



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### Sagemeadow meets May 16

Sagemeadow's monthly HOA meeting will be held at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Road on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m. This month's guest speaker will be posted on the website. All meetings are open to the public and are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month. For the agenda or more info, visit, www.sagemeadow.org.

### Knights to host blood drive

The Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive on Sunday, May 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall. Blood is needed every day for medical needs due to health and injuries. All are urged to donate. All are welcome. For more information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358.

### Sageglen meets May 20

The Sageglen Community Association will hold a homeowners meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, May 20, at the Community Building, 11610 Sageglen. All Sageglen residents are urged to attend. Light refreshments will be served. For information, call 281-481-2160.

### PIP meets May 21, 6:30 p.m.

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria in the CES Classroom, first floor of the main building.

Amy Ghiselin, representative for BeSmartForKids.org, who will address gun safety. Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings typically take place the third Tuesday of each month.

For additional information, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776 or Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org.

### Kirkwood Civic Club meets

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 27, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are now scheduled for the last Monday of the month, rather than the last Thursday. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

### CBCMUD holiday set

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. They will reopen on Tuesday, May 28, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box at the drive-thru window. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

### Trash pickup

CCBCMUD residents whose trash service falls on Monday will have regular trash service pickup Memorial Day, May 27. All trash should be placed at curbside no later than 6 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup date will be serviced Thursday, May 30. Residents with Tuesday/Friday service will not be affected.

### Telephone lane to close

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on SH 35/Telephone Road will be closed from Airport Boulevard to Belfort Avenue daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, June 3 (excluding Sundays).

### Local COVID cases reported

The number of reported COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains roughly on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, May 14, there were 286 active cases in 77089, up three from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

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

In 77034, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 93 deaths the previous week.)

Statistics are updated weekly and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit covid-har.riscountycity.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

### Highway 3 closure set

One northbound and one southbound lane of SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed from FM 646 to Clear Creek/Galveston County-Harris County line (near NASA Road 1) daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, May 24 (excluding weekends).

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

### Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one eastbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed at Hughes Road/Sabo continuously through 3 p.m. Saturday, May 25.

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway continuously until further notice. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

At least one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from SH 225 to Pasadena Boulevard continuously until further notice. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

At least one eastbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed at SH 288 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Tuesday, May 28.

## Controversy still surrounds firefighter contract

Controversy continues to surround the passage of the proposed \$650 million back-pay settlement between the city and firefighters union.

Recent revelations indicate that firefighters with the Houston Fire Department do, in fact, make less than their counterparts in surrounding Texas metropolitan cities if a pay analysis is done on an hourly basis, rather than by annual salary, as

HFD employees work fewer hours than firefighters in neighboring cities – a factor seemingly overlooked somehow in the seven-year history of the impasse.

According to newly elected Houston City Chris Hollins, firefighters with the Houston Fire Department work approximately 47 hours a week on average, whereas firefighters in surrounding metropolitan cities average around 56 hours per week.

Contributing to the confusion, the Houston Fire Department is the only metropolitan department in the state that works four-shift rotations, whereas the other large fire departments all work three-shift rotations. This is reportedly due to 80s state law.

This means HFD firefighters have to work only 47 hours before overtime kicks in, whereas firefighters in other metropolitan Texas cities have to work 56 before overtime begins. A biweekly HFD check for 112 hours would be broken down into 93.4 hours of straight time and 18.6 hours of overtime. By comparison, a 112-hour biweekly check for firefighters in other major cities would be considered 112 hours of straight time, including no overtime pay.

Internal records obtained by the *Leader* from city officials indicate the following would be the pay rates of Houston firefighters compared to their peers if calculated on a per-hour basis, rather than an annual salary:

- Houston: \$27.11/hour.

- Austin: \$31.24/hour.  
- Fort Worth: \$28.49/hour.  
- Dallas: \$28.83/hour.

Records show officials indicate the following would be the pay rates of HFD engineers/operators compared to their peers if calculated on a per-hour basis, rather than an annual salary:

- Houston: \$30.62/hour  
- Austin: \$34.69/hour.  
- Fort Worth: \$31.96/hour.  
- Dallas: \$32.65/hour.

Similarly, HFD captains were also undercompensated on an hourly basis compared to their peers, as the following records indicate:

- Houston: \$33.36/hour.  
- Austin: \$36.98/hour.  
- Fort Worth: \$35.13/hour.  
- Dallas: \$36.23/hour.

Other controversial revelations that have come to light regarding the proposed HFD contract involve drug testing and the trading of work hours.

While a copy of the contract obtained by the *Leader* states the department is opposed to illicit drug use, firefighters are to be tested only if another rule or regulation has been broken.

Additionally, the contract states there shall be no limit to the number of hours a firefighter can trade out with other workers. The *Leader* has learned from city officials that some HFD firefighters live out of state and only work a few days

a year, presumably to reap the generous benefits that come with the job.

Noting that the city could not afford the proposed \$650 million settlement – which is expected to climb to roughly \$1.5 billion after interest and future pay raises – without making drastic cuts, Hollins suggested the city could have saved millions of dollars by simply giving Houston firefighters pay raises on par with their peers back in 2017 when the impasse began.

Hollins' statement was met with fierce opposition from both newly elected Houston Mayor John Whitmire and the Houston Professional Firefighters Association, which voted 94 percent in favor of March's tentative agreement.

Passage of the settlement will ultimately be left up to City Council, which ironically has not officially been given a copy of the secretive agreement between Whitmire and the fire union.

Hollins said his recent announcement wasn't to play "Monday morning quarterback" as the mayor recently suggested but to give Council a more complete perspective when considering the issue.

"As we move forward, the goal is to make us more competitive," Hollins said. "As we look backwards, the decision that (Council) has to make is what is a fair number to compensate them for not receiving these raises over time."

Houston City Council is expected to vote on the matter as early as next month.

## Clark wins MUD; recount scheduled

In the razor-sharp May 4 Clear Brook City MUD election between longtime incumbent Chris Clark and challenger Yen Rabe, Clark has increased his lead by one vote, according to district officials.

Cast as a provisional ballot, the vote brings the new total to 313 votes for Clark, compared to 311 for Rabe.

Despite the official vote count being observed by her husband who was in agreement with the count, Rabe has requested she wants a recount of the election. The first night the votes were counted three times Yen's husband was present for the counts.

This recount will be conducted by the county and will be funded by Rabe, as the challenger.

A teacher at Pasadena High School, Rabe has run multiple unsuccessful elections in Pasadena ISD and recently lost her HOA election by only one vote.

## House fire in Kirkmont



Southeast, Pearland and City of Houston fire departments responded to a house fire Saturday afternoon, May 11, in the Kirkmont subdivision. The fire started in the garage and made its way to the kitchen, while the rest of the house sustained smoke and water damage. There were no injuries reported, no one was home at the time of the fire and the family dog was found safe in the neighbor's backyard. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Photo by David Flickinger

## San Jac named top technical, trade college by Houston Business Journal

The Houston Business Journal has named San Jacinto College as the top-rated Houston-area trade school and technical college.

This prestigious acknowledgment underscores San Jacinto College's commitment to providing exceptional education for East Harris County and the Greater Houston region.

The ranking was based on information obtained from Niche.com, a trusted data provider known for its analysis of educational institutions across the United States. Niche.com utilizes a rigorous methodology, drawing upon public information and reviews to produce accurate and insightful rankings, report cards, and profiles for K-12 schools, colleges and neighborhoods.

"We are honored to be recognized as the top-rated trade school and technical college in the Houston area by the Houston Business Journal," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor of San Jacinto College. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff and students, as well as our unwavering commitment to providing high-quality education and training that prepares individuals for success in their chosen fields."

San Jacinto College offers a comprehensive range of programs designed to meet the evolving needs of area industries and equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for starting or advancing their careers. The college works diligently with industry experts to ensure programs and curricula meet the needs of the evolving workforce, and to prepare students for transfer to a four-year college or university.

San Jacinto College offers more than 200 certificate and degree programs, including a bachelor of science in nursing, a new bachelor of applied science in early childhood education and a bachelor's degree in information technology with an emphasis in cybersecurity. The college provides pathways for students to pursue their passions and achieve their professional goals.

San Jacinto College understands the financial burden that many may face when considering continuing their education. For that reason, the college adopted a simplified tuition model, which means students don't pay hid-

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## Residents have options for waste disposal

Houston residents now have more options to make yard-waste disposal easier and more convenient after Mayor John Whitmire and City Council approved the Solid Waste Management Department's plan to improve the city's curbside yard waste collection program.

Effective immediately, approved changes to the city's Code of Ordinances, Article I and Article IV, made provisions to expand the set-out option for participating households of the curbside yard waste collection program. City-approved biodegradable bags bearing the city seal are no longer required. Residents now have the option to use any 100 percent biodegradable bag (or compostable bag) meeting American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) D6400 or EN 13432 specifications.

"These programmatic enhancements are a direct reflection of recommendations received from a variety of residents and civic groups who support the continued growth of our operations," said SWM Director Mark Wilfalk.

Residents may also place curbside yard waste contents in personal reusable refuse containers (excluding city issued 95-gallon refuse carts); or tie and bundle small logs in to 4-foot lengths. Contents in personal reusable containers and bundles of yard waste must not exceed 50 pounds.

### How to participate

The city provides weekly curbside yard waste collection services on the same days as scheduled garbage collection days (periodic service delays may occur). Eligible households can participate in the yard waste curbside collection program by placing their materials at least 3-feet away from their regular trash bins or other obstructions on their designated collection days.

As a reminder, service personnel will not collect curbside yard waste mixed with trash, paper, plastic or any other types of waste. In addition, professional landscaping contractors hired to provide residential services are responsible for properly disposing of any debris resulting from work performed.

## Tip leads to multiple constable arrests

A tip from an alert resident led to multiple arrests Friday, May 11, in the 11600 block of Sage-wind.

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, a resident called in to report that a suspicious car was parked in front of their neighbor's house and that it appeared that items were being stolen from the house and being placed in the vehicle.

Precinct 2 deputies arrived on the scene and began to search the area for the suspect vehicle. Deputies were able to locate the vehicle nearby and detained its three occupants for questioning.

While speaking to the vehicle's driver, identified as Christopher Michael Martin, deputies

found one gram of methamphetamine. Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted, and Martin was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and transported to Harris County Joint Process Center for booking.

The front-seat passenger was identified as Joel Pena Jr. Pena was found to have several outstanding warrants out of Galveston County. Pena was subsequently arrested and transported to Galveston County Jail and turned to their custody.

A female rear-seat passenger was identified as Kelly Fry. Fry had three open misdemeanor warrants out of the League City Police Department.

Fry was arrested and transported to the League City Police Department for processing.

## HCPH raises mental issue awareness

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) will join the national movement to raise awareness about mental health and well-being in observance of May as Mental Health Month.

This year's theme, "Promoting Wellness and Resilience," emphasizes the importance of mental health as a critical component of overall health and encourages individuals to prioritize self-care and seek support when needed. The Behavioral Health Program and Maternal Mental Health Program at HCPH works to increase access to mental health services for Harris County's residents in need of support.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental health disorders affect millions of Americans each year.

Recent statistics indicate the following:

- Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the United States experience mental illness each year.  
- Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide and is a major contributor to the global burden of disease.

- Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, with rates increasing in nearly every state over the past two decades.

It's natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during challenging times, experts say. However, strong emotions or excessive stress can have negative effects on your health. Stress can often be accompanied by the following:

- Feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numb-

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## New Hughes Road traffic light activated

A new traffic signal erected at Hughes Road at Riverstone Ranch Drive was activated Tuesday, May 14, according to county officials.

Intended to alleviate traffic congestion in the area, the signal must first be approved by county inspectors before it can be activated, officials said, noting the measure could be delayed.

County officials acknowledged the need for the signal at a December 2021 meeting at the *Leader*, office, saying it was necessary to accommodate the area's growth in recent years.

Officials at the 2021 meeting said traffic in the area was expected to worsen in fall 2023 with the opening the new Thompson Intermediate campus. Located on Hughes Road near South Belt Elementary, the new 178,000-square-foot cam-

pus was originally to be constructed on Highland Meadows Drive in the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek subdivision but the project was met with great opposition from residents of both the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek and Green Tee Terrace subdivisions, the two neighborhoods that have bordered the proposed campus. To rectify the problem, Pasadena ISD officials arranged a land swap with Meritage Homes, securing a 21-acre plot of land just inside the Pearland city limits.

County officials at the 2021 meeting said additional traffic signals are being considered at the intersections of Blackhawk at Riverstone Ranch Drive and Blackhawk at Hall Road.

Construction and rollout of the new traffic sig-

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## Major accident, no one injured



The box truck shown above on its side had just been in a collision with a vehicle turning from Kirkville Road onto the Beltway feeder. The box truck was then struck by the tractor-trailer, causing it to land on its side, while the tractor-trailer landed in the grassy area between the feeder and the Beltway. There were no serious injuries. Photo by David Flickinger



# South Houston High School announces 5th six-weeks honor roll

Officials of South Houston High School have announced the fifth six-weeks honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Ninth grade**  
Emerson Eduardo Aguilar Perdomo, Jesus Alejandro Aguilera Arana, Sariah Jane Albert Mottley, Melany Mishell Alvarez Borrayo, Emanuel Elizandro Amaya-Urias, Marelin Andrade, Gabriella Ngozi Anowey, Jocelyn Lynette Arevalo, Yeyson Joel Argueta Carranza, Delilah Sannise Bailey and Oliver Barragan.

Rodriguez, Jazzelle Nevaeh Cardona, Allison Marieth Castro Bonilla and Yurem Alejandro Cepeda.  
Jesus Javier Cervantes, Diana Guadalupe Chavez Casillas, Jonathan Chavez, Leah Chavez, Johnny Marcus Comacho, Daniela Sarai Cores Rivas, Emanuel Cruz Mont, Ivan Cruz, William Julian Cruz, Beyonce Raynee Damian, Camila Victoria Del Villar Ramirez, Evanie Ruby Diaz, Samantha Elias and Abigail Aniah Escobar.

Emma Nevaeh Estrada, Hector Ivan Flores, Emerson Xavier Funes, Luis Angel Garcia Ramirez, Sergio Garcia, Wendy Garcia, Rafael Garza, Anthony Joseph Gomez, Alyssa Nicole Gonzalez Rodriguez, Melissa Alejandra Gonzalez-Moz, Rafael Angel Guerra, Diego Alexis

Guillen and Gracie Leeanne Gusman.  
Alessandra Guzman, Ruben Isaias Hernandez Zavala, Isaias Jaden Hernandez, Stephanie Ann Hernandez, Juan Daniel Hinojosa, Anne Tresor Hounmetin, Enrique Izaguirre, Johana Iveth Jaime Fraga, Alexander Juarez, Luis Guillermo Labrador Lucena, Priscila Lopez Monjaraz, Adamari Edith Lopez and Carlos Joaquin Lopez.

Sara Lopez, Nicholas Anthony Majano, Madison Precious Diane Manley, Gladis Yosselin Marquez Rodriguez, Andrea Aalizah Martinez, Valeria Nathalie Martinez, Gleny Rodrigo Mejia Villavir, Arturo Mendoza, Jose Angel Meza and Areli Morales Morales.  
Belen Morales, Abril Moreno, Xavier Alexander

Muhammad, Sonia Gabriela Murcia Reyes, Dabaris Dayana Navarrete Fonseca, Brayden Steven Ordenez Quinayas, Emely Rose Orduno, Divanny Alexandra Orellana, Angelli Jasmin Padilla Enamorado, Ernesto Alexander Palomo Medina, Jacob Abraham Pena, Emilson Lopez Silva and Emily Guadalupe Pinedo.

Isaac De Jesus Pomier Gutierrez, Alexander Portillo, Judah Jacob Nathaniel Quesada, Amy Belen Rivera Jimenez, Mario Alberto Rivera, Dante Maximiliano Rocha, Cecilia Rodriguez, Nancy Carolina Ruano, Marilyn Diana Salazar, Aaron Guadalupe Salinas, Alexander Julian Sandoval, Azul Serrato, Angel Samuel Sosa Villafra, Stephanie Michelle Soto and Aniya Liana Spacek.

Alexia Tamez, Marshall David Tanner, Kate Xochitl Tello, Sofia Torres, Ricardo Dario Vargas, Hanna Vazquez, Brayden Louis Watkins, Vivian Zamarripa, Uriah Amari Zamora and Melanie Aide Zendejo.  
**10th grade**  
Yessenia Acevedo, Melody Ajanae Acosta, Ludvin Alejandro Aleman Retana, Annabelle Almaguer, Judit Elizabeth Almaguer, Jose Alberto Angulo, Erik Josue Arana, Audel Arellano Duarte, Yefferson Eliseo Argueta Argueta, Manuel Arredondo Garcia, Christopher Harold Avila, Ruby Ayala and David Bartolo.

Isaac Cameron Berrospez, Zaid Betancourt, Christiani Ronaldo Bonilla, Ronald Brown Toirac, Jayneria Kniree Brown, Jesse Camacho,

Ricardo Cano, Alejandro Castillo, Arelyn Castillo, Sonia Chavez Ortega, Katia Chavez, Jeovanny Corral, Angel Fernando Cruz Mejia, Andres Cruz and Kristal Anahi Delacruz.  
Kenia Yakeline Diaz-Rivas, Nicole Escobar, and Gideon Mekhi Fowler, Diego Alejandro Franco Morales, Anthony Dario Funez, Alejandro Galindo, Joheli Emmanuel Garcia Gonzalez, Alonso Gabriel Garcia Martinez, Angel Adrian Garcia, Dayana Guadalupe Garcia, Chloe Anese Gillespie, Carlos Elias Gomez, George Jesus Gonzalez Agulla, Antonio Gonzalez, Joel Gonzalez and Raul Ivan Gonzalez.

Meagan Danielle Grays, Brianna Gisel Grimaldo, Sumayah Alure Guadalupe, Miguel Junior Hernandez, Dayanis Araceli Hinojosa, Ann Precieuse Hounmetin, Roman Huerta, Janette Hurtado, Trevion Tremaine Jackson, Anthony Bryan Jaime Fraga, Mayra Jaime Jaime, Anahi Ledesma, Ivan Lopez, Jaqueline Lopez and Anahi Lule.

Elizabeth Sonnier, Juan Daniel Soriano, Jhonatan Elias Sorto Sorto, Kayla Marie Suarez, Sarah Suarez, Erendira Dayanara Torres, Hayden Tinh Tran, Valery Trevino, Isabel Celeste Vasquez and Jayden Adonias Vasquez.  
Giovanni Aaron Vazquez, Daniel Vega, Jamarion Titan Darryel Williams, Annethe Valleria Zacarias Trevizo and Estrella Zavala.

**11th grade**  
Dalilah Acosta, Agustín Jaime Aguilar, Isaela Monique Aguilar, Ghisell Danae Agurto Toapanta, Ashley Yamileth Alvarez, Carolina Alvarez, Kevin Excel Alvarez, Anderson Jose Amaya Urias, Leslie Irene Anaya Rauda, Anastasia Chiamaka Anowey, Jose Guadalupe Aragon, Jocelyn Maree Aranda, Ashley Dallana Ayala Garcia, Galia Barbosa, Maria Fernanda Barboza Castro, Yamilet Becerril and Aryanana Benitez.

Nevaeh Dolores Bernal, Jazmin Bocanegra, Suany Jissel Bonilla Acosta, Alyssa Ann Bowshier, Jordan Corey Buckner, Nevaeh Alianna Buenostro, Carlos Rodery Burgos Reyes, Benito Caden, Christopher Eduardo Calderon, Yeyson Aron Carbajal, Gabriella Alize Castaneda, Emiliano Castilleja, Adamari Castillo, Selina Marisol Chamorro and Melanie Estrella Chaverria.

Cesar Gabriel Chavez, Lee Brandon Cleveland, Barbara Chrystal Collazo, Perla Elizabeth Colmenero, Rosa Contreras, Victoria Raengel Contreras, Nataly Coto-Chong, Jeady Cruz, Valerie Del Valle, Krystal Delgado, Lorenzo Delgado, Areli Sarah Dominguez Perez, Elizabeth Marie Erwin and Kayleen Lupe Erwin.

Sharon Milhuska Escalante, Ruby Espinoza, Erick Javier Estrada Guity, Edna Michelle Fernandez, Alyssa Arianna Flores, Jennifer Flores, Ariana Franco, Kylie Kamoura Gale, Isbery Abigail Garcia Romero, Diego Eli Garcia, Lupita Garcia, Xzavian Garcia, Rogelio Garibay, Aldemy Joselin Garza, Alinna Zenett Garza, Ariana Dominique Garza and Brizeida Yaris Garza.

Giselle Alexis Garza, Mia Jazmin Gaytan, Deborah Debabush Getu, Cecilia Regina Rodriguez, Christopher Joel Gomez, Freddie Gonzales, Diana Lee Gracia, Aldo Guajardo, Cynthia Azul Guerrero, David Emmanuel Guevara, Debanhy Alizuel Guillen, Karina Lorraine Guillen, Lilian Alazay Gutierrez, David Daniel Guzman, Rayne Marie Hale and Brian Hernandez

Guerrero.  
Joselyn Hernandez, Kennedy Denisse Hernandez, Ana Celia Herrera, Jordan Moises Hinojosa, Kaitlyn Elizabeth Houston, Thanh Truc Huynh, Aniya Cyann Johnson, Marina Gissell Joya Campos, Adrian Juarez, Edward Steve Juarez, Jennifer Arlyn Leanos-Avina, Kamren Jade Linsey, Cecilia Yesica Lopez Gonzalez, Antonio Rodriguez Lopez and Jazmin Lopez.

Juan Ramon Lopez, Felix Reyli Lozano, Patricia Noemy Luna Argueta, Zariyah Amori Madison, Raquel Janae Malbro, Amanda Mae Martinez, Brianna Elyssa Martinez, Eduardo Isaias Martinez, Joaanth Yasireth Martinez, Raphael J Martinez, Ricardo Ivan Martinez and William Darwin Martinez.

Braden Lewis Mayberry, Robert McKinney, Cecilia Abigail Molina, Cindy Giselle Molina, Adriana Montemayor, Sonia Stefany Morales Cordon, Jonathan Jahaziel Morales, Kevin Alexis Morales, Miguel Angel Moreno, Kiara Rochel Moya De La Rosa, Paulina Moyeda Gonzalez, Kimberly Negrete, Kristi Ngoc Nguyen, Leslie Catherine Oliveros, and Vanessa Ximena Ortiz.

Diego Sebastian Osejo, Leonardo Otero Cuza, Axel Blake Otto, Jalissa Denise Page, Ruben Palacios, Noah Emmanuel Zamudio Parras, Kelly Patel, Christopher Jovanny Pena, Christian Alberto Perez, Cojisce De'andre Peterson, Thien Phuc Pham, Jovanny Enrique Portillo and Valerie Michelle Portillo.

Jovany Quezada, Christy Chris Ram, Camila Yumalai Ramirez, Cierra Sky Ramirez, Fatima Nayeli Ramirez, Tyler Ethan Ramirez, Xiomara Sophia Ramirez, Caitlin Alyse Ramos, Aliyana Marie Rangel, Hugo Sebastian Rangel, Roselyn Rangel, Trayveon Da'metries Raymond, Camila Rebollosa, Abigail Retiz, Inary Monsterrat Reyes, Joselin Jamileth Rios and Cassandra Rivas.

Carlos Eduardo Rivera, Jennifer Elizabeth Rivera, Chelsea Jane Robertson, Allison Robles, Angel Oziel Rodriguez Castillo, Giovany Rodriguez, Aldamaris Roman Tellez, Alexis Jacqueline Romero, Emily Rubalcava, Deevanie Gizzelle Sanchez, Lindsey Alize Sanchez, Diego Fabian Santillan and Rodolfo Sarmiento.

Jonathan Yahir Saucedo, Irene Yaretzi Soto, Ximena Victoria Storkamp, Camron Jarrell Taylor, Jakeya Nashae Toliver, Xiomara Berenice Torres, Nancy Georgina Trevino, Betzabet Trinidad Yezpe, Joaquin Vargas, Jonathan Alonzo Vargas, Danyel Marie Vasquez, Maniah Jany Velez, Ruby Vences, Pamela Melina Viera, Sairah Ivania Villalobos, Courtney Claire Wright and Ruby Maritza Zuviri.

**12th grade**  
Mikaela Angelina Acosta, Galilea Aguilera, Andrew Alcantar, Michael Adam Alcantar, Jessica Jimena Alfaro, Elizabeth Almaguer, Christopher Almanza, Carolina Alvarado, Georgianna Alvarado, Maria Arcelia Alvarez Ramos, Cecilio Avila, Andrea

Lizbeth Ayala and Johana Isela Barragan.  
Jonathan Barrientos, Amy Zarhai Becerra, Breana Yiselle Benitez, Christopher Ramiro Bowshier, Ovidio Bustillo, Dora Leticia Caballero, Ashley Marie Cadena, Andrea Coronado Calvillo, Ashly Daniela Canales Arias, Gustavo Cano-Mercado, Jose Cardoza, Emily Castillo and Nayely Alejandra Castro Martinez.

Jenny Quynh-Nhu Chau, Aaron Giovanni Chavarria, Maura Rene Colon, Rosanna Rene' Correa, Lester Joel Cortes Varela, Arlet Rubi Delgado, Paola Yazmin Diaz Galvan, Abraham A Escareno, Syntrel Curtis Evans, Everth Alessandro Flores, Jesus Everardo Flores, Natalia Liseth Funes, Aldo Damian Garcia Loya and Abraham Garcia.

Angela Jimena Garcia, Naomy Garcia, Nathalie Paola Garcia, Alexis Jocelyn Garza, Emily Nicole Garza, Ethan Alexander Garza, Dahlila Gomez, Rachel Denise Gonzalez Rodriguez, Angel Eduardo Gonzalez Torres, Juan Izreal Gonzalez, Eddie Guerrero, Will'aysia Shaunia Harris, Edwin Lee Hernandez Angeles, Cristian Yovanni Hernandez, Martin Hernandez and Valeria Ysabel Hernandez.

Aaron Emmanuel Herrera, Angela Celeste Herrera, Elisa Nicole Herrera, Jordyn Ba-reigh Hodge, Odyssey Akoua Hounmetin, Kayla Denise Hughes, Jose Juan Labra, Joshua Mycheal-Junaven Larry, Kayleen Melody Leal, Abril Leon, Stormy Eve Lindsey, Hamilton Leonardo Lopez De Leon, Francisco Nazario Lopez Tejada, Anahi Lopez, Daniela Maldonado and Jesus Marin.

Judith Martinez, Raul Martinez, Ariana Mendoza, Angelina Gloria Molina, Alondra Maria Aidee Morales Cordon, Stephanie Moreno, Edgar Alejandro Najera, Rogelio Palma, Emily Michelle Parra, Wendy Selina Perez Morales, Michelle Anahi Perez, Ryan Duong Pham, Adrian Rey Pineda, Fernando Arturo Pruneda and Kaylee Marie Ramirez.

Joanna Monserrat Ramos, Najavi Gisel Ramos, Melissa Anahi Rangel, Rosa Anayeli Reyes, Maria Fernanda Rivera Robles, Andres Rivera, Kimberly Siomara Rivera, Stacie Paola Rivera, Cheyenne Elizabeth-Kaye Robertson, Karina Judith Robledo, Josephine Robles, Silvio Alejandro Rodriguez Suarez, Mansa Kawan Rogers and Carlos Roman.

Victoria Isabelle Romano, Monika Romero, Adrian Felipe Ruiz, Rosalinda Salazar, Natalie Salinas, Brayan Sanchez, Roselin Serna, Sonia Edith Sevilla, Urva Manish Shah, Irma Sarahi Sosa Villafra, Salomon Eduardo Sosa, Miracle Zoe Soto, Bryanna Grace Suarez, Mariela Dalibe Urias-Sarmiento, Gabriel Valenzuela, Bryan Alexander Vargas and Jamileth Vasquez.

Noemi Crystal Vasquez, Daniel Elias Vazquez, Oscar Vilchis, Angela Daniela Villafranco, Taylah Ne'chel Washington, Ashley Zarate, Mya Beyonce Zavala and Evelyn Zavaleta.

## Morris students selected by Young Writers Anthology



Brandon Pena, a sixth-grade reading teacher at Morris Middle School, had students enter a poetry contest recently and 26 students were selected to be published in the Young Writers Anthology. Pictured above, left to right, are Layla Guerra, Zoey Trevino, Natalie Graff, Ivory Reyes, Erik Galaviz and Alan Montano.



Shown above, left to right, are Jai'den Jacobs, Genesis Banda, Sophia Ramos, Layla Villanueva, Jaelyn Alvarez and Alani Bravo who were among the 26 Morris Middle school students published in the Young Writers Anthology.



Shown, left to right, are Emma Lopez, Huy Huynh, Zamorion Steward, Mason Moya, Kayden Milton and Abigail Herrera who were also among the 26 students at Morris Middle School students published in the Young Writers Anthology.



Pictured, left to right, are Zuri Dias, Emily Martinez, Sofia Barrios, Phillip Nguyen, Jonathan Gonzalez, Justin Ward, Devon Thompson and Carlos Garcia from Morris Middle School who were also selected to be published in the Young Writers Anthology.

## Internships available

Harris County Precinct 2 Workforce Development Division has announced the opening of the online application for the 2024 Step-Up Internship Program.

It has been a yearly goal of Commissioner Adrian Garcia to offer eligible students an internship position where they earn while they learn. The program will last nine to 10 weeks at \$15 per hour, 32 hours per week. Applicants must be a Precinct 2 residents, be 18 years old at the time of application and be high school seniors or currently enrolled in a college, university, or in a trade technical program. Applicants must pass a drug screen, background check and have reliable transportation. Interested students apply at [bit.ly/2024StepUpInternship](http://bit.ly/2024StepUpInternship). If one has questions, call 346-217-5297 or email, [workforce@pct2.hctx.net](mailto:workforce@pct2.hctx.net).

## SJC wins dual honors

Continued from Page 1  
finalists were selected out of more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide. Next month, the list of finalists will be dwindled to 10 semifinalists, which will then be further analyzed. The winner of the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence will be announced in spring 2025. For information on the Aspen Prize or see a list of semifinalists, visit [higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize](http://higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize).

This marked the second time in just one month the area college was honored, as it was announced last week that San Jacinto College was named one of 20 semifinalists for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The announcement marked the fifth consecutive year San Jac has been nominated for the prestigious honor, which comes with a \$1 million prize. Despite the multiple nominations, the college has yet to claim the top prize. The honor was due in large part to San Jacinto College's dedication to working with industry partners to supply a pipeline of well-trained workers to fill much needed jobs in the region. The college provides workforce training in programs such as biomanufacturing/biotechnology, autonomous vehicles and aerospace. "Our workforce philosophy reflects our commitment to quality training, authentic learning, and curricula that emphasize critical thinking, professionalism, collaboration, and communication," said Dr. Laurel Williamson, San Jac deputy chancellor and college president. "We maintain close relationships with the industries that drive our economy in this region to ensure we are providing a skilled workforce that meets the needs for our partners today and in the future. We listen first and then work collaboratively on solutions." The 20 Aspen Prize semi-

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## Dobie students commit to University of Texas



J. Frank Dobie students who are committed to the University of Texas for this fall are left to right, Sabrina Pector, Emily Reyes, Kaleb Luna, Leena Pham, Jorge Escobar, Lydia Golenko, Chelsea Akinloye and Kayla Tran.

## Frazier Owls awarded scholarships



Frazier Elementary School recently held its annual Scholarship Awards Night. Six former Frazier Owls were awarded scholarships. Frazier students and staff and its donors wish all former Owls well on their next adventure - "Once an Owl; always an Owl." Shown, left to right, are John Gorman, Darianny Mercedez, Cyn-di Moore and John Gorman Jr. The Gorman family awarded the Karen Gorman Memorial scholarship to Mercedes. This year marked the 26th anniversary that the scholarship has been awarded, honoring Karen Gorman, who was a fourth-grade teacher at Frazier. Mercedes plans to pursue a path in agricultural education.

## CTHS students earn tools, scholarships



Kevin McIlveen is the new Auto Collision teacher at Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School in Pasadena ISD. He has 40 years of experience in the industry and is a former business partner to the district and program before taking the teaching position. To say that his transition from industry to the classroom has been smooth is quite an understatement. McIlveen has taken the program and run with it and is the recipient of the campus New Teacher of the Year award. His work and dedication is evident in his students' recent success at the Universal Technical Institute Top Tech Challenge where his students took six of the top 10 spots. This earned them a set of tools/toolboxes; \$25,500 in scholarships; and ultimate bragging rights.

Shown, left to right, are Kevin McIlveen, teacher; Victor Rodriguez, field admissions representative; Carlos Morales, first place, \$10,000 scholarship; Brandon Rivera second place, \$7,500 scholarship; and Joseph Montoya, UTI admissions director.



Students of Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School were successful at the UTI Top Tech Challenge, earning a set of tools/toolboxes and \$25,500 in scholarships. Pictured, left to right, are Kevin McIlveen, teacher; Victor Rodriguez, field admissions representative; Josue Reyna, seventh place, \$1,000 scholarship; Jesus Mondragon, fifth place, \$1,000 scholarship; Brandon Rivera; Carlos Morales; Isaiah Arredondo; Daniel Alvarez, sixth place, \$1,000 scholarship; and Joseph Montoya, UTI admissions director.



Frazier principal Wendy Wiseburn (left) presented the PTO Cecilia Ramirez Memorial scholarship to Ezekial Arriaga.



Anthony Martinez (right) was awarded the Frank, Elda & Kimberly Wiseburn Memorial scholarship by Wendy Wiseburn, principal.



Teacher Gustavo Gomez (left) presented Jeovany Rodriguez with the Frazier Owl scholarship.



School counselor Araceli Rodriguez (left) awarded Belle Perridon the Frazier Student Council Leadership scholarship.

## Remember When

**45 years ago (1979)**  
Texas Rangers were red-faced when they found they transported Sen. Gene Jones' brother to Austin, thinking all the time that they had the senator in custody.  
**40 years ago (1984)**  
Two area constables arrested a teenager and a 20-year-old Freeway Manor resident after a high-speed chase, which began in the South Belt area.  
**35 years ago (1989)**  
Dobie High School teacher Kathleen Murrell was named one of three state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics.  
**30 years ago (1994)**  
Three pine trees were stolen out of the front yard of a home in the Kirkmont subdivision.  
**25 years ago (1999)**

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Grace Community Church were scheduled at the church's new location on the east side of the Gulf Freeway between Scarsdale and Dixie Farm Road.  
Mayor Lee P. Brown's appearance before the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce was rescheduled as the area was pelted with nearly 7 inches of rain.  
**20 years ago (2004)**  
Officials with the city's Neighborhood Protection department were working with community members to clean up properties in the South Belt area.  
There was a significant increase in drug-related activities in the South Belt and its schools according to law enforcement officials.  
San Jacinto College South's Professor Pam Campbell was the 2004 nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper national award.  
Houston voters approved Proposition One with a 73 percent to 27 percent margin.  
Incumbent Vickie Morgan retained her Position 7 seat on the Pasadena Independent School District's board of trustees.  
Channel 11 News falsely took credit for sidewalks constructed on Beamer. Clear Brook MUD general manager Chris Clark actually initiated the sidewalk construction.  
**15 years ago (2009)**  
Houston City Council member Mike Sullivan held a town hall meeting. Representatives from several other city branches as well as the Harris County Flood Control District were also in attendance. The councilman spoke on the new Bracewell Library branch, road repair

work on South Shaver Street between the Gulf Freeway and Highway 3, construction of an addition to the Sagemont Community Center on Hughes Road, his opposition to the proposed construction of the low-income Dixie Gardens apartment complex on Dixie Farm Road and how he had worked extensively to close the unsafe Alameda Chateau complex on Kingspoint back in March.  
City of Houston officials held a meeting to discuss area flooding and drainage issues. Residents from throughout the Greater Houston area attended the function, despite the fact it had been arranged at the last minute with little notice. Multiple South Belt residents were among those in attendance.  
The YMCA announced its plan to close the seniors' fitness center at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital upstaging many of its members. Under the direction of the Vic Coppinger Family YMCA in Pearland, the center had been open since 1988. The decision to close the satellite branch stemmed from lack of funds and declining membership, according to Trazanna Moreno, spokeswoman for the YMCA of Greater Houston.  
Jeffrey J. Mullen, 33, was killed in a motorcycle accident in the 13400 block of the Gulf Freeway.  
**10 years ago (2014)**  
James Burkart announced he would be stepping down as head pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist to take a new position at Christ the Good Shepherd

Community in Spring. Burkart began as pastor at St. Luke in January 2008, replacing Stephen R. Horn. Burkart was replaced by the Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, who previously served as parochial vicar of St. Michael Catholic Church in the Galleria area.  
**5 years ago (2019)**  
Extreme storms pounded the South Belt community Thursday, May 9, causing widespread flooding and power outages. According to Harris County officials, the rain gauge at the Beamer ditch Hughes Road recorded 4.72 inches of rainfall over a 24-hour period. The precipitation came just two days after another storm dumped 3.4 inches of rain at the same gauge Tuesday, May 7.  
**1 year ago (2023)**  
The results from the May 7 elections have been tallied, with voters deciding on multiple state and local contests. Locally, voters handily approved all three proposals of the \$305 million Pasadena ISD bond referendum. In the Clear Creek ISD election, Misty Dawson narrowly defeated Jessica Cejka in the race for District 1 trustee, beating her by just one vote. In the contest for Clear Creek ISD At-Large Position B trustee, incumbent Scott Bowen will maintain his seat, defeating challengers Kyrsten Garcia and Carl Nunn. In the Sagemeadow MUD election, incumbent Ted Heinrich was defeated by write-in candidate Seth Webb. Incumbents Edward "Figg" Figueroa and Dean Baier maintained their seats on the Sagemeadow MUD board.  
A plane was forced to crash-land in a field near Dobie9 Friday, May 6. The

airplane was to fly to San Antonio when it experienced problems taking off from Hobby and was forced to land. The plane crashed into the fence of a nearby residence before coming to a stop. While the crash coincided with the school's dismissal time, no one was injured, including the plane's four passengers. The accident knocked out power to surrounding residences for several hours.



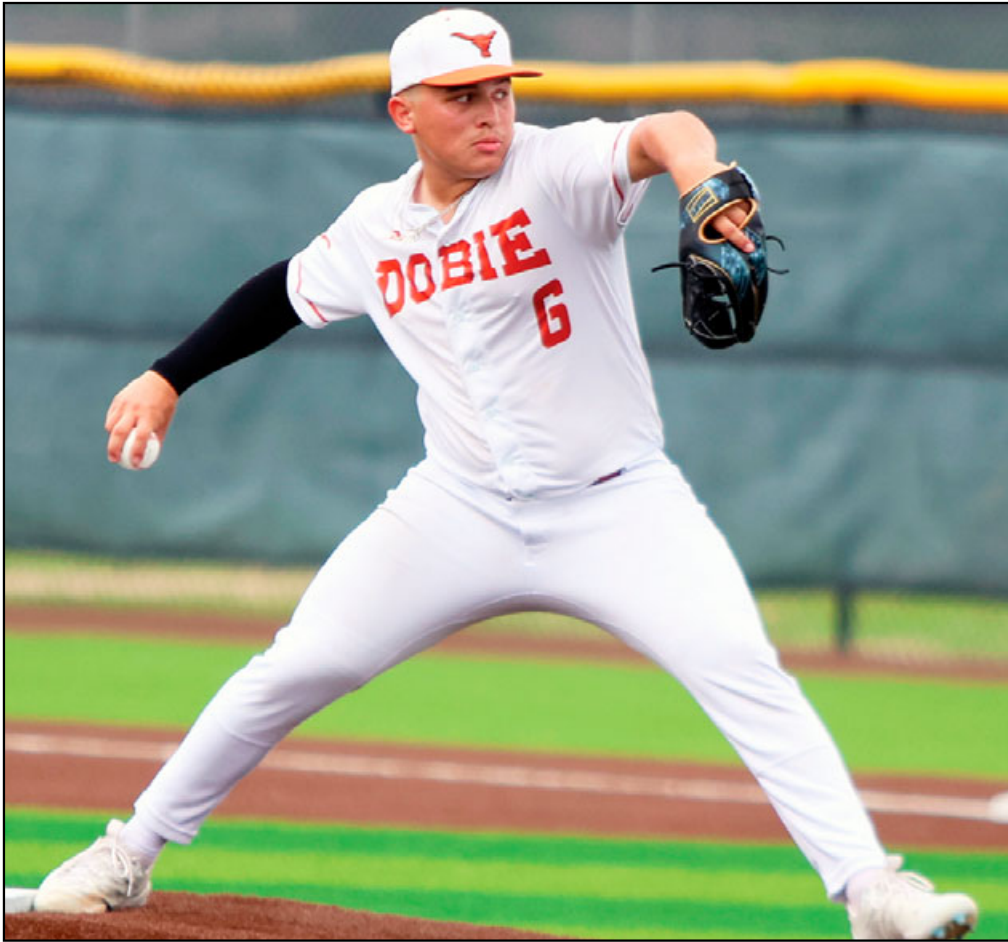
Quac-An Ngo (third from right) received the Widow Warriors scholarship. Pictured, left to right, with Ngo are Widow Warriors Romona Lacroix, Mary Renfro, Terri McGrew, Patty Bourg and Lolita Neil.

## Over The Back Fence by Natalie

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JACLYN!**  
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to former Leader staffer **Jaclyn Tremont** May 20 from her friends, family and the Leader staff.  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COURTNEY!**  
**Courtney Durham** celebrates a happy birthday May 20. Best wishes are sent to her from children **Abigail, Jackson and Penelope Durham**; parents **Fred and Leslie Flickinger**; sister **Kimberly** and husband **Matt Lipina**; uncle **David (Leader president)** and his wife **Ellie Flickinger**; grandmother **Olive Falkowski**; grandfather **John Fairchild**; grandparents **Marie (Leader publisher)** and **David Flickinger**; and friends and the Leader staff.  
**JACKSON TURNS 8!**  
Best wishes for a happy eighth birthday May 21 are sent to **Jackson Durham** from parents **Courtney and Chris Durham**, sisters **Abigail and Penelope**; aunt **Kimberly** and husband **Matt Lipina**; grandparents **Fred and Leslie Flickinger**; great-grandmother **Olive Falkowski**; great-grandfather **John Fairchild**; great-grandparents **Marie and David Flickinger**; and great-uncle **David Flickinger (Leader president)** and his wife **Ellie**.  
**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena ISD celebrate birthdays May 16 through May 22.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
Break out the birthday cake and ice cream May 18 for **Susan Blue**.  
**Hancock Elementary**  
Light the birthday candles on a cake for **Amber Rost** May 18. Blow out the candles May 19 for **Bobbi Williams**. **Ami Perez** enjoys a birthday May 24.  
**Meador Elementary**  
Remember to wish **Lizette Saldana** a happy birthday May 16. Send a happy birthday greeting May 18 to **Nereyda Lerma**. Special birthday greetings are in order for **Stephanie Bounds** on May 21.  
**Moore Elementary**  
**Sandra Garza** celebrates a birthday May 17. Birthday greetings go out to **Jennifer Christen** April 18.  
**South Belt Elementary**  
**Madelyn Maxwell** enjoys a birthday May 18. **Kelly Kimball** celebrates birthday May 22.  
**Roberts Middle School**  
**Daniel Alcaron** enjoys a birthday May 19. Light the candles on a triple-layer cake May 20 for **Denise Gourley, Prescila Lozano and Charlya Mason**.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
May 22 is the day for a fun celebration for **Shara Reyna**.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Celebrating a birthday May 16 is **Anne Berry**. Send a happy birthday greeting May 18 to **Heather Anders**. The day for a party for **Daniel Jacobs** is May 19. Birthday wishes go out to **Michah Strickland** May 21.  
**Dobie High**  
Happy birthday greetings are sent to **Tyler Ruberg** May 18.  
**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, May 16: **Anthony Swilley, Alan Adams, Keith Walker, Kenny Napper and Allyson McMillen**; Friday, May 17: **Becky Henry, Roland Kennedy, Gina Houghton and Jessica Nixon**; Saturday, May 18: **Melody Tanner, Brian Conn, Sheila Neal, Jessica Ramirez De La Cruz, Alondra Cristina and Rachel Mooney**; Sunday, May 19: **Melanie Martin, Tanya Williams, Jonathan Pearson, Robby Asbury, Leah Poirer and Laura Scott**; Monday, May 20: **Norma Pruneda, Joey Martinez, Mike Freeman, Juan Cruz, Tami Richardson, Kathy Swift and Al Carter**; Tuesday, May 21: **Vance Britt, Shelly Woodin, and Kimberly Garza**; and Wednesday, May 22: **Felicia Ayala, Kevin Dalley, Bill Mondy and Becki Withers**.  
**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line on Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Pearland baseball sweeps past Dobie in area playoff round matchup



The Dobie varsity baseball team saw its 2024 season come to a close as defending state finalist Pearland claimed 6-1 and 7-0 wins to sweep the area round playoff series between the two programs May 9-10. Above, Dobie right-hander Cruz



Torres (6) pitched in the second game for the Longhorns and will now enter 2025 as a three-year varsity starter. He earned a win in the bidistrict series sweep of Summer Creek as the Longhorns advanced for the second straight year. Dobie's Michael Montano (19) was part of a senior class of 2024 that contributed greatly this spring as the Longhorns were in the final 16 teams in the region still playing after reaching the area playoff round. Photos by Donna Alsdorf

## Stafford takes Northbrook gig; Dobie football job has opening

Demond Stafford is out as Dobie High School's varsity head football coach after two seasons and has been approved for the same role at Spring Branch ISD's Northbrook High School following school board approval May 6.

In response, Pasadena ISD posted the Dobie opening May 8, and those with knowledge of the proceedings said the plan is to present a candidate for board approval May 28.

Stafford, who guided the Longhorns to the District 22-6A championship in 2023, was 12-10 over the 2022 and 2023 seasons and has taken over a Northbrook High School program that has gone 1-59 over the previous six seasons.

Multiple sources who spoke to the *Leader* regarding the move pointed to a perfectly reasonable explanation for Stafford doing so — a significant pay hike.

While the Dobie program has annually been in the mix for playoff berths with a current run of six straight, Northbrook has the single win over the same time span.

Yet, as with any job, financial compensation of course takes center stage.

Last November, the Houston Chronicle published a report outlining the compensation packages of varsity head football coaches from Houston area school districts which responded to the Chronicle's public records request, the lone holdout La Porte ISD.

The report detailed that Stafford's annual compensation at Dobie was

a shade over \$105,000, with then Northbrook High School's Andres Gomez at nearly \$108,000. That small jump perhaps

Continued on Page 6



After two seasons at Dobie, Demond Stafford has been named the varsity football head coach at Northbrook High School.

## Ravens book World Series trip

Choccolocco Park in Oxford, Ala. is the host site for the NJCAA's Division I World Series, with Florida SouthWestern state bidding for a fourth straight crown and top-ranked McLennan also aiming to win it all.

McLennan, 57-2 overall this season, has earned the top seed at the World Series.

Region 14 postseason tournament champion Galveston is at the World Series for the first time since 2018 as the No. 7 seed. The Whitecaps will

take on No. 10 seed Wallace State.

San Jacinto College is back at the series for the third time in four seasons and has drawn the No. 12 seed. The locals will take on fifth-seeded Temple.

The Ravens will be led into the national championship tournament by star shortstop Arriana Wright, who has been named the conference and region Player of the Year for the second straight season.

Wright, who has committed to play at Grand Canyon University begin-

ning this fall, is hitting .500 with 70 runs driven in, having delivered 27 doubles, 15 home runs and 77 runs scored, all team bests by a considerable margin.

Continued on Page 6

The Ravens will be led into nationals by star shortstop Arriana Wright (right), who has been named the conference and region Player of the Year for the second straight season. Wright, who has committed to play at Grand Canyon University beginning this fall, is hitting .500 with 70 runs driven in, having delivered 27 doubles, 15 home runs and 77 runs scored.



**San Jacinto College (12) vs. Temple College (5)**  
May 20, Oxford, Miss.

## Lajaunie fund awards scholarships

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund has undergone a few changes for 2024, but student academic collegiate scholarships remain the focus, with a pair of Dobie Class of 2024 senior tennis players the recipients of \$1,000 awards.

Ladies' Lajaunie Grand Slam scholarship recipient Leena Pham, who currently plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin,

will major in biology with the goal of becoming a pediatrician.

A standout player within the Dobie tennis program the past four years, Pham is one of many Dobie netters who have benefited from the scholarship fund honoring Lajaunie, also a Dobie graduate.

Joining Pham as 2024 Lajaunie scholarship awardees is Ryan Le, who plans to major in busi-

ness at the University of Houston. Like Pham, Le has lent his talents to the Dobie tennis team over the past four years.

While Lajaunie Scholarship Fund founder Camille Lajaunie has elected to focus on scholarship fundraising after in-person tournament play waned in recent years, the goal has not changed.

Having provided \$69,500 in collegiate ac-

ademic scholarship funds and another 37 youth tennis camp scholarships since 2012, Lajaunie raises funds on a year-round basis.

Pham, a co-captain of the Dobie tennis program during the 2023-2024 school year, believes one of her strengths with the Longhorns was getting the best out of her teammates during training and match play. Pham said she takes inspiration from tennis legend Serena Williams who is her role model.

The senior added that Williams taught her to be strong, and that no matter from where one is, one

Continued on Page 6



Dobie varsity tennis team standouts and class of 2024 graduates Ryan Le (left) and Leena Pham are this school year's recipients of the Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund awards. Le plans to study business at the University of Houston, with Pham headed to the University of Texas at Austin to study biology.

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# San Jacinto College softball reaches JUCO World Series

Continued from Page 5

As all programs do, San Jacinto College dealt with its share of injuries, lulls in play and other on and off the field things that can beset the plan.

Still, the Ravens positioned themselves for a South Division championship.

A rough day at Galveston on the final day of the

regular season forced a first-place tie at 18-6 with Galveston College.

From there, San Jac entered the postseason as a No. 2 seed before defeating Bossier Parish 3-1 and Trinity Valley 6-4 prior to meeting Galveston in the Region 14 Postseason Tournament championship game.

Galveston coasted to

a 19-1 win to qualify for nationals, meaning San Jacinto College met Tyler for the remaining national berth out of Region 14. A 10-4 win for the Ravens has delivered a third trip in four seasons to the World Series.

"This team is resilient," head coach Kelly Saenz said. "During the course of any season, you are going

to get knocked down. We did, but we kept getting back up. That's a credit to these ladies for continuing to push."

With 21 seasons and more than 700 career wins to her credit, Saenz has clearly built a program that expects excellence. She says the formula is simple.

"The expectations are

always the same, but I think we as a staff try to adapt and have an understanding of our players and how best to help our players be successful from year to year.

"It's a different scenario from year to year, and it's important to try to work together to reach the end goal. We've been pretty successful with it."



San Jacinto College freshman third baseman Madison Carr (12) has hit .396 so far this season with 49 runs scored and 45 runs driven in. She has earned first team All-Conference and second team All-Region honors.



San Jacinto College sophomore Maggie Evans (6) has earned first team All-Conference and second team All-Region honors as she has hit .383 this season with 43 runs driven in and 32 runs scored heading into World Series play.



Dobie star running back Cameron Mathews (2) is just one of several top-producing skill players returning on offense as the new varsity football head coach will have several focal points with which to choose from during the 2024 season. Mathews was the Most Valuable Player in 22-6A as a junior.

## Dobie search committee to seek new coach

Continued from Page 5

wouldn't be reason enough to jump to a program with one win in six years.

But it must also be noted that three other Spring Branch ISD head coaches pulled down more than \$124,000 annually, which should change the outlook for most coaches. In fact, it should change the outlook for those working in any profession.

As for Dobie, the timing is not great. While the Longhorns' coaching staff has spent months planning to reload a varsity roster that will incur key personnel/graduation losses at nearly all position

groups, spring football practices will conclude prior to the introduction of the new head coach.

The next person in charge, should the search committee hire from the outside as anticipated, will instead get up to speed via staff conversation and film study.

And while the program's incoming leader will likely maintain a majority of the coaching staff heading into the 2024-2025 school year, there could be some change in the ranks as well.

While the Longhorns have faced state powers North Shore or Atascoci-

ta in the first round of the state playoffs in each qualifying season since 2005 and thus have not won a postseason game since 2004, the job will surely be highly coveted.

Several current assistant coaches with ties to Dobie have submitted resumes for the job in at least the previous two hiring searches and could very well do so again. The search committee will have plenty of options.

A new era of Dobie football is officially in the works as the head coach will also lead the Longhorns into a revamped 22-6A that will be as chal-

lenging as ever for the locals.

Newcomers Dawson, Manvel, Pearland and Shadow Creek all made the postseason in 2023, as did Dobie and Memorial.

Within the new nine program league, there should be a playoff-like atmosphere on a weekly basis.

The clock is ticking, with 7-on-7 summer leagues coming next month and the start of preseason workouts set for Aug. 12.

Dobie will open the varsity regular season Aug. 29, hosting Clear Brook at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

## NJCAA World Series

- 1) McLennan (57-2)
- 2) Indian Rivers State (55-10)
- 3) NW Florida State (55-4)
- 4) Florida SouthWestern (54-8)
- 5) Temple (49-11)
- 6) Salt Lake 47-7)
- 7) Galveston (43-13)
- 8) Chattanooga State (41-14)
- 9) Southern Idaho (46-14)
- 10) Walters State (43-9)
- 11) Wallace State (35-12)
- 12) San Jacinto (41-23)
- 13) Odessa (41-12)
- 14) Pima (42-12)
- 15) Hutchinson (46-10)
- 16) Lake Land (47-12)
- 17) Iowa Western (38-17)
- 18) Connors State (38-11)
- 19) Abraham Baldwin (34-16)
- 20) Trinidad State (37-14)

## Brook's Norl plays in HABCA All-Star Game



Clear Brook senior Zion Norl (left) took part in the Houston Area Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game series May 8 at St. Thomas University, making an appearance while representing the Wolverines a final time. At right is Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball head coach Nathan Janak. Norl has signed to play collegiately at Midland University in Fremont, Neb., after signing a letter of intent with the Warriors' National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program.

## Barba leads Galveston softball to World Series

At right, Dobie Class of 2022 graduate and current Galveston College sophomore Karlie Barba is one of the nation's leaders in home runs as she will guide her Whitecaps' team to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Softball World Series May 20-25, in Oxford, Ala. Barba has enjoyed a stat-filled two-year run at Galveston, including 27 home runs this season that have her in a fourth-place tie nationally. Hitting .432, Barba has driven in 79 and scored 72 runs along the way. She's added 16 doubles. Galveston shared the Region 14 South Division title with San Jacinto, then defeated the Ravens 19-1 to qualify for the World Series as the Region 14 Postseason Tournament champion. At 43-13 overall, the Whitecaps are back at the World Series for the first time since 2018 and have earned the No. 7 seed and a first-round matchup against Wallace State.



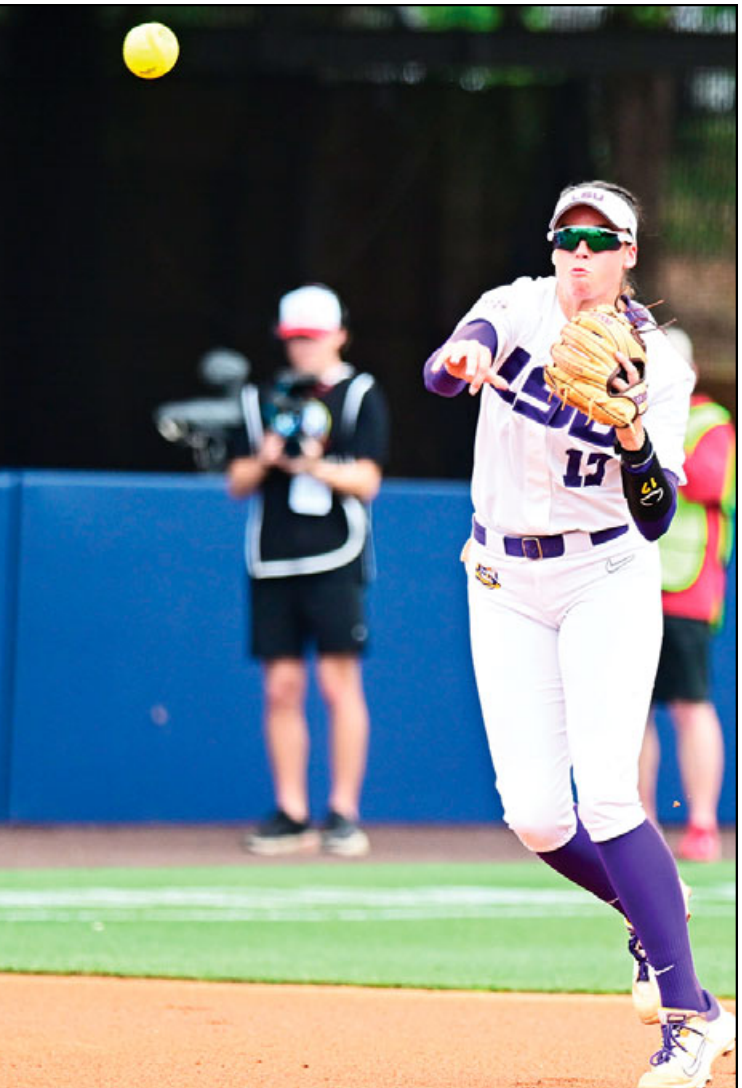
## LSU softball earns No. 9 national seed

The Louisiana State University softball team, including standout senior shortstop Taylor Pleasants (right), has earned the No. 9 overall national seed for the NCAA Division I Championships and will host the Baton Rouge Regional May 17-19 at Tigers Park. Pleasants, a Dobie graduate, made the Southeastern Conference's Postseason All-Tournament Team as she delivered a walkoff hit in the opener and then was solid in a 2-1 win over SEC top seed Tennessee that propelled LSU to the tournament semifinals. Pleasants is hitting .263 with eight home runs and 41 runs driven in thus far this season.

## Baton Rouge Regional May 17-19, Tigers Park

**May 17 Games**  
2:30 p.m. – California vs. Southern Illinois  
Shown on ESPN+

5 p.m. – LSU vs. Jackson State  
Shown on SEC Network



## Dobie tennis players earn Lajaunie funds

Continued from Page 5

can achieve anything. Academically, Pham is a member of the National Honor Society, Dobie's Key Club, AP Capstone and the Asian Student Association.

She feels these clubs have shaped her to better serve her community and become a better student.

Pham received the Coaches Award during her freshman year and took home the Steve Jamail "Dobie Pride" award in her junior year.

She also placed second in the Darren Lajaunie

Memorial tournament in the girls doubles division, in addition to being nominated as a team captain in her senior year.

Le has been playing tennis for six years and currently plans to compete in club level tennis in college.

Le said he believes his greatest strength is his fighting spirit.

He draws his inspiration from professional tennis player Andre Rublev because, Le said, Rublev also has a fearless nature.

Le told the Lajaunie committee that he push-

es himself to get the job done whether it's in the classroom or on the tennis court.

Academically, Le is the outgoing vice president of the Key Club which, he added, has given him organizational and leadership skills.

Some of the other leadership roles Le has held include operating as the public relations chairperson for Student Council and as the treasurer for the VSA club.

Additional information, including updates for scholarships and the Used

Tennis Racket Drive can be found on the Lajaunie Scholarship Fund website at [www.DLTennisScholarship.com](http://www.DLTennisScholarship.com) and on its Facebook Page.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) charity and now focuses on fundraising through donations.

Organizers with the Lajaunie fund will continue to offer annual tennis camp and college scholarships on an annual basis to junior tennis players at Dobie High School and the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena.

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# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, MAY 16**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m.  
Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/  
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call (832) 293-9860.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit https://www.houstonalanon.org/  
Jam-3:30/ Bands-6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Bluegrass Association** - bluegrass music show and jam session at Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave. on the third Saturday (except December). Pickers may come early. For details, visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.  
**SUNDAY, MAY 19**  
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.  
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details.  
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.

the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.  
**TUESDAY, MAY 21**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn, at (832) 722-9061 for information.  
7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). No meeting in December. Contact Cathy@cheyder@sbcglobal.net or call 713-332-6294 for details.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

**FRIDAY, MAY 17**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets the first and third Friday monthly at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale, 1-3 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net for details.  
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.  
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, MAY 18**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.  
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict.

**MONDAY, MAY 20**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.  
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Ballroom Dancing** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.  
5 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For further information please call Jill at 646-489-4367.  
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@juno.com for info.  
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday-Friday.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, in

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We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: southeastvfd.org to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

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### JFD youth volleyball

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host a pair of youth camps July 24-26 at the main campus, with incoming third- through sixth-grade students attending from 9 to 11 a.m. and incoming seventh- and eighth-grade students attending from noon to 2 p.m. The focuses of the camps will include individual skills training, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills and friendly match play. Cost of each camp is \$50 per student and may be paid in cash on the first day of the camps or via Cash App at \$Dvbbooster. For additional information, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

### Brook girls' hoops

Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball head coach Mileka Loydrake and her staff will host the 2024 Wolverines' Youth

Basketball Camp June 4-5 at the high school. Students entering the third through sixth grades as of the 2024-2025 school year will attend the Elementary camp from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day and receive both team and individual instruction in all phases of the game. The Elite camp will include students entering the seventh through ninth grades from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost of each camp is \$65. Register no later than May 31 to ensure a camp T-shirt. To register, follow the Clear Brook girls' basketball program on Instagram at @BrookGGB or on X at @CBHSLadyBball.

### LSA's Musgrove makes U19 VB

Lutheran South Academy volleyball standout Kirra Musgrove has been named to the USA Volleyball Girls' U19 National Team, per a USAV release May 8. The 20-player pool will be pared to 12 for the Girls U19 NORCECA Continental Championship July 12-20 in Honduras. Jamie Morrison, women's volleyball head coach at Texas A&M University, will lead the U-19 program. Musgrove, has more than 1,500 assists and 1,500 kills in her high school career.

## Pioneers' Noack, Alexander sign collegiate LOIs



Lutheran South Academy weight thrower Cole Noack will continue his education and track and field career at NCAA Division III Trinity University in San Antonio after signing a letter of intent with the Tigers. Noack earlier this month concluded his run at LSA with an appearance at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A State Track and Field Championships, placing sixth in the discus at 125 feet. He will also throw the shot with the Tigers.



Kole Alexander, a Class of 2024 senior at Lutheran South Academy, is set to continue his education and men's basketball career at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kan., after signing a letter of intent with the Coyotes. Wesleyan is part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ranks.

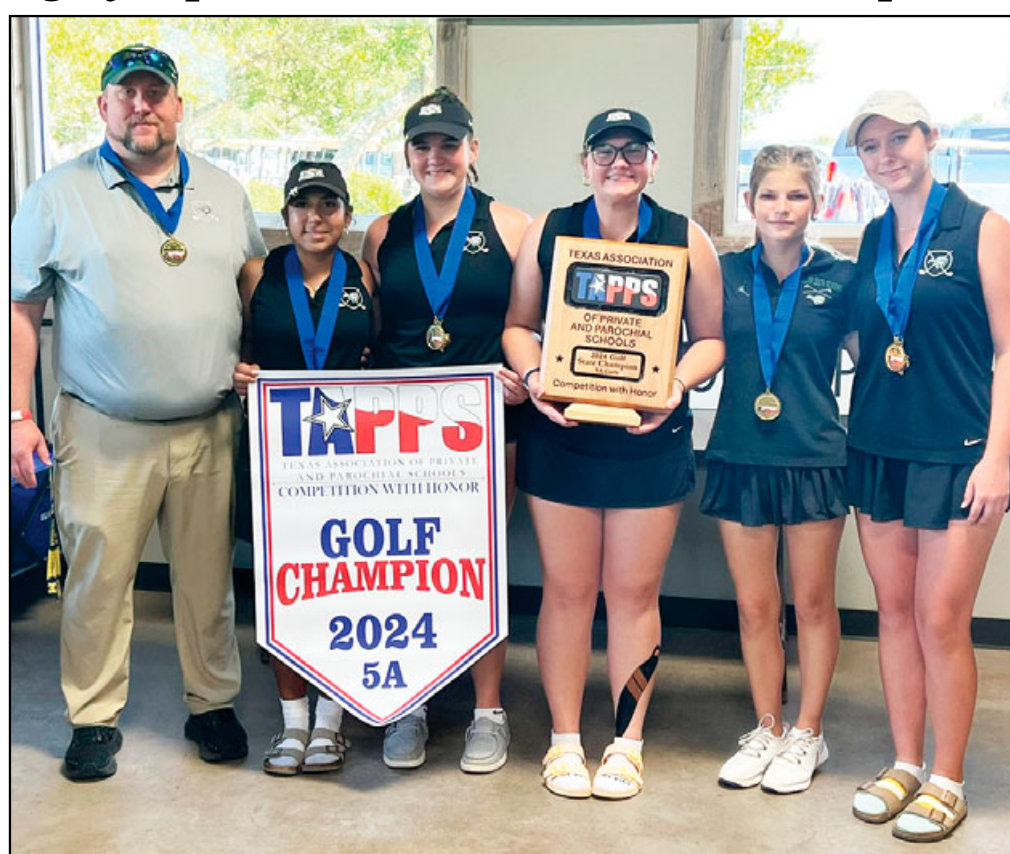
## Pasadena ISD hoopsters compete in All-Star Games



A trio of Pasadena ISD varsity boys' basketball standouts, including, left to right, Dobie's Dylan Jackson, South Houston's Josh Larry and Julio Cisneros of Dobie helped their team to a win during the Houston Area Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game series May 8 at St. Thomas University. Jackson is set to play collegiately at St. Thomas University while Larry is headed to Texas A&M-San Antonio. At press time, Cisneros was still choosing a college. Both Jackson and Cisneros scored more than 1,000 career points during their careers at Dobie.

## LSA girls' golf repeats as TAPPS 5A state champion

The Lutheran South Academy varsity girls' golf team repeated as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state tournament champions after posting a two-day total of 671 for a 20-shot margin of victory. Seniors Emma Poffinbarger (80-77 for fifth place) and Addie Trahan (79-79 for sixth place) led the way at the Squaw Valley Golf Club. Members of the team are, left to right, head coach Geoff Stressman, Olivia Rivas, Emma Poffinbarger, Audra Poffinbarger, Sofia Maxwell and Trahan. Rivas, the Poffinbargers and Trahan were members of the 2023 state championship squad. Stressman, also the varsity volleyball head coach at LSA, has led the Pioneers to consecutive state tournament appearances.



## LSA's Trahan, Poffinbarger earn All-State honors



Lutheran South Academy senior golfer Emma Poffinbarger fired an 80 on the first day of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state golf tournament and followed with a 77 on the second day, placing fifth overall to earn All-State honors.



Lutheran South Academy senior golfer Addie Trahan shot a 79 on the first day of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state golf tournament and followed with a 79 on the second day, placing sixth overall to earn All-State honors.

### Dobie boys' and girls' youth basketball

Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Jasmine Hartman, varsity boys' basketball head coach Timir Patel and their staffs will host a pair of youth basketball camps for boys and girls June 25-27 at the Dobie9 campus, with incoming first-through fifth-grade students attending from 8 to 10 a.m. and incoming sixth-through ninth-grade students attending from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The focuses of the camps will include individual skills training, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills and friendly game play. Cost of each camp is \$60 per student and may be paid in cash on the first day of the camps or via the camp link at [www.dobiepride.com](http://www.dobiepride.com) For additional information, direct email to Hartman at [jhartman@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:jhartman@pasadenaisd.org).

### Astros DFA Brook graduate Julks

The Houston Astros designated Clear Brook High School graduate Corey Julks for assignment in order to clear a spot on the organization's 40-man roster. The Astros could trade or release Julks outright. The former team's draft choice spent more than 100 games with the Astros in 2023 and had been playing at AAA Sugar Land at the time of his release. Julks graduated from Clear Brook High School in 2014.

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