

Holiday closures set

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The *Leader* offices will be closed through Monday, Jan. 5, for the Christmas/New Year's holidays. Next publication will be Jan. 8, 2026. Inquiries may be emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Clear Brook City MUD

The Clear Brook City MUD offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. The office will reopen Friday, Dec. 26, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who receive trash services on Thursday will not have pickup on Christmas. Trash services will resume Monday, Dec. 29. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup.

Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, and will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. The office will reopen Friday, Jan. 2, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who receive trash services on Thursday will not have pickup on New Year's Day. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on day of pickup.

Constable meetings canceled

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will not host his weekly Coffee with the Constable meetings on Thursday, Dec. 25, or Thursday, Jan. 1, due to the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays respectively. Held each Thursday at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., the meetings will resume Thursday, Jan. 8. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Sagemont to meet Jan. 6

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 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 additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Kirkwood meeting canceled

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, Dec. 29, has been canceled in observance of the Christmas holidays. Typically held the last Monday of the month, the meetings will resume at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

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.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Spencer Highway to Greenshadow continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Pasadena Boulevard to Fairmont Parkway continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from SH-225 to Red Bluff Road continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026.

Associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction, the closures are expected to cause significant delays over the next year.

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.

Annual Leader Christmas program a success!

South Belt community comes together to donate toys, food for 30 local families in need

The *Leader's* 43rd annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to dozens of area families in need.

Several local organizations, schools, businesses and residents stepped up to the plate, making this year's drive one of the most successful in the event's history.

Approximately 30 families took part in this year's program. Most of the families were referred to the *Leader* by local schools.

Schools participating in this year's drive included Atkinson Elementary, Frazier Elementary, Melillo Middle School, South Belt Elementary

and Beverly Hills Intermediate.

Also participating in this year's drive were M&D ACE Hardware (formerly central ACE Hardware), which donated \$700; Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado, who donated McDonald's gift cards; the Pasadena ISD Police Department, which collected and donated toys; South Belt resident David Montgomery, who donated H-E-B gift cards; and former South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Director Sally Mitchell, who donated an undisclosed amount of cash.

A Friendsgiving group led by Sagemont Civic

Club President Kay Barbour collected and donated approximately \$500 in cash and gift cards.

A team of volunteers led by the mother-daughter duo of Sandy Robb and Stacey Vaughn selflessly donated their time organizing and distributing the items. Robb and Vaughn have volunteered with the program for more than 20 years.

The pair also raised and donated roughly \$350 toward the drive.

Several others donated to the program but wished to remain anonymous.

The *Leader* drive is different from many others in that it provides assistance to families in the immediate South Belt community.

City's Christmas tree recycling underway

Trees turned to mulch to maintain city hike-and-bike trails

The City of Houston recently kicked off its 32nd annual Christmas tree recycling program.

The program encourages residents to recycle their trees, rather than disposing of them in the trash.

The city turns the trees into mulch that it sells and uses to maintain city hiking trails. Approximately 750,000 tons of trees have been recycled since the program began, officials said.

City residents have two options in which to recycle their Christmas trees.

The first option is to place the tree on one's curbside during the city's regular heavy trash pickup days. City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Jan. 8, (second Thursday of the month). City residents north

of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Jan. 9, (second Friday of the month).

The second option is to take one's Christmas tree to one of 25 recycling sites across the city. The closest location to the South Belt area is the Ellington Airport Recycling Drop-off, located at SH 3/Old Galveston Road at Brantley Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All tree bases, lights, ornaments and tinsel should be removed. Flocked trees cannot be recycled. The program will continue through Friday, Jan. 30.

To see a complete list of the city's recycling sites, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/press-12212023.html.

Fireworks regulations cause confusion

Despite proliferation in sales, items remain prohibited in city, MUDs

New Year's Eve is around the corner, and many South Belt residents are understandably confused as to the current regulations involving the sale and possession of fireworks.

Fireworks have long been forbidden within the Houston city limits, and both Clear Brook City and Sagemeadow MUDs have entered into strategic partnership agreements with the city, prohibiting the items.

Despite the partnerships, however, many South Belt residents may have noticed fireworks stands popping up in new locations where they traditionally haven't before, such as Beltway 8 and Blackhawk near Bracewell Library.

According to Clear Brook City MUD Manager Chris Clark, this is because the district has grown since the strategic partnership agreement was drafted more than 20 years ago.

Clark acknowledged, however, he was uncertain of the district's exact boundaries, noting a precise map would have to be obtained from the fire marshal or fire department.

To illustrate how confusing the MUD boundaries are, the *Leader* routinely receives inquiries from fireworks dealers asking for clarification.

While it was once illegal to even transport fireworks through the city, state law now allows the practice, provided the items are kept in a nonpassenger area of the vehicle, such as a trunk or hatchback.

One must be at least 16 years old to purchase fireworks, and parents/guardians may be fined for the illegal use of fireworks by their children even if they are unaware of the offense. Fines range from \$500 to \$2,000 for each individual item.

While it is legal to sell/use fireworks in the unincorporated parts of Harris County, some restrictions still remain in place.

According to Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, it is illegal to shoot fireworks in the following locations:

– In or near a motor vehicle.

– Within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids/compressed gases are stored/dispensed.

– Within 100 feet of a place where fireworks are stored or sold.

– Within 600 feet of a church, hospital or asylum.

– Within 600 feet of a licensed daycare.

– Within 600 feet of a public or private school, without written consent from the organization.

While the sale of fireworks in Harris County has traditionally been limited to only July 4 and New Year's Eve, in October 2024, Commissioners Court unanimously approved sales from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1 in honor of the Diwali holiday season. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is a religious holiday celebrated by more than 1 billion people worldwide including Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.

The Commissioners Court vote followed the passage of a bill by the state Legislature in 2023 that permitted counties to allow Diwali fireworks sales, should they choose to do so. Harris County was the first major county in the state to approve the measure.

Local subdivisions located within the city of Houston include Sagemont, Sagemont Park, Kirkwood, Genoa, Beverly Hills, Rainbow Valley, Eastridge Terrace, Sycamore Valley, Scarsdale and King's Place.

Subdivisions not within Houston city limits and under Harris County's control include Clear Brook Meadows, College Place, Riverstone Ranch, Woodmeadow I and II, Highland Meadow, Ashley Pointe, Blackhawk, Meadows of Clear Creek, Sagemeadow, Estates of Green Tee, Sageglen, Kirkmont and Kirkwood South.

The Bella Vita, Villa D'Este and Villa Verde subdivisions are located within the city of Pearland, which also prohibits fireworks.

To view a complete list of 2024 fireworks regulations from the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, visit www.hcfmo.net/portals/15/Documents/Commonfireworkviolations.pdf.

PISD police donate to Leader



Pictured are officers from the Pasadena ISD Police Department who donated toys to the *Leader* office for the *Leader's* annual toy drive. Left to right, are patrol officer Moses Rodriguez, administrator officer Chris Jackson, support services officer John Reddell and patrol officers Michael Lenting and Arnaldo Mendoza.

Photo by Nicole Rodriguez

CCISD wins appeal to update scores

TEA updates scores, boosting CCISD's state ratings

Clear Creek ISD has received official notification from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that the district's appeal of 2025 state accountability ratings has been granted, resulting in improved scores for six high schools and an increased overall district rating.

As a result of the approved appeal, CCISD's overall rating increased from 86 to 88, reflecting continued academic strength and improvement across the district. There are also three high schools that improved to an A rating.

Updated 2025 accountability ratings

- Clear Creek ISD (district overall): 86 to 88.
- Clear Brook High School: 85 to 90.
- Clear Creek High School: 85 to 89.
- Clear Falls High School: 84 to 92.
- Clear Lake High School: 91 to 95.
- Clear Springs High School: 91 to 94.

– Clear View High School: 83 to 92.

"These updated ratings reflect the exceptional work happening every day in our classrooms," said Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Karen Engle. "We appreciate TEA's thorough review and recognition of the corrected data, which more accurately represents the achievements of our students and staff."

The basis for CCISD's appeal centered on the correction of data errors in the 2023-2024 PEIMS Submission, specifically related to College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) indicators. According to TEA, districts were permitted to submit a PEIMS Working Submission to amend College Prep and Industry-Based Certification date for appeal.

To view the TEA's updated scores, visit tx.schools.gov.

3 Pasadena ISD teachers recognized

Good Reason Houston honors educators – 2 from South Belt

Three Pasadena ISD teachers – including two from the South Belt – were recently presented \$500 checks by Good Reason Houston, recognizing their impact on students and their leadership across the district.

Presented as part of Good Reason Houston's Houston Loves Teachers program, the awards highlight the nonprofit's focus on celebrating teaching excellence and strengthening Houston-area schools.

Honored teachers

– **Christina Reyes, Morris Middle School:** Reyes is a bilingual science teacher who blends hands-on learning with smart, student-centered systems that ensure every learner grows. Her higher-level Google Form check-ins and color-coded rotations create an equitable, joyful classroom where students feel capable, confident and seen. She's a model of innovation and care for both students and colleagues.

– **Gina Ortiz, Pasadena Memorial High School:** Ortiz is a cornerstone of PMHS, serving as a Master Teacher, mentor, department head, and dual-language leader with unwavering professionalism and heart.

Ortiz strengthens districtwide multilingual pathways and prepares students for a diverse, global workforce. Her resilience, compassion, and commitment to doing what's right for kids make her an extraordinary educator and leader, according to Good Reason Houston officials.

– **Stephanie Wright, Jackson Intermediate:** Wright creates a classroom where students feel

safe, supported, and inspired to excel. She adapts instruction with precision, reflects continuously to meet individual needs and maintains high expectations to which students rise. Her students proudly call her "the GOAT." Her impact extends far beyond math, strengthening confidence, resilience and school pride.

Good Reason Houston

Good Reason Houston is a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring every child in the Houston area has access to a high-quality public education. It partners with school districts and community organizations to advance student success.

According to Good Reason Houston officials, these awards are intended to make teachers feel appreciated – support that helps retain quality educators and attract new ones. The checks provide direct resources for classrooms while elevating educator morale and recognition.

Community impact

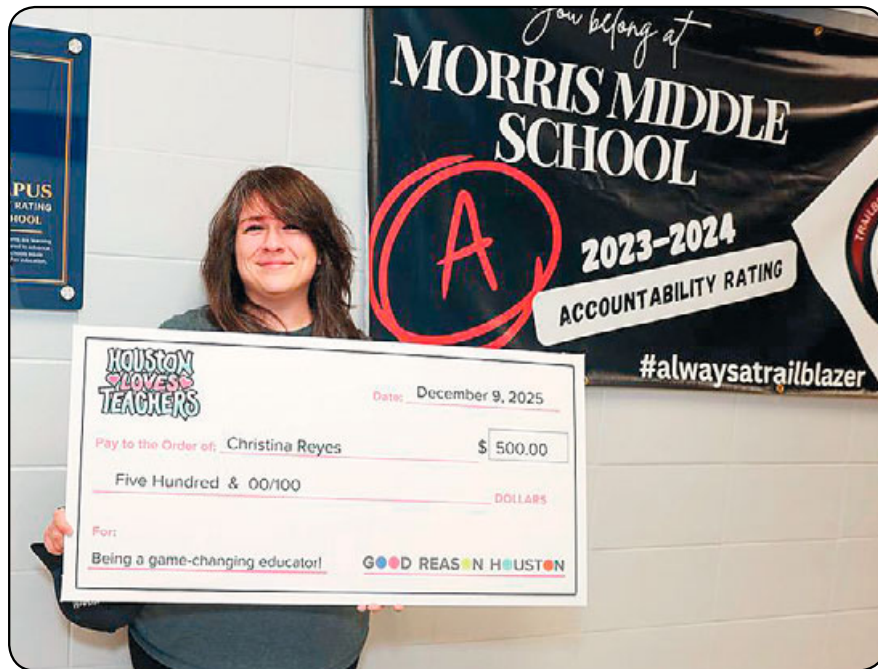
Direct classroom support: The funds help teachers purchase materials, enrich instruction, and accelerate student learning.

Recognition: Publicly celebrating teachers strengthens school culture and signals that excellent teaching is valued.

Workforce pipeline: Appreciation and support contribute to teacher retention and recruitment, benefiting students and families across the district.

For additional information on Good Reason Houston and the Houston Loves Teachers program, visit goodreasonhouston.org.

Morris' Reyes awarded \$500



Morris Middle School teacher Christina Reyes was recently presented a \$500 check from Good Reason Houston as part of the nonprofit group's Houston Loves Teachers program. Reyes was just one of three Pasadena ISD teachers to be recognized by the group for their educational efforts. The Houston Loves Teachers program is aimed at recognizing local educators in an effort to retain and attract quality teachers in the area.

In My Opinion

Brewster questions Trump's war on drugs

Coffee is a great excuse for friends to gather and catch up on the latest happenings, near and far. Tom, Dick, Harry, and I find it convenient to bring our concerns to the table and see if our they're worthy of further thought.

It was Dick who said he was glad that President Trump is committing a lot of money and effort into stopping drugs coming into our country and prosecuting the cartel leaders. We quickly agreed that drugs, both illegal and misused legal ones, are serious problems and every effort must be used to counter them.

"Well, almost every effort," said Tom. He had reservations about the sinking of the boats suspected of carrying drugs. Harry and I agreed from the videos of the fast boats with 3 or 4 motors and what appeared to be lots of bails of something onboard that drug-running was the first thing that came to mind. So then, what's the problem?

Tom continued, "Suspecting is not the same as proving, and accusing is not the same as convicting. This is America, and even here if we want to railroad an innocent person, we at least go through the motions of a sham trial before finding them guilty and locking them up."

SBHLL seeks participants

Sagamont Beverly Hills Little League will offer its Challenger Division for the Spring 2026 season. The Challenger Division is a free adaptive baseball program for children and young adults ages 4 to 22 with physical or intellectual disabilities.

The program provides participants the opportunity to enjoy baseball in a safe, fun and inclusive environment while developing skills and confidence. The league is currently seeking players, player buddies, coaches, volunteers and sponsors. Sagamont Beverly Hills Little League is based at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road, Houston, Texas 77089.

For more information, visit leagues.bluesombrero.com/southbeltlittleleague, call 713-966-9235, or email sagamontbeverlyhillsll2024@gmail.com.

"Well, we can't just ignore these boats. What do you suggest we do?" I asked. "Well," replied Tom, "in the good old days the Coast Guard intercepted them, arrested the crew and confiscated the drugs." He went on to claim their interdiction rate was pretty high and with a lot less men and ships required. "And nobody got killed."

"That may all be well and good," Dick said but admitted he was still confused. "So, if the President is really serious about this war on drugs and their facilitators -Maduro- why did he just pardon the Honduran ex-president Hernandez who was convicted of the very same thing he's now accusing Maduro of doing? Hernandez was convicted in a US Court of Law of helping narco-terrorists import 400 tons -- 400 TONS! -- of cocaine into our country. They say many US citizens died from cocaine overdoses from this, and now we're told just to look the other way and focus on Maduro? Come on!" And Trump's justification for the pardon? Dick said Trump claimed Hernandez was politically accused and wrongfully prosecuted by Biden. "Sound familiar?", Dick asked. "This whole campaign against the Venezuelan boats is starting to have a bad smell. It reminds me of an old-fashioned gang-land turf war."

We chose to leave it at that as we were all out of coffee. And rebuttals.

Bill Brewster

Edward 'Eddie' H. Sawyer



Edward 'Eddie' H. Sawyer, 64, of Pasadena, passed away on Dec. 5, 2025.

He was born May 20, 1961 in Los Angeles, Calif. to Horace "Rock" Sawyer and Earlene "Honey" Collins.

When he was a young boy his family moved to the Sagemont area of Houston where he graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 1980. From Dobie he worked for HL&P and others as an electrical lineman before stepping away and umpiring little league baseball full time in his later years.

Eddie loved spending time with family and friends watching sports and rooting for his teams to win. He loved his Astros, Rockets and Texans with a passion. He also loved watching golf but even more playing the game with family and friends. Anytime his Tiger Woods was on, one could guarantee Eddie was somewhere watching.

An avid movie lover at heart, the cinema is where one could also usually find him watching the newest flicks to hit the screens -- especially a horror movie -- he loved a good horror movie.

He was a loving father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend to many who knew him and lit up the room wherever he was; whether by telling a funny story, jokes or busting a sweet dance move.

He is survived by his daughter, Stacy (Cory) Llewellyn and son, Scott (Amber) Sawyer as well as granddaughters, Courtney Cox, Shelby Llewellyn and Chelsey Llewellyn.

His beloved brothers and sister, Jim (Gail) Sawyer, Rocky Sawyer, Steve (Tammy) Sawyer, Barbara Schexnayder, Randy (Tracy) Sawyer and Doug (Cathy) Sawyer will miss him immensely.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Kerry Schexnayder.

Family and friends are wel-

Deaths

come to come celebrate Eddie with a celebration of life at 10 a.m. on Jan. 11, 2026, at Forest Park East Funeral Home and Cemetery at 21620 Gulf Freeway, Webster, TX 77598.

Gavino Lerma Aguilar



Longtime resident of Kirkwood South Gavino Lerma Aguilar, 71, of Houston, passed away surrounded by the love of his family. Gavi-

no was born in Harlingen, to Conrado Aguilar and Maria Aguilar. He graduated from Davis High School in 1972 and went on to build a long and dedicated career. He worked as a painter for Union Pacific from 1973 to 1983, then served as a manager at ETD from 1983 to 2008, and later as a manager for ECOM from 2008 to 2025.

Gavino enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. He loved fishing, spending quality time with family in his garage, and listening to Tejano music, especially Freddy Fender and Elsa Garcia. One of his favorite songs was "Mathilda" by Cookie and the Cupcakes.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Lorie Aguilar; his brother-in-law, Alfredo Martinez; and his beloved son, Sammie David Garza Jr.

Gavino is survived by his loving wife, Eva Aguilar; his children Russell Rodriguez (Kathy Rodriguez), Garrett Aguilar (Gladys Aguilar), and

Jeremy Garza; his grandchildren Jacob Garza, Victoria Garza, Brandon Rodriguez (Amanda Rodriguez), Michael Scheafnocker (Kailee Scheafnocker), Jason Rodriguez, Joshua Rodriguez, Davin Garza, and Sammie Garza; and his great-grandchildren Anna Rodriguez, Emora Garza and Owen Rodriguez, who is on the way; siblings Conrado "Sonny" Aguilar (Karen Aguilar), Joe "Chita" Aguilar (Susan Aguilar), Rick Aguilar, Cindy Barajas (Mike Barajas), Nora Martinez and Linda Mares. Gavino will be remembered for his strong work ethic, deep love for his family and the music and memories that filled his life. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

A visitation will be held at Funeraria Del Angel Crespo, located at 2516 Navigation Blvd, Houston, TX 77003, on Dec. 22, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. A rosary service will also take place on the same day at 7 p.m. at the same location.

Pct. 2's toy drive a success!



Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia is shown above with bicycles and toys collected for the precinct's fifth annual toy distribution which was a huge success, giving bicycles and toys to dozens of local children.

Assistant Chief Deputy Michael Kritzler is shown at left at Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's recent toy distribution event.

South Belt collects toys for the annual Leader toy drive



Officials at South Belt Elementary would like to thank the students, parents and staff for donating hundreds of toys which were collected during the Annual Toy Drive. These toys were donated to the South Belt Leader to help bring joy to families in need this holiday season. Left to right, are (front row) Kaila Espinoza, Mavis Trevino, Alex Rodriguez, Max Leal, Evalinh Moore, (back row) Zachary Carrington, counselor Lakitha Thomas and Preston Davis.

Photo by David Flickinger

Ribbon-cutting held for new Frazier SPARK park



A ribbon-cutting was held Tuesday, Dec. 16, for a new park (right) that was donated at Frazier Elementary School as part of the SPARK program. Founded in 1983, the SPARK program is a joint venture between local government entities and business/nonprofit partners that donates parks to local schools. Above, left to right, are (front row) Student Council members Benjamin Resendiz, Noah Martinez, Ellie Graham, Ximena Betancourt, (back row) principal Kristina Ponce, District D Councilmember Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, executive director Spark School Park Program Elizabeth Howley, PISD superintendent Dr. Toni Lopez and PISD school board member Joe Campos.

At right, left to right, are (front row) PTO member Cesilia Hernandez, PTO treasurer Viridiana Alcala, executive director Spark Park Elizabeth Howley, (middle row) PTO president Stephanie Ruiz, school counselor Araceli Rodriguez, coach Dina Edwards, principal Kristina Ponce, District D Councilmember Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, (back row) dyslexia teacher Aimee Shelton, assistant principal Isaac Romero, parent coordinator Diana Moreno, secretary Paula Golden and former executive director Spark School Park Program Kathleen Ownby.



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.

Monday, Jan. 5, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Bring your family to storytime. Registration required.

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 4 - 5 p.m. Family craft adventure. 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.:

Friday, Jan. 2, 1 - 3 p.m. Genealogy.

Saturday, Jan. 3, 10 - noon. Tai Chi.

Monday, Jan. 5, 1 - 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.

Monday, Jan. 5, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. 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, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.

- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.

- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.

- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.

- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

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Election day March 3, 2026

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ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Catholic Church

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor

Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd.

(between Beamer & Blackhawk)

www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.

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

Sunday 1 p.m. Misa en Español*

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

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

Parish Office: 281-481-6816

Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251

Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

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

New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care



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

281.481.2003

www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com

10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089

Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

Dobie High School FFA members compete at the Winter Bash Prospect Show at Baytown Youth Fairgrounds



Left to right, Jennifer Tran and Kaylee Robles, support their friend and peer Thalia Oddo, who won first place in both Ring A and Ring B. Thalia and her spotted pig “Bay-lock” won Grand Champion for Dark OPB.



Dobie FFA member Noah Garza placed fourth in Ring A and third in Ring B at the recent Winter Bash show in Baytown.



Dobie FFA peers Jennifer Tran, Kaylee Robles and Thalia Oddo are pictured holding awards with Luke Stacey (right) who won clean sweep for his steer “Frozone,” as Ring A - Breed Champion and Division Champion, Ring B- Breed Champion and Division Champion and Grand Champion Steer Overall.



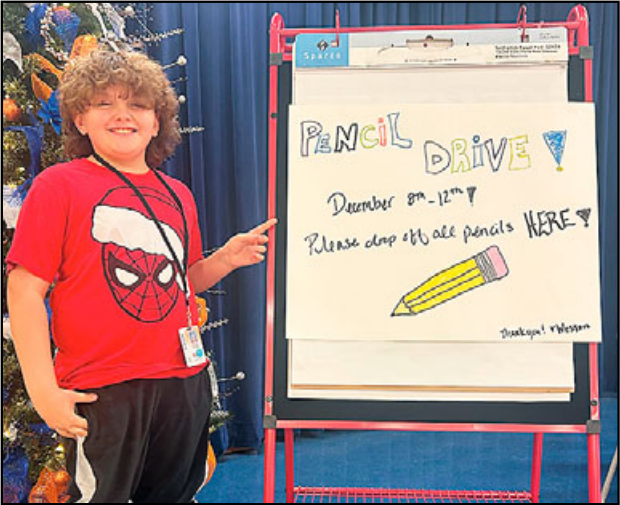
Pictured is prospect show participant Kaylee Robles who placed second in both Ring A and Ring B.



Shown above is Dobie FFA member Jennifer Tran with her swine which placed third in Ring A and Ring B.

Melillo recognizes Havard for act of kindness

Melillo Middle School officials would like to feature a student for sharing kindness. Weston Havard organized a kindness project to collect pencils for teachers at Melillo. Students contributed donations and each teacher received a bundle of pencils. Weston embraced Melillo’s guidelines for success: Hearts that Care and Hands that Serve.



Shown is Weston Havard pointing to his Pencil Drive sign for his kindness project.



Pictured with Havard (right) is teacher Heather Wheeler who received pencils from the Pencil Drive.

Santa’s Helpers volunteer for Leader drive



The South Belt-Ellington Leader’s annual Christmas program was a success this year in large part to the efforts of a team of volunteers dubbed “Santa’s Helpers” who selflessly donated their time to help sort and distribute toys and food. Helpers shown above are Daniella Guardado, Sandy Robb, Stacey Waugh and Ellie Flickinger.

Photo by James Bolen

Melillo MS students write 2026 resolution letters

Students at Melillo Middle School stated resolutions for 2026.

I want to get better at science and math and my anger issues.

Mya M.
My New Years resolution is to make more friends.

Madeline H.
My New Year’s Resolution is to get better at science, social studies, and to read more

Ailani W.
My New Year’s Resolution is to be an A honor roll student.

Amelie G.
My new years Resolution is to be Albert Einstein and be kind hearted.

Mila M.
My New Year’s Resolution is to be more focused in science.

Charlotte R.
My New Years resolution is to not take anything for granted and appreciate everything I have because what I have is all I need.

Jayda V
My New Year’s Resolution is to get better at Science, and pull up my grades.

Esly G.
My New Years resolution is to try to build stamina and not get tired so easily.

Montree M.
My New Years resolution is to be kinder to other people, be more connected to God, and be more active this year.

Charles C.
My new year’s resolution will be to be more quiet, and don’t laugh a lot.”

Dante S.
My New Year’s Resolution will be to greet my classmates.

Aiden M.
My New Years resolution is to keep to myself a bit more and try to find real friends. I also want to try to get straight A’s on all of my grades!

Sophia P.
My New Years Resolution will be to be more responsible and read more books.

Anthony N.
My New Year’s Resolution is to think of something I like at school like Mr. Tran’s class instead of being negative about school.

Jude A.
My New Year’s Resolution is to try to answer more questions.

A’meliya A.
My New Years resolution is to not take anything for granted and appreciate everything I have because what I have is all I need

Jayda V.
My New Year’s Resolution is to get better at Science, and pull up my grades.

Esly G.
My New Years resolution is to try to build stamina and not get tired so easily.

Montree M.
My New Years resolution is to be kinder to other people, be more connected to God, and be more active this year.

Charles C.
My New year resolution is to be an overall better person, and to get all A’s in every classes.

Damian H.
My New Year’s Resolution is to be an awesome gamer, to make good grades, and to save up money so I can deposit to the bank.

Jet S.
My New Years’ Resolution is to be a more active next year.

Noah M.
My New Year’s Resolution is helping family and friends and people and getting a phone for my mom and doing good in school and not to be mad at my little brother and older brother and helping my mom and dad and my grandma and grandpa.

Kylie Babineaux-Richardson
My New Year’s Resolution is to work with my mom and to go to school and eat healthy.

Noah Badillo
My New Year’s Resolution is helping people and caring about people and playing outside and play games for an hour not more.

Lincoln Chavez
My New Year’s Resolution is to help my family with the fireworks and play outside with my sister and cousin.

Casen Espinal
My New Year’s Resolution is to get good grades and to be smart and to pass 5th grade.

Levi Gonzales
My New Year’s Resolution is to be awesome.

Ian Gonzalez
My New Year’s Resolution is to workout and spend more time with Augustine and STOP eating a lot and STOP spending money.

Armando Hernandez
My New Year’s Resolution is to be happy.

Edgar Hernandez
My New Year’s Resolution is I love school and I love Ms Konzelman and I want to do better.

Eileen Hernandez
My New Year’s Resolution is to read.

Valeria Jimenez
My New Year’s Resolution is to help animals and learn how to Read and make good choices. I will play with all of my sisters and we will play Minecraft and watch a movie and play with my dog. My dog and I will play ball.

Analise Myree
My New Year’s Resolution is I want to help people and be rich also to help people with my money.

Paul Nguyen
My New Year’s Resolution is to do good at school and get all A’s.

Steven Pafford
My New Year’s Resolution is going with math and reading to be good.

Malay Patel
My New Year’s Resolution is I want to get better grades.

Eli Pineda
My New Year’s Resolution is helping my mom and dad in the house so I can be a better person.

Leonardo Reyes
My New Year’s Resolution is getting to 6th grade, try to get in a sport and learn to work tech stuff and getting my cat skinnier.

Deon Robinson
My New Year’s Resolution is to be nicer.

Hailie Rodriguez
My New Year’s Resolution is to workout and to eat healthy and do good in school.

Fabian Rogers
My New Year’s Resolution is to score a lot of goals and score a bicycle kick. And make my mom proud and doing well in school I will help my family with anything.

Iker Valdez
My New Year’s Resolution is I will be good in school. And I will read very good.

Genesis Vidal

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Knights sponsor Thompson families



Knights of Columbus Council 9201 sponsored five families from Thompson Intermediate this Christmas. Shown above at the area school are, left to right, Mike Work (Knights of Columbus), Tanis Griffin (Thompson principal), Prudencio Reyna (Thompson counselor) and Jill Butler (Thompson counselor).

Moore's Student Council hosts toy drive

Pictured are some of the students from Moore's Student Council. The Student Council hosted a toy drive at Moore and encouraged students and families to donate toys for the South Belt Ellington Leader Toy Drive. Left to right, are third-grade students Serafina Salazar, Janelly Medina and Lily Bosler.



Melillo donates to Leader's Christmas program



Melillo Middle School recently donated food and toys to the Leader office for the annual toy drive. Left to right, are (front row) Juliana Garcia, Ashley Nguyen, Eliana Chavez, Jaxon Jimenez, Emmanuel Thomas, Han Tran, Drayden Copeland, Robin Castillo, Jackson Pham, Haven Orsua, Catalina Zavala, Lynnee Srun, (middle row) Jennifer Saucedo (principal), Alessandra Gutierrez, Madelyn Rang, Laila Batiste, Saniya Lungs, Silvestre Pineda, Jose Tenorio, Tyler Thomas, Anna Nguyen, Cesar Reyna, Dylan Romero, Hector Gomez Alfaro, Heather Kaboutari (math instructional coach), (back row) Megan Medina (reading instructional coach), Emma Nguyen, Sofia Garcia Contreras, Lauren Hinojosa, Damian Alvarez, Lam Hoang and Clint Nguyen.

Fred Roberts Middle School shares New Year's resolutions

Students at Fred Roberts MS stated resolutions for 2026.

For my New Year's Resolution, I want to be closer to God, this helps me a lot, I want to go to Church more and pray.

Galilea Rojas
For my new year's resolution is to be the best and get good grades. And at school to be good and be respectful to each other, and at my karate class to be nice to people and help them out.

Juan Hernandez
My New Year's Resolution is to be the best and get good grades. And at school to be good and be respectful to each other, and at my karate class to be nice to people and help them out.

David Porras
My New Year's Resolution is to watch Five Night at Freddy 2 every day and go fishing and play with my dog. I also want to go to the pool and play soccer.

Noah Abarca
For my New Year Resolution I would like to go to El Salvador, San Miguel because I want to see more family members and friends.

The second thing that I would like to do in my New Year's Resolution is to go to the cemetery to see my two grandparents.

Vince Emiliano De Paz
My New Year's Resolution is to study more. I want to study more so I can be a smarter kid.

Sofia Ordonez
Next year, I want to at least make three goals.

1. I want to make at least 3 or 2 new friends.

2. I want to do better in science.

3. I want to help people out.

Luke Galvez
My New Year's resolution is to have good grades. And pass the S.T.A.A.R test to make my parents proud.

Elias Garcia
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades.

Evaluana Acevedo
My New Years Resolution is to pass math.

Tabarak Alnaasan
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades.

Viviana Aviles
My New Years Resolution is to pass 5th grade.

Joshua Cordero
My New Years Resolution is to be good at Fornite.

Anthony Cortes

My New Years Resolution is to achieve all my dreams.

Mykell Davis
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades.

Natalia De La Cerda
My New Years Resolution is to get a 100 on a test.

Romeo Dozier
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades.

Charlie Espinal
My New Years Resolution is to get a fornite battle pass.

Christopher Mata
My New Years Resolution is to get new shoes.

Fredy Mendita
My New Years Resolution is to evolution meganight.

Diego Moreno
My New Years Resolution is to pass 5th grade.

Kimari Olivias
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades.

Daniela Ornelas
My New Years Resolution is to stop begin insucure.

Amy Pham
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades.

Alyson Romero
My New Years Resolution is to get good grades.

Luis Salinas
My New Years Resolution is to pass and make new friends.

Julianne Tran-Torres

My New Years Resolution is to be alive.

Victoris Vo
My New Years Resolution is to a lot of aviator bucks.

Kenneth Zepeda
My New Years Resolution is to pass 5th grade.

Jazlyn Zuniga
My New Years Resolution is to pass my state exams.

Cheyenne Preece
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is I will improve on writing essays.

Camila Arredondo
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to make more time for playing with my friends.

Katherine Morales
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to work harder in school.

Holley Truong
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to make smart choices with my money.

Sammi Liang
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to be more social with people by talking to at least 1 new person a week.

Tali Vega
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to help my mom take care of my newborn baby sister.

Marco Valdivia

My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to be more responsible.

Alorah Esparza
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to get a better grade in Social Studies.

Lyberty Harris
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to grind on every game I have.

Ezekiel Reyes
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to learn to draw.

Miguel Rocha
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to get 90s or 100s in all of my classes.

Addison Arrevalo
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to learn how to play the guitar.

Raymond Guerra
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to be more responsible and careful.

Elizee Cisneros
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to travel to a new place.

Angelina Martinez
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to get back into competitive running.

Michelle Salcido
My New Year's Resolution for 2026 is to drink more water, like 2 cups every day.

Giovanni Gomez

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

Registration for several new classes offered by the Sagemont Recreation Center were scheduled to begin Jan. 5, 1981. Many of the courses were offered for no fee. Included in the courses were jazz and aerobic exercise for adults, Play school for ages 4 and 5, acrobatics for ages 4-10, country western dance for adults and teens, plaster crafts for ages 4-7, plaster crafts with staining for ages 8-15, ballet dance for ages 4-10, macrame and glass painting for teens, boys' body building and table games for children of all ages.

All incumbents of the Scarsdale Civic Association board of directors were re-elected at a meeting Dec. 18. Those elected included Walter Klepacz Jr., Position 8; Wanda Sword, Position 6; Ronald Dold, Position 7; and Rick Christian, Position 9.

40 years ago (1985)
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held a contest to come up with a slogan to promote the area. The slogan would be put on a bumper sticker.

Harris County's first black commissioner, El Franco Lee, was sworn into office by County Judge Jon Lindsay. Lee would represent the South Belt area in Precinct 1.

35 Years ago (1990)

Channel 2 television, KPRC, featured the Brio Refinery Superfund site on its continuing special feature, The Chemical People.

Harris County fire investigators were searching for information regarding a recent bombing of a car in the parking lot of Clear Brook High School. According to investigator Bill Anders, someone put an incendiary device under the 1963 Volkswagen that detonated it. The explosion was powerful enough to throw pieces of the car several hundred feet.

30 years ago (1995)
A \$2,475 landscaping project at the front of Dobie High is slated for a Ground Hog Day (Feb. 2) planting, organizers say.

The project is being organized by the South Belt Civic Coalition, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the South Belt-Ellington Rotary.

Donations are also being sought from the community.

Dobie alumni who contribute will have their names put on a plaque that will be hung at the school.

Other community contrib-

utors will be recognized in the Leader.

Contributions can be brought by or mailed to the Landscape Project at Dobie, 11111 Beamer, Houston, TX 77089.

The landscaping has been planned by Universal Landscapes Inc. who plan to put three pear trees, 57 five-gallon containers of Indian hawthorn, 240 4-gallon containers of big blue liriopse and 150 four-gallon containers of Aztec grass in a semicircle on empty space near Beamer.

The planting includes 12 cubic yards of soil mix and 8 cubic yards of bark mulch.

The bed will be prepared with organically enriched mix with long lasting, slow-release fertilizer.

Each shrub will also be installed with slow-release fertilizer.

All plants supplied by Universal are under warranty for six months.

Local organizers plan two more phases of beautification work at Dobie. Step 2 will be the side of the school, and Step 3 will be the back.

These will be done as funding is received.

25 years ago (2000)

Northbound lanes of Beamer between Astoria (near Memorial Hospital) and Scarsdale Boulevard were set to be closed for three months, as would the bridges at Scarsdale and Beamer, due to the construction of a waterline.

Justice of the Peace Howard Wayland, who had served as the local judge in Precinct 2, Place 1, since 1981, opted not to seek re-election. Seeking the position were attorney John V. O'Sullivan; Bobby Dees, bailiff and security director in Justice of the Peace George Risner's court, Precinct 2, Place 2; R.C. Pruett, assistant police chief of Galena Park; and Jo Ann Delgado, a court administrator for Justice of the

Peace Richard Vara.

20 years ago (2005)

Houston Police were seeking information regarding the homicide of one man and the injury of another after a confrontation outside a bar on Kingspoint.

Former Clear Brook football teammates Leroy Moses and Michael Lenio had a chance meeting at the Baghdad, Iraq, airport. Both are U.S. Marines.

A stretch of roadway on Beltway 8 between Hughes Road and the Interstate 45 interchange was the location of numerous accidents during and after heavy rains. The Texas Department of Transportation studied the area and was working on a plan to improve drainage.

Houston Police were searching for two men participating with a third man in a home invasion at The Cove Apartments on Windmill Lakes Boulevard.

15 years ago (2010)

Nathaniel Allan Pipho was born at 12:12 a.m. Jan. 1 at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in the Medical Center, making him the first baby born in 2010 in Houston. Pipho is the son of South Belt residents David and Tammy Pipho. Grandparents are Kathleen and Hugh Taylor of the South Belt and Gary and Fawn Pipho of Houston.

Former Dobie student Macy Metcalf Gillum died from injuries she suffered the previous day after being involved in a traffic accident in the 11300 block of Beamer. According to Houston Police Department officials, Gillum traveling north at 11 p.m. in a beige Ford Explorer, failed to stay in a single lane and went onto the grass median, striking a tree. No other vehicles were involved in the accident. It was believed thick fog may have played a role in the crash.

10 years ago (2015)
A South Belt resident was

killed in front of his house while watching fireworks on New Year's Eve after being struck in the head by a stray bullet. Javier Suarez Rivera, 43, died at the scene in the 800 block of Eastlake after being hit by what police suspect was celebratory gunfire. Rivera's death, which made nationwide headlines, was ruled a homicide by the medical examiner's office. No immediate arrests were made.

Juan Luis Guardiola, 29, died Dec. 29 after losing control of his motorcycle in the 400 block of Edgebrook.

Perry's Steakhouse & Grille now plans to re-locate its original Clear Lake steakhouse and debut the company's newest concept at Baybrook Mall, the largest shopping center in the southeastern quadrant of Houston, and one of the prime shopping, dining and entertainment destinations in the city.

The new 10,000-square-foot restaurant will accommo-

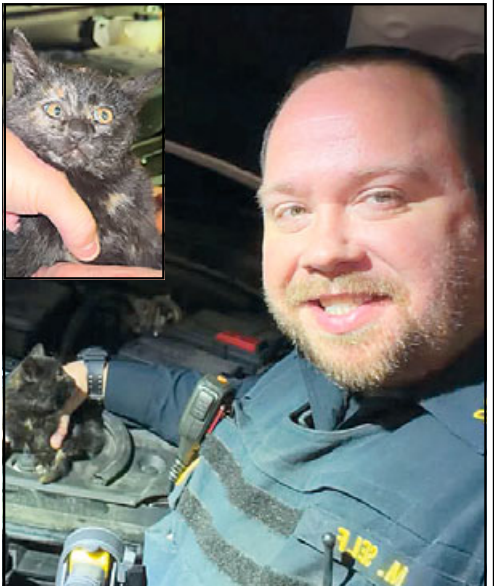
date 400 guests and include design elements unique to the location and Houston-area Perry's Steakhouses. The restaurant will provide an expansive view from every angle of the main dining room offering a glance at chef creations in the kitchen and peeks of Bar 79 through the towering wine wall. Layers of interest will be added by glass, lighting and other textures creating an environment that appeals to both men and women, distinguishing the experience from that of a traditional, stuffy steakhouse.

5 years ago (2020)
Perry & Sons Market & Grille on Scarsdale Boulevard shuttered its doors after serving the South Belt community for more than 40 years.

At press time, it was unclear why the business closed. Multiple phone calls to Perry's headquarters went unanswered. The announcement came at the same time the rental contract was up for its 5-year renewal. It is believed that due to the virus and problems with restaurants, management made a financial decision not to commit to a new lease.

1 year ago (2024)
The Leader's 42nd annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to more than 30 area families.

Pct. 8 sergeant saves kitten



Sgt. Self from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office (shown above) was recently dispatched to the main lanes of Beltway 8 at Fairmont Parkway after receiving reports of a kitten on the shoulder of the tollway. Upon his arrival, the kitten quickly took refuge by jumping into the engine bay of the sergeant's patrol cruiser. With the assistance of Precinct 8 Deputy Ahmed and Deputy McLain, Self was able to safely extract the kitten and transport it to a local animal shelter for care.



Over The Back Fence by Nicole

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 25 through Jan. 7.

Burnett Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Shannon Roberts** Dec. 28. Remember to wish **Jessica Leon** a happy birthday Dec. 29. Send a nice birthday greeting Dec. 30 to **Katie Grimm**. Blow out the candles Jan. 6 for **Ana Andrade-Alvarado**.

Bush Elementary
The day for **Arais Perdomo** and **Jessica Wedgeworth** to celebrate with ice cream and a double-layer birthday cake is Dec. 30. Send a humorous birthday card Jan. 7 to **Alexander DeRostaing**.

Frazier Elementary
Send a birthday greeting Dec. 26 to **Madelyn De La Rosa**. Dec 30 is the day for a fun celebration for **Araceli Rodriguez**. **Theresa Salazar** celebrates a birthday Jan 3.

Genoa Elementary
Dec. 27 is the day for a cake for **Maria Duran**. Remember to wish **Julia Friedel** a happy birthday Dec. 28. Send a humorous birthday card Dec. 29 to **Naomi Reza**. Sing a happy birthday song to **Carolyn Tamez** Dec. 31. Light the birthday candles Jan. 1 for **Ghada Hashem**. Best wishes for a special birthday Jan. 2 are sent to **Claudia Alatorre**.

Handcock Elementary
Blow out the candles for **Taylor Guidry** Dec. 26.

Meador Elementary
Send a nice birthday greeting Jan. 5 to **Maria Hurtado**. Light the birthday candles Jan. 6 for **Anastasia Riley**.

Moore Elementary

Dec. 29 is the day for a fun celebration for **Dania Garza**.

South Belt Elementary
Marcy Pittman enjoys a birthday Jan. 1. Send a birthday greeting Jan. 4 to **Angela Estes**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Dania Garza** Dec. 29. Remember to wish **Yvana Esquibel** a happy birthday Jan. 3. Send a happy birthday wish Jan. 5 to **Karina Garcia**.

Melillo Middle School
Send a birthday greeting Dec. 29 to **Jill Sharma**. Blow out the candles Jan. 1 for **Jennifer Wiest**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a festive birthday greeting to **Katherine Wood** Dec. 25. Birthday greetings go out to **Jesus Arzola-Hernandez** Jan. 5.

Thompson Intermediate
Jan. 1 is a day of celebration for **Tiona Samuel** for her birthday.

Dobie High
Martha Jack celebrates a birthday Dec. 26. Birthday greetings go out to **Andrea Blair** Dec 27. Send a happy birthday wish Dec. 28 to **Kimberly Donnelly**. Dec. 29 is a day of celebration for **Andrea Morgan** and **Candy Pina** for their birthday. Break out the balloons and party favors for **Lawrance White Gardner** on his birthday Dec. 31. Enjoy a triple-layer birthday cake with **Travis Dao**, **Rachel Rodriguez-Flores** and **Kevin Whitfield** on Jan. 1. Light the candles Jan. 4 for **Kyle Ediger**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Dec. 25: **Jillena Mata**, **Jose Garza**, **Abby Skowron**, **Johnna Overstreet**-

Pierce and Anita Griego; Friday, Dec. 26: **Cindi Williams**, **David Parker**, **Dave Huston**, **Travis Sattiewhite**, **Pam Moore** and **Sam Ditta**; and Saturday, Dec. 27: **Rhonda Valdez**, **Jen Mintz**, **Ricky Stacey**, **Julia Argo**, **Laurel Chicas**, **Arthur Medina**, **Donna Shaw-McCullough** and **Stacey Donohue**. Sunday, Dec. 28: **Mandy Philmon**, Monday, Dec. 29: **Lory Adams Taylor**, **Joe Gutierrez** and **Debra Blake**; Tuesday, Dec. 30: **Heather Deming**, **David Garza**, **Gloria Garcia**, **Salvador Flores**, **Scott Romeo**, **Brenda Keener** and **Arcilia Maturey**; Wednesday, Dec. 31: **Laneil Vawter**, **Dameon Smith**, **Kelley Hammond**, **Karen Edwards**, **Cecily Carriere** and **Pamela Collins**; Thursday, Jan. 1: **Michael McCollom**, **Charlotte Christian**, **Elaine Bischof**, **Marl Wills**, **Kelly Robinson**, **David Tucker**, **Richard Lopez**, **Eleonora Stoves**, **Sandra Matula** and **Crystal Ford**; Friday, Jan. 2: **Jay Forrest**, **Amanda Baldwin**, **Bryan Gomez**, **Mary Winters**, **Kelly Edwards** and **Meagan Novak**; Saturday, Jan. 3: **Tony Montenegro III**, **Deb Rainbolt-Young**, **Terri Salazar**, **Roland Moreno** and **Floris Elizalde**; Sunday, Jan. 4: **Gerry Cole**, **Lan Curtis**, **Crystal Roberts** and **Jason Thompson**; Monday, Jan. 5: **John Carnes**, **Jessica Fernandez**, **Jamie Troxlar**, **Natalie McCoy**, **John Jenkins** and **Jovon Lartigue-Davis**; and Wednesday, Jan. 7: **Michael Lake**, **Kathi Kemp**, **Sherry Crawford**, **Meagan McMurphy**, **Jessica Sellers**, **Bob Townley**, **Larry Shewell**, **Jason Cox**, **Brian Gallagher** and **Diane Gonzalez**.

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11/04

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie's Moreno Jr. enters TTCA Hall of Fame



On hand for Manuel Moreno Jr.'s induction into the Tennis Coaches Association Class of 2025 Hall of Fame were, left to right, Mitchell Moreno, Kelsey Moreno, Sebastian Delgado, Bubba Wilcox, Gina Wilcox, Barbara Jamail, Steve Jamail, Moreno, Becky Moreno, Ilsa Garza, Liz Guneratne McDonald, Nathan McDonald, Scott Daughtry, Jenny Daughtry, Chloe Estes, Dee Gay, Edna Garza, Rob Gay and Bobby Kleinecke. Not pictured are Sharon Fullen Mollenkopf and Kirk Mollenkopf.



Manuel Moreno Jr. (left) stands alongside eight-time Grand Slam winner Mats Wilander and Texas Tennis Coaches Association executive director Bobby Kleinecke after being inducted into the TTCA's Class of 2025 Hall of Fame at the organization's annual convention and clinic held at Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls.



Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (right) took a moment to share his special evening with former longtime Dobie principal Steve Jamail, who attended the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame induction ceremony along with many of Moreno's closest supporters.

Local hoopsters play for holidays

Christmas is here, and New Year's celebrations are soon to follow. But for statewide basketball programs, there is little break in the action as the competition must go on. Both the Clear Brook and Dobie basketball programs will be in action during the holiday season, and the first week of January will include important district competition for everyone involved.

The Clear Brook varsity boys will be at the 52nd annual Brazosport ISD Holiday Classic Dec. 29-30 along with 15 other programs battling for supremacy before getting back to League play. Host programs Brazoswood and Brazosport will be joined by Madison, Spring Woods, Kingwood Park, Converse Judson, South Houston, Angleton, Alief Taylor, Terry, Pearland, Splendora, Foster, Iowa Colony and Northbrook.

Each of the 16 teams will play one pool game Dec. 29, with the Wolverines taking on Foster at Brazosport High School at 1 p.m. Bracket play then ensues after that with both championship and consolation brackets. Two rounds of games will be played Dec. 29 and then two more Dec. 30.

The Wolverines have been impressive through the first 15 games of the regular season, coming through with a 13-2 overall record ahead of the 24-6A opener at Dickinson Dec. 19. The Wolverines and Gators will open league play and then play in holiday tournament action to close out the year. The Wolverines will take on Alvin and a nondistrict game on the road Jan. 2, then participate in district play the rest of the way, including a Jan. 7 home game against Clear Creek.

Both the Clear Brook and Dobie girls will play in the Fort Bend ISD Holiday Classic. Clear Brook lost its league opener by a 50-38 count to Clear Springs, slipping to 5-9 overall this season. The Wolverines then played Dickinson Dec. 19 after press time. After competing in the Fort Bend ISD event, the Wolverines will return to 24-6A play by hosting Deer Park Jan. 3, then traveling to Clear Creek Jan. 7.

The Dobie varsity boys slipped into a 0-2 hole with a 60- 51 loss to Pasadena Memorial Dec. 16 and played at Shadow Creek Dec. 19 after press time. Following a short break for Christmas, the Longhorns will compete in the Conroe ISD Classic Dec. 29-30. On first day play, the Longhorns will first go against

Continued on Page 8

Dobie varsity boys at Conroe Christmas Classic Dec. 29-30

Dobie varsity girls at Fort Bend Showcase Dec. 29-30

Brook varsity girls at Fort Bend Showcase Dec. 29-30

Brook varsity boys at Brazosport Classic Dec. 29-30



Dobie sophomore Makayla Mendez and her teammates were 2-2 in 22-6A varsity girls' basketball action prior to taking on Shadow Creek Dec. 19 after press time, with Mendez providing the Longhorns with outstanding play inside.

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Brook grad Jones named NAIA first team All- American

There is plenty of joy to celebrate this holiday season for Clear Brook High School graduate Jaiden Jones and his family, including Jaiden's American Football Coaches Association first team All-American selection as a member of the Texas Wesleyan University football program ahead of his anticipated college graduation next May.

Jones, who earlier this month concluded his red-shirt junior season with the Rams, had seven interceptions in 2025 to lead a Texas Wesleyan defense that came away with 18 interceptions as a group to help the Rams finish as co-champions of the

Sooner Athletic Conference at 7-1.

Following a first-round playoff defeat, the Rams finished the regular season at 7-5 overall.

The AFCA has selected an All-America team since 1945 and now selects teams in all five of its divisions.

What makes these teams so special is that they are the only ones chosen exclusively by the men who know the players the best — the coaches themselves.

Jones was a first team All-Conference choice as well, yet said he was stunned to get word of his All-American honors.

"Completely surprised, no doubt," Jones said.

"I felt like I had a pretty good season individually, and we had a pretty good run as a group. But to be named as an All-American is truly an honor. I feel like it's a testament to the hard work and determination that I put out there."

"With that said, I am truly appreciative to those who put my name out there to help me reach this point."

A sports communications major, Jones is on track to graduate next May but plans to play his graduate senior season with the Rams.

Playing just seven overall games at Benedictine College in Atchi-

son, Kan., Jones certainly could have remained with a Raven football program that reached the National Association of Inter Collegiate Athletics football national semifinals this season but chose instead to move closer to home through the transfer portal prior to the 2024 season.

Jones credits the staff at Benedictine for signing him as a high school graduate out of Clear Brook in 2022. He maintained his redshirt status following the 2022 season after playing in two games. He was part of five overall games during the 2023 season before entering the transfer portal

While Jones was not highly recruited coming out of the Wolverines' program as a high school senior, to his credit, he has become one of the top performing defensive players anywhere in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics division.

"I spend a lot of my off-season training sessions working with players on the offensive side of the football," Jones said.

"I have always believed that even as a defensive player I should spend a lot of time catching the football."

"I really believe that it's helped me on the defensive side in terms of being able to not only track the ball in the air but to make the

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Texas Wesleyan defensive back Jaiden Jones placed himself in the record books as he intercepted seven passes this season on his way to first team All-American status within the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.



A 2022 Clear Brook High School graduate, Jaiden Jones has excelled on the football field for Texas Wesleyan and also plans to graduate next May with a degree in sports communications.

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Leader takes a look back at 2025’s memorable moments



Dobie senior defensive end Aiden Sanchez (19) led the District 22-6A ranks with 12 quarterback sacks and five forced fumbles as he proved to be a disruptive force for the Longhorns as they reached the postseason in 2024. Also a standout left-handed pitcher, Sanchez is at San Jacinto College.

The *Leader* kicks off its annual sports Year In Review this week with a look back at some of the most memorable moments from January through March of this year. Enjoy!

January 9
The Clear Brook varsity basketball programs did just fine for themselves to this point in the 2024-2025 season and were looking to finish what they started as the all-important 2025 portion of the schedule resumed.

As the post-holiday schedule resumed Jan. 3, Jace Walker had a team-high 21 points as the Wolverine boys defeated Clear Falls 53-49 on the road, staying undefeated at 3-0 in league action along the way.

Clear Brook also improved to 16-8 overall with the win as Christian Brown added 13 points. In other games with big implications within 24-6A, Clear Springs made a significant statement with a 79-42 win over host Dickinson as freshman star Madden Held led all scorers with 18 points. The Chargers improved

to 21-3 overall, including 3-0 in league play while Dickinson slipped to 2-1. Clear Lake also edged Clear Creek, 51-50.

The Clear Brook varsity girls’ basketball team figured to have most of the heavy lifting out of the way following early victories over Deer Park and Dickinson to start the first half of 24-6A play, but then came a loss to Clear Creek.

The Wolverines, once ranked as high as No. 3 in the state, fell to 3-1 in league play with the loss heading into Christmas Eve, then responded with a dominating unbeaten run at the Fort Bend ISD Showcase, returning home with the tournament championship.

At the FBISD Showcase, Brook nipped Manvel 65-63 in a tournament opener, then cruised past Klein Oak (46-33), Iowa Colony (60-47) and Willowridge (62-54) to win top honors. The locals tipped off the 2025 portion of the schedule at home against Clear Falls, winning 51-42 to keep pace at 4-1 atop the 24-6A stand-

ings with Dickinson and Clear Creek.

At 23-2 overall and 4-1 in league play following the win over Clear Falls, the Wolverines were rolling.

In 22-6A varsity girls’ play, state-ranked Dawson (8-0) and Pearland (7-1) topped the District 22-6A varsity girls’ basketball standings following the opening round of games on this side of the calendar, followed closely by Manvel and Shadow Creek. Dawson and Pearland were ticketed for the University Interscholastic League’s first-ever Division 1 of season bracket, with Manvel and Shadow Creek therefore headed to Division 2.

While it appeared each of the five Pasadena ISD programs along with Alvin would miss out on the postseason fun, certainly not all was lost. Dobie, sitting in fifth place at 3-4, had put together a competitive season under first-year head coach Rachel Flores.

The Longhorns grabbed a third-place trophy at the Fort Bend ISD Show-

case, winning three of four games along the way. Dobie downed Lamar Consolidated, lost to Foster and finished with wins over Clear Springs and then Dulles to claim a commemorative plaque.

January 16
Lutheran South Academy swimming legend Lauren Ferguson added to her legacy this season as she became the program record holder in the 100 back, delivering a time of 1 minute, 2.24 seconds at the HYCA Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association meet.

Dobie varsity volleyball standout libero and Class of 2025 senior Hope Ortiz signed a letter of intent to join National Junior College Athletic Association DIII volleyball program Dallas College Richland as part of head coach Grace Wells’ eight-player haul for the 2025 recruiting cycle. Ortiz, an honorable mention All-District selection for her play on the court in 2024 as well as an All-Academic Team honoree, had 34 digs in 20 overall matches played as Richland went 15-20 overall during the 2024-2025 season.

January 23
The state’s race to the postseason Division 1 and Division 2 varsity basketball tournaments hit the stretch run, with both the Clear Brook boys’ and girls’ teams in solid shape.

Just like that, the Clear Brook varsity boys’ basketball team found itself on the outside looking in after the completion of round one in District 24-6A action following consecutive losses to league leader Clear Springs and Dickinson over the span of four days.

A look at the 24-6A standings showed that Clear Springs took control of the top spot at 7-0 through the first half, with both Clear Falls and Dickinson at 5-2. Clear Lake, at 4-3, was in fourth place by virtue of a first-round victory over the Wolverines, who also finished the first half of league action at 4-3.

At that point, there were five teams battling for the four postseason berths as sixth-place Clear Creek won just twice through the opening round. It wasn’t that long ago that Clear Brook owned 17 overall victories and stood at 4-1 in 24-6A play, but then came a 50-45 home loss to Clear Springs.

The Chargers trailed Clear Brook by 11 points late in the third quarter but then used a 15-0 run to start the final quarter en route to the five-point win. The Wolverines went nearly seven full minutes in the fourth quarter without a field goal, leading to the eventual loss to the league leaders.

January 30
Avenging a first-round loss to Clear Creek, the Clear Brook varsity girls’ basketball team stayed in the mix for what still would 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 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 fronted the 24-6A standings at 10-1, was assured the top seed out of 24-6A in the Division 1 bracket, with Deer Park likely to grab the remaining Division 1 seed.

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 McLau-

rin adding 19. Clear Springs and Dickinson emerged as locked-in 6A Division 1 postseason favorites in the 24-6A varsity boys’ basketball race with five games to go in the race.

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 had a two-game lead and a 9-0 mark. The Gators, though two games back at 7-2, were also in prime position to claim a Division 1 postseason berth.

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 had 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 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 after 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.

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 at the University of Houston.

Ferguson advanced 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 advanced 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.

February 6
Event runner-up Camryn Dickson led a trio of Texas A&M women’s sprinters to the line in the 60-meter dash as she was second at 7.32 seconds, with Aggies Bria Bullard third (personal best of 7.34) and Jasmine Montgomery fourth (7.36) at the New Mexico Team Open Feb. 1 in Albuquerque. The Aggies also closed the meet with flourish as Dickson and Montgomery joined Latasha Smith and Kennedy Wade for the gold medal in the 4x400 relay at 3:37.08.

Dickson, a Clear Brook graduate, and Montgomery went against one another in the 2021 Texas state championships in

Austin in the 100 and 200 sprints. Montgomery won the gold in both events before beginning her collegiate career at Oregon then Florida. TAMU runs in the 2026 indoor season opener Jan. 16-17, at the Texas Tech Corky Classic.

The race to reach San Antonio’s Alamodome for the Class 6A Division I and Division 2 varsity girls’ basketball state championship final fours was in full swing, and the Clear Brook girls were looking to make a deep push within the Division 2 bracket as the postseason neared. As the regular season came to a close Feb. 5, the Wolverines were assured of no worse than a second-place overall finish in District 24-6A. With first-place Dickinson (12-1) a win over Deer Park away from claiming the league championship for a second consecutive season and Clear Creek all but assured of third place, Deer Park had control of fourth place and the final postseason seed out of the league.

With the University Interscholastic League employing separate Division 1 and Division 2 postseason brackets based on total student enrollment among the seeds, Dickinson and Deer Park headed to Division 1 beginning Feb. 10, while Clear Brook and Clear Creek were part of the field in the Division 2 mix.

Winners of what would be 31 regular season games with a final win at Brazoswood, the Wolverines were solely focused on the postseason as the super senior trio of Rezia Castillo, Kamryn McLaurin and Chardel Terrell took part in their final run of their standout careers.

Eric Weaver’s debut as the head baseball coach at San Jacinto College could not have gone any better as he and his staff watched the Ravens sweep past Baton Rouge Community College in a three-game set Feb. 1-2 in Louisiana. The Ravens shortened their workload in each of the three games, winning the opener 14-0 in a five-inning, run-rule contest, then getting past Baton Rouge 13-4 in the nightcap over eight innings.

The final game of the series saw the Ravens come away with a 13-3 victory over six innings of play. In the opener, San Jacinto starting pitcher Anthony Diaz was brilliant, striking out 10 over five shutout innings while scattering five hits.

Offensively, Clear Brook High School graduate Landon Hunt homered and drove in three runs while scoring three more runs. Rafael Furcal Jr. had a hit and drove in a pair of runs, as did designated hitter Eduardo Castillo. Zach Grizalis also homered and plated a pair of runs.

In the second game of the day, the Ravens cruised 13-4 in eight frames as seven different players drove in runs. Leadoff hitter Roman Trinidad had three hits and drove in a pair of runs, McCabe Moyer Byron Robinson had a pair of hits and knocked in three runs, and catcher Mitchell Birdsall had two hits, drove in two runs and scored two runs.

On the mound, Patrick Lewis started the game and struck out nine over four innings of work to get the win.

In the series finale Feb. 2, the Ravens again controlled the action against the home team, needing just six innings to close out yet another run-rule win in the series.

Hunt, starting at third base for the third time in the series, had three hits, scored three runs and drove in a pair. Furcal homered and plated two runs, while Robinson also drove in a pair of runs.

Four different San Jacinto College pitchers worked in the game, with starter Hogan Shelby covering the opening three innings and earning the win.

February 13
The Dobie track program was enthused after



A time of 51.44 earned Dobie senior Tariq Riley the gold medal in the 400 at the Brown Relays in Pasadena. He also ran the anchor leg in the 4x400 relay as the Longhorns were able to secure third place for a bronze medal in the meet finale.

a solid season-opening performance at the Kethan Relays Feb. 7 in Deer Park.

Seniors Stacie Harris and Lauren Garza led the way for the Dobie varsity girls at Deer Park, with Harris earning silver medals in the 400 and long jump events and Garza collecting bronze medals in the 800 and 1600 runs. Harris was also part of Dobie’s 4x200 relay squad that captured third place and bronze medals in the event.

Overall, it was an outstanding debut for the Longhorns, who finished third in the team standings.

A regional qualifier in the long jump as a junior in 2024, Harris turned in a top effort of 17 feet, 10 inches, picking up the silver medal behind Clear Lake junior Jayla Alldridge, who won the event at 18-3.

Dobie’s Aniya Menefee was fourth at 16-1. As for the 400, Clear Creek’s Omolade Dada was the gold medalist at 58.38 seconds while leading the Wildcats to the overall team championship.

Harris clocked in at 1:01.82 for second place. Garza took third place for a bronze medal in the 800 at 2:28.58, with sophomore teammate Christina Rodriguez fifth and a time of 2:32.50.

At the 1600 distance, Garza posted a time of 5:37.75 for another bronze medal, with teammate Aracely Alvarado seventh at 5:49.00.

The Deer Park event did

not feature a 4x100 relay, but Dobie was led by Harris in the 4x2 for a third-place finish of 1:50.07.

The Longhorns were fourth in the 4x400 at 4:17.07. Dobie junior Ky-lar Joseph also medaled as she was third in the triple jump with a leap of 34-02. Joseph (4-10, fewer tries) and teammate Menefee (4-10) finished third and fifth respectively in the high jump.

A time of 13.26 earned the Longhorns’ Daisha Jackson third place and a bronze medal in the 100, and her time of 27.79 was sixth at the 200 distance.

February 20
Fort Bend Elkins, a future area round track and field competitor of the Pasadena ISD ranks, made an early statement by sweeping both the boys’ and girls’ varsity divisions at the Pasadena ISD Brown Relays Feb. 14 at Auxiliary Stadium.

In the varsity boys’ division, the Knights doubled up the competition, scoring 172 points for the team win, with Clear Creek a distant second with 89 points. The Dobie boys were fourth overall in the team standings with 73 points.

The race to the team title was much tighter in the varsity girls’ division, as Elkins posted 113 points for the team win, holding off second-place Deer Park, which scored 105 points.

Senior Tariq Riley, who just days before celebrated his signing of a national letter intent to play football at Mary Hardin-Bay-

lor, blazed his way to victory in the 400 as his time of 51.44 brought the gold medal. In the same event, Dobie sophomore De-shaun Singleton was in at 54.89 for sixth place, with sophomore teammate Nolan Seymore seventh at 54.00.99.

Cameron Mathews was third in the 200 for a bronze medal as he delivered a time of 22.55 in the event.

The Longhorns’ Johan Villavicencio was a bronze medalist at the 800 distance as he finished at 2:08.78.

Senior Chris Lopez of Dobie, headed to St. Thomas University Houston to continue his distance running career, was fifth in the 3,200 event with a time of 10:07.17.

The Dobie boys earned bronze medals in both the 4x200 and 4x400 relays, and also took fourth at the 4x100 distance. It was Singleton, Seymore, Villavicencio and Riley in the 4x4 for a time of 3:30.00, while senior and Wayland Baptist University football signee Jaylon Broussard, freshman Adrian Taylor, junior Marcus Jones and Mathews combined in the 4x2 relay for a silver medal at 1:31.89.

The Longhorns’ fourth-place team in the 4x100 relay included Jones, junior Titus Randle, Demarcus Hodges and Taylor. James Spivey, who turned in a terrific senior football season at the wide receiver spot in the fall, got involved as he came through with a bronze medal in the

Continued on Page 8



Lutheran South Academy swimming legend Lauren Ferguson added to her legacy last season as she became the program record holder in the 100 back, delivering a time of 1 minute, 2.24 seconds at the HYCA Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association meet.



Dobie’s Vanessa De La Fuente (7) had a big season in the circle for the Longhorns in 2025 as she delivered solid performances again and again.

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CALENDAR

Note: Attendees may need to verify events for the holidays are still scheduled.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - **Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
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 and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27
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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in 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, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29
Noon **AA** - **Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
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 4, at 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 educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30
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.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

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9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - **Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
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.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in 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.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, JANUARY 5

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 Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
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.
7 p.m. **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, JANUARY 6
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.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
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 E. 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 **AA** - **Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office 281-554-1180 for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.

7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
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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The South Belt-Ellington Leader hopes you have a wonderful, safe, happy and healthy New Year!

Leader year in review begins with January, February achievements



Dobie senior track standout Stacie Harris earned silver medals in the 400 and long jump events and Lauren Garza collected bronze medals in the 800 and 1600 runs. Harris was also part of Dobie's 4x200 relay squad that captured third place and bronze medals at the Kethan Relays.

Continued from Page 6
high jump at 5 feet, 6 inches.
Dobie's Clayton Washington, a junior, was a bronze medalist in the triple jump at a distance of 39-3.50.
The Dobie varsity girls, led by victories in the sprint medley and 4x200 relays finished fifth with 87 points.
Dobie led the way with in the Pasadena ISD ranks. In that 4x200 relay victory for the Longhorns, juniors Kylar Joseph and Aniya Menefee teamed with seniors Deleah Henry and Stacie Harris for the win in a time of 1:46.87.
Dobie's victorious distance medley relay group, which included sophomores Aracely Alvarado and Emery Hardy along with sophomore Christina Rodriguez and senior Lauren Garza, came away with a win of 13:16.00 in the event. Rodriguez earned herself an individual silver medal in the 400 as the sophomore posted a time of 1:05.44 in the event.
In the 200, a bronze medal was in line for Harris as she came to the finish line at 26.32. Harris, a regional qualifier in the high jump last year, was a silver medalist at the Brown Relays this go-around as she made her way to the 17-8 mark.
Into the regional final four for the first time in program history, the Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball team was set to take on Alief Taylor Feb. 18 after press time.
The winner will then advance to face either Ful-shear or Hightower in the 6A Region III Division II final Feb. 20-22. The University Interscholastic League has for the first time in its history separated the largest schools via enrollment into a 32-program regional Division I bracket.
Clear Brook, one of the smallest schools via enrollment within District 24-6A, then advanced into the 32-program Division 2 bracket. The Wolverines, who finished second behind league champion Dickinson in the 24-6A standings, scored playoff wins first over Humble (49-42) and then Manvel (60-51) to get to this point.
Coming off an impressive 16-5 win over Clear Brook on opening night Feb. 10, the Longhorns began their appearance at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Leadoff Classic in Bryan with a 9-1 win over San Antonio O'Connor.
The locals put up eight runs in the third inning on the way to the win as starting pitcher Vanessa De La Fuente scattered five hits over five innings while striking out eight.
Offensively, Gabby Ramirez doubled twice and Alexis Martinez, Lily Sepulveda and Natalie De Hoyos all drove in two runs each. Later in the first day of play, Byron Nelson plated a run in the top of the seventh inning

and went on to defeat the Longhorns 6-5.
Dobie's Amaya Corona homered and drove in three runs. Dobie downed V.R. Eaton 7-2 to start play as three runs in the first inning and four more in the fourth made the difference.
Sepulveda had two hits and drove in four runs. In the nightcap, the Longhorns fell 7-5 to Burleson. Persephone Soria had three hits for the locals.
The Dobie varsity tennis squad earned a bevy of medals from the Lamar University Ron Westbrook Invitational Feb. 14 in Beaumont.
The Longhorns' medal winners included Angelina Vu (second, A mixed doubles with Diego Flores); Alena Morgan and Cindy Nguyen (second, girls' A doubles); Chloe Estes (champion, girls' B singles); Vince Bui and Vyvy Do (second, B mixed doubles) (back row) Diego Flores (second, A mixed doubles with Angelina Vu); Jacob Kostikoglou and Nolan Tran (second, A boys' doubles); Nestor Garza (second, A boys' singles); Logan Pham (first, B boys' singles consolation); and Pitou So and Rigo Alanis (champions, A boys' doubles).
February 27
Armed with a huge 19-3 victory over Dawson to open District 22-6A play, the Dobie varsity softball team, standing at 5-5 overall through the first two weeks of the regular season, turned its full attention to league play against Pasadena Memorial Feb. 28 at Dobie main.
In the 16-3 opening win over Dawson, the Longhorns scored 14 runs in the bottom of the third inning then went on to shorten the game to five innings via run rule.
Lily Sepulveda and Jackie Peralta both drove in four runs each for the

winners, while Persephone Soria knocked in three.
The Longhorns hosted four games over two days as part of the Pearland ISD Jennifer Hainey Memorial Classic February 20-21.
On the first day of play, the locals lost an 11-3 game to a very tough Brazoswood squad but then came back to defeat HYCA 2-1.
Shifting to Feb. 21, Dobie lost a pair of games including 4-2 to Richmond Foster and 7-5 to Texas City.
Over the first 10 games of the season, freshman Gabby Ramirez was hitting 500 to lead the way for Dobie, with Chloe Nunez at .429. Sepulveda had driven in 12 runs.

Holiday basketball games

Continued from Page 5
Klein Cain at 9:30 a.m. before taking on Rich Conroe at 12:30 p.m. Bracket play will ensue from there.
Looking ahead to the first week of January, Dobie will host state-ranked Pearland Jan. 3 and then travel to South Houston Jan. 7.

As for the Dobie girls, who were 5-11 and 2-2 prior to a Dec. 19 match up against Shadow Creek, the Longhorns will compete in the Fort Bend ISD Showcase and then prepare for the remainder of district action, playing at Pearland Jan. 3 and then hosting South Houston Jan. 7.

Dobie volleyball awards standouts



Kylar Joseph was terrific as a senior with the Longhorns in 2025, ultimately winning the team awards for Most Improved Player and Top Offensive Player at the season-ending banquet.



Jordan Johnson was the Blocker of the Year in 22-6A this season and also picked up team awards for both Blocker of the Year and co-Defensive Player of the Year as she put together a splendid senior season.



Riese Rackley put together a memorable first season at the varsity level as she was honored as the Newcomer of the Year for the Longhorns during the postseason banquet.



Sophomore Aly Garza has a bright future with the Dobie volleyball program after she was named Co-Defensive Player of the Year as well as the team's Best Passer for 2025.



Allison Walker delivered a special season during her varsity debut in 2025 as she was honored as the winner of the Hustlin' Horn Award during the postseason banquet.



Junior Alyssa Espinosa was recognized as Dobie's Best Server of the volleyball during the 2025 season and is yet another player being counted on for next season.

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