

### Holiday closures set

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The *Leader* office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 26, through Friday, Nov. 28, in observance of Thanksgiving. The *Leader* office will reopen at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1.

### Clear Brook City MUD

Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, and will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1. For customer convenience, check or money orders may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru window side of the building. No cash may be accepted in the drop box.

Residents who have trash services Thursday will not have trash pickup on Thanksgiving. Service will resume Monday, Dec. 1. Residents who have trash services on Friday will not be affected. All trash must be curbside by 6 a.m. the day of pickup.

### Friendsgiving event planned

A Friendsgiving event will take place at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road, Tuesday, Nov. 25, beginning at noon. This year's event will also include bingo.

Attendees may come alone or with others. Individual tickets are \$10, and to host a table is \$35 (up to seven people). Each attendee must bring a food item (turkey and ham will be provided). Suggestions include fruit/vegetable trays and side dishes and desserts.

All proceeds will go toward the *Leader's* annual Christmas toy drive. See related story on this page. For additional information, call or text Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Winter Wonderland planned

The fourth annual Winter Wonderland event will take place Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Clear Brook City MUD building/property, located at 11911 Blackhawk near Scarsdale, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Hosted by the Clear Brook City MUD and the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, this year's event will be one of many firsts, according to organizers. In addition to the fake snow, train rides and free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus featured in previous years, this year's event will offer a chance to meet Mr. and Mrs. Grinch, Lilo, Stitch, Bluey and H-E-Buddy; explore a fire engine; and play on a bouncy house. The family friendly event will also feature free hot cocoa and cookies while supplies last.

Winter Wonderland is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged, however, to bring one nonperishable can of food per person (pet or human food). For additional information about this year's event, visit southbeltchamber.com/winter-wonderland.

### Kirkwood to meet Nov. 24

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

### City composts pumpkins

City of Houston residents are urged to compost their discarded pumpkins rather than just throwing them away. The city's fifth annual Pumpkin Compost Drop-Off Program, currently underway through Nov. 29, will reduce waste while also helping to make a greener Houston. Pumpkins may be dropped off at the city of Houston Reuse Warehouse, 9003 N. Main St., and at the Westpark Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark Drive in Kingwood. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

### New Covenant feeds needy

Each month, New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have food distribution events the first and third Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies last. The purpose of the events is to provide food to people in need. For additional information, contact the church at 281-484-4230.

### Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Beltway closures planned

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

### Gulf Freeway closure set

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

## Paxton sues county over immigrant assistance

State says funding unconstitutional; county calls lawsuit "cheap political stunt"

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has filed a lawsuit against Harris County, alleging that its renewed funding of an immigration legal defense program violates the Texas Constitution.

The move has sparked a heated debate between state and local officials over the role of public funds in supporting undocumented immigrants.

The lawsuit, filed on Nov. 11, targets Harris County's Immigrant Legal Services Fund (ILSF), which was created in 2020 to provide legal representation to immigrants facing deportation. Last month, the Harris County Commissioners Court voted 4-1 to allocate \$1.3 million to continue the program, which contracts with five nonprofit or-

ganizations including Justice for All Immigrants, KIND and BakerRipley.

Paxton condemned the initiative in stark terms.

"We must stop the left-wing radicals who are robbing Texans to prevent illegals from being deported by the Trump Administration," Paxton said in a press release. "Beyond just being blatantly unconstitutional, this is evil and wicked. Millions upon millions of illegals invaded America during the last administration, and they must be sent back to where they came from."

In response, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia issued a strong defense of the program.

"Assisting with the legal process for immigration courts ensures that persons who make our economy work are being served by our system," said Garcia. "We don't apologize for legally assisting people who contribute to our economic engine, especially people who have served in our military. As the former Harris County Sheriff, I support removing dangerous and violent people in this country illegally. Instead, we are seeing people with no criminal record, including U.S. citizens and legal residents, being nabbed on the street. I have heard from local residents how our local economy has been impacted by these masked enforcers to the point that some businesses are struggling to keep their doors open

because of a loss of labor and patrons."

Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee also weighed in, calling the lawsuit "a cheap political stunt" and vowing to defend the program in court.

"At a time when the president has unleashed ICE agents to terrorize immigrant neighborhoods, deport U.S. citizens and legal residents and separate families, this program is more important than ever," said Menefee.

The lawsuit names Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and all four commissioners as defendants. The lone dissenting vote on the funding came from Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, the court's only Republican member.

## Hughes/Sabo reopens to traffic



A lengthy Houston Public Works project to replace a force main at Beltway 8 and Hughes Road/Sabo was completed this past week, with all lanes reopening to through traffic. While city officials initially said the project – begun in March 2024 – would take only two to three months to complete, it actually took 20. A similar project on nearby Sageglen Drive was also completed. Work continues, however, on a similar Public Works project on Fuqua. See related photo on Page 2.

Photo by James Bolen

## County promotes diabetes awareness

November marks American Diabetes Month; county offers help

In recognition of November as American Diabetes Month, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is dedicated to raising awareness about diabetes, a significant public health concern that affects millions of Americans.

With nearly 37 million people living with diabetes in the United States, it is important to increase understanding and promote prevention efforts throughout the community.

Diabetes can lead to serious health complications, including heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and vision loss. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in 10 Americans has diabetes, and one in three adults is at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Many individuals are unaware of their condition, highlighting the need for increased awareness and access to education.

### Key facts about diabetes

– The total estimated cost of diagnosed diabetes in the U.S. was \$327 billion in 2017, including medical expenses and lost productivity.

– Nearly one in four people with diabetes is unaware they have the condition, highlighting the importance of regular screenings and aware-

ness.

– Certain racial and ethnic groups, including black, Hispanic and Native American people, are at higher risk for developing diabetes.

– Approximately 210,000 youth under 20 years old have been diagnosed with diabetes, with type 2 diabetes increasingly being diagnosed in children and adolescents.

Prevention strategies such as maintaining a healthy diet and engaging in regular physical activity are crucial in reducing the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. The CDC emphasizes that lifestyle changes can significantly lower the risk of diabetes and improve overall health. Research shows that structured lifestyle intervention programs can lead to significant reductions in type 2 diabetes among at-risk populations.

As part of the organization's commitment to fighting diabetes, HCPH offers the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), designed to help individuals at risk make sustainable lifestyle changes. The DPP provides participants with education on healthy eating, physical activity and behavior changes to reduce their risk of developing

Continued on Page 4

## Drug house raided by Pct. 2 deputies

Acting on a tip, deputies seize narcotics; 3 suspects arrested

Acting on a tip from a concerned resident, members of Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit executed a successful search warrant Wednesday, Nov. 13, on a known drug house located in the 8400 block of Major Blizzard Drive in the Clear Brook Meadows subdivision near Blackhawk and Kirkfair.

The Special Operations Unit was aided with this warrant by members of the U.S. Marshals Service and the DEA-Galveston Regional Office.

The Special Operations Unit conducted the lengthy narcotics investigation on the residence located inside the Clear Brook Meadows subdivision several weeks prior to the raid after being alerted by a neighbor about possible drug activity at the house. The investigation was able to develop enough evidence to have a search warrant signed Tuesday, Nov. 12, and the following day, the search warrant was executed without incident. Investigators said law enforcement agents entered the residence through the home's

windows and conducted the raid at a time the suspects were believed to be sleeping.

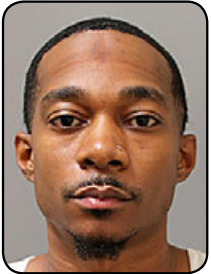
During the operation, deputies discovered narcotics throughout the residence and were able to arrest two of the targets of the investigation. A third male who was inside the residence was also taken into custody for having an outstanding felony warrant for evading in motor vehicle.

The Special Operations Unit was able to recover approximately 350g Xanax, 1000g Ad-derall, 1800g hydrocodone, 850g ecstasy, 250g oxycodone M30, 250g fentanyl, 250g carisoprodol (Somas), 200g crystal methamphetamine and several other narcotics and items

Continued on Page 4



Mason Douglas



Kenneth Wysinger



Kashawn Pinson

## Man killed in I-45 frontage road crash

Driver ejected while attempting U-turn at Edgebrook

A driver was killed around 6:40 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, while attempting to make a U-turn on the Gulf Freeway frontage at Edgebrook and losing control of his vehicle.

The identity of the dead male, 44, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police department of-

ficials, the driver of a blue Dodge pickup truck was traveling north on the feeder road and was attempting to make a southbound U-turn when he lost control of his vehicle, rolled over and was ejected from the truck.

Paramedics pronounced the man dead at the scene. The investigation into the crash was ongoing at press time.

## City runoff scheduled for Dec. 13

Boykins faces Salinas in contest to replace Plummer

A runoff election will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, to fill the Houston At-Large Position 4 City Council seat vacated by Letitia Plummer, who announced in July she was stepping down to campaign for Harris County judge.

Plummer's exit triggered a competitive contest that drew 15 candidates in the Nov. 4 general election, none of whom secured the required majority to win outright.

Now, the top two vote-getters – Dwight Boykins, a former council member and lobbyist, and Alejandra Salinas, an attorney and first-time candidate – will face off in a runoff to determine who will serve the remainder of the term through January 2028.

### Election results recap

Salinas edged out a victory during the Nov. 4 general election, defeating Boykins by less than 1 percentage point. Salinas received 21.9 percent of the vote to Boykins' 21 percent. Jordan Thomas came in third with just over 16 percent of the vote.

Salinas performed well in Harris County, winning 274 of its 600 precincts, while Boykins performed strongly in Fort Bend County, where he captured 54 percent of the vote. Salinas also bested Boykins in Montgomery County, where she received 15 percent of the vote to Boykins' 13 percent.

### Meet the candidates

Boykins is a lobbyist and former Houston City Council member who previously represented District D, which includes the South Belt community, as well as the Museum District, Third Ward and Sunnyside. He also ran for mayor in 2019. His campaign has emphasized experience and community ties.

"I've walked these streets, I've served these neighborhoods, and I know what it takes to get things done," Boykins said on election night.

Salinas is a Houston-based attorney and political newcomer. Her campaign has focused on improving delivery of city services, equity and democratic values.

"Houston deserves a council member who will fight for fairness and efficiency in every corner of the city," Salinas said in a statement following the election.

Prior to the Nov. 4 election, the priorities of the two candidates were almost indistinguishable – so much so that Salinas accused Boykins of plagiarizing from her website, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Both candidates have an impressive list of endorsements.

Boykins has been endorsed by a cross section of politicians representing both sides of the

Continued on Page 2

## Leader begins annual toy, food drive

Donations benefit families in immediate South Belt area

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* 42nd annual Christmas program is currently underway and is seeking donations and referrals of local families who might need assistance this year.

Begun in 1982, the *Leader's* Christmas drive collects toys and food for families in need who reside in the immediate South Belt community. Local residency is checked in various ways, such as contacting area schools, which also often refer families to the *Leader* program for help.

Local schools that have participated in the annual *Leader* Christmas program include South Belt and Frazier elementaries, Mellilo Middle School, Beverly Hills Intermediate and Dobie

High School.

Other past donors include Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, Pasadena ISD Police Department, American Legion Post 490, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

Past recipients include single-parent families and families suffering from illness, unemployment or incarceration. Anyone who knows of local families who are experiencing special circumstances are asked to contact the *Leader* at 281-481-5656 or mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Continued on Page 2

## Pct. 2 makes major drug bust



Acting on a tip from a concerned resident, members of Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit raided a suspected drug house Wednesday, Nov. 13, in the 8400 block of Major Blizzard Drive in the Clear Brook Meadows subdivision, seizing large quantities of narcotics, six guns and around \$10,000 in U.S. currency. Three suspects were arrested, two of whom were targets of a lengthy investigation. See related photo on Page 2.



## Meador celebrates Veterans Day with a performance



Meador Elementary's third-graders performed a program to honor veterans. Left to right, are Ashlynn Meza, Kashton Herrera, Judy Rivera, Camila Lopez and Tracie Nair (music teacher).

## Dobie hosts Christmas concert

The J. Frank Dobie Orchestra will be performing its annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. (freshmen concert) and Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. (upperclassmen). Both concerts will take place in the J. Frank Dobie High School Auditorium. Join for some holiday cheer.

## Local library events set

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

### Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Nov. 20, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Weekly English language classes. Registration required. Saturday, Nov. 22, 3 – 4 p.m. Board games at the library. Registration required. Monday, Nov. 24, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler playtime. Registration required. Monday, Nov. 24, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required. Tuesday, Nov. 25, 4 – 5 p.m. Board games at the library. Registration required. Tuesday, Nov. 25, 4 – 5 p.m. Family craft adventure. Registration required. Tuesday, Nov. 25, 4 – 5 p.m. Get creative at craft lab. Registration required. Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

### Book drop

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

### Parker Williams Library

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Friday, Nov. 21, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.

Friday, Nov. 21, 3 – 5 p.m. Diamond painting club. Registration required. Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.

Saturday, Nov. 22, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Adult painting with Malu. Registration required. Monday, Nov. 24, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.

Monday, Nov. 24, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Cricut and sublimation orientation. Registration required. Monday, Nov. 24, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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

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

– Have a library card number and PIN handy.

– A pickup time and instructions will be given.

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

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

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

### Online services

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

– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).

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

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

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

– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

– Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

## City runoff scheduled

Continued from Page 1

aisle, including Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, Commissioner Tom Ramsey and Beto O'Rourke, as well as Houston Council members Martha Castex-Tatum, Willie Davis and Edward Pollard.

Salinas has gained endorsements from many of the area's top elected officials, like Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia and District Attorney Sean Teare. Among the Houston City Council members who have thrown their support behind Salinas are Sallie Alcorn, Mario Castillo and Joaquin Martinez.

Political experts said Boykins likely benefited during the November general election from the race to replace former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner also being on the ballot – a luxury he likely won't be afforded in the runoff. While the TX-18 contest will also head to a runoff, it will probably be held on a separate day than the city contest.

Early voting for the Houston At-Large Position 4 runoff election will begin Monday, Dec. 1, and continue through Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For additional information, visit [harrisvotes.org](http://harrisvotes.org).

### TX-18

Gov. Greg Abbott announced at press time that a runoff election to fill the state's 18th Congressional District seat vacated by the death of former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner will take place Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026.

In that 16-candidate race, Amanda Edwards and Christian Menefee emerged as the top two vote earners in November's general election, with Edwards securing approximately 29 percent of the vote to Edwards' 26 percent.

Early voting will begin Wednesday, Jan. 21.

## Sageglen Drive reopens



Water/road repairs on Sageglen Drive between Sagedowne and Hughes Road were recently completed, with city crews opening all lanes of traffic. Similar repairs are being planned for the Harris County portion of Sageglen Drive between Sagedowne and Scarsdale. A Houston Public Works project located at the nearby intersection of Beltway 8 and Hughes Road/Sabo was also completed this past week. See related photo on Page 1.

Photo by James Bolen

## Leader begins Christmas drive

### Toy donations currently being accepted

Continued from Page 1

The drive began accepting toys Monday, Nov. 17, with donations being accepted at the Leader office, 11555 Beamer between Kirkfair and Beltway 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Desired items include

toys for children of all ages, nonperishable food items, paper products and cash.

There is a particular need for donations appropriate for older children and teens, such as clothing, sporting goods, makeup kits and gift cards.

All gifts should be new

and unwrapped.

Food donations will be accepted at the Leader office beginning Monday, Dec. 8.

Applications for assistance are not being accepted at this time. See future editions of the Leader for additional information.

## Alvin Combs



Alvin Combs, a resident of Country Place and member of New Hope Church, passed away on Nov. 8, 2025, at Creekside Alzheimer's Special Care Center due to a high-grade brain glioma and multiple pulmonary embolisms. He was 89.

Born on Jan. 24, 1936, in Royal Oak, Mich., Alvin was the son of Friel Combs and Edith Burgess. He grew up with an older brother, Charles (who is still living in Michigan), and a younger brother, Leon, who passed away in his 40s. Alvin was a hardworking youth, delivering papers and working on a dairy farm. He began his education in a one-room schoolhouse, which is now a museum. He graduated from Utica High School in 1953, where he excelled in football and baseball.

A few months after graduating, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. From 1954 to 1957, his service with the Marine Corps detachment aboard the USS Curtiss involved classified participation in operations Redwing and Wigwam, guarding and handling 12 hydrogen bombs detonated in the Marshall Islands. For 49 years, the mission's details were held in strict confidence. With the recent declassification of his service record, he was finally able to offer a firsthand account of the hydrogen bomb tests in the 2020 documentary film, Burning Sky. Alvin's vital contributions to national security were formally acknowledged with the Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal. His level Q security clearance enabled his participation in the 1969 Apollo Space Program (Flights 11-13) at Cape Canaveral, which included the first moon landing.

He began his career at Chrysler Corp., where he met his wife, Rita Livingston. They were married in 1958 and renewed their vows on their 65th anniversary. The couple shared a love for bowling, dancing, golfing, playing cards, and traveling, visiting every U.S. state and locations including Alaska, Hawaii, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, Jerusa-

## Deaths

lem and Ireland. His passion for sports led to impressive achievements as a semipro bowler and golfer, earning him a perfect 300 game and a hole-in-one. He was an avid fan of big band swing and jazz, and he and Rita enjoyed dancing the soft shoe or jitterbug for over 65 years. As a team, they were top-producing realtors in Pennsylvania from 1994 to 1997 and in Pearland, Texas, from 1997 to 2024. When New Hope Church was built in 1997, Alvin dedicated 28 years to serving as a greeter. Known as "The Flagman," he dedicated over two decades to crafting and installing flagpoles and flags for residents of Country Place. He also honorably represented the Marine Corps at their annual Veterans Day flag-raising ceremony.

The day after Christmas in 2024 while walking his 75-pound dog, Alvin was pulled to the pavement when a passing car braked his dog, Brandi. He was released from the hospital the next day with fractures to his collarbone, ribs, and sinuses; however, internal brain bleeding went undetected until a month later, when its discovery led to a rapid decline in his dementia. A high-grade brain glioma was found after the bleeds were stopped. He spent two months in home hospice before moving to the Alzheimer's Special Care Center. A week after the move, multiple pulmonary embolisms were detected. He passed a few days later at the center.

Alvin is survived by his wife; and his children, Cheryl Combs Young and Becky Au of Pearland and Brian Combs of Pennsylvania. He leaves behind seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, who all lovingly called him "Poppi." He was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Jennifer Michalak, in 2010. All of Alvin's daughters graduated from Dobie High School between 1977 and 1980 while the family lived in Sagemeadow. He was a devoted animal lover, treating all his dogs and cats like cherished family members.

A viewing will be held at Southpark Funeral Home, 1310 N. Main St., Pearland, TX 77581, on Nov. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held at New Hope Church 288 Campus, 3640 CR 58, Manvel, TX 77578, on Nov. 21, at 11 a.m.

## Shirley Jo Sandlin

Shirley Jo Sandlin, affectionately known as Mimi, of Pearland, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025, surrounded by her loving fam-



ily at the age of 80 following a short but courageous battle with leukemia.

Born July 16, 1945, to Jessie and Cecil Sterett, Shirley was a proud Houstonian who dedicated her life to education, faith and family. After attending Texas Tech University, she earned her education degree from the University of Houston, which launched her long and distinguished career as a mathematics teacher for 25 years.

Shirley was a devoted and active member of Sagemont Church for many years, where her faith was a guiding light in her life. Outside of the classroom and church, she was an avid Houston Astros fan and watched all kinds of sports. She cherished the time spent with her family, especially on trips to Branson, Mo., creating lasting memories and attending just about every show they offered.

Shirley is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 56 years, William "Bill" Sandlin, and her mother and father.

She is survived by her son, Phil Sandlin (Nerissa); and daughter, Jennifer Kramer (Robert). Her legacy continues through her grandchildren Blake Sandlin, Kelsie Shafer (Daniel), Rachel Smith, Ian Smith, Madison Kramer, Clayton Sandlin, Samantha Kramer, Amy Kramer and Morgan Worrell (Dustin). She is also survived by her great-grandchildren Allison Jo Shafer, who carries on their sweet Mimi's name; Maisy Worrell; and Harper Worrell.

"Mimi" Sandlin will be remembered for her dedication to her family, her commitment to her students, and her unwavering faith. Above all her warmth, wisdom, and love will be deeply missed by all who knew her. The family would like to thank her amazing team of caregivers Irene Rodriguez, Alma Garcia, Lorraine Orosco and Veronica Guzman; and the entire staff of MD Anderson and Memorial Hermann Medical Center.

The service honoring Shirley's life was held Saturday, Nov. 15, at Forest Park Lawndale and was followed by the burial.

## Gibson Insurance



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[Jeffrey@jeffreylgibsoninsurance.com](mailto:Jeffrey@jeffreylgibsoninsurance.com)



## ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Catholic Church

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor

Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd.

(between Beamer & Blackhawk)

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

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.\*  
Sunday 1 p.m. Misa en Español\*  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)  
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816

Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251

Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

## New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care



New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

**281.481.2003**

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

10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089

Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

**11555 Beamer 281-481-5656**

E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

David Flickinger, owner





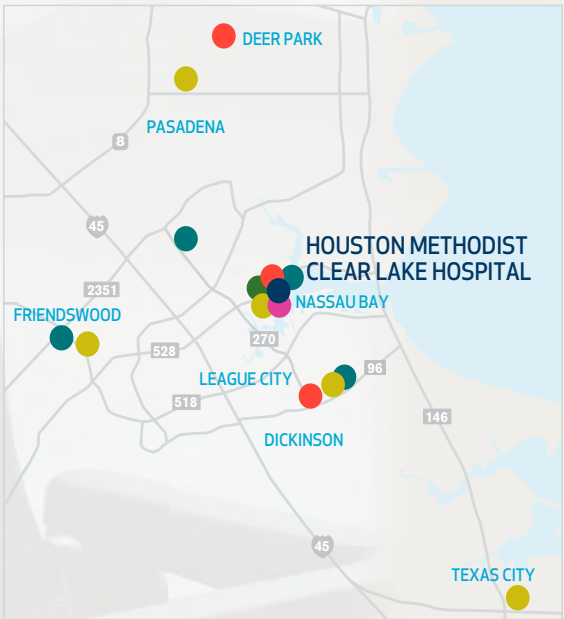
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713.790.3333



● Clear Lake Hospital ● Emergency Care ● Primary Care  
● Breast Care ● Orthopedics & Sports Medicine ● Specialty Care



## South Belt participates in PISD chess tournament



South Belt Elementary's chess team participated in Pasadena ISD's fall chess tournament on Nov. 8, at Thompson Intermediate School. With their medals and certificate are, left to right, Paxton Nhem, fourth in the fourth-grade division; Paris Guy, sixth in third-grade; and Eli Sutton, fourth in the third-grade division.

Photo by Anh Ton

## Stacey attends Cattlelac Elite Livestock Show



Dobie FFA student Luke Stacey and his heifer, Princess, took home first place in both rings at Cattlelac Elite Livestock Show held at Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg on Oct. 25.

## Drug house raided by Pct. 2 deputies

**Continued from Page 1**  
found to be evidence for this case.  
Deputies also seized six firearms and approximately \$10,000 in U.S. currency during the raid.  
The target suspects in this case were identified as 36-year-old Kenneth Wysinger and 25-year-old Mason Douglas, both of whom were taken into custody without incident. The third male taken into custody during the execution of the search warrant was identified as 27-year-old Kashawn Pinson.  
Wysinger later agreed to give up the remainder of his narcotics located at an apartment complex he was leasing. The narcotics recovered from the apartment included 100g Xanax, 100g Adderall, 350g Oxycodone M30, 50g Hydrocodone, 12g Carisoprodol (Somas), 150g cocaine, 20g crystal methamphetamine and several other narcotics and items found to be evidence for this case.  
Upon completion of this investigation, both Wysinger and Douglas were charged with three counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, with bonds being set at \$750,000 for Wysinger and \$220,000 for Douglas.  
Garcia took to social media to celebrate the arrests.  
"Constable Garcia wants to thank the assistance from U.S. Marshals office and DEA-Galveston Regional Office for assisting with this successful investigation, as well as all his deputies involved," a post on the constable's Facebook page read. "Constable Garcia will continue to target this type of illegal activity in an effort to make a difference in his neighborhoods within his precinct. Please stay safe and God Bless."

## County promotes diabetes awareness

**Continued from Page 1**  
type 2 diabetes. Through support and guidance from trained lifestyle coaches, community members can take proactive steps toward better health and wellbeing.  
For more information about the program, visit HCPH's Diabetes Prevention Program page at [www.cdc.gov/diabetes/index.html](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Divisions-Offices/Divisions/Health-Prevention-and-Coordination-Care-Division/Chronic-Disease-Prevention/Diabetes-Prevention-Program).

## Thompson's cheer team attends district playoff games



Pictured above are Thompson Intermediate School's cheer team at the 8A and 8B district playoff football games at Veterans Memorial Stadium on Oct. 28. Left to right, are (front row) Nathalia Blanc Candelaria, Julissa Bonilla, Aliyah Alvarez, Daniella Gonzales, Bella Hernandez, London Rodriguez, Soraya Shah, Xara Oddo, (back row) coach Meagan Wisniewski, Dora Campos, Jaselyn Enriquez, Isabella Squier, Alicia Sympien, team manager Audrey Gonzalez and Aubrey Barajas.

## Thompson's cheer moms support cheer team



Thompson Intermediate's cheer team moms went out to support the cheer team at the district playoff games at Veterans Memorial Stadium. Left to right, are (front row) Janna Shah, (back row) Moriah Oddo, Josefina Belalcazar, Dominique Gaitan, Janet Hernandez, Edlin Rodriguez, Erica Barajas and Angelica Frye Candelaria.

## South Belt celebrates October Super Steers of the month



South Belt Elementary officials announced the Super Steers of the month for October. Pictured, left to right, are (first row) Jason Pham, Micah Jones, Charlyze Nhem, (second row) Sophia Garcia, Thomas Alvarez, Ariyah Denman, Colton Carruthers, Sarah Lozano, Axel Gonzales, Olivia Frink, Aaliyah Morgan, Oliver Morin, Anh Vu, (third row) Sophia Bravo, Ellieana Mireles, Clark Arce, Aeris Dea-

son, Oscar Morales, Leo Gonzales, Caitlyn Huynh, Andrea Morua, Kamila Mathers, Amara Hawkins, (fourth row) Adrian Alvarez, Adam Paloma, Aarilee Rivas, Evalinh Moore, Madilyn Davis, Thiago Maldonado, Bareerah Khan, Liliana Cruz and Mijara Domingo. Logan Lozano and Luke Nhem are not pictured.

Photo by Lakitha Thomas (counselor)

## Fred Roberts presents Aviators of the month



Fred Roberts Middle School officials announced the October Aviators of the month. These students were chosen for exhibiting excellent communication skills. Pictured, left to right, are counselor Crissy Higham, Alejandro Nieto, Aydan Flores, Julianna Martinez, Adamaris Cuellar and principal Lali Guerrero.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1980)**  
San Jacinto College South planned a formal dedication for its W.L. "Levi" Smallwood Health and Physical Education Building with an open house to follow.  
The president of the corporation developing a 192-acre complex at Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway said that since the 1979 floods in the area, his company would be spending approximately \$1 million on flood-control measures for the complex.  
Trustees of the Clear Creek Independent School District started receiving bids for expansion of the parking lot at Clear Creek High School.  
Firefighters from the Sagemont station of the Houston Fire Department responded to two fire calls and six ambulance calls over the past week.  
A Scarsdale couple was robbed as they left the Best Products store on Kingspoint. Two men with guns came up behind the couple as they were getting into their car at approximately 7:30 p.m.  
The W.J. Liquor Store in the Kroger shopping center was broken into, and an undetermined amount of liquor was stolen. The burglars gained entrance to the store by throwing a rock through the plate glass window.  
J. Frank Dobie High School placed an unprecedented eight students in the All-State Orchestra.

over the Aldine Mustangs in the second round of 5A football playoffs in the Astrodome.  
The bridge on Kingspoint between Kingsplace subdivision and Atkinson Elementary was set to be closed for seven to 10 days for a new bridge to be constructed by the City of Houston Department of Public Works' bridge division. They were replacing the 18-foot-wide structure with a 24-foot-wide bridge with a pedestrian walkway along one side.  
Shawn Phelan, a fourth-grade student at Atkinson Elementary, would appear in Houston Grand Opera's version of Faust at Jones Hall. Phelan is the son of Bonnie Siscoe and the grandson of Beverly Siscoe.  
Fire and medical crews from the Houston Fire Department extinguished a fire at St. Luke Catholic Church.  
**35 Years ago (1990)**  
The South Belt dancers from Bonnie Siscoe's Dance Studio and Kirkwood Dance Studio were invited to make their first joint debut as the Foley's Tap Dancing Shopping Bags in the 41st Foley's Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Houston.  
Fourth-grade students Michael McCormick and Charla Jones were recognized as Genoa Elementary's Punt, Pass and Kick winners.  
Seven Dobie High School choir members earned top-10 spots section on the All-Region Mixed Choir. Included were Valerie Bruce, Zach Bruton, Toby Fortenberry, Teri Gadd,

Christi Grizzoffi, David Hudspeth and Margie Wiedner.  
Burnett Elementary fourth-grade student Robert Espinoza won the district title in the Pasadena Independent School District's Punt, Pass and Kick contest.  
**30 years ago (1995)**  
Stuchbery Elementary School earned the national H.O.S.T.S. (Helping One Student to Succeed) quality assurance award for mentoring at-risk students.  
The Dobie High School marching band, under the direction of Ken Wright and Walt Sparkman, placed in the finals of 32 bands at the Sam Houston State Marching Contest. Drum majors Steven Wells, Ryan Glendy and David Ngo were chosen for first place.  
Frazier Elementary was one of three schools in the greater Houston area to receive a certificate from Houston Mayor Bob Lanier on Texas Recycles Day for its exemplary participation in the Champion Paper Retriever. Principal Sharon Oaks accepted the award.  
Dobie sophomore Ursula Siobhan Perry was selected as a soloist in the Clear Lake Metropolitan Ballet.  
**25 years ago (2000)**  
Gilbert Aguilar was named Pasadena Independent School District Distinguished Citizen.  
City of Houston OK'd a variance regarding streets into Rainbow Valley in response to opposition from residents.  
Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital medical personnel saved an injured duck.  
**20 years ago (2005)**  
Within a 10-day period, two South Belt businesses were raided for conducting illegal gambling operations. A total of 64 machines and approximately \$24,000 in cash was recovered from Jimmy Chang's gameroom on Scarsdale and Dorado's gameroom on Hughes Road. Eight customers at Jimmy Chang's received citations for gambling.  
Tax rates for local MUD districts were compared in response to a letter the *Leader* received from Sage Glen resident John Hoover.

**15 years ago (2010)**  
One man died and another was injured when their sport utility vehicle rolled over after hitting a pickup truck at 1550 Dixie Farm Road near Abrago about 2:30 a.m. The driver of the SUV, 27-year-old Christopher Watkins of Webster, died at the scene, while his 31-year-old passenger was taken to Ben Taub General Hospital in serious condition. According to police, Watkins was traveling west on Dixie Farm Road when he attempted to pass a Nissan Frontier. Watkins reportedly struck the pickup and lost control of his vehicle, which then rolled over, throwing both him and his passenger from the SUV. The pickup driver was not injured.  
It was announced that Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan would no longer oversee the city's redistricting process. Houston Mayor Annise Parker said the redistricting process would be managed by all of the City Council rather than the Special Ethics and Council Governance Committee on Redistricting and Term Limits, which Sullivan chaired.  
**10 years ago (2015)**  
City Council voted to approve a \$3.4 million contract to equip Houston Police Department officers with body cameras. District D Council Member Dwight Boykins, who represents much of the South Belt area, led the charge among his colleagues in pushing for the measure. Prior to the Council vote, Boykins hosted a round-table discussion on the issue with community members, HPD Chief Charles McClelland, NAACP members, a representative from the mayor's office, Council members Michael Kubosh and C.O. Bradford and Pastor James Nash. The measure passed with an 11-4 vote, with District E Council Member Dave Martin, who also represents the South Belt area, also voting in favor of it. Council members Mike Laster, C.O. Bradford, Michael Kubosh and Brenda Stardig are all on record as being supportive of body cameras but voted against the measure out of concerns that community groups had not had significant input and that the policy for storing the video data had not yet been finalized.  
**5 years ago (2020)**  
A top employee from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office was permanently relieved of duty for his alleged role in an illegal eviction that took place in South Houston the previous January. Lee Hernandez was officially terminated from the position of chief deputy. No criminal charges were filed against Hernandez, who was reportedly allowed to leave the department with a clean work record, provided he agreed to not file a civil lawsuit against his former employer. Hernandez had been on paid leave since early June when in an independent investigation was launched into the matter. Hernandez had an annual salary of \$138,896, according to county records.  
**1 year ago (2024)**  
An unidentified driver was killed Thursday, Nov. 14, after striking a tree near the Fuqua exit of the METRO HOV lane

**2 years ago (2023)**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Nov. 20 through Nov. 26.  
**Burnett Elementary**  
Send a birthday greeting Nov. 23 to Corinna Vidal. Nov. 25 is the day for a party for Juanita Pham and Amy Lam.  
**Bush Elementary**  
Gilberto Garza marks a birthday Nov. 21. Sing a happy birthday song to Maria Montelongo Nov. 22. Remember to wish Dila Velez and Mary Arrigo a happy birthday Nov. 25.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
Send a nice birthday greeting Nov. 22 to Amalia Parras. Blow out the birthday candles for Cathy Silas Nov. 25.  
**Genoa Elementary**  
Sing a birthday tune Nov. 21 to Macarena Araujo.  
**Hancock Elementary**  
Nov. 22 is the day for a cake for Brittany Santos.  
**Meador Elementary**  
The day for a celebration for Malorie Ehrlich is Nov. 21.  
**Moore Elementary**  
Send birthday greetings Nov. 20 to Maria Santos. Liliana Sanchez enjoys a birthday Nov. 23.  
**South Belt Elementary**  
The day for a celebration for Laurie Weathers is Nov. 21.  
**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Nov. 26 is the day for a fun celebration for Oralina Mendez.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
Nov. 25 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for Melissa Brookland. The day for a party for Luz Chaidze is Nov. 26.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Remember to wish Shelly Dejean Tillman a happy birthday Nov. 21.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Cheers for a happy birthday are sent Nov. 26 to Wendy Huxhold.  
**Dobie High**  
Blow out the candles for Kyle Jurek who enjoys a birthday Nov. 20. Best wishes for a special birthday Nov. 23 are sent to Imelda Umansor. A double-fun day is planned Nov. 25 for Matthew Hamlin and Juliet Rogers.  
**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Nov. 20: Thomas Marks, Tim Hasse and Sica Marcello; Friday, Nov. 21: Jennifer Huggins and Edie Mari, Saturday, Nov. 22: Gene Perez and Sheri Jennings; Sunday, Nov. 23: Linda Greuter, Dorene Salas, Monika Patterson, Johnny McNeil and Don Doss; Monday, Nov. 24: Rhonda Baird and Santiago Gonzalez; Tuesday, Nov. 25: Keith Brown, Karen Allen, Susan Hansen, Jeff Sconyers and Jennifer Ross; and Wednesday, Nov. 26: Kathy Husband, Amanda Marshall, Lydia Fernandez, Glenda Dick, Trish Simmons and Gabe Gabino.  
**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
For birthdays, "Friends Celebrate Birthdays" or announcements email to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

**Over The Back Fence** by Nicole

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DONNA!**  
Donna Whitted celebrates a birthday Sunday, Nov. 23. Best wishes are sent to her from children Heather and husband Richard Williams, Jacob and wife Amber Whitted and Aaron Whitted; grandchildren Riley and Kinley Whitted and Bryce and Pressley Williams; and mother Frances Valigura.  
**JACE TURNS SIX!**  
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Jace Walter Giles who turns six on Nov. 26 from parents Ashley and Aaron Giles, brother Jason; and grandparents Carrie and Steve Hildreth of Pearland and Tracy and Jim Giles of Kirkwood South.  
**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Nov. 20 through Nov. 26.

**Remember When**



# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

**Boys' Division 1 Gold Championship**  
Nov. 22, Phillips Field House, 6 p.m.

**Girls' Division 1 Gold Championship**  
Nov. 22, Phillips Field House, 3 p.m.

**Boys' Division 1 Silver Championship**  
Nov. 22, Sam Rayburn, noon

**Girls' Division 1 Silver Championship**  
Nov. 22, Sam Rayburn, 3 p.m.

**Boys' Division 1 Bronze Championship**  
Nov. 22, South Houston, 3 p.m.

**Girls' Division 1 Bronze Championship**  
Nov. 22, South Houston, 1:30 p.m.

**Girls' Division 1 Consolation Championship**  
Nov. 22, Deer Park Watkins, 1:30 p.m.

**Boys' Division 2 Gold Championship**  
Nov. 22, Pasadena Memorial, 3 p.m.

**Girls Division 2 Gold Championship**  
Nov. 22, Dobie9, 3 p.m.

**Boys' Division 2 Silver Championship**  
Nov. 22, Deer Park Watkins, 3 p.m.

**Girls' Division 2 Silver Championship**  
Nov. 22, Pasadena, 1:30 p.m.

**Boys' Division 2 Bronze Championship**  
Nov. 22, Dobie main, noon

**Girls' Division 2 Bronze Championship**  
Nov. 22, Dobie9, 1:30 p.m.

**Girls Division 2 Consolation Bracket Championship**  
Nov. 22, Deer Park Auxiliary, 1:30 p.m.

## McDonald's basketball welcomes state's elite

Eighty varsity boys' and girls' basketball programs will begin the three-day march toward the trophy round at the 2025 McDonald's Texas Invitational. Atascocita is getting plenty of attention as the cream of the varsity boys' basketball crop, and the Eagles will no doubt be one of the 24 teams within the McDonald's Texas Invitational Division I bracket aiming to reach the championship finale at Phillips Field House. The MTI also features an early-season look at some of the varsity girls' state title contenders. Defending Division I 6A state champion Summer Creek headlines a 16-team Division I field. It also includes McDonald's 2024 gold bracket

champion Converse Judson and Fort Worth Boswell, which is top-ranked in the TABC preseason 6A state poll.

The folks at *VYPE Magazine* have a pretty good grip on the regional basketball scene and have several of the McDonald's participants ranked in their area poll.

Among them, Atascocita is at No. 1, with Katy Jor-

dan third and Conroe Grand Oaks fifth.

Summer Creek, rated sixth in the VYPE poll, will participate in the event, as will seventh-ranked Friendswood, No. 9 George Ranch and Pearland, which comes in at No. 10.

Other boys' teams earning high ranks from VYPE who will also be at the McDonald's event include Fort Bend Marshall and Iowa Colony.

From a state standpoint, defending McDonald's boys gold bracket champion San Antonio Brennan, is ranked fourth in Texas by the Texas association of basketball coaches, while tournament participants Atascocita, Jordan, Grand Oaks, Pearland and Summer Creek also earned preseason state rankings.

In the Division 1 girls' bracket, defending state champion Summer Creek, Fort Worth Boswell and Converse Judson will deservedly get plenty of attention, yet there are other worthy contenders to wind up in the finale at Phillips Field House.

Pearland Dawson also has been a tremendous competitor for several years at the event. The Eagles have started the current season at 6-0 and occupy the top spot in the 6A state rankings according to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. Summer Creek is fifth, and other McDonald's competitors who are state ranked in the polls include Houston Memorial and Aledo of class 5A. Pearland is coming off an appearance in last year's championship game and cannot be discounted. Barbers Hill is also state ranked in Class 5A.

The MTI Division 1 girls' gold bracket championship will play out Nov. 22 at Phillips Field House.

Tip-off is at 3 p.m., with the Division 1 boys' gold bracket title game to follow at 6 p.m.

The excitement begins Nov. 20 as early as 9 a.m. as the McDonald's three-day varsity boys' and varsity girls' basketball showcase features 80 games across 10 locations on opening day.

The Dobie boys have customarily opened with a 9 a.m. game at Dobie main and will do so again Nov. 20, hosting Stratford and then returning at 1:30 p.m. to take on Klein Cain.

The Longhorn varsity

girls will take on Deer Park Nov. 20 at Phillips Field House in a noon tip-off, then will host Klein Oak back at Dobie main at 4:30 p.m.

Girls' pool play continues Nov. 21, while the boys enter gold, silver and bronze bracket action. Nov. 22 is trophy-chasing day as a variety of semifinal and championship games take center stage.

All tournament games may be streamed live by visiting the tournament website at [www.texasinvitational.com](http://www.texasinvitational.com).

## Lutheran South VB runner-up at state

The Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball team finished as the 5A state runner up in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools postseason tournament as All Saints of Fort Worth handed the Pioneers a 25-23, 25-23, 25-16 loss in the state final.

All Saints finished the regular season at 27-4, while the Pioneers put together a 31-8 overall record during the 2025 season.

Lutheran South Academy also played in the state championship match at the end of the 2023 season, finishing as the state runner up.

The Pioneers reached the state championship match following a five-set victory over Cypress Christian, winning in a five set thriller with a 15-12 when in the final set.

In that semifinal, Lutheran South came away with a 25-21, 18-25, 25-18, 19-25, 15-12 victory.



San Antonio Brennan guard Kingston Flemings, now a freshman standout at the University of Houston, guided Brennan to the McDonald's Texas Invitational boys Division 1 championship a season ago. The 2025 tournament plays out Nov. 20-22.

## New era begins at Dobie; Jones focuses on defense

A new era within the Dobie boys' basketball program began on the court Nov. 14 as the Longhorns took on Clear Lake to open the 2025-2026 season.

Yes, the Falcons did walk out with a 67-45

victory on this night, but it promised to do little to deter the Longhorns as they begin play under the direction of first year head coach Branford Jones.

Half a dozen players return from a season ago, and 10 seniors in all will

take to the court for Dobie this season in Jones' debut season. No matter the outcome on a nightly basis, Jones told the *Leader* the Longhorns will focus their attention heavily on the defensive

Continued on Page 6

## Dobie girls' hoops honors all-time great Christmas-Kelly

Karima Christmas-Kelly no doubt would have preferred that the evening focus on the current players on the court as the Dobie basketball program hosted a double-header Nov. 14 on the same hardwood where Christmas-Kelly first established herself as one of the premier high school players in the nation years prior.

The special night did in fact feature the Dobie varsity girls basketball team earning their first victory of the young season with a 63-19 triumph over Channelview before Clear Lake defeated the Longhorn varsity boys 67-45 in the regular season opener for both programs in the nightcap.

Prior to the action on the court, Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Rachel Flores and staff assistant Ashley Moore hosted a banner reveal night for

Christmas-Kelly, honoring the former JFD legend who first helped guide the program to its first and only state semifinal appearance at the end of the 2003-2004 season before eventually becoming a McDonald's All-American (2006-2007) prior to a standout career at Duke University.

Christmas-Kelly went on to enjoy a lengthy career in the WNBA and has now joined her husband, Austin Kelly, as staff assistants with the Indiana Fever of the WNBA.

Surrounded by her husband, the couple's young son, Zayn Kelly and plenty of family and friends, Christmas Kelly was the guest of honor on a truly special night.

As part of her return to the South Belt area, Christmas-Kelly also made an appearance at

Beverly Hills Intermediate as she, a former Lady Bear herself, spoke to current students about her early years in the area.

In the weeks prior to the banner reveal at Dobie, Christmas-Kelly told the *Leader*, "It is an honor and privilege to have my name and number forever placed in the gym of Dobie High School. So much of my growth and hard work came from countless hours spent in that space. It's not only a testament of the sacrifice that took place to find success but also those who helped me along the way. It is my

hope that any and everyone who enters that gym knows the possibilities are endless if you approach the game in a selfless yet serious manner. If you can see it, you can be it."

Christmas-Kelly's elder sister, Shelly Tillman, an administrator at Beverly Hills Intermediate, previously told the *Leader* that the family is from the Caribbean and Karima was actually born in California.

The family eventually relocated to the South Belt area, and Karima was both a Punt, Pass and Kick champion as well as a champion of the Pas-

adena ISD's annual Big Shootout competition before moving on to Beverly Hills Intermediate.

Christmas-Kelly participated in each of the available sports at Beverly Hills, including volleyball, and also played volleyball at Dobie High School early on in her career before a shoulder injury sidelined the star athlete in both sports prior to her junior season.

The recovery was difficult both physically and mentally for Christmas-Kelly at the time, who was still choosing between colleges.



Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Rachel Flores (left) and staff assistant Ashley Moore (right) joined JFD program legend Karima Christmas-Kelly for a banner reveal Nov. 14 in the same gymnasium where Christmas-Kelly wowed fans from the 2003-2004 through 2006-2007 seasons. Plenty of family members and friends joined in on the fun in recognizing Christmas-Kelly, who is now an assistant coach with the Indiana Fever of the WNBA.

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# Christmas-Kelly reveal...

Continued from Page 5

Ashley Moore, who has for many years now served as an assistant coach for multiple sports at Dobie High School, first envisioned the idea to recognize Christmas-Kelly with the banner reveal.

Christmas-Kelly's jersey was officially retired several years ago and already has been framed on a wall in the gymnasium, but Moore and Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Rachel Flores decided it was time for a new tradition to begin with banner reveals.

Clearly, Christmas-Kelly has earned the right to be first on the list in terms of recognition. Moore, who graduated a year ahead of Christmas-Kelly in 2006, has had a front row seat to witness her friend's achievements over the decades and said she couldn't be any prouder of the young woman who came in as a freshman during the 2003-2004 season and instantly made a mark within a program that was already talented.

"She was always such a great person," Moore said. "We all saw the hard work that she put in on a daily basis. She was determined to become an elite basketball player and had a vision of playing collegiately at a high level."

"A lot of players have similar goals in mind, but Karima was just different. Obviously, she had the physical abilities, but it was also her work ethic and unbelievable determination to succeed that set her apart."

"I was a year ahead of her, and played on the varsity as a sophomore briefly in that year that we went to state and then came back up for the run to state. We had an outstanding team. But Karima was also the player who was able to take us to that next level."

Moore and Christmas-Kelly have remained the best of friends over the years, with Moore saying that their relationship these days runs as deep as ever despite the travel distance between the two.

Moore has followed her passion and has become both a popular and player-driven assistant coach who is living a dream in her own right while coaching at Dobie, her high school alma mater.

She has also watched Christmas-Kelly from afar first as a professional player and now as an assistant with the Indiana Fever and is thrilled for both her present and future in the sport.

"Karima is such a wonderful person, and I have no doubt that the Indiana players love her, believe in her teachings and will do anything in their power to play hard for her."

"Karima believes in the core values of the sport,

dedication to your craft and a want-to that goes beyond what most players are willing to give. I'm thrilled for her to be able to have had this banner reveal. She is so well-deserving and has been such a tremendous asset to the community over the years. I can't think of anyone who deserves this honor more than Karima."

Doug Gibson is another close friend who had a front row seat to Christmas-Kelly's development at Dobie High School. Gibson, who made the trip to Dobie for Christmas-Kelly's banner reveal, was the Longhorns' varsity girls' basketball head coach when Christmas-Kelly arrived on campus all those years ago.

Make no mistake, the Dobie varsity basketball team was already in tremendous shape from a talent standpoint. The previous season to Christmas-Kelly's arrival, JFD had been highly rated as high as No. 1 in this city but suffered a first-round loss to Humble in the place in the playoffs.

Fast forward a year later as Gibson added Christmas-Kelly to the roster and the team, which included several athletes who went on to enjoy collegiate careers and either basketball or volleyball, advanced to the state tournament.

"Karima showed up at Dobie with a tremendous work ethic, and you could tell that she was going to be a very, very good player within the program," Gibson said.

"She just worked so hard and was willing to soak up as much coaching as she could. She was also cool, calm and collected in the biggest moments of games. She overcame a major shoulder injury during her career, and bounced back to put herself in position to be able to attend an elite university and women's college basketball program like Duke."

"Watching her advance to play in the WNBA and now become an assistant within the league has been a true joy. Karima and I have remained friends over the years, and she certainly deserves every bit of recognition that she gets. There are a lot of things that Karima does behind the scenes that nobody sees, and she's just one of those people who is a difference maker in everything she does."

"I was more than happy to attend her banner review. She definitely made a difference in my coach and career, and it's nice to see that she has been honored over the years with so many different awards. She deserves every one of them, and there is no doubt that she will go on to continue to enjoy an outstanding professional career."

# JFD boys' basketball ready to go at MTI

Continued from Page 5

end of the floor, work hard on both ends and play together as a group.

Jones, hired last summer to head the Longhorns program, spent quite a bit of the remainder of the summer and the subsequent pre-season to get well-acquainted to plenty of his players, their families as well as many of the other Dobie athletics programs.

Now that it's his turn to take the court with his players, Jones is beyond excited for the upcoming season.

"There's no doubt we are going to face some ups and downs just like any other team as we go along this season," Jones said. "But I like the focus of this group, and they are all willing to work together and build cohesiveness as a bunch."

"We understand the challenges that we have waiting on us in district play and so forth, but we are going to take the court on a nightly basis and give it everything we have to come out on the winning end."

"I appreciate the hard work that a lot of the guys have put in to get to this point, and now it's all about going out there and show-

ing fans what we have."

Dobie was set to play at Katy Paetow Nov. 18 after press time, then will compete in the annual McDonald's Texas Invitational beginning Nov. 20 by hosting both Stratford and Klein Cain as part of pool play.

The Longhorns, part of the tournament's Division 2 field programs, will then turn to bracket play over the final two days of the event, which concludes Nov. 22.

"I think it's a great opportunity for not only our student base but the community to come out and be able to get a good look at what we have going within the program here," Jones said.

"I'm sure the guys will be excited to take the court at home in front of fans who will be rooting for them. At this time of the year, it's all about building cohesiveness and playing together as a group. I'm really excited about the potential."

"You still have to go out there and get the job done on the court, of course, but I really believe that we have what it takes to put together a pretty solid season."



Plenty of family and friends were on hand as the Dobie girls' basketball program celebrated the career of one of its all-time greats, Karima Christmas-Kelly. First a student at Beverly Hills Intermediate, Christmas-Kelly went on to play four varsity seasons at Dobie High School and enjoyed a solid career at Duke University before a decade-long career in the WNBA. She is currently an assistant coach along with her husband, Austin Kelly, with the Indiana Fever. Those at the special banner reveal included, left to right, (front

row) Alyta Harrell, Mo Hickman, Millicent Lewis, Kristy Christmas, Pete Simon, Shelly Tillman, Clayton Washington, Ashley Moore, Marlee Tillman, Karima Christmas-Kelly, Zayn Christmas Kelly, Kai Tillman, Jennita Christmas, Dawn Moore, Doug Gibson, Donna Branch (back row) Korey Munson, Warren Tillman, Tammy Simon, Maurice Poullard, Shae Peddy, Tyler Giron, Horrace Kelly, Byron Christmas and Austin Kelly.

Photo by David Flickinger



A special banner honoring the career of varsity girls basketball standout Karima Christmas-Kelly will now forever hang in the rafters in the same gymnasium at Dobie High School where Christmas-Kelly put together a remarkable playing career with the Longhorns.



Karima Christmas-Kelly made a special appearance to speak to students at Beverly Hills intermediate during a Nov. 14 visit to the campus. Christmas-Kelly was a standout athlete for the Bears before delivering

a remarkable four-year varsity basketball career at Dobie High School. Christmas-Kelly was in town to attend a banner reveal event in her honor at Dobie High School.

# Second-round football playoffs include unbeaten Dickinson, Pearland

District 22-6A champion Pearland and Dickinson, 24 6A champion, are both in the midst of undefeated seasons and will now meet head-to-head in the second round of the 6A Division 1 varsity football playoffs.

With the way both of these teams had carried themselves throughout the regular season, local fans almost had to expect this day to come as both programs have put together dream seasons to this point.

The Gators, 11-0 after outlasting Atascocita 51-47 Nov. 14 at Sam Vitanza Stadium in Dickinson, will look to take down a Pearland team that has been equally dominant in reaching 11-0 after a 59-27 win over Fort Bend Travis Nov. 14 at The Rig in Pearland.

In many ways it's a shame that one team will see its perfect season come to an end, but that's what happens in the postseason.

Dickinson has been left to carry the torch for 24-6A as Deer Park, Clear Springs and Clear Falls were all eliminated in the bidistrict round of the postseason.

Also in the Division 1 bracket, North Shore crushed Deer Park by a 49-14 count at GPISD Stadium Nov. 14.

In the Division 2 postseason bracket, C.E. King ended Clear Falls' season following a 56-7 win to advance.

Summer Creek of 23-6A, a Division 2 state finalist a season ago, advanced via a 58-14 triumph over Clear Springs.

District 22-6A flexed its muscles in the first round

of the postseason with two more victories in addition to Pearland's win.

Manvel continued its roll with a sixth consecutive win, this one coming in the 6A Division 2 bracket as the Mavericks scored 70 points in cruising past an outmanned Hightower program 70-35.

Also in the Division 2 bracket, Shadow Creek continued its season with a 57-13 victory over Fort Bend Bush.

Dawson, which finished second in the 22-6A race, was eliminated by undefeated Ridge Point as the Panthers held on for a 21-16 victory.

Dickinson saw its 2024 season coming to an end after a high scoring loss to Atascocita, but this time it was the Gators who prevailed to qualify for the matchup against Pearland.

Running back Jayse Washington rushed for 195 yards and three touchdowns and also had four grabs for 86 yards and another touchdown.

Quarterback Lorenzo Aguirre threw for 341 yards and a pair of touchdowns and receiver at Braden Glover had six catches for 120 yards and a touchdown.

The Gators needed every bit of that offensive production to offset a huge night from Atascocita quarterback Cardae Mack, who threw for 300 yards and three touchdowns and also had 29 carries for 248 yards and three rushing scores.

In Division 2 action, Summer Creek simply cruised past Clear Springs as Braylon Causey rushed for three touchdowns and Noah Spinks threw for 227

yards and a pair of scores as the Bulldogs advanced to take on Manvel.

C.E. King remained alive in the Division 2 field after it crushed Clear Falls 56-7.

The Panthers, 9-2 overall, will now face Shadow Creek in the next round. C.E. King quarterback Timothy Potts was the best offensive player on the field in the first round against the Knights as he rushed for a pair of touchdowns and threw for three more.

Offensive shootouts were the norm in the first round of the playoffs, and fans should realistically expect nothing less moving forward. In the Dickinson-Pearland matchup alone, a pair of explosive offenses will be on display as the two undefeated programs look to advance.

Dickinson has now scored 589 points through 11 games. With nearly 520 yards of offense per game, the Gators feature one of the most explosive offensive attacks in the city.

Jayse Washington was not Dickinson's primary starter at running back to open the season but has been one of the most tantalizing performers at his position over the second half of the season in particular.

Aguirre, a junior in his first year as a full-time starter under center, has now thrown for 2,855 yards and 36 touchdowns through 11 games. Kaleb Peteron has more than 1,400 yards receiving to go with 17 touchdowns, and Glover is not far behind with 903 yards receiving and 14 scores.

At Pearland, the 11-0 Oilers have scored 537 points and are averaging 445 yards of offense per

game. Champion has now rushed for 1,474 yards and 25 scores, while quarterback Westmoreland has passed for 1,481 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Jordan Hernandez, a former standout at Thompson Intermediate, has had a terrific senior season with 566 yards receiving and five touchdowns. The one caveat? Pearland has an outstanding defense as the Oilers' unit led District 22-6A in fewest yards allowed per game at just under 179 per outing.

Other matchups include Manvel putting its six-game winning streak on the line against Summer Creek, which is looking to return to the Division 2 state final for a second consecutive season. Elsewhere, Shadow Creek will go up against C.E. King in another battle between teams that are playing their best football of the season at the most important time.



At right, the Pearland Oilers have advanced in the Class 6A Division 1 playoff bracket and will take on the Dickinson Gators Nov. 21 at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster. Offensively, the Oilers are led by quarterback Jake Westmoreland (right), who has thrown for nearly 1,500 yards and 17 touchdowns this season while being intercepted just once. Running back Ja'Maurey Champion (left) has now rushed for nearly 1,500 yards and 25 touchdowns this season to help the Oilers put together an 11-0 record to this point in the season. Pearland first won the District 22-6A championship while delivering the unbeaten record, and then handed Fort Bend Travis a 59-27 loss in the 6A Division 1 by district playoff round. Dickinson is also undefeated at 11-0 and is coming off a close contest against Atascocita. Former Pasadena Memorial head coach John Snelson has been, for many years now, the head coach at Dickinson.

**Dickinson vs. Pearland**  
**Challenger Columbia**  
**Fri., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.**

**Shadow Creek at C.E. King**  
**Sheldon ISD Panther**  
**Fri., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.**

**Manvel at Summer Creek**  
**Turner Stadium, Humble**  
**Thurs., Nov. 20, 7 p.m.**

**Bidistrict 21-6A/22-6A**  
**Manvel 70, Hightower 35**  
**Ridge Point 21, Dawson 16**  
**Shadow Creek 57, Bush 13**  
**Pearland 59, Travis 27**

**Bidistrict 23-6A/24-6A**  
**Dickinson 51, Atascocita 47**  
**North Shore 49, Deer Park 14**  
**Summer Creek 58, Clear Springs 14**  
**C.E. King 56, Clear Falls 7**



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# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Monday through Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group. 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.  
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.  
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at Cross Roads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.  
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**  
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.  
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.  
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group. See Friday's notice.  
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email [huff\\_reunion@juno.com](mailto:huff_reunion@juno.com) for info.  
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.  
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
10 a.m. Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.  
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
**Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.  
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group. See Friday's notice.  
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office (281-554-1180) for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.  
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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# Dobie, Brook girls seek victories

The Dobie and Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball teams continue to look to get their footing early on in the 2025-2026 schedule.

Dobie opened the season with losses to Baytown Sterling and Clear Lake but then rebounded

to take down Channelview Nov. 14 in a 63-19 decision. The Longhorns hosted George Ranch Nov. 18 after press time and will now prepare to compete in the McDonald's Texas Invitational.

The Longhorns will go against Deer Park Nov. 20

at Phillips Field House at noon, then return to Dobie main to take on Klein Oak at 4:30 p.m.

The locals will also host Fort Bend Kempner Nov. 21 at 1:30 p.m. before preparing for Division 2 bracket play Nov. 22.

## Brook girls 0-5

The graduation of one of the greatest senior classes and program history figured to be a challenge to bounce back from at least early in the season for the Clear Brook varsity girls, and the Wolverines have indeed found the schedule to be tough to this point.

The Wolverines opened the season with a 56-30 loss to Barbers Hill and also fell to Fulshear by an 86-34 count.

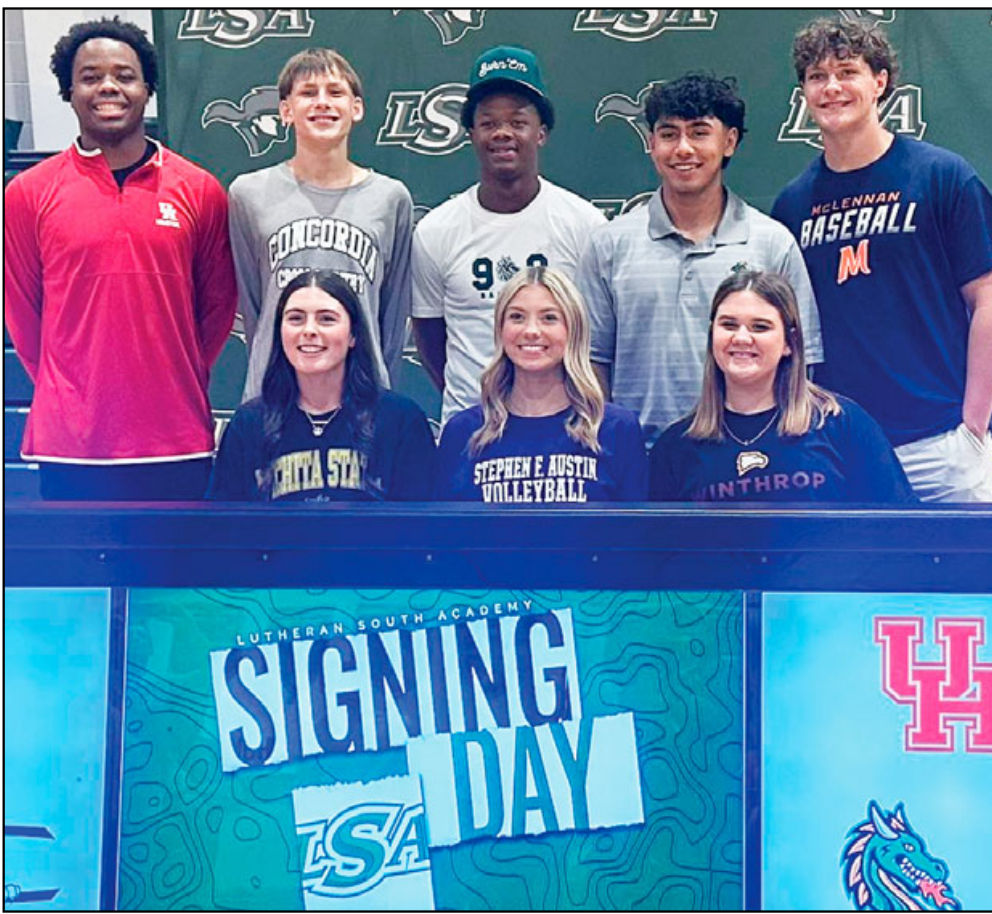
Competing in the Peggy Whitley Invitational within Clear Creek ISD Nov. 13-15, Clear Brook lost to Dulles 60-46 and also found itself on the wrong side of a 60-20 final against Tomas. In the bronze bracket, the Wolverines fell to Atascocita 32-20.

Clear Brook went up against Pearland Nov. 18 after press time and will play at South Houston Nov. 24 at 1 p.m. The District 24-6A race begins Dec. 16 as the Wolverines play at Clear Springs.



Dobie sophomore Makayla Mendez earned the JFD BallHer of the Game award after scoring 16 points and adding seven rebounds Nov. 14 as the Longhorns downed Channelview for their first win of the season.

# Lutheran South athletes officially choose colleges



Several Lutheran South Academy student-athletes made their collegiate choices official earlier this month as they gathered to announce their respective commitments beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Those who signed Nov. 12 included, left to right, (front row) Addi Smith (Wichita State softball), Aniston Collins (Stephen F. Austin vol-

leyball), Emma Poffinbarger (Winthrop University golf), (back row) Jaylen Walker (University of Houston baseball), Sam Hergenrader (Concordia University-Nebraska cross-country), Cowboy Gilbert (Paris Junior College baseball), Marcus Cantu (Coastal Carolina baseball) and Wyatt Powell (McLennan baseball).

# Giron playing at Prairie View



Dobie Class of 2023 graduate Jacquie Giron has continued her women's basketball career at Prairie View A&M University in Houston, where she has been in the starting lineup for the Panthers. While the Panthers are out of the gate a bit slowly at 1-3, Giron leads the team in minutes played per game and has drained six of 15 3-point field goal attempts while averaging 6.3 points per game.

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# Lamar volleyball advances to postseason



The Lamar University women's volleyball team, with Dobie graduate Lexie Gonzalez at setter, has advanced to the Southland Conference postseason tournament as the fifth seed and will take on No. 4 Incarnate Word Nov. 21 in Commerce. Lamar dropped its regular season finale to conference co-champion Stephen F. Austin Nov. 15 and finished the regular season at 17-14, including 10-6 in conference play. Gonzalez, a sophomore, has started 30 of Lamar's 31 overall matches this season and has 927 assists entering the conference tournament.

# Cowboys' players are all-stars

The Bay Area Football League hosted its annual round of All-Star games Nov. 15 as several Sagemont Cowboys' players were selected to compete in the games.

In the Powder Puff game, the Cowboys were represented by Dee Parker and Rachal Herrera.

The Cowboys' senior All-Star representatives included Brandon Ware, Marshon Martin and Omar Jimenez.

At the junior level, Dylan Goff, Leland Holliquest and Jace Ramirez played in the game for the Cowboys, while the Sagemont sophomore game performers included Michael Williams, Ray Oliver Cooper and Bryson Hill.

In the freshman division, Jacob Gutierrez,

Abel Martinez and Kamden Glenn were chosen to compete for the Cowboys.

While the Cowboys do not have a team set to compete in the Bay Area Football League Super Bowl championship round, the league will compete at Rice Stadium Nov. 22 to cap what has been a tremendous 2025 season for the league.

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