



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 50, No. 1

### Leader seeks submissions

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

### Knights hold barbecue sale

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue fundraiser at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost will be \$12 for a pulled-pork sandwich, cole slaw, chips and soft drink; and \$6 for sausage-on-a-stick. Proceeds will benefit the church's capital campaign.

### Sagemont to meet Feb. 4

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Ellington holds eRecycling

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org) or call 311.

### City to collect heavy trash

City of Houston residents living in the South Belt community south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Feb. 13 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua (and west of the Gulf Freeway) will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Feb. 14 (second Friday of the month). February is for junk waste but tree waste will also be accepted. Pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste) or call 311.

### New Covenant feeds needy

Each month, New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have food distribution events the first and third Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies last. The purpose of the events is to provide food to people in need. For additional information, contact the church at 281-484-4230.

### Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event will be Thursday, Jan. 30, with another event happening the following Thursday, Feb. 6. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Deats Road in Dickinson to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access in Texas City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until further notice.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 519/Main Street in La Marque to Tiki Drive in Galveston daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

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.

### Beltway closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. until further notice. Significant delays are expected.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

## 4-year-old Jessup student brings gun to school

### Parent charged with child endangerment, says student unaware of weapon

A 4-year-old special needs student at Jessup Elementary was found with a loaded gun in their backpack at the area school Thursday, Jan. 23, according to Pasadena ISD officials.

The child's father, 30-year-old Jonatan Alexander Polio, was arrested and charged with endangering a child after he told police he had accidentally placed the gun there and forgot about it. Polio said the child never knew the gun was inside the bag.

The weapon was discovered by an early childhood teacher as she was checking her students in for the day.

Upon finding the gun, the teacher notified campus administrators, who then contacted the Pasadena ISD Police Department.

Polio was arrested that same day. His bond was set at \$25,000.

Jessup Principal Ryan Pavone emailed parents notifying them of the event.

"This morning, one of our early childhood teachers found a firearm in a student's backpack as she was checking in her students for the day," the email stated. "This was immediately reported to campus administrators, Pasadena ISD Police Department and the backpack containing the

firearm was secured. As part of their investigation, the Pasadena ISD Police Department interviewed the student's parent who shared that he had accidentally left the firearm in the student's backpack and the student was not aware. The Pasadena ISD Police Department in working with the Harris County District Attorney's Office took appropriate action. The safety of our students and staff is always the top priority. As a Gun-Free School Zone, the possession and use of firearms in school zones is prohibited. If you have a firearm in your home, please secure the firearm in a place that children cannot access. I

want to urge you to take this opportunity to talk to your child about gun safety. I will be sending additional information through Parent Square related to the current Safe Gun Storage Law. I am very proud of our teacher who discovered this, my administration team, and our Pasadena ISD Police Department for their rapid response in handling this very serious incident. Keeping our school safe is a team effort among the students, staff and parents. Please encourage your children to report anything that seems unusual or makes them feel uncomfortable. When we work together, we can make our school safer."

## Sagemont community covered in snowfall



The South Belt community received a rare flurry of snowfall this past week, with the area receiving 3 to 4 inches of snow. Many residents took to social media to share their photos of the unusual occurrence, memorializing the occasion. The aerial drone footage of snow-covered Sagemont Church shown above was shared to the People of Sagemont 2 Facebook page. Photo by Michael Ramos

## Man fatally shot near Edgebrook

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a male found around 2:20 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, in the parking lot of an apartment complex on the 9600 block of Intervale near the Gulf Freeway and Edgebrook.

The identity of the victim was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, officers were dispatched to a shooting call at the apartment complex at the above address and found a male unresponsive in the driver's side of a vehicle in the parking lot. He had suffered at least one gunshot wound and paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene.

Investigators said that evidence indicated the shooting actually occurred in the parking lot of another nearby apartment complex in the 9800 block of Hollock Street. It appears the victim managed to drive to the Intervale Street location where someone called 911.

At press time, there was no known suspect or motive in the shooting.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously with Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## South Belt community receives 4 inches of snow

### Winter storm brings freezing temps, closures; Area spared power losses

A hard freeze this past week brought a rare snowstorm to the South Belt community, with some spots reporting up to 4 inches of snow — likely the most in the area's history.

Some parts of Baytown reported up to 6 inches

of snowfall between Monday, Jan. 20, and Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Dubbed Winter Storm Enzo by meteorologists, the storm brought the most snow to the state in approximately 130 years, officials said.

## Road rage incident leads to two felonies

### 2 pedestrians struck by driver, transported to hospital

A driver was arrested Sunday, Jan. 19, after an auto-pedestrian accident that local police are describing as a "road rage incident" injured two individuals in the 9400 block of Clearwood near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.



Stephen Barrera

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, a patrol deputy observed a dis-

turbance/accident at the above address, in which suspect driver Stephen Barrera cut through the parking lot of a business at a high rate of speed, and as he exited onto the roadway, struck two pedestrians as they were crossing the street.

The two pedestrians were transported to a nearby hospital, where they were treated for their injuries. The extent of their injuries was unknown at press time.

Upon consultation with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, the deputy arrested Barrera and charged him with two felony counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Temperatures dropped into the upper teens Wednesday morning, steadily climbing throughout the sunny afternoon that followed the historic snowstorm.

The warmer temperatures Wednesday afternoon (mid-40s) allowed many South Belt residents to play in the snow, with several taking advantage of the opportunity to build a snowman or have snowball fights. Some residents were reportedly using the slopes of the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin to sled down.

Unlike with other hard freezes in recent years, the Greater Houston area was spared widespread power outages, according to city officials.

Tuesday's closures at Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD campuses reported on in last week's *Leader* were extended through Wednesday, as freezing temperatures and icy road conditions continued into the following day. (Monday was a school holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.)

City courthouses also remained closed Tues-

day, and Wednesday's Houston City Council meeting was canceled.

Dozens of warming centers were opened throughout the area by city and county officials for the safety of local homeless and others without heat. Houston Mayor John Whitmire said at least two deaths were attributed to the storm, with another two likely deaths awaiting medical examiner confirmation.

Despite an uptick in traffic accidents due to the icy road conditions, no road fatalities were reported, according to Whitmire.

The mayor further said there were no reported deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. Houston firefighters/paramedics, however, did respond to at least four possible carbon monoxide poisoning calls, Whitmire said.

While Wednesday's sunshine quickly turned to gray skies and rain, Thursday's warmer temperatures returned the city to a sense of normalcy, with students returning to class and most area businesses reopening.

## Double shooting takes place on Telephone

### Shooting kills 1, injures 1; Killer remains at-large

Houston police are searching for a killer after a shooting Sunday, Jan. 26, left one man dead and another man injured in a parking lot adjacent to a taco truck in the 6700 block of SH 35/Telephone Road near Airport Boulevard.

According to Houston Police Department officials, officers responded to the incident after being alerted by the owner of the taco truck.

Upon their arrival around 11:30 p.m., officers found two men with gunshot wounds inside of a gray Nissan Versa.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced the 20-year-old-male passenger dead at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds.

The 37-year-old male driver also suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was taken to a nearby trauma center and is expected to survive.

Investigators said that evidence from the scene indicates that unknown suspects fired upon the Nissan from inside a black SUV and then fled east on Drouet Street.

There was no description of the suspects. The motive behind the shooting was unknown at press time.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## Leader continues its Year in Review

The *Leader* continues its look back on 2024 with a list of some of the significant stories of the year. For highlights up to March 14, see the Jan. 23 edition of the *Leader*.

### March 14

Newly elected Houston Mayor John Whitmire was the featured speaker at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 38th annual gala, held Friday, March 8, at the Hope Village Event Center in Friendswood. The chamber's 2024 officers were also sworn in at the event, including Noble Alix, who would serve as the

group's new chairman. Judge Jo Ann Delgado was presented the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year award. In January 2001, Delgado was elected justice of the peace, Precinct 2, Place 1 of Harris County, the fourth-largest county in the United States. She made history as the first Hispanic female to hold the office. She brought to the bench more than 41 years of experience in justice court and county court administration. Delgado has been a champion for the South Belt-Ellington area and

Continued on Page 2



## Garza builds 8-foot snowman

Winter Storm Enzo struck the South Belt community this past week, dumping between 3 and 4 inches of snowfall late Monday/early Tuesday. Many area residents took advantage of the rare occasion to have a snowball fight or build a snowman. Perhaps the largest snowman to be erected in the community was the one shown to the left constructed by South Belt resident Natalie Garza, which stood a whopping 8 feet tall. The photo was shared by Garza on the People of Sagemont 2 Facebook page. See related photo on Page 2.

# Hegar announces \$700M in awards

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar recently announced awards totaling \$701.9 million for the second round of the Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas Program (BOOT II), aimed at bridging the digital divide and enhancing broadband access for unserved and underserved communities across the state.

This initiative, funded partly by the federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and supplemented by voter-approved state revenue, was established to connect more than 95,000 unserved locations to high-speed, reliable internet.

"This historic investment will ensure that reliable, high-speed broadband — critical to health care, education and economic development — is available to every person in these counties," Hegar said. "The counties selected for this program demonstrated a pressing need for broadband infrastructure investment, and this program will provide vital assistance to help these communities access essential online resources."

Administered by the Comptroller's Broadband

Development Office (BDO), BOOT II is a competitive grant program designed to support countywide infrastructure projects that, when completed, will provide broadband service to homes and businesses currently lacking reliable internet access.

Following a thorough assessment of demonstrated need, funding was made available for up to two counties from each of the Comptroller's 12 economic regions based on the percentage of locations lacking broadband service at speeds of 100/20 megabits per second. The program prioritizes the deployment of fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) technology, ensuring that eligible locations receive high-quality internet connections. All award recipients offering FTTH committed to providing symmetrical internet speeds of 1 gigabit per second for fiber projects along with an unbundled, low-cost option for every funded location. Projects must be complete and operational by the end of 2026.

Of the \$701.9 million available to be awarded for BOOT II, the BDO has fi-

nanced agreements totaling more than \$424.6 million, which will cover projects in 13 of the 24 selected counties and connect more than 54,000 locations to high-speed, reliable internet service. The counties are Bastrop, Carson, Coleman, Edwards, Falls, Irion, Karnes, Liberty, Morris, Newton, Reagan, Throckmorton and Trinity.

The BDO is in the process of finalizing awards for an additional nine counties, which will connect almost 39,000 additional unserved locations.

While the BDO was unable to award projects in Jeff Davis and Hudspeth counties with this program, eligible locations in those counties will be included in future grant programs, including the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellite Grant programs.

The initial round of BOOT funding last summer saw \$11.4 million in grant funding for broadband infrastructure projects that supported projects for 1,528 locations and 16 counties.

# Elected officials share their words

## Miller: Dollars don't kill screwworms

The federal government has a bad habit of spending money on problems before even figuring out what's really wrong, and the recent New World screwworm scare is a prime example. This is typical Washington behavior — prematurely spending first and asking questions later. But here in Texas, we do things differently. We solve problems with proven solutions, not government handouts and wasteful spending.

While protecting Texas cattle from disease is always our number one priority, we need to carefully consider the ripple effects of drastic measures like closing the border to livestock and animal products. It's a surefire way to create a crisis where there isn't one — and consumers will feel it every time they visit the meat aisle.

Look, I know a thing or two about screwworms. I was about eleven years old when the United States eradicated the New World Screwworm. Before then, screwworms were a devastating problem for ranchers. Cattle infected with screwworms showed unmistakable and crass signs — open, festering wounds teeming with larvae. You'd see animals in obvious distress, licking at the wounds and losing weight rapidly. Believe me, if you've got a screwworm outbreak, it's not a question of "if"; there's no mistaking it. You can smell them from 100 feet away.

For starters, let's not forget the facts. We've come a long way since those dark days. The sterile fly eradication program, developed decades ago, was a game-changer. By releasing sterile male screwworm flies into the environment, we broke the reproduction cycle and wiped out the problem in the United States.

Recently, only one cow of thousands that were crossing into Mexico was found just north of the Guatemala border — 1,100 miles away from Texas — with a screwworm infection. That's proof that the system is functioning as it should. So, before we panic and shut down border crossings, let's make sure we're not creating a bigger problem than the one we're trying to solve.

Instead of recognizing this as a victory, the federal government is talking about throwing \$165 million worth of taxpayer dollars at a "solution" for a problem that hasn't been fully identified. Listen, dollars don't kill screwworms. Sterile flies do. Detection systems do. We already have the tools to manage this issue because we've been doing it successfully for decades.

Winter gives us an edge in fighting screwworm outbreaks because cooler temperatures slow down fly activity and reproduction. With fewer flies, there's less risk of infestations, giving ranchers and agencies more time to contain the problem and protect our livestock.

We already take precautions at the border. Every head of livestock crossing the U.S.-Mexico border is subject to strict quarantine and inspection protocols to protect our agriculture and food supply. Cattle are required to have health certificates, vaccinations, and testing to prevent diseases like foot-and-mouth and bovine tuberculosis from entering the U.S. In some cases, livestock are placed in quarantine for further monitoring to ensure they meet our rigorous health and safety standards.

Closing the border to livestock or animal products — even temporarily — could send shockwaves through the beef market. Mexico is one of our largest trading partners for cattle and beef, with significant imports of feeder cattle that help keep supply steady here in the U.S. Cutting off that supply could lead to a bottleneck, reducing the number of cattle available to feedlots, processors, and grocery stores. Fewer cattle mean higher beef prices, increasing inflation at the checkout line.

And let's not forget about our hard-working ranchers. Many Texas cattle producers rely on cross-border trade to keep their operations running smoothly. Shutting down the border could disrupt their business, leading to financial strain and fewer options for consumers.

As a rancher who's seen the damage screwworms can do, I know the stakes are high. But I also know we've already won this battle once, and if need be, we're equipped to win it again. The real threat here isn't the screwworm itself—it's the federal government that all too often overreacts and wastes taxpayer resources.

Protecting Texas cattle from screwworms is important, but so is keeping beef prices affordable for families and securing the livelihood of our ranchers. Closing the border might sound like a quick fix, but it's a cure that could end up being worse than the disease.

The cattle industry in Texas remains strong, and with the right approach, we'll keep it that way.

## Vickie Gerbich



Vickie Gerbich, 84, of Houston, passed away at Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital on Dec. 27, 2024.

She was born in Bremond in 1940, and was a 1959 graduate of the Houston Technical Institute. She was very devoted to her family, loved cooking, and enjoyed traveling, gambling and shopping.

Vickie was preceded in death by her parents Tom and Verna Wilganowski and her brother Ike Wilganowski. Left behind to cherish her memory is her husband of 63 years, Raymond Gerbich; daughter Renee Gerbich; son Nick Gerbich and wife Michelle; son Brian Gerbich and wife Michelle; grandchildren

# Deaths

Josh Gerbich and Nicole Gerbich; great-granddaughter, Cali Andrews; sisters Frances Baugh and Bernadette Nowlin; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was also Mimi to her granddogs who loved to visit her.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## Kathryn Ann Allen Wells



Kathryn Ann Allen Wells, born April 8, 1953, in Houston. She left to be with her lord on Jan. 26, 2025.

She is preceded in death by her father Ellis S. Allen, her mother Verna L. "Begie" Allen, her brother Michael C. Allen and former husband Charles Wells of Tool, Texas.

She is survived by those she loved brother James Allen and wife Kathy of LaPorte, sisters Susan Averre of Pasadena and Linda Butterfield and husband Johnnie of Katy. She leaves behind nephews Zachary Allen of Houston and Aaron Averre and wife Tabitha of Guam; nieces Whitney Averre of Pasadena, Lindsay Butterfield of Katy and Hollie Lane and husband Chris of Dallas; grandnieces, Mackenzie Abbott, Kailey Averre, Layla Averre, Lily Lane; and grandnephew Cooper Lane.

Kathryn was a graduate of South Houston High School Class of 1971. She was also a member of the Patriot Guard Riders. She rode with longtime friend, Ric Strood of League City.

She lived in north Texas for 20 years and returned to Houston in 2003.

## Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

# City warns of parking scams via text

The City of Houston urges the public to be aware of a parking payment scam involving fraudulent texts sent to cellphones. These fraudulent texts link to a non-city-affiliated website or a fake vendor.

The text message de-

mands payment for unpaid parking invoices and late fees. The city of Houston's parking authority, Park Houston, does not send text messages for unpaid parking invoices, fines, or fees. ParkHouston does engage a delinquent collections ven-

dor that sends text messages to customers with delinquent citations; however, these texts and emails inform the customer the message is on behalf of the city of Houston and includes an option to opt out of messaging and or/emails.

# Pasadena ISD fine arts sets dates

Pasadena ISD has announced dates for its February and March fine arts performances.

Intermediate Orchestra Pre UIL – Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Beverly Hills Intermediate Auditorium.

Laura Bush Elementary music makers community performance – Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Dobie auditorium.

Dobie High School dance Lariatette contest showoffs – Friday, Feb. 7, 6 – 7 p.m., Dobie gym.

Intermediate band Pre-UIL – Saturday, Feb. 8, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Sam Rayburn High School.

Moore Elementary music Across America (second

grade program) – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6 – 7 p.m., Moore cafeteria.

Intermediate Choir Pre-UIL – Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

High School Choir Pre-UIL – Monday, Feb. 24 and Tuesday, 25, 4 – 8 p.m., at Dobie auditorium.

High School Band Pre-UIL – Saturday, March 1, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Dobie auditorium.

Intermediate Orchestra UIL concert and sight reading – Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

High School Orchestra UIL concert and sight read-

ing – Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Dobie High School.

Melillo Middle School incoming fifth-grade Instrument fitting night – Friday, March 7, 5 – 7 p.m., at Melillo cafeteria.

Moore Elementary Texas music program (first grade) – Tuesday, March 11, at Moore cafeteria.

South Belt Elementary Family Folk dance night – Thursday, March 27, 6 – 8 p.m., at South Belt cafeteria.

Big Art Day – Friday, March 28, 5 – 8 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

J Frank Dobie High School Theatre Magic in the Mountain – Saturday, March 29, at Dobie auditorium.

# Leader continues its look back at 2024

## Newspaper remembers highs, lows of unforgettable year

**Continued from Page 1**  
is always enthusiastic and eager to participate in the chamber and Clear Brook City MUD activities. Her favorite volunteer role is playing Mrs. Claus at the Winter Wonderland event held in early December. Denise Burleigh was presented the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year award. This year's recipient worked tirelessly on many committees and the executive board. Burleigh, who makes up half of Burleigh Chiropractic, was responsible for organizing and chairing multiple successful events, such as the inaugural Gold Star Luncheon. Anita Eakman was presented the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's second annual Chairman Award. Eakman, who works for the chamber and served on the event's planning committee, was praised for her efforts to the chamber during its transition between executive directors. According to presenters, Eakman's duties ranged from billing and marketing to managing chamber events.

A temporary traffic signal was erected on Scarsdale at Bogy Way to alleviate additional traffic that was expected due to a bridge replacement project on Country Club Drive at Clear Creek near FM 518/Broadway in Pearland. Installed at the request of Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, the temporary signal would remain in place for much of the year, as crews worked to replace the area bridge. While TxDOT was spearheading the bridge repair effort, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the City of Pearland also each contributed toward the \$3.17 million project, pitching in \$2.2 million and \$530,000 respectively. The bridge replacement was done at the behest of the Texas Department of Transportation, which said the aging bridge had to be brought up to current industry standards before the Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk

Project could move forward. In the works for decades, the \$18 million Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Management Project is a partnership project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Harris County Flood Control District.

**March 21**  
A painting called "A Rider's Prayer" by Dobie High School art student Allisyn Sockwell sold at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's art auction for an impressive \$45,000. Sockwell was the student of Dobie art teacher Almarosa Umanzor. A monochromatic drawing called "On the Fence" by Dobie art student Lydia Golenko sold at the auction for \$12,000. Golenko was the student of Dobie art teacher Sherrie Kent.

**March 28**  
At a March 25 ceremony, local law enforcement officer Mike Kritzler from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office was promoted from captain to assistant chief. According to Precinct 2 officials, Kritzler is now second in command to only Garcia and will oversee the department's day-to-day operations.

An investigation into two recent thefts from the construction site of a charter school in Riverstone Ranch led to multiple felony charges. A pair of thefts the previous month at the site targeted expensive construction equipment, with a value totaling more than \$100,000. The case was handed over to the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit, and with the help of surveillance footage from local businesses, investigators were able to track the suspects to a residence in the Clinton Park neighborhood located in the northeast portion of the precinct. With assistance from the Houston Police Department Auto Theft and Precinct 8 constable's office, deputies with the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit executed a search warrant on the residence Thursday, March 7. During

this search, four stolen vehicles, a stolen Polaris all-terrain vehicle and a stolen trailer – totaling approximately \$200,000 in value – were all recovered from the residence. In addition, numerous illegal weapons (handguns and rifles) were located at the residence along with narcotics in the form of marijuana and counterfeit Adderall. Alberto Tovar, 31, was arrested and charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, a felon in possession of a firearm and felony theft. Brittany Garza, 29, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Construction of the campus has been a controversial topic for years, as work has been halted numerous times, leaving behind what neighbors describe as an eyesore. The campus has also been the target of multiple civil and criminal legal cases. While work on the school currently remains under construction, its future plans remain unclear.

**April 4**  
Dozens of community leaders, public servants and area residents gathered at The Gardens Tuesday, March 26, for the inaugural meeting of the new South Belt Community Partnership. The brainchild of longtime resident Seth Webb – who serves as Sagemeadow HOA chairman and Sagemeadow MUD vice president – the event was

also supported by representatives from at least eight other local community groups. According to Webb, the organization will serve more than 80 area communities. Also supporting the kickoff event were community leaders from Clear Brook Meadows, Kirkwood, Lake at Golfcrest, Riverstone Ranch, Sageglen, Sagemeadow, Sagemont and Sagemont Park. These eight communities will currently serve as the group's team leaders. Attendees at the function discussed the group's ambitions and attempted to establish its boundaries – loosely covering the area along the Gulf Freeway between Hobby Airport and Baybrook Mall. The group identified four primary areas of focus: safety, quality of life, the environment and youth development. Also contributing toward the group's first meeting were The Gardens, Rep. Dennis Paul's office, Rep. Mary Ann Perez's office, Precinct 2 Commissioner's office, Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the *Leader*. The group called to regularly meet, moving forward.

A teenage girl was killed in a car crash early Saturday, March 30, when the car she was driving crashed in the 1800 block of FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road between Beamer and the Gulf Freeway. According to Houston Police Department officials,

Marissa Romain, 17, was driving a 2009 black Mitsubishi Galant east near the above address when she struck a curb and lost control of the vehicle. The Mitsubishi veered to the right, where it struck a concrete ditch and a tree. The driver was partially ejected from the vehicle. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced the female driver, later identified as Romain, dead at the scene. No other vehicles were involved in the crash. The stretch of Dixie Farm Road where the fatal crash took place has been a concerning issue for several years for many South Belt residents, who complain that the unlit road is dark and dangerous. The *Leader* has received reports from numerous residents over the years who expressed concerns about the area road, which is clustered with potholes and has no shoulder, as it is lined by a concrete ditch. While known to be a safety issue for years, repairing the area road has proven somewhat challenging, as it falls on the cusp of the city/county line, calling into question which authority is responsible for the necessary work.

**April 18**  
Longtime Sagemont resident and former *Leader* staff member died Saturday, April 13, at the age of 81. Peterson was a 1961 graduate of Austin High School, where she was a member of the Scottish Brigade. The mother of three was active in the South Belt community for half a century. In 1974, she was elected president of the Stuchbery Elementary School Parent Teacher Association. More recently, she had served as a receptionist at the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*. Peterson's daughter, Julie, a Lariatette during her Dobie years, had been an early participant in the local softball program, and Peterson's sons, Kevin and Steve, not only played in the Sagemont-Beverly Hill Little League but they also played football for the Sagemont Cowboys. The boys continued playing football at Thompson and Dobie. Peterson's memorial service took place the following month on May 19 at Forest Park The Woodlands. Peterson was survived by her daughter, Julie Combs of Spring; son Kevin Peterson of Huntsville; son Steve Peterson of New Braunfels; and nine adored grandchildren.

The *Leader* will continue its 2024 Year in Review next week.

# Ballroom dancers host Valentine's Day dance

A Valentine's Day dance sponsored by ballroom dancers of League City, Bill and Neva Schroder, will take place at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City Saturday, Feb. 1, from 7 to 9:45 p.m. Everyone, with or without a partner, is invited. The facility maintains a floating hardwood floor.

The attire is "Dress as You Like," casual to after-5. Door fee is \$10. Neva will DJ. This smoke-free and alcohol-free event. Questions may be directed to Neva@LetsDanceBallroom.org.

# Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its February meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11. All meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. This gathering will feature a presentation by NASA expert Dr. Gary Kitmacher on Artemis II. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a fried/baked chicken lunch will be served. CCART will provide the chicken and members are asked to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

# Local library events set

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

## Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Jan. 30, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.

Thursday, Jan. 30, 4 – 5 p.m. Family Storytime. Registration required.

Monday, Feb. 3, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 4 – 5 p.m. Board games at the library. Registration required.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 6 – 7 p.m. Practice English and Connect with New Friends at Living English Lessons. Registration required.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

## Book drop

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

## Parker Williams Library

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, Jan. 30, 10 – 11 a.m. Thrillers, Killers and Mayhem Adult Book Club (18+).

Thursday, Jan. 30, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Monday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. AARP Free Tax Services.

Monday, Feb. 3, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL Conversation club. Registration required.

Monday, Feb. 3, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Laser cutter orientation. Registration required.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 10 – 11 a.m. Senior coloring club.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Citizenship classes. Registration required.

**Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"**  
– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.  
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.  
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.  
– Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.  
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.  
– Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

## Online services

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

## New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care

New Enrolling

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

281.481.2003

[www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com)

10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089

Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

## ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Catholic Church

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor

Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd.

(between Beamer & Blackhawk)

[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://www.stlukesatholic.com)

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.\*

Sunday 1 p.m. Misa en Español\*

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816

Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251

Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

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



# Meador names science fair winners



Meador Elementary officials commended five science fair winners for their excellent participation. These winners will represent Meador at the upcoming district science fair competition.

At left is fourth-grader Rubi Aleman.



Fourth-grader Angela Nunez

Third-grader Galilea Rodarte



Third-grader Grace Longoria

Third-grader Joseph Santiago

# Beverly Hills Intermediate announces third six-weeks honor roll

Officials of Beverly Hills Intermediate have announced the third six-weeks honor roll for the 2024-2025 school year.

Blake Andrew Gonzalez, Natalie Ann Graff, Ellis Ramon Guzman, Jaythan Elian Guzman, Arlen Siup Hernandez, Noah Marley Hodgson, Aria Rose Holcomb and Huy Hoang Huynh.

minh Nguyen, Pham Bao Khang Nguyen, Mickayla Nicole Nunez, Abigail Layla Orozco, Mia Belinda Pastrana, Andrew Donovyn Perez, Katelyn Uyemhi Pham, Tyler Pham, Miguel Julian Pineda Teissonniere, Logan Xavier Pineda, Sophia Makayla Ramos, Jonas Gabriel Reyes and Melanie Rico.

jean Tillman, Ryan Quang tien Tran, Julian Andres Trevino, Sean Matthew Umanzor, Anthony Vega, Juan Gustavo Villalta Andrade, Mina Huynh Vo, Michael Thien Vu, Sa Kim Vu, Mia Washington and Maylen Virginia Zambrano.

Alessandro Ferrufino, Jonathan Noah Fonseca, Elida Sarrhini Garcia, Layla Maribel Garcia, Elizabeth Gomez, Malachi Jesse Gonzales, Isaac Gonzalez, Sebastian Gonzalez, Xitlalic Gonzalez, Chloe Graff, Kennedy Denise Grice, Arleen Guadalupe Grimaldo, Jiszele Jazmyr Guerrero and Melanie Guerrero.

Padilla, Makayla Rayne Palm, Steven Hieu Pham, Janeisy Arlene Pineda, Ayari Aylin Pino, Hannah Giselle Ponce and Monserrath Noelani Ramirez.

# Thompson announces honor roll

Officials of Thompson Intermediate have announced the third six-weeks honor roll for the 2024-2025 school year.

Madison Rodriguez, Viviana Rose Salazar, Jocelyn Eliana Santos, Kyle Allen Ruger Sciba, Mallory Athleen Serrano Aquino, Zandaley D mari Serrano and Hailey Han Sichanh.

Cavazos, Matthew Jacob Cenobio, Jaliyah Evette Coleman, Carissa Soleil Cortez, Keirah Jay Davis and Jesse Gabriel Deleon.

Rebecca Deleon, Gael Diaz, Peyton Carly Dowell, Samuel Espino, Jay'von Edward Fortson, Makayla Donielle Franklin, London Lashelle Freeman, Nathaniel aiden Cruzado Gansit, Angel Daniel Garcia Herrera, Chelsea Denise Garza, Damari-jude Metgot Leon Guerrero Godoy, Mia Alejandra Gonzalez and Mikayla Astrid Gonzalez.

Jayden Fernando Grimaldo, Carlee Guerrero, Mya Selene Hall, Waad Y. Harmouch, Elijah Lee Hernandez, Noah James Holguin, Ngoc My Le Huynh, Kamaliah Ad Allah-Miliaripova, Bradley Zane Jones, Alice Hong Lam, Jayda Rayne Lasker, Kimberly Isabella Lopez, Pablo Lopez, Phuwadet Maingot and Alexander Josue Maravilla Cabrera.

Osama Emad Abdallah, Zayden Ray Aguilar, Mya Mercedes Andrepoint, Crystal Antunez Vargas, Jaila Alana Bandy, Samantha Barraza, Alexandra Adamari Betancourt, Edmundo Ezekiel Bravo, Alexis Taylor Brown, Nevaeh Mackenzie Bungarner, Alexander Chai Buntaer, Gabriel Nicholas Castillo, Addisyn Marie Castorena, Brandon Isaiiah Castro, Sabrina Xitlaly

# NASA invests in Artemis studies

NASA awarded new study contracts Thursday to help support life and work on the lunar surface.

an important step to a sustainable return to the Moon that, along with our commercial partners, will lead to innovation and expand our knowledge for future lunar missions, looking toward Mars."

tleton, Colorado - logistical carriers; logistics transfer; and surface cargo and mobility.

- MDA Space, Houston - surface cargo and mobility.

- Moonprint, Dover, Delaware - logistical carriers.

- Pratt Miller Defense, New Hudson, Michigan - surface cargo and mobility.

# Dobie High announces third six-weeks honor roll

Continued from Page 3 Ashley Sarahi Sanchez, Evelyn Sanchez, Isabella Rose Sanchez, Kethia Nicole Sanchez, Yahir Eugenio Sanchez, Rhema Esi Sika Sanni-Thomson, Rebecca Santana, Omar Enrique Santos Fuentes, Gisselle Gregoria Segueda, Jasery Aylin Serrano, Lizbeth Serrano, Daniel Silva, Mariangela Silva, Mckenzie Grace Smith, Khloie Elise Snook, Pitou So, Gabriela Solis, Nicholas Michael Soza and Paris Nicole Spencer.

Taylor, Jada Sirota Tayong, Jazmine Marie Teissonniere, Victor Ararath Tejada-Valdez, Julian Marshall Thomas, Lionel Thomas, Andres Daniel Tolentino, Dayra Guadalupe Torres Zuniga, Anabel Torres, Cruz Frederick Torres, Evelyn Torres, Jennifer Alyssa Torres and Cardin Yao ming Tran.

Vasquez, Joscelyn Jasmin Vazquez, Maria De La Luz Vazquez, Vivian Vega, Samantha Ventura, Stephanie Vieyra Mosqueda and Yasmin Alejandra Villegas Bermudez.

Isaiiah Vincent Vivier, Joseph Nguyen Vu, Megan Thuan an Vu, Ngoc Quynh anh Vu, Sophia Vu, Tri Dung Vu, Nina Edjunique Walker, Karah Rylee Williams, Michael Anthony Williams, Jonathan Leedell Willis, Aaliyah Janae Markita Wilson, Madison Savannah Wright, Elli Lui Waa Sawyer Yu, Abigail Vanessa Zamarrira, Kristian Pedro Zamora, Nicholas Christopher Zarco, Leah Rae Zermeno, Juliana Zollocoffer and Yuriana Zollocoffer.

and being confronted by an unknown suspect(s) as she got out of her car.

physician of the year. Election filing began for all three educational districts that serve the South Belt: Pasadena Independent School District; Clear Creek Independent School District; and San Jacinto College.

by local high schools. The Dobie Fine Arts Department performed "Bye Bye Birdie," and the Clear Brook High School senior class performed "Damn Yankees."

ident. The woman said she did not recognize either of the crooks but suspected her house was targeted because her family owns a car dealership and likely had cash on hand. No immediate arrests were made.

campus on Sagedowne Lane, is expected to open August 2021.

# 45 years ago (1980)

The Houston Fire Department Arson Division followed up on several leads on a fire that severely damaged the fifth-grade area of Burnett Elementary.

# 40 years ago (1985)

Bridge railings for two reconstructed bridges and one for reconstruction over the Beamer Road ditch were being modified because of complaints the railings obstructed the view of traffic to the right.

# 35 years ago (1990)

As testimony wrapped up in the Slaughter v. Monsanto trial, two of the last witnesses said documents were altered and Monsanto "cooked the books" relating to the Brio site.

# 30 years ago (1995)

Houston Police stepped up patrols in Scarsdale after the subdivision withdrew from the South Belt Security Alliance.

# 25 years ago (2000)

Final Brio remediation began. The Brio Site Task Force began removing the underground pipelines.

# 20 years ago (2005)

Local law enforcement officers kept busy working several home burglaries in Woodmeadow as well as a purse snatching in the Randall's parking lot on Fuqua.

# 15 years ago (2010)

Two suspects entered a game room in the 12400 block of Scarsdale at roughly 8:15 a.m. when one of the men used a sledge hammer to smash through the building's door.

# 10 years ago (2015)

J. Frank Dobie High School announced its Hall of Honor inductees. Distinguished alumni included Bob Mitchell (Class of 1973), president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership; Leonard Cherry (Class of 1974), president of Cherry Companies; Randy McEachern (Class of 1974), former University of Texas quarterback; Kevin Sherrington (Class of 1974), sports journalist; and Reed O'Connor (Class of 1983), federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

# 5 years ago (2020)

San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer was presented the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's prestigious Quasar Award at the group's annual Quasar Award banquet Jan. 24. B.A.H.E.P. President Bob Mitchell praised Hellyer's efforts for building and maintaining a skilled workforce that is fundamental to the economic wellbeing of the region.

# 1 year ago (2024)

A house caught fire Saturday, Jan. 27, in the 10000 block of Kirkbluff near Blackhawk. According to Southeast Volunteer Fire Department officials, the blaze started in the backyard when a heater ignited straw/hay bedding used to keep animals warm. In addition to SVFD, units from the Houston Fire Department and the Pearlland Fire Department also responded to the incident. No injuries were reported.

# Remember When

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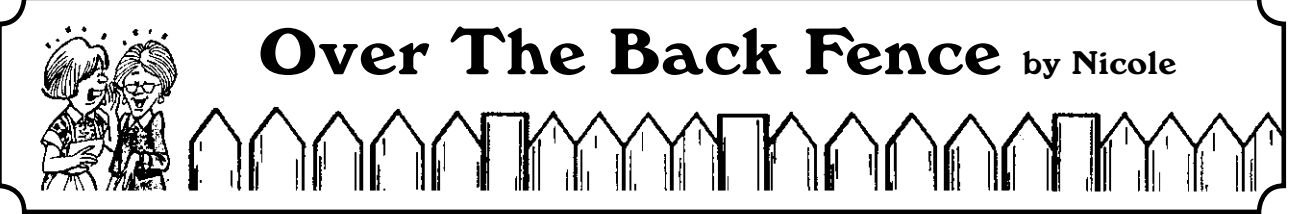
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# Over The Back Fence by Nicole

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR KARMA Birthday wishes are sent Feb. 2 to Karma Wright, former Leader staffer, from her family, friends and staff at the Leader. OWEN ENJOYS 16TH BIRTHDAY! Owen Michael Flowers celebrates his 15th birthday on Monday, Feb. 3. Best wishes and lots of love, hugs and kisses are sent to Owen from big sister Kennedy, little sister Evie, parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (former longtime South Belt residents) and Mike and Karen Flowers of Dickinson; uncles Tyler, Austin Scarberry, Joey, Wesley, Travis and Josh; aunts Jenny and Christine; and cousins Brayden, Baylee, Olivia, Jade, Lily, Sierra, Ryker, Connor, Jesse, Christopher and Mason. Owen's mom is a 2005 Dobie High School graduate. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LANE! Happy 10th birthday to Lane Warren Graham on Feb. 4 from his grandparents, Don and Rosa Graham of Sageglens and Janis and Lane Howell of Friendswood. Lane is a student in Clear Creek ISD and is active in basketball and baseball. He is a huge fan of UH basketball and the Houston Astros. His parents, Esteban and Amy Graham, are graduates of Clear Brook HS and are both employed by CCISD. OLIVIA CELEBRATES 12TH BIRTHDAY! Olivia Moreno celebrates her 11th birthday Wednesday, Feb. 5. Wishing her a wonderful birthday with lots of love, hugs and kisses are her mom Jenny (Hayes) and husband Josh Laney of Spring; big brother Brayden; big sister Baylee; proud grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (for-

mer longtime South Belt residents) and Mike and Doris Hayes of Ada, Okla.; aunt Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; uncles Stephen Flowers, Joey Hayes, Austin and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers, and Jade and Lily Scarberry. Mom Jenny is a 1997 Dobie High grad. SCHOOL DAZE The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 30 through Feb. 5. Atkinson Elementary Sing a happy birthday song to Stephanie Covarrubias Feb. 2. Burnett Elementary Send a birthday greeting Feb. 3 to Jessica Arnold. Bush Elementary Send a humorous birthday card Feb. 3 to Edna Reyes. Genoa Elementary Light the birthday candles Feb. 2 for Anita Thibodeaux. Hancock Elementary Blow out the candles Feb. 1 for Carmen Gonzalez. Meador Elementary Kourtney Roopwah celebrates a birthday Jan. 31. Feb 1 is the day for a fun celebration for Kateri Angel-Williams. Special birthday wishes are sent to Felipe Saucedo Feb. 5. South Belt Elementary Join in the birthday fun Jan. 30 with Lauren Hughes. Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Colleen Wilkinson Feb. 4. Melillo Middle School Sing a happy birthday song to Kelly

Jurek Jan. 31. Beverly Hills Intermediate Feb. 2 is the day for a celebration for Cynthia Wright. Send a birthday greeting Feb. 4 to Melanie Thompson. Light the birthday candles Feb. 5 for Sabrina Simien. Dobie High Elke Cerre celebrates a birthday Jan. 30. Be sure to have cake and ice cream Feb. 1 for Frank Mora and Yesy Visuet. The day for a triple-layer cake for Garland Garcia, Denise Onriveros Valencia and Veronica Oyervides is Feb. 3. Feb. 4 is the day for a party for Chasity Hall, Shaqwan Scott and Sandra Villarreal. Geydi Bonilla and Nichole Kemp celebrate a birthday Feb. 5. FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS Thursday, Jan. 30: Bill Heavin, Karen Price, Kimberly Istre, Kristen Mata, Christine Cline and Amy Reichelderfer; Friday, Jan. 31: Maria Olivera, Erica Bush, Veronica Tanguma-Mejia, Ernie Banks, Josh Keim, Angeles Rios, Maria Zuniga and Craig Thompson; Saturday, Feb. 1: Danice Oliver and Lee Terry; Sunday, Feb. 2: Lisa Upshaw and John Scheschuk; Tuesday, Feb. 4: Bobby Kramer and Deborah Carmona; and Wednesday, Feb. 5: James Kelso. LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS Send an email of announcements including congratulations, vacation, anniversary, etc. to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For general birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

physician of the year. Election filing began for all three educational districts that serve the South Belt: Pasadena Independent School District; Clear Creek Independent School District; and San Jacinto College. Two plays were presented by local high schools. The Dobie Fine Arts Department performed "Bye Bye Birdie," and the Clear Brook High School senior class performed "Damn Yankees."

Two suspects entered a game room in the 12400 block of Scarsdale at roughly 8:15 a.m. when one of the men used a sledge hammer to smash through the building's door. The second man brandished a handgun and demanded money from the facility's lone employee. The employee cooperated and gave the man roughly \$2,500 in cash. The two men then quickly fled the scene. None of the game room's four patrons were threatened. No immediate arrests were made.

J. Frank Dobie High School announced its Hall of Honor inductees. Distinguished alumni included Bob Mitchell (Class of 1973), president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership; Leonard Cherry (Class of 1974), president of Cherry Companies; Randy McEachern (Class of 1974), former University of Texas quarterback; Kevin Sherrington (Class of 1974), sports journalist; and Reed O'Connor (Class of 1983), federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Airman 1st Class Kyle "Pete" Wells (Class of 1979) was honored as a fallen hero. The late Catherine Haney, who served as both a history teacher and Academic Decathlon coach at the school, was honored as a distinguished faculty member. Leader publisher Marie Flickinger was honored as a community volunteer.

A home invasion occurred Feb. 4 in the 9900 block of Sagecourt. Police said two armed men went to the house and demanded money and jewelry from a female res-



# Chick-fil-A joins Dobie at Moore

Dobie Leadership Academy members and Chick-fil-A Cow made a visit to Moore Elementary to gift books to first- and second-graders. The students and staff were also greeted with personal notes from the Dobie students. Shown below, left to right, are Dobie Leadership Academy sponsors Jennifer Bland, Angelia Gaston and Nichole Johnson.



Advertisement for a pregnancy test: "Could I be Pregnant? I need a pregnancy test. I need to know what to do. We are here for you. We care! All Services are Free and Confidential. 281-484-0005. Bellway 8 South Crisis Pregnancy Center"

# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## NJCAA Softball 2025 Preseason DI Poll

1. Indian River State
  2. McLennan C.C.
  3. Temple
  4. Northwest Fla. State
  5. Walters State
  6. Galveston College
  7. Fla. Southwestern State
  8. College of Southern Idaho
  9. College of Central Fla.
  10. Salt Lake C.C.
- \*19 San Jacinto College**

## NJCAA releases preseason ranks

As is customarily the case, the National Junior College Athletic Association defending Division I softball national champion, Indian River State College, has opened the 2025 season as the nation's top-ranked program.

Indian River State received all 13 first place votes in the preseason poll, with Waco-based McLennan Community College at No. 2, followed by Temple, Northwest Florida State and Walters State in the top five.

Galveston College, which shared the Region 14 conference championship with San Jacinto College a season ago, has opened 2025 ranked sixth in the nation.

San Jacinto, which advanced to the national tournament a season ago for the third time in four seasons, is ranked 19th nationally as the season begins.

McLennan began the 2025 season in impressive fashion Jan. 24, run-ruled the Ravens by 15-7 and 13-1 scores on the first day of the Battle on the Bosque Invitational in Waco.

## Ravens continue play

- Jan. 31 @ 2:30 p.m. at Trinidad St.**
- Jan. 31 @ 5 p.m. at Trinity Valley**
- Feb. 1 @ 2:30 p.m. at Trinidad St.**
- Feb. 1 @ 5 p.m. at Trinity Valley**
- Feb. 3 @ noon at Grayson**
- Feb. 3 game 2 at Grayson to follow**

## Ferguson leads way at TAPPS regionals

Senior Lauren Ferguson led the way for the Lutheran South Academy swimming program as the Pioneers competed in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Eastern Region Division 2 Championships Jan. 25 at the University of Houston.

Ferguson will advance to the TAPPS Division 2 State Championships Feb. 11 at the Josh Davis Natatorium in San Antonio in two events after she won a silver medal for second place in the 200 free, touching the wall at 2 minutes, 03.49 seconds to medal.

The Pioneers' record holder in the 100 back, Ferguson also moved on to state in her signature event after she claimed a silver medal with a time of 1:02.50.

In the 4x200 medley relay, the Pioneer girls finished fourth in a time of 2:13.49 as the foursome included freshman Sarah McGrady and Hope Gonzalez along with sophomore Parker McNatt and Ferguson.

McGrady scored her first-ever high school regional top-three medal as she was third in the 500 free, producing a time of 6:06.86 in the distance event.

McGrady also competed in the 200 individual medley event, placing fifth in a time of 2:38.38.

Junior Luis Ordaz will advance to state for the Lutheran South boys' team as he was second in the 200 individual medley, clocking in at 2:55.23. Ordaz also competed in the 100 breast, where his time of 1:29.51 placed him fifth in the event.

## Dobie softball continues preseason

Its Feb. 10 regular season opener at Clear Brook inching closer by the day, the Dobie varsity softball program will continue a run of scrimmages as it goes into action against the Knights at Clear Falls Jan. 31.

At Falls, the junior varsity orange scrimmage will begin at 4 p.m., followed by varsity action at 6 p.m.

Dobie will then scrimmage at Angleton Feb. 4, with varsity play beginning at 7 p.m. against the Wildcats.

The Longhorns will conclude their preseason scrimmages Feb. 7, going against Clear Springs and Friendswood at Clear Springs. Head coach Robin Rackley's team will open the regular season at Clear Brook Feb. 10, then compete in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Leadoff Classic in College Station Feb. 13-15.

The District 22-6A opener then comes Feb. 18, as Dobie plays at Dawson to begin what will be a 16-game schedule for each of the nine teams in the district.

Dobie is the largest high school by enrollment in 22-6A and will thus be in the mix for a Division 1 playoff spot in the University Interscholastic League's first-year DI/D2 brackets.

Dobie's Persephone Soria (2) dazzled as a freshman as she was named the 22-6A Rookie of the Year, hitting nearly .400 and leading the Longhorns in several offensive categories.



Dobie varsity softball head coach Robin Rackley will lead her program into several more scrimmages prior to the regular season opener coming Feb. 10 at Clear Brook.

### Dobie softball scrimmages

- Jan. 31 - at Clear Falls**
- Feb. 4 - at Angleton**
- Feb. 7 at Clear Springs**
- Feb. 10 Season Opener at Clear Brook, 6 p.m.**

## Brook basketball teams have postseason in sight as regular season games become must-victories

Avenging a first round loss to Clear Creek, the Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball team has stayed in the mix for what still could be a share of the 24-6A championship alongside current leader Dickinson.

Moving to 9-2 overall in 24-6A play with three games remaining, Clear Brook also has secured control of the top seed in the Class 6A Division 2 postseason bracket, with Clear Creek (8-3) falling to the second seed.

Dickinson, which currently fronts the 24-6A standings at 10-1, is assured the top seed out of 24-6A in the Division I bracket, with Deer Park likely to grab the remaining Division I seed.

**24-6A boys' race**

In the Jan. 25 rematch against Clear Creek, the Wolverines came up with one of their best overall performances of the entire race, running away with a 68-50 win at Clear Brook with a dominating second half run after the Wildcats led by a point at halftime.

The Wolverines, who made 22 of 27 free throws in the second half, got 21 points each from Rezia Castillo and Chardel Terrell, with Kamryn McLaurin adding 19.

After taking on Clear Falls Jan. 29 after press time, Clear Brook will host Clear Lake Feb. 1 and then close out the regular season Feb. 5 at Brazoswood.

Clear Springs and Dickinson have emerged as locked-in 6A Division I postseason favorites in the 24-6A varsity boys' basketball race with five games to go in the race prior to press time Jan. 29.

Clear Springs stayed unbeaten in the race to the postseason January 25 as Landon Horton's game-high 18 points guided the league leaders to a 60-48 road win at Clear Falls and has a two-game lead and a 9-0 mark.

The Gators, though two games back at 7-2, are also in prime position to claim what would be a Division 1 postseason berth.

The Jan. 29 lineup of games promised to provide plenty of clarity to the league standings, with Springs hosting Dickinson, Clear Falls at Clear Brook and Clear Lake playing at Clear Creek.

Heading into that round of games, Clear Brook, Clear Falls and Clear Lake were each tied for third place at 5-4, with Clear Creek a game back in sixth place at 4-5.

After taking on Falls, the Wolverines have a tough road to navigate with remaining 24-6A games against Brazoswood as well as postseason contenders Clear Lake, Clear Springs and Dickinson.

Having defeated the Wildcats in the first round of league play, the Wolverines were poised with an excellent opportunity to seize sole possession of third place Jan. 25 at Clear Creek but instead stumbled in a big way, losing 65-45.

The suddenly surging Wildcats got 20 points from Diego Hernandez in getting past the Wolverines, turning a seven-point halftime lead into a 53-34 edge after three quarters.

Clear Brook, not long ago standing at 5-2 in the race, suffered its second straight loss while making just 19 of 48 overall shots.

By contrast, Clear Creek was 11 of 22 on three-point tries alone.

Down the stretch, the Wolverines for sure faced

the toughest road to the postseason among the six programs in the running, with four of its five remaining games coming against bonafide contenders.

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## Dobie boys' basketball plays tough



Dobie's Ryan White (11) challenges a Memorial defender during the Mavericks' 69-46 victory at Dobie as the Longhorns' 22-6A record slipped to 2-9 to this point in the season.

## Brook, JFD baseball to begin scrimmages

First pitch toward the 2025 high school baseball season comes Feb. 1 for both Clear Brook and Dobie. Programs will begin with a couple of weeks of scrimmages, followed by the start of the regular season Feb. 17.

Clear Brook, a playoff squad a season ago, will open the regular season Feb. 17 at Pasadena Memorial in a 3 p.m. start, while Dobie will travel to Goose Creek Memorial for a 3:30 p.m. first pitch.

Prior to that, though, the Wolverines and Longhorns will take part in as many as five scrimmages leading up to opening day.

The Wolverines will scrimmage at the varsity level at Shadow Creek Feb. 1, then scrimmage at La Porte Feb. 4 and at Pasadena Memorial Feb. 7.

A Feb. 10 scrimmage has the Wolverines at Santa Fe. The locals will then complete its preseason prep by going against Dobie at home Feb. 14.

After opening the regular season at Pasadena Memorial, the Wolverines will take part in their first tournament Feb. 20-22 at the David Anzaldúa Memorial Invitational at La Porte.

The Longhorns, who open the regular season Feb. 17 at Goose Creek Memorial, also have a series of five preseason scrimmages scheduled, beginning Feb. 1 against the same Summer Creek program that it defeated in the first round of the playoffs in 2024.

Dobie will scrimmage at Clear Falls Feb. 3 and at Baytown Sterling Feb. 7. Another road scrimmage comes at La Porte Feb. 11, and the Longhorns finish the preseason schedule with a Feb. 14 appearance at Clear Brook.

After opening the season Feb. 17 at Goose Creek Memorial, the Longhorns will again compete in the Border Olympic Games three-day tournament in Laredo, coming Feb. 20-22.

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# Leader concludes 2024 South Belt area sports year in review

The *Leader* this week concludes its 2024 year in review, providing readers with a look back at some of the year's top moments of the area's sports scene.

## September 26

The Lutheran South Academy varsity girls' and boys' cross-country teams claimed top team honors at the Covenant Christian

Invitational Sept. 21, with Mia Fulton placing second overall in the girls' two-mile race in a time of 14:10.90.

Jayde Barefield was third for the Pioneers at 14:11.00, and Elisabeth Hergenrader fifth with her time of 14:40.60.

Carys Rodriguez was seventh for LSA as she

finished at 14:47.80, with Jemma Riekert 11th (15:07.00), Amy Campbell 12th (15:26.90) and Lanie Ward 14th (15:28.00).

The LSA boys also cruised to the team crown, with four of its qualifiers placing in the top seven spots of the 5,000-meter event. Jeremy Gaitan was third overall as he clocked

have put ourselves in this position," Moreno said.

"A lot of times, we have played down to the level of the competition, and we can't do that." Dawson, Shadow Creek and Pearland are ahead of us in the standings and are likely to grab the top three playoff seeds.

It's up to us to defeat Rayburn, Alvin and Manvel in these final three matches to be able to get to the playoffs."

An extremely tough nondistrict schedule combined with a vastly more competitive field of programs within the 22-6A ranks had combined to allow Dobie just six overall wins during the season.

At 2-3 with the losses to Dawson, Shadow Creek and Pearland, the Longhorns put themselves on a bumpy road, yet it was a road that could be navigated successfully with some key wins down the stretch.

"The kids are working hard and the effort is there," Moreno said.

"It has really been our inability to close out some individual matches that either could have made a difference in an overall team tennis match or certainly made the score closer in the end.

"It's all about getting to 10 victories before the other team does, and we know we need to do a better job of finishing matches to get that done."

## October 3

Dobie celebrated the conclusion of a successful homecoming week by defeating Pasadena Memorial Sept. 27 at Veterans Stadium, holding the Mavericks scoreless until the final minute of the second half to win its seventh straight game in the battle of the Beltway series.

The two teams traded scoring drives for much of the first half as the Longhorns emerged at the intermission with a 28-27 lead.

But with linebacker Desmond Talib coming up with two of his three quarterback sacks in the second half and the rest of the defense making key stops when needed, Dobie was able to emerge victorious.

Junior running back De'Marcus Hodges had a pair of scoring runs after halftime, including one from 16 yards out and another from four yards out to extend the Longhorns' lead.

Kicker Martin Munoz capped the Longhorns' scoring with a 21-yard field goal with just over two minutes to play.

Ahead 44-27 and the game comfortably in hand, the Longhorns aided Memorial with a pair of personal foul penalties

down the stretch as the final score appeared closer than it was.

Essentially, the Longhorn defense pitched a shutout in the final 23 minutes of its biggest game of the season to date.

For Memorial, chances at a postseason berth continued to lessen as the Mavericks fell to 0-3 within the district.

Dobie senior outfielder Juelz Martinez announced via social media site X that he will continue his collegiate baseball career at San Jacinto College beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

Already a three-time All-District performer with the Longhorns and a Class of 2025 senior, Martinez set a school record for run scored in a season in 2024 with 40.

He also hit .333, stole four bases and swiped 11 bases en route to his all-league first-team honors. Martinez profiles as a corner outfielder with San Jacinto College.

## October 10

At 24-5 overall heading into a road match at Bay Area Christian Oct. 8 after press time, the Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball team seemed to be right on schedule for another possible run at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state tournament.

Nothing was guaranteed, of course, but the Pioneers certainly believed in themselves following a perfect 4-0 start to district play.

Senior Kirra Musgrove led Lutheran South to this point with 263 kills, while her sister, freshman Addison Musgrove, added 227 kills of her own. Senior Kenna Sambrano and setter Aniston Collins both delivered more than 100 kills for the Pioneers, and senior Haleigh Pham had 98 heading into action against Bay Area Christian.

Collins led the way with more than 430 assists, and Kirra Musgrove has chipped in with 325 assists. Senior Jaime Faseler has led the way on the back line with nearly 250 digs.

While Lutheran South was in control of its own destiny and certainly had big postseason plans, both Dobie and Clear Brook were fighting from behind in an effort to catch up in the public school ranks.

In the 22-6A ranks, four newcomers to the league were in charge as the playoff race is into the second half. Pearland was undefeated at 10-0, with Shadow Creek just a match back at 9-1.

Dawson was at 7-2,

with Manvel at 6-4. Dobie, 4-6 through 10 league matches, was in fifth place.

With a roster comprised of many first-year varsity level players, the Longhorns figured to have a bit of a transition season as it was, and the loss of its top performing player from a season ago to transfer didn't help.

Seniors Julie Aguirre and Mia Campos led the Longhorns in kills this season, and sophomore Alysa Sanchez paced Dobie with more than 200 assists.

## November 7

Sophomore Jeremy Gaitan placed fifth overall as he guided the Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' cross-country team to a fourth-place finish at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State Cross-Country Championships on a 5,000-meter course at the Cottonwood Creek Golf Club in Waco Oct. 28.

Junior Adrian Rule of San Antonio Christian was the 5A overall boys' gold medalist in the grand finale, finishing at 16 minutes, 17 seconds. SAC put together a dominant performance to easily claim the team championship in the 5A division.

Gaitan was in at 17:03.63 to top the Pioneers' list of official qualifiers, followed by 30th place finisher Nicholas Pena, also a sophomore, in a time of 19:02.06. LSA freshman Brock Boessling earned a time of 19:03.39 for 32nd place.

Sam Hergenrader, a junior, was 59th in the state results with a time of 20:00.74, and sophomore Theron Ayala was the Pioneers' fifth and final official qualifier as he was 62nd overall in a time of 20:08.16.

Following the graduation of a couple of future collegiate signees from the 2023 team, the Pioneers had one of the youngest teams by grade classification in the Houston area this season but still excelled.

In finishing fourth at State as a team, the Lutheran South boys were the top performing program from the Houston area at the state meet.

For 2025, Lutheran South could potentially return as many as three freshmen and two juniors in addition to seniors Hergenrader and Reid Toner to the top of the varsity group.

The Lutheran South varsity girls' team also competed at the state meet as freshman Jayde Barefield was 35th overall to



Dobie seniors Adalee Garcia (10) and Julie Aguirre (12) team for a blocking attempt at the net earlier this season against Shadow Creek. Garcia and Aguirre are just two of the seniors who are looking to finish off their careers in strong fashion down the stretch as the Longhorns continue play within the 22-6A ranks. Aguirre has led Dobie in kills this season, while Garcia has delivered a strong all around game for the team.

lead the Pioneers in the two-mile race.

LSA was 12th overall as a team in the final 5A state standings. Barefield finished at 14:18.71 to pace her team to the finish line, with teammate Mia Fulton, a senior, in at 14:47.24 for 46th place.

At 15:18.88, junior Elisabeth Hergenrader placed 80th for Lutheran South, and junior Carys Rodriguez clocked in at 15:25.39 for 87th place.

The Pioneers' fifth official qualifier at state was Lanie Ward, who claimed the 100th-place finish at 15:40.65 as she closed her career.

Dobie star running back Cameron Mathews made a triumphant return to the lineup against Alvin after missing about seven full quarters of football due to injury.

Mathews, who now leads the District 22-6A ranks in rushing with 1,414 yards and 15 touchdowns, went for 259 yards and three touchdowns against the Yellowjackets.

The senior running back, who has rushed for better than 1,000 yards in three separate seasons with the Longhorns, saw his status as the league's top rusher slip away as he exited Dobie's victory over South Houston on the final play of the first quarter with an apparent arm injury and subsequently missed his team's victory

over Sam Rayburn.

The late season rest must have been good for the Longhorns' workhorse as he had first half scoring runs of 32 and 73 yards, then added Dobie's seventh and final touchdown on a 24-yard dash to the paint.

Junior running back De'Marcus Hodges had a 7-yard touchdown run for the Longhorns, who also enjoyed their finest night of the season in the passing game.

Senior quarterback Will Joiner III also had his top overall passing game of the season against Alvin, throwing for three touchdowns and all as he connected with three different receivers on scoring plays.

Tight end Adam Perez reeled in a throw from Joiner as part of a 35-yard catch and run for a touchdown. Receivers James Spivey (17 yards) and Tariq Riley (64 yards) also made big plays.

## November 14

Wins by Dickinson and Clear Springs during the final week of the regular season produced a three-way tie for first place in the District 24-6A varsity football standings, with Deer Park earning a piece of the crown as well despite a loss to the Gators.

The championship trio each finished the 24-6A season at 6-1, with Dickinson grabbing the top seed in the Division 1

playoff bracket by virtue of its victory over the Deer.

The Gators got the job done courtesy of a thorough 41-13 drubbing of the Deer at Vitanza Nov. 8, getting 148 yards rushing and a pair of touchdowns from running back Malachi Gamble, who finished the regular season as the 24-6A leading rusher with 1,394 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Lorenzo Aguirre passed for two touchdowns and Braden Glover caught two as the Gators took a 28-6 lead into halftime and went on to win.

Clear Springs had already earned the top seed out of 24-6A in the Division 2 playoff bracket and overcame a lackluster first half against the Clear Creek Wildcats in the regular season finale to produce a 29-13 victory.

Trailing Clear Creek 13-7 at halftime, the Chargers (8-2, 6-1) got 134 yards and two touchdowns from Adam Hawkins in the win. 24-6A's Clear Springs would host Kingwood Nov. 15 at Challenger Stadium in Webster in a Division 2 bidistrict playoff contest.

Clear Falls defeated Clear Lake in the regular season finale, with the Knights (6-4, 4-3) set to take on Summer Creek Nov. 15 on the road in a Division 2 bidistrict playoff.

**Continued on Page 8**



Dobie co-captains Hunter Stacey (99) and Will Joiner III (17) celebrated while hoisting the Battle of the Beltway trophy after the Longhorns used a big second half to defeat Memorial 44-35. The Longhorns have dominated the series against the Mavs, winning seven straight clashes.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

in at 17:43.80, one spot in front of his brother, Josh Gaitan (17:44.00), as the sophomores led the way for the locals.

Nicholas Pena was sixth-best at 18:34.80, and the Pioneers' Theron Ayala was seventh in a time of 18:48.80. In the junior varsity boys' two-mile division, LSA's Caleb Robert was fourth at 13:12.40, Brandt Smith's time of 13:46.40 was sixth and Nate Hergenrader earned seventh with a time of 13:52.60. In the junior varsity girls' division, Madison Van Wie was fourth at 17:35.40 to lead the Pioneers at the two-mile division, with Jojo Miles fifth (17:45.00) and Madeleine Richards sixth (17:45.60). Sahly Betancourt placed 10th.

Running on familiar turf, Dobie senior Lauren Garza was the gold medalist in the Longhorn Stampede cross-country invite Sept. 20 on the main cam-

pus as she finished at 19 minutes, 23.70 seconds. The other top finisher for the Dobie varsity girls was Isaura Correa (20:22.47).

The Dobie varsity boys' team was fourth as a bunch. A time of 16:13.74 at the 5K distance placed Dobie senior Chris Lopez third overall, and freshman teammate Cruz Jasso timed in at 16:24.07 for fourth place. Freshman Jordan Roman wound up 18th best at 17:10.31, and a time of 17:22.68 had Dobie junior Johan Villavicencio 24th overall. The Longhorns' fifth official qualifier was Connor Torres at 18:35.38 for 54th place.

Lutheran South Academy remained undefeated through the first month of the varsity football season for the first time in nine years, building a 24-8 halftime lead over Anahuac, then holding on late for a 54-51 victory.

Lutheran South last

started a season 4-0 in 2015, winning six overall games to open that campaign before finishing 10-2 overall. The Pioneers rushed for five touchdowns in the game and got another scoring throw from quarterback John LeBlanc. LSA's kicking game delivered 12 points overall, including a pair of field goals from kicker Rhet Laverne.

Starting a final three-match streak against Sam Rayburn Sept. 24, Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. acknowledged that his team would need to run the table down the stretch to reach the post-season. As unfamiliar as the position might have been for the Longhorns, Moreno said he was confident his crew could come through when it mattered most.

"We have just had a tough time closing out matches to this point in district play and really



The Dobie varsity boys' cross-country team captured its first district championship in 20 years Oct. 10 at Dobie main, using a 1-2-3-4 finish at the top to claim the 22-6A title. Freshman Cruz Jasso was the champion, with senior

Chris Lopez second, freshman Jordan Roman third and junior Johan Villavicencio fourth. With head coach Stephen Cross (far left) is Villavicencio, Jasso, Lopez, Angel Montiel, Carlos Salazar, Orlando Depaz and Roman.



Dobie junior Johan Villavicencio took 53rd at the Region III Cross-Country Championships in Huntsville with a time of 16 minutes, 59.67 seconds to help his team to a 12th-place overall finish.

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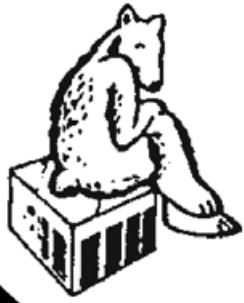
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Bidding will open (2/11/25 8 a.m.) and Conclude (2/18/25 10 a.m.)  
Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:  
Cooper Penning: 1991 Suntracker Pontoon Boat (HIN#BUJ29130K192)  
Mary Jackson: furniture, display cases, antiques, paintings, bikes and misc.  
David Stremmel: motorcycle parts, scrap metal, tools, misc.

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# CALENDAR

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

8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.  
5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.  
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous See Friday's notice.

7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.  
Noon Ballroom Dancing - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, one may ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.  
7 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - See Friday's notice.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
8 p.m. Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 - 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3**  
5 p.m. New Directions - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.  
6 p.m. Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@juno.com for details.  
7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.  
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.  
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2**  
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

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

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## 2025 Brook Varsity Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 1	at Shadow Creek scrimm.	11 a.m.
Feb. 4	at La Porte scrimm.	4 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Pas. Memorial scrimm.	4 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Santa Fe scrimm.	4 p.m.
Feb. 14	Dobie scrimm.	3:30 p.m.
<b>Regular Season Opener</b>		
Feb. 17	at Pasadena Memorial	3 p.m.
<b>Tournament Appearances</b>		
Feb. 20-22	at La Porte Anzaldua Invit.	TBA
Feb. 27-		
March 1	at Clear Creek ISD Invit.	TBA
March 6-8	at GCM Invit.	TBA
<b>Nondistrict Games</b>		
Feb. 24	St. Thomas	6 p.m.
March 3	Barbers Hill	6 p.m.
<b>District 24-6A Games</b>		
March 11	Clear Springs	6 p.m.
March 14	at Clear Springs	6 p.m.
March 18	at Dickinson	1 p.m.
March 21	Dickinson	1 p.m.
March 25	Deer Park	6 p.m.
March 28	at Deer Park	7 p.m.
April 1	at Clear Creek	6 p.m.
April 4	Clear Creek	6 p.m.
April 8	Clear Falls	6 p.m.
April 11	at Clear Falls	6 p.m.
April 15	at Clear Lake	6 p.m.
April 17	Clear Lake	6 p.m.
April 22	at Brazoswood	7 p.m.
April 25	Brazoswood	6 p.m.

## 2025 Dobie Varsity Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 1	at Summer Creek scrimm.	11 a.m.
Feb. 3	at Clear Falls scrimm.	4 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Bay. Sterling scrimm.	4 p.m.
Feb. 11	at La Porte scrimm.	4 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Clear Brook scrimm.	3:30 p.m.
<b>Regular Season Opener</b>		
Feb. 17	at Goose Creek Memorial	3:30 p.m.
<b>Tournament Appearances</b>		
Feb. 20-22	at Laredo Border Games	TBA
Feb. 27-		
March 1	at Pasadena ISD Invit.	TBA
March 6-8	at GCM Invit.	TBA
<b>District 22-6A Games</b>		
March 4	at Dawson	6 p.m.
March 7	Dawson	4 p.m.
March 15	Pasadena Memorial	11 a.m.
March 18	at Pasadena Memorial	11 a.m.
March 21	at Shadow Creek	noon
March 22	Shadow Creek	noon
March 25	Pearland	4 p.m.
March 28	at Pearland	6 p.m.
April 1	at South Houston	4 p.m.
April 4	South Houston	4 p.m.
April 8	Rayburn (at Maguire)	4 p.m.
April 11	Rayburn	4 p.m.
April 15	at Alvin	6 p.m.
April 17	Alvin	4 p.m.

## 2025 Dobie Varsity Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 31	at Clear Falls scrimmage	
Feb. 1	at Summer Creek scrimm.	6 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Angleton scrimm.	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Clear Springs scrimm.	5:30 p.m.
<b>Regular Season Opener</b>		
Feb. 10	at Clear Brook	6 p.m.
<b>Tournament Appearances</b>		
Feb. 13-15	at NFCA Lead-Off Classic	TBA
Feb. 20-22	at Haynie Spirit Invit.	TBA
<b>NonDistrict Games</b>		
Feb. 25	at Kingwood	6 p.m.
March 25	at La Porte	6:30 p.m.
<b>District 22-6A Games</b>		
Feb. 18	at Dawson	6 p.m.
Feb. 28	Pasadena Memorial	4 p.m.
March 4	at Shadow Creek	6:30 p.m.
March 7	at Pearland	6:30 p.m.
March 8	at South Houston	11:30 a.m.
March 11	Rayburn	6 p.m.
March 15	Manvel	1:30 p.m.
March 17	Dawson	1 p.m.
March 28	at Memorial	6 p.m.
April 1	Shadow Creek	4 p.m.
April 4	Pearland	6 p.m.
April 8	South Houston	5:30 p.m.
April 11	Rayburn	5:30 p.m.
April 15	Alvin	4 p.m.
April 17	at Manvel	6:30 p.m.

# South Belt's 2024 year in sports review concludes

Continued from Page 8

Team 56 will now best be remembered for delivering the most remarkable finish in the 56-year history of the Dobie varsity football program after the Longhorns stunned Manvel 54-34 on the final play of the regular season to win a district tiebreaker and qualify for the playoffs.

Just like that, Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris ditched his end-of-the-season speech in favor of a game plan aimed at taking down District 23-6A champion Ridge Point.

Not long after his hiring, Fitzmorris last summer began referring to the 2024 varsity group as Team 56, referencing the school's upcoming 56th season of varsity football competition.

Make no mistake, the Dobie football program has had its share of moments in the sun. But Team 56 came through with the type of storybook moment that often leaves Tinseltown envious. Fitzmorris even joked that he was waiting for the Hollywood execs to begin calling. Getting a 38-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Will Joiner III to Tariq Riley as time expired, the Longhorns earned the necessary 17-or-more-point victory over Manvel with a stunning 54-34 decision Nov. 7 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Up until the final play, the Longhorns had delivered their best overall performance of the entire season in building a 14-point lead over the Mavericks but still seemed destined to fall short of the postseason.

But with 19 ticks remaining in their season and 74 yards away from the Manvel end zone, the Longhorns kept believing.

A 21-yard completion from Joiner to James Spivok and a pass interference call against Manvel set the locals up at the Mav 38-yard line with just six seconds left.

Joiner dropped back in rhythm and fired a pass down the right side, with Riley and Manvel defensive back Anthony Morgan going up for the football in the end zone. Riley came down with the catch for the touchdown, sending Dobie fans into a frenzy as the Longhorns, just like that, kept their season alive.

"Our guys did what they had to do in all three phases of the game, and I'm so happy and so proud for our coaching staff as those guys put the players in the best possible position to be successful," Fitzmorris said. "It was the greatest victory in the history of our program when you consider everything that was at stake."

**November 21**  
District 22-6A champion Ridge Point used a 28-point first-half outburst on the way to a 48-16 victory over Dobie Nov. 14 as the Longhorns saw their season come to an end in the first round of the 6A Division I football playoffs once again.

Dobie all-time leading rusher Cameron Mathews scored his 18th overall touchdown to give the Longhorns an early lead, but University of Houston signee Austin Carlisle, Ridge Point's star quarterback, had a hand in four consecutive touchdowns for the Panthers as they controlled the remainder

of the first half on the way to a victory.

Ridge Point (10-1) advanced to take on unbeaten North Shore November 22 at The Rig in Pearland. Dobie ended its first season under the guidance of head coach Danny Fitzmorris at 6-5 overall.

Mathews got the Longhorns on the board early courtesy of a brilliant 67-yard touchdown run as the visitors quickly led 7-0.

However, Carlisle responded with touchdown passes to three different receivers and ran for another score as the Panthers went into halftime with a 28-10 advantage over the Longhorns.

Carlisle, who entered the game with 40 touchdown passes this season, connected with Hayden Willey for 16 yards and a touchdown as the game was tied 7-7. Ridge Point then took its first lead of the game as Carlisle threw an 18-yard touchdown pass.

The state-ranked Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball team was off to a terrific start this season, which included winning the Katy ISD classic tournament title courtesy of a 5-0 run in Katy Nov. 14-16.

Seniors Kamryn McLaurin (4) and Rezia Castillo (24) earned All-Tournament honors after guiding their team to the crown. The Wolverines defeated Cy-Fair 69-40 and host Katy 80-41 before getting past Fort Bend Austin 53-37 in Red Bracket play.

The locals then toppled Cy-Falls 54-49 to reach the tournament title match, where they defeated Alief Taylor 64-62. Brook was at No. 19 in the latest 6A Texas Association of Basketball Coaches State poll.

It was a bidistrict varsity football playoff weekend to forget for the District 24-6A quartet of Clear Falls, Clear Springs, Dickinson and Deer Park as each of the league's postseason qualifiers were eliminated by the powerhouse that is District 23-6A. Clear Falls, which entered the playoffs as the Division 2 second seed from 24-6A, went up against Summer Creek, the defending Division 2 state finalist from a season ago Nov. 15 at Turner stadium in Humble.

With senior quarterback Blake Thomas orchestrating the majority of the damage, Summer Creek

scored touchdowns on each of its first five drives and led 35-0 at halftime on the way to an eventual 66-7 victory.

Summer Creek (9-2) advanced to the area around, where it would take on Manvel (6-5) Nov. 22 at Freedom Field in Rosharon.

Manvel, the fourth place team out of 22-6A, made its way to the second round following a bit of an upset as the Mavericks with the locals then kicking for the conversion.

Kingwood, making its first playoff appearance since 2019, took possession in the overtime and leaned on star running back Marquez Davis, who first scored a touchdown on a 10-yard run and then bound it into the end zone for the two-point conversion and a Kingwood victory.

Davis scored each of Kingwood's five touchdowns in the game. Dickinson (7-4) nor Deer Park had much more luck in the Division I playoff bracket

as the Gators dropped a 50-45 decision to Atascocita Nov. 15 at Sam Vitanza Stadium in Dickinson.

Deer Park, meanwhile, suffered a 54-13 loss to state power North Shore on the same night at Galeana Park ISD Stadium. The Deer entered the final week of the regular season with a chance to win the outright district championship in the District 24-6A mix yet ultimately surrendered 97 points in consecutive losses to Dickinson and then North Shore to end their season at 8-3. took down Hightower 23-15.

Clear Falls, making its sixth consecutive trip to the playoffs, got an 89-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jake Champagne to Gavin Smith with 7 minutes remaining in the game.

The Knights finished their season at 6-5. Clear Springs entered the postseason as one of the three co-district champions out of 24-6A but saw its season come to a close fol-

lowing a 36-35 overtime loss to Kingwood Nov. 15 at Challenger stadium in Webster.

The Chargers went 8-2 overall during the regular season while the Mustangs needed to defeat Humble on the final day of the regular season just to make the playoffs.

However, the Mustangs played with the lead for much of the game against the Chargers until the overtime session. In the overtime which featured alternating possessions 25 yards from the opponent's end zone, the Chargers took a 35-28 lead as quarterback Julian Salazar fired a 12-yard pass to Mu'IZZ Tounkara.

Host St. Joseph's Academy delivered a first-round loss to Lutheran South Academy, eliminating the Pioneers from the postseason following a 40-14 loss Nov. 15 in Brownsville. Lutheran South quarterback John LeBlanc threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to David Streeter, and the Pioneers'

Braeden Robinson scored on a 4-yard run late in the third quarter for the locals. St. Joseph's produced 459 total yards of offense, including 414 on the ground while advancing.

**November 28**  
A 24-point fourth-quarter outburst did the trick as the Toronto Argonauts won the Canadian football league's Grey Cup football championship following a 41-24 victory over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the big game Nov. 17 at B.C. Place in Vancouver, British Columbia. The significance for those living in the South Belt area is that Clear Brook High School graduate Mark Milton Jr. was a member of the Argonauts' championship squad as he finished an 11-game run with the Argonauts that the half corner position defensively, ultimately playing a huge role in the team's overall success this season.

"It's a blessing, a truly surreal experience to be able to be part of a Grey Cup champion team," Mil-

ton said just a day after the city of Toronto hosted a public rally at Maple Leaf Square in Toronto for the Argos.

"We were able to put a great second half of football together and come away with the win. Being able to share an experience like that with your teammates at any level is special."

"Obviously, this is the CFL's version of the Super Bowl as everyone knows it in the States, so it's a huge deal in this league. You play football to win games as a team. Clearly, everyone is trying to make a living and take care of their families, but at the end of the day the goal is to win football games and bring home championships."

"We can say we did that. The experience has been nothing but a blessing for me. It's been truly a great ride, and something will stick with me the rest of my life."

Milton played both offense and defense at Clear Brook High School be-

fore signing with Baylor University, then led by Matt Rhule, now the head coach at the University of Nebraska.

A college graduate in 3 1/2 years, Milton was both a first team Academic All-Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll honoree in 2022 and on the field earned all Big 12 honorable mention status while starting 11 games in the secondary for the Bears. he appeared in 51 total games over five seasons with Baylor.

Class 6A state top-ranked San Antonio Brennan firmly upheld its pre-season standing, largely dominating the field in route to winning the McDonald's Texas Invitational's Division 1 boys' gold bracket championship with a 66-57 victory over Fort Bend Marshall in the grand finale Nov. 23 at Phillips Field House in Pasadena.

In the Division 1 girls' gold bracket championship tilt, Converse Judson continued what had been an impressive string of solid performances at the McDonald's event, taking down Pearland 42-31 to capture top honors in the 16-program girls' D1 field. Judson finished second to eventual Division 1 champion San Antonio Brandeis a season ago.

Led by University of Houston commit Kings-ton Flemings, Brennan stayed undefeated at 7-0 while claiming top honors in what many high school basketball insiders considered to be the most competitive varsity boys and girls basketball tournament in the state.

Flemings has averaged right at 24 points per game early this season to lead the Bears, while Camden Cowgil has added nearly 16 points a game as Brennan has clearly emerged as one of the favorites to win the 6A Division I state title.

The Bears were simply dominant in their first three McDonald's Texas Invitational tournament games, crushing Clear Brook 73-32 in a morning session game at South Houston High School and then running past Conroe Grand Oaks 71-55 to easily reach the Division 1 gold bracket following day one pool play Nov. 21.

## CCISD Athletics Hall of Honor inducts Clear Lake VB



Clear Lake High School's 1984 state champion volleyball team was inducted into the Clear Creek ISD Athletics Hall of Honor in October. Those in attendance were, left to right, (front row) Stacie Branch Bradshaw, Jennifer Thorson Kosel, head coach Angie Chiv-

ers, Heidi Chumley, (back row) Sue Schelfhout, assistant coach Janice Balsamo, assistant coach Laurie Briggs, Jill Blumenstein Brown, Gina Light Cotter and Moxie Sinclair.

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