



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### St. Luke's hosts Trunk or Treat

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church invites the community for Trunk or Treat Oct. 27, at 1750 Riverstone Ranch Drive, (across from South Belt Elementary) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Costumes and vehicle decorations must be appropriate for church setting (does not need to be religious but in good taste). For more information, visit [www.stlukesatholic.com/events/trunk-or-treat/2023-10-27](http://www.stlukesatholic.com/events/trunk-or-treat/2023-10-27).

### Freeway manor to host event

Freeway Manor Civic Club will host a Trunk or Treat (rescheduled) National Night Out Night Out event Friday Oct. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. at St. Stephens Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta. The event features hot dogs, drinks, candy, fun and entertainment in a safe environment. Those wishing to bring candy (wrapped) may do so.

### H-E-B hosts Trunk or Treat

H-E-B, 9828 Blackhawk, will host its Trunk or Treat event Friday, Oct. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. This event is open to the community.

### St. Luke's to honor veterans

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, will celebrate Veterans Day Saturday, Nov. 11, by honoring all parishioners who have served in the U.S. armed forces. The veterans blessing ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at the church's rosary garden. For more information, call Joe Tristan at 713-249-2662.

### Sagemeadow seeks vendors

Sagemeadow is seeking vendors with handmade/homemade items for its second annual festival, Nov. 4 at Sagemeadow Park. Local businesses are welcome. If interested, email [events@sagemeadow.org](mailto:events@sagemeadow.org).

### New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, will distribute food the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food for community people in need. For information, call 281-484-4230.

### Garcia busy in South Belt

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.

Additionally, on Saturday, Oct. 28, Garcia will host a Trick or Treat event at the county annex, 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer. The event will feature free candy and a costume contest.

### Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community is roughly on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials. As of Tuesday, Oct. 24, there were 139 active cases in 77089, up one from the previous week. To date, 138 from the ZIP code have died from COVID, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were seven active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 93 residents from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data](https://covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data).

### Kirkwood to meet Oct. 30

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place Monday, Oct. 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes. Meetings are the last Monday of the month, rather than the last Thursday. For information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

### Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway through 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lanes and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/Calder/Brittany Bay to FM-519/Main Street daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Dec. 31.

The U-turn lane on the northbound Gulf Freeway frontage road (north to south) at FM-519/Main Street in La Marque will be closed until further notice. The U-turn lane on the southbound Gulf Freeway frontage road (south to north) at FM-519/Main Street in La Marque will be closed until further notice.

The northbound Gulf Freeway exit ramp to SH-6/SH-146 in La Marque will close permanently at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 5. Traffic must exit FM-519 and U-turn. Traffic will merge onto the Gulf Freeway southbound main lanes at next available entrance ramp.

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway's main lanes and frontage road lanes in each direction.

## Early Nov. 7 voting currently underway

### Harris County, Clear Creek ISD to hold bond elections

Early voting for the Nov. 7 election is currently underway and will continue through Friday, Nov. 3.

In addition to the highly publicized City of Houston races for mayor and multiple city council positions, Harris County and Clear Creek ISD will both hold bond elections.

#### Harris County

Harris County will hold a \$2.5 billion bond election to finance much-needed upgrades to the Harris Health System.

If approved by voters, the measure would make the following improvements and expansions to facilities within the Harris Health System:

- Construct a Level 1-capable trauma center at Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Hospital. Level 1 trauma centers provide the highest level of trauma care to critically ill or injured patients on a 24/7 basis.
- Renovate the existing LBJ Hospital to address current service gaps and increase the

availability of outpatient services.

- Increase capacity at Ben Taub Hospital by adding approximately 120 patient rooms, extending the facility's lifespan by at least 15 years.
- Create three new community clinics in high-need areas.

LBJ Hospital and Ben Taub Hospital have not undergone significant upgrades or renovations since their initial construction 30 years ago. Harris County's population has nearly doubled during that time and both hospitals are currently operating at or over capacity.

The American College of Surgeons recommends having one high-level trauma center for every 1 million people, making the proposed Level I trauma center a critical addition to the county's health care infrastructure.

Harris County currently has two adult Level I trauma centers, serving a population of almost 4.8 million. Houston is the second fastest-growing major metropolitan area in the United States, with Harris County projected to have more than

6 million residents, with more than 1.5 million uninsured people by 2050.

Over the next 10 years, the bond is projected to have minimal impact on the average homeowner with a cost of approximately \$6/month.

In addition to the bond package, Harris Health intends to raise \$100 million in philanthropic support and an additional \$300 million from operational savings to help offset total costs.

For additional information about the county's 2023 bond election, visit [www.harrishealth.org](http://www.harrishealth.org).

#### Clear Creek ISD

Voters in Clear Creek ISD will vote on three separate bond measures to address the school

district's aging infrastructure and equipment.

#### Bond Option No. 1

- \$248 million bond in November 2023
- Zero Cent Increase on the I&S tax rate
- Includes:
  - Student safety and priority repairs.

#### Bond Option No. 2

- \$394 million bond in November 2023
- 2.9 cent increase on the I&S tax rate per \$100 valuation
- Includes:
  - Student safety and priority repairs.
  - School renovations of aging schools

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## Suspect, 20, arrested in Fuqua murder

### Shooting at car lot over business transaction

A suspect has been arrested and charged for the Oct. 16 murder that took place at a used car lot at the corner of Fuqua and Beamer.

Malcolm Jakobe Lewis, 20, was charged with murder in the 177th State District Court in the killing of Daniel Abdelmalak, 25.

According to Houston Police Department offi-

cial, an argument over a business transaction escalated into the shooting. Lewis fled the scene after the shooting, placing three nearby schools on lockdown until police deemed them safe to reopen. On Friday, Oct. 20, Lewis turned himself in at HPD headquarters and confessed to his role in the shooting.

## Clear Brook City MUD closes for training

The Clear Brook City MUD offices will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 1, through Friday, Nov. 3, for mandatory employee training.

They will reopen for regular business hours on Monday, Nov. 6, at 8 a.m.

For customer convenience, check and money

order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Should anyone need emergency assistance, one may call the after-hours number at 281-484-2893.

## HPD seeks Kingspoint robbery suspect



The Houston Police Department released surveillance footage in hopes the public could identify a suspect accused of robbing a convenience store around 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, in the 10600 block of Kingspoint at Sabo.

According to Houston Police Department officials, an unknown male entered a convenience store at the above address, grabbed some food from the store and walked out without paying for it.

An employee witnessed the incident and confronted the suspect outside the store. The suspect then displayed a handgun and fled the area.

The suspect is described as a black male between 33 and 37 years old, standing 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 170 to 190 pounds and wearing a black jacket and black pants.

Anyone with information on this person's identity is urged to contact HPD's Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## St. Luke's honors Flickinger



St. Luke's church raised thousands of dollars toward its future Riverstone Ranch facility Saturday, Oct. 21, at its inaugural Gala Night, which honored *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger. The honoree was humble in her acceptance, saying she never did anything that wasn't fun. The function was attended by dozens of community leaders, including Sandra Yandell, the newspaper's first advertiser, and the Rev. John Morgan, who traveled 330 miles despite being from another church. Shown left at the gala are, left to right, the Rev. King-sley Nwoko, parochial vicar; the Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, pastor; Marie; and David Flickinger.

Photo by Bruce Summers

## St. Luke's Gala Night honors Flickinger

Marie Flickinger was honored Saturday, Oct. 21, at the inaugural St. Luke's Church Gala Night.

Few names are as synonymous with the South Belt community as Flickinger. As publisher of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* newspaper, Flickinger is often referred to as the "Mayor of South Belt." While no such official position exists, few have done more than the honoree to promote the development and enrichment of South Belt community.

Flickinger co-founded the newspaper - then known as the *South Belt Press* - in 1976 with fellow housewife Bobby Griffin. Though they had no formal journalistic training, the pair took on the job of reporting on the burgeoning Sagemont community, forging and cultivating longstanding bonds with elected officials, educators, law enforcement, youth sports organizations, local business leaders and area churches.

A transplant from St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, Flickinger was a founding member of St. Luke's, jokingly referred to as St. George Thompson at the time, as the newly forming congregation met in the cafeteria of Thompson Intermediate.

Raised in a religious family, Flickinger attended Catholic school K-12. Her father had studied to become a Benedictine priest but was asked to leave - for being too strict of all things.

Authorized by the Rev. Allen Ray Doga of St. Frances Cabrini, Flickinger made history in the 1970s by becoming one of the first two women in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston - and along with Jennie Schubert - to administer communion, oddly offending many other female parishioners of the era, Flickinger recalled.

In the 1980s, Flickinger was a founding member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, serving as the organization's first president.

The decade proved eventful for the newspaper, as Flickinger's role in uncovering hazardous waste associated with the Brio Superfund site earned her a feature story in *Playboy Magazine*, in which she was dubbed the "Toxic Avenger." Flickinger continues to serve as the Environmental Protection Agency's community liaison for the site. Flickinger has also been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *L.A. Times*, *Texas Monthly* and multiple books by authors such as Molly Ivins and Eddie Weller (a San Jacinto College professor who dedicated an entire chapter of his memoir to Flickinger).

Historic flooding associated with Hurricane Alicia and other torrential storms in the 1980s led to Flickinger's push for much-needed infrastructure in the community to improve drainage and combat area flooding. Flickinger's flood improvement work continued well into the next century, with Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner El Franco Lee approving her vision to construct the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin near Blackhawk and Dixie Farm Road as one of his last projects before his 2016 death.

Flickinger again made history in the 1990s when she was the first woman elected to the San Jacinto

College board of trustees, later serving as its chair. The Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts building on the college's South Campus is named in her honor.

In 2013, Flickinger earned the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award from the American Association of Community College Trustees, naming her the top community college board member in the nation. During Flickinger's tenure on the board, San Jacinto College has consistently been recognized by the prestigious Aspen Institute as one of the top 10 community colleges in the country.

Flickinger also works closely with Pasadena ISD, and in 2015, was named the school district's

Distinguished Citizen of the Year. The esteemed citizen was recognized for her efforts in piloting the Early College High School program, which allows participating students to earn an associate degree by the time they earn a diploma.

Dobie High School - the alma mater of her adult sons Fred and Davy - honored Flickinger in 2015, inducting her into the campus's Hall of Honor for her volunteer efforts in the community.

In 2018, Flickinger was recognized by Gov. Greg Abbott, receiving a Governor's Volunteer Award for her emergency efforts during Hurricane

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## Bush Elementary celebrates Halloween



Families from Bush Elementary recently celebrated Halloween as part of the school's annual Family Fun Run. In addition to costumes, the event featured Halloween safety tips. Shown above at the event are, left to right, (front row) Hung Phan, Zayn Zamora, Christopher Urbina, Sebastian Rodriguez, Isabella Cuellar, Luz Tinajero, Sofia DeLeon, Logan Cantu, Ivan Garcia, (back row) Ian Monterrubio, Vicki Sheppard, Alex DeRostaing and Brandon Enamorado.

# In My Opinion

## Muecke on county, city resources

The Harris County Commissioners in September passed the 2024 budget. Now they are in the process of dividing up this money to the various departments. Our concern has to be the amount each Constable receives. Early this year the Southbelt Leader did a lengthy discussion/outline on how much each Constable receives and it showed that our Precinct 2 received the least amount of dollars. The big question is why. The monies should be divided more or less be equal.

Our Constable Jerry Garcia needs more deputies, vehicles and other safety/security to protect we tax paying citizens. He is doing a great job with the little he has. Recently he helped the Edgebrook corridor with the homeless who had built a large encampment behind the Taco Bell restaurant. They roamed the streets for money and some did damage like at one service station, damaged the front door which cost \$800.00 to replace. He and his deputies came in and with much work and persuasion was able to relocate 12 individuals to a safe living facility. He has helped with other issues along Edgebrook which we appreciate. Reading the Leader we see how he has stepped up on the DWI drivers, most high on drugs.

Now what can you do? **SPEAK UP** as taxpayers by writing and or emailing Commissioner Adrian Garcia demanding that he give an equal amount of money to Constable Jerry Garcia so he can better serve we taxpayers. If a question, go to the Southbelt Leader and they can furnish you with the data that was in the Leader early this year. To many of you see the crime, are upset but say **WHAT CAN I DO**. You can do much by letting Commissioner Garcia receive your correspondence and how you feel. The more the better. You better believe he reads as his re election depends on this. I have already let him know my feelings, so now it is up to you.

Yes, we have the Houston Police Dept. at Clear Lake. They do a good job but also short staffed so we need both to help us.

You may add a note: the mailing address, phone and email as a help.

**Jim Muecke**

## Pastor John on election processes, priorities

**WHAT DO YOU WANT HOUSTON?** There is a lot of buzz in the air about the upcoming City of Houston elections. However, I remain amazed at the lack of misunderstanding about how local municipalities elections work. So, there is no wonder why our city is in the mess that it is in.

Houston City elections happens every four year and is non-partisan. Candidates who run, run as Houstonians not as a Republican or Democrat, however I realize that most people will still view their local candidates through these lens. Nevertheless, the race for City Hall is a non-partisan race. So, you cannot go to polls expecting to vote straight ticket for a Republican or Democrat in the city elections, let alone in Texas. There is no more straight ticket voting in the State of Texas period, so you must be more intentional about your voting selection. You must know that there are 16 seats around the City Hall bench. 11 of the seats are specific district seat (A-K) and five At-Large seats. The At-Large candidates represents all the 11 districts and work with the District Councils and can serve as a buffer to the Mayor. On election day you will have the opportunity to vote for seven city representatives. The Mayor, your District Councilmember, and five At-Large representatives all as non-partisan Houstonians.

## County, Texas A&M program set local event

The Harris County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension recently released their winter calendar which includes this local event.

### Public gardening lectures

To learn more about caring for the trees in one's garden, attend the Trees Lecture by Harris County Master Gardeners featuring speaker Alexa Haass. It will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Genoa Friendship Gardens, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road. This meeting is free and open to the public. Visit [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu).

## Local library events set

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

### Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is located at 9002 Kingsport. 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. Closed Sundays.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m. Outdoors storytime for all ages. Plan to enjoy a good story at Bracewell in the fresh outdoors, weather permitting.

### Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

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

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
- A pickup time and instructions will be given.
- Upon arriving, 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 – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed Sundays. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

## Lions set Walk for Sight

The Pasadena Lions Club staff, families and locals to invites all PISD students, join in the Walk for Sight, set for Oct. 28 at 8 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Those participating are encouraged to arrive early, check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Elementary schoolers and their families check in on the home side, while middle and high schoolers and their families check in on the visitors side of the stadium. This fundraising event supports PISD health services such as nurse memberships and eyeglass vouchers. See to Succeed Transportation, vision screeners, Excellence in Wellness Award support, PE/health memberships/fees and PE/wellness equipment.

To register for the Walk for Sight or to donate, visit [https://secure.gqiv.com/event/walkfor\\_sight2023/](https://secure.gqiv.com/event/walkfor_sight2023/) or text WFS2023 to 50155.

## Martin Antonio (Marty) Flores



Martin Flores Jr., 87, passed away on Oct. 15, 2023, in Spring. He died peacefully at home after a prolonged illness. Martin was born on July 30, 1936, in Corpus Christi to Martin Flores Sr. and Concepcion Cano, who died when Martin was age two.

Of necessity he learned to be independent at a very early age earning money as a shoeshine boy and later as a paper boy. He attended and graduated from public schools and always had a job to sustain himself. While attending Roy Miller High School, he met

his sweetheart, Adelina, whose husband he was for 64 years.

In 1959 he was drafted and served honorably in the U.S. Army. Upon discharge, with a rank of sergeant, he attended college on the GI Bill at Texas A&I (now Texas A&M) in Kingsville. He worked for the Texas State Department of Human Resources as a social worker, work that he really loved. In 1975 he received a master's degree in community organization and social planning from Boston College. He returned to Texas and continued working with the state

of Texas advancing through various positions until retirement as a trainer for TDHS. Prior to retirement he was also an adjunct professor at Texas Southern University. After retirement he worked with disadvantaged high school students in the Upward Bound program. Throughout his life he cared about the welfare of others, helping all people.

For 42 years he lived in the Sagemont community. He was active at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church serving as a lector and Eucharistic minister. He taught citizenship classes and helped parishioners obtain their U.S. citizenship. He involved himself with his family, relatives and helped neighbors, even housing them when Hurricane Harvey struck. After multiple times flooding, he chose to move his family to Spring. Martin lived a rich and productive life, always putting others before himself.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his son Martin, and his brothers Paul and Jimmy Flores. He is loved and mourned by those he leaves behind: wife, Adelina; daughters Carmela Wadding (and her spouse Keith), Angela Flores, Edith Foret; granddaughter Lily Foret; brother, Henry Flores; and those who came to know him. A special note of thanks to attendants from the Visiting Angels agency: Lauryl Johnson and Leslie Rodriguez.

Friends and family gathered at Peevey Funeral home, on Thursday Oct. 19, for visitation and a remembrance service. A Celebration of Life Mass took place at St. Luke the Evangelist, on Friday, Oct. 20. Interment followed at Forest Park East Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to University of Houston and noted INH of Martin Antonio (Marty) Flores Scholarship (Endowment for Composition and Music Theory Studies).

## Dexter Joyner



Dexter Joyner was born on Aug. 4, 1939, in Wilson, N.C. He moved with his family as a child to Henderson. Dexter passed away in his sleep on Sunday, Oct. 15, in Southlake.

Dexter graduated from Henderson High School in 1957. From there Dexter attended Stephen F. Austin and graduated with a degree in history in 1962. Dexter then taught at Pine Tree High School in Longview from 1964 to 1967 teaching history, sociology and civics.

He pursued a law degree from South Texas School of Law in Houston, receiving his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1970. When he took the State Bar of Texas Exam in 1970, he made the second highest score in the state.

He completed his law degree while working full time with Pritchard & Abbot an ad valorem firm while attending law school at night. He then practiced law from 1971 to 2022 in Pasadena and represented the Pasadena ISD, supporting numerous other school districts including Galena Park, Alief, La Porte and Nederland.

Dexter was a Lifetime member of the Houston Livestock and Rodeo committee. He was a founding member of Galena Park ISD Foundation, FFA and the Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation.

Dexter was a lifelong lover of animals raising Santa Gertrudis cattle, Arabian horses and Australian shepherd dogs. He never met a cat, dog, bull, or horse he didn't love. He raised Santa Gertrudis cattle and Arabian horses in Schulenburg with his family. During his earlier years he enjoyed traveling to Germany and England touring Arabian horse farms and the automotive factories of Mercedes Benz and Porsche.

Jan and his former wife, Jan imported several Straight Egyptian Arabian horses from Germany to serve as their foundation bloodstock to develop their breeding program.

Dexter was a member of the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International board. While being active with the Santa Gertrudis International Breeders he supported the National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation by donating heifers to FFA programs to the SGBJ juniors to show to earn scholarships.

He was an automotive enthusiast with an appreciation of Ford trucks, Ford Mustangs, Mercedes Benz and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Dexter was preceded in death by his parents, Wesley and Annette Joyner as well as his brother Gregg Joyner. He is survived by his sons Jeff Joyner (Nyasha) of Farmersville, Derek Joyner (Kim) of League City; his daughter Dana Guggenberger (Chris) of Wylie; and his former wife, Jan Hogsed of Schulenburg. Dexter is also survived by his granddaughter, Ashley Thompson (Justin) of Alvin; three additional granddaughters; two step-grandsons; and one great-grandson.

Funeral services for Joyner were held at Rader Funeral Home of Henderson on Saturday, Oct. 21, with a burial at Rusk County Memorial Gardens. A Celebration of Life will be held at the American Legion Hall in Schulenburg on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers one can donate to one of the following:

- The Galena Park Education Foundation, in memory of Dexter Joyner <https://www.galenaparkisd.com/Page/8999>.
- The National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation, P.O. Box 1257 Kingsville, TX 78364.

All activities performed by the organization are for the purpose of administering education and scholarship programs for involved youth in the breeding of Santa Gertrudis cattle. The special events and activities include the Nat'l Jr. Heifer show and related activities. The majority of the program expenses are included with this special event.

- The Gardena E. Janssen Animal Shelter in La Grange, <https://janssenanimalshelter.org/>.
- Love This Horse Rescue for Arabian Horses, <https://www.lovethehorsearabianrescue.org/>.

He loved fishing, bowling and playing cards and dominoes with friends. His genuine, outgoing personality attracted a wide circle of friends throughout his life.

He was also a Christ-follower and faithful member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Pasadena.

After a fall that temporarily took away Betty's mobility, Jim and Betty sold their home of 55 years in Sagemont and moved into The Reserve at Pasadena in 2022. Rather than bemoan their loss of independence by the move into an assisted living community, Jim adapted with a determined and positive attitude. He did what he had always done best – he made friends.

He welcomed new residents and led by example to ease their anxieties during a difficult life transition. As an ambassador for the activities department, Jim encouraged residents' participation by enthusiastically leading an exercise class, which doubled in size. He participated in Bible study, enjoyed playing dominoes and was the go-to bartender for happy hour. Even in his final stage of life, Jim chose a positive attitude over difficult circumstances and lived productively and purposefully, cheerfully serving others.

He will be remembered as a loving family man and a loyal, trustworthy and generous friend in good times and especially in bad. He was a Man's Man.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife; and his children Tali (Terry), Tom (Linda), Ted (Karen) and Tina (Mark). He will be remembered fondly by his grandchildren Carl Dammel, Chris Dammel (Liz), James Duke (Jen), Brian Duke (Kristen), Kevin Duke, Kelly O'Grady (Nathan), Stephen Myrick (Mandy), Shawn Myrick (Chelsea) Kristin Myrick; and his 15 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Marilyn Goolsby and Ruth Duke, along with numerous nephews and nieces, as well as his brother from another mother, Paul Majors.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Virgil Wayne Duke and Smitly Duke; mother-in-law Columbia Holub; sisters-in-law Tommie Hinski and Carol Bratcher; and brother-in-law Tommy Bratcher.

For those who desire to make a love gift in Jim's memory, the family suggests The Vickie Alvarez Street Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Bacliff, TX 77518, for the purchase of Bibles for the ministry.

## Cantú-Wilson appointed to NAGB



**Michelle Cantú-Wilson**

Educators, from local classrooms to the national level are working to ensure "that hungry tummies are not distracting students," said Houston's own Michelle Cantú-Wilson, currently serving on the San Jac board of trustees.

Cantú-Wilson was recently appointed as General Public Representative for the National Assessment Governing Board by U.S. Secretary of Education along with ten other education leaders nation-wide.

Cantú-Wilson, a first-generation student from the Rio Grande Valley, moved to Houston in 1994 to attend the University of Houston. There, she earned her bachelor's degree in English before beginning teaching in Baytown. After 10 years in Pasadena ISD and 10 at San Jac, it is clear her career of helping students is not slowing down in the slightest, as evidenced by her appointment to the NAGB, which oversees the Nation's Report Card.

The Nation's Report Card, known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, is the only national representative assessment of student achievement. Over the past year, NAEP provided critical insights into student learning gaps across subjects and grades worsened by the pandemic.

Speaking on this, Cantú-Wilson said, "We're fully aware... that there are learning gaps. We knew this before the pandemic. And we felt like we had been doing good work to remediate those gaps, through equity work. But, the pandemic disconnected students from so many of the services and the socialization that they need developmentally that those gaps were in fact exacerbated. And we find ourselves in a position where we almost have to go back to square one and look at our students' basic needs and move from there."

She emphasized the current focus is to improve basic math and reading skills, as well as improving and matching the tools used to assess students' skills.

In addition, she explained equity work such as providing free lunches, hot breakfasts, donating backpacks

and helping teachers fill their classroom supply closets are gravely important to "leveling the playing field so that all students are starting from the same spot so that they can all achieve the dreams they have for themselves."

"There are efforts left and right to ensure that when our students get to school, they can focus only on what their learning," Cantú-Wilson stated.

Cantú-Wilson's passion for student success is displayed in her recollection of her first year at Jackson Intermediate in Pasadena ISD. "That first year, I fell in love with north Pasadena and the students and the families from that area."

She related that between her 10 years in PISD and 10 years at San Jac she still keeps in contact with a good number of her former students and their growing families.

"I didn't mean to fall in love with Houston," she related, "I didn't think I was going to be here long." However, she related that once she started teaching at Jackson Intermediate, "It felt so much like home that I just never wanted to leave."

As Cantú-Wilson begins her term as representative, students and families can rest assured that their education is in the hands of someone who has their best interests at heart.

For more information about the governing board, visit [www.nagb.gov](http://www.nagb.gov).

## St. Luke's gala honors Flickinger

**Continued from Page 1** Harvey. When high waters left many South Belt residents homeless during the storm, Flickinger organized with Pasadena ISD officials to set up a temporary shelter at Dobie High School, feeding and housing more than 1,650 displaced residents. Flickinger

coordinated more than 150 volunteers at the temporary shelter, including members from the American Red Cross.

Flickinger's involvement in the South Belt community includes coordinating the annual Fourth of July parade and fireworks display, the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off and the

## Early voting underway till Nov. 3

**Continued from Page 1** (40+years).

- Armand Bayou Elementary School.
- Greene Elementary.
- Instructional and security technology.\*\*
- Athletic and fine arts improvements.
- Requires a separate proposition on the ballot

**Bond Option No. 3** – \$614 Million Bond in November 2023.

- 7.2 Cent Increase on the I&S Tax Rate per \$100 valuation.
- Includes: Student Safety and Priority Repairs.
- School Renovations of Aging Schools (40+Years).

Armand Bayou Elementary School.

- Greene Elementary.
- Clear Creek Intermediate School.\*
- Clear Lake Intermediate.\*
- Seabrook Intermediate.\*
- Instructional and Security Technology.\*\*
- Athletic and Fine Arts Improvements.
- Vision 2030 Intermediate Facility Modifications.\*
- Vision 2030 Facility Modifications are included in the Major Renovations.
- Requires a separate proposition on the ballot.

**Tax-rate election** Clear Creek ISD is also holding a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election, or a VATRE.

This is an election required by the state that asks voters to consider approving a modified tax rate to increase revenue for student programs, maximize CCISD's maintenance and operations funding, as well as teacher and staff salaries.

Clear Creek ISD is seeking community feedback on the VATRE proposal, which would allow the district to increase local and state revenue by \$17.5 million to pay for inflationary costs associated with running a school district while not increasing the Maintenance and Operations tax rate.

Under current law, the state requires public school districts to lower their tax rate when local property values increase, essentially limiting the general revenue school districts are allowed to keep or receive to 2019 levels. While local property owners have seen increases in their property values, the school district does not financially benefit from it on the Maintenance and Operations tax rate due to what is known as tax rate compression.

For information on these bond proposals and tax-rate election, visit [electioncentral.squarespace.com](http://electioncentral.squarespace.com).

## Elected officials share their words

**Middleton on Texas vaccine mandates**

Fellow Texan, Last week, I passed a bill out of the Texas Senate to ban COVID vaccine mandates in Texas. Restoring medical freedom to each and every Texan is one of my top priorities.

No one should ever be forced to choose between their job and taking the COVID vaccine. My bill, Senate Bill 7, is the strongest ban on COVID vaccine mandates in the country. There are NO carveouts or ex-

ceptions to the ban. I look forward to sending this bill to the Governor's desk and ensuring vaccine freedom in Texas.

Over the weekend, I had the privilege of speaking at the Texas Federation of Republican Women's convention. The theme was "Iron Ladies," and without the hard work of our TFRW Iron Ladies, none of our conservative victories would be possible.

God Bless Texas, **Mayes Middleton**

## Lisa Holbrook named executive director

ly named as the South Belt – Ellington Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Lisa has extensive experience in nonprofit leadership and a strong commitment to promoting economic growth in the region. She understands the advocacy process at both the state and federal levels and is dedicated to expanding the chamber's reach.

Lisa is enthusiastic about providing networking and business promotion opportunities and continuing the chamber's legacy of influence and impact since its establishment in 1984.



**Lisa Holbrook** Lisa Holbrook, a 37-year resident of the greater Clear Lake community, was recent-

## New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



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# Deaths

of Texas advancing through various positions until retirement as a trainer for TDHS. Prior to retirement he was also an adjunct professor at Texas Southern University. After retirement he worked with disadvantaged high school students in the Upward Bound program. Throughout his life he cared about the welfare of others, helping all people.

For 42 years he lived in the Sagemont community. He was active at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church serving as a lector and Eucharistic minister. He taught citizenship classes and helped parishioners obtain their U.S. citizenship. He involved himself with his family, relatives and helped neighbors, even housing them when Hurricane Harvey struck. After multiple times flooding, he chose to move his family to Spring. Martin lived a rich and productive life, always putting others before himself.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his son Martin, and his brothers Paul and Jimmy Flores. He is loved and mourned by those he leaves behind: wife, Adelina; daughters Carmela Wadding (and her spouse Keith), Angela Flores, Edith Foret; granddaughter Lily Foret; brother, Henry Flores; and those who came to know him. A special note of thanks to attendants from the Visiting Angels agency: Lauryl Johnson and Leslie Rodriguez.

Friends and family gathered at Peevey Funeral home, on Thursday Oct. 19, for visitation and a remembrance service. A Celebration of Life Mass took place at St. Luke the Evangelist, on Friday, Oct. 20. Interment followed at Forest Park East Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to University of Houston and noted INH of Martin Antonio (Marty) Flores Scholarship (Endowment for Composition and Music Theory Studies).

## Dexter Joyner



Dexter Joyner was born on Aug. 4, 1939, in Wilson, N.C. He moved with his family as a child to Henderson. Dexter passed away in his sleep on Sunday, Oct. 15, in Southlake.

Dexter graduated from Henderson High School in 1957. From there Dexter attended Stephen F. Austin and graduated with a degree in history in 1962. Dexter then taught at Pine Tree High School in Longview from 1964 to 1967 teaching history, sociology and civics.

He pursued a law degree from South Texas School of Law in Houston, receiving his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1970. When he took the State Bar of Texas Exam in 1970, he made the second highest score in the state.

He completed his law degree while working full time with Pritchard & Abbot an ad valorem firm while attending law school at night. He then practiced law from 1971 to 2022 in Pasadena and represented the Pasadena ISD, supporting numerous other school districts including Galena Park, Alief, La Porte and Nederland.

Dexter was a Lifetime member of the Houston Livestock and Rodeo committee. He was a founding member of Galena Park ISD Foundation, FFA and the Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation.

Dexter was a lifelong lover of animals raising Santa Gertrudis cattle, Arabian horses and Australian shepherd dogs. He never met a cat, dog, bull, or horse he didn't love. He raised Santa Gertrudis cattle and Arabian horses in Schulenburg with his family. During his earlier years he enjoyed traveling to Germany and England touring Arabian horse farms and the automotive factories of Mercedes Benz and Porsche.

Jan and his former wife, Jan imported several Straight Egyptian Arabian horses from Germany to serve as their foundation bloodstock to develop their breeding program.

Dexter was a member of the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International board. While being active with the Santa Gertrudis International Breeders he supported the National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation by donating heifers to FFA programs to the SGBJ juniors to show to earn scholarships.

He was an automotive enthusiast with an appreciation of Ford trucks, Ford Mustangs, Mercedes Benz and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Dexter was preceded in death by his parents, Wesley and Annette Joyner as well as his brother Gregg Joyner. He is survived by his sons Jeff Joyner (Nyasha) of Farmersville, Derek Joyner (Kim) of League City; his daughter Dana Guggenberger (Chris) of Wylie; and his former wife, Jan Hogsed of Schulenburg. Dexter is also survived by his granddaughter, Ashley Thompson (Justin) of Alvin; three additional granddaughters; two step-grandsons; and one great-grandson.

Funeral services for Joyner were held at Rader Funeral Home of Henderson on Saturday, Oct. 21, with a burial at Rusk County Memorial Gardens. A Celebration of Life will be held at the American Legion Hall in Schulenburg on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers one can donate to one of the following:

- The Galena Park Education Foundation, in memory of Dexter Joyner <https://www.galenaparkisd.com/Page/8999>.
- The National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation, P.O. Box 1257 Kingsville, TX 78364.

All activities performed by the organization are for the purpose of administering education and scholarship programs for involved youth in the breeding of Santa Gertrudis cattle. The special events and activities include the Nat'l Jr. Heifer show and related activities. The majority of the program expenses are included with this special event.

- The Gardena E. Janssen Animal Shelter in La Grange, <https://janssenanimalshelter.org/>.
- Love This Horse Rescue for Arabian Horses, <https://www.lovethehorsearabianrescue.org/>.

He loved fishing, bowling and playing cards and dominoes with friends. His genuine, outgoing personality attracted a wide circle of friends throughout his life.

He was also a Christ-follower and faithful member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Pasadena.

After a fall that temporarily took away Betty's mobility, Jim and Betty sold their home of 55 years in Sagemont and moved into The Reserve at Pasadena in 2022. Rather than bemoan their loss of independence by the move into an assisted living community, Jim adapted with a determined and positive attitude. He did what he had always done best – he made friends.

He welcomed new residents and led by example to ease their anxieties during a difficult life transition. As an ambassador for the activities department, Jim encouraged residents' participation by enthusiastically leading an exercise class, which doubled in size. He participated in Bible study, enjoyed playing dominoes and was the go-to bartender for happy hour. Even in his final stage of life, Jim chose a positive attitude over difficult circumstances and lived productively and purposefully, cheerfully serving others.

He will be remembered as a loving family man and a loyal, trustworthy and generous friend in good times and especially in bad. He was a Man's Man.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife; and his children Tali (Terry), Tom (Linda), Ted (Karen) and Tina (Mark). He will be remembered fondly by his grandchildren Carl Dammel, Chris Dammel (Liz), James Duke (Jen), Brian Duke (Kristen), Kevin Duke, Kelly O'Grady (Nathan), Stephen Myrick (Mandy), Shawn Myrick (Chelsea) Kristin Myrick; and his 15 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Marilyn Goolsby and Ruth Duke, along with numerous nephews and nieces, as well as his brother from another mother, Paul Majors.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Virgil Wayne Duke and Smitly Duke; mother-in-law Columbia Holub; sisters-in-law

# AN EMERGENCY IS ALWAYS AN EMERGENCY

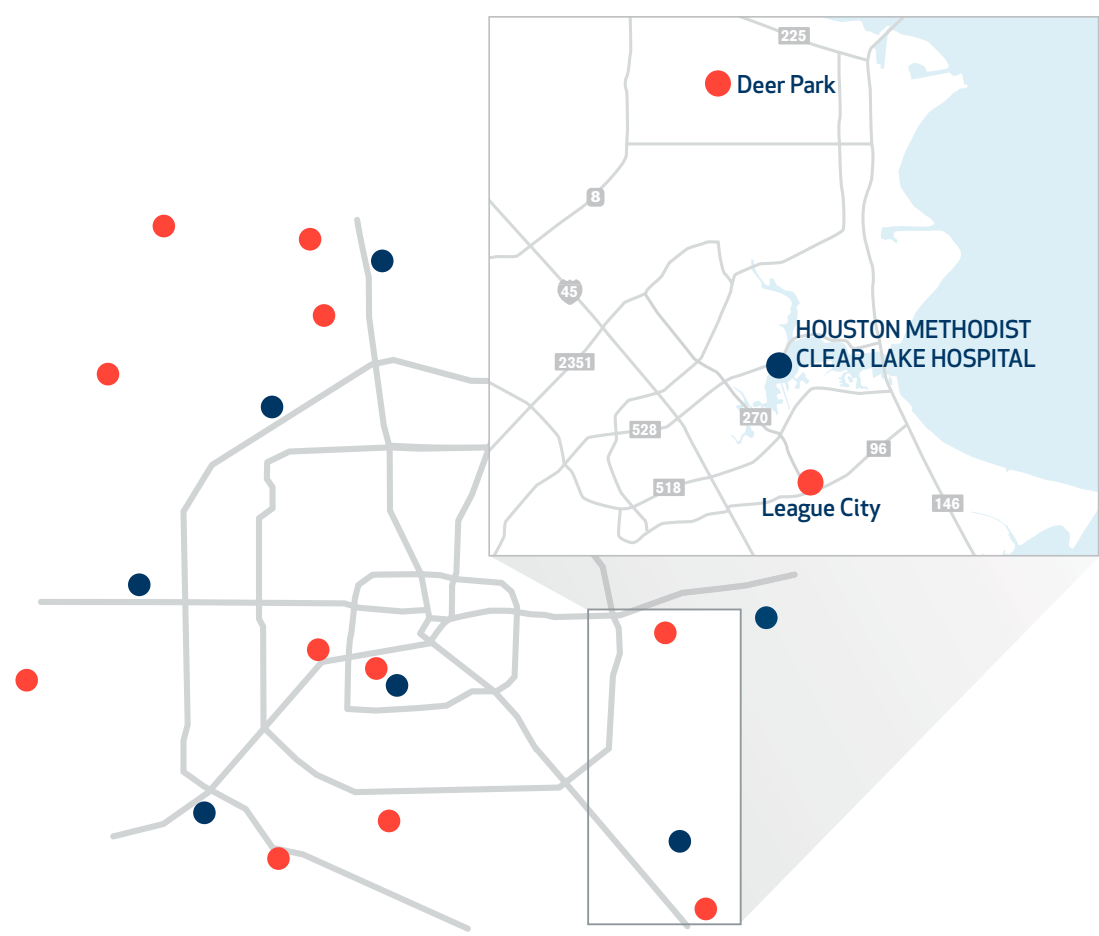
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# South Belt Elementary celebrates September Super Steers



South Belt Elementary recently recognized their Super Steers for September of the 2023-2024 school year. Shown are, left to right, (first row) Jacob Mungai, Jose Lazo, Sarah Lozano, Skylar Rodriguez, Ruby Manriquez, Kayla Cao, Isabella Arreola, Aria Hernandez, Javier Martinez, Kamari Nunn, (second row) Vincent Smith, Jacob Ramirez, Laylah Alvarez, Odalys Bedolla, Rayyan Jafri, Santiago Chavez, Tatum Toomer, (third row) Ethan White, Robyn Morin, Bareerah Khan, Travis Alba, Azelie Tamegnon, (fourth row) Lorelei Cabrera, Brooke Kelinske, Arianna Correa, Sophia Sepulveda, Isidro Garcia, Ariadna Hernandez, Eve Tran, Isabella Portillo, Cooper Hardy, (fifth row) Jaylah Hernandez, Cesar Reyna, Benji Pham, Jacob Martinez, Alessandra Gutierrez and Jose Tenorio.

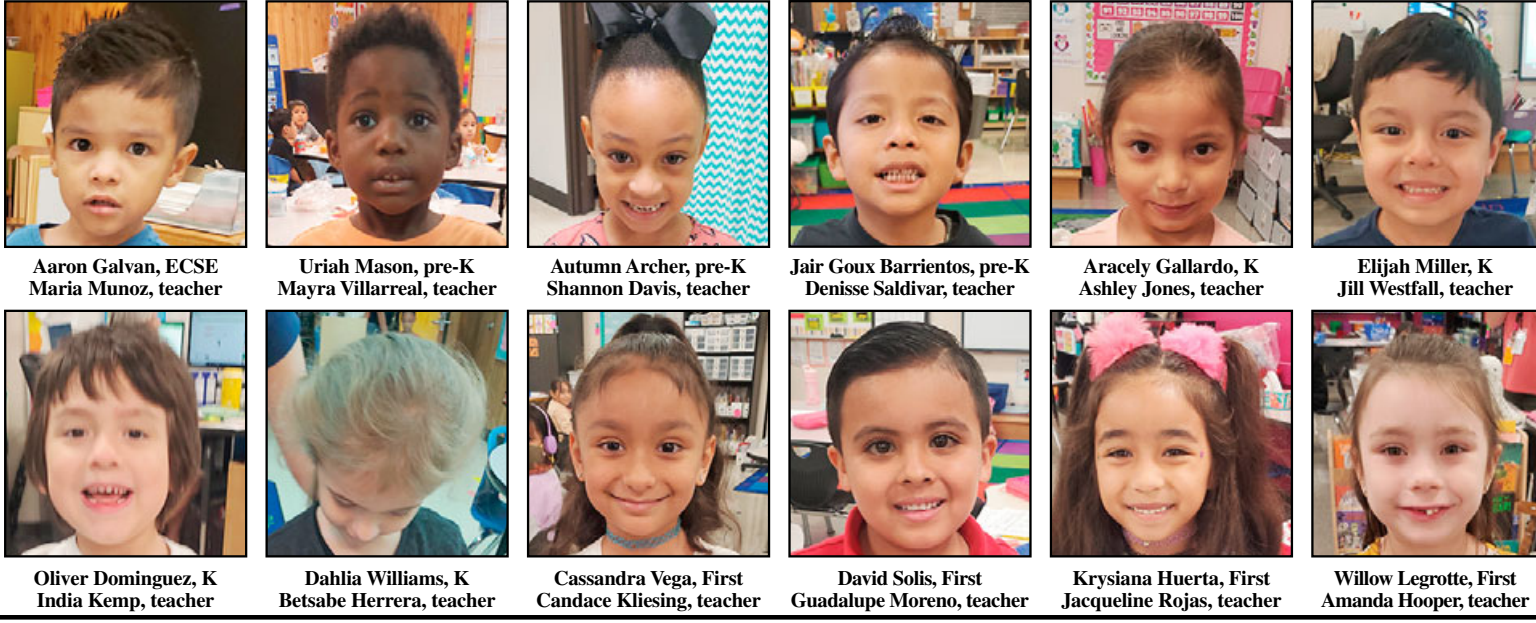
# Lariaette of the Week, Oct. 19



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the week of Oct. 19 is sophomore MiaBella Sudario Garza a first year line member.

# Frazier Elementary makes known mathematicians of the month

Frazier Elementary officials recently crowned their mathematicians of the month for September of the 2023-2024 school year. Shown are students awarded from grade levels ECSE to first. More Frazier September mathematicians will be featured in next week's edition of the Leader.



**Aaron Galvan, ECSE** Maria Munoz, teacher  
**Uriah Mason, pre-K** Mayra Villarreal, teacher  
**Autumn Archer, pre-K** Shannon Davis, teacher  
**Jair Goux Barrientos, pre-K** Denisse Saldivar, teacher  
**Aracely Gallardo, K** Ashley Jones, teacher  
**Elijah Miller, K** Jill Westfall, teacher  
**Maximiliano Moreno, K** Luisa Lewis, teacher  
**Oliver Dominguez, K** India Kemp, teacher  
**Dahlia Williams, K** Betsabe Herrera, teacher  
**Cassandra Vega, First** Candace Kliesing, teacher  
**David Solis, First** Guadalupe Moreno, teacher  
**Krysiana Huerta, First** Jacqueline Rojas, teacher  
**Willow Legrotte, First** Amanda Hooper, teacher

# Sam Arciniega to retire



Samuel Arciniega

With General Manager Samuel Arciniega set to retire from HEB Blackhawk, his fellow coworkers expressed their appreciation for his work and wanted to inform the community of his retirement. Arciniega has been employed at HEB Blackhawk for the past decade and is very involved in community events. His coworkers invite his customers to come say goodbye. His last day, is Wednesday, Nov. 1.

# Students of the month awarded at Atkinson

Atkinson Elementary officials recognized their students of the month for September. Accompanying each photo are comments from Atkinson staff explaining why the students were chosen for this award.



John Jacuinde from Aushunay Banala's three-year-olds class is always kind and respectful to his teachers and peers. He participates in class and engages during lessons. He shares with his peers and enjoys helping others.



Fourth-grader Jayla Morales of Nancy Vazquez's homeroom is polite and respectful to her peers and teachers. She works well with her classmates and respects their ideas and thoughts. She raises her hand and waits patiently to be called on. Vazquez thanks her for being a good example for her classmates.



Pre-K student Aurora Martinez of Jennifer Chapa's class is always kind and respectful to others. She is always willing to help her teachers and friends.



Third-grader Axel Castillo of Jessica Armenta's homeroom is very polite and kind to others around him. He is also very helpful to everyone in class.



Kindergartener Olivia McMullen of Ashley Armenta's class is very sweet and always willing to listen and help others. She is a great friend and is always nice to everyone and practices communicating with her peers.



Second-grader Sabrina Garcia of Rebecca Garcia's class has very respectful character traits. She is kind and courteous to her classmates and teachers. When others are speaking, she listens and makes eye contact. She is respectful to teachers and follows instructions the first time. She responds appropriately with phrases like "please" and "thank you". She encourages and assists classmates who need help. She is a positive example to her friends.



First-grader Kamila Cervantes of Dee Davis's class is a very polite and kind girl. She is always willing to listen to what others have to say, lend a helping hand to a friend, and she treats others and their property with kindness and respect.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1978)**  
 The city of Houston arson division was investigating the cause of a house fire at 10811 Sagemeadow after the home of Judy Hinesley was totally demolished. The city's announced intent to annex some 100,000 residents, including subdivisions in the South Belt area caused mixed reactions among city officials and residents.

**40 years ago (1983)**  
 Trustees of the Clear Creek school district dropped the district's tax rate of 83 cents per \$100 valuation by 1 cent per \$100 valuation.

**35 years ago (1988)**  
 Houston City Council voted unanimously in favor of city ordinances erasing the unification of the South Belt area.

**20 years ago (2003)**  
 Frazier Elementary students raised \$1,700 for the children at Shriners' Hospital burn center in Galveston by decorating pumpkins as storybook characters.

**15 years ago (2008)**  
 A record number of early voters turned out for the general elections. The number of Harris County voters who cast their votes on the first day of early voting more than doubled the number who voted in the 2004 presidential election.

**10 years ago (2013)**  
 All Pasadena Independent School District elementary schools were placed on high alert after district officials received a threat against an un-known campus. According to police, an adult male called a Houston-based crime tip line early that morning and merely said he planned to shoot up an elementary school with an AK-47. Police were able to trace the phone call to a hotel room in La Porte, and the caller was arrested.

**5 years ago (2018)**  
 Record numbers of Harris County voters have cast their ballots early for the upcoming Nov. 6 general election. On the first day of early voting on Monday, Oct. 22, a record number of 63,188 residents went to the polls, smashing the previous record, set in 2010, by more than 35,000 votes. The following day on Tuesday, Oct. 23, a new record was again set when more than 64,700 voters cast their early ballots. At press time, at least another 54,000 voters had already returned mail-in ballots, bringing the total figure to more than 181,900. County-wide, the figures top the corresponding early voting totals of both the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections, even though mid-term elections typically draw far fewer voters. Locally, the number of residents who voted early on Monday at the Harris County courthouse annex on Scarsdale at Beamer was even higher than the 2016 presidential election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. On the first day of early voting, 1,564 residents cast their ballots at the Scarsdale location, whereas only 1,488 did so in the 2016 presidential election. On Tuesday, Oct. 23, another 1,604 cast their ballots at the location. The corresponding day during the 2016 election drew 1,677 early voters to the location.

**1 year ago (2022)**  
 A 57-year-old woman was murdered outside her apartment around 11:25 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, in the 10900 block of Tanner Park Court near Alameda Mall. Shot multiple times, Yolanda Flores was pronounced dead at the scene. No immediate arrests were made.

**2007-2008 school year.** While the district made significant improvements by statewide standards, it fell short of meeting national requirements. As a whole, the district was rated "Acceptable." The district, however, failed to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), as established by the national accountability system, No Child Left Behind.

**2007-2008 school year.** The Clear Creek Independent School District was rated by the TEA as "Recognized" for the 2007-2008 school year for the 11th time out of 12 years. Clear Brook High School was only one student shy of meeting the criteria in the area of mathematics among African-American students.

**2007-2008 school year.** The 24th Wings Over Houston Airshow was held at Ellington Field, giving attendees a chance to view historic and modern aircraft.

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**2007-2008 school year.** The 24th Wings Over Houston Airshow was held at Ellington Field, giving attendees a chance to view historic and modern aircraft.



# Over The Back Fence by Natalie

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALEXIS!**  
 Special wishes are sent to Alexis Lochner (former Leader staffer) who enjoys a birthday Friday, Oct. 27, from sister Marie and husband David Flickinger; daughters Nicole Manning and Jessica LeBlanc and husband Michael; sons Dan Sorensen and Joshua David and wife Tamra; grandchildren Breanna and Andrew Manning, Dira and Danny Sorensen and Michaela, Judaea and Rhett LeBlanc.

**TYLER CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
 Happy birthday wishes are sent to Tyler Scarberry who enjoys a birthday Oct. 28. Lots of love is sent from parents Jennie and Robert Scarberry (former longtime South Belt residents); sister Jenny (Hayes) Laney, husband Josh and children Brayden, Baylee and Olivia; sister Stacy (Hayes) Flowers, husband Stephen and children Kennedy, Owen and Evie; brother Joey Hayes; and brother Austin Scarberry and daughters Jade and Lily. Tyler is a 2010 Dobie High School graduate.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
 The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Oct. 26 through Nov. 1.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
 Remember to wish Kristi Johnson a happy birthday Oct. 26.

**Burnett Elementary**  
 Rebecca Wells is wished a happy birthday Nov. 1.

**Frazier Elementary**  
 The day for a cake for Deidra Garza is Oct. 27. Send a birthday greeting Oct. 28 to Maria

**Martinez.** Light the birthday candles for Gracie Puente Oct. 30. Give a birthday shoutout Nov. 1 to Jacqueline Rojas.

**Genoa Elementary**  
 Send a birthday greeting Oct. 26 to Ashley Farias.

**Hancock Elementary**  
 Blow out the birthday candles for Valerie Guevara Oct. 26. Light the birthday candles for Jacqueline Ochoa Oct. 28. Send a humorous birthday card Nov. 1 to Gladys Elizondo.

**Meador Elementary**  
 Remember to wish Donna Huemme a happy birthday Oct. 29.

**South Belt Elementary**  
 Rachel Sanders enjoys a happy birthday Oct. 12. The day for a party for Tiffani Thomason is Oct. 28.

**Melillo Middle School**  
 Join in the birthday fun Oct. 28 with Braeden Christen.

**Roberts Middle School**  
 Steffanie Purucker celebrates a birthday Oct. 29. Light the birthday candles Nov. 1 for Gesina Martin.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
 Give a birthday shoutout Oct. 26 for Gerardo Nunez. Dominique Thomas enjoys a birthday Oct. 28.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
 Send birthday greetings to Angelina Davila Oct. 27.

**Dobie High**  
 Send a birthday greeting Oct. 26 to Ashley Moore. On Oct. 27, birthday wishes are sent to

**Kelly Hancock.** Joshua Lyons enjoys a birthday Oct. 28. Break out the balloons and birthday cake Oct. 30 for Leslie Barcelona. Enjoy a triple-layer birthday cake with Lauren Calderaro, Santiago Sepeda and William Yarberry on Oct. 31. Sara Gokey is wished a happy birthday Nov. 1.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
 Thursday, Oct. 26: Laurel Robertson, Crystal Ramirez; Missy Locklear, Autumn Prater, Sandy Hinson and Arturo Hernandez; Friday, Oct. 27: Rose Garcia, Jose Estrada, James Burkart, Mario Stewart, Troy McMullen and Kelly Pritchett. Saturday, Oct. 28: Steve Barbosa, Lynda Lake and Joanne Juren; Sunday, Oct. 29: Dolores Garcia, Mary Ortiz, Jackie Aguilar, Tracey Nance, Rosie Hernandez, Louis Schumann, Lauren Simpson, Laura King, Judy Cole and William Scott IV; Monday, Oct. 30: Carmen Cantu, Patricia Goforth-Rakes, Sara Peters-Wiggins, Greg Chavez, Jennifer Miller, Jennie Minter, Bo Bolan and Olyn Taylor; Tuesday, Oct. 31: Carmen Cantu, Patricia Goforth-Rakes, Sara Peters-Wiggins, Greg Chavez, Jennifer Miller, Jennie Minter, Bo Bolan and Olyn Taylor; and Wednesday, Nov. 1: Earl Sword, Dawn McDonald, Sean Connors, Sherry Rigtmer, Randy Read, Richard Veltman, and Susan Quintana.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
 Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Dobie's Garza earns state cross-country berth

Dobie junior Lauren Garza is now one of the school's all-time greats as she has qualified to compete in the Class 6A State Cross-Country Championships, set for Nov. 4 at Old Settler's Park in Round Rock. Covering the 5,000-meter course in a personal record of 19 minutes, 01.8 seconds, Garza was 19th overall among the Region III finishers at Kate Barr Ross Park Oct. 24. Aside from runners who qualify for state with their teams, the next 10 individual runners advance. Garza, the 22-6A champion earlier this month, was No. 10. See more on Page 6 as well as Nov. 2.



From left, Dobie teammates Aly Frias, Lexie Gonzalez, Alana Goree (2), Amaya Langellier (1) and Haley DeHoyos (13) celebrate winning a point during Senior Night Oct. 17 against Sam Rayburn. Dobie is awaiting the start of the bidistrict playoffs Oct. 30-31. As the postseason opens, the Longhorns have delivered a program-record 31 wins against just eight losses as of Oct. 24 and at 10-2 in District 22-6A play represent the league's No. 2 playoff seed.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

## 31-win regular season complete; JFD volleyball awaits bidistrict

Arianna Borrego. Aly Frias. Haley DeHoyos. Ariana Garza. Lexie Gonzalez. Alana Goree. Student Trainer Alyssa Hernandez. Student trainer Jordan Lehman. Naima LeBlanc. Matison Mitchell. Belle Perridon. Haley Precella. Student trainer Valeria Quiroz. Each of those seniors along with their families deservedly took a bow on Senior Night Oct. 17 in the Dobie varsity volleyball team's home finale against Sam Rayburn.

The special night included the team's 30th regular season win, which has since been extended to a program all-time best of 31 wins following an Oct. 20 victory at South Houston. At 31-7 overall and 10-2 for second place in District 22-6A, the Longhorns and head coach Dawn Sexton, who during league play secured career win No. 450 and counting, will now look toward the Oct. 30-31 bidistrict playoffs.

### Bidistrict Volleyball Playoffs

**22-6A No. 2 seed Dobie vs. Summer Creek/Kingwood**  
Oct. 30-31, TBA

Note: At press time, the District 21-6A No. 2 and No. 3 playoff seedings were to-be-determined.

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## Longhorn football rolls toward 22-6A crown

**By John Bechtle Sports Editor**  
Guaranteed a share of the District 22-6A varsity football championship and having locked up the top seed in the Division I playoff bracket, the Dobie Longhorns will look to finish their impressive journey Oct. 27 against South Houston.

A dominant 64-0 win over the Sam Rayburn Texans, complete with a 28-0 lead over the game's first eight minutes, locked away the top seed out of the 6A Division I playoff

bracket for Dobie. At 7-2 overall and riding a 5-0 march through 22-6A play with the single game against the Trojans remaining, Dobie's unfinished business is to claim outright league championship rights with another win. Deer Park defeated Channelview 56-39 Oct. 20 and can still wind up league play at 5-1, but the Longhorns' 38-35 win over the Deer gives the locals a tiebreaker edge should it be needed. Dobie's bye week is

Nov. 2-4 as the remainder of the league plays out the string. With wins over playoff contenders Deer Park, Channelview and Memorial already in hand, the Longhorns needed to get past the Texans as the visiting team Oct. 19 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena to ensure a share of the 22-6A crown. Scoring 28 unanswered points over the first 7 minutes, 56 seconds of the game removed any doubt in this one. Dobie cornerback Ter-

Hernandez's desperation heave on a fourth-down play. Thomas' short return set the Longhorns up at their own 16-yard line. On the first play of that drive, Tariq Riley took quarterback Juan Huerta's swing pass 84 yards for a touchdown and a 15-0 Dobie lead at the 8:58 mark. A three-and-out by the Texans was followed by a short punt. From the Rayburn 43, Dobie wideout Ethan Nguyen delivered as he came away with



Dobie dominated Sam Rayburn from start to finish Oct. 19 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena as Bryce Evans (24) finished off the Longhorns' fourth straight touchdown drive for a 28-0 lead with 4:08 to play in the opening quarter on a 9-yard run.

Photo by David Flickinger

**Dobie vs. South Houston**  
Fri., Oct. 27, 7 p.m.  
Veterans Stadium, Pasadena

### Visitors welcomed at H/F

The Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame will be open to visitors Friday night for one hour before the 7 p.m. kickoff of the Dobie-South Houston football game. Admission is always free. Those wishing to visit should enter the stadium first and proceed to the gates at the south end zone, on either side of the dressing rooms. A hand stamp will allow those visiting the museum to re-enter the stadium through the same gate. The museum features a variety of displays, many of them honoring former players and coaches for the Longhorns and Trojans.

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## LSA cross-country off to state

The Lutheran South varsity boys' cross-country team, led by top overall medalist Marcus Gaitan, has won the 5,000-meter Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A District 5 championship and will head to state Oct. 30 in Waco with high hopes. The Pioneer varsity girls' team, pushed by senior Lydia Ward's fifth-place finish at the 3,200-meter distance, placed second as a team and will advance to state as well. Marcus Gaitan was the first to the finish line at The Woodlands course, finishing at 15 minutes, 59.36 seconds for the gold medal with Christopher Pietrak of St. John's XXIII second at 16:05.13. The Gaitan brothers were out in front for the Pi-

oneers as they delivered a low of 30 among their five official qualifiers. Pietrak's St. John's XXIII team was runner-up at 46. Matthew Gaitan, the twin of Marcus Gaitan, was third for a bronze medal as he paced the next wave in at 16:49.18. Jeremy Gaitan, a freshman for the Pioneers, placed fifth overall as he clocked in with a time of 17:08.83, and sophomore Reid Toner was seventh-best for the Pioneers at 17:20.70. Sophomore Sam Hergenrader was Lutheran South's fifth official scorer as he was 14th at 18:41.14. The Pioneers also had great races from senior Nathan Robert (20th at 19:28.64), freshman Nicholas Pena (21st at 19:33.36), senior Gabriel Salazar (22nd at 19:46.64), freshman Theron Ayala (24th at 19:53.08), senior Andrew Morales (25th at 20:00.03) and freshman Josh Gaitan (27th at 20:07.74), the twin of Jeremy Gaitan. St. John's XXIII's junior Avery Garrity was the champion of the varsity girls' 3,200-meter event, the lone competitor to break 13 minutes at 12:54.27. In the team standings, The Woodlands Christian got three runners into the top seven to claim the team title with a tally of 55. Lutheran South was second at 66. A senior, Ward began her final postseason with a fifth-place honor to lead her LSA team as her time was 13:29.70. LSA junior Mia Fulton came across the finish line at 14:11.11 for

### CB's Trevino finishes at regionals



Clear Brook senior Joseph Trevino (1502 at the 24-6A championships) was 22nd overall at 16 minutes, 05.68 seconds at the Region III Cross-Country Championships Oct. 24 in Huntsville. A three-time regional qualifier, Trevino completed his stellar career by missing a state berth by three spots.

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# Unbeaten Dobie earns title share; Brook needs win over Chargers

As the varsity football races enter the final two weeks of the regular season across the state, the cream has risen to the top. For the most part, there have been few surprises within the District 22-6A ranks. In fact, a good starting place is to look at the programs that have been eliminated.

In 22-6A, Pasadena and Sam Rayburn will tangle in the final week of the regular season to decide bragging rights for 2023 but little more.

That leaves five programs battling for four spots. However, the Division I field is set.

Dobie, the current 22-6A leader and already at least the league's co-champion, will be the 6A Division I top seed and will host either North Shore or Atascocita in the bidistrict

playoffs Nov. 9-11. North Shore and Atascocita meet head-to-head Oct. 27 to settle the 21-6A title.

Things are essentially set in 22-6A. After Dobie, Deer Park, currently at 3-1 with head-to-head wins over Memorial and Channelview, will be the 6A Division I second seed, playing at either North Shore or Atascocita in the opening playoff round Nov. 9-11.

Things are a bit more unsettled as per the Division II playoff field, with Memorial at 3-2 with a remaining game against Channelview. Both Channelview and South Houston are 2-2.

Of the three, the Trojans have the bumpiest road to the postseason with remaining home games against Dobie and then

against Deer Park Nov. 2. South Houston likely needs a pair of wins to advance to the playoffs. Memorial has the remaining game against Channelview in the final week but has the benefit of a win over South Houston in pocket.

In 24-6A, Dickinson has won seven straight games overall and leads the entire field at 4-0 in league play.

Clear Creek and Clear Falls are 3-1 and will be the Division II postseason representatives should things hold true.

Clear Brook is 2-2 but finishes with games against Clear Springs and Dickinson.

It'll be a challenge, but the Wolverines can see a road to the postseason with a win over Clear Springs.

## District 22-6A Football Standings

Team	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Dobie	5	0	0	7	2	0
Deer Park	3	1	0	7	1	0
Memorial	3	2	0	5	4	0
Channelview	2	2	0	3	5	0
South Houston	2	2	0	4	4	0
Rayburn	0	4	0	3	5	0
Pasadena	0	4	0	3	5	0

## District 24-6A Football Standings

Team	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Dickinson	4	0	0	7	1	0
Clear Creek	3	1	0	6	2	0
Clear Falls	3	1	0	4	4	0
Clear Springs	3	2	0	5	4	0
Clear Brook	2	2	0	3	5	0
Clear Lake	0	4	0	3	5	0
Brazoswood	0	5	0	3	6	0

## First-place Dobie routs Texans

Continued from Page 5  
a 27-yard catch and run before Mathews' 16-yard scoring burst.

Bryce Evans finished off the Longhorns' fourth straight touchdown drive for a 28-0 lead with 4:08 to play in the opening quarter on a 9-yard run.

There was plenty more where that came from as the Texans slipped to 2-6 overall, including an 0-4 run in 22-6A play.

Defensively, senior

Dempsey Spears has arguably been the league's top overall performer with 22-6A bests of 93 total tackles and 18 stops for loss.

Roderick Drumgo has five quarterback sacks, and Thomas now leads the team with three interceptions. Jaylon Broussard and C.J. Richard have two each.

Mathews has averaged right at 17 carries per game and has rushed for big-time totals of 1,472 yards and 17 touchdowns.

He's added five successful conversion runs along the way.

The talented junior was the No. 2 rusher a season ago, and long ago secured the rushing title this season. He should be the league's Most Valuable Player.

Dobie senior quarterback Juan Huerta has been efficient with select throws, tossing seven touchdowns to go with just one interception through nine games.



Dobie senior defensive back Terrance Thomas (5) looks to head the other way after grabbing his second interception in the opening three minutes of the Longhorns' 64-0 win over Sam Rayburn Oct. 19 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Photo by David Flickinger

## South Belt football predictions



John Bechtle



Emory Gadd



Troy Leland



Stephen Sutton



Debbie Vaughn

Matchup	John Bechtle	Emory Gadd	Troy Leland	Stephen Sutton	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie vs. South Houston	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Atascocita at North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore
Strake Jesuit at Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland
C.E. King at Summer Creek	C.E. King	Summer Creek	Summer Creek	Summer Creek	Summer Creek
Humble vs. Kingwood	Humble	Humble	Humble	Humble	Humble
Clear Brook vs. Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs
Clear Falls vs. Clear Lake	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls
Crosby at La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	La Porte
Manvel at Fulshear	Fulshear	Fulshear	Fulshear	Fulshear	Fulshear
Clear Creek at Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
Last Week's Results	8-2	8-2	9-1	10-0	10-0
Season record	67-23	68-22	70-20	65-25	22-18

## Pasadena ISD Punt, Pass and Kick Districtwide Championship Results

### Third-Grade Girls

- 1st Ava Almanza, Moore
- 2nd Macie Salinas, Stuchbery
- 3rd Aysleen Benitez, Gardens

### Fourth-Grade Girls

- 1st Adriana Rodriguez, Frazier
- 2nd Emma Hernandez, South Belt
- 3rd Helena Garcia, Fisher

### Fifth-Grade Girls

- 1st Scarlett Vega, Roberts
- 2nd Mariah Mendez, Melillo
- 3rd Jaylah Cabrera, Shaw

### Sixth-Grade Girls

- 1st Jen'na Reese, Schneider
- 2nd Giannina Alvarado, Schneider
- 3rd Kayla Uresti, Keller

### Third-Grade Boys

- 1st Noah Woodard, South Houston
- 2nd Ian Vasquez, Bush
- 3rd Johnny DeLeon, Pearl Hall

### Fourth-Grade Boys

- 1st Isaias Lejia, Turner
- 1st Sebastian Moreno, Freeman
- 2nd Braylin Ortega, Frazier
- 3rd Daniel Nieto, South Shaver

### Fifth-Grade Boys

- 1st Arian Lara, De Zavala
- 2nd Xavier Castro, Keller
- 3rd Bronx King, Sullivan

### Sixth-Grade Boys

- 1st Aaron Cabello, Shaw
- 2nd Allen Montoya, Sullivan
- 3rd Kingston Adkins, Melillo

## LSA volleyball snags elusive title share

The postseason has yet to begin, but it must have felt like a playoff atmosphere for the Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball team as the locals closed the regular season with the biggest of its 37 overall wins.

Getting double-digit kills from three players and 19 assists each from junior

Kirra Musgrove and sophomore Addison Collins, Lutheran South swept Second Baptist 25-15, 25-23, 25-1 Oct. 20 at home, earning the program's first co-championship since the 2004 season.

Fort Bend Christian Academy also went 13-1 in league play as part of a 30-4

overall march to share the league title, and now both programs will enter the postseason with big plans after facing one another in the state semifinals a season ago.

Fort Bend Christian Academy advanced in four games over LSA before losing in the 5A state final to

Liberty Christian out of Argyle, Texas.

Against Second Baptist, Musgrove also had 13 kills to go with 11 from junior Kenna Sambrano and 10 more from senior Remy Keller. Senior Taylor Crain had 13 digs as she surpassed 500 for the season and 1,640 for her career.



The Dobie varsity girls' cross-country team competed at the Region III championships Oct. 24 at Kate Barr Ross Park in Huntsville after qualifying as the runner-up at the 22-6A meet. Members of the team are, left to right, junior Leyla Martinez, junior Isaura Correa, freshman Aracely Alvarado, junior Lauren Garza, senior Kyla Lobo, junior Mariah Medina

and senior Jasmin Mooney. Garza was the 2023 District 22-6A top overall champion, while Lobo was the runner-up for the second straight season. Alvarado was fourth and Medina placed 12th-best. At regionals, Garza was 19th overall as she delivered a personal record time of 19 minutes, 01.8 seconds over 5,000 meters to qualify for state. See details on Page 5.

## Dobie volleyball's LeBlanc, Gonzalez reach career milestones



A key contributor over the past two seasons with the Dobie varsity volleyball team, senior co-captain Naima LeBlanc (20) surpassed 500 career digs in the regular-season finale against South Houston Oct. 20. LeBlanc also has more than 375 career kills as Dobie prepares for the playoffs to begin Oct. 30-31. At press time, Summer Creek and Kingwood were still pushing for the second and third spots in the District 21-6A race, with the third-place finisher in line to face Dobie when the playoffs open.



A setter/outside hitter combo player, Dobie four-year varsity volleyball standout Lexie Gonzalez (11) has registered better than 1,600 assists and 1,100 digs to go with more than 1,000 career kills, reached in the regular-season finale against South Houston Oct. 20.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

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## CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.  
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St. or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for tours of exhibits.  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.  
8 p.m. **Serenity Now AI-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.  
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28**  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
Noon **Food Drive** - New Covenant Christian Church hosts food drive at 10603 Blackhawk Blvd, Houston. Call 281-484-4230.  
Noon **Bay Area Genealogical Society** - meets at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook. Potluck featuring speaker Nick Cimino. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - worship and Bible study programs at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.  
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. Call 713-944-9186.  
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.  
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 30**  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.  
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. **AA** - St. Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg., room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.  
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at the Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the edu-

**Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
cational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.  
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
7 a.m. **AA** - "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.  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets virtually at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. Visit the website or call 832-722-9061.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
7 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. **Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, ages 55 and older. Call 713-444-6744.  
9:30 a.m. **Young at Heart Senior Club** - Meets at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Call 832-298-9480.  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.  
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.  
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

## LEADER READERS

25 words: Personal: \$8 for 1 week/ \$21 for 3 weeks;  
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# 25 years and counting; former JFD netters celebrate coach Moreno

**Bay Area Football League**  
Regular Season Standings  
(Through Oct. 21 Play)

**Pee Wee Division**

Team	W	L	T
Sagemont	10	0	0
Bay Area	8	2	0
Hitchcock	7	2	1
Manvel	7	2	1
Angleton	7	3	0
League City	7	3	0
Brazosport	6	3	1
Pear. Pats	6	4	0
SE Houston	5	5	0
Pasadena	4	5	1
Pear. Texans	2	8	0
Alvin	2	8	0
La Porte	1	9	0
Magnolia	1	9	0
East End	0	10	0

**Freshman Division**

Angleton	9	1	0
Bay Area	9	1	0
La Porte	8	2	0
Hitchcock	8	2	0
League City	7	3	0
Sagemont	7	3	0
Manvel	6	4	0
Magnolia	5	5	0
Pear. Pats	4	6	0
Brazosport	4	6	0
Pear. Texans	3	7	0
Alvin	2	8	0
SE Houston	2	8	0
Pasadena	1	9	0
East End	0	10	0

**Sophomore Division**

Hitchcock	9	0	1
SE Houston	9	1	0
League City	8	1	1
Brazosport	7	3	0
Angleton	7	3	0
Pear. Pats	7	3	0
Bay Area	6	4	0
Magnolia	5	5	0
Alvin	4	6	0
La Porte	4	6	0
Pear. Texans	4	6	0
East End	2	8	0
Pasadena	1	9	0
Sagemont	1	9	0
Manvel	0	10	0

**Junior Division**

Hitchcock	10	0	0
Angleton	9	1	0
Sagemont	9	1	0
League City	7	3	0
Magnolia	7	3	0
SE Houston	6	4	0
Bay Area	5	5	0
Pear. Pats	5	5	0
La Porte	5	5	0
Pear. Texans	4	6	0
Alvin	3	7	0
Manvel	2	8	0
Pasadena	1	9	0
Brazosport	1	9	0
East End	1	9	0

**Senior Division**

Pasadena	10	0	0
La Porte	9	1	0
League City	8	2	0
Pear. Pats	7	3	0
Hitchcock	6	4	0
Manvel	6	4	0
Sagemont	6	4	0
Magnolia	5	5	0
Angleton	5	5	0
Brazosport	4	6	0
Pear. Texans	4	6	0
East End	4	6	0
Alvin	1	9	0
Bay Area	1	9	0
SE Houston	0	9	0



More than 50 of Dobbie High School tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr.'s former players, including 1994 Galveston O'Connell High School graduate Mark Chaluparambil, attended Moreno's silver/golden anniversary alumni get-together and celebration/luncheon Oct. 7. The attendees included, left to right, (front row) Dat Bui/event organizer ('04), Phuong Nguyen ('01), Marissa Richardson ('04), Andy Van ('12), Thuy Cao ('12), Nhung Ho ('11), Michael Portillo ('08), Jack Nguyen ('12), Osaka Heng Nguyen ('13), Ivette Alba ('13), (back row) Sonny Hoang ('84), Huy Nguyen ('09), Myle Phan ('09), Donny Tran ('95), Justin Lai ('06), Dylan Ta ('21), David Caballero ('23), Thompson Le ('19), Lael Martinez ('22), Sebastian Delgado ('20), Michael Du ('13), Keith Pham ('13), Kevin Nguyen ('13), Mark Bocado

('04), Brandon Padilla ('16), Moreno, Chaluparambil, Luis Cabreja ('14), Andy Choe ('08), Steven Irwin ('02), Hellen Le ('17), Lance Wilcox ('04), Steven Mullins ('04), Janice Padilla ('23), Phillip Nguyen ('13), Lil' Tommy Nguyen ('18), "Big" Tommy Nguyen ('18) and Lam Mai ('05). Others in attendance were Bubba Wilcox ('69), Katherine Nguyen ('07), Hung Doan ('03), Jessica Vu ('20), Kim Lan Choe ('11), Edwin Ayala ('18) and Kathy Torok ('10). Moreno is in his 25th year as head tennis coach at Dobbie High School, tying him with former boys' track coach David Chollette as the longest-tenured head coach in Longhorns' school history, and has been coaching youth tennis in Galveston, his hometown, for the past 50 years.



At left, reuniting with their ex-Dobbie High School tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. are, left to right, Huy Nguyen ('09), Myle Phan ('10) and Kathy Tran ('10). The three former players were just a few of more than 50 who gladly turned out at the Dobbie tennis courts Oct. 7 to celebrate Moreno's 25th season of leading the program.

At right, 1994 Galveston O'Connell High School graduate Mark Chaluparambil (left) came out to play a set of tennis and enjoy the camaraderie surrounding Dobbie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr.'s 25 years at the school. Moreno, also an O'Connell High School graduate, has been a lifelong Galveston resident.



## Moreno, exes remember great times

Sharing a moment with their former Dobbie High School tennis coach, Manuel Moreno Jr., (second from right) at the post-event luncheon were, left to right, Lance Wilcox ('04), Mark Bocado ('04), Steven Mullins ('04), Lam Mai ('05), Justin Lai ('06) and Steven Irwin ('02). Moreno began coaching at Dobbie in 1999 and subsequently had each of these players competing high up on the boys' singles ladder over the years.



## Atkinson honors PPK champions

At right, the Atkinson Elementary physical education department honored its 2023 Punt, Pass and Kick grade-level champions. Those winners included, left to right, fourth-grade girls' winners Yaneli Guzman, fourth-grade boys' winner Fabian Saenz, third-grade boys' winner Andrew Araujo and fourth-grade girls' winner Harmony Galloway. The Eagles' winners went on to compete at the Pasadena ISD districtwide competition early this month at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.



## Moreno's celebratory silver reunion a smash

Had Manuel Moreno Jr. stuck to his original plan, he wouldn't have had nearly as many memories to scan through Oct. 7 as 25 seasons worth of former player and supporters turned out at Dobbie High School to celebrate the head tennis coach's silver anniversary.

Moreno may have only meant to spend one season along the baselines at Dobbie but has instead turned his 25 years into the most rewarding segment of his career.

"It's rewarding. It's humbling, and it's just so nice to see all of the former players, talk about their lives and get a chance to just see their faces after the years have passed," Moreno said.

"I have enjoyed every day of my stay here at Dobbie. As I have said before, (former principal) Steve Jamail hired me and was a tremendous supporter of our program. I was going to stay one year, and use the experience to go somewhere else.

"When I started here, (the University Interscholastic League) had just started team tennis, so I learned the ins and outs of putting together doubles teams and setting up singles ladders here at Dobbie.

"It's been a truly special time. The reunion was a great experience for all of us, and I thank everyone for taking their Saturday to come."

Moreno has 42 years in all in high school tennis coaching, including the 25 years at Dobbie. He isn't quite ready to call it a career just yet but knows the time is nearing.

"I will cherish my time at Dobbie. I still do," Moreno said. I know that the time will come to let someone else take over a program that myself and all of these wonderful kids have helped build. "We have had a sense of family here, but we have also had a ton of success. These kids, past, present and even the future, are what it's all about."

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