

### Holiday closures set

**South Belt-Ellington Leader**  
The Leader offices will be closed through Monday, Jan. 6, for the Christmas/New Year's holidays. Inquiries may be emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

**Clear Brook City MUD**  
Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, and will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. The office will reopen Thursday, 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 Tuesday will have pickup on New Year's Eve. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on day of pickup.

### Leader seeks submissions

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

### Kirkwood to meet Dec. 30

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. 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.

### Sagemont to meet Jan. 7

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

### Telephone closure planned

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on SH 35/Telephone Road will be closed from Airport Boulevard to Bellfort Avenue daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (excluding Sundays) until further notice.

### Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event will be Thursday, Dec. 19, with another event happening the following Thursday, Dec. 26. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

### CCART to meet Jan. 14

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold a meeting Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The meeting will feature a presentation by members of the Dead Boats Society. A social gathering with coffee and cookies will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m. All retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

### Beltway closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. until further notice. Significant delays are expected. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

# Annual Leader Christmas program a success!

## 42nd annual drive provided food, toys for 30+ area families; MHSH donates 20 bikes

The Leader's 42nd 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 38 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 Frazier Elementary, Melillo Middle School, South Belt Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate. Frazier donated toys and food; South Belt donated toys; and Beverly Hills donated food. Melillo delivered toys to the Leader office in a school bus.

The Pasadena ISD Police Department and Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office once again took part in the drive.

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital donated 20 children's bicycles and 20 helmets.

A Friendsgiving group led by Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour collected and donated approximately \$500.

Central Ace Hardware raised roughly \$1,400 toward the program by asking customers to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar.

Belen Kha, a South Belt Elementary mother who manages a Mederna Aesthetics & Wellness center in the Heights, offered free beauty supplies to customers who donated to the drive. Kha said she was inspired by her daughter, Bush second-grader Alaina Linares, who often brought snacks to school to share with fellow students who were hungry. Kha said she also now brings snacks to Linares's teacher for her to share with her hungry students.

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

A team of volunteers dubbed "Santa's Helpers" selflessly donated their time to assist in the program. Volunteers included Irma Villanueva, Miriam Martinez, Sandy Robb and Stacey Waugh. This marked the 20th year for the mother-daughter team of Robb and Waugh to participate in the drive.

The Leader drive is different from many other fireworks regulations cause confusion

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, this past October, Commissioners Court unanimously approved sales from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1 in honor of the Diwali holiday season.

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## Santa's Helpers volunteer time



The Leader's 42nd annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to approximately 35 area families in need. Memorial Hermann Hospital donated 20 bikes toward the drive. A team of volunteers dubbed "Santa's Helpers" (shown above) selflessly donated their time to assist in the program. Helpers shown above on the donated bikes are, left to right, Miriam Martinez, Sandy Robb, Irma Villanueva and Stacey Waugh. Photo by Natalie Abarca

## City's Christmas tree recycling underway

The City of Houston recently kicked off its 31st 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. 9, (second Thursday of the month). City residents north

of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Jan. 10, (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 Jan. 31.

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



## State, county and feds celebrate completion

Harris County officials held a ribbon-cutting Friday, Dec. 13, to celebrate the completion of the Beamer Ditch improvements project. A joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Harris County, the \$10.7 million project widened the ditch and installed concrete lining from Sagerock to near Astoria. Shown at the event are, left to right, state Rep. Dennis Paul, Harris County Flood Control District Executive Director Tina Peterson and U.S. Army Col. Rhett Blackmon.

## Winter Wonderland delights area



Clear Brook City MUD's third annual Winter Wonderland event went off without a hitch Sunday, Dec. 22, attracting hundreds of area families. Originally scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8, the function was postponed due to weather. Shown above at the festive event are, left to right, Santa, Emma Trevino, Mrs. Claus and Nydia Vega (standing).

## Beamer Ditch improvements complete

Harris County officials held a ribbon-cutting Friday, Dec. 13, to celebrate the long-awaited completion of the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements project, also known as the Beamer Ditch project.

Begun in 2021, the project widened the area ditch from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road (across from San Jacinto College) and installed concrete lining throughout the length of the gully.

Construction on the project was broken into three segments. Phase 1 runs from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 runs from Scarsdale to Astoria; and Phase 3 runs from Astoria to Beamer near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin.

Funding for the \$10.7 million project is divided between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Harris County, with the county's portion being part of a \$2.5 billion bond package.

Although the flow in the channel will increase, areas downstream will not be impacted because the additional flow will be mitigated by the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin, which was substantially completed in fall 2022. Originally to have been complete by fall 2022,

the project has been marred by problems since work began in January 2021, with workers accidentally busting a city waterline on the first day of construction.

Following that, work came to a halt when the contractor that had been selected to complete work unexpectedly walked off the job, which was only around 30 percent complete, according to county officials. Complete Concrete was originally awarded the low-bid contract to widen the ditch and install concrete lining from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road. Harris County Flood Control District was required by law to accept the lowest offer.

After Complete Concrete deserted the project, massive pieces on concrete piping were left at the construction site, along with pieces of equipment belonging to the county.

In January 2023, Rebel Contractors was approved by Harris County Commissioners Court to complete work on the project. Construction resumed in spring 2023.

For additional information on the Beamer Ditch project, visit [hccfd.org/Mud-Gully](http://hccfd.org/Mud-Gully).

# In My Opinion

## King: How the city uses the TIRZs to avoid voter-approved referendums

In the recent past, the citizens of Houston voted to limit the power of the City Council on two occasions. The first was to limit its ability to raise property taxes. The second was to prohibit it from incurring any more debt to finance street and drainage projects in two separate referendums. Many City Council members and some of our mayors have chafed at the voters restricting their discretion in this manner. To counter the voters' wishes, they have employed a number of devices to avoid the restrictions. By far, the most effective tool City Council has used in this regard has been its tax increment reinvestment zone (TIRZ) program.

In 2004, voters approved a referendum limiting the annual increase in the total property taxes the City could assess without going back to the voters for approval. In calculating how much Council could raise taxes without voter approval, the referendum provided "ad valorem tax revenues required by state law to be deposited in a tax increment fund" would be excluded.

This exception meant that the more property the City Council could stuff into the TIRZs, the more it could exceed the voter-imposed limitation. So, stuff it has since 2004, approving ever more TIRZs, extensions to the lives of expiring TIRZs, and dozens of annexations, thus excluding hundreds of millions of dollars from the voter-imposed limitation. As of 2022, City Council had effectively shielded 12% of the City's property tax roll from the voter-imposed limitation. This percentage will likely continue to grow over time, assuming that Council continues to approve more extensions and annexations. Considering it approved several last week, that is probably a pretty good bet.

I have also been amazed at how brazenly City Council members admit that one motivation for expanding the TIRZs is to sidestep the voter-imposition limitation on tax increases. It always seemed to me that if they were so convinced that increases above the limitation were necessary, they should just go to the voters and ask their permission instead of coming up with schemes to dodge the limitation voters mandated.

That is precisely what former mayor Bill White did in 2006. Facing a dramatic decline in the ranks of the Houston Police Department, White asked the voters to approve adding \$90 million to the limit for public safety. The voters readily agreed, passing the measure by a wide margin.

However, there was another provision in the 2006 referendum which was hugely consequential but largely overlooked until recently. The provision stated that if a TIRZ were dissolved or the City's participation was reduced, the property tax increment that would come back to the City would be added to the limitation calculation. In other words, the City would be held harmless if it decided to reduce the amount of property tax money going

to the TIRZs. However, because this provision's language is somewhat obtusely worded, it went almost completely unnoticed for a decade. In that interim, a succession of Council members and other City officials routinely opined that TIRZs could not be dissolved because the City would "lose" the revenue the TIRZs were receiving.

However, a mayoral candidate in 2015 who called for reforming the TIRZ system pointed out that the provision held the City harmless if a TIRZ was dissolved. Later, Houston Chronicle reporter Mike Morris came to the same conclusion. Ultimately the City Attorney confirmed this reading of the provision. Nonetheless, we continue to hear somewhat regularly a Council member cite this misreading as a justification for essentially making TIRZs perpetual.

**Dodging the Prohibition on Borrowing for Streets & Drainage.** In 2010 and again in 2018, voters approved a charter amendment that created a drainage fee for street and flood control infrastructure and specifically barred the City from borrowing any money for those purposes in the future. Some of you will recall that I campaigned against these referendums, partly because I believe the pass-as-you-go model is not sound financially. But the voters decided differently.

Since 2010, the City has nominally complied with the referendum by not seeking any new bond debt for streets or drainage. However, nothing in the referendum prohibited TIRZs from borrowing for this purpose. Even better, even though the City's property tax revenues service TIRZ bonds, no vote is required to issue them. As a result, in the last ten years, the TIRZs have pigged out on bonds. Their combined total now stands at nearly a billion dollars, and the issuance of TIRZ bonds has wiped out the reduction in City bonds resulting from the pay-as-you-go requirement imposed by voters. Council members also make little attempt to hide their endorsement of using TIRZ debt to skirt the pay-as-you-go voter-imposed requirement. In a recent Council discussion, one member frankly stated that a particular project in his district would not be possible were it not for the ability of a TIRZ in his district to issue bonds.

**Conclusion** While I like the idea of requiring Council to ask for voter approval to exceed some level of property taxes, I am not crazy about the current form of the limitation. Also, as I have previously stated, I think the pay-as-you-go model is a bad idea. But dammit, this is what Houstonians voted for, and by the way, they did so by wide margins. It is disrespectful to the citizens of our City for officials to seek devices to subvert their mandates and, especially to do so as blatantly as they do.

Much has been written about the recent election results as a repudiation of an elite mindset in which officials believe they know better than the people who elected them on how they should govern. The results make me wonder if a similar day of reckoning is coming to the City.

**Bill King**

## State sales tax totaled

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said state sales tax revenue totaled \$4.3 billion in November, 4.7 percent more than in November 2023. The majority of November sales tax revenue is based on sales made in October and remitted to the agency in November.

"Following the increase seen in October, November state sales tax collections grew strongly once again with revenues from most major sectors increasing over their totals from last year," Hegar said. "Receipts from most sectors driven primarily by business spending were up, with both the manufacturing and wholesale trade sectors posting substantial gains from November 2023. Collections from the construction sector also rose from a year ago. Receipts from the mining sector declined, falling for the eighth consecutive month.

"Sales tax receipts from sectors driven primarily by consumer spending were up, with collections from both retail trade and services sectors beating collections from last November. Within the retail trade sector, receipts from online shopping and general merchandise stores were both

up significantly compared with November 2023.

"Receipts from restaurants increased from a year ago but were slightly below the rate of inflation for food away from home for October."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in November 2024 was up 3.9 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 58 percent of all tax collections.

Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- Motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$586 million, up 4 percent from November 2023.

- Motor fuel taxes — \$345 million, up 6 percent from November 2023.

- Oil production tax — \$488 million, down 15 percent from November 2023.

- Natural gas production tax — \$157 million, down 26 percent from November 2023.

- Hotel occupancy tax — \$75 million, up 2 percent from November 2023.

- Alcoholic beverage taxes — \$158 million, up 4 percent from November 2023.

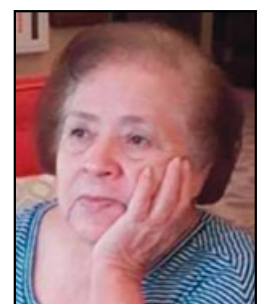
## Victoria Ann Morgan



On Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, Victoria (Vickie) Morgan received her ultimate reward and was welcomed home by Jesus, her parents, her brother Pat Dickerson, and her daughter Jenny Morgan. She was born on Sept. 24, 1949, in Houston, to Sarah Frances and Eddie Dickerson. Vickie married her college sweetheart, Bill Morgan. Early on, they made the decision to move to Pasadena to raise their three daughters, because of the reputation of its exceptional school district. Her daughters, son-in-law and grandsons are all products of Pasadena schools. She was the first woman elected

## Deaths

### Bertha Machuca Chavez



to serve as a Pasadena ISD trustee and completed 39 years in that capacity. Vickie served the youth through various organizations including Girl Scouts, YMCA, San Jacinto College and her church, South Main Baptist, Pasadena. She volunteered with the PTA, at the local, council and district levels and organized the district's first intermediate level PTA. She served on the PISD Education Foundation Board and was one of the original city-appointed board members for the Pasadena Second Century Corporation. She served as Vacation Bible School and Sunday School directors and was involved in organizing many church wide events.

Vickie received many honors due to her commitment to children, including Texas, National and Extended Life PTA Memberships. She was named Leader of the Year by the Girl Scouts of America and Outstanding Young Women of America. However, if one asked Vickie, she would say her greatest honor of all was serving the students, staff and community of PISD. She was blessed to witness the successes of the PISD students brought about by the dedication of the district's educators and employees.

Vickie is survived by her husband of 55 years; her daughter Cheri Hutcherson, son-in-law Rodney and grandsons Carson and Will; daughter Stephanie Morgan, son-in-law to-be David Biediger, and granddaughter Alyssa Meyer; and brother Eddie Dickerson and sister-in-law Connie.

Vickie's life was celebrated at First Baptist Church Pasadena Chapel on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024. Donations can be made to the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation in Vickie's honor. <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/w97RVw?r=htp%3A%2F%2Ffigfn.us%2F%2F2Fvso6h&vid=1gspkk>

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Bertha M. Chavez, who peacefully entered into eternal rest on Dec. 18, 2024, just days before her 88th birthday. A loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, Bertha was a woman of deep faith whose life was a reflection of her unwavering love for Jesus Christ and her dedication to serving others.

Born on Dec. 23, 1936, in Michoacan, Mexico, Bertha was the cherished daughter of Faustino Machuca Aguilar. She was a devout Catholic who lived her life with a heart full of compassion and humility.

The viewing was Dec. 23, 2024, at Crespo Funeral Home, Funeral Services were Dec. 24, 2024, at Crespo Funeral Home. Burial services were Dec. 24, 2024 at Houston National Cemetery.

She believed in the power of prayer, and Bertha's prayers were a source of strength and comfort to those around her. Her faith not only brought her peace but also served as a light for others, guiding them through difficult times with the knowledge that God was always near.

As a mother and grandmother, Bertha's faith was passed down through generations. She instilled in her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren the importance of loving God, caring for others and living with kindness and integrity. Her example of grace, compassion and devotion will continue to inspire her family and all who knew her.

Bertha was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Steve V. Chavez. She is survived by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her, and her legacy of faith, prayer, and love will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

The viewing was Dec. 23, 2024, at Crespo Funeral Home, Funeral Services were Dec. 24, 2024, at Crespo Funeral Home. Burial services were Dec. 24, 2024 at Houston National Cemetery.

**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
Catholic Church  
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor  
Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd.  
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://www.stlukesatholic.com)

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)	
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862  
*All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.*

## Law enforcement gets cash boost

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said his office has delivered about \$225 million in financial assistance to rural law enforcement and prosecutor offices as part of a grant program to help ensure professional law enforcement and legal representation of the people's interests throughout the state.

The Rural Law Enforcement Grant Program, administered by the comptroller's office, was enacted by SB 22 during the 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, which appropriated \$330 million for the 2024-25 biennium to fund the program.

During fiscal 2024, which ended on Aug. 31, Hegar's office awarded \$125.7 million to 502 grant recipients, comprising qualified counties and prosecutor offices. The comptroller's office awarded an additional \$98.4 million to 396 grant recipients in fiscal 2025. Hegar encourages eligible law enforcement and prosecutor offices whose fiscal years begins Jan. 1 to apply for funding by the Jan. 31, 2025, deadline.

"Many rural law enforcement and prosecutor offices have lacked the resources they need to attract and retain personnel or to buy much-needed safety equipment, and this program bridges that gap. I'm humbled that the Legislature placed this responsibility with my agency," said Hegar, who visited five rural law communities and prosecutor offices earlier this year through his Good for Texas Tour series to spotlight how they have used the funds to help serve their populations. "These men and women form the backbone of rural communities across the great state of Texas, and it is critical that we ensure they have what they need to keep Texans safe and secure."

Hegar's Good for Texas Tour is highlighted in the most recent edition of "Fiscal Notes." The grant program allows the comptroller's office to administer the following to counties with populations of 300,000 or less:

The Rural Sheriff's Department Salary Assistance Grant awards grants between \$250,000 and \$500,000. The grant funding must be used to provide specified minimum salaries, give salary increases, hire additional deputies or staff for the department, or to purchase safety equipment, firearms and vehicles for the sheriff's department.

## Fireworks laws confuse many

Continued from Page 1

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, Mead-

ows 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](http://www.hcfmo.net/portals/15/Documents/Commonfireworkviolations.pdf).

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

*New Enrolling*

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

**281.481.2003**  
[www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com)  
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089  
Blackhawk@Kirkfair

**Prodigal:**  
*Home is Colorblind*  
A Christian Drama

**By: Oscar Salazar Jr. and Joel Beeson**  
Available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

A new compelling and gripping story of love, forgiveness and redemption.  
**Prodigal is a story that you will not forget.**

Oscar Salazar Jr. is a South Belt resident, local business owner and aspires to be a Harris County Justice of the Peace.

**MORGHAN**  
Communications

**REGISTER NOW FOR**

# SPRING CLASSES

**CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 13**

6

CONVENIENT  
CAMPUSES

**CENTRAL CAMPUS**  
8060 Spencer Hwy.  
Pasadena, TX 77505

**GENERATION PARK CAMPUS**  
13455 Lockwood Rd.  
Houston, TX 77044

**MARITIME CAMPUS**  
3700 Old Hwy. 146  
La Porte, TX 77571

**NORTH CAMPUS**  
5800 Uvalde Rd.  
Houston, TX 77049

**SAN JAC ONLINE**  
[sanjac.edu/online](http://sanjac.edu/online)

**SOUTH CAMPUS**  
13735 Beamer Rd.  
Houston, TX 77089

An Equal Opportunity Institution

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

APPLY, REGISTER, AND PAY ONLINE AT [SANJAC.EDU](http://SANJAC.EDU)

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. 6, 11 a.m. – noon Get tech-savvy.  
Tuesday, Jan. 7, 4 – 5 p.m. Board games at the library.  
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 26, 10 – 11 a.m. Thrillers, killers and mayhem book club.  
Monday, Dec. 30, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Conversation club.  
Thursday, Jan. 2, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.  
Friday, Jan. 3, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.  
Tuesday, Jan. 7, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

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

– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.  
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.  
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.  
– Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.  
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.  
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).  
– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.  
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.  
– Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.  
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.  
– Read along and play with picture books on 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>.

## South Belt donates toys to Leader drive



South Belt Elementary staff, parents and students came together for the 2024 Christmas toy drive, demonstrating the spirit of giving this holiday season. Hundreds of toys were generously collected and donated to the *South Belt Leader*, which were distributed to children in the

## Fred Roberts Middle School shares New Year's resolutions

Students at Roberts middle school stated resolutions for 2025

Two things I want to get better at:

- Braiding hair
- Following my schedule
- One thing I can stop doing: - Being mean to siblings
- Two Habits I want to start: - Eating more fruit
- Start doing the right thing
- Five ways I can show kindness:
- Being respectful
- Being responsible
- Being nice
- Helping people
- Standing up for people

**Chemya Robertson**  
Two things I want to get better at:

- Math and running
- One thing I can stop doing: - Stop messing up my room
- Two Habits I want to start: - Start practicing flexibility and getting faster
- Five ways I can show kindness:
- I can help someone, be kind, respect adults, be good, give compliments to others

**Tariyah Horton**  
I want to get better at:

speaking French and sports.

One thing I should not do is not studying.

Two habits I want to start are washing the dishes and taking out the trash.

Five ways I can show kindness is giving someone a pencil, helping someone study, being nice, comforting someone, and helping someone with homework.

**Krisna Blacknall**  
I want to get better at math and not getting into trouble

One thing I can stop doing: - Getting into trouble

Two Habits I want to start: - Exercising and getting good grades.

Five ways I can show kindness:

- Helping others
- Not arguing
- Sharing
- Helpful words
- Being a friend

**Abraham Rodriguez**  
Two things I want to get better at:

- Soccer
- Volleyball

Two Habits I want to start:

- Volleyball
- Baking
- Five ways I can show kindness:
- Sharing
- Being caring
- Being nice
- Being helpful
- listening

**Isabella Rodriguez**  
Two things I want to get better at:

- Speaking French
- Sports

One thing I can stop doing: - Not studying

Two Habits I want to start: - Washing the dishes

- Taking out the trash

Five ways I can show kindness:

- Giving someone a pencil
- Help someone study
- Being nice
- Comfort someone
- Help someone with homework

**Krisna Blacknall**  
Two things I want to get better at:

- Volleyball
- Math class

One thing I can stop doing: - Stop talking back

Two Habits I want to start: - Drinking more water

- Going outside every day

Five ways I can show kindness:

- Smile at someone
- Helping someone
- Saying hi to them
- Making them laugh
- Being kind

**Madison Rangel-Puga**

## Melillo writes resolutions letters

Melillo middle school students expressed their intentions for the new year.

My New Year's Resolution is to make my band popular.

**Soren Castro-Hojer**  
My New Year's Resolution is to be helpful to people everyday.

**Bryan Le**  
My New Year's Resolution is to get my mom a necklace.

**Jose Paredes**  
My New Year's Resolution is to be a little less clumsy.

**Juan Pineda**  
My New Year's Resolution is getting better at my handwriting.

**Jake Sanchez**  
My New Year's Resolution is to draw more and stop saying brain rot words.

**Miah Sanchez**  
My New Year's Resolution is probably playing a game at night while celebrating New Years Eve. Because last year, we played a game.

**Max Scott**  
My New Year's Resolution is to help people if they need help.

**Josiah Tellez**  
My New Year's Resolution is to throw more faster 60 mph and to be better in band and to be faster and be more smarter and to be better at first base

**Alexander Urias**

## Stuchbery spelling bee winners



Stuchbery Elementary announced their spelling bee winners. Pictured, left to right are, Weston Harvard (first-place champion), Alex Nguyen (runner-up) and Cameron Baines (third-place finisher).

## Atkinson names students of the month

Students recognized as helpful, responsible



**Amaia Garcia**, from Cheri Cundiff's kindergarten class, shows responsibility in many ways. Her teacher can always count on Amaia to do what she is asked to do whether it is completing classwork, helping her classmates, or just being a great listener during instruction time. She always completes tasks on time and keeps her area clean. Amaia is also responsible each week for completing and turning in her homework and remembers to bring her library book each week for library day.



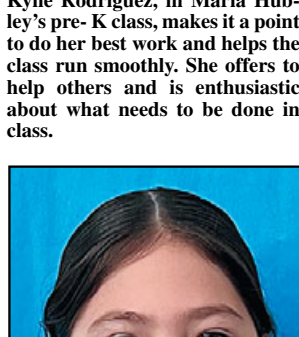
**Hendrix Tran**, from Ashley Riley's class, shows responsibility in class and around the school by taking care of supplies and following rules and expectations. Hendrix is always willing to help others in the classroom by showing them how to do something with which they may be struggling. Hendrix shows responsibility by making sure that he is doing what he is supposed to do by checking in when needed.



**Kylie Rodriguez**, in Maria Hubley's pre-K class, makes it a point to do her best work and helps the class run smoothly. She offers to help others and is enthusiastic about what needs to be done in class.



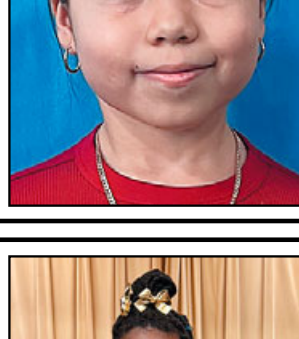
**Ayleth Fuentes**, in Jeannette Guerrero's first-grade class, shows responsibility on a daily basis. She always starts her tasks promptly, listens when others speak and helps everyone in her classroom.



**Adilene Torres**, in Maria Moncada's second-grade class, consistently shows responsibility. She always arrives on time, and is prepared with her materials, never forgetting to bring her homework or assignments. When it's time to clean up after activities, Adilene does not wait for reminders - she quickly tidies her area and helps organize shared supplies. During group work, she takes the initiative to make sure everyone stays on task and completes their part. Adilene's actions show the importance of being responsible, and her dedication sets a positive example for her classmates.



**Destiny Ford** in Prachi Bhatt's fourth-grade class, shows responsibility in many ways. She always completes her assigned tasks on time. She is always eager to help her classmates and does the best to her abilities.



**Michelle Flores**, in Gustavo Cadena's third-grade class, has shown to be responsible by doing her work, bringing homework and always being ready for any task she is asked to do.



**Angelica Flores**, in Tulu Sarkar's fourth-grade class, supports and helps her friends grow by being a positive influence. She listens to her friends attentively and waits her turn to talk. She respects her classmates and uses kind words in conversations. She also helps her friends without being asked.

## Meador announces spelling bee winners



Meador Elementary announced their spelling bee champion and runner-up, Dec. 5. Pictured at left, are runner-up, third-grader Campbell Lightfoot (left) and Meador spelling bee champion, fourth-grader David Mai. Pictured below are the third- and fourth-grade finalists. Left to right, are (front row) fourth-grader David Mai, (middle row) fourth-graders Isabelle De La Cruz, Caleb Marciano, Lucia Cabriales, Mallory Rodriguez, third-graders Monserrat Rodriguez, Givan Lopez, Jamar Holmes, Michelle Ortega-Avalos, Hernan Alvarez-Ramirez, (back row) fourth-graders Jeylene Jimenez, Jordyn Kahane, King Speed, third-graders Natalie Miller, Alain St. Louis and Campbell Lightfoot.



A TRULY ENCHANTING HOLIDAY DESTINATION ON GALVESTON ISLAND  
November 23 - January 1

# Holiday

IN THE GARDENS

Featuring

## ICE LAND POLE-TO-POLE

**40 Days of Holiday Attractions & Events!**

Festival of Lights • ICE LAND • Train Rides • Holiday Fantasy Live Show Spectacular  
Rudolph 4D • 3D Holiday Films • Ice Skating • Evening Dinner Cruises  
Arctic Slide • Fireside S'mores • Breakfast With Santa  
Thanksgiving & Christmas Buffets • New Year's Palooza Family Celebration & MORE!



Book Direct, Guaranteed Lowest Price:  
**Online Hotel Packages & Tickets!**

# Stuchbery announces students of the month



Officials of Stuchbery Elementary announced their students of the month for November. Pictured, left to right, are (first row) John Jacuine, Leonel Guzman, Amayll Sosa, Liam Mendez, Giovanni Campos, Ana Thompson, Andrea Reyes, Everly McMullin, Josiah Garza, (second row) Nikolas Melchor, Godswill Nmezi, Valentina Aguirre, Megan Silva, Lincoln Musili, Vivian Guevara, Emma Caudillo, Elia Rivera,

Hasani Ortiz, Kassidy Brown, (third row) Alyssa Valdez (counselor), Alerly Zamora, Laila Arispe, Itzae Gomez, Ava Kekina-Fernandez, Justin Tran, (fourth row) Ethan Thompson, Jackelin Flores, Gianna Jimenez, Josiah Ayala, Sophia Pachon and Jesus Sosa. Not pictured are, Iker Hernandez, Duell Moore, Mia Sinclair, Lyric Bhalai, Victoria Castillo, Elizar Valenzuela, Journi Moncriffe and Audrianna Hessong.



December students of the month, left to right, are (first row) Daniel Hernandez, Alijah Ibarra, Anuel Colindres, Olivia Grimaldo, Aviana Guerrero, Nancy Nguyen, Lyric Bhalai, Renesmee Gonzalez, Mariah Torres, Fabian Guevara, Mia Pineda, (second row) Thiago Moreno, Leonel Lopez, Ezra Garcia, Luke Oliva, Jesiah Williams, Saith Moreno, Avery Zepeda, Allison Maldonado, (third row) Jonathan Knight,

Adan Moreno, Jayce Ferguson, Roselvia Baca, Trae Rodriguez, Serenity Garcia, Skyler Amezquita, Kiyomi Anderson, Chloe Fuentes, Alyssa Valdez (counselor), (fourth row) Anthony Nazario, Ty'Ryn Allen, Leo Batiste, Mario Tzintzun, Simon Matta and Luzielli Current. Not pictured are Marlon Castillo, Janelle Parga, Angel Reyes, Iker Galvan and Natalie Prieto.

# NASA outlines latest Moon to Mars plans

As NASA develops a blueprint for space exploration throughout the solar system for the benefit of humanity, the agency recently released several new documents Friday updating its Moon to Mars architecture. The roadmap sets NASA on course for long-term lunar exploration under the Artemis campaign in preparation for future crewed missions to Mars.

Following an Architecture Concept Review, the 2024 updates include a revision of NASA's Architecture Definition Document which details technical approaches and processes of the agency's exploration plans, an executive overview, and 12 new white papers (reports or guides that in form readers concisely about complex issues) on key Moon to Mars topics.

"NASA's Architecture Concept Review process is critical to getting us on a path to mount a human mission to Mars," said NASA Associate Administrator Jim Free. "We're taking a methodical approach to mapping out the decisions we need to make, understanding resource and technological trades, and ensuring we are listening to feedback from stakeholders."

One newly released white paper highlights NASA's decision to use fission power as the primary source of power on the Martian surface to sustain crews — the first of seven key decisions necessary for human Mars exploration. Fission power is a form of nuclear power unaffected by day and night cycles or potential dust storms on Mars.

New additions this year also include a broader, prioritized list of key architecture decisions that need to be made early in NASA's plans to send humans to the Red Planet. Two new elements are now part of the agency's Moon to Mars architecture — a lunar surface cargo lander and an initial lunar surface habitat. The lunar surface cargo lander will deliver logistics items, science and technology payloads, communications systems, and more. The initial surface habitat will house astronauts on the lunar surface to extend the crew size, range, and duration of exploration missions and enable crewed and uncrewed science opportunities.

The newest revision of the Architecture Definition Document adds more information about NASA's decision road mapping process — how the agency decides which decisions must be made early in the planning process based on impacts to subsequent de-

isions — and a list of architecture-driven opportunities that help technology development organizations prioritize research into new technologies that will enable the Moon to Mars architecture.

"Identifying and analyzing high-level architecture decisions are the first steps to realizing a crewed Mars exploration campaign," said Catherine Koerner, associate administrator, Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, NASA

Headquarters in Washington. "Each yearly assessment cycle as part of our architecture process is moving us closer to ensuring we have a well thought out plan to accomplish our exploration objectives."

NASA's Moon to Mars architecture approach incorporates feedback from U.S. industry, academia, international partners, and the NASA workforce. The agency typically releases a series of technical documents at the

end of its annual analysis cycle, including an update of the Architecture Definition Document and white papers that elaborate on frequently raised topics.

Under NASA's Artemis campaign, the agency will establish the foundation for long-term scientific exploration at the Moon, land the next Americans and first international partner astronaut on the lunar surface, and prepare for human expeditions to Mars for the benefit of all.

# PUCT adopts increase rule

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) has taken action to further strengthen grid reliability and provide residential consumers an opportunity to save on their electricity bills through greater demand response. The Commission adopted new rules that establish a goal for reducing the amount of electricity residential consumers in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region consume by using smart responsive device programs. These programs are available to consumers in areas with retail competition and participation is voluntary.

"Ensuring grid reliability as Texas continues to grow requires both expanding our state's power supply and finding ways to reduce demand and use electricity more efficiently," PUCT Commissioner Kathleen Jackson said. "By offering

residential consumers opportunities to help them reduce their energy use, we help them save money, reduce demand on the ERCOT system, and improve grid reliability."

A smart responsive device, like a smart thermostat, is a household device or appliance that can be controlled remotely by an electricity provider. Currently, retail electric providers (REP) in the ERCOT region can offer incentives to their customers to install smart responsive devices in their home and elect to participate in a voluntary demand response program.

By voluntarily participating in a demand response program, consumers allow their smart device or appliance's energy consumption to be reduced during periods when power demand is high. This strengthens grid reliability and helps consumers save on energy costs.

PURA § 39.919, as enacted by the 88th Texas Legislature through SB 1699 and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2023. It establishes a goal for residential demand response programs to reduce the total power consumption of participating customers by 20 percent.

The rule also establishes new reporting requirements that will provide the PUCT and ERCOT critical data to evaluate how residential demand response programs are performing and if they are providing the desired reliability benefits to the ERCOT grid. No identifying customer information will be collected with data in the new reporting requirements.

The rule also requires REPs to ensure that demand response programs do not negatively impact critical care residential customers or chronic condition residential customers.

# Hermann president recognized

Memorial Hermann Health System announces that for the third consecutive year, "Modern Healthcare" has named President and CEO David L. Callender, MD, to its list of "The Most Influential People in Healthcare."

Distinguished honorees encompass leaders from government, business and the nonprofit sector deemed by their peers and the senior editors of Modern Healthcare to have influenced positive and sustainable transformation across the health care industry resulting in positive impacts to patient care, organizational culture, employee retention and development, and overall clinical, operational and fiscal governance.

"I am truly honored to be recognized by 'Modern Healthcare' among this nation's health care leaders," said Callender. "This award reflects the incredible work of our more than 34,000 employees who embody our mission of improving health every day. It is their commit-

ment, compassion, and drive for excellence that is making a lasting impact on the communities we serve."

Since joining Memorial Hermann as president and CEO in 2019, Callender has established a strategic framework to enable Memorial Hermann and the entire health care system to create more value for patients and populations; that is, delivering the greatest outcomes at an optimal cost, creating exceptional experiences for patients and a fulfilling work environment for its workforce and improving health equity in the communities it serves.

Among Memorial Hermann's most notable achievements this year is the launch of a new, first-of-its-kind Health Education and Leadership (HEAL) High School in partnership with Aldine Independent School District. Supported by a \$31 million gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies to the Memorial Hermann Foundation, this partnership bridges

the health care and education systems and provides a meaningful educational pathway to prepare students for health care jobs with family-sustaining wages after graduation from a specially designed, career-technical education high school.

"Our list of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare reflects the important contributions of the men and women who have helped shape the industry in 2024," said Mary Ellen Podmolik, editor-in-chief of Modern Healthcare. "They come from all corners of the industry and their leadership has been felt from the doctor's office to Capitol Hill. We look forward to these honorees continuing to wield their influence to protect and improve patient care."

The complete ranking can be found in the Dec. 9 issue of "Modern Healthcare" magazine, and profiles of all the honorees are available online at ModernHealthcare.com/100Most-Influential.

# Remember When

## 45 years ago (1979)

Members of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department spent about 50 hours fighting fires during the week of Christmas.

Pasadena Mayor John Ray Harrison was sworn in as judge of the 113th Civil District Court.

## 40 years ago (1984)

Sagamont residents prepared for a massive cleanup. They were asked to get rid of old furniture, appliances, building materials or any heavy trash items. The cleanup was coordinated by the Sagamont Civic Club and the city.

Construction of Beltway 8 between Fairmont Parkway and I-45 south was to begin soon.

## 35 years ago (1989)

Precinct 1 County Commissioner El Franco Lee was sworn into office at a special ceremony held at the Family Law Building.

Former Dobbie student Steve Cummings was put on the Toronto Blue Jay's 40-man roster.

## 30 years ago (1994)

The remaining residents of the Southeast subdivision found out that their water rates would climb by approximately 500 percent — from \$10 for the first 1,000 gallons to \$45 for 8,000 gallons.

Gallery Furniture's Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale delivered his "Stay in School and Say No to Drugs" talk to eighth-graders who attended career day at San Jacinto College South.

## 25 years ago (1999)

Beamer, the 14-year-old Dalmatian mascot for Houston Fire Station 70, died.

A five-vehicle accident at the corner of Sabo and Fuqua left no one seriously injured.

## 20 years ago (2004)

Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Rick Schneider defended the district's yearly practice of intentionally arranging a budget surplus as necessary to ensure an emergency fund balance.

A community party cel-

brating the completion of the completion of Pearland Parkway from Broadway (FM 518) to Beltway 8 was planned. The new road provided a new major connection between the South Belt area and Pearland.

Members of the Dobbie High School Academic Decathlon team won the Pasadena Independent School District competition, which was held at Parkview Intermediate and Pasadena Memorial High schools.

Harris County Sheriff's deputies and members of Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to a

home invasion call on the evening of Jan. 1 at 11334 Blackhawk.

## 15 years ago (2009)

The South Belt-Ellington Leader wrapped up its 27th annual Christmas program to collect food and gifts for needy families in the community. A record number of 60 families applied for assistance in the drive — roughly twice the number of applicants as in previous years.

## 10 years ago (2014)

Meador Elementary celebrated its 50th anniversary with a reception attended by all four former school principals. Named after former

mayor of South Houston, B.F. Meador (father of San Jacinto College board member Ben Meador), the campus opened in 1963 for kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Prior to the school's opening, students living in the Sagamont area had been bused to South Houston schools or Genoa. The campus was home to 620 South Belt area students.

## 5 years ago (2019)

The Leader's 37th annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to nearly 70 area families in need. Several local organizations, business-

es and residents stepped up to the plate, making 2019's drive one of the most successful in the event's history.

## 1 year ago (2023)

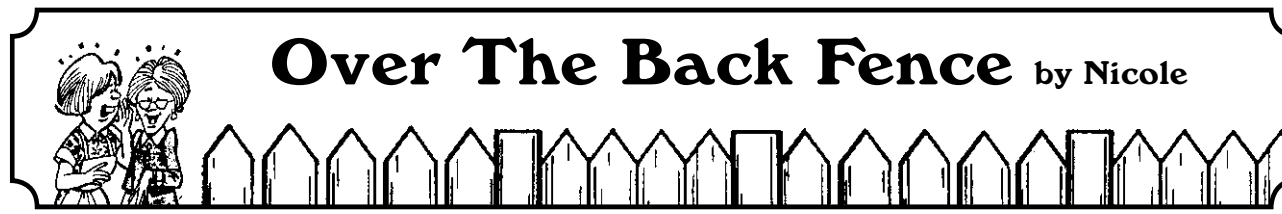
The Leader's annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to dozens of area families in need. Several local organizations, schools, businesses and residents stepped up to the plate, making the 2023 drive one of the most successful in the event's history. Approximately 40 families took part in the program. Despite the relatively low number of families compared to previous years,

approximately 110 children were helped, as many of the applicants had large families with up to five children. The Leader drive is different from many others in that assistance is provided to families in the immediate South Belt area.

In the past, the program had assisted as many as 80 families.

The program worked with local schools, by letting the Leader know of families in need, and having area students help supply toys.

Sandy Robb and daughter Stacy Waugh have helped organized the toys and food for the past 21 years.



# Over The Back Fence by Nicole

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 26 through Jan. 8.

**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**. Light the birthday candles Jan. 8 for **Yessenia Alberto Gonzalez**.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Dec. 30 is the day for a fun celebration for **Araceli Rodriguez**. **Theresa Salazar** celebrates a birthday Jan. 3. Birthday greetings go out to **Christine Grazioli** Jan. 8.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Dec. 27 is the day for a cake for **Maria Duran**. Remember to wish **Julia Friedel** a happy birthday Dec. 28. 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**.  
**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**.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Jan. 1 is a day of celebration for **Tiona Samuel** for her birthday. Break out the balloons and party favors for **Jennifer Perez** on her birthday Jan. 6. Blow out the candles Jan. 8 for **Candace Dobbie**.

**Dobie High**  
**Matha Jack** celebrates a birthday Dec. 26. Birthday greetings go out to **Andrea Blair** Dec. 27. Dec. 29 is a day of celebration for **Andrea Morgan** for her 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. 26: **Cindi Williams**, **David Parker**, **Dave Huston**, **Travis Sattiewhite**, **Pam Moore** and **Sam Ditta**; Friday, Dec. 27: **Rhonda Valdez**, **Jen Mintz**, **Ricky Stacey**, **Julia Argo**,

**Laurel Chicas**, **Arthur Medina**, **Donna Shaw-McCullough** and **Stacey Donohue**; Saturday, Dec. 28: **Mandy Philmon**, **Sunday**, Dec. 29: **Lory Adams Taylor**, **Joe Gutierrez** and **Debra Blake**; Monday, Dec. 30: **Heather Deming**, **David Garza**, **Gloria Garcia**, **Salvador Flores**, **Scott Romeo**, **Brenda Keener** and **Aracilia Maturey**; Tuesday, Dec. 31: **Laneil Vawter**, **Dameon Smith**, **Kelley Hammond**, **Karen Edwards**, **Cecily Carriere** and **Pamela Collins**; Wednesday, Jan. 1: **Michael McCollom**, **Charlotte Christian**, **Elaine Bischof**, **Marl Wills**, **Kelly Robinson**, **David Tucker**, **Richard Lopez**, **Eleonora Stoves**, **Sandra Matula** and **Crystal Ford**; Thursday, Jan. 2: **Jay Forrest**, **Amanda Baldwin**, **Bryan Gomez**, **Mary Winters**, **Kelly Edwards** and **Meagan Novak**; Friday, Jan. 3: **Tony Montenegro III**, **Deb Rainbolt-Young**, **Terri Salazar**, **Roland Moreno** and **Flor Elizalde**; Saturday, Jan. 4: **Gerry Cole**, **Lan Curtis**, **Crystal Roberts** and **Jason Thompson**; Sunday, Jan. 5: **John Carnes**, **Jessica Fernandez**, **Jamie Troxlar**, **Natalie McCoy**, **John Jenkins** and **Jovon Lartigue-Davis**; Tuesday, Jan. 7: **Michael Lake**, **Kathi Kemp**, **Sherry Crawford**, **Meagan McMurry**, **Jessica Sellers**, **Bob Townley**, **Larry Shewell**, **Jason Cox**, **Brian Gallagher** and **Diane Gonzalez**; and Wednesday, Jan. 8: **Brad Muecke**.

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

# Connecting classrooms Texas

According to Mitrah Avini, policy advisor, across Texas, innovative programs are transforming high school education by connecting classrooms to career opportunities. Expanding these initiatives is essential for preparing students for the 63 percent of Texas jobs that require post-secondary education. For too long, nearly two-thirds of Texas high school graduates have not earned a post-secondary credential within six years of graduation. This gap highlights the pressing need to make the most of the resources available for Texas students.

The program worked with local schools, by letting the Leader know of families in need, and having area students help supply toys.

Sandy Robb and daughter Stacy Waugh have helped organized the toys and food for the past 21 years.

It is believed the solution lies in adopting braided funding—a model that combines multiple funding streams to support a single program while maintaining accountability to each funding source. Latest research, funded by a grant from JPMorganChase, shows how this approach can optimize resources, enhance accountability, and expand life-changing opportunities for Texas students.

One significant example is the Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ), a partnership among five South Texas school districts. Since its launch in 2019, RSIZ has outperformed state averages in college, career and military readiness. In 2022, 58

percent of RSIZ graduates earned industry-based certifications, compared to the state average of 28 percent. Similarly, 59 percent of RSIZ students completed dual credit coursework, far surpassing the state average of 24 percent. These achievements highlight how innovative resource allocation can yield tangible results.

The key to expanding these successes statewide lies in legislative action. Lawmakers can build on recent workforce development initiatives like the Texas Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and House Bill 8, which established an outcomes-based funding model for community colleges. By modernizing state laws to promote braided funding, can eliminate administrative silos, simplify grant processes, and prioritize performance outcomes. These changes will empower school districts to scale proven models like RSIZ and the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP).

Additionally, the state has an opportunity to enhance transparency in funding. Developing a central database of funding sources and allowable uses will enable districts to navigate complex financial landscapes more effectively. Providing public guidance on

leveraging federal, state, and local funds will further maximize impact.

Strategic governance is also critical. Increasing dedicated staffing at the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and implementing integrated project management tools can improve coordination among state agencies. These measures will ensure that resources are deployed efficiently and equitably.

Ultimately, braided funding is not just a policy concept—it could be an essential project management tool that helps future generations of Texans succeed. By continuing to take further steps to align education and workforce initiatives, Texas can give millions more students a clear pathway to success. Whether it's earning college credits in high school, securing industry-based certifications, or exploring apprenticeship opportunities, these programs offer students the tools they need to thrive in a competitive job market.

With a growing economy and population, it's essential that Texas leverage all the resources available to maximize classroom-to-career possibilities, so we can lead the country in workforce readiness. By Mitrah Avini

# AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes one to the meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook. Meetings are held in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. One is invited to come to the meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies, and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

The speaker will be Patrick Chimes, a retired NASA TV engineer and operations manager. His presentation will be "Life on the International Space Station and Anna's Mission." The social event will be bingo hosted by Your Legacy Legal Care and a hot chocolate bar. Create one's own cup of cocoa with lots of fixings.

AARP Chapter 199 also organizes day trips for its members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next bus trip will be on Wednesday, Feb. 26, to "City by the Sea Museum" in Palacios. One must be a member of Chapter 199 to participate in bus trips. One may register for this trip at the Jan. 9 meeting.

If one is interested in joining our AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact President Veronica Stanford, 409-256-1195.

# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES



**JFD boys at Rayburn**  
Jan. 3, 7 p.m.

**JFD boys host Alvin**  
Jan. 7, 7 p.m.

**JFD girls host Rayburn**  
Jan. 3, 1 p.m.

**JFD girls at Alvin**  
Jan. 7, 7 p.m.

**Brook boys at Clear Falls**  
Jan. 3, 7 p.m.

**Brook boys host Clear Lake**  
Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

**Brook girls host Clear Falls**  
Jan. 3, 1 p.m.

**Brook girls at Clear Lake**  
Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

At left, Dobie varsity boys' basketball senior guard Ryan White (11) and his teammates will be aiming to start hot in 2025 as they play at Rayburn Jan. 3. Photo by Gloria Wallace

**JFD Boys' Soccer Hits Tourneys**

**Woodlands Classic**  
Jan. 2 Klein Collins, 2 p.m.  
Jan. 3 New Braunfels, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 4 Woodlands, 3 p.m.

**Lake Travis Invitational**  
Jan. 9 Laredo United, 6 p.m.  
Jan. 10 S.A. Johnson, 9 a.m.  
Jan. 11 Lake Travis, 2 p.m.

**JFD Girls' Soccer Alumni**  
Jan. 30, Dobie main, 5 p.m.

**2024-2025 Opener**  
Dec. 30 at Clear Creek, noon

**Iowa Colony Classic**  
Jan. 2 Texas City 11 a.m.  
Dickinson 5 p.m.  
Jan. 3 Alief Elsik 1 p.m.  
Jan. 4 Trophy game TBA

Jan. 7 Alief Elsik, 1 p.m. (at Dobie main)

**SBYSC begins registration; early prices set through Jan. 19**

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is offering early registration for the spring 2025 season through Jan. 19, 2025, with U4 through U20 age divisions available to players at southbelt.org. Regular registration prices begin Jan. 20, 2025.

Players in the U4 through U8 divisions will pay \$85, while the fee is \$95 for the U9 through U12 divisions. The fee is \$105 for the U13 through U20 divisions.

The fee includes a uniform shirt, socks and shorts while families must provide cleats, shin guards and a soccer ball. Visit [www.southbeltssoccer.org](http://www.southbeltssoccer.org) for additional details.

Practices will start second half of January, games for the older age groups will start in late February and in March for the younger age groups, games will be played through mid-May.

**SBGSA continues signup as 2025 spring season nears**

The South Belt Girls Softball Association is continuing online registration at [www.southbeltsoftball.com](http://www.southbeltsoftball.com) as league officials plan for the eventual start to the 2025 spring season at El Franco Lee Park. Youths looking to participate in the league's U4 developmental age group may do so for \$40 per player.

Those planning to compete in the U6 through U16 divisions may do so for \$120 per player. Registration will continue through Jan. 10, 2025, yet League officials note that the respective divisions usually fill up quickly, followed by waiting lists for select spots.

To avoid the waiting lists, officials encourage players and their families to register online as soon as possible.

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## Leader recalls start of 2024 athletic highlights

The *Leader* annually provides a look back on the previous 12 months of sports action in the area, which will run in segments beginning this week. Here is the start of 2024: A Year-In-Review.

**January 11**

There was an available commemorative T-shirt recognizing the remarkable 1984-2024 run that the Dobie boys' soccer program put together over the decades, both former head coach Jon Schmitz and current head coach

Justo Manrique hoped everyone enjoyed the fun as the Longhorns celebrated the 40th anniversary occasion.

The 2024 Dobie varsity squad was coming off a Region III championship match appearance that was part of a 20-1-4 overall record.

Schmitz, who for many years served as Dobie's head athletic trainer, was tasked with getting the Dobie program up and running in the fall of 1983 after the University Inter-

scholastic League gave soccer the thumbs up to begin play as the calendar turned to 1984.

There may not have been a ton of optimism among higher-ups at Dobie at the time that the program could endure, much less thrive.

But others, such as youth players and their parents who had been part of the very successful South Belt Youth Soccer Club, thought otherwise.

"We had a ton of support from the parents, and we had plenty of players show up wanting to play," said Schmitz, who coached the team from 1984 through 1989.

Dobie won district crowns in 1985 and 1987. "That first year, there weren't as many schools fielding teams. We had Clear Lake, Galveston Ball, the Beaumont schools, Brazoswood and some others in our district. Clear Lake won district, but we finished second."

There have been ebbs and flows along the way; every program experiences them at some point, but today's Dobie boys' soccer program has been as successful as any in the state regardless of sport while

winning 10 consecutive district titles and counting.

Manrique has now moved on to Brideland, with the 2025 boys' soccer program set to begin the 2025 season Jan. 2-4 at The Woodlands Invitational under the direction of first-year head coach Josh Kluka.

The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team opened the 2024 regular season Jan. 4-6 with a pair of wins at the Kilt Cup in The Woodlands, playing Alief Taylor to a scoreless tie in a third match.

The Longhorns began the event with a 2-0 win over New Braunfels. Jefferson Aleman had a goal and an assist while teammate Alex Escobar also tallied a goal. Kevin Dominguez got involved with an assist.

After the Jan. 5 scoreless tie against Alief Taylor, the Longhorns defeated Caney Creek Jan. 6 as Aleman again had a goal and an assist. J.P. Rodriguez added a goal and Dominguez logged another assist.

Judging by the opening weekend of the varsity girls' soccer season, things

were going according to plan and then some for the Dobie varsity girls' team. With regulation wins over Baytown Sterling and Hightower coupled with a shootout win against Langham Creek, Dobie reached the championship match at Iowa Colony's Wagon Wheel Classic Jan. 4-6 within Alvin ISD.

From there, Dobie bested Alief 3-1 to claim first place at the event. As part of what was a long day on the pitch, the Longhorns got two goals from Sofia Rodriguez and another from Aylin Reyes to defeat Baytown Sterling in the first of two games Jan. 5.

In the second game, Dobie played Langham Creek to a 2-2 tie in regulation but then won the shootout to qualify for the final against Alief.

Kamilah Estrada and Reyes scored two goals each and Jaylece Rodriguez added a fifth as the Dobie varsity girls' soccer team opened the 2024 season with an impressive 5-0 shutout over Hightower Jan. 4.

Lutheran South Academy's Lauren Ferguson set a new school record in the

500 freestyle as she came through with a time of 5 minutes, 28.84 seconds at the TISCA meet in Houston.

Dobie standout defensive back and co-team captain C.J. Richard from the 2023 league championship Longhorns announced that he would continue his education and collegiate football career at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill.

While the Redbirds put together an outstanding 10-4 season for 2024, Richard enjoyed a red-shirt year in the program.

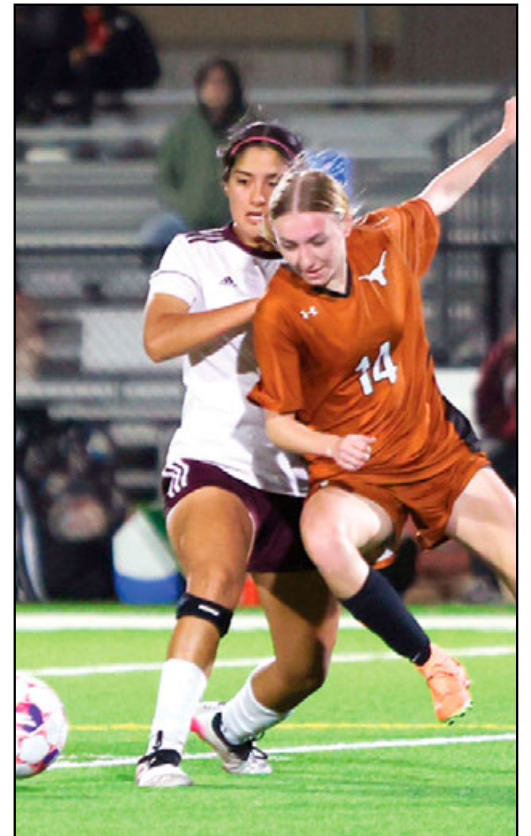
**Continued on Page 6**

**SJC players take honors**

Six San Jacinto College softball players have been recognized for their academic achievements after boasting a grade-point-average of 4.0 or better during the 2024-2025 fall semester.

The players include Ashleigh Heiderscheit, Kaelin Hicks, Addison Opela, Emma Pierce, Iliana Melendez and Vanessa Valdez.

The six players will join their teammates in action as the Ravens' 2025 season starts Jan. 24-25 with an appearance at the McLennan Invitational in Waco.



Dobie striker Nico Barr (14) found the net during the team's preseason scrimmages and continued to be a solid scoring option up front throughout 2024. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

At right, leading Southeastern Louisiana University to the NCAA Division I volleyball tournament for a second straight season, senior Kailin Newsome was this month named the two-time winner of Louisiana Sports Writers Association Player of the Year honors. Newsome, the all-time kills leader during a standout career at Clear Brook, was named an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-South Region honoree last month for the third time in her career. She has 1,184 kills in three seasons with the Lions spanning 80 matches. A sports management major, Newsome played her 2024-2025 season at Mississippi State.



**LSA's Robinson is all-state pick**

Lutheran South Academy two-way football standout Braeden Robinson has been named by the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools as an All-State first-team performer at receiver as well as an All-State honorable mention at defensive back as part of a great junior season.

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# 2024 Year in Review: plenty to cheer as teams excelled



Sophomore Kamilah Estrada (12) played a key role up front as the Dobie varsity girls' soccer team rolled out of the gates at 9-1-1 overall with the all-important 22-6A race approaching.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Continued from Page 5

### January 18

At 9-1-1 out of the nondistrict portion of the schedule, the Dobie varsity girls' soccer team carried plenty of confidence into the 22-6A season.

With nine wins to start the 2024 season, the locals needed just one more to equal the 2023 season's total of 10. What's the difference?

Then head coach Theresa Kamara's initial message was simple...take the shot. "I wasn't here last year (2023), but I think maybe there was a hesitation to take the shot, and obviously a big key to winning games is to score the ball," Kamara said.

"We have done a better job of that so far. Niko Barr has proven to be a key go-to offensive threat, and Kamilah Estrada has been big for us. Karley Goeman scored in three straight games, including two that we were without Nico. Aylin Reyes has been so important for us at midfielder."

On a memorable day that saw Texas A&M University christen its new state-of-the-art R.A. Murray Fasken indoor track

and field facility, women's standout Camryn Dickson was busy making memories of her own.

Posting a time of 7.251 in the 60-meter dash, Dickson, a Clear Brook High School graduate, championed the event in her winter debut. In the prelims, Dickson's time of 7.22 was second all-time in program history and third-best nationwide early in the 2024 indoor season.

Dickson, now a junior, will be in action as the Maroon and White open their season at home with the McFerrin-12 Degree Invitational Jan. 10.

The Aggies host another pair of regular season indoor meets, including the Ted Nelson Invitational (Jan. 24-25) and the Charlie Thomas Invitational (Feb. 7-8).

Leading Southeastern Louisiana University to the NCAA Division I volleyball tournament for a second straight season, senior Kailin Newsome was named a two-time winner of Louisiana Sports Writers Association Player of the Year honor.

Newsome, the all-time kills leader during a stand-

out career at Clear Brook, was named an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-South Region honoree in December of 2022 for the third time in her career.

She had 1,184 kills in three seasons with the Lions spanning 80 matches. A sports management major, Newsome played her graduate senior season at Mississippi State, finishing second on the team in kills.

### January 25

South Houston seized control of the 22-6A varsity boys' basketball race thanks to an unbeaten 6-0 run through the first half of league play, while Dobie has also played its way very much into postseason contention.

Heading into play Jan. 23, the all-important second half was set to begin with the Longhorns, winners of four of six games in league play, going against second-place Memorial on the road.

The Mavericks, led by Louisiana State University commit Robert Miller III, defeated Dobie 69-52 back on Dec. 19, 2023.

Memorial improved to 5-0 within 22-6A before South

Houston won a head-to-head battle Jan. 20 by a 59-46 count.

As for Dobie, the Longhorns ended the first half with consecutive wins over Deer Park and Pasadena to get to 17-10 overall, including the 4-2 run in 22-6A action.

Senior Dylan Jackson, a St. Thomas University commit, surpassed 1,000 career points against the Eagles and was honored prior to the team's home game Jan. 26 against Channelview.

Through the early going of the 2024-2025 schedule, Miller was averaging just over 12 minutes a game for a Tigers team that had won eight of nine overall games. Jackson had made three early appearances for a St. Thomas team that began the season at 6-1.

### February 1

The Longhorns, defending champions of District 22-6A from 2023 and the previous eight seasons before that, secured six big points right out of the gate, beating visiting Deer Park 2-1 Jan. 23 and then blanking Pasadena 2-0 on the Eagles' home field Jan. 26.

Geo Arango earned the shutout in the nets and Jahir Arias and Gael Pineda had goals, both assisted by Kevin Dominguez.

Pineda had a goal and an assist, and Alex Olmedo also netted a goal as the Longhorns played their first-ever on-campus district match, dealing rival Deer Park a 2-1 loss Jan. 23 as Jahir Arias also had an assist.

A 2-0 win over Pasadena also had the Dobie varsity girls' team standing tall at 2-0-0 heading into a key matchup at Memorial Jan. 30.

With its quick start, the girls' team surpassed its 2023 total of 10 wins. The Lady Longhorns scored one of the program's biggest wins in recent memory, taking down a Deer Park program that had 13 previous years worth of wins over them.

Following a 1-0 road win over the Deer Jan. 23 in which Sofia Rodriguez broke a scoreless tie with a second-half goal, the locals had ended the run of the Deer.

Undeafated South Houston (8-0) and Pasadena Memorial (7-1) were all but assured the top two seeds in the 22-6A varsity boys' basketball, but Dobie remained in solid position to lock down the third seed.

Despite a second loss to the Mavericks to begin the second half of league play, the Longhorns first celebrated senior Dylan Jackson's surpassing of the 1,000-career point mark for his career and then went out and defeated Channelview Jan. 26.

In the 24-6A race, a fast start for the Dickinson, Clear Springs and Clear Lake programs had all but left Clear Creek and Clear Brook battling for the fourth playoff seed.

Dickinson and Clear Springs had won seven of their first eight league games to pace the top of the standings, with the Chargers delivering Lake a second half loss to leave the Falcons at 6-2 prior to play Jan. 28.

Clear Brook was still fifth but has enhanced its postseason hopes with a 51-43 win over the Wildcats as Logan Sariga led three Wolverines in double figures, scoring 16 points. Christian Brown added 15 and Zion Norl had 11 in the win.

The Clear Brook varsity girls' team was 7-3 with a pair of games to play within the District 24-6A mix, while the Dobie varsity girls were looking to close strong prior to the postseason.

It's almost never about how a season starts but how it ends. That was the belief moving forward for the San Jacinto College softball program after an opening weekend trip to McLennan College's Battle on the Bosque yielded

a single win in four games.

The Ravens opened 2024 with an 8-7 win over Odessa as Angelina Morales drove in five runs in her first collegiate game.

Ari Wright doubled twice for San Jacinto College, and Mia Perez earned the win in relief. The locals had little luck from there, with host McLennan taking advantage of 13 walks during a 12-4, five-inning win later in the day.

Angelina Morales and Chloe Foster both drove in two runs for the Ravens.

Chipola swept San Jacinto College the final day with a 12-3, five-inning win in the opener followed by a 4-3 victory in the finale. Madison Carr had two hits and knocked in a pair in the opener, while Maggie Evans drove in two runs in the final game. Wright struck out 13 despite the loss.

### February 8

The Pearland boys and George Ranch girls were the big winners as Clear Brook hosted the Wolverine Relays to open the 2024 track and field season Feb. 2.

The Wolverines came up with a gold medal in the mixed 1,600-meter relay as Jizzale Davis and Azayla Smith teamed with Joshua Shelton and Jaylon Owens at 3 minutes, 35.34 seconds.

Clear Brook's Joshua Akinola was the gold medalist in the long jump as he cleared his way to 22 feet, 11 inches.

It was Akinola, Malik Merrick, Owens and Thurston Roberson for sixth place in the 4x100 relay. In the varsity girls' division, Brook's Aaiayln Banks was third in the discus at 100 feet, 2 inches, and she was also seventh at 30-2 in the discus.

Slamming eight home runs in a two-game sweep of Bossier Parish Feb. 1, the San Jacinto College softball team came away with 20-12 and 8-0 victories to pull even at 3-3 through the first two weekends of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I season.

Playing on the south campus for the first time after opening the season in Waco, the Ravens enjoyed a 10-run, first-inning outburst in the opener en route to a big-time 20-12 win.

Sophomore All-American Ari Wright went deep twice in the game, driving in four runs and scoring four times, while Madison Carr also homered twice, knocked in three runs and scored three times.

Vivien Thames and Mia McLeer also hit homers as the Ravens cleared the fence six times in all among their 20 hits. Khloe Foster doubled and tripled, and Illiana Melendez had three hits.

In the 8-0 second-game win, Giana Carrion shut out Bossier on four hits over five innings, and Foster homered twice and drove in five runs.

### February 15

A 62-56 win and subsequent season sweep of Deer Park assured the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team of the No. 3 playoff seed out of District 22-6A with one remaining game for the Longhorns.

Dobie, which improved to 20-12 overall and 7-4 in league play, earned a bidistrict playoff rematch against Beaumont United, which is locked into the No. 2 seed in District 21-6A.

The boys' bidistrict round began Feb. 19-20. Dobie teammates Damon Miles, Desmond Etienne and Malachi Hobbs all played key roles in the Longhorns along the way.

Pasadena ISD's Brown Relays were one of the highlight meets of the second week of the high school track and field as several of the area's top varsity boys' and girls' teams took over Auxiliary Stadium Feb. 9.

The final varsity girls' standings saw Elkins winning with 123 points, narrowly holding off Deer

Park, which had 118 for second place.

The Dobie girls were seventh, scoring 30 points. A week after delivering a pair of individual gold medals and 24 points in all for her team during season-opening action at the Feb. 2 Kethan Relays in Deer Park, Dobie junior Stacie Harris again won the long jump after posting a distance of 17 feet, 6.75 inches for 10 of Dobie's 30 points.

Dobie senior Victoria Arnsworth soared to the 15-8 mark for fifth place. In the 200, Harris had a time of 26.35 seconds for fourth place, and sophomore Christina Rodriguez was in at 1:04.68 for fifth place in the 400.

The Dobie girls were fifth in a time of 51.64 as Chonte Powers and Lillian Herte teamed with Kylar Joseph and Anaya Menefee.

The same four teammates were in at 1:51.36 for fourth place at the 4x200 distance. Joseph also competed in the long jump, placing seventh overall at a height of 4-6.

Dobie senior Charles Richard was the gold medalist in the triple jump as he made his way to the 43-1 mark, and he was also second in the long jump to post 18 individual points for his team.

Goose Creek Memorial's Tre'jon Crump and Richard both went 21-8.50 in the long jump to lead the event, with Crump taking gold on fewer tries and Charles second for silver.

Dobie graduate Tori Ramirez added another star to her memorable running career as she set a new St. Thomas University record in the indoor mile with a clocking of 5 minutes, 33.66 seconds.

Competing in the Howie Ryan Invitational in Houston Feb. 9, Ramirez, a 2022 Dobie graduate who entered St. Thomas University with an associate degree in hand, was 16th overall in the event.

A first-round loss to Channelview is a thing of the past as the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team was atop the District 22-6A standings heading into the second-round stretch of six matches Feb. 17 at Deer Park.

With a league-best 15 points, the Longhorns were set to enjoy a bye Feb. 13. At 5-1-0, the Longhorns again positioned themselves as the ones to beat while pursuing what would be a 10th consecutive 22-6A championship.

It hadn't been that long that Dobie returned from Channelview following a 2-1 loss to the Falcons, but subsequent wins over Sam Rayburn (2-0) and South Houston (4-0) kept Dobie in front. Against the Texans, Jefferson Aleman and Kevin Dominguez netted goals and Jahir Arias and Alex Escobar dished assists as the Longhorns coasted to a 2-0 win behind a shutout from keeper Geo Arango.

At South Houston, the Longhorns rolled 4-0 as Aleman scored twice and Dominguez had two assists. Fernando Garcia had a goal and an assist, and Gael Pineda scored a goal. Axel Olmedo chipped in with an assist.

The Louisiana State University pitching staff deservedly took top billing through the Tigers' 5-0 opening weekend start, combining for five straight shutouts to start the season. LSU, 14th ranked nationally to begin the 2024 campaign, blanked Nicholls 8-0 Feb. 8 in a single game at Tigers Park in Baton Rouge, then defeated Pittsburgh and Memphis twice each Feb. 9-10 as part of the Tigers Invitational as five different starting pitchers, including former Clear Springs High School standout Emma Stroud, earned shutout wins.

LSU's offensive star for the week was none other than Dobie graduate Taylor Pleasants, who began her senior season with a remarkable start. Going



Dobie sophomore Cruz Torres (6) improved to 11-0 this season as his one-hit shutout of Beaumont West Brook sent the Longhorns to the area round following a 10-0 win over the Bruins May 6 at Baytown Lee High School.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

opposite field for a grand slam, Pleasants had 13 runs batted in over the five games, smacking a pair of homers and a bases-clearing triple. She included several eye-popping plays from her shortstop spot.

### February 22

The Dobie varsity boys' basketball team finished with 21 regular season wins in head coach Timir Patel's first season and went against Beaumont United for a second straight season in the bidistrict playoff round.

Locally, the Longhorns were the last team standing with the Dobie girls and the Clear Brook varsity squads finishing the previous week.

The Clear Brook varsity boys' squad won its final two regular-season games to finish at 5-7 in the District 24-6A action. The Wolverines were aiming for a fourth-place tie with Clear Creek that would have brought about possible playoff implications.

It's one of the program's favorite annual tournaments to attend, so

it was only natural that the Dobie varsity tennis lineup would shine bright at the Lamar University Ron Westbrook Invitational.

Turning in what Longhorn head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said was likely the best he'd seen in many years of attendance for the locals, the Longhorns brought home four gold medals and numerous other solid finishes following the Feb. 9-10 event in Beaumont.

Leena Pham and Kayla Tran won the girls' A doubles champions while Diego Flores and Nestor Garza were the boys' A doubles champions. The boys' B doubles title went to Dobie's Rigoberto Alaniz and Tre Ramirez, with Leslie Figueiroa also winning the girls' B singles championship.

The Dobie pairing of Amalia Reyes and Pitou So won the mixed A doubles title, and Vyvy Do and Vince Bui were second in the mixed B doubles division. Hailey Maldonado was crowned the winner in the girls' A singles consolation bracket.

Against Lee, the Longhorns got two runs driven in by Viviana Fernandez, while Karyme Leal, Aidan Johnson and Leslie Sarduy also knocked in runs. A pair of three-run innings did the trick offensively. In the circle, sophomore Chloe Nunez allowed four hits and one earned run over five frames to get the win.

In the 5-4 victory over China Spring, freshman Persephone Soria was 3 for 3 with two runs scored and two runs batted in, while Fernandez and Johnson also drove in runs.

Dobie scored three runs in the first inning and led

Continued on Page 8



Senior Julio Cisneros (10) helped the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team defeat Channelview 56-44 Jan. 26, as the Longhorns improved to 5-3 in District 22-6A play. Dobie, 18-10 overall, sat third in the league standings.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Corey Julks of the Houston Astros' organization and a former player within the University of Houston baseball program, fired up the crowd at halftime of the Cougars' Big 12 men's basketball game against Kansas State Jan. 27 at Fertitta Center with a "Who's House" chant. Julks played 93 games with the Astros at the major league level and then finished the 2023 season with the Sugarland Space Cowboys. He is now a member of the Chicago White Sox organization.

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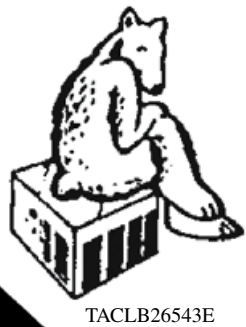
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Notice of Public Sale**  
This property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.  
Sale to be held online at www.bid13.com.  
Facility is Boat and Camper Storage, Inc. located at 9021 Alameda Genoa Rd. Houston, TX, 77075.  
Bidding will open (1/14/25 8 a.m.) and Conclude (1/21/25 10 a.m.)  
Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:  
Isaiah Hunt: furniture and misc.  
Tina Marie Salazar: Shasta Travel camper (parts-only, no title).  
Archie Knox Jr.: Refrigerator, dryers, washing machine, furniture, TV and misc.  
Erin R. Hernandez: tables, appliances, tools, fishing equipment, dryer, furniture and misc.

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Clarence Gilford: Miscellaneous.  
Mary Ann Lyons: Furniture, Household Decor and misc.  
William Oliver: Miscellaneous.

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Facility is Boat and Camper Storage, Inc. located at 9021 Alameda Genoa Rd. Houston, TX, 77075.  
Bidding will open (1/25/25 8 a.m.) and Conclude (1/14/25 10 a.m.)  
Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:  
Daniel Smith: 1988 Chevy Scottsdale truck (VIN: 1GDCD14K1JZ133034) reg. to Daniel Scott - Lien holder 1 (Ivy Funding Company LLC) - Lienholder 2 (Titlemax of Texas INC).  
Isaiah Hunt: Unit#502 misc. furniture, horse saddles, bullets, barded wire and misc. Unit#556 misc. scrap metal, tires, frames, barrels and tool box. Unit#655 Paintings, go cart, books, guns, misc. furniture, tires, rims and misc.  
James L. Duderstadt: filing cabinet, furniture, wood and misc.

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# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26**  
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 27**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
8 p.m. Serenity Now AI-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 - 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn AI-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28**  
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 - 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.  
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
7:30 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. - Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - Club #05324194 meets in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit sehouston.toastmastersclub.org or call 281-467-1880.  
7 p.m. 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/.  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.  
Noon Ballroom Dancing - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 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 Sunday's notice.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - See Friday's notice.

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.  
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5**  
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.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 2**  
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, 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.  
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 AI-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 AI-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4**  
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 - All

**MONDAY, JANUARY 6**  
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. Scabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@juno.com for details.  
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 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.  
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.  
7 p.m. 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/.  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.  
Noon Ballroom Dancing - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 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 Sunday's notice.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - See Friday's notice.

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.  
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**  
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 - 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.  
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. 1:30 - 3 p.m. 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.  
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.  
6 p.m. Scabble Club #511 - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@juno.com for details.  
7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.  
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. 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/.

# South Belt's top athletes, teams excelled to begin 2024 spring season

**Continued from Page 6**  
5-1 entering the fifth, then survived a three-run frame by China Spring to grab the win. Vanessa de la Fuente got the win in the circle as the locals closed the three-day event with a pair of wins.

the girls' and boys' 200 medley relays.  
Taryn Blatt, Ferguson and Haleigh Pham, all juniors, were joined by freshman Parker McNutt for a time of 2:24.89 in the event.  
That same foursome was 10th in the 200 freestyle relay at 2:06.60 to round out the season. The Lutheran South Academy boys' 200 medley foursome, including freshmen Cody Oubre, Liam McGough and Ashton Eichberger as well as sophomore Luiz Ordaz, were in at 2:17.35.

**February 29**  
A 3-3 run through week-two tournament action at Dobie main while hosting play within the Pearl and Haynie Spirit Invitational, the Longhorns' varsity softball team entered 22-6A action against Deer Park at 6-7 overall.  
A 2-1 loss to a solid Brazoswood team ended a two-game Dobie winning streak, but the locals nonetheless continued to mesh as a young team while going head-to-head with some very good programs as part of Haynie action.  
In the 2-1 loss to Brazoswood, Dobie got a run-scoring hit from Viviana Fernandez as she plated freshman Persephone Soria in the fifth inning before the Buc's held on for the win.  
Dobie opened the third and final day of the tournament with a 6-2 win over Corpus Christi London.

The locals scored three times in both the third and fourth innings to win as Soria tripled and drove in a pair. Junior Leslie Sardu also scored two runs. The Longhorns dropped an early 10-0 game to Katy but then downed Ful-shear 6-4.  
Soria drove in a pair of runs, while Karyme Leal and Alyssa Jones also knocked in runs.  
A four-run third inning lifted Dobie to a 4-2, five-inning win over Shadow Creek in the tournament opener at Dobie main.  
Soria had a double, knocked in two runs and scored a run, while Chloe Nunez and Jones, who doubled, also scored a run. In the circle, Peralta scattered seven hits, allowing an earned run over four frames for the win.  
As for game two, Dobie fell 3-1 against Waller. Through the first third of the season, Soria had made quite a splash with a .419 average with team leads of 12 runs scored to go with nine runs batted in.  
Jones, a senior, hit .406, and led the way with four doubles. Nunez, a sophomore, won three of four decisions with an earned run average of 2.49.  
The Dobie varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams reached the midway point of the regular season with an appearance at the Maverick Underdog Relays.

Junior Stacie Harris again led the way for the Dobie girls as she was the gold medalist in both the 400 and the long jump.  
Unbeaten to that point in the season in the long jump, Harris this time went 17 feet 6 3/4 inches for the gold medal, while teammate Aniya Menifee was sixth at 14- 10 1/2.  
Harris' win in the 400 came in a tie of 1 minute, 01.71 seconds, with sophomore teammate Jessica Moise placing eighth in a time of 1:07.71.  
At 5-8, Dobie sophomore Kylar Joseph placed fifth in the high jump, while Nina Walker, a

junior, took eighth at a height of 5-6. A throw of 72-9 had Dobie junior Mia Hypolite seventh in the discus.  
Longhorn junior Tariq Riley led his team on the boys' side as he took a silver medal for second place in the 400 and wound up fourth in the 200 in a time of 23.50.  
At 18-10 3/4, Riley was also seventh in the long jump. Teammate Amani Taylor matched Riley as Taylor's time of 16.31 was second for a silver medal in the 110 hurdles, and Taylor went 42.60 for fourth place in the 300 hurdles.  
Dobie sophomores Titus Randle and Marcus Jones placed 5-6 in the 100, with Randle at 11.37 and Jones across the line at 11.38.  
Distance runner Francisco Dunn was in at 2:07.61 for sixth place in the 800, and teammate Christopher Lopez clocked in at 10:35.46 for sixth at the 3,200 distance.  
Clear Brook senior Azayla Smith was one of several Wolverines to set personal records as the varsity girls' track and field team competed at the Sam Mosely Relays Feb. 24 at Turner Stadium.  
Smith, who is now continuing her collegiate running career at UT-Rio Grande Valley, was second for a silver medal in the 800 while coming up with a PR of 2 minutes, 14.19 seconds.  
Smith was also in the mix for a medal stand appearance in the 400 before taking fourth at 58.64. Junior Kamryn McLaurin made her 2024 debut following the completion of basketball season, clearing 5 feet, 4 inches for a silver medal in the high jump.  
Clear Brook sophomore Patricia Barnes set a personal record in the 800 at 2:25.31 for 14th place overall.  
Inayah Caldera also had a PR of 18.09. In the 100, Wolverines Journey Wilson (13.16) and Mya Bell (13.79) PR'ed.  
Lutheran South Academy softball head coach Nicole Andrade earned ca-

reer victory No. 100 Feb. 20 as the Pioneers defeated Incarnate Word.  
Andrade, a former varsity softball standout at Dobie, took over the Pioneer program as its head coach prior to the 2017-2018 season and guided the team to a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A Division II state championship in 2019.

**March 7**  
Ten consecutive District 22-6A championships dating back to 2015. A league record of 112-7-16 over that span. There is no disputing the idea that the Dobie boys' soccer program was one of the state's best under the guidance of head coach Justo Manrique, who spent 11 seasons with the Longhorns and is now in the same role at Bridgeland.  
Manrique warned that the streak of district championships will not last forever, but time will tell with Josh Kluka now the head coach.  
As for title No. 10, a 2-1 win over the Sam Rayburn Texans March 2 at Rayburn, the Longhorns clinched the program's 10th straight league crown.  
Kevin Dominguez assisted on both goals from Alex Escobar as the Longhorns took down the Texans for their seventh straight win overall in getting to 10-1-0 in league play for 30 points.  
Escobar has used a late-season push to get to a team-leading 10 goals, while Dominguez has a team-best 11 assists, both after the win over the Texans.  
Clear Brook came up with a meet record of 3 minutes, 33.58 seconds in the mixed 4x400 relay at the Texas A&M University-hosted Bluebonnet Invitational March 1 in College Station as Jaylon Owens, Azayla Smith, Joshua Shelton and Jizzale Davis combined to win the event.  
Featuring more than 100 high school programs, the TAMU meet is one of the state's largest of the regular season.

mine Flores, Ryleigh Hackman, Hingle, McLaurin, Robbins and Seymour.  
The Texas A&M University women's 4x400 relay squad rallied to capture a bronze medal for third place at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships Feb. 24 on the campus of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.  
The group including Jaydan Wood, Nissi Kabongo, Jermaisha Arnold and Camryn Dickson

posted a time of 3 minutes, 28.77 seconds.  
Dickson, then a sophomore sprinter at Texas A&M, has made the Aggies' Top 10 All-Time Performers list at No. 10 in the 200 after posting a personal best of 23.01 seconds during the preliminaries Feb. 23 at the Southeastern Conference's Indoor Track and Field Championships on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.  
Tenth overall in the 200, Dickson, a three-time state meet qualifier

at Clear Brook, was also 13th at the 60-meter distance at 7.29.  
Lutheran South Academy's Shelby Smith, a graduate student at the University of Houston, put together a 5-0 record in the circle as she helped the Cougars' softball program to a 10-1 start to 2024.  
Smith and her LSA teammates hoisted a state championship during her senior season in high school in 2019, and she went on to enjoy a stellar collegiate career at Seton Hall University.

Dobie returned to the Pasadena ISD Complex March 1, getting a 17-0 win over Pasadena to get to 1-1 in league play.  
Against Pasadena, the Longhorns scored 11 first-inning runs and went on to close out the win in five innings over the Eagles.  
Freshman Alexis Martinez had two hits, drove in three runs and scored twice in the game. Khloe Coronado, also a freshman, scored a run and knocked in two runs, while sophomore Chloe Nunez knocked in a pair of runs and scored another as Dobie coasted to the win.  
Clear Brook junior Kamryn McLaurin scored top honors within the District 24-6A varsity girls' basketball ranks as she was named Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season.  
McLaurin and teammates including Kim Hingle and Isabella Robbins were also first team All-District picks within the 24-6A ranks.  
Second-team selections included Galicia Bernard and Katelin Seymore. Senior Kasey Oliver was also an honorable mention selection.  
The Wolverines also had eight players honored for their outstanding work in the classroom, thus landing on the All-Academic Team within the league.  
Those players included Rezia Castillo, Jas-

mine Flores, Ryleigh Hackman, Hingle, McLaurin, Robbins and Seymour.  
The Texas A&M University women's 4x400 relay squad rallied to capture a bronze medal for third place at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships Feb. 24 on the campus of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.  
The group including Jaydan Wood, Nissi Kabongo, Jermaisha Arnold and Camryn Dickson

posted a time of 3 minutes, 28.77 seconds.  
Dickson, then a sophomore sprinter at Texas A&M, has made the Aggies' Top 10 All-Time Performers list at No. 10 in the 200 after posting a personal best of 23.01 seconds during the preliminaries Feb. 23 at the Southeastern Conference's Indoor Track and Field Championships on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.  
Tenth overall in the 200, Dickson, a three-time state meet qualifier



Clear Brook came up with a meet record of 3 minutes, 33.58 seconds in the mixed 4x400 relay at the Texas A&M University-hosted Bluebonnet Invitational March 1 in College Station as, left to right, (front row) Jaylon Owens, Azayla Smith, (back row) Joshua Shelton and Jizzale Davis combined to win the event. Featuring more than 100 high school programs, the TAMU meet is one of the state's largest of the regular season. Individually, Shelton made the 400 final, where his time of 48.49 was good for fourth place. At 10.66, Owens grabbed a bronze medal in the 200 with a personal record of 21.06 and placed eighth in the 100 final in a time of 10.66. Smith was in at 57.56 for 23rd in the 400.

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