed up that effort with another great season. For 2011, Harrison was unanimously chosen as a first-team player at his position.



At right, sophomore defensive end Marlon Jackson was one of the top first-year varsity players within the District 22-5A ranks as he garnered first team considerations from each of the league's coaches, making him a unanimous selection.

Photos
by

David Flickinger



Kerry Henderson, a senior defensive tackle from Dobie, handled the dirty work in the middle for the Longhorns en route to being chosen as a first-team performer among his District 22-5A colleagues.



Above, Dobie junior defensive end Jonathan Jones (99) caused opposing offenses plenty of problems this season as one of the Longhorns' top pass rush ends. Accordingly, Jones was a unanimous 22-5A first team selection.

At right, Longhorn senior offensive lineman Treg Spigner was also a first-team pick, proving to be the team's top performer along the front line.

First Team Defensive Unit

Defensive Ends

U – Marlon Jackson, Dobie, Soph. 6'1", 210 lbs.
 U – John Jones, Dobie, Jr., 6'1", 215 lbs.
 Nicholas Cross, South Houston, Sr., 5'8", 210 lbs.

Defensive Tackles

U – Kerry Henderson, Dobie, Sr., 6'0", 210 lbs.
 U – Juan Adame, Deer Park, Sr., 5'9", 210 lbs.
 Mark McNeil, Memorial, Sr., 6'0", 250 lbs.

Inside Linebackers

U – Kenneth Marshall, S.Houston, Sr., 6'0", 210 lbs.
 U – Jordin Harrison, Dobie, Jr., 6'0", 240 lbs.
 U – Tyler Butterfras, Deer Park, Jr., 5'11", 200 lbs.

Outside Linebackers

U – Chris Uzomah, Dobie, Sr., 6'0", 210 lbs.
 Manuel Tarango, Sam Rayburn, Sr., 5'10", 180 lbs.
 John Martinez, Deer Park, Sr., 6'1", 210 lbs.

Secondary

U – Vaughn Leonard, Dobie, Sr., 5'9", 160 lbs.
 U – Ryan Martinez, Deer Park, Sr., 5'6", 145 lbs.
 U – A.J. Gill, Memorial, Sr., 5'10", 165 lbs.
 Adrian Boutte, Memorial, Jr., 5'9", 165 lbs.
 Tim DeSoto, Sam Rayburn, Sr., 5'9", 160 lbs.
 Oscar Castillo, Pasadena, Sr., 5'9", 160 lbs.
 Calvin Mitchell, South Houston, Sr., 5'10", 185 lbs.

Punter

Uriel Cardenas, South Houston, 5'7", 160 lbs.

Punt Returner

U – A.J. Gill, Memorial, Sr., 5'10", 165 lbs.
 Freddy Sevilla, Sam Rayburn, Sr., 6'0", 170 lbs.

First Team Offensive Unit

Quarterback

Rudis Requeno, South Houston, Sr., 5'9", 185 lbs.

Running Backs

U – Julian Nance, Pasadena, Sr., 5'10", 185 lbs.
 U – Patrick Hurst, Dobie, Jr., 5'9", 170 lbs.
 U – Demetrius Banks, Deer Park, Sr., 6'1", 200 lbs.

Fullback

Ahrmon McLeod, Memorial, Jr., 5'9", 175 lbs.

Receivers

U – Eric Luna, Deer Park, Jr., 5'10", 165 lbs.
 U – Brandon Thomas, Memorial, Sr., 6'2", 175 lbs.
 U – Toree Daniel, South Houston, Jr., 5'11", 170 lbs.
Vance Leonard, Dobie, Sr., 6'4", 200 lbs.

Tight Ends

Jesus Aguayo, Sam Rayburn, Sr., 6'2", 200 lbs.
 Dorian Johnson, Memorial, Jr., 6'1", 195 lbs.

Center

Chance Moser, Deer Park, Sr., 6'1", 270 lbs.

Linemen

Jayson Rhodes, Deer Park, Sr., 6'2", 290 lbs.
 Tyler Schoonover, Memorial, Sr., 6'1", 270 lbs.
Treg Spigner, Dobie, Sr., 6'2", 280 lbs.
 Armando Chavana, Pasadena, Sr., 6'0", 275 lbs.
 Shaun McCaffrey, Deer Park, Sr., 5'10", 200 lbs.
 Gip Sills, Sam Rayburn, Jr., 6'0", 260 lbs.

Kicker

U – Zane Gonzalez, Deer Park, Jr., 6'0", 150 lbs.

Kick Returner

Freddie Sevilla, Sam Rayburn, Sr., 6'0", 170 lbs.
 Cole Bedford, Deer Park, Soph., 5'11", 175 lbs.

Deep Snapper

Zach Purvis, Sam Rayburn, Sr., 6'3", 210 lbs.

U – Unanimous selection

Players named on basis of coaches' votes

Combining size with great hands and a knack for pulling the ball down in traffic, Dobie senior receiver Vance Leonard was named to the District 22-5A first team after leading the Longhorns in touchdown receptions during the season.



At left, two more District 22-5A first team picks were defensive back Vaughn Leonard and linebacker Chris Uzomah, both unanimous picks via a coaches' vote. Leonard led the team in interceptions, and Uzomah earned his second straight first team honor.

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