

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 40 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Email: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

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

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### Leader holiday closings set

The *Leader* will be on holiday schedule Dec. 22 through Jan. 3, with no Dec. 29 edition. The *Leader* and South Belt Graphics will have limited hours during this time. The last issue of 2016 will be Dec. 22, and the first edition of 2017 will be Thursday, Jan. 5. Deadline for copy and advertising for the Dec. 22 and the Jan. 5 issues of the *Leader* is Tuesday, Dec. 20, at noon. Items for publication may be sent to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com). For emergencies, call 281-948-2714 or 281-948-3076.

### Christmas light parade reset

The Highland Meadow Christmas Light Parade has been reset to Sunday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for best adult and children categories. For information, contact Rudy Alafa at 281-415-8003 or [alafa20@yahoo.com](mailto:alafa20@yahoo.com).

### Moore musical planned

The Moore Elementary Fourth-Grade Choir will perform its Christmas musical, *Cool Yule*, for the Bethlehem Project at South Main Baptist, 4300 Beltway 8 in Pasadena on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. They recently performed the Christmas musical at the school and took their show on the road to Park Manor Nursing Home, the PISD Administration Building and the Salvation Army on Dec. 7.

### Kirkmont I annual meeting set

Kirkmont I Homeowners Association will hold its annual meeting Dec. 14, 7:30 at Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk Blvd., to discuss important neighborhood issues. Voting will also be on the agenda. All homeowners are urged to attend.

### Lariaettes host dance clinic

The Dobie Lariaettes will hold its annual Winter Dance Clinic Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a parent show at 3 p.m. The dance clinic is open to Pre-K through 12th grade and is an opportunity to let a daughter or son spend a day dancing, playing games and doing crafts with the Lariaettes while parents go shopping. Lunch will be provided. Cost is \$50, cash or money order only. Participants will have the opportunity to perform in the Lariaette Spring Show April 6-8, 2017. For more information, contact Myrna Alanis at [myrnaalanis@yahoo.com](mailto:myrnaalanis@yahoo.com).

### Ashley Pointe light contest set

Ashley Pointe Homeowners Association will hold its annual Christmas light contest Sunday, Dec. 11. Judging will begin at 6:30 p.m.

### Dobie choir holds concert

The Dobie High School Choir will hold a Christmas concert Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10, in the school auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. each night.

### Highland Meadow meets

Highland Meadow HOA will meet Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., Room F. Executive session begins at 7 p.m., followed by the open session. Homeowners are urged to attend the open session. Questions prior to the meeting may be directed to Sherrida Williams with C.I.A. Services, 713-981-9000 or Customer Care at [ciaservices.com](mailto:ciaservices.com).

### Toastmasters open house set

The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club will host an open house Monday, Dec. 12, at the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale, Room D, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### St. Luke's event planned

St. Luke's Catholic church will host its inaugural Winter Wonderland Sunday, Dec. 18, at its Cenacle Learning Center, 1750 Riverstone Ranch (across from South Belt Elementary) from 3 to 6 p.m. Pictures with Santa Claus will be \$5; spaghetti dinners will be \$8; and hot chocolate will be \$2.

### Lake at Golfcrest to meet

The Lake at Golfcrest homeowners association will hold a meeting Wednesday, Dec. 14, Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer, Room F, beginning at 7 p.m. All member residents are encouraged to attend.

### Knights hold blood drive

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive Sunday Dec. 18, 2016 in the St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church Social Hall after all the Masses. Blood is needed to help people who have had accidents, surgeries, or illnesses.

### Beltway closures set

Both the eastbound and westbound U-turn lanes on the Beltway 8 frontage road at Beamer will be closed daily through Thursday, Dec. 22.

## MHSH celebrates 30th anniversary

There was no GPS, no Google and no DVD players when Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital opened its doors at 11800 Astoria Blvd. on Dec. 6, 1986. In fact, at least in name, there was no Memorial Hermann Southeast.

Originally part of the Memorial Hospital System, Memorial Hospital Southeast, located at 7655 Bellfort Avenue, opened its doors in 1963.

As Southeast Houston began to grow, the hospitals landlocked location didn't allow for further expansion.

Given the circumstances, the board of the Memorial Hospital System purchased the acreage on Astoria for a new 276-bed Memorial Hospital Southeast to be built.

In 1997, Hermann Hospital merged with the

Memorial Healthcare System – now known as Memorial Hermann Health System – and Memorial Hospital Southeast became Memorial Hermann Southeast.

Today, Memorial Hermann Southeast is a 293-bed hospital that sits on a 56-acre campus with plenty of room to grow. Currently, the hospital is undergoing a \$14 million renovation which includes the refurbishing and upgrading of all 237 patient rooms. The project is expected to be completed by 2018.

"We're excited to celebrate this important milestone in Memorial Hermann Southeast's history," said Kyle Price, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. "Thanks to the community, our physicians, nurses and staff, we're still going strong. As part of our commitment to the growing community, we recently expanded our scope of services with the opening of the Memorial Hermann Urgent Care – Clear Lake and coming soon, our Memo-

rial Hermann Convenient Care Center in League City. In some ways, we feel the best is yet to come."

Memorial Hermann Southeast is one of the busiest emergency centers in the Memorial Hermann Health System, with an average of 200 visits per day. The campus is proud to be accredited by the Joint Commission with Gold Seal of Approval for Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement and Primary Stroke Centers, and is consistently named among the nation's top-50 cardiovascular hospitals by Truven Health Analytics.

Memorial Hermann Southeast also offers a comprehensive women's and children's program. The hospital's Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is capable of caring for the smallest and sickest newborns, with access to an even higher level of care at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center.

### City brass celebrates holidays



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (center) flashes a University of Houston Cougar hand sign after City Council Member Dave Martin (right) presented him a University of Texas football as a gag gift at a Christmas party held by Martin and fellow Council Member Dwight Boykins (left) Thursday, Dec. 1. Pictured in the background is new Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, who was serving his first day in the position. Photo by Marie Flickinger

### Leader holds annual Christmas drive

The *Leader* is currently accepting donations and applications for assistance for its 34th annual Christmas program.

The program is different from other similar holiday drives in that food and toys collected go to needy families in the immediate South Belt community.

The holiday tradition began in 1982 when a then-anonymous man donated a turkey dinner to the *Leader* and asked for the staff's assistance in finding a deserving family to whom to give it. The donor, nicknamed "The Good Samaritan" by the *Leader* staff, was later identified as Scarsdale resident Jim Kramer.

Kramer and his wife Jean still participate in the annual program. Last year, with the *Leader's* help, the Kramers adopted a local family and provided for all of their holiday needs.

Several local organizations and residents also now take part in the annual drive. Some donate food and toys, while others selflessly volunteer their time.

Area schools now play a much larger role, with local campuses not only collecting donations but also providing information to the newspaper about which families need the most assistance.

Past participating campuses include Atkinson, Moore, Stuchbery, South Belt and Frazier Elementary Schools, Melillo Middle School, Beverly Hills and Thompson Intermediate Schools and Dobie High School.

Desired items include nonperishable food items, toys for children of all ages and cash. In past years, there has been a shortage of gifts for older children and teens. All gifts should be new and unwrapped.

The deadline to file for assistance in the program is Thursday, Dec. 15. First-time applicants must apply in person at the *Leader* office, located at 11555 Beamer. Previous applicants may register online at [www.southbeltleader.com](http://www.southbeltleader.com).

All applicants must undergo a screening process to determine the family's need. This is done through various means, including verification from school nurses and counselors. All applicants must be South Belt residents and possess at least one form of identification verifying their address.

Donations may be dropped off at the *Leader* office, 11555 Beamer, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday.

### Local Boy Scout honors firefighters



By James Bolen

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, a local Boy Scout recently raised funds and orchestrated the construction of a playground on the site of

his former school, the Quba Islamic Institute, which was destroyed by fire in February 2015.

The brainchild of 13-year-old Ibrahim Islam of Boy Scout Troop 713, the venture was part of the aspiring youth's Eagle Scout project.

"Instead of being a place for depression, we made it a place for joy," Islam said. "I like to see when someone smiles."

The 2015 fire, which was determined to have been intentionally set, made national headlines, as many suspected it to be a hate crime aimed at Muslims. A 56-year-old homeless man was later charged with starting the fire but claimed it was accidental.

To construct the playground, Islam needed to raise around \$20,000. He raised the necessary funds through a website he created and a PowerPoint presentation he delivered at area mosques.

With money in hand, Islam then recruited a team of 60 volunteers – many of whom were fellow Scouts – to help him assemble the playground.

Once assembled, Islam officially dedicated the playground to the firefighters from Houston Fire Department Station No. 93. Located across the street from the Quba Islamic Institute on Dixie Farm Road, Station 93 was responsible for extinguishing the school fire.

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### Man killed in Gulf Freeway crash

A man was killed in an automobile accident early Monday, Dec. 5, in the 11100 block of the Gulf Freeway near Hartsook.

According to Houston police, the victim was driving a white Ford van on the northbound service road around 6:50 a.m. when he failed to stay

in a single lane and struck the concrete base of a light pole.

Elias Maldonado, 32, was pronounced dead at the scene.

No other vehicles or persons were involved in the accident.

### Multiple purse-snatchings reported

By James Bolen

There has been a spike in the number of reported thefts taking place in local parking lots in recent weeks.

The incidents have been occurring most frequently at shopping centers located near a freeway, making a quick escape easier for the crooks involved.

While social media reports and even a Channel 2 news story have focused much attention to incidents taking place at the Kroger and the adjacent gas station on Beltway 8 and Sabo, similar incidents have also been reported taking place at the H-E-B on Beltway 8 and Blackhawk and the Sam's Club on Fuqua near the Gulf Freeway.

There was at least three thefts reported at

Kroger between Thursday, Dec. 1, and Tuesday, Dec. 6. The last incident reportedly took place even as an armed security guard patrolled the property.

Amanda Maslonka, whose mother's purse was stolen in the Kroger parking lot Dec. 3, said she had complained to the store about their lack of proper security prior to the theft.

"I had complained to the management several times about their security not doing their job over the past two weeks," Maslonka said. "Security was nowhere around when the robbery happened. I'm thankful that it was just a purse-snatching, and she wasn't hurt."

A spokeswoman for Kroger, however, said

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### Yandell stages one-woman sit-in

By James Bolen

Longtime Sagemeadow resident Sandra Yandell recently staged a one-woman sit-in at the U.S. Post Office branch on Alameda Genoa near Windmill Lakes after she was dissatisfied with the service of its employees.

A local real estate agent, Yandell relies heavily on her mail and said her service has become very irregular in recent months.

"I've lived in the same house for 40 plus years, and I've never had a problem until about six months ago," Yandell said. "Some days it will come at 7 a.m., and some days it won't come until 9 or 10 p.m. Some days it doesn't come at all."

Yandell said her problem stems from living on what U.S. Postal officials refers to as an auxiliary route – one that a mail carrier will pick up in addition to their primary route as a way to make overtime pay.

"I used to have a regular carrier who would come in the middle of the day," Yandell said. "Now, it's always someone different."

Frustrated, Yandell decided to visit her local

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### Southeast VFD battles house fire

A residence in the 14000 block of Fruitwood Drive near the intersection of Scarsdale and Sageglen suffered extensive damage after catching fire the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 4.

Firefighters from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call just before 3 p.m. Upon their arrival, firefighters encountered heavy smoke from the residence and began an

interior attack, saving the structure from further damage.

No injuries were reported.

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office determined the fire was electrical in nature.

The Forest Bend Volunteer Fire Department and Pearland Fire Department assisted in extinguishing the blaze.

### Dobie's Van Essen, Peel promoted



Michael Van Essen (left) was named principal of the new Dobie Ninth Grade Campus at the Pasadena Independent School District November board meeting. Van Essen is shown above with Dobie High School Principal Franklin Moses (center) and Ryan Peel (right), who was named dean of instruction for the Dobie Early College High School. To be located at the corner of Fuqua and Monroe, the Dobie Ninth Grade Campus is scheduled to open next fall. (See related story Page 3A.) Photo by Reesha Brown

# In My Opinion

## Serrell on more SMC problems

I too was screwed out of my deposit when I went to sell my house at 9866 Sagebud lane back in September of 2013. They said we owed past dues from 7-8 years back but never provided any additional proof and we never received a late or past dues notices. If we were in fact late then why didn't those amounts get added to the next years statements??

They know going that far back no one will have the records. I bought the house from my stepfather back in 1998 and we had the same stuff come up at the closing table then.

He was the original owner on the house when it was built. Same issues, back dues owed from 7-8 years ago. This time he had to pay them before we could close. This seems to be business as usual for them. All my phone calls and letters were unanswered. I finally just wrote it off as I had been stolen from.

Thanks for you help in exposing these accounting irregularities and what sure seems to be a common practice to not return fund owed.

I will be more than happy to help in any way I can. Sincerely, **Eric Serrell**  
**Publisher's note:** We are hoping that the hiring of the firm Canady & Canady will make a big difference in this problem. Unfortunately, I do not think they have complete records, so the problems may not all be solved yet. But the committee member that was in charge of the books is no longer on the committee. —**Marie Flickinger**

## Alexanders thank good Samaritans

I would like to thank the wonderful people that helped me and my husband as we were leaving Ginger Wok. My husband is in a wheelchair and I was trying to get him down from the curb. I don't know how it happened but I fell and by the grace of God my husband never fell out of his chair. I however, was flat on my back.

The nice people that was helping us was able to make sure my husband was okay and got him in the car and his wheelchair in the back. After a couple of minutes I was able to get up with the help of the others. They made sure we were okay and I was alright to drive home. One gentleman wanted to follow me home to

make sure I made it ok, I told him it wasn't necessary but thanked him for his generosity. I was able and made it home safely. With only minor scrapes and bruising of my knees I am okay.

Thank you for your all help. It shows that Sagemont does have caring people and I am proud to be from the Sagemont area. I didn't get your names, but you know who you are. And I know that you will be blessed 10 fold. May God bless and keep you in his loving arms. I still can not thank you enough.

**Stewart and Alice Alexander**

## Silver Eagle urges safe celebrating

From office parties to neighborhood gatherings, our calendars are filled with many reasons to celebrate. But the most important plan we'll make all season is the plan to make it home safely. Whether it's a cab, a designated driver or public transportation, knowing how you'll get home safely at the end of the night means you can spend more time toasting great times with great friends.

Silver Eagle Distributors and Budweiser are once again reminding adults to make a plan to make it home, because friends are waiting. Thanks to the help of designated drivers and the efforts of law enforcement, the nation has made significant progress in preventing drunk driving. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's latest government data, drunk-driving fatalities in Texas have declined 39 percent since 1982.

While that's great news, there's always more work to be done. That's why this holiday season Silver Eagle Distributors, in conjunction with the Greater Houston Restaurant Association, will continue to implement a program called Alert Cab, which provides free and discounted cab rides home for bar and restaurant patrons who may have had too much to drink. Driver's License guides and We I.D. age calendars will also be used to assist in identifying and preventing those who are underage from purchasing and consuming alcohol.

All of us at Silver Eagle Distributors wish our friends and neighbors a safe and happy holiday season. Together, we can all help keep our roads safe.

Sincerely, **Anthony Tellez**  
 Market Manager — Pasadena Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P.

## Local library events set

### Parker Williams Library

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

- Thursday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m. Interviewing Skills, Resumes and Applications.
  - Friday, Dec. 9, 5 p.m. Anime Club. Episodes of *Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood* followed by discussion of the dangers of too much knowledge and the ethics of scientific research.
  - Tuesday, Dec. 13, 5 p.m. Name That Book Read Aloud continues with the Pasadena ISD Name That Book List with the reading of Julie Murphy's *Dumplin'*.
  - Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2:30 p.m. Internet Basics. Ask at the reference desk or phone the library for registration details.
  - Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.
  - Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.
  - Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m. Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.
- For more information on these programs, phone the library at 281-484-2036.

### Bracewell Branch Library

- The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint:
- Thursday, Dec. 8, 4 p.m. Holiday Craft Time
  - Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. Computadora Básica (Spanish Computer Class)
  - Saturday, Dec. 10, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Manga/Anime Club
  - Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. Para los Niños
  - Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m. Toddler storytime; 11 a.m. Toddler playtime
- For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.
- Bracewell hours are Sunday and Monday - Closed; Tuesday and Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday - noon to 8 p.m.; Friday - 1 to 5 p.m.; and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Roberts Middle School Spelling Bee winners named

Fred Roberts Middle School held its annual spelling bee on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Spelling bee winners shown at right are, left to right, first-place winner Jennifer Ly (fifth grade) and first runner-up Angel Arroyo (sixth grade).



Roberts Middle School Spelling Bee participants are, left to right, (front row, kneeling) Jennifer Ly, Justin Mai, Angel Arroyo, Tyvion Scott, (middle row) Jonathan Banegas, Francisco Valadez, Gloria Immaculate, Dhyniella Figueroa, Kaisley Cordero, Christopher Silva, Imaad Ali, Leticia Garcia, Honesty Brooks, (back row) Paula Mendoza, Miguel Armenta, Edwin Mendez, Genesis Salgado, Annasolla McKnight, Ashlyn Smith, Gilbert Hernandez, Anaya Nedd and Eduardo Sepulveda. Photos by Adriana Robinson

## O'Brien, Duke take precautions



On a recent flight from Atlanta, San Jacinto College's Dr. Catherine O'Brien (left) and Dr. Chris Duke (right) recently experienced a few tense moments when the plane they were on lost cabin pressure. Other San Jacinto College administrators on board the flight included Dr. Laurel Williamson, Dr. Ann Pearson and Chet Lewis. Other passengers included administrators from Alvin, College of the Mainland, Brazosport, Central Texas, Galveston, Houston, Vernon and Victoria colleges. All passengers landed safely in Jackson, Miss. Photo submitted

## Dickens on The Strand offers second festival weekend on Dec. 9 and 10

Due to the record-breaking rainfall last weekend, Galveston Historical Foundation announced the addition of an unprecedented second weekend on The Strand Festival.

The added weekend's event will be held exclusively on The Strand street on Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10. Admission is free Friday night to Fezziwig's Beer Hall from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday's event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with tickets specially priced at \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and under are free.

First weekend ticket holders will have their admissions honored the second weekend

or at 2017's festival. Tickets and additional information are available at [www.dickensonthestrland.org](http://www.dickensonthestrland.org).

"Each year Dickens on The Strand brings a festive spirit to the beginnings of our holidays," stated GHF Executive Director Dwayne Jones. "Now for more than 40 years, Dickens enlivens the streets and introduces thousands of visitors to the ambiance of the Victorian era. Children and adults alike can retreat to the day of Charles Dickens and the early decades of historic Galveston. It remains one of the magical experiences in our area and in Texas."

The annual holiday street festival, based on 19th-century Victorian London, features

parades, non-stop entertainment on seven stages, strolling carolers, roving musicians, bagpipers, jugglers and a host of other entertainers.

Costumed vendors peddle their wares from street stalls and rolling carts laden with holiday food and drink, Victorian-inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, holiday decorations and gift items.

For more information on Dickens on The Strand, Galveston Historical Foundation, or to purchase advance tickets, visit [galvestonhistory.org](http://galvestonhistory.org) or call 409-765-7834.

For more festival information, contact Will Wright, director of Communications and Special Events, at 409-765-3404 or [will.wright@galvestonhistory.org](mailto:will.wright@galvestonhistory.org).

## Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

Along with many other South Belt Facebook pages, for more information on the Ashley Pointe subdivision, join the *Ashley Pointe Subdivision* Facebook page.

The J. Frank Dobie High School debate team of the Pasadena Independent School District is raising funds at Chipotle, 2680 Pearlman Parkway, on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 4 to 9 p.m. to attend the annual Barkley Forum for high schools in Atlanta and the tournament

at Harvard. By mentioning the Dobie debate team, 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the organization.

Members of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page warn residents of popular holiday plants that are toxic to pets such as poinsettias, mistletoe and holly berries. Holly berries and mistletoe have a greater toxicity level than poinsettias. When ingesting these plants, symptoms of illness include vomiting, diarrhea, excessive

drooling and abdominal pain. For additional information, visit the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

Members of various South Belt Facebook pages have been warning the community on being cautious of ordering items to be shipped to homes because of the upcoming holidays. Some ideas included getting items shipped to one's place of employment or to a family or friend's house when they will be home during the time of delivery. This will help lessen the chance of packages getting stolen from porches after being delivered.

Residents of the South Belt area have been voicing concerns over the robberies at the Kroger parking lot near Beltway 8 and Sabo on various South Belt Facebook pages. Members emphasize that one should be cautious and aware of one's surroundings when going to the car or when loading groceries. Many members have given advice to deter robberies such as buying phone cases that have pockets to hold cards or cash, buckling the purse to the grocery cart or putting the purse into the car locked before proceeding to pack the groceries.

# Deaths

## Joan Fitzmorris



Joan Fitzmorris, 86, died on Nov. 30, 2016. She was born in Long Island City, N.Y., on May 13, 1930. She was a former longtime South Belt area resident.

Joan is preceded in death by her mother and father, Helen and Richard Fitzmorris and her brother, Thomas Fitzmorris.

She is survived by her nephew, Daniel Fitzmorris, wife Jessica and their children, Ella and Thomas; nephew Robert Wilkie; niece Debbie Hughes; and cousins Bobbie Siembieda, Mary Jane Peterson, Nancy Thomas, Charlie Kirschner and Jim Kirschner.

Joan worked as an executive secretary in New York for Regal Paper. In Houston, she was employed by Oshman Sporting Goods and was retired from the University of Houston. She was a volunteer for many years at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital.

Visitation will be from 6 until 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, at Niday Funeral Home-Beamer Chapel, 12440 Beamer Road.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. Rite of Committal will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Dickinson.

## Bernadine F. Grizzaffi



Bernadine Frances Grizzaffi, 91, died Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016. She was born on Nov. 21, 1925, in Houston. She was a South Belt area resident.

Bernadine was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Joe; parents Charles and Rosalie Tallent; sisters Laura Harrell and Lena Covernale; and brother Leonard.

Survivors include her son, Frank Grizzaffi, and wife Kathy; daughters Kathy Campise and husband Charles, and Susan Towey and husband James; grandchildren Jeff, Greg and Katie Grizzaffi, Christopher, Joe, Ryan and Valerie Campise, Jennifer Johnson and Daniel Towey; 11 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Angelina Joslin and Virginia Grizzaffi; numerous other relatives; and a host of friends.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. Rite of Committal followed at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

## Morris Lee Shreck



Morris Lee Shreck, 54, died Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016, in Pearland. He was born in Akron, Ohio, on June 27, 1962, to William Ladd Shreck and Martha-Ellen Conley Shreck.

Morris was preceded in death by his parents and his stepmother, Melinda Frazier.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Norma Shreck; stepmother Winnell Shreck of LaMarque; and mother-in-law Eloise Renteria and husband Isaac of LaPorte; brothers Bill Shreck Jr. and wife Christine of Grand Blanc, Mich., and Scott Shreck and wife Maconda of Spring; sisters Kelly Shreck of Wood Meadow, Melanie Shreck of Wood Meadow, and Fayellen Russell and husband Tony of Sageglen; stepbrother Bryan Bankston and wife Kathy of Texas City; stepmother Sue Hooker and husband Walter of Conroe; brothers-in-law Arthur Hernandez and wife Michelle of Heber Springs, Ark., Moses Velasco and wife Stacie of League City, and Kenneth Dittrich and wife Maggie of Friendswood; sister-in-law Melinda Perales and husband Rudy of Dickinson; and many nieces and nephews, including Steven Dittrich and wife Ashley of Sageglen, Ellen (Dittrich) George and husband Garnett of Bedford, Texas, and Alicia Dittrich and daughter Kalani of Sageglen.

Morris grew up in Sterling Heights, Mich.,

Youngstown, Ohio, and Houston, Texas (Wood Meadow) where he graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 1980. He graduated from the University of Houston in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in technology - Industrial Supervision Training/Human Resources. He played baritone and was an avid sports fan.

Morris met his future wife, Norma, in 1982 at Foleys where they both worked. They married on Jan. 10, 1987, exactly a year to the day after his brother, Scott, married Maconda. The four celebrated many anniversaries together throughout the years. Morris enjoyed traveling with Norma. They made several trips to Napa Valley, New York, Dallas, Austin, and various towns in Arkansas.

He was known for his smile; his blue eyes; his sense of humor; his broad knowledge of both useful and useless information; his appreciation for music and Broadway shows; his ability to keep up with various sports statistics; his dedication to the University of Houston, the University of Michigan, the Houston Rockets and the Houston Texans sports teams; his love for his entire family, especially his nieces and nephews; and his incredible devotion to Norma. He was an Electronic Data Interchange Coordinator at Texas Children's Hospital where both he and his wife were employed.

The visitation and Celebration of Life service will be held at Carnes Funeral Home in Texas City.

Visitation will be Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, from 6 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 10, from 11 to 11:45 a.m. The Celebration of Life service will be at noon with the interment immediately following at Forest Park East.

Those wishing to make a donation in Morris' memory can do so through Texas Children's Hospital, Office of Development, Ste. 5214, P.O. Box 300630, Houston, TX 77230-0630. Include "In Memory of Morris Shreck" on all donations.

## Dobie speech and debate fundraiser at Chipotle Dec. 15

The J. Frank Dobie High School Speech and Debate team will host a Chipotle fundraiser on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 2680 Pearland Parkway, Ste. 100, from 4 to 9 p.m. While ordering at the register, let them know that you're supporting the speech and debate team from J. Frank Dobie High School. The students and coach appreciate the support.

## Holiday wreath-laying to honor veterans

Houston National Cemetery will host Wreaths Across America, a holiday wreath-laying ceremony to honor and remember the nation's veterans, on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m. at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive in Houston.

WAA-Houston, veterans service organizations and citizens are coordinating the event to honor veterans of each branch of the military, the Merchant Marines as well as Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

The Worcester Wreath

Company, through a campaign called Wreaths Across America, began donating holiday wreaths in tribute to Veterans laid to rest at The Department of Veterans Affairs' national cemeteries and state veterans' cemeteries in 2006. Since 1992, they have donated wreaths for gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery.

WAA-Houston is coordinating the wreath ceremony as a part of Wreaths Across America.

For more information on this event, visit the National Cemetery Administration website at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov).

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

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E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

## Our Family Has Grown!



Now with two locations to better serve our community

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 281.991.0575

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## Van Essen named JFD 9th-grade principal

**By Reesha Brown  
PISD Communications**  
The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the hiring recommendation for Michael Van Essen to serve as principal of the Dobie Ninth Grade Campus, effective January 2017. (See related photo Page 1A.)

Van Essen has accumulated 27 years of experience in education. He began his teaching career at Santa Fe ISD in 1989, where he taught physical education, Texas history and world geography. Van Essen got his start in educational administration as an assistant

principal at Santa Fe High School in 2002, and was promoted to principal in 2004. In 2007, he joined the Dobie Longhorns as assistant principal and will continue to lead a new herd as principal of the Ninth Grade Campus.

"I am extremely excited," Van Essen said. "I think this is a great opportunity for our students at Dobie High School and throughout Pasadena ISD."

A graduate of South Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and history, Van Essen holds a master's in educa-

tional management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He received his educational certifications in all levels of P.E., secondary history and administrative leadership.

His first plan of action is to collaborate with district leaders on a plan to educate the community about the vision of the new campus.

"I plan on meeting with Dr. DeeAnn Powell (Pasadena ISD superintendent) Ms. Alyta Harrell (PISD associate superintendent) and (Dobie) Principal Franklin Moses to set up timelines to release important information to all the stakeholders involved."

The ninth-grade campus is designed to help intermediate students make a smooth transition into high school. The campus will house only first-year ninth-graders and provide them with the same academic and extracurricular opportunities as students on the main campus.

Enrollment at Dobie reached an all-time high with 4,000 students this school year, exceeding the maximum capacity of the building based on current academic programming requirements. To address overcrowding issues, during the 2014 school bond measure, members of the Future Facilities Committee, recommended a ninth-grade campus.

Located at the corner of Monroe and Fuqua, the campus is undergoing construction and is expected to open to students in fall 2017.

Dobie Principal Franklin Moses anticipates that with the selection of Van Essen as leader of the ninth-grade campus, the school will be successful.

"Michael was an excellent choice due to his strong leadership abilities, familiarity with the Dobie culture and his passion and excitement for all things Dobie, including students, teachers and programs," Moses said.

"I am very excited to collaborate with Mr. Van Essen and I know that this will be a productive and positive opportunity for all students coming up through the Dobie feeder system."

## Loya graduates from SHSU



Gabrielle "Gabby" Loya graduated Dec. 9, 2016, from Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in forensic science. She attended Mrs. Janet's, Frazier Elementary, Morris Middle School, Beverly Hills Intermediate and graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 2012. Her family is very proud and congratulates her on this chapter in her life. Much love is sent from dad Marcus, stepmom Lisa, sister Alyssa and brothers Marcus Jr. and Andrew Loya.

## Reported purse-snatchings increase in area

**Continued from Page 1A**  
steps are being taken to ensure customer safety.

"Our customers' safety is our top priority, and much has been taking place behind the scenes to help stem the criminal activity at the store," said Kroger Public Affairs Manager Joy Partain. "In addition to increasing the security guard hours, we have supplemented the security

with off-duty law enforcement officers. There's now someone on premise 24/7, which is more coverage than most stores have. We've also changed the traffic flow at our fuel pumps to combat 'slider' crime. We've added signage to the fuel pumps to educate people about sliders and to warn customers to keep their doors locked while pumping. The shopping center landlord

has added security that patrols the area as well. Since we've implemented these measures, the number of incidents has significantly decreased."

Officer Richard Buitron of the Houston Police Department said such crimes are more common during the holiday season and urges shoppers to be vigilant. "Be aware of your sur-

roundings," Buitron said. "Never let your guard down. If (the thieves) see an opportunity, they're going to take it."

At press time, officials from the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce were in talks with local stores about planning a round-table discussion in the coming weeks to address the growing problem.

## Yandell protests local U.S. Post office service

**Continued from Page 1A**  
postal branch to register a complaint in person.

"I went to the customer service window, and the girl was very rude," Yandell said. "She acted like I was really putting her out."

Dissatisfied with the service she received, Yandell demanded to speak to a supervisor.

"I said 'I'm 72-years-old, I just got out of the hospital,

and I'm going to sit right here until I see a supervisor,'" Yandell recalled.

Help, however, did not come quickly. "I sat there for about 30 or 40 minutes," Yandell said. "And when the supervisor finally came out, she wasn't any better than the first one. I was nothing but nice. I never even raised my voice."

Yandell jokingly compared the incident to a sim-

ilar protest she staged in the 1960s.

"It did about as much good as when I sat in against the Vietnam War," Yandell said. "Both times were unsuccessful."

Still frustrated after leaving the post office, Yandell took to the telephone to air her grievances and said she had better fortune with the higher-ups within the organization.

"I talked to the Inspector General's office, and they put me in touch with Consumer Affairs," Yandell said. "I was very impressed. They said they take these things very seriously. No mail service is a serious offense, and they don't tolerate rudeness."

At press time, however, Yandell described her mail service as still being "erratic."

## Scout raises funds, constructs playground

**Continued from Page 1A**  
Islam honored the firefighters Thursday, Dec. 1, at a dedication ceremony held at the playground site. At the

event, Islam placed a plaque on the playground in the firefighters' honor.

"From the ashes we build a playground," the plaque

reads. "In honor of Fire Station 93, who contained the fire on Feb. 13, 2015."

Should Islam obtain his goal of becoming an Eagle

Scout, he will be the first for Troop 713.

Islam is the son of South Belt residents Nadim and Mona Islam.

## Stuchbery top fundraiser sellers named



Stuchbery Elementary students, who sold at least two cases of candy during a recent fundraiser through World's Finest Chocolate, were treated to a thrilling BMX bike and skate show put on by Lone Star Action Sports. Pictured are the three

top sellers along with the Action Sports performers. Left to right are (front row) Kathryn Williams, Christian Rummel, Chase Flower, (back row) and performers Jon Shaw, Shane Davis and Jaren Grob. Photo submitted

## BMX show at Frazier Elementary



Frazier Elementary students who sold two or more boxes of chocolate during the World's Finest Chocolate fall fundraiser were treated to an exciting BMX show by Lone Star Action Sports. The four top sellers posing with the performers are, left to right, (front row) Kaylie Bui, Vincent Castoreno, Julius Salazar, Taylor Palacios, (back row) and stuntmen Jaren Grob, Jack Fahey and John Shaw.

At right, stuntman Jaren Grob jumps over Frazier's principal, Wendy Wiseburn.

Photos submitted



## Melillo hosts 2nd annual fun run to benefit families for Christmas

Melillo Middle School staff, parents and students braved the wet weather and held their 2nd annual Jingle Bell Jog Saturday, Dec. 3. The event was moved inside due to rain. Food and toys donated will benefit needy families. Photos by Marie Flickinger



Displaying boxes of food donations are, left to right, Jade Cabrera, SanJuana Cabrera, Connor King, Dylan Nguyen, Raul Diaz, Maddie Montes and Theresa Salazar. Members of the National Elementary Honor Society sponsored the food

drive. The food and toys will make up a large portion of the South Belt Leader Christmas program which assures approximately 70 South Belt families have a good Christmas which would not be possible without the community support.



Shown enjoying the annual event are, left to right, Melillo Principal Diane Wheeler and Dr. DeeAnn Powell, superintendent of the Pasadena Independent School District.



Providing music at the event was Thompson student and DJ, Corey Reyes (middle), Sandra Chocolate Rodriguez (left) who is also a DJ, and Corey's mother, Connie Cabrera (right).



Left to right are Debbie Bass, sixth grade science teacher at Melillo, and Adriana Saavedra, assistant principal, and daughters Vivianna Palomares, Olivia Palomares.

Right: Winner of the costume contest for adults was Michelle Schmidt, a parent and volunteer at Melillo. Other winners at the event were: Victoria Garza who won the student costume and Robert Montano who won the race for the boys and Jocelyn Perez who won for the girls. The turkey was won by Lauren Rodriguez.



## Perez files first bill, stands up for veterans in the workforce

Recently, more than four weeks before taking her second oath to serve in the Texas House of Representatives, Rep.-Elect Mary Ann Perez has already filed her first piece of legislation for the 85th Legislative Session.

Dedicated to serving veterans and improving access to jobs, Perez filed House Bill 493, which would require accurate reporting of college credit hours issued to individuals participating in the College Credit for Heroes program, an initiative that awards participants for their military experience, education, and training in order to expedite their transition into the state's workforce.

"The College Credit for Heroes initiative is a great resource for military veterans and service members seeking to get an education and enter the civilian workforce," Perez said. "As a state, we must ensure that we are doing all we can to support our heroes when they come home. This bill gets us one step closer."

Inaccurate awarding of credit hours can cause confusion, inhibit participants from receiving proper financial aid, or prevent veterans from receiving full credit they may otherwise be due.

During the upcoming legislative session, Perez looks to prioritize education and job creation.

## CenterPoint Energy issues cold weather safety tips

As the temperatures drop, CenterPoint Energy reminds natural gas customers of some important tips to stay safe and warm this season. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating, and any fuel-burning appliance in the home has the potential to produce CO. To prevent CO buildup:

- Have your heating system checked annually by a qualified heating and air conditioning technician.
- Follow manufacturers' operating instructions properly for gas heating equipment.
- Do not use stovetop burners or ovens to heat a room since they are not designed for this use.
- Make sure to follow the blue flame rule. Natural gas flames should burn blue except natural gas fireplace

logs which burn orange to have a more realistic wood-burning look.

- Crack windows slightly if using unvented space heaters.
- Consider buying a CO detector as another line of defense against CO poisoning. CenterPoint Energy recommends buying one with an audible alarm and continuous digital display; make sure it is tested to the national standard for residential CO detectors (UL2034 or IAS NO. 6-96).

If in a room with operating gas equipment and experience a headache, followed by dizziness and nausea, one may be experiencing CO poisoning. Get fresh air immediately, and call CenterPoint Energy.

For more information on natural gas safety, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Safety.

## CCART to meet Dec. 13

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a holiday choral performance by the Clear Falls High School Troubadours under the leadership of Jill Fetty, director. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m.

All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$45. Attendees are asked to bring new book donations for kindergarten through fifth grade.

## Bay Area Singles Dance Dec. 17

The Bay Area Singles Club monthly dance will be held Saturday, Dec. 17, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the VFW Lodge, Post 6378, at 5204 Highway 3 in Dickinson. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. For more information, call 409-948-1156 or 281-484-4762.

## Care Partners meets Dec. 16

Interfaith Care Partners Ministry group at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St. (near Alameda Mall), a gathering for persons with Alzheimer's, dementia or memory loss, meets the third Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Gatherings consist of a continental breakfast, arts and crafts, exercises, entertainment, a singalong, a devotional break, lunch, and ends with a game. Those who have a family member or know of someone with these challenges, are welcome to attend. All services are provided free of charge. An initial interview must be conducted by Interfaith Care Partners staff to welcome new participants into this program.

The next gathering will be held in the Mother Cabrini Center at the church on Friday, Dec. 16. For more information or to register a loved one, call Interfaith Care Partners at 713-682-5995 or visit the website at www.interfaithcarepartners.org.

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# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**BEST WISHES, DAVID AND ELLIE!**  
Greetings are sent to David Flickinger, South Belt-Ellington Leader president, and his wife, Ellie, who celebrate their fifth anniversary Dec. 10 from daughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca; grandchildren Kelvin Lopez and Noah and Isabella Abarca; parents Marie and David Flickinger; brother Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger; niece Kimberly Flickinger; niece Courtney and husband Chris Durham and children Abigail and Jackson; and the staff at the Leader.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 8 through Dec. 14.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Join in the birthday fun with Richard Whittaker Dec. 14.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Vanessa Guzman is sent a birthday greeting Dec. 10.

**Bush Elementary**  
Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Guadalupe Quintanilla Reyes Dec. 8.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Send a birthday greeting Dec. 13 to Elena Contreras. Light the birthday candles for Maria Vazquez Dec. 14.

**Meador Elementary**  
Enjoying a birthday Dec. 8 is Miriam Reyna. Dec. 12 is the day for a cake for Filgia Norman.

**Moore Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles Dec. 9 for Liana Luna. Send a special birthday greeting Dec. 10 to Sheryl Munn.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Enjoy a double-layer birthday cake Dec. 9 with Jovan Francis and Lehng Nguyen.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Send a humorous birthday card Dec. 11 to Sandra Medina. Dec. 12 is the day for birthday greetings for Lupita Perez. A double celebration is scheduled Dec. 13 for Leah Brutsche and Elizabeth Wood.

**Roberts Middle School**  
Sing a happy birthday song Dec. 11 to LaShondra Evans. Celebrating a birthday Dec. 12 is Hector Del Rio. Dec. 13 is the day for a cake for Mary "Teresa" Klein.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Dec. 14 is the day for a party for Danielle Bezik.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Nancy O'Connell is wished a happy birthday Dec. 11.

**Dobie High**  
Carmela Swinnen celebrates a birthday Dec. 10. Sabrina Hinton and Michael Parker share a birthday Dec. 11. Enjoying a birthday Dec. 12 is Faryal Shaukat. A double birthday is celebrated by Philip Foster and Loan Peabody Dec. 13.

## FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

The Leader sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:

Thursday, Dec. 8: Damon Miles, Athena Kalmus, Adriana Garza, Shannon Sims, Mandy Bennett and Susanne Cook; Friday, Dec. 9: Angela Preciado, Derek Hartwell, Billy Hinton, Melissa Gallegos, Mary Bogan, Paul Garza, Jacob Pena and Alex Blancas; Saturday, Dec. 10: Cindy Schulze, Regan Boudra, Traci Schulz, Carmela Swinnen, Rebecca Swartz, Henry Rubio, Betsy Urschel, Sherri Lindsey, Alexis Bursiaga, Yvette Johnson-Lightfoot and Jason Manriquez; Sunday, Dec. 11: Corey Tumlinson, Kara Toro, Robert Summers, Sandra Medina, Amanda Meili and Robert Royal; Monday, Dec. 12: Carolyn Sternes-Ontiveros, Joe Lewis, David Rojas Sr., Pepper Lowe and Diane Lakits Black; Tuesday, Dec. 13: Ryan Tucker, Dustin Cochran, Julie Krampitz, Christopher Alldredge and Mike Stacey; and Wednesday, Dec. 14: Ricky Ramirez, Elizabeth Martinez, Pedro Gutierrez III, Kay Wood and Melissa Duncan.

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

## Frazier students visit with Mrs. Claus



Pre-K and kindergarten students visiting the library at Frazier enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Claus Friday, Dec. 2. Mrs. Claus read a holiday story to each class. In addition, students enjoyed singing seasonal holiday songs. Mrs. Claus visits Frazier each year during the holiday season. Pictured with Mrs. Claus (Barbie Carlisle Fuller) are, left to right, (front row) Abigail Galan, Briana Sanchez, Anthony Vega, Renata Pena, Ivancee Morales, (middle row) Miguel Armenta, Emily Martinez, Jaylen Flores, Nalanie Benitez, Ezeqiel Sanchez, (back row) Ruben Mendoza, Mauricio Amaya, Gerardo Mendoza, Estefania Rodriguez, Erik Lopez, Mrs. Claus (Barbie Carlisle Fuller), Luis Leal, Romeo Ngo and Dharani Morales. Photo submitted

## Remember When

### 40 years ago (1976)

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

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

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

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

**30 years ago (1986)**  
Personnel from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department stood by for 12 hours at a local Texaco station because of a leak in one of the station's gas tanks. Harris County Commissioner's Court approved construction of a bridge spanning the Beamer Road ditch at Astoria Boulevard.

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

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

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

### 20 years ago (1996)

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

**15 years ago (2001)**  
Memorial Hermann

Southeast Hospital officials announced the approval of funding for a \$70 million expansion to the 15-year-old facility. Thurman Hall, 26, was arrested and held without bond for theft and burglary. He was reportedly storing stolen tools in his girlfriend's nonoperational vehicle. Police confiscated the tools, and when Hall reported them as stolen, he was arrested.

**10 years ago (2006)**  
New offices in the Harris County Courthouse annex on Scarsdale at Beamer were ready for occupancy by Precinct 2 deputy constables. Two purses stolen from cars within a 10-minute time frame prompted a warning for shoppers to keep windows up and doors locked.

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

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

**5 years ago (2011)**  
Houston District E City Councilmember Mike Sul-

livan filed the necessary paperwork to run in the Republican primary for the position of Harris County tax assessor-collector.

Filing for the March primary elections began late November and the race to replace Gary L. Freeman as Harris County Precinct 2 Constable has already heated up. Six candidates had filed their necessary paperwork. Of the six who have already filed, five were for the Democratic primary. These included Zerick Gunn, Lee Hernandez, Chris Diaz, Joe Martinez and Jeffrey Freeman, most of whom had some police experience. Tom Boone was the lone Republican candidate.

**1 year ago (2015)**  
Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kirk Lewis was named 2015 Citizen of the Year at the 75th annual Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Gala on Dec. 3. The citizen of the year award has been presented annually since 1967 to a community member who exhibits a level of dedication and contribution to the city of Pasadena above and beyond the call of duty. The award was presented to him by PISD board president and 2014 Pasadena Citizen of the Year Mariselle Quijano.

Local businessman John B. "Jack" Niday Jr. died Dec. 7 at the age of 85. He was the owner of both Niday Funeral Home and Niday Public Storage. Niday was committed to the South Belt community

and was instrumental in supporting the South Belt Security Alliance, which later evolved into the current patrol contract with the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office. Niday also played a pivotal role in the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and was responsible for financing the construction of the chamber office and overseeing the work, serving as foreman. A native Houstonian, Niday lived in the Southeast portion of the city most of his life. Niday began his professional career as a ship pilot, before opening an ambulance service in 1959. He opened his first funeral home in 1961.

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## Business Women meet Jan. 12, registration deadline Jan. 10

South East Express Network of the American Business Women's Association will welcome Thesia Jenkins, on Thursday, Jan. 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque (private meeting room), 9005 Broadway (FM 518) in Pearland.

Jenkins is a performance improvement expert who teaches BOLD steps toward big improvements in organizational culture and professional development. In her career spanning more than 20 years, she has become a sought-after speaker and trainer on the topics of emotional intelligence, cultural competence, communication and women's issues.

Professionals throughout the community are invited to attend. A \$20 fee will cover a meal and the meeting. RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 10, at www.SEEN-ABWA.org.

## Ballroom dance classes set

The public is welcome to attend ballroom dance practices every Wednesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Pkwy. in League City. Dance lessons will continue through the upcoming holidays.

Recorded music is played by Neva Schroder. All rhythms played at any ballroom dance are played at this practice dance. It's casual, comfortable and on a beautiful floating hardwood floor. Teachers are available to assist or to teach a new move; or practice independently without interruption. For more information, call Schroder at 417-838-2204.

The Hump Day Dance is free itself, but League City requires nonresidents to purchase an activity card or a day pass. The park office can answer questions regarding an activity card at 281-554-1180.

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# Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School students and staff have "hearts that care"

Once again, Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School students and staff proved they have "hearts that care!" During the school's annual fundraiser, they raised more than \$14,000 to donate to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The homeroom raising the most money was Jes-

seca Adamek's homeroom, raising more than \$900. Because of the students' awesome efforts in raising such a large donation, the principals were turned into ice cream sundaes during the Principals Challenge!

*Photos submitted*



Asst. Principal Adriana Saavedra looks like she's getting a little sick of all the sweetness!



Students put the "cherries on top" of Asst. Principal Chris Bui.



Assistant Principal Adriana Saavedra, Principal Diane Wheeler and Assistant Principal Chris Bui are all sticky and sweet after a "SWEET" donation to Komen.



Jesseca Adamek drizzles caramel on Principal Diane Wheeler's head.



Jesseca Adamek's homeroom students pictured are, left to right, (front row) Bella Cisneros, Nicole Olazabo, Madison Lugo, Maria Wence, Ashlee Garcia, Demah Naser, Jason Coats, (second row) Victoria Garza, Yvonne Thai, Thu Pham, Sarah Cruz, Emelin Andrade, Jeremiah Rodriguez, Isaiah Correa, Russell Horton, (third row) Melissa Martinez, Vivian Nguyen, Jer'Keithric Moore, Alexander Pleger, Ethan Bishop, Ryan Nguyen, Jonathan Krenek, (back row) Johnny Tran, Kaitlyn Campos, Kaleb Campos, Nicholas Ponce, Ian Johnson, Robert Villatoro, Anthony Morin, Ivan Mariscal and Adamek.



Dobie High School art students displaying their artwork are, left to right, Catherine Nguyen, Karen Flores, Erika Rubio, Deanna Ruiz, Nicole Delgado, teacher Stephanie Albert and Albert's brother, Aaron Balaban (back) who also helped work on the piece throughout the two days.



Dobie art students pictured are, left to right, Dobie art teacher Stephanie Albert with students Erika Rubio, Deanna Ruiz, Nicole Delgado and Lauren Bell.



## Dobie art students participate in street painting festival

Dobie High School art students, under the direction of teacher Stephanie Albert, participated in the 2016 Houston Via Colori street painting festival on the streets of downtown Houston Saturday, Nov. 19, through Sunday, Nov. 20. This event is a massive outdoor art gallery, family festival and concert. The event raised more than \$400,000 for The Center for Hearing and Speech. Students dedicated two dates to completing the 10-foot square Thanksgiving-themed street painting.

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## Sullivan dedication honors longtime board member

By Reesha J. Brown  
PISD Communication Specialist

As a military spouse, Nelda Sullivan's patriotic roots run deep.

On Dec. 1, hundreds of students, staff and community members gathered to pay tribute to the long-standing board member and her late husband Staff Sgt. Charles Sullivan during a patriotic dedication of one of the district's newest middle schools, named in her honor.

"It is impossible to express to each and every one of you how humbled and grateful I am to have this beautiful school named after me, and to have you here to join in the celebration makes it even more special," Sullivan said. "My husband, who served during the Korean War, would have truly enjoyed this evening."

The dedication welcomed nearly 500 guests, including her children, all of whom are graduates of Pasadena ISD, Johnnie W. Sullivan, Charlotte Sullivan Dickerman and David Sullivan. Also present were her four grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The ceremony included performances by the new school's orchestra and choir; a presentation of colors by the Dobbie, Pasadena, Rayburn, and South Houston High JROTCs; followed by warm sentiments from Dr. DeeAnn Powell, superintendent of schools; Kelly Cook-Costley, principal; Fred Roberts, PISD board member; and Emory Gadd, associate pastor of Sagemont Church.

"On behalf of the entire school district, I express our appreciation to the Sullivan Family," Powell said. "We are proud to have a school named for Mrs. Sullivan, a wonderful lady who spent her entire career in the Pasadena area devoted to supporting the community, including 24 years on the school board."

Sullivan was presented several proclamations: on behalf of Congressman Gene Green's Office, Harris County Commissioner Jack Morman and Senator Sylvia Garcia. The City of Pasadena also presented a proclamation, declaring Dec. 1, 2016 Nelda Sullivan Day.

"Our city and the schools cannot find a finer lady than her," said Joe Reyna, who

presented the proclamation on behalf of Congressman Gene Green. "Nelda R. Sullivan has dedicated her life to the schools here."

Mike Cade, who presented the proclamation on behalf of Morman, echoed these sentiments.

"We all owe you a debt of gratitude," Cade said.

Presenting on behalf of Garcia's office was Derek Darnell, who read from the proclamation "...For helping to make the Pasadena Independent School District the first-class district it is today and for her loyal community service, we extend best wishes in all her future endeavors."

Sullivan retired as vice president and branch manager of a local bank after 40 years of service. During that time, she was fortunate to watch Pasadena grow literally from the ground up as the bank made construction loans for houses built in the Fairmont area.

She and her husband Charles were loyal supporters of Pasadena schools, from serving on the Red Bluff Elementary PTA through her time as a member of the board.

Born outside of Bastrop County, Sullivan's drive to be successful along with a supportive family, helped her come from a "house with no electricity," to a school named in her honor.

"I encourage you kids, every time you walk these halls, I want you to know she is a special person," Fred Roberts, board member said.

Roberts, a longtime colleague and friend of the Sullivan family, shared his fondest memories of Charles and Nelda as he presented her life story.

"We would go to dinner and he would tell me stories. She would sit there and giggle, so I would giggle and laugh, too," he joked. "I think if Charlie were here, he would say, 'Well done.' He loves you more than anything else."

Also present at the event was former Pasadena ISD school superintendent Dr. Rick Schneider; the construction and design staff from SBWV; general contractors from Collier and members of the future facilities committee, who recommended the addition of the campus to the district during the 2011 bond election.

"I just want to say how proud we are of this campus and excited we are about the future of Sullivan Middle School under the direction of Kelly Cook-Costley as the principal," Powell said.

The nearly 125,000 square-foot facility opened its doors to more than 650 students in the fall of 2016 and accommodates students from L.F. Smith, South Shaver and Williams Elementary Schools.

Nelda Sullivan Middle School students and staff have created a culture of learning based on three values: to engage, educate and empower, in hopes that students will leave a mark on their community like the school's namesake.

"Her life's work inspires us all, and we can all say with great certainty that she and her family are now a part of each and every one of us for all time," said Cook-Costley.



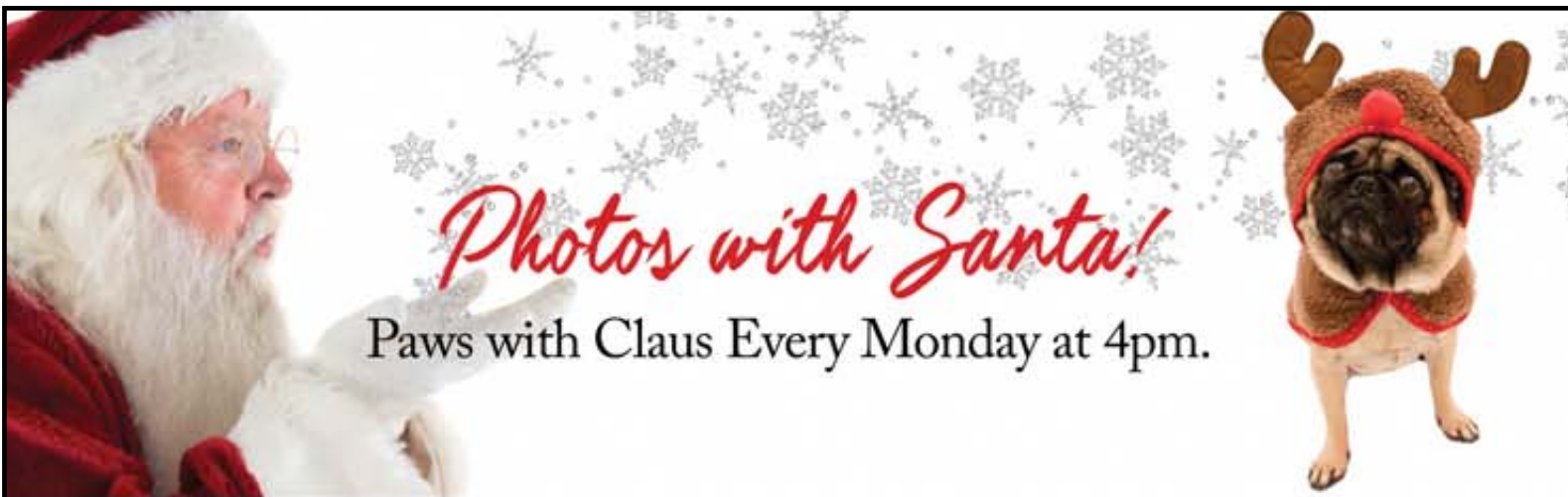
Rhonda Parmer, associate superintendent of campus development, received thanks from Nelda Sullivan for organizing the celebration.



Also celebrating the festive event with Nelda Sullivan was longtime PISD board member Marshall Kendrick.



Decked out in tuxedos for the event honoring Nelda Sullivan were, left to right, the Rev. Emory Gadd, South Belt resident and Sagemont Church associate pastor, and Fred Roberts, South Belt resident and PISD board member.



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## Basketball roundup: Brook teams excel at CCISDs

www.southbeltleader.com

Tournament season has certainly helped to separate the contenders from the pretenders in both the

varsity boys' and girls' basketball races. The girls' basketball season is set to enter district play Dec. 9,

and the boys' district campaign isn't far away. With that in mind, tournament success can be a momentum builder, and there is plenty of that to go around at Clear Brook.

**CB boys win CCISD title**  
The Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team has officially sent a solid message, just in time for the approaching District 24-6A league title chase.

Winning five games over three days, the Wolverines capped it all off with a 56-53 victory over Clear Lake, winning the

Clear Creek ISD's Carlisle/Krueger Classic for just the second time in school history, with both tournament finale wins coming over Clear Lake.

The Wolverines opened the regular season with two losses in pool play but then rallied to win the Division I Bronze bracket championship at the McDonald's Invitational Nov. 17-19.

The Brook boys then used a big fourth quarter on defense to get past Dobie in late November. Now comes the CCISD Classic

title, and the Wolverines should now be considered a major contender in 24-6A.

**Brook girls bounce back**  
While the Wolverine boys were doing their thing on the Clear Lake High School campus, the Lady Wolverines worked magic at Clear Springs High School.

The Lady Wolverines lost their Peggy Whitley Invitational opener, 53-46 to Ridge Point, but then came back to win the consolation championship courtesy of a win

over Clear Lake. After the Ridge Point loss, the Lady Wolverines defeated Brazoswood, Magnolia West (70-40), George Ranch

(57-54) and Clear Lake to claim the title.

Whitley champion Clear Springs, which ham-

Continued on Page 2B

## Lady Horns, Brook to open district play

As was the case in the fall sports, the upcoming district basketball season will offer some new matchups in district play, but will be the eventual outcome to be the same in the

end? Dobie and Clear Brook are about to get started on the journey, with Dobie heading to La Porte Dec. 9. The same night, Brook will open lea-

Continued on Page 2B

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## Simmons, 3 others head Dobie football's AD picks

The Dobie varsity football team might have finished the 2016 regular season at just 3-7, but there was no lack for star power on this team.

On Dec. 1, the league's respective head coaches gathered at La Porte High School to choose the very best of the best as All-District Selections.

As expected, District 22-6A champion La Porte captured the majority of the district's top awards. La Porte quarterback Austin Upshaw, who has committed to play collegiately at the University of Memphis, was the unanimous pick as the overall Most Valuable Player. Upshaw's teammate,

Terrel Bernard, was named the 22-6A Defensive Player of the Year, and Jeff Lareau of La Porte was the Coach of the Year.

Memorial running back Alex Williams, a junior who produced several 200-plus yard performances this season, was

the Offensive Player of the Year. South Houston's Torrence Stevens, who helped guide the Trojans to a surprise playoff berth,

was named the Newcomer of the Year. Back to Dobie, senior speedster Breon Simmons

Continued on Page 6B



Dobie's most explosive player with the ball in his hands, senior Breon Simmons (3) was named to the District 22-6A varsity football first team at both wide receiver and punt returner, as awarded by the

league's head coaches. Simmons had a 70-yard punt return for a touchdown against Sam Rayburn and caught five passes for 110 yards and a touchdown in his final high school game against La Porte.

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## St. Mary's Arnett in groove

By John Bechtle Sports Editor  
For all of its struggles from tee to green, for all

the up-and-down emotions that can be felt during that walk or cart ride from shot to shot, the game of golf is

still supposed to be fun. Ben Arnett, a golfer who began swinging his clubs at Beverly Hills Park while a student at Atkinson Elementary and eventually became the best-ever boys' golfer at Dobie High School, may be rediscovering that fun.

Now a junior at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Arnett is coming off a fall season that saw him named the Heartland Continued on Page 2B



At left, Ben Arnett, a 2014 Dobie High School graduate, is coming off a fall golfing season at St. Mary's University in San Antonio that saw the now Rattlers' junior player named the Southland Conference Player of the Week on two occasions in October, both after scoring Individual Champion honors at back-to-back events.

Photo by Trey Reed

## SBHLL continues sign-up

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League is now accepting online registration in preparation for the 2017 spring season.

Families may visit [www.eteamz.com/sbhll](http://www.eteamz.com/sbhll) to register their child for the season.

Those ages 3 and 4 (born between Sept. 2012 and Jan. 1, 2014) may register for \$125 per player, while those ages 5 to 16 (born between May 2000 and Aug. 2012) may register for \$175 per player.

There is a \$5 discount for families registering more than one player.

SBHLL will also host its sixth season in the Challenger division, which is designed to allow disabled children between the ages of 5 to 18 to enjoy the game of baseball in a safe environment.

Registration in the Challenger division is free

of charge. The league will also host one more in-person registration date at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park this month.

That in-person registration date is Dec. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Next month, league officials have established Jan. 7 and Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m., as in-person sign-up dates.

Tryouts and late registration, which will include an additional \$25 fee, will be held in the latter part of January.

All registering families must provide a copy of the player's birth certificate, to be kept on file.

Families must also provide three current forms of residency, such as driver's license, voter registration, utility bills, etc.

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2014 Dobie grad paces Rattlers

# Two tourney wins has Arnett hitting stride at St. Mary's golf

**Continued from Page 1B** Conference's Golfer of the Week twice, both honors coming after he championed tournaments.

He's become St. Mary's top performer in short order, and for Arnett, that's a welcomed sight after sand traps and other hazards had clearly come into play from time to time following his graduation from Dobie.

Arnett simply lit the links world on fire while in high school. A four-time regional qualifier, he became the first-ever Dobie golfer to advance to the state tournament, getting that done as a junior.

A score card issue cost him a possible second trip to Austin during his senior season, but Arnett went on to graduate within the top 10 percent in his class before preparing to join the University of Houston, with whom he had inked a letter of intent in between his junior and senior high school years.

Arnett and the University of Houston simply was not a good match. He was in the program during the fall semester but then exited. It was time to move on.

The St. Mary's program in San Antonio has

proven to be a much more comfortable resting spot for Arnett, but even this ride hasn't always been smooth.

His results were, quite honestly, rather exceptional during his 2015-2016 season at St. Mary's. Playing a total of 32 rounds in 12 tournaments, Arnett was twice selected the Heartland Conference's Golfer of the Week.

He led the Rattlers in scoring average at 73.41, posted the team's lowest round (67) and was named an All-Heartland Conference selection. But great results don't always mean everything.

Chris Massoletti, then the Rattlers' head coach, went so far as to tell Arnett that some things had to change or else there would be strong consideration as to whether the sophomore would return.

Arnett has always been a team guy. That's not the issue. But perhaps Arnett needed to become a bigger fan of Ben the player.

For Arnett's part, he admits to being his own worst critic, to being a pain to both watch and compete with or against on the course.

He said teammates at both the University of

Houston and St. Mary's implored him to relax and play the game.

Those pleas had just rarely sunk in for Arnett. The harder the game became on the course, the harder Arnett critiqued himself.

Perhaps now things have come into focus. While no golfer is ever completely satisfied with his game, Arnett has to be very confident heading into the spring season at St. Mary's, which begins in February.

Twice in October, Arnett won top Individual Medalist honors while leading the Rattlers' team. In the first week of October, Arnett fired a (-2) 214 over four rounds to win the Newman Fall Invitational at the Crestview Country Club's North course.

After a week off for the team, Arnett won the Midwestern State University Invitational at the Wichita Falls Country Club, carding a (-3) over three rounds for a five-stroke win. Heartland Conference Golfer of the Week honors came Arnett's way after both wins.

So just over midway through his collegiate eligibility, Arnett appears to have found a comfort zone, both within himself and at St. Mary's University.

Arnett said that when he got to St. Mary's, he knew it was where he belonged both as a player and a student.

Perhaps he simply has always tried to prove his worth, his abilities on the course - despite a prep resume second to few.

"I think the biggest

thing is I've just decided to have fun with it out there on the course," Arnett said. "Even this fall when I played pretty well, there were times when technically I wasn't my best, or times where I just didn't feel as comfortable as I'd like, but that's golf. "I still put myself in position to win a couple of times, and that was a big lift.

"In golf you're going to have really long ups and downs, and you just have to stick with it and have fun. Just when you think you have something going pretty well out there, golf will knock you back down.

"I think I learned to live with humility out there. Every shot used to be life or death, or make or break. It's not that way for me anymore. My mental

approach and attitude is a lot more relaxed."

In turn, Thomas Kearney, the Rattlers' former assistant coach who took over the program lead prior to this season after Massoletti's departure, has likely found little reason to have issue with Arnett or his game. Things have come together.

"Over the 18 months that I've been coaching Ben, I've seen him make huge strides, not only in his golf development but also in his growth as a human being," Kearney said.

"He is turning in to a wonderful young man and is gathering a vast array of skills along the way. With his burning desire, grit and perseverance I have no doubt he will achieve big things in his career.

"I am looking forward to helping him progress

further and watching him achieve his goals."

Goals for Arnett still include one day qualifying for the professional tour. But the bigger the event, the more money is required to attend or enter as a player.

For now, Arnett simply wants to stay on the same cart part he's been on.

He's doing just fine in the classroom, where he is on track to eventually earn a degree in mathematics. Arnett has thoughts

of eventually becoming a teacher, but there's still plenty of golf to be played.

The fall semester was indeed a nice one for Arnett, but there's more to do, more fun to have.

"I'll let all of the awards and honors take care of themselves at the end of the spring season, for me and as a team," Arnett said.

"Right now, I'm just trying to stay confident with the things I've worked on trying to fix on

the course and have the confidence to achieve our goals.

"My goal is to be the best golfer in the nation (collegiate), and it's always a work in progress.

"I wish I could replicate some of the results I've had here recently, but there is no replicating anything in this sport.

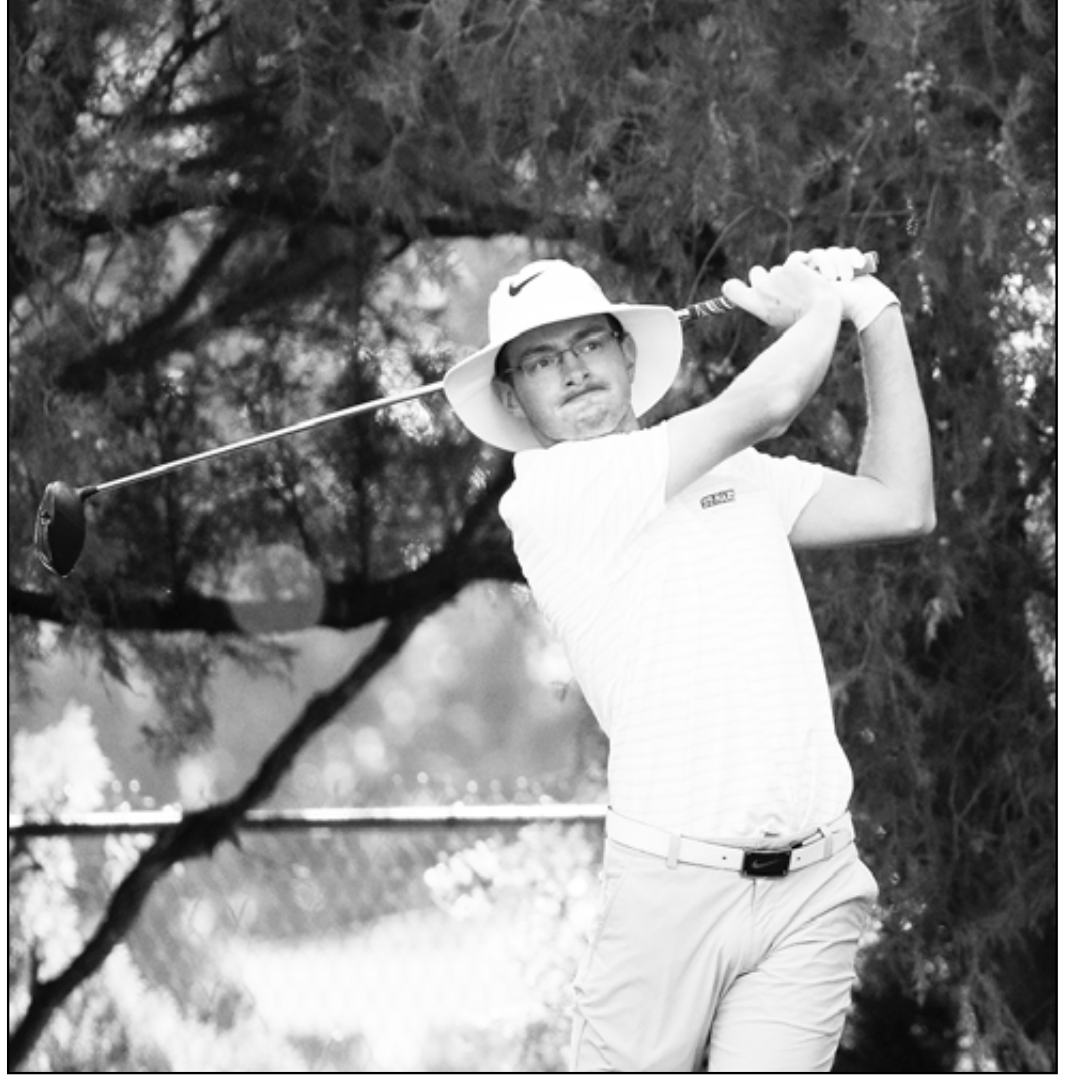
"Every shot is different, and you just have to go out there and face the course with a good attitude and have some fun."

**Arnett thus far at St. Mary's University**  
**2015-2016 (sophomore season) - Five top-10 finishes in 12 events.**  
**All-Heartland Conference pick and Golfer/Week twice.**  
**2016-2017 (through fall schedule) - Won Overall Medalist honors at Newman Fall Invitational and at Midwestern State Invitational, also claiming Heartland Conference Player/Week accolades after both wins.**



Now a junior at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Ben Arnett has found a home with the Rattlers, becoming one of the Heartland Conference's top performers each week and feeling more comfortable on and off the course after originally beginning his collegiate career at the University of Houston.

Photos by Trey Reed



## Sports Calendar

### BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 9

- Dobie varsity girls at La Porte, 7:00
- Brook varsity girls at Alvin, 7:00
- Dobie varsity boys at Pearland, 7:00
- Dobie JV boys at Pearland, 5:30
- Brook JV girls at Alvin, 5:30
- Brook varsity boys at Galveston Ball, 7:00
- Brook JV boys at Galveston Ball, 5:30
- Dobie JV girls at La Porte, 5:30
- Brook sophomore boys at Galveston Ball, 5:30
- Dobie sophomore boys at Pearland, 5:30
- Brook freshman A boys at Galveston Ball, 4:00
- Dobie freshman A girls at La Porte, 4:00
- Brook freshman A girls at Alvin, 4:00
- Dobie freshman A boys at Pearland, 4:00
- Brook freshman B boys at Galveston Ball, 4:00

### Monday, Dec. 12

- Thompson 7th Dark girls host Park View, 5:00
- Thompson 8th Dark girls host Park View, 5:00
- Thompson 7th Light girls host Park View, 6:15
- Thompson 8th Light girls host Park View, 6:15
- Beverly Hills 7th Dark girls host South Houston, 5:00
- Beverly Hills 8th Dark girls host South Houston, 5:00
- Beverly Hills 7th Light girls host South Houston, 6:15
- Beverly Hills 8th Light girls host South Houston, 6:15
- Thompson 7th Dark boys at Park View, 5:00
- Thompson 8th Dark boys at Park View, 5:00
- Thompson 7th Light boys at Park View, 6:15
- Thompson 8th Light boys at Park View, 6:15
- Beverly Hills 7th Dark boys at South Houston, 5:00
- Beverly Hills 8th Dark boys at South Houston, 5:00
- Beverly Hills 7th Light boys at South Houston, 6:15
- Beverly Hills 8th Light boys at South Houston, 6:15

### Tuesday, Dec. 13

- Dobie varsity girls host Memorial, 7:00
- Brook varsity girls host Dickinson, 7:00
- Brook varsity boys at Westfield, 7:00
- Brook JV girls host Dickinson, 5:30
- Dobie JV girls host Memorial, 5:30
- Brook JV boys at Westfield, 5:30
- Brook sophomore boys at Westfield, 5:30
- Brook freshman A boys at Westfield, 4:00
- Dobie freshman A girls host Memorial, 4:00
- Brook freshman A girls host Dickinson, 4:00
- Dobie freshman B girls host Memorial, 4:00
- Brook freshman B boys at Westfield, 4:00

### Friday, Dec. 16

- Dobie varsity girls host West Brook, 7:00
- Brook varsity girls host Clear Falls, 4:00
- Brook varsity boys host Cinco Ranch, 5:30
- Brook JV girls host Clear Falls, 2:30
- Dobie JV girls host West Brook, 5:30
- Brook JV boys host Cinco Ranch, 4:00
- Brook sophomore boys host Cinco Ranch, 4:00
- Brook freshman A boys host Cinco Ranch, 2:30
- Dobie freshman A girls host West Brook, 4:00
- Brook freshman A girls host Clear Falls, 1:00
- Dobie freshman B girls host West Brook, 4:00
- Brook freshman B boys host Cinco Ranch, 2:30

### Tuesday, Dec. 20

- Brook varsity boys at Clear Falls, 2:00
- Dobie varsity boys at West Brook, 7:00
- Dobie JV boys at West Brook, 5:30
- Brook JV boys at Clear Falls, 12:30
- Dobie sophomore boys at West Brook, 5:30
- Brook sophomore boys at Clear Falls, 12:30
- Dobie freshman A boys at West Brook, 4:00
- Brook freshman A boys at Clear Falls, 11 a.m.
- Brook freshman B boys at Clear Falls, 11 a.m.
- Dobie freshman B boys at West Brook, 4:00

## Area basketball squads prepared as district play nears

**Continued from Page 1B** mered Pearland in the championship game to the tune of 70-49, is state-ranked and should be the true frontrunner in 24-6A.

Clear Falls, which made its way to the third-place game at the tournament, is also a strong play-

off contender. Clear Lake, despite its loss to Clear Brook in the consolation final, is having a strong season, and Friendswood usually finds its way into the mix.

Dickinson is always a program to be heard from as well, and Alvin went 10-6 last season to make

the playoffs in 22-6A. Clear Brook will find out early what it's going to take to win in the 25-6A ranks with that first district game coming Dec. 9 at Alvin.

**Woodlands beats CB** Clear Brook's varsity girls' team made one of its final nondistrict appearances of the season Dec. 6, losing to The Woodlands 55-43.

The Woodlands, which received a combined 30 points from Luisa DeLaRosa and Emma Warnsman, led 11-3 after the first eight minutes of play and went on to win the game.

**Azore on fire** Clear Brook's varsity boys' team is on a roll with the win at the Carlisle/Krueger Classic, and one big reason why is the scoring prowess of senior David Azore.

The left-hander had 29 points in the Wolverines' semifinal win over Nimitz and came back with 39 points and six rebounds against Clear Lake. And the Wolverines now have a full roster with Onix Little and Caleb Chapman now added to the mix after the school's extended football playoff run came to a close in the regional semifinals.

**No panic at Dobie** Following a bit of a surprising run to the Region III Final Four last season, the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team returned nearly all of the key players from that team.

It was easy to expect similar results this season, especially after the team went 4-1 at the season-opening McDonald's Texas Invitational, then beat a very good Clear Lake team at the Hoops-giving Classic Nov. 23 at Texas Southern Universi-

ty. Since that time, though, the Longhorns have hit a bit of a rough patch.

Dobie, which lost three of five games at the Katy Nike Invitational Dec. 1-3, is also reeled after a 52-40 loss Dec. 6 at home to Dawson.

At Katy, the Longhorns lost to Dekaney 84-48 and to Morton Ranch 66-59. Against Dekaney, Dobie held its own in an 18-18 first quarter but then was outscored 66-30 thereafter.

According to Dobie head coach Kevin Cross,

Dekaney features a big lineup, with two players at 6-foot-7-inches as well as Micah Peavy, a 6-foot-5-inch forward who is being recruited nationally. In the end, Dobie simply could not match Dekaney's height advantage.

After a tight loss to Morton Ranch, Dobie defeated Cy-Woods 62-39, using a big 35-18 run to close the deal.

A huge start led to a 76-50 victory over Tomball Memorial, but the Longhorns did not defend well in a 64-55 loss to La Porte.

Of note, Dobie's Jeremy Davis collected 48 rebounds in the five games at Katy and is now averaging nearly 12 per contest.

Royce Hunter, the team's leading scorer, had 26 points in the win over Tomball Memorial and 19 against Cy-Woods.

The Longhorns also have guard Trey Prater back in the lineup after he missed roughly seven games with a broken finger.

Against Dawson, the Longhorns led 29-19 with about three minutes left

in the third quarter before the Eagles went on a 33-11 run to win easily. Over that span, the Longhorns made just four field goals in 13 minutes.

Hunter wound up with 19 points, but the shots did not fall late, allowing the Eagles to get into their transition game on the offensive end.

The Longhorns now play at Pearland Dec. 9, taking on an Oiler team that has gained a Houston area Class 6A ranking thanks to a strong start early on.

## Girls' teams open district

**Continued from Page 1B** gue play at Alvin. Both varsity games begin at 7 p.m.

Dobie, with four-year starter Jade Giron and three-year letterwinner Taja Tillman leading the way, could make a major move this season in District 22-6A.

Last season, Dawson, Manvel and Pearland were too powerful, and upstart Alvin went 10-6 to garner a playoff spot. Even Memorial, at 7-9, held off Dobie in the chase to the hump.

But this season could be different. With newcomers Deer Park, La Porte and West Brook now in the field, there doesn't appear to be a clear-cut favorite. West Brook and Deer Park have hovered around the .500 mark through nondistrict play to this

point, with the other teams at or below that percentage.

If anything, the race to the 22-6A title is any team's to take control of at this point.

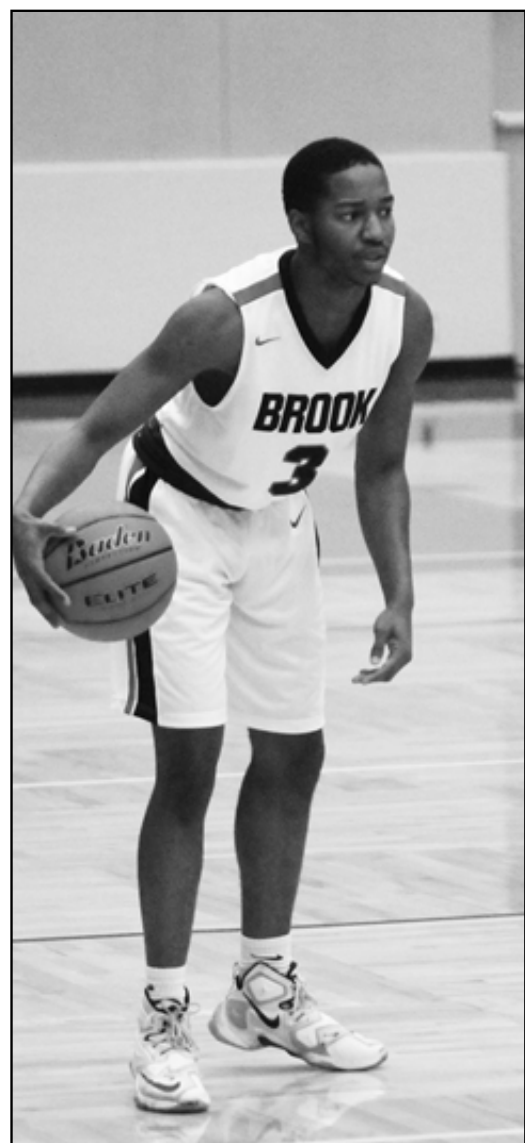
**Dawson downs Dobie** Taking on an old district foe Dec. 6 at Dawson, the Lady Longhorns found themselves on the short end of 42-31 score.

The Lady Longhorns kept the deficit within reach and played its style of a low-scoring game, but could not get over the hump.

Dawson outscored Dobie 19-8 over the middle two quarters, which was the difference in the game. Dobie was led by senior guard Taja Tillman's 10 points, and Dawson's Elizabeth Davis was the game's high scorer with 19.

Now Dobie is presented a chance to take a big step in District 22-6A action with a win at La Porte.

The Lady Bulldogs have struggled early this season, but things can always change when league play comes around, especially with La Porte hosting.



One of six sophomores to make the varsity team for the 2014-2015 season, Clear Brook guard Caleb Lang (3) hopes the Wolverines have a district championship run in their future.



At left, Dobie senior Jade Giron (11) is heading into her final 22-6A campaign after earning the starting point guard position as a freshman, and she's hoping her team can make a strong playoff push this season.

# Lions' Walker leads GAT's 7s to cross-country championship

The Thompson Intermediate boys' program appears to be positioning itself for quite a strong cross-country season.

The Lions were champions at the seventh-grade level and second in the eighth-grade division at the first official Pasadena ISD meet of the season.

In the girls' divisions, Bondy continued its dominance that has extended several seasons, winning team titles in both the seventh- and eighth-grade races.

Intermediate and high school cross-country team

scores are calculated by adding the finishes of each school's best finishers.

At 11 minutes, 40 seconds, Walker got his career off to a great start as he pursues the Lions' all-time course record, which currently belongs to his older brother, Zion Walker. Walker's time also bested the eighth-grade division, where champion Chris Shelvin of San Jacinto finished at 11:48.

In the seventh-grade division, Ricardo Tafoya of Miller was second at 11:48, with Thompson's Ke'mauri Millender third at 12:21.

The Lions' Isaac Cortez was sixth in a time of 12:42, and Jefferson Ford was 13th at 13:0. Thompson's fifth qualifying finisher in the meet was De'veon Moses, who was in at 13:12.

Elsewhere in the meet for the Lions, there was

Michael Medina, 29th in a time of 13:44, as well as Lazarus Gonzalez, 38th with his time of 14:01.

Others competing for the Lions included Azrael Lopez (14:36), Kaden Fernandez (14:47), Joshua Carter (15:00), Michael Morrow (15:14), Michael Gooden (15:21) and Dylan Dixon (15:56).

**BHI 7s place ninth**  
The Bears' seventh-grade team wound up placing ninth as a team, with Trey Burrell 15th at 13:09 to lead the way.

Those also scoring for the Bears included Jahir Reyes, 40th at 14:05. In 55th place, Giovanni Franco came in at 14:41.

Beverly Hills' other two official scorers were Isaac Lopez, 64th at 14:52, and Alejandro Garza, 74th in a time of 15:12.

Also competing for Beverly Hills was Oziel Reyes (15:59), Jose Torres

(16:12), Henry Lavergre (16:54), Allan Gonzalez (17:37), Kyron Williams (18:07) and Christian Padua (18:09).

**GAT 8s finish second**  
The Lions' eighth-grade team also made a strong push for the team championship before ultimately taking second behind champion San Jacinto.

The Tigers rolled to the easy team title, with each of their qualifiers placing in the top 12. San Jacinto was led by champion Chris Shelvin (11:48), who beat teammate Anthony Perez to the finish line by a mere second.

At 11:52, the Lions' Devin Caballero was third overall in the race, with teammate Marcus Saenz 11th at 12:26.

The Lions' other three official finishers included Jacob Perez, 18th at 12:45, Robert Montano,

20th at 12:40 and Mason Barnhart, who was 23rd at 13:06.

The Lions also had others in the meet, including Isaac Espinosa (13:09), Justin Vella (13:11), Darius Pamplin (13:27), Josh Hernandez (13:58), David Gomez (13:59), Jeremiah Ballard (14:11), Fidel Rueda (14:35), Jonathan Niera (15:30) and Jared Dorentes (15:38).

**Seventh for BHI 8s**  
Taizhon McKinney led the way for the Bears' eighth-grade cross-country team, which finished seventh as a team.

At 12:21, McKinney was ninth overall in the standings. At 13:25, David Gonzalez placed 33rd, and Noe Botello's time of 13:34 was good for 38th place.

Gerardo Reyes, 64th at 14:29, was the fourth official scorer for the Bears, and Joseph Hernandez, 81st at 15:00, also scored for the Bears.

**Lady Lion 7s are fourth**  
Team champion Bondy posted a low score of 45 for the easy victory, and Park View's Ruby Garcia was the top overall medalist in a time of 13:46.

Thompson's seventh-grade girls' team wound up fourth in the 10-team field at 141. The Lady Lions' top finisher was Dalyla Cisneros, whose time of 14:44 placed her eighth overall.

Next up for the Lady Lions was Izzy Padilla, whose time of 14:57 placed her 13th in the mix. Alayna Calvillo was the Lady Lions' third overall finisher as she was 38th with a time of 15:56, and teammate Aliyah Barajas was next, 39th at 15:57.

Thompson's final official finisher was Hailey Henderson, 43rd with a time of 16:07.

Others competing for the Lady Lions included Metzi Silva (16:56), Karime Murguía (17:04), Abigail Ortiz (17:55), Arielle Terrazas (17:57), Sindy Puerto (17:59), Miranda Resendez (17:59), Ashlyn Ross (18:04), Celine Mata (18:14) and Laila Torres (19:29).

**BHI 7s push the field**  
Beverly Hills' seventh-grade girls' cross-country team wound up taking eighth place in the meet. The Lady Bears were led to the finish line by Anaura Elizarraruz, whose time of 15:06 placed her 17th.

The Lady Bears' other four qualifiers included Keely King, who was 29th at 15:37; Nicole Jasso, 67th at 16:46; Miriam Reyna, 74th at 16:59; and Kathleen Nguyen, 80th at 17:59.

Others taking part in the race for the Lady Bears included Natalie Rios (17:54), Mya Chapa (18:16), Valerie Baez (18:27), Jennifer Gonzalez (19:14), Kailey Tsikis (19:33) and Jasmine Chew (19:44).

**GAT 8 girls are seventh**  
Bondy's seventh-grade girls' team came in at 32 points for the win, with Audrey Serrato of San Jacinto winning the top spot in the race at 13:25.

The Lady Lions' best finisher was Karissa Hernandez, who delivered a time of 14:18 for 11th place.

Jasmin Benitez was next for the Lady Lions as her clocking of 15:18 was 28th. Next up for Thompson was Abby Duron, who was 41st in the final standings with a time of 15:40.

Grace Castaneda also scored for the Lady Lions, taking the 52nd spot at 16:08.81. The Lady Lions' fifth overall finisher was Ambreon Jones, who was 53rd at 16:10.

Others competing for the Lady Lions included Isabella Delgado (16:14), Melissa Cavasos (16:36), Jalyynn Garza (17:14), Ja-

nah Naser (17:18), Jordyn Ridge (17:31) and Melanerie Rios (17:51).

**Lady Bear 8s are ninth**  
Beverly Hills' eighth-grade girls' cross-country team pushed hard in the event to place as well as possible, eventually grabbing ninth.

Nikayla McIntyre was the Lady Bears' top finisher, with a time of 15:30 giving her the 37th overall spot.

Janya Hunt was Beverly Hills' second overall runner to the finish line as she was 60th at 16:22. Katherine Coreas was 90th at 17:30, and Marina Vasquez placed 96th in a time of 17:45. The Lady Bears' other official scorer was Destiny Pichardo, who placed 99th at 17:53.

The Lady Bears' other competitors included Lesley Cruz (17:57), Yesenia Pina (18:01), Yarlina Campos (18:06) and Daisy

Gonzalez (19:07). Each of the district's 10 schools competed in the Pasadena ISD's annual District Championship Meet Dec. 7, at Pasadena Memorial High School as

teams battled for supremacy and individual athletes went head-to-head for bragging rights. The results from the championships will appear in the Dec. 15 issue.

## Cru in D-III semis Jackson, UMHB football to take on Mount Union

The good times continue to roll for Dobie High School graduate Blake Jackson and the Mary Hardin-Baylor University football program.

The Cru is now in the NCAA Division III National Semifinals, where the team will host Mount Union for a chance to play in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the NCAA Division III championship game. It will mark the first time in program history for Mount Union to play a game in

the state of Texas

The Cru improved to 13-0 with a 38-16 victory over Wheaton College in the quarterfinal round as Jackson and fellow Dobie graduate Reggie Wilson came up big.

Statistically speaking, Jackson was held in check with 155 yards passing and a touchdown throw in addition to a rushing touchdown.

Defensively, Wilson registered 15 tackles and also blocked a punt.

### Pasadena ISD

#### Intermediate Girls' Hoops

Through Nov. 30 games

8L Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
San Jacinto	0	0	0	1	0	0
Park View	0	0	0	0	1	0
Southmore	0	0	0	0	1	0
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Houston	0	0	0	0	1	0

#### Game Scores

Bondy 32, Beverly Hills 6  
Miller 25, Southmore 16  
Jackson 33, Park View 12  
San Jacinto 32, Queens 27  
Thompson 49, South Houston 33

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
	Thompson	0	0	0	1	0
Bondy	0	0	0	1	0	0
Miller	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	0	0
Queens	0	0	0	0	1	0

8D Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
Southmore	0	0	0	1	0	0
Park View	0	0	0	0	1	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	0	1	0
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Houston	0	0	0	0	1	0

#### Game Scores

Bondy 36, Beverly Hills 9  
Southmore 25, Miller 18  
Jackson 22, Park View 8  
Queens 7, San Jacinto 5  
Thompson 31, South Houston 7

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
	Thompson	0	0	0	1	0
Bondy	0	0	0	1	0	0
Queens	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	0	0
Miller	0	0	0	0	1	0

### Pasadena ISD

#### Intermediate Girls' Hoops

Through Nov. 30 games

7L Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
Park View	0	0	0	0	1	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	0	1	0
Southmore	0	0	0	0	1	0
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Houston	0	0	0	0	1	0

#### Game Scores

Bondy 39, Beverly Hills 29  
Miller 24, Southmore 14  
Jackson 35, Park View 24  
Queens 40, San Jacinto 11  
Thompson 35, South Houston 12

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
	Thompson	0	0	0	1	0
Bondy	0	0	0	1	0	0
Queens	0	0	0	1	0	0
Miller	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	0	0

7D Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
San Jacinto	0	0	0	1	0	0
Park View	0	0	0	0	1	0
Southmore	0	0	0	0	1	0
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Houston	0	0	0	0	1	0

#### Game Scores

Thompson 32, South Houston 7  
Bondy 36, Beverly Hills 10  
Miller 26, Southmore 16  
San Jacinto 25, Queens 4  
Jackson 20, Park View 19

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
	Thompson	0	0	0	1	0
Bondy	0	0	0	1	0	0
Miller	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	0	0
Queens	0	0	0	0	1	0

### Pasadena ISD

#### Intermediate Boys' Hoops

Through Dec. 5 games

8L Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
San Jacinto	0	0	0	3	0	0
Park View	0	0	0	2	1	0
Southmore	0	0	0	2	1	0
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	2	1	0
South Houston	0	0	0	1	2	0

#### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 51, Thompson 45  
Park View 46, Queens 28  
Miller 44, South Houston 38  
San Jacinto 52, Jackson 5  
Southmore 55, Bondy 52 (OT)

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
	Thompson	0	0	0	2	1
Miller	0	0	0	2	1	0
Bondy	0	0	0	1	2	0
Queens	0	0	0	0	3	0
Jackson	0	0	0	0	3	0

8D Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
San Jacinto	0	0	0	3	0	0
South Houston	0	0	0	2	1	0
Park View	0	0	0	1	2	0
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	1	2	0
Southmore	0	0	0	0	3	0

#### Game Scores

Thompson 50, Beverly Hills 43  
Queens 41, Park View 20  
South Houston 54, Miller 32  
San Jacinto 44, Jackson 16  
Bondy 40, Southmore 11

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
	Thompson	0	0	0	3	0
Bondy	0	0	0	2	1	0
Miller	0	0	0	2	1	0
Queens	0	0	0	1	2	0
Jackson	0	0	0	0	3	0

### Pasadena ISD

#### Intermediate Boys' Hoops

Through Dec. 5 games

7L Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
Park View	0	0	0	3	0	0
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	2	1	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	1	2	0
Southmore	0	0	0	1	2	0
South Houston	0	0	0	1	2	0

#### Game Scores

Thompson 66, Beverly Hills 39  
Park View 49, Queens 22  
Miller 29, South Houston 22  
Jackson 30, San Jacinto 25  
Bondy 40, Southmore 22

Zone B	W	L	T	W	L	T
	Thompson	0	0	0	3	0
Bondy	0	0	0	3	0	0
Miller	0	0	0	1	2	0
Jackson	0	0	0	1	2	0
Queens	0	0	0	0	3	0

7D Records	District			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
<b>Zone A</b>						
Beverly Hills	0	0	0	2	1	0
Park View	0	0	0	2	1	0
San Jacinto	0	0	0	2	1	0
Southmore	0	0	0	1	2	0
South Houston	0	0	0	1	2	0

#### Game Scores

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# CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

**Al-Anon Deer Park** - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

**Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park** - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

**Houston Area Parkinson Society** - Free exercise and speech therapy for adults with Parkinson's, 3:15 to 4:45 p.m., Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster. Visit [www.hapsonline.org](http://www.hapsonline.org) for details.

**Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details.

**Mended Hearts Cardiac Support Group** - A national organization dedicated to inspiring hope in heart patients and families meets the second Monday at the Clear Lake Heart Towers auditorium, 495 Medical Center Blvd., Webster. A free meal begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker. For information, call 281-538-4648.

**Pearland Overeaters Anonymous HOW Meeting** - Monday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2535 E. Broadway, Pearland. Use door near recycling bins. For details, call 713-865-3668 or visit [www.oahouston.org](http://www.oahouston.org).

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-856-1611.

**Sagamont Civic Club** - Meetings are held the second Monday, 7 p.m., Sagamont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd.

**Friends Helping Friends Grief Support Group** - meets Mondays, Kindred Rehabilitation Hospital, 655 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, 7 to 8:15 p.m., in the Team Conference Room. Anyone who's lost a loved one is welcome. Free. For information, call Mrs. Barry Craven at 281-486-4241 or R. Sanchez at 281-337-4365.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for non-members. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or [csh@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:csh@shaarhashalom.org).

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Russell at 832-483-6715.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

**CCART** - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$35.

**Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club, 281-480-1911, for details.

**Tri-County Republican Women** - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Must have exact cash or a check. For reservations, call Laura Morgan at 281-484-8083.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

**Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit [nalix@texascitizensbank.com](http://nalix@texascitizensbank.com).

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #1530 meets at the Sagamont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class** - Sunday and Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at [drglanford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drglanford@sbcglobal.net) or call 281-488-6318.

**Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish)** - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First

United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.

**Houston Space City Lions Club** - Meets the second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Luby's (11595 Fuqua). For details, call George Malone at 281-438-7243.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - Alcohol problems? Meets Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-204-2481.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

**Young at Heart Club** - Meets the second Wednesday of December for a potluck meal at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Call Doris Byerly at 713-944-4474 for more information. There is no meeting on the fourth Wednesday in December.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has free Hump Day Dance to practice ball-room dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204.

**Un Dia a la Vez Alanon Group (Spanish)** - Support for family/friends of alcoholics/addicts. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, room 215, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

**The Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Church** - celebrates the Mass of the Sorrowful Virgin monthly on Wednesday, 11011 Hall Rd. There may be a special guest Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. For details, call 281-481-6816.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611.

**Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention** - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit [www.bayareaturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for information.

**Bay Area New Democrats** - Meet at the Clear Lake Court House at 1020 W. NASA Pkwy., Suite 204. For information, visit [www.bayareanewdemocrats.org](http://www.bayareanewdemocrats.org).

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club, 281-480-1911, for details.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

**CrossRoads UMC** - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. Directly afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in both English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome to join! 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

**Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets the third Thursday, monthly, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Call 281-481-1238 for details.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.

**Al-Anon (English)** - Support for family and friends of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 215. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

**Alateen** - Support for teens, friends and family members of alcoholics/addicts, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, room 208. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - Alcohol problems? Meets Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Sundays and Tuesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-204-2481.

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# Multi-first team pick Simmons, two others lead Dobie's all-district FB

**Continued from Page 1B**  
 was a first-team selection at two different positions on the offensive side of the field.  
 Simmons, a three-year varsity member, was elected to the first team after reeling in 26 passes for 475 yards and four touchdowns during the regular season.  
 In the final game of his career at Dobie, Simmons caught five passes for 110 yards, including a 53-yard

catch and touchdown run.  
 But Simmons also made his mark in the return game, landing himself the 22-6A first-team honor as a punt returner.  
 During the season, Simmons haunted Sam Rayburn with a 70-yard scoring return against the Texans.  
 Elsewhere for Dobie on the first team, senior offensive lineman Chris Gutierrez was chosen, as was senior defensive back

Ke'Montre Lowe-Ali. The Longhorns' top cover guy in the secondary and a dynamic playmaker in the return game in his own right, Lowe-Ali was special.  
 For each of Dobie's three first-team selections, it was the first time to be awarded all-district status.  
 The Longhorns also landed several players on the 22-6A second team.  
 Senior quarterback Jeremy Davis was a sec-

ond-team pick, as was sophomore tailback Kris Morris, who was the league's Newcomer of the Year in 2015.  
 Defensively, seniors Keith Armstead, Justyce Battles and Westley Crooms all made the second unit. Armstead was the Longhorns' top defensive lineman, and Battles

was solid from his outside linebacking spot.  
 Crooms joined Lowe-Ali in the secondary to

give the Longhorns a solid group on the back line.  
 If there is any downside, it's that each of the Longhorns' first or second-team picks will now graduate, with the exception of Morris, who over his two seasons has developed into one of the district's most dangerous running backs.  
 The Longhorns' honor-

able mention selections included inside linebacker and top tackler Dejuan Dixon and seniors including offensive lineman Elijah Pearson, running back Broderick Martin, defensive tackle Jordan Shea and place kicker Sabino Lozano, a three-year starter who has also punted during his career.

## Second Team Offense

- QB** – *Jeremy Davis, Dobie, Sr.*
- RB** – *Kris Morris, Dobie, Soph.*
- RB** – *Kobra Jones, La Porte, Sr.*
- FB** – *Jason McConnell, La Porte, Sr.*
- WR** – *Damian Phillips, La Porte, Sr.*
- WR** – *Kory Hubbard, South Houston, Sr.*
- WR** – *Noah Trevino, Memorial, Sr.*
- WR** – *Eric Gutierrez, Deer Park, Sr.*
- TE** – *Hunter Hebert, La Porte, Sr.*
- OL** – *Zach Morales, La Porte, Sr.*
- OL** – *Michael Craver, Memorial, Jr.*
- OL** – *Ethan Dorow, Deer Park, Sr.*
- OL** – *Marc Barrera, Deer Park, Sr.*
- OL** – *David Espinal, South Houston, Sr.*
- OL** – *Angel Gomez, Pasadena, Sr.*

## Second Team Defense

- DT** – *Jerrick Callis, Deer Park, Sr.*
  - DT** – *Jake Price, Deer Park, Sr.*
  - DT** – *Rafael Ramos, Sam Rayburn, Jr.*
  - DT** – *Jesse Facundo, Memorial, Jr.*
  - DE** – *Keith Armstead, Dobie, Sr.*
  - DE** – *Brennon Kattner, Memorial, Sr.*
  - DE** – *Everado Martinez, S. Houston, Soph.*
  - ILB** – *Logan Nichols, La Porte, Sr.*
  - ILB** – *Albert Balli, Memorial, Sr.*
  - OLB** – *Josh Romero, South Houston, Sr.*
  - OLB** – *Justyce Battles, Dobie, Sr.*
  - DB** – *Raul Espinal, Memorial, Sr.*
  - DB** – *Joe Castaneda, Pasadena, Sr.*
  - DB** – *Khalil Melton, Deer Park, Sr.*
  - DB** – *Dylan Pullig, Deer Park, Sr.*
  - DB** – *Westley Crooms, Dobie, Sr.*
- Honorable Mention – Dobie**
- ILB** – *Dejaun Dixon, Sr.*
  - RB** – *Broderick Martin, Sr.*
  - DT** – *Jordan Shea, Sr.*
  - K** – *Sabino Lozano, Sr.*
  - OL** – *Elijah Pearson, Sr.*



A two-year varsity performer, Dobie senior Chris Gutierrez (66) saved his best season for his last, ultimately landing on the all-District 22-6A squad as a first-team offensive lineman. Gutierrez helped anchor a senior-



dominated group that cleared holes for a variety of Dobie running backs during the season. Gutierrez joined receiver/punt returner Breon Simmons and defensive back Ke'Montre Lowe-Ali on the first team.  
 Arguably Dobie's top defensive performer for both 2015 and 2016, senior defensive back Ke'Montre Lowe-Ali (2) displayed a willingness to step up and deliver big hits on defense, like the one coming against Summer Creek's Miles Wanza (22). Lowe-Ali also played a big role in Dobie's return game over the past two seasons.

Photos by David Flickinger

- Most Valuable Player**  
*Austin Upshaw, La Porte, Sr. (U)*
- Newcomer of the Year**  
*Torrence Stevens, South Houston, Soph.*
- Offensive Player of the Year**  
*Alex Williams, Memorial, Jr.*
- Defensive Player of the Year**  
*Terrel Bernard, La Porte, Sr. (U)*
- Coach of the Year**  
*Jeff LaReau, La Porte*

## First Team Offense

- QB** – *Hunter Becton, Deer Park, Sr. (U)*
- RB** – *Angel Vargas, Deer Park, Sr. (U)*
- RB** – *Stanley Hackett, Sam Rayburn, Jr. (U)*
- FB** – *Ryan Ragone, Memorial, Jr.*
- TE** – *Jacob Logan, Deer Park, Sr.*
- WR** – *Breon Simmons, Dobie, Sr.*
- WR** – *Kevin Busby, La Porte, Sr.*
- WR** – *Ian Butler, South Houston, Soph.*
- WR** – *Gerald Edmund, Pasadena, Sr.*
- WR** – *Ethan Plunkett, Deer Park, Sr.*
- OL** – *Ryder Rae, La Porte, Sr. (U)*
- OL** – *Ethan Wells, Memorial, Sr. (U)*
- OL** – *Tanner King, Deer Park, Sr. (U)*
- OL** – *Lionel Gonzalez, Deer Park, Sr. (U)*
- OL** – *Shariff Mohammed, La Porte, Sr. (U)*
- OL** – *Brandon Harper, Sam Rayburn, Sr.*
- OL** – *Chris Gutierrez, Dobie, Sr.*

## First Team Defense

- DT** – *Stevon Garcia, Deer Park, Sr.*
- DT** – *Sean Hunt, Sam Rayburn, Sr.*
- DT** – *Izaah Washington, La Porte, Sr.*
- DT** – *David Espinal, South Houston, Sr.*
- DE** – *Dylan Gonzalez, Memorial, Sr. (U)*
- DE** – *Brody Jenkins, Memorial, Sr. (U)*
- DE** – *Ryan Kendzior, La Porte, Soph.*
- ILB** – *Ethan Ponce, South Houston, Sr.*
- ILB** – *Race Moser, Deer Park, Jr.*
- OLB** – *Noah Browder, La Porte, Sr.*
- OLB** – *Bryce Swaim, Deer Park, Sr.*
- OLB** – *Ezra Struwe, Sam Rayburn, Jr.*
- DB** – *Joseph Campbell, Memorial, Soph. (U)*
- DB** – *Ke'Montre Lowe-Ali, Dobie, Sr. (U)*
- DB** – *Trent Soltes, La Porte, Soph. (U)*
- DB** – *Chase Keng, Deer Park, Sr.*
- DB** – *Kade Twitty, Deer Park, Sr.*

## First Team Specialists

- P** – *Bubba Baxa, Memorial, Jr.*
- P** – *Adrian Castellanos, Sam Rayburn, Sr.*
- K** – *Foster Hilborn, La Porte, Sr.*
- D/Snap** – *Alejandro Corrales, Pasadena, Sr.*
- D/Snap** – *Race Moser, Deer Park, Jr.*
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- Kick Ret** – *Kade Twitty, Deer Park, Sr.*

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## Rain causes issues JFD senior event postponed

Heavy rains in the South Belt area forced the Dobie football program's Farewell to Seniors event to be postponed for the foreseeable future.  
 The booster club had planned to use the event to help raise funds for the Longhorns' annual football banquet, which will be held sometime during the spring semester.  
 With the holiday season already here and the district's semester break quickly approaching, booster club officials have elected to wait until the beginning of the spring semester to plan another event of its kind.

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