

Sagemont to meet Feb. 3

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

City tree recycling continues

The City of Houston's annual Christmas tree recycling program will continue through Friday, Jan. 23. The program encourages residents to recycle their trees, rather than disposing of them in the trash. The trees will be turned into mulch and compost to be used at area parks and trails. Approximately 750,000 tons of trees have been recycled since the program began, officials said.

City residents may drop off the trees at any of the 20 recycling locations across the city. All lights, ornaments and flocking must be removed from the trees before dropping off. To see a complete list of drop-off sites, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311. Residents may also place the trees curbside for the city's regular heavy trash pickup Thursday, Feb. 12, or Friday, Feb. 13.

Knights sell barbecue

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue fundraiser at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost will be \$12 for a chopped brisket sandwich, chips and soft drink; and \$10 for a smoked turkey leg. Saturday will be drive-thru only, while Sunday will be dine in or take out. Proceeds will benefit the church's capital campaign.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series.

For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Kirkwood to meet Jan. 26

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Beverly Hills to meet Jan. 23

The Beverly Hills Civic Club will host a meeting Friday, Jan. 23, at the Beverly Hills Park community center, located at 10201 Kingspoint, from 10 to 11 a.m. All Beverly Hills residents are welcome to attend.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Spencer Highway to Greenshadow Drive continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Pasadena Boulevard to Fairmont Parkway continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from SH-225 to Red Bluff Road continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2026.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Freeway Manor to meet

The Freeway Manor Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at One Movement Bible Church (Bible Way Church), 10120 Hartsook. Meetings typically take place the fourth Thursday of the month. Residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley and Gulfway Terrace are encouraged to attend.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

Pasadena ISD's Lopez nationally recognized

Former Thompson principal named a 2025-2026 Superintendent to Watch

In her first year on the job, Pasadena ISD Superintendent Toni Lopez has been named a 2025-2026 Superintendent to Watch by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

The national recognition honors district leaders who demonstrate excellence in strategic communication, transparency, and community engagement while driving meaningful academic progress.

NSPRA spotlights Lopez's leadership and her ability to connect beyond the district through strong partnerships with local organizations that maximize the opportunities and workforce connections for students.

"Her leadership has unified our staff, inspired families, and positioned Pasadena ISD as a model for transparent, relationship-driven governance," said Kenny Fernandez, president of the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees. "Through every interaction, Dr. Lopez shows that communication is not just messaging but a powerful tool

for building trust, connection and effective leadership."

Lopez was one of 30 superintendents to be selected nationwide for the honor, which recognizes innovative superintendents in their first five years for outstanding leadership in fostering meaningful, two-way communication and strengthening community engagement.

This year's honorees are shaping stronger school systems by recognizing communication as a core leadership priority and leading with clarity, consistency and community connection. Across their districts, honorees led efforts ranging from launching student and family advisory

councils and districtwide listening tours to modernizing websites, newsletters and social media platforms to ensure timely, accessible communication for all families.

To be considered for the award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Fewer than five years of cumulative experience as a superintendent of schools in a school district/school board system(s) at the time of nomination.
- Implemented a communication program for the district that includes the use of new communication technology as well as more standard communication tools.
- Integrated communication goals and strategies into the district's strategic plan.
- Active, visible involvement in the district's communication effort (e.g., social media presence, participates in face-to-face engagement

activities, responsive to media requests, models good communication for staff).

Lopez was appointed to the superintendent position by the Pasadena ISD board last March following the retirement of former Superintendent DeeAnn Powell, who stepped down after serving the district for more than three decades. Lopez previously served as Pasadena ISD's deputy superintendent. Prior to that, she served as principal of Thompson Intermediate.

According to NSPRA officials, "Lopez has led Pasadena Independent School District with a systems-based approach to leadership that connects communication, data and community engagement to student success. Since becoming superintendent, she has emphasized visibility, transparency and two-way communication as the foundation for both academic improvement and

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Toni Lopez

Chamber selects 2026 board



The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce recently named its 2026 board members. Shown above at the chamber are, left to right, (front row) Lisa Holbrook, South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, president; Kristi Koncaba, chairman of the board; Anita Eakman, chamber vice president; (middle row) Crystal Rhame, Luna's Mexican Restaurant; Darlin Colon, My Community Health Network; Reyna Lara-Laguna, Shell Federal Credit Union; (back row) J. Aaron Knight, San Jacinto College; Alyta Harrell, Pasadena ISD, chair elect; Tristan Williams, Island Breeze Car Wash; Kenny Fernandez, National American Shipping Agencies; Sarah Ferguson, HomeBank; David Flickinger, South Belt-Ellington Leader and South Belt Graphics; Stephanie Clawson, Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital; Robert A. Whitley, Robert A. Whitley Attorney at Law; John Herman, AMOCO Federal Credit Union, treasurer; and Chris Clark, Clear Brook City MUD. Board members not shown are Noble Alix, b1Bank, past chair; Rebecca Lilley, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, secretary; Rosanne Kerr, H-E-B; and Emory Gadd, Sagemont Church. The members will be officially sworn in at the chamber's annual gala Feb. 6.

Chamber to hold annual gala Feb. 6

Dobie grad and musician Rodell Duff to speak, perform

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's annual gala is set to take place from 6 to 11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the Hobby Airport Marriott, located at 9100 Gulf Freeway.

Titled *Suede, Leather & Lace*, this year's banquet will be a celebration of Western elegance, live music and good old Texas fun, organizers said.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their best Western-inspired outfits. From custom-made hats to boot-shining stations that will have one ready for the dance floor, organizers have spared no detail to make this a night to remember.

National recording artist and 2009 Dobie graduate, Rodell Duff will serve as both the event's keynote speaker and as musical entertainment. Guests should bring their best two-stepping shoes to dance the night away to Duff's soulful country and Western music.

A Citizen of the Year and a Chamber Member of the Year will be announced at the event.

The event will also feature the swearing in of new chamber officers.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, visit southbeltchamber.com/sude-leather-lace or call 281-481-5516.

Forums planned for primary candidates

Events include candidates seeking state rep, justice of peace

The South-Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce will host a pair of forums for candidates appearing on the upcoming March primary ballot.

Justice of the peace

The first forum – featuring candidates seeking the position of Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 justice of the peace – will take place Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the San Jacinto College South Campus, Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Building.

Candidates Jack Ezell and Oscar Salazar Jr. have agreed to take part in the event. Incumbent Dolores Lozano has elected to not participate in the forum.

Networking/meet the candidates will begin at 6 p.m., with the forum taking place from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

State representative

The second forum – featuring candidates seeking the position of state representative for Texas House District 129 – will take place Wednesday, Feb. 11. A joint effort with the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the forum will be held at the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership office, located at 1150 Gemini.

The forum will include only Republican candidates, as the Democratic nominee for this position (Albert Wittliff) is running unopposed.

Republican candidates Scott Bowen and Bob Mitchell have both agreed to take part in the event.

Networking/socializing will take place from 4:30 to 5 p.m., with the forum taking place from 5 to 6 p.m. Guests are encouraged to RSVP in advance to Michelle Costello at costello@bayareahouston.com.

Leader continues 2025 Year in Review

The *Leader* continues its look back on 2025 with a list of some of the significant stories of the year. For highlights up to July, see the Jan. 15 edition of the *Leader*.

July

The 35th annual South Belt Independence Day Parade was a huge success Friday, July 4, attracting dozens of participants and hundreds of spectators. *Leader* co-founder Marie Flickinger posthumously served as grand marshal of the event, with her family members riding in the parade's lead vehicle.

Local businessman and longtime San Jacinto College board member John Moon Jr. died unexpectedly Friday, July 4, from a suspected heart attack.

A 12-year-old boy was killed Sunday, July 13, in an accidental shooting at his home in the 11100 block of Sageheather Drive. According to investigators, the child was playing with his sibling inside the residence when the pair discovered a firearm, which accidentally discharged, fatally striking the child, who was pronounced dead at the scene. No immediate charges were filed against the boy's parents.

August

In a last-minute announcement prior to the 2025-2026 school year, Pasadena ISD officials named Carey Sink the new principal of Dobie High School. Sink formerly served as the school's assistant principal. The appointment was necessary after former Dobie Principal Jor-

ly Thomas was promoted to a new administrative position with the school district. A Dobie alumnus and former varsity football player at the school, Sink also previously served as assistant football coach for the area high school.

Following years of challenges and setbacks, the new Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone Campus finally opened its doors, with students beginning their 2025-2026 school year Monday, Aug. 11, just days ahead of their local ISD counterparts. Part of the Houston Gate-

way Academy charter school network, the campus will focus on college-preparatory study and academic achievement. Located in Riverstone Ranch, the school's opening was delayed for several years due to construction issues and legal troubles.

A male driver was killed in an automobile accident Saturday, Aug. 16, in the 9600 block of Clearwood Street near Alameda Genoa Road. According to investigators, Jorge Salazar Landa

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Trash collects at former C&D



A pile of discarded debris has collected at the former C&D Burger Shoppe on Fuqua (shown above), prompting complaints from multiple area residents who complain that it's an eyesore. City officials have been notified of the junk waste and have assisted in clearing the debris in past instances but noted, however, it is actually the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the sites.

Photo by David Flickinger

PISD officials deny online Dobie rumors

Online posts claimed a JFD teacher had relations with student

Contrary to online rumors about a Dobie teacher allegedly having inappropriate relations with a student, no such incidents have taken place, according to Pasadena ISD officials.

Rumors spread like wildfire this past week on social media that an unidentified teacher at Dobie main had been caught having a relationship with a student. One post further elaborated that the al-

leged incident specifically involved an assistant teacher and a sophomore student, and that the accused teacher had been charged and arrested.

According to Pasadena ISD officials, there were such accusations at Dobie this past November but a police investigation into the matter produced no evidence of a crime and no charges were ever filed.

HCAD advises residents of options

Eligible residents may defer, postpone property tax payments

The Harris County Appraisal District reminds eligible residents they may defer or postpone their property tax payments.

Deferrals

Qualifying residents may file to defer their tax payments, according to the Harris Central Appraisal District.

Texans who are age 65 or older or who are disabled as defined by law may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit at the HCAD office.

When the deceased spouse died.

"Homeowners who are 65 or older or disabled also should be sure they have applied for and received the appropriate homestead exemptions. These exemptions will reduce future tax burdens, and the tax savings from homestead exemptions are theirs to keep," said Chief Appraiser Adam Bogard. "In December, the appraisal district mailed postcards listing the homestead exemptions the property owner has and encouraging them to contact us if they are eligible for one additional exemption because of a 65th birthday or becoming disabled."

A filed tax deferral affidavit keeps homeowners from losing their homesteads because of delinquent property taxes. A pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien will also cease as a result of filing a tax deferral affidavit. In ad-

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In My Opinion

King recaps TIRZs' value

Per the recently released City of Houston audit, the City's contribution of property tax revenue to the TIRZs exceeded \$200 million. That is the bad news. The good news is that the contribution was slightly lower than last year (\$203MM \$201MM).

The City has increased its contributions to the TIRZs by nearly 50% since 2018. However, the other taxing entities participating in the TIRZs have steadily reduced their contributions.

I think there are two takeaways from these trends.

First, the theory that the TIRZs are generating property tax values faster than the rest of the City, thus justifying their receiving preferential revenue, is breaking down. If the value of properties in the TIRZs were perpetually increasing faster than the City generally, then their increment should be steadily increasing. Many of the properties in the TIRZs are office buildings, whose value is under severe stress, and I suspect they will likely continue to drive TIRZ revenues down.

Second, it is interesting that taxing entities other than the City have been

steadily reducing their participation. There are likely two reasons for that. First, they see no benefit from their participation. Second, and probably more importantly, their taxpayers have not imposed a property tax revenue limitation, so they have no motivation to create a subterfuge to duck the taxpayers' wishes. Ironically, if the values in the TIRZs begin growing more slowly than the rest of the City, it will actually make the restrictions of the property tax cap more severe. Won't that be poetic justice!

Some TIRZs have done important infrastructure projects. The Lake Houston TRIZ is currently constructing important improvements to Northpark that are critically needed in Kingwood. But many of the TIRZs have long since outlived their usefulness and become a fiscal drag on the City. Uptown and Midtown certainly come to mind.

TIRZs were never supposed to become perpetual quasi-governmental entities. The City should begin a case-by-case review of each TIRZ with a view toward beginning an orderly liquidation of those whose rationale for existence has long passed.

Bill King

Garcia promotes World Cup



Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia recently joined La Camara de Empresarios Latinos de Houston for a panel to discuss the projected economic impact of the upcoming World Cup and potential opportunities for small businesses. Set to take place June 14 to July 4 at NRG Stadium, the 2026 FIFA World Cup is expected to bring in millions of tourism dollars for small businesses.

AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 is welcoming one to join them at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586. They meet in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. One is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is an entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

The program will be a presentation on "Aging on your Terms" by Linda McGee-Jones, an advocate and consultant. The social activity will be "Senior Shenanigans" games of human slot machine, plinko, corn hole and chair volleyball with door prizes.

AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, Feb. 24 which includes a sack lunch at Newman's Castle in Bellville. The following trip will be on Wednesday, March 25, to the Stark Museum in Orange. Members may register and pay for these trips at the Thursday, Feb. 12, monthly meeting. One must be a member of Chapter 199 to participate in the bus trips.

If one is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact President Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or at veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.

Friends of PWBL seeks book donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library would like to thank the South Belt community for their continuing support. The library is currently in need of new or gently used children's books, adult paperback novels (both fiction and non-fiction) and DVDs and CDs. Donations can be made during open hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Ste. 501.

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.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 2 - 4 p.m. Saturdays at HPL. Registration required.

Monday, Jan. 26, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Bring your family to storytime. Registration required.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 4 - 5 p.m. Discover together: Join our family STEM. Registration required.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 6 - 7 p.m. Pajama storytime. 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.

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. 22, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Friday, Jan. 23, 3 - 5 p.m. Sewing club. Registration required.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 10 a.m. - noon. Tai Chi.

Saturday, Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Adult painting with Malu. Registration required.

Monday, Jan. 26, 1 - 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.

Monday, Jan. 26, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Sublimation orientation.

Monday, Jan. 26, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 5 - 6 p.m. Tax workshop with Sheba: "Getting ready to file."

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Rose gardening. 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, 10 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 at 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>.

Former Church's to be refurbished



A chain-link fence was recently erected around the former Church's Chicken in the 11300 block of Hughes Road at Sageglen, as construction crews are preparing to refurbish the abandoned structure. The former fast food

restaurant has drawn the ire of several residents who complain of waste and graffiti at the neglected property. At press time, it was unclear what future plans were in place for the property.

Photo by David Flickinger

County detects West Nile virus case

Infected mosquito sample marks 1st WNV detection this year

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) has confirmed the first positive mosquito samples of 2026 in Harris County.

The department's Mosquito and Vector Control (MVC) Division identified mosquito samples that tested positive for the West Nile virus (WNV) in Harris County ZIP codes 77041 and 77032 in north and northwestern Harris County.

"Although mosquitoes are present in our area throughout the year, it is unusual to find virus-positive samples this early in the year. The unseasonably warm winter we are experiencing is conducive to mosquito breeding, which highlights the importance of mosquito bite prevention, breeding control, and treatment year-round," said Dr. Courtney Standlee, director of HCPH's Mosquito and Vector Control Division. "Our surveillance program helps us identify potential risks early and allows us to take swift action to protect the health of our communities."

In response to the positive mosquito samples, MVC has dispatched ultra-low volume spray trucks to treat affected neighborhoods and surrounding areas during the evenings, when mosquitoes are most active. These targeted spray operations are part of HCPH's ongoing efforts to reduce mosquito populations and lower the risk of disease transmission.

At this time, no mosquito-borne human cases

have been reported in Harris County in 2026. In 2025, there were 10 reported human cases of WNV in Harris County, while 45 cases were reported in 2024. HCPH continues to monitor conditions closely and will update the public as additional information becomes available.

Mosquitoes are present in Harris County throughout the year, though activity typically increases during warmer months. Of the more than 50 mosquito species found locally, only a small number can transmit diseases, such as WNV, dengue, Zika and chikungunya.

Most people infected with mosquito-borne viruses do not experience symptoms or may have mild symptoms such as fever or headache. In rare cases, severe illness can occur. Anyone experiencing concerning symptoms should contact their health care provider.

Community members can view HCPH's live positive mosquito pool and mosquito treatment map, updated daily, at hcphth.org/mc.

HCPH's Office of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Emerging Disease also tracks and reports mosquito-borne disease human cases within the department's jurisdiction. Case data for 2025 is available at hcphth.org/mosquitodiseases; there have been no human cases yet in 2026.

For additional mosquito prevention tips, visit hcphth.org/preventthebite.

HCPH reminds residents

to remember the three Ts to mosquito control -Tip, Toss, Take Action!

Tip

Heavy rains during the summer months in the Houston region can create a "perfect storm" for mosquitoes to breed. Follow these simple tips to prevent mosquito breeding sites around one's home, especially right after a weather event:

- Tip or empty standing water from pet bowls, flowerpots, tires, buckets and other containers.

- If one has a birdbath, change its water every three to five days.

Toss

Mosquitoes also breed in small spots where stagnant water might be hidden from the human eye. Practice the following tips to reduce mosquito breeding in those covered spots:

- Toss out debris, trash and other unwanted items around one's home.

- Clean out clogged drain gutters.

- Keep outdoor trash bins closed and avoid overfilling them.

- Do not sweep lawn clippings, leaves or litter into storm drains as this will prevent water from flowing, creating ideal mosquito-breeding sites.

- Minimize opportunities for standing water to accumulate by emptying stagnant water from flowerpots, buckets, tires or any other water-collecting objects.

Take action!

There are also a number

of ways to take action and reduce mosquito populations.

- When using mosquito repellent, keep the following points in mind:

- Use as directed by the label instructions on the product.

- Do not use insect repellents on babies younger than 2 months of age.

- Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-methane-di-ol on children younger than 3 years of age.

- Apply an EPA-registered repellent on oneself and loved ones when outdoors.

- When possible, wear long sleeves, pant and socks.

- Treat standing water with larvicides in areas where water cannot be covered, emptied, or removed and will not be used for drinking. Larvicides are a type of pesticide that is applied to kill mosquitoes in their early stages of development (larvae) before they become biting adults. They are sold in forms of liquid, tablets, pellets, granules and briquettes and available in most hardware stores. Larvicides are safe to use for the environment. Follow the instructions of the particular larvicide product one is using.

- Make sure to completely turn off outdoor faucets to prevent leaks; fix any faucets that are constantly leaking.

- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows. For other mosquito prevention tips and resources, visit hcphth.org/MCVDResources.

Death

Dianne Louise Hegar Helms



Dianne Louise Hegar Helms, 52, passed into the loving arms of her Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, on Jan. 10, 2026, at Methodist Hospital in the Woodlands. She was born on Nov. 6, 1973, in Houston.

Dianne grew up in the Sagemont area, and she attended Frazier Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School. She and her family attended Sagemont Presbyterian Church. Dianne was active in girls' softball in Sagemont and Friendswood. She was a Brownie and a Girl Scout, she took twirling lessons, she was a Dobie Lariatette, and she was a Texas State Junior High Game player and High Series Bowler for years. Dianne loved to jog, swim, surf, garden, camp, fish and tend to stray animals. She was a landscaper and was very knowledgeable about plants and flowers.

Unfortunately, Dianne was in a terrible alcohol-related vehicle accident on the morning of Dec. 31, 2006. She suffered a traumatic brain injury followed by a stroke. She was in various stages of a coma for 14 months before awakening with a vengeance. She was unable to walk, talk, eat or drink, but her determination and sense of humor were her shining light. Dianne became a speaker via her text-to-speech computer for Shattered Lives Programs in high schools and in churches from 2010 until COVID stopped

the programs in 2021. She touched countless lives through her presentations and by distributing copies of her testimony.

Dianne was preceded in death by her grandparents John Cruse, Kyle and Earl Harding, Irene and Marvin Hegar Sr., Frances, and Dr. Rod DuChemin; her aunt, Debbie DuChemin; and her uncle, Steve Cruse. She is survived by her father, Marvin Hegar Jr.; her mother and stepfather, Linda and Dan DuChemin; her daughter, Leanne Helms; her sisters, Klynnne Anderson, Lauren Hoskins (Joseph) and Hope Gentry; and her brother, Trey Hegar.

She is also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and caregivers.

Dianne's celebration of life will be Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at First Baptist Conroe, 600 Main St., Conroe, Texas, at 11 a.m., with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. in the foyer. A reception will follow the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, one may make donations in Dianne's memory to benefit her brother Trey's disabled son, Hudson, with respite, day habitation and future housing by donating via check or online through First Presbyterian Church Mt. Pleasant, Iowa/ Special Needs, 902 S. Walnut, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 (319)986-5851; to benefit Dianne's sister, Hope Gentry, by donating to New Danville, her current day habitation and future housing, via newdanville.org/give now, or via check to New Danville, 10951 Shepard Hill Road, Willis, TX 77318 (936-344-6200); or to any charity of choice.

Leader

obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

SBHLL seeks participants

Sagemont Beverly Hills Little League will offer its Challenger Division for the Spring 2026 season. The Challenger Division is a free adaptive baseball program for children and young adults ages 4 to 22 with physical or intellectual disabilities.

The program provides participants the opportunity to enjoy baseball in a safe, fun and inclusive environment while developing skills and confidence. The league is currently seeking players, player buddies, coaches, volunteers and sponsors. Sagemont Beverly Hills Little League is based at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road.

For more information, visit leagues.bluesombrero.com/southbelittleleague, call 713-966-9235, or email sagemontbeverlyhillsll2024@gmail.com.

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South Belt Elementary names December Super Steers



Officials at South Belt Elementary recently announced the December Super Steers. These students were selected by their teachers for displaying the character trait empathy. Left to right, are (first row) Julian Saucedo, Jocelyn Chloe Pecero, Emma Beltran, Ethan Alejos, (second row) Carter Chitwood, Sonia Morgan, Emma Guin, Alan Posadas, Joseph Saldana, Elyse Picquet, Cora Dischler, Thalia Langanke, Alaia Graciano, Greyson Eaglin, (third row) Christopher Herrera, Ivan Punzo, Evelyn Saldana, Tori Pippins, Taylor Mclean, Dominic Sanchez, Aiden Williams, Joel Guevara, Camila Garcia, (fourth row) Danica Mendoza, Max Leal, Eric De La Garza, John Thomas, Brian Cao, Emma Medina, Darien Jackson, Trace Mitchell, Caiden Suarez and Ava Koester. Amari Wright is not pictured.

Photo by Lakiha Thomas (counselor)

Pasadena ISD's Lopez recognized Local educator named a Superintendent to Watch

Continued from Page 1

NSPRA officials. The superintendent maintains a robust public calendar – attending district events, parent nights, student performances and civic meetings. She connects personally with stakeholders through Administrative Council discussions, District Education Council (DEC) collaborations and community presentations that keep staff informed and inspired.

Lopez's leadership also shines through her ability to build and empower a strong communication team. She understands that excellence must be seen, heard and felt. Under her guidance, Pasadena ISD's communication strategy has evolved into a model of engagement – leveraging social media, multimedia storytelling and community outreach that consistently outperforms the engagement rates of fully paid influencers. Her commitment to openness extends beyond posts and press releases; she appears regularly on live talk shows, invites local news media onto campuses, and welcomes interviews that reflect a culture of transparency and trust.

Lopez has placed communication at the center of Pasadena ISD's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, which is organized around three priorities: excellence, opportunity and experience. Communication is built into each priority through family partnerships, community outreach and structures that ensure student and community voices shape district decisions.

This includes the following:

- Family and community engagement strategies that ensure parents and residents are "active partners" in student learning.
- Campus meetings, surveys and advisory groups

that provide ongoing feedback loops.

- Clear, bilingual and culturally responsive communication across district platforms.

Lopez's leadership extends far beyond district boundaries. NSPRA officials said, Lopez continues to strengthen community partnerships through active collaboration with the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and San Jacinto College – bridges that expand opportunities for students and strengthen the local workforce pipeline. These partnerships reflect her belief that education doesn't stop at the schoolhouse door – it's a shared investment in the community's future.

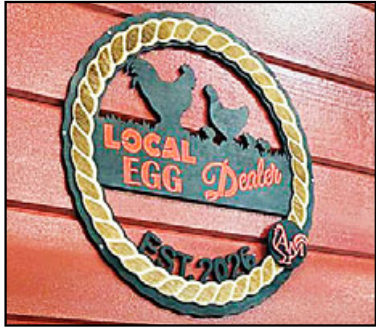
Lopez has strengthened Pasadena ISD's public profile and community confidence, particularly in one of the nation's largest media markets. Her open, approachable style has made her a trusted voice for students, families and the broader public.

Under Lopez's direction, Pasadena ISD has earned a second consecutive CTE Distinction, been named one of the nation's "Best Communities for Music Education" for the 19th consecutive year, received 39 Counselors Reinforcing Excellence in The State of Texas (CREST) awards across the district and raised more than \$500,000 in teacher mini-grants through the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation.

Honorees will be formally recognized in July at the NSPRA's 2026 National Seminar in New Orleans.

For more information or to read the full list of NSPRA Superintendents to Watch, visit www.nsprapro.org/news/meet-the-nspira-2025-26-superintendents-to-watch.

Dobie FFA members attend the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo



FFA members Mathew Trevino and Abrianna Carbajal recently traveled to Fort Worth with their families and agriculture teacher Robert McGill. Trevino and Carbajal entered their chicken coop project after spending weeks in the parking lot of the Dobie agriculture barn building it for the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo. They walked away with a second-place ribbon. The sign from Trevino and Carbajal's chicken coop is shown at left.



Showing off their second-place ribbon are, left to right, Mathew Trevino, Robert McGill and Abrianna Carbajal.

Pct. 8 patrols Edgebrook area

Local deputies continue to patrol the area near the Gulf Freeway and Edgebrook, historically known to have a high crime rate. On Monday, Jan. 12, around 1 a.m., Precinct 8 K-9 Deputy K. Peters conducted a traffic stop on a white Lexus in the 11100 block of the Gulf Freeway for multiple violations. Peters made contact with the driver, later identified as 61-year-old Kelvin Menefee. During the stop, Precinct 8 K9 Duke was deployed for an open-air sniff on the vehicle, and a subsequent search revealed a bag containing approximately 5 grams of crack cocaine, as well as a crack pipe. A further probable cause search of the vehicle yielded multiple small plastic bags. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted the felony charge of possession of a controlled substance with intent to manufacture or deliver. Menefee was placed

into custody and transported to the Harris County Joint Processing Center,

where he was booked without incident. Bond was set at \$80,000.



Kelvin Menefee

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Garza places in Battle on the Bayou Prospect



Pictured is Dobie FFA member Noah Garza and his goat Buzzball who recently competed in the Battle on the Bayou Prospect show in Anahuac and placed third in his class and in Ring B.

Giles, Prill marry



Tracy and James Giles of Kirkwood South announce the marriage of their daughter Kristen Nicole Giles and Tyler Mathieu Gene Prill, of Rogersville, Mo. The groom's parents are Tina and Damian Ballard. The wedding took place Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, at Freeway Baptist Church followed by a small reception in the fellowship hall at Freeway Baptist Church. Kristen Nicole's father gave her away as "The Painter" by Cody Johnson was played while they walked down the aisle. The bride and groom walked out with "Walking on Sunshine," by Katrina and the Waves. The couple returned to Mo. where Kristen will finish her teaching degree at Mission University. Tyler is an electrical apprentice. Nicole is the grand-daughter of the late Bobby Griffin, co-founder of South Belt-Ellington Leader.

Remember When

45 years ago (1981)
Approximately 40 residents attended the first open meeting of the South Belt Crime Watch Association.

South Belt area residents elected to the Pasadena Independent School District board officers were Harvey Turner, board president; Sam Hawkins, vice-president; and Rudy Schubert, assistant secretary.

40 years ago (1986)
Dale Atkinson, personnel services consultant for the Texas Association of School Boards, told the Pasadena board of trustees that the district was paying "flatly above average" and that teacher salaries were among the highest in the state.

The South Belt Coalition elected its steering committee which established its list of goals for 1986, including the expediting of cleanup of the Brio Refinery site off Dixie Farm Road.

35 Years ago (1991)
Dobie High School juniors taking the exit Texas Assessment of Academic Skills tests (TAAS) surpassed the state average on all three portions and had 79 percent of students pass all the tests. The TAAS replaced the Texas Education Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS). The TAAS had more emphasis on comprehension and reasoning, divided into three sections: writing, reading and math.

Federal Judge David Hittner refused to sign the Brio Consent Decree or make a decision on a court master or legal motions until he received more information and legal clarification. The judge's action only postponed the question over whether or not an incinerator would be built at the Brio Superfund site.

Three Motorola walkie-talkie radios disappeared in front of the Hughes Road fire station. The radios were left at the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department station by a delivery service. All the crew members were out on a run, so nobody signed for the radios, which were estimated at approximately \$1,500 each.

30 years ago (1996)
Dwayne Myles, a Beverly Hills eighth-grader, was playing around at the beginning of a second period P.E. class and ran and jumped up to touch the rim of a basketball goal. He was laughing about touching the rim, and then collapsed.

Pearland residents living near Yost Road presented City Council with a petition signed by 400 persons who opposed connecting Yost with Scarsdale.

25 years ago (2001)
At one of the more festive banquets the chamber had sponsored, Terry Felton, manager of Alameda Mall, turned the president's gavel over to Johnny Carmona of Sam's Club.

Judy Harrison was honored by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year.

20 years ago (2006)
CCISD trustees were studying growth in the area to prepare for additional school facilities. The district had experienced its enrollment increasing by about 1,000 students per year, but a study by MetroStudy suggested the area would serve 52,000 students by the year 2020.

Moore Elementary Principal Pat Granger was named the PISD Region IV Elementary Principal of the Year.

Sageglen resident Brandon Guillory, 22, was killed in a one-vehicle accident on Beltway 8 near the Genoa Red Bluff toll plaza. Guillory lost control of his truck and struck a wooden light pole.

Seven former South Belt residents ran the 2006 Aramco Houston Half Marathon in honor of the Todd Krampitz Foundation. One of the runners in the event, which focuses on increasing the awareness of the importance of blood, marrow, tissue and organ donations, was Krampitz's widow, Julie Pistone Krampitz.

15 years ago (2011)
Action Ministries celebrated its 20th anniversary. The nonprofit organization, run by South Belt residents Gordon and Pat Berg, is devoted to serving the needy in the community and beyond. What began as a two-person operation has now evolved into an army of several hundred volunteers. The Bergs celebrated the organization's anniversary at a banquet at The Gardens.

The 15th annual South Belt Spectacular Cookoff's new organizers began making plans for the event to be held in May. The fundraiser is the major contributor to the Fourth of July fireworks display at El Franco Lee Park each year.

10 years ago (2016)
Dobie High School announced its fourth class of Hall of Honor inductees. Inductees included banker Robert E. Marling Jr. (Dobie Class of 1974), research scientist Dr. Mark Yandell (Class of 1983), the Rev. Sean Horrigan (Class of 1984), and Harris County Constable Phil Sandlin (Class of 1987) will be honored at an induction ceremony next month at the high school. The late Carole Stockinger, a longtime English teacher at Dobie, was also to be inducted.

5 years ago (2021)
The Pasadena ISD board of trustees was named the Texas Computer Education Association 2020-2021 School Board of the Year. A nonprofit organization that supports the use of technology in education, TCEA annually presents the award to a school board that "recognizes the importance of technology in the teaching and learning process and actively promotes the use of technology throughout the district," according to the group's website.

A man was shot during a road rage incident Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the 11600 block of the Gulf Freeway near Alameda Genoa Road/ South Shaver Street. According to Houston police, the incident took place around 12:15 p.m. as the victim was entering the freeway near Fuqua and a female driving a silver or gray BMW SUV pulled alongside him and fired multiple times. The victim, who suffered a gunshot wound to the foot, attempted to drive away from the shooter but crashed into another vehicle. The suspect was described only as being a white or Hispanic female, 28 to 35 years of age. No immediate arrests were made.

1 year ago (2025)
Local deputies made at least two large drug busts in recent weeks, taking thousands of dollars worth of contraband off area streets.

On Thursday, Dec. 19, deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit, with assistance from Precinct 2 patrol deputies and agents from the U.S. Marshals (Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force) executed a successful arrest warrant on a known male located in the 10400 block of Sage-trail near Kirkville.

Upon executing the search warrant in the early morning hours, deputies were able to successfully take 24-year-old Ivan Benjamin Rosales into custody without incident.

As deputies were inside the home, they observed narcotics in plain view all throughout the home. Numerous amounts of narcotics, packaging items, several firearms and other illegal items were recovered.

Narcotics recovered included 18 pounds of marijuana, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, oxycodone and 375 pounds of promethazine/codeine.

Deputies also recovered several thousand dollars in U.S. currency and 12 firearms, seven of which were stolen.

Rosales was arrested for the felony warrant and charged with felony possession of marijuana and two counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

HCAD advises residents of payment options

Continued from Page 1

dition, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes once an affidavit is filed. There are no penalties on delinquent taxes during the deferral period; however, a tax deferral does not cancel penalties that were already due.

"Homeowners with a mortgage on their home should first check with their mortgage company to make certain the deferral does not violate the terms of the deed of trust securing the mortgage on the property," Bogard said. "Most deeds of trust require that taxes be paid currently."

All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer qualifies for the exemption. If the tax debt remains unpaid at that time, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.

For further details about property tax deferral, contact the Harris Central Appraisal District's information center at 713-957-800 or email help@hcad.org. Information can be found online at www.hcad.org by keying in "tax deferrals" in the Search Bar at the top right of the screen. Information also is available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax.

Options available

HCAD officials advise residents there are multiple payment methods one may utilize.

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 canceled – 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 one has 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. Applying for the homestead exemption can be done easily and without cost through the Harris Central Appraisal District's website or mobile app," said Adam Bogard, chief appraiser.

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

For more information on HCAD's payment option, visit www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax.

CREST recognizes Pasadena ISD campuses

- The counseling programs at 38 Pasadena ISD schools have been named "Counselors Reinforcing Excellence in The State of Texas" (CREST) award winners for the 2024-2025 school year. The Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas (CREST) Award, recognizes outstanding school counseling programs and serves as a tool for continuous growth and advocacy. The following campuses were recognized for this achievement:
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Elementary <ul style="list-style-type: none">– A.B. Freeman Elementary, Ilisa Garza;– Atkinson Elementary, Asia Alvarez;– Bailey Elementary, Lyzette Ayala;– Burnett Elementary, Karina Diaz;– Fisher Elementary, Royce Henley;– Garfield Elementary, Elizabeth Aceves;– Golden Acres Elementary, Janet Martine; | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Jensen Elementary, Melissa Loza;– Jessup Elementary, Lisa Bemus;– Kruse Elementary, Cynthia Resendez;– L.F. Smith Elementary, Dora Ortiz;– Mae Smythe Elementary, Leah Minter;– Mattheys Elementary, Julie (Blanca) Regalado;– Meador Elementary, Tara Krzenski;– Richey Elementary, Noel Becerra;– Frazier Elementary, Araceli Rodriguez;– South Belt Elementary, Lakitha Thomas;– Sparks Elementary, Dana Babineaux;– Stuchbery Elementary, Alyssa Valdez;– Teague Elementary, Cynthia McGurder, Amy Campos;– Hancock Elementary, Stacey Gomez;– Williams Elementary, Esmeralda Marroquin; | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Shaw Middle School, Nicole Bhuyan and Gladis Garcia;– Lomax Middle School, Melisa Nichols and Jennifer Malave;– Keller Middle School, Shari Harris and Tracy Skripka;– Morris Middle School, Kim Edwards and Katie Casey;– Schneider Middle School, Santana Fairley and Davita Redding; | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Marah Garza;– Thompson Intermediate, Jill Butler, Prudencio Reyna and Leticia Sanchez;– V.W. Miller Intermediate, Jacquie Trejo, Marissa Sifuentes and Gloria Zavala; |
| High School <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Pasadena High School, Lead: Edward Ricco, Danielle Real, Mary Ames, Retta Pieiri, Leticia Diaz, Jennifer Owens and Rimalda Rivera; | Middle School <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Pasadena Memorial High School, Lead: Hortensia Melchor, Arlene Hernandez, Rachael Adcock, LaKeitha Kirven, Marissa Garcia, Maricella Escamilla, Emily Tirado, Laura Milam, Tara Evans South Houston High School, Lead: Kathy Bryant, Victoria Cano, Michelle Malveaux, Donna Burns, Kevin George, Chanel Foster, Cristiana Santallian and Robin McCann. | Intermediate <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Beverly Hills Intermediate, Vanessa Shultz, Carlos Guerrero and Lupita Hernandez;– Jackson Intermediate, Angella Gencarelli and Kassie Morrison;– San Jacinto Intermediate, Jessica Casteel and Brenda Saenz;– South Houston Intermediate, Valarie Torres-French and Michelle Duran;– Southmore Intermediate, Kristy Lewis, Mandy Wells | |



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Over The Back Fence by Nicole

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

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.

LAILA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes for a happy birthday are sent Jan. 27 to Dr. Laila Hassan from her family, friends, office staff and the Leader staff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAVY!
Happy birthday greetings are sent to Davy Flickinger, Leader president, on Jan. 27. David is wished a great day by his wife Ellie; daughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca; grandchildren Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Eliana and Isabella and Sebastian Delgado and child Esme; dad David Flickinger; brother Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger; niece Kimberly and Matt Lipino and child William; niece Courtney Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; and the staff at the Leader.

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2025 GRADUATES
Congratulations are in order for South Belt students Madison Blain who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science, Kristin Konzelman who earned a Master of Library Science in library science and Sherita Rodgers who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics.

STUDENT NAMED ON DEAN'S HONOR ROLL
Congratulations to Jose Mejia, a South-

western College student in Winfield who was named to the dean's honor roll for the 2025 fall semester, having a minimum grade-point average of 3.70 (4.0 equals an A) as a full-time student.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 22 through Jan. 28.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to Diana Salazar-Rodriguez Jan. 24.

Burnett Elementary
Light the birthday candles on a birthday cake Jan. 23 for Lena Toole. The day for Maria Gloria and Ericka Palacios to celebrate with ice cream and a double-layer birthday cake is Jan. 25. Remember to wish Maggie Courville a happy birthday Jan. 26.

Bush Elementary
Zorymartha Lopez celebrates a birthday Jan. 23.

Frazier Elementary
Light the birthday candles Jan. 26 for Ashley Jones.

Genoa Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles Jan. 25 for Netza Lopez. Remember to wish Mireya Macedo a happy birthday Jan. 26.

Hancock Elementary
Jan. 26 is the day for a party for Maria Garza. Send a happy birthday wish Jan. 28 to Elvia Castaneda.

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

South Belt Elementary
Give a birthday shoutout Jan. 28 to Sara

Cooper.

Melillo Middle School
Best wishes for a special birthday Jan. 27 are sent to Kelly Schwenk.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a festive birthday greeting to Amber Estrada Jan. 22. Jacqueline Resendez celebrates a birthday Jan. 26.

Thompson Intermediate
A fun day is planned Jan. 22 for Leticia Sanchez. Send a birthday greeting Jan. 27 to Lukus McCuiston.

Dobie High
Deena Delarosa and Elissa Nandin celebrate a birthday Jan. 22. On Jan. 24, birthday wishes are sent to Chheang Wheeler.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Jan. 22: Amber Estrada, Shad Taylor and Mitchal Nordstrom; Friday, Jan. 23: Becky Forsyth, Audi Resendez, Rodney Thiel, Wendy Gray and Bill A. Stevens; Saturday, Jan. 24: Renee Lister and Lee Balinas; Monday, Jan. 26: Gene Webster and Craig Green; Tuesday, Jan. 27: Cheryl Arnesen, Nicole Crader, Raquel Jones, Derek Cooley, Donald Gillock Sr. and Solomon Ard; and Wednesday, Jan. 28: Daryn Edwards, Toni O'Bryan, Chris Valvaneda, Nealda Whitley, Lewis Cambiaso, Edgar Ramirez and Jennifer Hernandez.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Local hoops and soccer teams play well

The Dobie and Clear Brook varsity basketball programs have reached the stretch run of league play as postseason positioning is taking shape.

An 0-4 start to district play at one point had things looking dim for the Longhorn varsity boys' basketball squad, but suddenly head coach Bradford Jones' group has run off for consecutive victories to close out the first half of district play and entered the second half of action very much in the mix for a postseason run.

JFD's winning streak started with a 54-48 victory over South Houston and continued with a 52-41 win over Sam Rayburn. The Longhorns then toppled Alvin 57-47 and closed out the first half of 22-6A action with a 54-49 win over Manvel.

The Longhorns, who hosted Dawson after press time Jan. 21, will travel to Pasadena Memorial Jan.

27 for a huge game against the Mavericks.

Pearland, which has gone 22-2 overall, went unbeaten at 8-0 through the first half of league play to lead the way, with Shadow Creek next at 7-1. Dawson was third at 6-2, with Memorial fourth at 5-3 courtesy of a first-half win over the Longhorns.

The Dobie girls went into action at Dawson Jan. 21 at 3-7 within 22-6A action and will almost assuredly miss the postseason. However, head coach Rachel Flores and her players are focused on finishing the regular season on a high note. The biggest issue has been the overall strength at the top of the 22-6A standings, with Shadow Creek, Dawson and Manvel all boasting state rankings at one point, with fourth-place Pearland the winner of 18 overall games as of press time.

The Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team

also found itself in a bit of a pinch heading into action Jan. 21 after press time at Clear Springs. Despite winning 20 overall games to this point in the season, the Wolverines found themselves at 2-3 and in fifth place in the league following losses to Dickinson, Clear lake and Clear Falls. Simply put, the Wolverines will need to take down Clear Falls in the second half of league play and gain at least a split against Deer Park in order to make a serious run at the postseason.

At 7-16 overall, the Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball team went 0-6 in 24-6A action in the first half of league play and will aim at better results in the second half. To be fair, Clear Brook graduated perhaps its best overall senior class in 2025 and has undergone a bit of a transition this season.

The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team has delivered

a 5-0-2 overall record to this point in the season, including a 1-1 tie against Dawson and a 3-0 victory over Pasadena Memorial heading into a big road match Jan. 23 against the Pearland Oilers.

The Longhorns varsity girls' soccer team has started league play an 0-2 heading into a road match after press time Jan. 20 against Shadow Creek. Despite a 0-2 beginning to league play, the locals have played solid soccer of late and can very much get back into the mix within the league with a victory or two.

Senior guard Audrey Volper (1) and her Dobie varsity girls' basketball teammates are looking to finish the regular season on a high note as the final few weeks of the 22-6A season play out.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Longhorn soccer takes on Mavericks in District 22-6A action



Dobie's Luna Hernandez (19) battled Memorial's Jolie Trejo (7) for control of the ball Jan. 16 at Memorial during the Mavericks' 1-0 win. Memorial improved to 3-0 in league play with the shutout victory, dropping Dobie to 0-2.

Photos by Donna Alsdorf



Dobie and Memorial went head-to-head on the pitch during 22-6A varsity girls' soccer play Jan. 16 at Memorial as the Mavericks stayed atop the standings with a 1-0 victory. In this sequence, Memorial's Valeria Barrera (white jersey) fought for position with Dobie's Sophia Torres.

San Jac softball program poised for bounce-back season

Several key returning All-Conference performers will be joined by 17 freshmen as the San Jacinto College softball program aims to quickly return to prominence following a sluggish 2025 season.

Veteran head coach Kelly Saenz, now entering her 23rd season as the program's leader and the winner of more than 800 career games, has reloaded her roster after a 26-31 run in 2025 brought an end to what had been a string of 40-plus win seasons.

Whether it was the offense that lacked overall punch or a pitching staff that underperformed a

season ago, the page has been turned on the past as Saenz and assistant coach Kelsey Walters, entering her 14th season within the program, move ahead.

"We are really excited about this season," Saenz said.

"We feel like the pitching staff is not only deeper than it was a season ago, but also we have some pitchers who can excel in a variety of roles.

"Offensively, the lineup should be deeper from 1 through 9, and we should be able to come up with much better production.

Infielder Kamryn DeLeon, an Alvin High School graduate and outfielder Madelyn Pe-

rez were selected to the All-Conference first team along with outfielder Bree Winkelman. DeLeon also captured first-team All-Conference honors.

The Ravens' Alicia Briones as a freshman outfielder was named to

the All-Conference South second team as a utility player, as was pitcher Vanessa Valdez.

DeLeon hit .417 and knocked in 20 runs, while Perez hit .400 and paced the Ravens with 46 runs driven in.

DeLeon, Perez and Winkelman should be able to come in and produce offensively in a hurry for the Ravens.

As for Valdez, an Atascocita High School graduate, she led the team with 123 innings pitched

and had a 3.98 earned run average and is again poised to carry a big role in 2026.

Among the freshmen, pitcher Jenna Hashaw had a tremendous career at Clear Springs and is now set to make her mark at the collegiate level.

Michaela Lewis, also a freshman pitcher from Deer Park High School, should be able to contribute quickly as well.

Alicia Terry, a Class of 2024 Clear Brook High School graduate, is a red-shirt freshman after beginning her career at

Continued on Page 8



With 800 career wins to her credit as head softball coach at San Jacinto College, Kelly Saenz is set to lead the Ravens into the 2026 campaign as the program is intent on rebounding from a mixed bag of results a season ago.

Dobie tracksters to debut Feb. 6 at Kethans

The Dobie varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams will make their 2026 debut at Deer Park's long-running Kethan Relays Feb. 6 at Abshier Stadium, then six days later will co-host the Pasadena ISD's Brown Relays Feb. 12 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena. Early on in the season, the Dobie boys figure to be led by distance runners Jordan Roman and Johan Villavicencio, while the girls' squad has undergone a youth movement of sorts following the 2025 graduation of several key point scorers.

SBYSC continues registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club continues registration for the spring 2026 season, with U4 through U20 age divisions available to players at southbeltsoccer.org. Regular registration prices began Jan. 16, 2025. Players in the U4 through U8 divisions will pay \$95 at regular registration rate, while the fee is \$105 for the U9 and U10 divisions. The fee is \$115 for the U11 and U12 divisions. The U13 through U20 players may register for \$125 per player. Visit www.southbeltsoccer.org for additional details.

Dobie Varsity Track Schedule

Feb. 6 Kethan Relays, Deer Park
Feb. 12 Brown Relays, Auxiliary
Feb. 20 FBISD Relays, Hall Stadium
Feb. 26 Longhorn Stampede, Dobie main
March 6 Bayshore Olympics, La Porte
March 20 Panther Relays, C.E. King
March 27 Braves' Relays, Santa Fe
April 6-8 22-6A Championships, Auxiliary
April 13-17 21-6A/22-6A Area Meet

Boys'/Girls' teams attend all

22-6A Soccer

Dobie girls
host Pearland
Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Dobie main

Dobie girls
at SoHo
Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Dobie main

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Leader continues review of South Belt area’s 2025 best

The *Leader* continues this week with its fourth installment of the 2025 year in review, focusing on some of the sports highlights from last year. Enjoy! **June 5**

Following his official introduction as the incoming South Houston High School varsity football head coach, Lamont Mayberry celebrated with a large contingent of his support staff from South Houston High School after the former Trojan defensive coordinator received official Pasadena ISD school board approval of his hiring at the administration building in Pasadena.

Clear Creek ISD officials held the end-of-the-year scholarship recognition event at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster as student athletes from Clear Brook High School as well as the district’s other four high schools were recognized for earning athletic scholarships.

Those earning scholarships among the Wolverines included Trenton Flores, Logan Sariga, Matthew Halter, Jayveon Johnson, Darwin Bolden II, Abigail Lowman, Estrella Rowe, Kamryn McLaurin, Chardel Terrell and Rezia Castillo.

Clear Brook High School Class of 2022 graduate Camryn Dickson and 10 of her Texas A&M University women’s track and field teammates punched their tickets for the NCAA Outdoor Nationals June 11-14 at the prestigious Hayward Field on the campus of the University of Oregon.

Dickson and teammate Jasmine Montgomery, who also went head-to-head at the UIL state championships during the 2021 season in the sprints, were thus headed to nationals in both the 100 and 200 as well as the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

At the NCAA West First Round at College Station, Montgomery was second in her heat with a time of 11.02 seconds, a personal best and the fourth fastest time in TAMU history. In a separate heat, Dickson qualified for nationals with the time of 11.17.

In the 200, Montgomery posted a career best of 22.26, the fastest time in TAMU program history in the last 10 years, while Dickson also reached nationals at 22.69. It was Jasmine Harmon, Dickson, Bria Bullard and Montgomery first to the line in the 4x100 in their heat for a nationals berth as Montgomery closed the gap on two others in the final 100 to give the Aggies the win.

In the 4x400, the Aggies again qualified for nationals as it was Clear Falls High School graduate Kennedy Wade, Dickson, Montgomery and Jaydan



Clear Brook High School Class of 2024 graduate and University of Texas women’s softball team freshman Lien Brister hoisted the NCAA Division

Wood third in their heat at 3:27.67 for a nationals qualification.

June 12

While the news was not yet official, the *Leader* learned that legendary varsity football head coach Jim Hatfield and varsity girls’ track and field sensation Erica Alexander would represent Clear Brook High School as part of Clear Creek ISD’s Class of 2025 Athletics Hall of Honor induction. Hatfield was the first ever football head coach at Clear Brook, and immediately enjoyed success with the Wolverines.

He produced an 85-30-2 overall record over 10 seasons, with the Wolverines winning 10 games or more in a single season on four different occasions.

Also a longtime Clear Creek assistant football coach before being hired at Clear Brook, he went on to work in the Clear Creek ISD athletics department before his retirement. Hatfield died in 2014 after battling cancer.

Alexander quite simply is the greatest female sprinter in Clear Creek ISD history, winning six gold medals and a silver medal over the course of three seasons from 2006 through 2008 at the UIL state championships in Austin.

As a senior in 2008 and having already signed to attend the University of Southern California, Alexander was the most dominant individual athlete at the state championships

at the University of Texas in Austin as she captured three gold medals to cap off a tremendous career at Clear Brook.

As a senior in 2008, Alexander posted a mark of 19 feet, 6 1/2 inches for the gold medal in the long jump. She sprinted to a gold medal in the 100 at 11.48 seconds, then captured a third gold medal with a time of 23.53 in the 200.

The Dobie baseball program represented the Pasadena ISD ranks proudly with a big showing at the Greater Houston Baseball Coaches Association All-Star series and Futures games.

Junior-to-be shortstop Isaiah Jones, 2025 graduate and San Jacinto College signee Juelz Martinez, Longhorns varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres, 2025 graduate Willard Joiner III, assistant coach Williard Joiner Jr. and sophomore-to-be Jayden Aguilar, a pitcher/third baseman, represented the Longhorns. The four Dobie players also earned 22-6A honors.

Kingwood’s 4-1 victory over Forney in the 6A Division II softball state championship game May 31 at McCombs Field on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin secured the Mustangs’ first-ever state championship and added another honor to the illustrious career of Kingwood head coach Christa Williams Yates, a Dobie graduate.

Yates, who took over

I National Championship trophy after the Longhorns defeated Texas Tech in the best-of-three title series in Oklahoma City.

at Kingwood prior to the 2024 season, guided Dobie to the first Texas state championship in 1993, then won a second crown with the Longhorns in 1995. A collegiate player at both UCLA and the University of Texas, Yates won Olympic gold medals with Team USA in both 1996 and 2000 and was part of the first induction class in the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame.

June 19

Lien Brister no doubt had national championship aspirations in mind as she joined the University of Texas women’s softball program prior to the 2025 season, and the former Clear Brook High School star had already been sized for her shiny golden NCAA Women’s College World Series champions’ ring.

Brister, a Class of 2024 Wolverine graduate and freshman utility player for the burnt orange, provided plenty of cheers along the way as the Longhorns claimed their first-ever NCAA Division I national title with a 10-4 win over Texas Tech June 6 in Oklahoma City.

Estrella Rowe enjoyed a standout softball career at Clear Brook, finishing her 2025 senior season as the Offensive Most Valuable Player within District 24-6A. She is now at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque to play for the Lobos, as profiled in June.

Count 2025 Clear Brook High School graduate Trenton Flores among those ready to step in and help the San Jacinto College baseball program as the Ravens took a huge step forward in the recruiting game ahead of the 2026 JUCO baseball season.

Flores, the son of former Clear Brook head coach Gene Flores, who earlier this spring took over as the head coach at Clear Falls High School, is a four-year varsity performer for the Wolverines who should be able to contribute at multiple positions.

Astin Haggerty was the newest addition to the Pasadena ISD Athletic Department after she gained school board approval June 17. Patrick Longstreet, who was the incoming PISD athletic director, played a key role in the hiring process as he has now selected Haggerty as his top assistant.

Haggerty had been an assistant principal at Clear Springs High School, and celebrated 20 years within Clear Creek ISD at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

June 26

Former Pearland varsity baseball top assistant Kevin Macias was the new

man in charge at Clear Brook, and he had already hit the ground running in an effort to get the Wolverines up to speed on the field. With former long-time varsity baseball head coach Gene Flores moving over to Clear Falls, the Clear Brook administration moved quickly to bring in Macias, who had been the top varsity and assistant at Pearland High School alongside head coach David Rogers.

A 2012 Pearland High School graduate and varsity baseball standout in his own right, Macias began his collegiate baseball career at A&M Kingsville, played a JUCO season at Galveston and then finished up with a 3-year run at Prairie View A&M University.

The Texas A&M University men’s and women’s track and field programs celebrated an exceptionally solid performance at the NCAA Nationals in Oregon, returning to campus in College Station with a big reception after the Aggie men were crowned national champions and the women finished third nationally.

Among those celebrating the women’s successes were Jaiya Covington, Clear Brook High School graduate Camryn Dickson, Sofia Yakushina and Jasmine Montgomery.

Lutheran South Academy Varsity softball player Addi Smith turned an exceptional junior season into an All-Greater Houston nomination after she hit .586 on the season with 27 runs driven in for the Pioneers. Smith has committed to play collegiately at Wichita State University.

July 3

Jason Brooks Jr. was back on the field and feeling healthy ahead of his graduate senior year of football at the University of Houston, and the Cougars were counting on Brooks, a Dobie graduate, to make a big difference up front heading into the 2025 season.

Once a three-year starter for the Longhorns at left tackle, Brooks settled in as the starter at left guard during the spring workouts as Cougar head coach Willie Fritz and his staff have made a concerted effort to revamp both the offensive and defensive fronts with a huge second season in the Fritz era beginning Aug. 28 at home against Stephen F. Austin.

As of late spring, the Cougars had returning starters David Ndukwe at left tackle and Demetrius Hunter at center. Three transfer portal players, including Brooks at left guard, Dalton Perryman at right tackle and right guard Matthew Wykoff were working together up front.

It was so far, so great for Kennedy Thompson midway through her track and field weight throwing career at Mississippi College as the former Clear Brook High School state discus medalist had excelled with the Choctaws both on and off the athletic field.

Thompson might have felt as though time has flown by during her two academic years at Mississippi College, the state’s oldest college that is home to roughly 6,500 students. Athletically, the Choctaws compete in the NCAA Division II ranks as part of the Gulf South Conference.

Studying public health, Thompson said she plans to focus on epidemiology in the future and currently is on track to graduate a semester early with her bachelor’s degree in hand.

Epidemiology is the branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.

Juelz Martinez continued to collect the postseason accolades following the completion of an outstanding four-year career with the Dobie varsity baseball program.

The standout outfielder, now at San Jacinto College, was named to the All-Greater Houston second team for 2025, setting single season team records with 45 hits, 45 runs scored and 30 stolen bases.

Dobie senior-to-be Johan Villavicencio and his Texas Storm Track teammates, Korey Griffith, Quoc-Bao Ngo and Janiel LeBron Delgado, qualified for nationals in the boys’ age 17-18 4x800 after finishing third in a time of 8 minutes, 7.05 seconds at an Amateur Athletic Union Region 17 qualifying event. The AAU Junior Olympic Games were held at Turner Stadium in Humble beginning July 28.

July 10

The focus was no doubt on the players as preseason workouts began Aug. 11 across the state in the high school football landscape in Texas, but there was also a change among the head coaching ranks in District 22-6A.

Among the off-season headlines, there were three varsity football head coaching changes in 22-6A. Pasadena ISD saw two changes, including one that was necessitated by Patrick Longstreet climbing the ranks and becoming the district’s new athletic director.

Longstreet, who led the South Houston Trojans for seven years, was certainly pleased to see that his former defensive coordinator, Lamont Mayberry, was officially named head coach of the Trojans May 27.

Surprisingly, Jamie Crocker resigned his role as head coach at Pasadena Memorial this summer well after the completion of spring football workouts. With Crocker bailing out, the Mavericks turned to offensive coordinator Colton Freeman, who was named interim head coach for the 2025 season.

Elsewhere in 22-6A, the Alvin Yellowjackets feature a new leader heading into the 2025 season as Matt Bass, formerly the defensive coordinator at Shadow Creek, became head coach after the resignation of James Gage. Each of the three first-year head coaches will be looking to bolster the win totals of their respective programs as Alvin, Memorial and South Houston were all 3-7 in 2024.

Lutheran South Academy senior-to-be and All-American Throwers competitor Elijah Brown had an exceptional summer track and field season as he advanced to the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games at Turner Stadium in Humble to compete in the javelin.

At the Region 17 qualifier, Brown punched his ticket for nationals as he was second in the age 17-18 boys’ javelin event with

a throw of 137 feet.

Darwin Bolden II, a Class of 2025 Clear Brook High School graduate and member of the Pearland Track Xpress summer program, is headed back to the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games at Turner Stadium in Humble after he was the gold medalist at the Region 17 qualifier with a throw of 173 feet, 9 inches in the age 17-18 boys’ division.

Bolden, a University Interscholastic League state qualifier in the same event as a senior with the Wolverines, will continue to throw collegiately at Lamar University in Beaumont.

Clear Brook senior-to-be Patricia Barnes was another local athlete headed to the 2025 Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games beginning July 28 at Turner Stadium in Humble and she had qualified to compete in the 800.

Barnes and teammate Natalie Johnson both advanced to nationals after coming through with solid times at the Region 17 qualifier.

There, Johnson was seventh with a time of 2 minutes, 28.36 seconds to reach nationals. Barnes was one spot behind, taking eighth place with a time of 2:28.83. Both athletes represent the Texas Cyclones summer track and field program.

August 7

It was of little surprise to see Class 6A state foot-

ball powers listed near the top of the *Dave Campbell’s Texas Football* magazine preseason rankings. Yet it must also be noted that Pearland and Shadow Creek, two of Dobie’s top competitors from within District 22-6A, were also included among the state’s elite programs.

Southlake Carroll, bouncing back from a 15-1 overall record in 2024, returned 19 overall starters and stands at the top of *Campbell’s* 6A State football rankings heading into the 2025 season.

North Crowley, a defending state champion from a season ago after going 16-0, brought back just eight overall starters from the championship squad but occupied the No. 2 spot in 6A.

At No. 3 was Duncanville, a 6A Division power which had made a habit of going against North Shore in recent seasons for state supremacy.

The Panthers returned 11 overall starters across either line of scrimmage and were considered the team to beat out of Region II.

Austin Westlake was at No. 4 statewide according to Campbell’s and boasted quarterback Rees Wise and a stout defense that returns six starters.

North Shore, ranked fifth in the state to open the season, won 14 of 15 overall games a season ago and returned just eight starters this season as they

figured to again draw big competition from Atascocita and Summer Creek within their own district.

Defending District 22-6A boys’ cross-country champion Cruz Jasso was third overall to get the 2025 season off and running as Magnolia High School hosted Deer Park and the Longhorns for a competitive two mile-run July 31.

Deer Park senior Zavian Arredondo was the overall gold medalist in the boys’ division as he finished with a time of 10 minutes, 33.51 seconds.

At 10:38.62, Evan Melendez of Deer Park was second, followed by Jasso’s time of 10:49.33. Of note, Dobie competed without a pair of its top runners including Jordan Roman and Johan Villavicencio, who were both finishing up their summer track and field seasons with appearances at the Junior Olympic Games in Humble.

Dobie sophomore Jordan Roman and his brother, Miller Intermediate student Julian Roman, finished an exceptional summer performance with an appearance at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games at Turner Stadium in Humble.

Julian and his 4x800 relay teammates finished with an All-American classification in the event after taking eighth place overall with a time of 10

Continued on Page 8



Dobie star senior pitcher Vanessa De La Fuente and her teammates will soon begin on field preparation for the 2026 season, going against Deer Park in scrimmage action Jan. 24. The regular season opens Feb. 9 at Clear Brook.

2026 Dobie Varsity Softball Schedule

Jan. 24	at Deer Park scrimmage	TBA
Jan. 27	at La Porte scrimmage	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Clear Falls scrimmage	6 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Angleton scrimmage	7 p.m.
Feb. 6	at Clear Springs scrimmage	TBA

Regular Season Opener

Feb. 9	at Clear Brook	6 p.m.
Feb. 12-14	at NFCA Lead-Off Classic	TBA
Feb. 17	*at Dawson	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 19-21	at Pearland Hainey Classic	TBA
Feb. 26,		
Feb. 28	at Southeast Texas Invit.	TBA
Feb. 27	*at Memorial	3:30 p.m.
March 3	*at Shadow Creek	6:30 p.m.
March 6	*at Pearland	6:30 p.m.
March 7	*South Houston	2 p.m.
March 9	*at Rayburn	11:30 a.m.
March 11	*Alvin	TBA
March 17	*at Manvel	6:30 p.m.
March 20	*Dawson	5:30 p.m.
March 27	*Memorial	5:30 p.m.
March 31	*Shadow Creek	5:30 p.m.
April 2	*Pearland	5:30 p.m.
April 7	*at South Houston	5:30 p.m.
April 10	*Rayburn	5:30 p.m.
April 14	*at Alvin	5:30 p.m.
April 17	*Manvel	5:30 p.m.
*District 22-6A games		



Clear Brook star guard Rezia Castillo was named the Most Valuable Player in the District 24-6A ranks as both a freshman and sophomore as she guided the Wolverines to consecutive 12-0 league championships. After missing her junior season due to injury, Castillo returned as a senior to land first-team All-District honors.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - **Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 - 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, JANUARY 26
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
10 a.m. Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** -

See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office (281-554-1180) for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

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

McLaurin leads HCU women’s hoops



Clear Brook Class of 2025 graduate and current Houston Christian University women’s basketball freshman Kamryn McLaurin scored in double digits in 12 of her team’s 14 games through Jan. 10 and leads the Huskies at 12.9 points per game. McLaurin, a four-year varsity standout with the Wolverines, averaged 19.5 points per game as a senior and was the 24-6A Most Valuable Player. She has clearly made a seamless transition to collegiate basketball.

Dobie Spring Tennis Schedule

Jan. 23-24	at Furlow Invit. Missouri City	TBA
Jan. 27	at Houston Memorial	2:30 p.m.
Feb. 6-7	PISD Franklin/Kramer Invit.	TBA
Feb. 20-21	at Spring Fling Invit.	
	Corpus Christi	TBA
Feb. 27	at Baytown Invit.	TBA
March 5	at Aggieland Tournament	
	College Station	TBA
March 20-21	at Beachcomber Classic	TBA
March 27	at Pasadena Eagles Invit.	TBA
March 31 -		
April 1	at 22-6A Championships Alvin	TBA
April 20-21	at Region 3 Championships	
	Deer Park	TBA

SJC softball encouraged for 2026

Continued from Page 5
UT-Arlington. Abella Mata, a freshman outfielder, won a state championship a season ago at Kingwood High School.

“We feel really good about the group,” Saenz said. “I know everybody is excited to get out on the

field and see how things come together. I have no doubt we have the potential to put together another tremendous season.”

San Jacinto College will host St. Thomas Jan. 28 in a doubleheader before going on the road for a total of six games, including

a road trip to McLennan Community College in Waco as well as to move through Louisiana to take on LSU-Eunice and Baton Rouge. Conference play will kick off March 21 as the locals travel to take on Lamar State in Port Arthur.

San Jacinto College Softball Roster

15 Addison Opela	P Soph. East Bernard H.S.
8 Alicia Briones	OF Soph. Paetow H.S.
4 Bree Winkelman	Util. Soph. Needville
10 Danielle Reynoso	OF Soph. Klein Collins
22 Kaelin Hicks	P Soph. Crosby
11 Kamryn De Leon	Inf. Soph. Alvin
6 Kenadie Guthrie	Util. Soph. Angleton
3 Madelyn Perez	OF Soph. London H.S.
2 Vanessa Valdez	P Soph. Atascocita
1 Arianays Garica Santana	C Soph. Northwestern State
5 Abella Mata	OF Fr. Kingwood
23 Audrey Dierks	P Fr. Gregory Portland
7 Breanna Norman	OF Fr. Barbers Hill
33 Jaselle Salinas	C Fr. Roy Miller H.S.
24 Jenna Hashaw	P Fr. Clear Springs
18 Juliann Delome	IF Fr. Crosby
14 Mia Ortega	Inf. Fr. Flower Bluff
16 Adrian Cantu	Util. Fr. Needville
21 Ella Mangus	Inf. Fr. Crosby
17 Zoie Powell	Inf. Fr. Deer Park
12 Micaela Lewis	P Fr. Deer Park
13 Jenna Sebesta	OF Fr. Angleton
55 Aravel Burgos	OF Fr. Mayde Creek
19 Grace Walker	C Fr. Angleton
20 Alyssa Terry	OF Fr. Clear Brook
9 Adori Howard IF	Fr. Westbury

San Jacinto College Softball Schedule

Jan. 28	St Thomas	2/4:30 p.m.
Jan. 30-31	at McLennan	TBA
Feb. 6	at LSU Eunice	2/4:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	Temple	2/4:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Baton Rouge	noon/2:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Cisco	3/5:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Baton Rouge	3/5:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	at Howard	1/3:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Western Texas	noon/2:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	McLennan	2/4:30 p.m.
Feb. 27	at Navarro	1/3:30 p.m.
Feb. 28	at Grayson	1/3:30 p.m.
March 4	at Trinity Valley	noon/2:30 p.m.
March 7	Grayson	noon/2:30 p.m.
March 11	Tyler	3/5:30 p.m.
March 13	North Texas	4/6:30 p.m.
March 14	Bossier Parish	2/4:30 p.m.
March 18	Trinity valley	3/5:30 p.m.
March 21	at Lamar State	1/3:30 p.m.
March 23	Blinn	3/530 p.m.
March 25	Alvin	3/5:30 p.m.
April 8	Angelina	3/5:30 p.m.
April 11	Galveston	1/3:30 p.m.
April 18	Lamar	2/4:30 p.m.
April 22	at Blinn	2/4:30 p.m.
April 25	at Alvin	1/3:30
April 29	Coastal Bend	3/5:30 p.m.
May 2	at Angelina	2/4:30 p.m.
May 6	at Galveston	1/3:30 p.m.

2025 Year in Review remembers terrific individual, team performances

Continued from Page 6
minutes, 7.73 seconds. Julian was also 16th in the 3,000 at 11:01.86 and 33rd in the 1,500 with a time of 5:04.36.

Jordan Roman, who joined his Longhorn cross-country teammates as they prepared to defend their 22-6A championship, was 13th with a personal record of 9:28.73 in the 3,000 and clocked in at 4:23.66 for 28th place at the 1,500 distance.

The opening weekend of the team tennis season did not include a victory for the Dobie bunch, but head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. saw some encouraging signs of growth within his program on the trip and was looking forward to seeing how the process evolves during a very busy opening month of the season.

The Longhorns were aiming at the Aug. 26 district opener at Dawson as the official starting point of pulling it all together.

In the meantime,

At right, Dobie sophomore Jordan Roman (left) and his brother, Miller Intermediate seventh-grade student Julian Roman, finished an exceptional summer performance with an appearance at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games at Turner Stadium in Humble. Julian and his 4x800 relay teammates finished with an All-American classification in the event after taking eighth place overall with a time of 10 minutes, 7.73 seconds. Julian was also 16th in the 3,000 at 11:01.86 and 33rd in the 1,500 with a time of 5:04.36. Jordan was 13th with a personal record of 9:28.73 in the 3,000 and clocked in at 4:23.66 for 28th place at the 1,500 distance. Both have since captured district championship top overall medalist victories and should soon excel in track and field.

Moreno and his group were looking forward to improved results on the court. Dobie fell 10-9 to San Marcos in a team tennis duel in which the girls won all nine of their matches, despite the boys dropping each of theirs.

While the series ultimately boiled down to the outcome of the No. 6 boys’ singles match, Dobie had just six girls on the trip and, therefore, forfeited the mixed doubles match.

Clear Brook High School graduate and former Houston Astro Corey Julks returned to Major League Baseball with the Chicago White Sox after being recalled Aug. 1.

Julks played 93 big league games in Houston during the 2023 season and played another 66 with the White Sox in 2024. He spent the majority of the 2025 season with the White Sox AAA affiliate in Charlotte prior to being called up.

Dobie graduate Remi Yusuf was to be inducted into

the Texas A&M-Kingsville Javelina Hall of Fame as part of the prestigious Class of 2025. Yusuf was a star at Dobie under the guidance of former coaching legend Scott Talton before joining the Javelinas for what would be a star-studded collegiate career.

A four-year letter-winner with the Javelinas from 2002-2007, Yusuf is one of the greatest Javelinas to ever don the blue and gold for the men’s basketball program in Kingsville. During his time, Yusuf and the Javelinas piled up a whopping 48 wins with two conference tournament appearances and one NCAA tournament appearance.

Individually, Yusuf had stellar performances during his stints with the Hogs. During the 2005-2006 season, Yusuf was named the Lone Star Conference Most Valuable Player, an All-South-Central Region first-team selection and a Division II

All-American Honorable Mention.

Yusuf followed up that season with a second-team all-conference selection in the 2006-2007 season. A true iron man for the Javelinas, Yusuf today stands with the third-most games ever played for Texas A&M-Kingsville with 112 while also posting two 933-minute seasons, good for sixth place all time.

His longevity allowed him to become one of five Javelinas to score 1,507 points for his career. After his playing career with the Javelinas was finished,

Yusuf would have multiple stints in the international basketball scene, playing in Colombia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Slovakia. In 2015, Yusuf would become a member of the NBA by signing a contract with the Houston Rockets.

Off the court, Yusuf founded the 9th Wonder foundation, a program dedicated to mentoring

youths by way of sports skills development while providing them life skills to prepare for future adulthood. Yusuf would be awarded the TAMUK Heritage Hero Award, the Autism Educator of the Year award.

Clear Brook High School’s Patricia Barnes wrapped up an exceptionally successful summer track and field season while representing the Texas Cyclones as she delivered a personal record of 2 minutes, 24 seconds in the 800 at the Junior Olympic Games at Turner Stadium in Humble.

A standout middle distance runner for the Wolverines at the varsity level over the previous two seasons, Barnes figured to be an athlete to watch during the 2026 high school track and field season.

August 14

The Pearland Track Xpress summer track and field program delivered an exceptional performance at the season-ending Ama-

teur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games at Turner Stadium in Humble.

As part of that effort, the boys’ 15-16 4x400 meter relay team finished fifth nationally with a time of 3 minutes, 18.25 seconds in the event. The Pearland group included, left to right, coaches Edmond Ewing and Angel Thomas, Zed Thomas, Adam Abiola, Deshawn Singleton, Kevin Jackson II and coaches Elbert Sharp and Cedric Lilly.

Former Louisiana State University and 2021 NFCA All-American shortstop Taylor Pleasants was named a full-time assistant coach for the LSU softball program after serving as the graduate assistant coach last season.

A four-time NFCA All-Region selection and

three-time All-SEC honoree, Pleasants coached from first base and worked primarily with the infielders during the 2025 season.

A standout throughout her collegiate career (2020- 2025), Pleasants finished as LSU’s all-time leader in double plays turned (59) and ranked No. 2 in career assists (520).

Offensively, she ranks No. 3 in program history with 217 career RBIs and No. 4 with 47 home runs. Professionally, Pleasants played two seasons with the Florida Vibe (2024-2025) and has represented Team USA, helping the Eagles capture gold medals at the 2022 World Games and the 2022 Canada Cup.

A four-year varsity

softball standout at Dobie High School, Pleasants put together a career that ranks her as the greatest offensive player in program history.

August 21

What an opening week to the 2025 season it was for the Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball team.

Senior setter Aniston Collins, already one of the top performers in program history and having been part of more than 100 team victories over three-plus seasons, reached 2,000 career assists during the first day of the Pasadena Memorial High School Volleybash tournament.

On the second day of the event, Pioneer head coach Geoff Stresman, then in his 21st season, earned career victory No. 400.

And the best part? Lutheran South swept six matches at the tournament to win the event championship and started the season at 7-0 entering the second week of play.

LSA, a bonafide power in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A classification, opened the season with a sweep of Concordia Lutheran and then defeated Porter, Northbrook, Fort Bend Hightower, Humble, Goose Creek Memorial in the championship semifinals and then La Porte in the championship match, losing just one set along the way as part of a dominating performance to make a statement early on

this season.

Sophomore Addison Musgrove and Collins led the way, with Musgrove delivering 89 assists and 40 kills to go with 41 kills and 64 assists from Collins.

Freshman Carissa Honore added 24 kills in her first week with the varsity squad. Winning the Volleybash tournament only gave the Pioneers added confidence as they moved forward in the nondistrict part of the schedule in 2025.

Lutheran South had put together more than 100 victories over the previous three seasons and was in the midst of one of the greatest runs in program history.

Stresman, who was in his 21st overall season and began building toward 500 career wins, guided the 2022 and 2023 teams to consecutive state tournament appearances before the push ended at regionals.

August 28

In the final week of the preseason before the Pioneers’ Aug. 29 varsity football regular season opener at Houston Christian, Lutheran South Academy football players Braeden Robinson, Aja Bradford and Cade Griffin were recognized as preseason selections to the 2025 Preseason All-Greater Houston Private High School Football Team presented by The Touchdown Club of Houston.

To be continued in next week’s Leader.



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