



South Belt-Ellington Leader

46 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Body found at gas pump

On Friday Jan. 13, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Precinct 2 deputies responded to a welfare check at a service station in the 11600 block of Beltway 8 at Sabo near Kroger, to find an unknown driver dead behind the wheel at a gas pump. Deputies secured the scene and contacted the Houston Police Department Homicide Division, which took over the investigation.

Kirkwood to meet Jan. 26

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Library donations sought

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library group is seeking donated materials from the South Belt community. Items sought include DVDs, CDs, gently used children's books and adult fiction. Donations can be dropped off during regular library hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remained roughly on par with the previous week, according to county health officials.

As of Tuesday, Jan. 17, there were 107 active cases in 77089, up 5 from the previous week. To date, 137 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 20 active cases, no increase from the previous week. To date, there have been 81 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 30 active cases, no increase from the previous week. To date, 90 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday, March 31.

Both the northbound entrance and southbound entrance ramps from FM 518 in League City will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the entrance ramps from SH 96.

The northbound exit ramp to FM 517 in Dickinson will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the northbound exit ramp to Holland/Hughes.

Two outside northbound frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from West Medical Boulevard to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, May 5.

One middle northbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, May 22.

Two outside southbound lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Texas City Railroad to SH 6/SH 146 in La Marque nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

The northbound entrance ramps from both FM 519/Main Street and FM 1765/Texas Avenue in La Marque will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the next available northbound entrance ramp.

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 closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, March 31. Significant delays are expected.

Ellington e-recycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Residents are encouraged to arrive early, however, as the event ends once trucks are full.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 311.

Clear Creek ISD to hold board election May 6

Davis' District 2 seat, Sanchez's District 3 seat to be decided

Clear Creek ISD will hold a board of trustees election Saturday, May 6.

To be decided are the District 2 position currently held by Michelle Davis and the District 3 position currently held by Arturo Sanchez.

At press time, it was unclear if the incumbents would seek re-election.

As a result of 2020 census data, CCISD's single member district election boundaries were redrawn and approved by the Board of Trustees on Dec. 13, 2021.

To view the 2023 District Election boundaries, visit ccisd.net/elections/2023boundaries.

The Clear Creek ISD board of trustees is locally elected group of citizens who govern and serve the school district in the best interest of students and as stewards of public tax dollars. Trustee duties include but are not limited to adopting policies that inform district actions, approving an annual budget, and communicating the district's vision and successes to the community.

Terms are three years.

Candidate filing began Wednesday, Jan. 18, and will continue through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17.

To apply for a position on the ballot, interested individuals may download the Candidate Application and Information Packet at ccisd.net/elections, pick up a packet in person at the physical address listed below or request a packet by e-mail to elections@ccisd.net.

The following is a physical address for filing an application in person for a place on the ballot: Clear Creek ISD Education Support Center 2425 E. Main St. League City, TX 77573

The following is an address for those filing by mail:

Clear Creek ISD
Attn: Jena Brown
P.O. Box 799
League City, TX 77574
Applications may also be emailed to elections@

ccisd.net or faxed to 281-284-9902.

For the May 2023 board of trustees election, Clear Creek ISD will contract election services with Galveston County for the District 2 election

and Harris County for the District 2/District 3 election.

For the latest updates on the 2023 CCISD board of trustees election, visit ccisd.net/elections.

Little League elects board, moves forward

Little League district administrators called a special meeting at El Franco Lee Park Wednesday, Jan. 11, to discuss the future of the local South Belt league, which remains in limbo following the recent resignation of President Johnny Ramirez.

According to Little League Texas East District 15 Administrator Manny Carrillo, who hosted the function, Ramirez resigned as president at a Dec. 31 meeting and subsequently began a local Pony League that caters to older players. Carrillo said the former board sided with Ramirez and also made the switch to the new league.

Carrillo assured a small group of concerned parents at the meeting that the local Little League, which has played at El Franco Lee Park for more than 30 years, would remain intact.

"Little League has not turned its back on you," said Carrillo. "We are here for you, and we are here for your children."

Carrillo noted players 10 and under would benefit most from the organization remaining in place.

"Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against Pony League," Carrillo said. "But, this isn't" **Continued on Page 4**

County authorizes cook-off



After a three-year hiatus related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off is shaping up to resume at El Franco Lee Park in 2023. Hosted by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the event is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks display, also held at the area park. *Leader* publisher and co-event organizer Marie Flickinger (center) is shown above ironing out details with county commissioners Rodney Ellis (left) and Adrian Garcia.

County selects Beamer Ditch contractor

Original contractor abandoned project 1 year ago

According to Harris County Flood Control District officials, a new contractor has been selected to complete work on the Beamer Ditch improvement project, which abruptly stopped last year when the contractor unexpectedly walked off the job.

HCFCD has worked through the required legal process that began when the project's original contractor's lack of progress forced the Flood Control District to declare the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements Project, also known as the Beamer Ditch project, abandoned. In doing so, the contractor surrendered the right to remain in possession and control of the work.

As part of an agreement with the contractor's surety, Rebel Contractors was selected as the construction company to complete the project.

The construction contract was submitted and approved by Harris County Commissioners Court Jan. 10. Next, the Flood Control District will give Rebel Contractors the notice to proceed.

Rebel Contractors' mobilization efforts should begin in February.

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2023.

The construction contract allows for approximately 16 months to complete the work. Complete Concrete was originally awarded the low-bid contract to widen the ditch and install concrete lining from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road. Harris County Flood Control District was required by law to accept the lowest offer. **Continued on Page 2**

Houston Library waives late fees

With the support of Mayor Sylvester Turner and approval by Houston City Council, the Houston Public Library will no longer charge late fines on overdue books and other borrowed items. This change was effective Jan. 11, 2023.

By eliminating late fines, HPL joins other public library systems across North America in lowering financial barriers to library access and creating more equitable services for all users.

Studies of libraries that have gone fine-free found a higher rate of return on borrowed items, as well as an influx of users returning to the library with the barrier of late fees removed. Un-

der previous fine-related policies, approximately 25 percent of HPL account holders owed fines, and 70 percent of those fines were accrued before 2015. Fines are intimidating enough to block customers from using library services. With the passing of this update to the standing ordinance, many Houstonians, including those who are in the most need of library services, will regain access to the vast resources available—from books and audiobooks to mobile hotspots and Wi-Fi-connected laptops.

"A fine-free library system evens the playing" **Continued on Page 2**

Leader looks back at highs, lows of 2022

The *Leader* continues its look back on 2022 with a list of some of the significant stories of the year. For highlights up to Feb. 24, see the Jan. 12 edition of the *Leader*.

Feb. 24

Charges were filed against a male suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of one man and the wounding of another in two separate incidents that took

place earlier in the month at The Redford Apartments in the 1200 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. Parys Burks-Henderson, 18, was charged with murder and attempted capital murder in the 185th State District Court. Burks-Henderson was charged in the murder of Alexis Cantu, 21, and the attempted capital murder of a second male, 22. According to police, the second victim was shot because he had witnessed the first murder two days earlier.

Dozens of community leaders and elected officials gathered Friday, Feb. 18, as the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held its 36th annual banquet. Titled *Friday Night Fever*, the year's event was disco-themed, and attendees donned their best 70s attire and danced into the evening. Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia was rec-

ognized as Citizen of the Year for his efforts in the community outside of his job. Cecelia Ganje, who serves as general manager of the Clear Brook City MUD, was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for her community efforts. Outgoing president and *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger was honored at the event for her contributions to the South Belt community. Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado swear in all incoming 2022 South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce executive officers and board members. New chamber officers sworn in at the event included Rebecca Lilley, chair of the board; Ezreal Garcia, vice chair; Denise Burleigh, secretary; and Graylin Beals, treasurer. New board members sworn in included Karina Abdul, Noble J. Alix Jr., An-

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Police chase leads to crash, arrests

2 not in chase/crash charged with DWI

A high-speed police chase led to a major crash and multiple drunken-driving arrests around 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, in the 7000 block of Beltway 8 near SH 3/Old Galveston Road.

Harris County Precinct 8 Sgt. Williams was actively patrolling the tollway when he observed a tan Nissan Altima traveling at a high rate of speed. Williams further observed the vehicle take the exit and cross the double white traffic lines to go around another vehicle causing the driver to abruptly hit their brakes.

Williams activated his emergency equipment in attempt to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle for the violation. The driver, later identified as 33-year-old Celestino Lozada, failed to stop and a pursuit ensued.

The vehicle continued traveling at a high rate of speed while abruptly swerving across all lanes and hitting curbs. The vehicle turned onto Genoa Red Bluff Road and accelerated to speeds over 100 MPH. As the driver came to the intersection of SH 3/Old Galveston Road and Genoa Red Bluff Road, he proceeded through a red light without making any attempt to slow down causing a major collision involving four vehicles. As a result of the collision, one person was transported to the hospital.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted aggravated assault causing bodily injury with vehicle and evading arrest/detention with vehicle.

No bonds had been set at press time. At the time of Lozada's arrest, he was out on bond awaiting trial for an assault on a public servant case that occurred in November 2022.

While the investigation was underway, two intoxicated drivers bypassed Precinct 8 units that were providing traffic control.

Precinct 8 Deputy Muschweck was blocking all southbound lanes on SH 3/Old Galveston Road and Almeda Genoa Road when he observed a silver Chevy Malibu drive around his patrol vehicle. Muschweck approached the

vehicle and directed the driver to reverse and pull into a parking lot. The driver failed to comply and continued driving into the major crash scene.

Deputies ordered the driver to stop, and he was removed from the vehicle. The driver, who was identified as 39-year-old Ronald Ray An-

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Clear Brook High School performs "Ladyship"



Participating in Clear Brook High School's play, "Ladyship," which was inspired by the true stories of some of the 25,000 women convicts sent to the new colony of Australia between 1788-1868, are left to right, (front row) Shaye Harold, Katelyn Guzman, Mars Delao. (back row) Azalia Mendez, Olivia Baird, Dalia Ahmad, Stephanie Carranza-Alday, Chloe Dolby, Addison Cunningham and Zoe Faizan. The play has two remaining performances, on Jan. 20 and a matinee performance Jan. 21. Performances will be held at the Clear Brook High School Auditorium, 4607 FM 2351 in Friendswood. Tickets can be purchased at cplayers.ludus.com. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for all others. (See related story Page 3.)

In My Opinion

Byrd announces last day at Bracewell

Greetings, Partners!
I hope all of you are enjoying the new year so far! This email is to inform you of the upcoming changes at Bracewell Neighborhood Library, and it is with a bittersweet feeling that I'm sharing it. I, Donnie Byrd, who have been the manager of this location for the past four plus years, have been promoted to a higher position at another library. My last day at Bracewell Neighborhood Library will be on next Friday, Jan. 20, 2023. For any of your meetings that I made plans to attend between now and then, I'll honor those commitments.

Since Ivy Bao no longer works at Bracewell (due to promotion), the temporary Outreach Coordinator for this location will be Robert Ha until a manager

and assistant manager joins the team. For invitations to your events, please contact him at Robert.ha@houston.tx.gov, or you can call the library at 832-393-2580. Currently, the library is short-staffed and will be even more so once I leave; however, please don't hesitate to invite us to your events, for we'll do our best to continue to serve you.

For those of you who have programs at Bracewell, the programs and/or processes will continue.

I truly want to thank you for the healthy partnerships that have been formed and for allowing us to participate in your meetings and your events.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve the South Belt/Ellington Community!

I wish all of you the best in all that you do, and thanks again for the opportunity to partner with you! Thanks,
Donnie Byrd, MA

Police chase leads to crash

Continued from Page 1
Anguiano's bond was set at \$500.

Deputy Henderson was blocking the northbound lanes in the 10200 block of SH 3/Old Galveston Road when a blue Nissan SUV attempted to drive around his patrol vehicle. Henderson gave verbal commands for the driver to stop and detained the driver. The driver was identified as 44-year-old Carlos Ruis. While speaking

with Ruis, Henderson observed obvious signs of intoxication.

Deputy Self proceeded with the DWI investigation and determined Ruis was unable to operate a vehicle safely. A check of his information revealed a prior DWI conviction.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted Driving While Intoxicated-second offense. Ruis's bond was set at \$100.

Harris Central Appraisal District's website or mobile app," said Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger.

Exemption forms and applications can be found on the appraisal district's website, www.head.org, under the Forms tab on the top tool bar. A homestead exemption can provide a tax savings for the property owner and will reduce future tax burdens.

For more information about deferring taxes on the appreciating value of your home, contact the Harris Central Appraisal District's information center at 713-957-7800 or email help@head.org. Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

Homeowner payment of tax options available

Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by taking advantage of a payment option called "residence homestead tax deferral" and filing a tax deferral affidavit at the Harris Central Appraisal District.

This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed - but not cancelled - with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

Once the homeowner files the tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue

a lawsuit for the deferred taxes as long as that person owns and lives in the home. When the homeowner no longer owns and lives in the home, the deferred taxes and interest become due.

If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect the deferred taxes and interest. Additional penalties are possible.

If you have a mortgage, most mortgage companies require tax payments to be current so it is important to check with the mortgage company to make sure deferring taxes does not violate the terms of the deed of trust.

"Homeowners should be sure they have applied for and received their homestead exemption. This easily can be done without cost through the

Exemption forms and applications can be found on the appraisal district's website, www.head.org, under the Forms tab on the top tool bar. A homestead exemption can provide a tax savings for the property owner and will reduce future tax burdens.

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Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

Bracewell Branch Library
Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/. For online learning, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556 or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 4 - 5 p.m. Family storytime. Registration required.

Monday, Jan. 23, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. CMH's: The basic Houston fun.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 4 - 5 p.m. Tween craft. Registration required.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6 - 7:30 p.m. English class: finding a job. Registration required.

Visit https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft. Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 19, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Thursday, Jan. 19, noon - 1 p.m. Adult Computer class: social media.

Monday, Jan. 23, 5 - 8 p.m. Game on: game night.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 11 - noon Tech help hour.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Project grad.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 3D printing orientation. Registration required.

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.

- A pickup time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

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

Online services

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

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

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

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

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

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Elected officials share their words

State reps oppose Texas School Board group's transgender stand

Jan. 16, Rep. Bryan Slaton (HD 2) was joined by Rep. Brian Harrison (HD 10), Tony Tinderoth (HD 94), and Mark Dorazio (HD 122) in sending a letter to AG Ken Paxton requesting that he review the recent guidance that was published by the Texas Association of School Boards titled "Legal Issues to Transgender Students."

Slaton issued the following statement: "Today (Jan. 16) I was joined by Representatives Brian Harrison, Tony Tinderoth, and Mark Dorazio in requesting

AG Ken Paxton to review the highly disturbing "transgender students" guidance that was recently published by the Texas Association of School Boards.

The guidance not only seems to encourage schools to refrain from reporting child abuse, but also claims that young girls have no protection from biological males being in their restrooms and locker rooms.

We hope AG Paxton will review this document and offer further guidance to Texas Public Schools and, if necessary, the Texas Legislature."

January 16, 2023

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of the State of Texas
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Attorney General Ken Paxton,

On Earlier this month, it was brought to our attention that the Texas Association of School Boards has released a guidance document entitled "Legal Issues to Transgender Students."

This radically pro-transgender legal advisory appears to encourage school districts to refrain from reporting child abuse and obscure information regarding children exhibiting gender dysphoria from their parents.

The document also makes a bold declaration that says young girls would have no law protecting them from having a school district permit a biological male to enter their restroom or locker room.

"While separate unisex facilities may work for some transgender students, others may feel that such an arrangement negatively singles them out and isolates them from their peers. Consequently, the transgender student may request to use communal sex-specific facilities that match the student's gender identity. There is no law that prohibits a district from granting the transgender student's request to use these facilities. If other students or their parents object to the use of a sex-specific facility by a transgender student, a school district may be able to amicably address the competing interests by making individual-user facilities and private areas available for all students."

This guidance is highly concerning on its merits and it is even more concerning that it is being distributed to public school districts and may be effectively creating state policy.

Today, we are requesting that your office thoroughly review this material and provide further guidance to Texas school boards on the issue.

Additionally, we ask that your office identify potential changes in law to ensure Texas public schools reflect the values of Texas voters, that parental rights are always protected, and that every student's safety and privacy is protected.

Sincerely yours,
Bryan Slaton, House District 2
Brian Harrison, House District 10
Tony Tinderoth, House District 94
Mark Dorazio, House District 122

Houston Library waives late fees

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field and incentivizes Houstonians to become lifelong users of our Houston Public Library," said Turner. "When you analyze the numbers, you see that young people account for more than 27 percent of users with fines, preventing them from accessing free resources and tools for learning. Simply put, this is the right thing to do."

HPL does not expect the elimination of late fees to impact revenue in a significant way, given that revenue from

has comprised less than one percent of the library's budget over the past five years. Fines have proven to be a strain on staff time and resources due to policy enforcement and account management.

HPL has offered fine forgiveness in the past, and overdue fines were eliminated on children's materials for students of area school districts participating in HPL's Learning Link program.

To give all customers an opportunity to clear their accounts of monies owed, HPL

has designated an amnesty period to occur from Jan. 17 through Feb. 18. During the amnesty period, library users are invited to visit an HPL location to return overdue items and review their account status for fees that may have been incurred for lost or damaged items. Library staff will assist with clearing all charges from accounts. Once the amnesty period ends, accounts will reflect fees to replace lost or damaged items that are not returned 30 days after the due date.

16 months allowed for completion

County picks 2nd ditch contractor

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Construction was to be broken into three phases. Phase 1 was to run from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 was to run from Scarsdale to Astoria; and Phase 3 was to run from Astoria to Beamer near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin.

Work came to a halt, however, this past February when Complete Concrete completed only the first phase of work.

Phase 1 of construction culminated with the reopening of the Scarsdale bridge Feb. 9.

Work on Phase 2, however, never began.

Begun in January 2021,

the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements Project was originally scheduled to be complete by fall 2022, but officials from the Harris County Flood Control District said the endeavor was only 30 percent complete at the time of the unexplained pause in construction.

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

The project has been marred by problems since work began, with workers accidentally busting a city

waterline on the first day of construction.

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

While not necessarily the contractor's fault, the property also grew unkempt with uncut grass and weeds. Harris County crews have subsequently mowed the ditch and have pledged to continue to do so.

For updates or to leave a comment on the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements Project, visit www.hcfd.org/Mud-Gully.

Stuchbery Elementary names 2nd 9-weeks honor; merit rolls

Stuchbery Elementary officials recently announced their honor roll and merit roll students for the second nine weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Honor roll

Third grade
Efrain Avilez, Dorianne Hood, Max Lopez, Aiden Shaffner and Carlos

Velazquez.

Fourth grade
Sophia Cavazos, Raul Cruz III, Mae Green, Charlotte Kearbey, Damian Lopez, Adalynn McMullin, Victoria Neira, Kenton Nguyen, Gift Obah, Delano Oliver-Cooper, Leonardo Segovia, Soraya Shah and Samantha Villanueva.

Merit roll

Third grade
Avinashy Acosta, Javier Balanta, Melody Cantu, Alina Castro, Ayden Farris, Christian Flores, Jackson Pham, Luke Perez, Dylan Salmeron, Derek Thompson and Timothy Thax.

Fourth grade
Kim Nguyen and Elissa Vasquez.

AARP Webster welcomes public to upcoming meetings, activities

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes any to join the group at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook. The group meets in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

Everyone is invited to come to the meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies, and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month the group has entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors.

Thursday, Feb. 9, the program will focus on the world famous Texas Rangers. Social after the Feb. 9 program will be the second annual Bay Area Derby.

Come join the fun and pick a winner!

Support the 2023 joint fundraiser with Friends of Freeman. The event will have a Soup-er Saturday event Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Freeman Library, 16616 Diana. Tickets are \$5 for three samples of homemade soups. Tickets can be purchased at the Library Bookstore.

The AARP Chapter also organizes day trips for the AARP Chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost.

The next bus trip will be on Wednesday, March 22 with a tour of the Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center and hopefully the Outpost Tour on Adams Bayou on a pontoon. The

following bus trip will be to tour The Brenham Heritage Museum and The Brenham Fire Museum on Wednesday, April 12. Attendees may register for these trips at the Feb. 9 meeting. One must be a member of the local chapter to participate in the bus trips.

If anyone is interested in joining the AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show your current national membership card to join any local chapter.

AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP.

For more information, contact Lynne Justis at 832-212-5417, aarpchap199@yahoo.com.

John Davila



On Jan. 14, 2023, John Davila of Houston, died at the age of 16. John was born to Carlos and Darlene Davila on Dec. 14, 2006.

John was a South Belt resident and attended Dobie9. He played select baseball with the Hornets baseball team.

John is survived by his parents; his sister Alicia Davila; his brothers Carlos Davila Jr. and wife Deana, Jerry Davila and wife Carrie; sister-in-law Esmeralda Davila; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He is preceded in death by his grandparents Edward and Mary Boitman, Teofilo and Alicia Davila; and brother Richard Davila.

A viewing for John will be held, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023, from 5 to 8 p.m. with a rosary to be recited at 6 p.m. at Crowder Funeral Home, 2422 E. Broadway St., Pearland.

A funeral Mass will be held Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, at 10 a.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, followed by a burial at Forest Park East Funeral Home and Cemetery.

Robert Gus "Pro" Olson



On the afternoon of Jan. 5, 2023, Robert Gus Olson, "Pro" of Houston, died at the age of 66. Robert was born to Charles and Dolores Olson on July 2, 1956.

Robert was a longtime South Belt resident and lived in the Sageglenn subdivision.

He served in the United States Navy as a PC and had one of the rare honors of becoming a Golden Shellback. He received his PGA Professional Certificate in 1972 and started The First Tee Junior Golf Program for the City of Houston. He was known for his great sense of humor, his sharp wit and his magnetic positive energy.

Robert is preceded in death by his father, mother; his twin brother, James; and his brother, Chuck. Robert is survived by his wife, Michelle; his three children, Rob, Jennifer, and Brad; and grandchildren, Audrey, Charlie, Bryce, and Carson. He is also survived by his remaining siblings Celeste, Andrew, Paul, and Larry; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A viewing for "Pro" was held, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 with a rosary at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home, 6900 Lawndale Ave.

A funeral Mass was held Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, at St. Christopher Catholic Church, 8150 Park Place Blvd, followed by a burial at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

Meredith Jane Condit Wright



Meredith Jane Condit Wright passed away peacefully on Jan. 1, 2023, surrounded by her family.

Born Monday, Oct. 25, 1948 in Canton, Ohio, she was the daughter of Frank and Julia Condit, a salesman and a homemaker.

Meredith grew up in Canton and St. Louis, where she attended Webster Groves High School. After graduation, Meredith moved to Cleveland where she would meet and fall in love with her future husband of 45 years, George Wright. After moving to Texas and

Deaths

marrying George, Meredith gave birth to their two sons, Jimmy and Adam Wright.

Meredith loved cooking breakfast every morning her boys were in school while playing oldies in the kitchen.

Meredith spent much of her time in service to others, including volunteering for the Meador Elementary School PTA, the Beverly Hills Civic Club, and the Bridge Over Troubled Waters, a shelter for battered and abused women.

Meredith and George enjoyed traveling whenever they could, visiting all their grandchildren as much as possible, trying new restaurants, and spending their retirement together. Meredith was a loving and devoted wife and mother and is survived by her husband; brother, Hal Condit; sons, Jimmy and Adam Wright;

grandchildren, Conner, Emily, Madelyn and Andrew Wright; and daughters-in-law Kim and Amy Wright. The service will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road.

There will be a reception immediately following at Jackie's Brickhouse, 1053 Marina Bay Dr, Kemah, TX 77565.

Samuel Anthony Butera



Samuel Anthony Butera, Jr. passed away on Dec. 20, 2022, in McKinney at the age of 91. He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as a young adult.

Sammy is survived by his wife Mary Carolyn Butera; children, Robin Bryce and her husband Marty Bryce, Jill Byrd and her husband Grant Byrd; grandchildren Bobby Bryce, Kayla Bryce, Darby Byrd, Keegan Byrd and his wife, Victoria Byrd; and one brother, Anthony Butera. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Mary Grace Calo and Joe Butera.

Sammy was born on May 12, 1931, in Houston to Samuel Butera and Magdalena Schi-amara Butera.

He grew up in a tight-knit family and community in Houston where he worked in his family's cafe and store. After attending Milby High School, he proudly served two years in the U.S. Army as a truck driver and radar operator.

He married the love of his life, Mary Pancamo on April 6, 1957, in Houston. Later, Sam and Mary welcomed two daughters into their home.

Shortly after the girls began school, they moved to Friendswood where Sam and Mary remained until moving to McKinney in May of 2020. While remaining a humble, gentle man, Sam was an example of the importance of family values, a strong work ethic and the unconditional love of Christ.

His career consisted of more than 20 years in sales and other capacities at Gerber's Restaurant Supply. He later became a salesman for R&R Wholesale Distributors where

he was known as the "candy man" at the local college bookstores.

After semiretiring, he joined Mary at the Antique Center of Texas, where he greeted and assisted buyers and enjoyed more time to be "Papa" to his grandkids.

Sammy was a self-taught woodworker, auto-mechanic, overall handyman and eventually a wood-carver. If he wasn't fixing his family's cars or building and selling his work from his woodshop, he could be found under the hood of a neighbor's car or working toward "Yard of the Month" or watching his beloved westerns.

He was most happy dancing to 1950s music with Mary and his girls, woodworking attending Sunday services, and class socials at Sagemono Church.

He loved listening to his nightly Christian radio program on KHCB, trying out his Donald Duck voice with his four grandchildren and summer vacations in Wimberley.

He felt such joy when spending any time at all with the loving, loud and entertaining Butera and Pancamo families; studying God's word, serving as a church elder at South Houston Bible Chapel; and as a Gideon volunteer distributing Bibles on college campuses.

A funeral was held on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, at Jeter Memorial Funeral Home in Friendswood.

Dr. Grant Byrd officiated the cremation.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to a ministry that was dear to his heart, Gideons International, at www.sendthelword.org.

Marcelino Perez Lozano



Marcelino Perez Lozano, 87, went home peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior on Jan. 12, 2023. Marcelino was born to Juan and Naborra Lozano in Bastrop.

Marcelino is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Rebecca C. Lozano, brother George Lozano and sisters Catalina Vasquez and Francisca Rodriguez. He is survived by his children Marissa Lozano and Marcelino C. Lozano; great-great-nephew Izaiyah Rey Cumpian; and his sister Enriqueta Parra.

The family will receive guests on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Forest Park East Funeral Home. A funeral service will occur Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at Templo Bethel del Cladico, 710 76th St., Houston, TX 77012 and a committal service will follow at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers are Alfred Postel, Michael Green, Adrian Green, Aaron Green, Jorge Mendoza and Izaiyah Cumpian.

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Fred Roberts celebrates second nine-weeks honor roll students



The fifth-grade Fred Roberts Middle School honor roll students are, left to right, (first row) Kayla Tedford, Broderick Braggs, Hussein Zamzam, Silas Kelch, Jacob Cabrera, Edgar Caldera-Nieto, Aryan Nepal, Davin Leng, Sophia Castellano, (second row) Fernanda Reyna, Brandon Lopez, Isabella Rios, Areeba Subhani, Issac Escobar, Alchemy Hernandez, Tatiyana Rodriguez, Ailyne Renovato, Hernan Garcia, Damian Martinez, (third row) Carlos Martinez, Julie Lam, Mason Ly, Sophia Garza, Emily Gonzales, Fatima Lisondra, Michael Rentas, Hau Nguyen, Adrianna Cavazos, (fourth row) Jesse Velasquez, Jonah Chan, Joseph James, Ciara Garza, Keiliannis Gonzalez Rodriguez, Dayana Caballero, Christian Zelaya, (fifth row) Adiana Padilla, Evelyn Salazar, Romeo Ngo, Altia Caldwell, Kamila Solis, Braden Motley, Keedyn Daniels, Aaron Montemayor and Josue Fuentes.



The sixth grade honor roll students are, left to right, (first row) Angel Nguyen, Kelvin Varughese, Crystal Vargas, Aldo Gutierrez, Carlos Davila, Josselyn Villareal, Kourtney Karasek, Abisai Visuet, Phuwadet Maingot, Imelda Lopez, Hannah Ponce, (second row) Timothy Lloyd, Perla Gutierrez, Anthony Olvera, Andrea Sanchez, Jasson Raudales, Mason Rangel, Dylan Nguyen, Javier Moran Trevino, Bryan Duran, Sebastian Martinez, Lola Lopez, Jessica Tran, Ke'sion Williams, (third row) Hayden Villegas, Naomi Green, Isaiah Martinez, Camila Marquez, Ashton Wilson, Kaylee Valdes, Aileen Galindo, Aliza Bhatti, Guliana Longoria, Camilia Martinez, Chi Nguyen, Samuel Barahona, Maria Smith, Haylie Breen, Yulissa Flores, Julius Segura, Keedyn Daniels, (fourth row) Yulissa Flores, Luke Kearbey, David Harris, Julian Cortez, Jesse Saenz, Kayla Avilez, Nataly Salinas, Kamyla Salazar, Isabella Chandler Baide, Ava Ruth Rabago, Dalilah Busby, Victoria Arrendondo, Kristen Tran, Julissa Zuviri, Sebastian Martinez, (fifth row) Xavier Ybanez, Alexander Trejo, Cristian DeLeon, Myla Figueroa, Valeria Galan, Jaila Bandy, Latifah Meite, Tiffany Kamau, Iqramullah Aziz, Christian Ruiz, Brenda Villareal and Kevin Cao.

Photos by Erin McBride

Two winners crowned in Moore spelling bee



Shown, left to right, are Moore Elementary spelling bee participants and (front row) winners Joshua Moreahem, Roselyn Ramirez, (middle row) Dylan Romero, Han Tran, Allyson Moreira, Arian Arellano, Ayaan Mateen, Emily Torres, Hailey Perez, Story Masone, (back row) Robert Reyna, Ezequiel Pena, Naisir Hernandez, Alfredo Gonzalez, Mia Gutierrez and Avalro Marron. As the top spellers in their third- and fourth-grade classrooms, these participants qualified for the schoolwide spelling bee. They will continue to study and prepare to represent Moore Elementary at the district spelling bee later this month.

Melillo names second nine-weeks honor roll

Melillo teachers and faculty recently announced their fifth grade honor roll students for the second nine weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Avaian Aguilar, Jesus Alfaro, Jeanine Armenta, Ari-an Banda, Eliana Benavides, Adam Bowman, Hannah Bui, Alexander Cantu, Jorge Cardenas, Ruben Castillo, Jayden Cevallos Mejia, Sophia Chacon, Sofia Charles, Blakely Chavez, Mina Crake, Rachel Cummings, Austin Dao, Zuriel Erguiza, Diego Flores and Viviana Gamez.

Nicholas Gomez, Anthony Gonzales, Edson Guevara, Lillian Hayden, Jesse Hernandez, Max Hernandez, Tristan James, Simone Jones, Ace Juarez, Jayleen Lam, Lailani Liandro, Hannah Luu and Mateo Mancillas.

Kylie Marshall, Ayden Martinez, Emily Martinez, Matthew Martinez, Jordan McCombs, Dorin Murray, David Nguyen, Drake Nguyen, Suri Nguyen, Thien Nguyen, Xara Oddo, Skye Orsua, Angel Paul and Camila Pena.

Aaron Posadas, Kyle Ramos, Melanie Rico, Alexavier Rodriguez, Estefania Rodriguez, Georgia Rodriguez, Viviana Salazar, Dennis Sanchez, Ezekiel Sanchez, Aubree Sandino, Jocelyn Santos, Rilee Savoy and Chandler Schlueter.

Hailey Sichanh, Robert Solar, Isabella Squier, Noah Stone, Zoie Sudario, Emanuel Tchammou, Dilan Torres Burgos, Tate Tran, Carney Truong, Zylah Vargas, Alessandra Vasquez, Anna Wilkerson and Andy Zamora.

CTHS request donations

Lewis Career & Technical High School is requesting donations on used blankets and towels for the animals at Pasadena Animal Shelter. Drop off one's donation at CTHS Vet science classes located at 1348 Genoa Red Bluff Road.

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Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records

Special Education records, which have been collected by the Pasadena Independent School District related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement or the provision of special education in the district must be maintained under state and federal laws for a period of five years after special education services have ended for the student. A special education student's services end when the student is no longer eligible for services, has graduated or completes his or her educational program at age 21, or moves from the district.

State law prohibits the destruction of any record if the subject matter of the record is known by the custodian to be in litigation, if it is subject to a pending Open Records Request, if there is an outstanding request to inspect the record under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, or if the record is subject to a pending audit or state granting agency.

This notification is to inform parents or adult students of Pasadena ISD of the intent to destroy special education records of students who received special education services in the past; it has been five years since their most recent service has ended. Specifically any remaining special education records from 2017 or prior.

These records will be destroyed in accordance with state law unless the parent or adult student notifies the school district otherwise.

For further information contact:
 Custodian of Records: Special Education Department
 1515 Cherrybrook Lane
 Pasadena, Texas 77502
 Phone (713) 740-0213

Notificación De Destrucción De Archivos De Educación Especial

Los archivos de Educación Especial que han sido acumulados por el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Pasadena referente a la identificación, evaluación, colocación educativa o provisión de educación especial del distrito deben mantenerse bajo las leyes estatales y federales durante un periodo de cinco años después que los servicios de educación especial hayan terminado para el estudiante. Los servicios de educación especial finalizan cuando el estudiante ya no es elegible para recibir servicios, se graduo o completo su programa educativo a la edad de 21 años o se mudo del distrito escolar.

La ley estatal prohíbe la destrucción de cualquier archivo si el custodio sabe que el objeto del registro esta en litigio, si esta sujeto a una solicitud pendiente de los archivos abiertos, si hay una solicitud pendiente para inspeccionar el archivo bajo Ley de Privacidad y Derechos de Educación Familiar o si el archivo esta sujeto a una auditoria pendiente o agencia de concesión del estado.

Esta notificación es para informar a padres o a estudiantes adultos del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Pasadena sobre la intención de destruir los archivos de educación especial de estudiantes que recibieron dichos servicios en el pasado; esto sucedera si han pasado cinco años desde que terminaron su servicios mas recientes. Especificamente cualquier archivo de educación especial restante de 2017 or prior.

Estos archivos serán destruidos de acuerdo con la ley estatal a menos que el padre o estudiante adulto notifique al distrito escolar de otra manera.

Para más información por favor de comunicarse con:
 Consejero de Archivos: Departamento de Educación Especial 1515 Cherrybrook Lane
 Pasadena, Texas 77502
 Teléfono (713) 740-0213

CB Wolverines premiere new musical, "Ladyship"

January is musical season for local high schools and Clear Brook High School is no exception. The CB Players will be presenting the high school premiere of "Ladyship." "Ladyship" is inspired by the true stories of some of the 25,000 women convicts sent to the new colony of Australia between 1788-1868.

The musical explores their stories as the characters struggle with hunger, sexual harassment, storms and a host of other challenges as they fight to survive a sea journey, they never wanted to take relying on their physical and emotional resilience to carry them through.

The musical was written by sisters Laura Good and Linda Good and made its debut at the New York Musical Festival in 2019 where they won three NYMF finalist awards. It was also a finalist for the 2020 Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theater.

It was the music, a mix of melodies from the 18th century, classical music and modern pop styles that drove the CB Players' directors to seek out the high school premiere. Clear Brook will be the first high school to perform "Ladyship" and the CB Players invite the public to be a part of this exciting production.

The public is invited to enjoy performances Jan. 20 or matinee on Jan. 21. Performances will be held at the Clear Brook High School Auditorium 4607 FM 2351 Friendswood, TX 77546. Tickets can be purchased at cbplayers.ludus.com. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for all others. (See related photo on Page 1.)

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South Belt Elementary congratulates winter season Super Steers



Photographed above are the smiling, truthful Super Steers of South Belt Elementary for the months of December and January. They were selected by their teachers based on their ability to display honesty. Left to right are, (first row) Nikolas Melchor, Tori Pippins, Bennett Rodriguez, Johnathan Mendoza, Matilda Sok, Adrien Joseph, (second row) Ja-shia Dillon, Emma Canales, Aliza Jimenez, Aarilee Rivas, Lucas Gallegos, Zaiden Lazo, Thiago Maldonado, Jocelyn Melendez, (third row) Emiliano Perez, Jacob Lozolla, Mila Verdin, Conner McCoy, Hailey Truong, Robyn Morin, Ariella Maldonado, Antonio Corranco, (fourth row) Arcelia Punzo, Kennedy Watson, Theodore Franklin, Adeline Torres, Madelyn Rangel, Aisley Mariscal, Mason Esposito, (fifth row) Luke Sanchez, Madeline Herrera, Daniel Velasquez, Ava Castro, Adiana Alvarez and Noor Adi. Not Pictured are Drew Cotton, Ja'Cori Silas, Malachi Santos and Konner Le.

Photo by Lakitha Thomas, counselor

Local Little League moves forward

Continued from Page 1

about training for the pros. This is about teaching the fundamentals of the game – how to pitch, throw, catch, to be a good human being.”

Little League is also unique in that it caters to special-needs players, according to Jose “Shorty” Sanchez, who heads the District 15 Challenger Division.

“Where are they going to practice and have games?”

asked Sanchez, who co-hosted the meeting.

At Carrillo’s direction, those attendance elected a new board, with Juan Herrera being chosen as president. Amanda Liscano will serve as vice president. Angie Lopez will serve as both secretary and Challenger Division director.

While the local Little League may now have leadership, a place to play was a little less certain, Carrillo said,

as use of El Franco Lee Park was being disputed by his organization and Ramirez’s Pony League.

According to Carrillo, any contracts with the county signed by Ramirez would have been under the auspices of Little League rather than Pony League, as he did not represent the latter yet at the time, opening him up to possible legal action.

See related story on Page 8.

Dobie’s Akinloye wins scholarship

Valerie Akinloye, shown at right, is the winner of the 2022 Evelyn Frenley Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in Science or Mathematics. She is enrolled in the early college program at J. Frank Dobie High School and will graduate this year with both a high school diploma and an associate degree.

Her father, Tunde Akinloye, explains, “Valerie is also a recipient of the College Board National African American Recognition and the British American Foundation of Texas Junior Achiever Scholarship among others. She is a top-performing Dobie Early College High School student who has so far received thirteen college acceptances to the Honor’s College at the University of Houston, as well as University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M among others.”

She has excelled in and out



the process of growing plants, including soil nutrient content and pH value, water systems and their life cycle. Her garden for the project was a small box from the remains of a wooden pallet, with approximately six inches of sandy topsoil and compost. She planted three Yukon Gold potato seeds in this box, diligently monitored their progress, and ultimately moved the young plants into small cardboard boxes – decidedly less favorable conditions. With continued nurturing, Valerie was able to yield five healthy potatoes from the three original plants. In college, Valerie plans to obtain a degree in civil engineering. She wants to change the world by effectively addressing global issues like overpopulation and creatively solving challenges such as space limitations of towns, cities and settlements around the world.

Musicians recognized

A total of 23 band, choir and orchestra students from CCISD’s five comprehensive high schools were selected 2023 All-State members by the Texas Music Educators Association. “The Visual and Performing Arts department is extremely proud of the young students who have accomplished so much by achieving membership into this phenomenal group,” said CCISD Director of Visual and Performing Arts Greg Goodman. “Less than 1 percent of student musicians in Texas ever achieve this prestigious award.” TMEA sponsors the Texas All-State audition process to promote students’ dedication to their musical knowledge and skill and to encourage educators to support their students in this development. Around 70,000 high school students compete for a spot in one of only 18 Texas All-State ensembles.

“We would like to also thank the parents and guardians who have invested so much time and resources so their students can experience a once in a lifetime musical experience,” Goodman said. “In addition, thank you to the educators and private lesson staff for spending significant time with each student so that their individual accomplishments can be realized.” The culmination of this process is the annual TMEA Clinic and Convention in San Antonio each February, which is the largest of its kind. All-State musicians

from band, choir, and orchestra will gather for three days of rehearsals followed by a concert Saturday evening. “Getting to rehearse and perform with the best peer musicians from all corners of the state under the baton of a nationally renowned conductor is the experience of a lifetime,” Goodman said. Below is the list of students recognized.

Clear Brook High School

- Angela Lostaunau, band.
- Corey Gutierrez, band.
- Hayden Flintoff, orchestra.

Clear Creek High School

- Emily Nicki, band.
- Hayley Belmont, choir.
- Madison Lindquist, choir.

Clear Falls High School

- Eva Gomez, band.
- Spencer Dwyer, band.
- Alex Meyer, band.

Clear Lake High School

- Felicity Cabrera, band.
- Dilruni Weerasinghe, band.
- Oliver Lampson, band.
- Joy Wang, orchestra.

Clear Springs High School

- Peyton Nishino, band.
- Jonathan Procknow, band.
- Marc Obrzut, band.
- Trinity Johnson, choir.
- Gabriel Emig, choir.
- Matthew Baumer, orchestra.
- Isaac Pan, orchestra.

Jackie, Louie celebrate 64 years



Happy Anniversary to Louie and Jacquelyn Wiess who will be celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary Jan. 23, 2023. They are both natives to Houston and have known each other since junior high school. After college, they were married on Jan. 23, 1959, at Epworth Methodist Church. South Belt-Leader staff wishes both many more years of love and happiness. The Wiess kids, Heidi, Louie and Kara Wiess and the five grandchildren: Louie, Cody, Arianna, Amelia and Jence Wiess, send love and congratulations.

on local boards to include being founding members of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. They have been longtime members of the Cokesbury Methodist Church. South Belt-Leader staff wishes both many more years of love and happiness. The Wiess kids, Heidi, Louie and Kara Wiess and the five grandchildren: Louie, Cody, Arianna, Amelia and Jence Wiess, send love and congratulations.

Leader remembers 2022

Continued from Page 1

thony Cavazos, Chris Clark, Kenny Fernandez, Emory Gadd, Alyta Harrell, Rosanne Kerr, J. Aaron Knight, Kristi Koncaba, Reyna Lara Lagunas, Trae Morris and Trenton Vick.

March 3

Votes from the March 1 primary elections, with most contests being chosen decisively, avoiding a May runoff. In the race to fill the state Senate District 11 seat being vacated by Sen. Larry Taylor, Mayes Middleton was able to avoid a runoff, handily defeating Republican challengers Bianca Gracia, Robin Armstrong and Bob Mitchell. No Democrats filed to run in the race. Democratic incumbent Adrian Garcia would also avoid an anticipated runoff in the contest for Harris County Precinct 2 commissioner, defeating challengers George Risner and Gary Harrison. On the Republican side of the aisle, a crowded field forced the Precinct 2 commissioner race to a runoff between former Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman and Jerry Mouton. Morman went on to become

the Republican candidate.

In the contest to fill the Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 justice of the peace position being vacated by Risner, Democratic candidate Dolores Lozano easily defeated Blaiie McClure, receiving 71 percent of the vote with 44 precincts reporting at press time. No Republicans filed to run in the race.

A man was grazed in the head by a bullet the night of Thursday, Feb. 24, in a suspected drug deal gone bad near Scarsdale. The victim was discovered at the Chevron station in the 10800 block of Scarsdale at Beamers, but Precinct 2 authorities believe he was actually shot at an apartment complex on Algonquin. The man was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital in stable condition. No immediate arrests were made.

An area church caught fire the morning of Sunday, Feb. 13, in the 12700 block of Alameda Genoa near SH 3/Old Galveston Road. According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters were able to protect a portion of the church, as the fire was controlled and fully extinguished. The blaze caused an estimated \$200,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save approximately \$800,000 in property. No injuries were reported.

March 10

Jorly Thomas official-ly took over as principal at Dobie High School, replacing Franklin Moses. Thomas had been serving as interim principal of the area high school since the Christmas break when Moses announced he was leaving the campus to take a new position as assistant superintendent at Clear Creek ISD. Thomas previously served as principal of Roberts Middle School.

A male body was discovered in a courtyard around 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, outside an apartment complex in the 10900 block of the 10910 Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook. According to Harris County officials, Sean Julius died from a drug overdose involving fentanyl, methamphetamine and heroin.

March 17

A third suspect was charged in connection to a 2019 fatal shooting that took place at an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway. Daniel Cisneros Leyva, 22, was charged with capital murder. Two other suspects, Cristofer Ernesto Perez, 20, and Juan Castillo, 20, were arrested shortly after the crime in 2019 and charged with murder. All three suspects are accused in the killing of Edward Guerrero.

To be continued in next week’s Leader.

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)

Incumbents Jay Welch, Cecil Ghormley and Billy Morris all regained their seats on the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees.

Harris County Commissioner Tom Bass was nominated as the next president of the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

40 years ago (1983)

San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Thomas Spencer announced his retirement at a special meeting of the college board of regents. Dr. Thomas S. Sewell was voted to a three-year contract to replace him at the same meeting.

Trustees of the Pasadena school district formally approved starting UIL boys’ varsity soccer at Dobie High School. Establishing the program was expected to cost \$15,000.

35 years ago (1988)

A revised Pasadena Independent School District School Board reorganized and began conducting district business in the first meeting of the year.

The Dobie High School cheerleaders were invited to compete in the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Fla.

30 years ago (1993)

Pasadena Independent School District trustees named Stephanie Wright to replace retiring Tommy Bacaro as Beverly Hills Intermediate principal.

Sagement resident Joe Dominguez was selected 1992 Teacher of the Year for the Crystal Apple Award. Dominguez, who was the March award recipient, beat out all the monthly winners to receive the award.

25 years ago (1998)

Carlos Zertuche pleaded guilty to four charges of making obscene telephone calls to area cheerleaders.

pany were hard at work adding a free access lane to the Beltway 8 toll road over Mykawa Road.

20 years ago (2003)

A 43-year-old substitute teacher was attacked by a 16-year-old male student at Dobie High School. The student was removed from the school and placed in the Community Education Partners facility.

Arthur John Medina, a Highland Meadow resident and Southeast Fire Department volunteer, was awarded the Bravo Award by the City of Houston.

Community College Week named San Jacinto

College South one of the country’s 50 fastest growing community college campuses with its 7.3 percent increase in enrollment for the spring semester.

15 years ago (2008)

The owner of the pit bull that threatened residents and deputies was served papers to appear in court should he choose to contest the status of his dog being declared dangerous.

St. Luke’s pastor Stephen R. Horn was accused of sexual abuse of a minor. The incident reportedly occurred at Christ the King, where Horn served from 1981 to 1994. The relationship allegedly

occurred between the years of 1989 and 1993. According to an informed source, the relationship was consensual and evolved, continuing as a friendship for several years. A letter from Daniel Cardinal DiNardo was read by Bishop Joe Vasquez at all weekend Masses to inform parishioners of the situation and of Horn’s leave of absence. The pastor had reportedly been on a sabbatical since November. According to DiNardo, the victim said he is not interested in criminal prosecution or litigation against the church or Horn. The pastor had served at St. Luke’s since 1994.

Deputies Jason Curry and Robert Sanchez from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable’s office stopped a vehicle that was parked at a closed business in the 12500 block of Scarsdale. The car’s passenger, Edward Delafuente, was found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana, and the car’s driver, Quentia Castilow, was found to have \$4,000 on his person. The deputies called officers from the Houston Police Department, who responded with a K-9 unit. The dog alerted that the money had been used in a drug transaction and it was subsequently seized and the

men were arrested.

10 years ago (2013)

Seven Dobie High School students – three from band, three from orchestra and one from choir – were selected All-State honorees for 2013. Chase Morris, a junior at Dobie, was named All-State in band for the third consecutive year. Longhorn band members chosen were Morris for clarinet; senior Joel Arhelger, also for clarinet; and senior Venerson Villanueva for flute. Honorees from the Dobie orchestra were sophomore Hernan Campa for cello; senior Ira Lanza for bass; and senior Edwardo Rios for viola.

5 years ago (2018)

Houston police investigated a fatal crash that took place Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the 15200 block of the Gulf Freeway near Dixie Farm Road. According to police, the victim was driving north on the freeway in a gold GMC Sierra 2500 pickup truck when he saw another vehicle lose control and spin out on the icy street. As he tried to avoid a collision, the victim lost control of his vehicle and struck the right shoulder concrete barrier wall. The victim then exited his disabled vehicle and attempted to repair it in a moving lane of traffic. As the victim attempted to repair his vehicle, a driver in a white Chevrolet Tahoe entered the freeway at El Dorado Boulevard, and as the driver came down the overpass, he attempted to avoid a collision but was unable to do so. The driver lost control and struck the victim and the pickup truck. The victim died at the scene.

1 year ago (2022)

A missing 9-year-old Scarsdale girl was found safe early Friday, Jan. 14, Houston police said. Skarlett Deleon had been reported missing at approximately 5 a.m. Friday morning. A neighbor had last seen the girl around 11 p.m. the previous night Thursday, Jan. 13, as she was walking south from the 12200 block of Pompton toward Astoria Boulevard.

Longtime South Belt resident and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President Bob Mitchell launched his campaign for Texas Senate District 11. Mitchell was seeking to fill the position being vacated by outgoing Sen. Larry Taylor, who announced his retirement in late 2021. As BAHEP president, Mitchell had worked closely with Taylor on a number of issues, including the coastal barrier system. Mitchell legislative campaign was ultimately unsuccessful.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MARY

Best wishes to Mary Clark who enjoys a birthday Jan. 20. Greetings are sent from her husband Chris and her friends at the Leader.

MIKE ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Mike Williams celebrates a birthday Jan. 20. Best wishes are sent for a special day from family and friends at the Leader.

FLICKINGERS MARK ANNIVERSARY

Marie (Leader publisher) and husband David Flickinger celebrate 61 years of wedded bliss Jan. 20. Best wishes for an enjoyable day are sent to the couple from their sons Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger and Davy and wife Ellie Flickinger; sister Alexis Lochner; granddaughters Kimberly and husband Matt Lipino and Courtney Durham and husband Chris and their children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; granddaughter Natalie Abarca and husband Jose and children Kelvin Lopez and Noah, Elliana and Isabelle Abarca; their friends; and the Leader staff.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR REBECCA

Dobie grad Rebecca (Heath) Irvine enjoys a birthday Jan. 23. Best wishes are sent from her husband Steve and her father Richard Heath of Kirkwood.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE WIESSSES

Special wishes to Jacquelyn and Louie Wiess who will be celebrating 64 years of marriage Jan. 23. Much love and wishes for

many more wonderful years to share together! Hugs and kisses from their family. (See related photo this page.)

CLAUDIA MARKS A BIRTHDAY

Birthday wishes are sent to former Leader staff member Claudia Cubos who marks a birthday Jan. 23 from her family, friends and staff at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel of the Pasadena ISD celebrate birthdays Jan. 19 through Jan. 25.

Atkinson Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles for Katy Fielder Jan. 20.

Burnett Elementary

Light the birthday candles on a birthday cake Jan. 23 for Lena Toole.

Genoa Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles Jan. 23 for Netza Lopez.

Meador Elementary

Join in the birthday fun Jan. 22 for Joycelyn Webster. Remember to wish Rubi Rocha a happy birthday Jan. 24.

Moore Elementary

Blow out the candles on a triple-layer cake Jan. 19 for Sandra Rodriguez, Vanessa Manrique and Marisol Salazar.

Fred Roberts Middle School

Give a birthday shout out Jan. 22 to Julie Lanham.

Melillo Middle School

Send a humorous birthday card Jan. 20 to Denise Martinez.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send a festive birthday greeting to Amber Estrada Jan. 22.

Thompson Intermediate

Special birthday wishes are sent to Lauren Soto Jan. 19.

Dobie High

Remember Deena Delarosa on Jan. 22 with a birthday greeting.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, Jan. 19: Janet Thompson, Lisa Gates, Grace Lazo, and Brenda Mahoney; Friday, Jan. 20: Jeremiah Orsak, Stephanie Johnson, Mary Belz and Mark Roden; Saturday, Jan. 21: Traci Fort, Kim Saucedo, Karen Harlan, Connie Birmingham and Lisa Allen-Bragg; Sunday, Jan. 22: Amber Estrada, Shad Taylor and Mitchal Nordstrom; Monday, Jan. 23: Becky Forsyth, Audi Resendez, Rodney Thiel, Wendy Gray and Bill A. Stevens; Tuesday, Jan. 24: Renee Lister and Lee Balinas; and Wednesday, Jan. 25: Berri Walker, Kristy Guzman and Xuan Loan.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Brook girls' hoops march toward another crown; races taking shape

As Region III varsity basketball district races hit the midway point, the 22-6A and 24-6A fields are beginning to take shape.

Thanks to a four-point win at Dickinson Jan. 13, defending 24-6A girls' champion Clear Brook has again shown itself to be the team to beat with half of the schedule to play.

Brook girls unbeaten
As much as some things change, they stay the same. Coming off the program's first-ever 6A undefeated run to a district title a season ago, the Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball program continues to run the show this

time around. Brook traveled to Dickinson Jan. 13 for a matchup of two 5-0 squads atop the 24-6A standings, coming away with a 62-58 win over the Gators.

Sophomore Rezia Castillo, the league's Most Valuable Player a season ago, had 25 points to go with 13 from Chardel Terrell as the Wolverines finished off a dominant first half of league play at 6-0 as part of an 18-8 overall mark.

Dickinson fell to 19-6 overall, including 5-1 within 24-6A action.

Having defeated the 24-6A quartet of Brazoswood,

Clear Creek, Clear Lake and Clear Springs by 24 or more points each in the first round of play, Brook entered the second round Jan. 17 against Clear Falls looking to keep its unbeaten mark intact.

Over the first round of 24-6A action, Clear Brook and Dickinson have been the clear-cut frontrunners, with Dickinson set to finish league play Feb. 8 at Clear Brook.

First-year Clear Brook head coach Mileka Loydrake has guided her group to the top of the district despite an early run of injuries.

Just five players have competed in 20 or more games, with the sophomore trio of Kamryn McLaurin, Terrell and Castillo averaging double figures in the scoring column.

While Clear Brook's varsity girls have looked very much the part of a repeat champion, two-time running 22-6A girls' titleist Dobie was set to take on Deer Park Jan. 17 after press time.

Deer Park has been im-

pressive since the first day of the season and appears to be on its way to ending Dobie's two-year grip on the 22-6A championship, but Dobie was looking to run the table and get even with the Deer as the second half of league play unfolds.

With five straight wins to finish the first half of 22-6A action, Dobie knows it has no worse than the league's No. 2 playoff seeding in its sights.

As many District 24-6A varsity boys' basketball fans suspected, the race to secure one of four post-season seeds is perhaps as competitive as any in the

Houston area. The examples of the league's overall competi-

tiveness are many. Defending District 24-6A champion Dickinson

lost a two-point game to Clear Falls back on Jan. 20 but has since crushed

four opponents, including Clear Brook Jan. 13 by a 65-40 count, to get to 4-1 overall.

Clear Lake handled Clear Brook in the opener for both teams but then was defeated handily by Clear Springs and Dickinson.

A one-point win over

Clear Falls had the Falcons at 3-2 within the race as the nightly battles for positioning within the ranks continue.

Clear Brook was at 2-2 as of press time Jan. 17, with the Wolverines having scored an impressive win over Clear Springs.

Continued on Page 8



At right, Clear Brook's Broderick Jackson Jr. (11) works his way inside against a pair of Dickinson defenders during the Gators' runaway 65-40 win Jan. 13 at Clear Brook. The Wolverines were 2-2 within District 24-6A varsity basketball play entering a Jan. 17 game against Clear Falls.

Photo by Andy Tolbert

District Races Heat Up

Brook girls host Brazoswood

Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Brook boys at Brazoswood

Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Dobie boys at Pasadena

Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Dobie girls host Pasadena

Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Brook girls at Clear Lake

Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Brook boys host Clear Lake

Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Dobie boys host Pas. Memorial

Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Dobie girls host Pas. Memorial

Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Dobie baseball program hosts tryouts Jan. 20-21

Dobie will mark the start of high school baseball preseason workouts by hosting tryouts for current freshman players as well as other grade level students who aren't already involved in the program.

Prospective first-time players must first submit a required physical and other forms to the Dobie training office before becoming eligible to compete.

South Belt youth soccer continues online sign-up

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is now accepting online registration through Jan. 31 for the upcoming 2023 spring season as the league continues decades of player development on local fields.

The registration fee for under-4, under-5, under-6, under-7 and under-8 divisions is \$85 per player, while the fee is \$95 for the under-9, under-10, under-11 and under-12 divisions.

Players in the under-13, under-14, under-15, under-16, under-17, under-18 and under-19 divisions will pay \$105 per player.

Payment must be made by credit card or debit card only. Player families will be

JFD boys' soccer goes unbeaten at Austin

Dobie will walk tall into the Deer Park ISD Battleground Invitational varsity boys' soccer tournament Jan. 19-21, having rolled out to an unbeaten start to the young season.

With seven total wins and a tie against Goose Creek Memorial over two weeks, Dobie will now face Bellaire, Alief Taylor and Beaumont West Brook at the Battleground Invitational and will then open District 22-6A action back at Deer Park Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Given its start to the

nondistrict schedule, Dobie will be brimming with confidence heading into play in the Deer Park event.

On opening weekend, Dobie went 3-0-1 overall at the Pasadena/Pearland Cup, taking down South Houston 2-1 Jan. 7 to claim top honors at the event.

There would be more of the same success to come in Austin a week later.

Outscoring three opponents by a combined 11-1 tally over three days, the Dobie group continued its

dominant start to the 2023 campaign, moving to 7-0-1 over the first two weeks of the regular season with three straight wins at the Austin Lakes Elite Showcase in Austin.

The Longhorns capped their unbeaten run Jan. 14 with an early-morning 5-0 shutout of Laredo United South as five different players scored goals, including Miguel Azua, Daniel Blanco, Jordi Garcia, Andres Hernandez and Victor Hernandez, who has notched a team-

high 10 goals and a pair of assists. Alex Escobar dealt two assists and Jesus De La Torre added another as the Longhorns cruised to the win.

In the middle game Jan. 13, the Longhorns outclassed San Antonio Churchill 4-1 as Victor Hernandez scored twice and

Continued on Page 6



Dobie senior Jordi Garcia (10) and his teammates will take a 7-0-1 unbeaten record into the Jan. 19-21 Battleground Invitational in Deer Park after win-

ning three straight games at the Austin Lakes Showcase. Garcia has netted four goals in the early going for the Longhorns.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Battleground Invitational
Dobie vs. Bellaire
Jan. 19, 5 p.m. at Abshier Stadium, Deer Park
Dobie vs. Alief Taylor
Jan. 20, 5 p.m. at C.E. King H.S.
Dobie vs. Beaumont West Brook
Jan. 21, 5 p.m. at Abshier Stadium, Deer Park

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Registration ongoing
Lajaunie tennis making plans

The Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Tournament will celebrate its 12th year with an exciting new format for 2023 that includes three doubles jamboree mixer events as organizers continue to raise funds for youth tennis and graduating senior class educational scholarships.

As the sponsorship efforts start for 2023, various sponsorship levels are available to individuals or businesses at DLTennisScholarships.com, where the "Be A Sponsor" tab may then be selected.

For students applying for the tennis camp and college scholarships on the same site, deadline for submissions is April 7, 2023. The scholarships will be awarded to all hon-

orees in the latter part of April.

Dobie seniors who wish to apply for the college scholarships may do so by visiting the Lajaunie website or by picking up a packet in the school's counseling office.

The deadline for Dobie senior scholarship submissions is April 6, 2023.

The scholarship fund is named in honor of Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and lifelong tennis enthusiast who died in 2011 after a lengthy cancer battle.

Over the years, the fund has provided dozens of youth tennis scholarships and college education scholarships to deserving players.

The three jamboree series events will be held at

the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, with as many as 60 players (30 doubles teams) competing during the April 29, Aug. 19 and Dec. 2 events.

Individual players who would like to register without a predetermined playing partner will be paired with another player prior to the start of the first of the three jamborees.

Players/teams will earn points for performance during each jamboree segment, with an emphasis placed on competing in each of the three three-hour Saturday events.

The first segment - April 29 - will include a fun-filled April Fools theme.

Players may register for play at DLTennisScholarships.com.

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• Check Wiper Blades

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San Jacinto College Softball 2023 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 27	Grayson (at MCC)	2 p.m.
Jan. 27	Odessa (at MCC)	7 p.m.
Jan. 28	Butler (at MCC)	9 a.m.
Jan. 28	Chipola (at MCC)	11:30 a.m.
Feb. 4	Tyler (2)	2 p.m.
Feb. 5	Iowa Western	noon
Feb. 5	McLennan	2 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Navarro (2)	1 p.m.
Feb. 11	Hill (2)	noon
Feb. 12	Kilgore (2)	1 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Bossier Parish (2)	3 p.m.
Feb. 18	Ranger (2)	4 p.m.
Feb. 23-25	at Oxford tourn.	TBA
March 8	Trinity Valley (2)	3 p.m.
March 11	at LSU-Eunice (2)	2 p.m.
March 15	at Trinity Valley (2)	4 p.m.
March 18	*Coastal Bend (2)	2 p.m.
March 22	*at Alvin (2)	1 p.m.
March 25	*Lamar (2)	2 p.m.
March 29	*at Blinn (2)	2 p.m.
April 1	*Angelina (2)	4 p.m.
April 5	*at Galveston (2)	1 p.m.
April 7	LSU-Eunice (2)	3 p.m.
April 15	*at Coastal Bend (2)	2 p.m.
April 19	*Alvin (2)	3 p.m.
April 22	*at Lamar (2)	1 p.m.
April 26	*Blinn (2)	2 p.m.
April 29	*at Angelina (2)	4 p.m.
May 3	*Galveston (2)	3 p.m.
May 12-15	at Region 14 tourn.	TBA
*Region 14 games		

SJC plans another nationals run



San Jacinto College softball head coach Kelly Saenz will try to get her program back to a third straight national tournament as the 2023 season gets started Jan. 27 in Waco.

Clear Brook Varsity Baseball 2023 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 4	Shadow Creek scrim.	11 a.m.
Feb. 6	at La Porte scrim.	4 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Pas. Mem. scrim.	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Santa Fe scrim.	4 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Dobie scrim.	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	at Pas. Memorial	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 23-25	at La Porte tourn.	TBA
Feb. 27	St. Thomas	6 p.m.
March 2-4	CCISD tourn.	TBA
March 6	Barbers Hill	6 p.m.
March 9-11	at Baytown tourn.	TBA
March 14	*at Clear Falls	1 p.m.
March 17	*Clear Falls	1 p.m.
March 21	*Brazoswood	6 p.m.
March 24	*at Brazoswood	7 p.m.
March 28	*at Clear Lake	6 p.m.
March 31	*Clear Lake	6 p.m.
April 4	*Clear Creek	6 p.m.
April 6	*at Clear Creek	6 p.m.
April 11	at Conroe	5:30 p.m.
April 14	Texas City	5 p.m.
April 18	*at Clear Springs	6 p.m.
April 21	*Clear Springs	6 p.m.
April 25	*Dickinson	6 p.m.
April 28	*at Dickinson	6 p.m.
*District 24-6A games		

Dobie Varsity Baseball 2023 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 4	Alvin scrim.	11 a.m.
Feb. 6	Angleton scrim.	3 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Bay. Ster. scrim.	4 p.m.
Feb. 14	at La Porte scrim.	4 p.m.
Feb. 17	Clear Brook scrim.	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	Chavez (Dobie)	4 p.m.
Feb. 23-25	at Laredo tourn.	TBA
Feb. 27	at Clear Falls	6:30 p.m.
March 2-4	at Pasadena tourn.	TBA
March 6	Dawson (Dobie)	4 p.m.
March 9-11	at Baytown tourn.	TBA
March 14	*Deer Park (Dobie)	11 a.m.
March 16	*at Deer Park	11 a.m.
March 21	*Pasadena (Maguire)	6 p.m.
March 24	*Pasadena (Dobie)	4 p.m.
March 28	*Memorial (Dobie)	4 p.m.
March 31	*at Memorial	4 p.m.
April 4	*at Channelview	6 p.m.
April 6	*Channelview (Dobie)	4 p.m.
April 11	*Rayburn (Dobie)	4 p.m.
April 14	*Rayburn (Maguire)	6 p.m.
April 18	*at S. Houston	4 p.m.
April 21	*S. Houston	4 p.m.
April 24	Episcopal (Maguire)	6 p.m.
*District 22-6A games		

JFD softball starts preseason; scrimmages start Jan. 28

Dobie Varsity Softball 2023 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 28	Barbers Hill scrim.	TBA
Jan. 31	at La Porte scrim.	TBA
Feb. 3	at Friendswood scrim.	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	Clear Creek scrim.	6 p.m.
Feb. 10	Friendswood scrim.	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	Clear Brook (PISD)	6 p.m.
Feb. 16-18	at College Station tourn.	TBA
Feb. 23-25	at Pearland tourn.	TBA
Feb. 28	*Deer Park (PISD)	6 p.m.
March 2-4	at Friendswood tourn.	TBA
March 3	*Pasadena (PISD)	TBA
March 7	*Memorial (Dobie)	4 p.m.
March 10	*at Channelview	6 p.m.
March 21	*Rayburn (Dobie)	6 p.m.
March 24	*S. Houston (PISD)	6 p.m.
March 28	at Shadow Creek	6:45 p.m.
March 31	*at Deer Park	6 p.m.
April 4	*Pasadena (Dobie)	TBA
April 6	*at Memorial	4 p.m.
April 11	*Channelview (Dobie)	6 p.m.
April 14	*Rayburn (PISD)	6 p.m.
April 18	*S. Houston (PISD)	4:30 p.m.
*District 22-6A games		



Senior pitcher Sandra Quiroz (8), an Angelina College commit, is aiming for a strong finish to her Dobie softball career as she heads into her final season with the Longhorns. Dobie will begin scrimmages Jan. 28, with the regular season set to begin Feb. 13 against Clear Brook at the PISD Complex. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Christmas-Kelly, PISD hall of famer, nets role with WNBA's Indiana Fever

The WNBA's Indiana Fever have hired two new assistant coaches for the upcoming 2023 season, including Dobie High School varsity girls' basketball legend Karima Christmas-Kelly.

Jessie Miller and Christmas-Kelly join the staff of head coach Christie Sides, hired in November to lead a talented roster back to the top of the WNBA.

"I am excited that Karima and Jessie will join our Fever staff/family, two leaders who epitomize the values that define our franchise and our players," said Sides. "I am a firm believer that good things happen when you surround yourself with good people, and the Indiana Fever got better today adding these two outstanding coaches."

"Jessie has an unbelievable work ethic and is incredibly adept at building strong relationships, and her passion, dedication, and experience on both the women's and men's sides will elevate our team in all aspects," Sides said.

Christmas-Kelly brings a decade of experience as a WNBA player following a decorated career at Duke University, where she led the Blue Devils to two ACC Championships and was twice selected to the conference First Team. As

a member of the Fever's 2012 WNBA Championship team under Lin Dunn, she played an important role in elevating the franchise to the top of the League.

Her coaching and management experience includes roles on the Women's Basketball staffs at the University of Texas-Arlington, Duke and Georgia Tech, and she served as a women's college basketball analyst for ESPN during the 2021-2022 season. Additionally,

Christmas-Kelly is an entrepreneur, business owner and philanthropist, having founded her own clothing brand and charitable foundation.

"Karima is a WNBA champion and has been a winner at every level, plain and simple," said Sides. "She understands the hard work that it takes to hang a banner, and that experience is invaluable to me and our players." Indiana, which has the first pick in the WNBA draft, opens its season May 19.



Karima Christmas-Kelly was a member of the 2012 Indiana Fever squad that won the WNBA championship and played for nearly a decade in the league.

Dobie boys' soccer sweeps opponents at showcase

Continued from Page 5
Blanco and Jordi Garcia also found the back of the net. Assists came from Juan Lopez and Hernandez.

played in the three-day event, with only Dobie, San Antonio Lee and Seven Lakes emerging unbeaten and untied. Dobie's focus will be the 22-6A race as it all starts against a Deer Park program that advanced to the Region III final four a season ago. That stated, the Longhorns are off to the kind of start for which they hoped.

The Jan. 12 opener saw the Longhorns best San Antonio Johnson 2-0 at Austin Westlake High School. Keeper Diego Torres and a terrific defense earned the shutout in the Jan. 12 opener in Austin as the Longhorns blanked San Antonio Johnson 2-0. Victor Hernandez and Alex Escobar tallied goals and Garcia had an assist as the Longhorns rolled to 5-0-1 through the early going of the season. Overall, Dobie has scored 28 goals and dished 18 assists, while surrendering just seven total goals over eight games in all. Garcia has backed Victor Hernandez's torrid start with four goals and two assists, while Escobar has scored three goals. It's the first time in program history that the Dobie squad has gone 3-0-0 in Austin. For 2023, 28 teams

Dobie boys at Deer Park Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. Abshier Stadium
Dobie girls host Deer Park Jan. 24, 5:30 p.m. Veterans Stadium
At right, Dobie's Alex Escobar has chipped in with three goals as the Longhorns have tallied 28 goals on 18 assists while allowing just seven as part of a 7-0-1 start to the 2023 regular season. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Karima Christmas-Kelly was a McDonald's All-American selection at Dobie before putting together a solid four-year career at Duke. Originally drafted by the Washington Mystics in 2011, she played 243 career WNBA games with four teams in all, over parts of 10 seasons.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets at the Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.

Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or visit <https://www.houstonal-anon.org/>.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
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. Pickers may come early. Visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, dance lessons offered. Call 281-554-1180.
6 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older meets at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 832-715-9658.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Call 281-488-2923.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Friendswood chapter meets at Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society** - meeting will be held at League City Library - Helen Hall Library, 100 W Walker St, League City.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
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.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - monthly dance at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
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.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, JANUARY 23
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen, 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for appointment.

2 p.m. **Local NARFE Meeting** - meets at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Visitors welcome.
7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). Call 713-332-6294.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

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Longhorns open spring tennis schedule at Furlow event

The high school tennis season has hit the spring segment, where team representation is still important yet individual players have the opportunity to display their talents in bracket play.

Dobie was second overall to Deer Park in the team standings during the fall team tennis season, and Longhorns' head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. is excited to see just what some of his players can deliver beginning Jan. 20-21.

Dobie will again take part in the John Furlow Invitational in Fort Bend as the spring schedule begins.

In boys' singles, Moreno believes junior Ryan Le can turn some heads as he looks to eventually play in the top boys' singles spot in the fall 2023 team season.

"Ryan is getting better and better at letting the match come to him and slowing things down," Moreno said.

"He's a very quick player who likes to play fast on his feet, so I'm looking forward to seeing what he can do."

In girls' singles, Dobie's Hailey Maldonado was seeded second at last

year's 22-6A spring championships and took third place, narrowly missing out on a regional berth.

Like Le, Moreno said Maldonado is looking to continue her growth as a player as she takes aim at the top girls' singles spot for the fall of 2023.

In the girls' doubles, Moreno likes the potential of Tiffany Tran and Natalie Vo together, while the sophomore pairing of Diego Flores and Nolan Tran will join in the boys' doubles mix.

Moreno is also looking forward to what comes of the mixed doubles pairings of Ashley Huynh and William Ho in addition to Dominic Ortiz and Leslie Figueroa.

"I think we have the kids in the best chances to be successful, and it's all a matter of being consistent from match to match and getting to finals," Moreno said.

"There are some quality players and teams across our district, but like last year, it really boils down to knocking off the Deer Park teams at the district tournament. That is certainly the path to regionals," Moreno said.

"The spring season is always a lot more about having fun and spending time together on some of these trips. We also want to see just who is going to take that next step as we look toward the fall season."

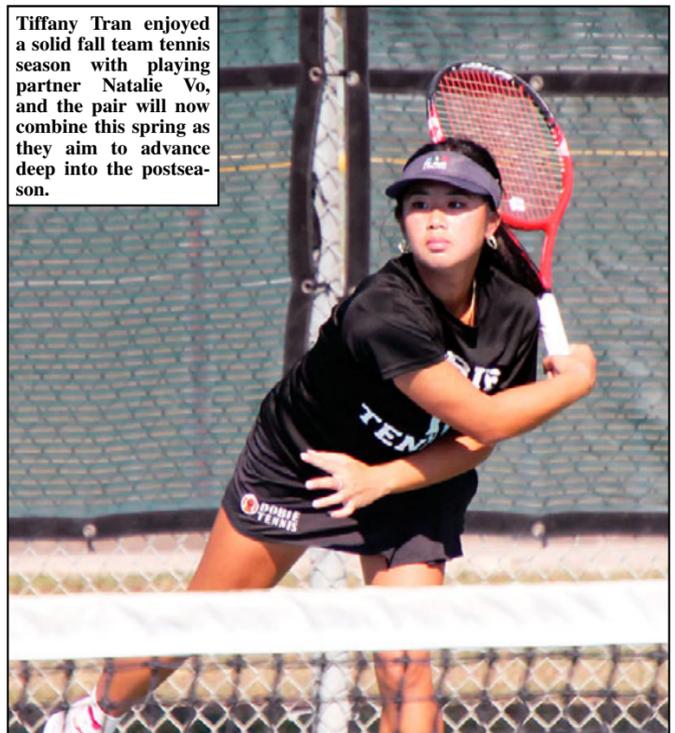
Dobie Varsity Tennis Spring Schedule

- Jan. 20-21 at FBISD John Furlow Invite TBA
- Jan. 27 at Ron Wesbrooks/Lamar Invite TBA
- Feb. 3-4 at PISD Franklin/Kramer Invite, TBA
- Feb. 10 at Pearland ISD Invite, TBA
- Feb. 17-18 at Deer Park ISD Invite, TBA
- Feb. 24-25 at Corpus Christi Spring Fling, TBA
- Feb. 27 Houston St. John's at Dobie, 3 p.m.
- March 9 at Aggieland College Station Invite, TBA
- March 24-25 at Galveston Beachcomber Classic, TBA
- March 29-30 at District 22-6A Championships, TBA
- April 11-12 at Region III Championships, TBA
- May 15-16 Student/Faculty Classic at Dobie, TBA

Dobie JV Tennis Spring Schedule

- Jan. 19 Having A Blast Invite at Dobie, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 26 at Clear Lake Invite, TBA
- Jan. 31 Pasadena ISD Invite, TBA
- Feb. 9 at Beachcomber Invite, TBA
- Feb. 14 at Deer Park ISD Invite, TBA
- Feb. 21 at Katy ISD Invite, TBA
- Feb. 28 at Baytown Invite, TBA
- March 7 at Clear Falls Invite, TBA
- March 23 at Clear Brook Mid-Week Invite, TBA
- April 6 at Peter Sunseri Invite, TBA
- April 13 Houston St. John's, 3 p.m.
- April 19 at District 22-6A Championships, TBA

Tiffany Tran enjoyed a solid fall team tennis season with playing partner Natalie Vo, and the pair will now combine this spring as they aim to advance deep into the post-season.



Natalie Vo was a second team all-district performer on the singles court from the No. 3 singles position and will now focus primarily on girls' doubles as the Dobie varsity tennis team open its spring slate.

Youths offered JFD Buddies Baseball

Area youth baseball players will once again have the chance to take part in the Dobie baseball program's fun-filled Buddies Baseball group for 2023.

Youths ages 5 through 13 may join the program, which partners the youth players with those from the Dobie varsity baseball

program for just \$30.

The Dobie Diamond Club is partnering with the Longhorns' baseball program to host the event. Registration deadline is Jan. 28.

Participants will be paired with a Dobie player and receive a Buddies Baseball T-shirt while also taking part in two

separate one-hour training sessions, an invitation to all Dobie home games, a meet-and-greet prior to the start of Dobie's season Feb. 20 and an end-of-season team mingling event.

Direct questions via email to jfdiamondclub@gmail.com or visit www.dobiediamondclub.com to register.

Clear Brook, Dobie basketball programs hit second-half stretch runs in league play

Continued from Page 5

Speaking of Clear Springs, the Knights were part of a two-team tie for second place at 3-1 along with Clear Falls, with a big night of action set for Jan. 17 after press time with Springs going up against Dickinson and Clear Falls taking on Clear Brook.

With first-half games coming against Falls and Brazoswood to finish out the first half of play, Clear Brook was in fifth place within the district.

The Wolverines will need to get at least one big win over any of the programs in front of it in order to enhance their post-season outlook.

Like Clear Brook, defending 22-6A varsity boys' basketball champion Dobie is at 2-2 and also finds itself in fifth place as

part of a challenging race.

South Houston now owns a first-round district win over second-place Deer Park, with the Trojans at 4-0 as of press time Jan. 17.

Pasadena won three of its first four league games to snag third place, with

Memorial fourth at 2-2 by virtue of its first-round win over the Longhorns.

The biggest issue for Dobie at the moment is that the teams in front of them have kept winning, and the locals need to score a win over one of them in order to gain ground.

With

roughly a half of league play remaining, there are plenty of opportunities out there to gain ground.

Can the Brook girls go unbeaten again? Will Deer Park hold off the Dobie girls in 22-6A?

Currently out of the playoff mix, can the Clear Brook and Dobie boys' teams make a move and change things? Time will tell.



Southbelt Little League to host free baseball clinic

The Southbelt Little League is set to host a free baseball clinic for area youths Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Coastal Baseball Field, 7320 Beltway 8 at SH 35.

Volunteer coaches will be on site instructing young players in all phases of the game, including hitting, pitching, fielding, baserunning and more.

The league's new board of directors is presently forming plans for registration for the 2023 season under the Little League International umbrella.

For Southbelt Little League information, send email to the league's address at southbeltlittleleague@gmail.com.

See related story on Page 1

Clear Brook sophomore Javaris Dominick (1) looks for an open man while in a crowd of Dickinson defenders during the Wolverines' Jan. 13 loss to the Gators. At 2-2 as of press time, the Wolverines were in fifth place within the District 24-6A ranks.

Photo by Andy Tolbert

Dobie girls' golfers second at Crosby; Brasfield second individually



Isabel Brasfield fired a single-round 98 to grab second place overall at the Crosby Invitational at the Stonebridge Golf Course as the Dobie girls' golf team started strong this spring. Brasfield's finish helped carry Dobie to second place overall as a team.

Dobie's girls' golf team is off to a fast start this spring with a second-place team finish at the Crosby Invitational at the Stonebridge Golf Course. From left to right, Dobie's finishers were Aliyah Sanchez (112), Olivia Tamez (102), Isabel Branfield (98), Kirsten Duong (106) and Ana Dinh (110).



Dobie's Valerie Akinloye (34) and her varsity girls' basketball teammates sit in second place in the District 22-6A standings with five games remaining.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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