



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 43 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, January 9, 2020

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

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

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### Beltway closures planned

The westbound Beamer exit will be closed on Beltway 8 from 10 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, to 5 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thursday, Jan. 16.

At least two alternate southbound frontage road lanes on Beltway 8 from Crenshaw to Grayson will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, Jan. 16.

At least one inside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to SH 288 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, March 23.

At least one inside lane of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road at Pasadena Boulevard will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15.

At least one alternate lane of the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 frontage roads will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 2.

At least one alternate lane of the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 frontage roads will be closed from Vista to SH 225 nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Feb. 2.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Vista will be closed continuously through Friday, Jan. 10.

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

### Free self-defense classes start

The first sessions of self-defense and karate classes for 2020 offered by the American Society of Karate at Sagemont Park Recreation Center, located at 11507 Hughes Road, will take place Friday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

The sessions are free and are taught by black-belt-certified instructors. Email Michael Alonzo@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930 for additional information.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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.

### Heavy trash to be picked up

City of Houston residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Jan. 9 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Jan. 10, (second Friday of the month). December is for tree waste only. For more information, visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste) or call 311.

### Ellington e-recycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials from damaging the environment. Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cell phones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras. For additional information, visit [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org) or call 311.

### Knights sell spaghetti

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 is sponsoring a fundraising spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Luke Catholic Church social hall, 11011 Hall Road. The event features all-you-can-eat spaghetti pasta covered with our original KC 9201 spaghetti sauce, two made-from-scratch Italian meatballs, garden salad with Italian dressing, French bread, and ice tea or lemonade. The cost is \$7 eat-in or take-out. For children under 12, the cost is \$3 (one meatball, eat-in only).

### PIP meetings resume

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meetings will resume Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, located at 11800 Astoria, in the staff meeting room on the first floor, beginning at 7 p.m. December's PIP meeting had been canceled as it fell during the Christmas holidays. A guest speaker is to be announced. PIP consists of police and citizens working together for safer neighborhoods. Meetings take place each month on the third Tuesday. For additional information, call Houston Police Department Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776.

# New details emerge in Diaz lawsuit

New details have emerged in the lawsuit filed against Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz by nearly a dozen former employees who allege the constable required them to illegally donate time and money to his re-election campaign or suffer professional and personal consequences.

"After Diaz was elected to the position of constable, Diaz shiftily instituted reforms within Precinct 2 to ensure that he would continue to be elected," states the lawsuit, filed by R. Scott Poerschke Jr. "Chief among these reforms involved requiring employees, as a condition of employment, to work for the Diaz campaign and to perform certain campaign functions."

The lawsuit, filed by 11 former Precinct 2 employees, also named Harris County as a defendant, along with Jacinto City and Diaz's wife, Ana Diaz, who serves as mayor of Jacinto City.

The suit alleges that those employees who declined to support Diaz's re-election campaign would be targeted for demotion or termination.

"If an employee did not live up to Diaz's expectations, or refused to continue performing these essential campaign functions, the employee would be disciplined," the lawsuit states. "Discipline would take many forms, but generally, involved some type of involuntary transfer or demotion in an effort to constructively discharge the employee. In other words, force the employee to quit. This is evident by the demotion of Lt. Williams (David Williams, a former Precinct 2 lieutenant, who is a plaintiff in the case) who was transferred and demoted to the rank of deputy before being terminated and received a pay reduction of almost 50 percent."

Poerschke further alleges in the case that employees who did contribute toward Diaz's campaign were given preferential treatment over those who did not, often even when their professional experience was notably inferior.

"Diaz also conditioned advancement within Precinct 2 upon a quantitative evaluation of that employee's contribution to the Diaz campaign, such that, coveted positions would go to employees who had contributed the most," the lawsuit alleges. "This is evident from Diaz's failure to promote Senior Deputy Ana Herrera to a position given to Blanca Martinez, as the public campaign finance reports from the Diaz campaign show that Blanca Martinez gave \$9,945.00, while during that same time period Senior Deputy Herrera was unable to compete with that amount and refused to contribute in 2019."

The lawsuit additionally contends that employees who supported any of Diaz's challengers in the upcoming election were also targeted for retaliation.

"Employees who supported opposition candidates would be disciplined," Poerschke stated in the lawsuit. "For example, Deputy Claudia Arellano was terminated and given a 'dishonorable discharge' for supporting an opposition candidate, while her partner, Pernelli Jones, was not disciplined for the same conduct allegedly giving rise to her termination."

The designation of "dishonorable discharge" is particularly damaging to a terminated officer, as it makes finding a new job even more difficult, Poerschke said.

"Depending upon the severity of the employees' disobedience, Diaz could exact the highest price: termination by dishonorable discharge," the lawsuit states. "A dishonorable discharge would effectively prohibit an officer from obtaining employment with another law enforcement agency. This is evident from the termination of Chief Deputy Jerry Luman and Deputy Claudia Arellano, who both received a dishonorable discharge."

Beyond being targeted professionally, some plaintiffs in the case allege they were also retaliated against in the private lives, claiming to be singled out for minor infractions at their homes by Jacinto City officials.

Examples of this cited in the suit include Arellano being issued a notice for a violation related building without a permit, when she claims no building was being done at that time, and Luman being issued a notice for a violation related to his grass being too high, something he also disputes.

"Luman's property was not in violation of any

grass height restriction," Poerschke contends in the suit. "Luman believes that given the timing of this notice to the proximity of the events described in this lawsuit show that Ana Diaz, acting under the authority as mayor of Jacinto City, allowed this notice to be placed on his property. Ana Diaz is the wife of Chris Diaz. Diaz had knowledge that Luman owned the property because Diaz had visited the property before with Luman. Such acts by Ana Diaz and Jacinto City amount to an abuse of power without justification to threaten or intimidate Luman for exercising his First Amendment rights."

The lawsuit marks the second time this year Diaz has been named in such a case, as a group of former and current employees also charged him of wrongdoing in a whistleblower case filed this past June. The constable has since been dropped from that suit.

**Second Jerry Garcia drops out of race**

Diaz most recently made headlines after reports aired linking him to the campaign of a candidate who shared the same name as one of his primary opponents - Jerry Garcia - in an attempt to presumably confuse voters.

While the second Garcia has now pulled his candidacy, the primary ballots have already been printed, leaving confusion in the wake.

**Martin named city's mayor pro tem**

On Thursday, Jan. 2, Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin was nominated by Mayor Sylvester Turner to be the city's mayor pro tem. During a subsequent City Council vote that day, Martin's nomination was confirmed by his colleagues.

Martin will continue to be a staunch advocate for South Belt residents in his final term as the District E council member, while serving as the chair for the city's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee, and adding the new role of mayor pro tem to his responsibilities.

Mayor pro tem is a leadership role that encompasses serving as acting mayor for the City of Houston when Turner is unavailable. In this

## One murdered, one injured



**One man was fatally shot and another injured around noon Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the 11800 block of Algonquin near Scarsdale. Witnesses reported that four male suspects fled the scene on foot. At press time, one witness was being held in the back of a patrol car while waiting for homicide investigators. A friend of the deceased told the Leader the victim, in his early 20s, was shot because the suspects were trying to steal something he didn't have.**  
Photo by Marie Flickinger

# Leader looks back on 2019 high, low points

The *Leader* year in review is continued from the previous issue. Stories up to Feb. 14 can be found in the Dec. 26 edition of the *Leader*.

**Feb. 21**

Former Dobie student Jeremy Richardson was named the Pasadena Independent School District's secondary principal of the year for his service at Pasadena Memorial High School. A 1995 Dobie graduate, Richardson has served the students of Pasadena ISD for 18 years. He returned to his alma mater in 2002 to teach world geography and government, while also coaching football, soccer and golf. In 2009, he assumed the role of assistant principal at Memorial until the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year. Since then, he has served students at Pasadena Memorial as the school's principal. Lindsey Lesniewski of Gardens Elementary was named PISD's elementary principal of the year.

A suspect accused in the fatal stabbing of a man at a bus stop in the 9900 block of Alameda Genoa on Nov. 17, 2018, was arrested Monday Feb. 18. Edward Charles Hill, 37, was charged with murder in the 178th State District Court for his role in the death of Jamel Brown Jr., 26.

**Feb. 28**

Three Dobie High School graduates and one faculty member were inducted into the Longhorn Hall of Honor, Friday, Feb. 22, during the school's annual induction ceremony. Honorees

include Chip Hosek, Class of 1974 (business owner); Al Denson, Class of 1978 (Christian musician); Paula Herring Goodhart, Class of 1986 (judge, attorney); and former band director Bill Brawn.

A suspect wanted in the fatal shooting of a man at an apartment complex in the 10200 block of Windmill Lakes on Monday, Feb. 11, was arrested Wednesday, Feb. 27. Antoine Armstrong, 43, was charged with murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and felon in possession of a weapon in the 337th State District Court. Following the shooting, the victim, Samuel Phillips III, 26, was transported to Clear Lake Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced deceased later that day.

**March 7**

Christina Morales easily defeated Melissa Noriega in the March 5 special runoff election to select the state representative for House District 145. In the contest, which was to fill the seat being vacated by Rep. Carol Alvarado, Morales received 60.76 percent of the vote to Noriega's 39.24 percent. The race marked the latest in a string of elections triggered by former U.S. Rep. Gene Green's retirement from Congress the previous year. Former state Sen. Sylvia Garcia won the race for Green's seat, leaving her state Senate seat vacant. Alvarado then claimed Garcia's former position in De-

ember, prompting a special election for her seat in the state House. Morales is the president of a Houston area East End funeral home.

The Pasadena Independent School District Police Department determined a social media rumor about a Beverly Hills Intermediate

student planning to shoot up the school was a hoax. Beverly Hills Principal Stacey Barber told the *Leader* the rumors were 100 percent false and that the student in question is a model pupil with no disciplinary problems.

**Continued on Page 6A**

## Firefighters respond to fiery crash



**Firefighters Francis Colello (left) and Robert Hyatt are shown above responding to a blaze Friday, Dec. 20, at a house at Sagevalley and Hughes Road during an apparent hit-and-run accident. Leader staff member Diddy Clark happened upon the scene before emergency responders and was told by witnesses that neighbors had helped the car's two occupants get free from the vehicle, before they subsequently fled the scene.**  
Photo by Diddy Clark

# Deaths

## Bruce William Honohan

It's with a sad heart that the Honohan family announces the loss of their beloved father Bruce William Honohan. He died peacefully Dec. 4, 2019,

and joined the love of his life and best friend Judy Honohan. Bruce was a jack-of-all-trades, an enemy to none, and a man that could never tell anyone, "No" if they ever needed anything.

His family always came first and he would give any-

thing for their happiness. His infectious ear-to-ear smile, singing, whistle, and laughter warmed everyone around him.

Bruce's love for life, morals, and discipline influenced his family to carry on the tradition of doing their very best, or just not doing it at all. His les-

sons are his legacy which will certainly pass along through the generations of family and friends. Bruce's occasional off-color humor would always catch people off guard leaving one in tears of laughter.

Someone in his company who happened to not be in a

good mood while around him, Bruce would be sure to have that person smiling in no time.

"Bruty" was not a man to sit still and wait for things to happen. He loved the outdoors which included a lot of softball (all-star pitcher), golf (slicer), hunting (incredible shot), fish-

ing (caught mainly sunburns), and constructing just about anything with his powerful hands. He was a hero and a rock to his children, grandchildren and friends.

Bruce was born in Massapequa, N.Y., June 14, 1934. He served as a Boatswain's



mate in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, then worked at Linden Fence for many years. After that he joined Grumman Aerospace Corporation in Bethpage, N.Y. Bruce transferred with Grumman to Houston as a manager where he retired after roughly 30 years of service in conjunction with NASA and the U.S. Navy. He resided in the Southeast Houston/South Belt area for the last 40 years.

After retirement, he lived his life as happy as a man could alongside his "Jude." During the next two decades, the couple spent time enjoying each other, their family and grandchildren, and made occasional trips to Louisiana to gamble. Bruce is survived by his brother Laurence Hoag; his children Larry Honohan and his wife Pat, Susie Muscaro-Jylveste and her husband John, Debbie Martinez, Robert Honohan and his wife Laura, Mike Honohan and his wife Dori, Crofford Lane and his wife Yvette, Christine Morrison and her husband John, SL Bradley and his wife Denise, and Marc Hyder and his wife Kristin. Bruce had 19 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Bruce is predeceased by his father Clifford Honohan and mother Dorothy Hoag; his sister Janie Muncie; son-in-law Mark Martinez; granddaughter Dawn Marie Muscaro; grandson Brennan Michael Honohan; and granddaughter Kolyns Grace Hyder.

Services were held at Forest Park East in Webster Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019.

teering with her sisters. Mary was preceded in death by her husband Charles Schmitt; daughter Debbie Ross; son Thomas Schmitt; and granddaughter Chasidie Wasson.

She is survived by her children Michel Schmitt, Barbara Martinez and husband Ray, Donna Pitre and husband Mark, Sallie Wasson and husband Hal, Shawn Schmitt and wife Carrie; son-in-law Ronnie Ross; and sister Mildred Meister. Mary was a mother of seven, grandmother of 10, and a great-grandmother of 15.

Mary faithfully attended all her children and grandchildren's activities, whether in or out of town. Her presence in their lives will be greatly missed.

The family received friends Thursday, Dec. 26, and the funeral service was Friday, Dec. 27, both held at Niday Funeral Home. She was interred at Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Beta Sigma Phi International Scholarship Fund, 1800 W. 91st Place, Kansas City, MO 64114. For information, visit [www.bsphinternational.org](http://www.bsphinternational.org).

## Stephen James Brennan



It is with great sadness that the family of Stephen James Brennan announces his passing at the age of 63 years. A longtime South Belt resident, Steve will be lovingly remembered by his many friends and large Irish family, including his brothers David Brennan, Mark Brennan and his wife Connie, and Jim Brennan and his wife Michelle; his sons Rick and Shaun Brennan, who attended Atkinson Elementary, Thompson Middle and Dobie High schools; and his lovely daughters-in-law Kate and Sara Brennan.

Steve will also be fondly remembered by his four beloved grandchildren, Rhea, Townes, Sage and River Brennan. Steve was predeceased by his parents James Bernard Brennan and Joan Patricia Mims Brennan.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Jan. 10, at 3 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Avenue with the Rev. Art Callahan officiating. An on-site reception will follow the funeral service.

Those who so desire may make memorial donations in memory of Steve Brennan to the Native Plant Society of Texas — a nature loving non-profit organization he supported.

In loving memory, rest in peace, Stephen James Brennan — a fine Irish gentleman.

## Mary Lou Schmitt



Former South Belt resident Mary Lou Schmitt, 86, died peacefully at home on Dec. 21, 2019.

She was born in Temple, Texas, March 6, 1933, raised in Houston and graduated from St. Agnes Academy. She loved sports, was an avid bowler, and spent most of her life crocheting and sewing for her family.

Going to Gaga's house to eat her yummy food was a favorite pastime for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

After working 34 years, she retired from the VA Hospital in 2001.

An important aspect of her life was being a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She developed lifelong friends and spent countless hours volun-

teering with her sisters. Mary was preceded in death by her husband Charles Schmitt; daughter Debbie Ross; son Thomas Schmitt; and granddaughter Chasidie Wasson.

She is survived by her children Michel Schmitt, Barbara Martinez and husband Ray, Donna Pitre and husband Mark, Sallie Wasson and husband Hal, Shawn Schmitt and wife Carrie; son-in-law Ronnie Ross; and sister Mildred Meister. Mary was a mother of seven, grandmother of 10, and a great-grandmother of 15.

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## Ila Pearl Orcutt Carter



Ila Pearl Orcutt Carter, 88, longtime area resident, died Friday, Jan. 3, 2020, at the home of her son and caretaker/daughter-in-law in Friends-wood.

She was born Feb. 28, 1931, in Mason City, Iowa. After graduation from Mason City High School, she joined the Air Force, working as a personnel clerk at the Pentagon prior to getting married.

Her family grew to include six children. She worked diligently to provide them with a happy home despite of the stresses of several relocations, mostly related to the military.

Several times the family moved cross country and later to residences in South Houston, Genoa, Freeway Manor and Arlington Heights. She received special support along the way from her sister, the late Betty Orcutt Olsen and her husband Daryl Olsen.

Both were longtime Freeway Manor residents. Carter loved to watch baseball and football. In 1962, she attended the third game ever played by the Houston Colt .45s and, in 1965, the second game ever played by the Astros in the Astrodome.

She enjoyed reading and listening to music. Her favorite song, Moon River, captured her hopes for a brighter tomorrow.

In 1984, she was diagnosed with bone cancer. Subsequent surgeries severely reduced her mobility and prompted her to move — with the assistance of her children — from San Antonio to Houston and a home in Scarsdale.

Despite additional surgeries, cancer never defeated her. Among those preceding her in death were her parents; three sisters; two step-brothers; and a beloved daughter Nancy Elizabeth Carter. She died on what would have been Nancy's 59th birthday.

She is survived by five sons and their spouses, all sources of support for her as she battled through years of health issues. Her survivors include Al Carter and his wife Mary, of Friendswood; David Carter and wife Susan, of North Little Rock, Ark.; Gary Carter and wife Lynn, of Bryan, Texas; Steven Carter and wife Sue, of Cypress, Texas; and James Carter and wife Judy, of Pensacola, Fla. She leaves behind 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

A private service was held Monday, Jan. 6, at Forest Park East.

## Elected officials share their words

### Martin named mayor pro tem

It is hard to believe that we have already welcomed 2020. This new year brings a wealth of changes to City Hall, and I am excited to be able to be a part of it. Last month voters across the city took advantage of exercising their right to vote by casting their ballot in the December 14 runoff election. I look forward to continuing to work with Mayor Turner and advocating for District E, ensuring our fair share of capital improvement (CIP) dollars for projects across the council district. I also look forward to continuing to work along-

side Controller Chris Brown and know he will continue to do a fine job overseeing the city's finances.

I would also like to congratulate all returning council members, and a special welcome to all of the new At-Large and District Council Members that took their oath of office last week: Mike Knox (At-Large 1), David Robinson (At-Large 2), Michael Kubosh (At-Large 3), Letitia Plummer (At-Large 4), Sallie Alcorn (At-Large 5), Amy Peck (District A), Jerry Davis (District B \*Interim), Abbie

Kamin (District C), Carolyn Evans-Shabazz (District D), Tiffany Thomas (District F), Greg Travis (District G), Karla Cisneros (District H), Robert Gallegos (District I), Edward Pollard (District J) and Martha Castex-Tatum (District K).

We have many pertinent issues facing our city that we will have to address over the next four years together, and I look forward to working collaboratively to do what is right for not only District E but all Houstonians.

To all of my outgoing colleagues, I appreciate the

time being able to work with you over the past years. Each of you has served the city commendably, and I wish you nothing but the best as you transition into the next role in your careers.

Finally, I am excited to announce after yesterday's inauguration, Mayor Turner nominated me to be the City of Houston's mayor pro tem. During a vote by Houston City Council yesterday, this nomination was confirmed by my colleagues.

I will continue to be a staunch advocate for residents in my final term as the District E Council Member, while serving as the chair for the City's Budget and Fiscal

Affairs Committee, and adding the new role of mayor pro tem to my responsibilities. Mayor pro tem is a leadership role that encompasses serving as acting Mayor for the City of Houston when Mayor Turner is unavailable. In this new role, I look forward to providing unique insight to City issues including budget, flood risk reduction, and infrastructure.

My goal is to show the City of Houston that even though Mayor Turner and I do not always agree, we have the ability to work through our differences and collaborate to achieve great projects.

I would like to offer con-

gratulations to the City's new vice mayor pro tem, District K Council Member Martha Castex-Tatum. I would like to extend gratitude to my colleagues for providing me with this opportunity and I look forward to working together during his last term.

As always, my office staff and I are available to you. Please contact us with your questions, concerns or comments at (832) 393-3008 or [districte@houstontx.gov](mailto:districte@houstontx.gov).

Thank you again for trusting in me to serve you for another four years. I wish you and your families a very happy new year! Sincerely, **Dave Martin** (See related story Page 1A.)

### Rep. Olson applauds HELP Act

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2548, the Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects (HELP) Act, legislation Congressman Pete Olson (TX-22) introduced in May together with Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07). The bill passed with bipartisan support in a vote of 409 to 7.

"In the aftermath of natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey, government should not be an obstruction to recovery," Olson said. "No one should be forced to delay recovery under unsafe conditions due to bureaucratic red tape. The HELP Act eliminates needless federal regulations so that homes, businesses and infrastructure impacted by devasta-

tion are put on the fast track to recovery. I'm thrilled that the House passed our bipartisan bill today. I urge the Senate to act quickly as well."

"I am proud of the HELP Act and all it represents — bipartisan, common-sense, meaningful legislation born out of a partnership with our community that will benefit all Americans," Fletcher said. "By allowing certain disaster mitigation and recovery projects to begin more quickly without jeopardizing potential federal funding, the HELP Act provides a straightforward solution to a real problem that will have a meaningful impact at home and across the country.

I thank my colleagues for

working with me to make this improvement to the disaster recovery process, and I look forward to our next collaboration," Fletcher said.

The bill was introduced with bipartisan support from additional co-sponsors Reps. G.K. Butterfield (NC-01) and Mark Meadows (NC-11).

The HELP Act is designed to assist municipalities and local agencies expedite certain disaster mitigation projects by removing unnecessary delays and streamlining the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) hazard mitigation grant program.

The bill now moves to the United States Senate.

### Olson votes against Democrats' impeachment action

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22) recently issued the following statement after voting against the House Democrats' partisan, rigged and frivolous Articles of Impeachment against President Trump:

"Today House Democrats made history — for all the wrong reasons. Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised three things regarding my impeachment action against President Trump: she stated the House Democrats' case would be 'compelling, overwhelming and biparti-

san.' The Speaker was one for three — the evidence in the impeachment proceeding was neither compelling nor overwhelming; however the vote was bipartisan — against impeachment of President Trump. Democrats spent months wasting our nation's time and treasure, while issues that impact folks in TX-22 such as infrastructure, fixing our broken immigration system and supporting American energy dominance fell by the wayside. The fix was in from the start as Adam

Schiff and Jerry Nadler presided over a process with one goal: overturning the result of the 2016 election by any means necessary. Our Constitution and the rule of law are sacred, not something to be played with like a toy to achieve political ends. I was glad to see bipartisan support against impeachment in today's vote, and trust the Senate will reach a similar and swift conclusion to finally end this charade and close the book on this sad chapter of our republic's history."

### Sen. Bettencourt speaks on tax bill changes taxpayers should see this year

Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), chairman of the Senate Committee on Property Tax, is offering clarity on what Texas taxpayers can expect with the implementation of a few pieces of property tax legislation passed in the 86th Session. Along with relief from Senate Bill 2, taxpayers should have noticed a reduction on school property tax rate on this year's tax bill due to the changes in School Finance funding passed in House Bill 3. "Flip over your property tax bill and check the 7 percent reduction in ISD M&O tax rates," said Bettencourt. "That's the initial tax relief from HB3, plus SB2 property tax relief starts in 2020," he added.

HB 861, passed unanimously in both chambers, authored by Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) and Rep. John Wray (R-Waxahachie) and sponsored by Sen. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) gives property owners 21 days to pay any outstanding taxes, resulting from a district court decision, before the owners are charged interest.

Prior to this bill, a property taxpayer who appealed an appraisal review board determination of their property's tax to district court would be liable for interest if the district court ruled the taxpayer owed more than the taxpayer originally paid. "Taxpayers should not be punished with additional interest piled on top for appealing their tax bills," said Bettencourt. "This legislation will give taxpayers a fair chance to pay what is owed," he added.

This provision applies only to property owners

who withheld part of their outstanding property taxes pending an appeal to district court. Under current law, a property owner who appeals their tax bill to district court can withhold the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value of the property that is not in dispute, or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken, or the amount of taxes imposed on the property in the preceding tax year.

An important change in this legislation is the ability to pay last year's tax bill.

"Thanks to House Bill 861, a property owner will no longer need to pay any additional interest unless the outstanding taxes are not paid by the 21-day deadline," added Bettencourt.

While at home the couple enjoyed ballroom and coun-

### Dudley Stearns Benoit



Dudley Stearns Benoit, 89, beloved husband, father and grandfather, died peacefully in La Marque, Texas, Dec. 21, 2019. He joins his predeceased beloved wife Elsie Benoit. He was a former resident of the South Belt area.

Dudley was born Oct. 16, 1930, in Dickinson, son to loving parents Conde A. and Katherine Benoit. Dudley grew up in Dickinson, graduated from Dickinson High School, and from Texas A&M. He then served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

Playing the baritone, trombone and clarinet while in the high school and college bands, he advanced to play in the Air Force band. After his service he began a long engineering career and retired from Dresser Industries.

Dudley's favorite pastime was picking out a tune on his guitar, especially playing flamenco music. He and Elsie enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

While at home the couple enjoyed ballroom and coun-

ter-upting with her sisters. Mary was preceded in death by her husband Charles Schmitt; daughter Debbie Ross; son Thomas Schmitt; and granddaughter Chasidie Wasson.

She is survived by her children Michel Schmitt, Barbara Martinez and husband Ray, Donna Pitre and husband Mark, Sallie Wasson and husband Hal, Shawn Schmitt and wife Carrie; son-in-law Ronnie Ross; and sister Mildred Meister. Mary was a mother of seven, grandmother of 10, and a great-grandmother of 15.

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## In My Opinion

### Carraway continues flooding fight

The following was written to Rep. Dennis Paul and was also sent to the Leader. Marie Flickinger notified me before Christmas that you were going to look into our flooding problem and additional stress caused by a Texaco station, et al constructed at the corner of Sabo and Sagetree which concreted about 2 acres of raw land.

In addition, 2 drain pipes have been dug into the already restricted "in-line detention" ditch. This ditch was originally dug to help Fuqua drain when the Randall's strip center was built in the 1980's ... at that time, we residents were told the restriction was "temporary" until downstream detention was improved ... well, the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin, et al exists now!!

Sabo is a major thoroughfare from BWH to Kingspoint. The "outfall" of Sabo storm drains from Fuqua is at the downstream side of the ditch. HCFCO has refused, so far, to allow COH to enlarge the outfall.

What do I want? The brick restriction of the ditch removed AND the outfall enlarged so that Sabo doesn't flood so regularly. And, yes, many of the 126 townhouses where I live flooded during Hurricane Harvey. Thank you for your time.

**Rosemary Carraway**  
Publisher's Comment: A big thank you to Rosemary and Jack Hannan for keeping up the flooding fight for years. I know Rep. Dennis Paul is supportive of our efforts and will do all he can to help.

### Mosher: elections are in danger

It has never been more clear that our elections are in danger. We know that Russia hacked American state boards of elections and voting machine companies in 2016. What's more, Moscow is already gearing up to do it again in future elections. Enough is enough.

Our current system isn't equipped to handle the growing level of interference. In many cases, states have no way of verifying vote counts in the event of a cyber

attack. The House of Representatives did their part and passed a bill that would help prevent future attacks, giving \$600 million to replace outdated voting equipment with systems using voter-verified paper ballots, plus additional security measures that would safeguard election results from hackers and cyber attacks. Now, it's up to the Senate to stand up for our democracy and pass a spending bill with \$600 million for election security resources for states before the end of the year. If they fail to do so, time may have run out for us to protect the integrity of the 2020 elections.

Congress needs to stop kicking the can down the road. We need action on election security now, otherwise our enemies will be able to sway our elections in their favor. That's why I'm urging my senator to support passing \$600 million to safeguard our democracy.

### Johns on "Clutch City Connect"

I am so excited to inform the South Belt community of the wonderful things happening right in the Blackhawk/Scarsdale area. A young man named Justin Sepulveda (he says he's a 2008 J. Frank Dobie high school graduate) has blown me away with his wonderful non-profit organization "Clutch City Connect." What this organization is doing is amazing! He's helping the less fortunate all over the city and seems to be doing this all with no profits and just donations (like food, clothing, blankets, school supplies and charity work) from people like myself. I took the time to give him Christmas gift donations for the children at Shriner's this year since they make it so easy to give. He goes out of his way to pick the gifts up one by one all by himself so he can personally thank the donors.

This young man is doing remarkable things to help people, and even animals in need, especially during the times of extremely cold weather. He informed me that they are still accepting more donations of toys and I know if more people knew about Clutch City Connect it would continue to grow and benefit Houston's less fortunate.

**Nicola Johns**  
A South Belt-Ellington Resident  
Watch for a story in a future Leader.

### Local library events set

#### Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint: Thursday, Jan. 9, 5-6 p.m. Tween craft, for ages 9-12. MLK wearable button craft Get crafty at the library with friends and make wearable buttons to decorate clothing to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Spanish computer class for adults and seniors  
Wednesday, Jan. 15, 10:30-11:15 a.m. For preschoolers ages 3-5 years, toddlers ages 18-36 months. Polliwog Nature Club. This event is designed for little polliwogs to hop into nature by developing their nature knowledge and skills through a variety of books, songs, crafts, and hands on animal experiences brought by Harris County Precinct 1. This is a special monthly series. Space is limited. Open to first 30 children. First come, first served.

Wednesday, Jan. 15. Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic PowerPoint

For more information, call the library at 832-393-2580.  
Bracewell hours are: Thursday noon-8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

#### Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.: Friday, Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m. Anime club: "Fruits Basket," for ages 13 and older. Tohru Honda quickly finds out that there's more to the generous Soma clan than what one can see. Meet at the library to catch the beginning of the Fruits Basket series.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m. Sensory friendly movie "Abominable" will be shown. The lights will be low, the sound will be down and there will be plenty of room for everyone to move around as needed. Refreshments and film have been generously donated by State Farm.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 1:30 p.m. Learn Korean With Rhee, for adults. For those interested in learning another language, meet at the library and learn together! Registration is requested.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 2 p.m. Be Well: The Role of Plant Based Nutrition with Dr. Bandana Chawla, MD. Known as longevity hotspots, the world has five blue zones. These are geographic locations in which people have the lowest rates of chronic disease and the highest rate of centenarians. Join Dr. Bandana, board-certified lifestyle medicine doctor, as she explains what doctors think about blue zones and the importance of plants in the American diet. Registration is requested. This event is sponsored by Embee Plant Physicians.

Monday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m. VR gaming, for ages 12 and older. Meet at the library to explore a new world of gaming with the Playstation VR rig to test all one's senses.

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 5 p.m. Escape Room 101 - Pattern Recognition, for ages 7 and older. Letters, numbers, colors, shapes and sounds fill the environment daily. Meet in the community room to get an introduction to pattern recognition and many common ways these patterns can be manipulated to create a piece of a puzzle for an escape room and solve Mr. John's challenge.

Below are the programs that occur every week, unless the library is closed:  
Tuesday, Babytime lapsit, 10:30 a.m. For babies from birth to 18 months, featuring a mother-baby lapsit time with fingerplays, songs and playtime.

Wednesday, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m. For children, ages 3 to 5 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

Wednesday, 2-3 p.m.: Basic computer classes (Vietnamese). Learn mouse, keyboarding, basic internet skills and more at this weekly class in Vietnamese. Registration is requested.

Thursday, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m. For toddlers from birth to 3 years, storytime features stories, songs, fingerplays and bubbles.

Saturday, Vietnamese learning time, for adults and children ages 8 and older. Classes begin at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. It's a great time to take a class to help with a skill for work, gain understanding of a topic or learn a language. There are free classes available online at the library website or on the internet, through universities or other sources. Practice navigating the internet to learn about these, or sign up for one. For information, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on all other programs, call the library at 832-927-7870.  
Library hours are: Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 1-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed; Monday, 1-9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

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## Clear Brook debate adds points for state



Clear Brook speech and debate team members returned from their last meet of the calendar year that was held at Clear Springs High School Dec. 13 and 14. The team members returned with one additional state qualification which was earned by officer and senior member Yusra Ashan who placed third in Informative Speaking. Her fellow teammates, Sophie Nguyen and Aqsa Babar met her in finals and came away with fourth and fifth place finish, respectively, adding to their current state totals. In debate events, soon-to-be-graduating seniors and the newly formed Public Forum Debate team of Prateesh Vijayakumar and Kent Pham won the meet when they placed first in their event and Prateesh placed first over-

all for speakers in this event as well. This win gives the team six of a needed twelve points for its qualification for state. Fellow team member Isaiah Hall took home the third place finish in Lincoln Douglas Debates, inching four points closer to his state qualification as well. Speaking events also saw their share of accolades with Rishi Bengani placing sixth in Impromptu Speaking while his novice counterpart Sebastian Velasquez placed sixth in Novice Impromptu. Additional recognition goes out to Ealana Nikolouzos and Nicholas Ng who both advanced to semifinals in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking and Novice Impromptu Speaking. Shown are, left to right, Pham, Hall and Vijayakumar. Photo submitted

## CCISD LSC opens doors to community collaboration

The thriving Clear Creek ISD Learner Support Center (LSC) officially opened its doors to the community and a new world of partnership possibilities on Dec. 13, 2019.

At the ribbon-cutting and open house, CCISD board of trustees, students and community leaders gathered in the Library and Media Services Makerspace, walked the building halls and peeked into classrooms to see firsthand the energy and excitement kindled by the district's new hub of student and community collaboration.

On Sept. 27, the school board approved a plan to use the Clear Lake High School ninth-grade center as a student learning support center, giving adequate space to districtwide programs that have either outgrown their existing space or did not have a central location.

The plan became a reality this school year as the facility is now used to support special programs such as Gifted and Talented's Alpha, special

education, early learning, student dual credit and robotics, to name a few.

The \$7,207,944 in building repairs and modifications were paid for through Bond 2007 and Bond 2017 dollars.

The building also provides additional meeting space for students around the district to come together in one location to learn, collaborate and even celebrate successes. One such opportunity was the Teacher Education Training Fall Symposium.

More than 150 CCISD juniors, seniors and future teachers attended sessions held throughout the LSC. Leaders from across the district presented on topics ranging from behavior management and technology to engaging ways to teaching math and how to effectively build relationships.

"I have already had the pleasure of attending several exciting meetings and activities that I believe were the exact vision for the creation of this unique space," said Dr. Laura DuPont, board president.

## Morris announces Teacher of the Month



Morris Middle School announced its Teacher of the Month for December 2019 as Lisa Russell (right). Russell is an outstanding teacher with whom to work with on campus. She takes time to recognize the hard work and success of her students by providing fun incentives after school and maintains a positive attitude and models campus expectations for her students. She has built great relationships with parents by providing open and clear communication about opportunities and events in orchestra. She worked collaboratively with her team to bring Houston Symphony members to Morris to demonstrate real world opportunities for students in music. Morris Middle is proud to congratulate Lisa Russell and call her a Trailblazer. Recognizing Russell in the photo above is school principal Allison Lewallen.

## South Belt Elementary donates toys



South Belt Elementary students donated toys to the South Belt-Ellington Leader to help local families. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Addison Santiago, Tabitha Mathis, Xavier Jimenez, Sharon Nguyen (middle row) David Sepulveda, Arian Banda, Avery Aguilar, Blaze Allen, Hannah Walker, Jai'ana Leblanc and (back row) Lakita Green (school counselor). Photo by David Flickinger

## Clear Creek ISD awarded highest recognition

The Clear Creek Independent School District was awarded the Certificate

of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its 2018 comprehensive annual financial

report (CAFR). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement was also given to the Clear Creek ISD financial services department and Controller Jeff Kohlenberg for preparing the award-winning report.

"For the thirteenth straight year, Mr. Kohlenberg and his team have achieved this top financial award from the Government Finance Officers Association," said Paul McLarty, deputy superintendent of business and support services. "It is a testament to CCISD's financial strength and its desire for transparency with stakeholders. Our district is stronger financially because of the efforts of this department."

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of disclosure" to clearly communicate the financial background of the organization.

## Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) has announced its upcoming meetings dates. Meetings will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 14, and Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The Jan. 14, gathering will feature a presentation by Arlis Miles from Bay Area Turning Point.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

The Feb. 11, program will be provided by Kevin McGowan from the Lone Star Flight Museum. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering and coffee. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. At the close of the meeting they will have its annual Valentine fried chicken /pot luck luncheon.

The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. All Texas-retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

## BARC hosts January meeting

The Pearland Area Republican Club 2020-2021 officers have been installed: Cindy Simpson, president; Suzette Griffin, first vice president (program chair); Pat Smajstrla, second vice president (membership chair); Ross Kimble, treasurer; Melba Taylor, secretary; and Bela Toth, member at large.

The Jan. 9 meeting will feature guest speaker Maria Espinoza is the co-founder and national director of The Remembrance Project, and the person who brought the Angel Mom, Dads and Families to Donald Trump during the 2015-16 presidential election cycle.

Espinoza is the creator of the "Stolen Lives Quilt," a visual memorial that honors and remembers Americans killed by persons living in the U.S. illegally.

She is nationally recognized as the foremost expert on the impacts and cost in human lives that open borders and nonenforcement of immigration laws are causing.

The meeting will be held at Pearland Church of Christ Annex, located at 2217 N. Grand Blvd. in Pearland.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins at 7 p.m.

## Hometown Heroes Park ballroom dancing set

The community is welcome to attend the free ballroom dances at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom every Wednesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Neva Schroder will play many rhythms to accommodate all levels of dance ability from beginner to advanced dancing.

These Wednesday afternoon dances are not lessons. Free lessons are taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

For more information on ballroom lessons, call 832-517-5833.

Dress comfortably and dance to have fun. It's a free city activity organized by volunteers, Bill and Neva Schroder.

For more information, email neva@LetsDanceBallroom.org or private message through Ballroom dancers of League City Facebook site.

League City requires an activity card for all the city activities.

Anyone having questions about the activity card should call the front office desk at 281-554-1180.

## Fred Roberts MS receives donations



Recently, Fred Roberts Middle School received donations for the Robotic Grant and Club Grant. Shown above are, left to right, Ashton Ramella, librarian; Jorly Thomas, Roberts principal; and Shelby Willis,

tech teacher. Shown below with a second check are, left to right, DeRonda Pitre-Preston, school counselor; Thomas; and Emily Ontiveros, school counselor. Photos submitted



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# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KRISTEN!

Kristen Giles celebrates her 20th birthday Jan. 13. Her parents, Tracy and Jim Giles, grandparents Bobby and Kenneth Griffin, and brothers Cody and Aaron and wife Ashley and sons Jaxson and Jace Giles extend their best wishes for a wonderful birthday. Kristen is a Doble graduate.

## DR. JOHN MORGAN CELEBRATES

Greetings are sent to Dr. John Morgan, founding pastor of Sagemont Church, from friends and the Leader staff as he celebrates a birthday Jan. 14. Affectionately called "Brother John" by many who know him, he pastored the church for more than 53 years.

## SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 9 through Jan. 15.

### Atkinson Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to Sheri Graham Jan. 11. Send a humorous birthday greeting Jan. 13 to Mildred Rojas.

### Burnett Elementary

Join in the birthday fun Jan. 10 with Kanika Douglas, Breana Grullon and Viola Guerra. Light the birthday candles on a double-layer cake Jan. 14 for Jocelyn Chavez and Nichelle Sherman.

### Bush Elementary

Join in the birthday fun Jan. 9 with Vicki Sheppard. Tawana Dockery enjoys a birthday Jan. 10. Light the candles Jan. 11 for a celebration for Cynthia Covarrubias. The day for a party for Irma Henriquez is Jan. 15.

### Frazier Elementary

Nancy Guerra celebrates a birthday on Jan. 10. Alma Hernandez and Maria Lozano celebrate a happy birthday Jan. 13. Cecilia Ramirez enjoys a birthday Jan. 15.

### Genoa Elementary

Join in the birthday fun Jan. 2 with Rosy Gonzalez.

### Meador Elementary

Enjoy a slice of a double-layer cake Jan. 11 with Tara Merida and Anne Hamilton.

### South Belt Elementary

Join in the birthday fun Jan. 9 with Cynthia Gomez.

### Stuchbery Elementary

Sing a chorus of a birthday song to Perla Aguinaga Jan. 15.

### Melillo Middle School

Jan. 10 is the day for a birthday cake for Jessica Adamek and Crystal Taylor. Sing two choruses of a birthday song Jan. 12 to Margarita Batres and Jennifer Saucedo.

### Roberts Middle School

The day for a celebration for Debbie McKelvey is Jan. 14.

### Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send a birthday greeting Jan. 11 to Kacey Peterson. Martha Garcia enjoys a birthday Jan. 12.

### Thompson Intermediate

Special birthday wishes are sent to Tiffany Nelson Jan. 10. Melinda Harrison enjoys a birthday Jan. 15.

### Dobie High

Enjoying a birthday Jan. 10 is Camille Calo Widaski. Jan. 11 is the day for a party

for Stacy Thomas. Send a birthday greeting Jan. 13 to Audrena Soto. Light the birthday candles Jan. 14 for Chrystal Limon and Constance Ramos.

## FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

The Leader sends birthday wishes to friends who have a birthday. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, send an email to mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Jennifer Gonzalez, Mary Meyer, Jill Rea, Mike Escobedo, Monette Falzon, Cecelia Faske and Holly Lyons; Friday, Jan. 10: Jennifer Murillo, Roy Gunter and Caron Cantu; Saturday, Jan. 11: Kelly Cavazos, Myles Barkman, Amy Villareal, Kathleen Wenzel, Deirdre Davis and James Mouton Jr; Sunday, Jan. 12: Rosalind Vela, Troy Vessel, William Carpenter, Jose Pena, Barry Francis and Tammy Overstreet; Monday, Jan. 13: Scott Langefeld, Claire Mules, Gregden Martin, Betty Shamblyn, Jessica Hynes, Joseph Farrias and Shane Poynter; Tuesday, Jan. 14: Tracy Oliver, Laurie Lynn, Tiffany Defreitas and Louis Casas; and Wednesday, Jan. 15: Denise Montano, Patrick Lesley, Heather White, Cody Fountain and Barbara Bennett-Northern.

## LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

## Welcome, Jace Giles!

Congratulations to Ashley and Aaron Giles, proud parents of Jace Walter Giles, born Nov. 26, 2019, at Texas Children's Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20.5 inches long. Jace was welcomed home by his brother Jaxson, now sixteen months old. Grandparents are Carrie and Steve Hildreth of Pearland and Tracy and Jim Giles of Kirkwood South.



## CB in holiday debate



Zahra Virani

While most students were enjoying their full holiday break, Clear Brook High School debaters were hard at work at a swing tournament at J. Frank Dobie High School that was co-hosted by Clear Lake High School.

At the end of the Dobie side of the swing, Sophie Nguyen placed fourth which earned her three state points toward her qualification in Information Speaking.

In addition, the newly formed World's School Debate team fought their way to finals against St. John's High School and came away with second which earned the team of Sarvesh Subramanian, Rishi Bengani, Alwin Varghese, Zahra Virani (shown above) and Nathan Lee four points toward their goal.

On the opposite side of the swing - Clear Lake - Ian Allen came away with a fourth place finish in Informative, earning him three points while Sebastian Velasquez earned a

sixth place finish in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking.

## Meador Elementary showcases winter program

Meador Elementary recently performed its fourth-grade winter program "How the Penguins Saved Christmas." Shown left are, left to right, (front row) Khloe Hinojosa, Mariany Mendez, Khinydi Frizell, Tracie Nair, (music teacher) (back row) Jolina Hernandez, Sunshine Juarez and Beverly Bolton (principal). Shown below are students, left to right, Jennie Mancuso, Katelyn Ware, Ra'naiya Guichard, Donovan Mandani, Juliana Mikulski, Eva Lowe, Ty Momon, Idalis Villegas, Elsy Jimenez, Gissele Cardiel, Alyssa Rodriguez and Alyssa J. Rodriguez.



## Remember When

### 40 years ago (1980)

The Sagemeadow Civic Club issued a resolution regarding their dissatisfaction with the handling of complaints received by Storer Cable.

### 35 years ago (1985)

A 40-year-old man was knocked unconscious after a board from 20 feet above fell on his hard hat as he worked inside the water storage tank being constructed on Scarsdale. Emergency medical technicians from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department lowered him from an 80-foot platform in a Stokes basket rescue device.

Final plans were being made by the U.S. Postal Service for completion of a branch station in the Windmill Lakes area north of Alameda Genoa Road.

Larry and Mary Ellen Morgan of Sagemeadow won \$150,000 in a give-away from KIKK radio. After answering a trivia question the previous August, he became eligible for the end-of-year giveaway.

### 30 years ago (1990)

To prevent the opening of two highly contaminated pits at the Brio Superfund site, attorney Steve Carrigan filed for a temporary restraining order in Judge David Hittner's federal court. Officials for the Brio Task Force had previously scheduled opening the pits for test sampling late in the month but moved it up two weeks.

To kick off the New Year, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce planned a Mardi Gras Ball.

Mike Curtis, son of Richard and Janetta Curtis of Sagemeadow, was selected Pasadena Independent School District's only band student to be named All-State. He was one of 28 trumpets selected.

### 25 years ago (1995)

A \$2,475 landscaping project at the front of Dobie High School was slated for a Groundhog Day planting. The project was organized by the South Belt Civic Coalition, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the South Belt-Ellington Rotary.

The Green Tee Terrace Homeowners Association offered a reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the damage to the light posts at the Scarsdale entrance to the Green Tee Terrace subdivision in early January.

Thieves broke into the concession stand, stealing much of the equipment at the United Sports Association fields on Dixie Farm Road.

Taking a different angle toward its own policy, Clear Creek ISD administrators accepted medical reasons for allowing Weber Elementary School students to transfer to another district school.

Two suspects were arrested and charged in connection with the attempted capital murder of Tracey Lynn Deel.

15 years ago (2005)

A mix-up between the city of Houston and the Clear Brook City MUD resulted in fireworks being sold in that area.

Belt resident, Precinct 2 constable's deputies were able to solve more than 40 local burglaries.

Several business owners complained after contractors attempted to collect fees for the city of Houston dumpsters. The owners claimed they did not lease the dumpsters, their landlord did, and, therefore, they should not have to pay fees.

A total of 34 Pasadena ISD schools were recognized by the Texas Education Agency for outstanding student achievement. Moore and Frazier elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate were the local schools recognized.

### 10 years ago (2010)

A hard freeze struck the South Belt area. Fortunately, the community was spared any serious problems.

### 5 years ago (2015)

A South Belt woman was responsible for reuniting a family with a pair of young French bulldogs that had been taken from their East Houston home by a FedEx delivery man. The story made national headlines after surveillance footage captured the driver in action. South Belt resident Beth Radcliffe found the dogs near the intersection of Kirkville and Sagecanyon and took them to Kirkwood Veterinary Hospital to see if they had been chipped. Aware of the theft, Kirkwood's Dr. John Gregory reached out to the owners, who then picked up the puppies from his office. Radcliffe said she was offered a reward for finding the puppies, which cost \$3,000

each, but she declined to accept. The FedEx driver, who said he was merely getting the animals out of the cold, was suspended.

A former Dobie student was one of three Houston police officers to abruptly leave the force Monday, Jan. 12, amid an alleged ticket-rigging scandal. Officer Robert Manzanales, a 1986 graduate, took a dishonorable retirement, while fellow officers Gregory Rosa and John Garcia both resigned. Manzanales had been with the department for more than two decades. A fourth officer, Rudolph Farias, committed suicide when the scandal first broke the previous August. Later in November, Manzanales was sentenced on two felony counts to three years deferred adjudication and 120 hours community service.

### 1 year ago (2019)

An ExxonMobil pipeline leak was discovered and repaired near Dobie High over the Christmas holidays. No students were on campus at the time of the incident. The source of the refined gasoline release was quickly detected, and students returned to class as scheduled on Wednesday, Jan. 9, without issue. The release, which was located in the green space in front of Dobie, was also near Moore Elementary and multiple area subdivisions, primarily Clear Brook Meadows.

Air quality monitoring was conducted throughout the surrounding to community to ensure resident safety. Full repairs took several months to complete.

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

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

This notification is to inform parents or adult students of Pasadena ISD of the intent to destroy special education records of students who received special education services in the past; it has been five years since their most recent service has ended. Specifically any remaining special education records from 2014 or prior.

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

For further information contact:

Custodian of Records: Special Education Department

1515 Cherrybrook Lane

Pasadena, Texas 77502

Phone (713) 740-0213

## Notificación De Destrucción De Archivos De Educación Especial

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

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

Esta notificación es para informar a padres o a estudiantes adultos del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Pasadena sobre la intención de destruir los archivos de educación especial de estudiantes que recibieron dichos servicios en el pasado; esto sucedera si han pasado cinco años desde que terminaron su servicios mas recientes. Específicamente cualquier archivo de educación especial restante de 2014 or prior.

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

Para más información por favor de comunicarse con:

Conserje de Archivos: Departamento de Educación Especial 1515

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Teléfono (713) 740-0213

# Texans 65+ or disabled qualify for postponing property taxes

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 Harris County Appraisal District office.

Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred – but not canceled – as long as the owner continues to qualify for the exemption. Taxes accumulate with 5 percent interest per year.

The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the homestead if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old 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 Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

“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 addition, 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.

Most deeds of trust require that taxes be paid currently,” Altinger said.

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 County Appraisal District’s information center at 713-957-7800 or visit the district’s offices

at 13013 Northwest Freeway in Houston.

Information can be found online at [www.head.org](http://www.head.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/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/).

**About HCAD**

The Harris County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the state of Texas established in 1980 for the purpose of discover-

ing and appraising property for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit within the boundaries of the district. The district has approximately 1.8 million parcels of property to assess each year with a total market value of approximately

\$633 billion. The appraisal district in Harris County is the largest in Texas, serving approximately 500 taxing units, and one of the largest appraisal districts in the United States.

For further information, visit [www.head.org](http://www.head.org).

restaurants for their partnership to provide innovative materials to our kids.”

## Clear Creek EF “Dine Out to Donate” raises \$25,400

The Clear Creek Education Foundation’s (CCEF) sixth annual “Dine Out to Donate” event was a success with 53 local participating restaurants donating a combined total of \$25,400 to the foundation.

At each restaurant, diners voted for their Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD) School of choice to receive up to \$1,000 for school programs.

Congratulations to the schools that had the highest percentage of participation based on student population. CCEF awarded a total of \$5,500 to first, second and third place.

Elementary: Ed White,

Ward and Brookwood Secondary: Clear Creek,

Seabrook and League City High School: Clear View,

Clear Horizons Early College and Clear Springs/Clear

Creek

The school with the highest participation overall was Ed White Elementary, who was awarded the traveling “Top Dog” trophy.

“Dine Out to Donate” was held Monday, Oct. 7. Participating restaurants opened their doors for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner, donating a portion of that day’s revenue to CCEF.

The funds will benefit the students and teachers of CCISD.

“It’s exciting to see our CCISD community continue to support the CCEF ‘Dine Out to Donate Event’,” said Deborah Laine, CCEF execu-

tive director.

“We so appreciate our parents, staff and participating

restaurants for their partnership to provide innovative materials to our kids.”

## Design plans approved for Ed White Elementary renovation

The Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustees approved the design development plans for the major renovation of Ed White E-STEM Magnet School at the December meeting.

Ed White, which was built in 1965, is one of seven schools in CCISD that is at least 50 years old. Being an elementary magnet school, students participate in a high-

ly enriched curriculum that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects.

The \$19.7 million project is part of the CCISD Bond 2017 package which will fund an addition, renovations, improvements and priority repairs to bring the building up to current learning and safety standards. Additions include lab and Maker

Space areas to support STEM learning.

The design development is based on an assessment of site conditions, programming requirements, phasing considerations, detailed scopes of work, specifications and the development of the relationships between all interior and exterior spaces. Construction, led by IBI Group Inc., is scheduled to begin in July 2020.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking for compassionate friendly people to join local volunteers for the upcoming tax season.

Tax-Aide makes it easier for older, low-income taxpayers to file their tax returns and get the credits and deductions they’ve earned.

Volunteers provide free, in-person assistance in local neighborhoods at 5,000 sites across the country. Volunteers help prepare tax returns or serve in other ways, like organizing client paperwork, managing computer equipment, acting as interpreters, or making sure everything runs smoothly.

There’s a role for everyone. AARP urges one to make a difference in their community and to become an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteer.

Visit [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) for more information.

“We so appreciate our parents, staff and participating

## Meador Elementary celebrates the season with toy drive, parties and Santa



Enjoying the wonderful weather outdoors during the annual Polar Express Pajama Day are first-graders in their festive nightwear, left to right, Aleishmarie Aponte Muniz, Ashley Quijada, Lucy Le and Nevaeh Cardenas. Photos submitted



Delighting in the festivities, especially with a visit from Santa (back) are first-grade students, left to right, Arleth Garcia, Makenzie Smith, E’mani Austin, Kendall Lynskey, Nathalie Mai and Annemarie Mauricio.



Dressed in festive holiday attire and posing with Santa (right) during one of the classroom parties is third-grader Diamonique Burton.



Students collected and donated toys to the Larry’s Gift Foundation to help local families for the holidays. Shown above, Beverly Bolton (left), principal, and Tara Merida, counselor, happily display some of the gifts that were received.



Performing a skit for entertainment during December are Meador staff members, left to right, Maria Gonzalez, third-grade teacher; Megan Mayes, third-grade teacher; John Holder, third-grade teacher; Kacie Hedge, third-grade teacher; Kathryn Katsus, third-grade teacher; and Rubi Rocha, paraprofessional.



Enjoying the recent holiday season with a staff skit are Meador staff members, left to right (front row) John Holder, third-grade teacher; Paulina Rivas, first-grade teacher; Jan Arrona, first-grade teacher; Sandra Richey, first-grade teacher; Anne Hamilton, first-grade teacher; and (back row) Kim Cowan, first-grade teacher.

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Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7 p.m.

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Worship Service • 9:00 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.

Nursery Available at all Services

# South Belt Leader looks back on 2019 high, low points

Continued from Page 1A  
**March 14**

Two local crimes involved heroic dogs. The first incident occurred Friday, March 8, when a dog named Hurricane spotted a dead female body in a field by the corner of Sandy Hook and Binghamton. The body was later identified as Angel Marie Peckham, 21. No immediate arrests were made in the case. The second incident took place two days later on Sunday, March 10, just a few blocks away in the 11700 block of Davenwood Court. In that case, three people suffered nonlethal gunshots. A heroic dog named Zero attempted to stop the shooter but was fatally shot, itself. Local firefighters attempted to save the dog, but their efforts were unsuccessful. Javian Castaneda, 17, was charged with three counts of felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

**March 21**  
A South Belt resident and his son were shot the evening of Saturday, March 16, during a road rage incident near NRG Park. Ricardo Quiroga, 61, and Richard Quiroga, 28, were leaving the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo around 5:40 p.m. in the 1500 block of Fannin when they got into an altercation with another driver. The argument escalated. The incident led both drivers to travel east in the 1400 block of West Bellfort Avenue, where the second driver positioned himself behind the Quiroga's vehicle and began firing a weapon. Ricardo Quiroga then returned fire. The father was shot in the shoulder, while his son was shot in the head. Both were transported to a nearby hospital. Richard Quiroga suffered serious injuries in the incident but was expected to survive. The second driver fled the scene. It is unknown if he was struck by a bullet. No immediate arrests were made.

**March 28**  
Two armed robberies took place in a two-day

period, as residents were outside their own homes. The first incident occurred Saturday, March 23, in the 9400 block of Tree Bridge near Blackhawk, while the second occurred the following day on Sunday, March 24, in the 11900 block of Sagecliff. Police did not believe the two incidents were related. No immediate arrests were made.

**April 4**  
San Jac College was once again honored by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence Program as being one of the top-10 community colleges in the nation. This marked the third consecutive time the area college was recognized by the biennial prize.

**April 11**  
The former head of the charter school being constructed in Riverstone Ranch, along with another employee, were indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the school. Former Houston Gateway Academy Superintendent Richard Garza was charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, three counts of wire fraud and two counts of engaging in monetary transactions involving criminally acquired property. Houston Gateway Academy IT specialist Ahmad Bokaiyan faced one count of conspiracy and three counts of wire fraud.

**April 18**  
The fourth annual Family Fun Fest went off without a hitch Saturday, April 13, at Clear Brook City Park. Sponsored by the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District and the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the event featured a dog show, an Easter Egg hunt, inflatables, games, activities, food trucks and more.

**April 25**  
Twin brothers were simultaneously arrested on DWI charges Saturday, April 20, following a crash

on Highway 3 at Beltway 8. The brothers were each driving separate vehicles. Joseph Bramlet was charged with felony DWI since he had a child in his vehicle, while James Bramlet was charged with misdemeanor DWI and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

**May 2**  
The 23rd annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, held Thursday, April 25, through Saturday, April 27, at El Franco Lee Park, was a huge success, raising thousands of dollars for the yearly South Belt Fourth of July fireworks display, also held at the area park.

**May 9**  
Former Thompson Intermediate Principal E.J. Ritchey died Sunday, April 28, at the age of 89. Ritchey retired in January 1989, after serving 33 years with the Pasadena Independent School District, 15 as Thompson principal.

Former South Belt resident Jesika Taylor was found murdered in an apartment in Alvin on Wednesday, May 1. Taylor's husband, Brandon Garrett, has been arrested in connection to the crime. The couple had reportedly been involved in a domestic disturbance call just two days before her body was found.

**May 16**  
Extreme storms pounded the South Belt community Thursday, May 9, causing widespread flooding and power outages. According to Harris County officials, the rain gauge at the Beamer ditch Hughes Road recorded 4.72 inches of rainfall over a 24-hour period. The precipitation came just two days after another storm dumped 3.4 inches of rain at the same gauge Tuesday, May 7.

**May 23**  
A state judge ruled Wednesday, May 15, that the city's Proposition B was unconstitutional and void in its entirety. The measure, approved by Houston voters the previous November, required that the city's fire-

fighters be paid the same as their police counterparts. The proposition had proven to be controversial because Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said its implementation would require hundreds of municipal layoffs. According to Turner, implementing the firefighter raises mandated by Proposition B would cost the city approximately \$80 million a year. The ruling was appealed by the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association.

Nate Martin and Ashley Witson were recently named Mr. and Miss Lutheran South Academy at the local private school's senior prom. The honor, similar to prom king and queen, is voted on by students and is given to the pair that best embodies the spirit of the area school. Martin is a basketball player at LSA, while Witson participates in cheer and dance.

**May 30**  
A family dog was shot during a home invasion early Friday, May 24, on Sagewick Drive. According to police, four masked men forced their way into the house through the back door around 12:45 a.m., then pinned the homeowner down in the kitchen. One of the men then guarded the man at gunpoint, while the remaining three suspects ransacked the home. The family dog attempted to save the father but was shot in the paw by one of the suspects. The dog was taken to a veterinarian for emergency treatment and is expected to be OK. No immediate arrests were made.

A suspect has officially been charged with murder in the August 2018 death of South Belt resident Candace Kitchen Manning.

Terrance Washington, 27, was already in jail after allegedly admitting to police that he had abducted Manning and later set fire to her vehicle to destroy evidence. He, however, denied killing her. Autopsy results, however, reveal that Man-

ning had been strangled and beaten to death. Washington had initially told investigators that Manning died while the two were having consensual sex. It remains unclear if Manning had been sexually assaulted. Following the determination of death by the medical examiner's office, prosecutors filed a capital murder charge against Washington.

**June 6**  
A gunfight erupted the night of Thursday, May 30, when three men impersonating police forced their way into a home in the 11700 block of Kirkmeadow. At least one person, a female resident at the house, was injured in the shootout. According to police, the three males forced their way into the home around 9:55 p.m. and shouted "Police!" When the female resident saw a pistol on one of the suspects, she grabbed her own gun, and a gunfight ensued between the two parties, the suspects fled the house and ran onto the area street. One of the suspects also opened fire on a driver who almost hit him while he was fleeing on foot. The driver was not struck, however. The female resident was shot in the upper right arm. She was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, where she was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. No immediate arrests were made.

Shots were fired during a home invasion around 11:30 p.m. Sunday, June 2, in the 10900 block of Sageleaf. According to police, two brothers had just returned home from the store when three masked men forced their way into the home, fired a gunshot and demanded the brothers lie on the ground while they ransacked the house for valuables. The crooks fled the house through the home's back door and over the fence into the Clear Creek Landing apartment complex. One of the two brothers then exited the home

through the front door, but a fourth suspect in a blue Altima pointed a gun at him and told him to go back inside. No immediate arrests were made. The incident marked the third home invasion in the South Belt community in just over a week.

**June 13**  
Four current and former members of the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office filed a civil lawsuit against Constable Chris Diaz, citing whistleblower complaints against the department. The lawsuit also named Precinct 2 Chief Deputy Lee Hernandez as a defendant.

A police chase that traveled through the South Belt area the morning of Monday, June 10, yielded approximately \$1 million in narcotics. According to police, officers were conducting a narcotics investigation when they attempted to pull over the driver of a gray pickup truck for a traffic violation around 11:20 a.m. near the Gulf Freeway and Almeda Genoa/Shaver. When the driver of the vehicle refused to stop, a 40-minute chase ensued, leading police up and down the Gulf Freeway. When the pursuit came to a close near Broadway, police discovered nearly 13 kilos of methamphetamine and 10 grams of heroin. Jason Holmes and Laura Longoria were arrested on felony drug and evading charges. Both suspects were also wanted on warrants out of the San Antonio area.

**June 20**  
Houston District D City Council Member Dwight Boykins launched his mayoral campaign. Boykins attempted to separate himself from incumbent Sylvester Turner by touting his support from local firefighters, as he had secured the endorsement of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association. Boykins, however, was ultimately unsuccessful in his bid, losing to Turner in the election. Longtime area physician

Dr. Robert Prangle retired after serving the South Belt community for nearly 50 years. Born and raised in England, Prangle moved to the United States in 1959. After attending college in Toledo, Ohio, he went on to further his education at the Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery (now Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences). Prangle moved to Houston in 1972 and took a job as an emergency room physician at Gulfway General Hospital. In January 1973, he opened the Kirkwood Clinic on Fuqua, where he'd remain until 1986. That year, he moved into an office on Beamer, near the then newly opened Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. Four years ago, Prangle joined the Memorial Hermann Medical Group, and in February 2018, he moved his office to Pearland. While Prangle and his wife Tami planned to still reside in the community, they hoped to visit their children out of state.

**June 27**  
Dr. John D. Morgan, senior pastor of Sagemont Church for 53 years, announced the beginning of a transition period that would find his successor as leader of the 21,000-member church. The church marked its 53rd anniversary, along with Morgan's 53rd as pastor, on June 2. In those 53 years, Sagemont Church witnessed more than 18,000 baptisms; 20,000 professions of faith; and gifts totaling nearly \$364 million. Morgan would continue to deliver the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship services for several more months.

**July 4**  
A groundbreaking ceremony was held to celebrate the beginning of work on Phase 1 of the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. Phase 1 of construction was designed to provide the necessary infrastructure to attract potential tenants of the future facility, the tenth to be licensed in

the nation. Once complete, the new spaceport will feature sub-orbital commercial flights, zero-gravity scientific and medical research, astronaut training and development, space tourism and more. San Jacinto College also announced its plan to construct a satellite campus on the Houston Spaceport grounds to provide aerospace industry workforce training.

**July 11**  
Johnson Space Center

hosted a series of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of NASA's Apollo 11 moon landing. Human remains were found Thursday, July 4 at Blackhawk Park, near the northeast intersection of Blackhawk and Fuqua. To date, the identity, gender and race of the discovered individual are unknown. The case remains an open investigation.

Continued in next week's issue.

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Wolverines now 19-5

## Dobie hoops assume playoff positioning; Brook boys win

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The Dobie varsity girls' basketball team, with veterans such as Annette Eonne (24) contributing, have won five of seven games to begin league play. The Lady Longhorns will host Memorial Jan. 10.

Dobie's Shannon Hayes (3) had a team-high 15 points as the Longhorns improved to 4-2 with a win over South Houston Jan. 7 to remain in the playoff hunt.

State-ranked programs from Atascocita and Summer Creek continue to control the District 22-6A varsity boys' and girls' standings as the midway point in league play approaches, but the Dobie teams are also hanging tough.

Meanwhile, the Clear Brook varsity boys' team has to be considered one of the surprises this season, what with a 19-5 record to this point.

Atascocita, ranked ninth in the state after defeating Summer Creek in district action, leads the way at 6-0 with Summer Creek, No. 11 statewide, at 6-1. Dobie is third at 5-2 and Humble currently is fourth with a 4-2 mark.

The Lady Longhorns have now won 16 of 24 overall games this season but would likely trade all

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## Balanced goal-scoring, distribution helps Dobie boys' soccer start at 2-0-1

If the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team is to win a sixth consecutive District 22-6A champion-

ship this season, it's likely to take as much of a true team effort as any of the previous five.

True to form, that new total team concept was on display at the Jan. 2-4 Pasadena ISD Cup, with the Longhorns winning twice and playing regionally-ranked Tompkins 2-2 during the three-day event.

### Austin Lakes Elite Showcase

Jan. 9-11, Austin

- Jan. 9 - Dobie vs. McKinney Boyd
- Jan. 10 - Dobie vs. El Paso Del Valle
- Jan. 11 - Dobie vs. Laredo LBJ

Dobie, beginning 2020 in search of scoring punch after the graduation of all-time leading scorer Bryan Nava, got goals from six different players, with Jonathan Torres and Isaac Cortez scoring twice each.

Acosta Jan. 3 in a 1-0 win over Klein Oak. Cortez had Dobie's goal on an assist from Oscar Beltran.

round in 2019, began the season at 2-0-1.

The much-anticipated matchup with Tompkins Jan. 2 wound up knotted after regulation as Torres and Eli Donaho scored for the Longhorns, with assists coming from Imanol Pena and Jonathan Mendez.

Acosta was again solid in the nets, and the Longhorns received goals from Pena, Cortez, Mendez, Torres and Sergio Tenchon.

Considering the 2020 roster is packed with newcomers and just seven seniors in all, Dobie head coach Justo Manrique came away with what he termed "very pleased" following the tournament.

Dobie then got a shut-out effort from keeper Eris

Anthony Nery, Pena and Oscar Medrano notched assists as the Longhorns, coming off a trip to the area playoff

"We came out and got up on Tompkins quickly until they tied it, and then they eventually came back to take a 2-1 lead," Manrique said.

"But then we came back to tie the match in the last minute, so that was

Continued on Page 6B

## Chu, Hernandez tally three; Lady Longhorns go 3-1-1

Returning leading scorer Victoria Chu and freshman Karen Hernandez had three goals each to pace the scoring as Dobie's varsity girls' soccer team won three games and tied another as part of a 3-1-1 start at the Waller ISD Classic.

Chu scored twice and Hernandez and Miranda Serrano also tallied goals as Dobie began the season with a 4-1 win over Vidor Jan. 2.

Creek Jan. 3 before the locals bounced back for a 2-0 victory against Cypress Falls as Hernandez scored both goals.

the Jan. 9-11 Cajun Classic, hosted by Port Neches Groves High School. They will face Dayton, Kelly Catholic, Magnolia and Port Arthur Memorial over the three-day event.

Winning their pool, the Lady Longhorns fell to Klein Cain Jan. 4 before coming back to beat Cypress Falls 1-0 as Taiya Mitchell assisted on a goal by Yanely Perez.

Sophomore returning starter McKenzie Rankins was in the nets for each of the Lady Longhorns' five games in the tournament.

Success at Waller  
A great deal of success at the Waller Invitational a

Continued on Page 6B

## SBHLL spring sign-up ongoing via online app

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League is conducting online registration as plans for the 2020 spring season continue to take shape.

The fee for registration in any of the age divisions is \$200 per player. Those wishing to play this season may complete the process online at http://sbhll.ativestports.com/Register.

The Junior/Senior division is open to those born between Sept. 1, 2003 and Aug. 31, 2007. The SBHLL spring season will begin play in March and continue into the summer.

is open to those born between Sept. 1, 2011 and Aug. 31, 2013.

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# The year 2019: July through September was truly special

As we welcome in 2020 with the *Leader's* debut issue of the new decade, we take a look back at some of the most exciting sports moments from July through September of 2019. Here we go!

**July**  
It was tough enough that persistent rains forced the Section III Senior division Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League All-Star team to surrender home field advantage, but giving it up to perennial power West U proved to be too much.

Representing SBHLL's last hope in all-star season play, the locals opened with a 3-1 victory over District 25 champion Lindale but then fell short in a 14-4 loss to West U. Sagemont-Beverly Hills extended its season by eliminating Lindale 5-4 in nine innings, but then came an 18-1 loss to West U as the tournament champions had to win just two games to claim the Section III title, with each of the tournament games played at the West University Little League facility because of wet fields at El Franco Lee Park.

SBHLL ended the summer as the Texas District 15 champion, going unbeaten in that event.

Dobie's Taylor Pleasants was a Texas Sports-writers Association All-State honorable mention choice during the summer after taking District 22-6A Most Valuable Player honors in 2019 and leading her team in batting average (.600), runs scored (63), doubles (16), triples (6) and home runs (8).

Junior Camryn Wincher capped a memorable campaign by being named a Texas Sports-writers Association All-State second team pick after pacing the Region III ranks in runs batted in with 63. She hit .449 for the season with 13 doubles and five homers.

Returning to the stadium where she just weeks ago qualified for the high school state track and field championships, Camryn Dickson of the Rising Stars Track Club put on a show to lead her team at the Amateur Athletic Union Region 17 national qualifier.

Dickson, who in May finished her freshman year at Clear Brook High School with a trip to state in the 100-dash, won gold in the 100 and 200 dashes and placed third for another medal in the triple jump at the R17 event at Challenger Stadium in Webster.

Izard Evans, compet-

ing in the boys' 9-year-old division, also captured a pair of championship gold medals, including the 1,500-run and the turbo javelin, and Alena Holt of Deer Park High School won the women's 17-18-year-old javelin crown, punching her ticket to the Junior Olympics.

Dickson won gold in the 100-dash as her time of 12.12 bested the field for the top spot. In the 200 dash, Dickson came up with a time of 24.60 for her second win.

As for the triple jump, a leap of 33 feet, 10 inches was enough to land Dickson third place for the bronze medal.

Evans in 2018 set a national record in the turbo javelin and was hoping for a repeat performance a season later.

Evans came through with a time of 5:26.89 seconds in the 1,500 run for the regional crown.

In the turbo javelin, Evans was the winner at 82 feet, 4 inches.

It was a different year but much of the same as 2018 state finalist A&M Consolidated avenged its championship game loss, this time defeating Southlake Carroll 37-32 at the Adidas 7-on-7 State Championship Football event in College Station.

A&M Consolidated was the event's big winner, taking home the championship belts after two long days of victories in the heat.

Outside of Manvel, there wasn't a ton of success shown from the Region III ranks, but Clear Brook did come away proud after finishing the 120-team, three division tournament with two wins in five games.

The Wolverines lost to Hutto 32-12 and to eventual state finalist Southlake Carroll 48-20 in pool play but also scored a 20-13 win over Port Neches Groves in the middle game.

Advancing to the consolation bracket on the final day of action, Clear Brook first defeated Rockwall Heath 38-24 but then fell out of contention with a 40-32 setback against Waco Midway.

Six San Jacinto College student-athletes, including five women's softball players, were honored as the National Junior College Athletic Association announced the 2018-2019 All-Academic nominations based on performance in the classroom.

First team selections must have earned a 4.00

grade-point average or better, while second-team honorees must have earned a GPA of between 3.80 and 3.99.

Those named to the All-Academic third team delivered a GPA of between 3.60 and 3.79.

SJC's softball's Ashley Tran, a sophomore infielder, was a first team selection while teammate Lillie Grotenhuis and baseball player Adam Houghtaling were second team picks.

Three other softball players - Madelyn Daniel, Dominique Garcia and Ashley Ramber - all earned All-Academic third team accolades.

Dobie Class of 2019 graduate and varsity girls' basketball standout Destiny Estes made her collegiate choice official, signing with Lamar Community College in Lamar, Colo.

Estes was a key part of back-to-back area round playoff teams at Dobie and also shot 45 percent from 3-point territory over three seasons with her summer club, the Houston DC Queens.

Dobie's Wincher added to her long list of postseason achievements as Extra Inning Softball named the senior-to-be a first team All-American after her terrific performance during the 2019 season. Wincher hit .449 for the season and put together an on-base percentage of .540.

She led the Region III ranks with 63 runs batted in and also socked five homers.

Clear Brook High School's Kayleigh Schultz and Bella Lockwood, the state's top two rated players in the U-18 Beach Rankings, were joined by teammate Kailin Newsome as the nation's best converge on Manhattan Beach, Calif.

The top qualifying players from across the country arrived at one of the world's most popular beach volleyball destinations for the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships at the U-18 and U-16 brackets.

Schultz, a senior setter at Clear Brook, was the No. 1 ranked beach player and finished second with teammate Nicole Deslatte of Dawson High School at the Lone Star Region No. 2 qualifier in Galveston.

Lockwood, the No. 2 player in Texas and a senior outside hitter at Brook, teamed with Ceci Harness at the Galveston Open June 29, where they were defeated in the title match by Newsome and her partner, Chloe Jordan

of Pearland High School. Newsome, a senior outside hitter for the Lady Wolverines, was the state's No. 4 ranked beach player.

Schultz is ranked 13th nationally, while Lockwood was at No. 23 and Newsome was 61st.

At Clear Brook in 2018, Schultz had 672 assists to lead the team from her setter position, and Newsome had a team-high 604 kills and 55 aces. Lockwood was second on the team with 372 kills as the Lady Wolverines finished 25-17 overall.

USA Softball announced its roster for the 2019 USA Softball U-19 Women's National Team that subsequently competed at the World Baseball Softball Confederation U-19 Women's Softball World Cup, and Dobie graduate Taylor Pleasants made the squad.

Held August 10-17 in Irvine, Calif., the tournament featured the majority of a USA JWNT roster that took a bronze medal at the USA Softball International Cup earlier in the summer.

The 17-player USA roster looked to become the first three-peat U-19 WBSC Women's Softball World Cup champion.

"This was a difficult decision because it's never easy to narrow a roster of 20 of the best softball players in our country to 17," said U-19 WNT head coach Heather Tarr.

"Each athlete gave us their all through the training and evaluation process, and it also provided them an opportunity to grow from the experience and challenge themselves at a pivotal point in their career.

"I look forward to continuing to come together as a team when we train in Spartanburg and the days leading up to the U-19 Women's Softball World Cup as we strive to become the best team we possibly can when we take the field in Irvine."

Aside from Pleasants, a Louisiana State University softball signee, the USA roster includes Jadelyn Allchin (Fountain Valley, Calif.), Jayda Coleman (The Colony, Texas), Julia Cottrill (Stillwater, Okla.), Bailey Dowling (St. Joseph, Ill.), Charla Echols (Newnan, Ga.), Megan Faraimo (Vista, Calif.), Montana Fouts (Grayson, Ky.), Kelli Godin (Seal Beach, Calif.), Frankie Hammoud (Oakland, Calif.), Madison Huskey (Cerritos, Calif.), Lexi Kilfoyl (Land O'Lakes, Fla.), Kelley Lynch (Newnan, Ga.), Jasmine Sievers (Laguna Niguel, Calif.), Macy Simmons (Chandler, Ariz.), Rylee Tricek (Hallettsville, Texas) and Skylar Wallace (Woodstock, Ga.).

Chris Malveaux, a 1995 Dobie High School graduate and former varsity baseball player, was promoted to the role of Associate Head Coach of the University of Missouri women's softball program.

Clear Brook led two sets to one but couldn't hold on as Bridgeland out of the Cypress Fairbanks school district handed the Lady Wolverines a 25-23, 21-25, 18-25, 25-23, 15-8 loss on the opening night of the high school volleyball season Aug. 6 at Clear Brook.

Avenging a loss a season ago in its varsity debut, Bridgeland, just a second-year program, wound up sweeping each of the four matches in the series with Brook.

Izard Evans of the Rising Stars Track Club earned a bronze medal in the turbo javelin event to lead his team at the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympic Games, which concluded Aug. 3 at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, N.C.

His top throw traveled 89 feet, 11 inches for third place overall. He also performed well in the 9-year-old 800 and 1,500 runs to close out his strong summer.

His sister, 11-year-old Iryanna Evans, was ninth in the discus, while the Stars' Camryn Dickson took 10th in the girls' 15-16-year-old 200 dash.

Devin Smeltzer, who helped guide the San Jacinto College baseball team to the JUCO World Series in 2016, earned his first major league win Aug. 4, pitching his Minnesota Twins past the Kansas City Royals 3-0.

Smeltzer, originally a fifth-round pick of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2016, went six shutout frames, allowing two hits and fanning four to get the victory as the Twins maintained their lead in the American League Central Division. Poised with a 2.28 earned run average, Smeltzer has now struck out 21 batters over 27 2/3 innings, encompassing five total appearances (three starts).

If the first weekend of the high school volleyball season was to provide any indicator of what is to come, the District 24-6A title chase was to be as competitive as ever.

Shrugging off an opening day loss that included dropping the final two sets to visiting Bridgeland, Clear Brook was one of the true movers and shakers of the first two days of the Adidas John Turner Classic in Pearland, a 58-team power-driven tournament that is considered the state's most prestigious.

Opening day - Aug. 8 - saw the Lady Wolverines go unbeaten in three pool play matches without dropping a set.

Brook cruised past Alief Elsiek 25-12, 25-10 and had to work a little harder for a 25-22, 26-24 victory over San Antonio Christian.

In the final match of pool play, Brook advanced with a 25-21, 25-17 victory over Kingwood Park.

Ramping things up a day later, the Lady Wolverines scored impressive wins over Friendswood (20-25, 25-23, 25-20) and Pearland (25-20, 18-25, 25-18) but fell just short of making the tournament's gold bracket after a 25-22, 22-25, 26-24 loss to Bellaire.

There was a letdown for Brook on the final day of the Turner Classic as they fell 25-19, 25-15 to Coronado and 25-14, 25-16 to San Antonio Brandeis, but five wins in six matches to begin things was certainly impressive enough to earn the Lady Wolverines some early-season staves.

The Lutheran South Academy volleyball team also competed in the tournament, and while the results weren't what the Lady Pioneers would have liked, the group picked up plenty of valuable experience as the season continued.

The Lady Pioneers drew one of the tournament's toughest pools to begin the action, losing to eventual gold bracket representatives Bellaire and Ridge Point as well as Barbers Hill.

Bellaire defeated Lutheran South 25-12, 25-14, while Ridge Point was a 25-12, 25-19 winner over the locals. Lutheran South won a set against Barbers Hill but wound up on the short end of a 23-25, 25-19, 25-17 score.

On the second day of the event, the Lady Pioneers lost to San Antonio Brennan 25-22, 22-25, 25-15 and then came up short against Mission Veterans Memorial in a 25-20, 25-10 match. In the finale of the day, Waller handed LSA a 21-25, 25-21, 25-16 loss.

The Lady Pioneers finished play at the Adidas Turner Classic with two more tough opponents.

Atascocita defeated the locals 25-19, 25-23 and then Clear Lake went up against LSA, winning 25-19, 25-16.

Former San Jacinto College right-hander Jackson Rutledge, the No. 17 pick in the first round of the MLB June Amateur Draft by the Washington Nationals, settled in quite

well with Nats' Class A Hagerstown affiliate.

On Aug. 9, Rutledge earned a win after throwing five scoreless innings, allowing two hits, walking two and fanning six over his outing.

Rutledge, the 2019 National Junior College Athletic Association's Pitcher of the Year and currently the Nationals' No. 3-ranked prospect, is 1-0 overall over seven appearances and has struck out 21 batters in 23 1/3 innings with a 3.86 earned run average.

Rutledge pitched earlier in 2019 with San Jacinto College, leading the nation in ERA as a sophomore and finishing second in total strikeouts.

The Dobie Longhorns weren't yet ready to have the 2019 District 22-6A team tennis trophy stenciled with the JFD logo just yet, but this group and their coach were having the time of their lives, even in the stifling heat.

Maybe there isn't a bigger example of Dobie's true team tennis spirit than its Aug. 13 victory over Katy at the Longhorn courts.

The final results will show that Dobie was tied at eight matches apiece with the Tigers before reeling off three straight singles wins to take the duel 11-8.

The win, while it was just the Longhorns' third in seven tries, was special for everyone involved.

"That's the great thing about team tennis," explained Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr.

Dobie won its fifth match in seven starts after an 0-4 start, and Clear Brook won its second straight match as both varsity programs continue to build momentum toward district play.

Clear Brook was 7-5 overall early in the season after getting past Summer Creek and Dulles in consecutive starts.

The Lady Wolverines handed Summer Creek a 25-14, 26-24, 25-13 loss Aug. 16 to get back over the .500 mark and to end a two-match losing streak.

The high school cross-country season was off and running for the Longhorns after the school's varsity and junior varsity boys and girls teams showed well at the Huffman High School Relays Aug. 16 to open things.

Dobie's Alberto Campa and Geraldo Torres were particularly impressive, combining to capture the gold medal in the varsity boys 6-mile race in a time of 33 minutes, 21.9 seconds, winning by nearly a half a minute.

The duo's performance allowed the Longhorns to take fourth overall in the team standings.

The Dobie varsity girls were third in the final team standings, and the Lady Longhorns' junior varsity squad also wound up third.

Junior Amary Singleton, a Region III qualifier in both 2017 and 2018, also got off to a solid start to her season.

She teamed with third-year varsity standout Grace Castaneda in the 4-mile race for a time of 26:52.3, with eighth place the result.



At right, Jackson Rutledge was the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Pitcher of the Year while playing for San Jacinto College in 2019 as he was among the country's leaders in both strikeouts and earned run average. Following the season at SJC, Rutledge became the first-ever Gator selected in the first round of the major league baseball draft in June and subsequently went to the Washington Nationals at No. 17. After a successful debut late last season, Rutledge is preparing for his first full pro season this summer.

with 13th place overall for 2018 regional qualifier Izzy Padilla and her teammate Danielle Colunga.

At 28.46.9, the Dobie pairing of McKenzie Rankins and Abby Duron took 23rd.

Nothing short of spectacular as a freshman in 2019 at San Jacinto College, hard-throwing Luke Little thrust himself into the national spotlight.

Little first went 3-1 with two saves keeping opposing offenses to a 2.04 earned run average in his first season with the Gators.

Perhaps most impressive, Little struck out 69 batters over just 35.3 innings as he helped the Gators go 42-12.

Little kept his resume looking strong. Pitching in the summer of 2019 for the Traverse City Pit Splitters of the Northwood League, Little was dominant out of the team's bullpen.

Tossing 12 1/3 innings, Little went 3-0 with 22 strikeouts. The left-hander regularly sat at 95 to 97 miles per hour with his fastball and touched 99 three times.

Little has committed to pitch beyond the 2020 season at the University of South Carolina but may have other choices.

Named the Northwood League's top pitching prospect by PerfectGame.org, Little is projected to be an early-round selection in the 2020 MLB First-Year Player Draft next June.

Clear Brook graduate Corey Julks got one step closer to the big leagues with the Astros organization.

Last summer, Julks was promoted to the Astros' Class AA affiliate, the Corpus Christi Hooks.

A .333 hitter over three games with the Hooks at press time, Julks did most of his damage in his AA debut, going 3 for 3 with a walk and scoring two runs. He has also driven in a pair since his promotion.

An eighth-round pick of the Astros out of the University of Houston in 2017, Julks has made steady progress in his minor league career.

It's impossible to predict just what decisions the Astros will make at the big league level moving forward, but Julks has thrown his name in the hat as an option.

In just over 900 minor league at-bats, Julks is a .260 hitter with 15 homers and 108 runs batted in.

Dobie No. 1 boys player Sebastian Delgado continued his strong season against Pearland, getting a win over R.J. Amir 8-4. In the No. 1 doubles spot, he and partner Quan Dinh also scored a win as the Longhorns beat the Oilers 16-3.

Aside from kicker Joshua Hernandez's six-for-six performance on conversion kicks, Dobie's 42-21 season-opening victory over Santa Fe Aug. 28 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena was far from perfect.

But thanks in large part to a 21-point fourth quarter outburst, including linebacker Adam Robicheaux's short interception return, the Longhorns made it look easy in the end.

Dobie's defense was solid throughout the night

when not dealing with a short field.

The Indians rushed for just 43 yards in the game on 23 carries, and quarterback Trevor Trexler, while connecting on touchdown throws of 27 and 49 yards, had just 80 yards through the air on five of 11 passing attempts.

Host La Porte handed first-year head coach Anthony Renfroe a victory in his debut, outscoring Clear Brook 36-0 in the second half to come away with an easy 42-10 victory Aug. 29 in La Porte.

Cooper Upshaw pounded away at the Brook defense to the tune of 157 yards and two touchdowns on just 16 carries, and quarterback River Thompson added a pair of short touchdown runs in the game.

Clear Brook sophomore running back Trent Lacy debuted with 82 yards on 22 carries, and quarterback Shane Porter completed 17 of 30 passes for 134 yards.

However, La Porte's Travis Greenawalt victimized Porter with two interceptions, and the Bulldog defense made the necessary halftime adjustments in shutting the Wolverines down over the final 24 minutes.

Dobie varsity girls cross-country runner Karisa Hernandez (265) was part of a big group effort as the Lady Longhorns took second place as a team at the Huntsville Cross-Country Invitational Aug. 28 at Huntsville's Kate Barr-Ross Park.

Izzy Padilla was fifth overall for Dobie, covering the 5,000-meter course in a time of 22 minutes, 43 seconds. Amari Singleton was seventh with a time of 22:51.

Montgomery won the team title in the girls division, with Dobie second. Hernandez was 93rd with a time of 28:15. In the varsity boys' division, the Longhorns were sixth as a group.

Alberto Campa led Dobie as he was the No. 2 overall medalist in a time of 17:52.

Beau Pscenic delivered an opening night highlight to remember, and sophomore Joel Hutchins had 136 yards receiving and two scores as Lutheran South Academy routed Houston Christian 48-25 Aug. 29, to begin the Pioneers' varsity football season.

Pscenic, a Touchdown Club of Houston All-Greater Houston Private High School Football Team selection along with teammate Jacob Justice, took the game's opening kickoff 94 yards for a score to give the Pioneers a 7-0 lead just 23 seconds into the game.

From there, the LSA passing game was too much to handle for the Houston Christian defense with junior quarterback Luke Harrison throwing four touchdown passes, two to Hutchins and two more to Justice.

Dobie was unbeaten at 2-0 heading into District 22-6A action for the secondary season after Joshua Hernandez's 22-yard field goal with just over a minute to play gave the locals a thrilling 31-28 victory over the Bellaire Cardinals Sept. 7 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

While the Longhorns had yet to display the type of explosiveness out of the running game that was a big part of 2018's 2-0 start, the offense was doing its part.

The Longhorns took leads of 14-0 and 28-7 in the game, only to see the Cardinals respond each time.

When it mattered most, the Longhorns got a 51-yard run from Jonathan Baldwin on a short snap in punt formation to set up a first-and-goal situation with just over two minutes left.

Meanwhile, Clear Brook was seeking a few answers after a 19-7 loss at home to Friendswood Sept. 7 at Veterans Stadium in League City left the Wolverines sitting at 0-2 to start the season.

Punting seven times in the game against the Mustangs, Clear Brook managed a 1-yard run from sophomore Trent Lacy for its lone score of the game.

Quarterback Shane Porter completed 17 of 32 passes in the game for 132, but the Wolverines were unable to get speedy receiver Lonzon Thompson untracked in the game for the most part.

Thompson had a 14-yard run in the game to go with a 19-yard reception from Porter.

Six different players found the end zone as host Lutheran South Academy made quick work of Legacy Christian in its varsity football home opener, dashing away with a 40-6 win.

Quarterback Luke Harrison threw two touchdown passes in the first quarter and was limited due to the score much of the rest of the way.

Held to only a Trent Lacy touchdown run for the second straight week, the Clear Brook varsity football team wrapped up nondistrict play with a 45-7 road loss at Angleton Sept. 13.

The Wildcats led 14-0 and 24-7 en route to the easy win. Jordan Jones led the Angleton attack with 142 yards rushing on 11 totes, and J.T. Anderson had 91 yards on eight tries.

There certainly was much to celebrate as the Dobie football program entered homecoming week fresh off one of its biggest victories in years.

For those looking to savor every moment, there is plenty of congratulations to go around after the Longhorns spoiled Summer Creek's Sept. 20 homecoming, coming from behind in the fourth quarter to defeat the Bulldogs 36-23.

The Longhorns led 29-23 on the strength of a pair of touchdown runs from senior Dontavion Crosby, but the Bulldogs were on the move in the final minute.

That's when senior Giambi Boyd stepped in front of Summer Creek quarterback Bryan Bush's pass over the middle at midfield, intercepting the throw and then weaving his way down the right sideline for a victory-clinching 50-yard touchdown.

The win was the Longhorns' first-ever over the Bulldogs and signaled the start of something special in league play.



Izard Evans of the Rising Stars Track Club earned a bronze medal in the turbo javelin event to lead his team at the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympic Games, which ended Aug. 3 at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, N.C.

# 2019 year in review – Dobie football, Clear Brook volleyball create waves

**Continued from Page 2B**  
 In each of the previous two seasons, the Dobie tennis squad watched as losses to Atascocita essentially kept the locals from reaching their goal of advancing in the postseason, but in 2019 a little bit of revenge was exacted.  
 With a gutsy 10-7 team win at Atascocita, Dobie grabbed a solid grip on

second place in the District 22-6A standings, which led to facing off against La Porte in the postseason.  
 Seemingly season after season having gone by with others pushing them around, the Clear Brook varsity volleyball team was the one doing the pushing as the close of the first round of District 24-6A volleyball play neared.

With a match coming at Clear Lake to end the first half, Clear Brook had already stormed out to a 5-0 lead in the league, getting wins over programs that had beaten them in the past.  
 At Dobie, the Lady Longhorns were looking to cement their hold on a playoff seed, with a jump up to second place still a

possibility.  
 Ja Darieon Henderson's 24-yard run with 2 minutes, 6 seconds to play was the final blow as Dobie's varsity football team improved to 5-0 for the first time since the 1999 season with a defense-dominated 21-7 victory over the previously unbeaten Humble Wildcats at Humble ISD's Turner Stadium.

Kailin Newsome was busy leading her Clear Brook varsity volleyball team to the top of the District 24-6A standings, and plenty of folks were taking notice.  
 With 43 kills over the course of two more Clear Brook victories, Newsome was named the state's Player of the Week by Max Preps/American Volleyball Coaches Association, honoring her as one of the nation's best.

Dobie's Megan Rodriguez and partner Jennifer Ho got a big win early on as the Longhorns battled La Porte in bidistrict tennis action.  
 In the end, Dobie dominated the action to the tune of 10-2, setting a program record for wins in a season with 16 and advancing to the area playoff round for the first time since 2012.

Dobie, which wound up 16-14 over the course of the season after a loss to Dawson, delivered one of the best seasons in head coach Manuel Moreno's career at the school.  
 Dobie junior Alberto Campa headed to the Region III Cross-Country Championships after finishing third overall at the Atascocita-hosted District 22-6A Championships.

Kingwood's Nick Majerus repeated as the league champion, covering the 5K course in 15 minutes, 35.40 seconds for the crown.  
 Nahim Abdallah helped his Atascocita group to the team title after he placed second overall in a time of 16:12.26, followed by Campa's third-place time of 16:20.25.

Sixteen total wins – a program record, a berth in the area round of the playoffs, Dobie's deepest run since the 2012 season, a 176-0 match winning streak against fellow Pasadena ISD programs – these are all great notables from Dobie's varsity team tennis season, but it's not likely to be what their head coach or the players remember the most years from now.  
 "This as just an incredible group of kids who played for each other," said Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. I've never had as much fun coaching a tennis team as I did this season. The lasting impression is that they went on there on a daily basis and laid it on the line for each other. I implored them to play for the other 31 players in the program, not just themselves, and they did that.  
 "I'm so proud of this group and what they ac-

## Pasadena ISD Girls' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 7, 2020

8A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Miller	2 0 0	5 0 0
Thompson	2 1 0	4 1 0
Southmore	1 1 0	2 3 0
San Jacinto	1 1 0	2 3 0
South Houston	0 3 0	0 5 0

### Game Scores

Miller 34, South Houston 9  
 Thompson 42, San Jacinto 18

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	3 0 0	3 2 0
Queens	2 0 0	4 1 0
Bondy	1 1 0	2 3 0
Jackson	0 2 0	1 4 0
Park View	0 3 0	1 4 0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 18, Jackson 7  
 Queens 35, Southmore 9  
 Bondy 35, Park View 10

8B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	3 0 0	5 0 0
Southmore	1 1 0	3 2 0
San Jacinto	1 1 0	3 2 0
Miller	1 1 0	3 2 0
South Houston	0 3 0	2 3 0

### Game Scores

Southmore 22, Queens 10  
 Thompson 30, San Jacinto 20  
 Miller 30, South Houston 12

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	2 0 0	3 2 0
Park View	2 1 0	4 1 0
Queens	1 1 0	1 4 0
Beverly Hills	1 2 0	1 4 0
Jackson	0 2 0	0 5 0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 13, Jackson  
 Bondy 31, Park View 28

## Pasadena ISD Girls' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 7, 2020

7A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	3 0 0	5 0 0
South Houston 2	1 0 0	4 1 0
Southmore	1 1 0	3 2 0
San Jacinto	0 2 0	3 2 0
Miller	0 2 0	0 5 0

### Game Scores

Southmore 17, Queens 16  
 Thompson 34, San Jacinto 25  
 South Houston 30, Miller 21

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	2 0 0	4 1 0
Beverly Hills	2 1 0	3 2 0
Park View	1 2 0	2 3 0
Queens	1 1 0	1 4 0
Jackson	0 2 0	0 5 0

### Game Scores

Bondy 30, Park View 6  
 Beverly Hills 29, Jackson 14

7B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	3 0 0	5 0 0
San Jacinto	1 1 0	3 2 0
Miller	1 1 0	2 3 0
Southmore	0 2 0	2 3 0
South Houston 1	2 0 0	2 3 0

### Game Scores

Thompson 33, San Jacinto 10  
 Southmore 26, Queens 9  
 Miller 15, South Houston 10

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	2 0 0	4 1 0
Queens	2 0 0	2 3 0
Jackson	1 1 0	1 4 0
Beverly Hills	1 2 0	3 2 0
Park View	0 3 0	0 5 0

### Game Scores

Jackson 11, Beverly Hills 8  
 Bondy 26, Park View 8

## Pasadena ISD Boys' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 7, 2020

8A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
South Houston 2	0 0 0	4 0 0
San Jacinto	1 0 0	3 1 0
Thompson	1 1 0	3 1 0
Miller	0 1 0	1 3 0
Southmore	0 2 0	2 2 0

### Game Scores

Thompson 54, San Jacinto 21  
 South Houston 58, Miller 23

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	2 0 0	4 0 0
Queens	2 0 0	2 2 0
Bondy	0 1 0	2 2 0
Jackson	0 1 0	0 4 0
Park View	0 2 0	0 4 0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 60, Jackson 26  
 Queens 57, Southmore 35  
 Bondy 52, Park View 26

8B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	2 0 0	4 0 0
San Jacinto	1 0 0	3 1 0
South Houston 1	1 0 0	3 1 0
Miller	0 1 0	1 3 0
Southmore	0 2 0	1 3 0

### Game Scores

Thompson 44, San Jacinto 26  
 Miller 45, South Houston 30

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	2 0 0	4 0 0
Queens	1 1 0	1 3 0
Park View	1 1 0	1 3 0
Bondy	0 1 0	2 2 0
Jackson	0 1 0	0 4 0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 72, Jackson 11  
 Bondy 43, Park View 13  
 Queens 39, Southmore 24

## Pasadena ISD Boys' Intermediate Basketball Standings as of Jan. 7, 2020

7A Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	2 0 0	4 0 0
San Jacinto	1 0 0	3 1 0
South Houston 1	1 0 0	3 1 0
Miller	0 1 0	1 3 0
Southmore	0 2 0	1 3 0

### Game Scores

Thompson 40, San Jacinto 34  
 Southmore 48, Queens 43  
 South Houston 53, Miller 43

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Beverly Hills	2 0 0	4 0 0
Queens	2 0 0	2 2 0
Jackson	0 1 0	1 3 0
Bondy	0 1 0	1 3 0
Park View	0 2 0	0 4 0

### Game Scores

Beverly Hills 66, Jackson 49  
 Bondy 47, Park View 9

7B Records	Div.	Overall
Division 1	W L T	W L T
Thompson	2 0 0	4 0 0
San Jacinto	1 0 0	3 1 0
Southmore	1 1 0	2 2 0
Miller	0 1 0	1 3 0
South Houston 0	2 0 0	1 3 0

### Game Scores

Thompson 40, San Jacinto 22  
 Southmore 25, Queens 21  
 Miller, 39, South Houston 19

Division 2	W L T	W L T
Bondy	1 0 0	2 1 0
Park View	1 0 0	1 2 0
Jackson	0 0 0	0 3 0
Beverly Hills	1 1 0	3 1 0
Queens	0 1 0	1 2 0

### Game Scores

Bondy 42, Park View 29  
 Beverly Hills 33, Jackson 21

# CALENDAR

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.  
 7:30 a.m.  
**Rotary Club of Pearland** – Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Allendale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com.  
 9:30 a.m.  
**NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** – Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For additional information, call 281-910-1971 or visit the website aglow.net.org.  
 10 a.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.  
 11:30 a.m.  
**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** – American Business Women's Association-South meets the second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speaker. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. For additional information, visit www.seen-abwa.org.  
 Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.  
 7 p.m.  
**Pearland Area Republican's Club** – meets monthly on the second Thursday (except June, July and December) at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. For additional information, email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.  
 7 p.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom's** – Rabbi Stuart Federow hosts free discussions on Judaism and religion in general, open to the public, second Thurs-

days, at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real. This is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For additional information, contact the office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200.  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10**  
 7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.  
 10 a.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for additional information.  
 7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.  
 8 p.m.  
**Serenity Now AI-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., located at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn AI-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11**  
 7:30 a.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
 11 a.m.  
**AI-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** – For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.  
 1 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games are Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., at the club, located at 16614 Sea

Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for additional information.  
 8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12**  
 1 p.m.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.  
 2 p.m.  
**Grief Support Group** – For adults who have lost a loved one. The group meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For additional information, call 281-487-8787.  
 5:30 p.m.  
**Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, located at 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for additional information or to RSVP for child care.  
 8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 13**  
 10 a.m.  
**AI-Anon Deer Park** – Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details.  
**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email jpochnsner@aol.com for additional information.  
 11:30 a.m.  
**Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park** – 11:30 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.  
 Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners

Group at noon. The group meets at 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For additional information, call 713-686-6300.  
 6 p.m.  
**Scrabble Club #511** – Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword skills. Call 281-488-2923 for additional information.  
 6 p.m.  
**Mended Hearts Cardiac Support Group** – is part of a national organization dedicated to inspiring hope in heart patients and families. The group meets the second Monday of the month at the Clear Lake Heart Towers auditorium, 495 Medical Center Blvd., Webster. A free meal begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a guest speaker. For additional information, call 281-538-4648.  
 6:30 p.m.  
**Toastmasters** – The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd., next to the fire station. For additional information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565 or visit https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/.  
 7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.  
 7 p.m.  
**Sagemont Civic Club** – Meetings are held the second Monday, Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Road.  
 7:30 p.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for non-members. Everyone is welcome. For additional information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.  
 7:30 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the education bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For additional information, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.



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## CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

**CCART** - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50.

**Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565. 10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 10:30 a.m.

**Tri-County Republican Women** - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Exact cash or a check requested. For reservations, call Susan Hooper at 832-723-7671. Noon

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Free dance lessons** - taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler (35 years of experience) at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, on Tuesdays. Bringing a partner is not required. There is a different dance focus monthly. For details, call Betty at 832-517-5833. For questions about League City's activity card, call the park office at 281-554-1180. 1:30 p.m.

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 2 p.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class** - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**

7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

**Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group that meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 50 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips are available. Deposits are being taken for Black Hills, Badlands and Legends of the West in South Dakota, July 15-21, 2020; and a Hawaiian Cruise on the Pride of America/Norwegian Cruise Line, Nov. 7-14 2020. For additional information, call Marilyn 713-444-6744. 9:30 a.m.

**The Community Club** - meets monthly on the third Wednesday at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., in Pasadena. Social time is 9:30 a.m.; meeting is at 10 a.m. The club is a charitable organization of women helping the Salvation Army feed and care for homebound elderly/disabled people, children and the homeless, providing scholarships for Bridge Over Troubled Water clients. Day trips may be scheduled, followed by a guest speaker/program with fellowship and lunch. New members and guests are invited. For details, email Jmopry@yahoo.com. 10 a.m.

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

11:30 a.m.  
**Houston Hobby Airport Lions Club** - meets monthly, first and third Wednesday, Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena. December may be an exception. For information, email Teresa Dover at [doverbookkeeper@aol.com](mailto:doverbookkeeper@aol.com).  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 1 - 3:30 p.m.

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dances (not lessons) in a casual environment. A variety of rhythms are played from entry to advanced dancing levels at 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card (see Tuesday 12:30 p.m. dance for details). Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For information on the activity card, call the city at 281-554-1180. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).  
**Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention** - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support for women. Visit [www.bayareaturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for details. 8 p.m.

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 7:30 a.m.

**Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Allendale's Kitchen & Cocktails, 5010 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email [nalix@texascitizens-bank.com](mailto:nalix@texascitizens-bank.com). 10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochnsner@aol.com for details.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For additional information, call 713-686-6300. 6 p.m.

**Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets the third Thursday, monthly, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email [OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com](mailto:OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com) for additional information. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

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## Longhorn netters receive District 22-6A team medals



The Dobie Longhorn team tennis players received their District 22-6A runner-up medals from principal Franklin Moses just before the Christmas break. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Tracy Tran, Megan Rodriguez, Erica Hay, Jennifer Ho; (middle row) Natalie Vo, Tiffany Tran, Violet Tran, Vanessa Tran, Taylor Ha, Kenny Duong, William Ho, Sebastian Delgado, Dylan Ta, Julia Bui, Ashley Huynh; (back row) Dominic Ortiz, Hayden Lazo, Kiet Nguyen, Quan Dinh, Kristy Morales, Kyle Redmon, Lael Martinez, Gisell Morales and Jocelyn Salazar.

## Dobie High School Varsity Tennis Division

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 17	at Alvin tourn.	TBA
Jan. 24	at Pearland tourn.	TBA
Jan. 31	Ron Wesbrooks/Lamar	TBA
Feb. 7-8	Franklin/Kramer invite.	TBA
Feb. 14-15	Corpus Christi Spring Fling	TBA
Feb. 28	San Marcos invite.	TBA
March 4	St. John's	2 p.m.
March 20-21	Beachcomber Classic	TBA
March 26	Peter Sunseri invite.	TBA
April 1-2	District 22-6A champs.	TBA
April 20-21	Dobie faculty tennis	3 p.m.
April 28-29	Region III champs.	TBA
May 1-3	Darren Lajaunie invite	TBA
May 21-22	UIL State Champs.	TBA

## Junior Varsity Tennis Division

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 16	at Dickinson tourn.	TBA
Jan. 23	Having A Wilson Blast tourn.	TBA
Feb. 4	Pasadena ISS invite.	TBA
Feb. 11	Deer Park invite.	TBA
Feb. 19	Pearland invite.	TBA
Feb. 25	Baytown invite	TBA
March 5	Alvin tourn.	TBA
March 24	Fort Bend tourn.	TBA
April 7	St. John's	3:30 p.m.
April 23	District 22-6A champs.	TBA

## Local hoops teams get solid victories

**Continued from Page 1B** of the nondistrict wins for another playoff berth, which would be the program's fourth straight. So far, the team is doing what it takes to achieve just that.

**JFD boys sit fourth**  
Senior guard Shannon Hayes had a team-high 15 points as the Dobie varsity boys' team remained in the mix for a playoff battle with a 69-38 victory over South Houston.

Jujuan Robinson added 10 points as the Longhorns improved to 4-2, with Summer Creek at 5-0, followed by both Atascocita and Kingwood at 5-1 as part of a top-heavy district.

The Longhorns have remaining road games against Memorial Jan. 10 and Summer Creek Jan. 14 to close out the first half of District 22-6A action.

**Brook gets big win**  
At Clear Brook, the Wolverines came into the season with a mix of young and old and have performed as well as anyone could have expected.

Brook was already playing well before the Pasadena High School-sponsored Eric Medina Memorial Invitational just after Christmas, excelled there, and now have an opening league win.

"The kids have done a great job so far," Brook said.

"I am very proud of their effort and focus in winning the Eric Medina Christmas tournament and going into Clear Springs and outlasting a very good Charger team to come out with an overtime win.

"Any win in District 24-6A is big, but pulling out an overtime game on the road is huge! Our seniors have done a great job of leading this group this season.

"Brandon Andrews, Shane Porter and Jordan Baker are all very experienced players who have made it a point to teach our younger players what it takes to win in District 24-6A.

"Sophomore point guard, Ke'Mauri Millender played a great game at Clear Springs and finished the game with 21 points. Andrews scored 15 points. Zyon Little pulled down 10 rebounds. Gage Whiteman came off the bench and provided energy and timely three-point shooting."

Dickinson, ranked second in the state by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches and featuring University of Houston signee Tramon Mark, remains the title favorite, but the Wolverines have made a statement.

## Dobie standout Brooks, Vanderbilt football make it official



Dobie standout offensive lineman Jason Brooks (seated) will continue his education and playing career at Vanderbilt University after signing a letter of intent with the Commodores prior to the Christmas break. Members of the Longhorn coaching staff with him at the signing included, left to right, Will Joiner, Mat Ortiz, Zach Whitt, head coach Kevin Berneathy, Blaise Trahan, Brook McClain, Cody Blanchard and Chris Swinnen. A two-time first team all-district performer over his junior and senior seasons, Brook was also a Houston Touchdown Club Scholar Athlete of the Year finalist.

## Cougar Elite 10U BBQ Jan. 25

The Houston Cougars Elite 10-under tournament football team will host a fundraiser Saturday, Jan. 25 to help with costs associated with travel to an event in February. Dobie High School graduates Kelton Bailey and Maurice Poullard are coaching the team along with several members of the Sagemont Cowboys staff. The Cougars will travel to San Antonio for a tournament Feb. 22-23. The barbecue fundraiser, including brisket sandwiches and the trimmings, will be held Jan. 25, beginning at noon at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road. For more information or preorders, call Poullard at 214-394-6797.

## South Belt girls' softball sign up

The South Belt Girls Softball Association is continuing registration for the 2020 spring season through Jan. 26, with in-person and online options available. The fee is \$80 per player with participation in the league's candy fundraiser, or \$140 per player to buy out of the fundraiser. Girls ages 4 to 16 as of Jan. 1, 2020 are eligible to compete in the league, and there are no residency restrictions. To register online, visit [www.southbeltssoftball.com](http://www.southbeltssoftball.com). There is also an in-person registration at the league facility at El Franco Lee Park Sat., Jan. 11, beginning at 10 a.m.



The Dobie varsity girls' soccer team won its pool at the season-opening Waller ISD Invitational and went on to go 3-1-1 for the three-day event. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Perla Barrera, Victoria Chu, Yanely Perez, McKenzie Rankins, Tori Nunez, Karen Hernandez, Marissa Maxwell, (back row) Jade DeRobles, Francesca Reyes, Taiya Mitchell, Emily Galvan, Hannah Lazo, Laura Diaz, Julie Garcia and Miranda Serrano.

## JFD girls' soccer off to hot start

**Continued from Page 1B** season ago then ultimately months later propelled the Lady Longhorns to a playoff berth.

There is no one inside or outside of the program that truly believes one solid weekend will add up to another run to the postseason, but there's little doubt that momentum can be had from this point forward.

Chu, the team's leading scorer in 2019, picked up where she left off, as did Serrano. Hernandez appeared to be a solid addition as well.

Defensively, Mitchell is one of the top players at her position in the region, and Rankins continues to show great play in the nets.

"It was a good weekend for us," Dobie varsity girls' soccer head coach Bryan McDonald said.

"We displayed tremendous growth in just a week's time (from our first scrimmage to then at Waller). We have some new pieces that need some time to get up to speed, but we are adapting rapidly.

"Overall, we played well throughout the weekend. The team adjusted well to a few styles of play to match our competitors. I think that is our biggest take-away away from the tournament.

"This team has a good bit of flexibility and versatility that should serve us well down the road. Pair that with a solid core of returners, and a crop of young talent, I am very pleased with the direction we're headed."

**PNG Cajun Classic**  
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*Jan. 9 – Dobie vs. Dayton*

*Jan. 9 – Dobie vs. Kelly Catholic*

*Jan. 11 – Dobie vs. Magnolia*

*Jan. 11 – Dobie vs. P.A. Memorial*

## JFD boys win two, tie another

**Continued from Page 1B** able to come back and get a tie against a very talented Tompkins team. I'm not sure they expected us to come out and get on top of them, but we came along and earned the tie."

The following day, Dobie faced a Klein Oak team that, similar to how Dobie played Tompkins, attempted to pack things in defensively. Dobie managed the one goal for the win.

In the 5-0 shutout win over Cypress Creek, the Longhorns simply played a solid all-around match to take the easy win.

"Like I said, I was very pleased with our overall performance over the three days," Manrique said.

"We showed some de-termination and good soccer IQ against Tompkins, which is very good. Against Cy-Creek, with not being so concerned about counters and so forth, we were able to get some good looks on goal and converted them."

As for the balanced scoring, Manrique advised to watch for more of the same not only soon but well into the season. Cortez and Torres are sophomores, as is Acosta, the keeper.

The expectations will remain high. The Longhorns expect to compete for a sixth straight district title and then some, but there's little doubt as this team is young and inexperienced at the varsity level.

Dobie is now headed to the Austin Lakes Elite Showcase in Austin Jan. 9-11, with the locals set to take on McKinney Boyd, El Paso Del Valle and Laredo LBJ over the three days.

"McKinney Boyd is always very good, and from what I have seen and heard about Del Valle of El Paso, they are a very talented team.

"I expect three very tough games, and that's one of the reasons we like playing in this event. We'll take the junior varsity starting lineup with us to give us some depth.

"Staying healthy is the key, but we also enjoy this road trip because of the ability to really come together and bond."



At left, off to a 2-0-1 start this season, the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team includes, left to right, (front row) seniors Jonathan Mendez, Anthony Nery, Imanol Pena, Eli Donaho, Adrian Garcia, Oscar Beltran, Julio Martinez, (back row) Sergio Tenchon, Eris Acosta, Jonathan Torres, Isaac Cortez, Alan Lopez, Juan Castaneda, Max Parra, Daniel Blanco, Jean Arreguin, Oscar Medrano and Natanael Delgado.