

Pct. 2 seizes drugs, guns



On Wednesday Jan. 7, deputies received a call for service for a welfare check on a male who was reportedly having suicidal/homicidal thoughts. Deputies were able to locate and detain the male. Male was identified, and was found to have an open warrant for organize crime. Upon further investigation, two firearms and narcotics were seized. One of the firearms located was found to be stolen out of the Austin Police Department.

Call about suspicious behavior leads to Highland Meadow arrest

A call about a suspicious man in the Highland Meadow Village subdivision Friday, Jan. 9, led to an arrest the following week.

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, a resident in the 11500 block of Gullwood Drive called to report that a suspicious man kept repeatedly walking past her house and staring at her. At one point, the man began to approach the resident in her garage, while simultaneously grabbing something from his fanny pack in a threatening manner.

Scared the man had a gun, the female resident shut her garage and ran inside and called police.

Upon their arrival, deputies found the suspect had already fled the scene, but the resident provided deputies with a description of the man. A manhunt ensued involving a K9 and a drone,

but deputies were unsuccessful in finding the male suspect.

Through further investigation, deputies with the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit were able to identify the suspect as Camilo Carmarlio, also a Highland Meadow Village resident.

A warrant for evading on foot was subsequently filed. It was also discovered that Carmarlio had three active warrants through the Harris County Sheriff's Office, one of which was for a prior evading offense.

On Jan. 13, the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit was deployed to execute the arrest warrant at Carmarlio's residence in the 11500 block of Gullwood. The Special Operations Unit issued several verbal commands for Carmarlio to exit the residence but the suspect failed to respond.

After Carmarlio failed to comply, Precinct 2 deputies breached the garage and made entry into the residence.

Following the breach, Precinct 2 K9 Deputy Hero gave several K9 warnings (barks), which prompted Carmarlio to quickly exit the residence with his hands raised.

Carmarlio was apprehended without incident and remained in Harris County custody at press time.

Camilo Carmarlio

High School Band Solo and Ensemble – Saturday, Feb. 21, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Pearland High School.

High School Band Solo and Ensemble – Saturday, Feb. 21, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

High School Choir Pre-UIL – Feb. 23 and 24, 3 – 7 p.m., at Dobie High School.

Intermediate Orchestra Concert and Sight Reading – Feb. 24 and 25, 3 – 7 p.m., at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

High School Orchestra Concert and Sight Reading – Feb. 26 and 27, 3 – 7 p.m., at Dobie High School.

High School Band Pre-UIL – Feb. 28, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

High School Choir Solo – Feb. 28, 10, 6 – 7 p.m., at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

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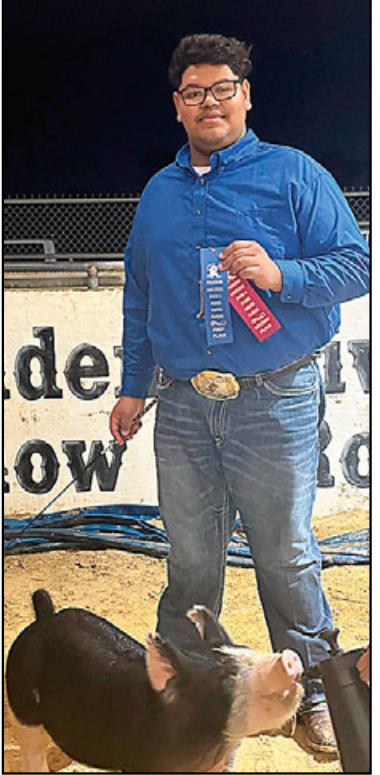
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Dobie High School FFA attends Pasadena New Year's Shootout Prospect Show



FFA member Thalia Oddo won second place in Ring A and Ring B with her spotted pig Baylock.



Dobie FFA member Xavier Martinez placed first in Ring A and second in Ring B with his pig Don Julia.



Agriculture teacher Robert McGuill (left) is pictured with Jose Carbajal and his goat, Squirt, who placed third in Ring A and Ring B.

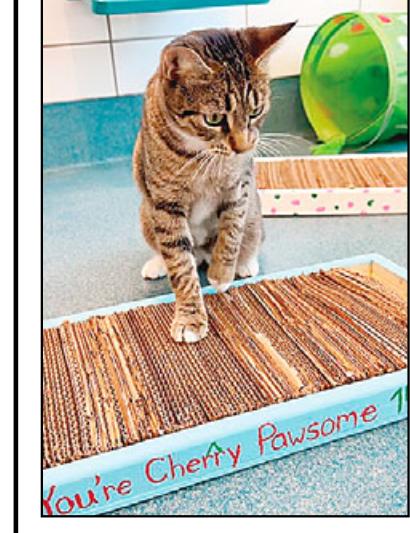


FFA student Vianka Alanis (right) is pictured with her older sister and former Dobie FFA member Vianey Alanis. Vianka's goat placed third in Ring A and Ring B.



Pictured are, Abrianna Carbajal (left) who placed first in Ring A and Ring B, holding her heifer Honey and FFA member Mathew Trevino holding Honey's calf Don Pepe.

Special Girl Scouts project earns award, ends kitten boredom



Pictured at right, left to right, are Pearland Animal Shelter employees Randee Guy, Joshua Rodriguez, Haylee Henry and Girl Scout members Brooklyn Ulekowski, Braelyn Bingham and Xara Oddo.



The Girl Scout Silver Award is the second highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve and the highest award a group of three members can earn together. The three must work on their project for more than 50 hours each and create a project that is sustainable over time. Members of Troop 143162 created a project titled "No More Kitty Boredom" and presented it to the Pearland Animal Shelter on Friday, Dec. 19, 2025. The girls created homemade cat scratchers using wood to make box frames and cardboard strips to glue and fit inside the wooden frames. They then painted the frames to look more attractive. Cats use these "entertainment centers" to avoid boredom and to train themselves not to scratch up furniture but to instead use the cat scratchers. At left, is a cat from the animal shelter playing with the cat scratcher.



FFA student Luke Stacey who placed second in Ring A and Ring B as well as Grand Champion Senior Showman (right) is pictured with his steer, Princess and older brother Hunter Stacey who is a former member and president of the Dobie FFA.



Nayely Huynh (left) who placed second in Ring A and Ring B with her sheep is pictured with former FFA member Hunter Stacey.



Exhibitor Pablo Reyes is shown with his steer holding two ribbons after placing second in Ring A and Ring B.



Kaylee Robles is pictured with her steer, Rocco, who placed third in Ring A and Ring B. Robles also placed third with her pig Maverick.



Dobie FFA student Mathew Trevino and his steer placed first in Ring A and Ring B.

Fombonne named interim county attorney Appointee to fill remainder of unexpired Menefee term

Continued from Page 1

said Fombonne. "It has been a privilege to serve Harris County over the past five years, and I am honored to be appointed as the next Harris County attorney. This office plays a vital role in the county's day-to-day operations while also serving as legal counsel protecting the county's legal interests in litigation. I look forward to continuing that work and ensuring our office remains a force for fairness, accountability and progress. I have complete confidence in our talented staff and look forward to the great work ahead."

Menefee expressed confidence in Fombonne's selection as his replacement.

"Since my first day in office, Jon has been a steady

and capable leader, handling some of the office's most complex and important cases," said Menefee. "He is easily one of the best lawyers I know and has been absolutely instrumental in building this office into what it is today. His deep knowledge of the office and proven leadership make him the ideal person to guide our team through this transition. I am confident the office will continue to thrive and be a shining example of what good government looks like."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, who represents much of the South Belt community, shared this sentiment.

"Jonathan Fombonne has done an excellent job as first assistant county attorney, making him the obvious choice to serve as interim county attorney for the remainder of the year," said Garcia. "Much of the transformative work of the Harris County Attorney's Office from the last several years has been extensively supported by Jonathan's behind-the-scenes efforts, and he will carry the baton to continue the progress we've achieved thus far. We are lucky to have Jonathan ready to step into the role."

A proud tenure

Menefee, who had served as county attorney since 2021, is proud of his time in office.

"I didn't run for county attorney to hold a title; I ran to build an office that shows up for people, and that's what we did," Menefee said in a statement. "We took on hard cases, powerful interests and delivered real results for working

families."

Garcia praised Menefee and his efforts in office.

"It is a bittersweet moment to welcome Jonathan while saying goodbye to Christian Menefee," said Garcia. "Christian's work as county attorney has been nothing short of extraordinary. As the first African American elected to the position, he will forever serve as an inspiration to all those who follow him. Christian's outstanding leadership and vision have made Harris County a more just place, I wish Christian all the best in his future endeavors."

Menefee is currently in a Democratic runoff with former Houston City Council Member Amanda Edwards for the congressional seat long held by the late Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. The TX-18 runoff election is set for Jan. 31. See related story on Page 1.

A permanent replacement

Filing to permanently replace Menefee as county attorney ended last month with three candidates – all women – officially running, including two Democrats and one Republican.

Democrats running for the position include Houston City Council Member and Harris County civil court judge Audrie Lawton-Evans; former civil court judge and former Harris County Attorney's Office lawyer Jacqueline Lucci Smith is the lone Republican to file for a place on the ballot.

Primary elections are set to take place March 3, with general elections scheduled for Nov. 3.

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Two days later on Sunday, Jan. 4, Precinct 8 Deputy K. Peters initiated a traffic stop on a blue Mercedes-Benz near the Gulf Freeway between Almeda Gena and Almeda Genoa.

On Friday, Jan. 2, around 4:15 p.m. Precinct 8 Deputy C. Crider conducted a traffic stop in the 11130 block of the Gulf Freeway near Almeda Genoa on a black Chevrolet Malibu for traffic

black backpack on the front passenger floorboard containing methamphetamine.

Xanax and Adderall. After the findings, the Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and multiple charges were accepted. Delarosa was charged with three felony counts of possession of a controlled substance; and Garcia was charged with two felony counts of possession of a controlled substance. Both Garcia and Delarosa were

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Leader continues its look back at 2025

Continued from Page 1

representing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FBI, DEA, ICE, Houston Police Department, Harris County Precinct 1 and Precinct 4 constable offices. Led by Homeland Security, the investigation spanned at least five years, federal officials said. The FBI also executed search warrants at three separate residences in Richmond and Rosenberg.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Spring sports scene soon to get busy

Excitement will be building for local sports fans at all levels as the spring season kicks into high gear.

Intent on capitalizing on the momentum created by a run to the Division 1 area playoff round a season ago and boosted by the return of several key players, the Dobie varsity softball team will get things rolling Jan. 24 with the varsity program scrimmages at Deer Park beginning at 11 a.m.

Dobie will also scrimmage at La Porte Jan. 27, at Clear Falls Jan. 30 and at Angleton Feb. 3. Dobie will then attend a varsity scrimmage at Clear Springs Feb. 6 before

the Feb. 9 regular season opener at Clear Brook.

The Longhorns will once again attend the prestigious National Fastpitch Coaches Association Leadoff Classic at College Station Feb. 12-14.

Dobie will be led by a host of proven performers, including senior pitcher Vanessa De La Fuente, a Texas Lutheran University signee who registered her 300th career strikeout last season and will be counted on to pitch plenty of big games this season.

The offense is also bolstered by the return of at least a half dozen players who got at bats against both Ridge Point and Clear Springs in the post-

season in 2025.

The Dobie boys' and girls' track and field programs will begin competition Feb. 6 by attending the Kethan Relays at Deer Park.

Pasadena ISD will then be the host of the prestigious Brown Relays Feb. 12 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

The Dobie baseball program begins scrimmage action Jan. 31 at Summer Creek, and the varsity program will also scrimmage at Clear Falls Feb. 2 before scrimmaging at Baytown Sterling Feb. 6.

Dobie has scrimmages at La Porte Feb. 10 and at home against Clear Brook Feb. 13 before opening the regular season at Goose Creek Memorial Feb. 16.

The Longhorn tennis program begins its spring season at Pearland Jan. 15 and will then attend the Furlow Invitational in Missouri City Jan. 23-24.

And of course the boys' and girls' basketball seasons as well as the boys' and girls' soccer

seasons are in full swing.

The Longhorn varsity boys' basketball team is coming off a victory over Sam Rayburn and at 2-4 is still well in the mix for a late season playoff push.

Pearland was undefeated at 7-0 at press time to lead the way, with Shadow Creek at 5-1 and Dawson at 5-2. Beyond that, Memorial was fourth along with Alvin at 3-3, followed by Dobie.

The Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team has won 19 overall games but is coming off a tough loss to Clear Falls, which has the Wolverines at 1-2 in the league race for fifth place at press time with a key game against Clear Lake upcoming.

The Longhorn tennis program begins its spring season at Pearland Jan. 15 and will then attend the Furlow Invitational in Missouri City Jan. 23-24.

First, she will look to lead the Longhorns back to the postseason after a run to the area

playoff round in 2025.

The San Jacinto College softball and baseball programs will also start their respective seasons later this month.

The Dobie varsity boys' basketball team has won 19 overall games but is coming off a tough loss to Clear Falls, which has the Wolverines at 1-2 in the league race for fifth place at press time with a key game against Clear Lake upcoming.

The Longhorn tennis program begins its spring season at Pearland Jan. 15 and will then attend the Furlow Invitational in Missouri City Jan. 23-24.

First, she will look to lead the Longhorns back to the postseason after a run to the area



De Hoyos leads JFD softball

At right, senior Natalie De Hoyos (15) has secured her collegiate future as she will continue her education and playing career at Texas A&M-Victoria. First, she will look to lead the Longhorns back to the postseason after a run to the area

Richard Jr. to FSU



Dobie graduate and former Illinois State freshman football star C.J. Richard Jr. was named a prestigious Phil Steele fourth-team All-American out of the Missouri Valley Football Conference while leading the 13-3 Redbirds to the Jan. 5 FCS Championship Game against Montana State. Illinois State pushed Montana State to overtime in the championship game before Montana State emerged with a 35-34 victory. Richard, a 2024 Dobie graduate, picked off three passes in 2025 as a redshirt freshman and has since announced via X that he will transfer to Florida State.

Dobie graduate Mathews joins New Mexico football

The University of New Mexico football program

co. Mathews might very well have been perfectly happy to stay at Memphis, but a coaching change there allowed for players within the program to transfer through the portal, which Mathews did. He will have four years of eligibility remaining when he takes the field at New Mexico.

"I'm actually glad that I had a chance to redshirt last season which gave me a chance to view the college game from the outside looking in and to understand the expectations and the preparation that goes into being a college athlete," Mathews said.

"I tried to take advantage of every opportunity that was in front of me, whether it was a 5 a.m. weight room workout or just taking care of my body through diet and fitness training."

"I'm up to 190 pounds right now and really feel like I can contribute quickly at New Mexico. All I need is an opportunity, and I'm going to get that with the Lobos. I can't tell you how excited I am to get started with this program."

Still intent on becoming a coach once his playing days are fulfilled, Mathews says he will likely focus his studies within the history field at New Mexico, although he has not decided on a major. He has

was in the Houston area visiting family in recent days and will head to Al-

buquerque to begin classes for the spring semester very soon, which at some

point will include participation in spring football workouts with the Lobos.

"All of us out there playing college football understand that it's a dif-

ferent world out there with the portal and so forth, but New Mexico has given me an opportunity to come in and compete for playing time immediately, and I look forward to that, Mathews said. "I truly believe I'm as prepared as ever to play at this level. The opportunity is there for me, and I plan to take full advantage of it."

At left, Dobie's all-time leading rusher, Cameron Mathews, will have four years of eligibility remaining as he joins the University New Mexico football program.



Dobie girls' basketball aims to finish strong in second half



Dawson, Manvel and Shadow Creek have each eclipsed 20 overall wins to this point on the varsity girls' basketball scene and hold top-10 state rankings courtesy of the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, and fourth-place Pearland isn't far behind. Kianni Senegal (3) and Dobie finished the first half of 22-6A action with a win over Rayburn Jan. 10 and were at 3-5 in the standings heading into the second half of league play.

Dobie senior Hailey Butler (23) and her Longhorn teammates are intent on finishing the 2025-2026 strong even as a playoff berth may prove to be out of reach with eight games remaining. Photos by Donna Alsdorf

JFD girls host Manvel
Jan. 17, 1 p.m.
Dobie main

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2025 Year in Review: Players and their teams stand out



Camryn Dickson (left) delivered a win in the 100 at 11.27 seconds for the Aggies while team member Jasmine Montgomery was second for a silver medal with her clocking of 11.33 in Eugene, Ore. Overall,

the Aggies came up with several personal bests and came away with a slew of gold medals as part of an impressive performance on the University of Oregon's Hayward Field.

Division 1 bracket, with Pearland having secured the top seed in the division courtesy of a series sweep over the locals.

Dawson finished league play at 14-2 and won a district championship for the first time since 2018.

First-team All-District honorees for the Pioneers included Smith at defender and forward Cassidy Pfeiffer.

Midfielder Peyton Lawrence and Riekert at defender were second-team honorees, while forwards Jade Barefield and Olivia Rivas as well as goalkeepers London Cathey and Skylar Catron were honorable mention choices.

Lutheran South Academy swimmers Elijah Brown, Lauren Ferguson and Luis Ordaz were honored as Academic All-State honorees by the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

The trio also qualified for the state championships in various events, with Ferguson winning a pair of medals.

Three Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' basketball players earned All-District honors following the 2024-2025 season, including senior and first-team performer David Streeter.

Other LSA players, including Harry Burkett, Mike Matthews and Ralston Wagoner, earned All-District second-team honors. The Pioneers' Jashawn Brooks collected All-District honorable mention status.

Lutheran South varsity girls' basketball player Natalie Browning earned Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Academic All-State honors for the 2024-2025 school year.

Smith was also a second-team All-State selection.

The Leader continues this week with its third installment of the 2025 year in review, focusing on some of the sports highlights from last year. Enjoy!

April 24

Clear Brook senior Darwin Bolden II advanced to the University Interscholastic League's 2025 State Track and Field Championships at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas after finishing second in the discus at the Region III Championships April 18 in Webster.

Gold medalist Adam Carter of Katy (186 feet, 2 inches) and Bolden, who delivered a personal record of 182-6 for the silver medal in the event, were dominant at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster in qualifying for the state championships.

Bolden helped extend a streak of what is now six consecutive seasons (2020 excluded due to the pandemic) of at least one Wolverine athlete reaching the state championships. Bolden is currently a freshman competing in the weights at Lamar University in Beaumont.

Winners of 10 of their last 12 district games and six overall, the Dobie varsity baseball team surged into third place in the District 22-6A standings with a series remaining against Manvel prior to the start of the postseason.

The Longhorns were most likely to enter the playoffs as the No. 2 seed out of 22-6A in the

school year and was also a second team All-District performer on the court following the pioneers' season.

LSA's Annie De La Pena was an All-District first-team pick while Sam Avery, Browning and Olivia Varanauski were named to the second team. Lutheran South's Elisabeth Hergenrader, Anna Schepmann and Ava Zamora were honorable mention choices.

Lutheran South Academy swimmers Elijah Brown, Lauren Ferguson and Luis Ordaz were honored as Academic All-State honorees by the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

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Lutheran South varsity girls' basketball player Natalie Browning earned Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Academic All-State honors for the 2024-2025 school year.

Smith was also a second-team All-State selection.

Having taken the opener 10-5 but now facing the prospect of two possible road games at Ridge Point, Dobie plated four runs each in the top half of the third and fourth innings to build an 8-3 lead heading into the latter stages of game two.

Amaya Corona singled in two runs and Chloe Nunez and Viviana Fernandez also plated runs in the top of the third inning for a 4-0 Dobie lead.

Ridge Point responded with two runs in the bottom half of the inning to cut the lead to 4-2, but back came the Longhorns.

Peralta doubled in two runs in the top of the fourth and a Fernandez single plated two more runs as the Longhorns extended their advantage to 8-3. Leslie Sarduy hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning and scored on a double by Persephone Soria in the top of the seventh as Dobie produced plenty of offense to advance to the next round.

Soria was 4 for 5 in the deciding game with a double, two runs scored and another driven in.

Competing in a District 22-6A alignment that featured some of the top boys'

and girls' tennis players in the region, it would have been easy to understand if Dobie were to have gotten shut out of a regional berth for the second straight season, yet Diego Flores and Nestor Garza brought it home in grand fashion for the Longhorns.

Seeded sixth to open the 22-6A spring championships of the boys' doubles draw and having to begin one match at 9 p.m. in the evening due to rain, Flores and Garza rallied for a 7-6 (7-2), 7-5 win over Pearland in the play-back match with their season on the line.

The straight-set win therefore secured the second of two Region III tournament invitations as the spring tennis season shifted to Deer Park High School.

May 8

Dobie was into the second round of the varsity baseball postseason for the third straight season following a 6-2, 9-4 series sweep of Ridge Point May 1-2 at Manvel High School.

Juelz Martinez, Isaiah Jones and Williard Joiner III starred at the plate in both games for the Longhorns and senior Aiden Sanchez and freshman Jaylen Aguilar delivered strong five-inning starting-pitching performances as Dobie advanced to the Division 1 area round.

Martinez and Angel Molina both went 2 for 3 and scored three runs each at the top of the lineup to set the table again and again for the rest of the lineup as the Longhorns closed out the series with a 9-4 victory over the Panthers in game two of a best-of-three series May 2.

In the series closer, Molina singled and stole second in the top of the first inning and eventually scored on a passed ball for a 1-0 Dobie lead after an inning. In the top of the third, Martinez singled to left field and advanced to third on an error before scoring on Molina's RBI single.

Jones then doubled home Molina for a 3-0 Longhorns' lead. Later in the inning, Jones scored on a groundout by Joiner as Dobie's lead was 4-0. Leading 4-1, the Longhorns plated three more runs in the top of the fifth inning despite just one hit in the frame to lead 7-1.

Joiner then had an RBI single as the Longhorns went on to close out the series. Aguilar allowed just three hits and two earned runs across five innings against the Panthers, and Martinez twirled the final two innings for a 9-4 win that clinched the area round berth.

Clear Brook senior Darwin Bolden II completed his exceptional career with the Wolverines as he was seventh overall in the discus with a throw of 166-8 at state.

District 24-6A softball tri-champion Clear Springs advanced to the Division 1 regional semifinals courtesy of an area round best-of-three softball series.

Dobie improved to 18-11 overall after reaching the second round for the first time in four years courtesy of a two-game sweep over District 21-6A champion Ridge Point, ending the series with a 10-7 win over the Panthers April 25 at Ridge Point after taking the series opener 10-5 the previous night at San Jacinto College South.

Having taken the opener 10-5 but now facing the prospect of two possible road games at Ridge Point, Dobie plated four runs each in the top half of the third and fourth innings to build an 8-3 lead heading into the latter stages of game two.

Amaya Corona singled in two runs and Chloe Nunez and Viviana Fernandez also plated runs in the top of the third inning for a 4-0 Dobie lead.

Ridge Point responded with two runs in the bottom half of the inning to cut the lead to 4-2, but back came the Longhorns.

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Soria was 4 for 5 in the deciding game with a double, two runs scored and another driven in.

Competing in a District 22-6A alignment that featured some of the top boys'

Houston.

Harris was a four-year varsity performer for Dobie and has also excelled on the summer circuit with the Pearland Track Xpress.

She has 100, 200 and 400 experience along with a pair of regional long jump qualifications while at Dobie and has also competed in the pentathlon with the Xpress.

Former Elkins High School star Branford Jones was named Dobie's boys' basketball head coach, and Jones said he was committed to helping to guide the Longhorns' program back to prominence within a region and state he knows very well.

The Texas A&M track and field program hosted its annual Alumni Muster invite on May 3, in College Station as junior Camryn Dickson of Clear Brook and teammate Jasmine Montgomery went 1-2 in the women's 100, with Dickson winning at a season's best of 11.04 seconds and Montgomery second at 11.13, another season's best.

The duo also delivered season's best times in the 200, with Montgomery winning at 22.17 and Dickson third at 22.39. Jizzelle Davis, a freshman at UT Rio Grande Valley and also a Clear Brook graduate (class of 2025), posted a time of 11.78 for 16th-best. A time of 24.18 also placed Davis 16th in the 200.

The Lutheran South Academy varsity track and field squad came away with a pair of top-three medals as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools all classes state championships were held at Waco Midway High School's Matador Stadium.

A pair of Houston area programs went to the tape in the 4x100 relay, with Fort Bend Christian snagging the gold in a time of 42.14.

Lutheran South was next in for the silver medal as Elijah Brown, Rhet Lavergne, John Leblanc and Scott Farine combined for a time of 43.03. Pioneer senior Alma Martin was a bronze medalist in the pole vault as she cleared 10-0.

May 15

A pair of losses sandwiched around a one-run victory over Blinn served to bring an end to a 26-31 season for the San Jacinto College Softball program as head coach Kelly Saenz and her crew concluded an up-and-down 2025 campaign.

The Ravens advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division 1 World Series in three of the past four seasons leading up to this one, but things never really seemed to click in terms of consistency as the Ravens finished with a sub 500 record for the first time in several seasons.

Following the end of the regular season, several San Jacinto College players were recognized with regional and Conference honors for their performance on the field.

Fielder Kamryn De Leon and designated player Madelyn Perez were selected to the All-Conference first team along with outfields Iliana Melendez and Bree Winkelman. De Leon also captured first team nominations.

A pair of one-run losses to Atascocita in the Division 1 area playoff round served as a disappointing ending to the varsity baseball careers of 15 Dobie seniors and their teammates as the Longhorns were swept 3-2, 6-5 by the Eagles in a best-of-three series May 9-10 at Baytown Sterling.

Atascocita clinched a regional Final Four berth thanks in large part to a six-run top of the fourth inning in the second and eventual deciding game, forcing the Longhorns to play catch-up the rest of the way.

The second game was scoreless through three innings as Dobie



Williard Joiner III (17) once again played a huge role for the Dobie varsity baseball team as the locals reached the area playoff round.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

man right-hander Jaylen Aguilar and Atascocita's Ty Higginbotham posted zeroes on the scoreboard.

Consecutive singles plus a walk loaded the bases with no outs for the Eagles in the top of the fourth inning before Jayden Hernandez drew an RBI walk and C.J. Toney came up with a two-run single for a 3-0 lead.

Down 6-3, the Longhorns plated two more runs in their half of the sixth inning. Julian Valencia had an RBI groundout and Martinez smacked a two-out double to score Aguilar.

But with Martinez at second, Molina flied out to end the inning. In the bottom of the seventh, Dobie had its chances but Atascocita's Garet Hackenbruck managed to close out the series.

Clear Brook's loss is now Clear Falls' gain as former longtime Wolverine head baseball coach Gene Flores was named to the same role with the Knights.

The maneuvering began with the retirement of Eddie Youngblood, who had been the first and only varsity head baseball coach at Clear Falls.

The Lutheran South Academy varsity golf team captured its third consecutive Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state championship with the team win May 5-6 at the Cottonwood Creek Golf Club in Waco.

The LSA girls put together a five-player total of 377 to capture the state championship, just one shot ahead of Frasatti Catholic.

Individually, Jameson Louie of Fort Bend Christian fired a single round 77 to win the gold medal, with the Pioneers' senior Addison Trahan second with a round of 81.

Junior Emma Poffinbarger of LSA was eighth with an 88. Senior Olivia Rivas (101), freshman Kiley Alexander (107) and junior Sophia Maxwell (119) rounded out the scoring for Lutheran South.

Trahan, Poffinbarger and Rivas were part of each of the program's three consecutive state titles under the guidance of head coach Geoff Stresman.

The state championship team included Alexander Maxwell, Rivas, Poffinbarger and Trahan. LSA

Continued on Page 8



Adam Carter of Katy (center) was the Region III discus champion with a throw of 186 feet, 2 inches, while Clear Brook senior Darwin Bolden II (right) came up with a personal record throw of 182-6 for the silver medal as both qualified for the state championships. At left is bronze medalist Cornelius Francis of Summer Creek.



Longhorn senior Leslie Sarduy (1) and her teammates advanced into the second round of the postseason for the first time since 2021 and looked to continue their momentum against a tough Clear Springs opponent. The Chargers swept the series.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

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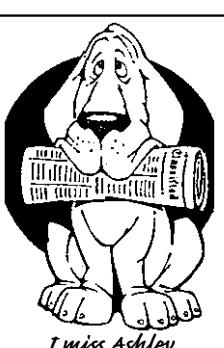
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HELP WANTED

**Hydraulic equipment repair
technician needed.**

Flexible hours full or part time. Paid
vacation and holidays. Fluent Spanish
required! Will train the right person
\$14.00 per hour and up with experience.

832-671-0978

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.

Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.cona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.

8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at Cross Roads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

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

8 p.m. Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA). See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's Group 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

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JFD's Nunez picks Alvin softball**A&M-Victoria softball adds De Hoyos****It's Texas Lutheran for De La Fuente**

Chloe Nunez finalized her collegiate choice heading in the next school year as she will continue her education and playing career at Alvin College, where she will play for a Dolphin program that competes within Region XIV of the National Junior College Athletic Association. Nunez was a 22-6A second-team All-District outfielder and made the 22-6A Academic All-District team.

Dobie senior Natalie De Hoyos is set to continue her education and softball career at Texas A&M-Victoria after signing with the program prior to the holiday break. De Hoyos heads into her senior season at Dobie after she was a first-team All-District infielder and a member of the 22-6A Academic All-District honor team as a junior.

The Longhorns' Vanessa De La Fuente has chosen to continue her education and collegiate softball career at Texas Lutheran University. De La Fuente was sensational as a junior in 2025 as she was a 22-6A first-team All-District honoree as a player and excelled in the classroom as an Academic All-District choice. Dobie will open the regular season Feb. 9 at Clear Brook.

Leader's 2025 Year In Review continues look at memorable sports moments

Continued from Page 6
boys' golfer Karsen Parker shot a 71 to finish in a third place tie individually.

The Dobie swimming and diving team held its second annual End-of-Season Banquet at the Deer Park Battleground Golf Course.

Student-athletes honored with special awards as a result of their success this season included Zoey Vuong, Most Valuable Swimmer/Diver; Joel Chapa, Coach's Award; Khrystian Zamora, Sportsmanship Award; Jossiah DePaul, Most Improved Swimmer/ Diver; and Alexander Griffin, Rookie of

the Year.

May 22

After dedicating nearly 80 years combined of

their lives to high school athletics and public education within a pair of neighboring school districts, Pasadena ISD Director of Athletics Rupert Jaso and longtime Assistant Director of Athletics Donna Branch both announced their respective retirements.

Jaso, who spent the majority of his career within Clear Creek ISD before

taking the lead within the Pasadena ISD athletic department nine school years ago, stepped out after be-

ginning his career back in 1992 at Space Center Intermediate.

Branch, a 1975 Sam Rayburn High School graduate and standout volleyball player with the Texans, won more than 500 career matches as the varsity volleyball head coach at Dobie, winning 10 district crowns before retiring from coaching following a regional quarter-final berth to complete the 2002-2003 season.

Upon leaving the volleyball court, Branch joined Dobie High School's administration as an assistant principal, a role she held for 15 years

before becoming the assistant AD overseeing the district's athletic activities. Inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame as part of its 2016 class, Branch was retiring after a total of 45 years within the school district in a variety of roles.

Tempering some of the

disappointment that came with consecutive premature postseason defeats leading into the 2025 season, a focused Lutheran South Academy varsity baseball program dominated the postseason on the way to the program's fifth Texas Association

of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state championship since 2015.

Putting together an impressive 43-0 combined

score throughout the four-game postseason, the Pioneers capped off the state championship with an 11-0 victory over Grapevine Faith Christian May 13 in Waco.

Senior right-hander

Grant Burns captured

tournament Most Valuable

Player honors after

spinning a four-hit shut-

out with nine strikeouts

against the Lions as he

capped a terrific season

with the Pioneers.

LSA broke open a

scoreless game with a three-run third inning, then added a pair of four-run frames to cruise to the state championship.

Omar Serna, who played his first two high school seasons at Dobie before transferring to Lutheran South prior to the 2024 season, had a pair of

singles and drove in three

runs in his final game with the Pioneers.

Following 29 years on

the baseline or on the cart

path as a coach at Dobie

High School, Class of

1990 JFD graduate and

longtime faculty

staffer Kevin Cross de-

cided to step away from

coaching at the only school for which he's ever worked. Cross remains on staff and continue to teach aquatic science, but decided that he would like to start going home at 3 p.m. more days than not.

Truly a Dobie lifer, Cross played varsity baseball with the Longhorns for three seasons before graduating in 1990.

May 29

Yet another indicator of

the Dobie varsity base-

ball program's solid run

of success over the past

several seasons was on

display June 3 as a pair of

Class of 2025 graduates

participated in the 2025

Greater Houston Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game at St. Thomas High School in Houston.

Juelz Martinez and Wil-

liard Joiner III saved their

best for their respective

senior seasons, putting

together incredible offen-

sive seasons to help lift

the Longhorns to a third

consecutive second-round

playoff series in three

years.

Persephone Soria made

a big splash as a freshman

a season ago as she was

the Freshman of the Year

in a previous 22-6A align-

ment.

For 2025, Soria continued her sensational play as she was a first-team At-Large All-District selec-

tion as an outfielder as well as an All-Academic team honoree.

Soria hit .459 in 31

overall games, scoring 32

runs, driving in 30 runs

and leading the team with

14 total extra-base hits and

18 stolen bases.

Leading her team to

second place in the 22-6A

All-Academic nomi-

neces.

With 145 strikeouts this

season, she has more than

330 for her career to go

with 27 total wins. Excel-

ling in the classroom, De

La Fuente was also a 22-

6A All-Academic nomi-

neces.

Dobie junior pitcher Va-

nessa De La Fuente once

again turned into the staff

ace for the Longhorns as

she went 12-8 overall this

season with an earned run

average of 3.39 over 26

overall appearances on her

way to first team All-Di-

strict honors.

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