

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 50, No. 46

CBCMUD to flush water

Clear Brook City MUD residents should be aware the district will be flushing waterlines Monday, Dec. 15, through Friday, Dec. 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily or until the last line has been flushed. Done by opening the district's fire hydrants, flushing the system will clear sediment that has accumulated in the waterlines. Residents may experience a drop in water pressure. If one has no water pressure, they should call the district at 281-484-1562. Residents may also experience discolored water coming from a faucet. If this happens, residents should not use water or do laundry for two hours. After one has waited for this amount of time, they should run the faucet for approximately five minutes to ensure water is clear. If the water does not become clear within two hours, they should contact the district. Clear Brook City MUD will not be responsible for damaged clothes. See related ad on Page 7.

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.

No December PIP meeting

The Houston Police Department will not hold a Positive Interaction Program meeting this month due to the Christmas holidays. Typically held the third Monday of each month, the meetings will resume in 2026 at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at Grace Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway Classroom No. 103. Guest speaker to be announced.

Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. For additional information, contact Houston Police Department Officer C. Castillo at castillo@houstonpolice.org or 832-395-1777.

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.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and 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, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

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

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

Associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction, the closures are expected to cause significant delays over the next year.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one southbound inside main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH-610 to Scarsdale Boulevard nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Dec. 7.

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

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

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At least one northbound and one southbound

In My Opinion

King on Harris County taxable roll increase

The Harris Central Appraisal District (HCAD) has finished adjudicating all but a handful of property accounts. As of today, the countywide taxable value of all properties stands at about \$684 billion. When HCAD finishes its last few accounts, the taxable roll will be about \$688 billion. That will be about a \$40 billion increase over last year's roll, approximately a 6% increase. According to HCAD, around a third of the increase in value comes from new construction, with the rest from increases in the value of existing properties.

The final tax roll will not be determined for years because after HCAD completes its administrative adjudication of any protests, the taxpayer can either file suit in District Court or, in some cases, file an arbitration with the State Comptroller's Office. According to HCAD, taxpayer appeals from last year resulted in just over \$9 billion in value reductions. HCAD has also said that appeals are increasing each year, and they expect the 2025 appeals to set a new record.

The growth in the tax roll has definitely slowed from the supercharged increases during the pandemic. In 2021 and 2022, the roll jumped by double digits. The last two years, however, it has returned to mid-single-digit growth.

However, the taxable value is just the first factor in the multiplication that determines your final bill. The other factor is,

Garza places in Bobcat Buckle Bash



Dobie High School sophomore Noah Garza showed his goat at the Cy-Fair FFA Booster club's "Bobcat Buckle Bash" in Cypress on Sunday, Nov. 23. Garza took home a fifth place win in Ring B in his first prospect show.

Deaths

Racquel Torres Rosenbalm



Dr. Racquel Torres Rosenbalm entered into the Lord's embrace Nov. 12, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, devotion, and service that will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew her.

Racquel was a devoted wife, a loving mother, a cherished daughter and a loyal friend. She leaves behind her two young sons, Wyatt Archer Rosenbalm (9) and Jackson Juanito Rosenbalm, (7) whom she adored with every ounce of her being; and her beloved husband, Howard John Rosenbalm, whose partnership and love were the foundation of her happiest days. She is also survived by her mother, Viola Torres; her father and his wife, Roy and Pat Torres; her brother, Daniel Torres; her in-laws, Howard and Kathy Rosenbalm; the Galvan family; and a wide community of friends, colleagues, and students who were blessed by her presence.

She is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Juanita and Luis Longoria; and her paternal grandparents, Daniel and Hortencia Torres, all of whom she loved dearly.

Jean was born on June 9, 1936, in St. John to Rudolph and Annie Besetny. Raised on a farm in Schulenburg alongside her siblings, she learned early the values of hard work, faith and family.

After completing her education, Jean pursued nursing in Hallettsville — a natural calling for someone with her compassionate spirit. She later moved to Houston with her sister Rina, where she worked in the labor and delivery ward at St. Joseph's Hospital until her marriage.

On April 13, 1958, Jean married the love of her life, Dennis L. Dusek, whom she first met at a local dance hall.

Together, they shared 62 years of marriage filled with devotion and partnership.

They raised four children and built a home centered on faith, family and service.

Jean was a deeply loving and dedicated mother. She never missed a piano recital or baseball game and she stood steadfastly by her children through life's triumphs and challenges.

As "Nani," she carried that same spirit of care and joy, embracing her role as a grandmother with boundless love and good humor.

Fearless, confident and filled with joy, Racquel lived her life with a radiant spirit that inspired everyone around her.

She was remarkably intelligent, hardworking, and endlessly giving — always ready to offer support, share her wisdom, or brighten a room with her smile.

She also carried a passionate love for her hometown teams, as she was a fierce fan of the Houston Astros, Rockets and Texans — cheering them on with the same enthusiasm she brought to every part of her life.

Education was both her calling and ministry. Racquel earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, main campus; a master's degree from Texas A & M; and a doctorate degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, a testament to her passion for learning and her unwavering commitment to excellence.

She began her career in education at Peterson Elementary, where she served faithfully as a clerk before becoming certified to teach.

Her dedication and talent quickly became evident, leading her to serve as a teacher specialist at De Chau

mes Elementary, an assistant principal at Navarro Middle School and ultimately a highly respected principal at Sherman Elementary, where she led with vision, innovation and deep compassion for her students and staff. For almost six years, she served as a principal whose impact was transformative and enduring.

Racquel lived her vocation with heart and purpose, believing deeply in the dignity and potential of every child. Her leadership shaped campuses, uplifted families and inspired countless educators. Her work will continue to bear fruit in the lives of all those she touched.

She embraced her Catholic faith with humility and joy, entrusting herself fully to God's mercy and grace.

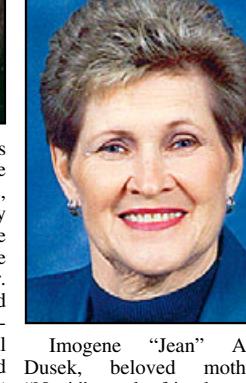
Those who mourn her now find comfort in knowing that she rests peacefully in his eternal light.

Though her time on earth feels far too short, Racquel's love remains woven into the hearts of her sons, her family, and all who had the blessing of knowing her. May her memory be a reminder of courage, compassion and

the profound beauty of a life lived for others.

External rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

Imogene "Jean" Ann Dusek



Imogene "Jean" Ann Dusek, beloved mother, "Nani," and friend, was called home by her heavenly father on Nov. 28, 2025, at the age of 89. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, generosity and unconditional love that touched everyone she met.

Jean was born on June 9,

1936, in St. John to Rudolph and Annie Besetny. Raised on a farm in Schulenburg alongside her siblings, she learned early the values of hard work, faith and family.

After completing her education, Jean pursued nursing in Hallettsville — a natural calling for someone with her compassionate spirit. She later moved to Houston with her sister Rina, where she worked in the labor and delivery ward at St. Joseph's Hospital until her marriage.

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retirement in 2019, winning the hearts of everyone with whom she worked through her selfless love, infectious smile and unwavering dedication. To her, Sagemon Church was more than just a place of worship — it was family. Her church family remained in her heart and mind until God called her home.

Georjean is survived by her husband; her son, Brandon Nixon and his wife, Nikki, along with their children Zane Nixon (and Haley), Reese Nixon (and Abby), Eden Nixon, Hope Nixon, Noah Nixon, Haven Nixon, Miles Nixon and Theo Nixon; her daughter, Neisha Teer and her husband, Dave, along with their children, Meliya Teer, Cailey Teer, Bryleigh Teer, Deklan Teer and Lyndee Teer; as well as numerous extended family and friends, many of whom were like family to her.

A Celebration of Life service

will be held at Sagemon Church, Saturday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Sagemon Church, a place that was so dear to Georjean's heart.

Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation, recitation of the rosary and the funeral Mass on Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., the rosary at 10:30 a.m. and the funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Entombment will follow at South Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Jean's name may be made to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church's Capital Campaign at <https://stlukescatholic.com/capital-campaign>.

Jennifer Louise Marshall



Beloved daughter, sister, and friend, Jennifer Louise Marshall passed away on Nov. 27, 2025.

Jennifer was born in Houston on Sept. 13, 1993, to Glenn and Debra Marshall.

As the eldest of three children, she grew up in the South Belt community,

where she formed lasting friendships and developed a deep commitment to education and service.

After graduating from University of Houston-Clear Lake, Jennifer dedicated her professional life to teaching and became a third-grade teacher at Stuchbury Elementary.

She was known for her compassion, her thoughtful approach to the classroom,

and the care she extended to every student. Her colleagues and students alike felt the warmth and sincerity she brought to her work each day.

Jennifer was a devoted daughter and sister and the loving mom of her dog, Luna.

She was cherished by all who knew her, and will be remembered for her kindness, selflessness and unwavering dedication to those she loved.

Jennifer was preceded in death by her grandparents, Robert and Jeannette Marshall.

She is survived by her parents; her siblings, Shannon and Garrett Marshall; her beloved Luna; as well as numerous family members and dear friends who became like family to her.

A memorial service honoring Jennifer's life will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m., with visitation one hour prior to the service at Pevee

Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, Houston, TX 77089.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the **Leader**

are published free of charge. There must

be a South Belt connection.

Obituaries are edited to the **Leader** style.

All aboard to Winter Wonderland



Kenny Koncaba and his wife Kristi served as engineers at the annual Winter Wonderland event Sunday, Dec. 7. See related photo on Page 1.

Pct. 2 promotes Jones



On Tuesday, Dec. 9, Harris County Precinct 2 Cpl. Chiqweda Jones was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia is shown above presenting Jones a plaque at the recent swearing-in ceremony.

Crash injures cyclist

Continued from Page 1

its owner. Deputies have visited the residence in Friendswood but at press time, had not been able to locate the vehicle yet.

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information

about the driver is urged to contact the Precinct 2 constable's office at 713-477-2766.

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, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for reopening information or the main website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>.

The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., Thursday, Dec. 11, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. - noon. Tai Chi.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 - 3 p.m. Movie time club: Home Alone.

Monday, Dec. 15, 1 - 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 4 - 5 p.m. Family craft adventure. Registration required.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 4 - 5 p.m. Get creative at craft lab. Registration required.

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6 - 7 p.m. Get creative at craft lab. Registration required.

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6 - 7 p.m. Get creative at craft lab. Registration required.

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Wednesday, Dec. 17,

Moore Elementary fourth-grade students perform “Forever Christmas” musical



Singing solos in “Forever Christmas” were Alivia Castro (left) who sang “All I Want For Christmas” and Arie Marron who sang the song bearing her character’s namesake “Nuttin’ But Bad.”



Alvin and the Chipmunks, left to right, Josiah Ayala (Simon), Max Valles (Alvin) and Aldo Gonzalez (Theodore) made a special appearance in the musical.



Left to right, Rudolph and the Rudolph Dancers Priscilla Portillo, Elizabeth Macias, Brooke Noise, James Villanueva as Rudolph, Lina Garcia, Adrianna Portillo and Sophia Nguyen performed in “Forever Christmas.”



Left to right, are Memphis Alvarez as “Santa,” Zoey Deleon as “Suzy Snowflake,” Aaron Rapalo as “Elvis Frosty” and James Villanueva as “Cowboy Rudolph.”



Suzy Snowflake and Snowflake Dancers, left to right, (front row) Dania Carreno, Ella Lara, Zoey Deleon as Suzy, Isabella Salguero, Zoey Gonzalez, (back row) Zoey Hernandez, Jessica Tran, Jenaya Perez and Lorelai Mayorga provided snowflake flurries.



The Jitterbug Dancers, left to right, (front row) Devyn Brown, Lexxa Martinez, Lilly Cardenas, Katalina Contreras, (back row) Ramon Trevino, Landon Hinton, Edwin Ortiz-Servin and Jacob Oviedo entertained audiences.



Aaron Rapalo as Frosty Elvis, was backed by frosty dancers (front row) Karla Ramos, Allison Villarreal, Wendy Tamayo, Noelia Gutierrez, (back row) Leah Garcia and Aliyah Taylor.

MEMORIAL
HERMANN



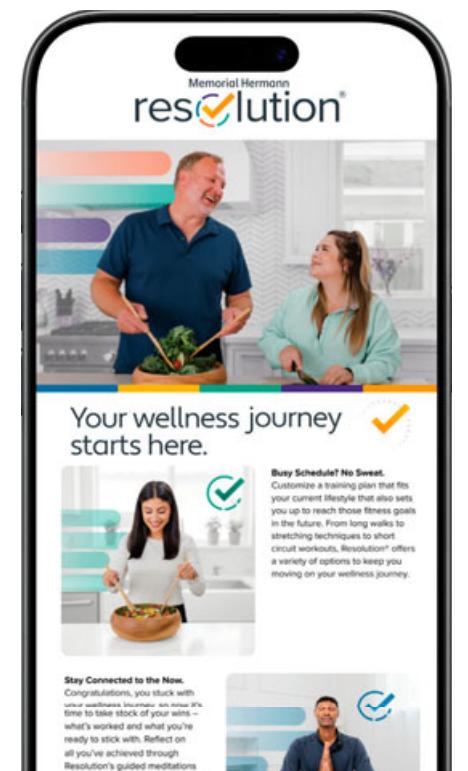
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Congratulations, you stuck with your wellness Resolution. And now it's time to reflect on what's worked and what you're ready to stick with. Reflect on all you've achieved through Resolution's guided meditations and use those successes to power

Holy Society Church gives back to the community for Thanksgiving



Pastor Mike Rosas, a 2002 Dobie High School graduate and a pastor at Holy Society Church in Pearland, recently partnered with the three local schools which he attended as a youth. Rosas delivered Thanksgiving donations to Burnett Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School. Thirty families received a turkey, sides, dessert and a drink for the holiday. On Sunday, Nov. 23, the church continued giving to 35 more families from the area as part of their Turkey and Thanks Giveaway. Shown are, left to right, Melissa Hickman (Burnett Elementary assistant principal), Karina Diaz (counselor), Claudia Cubos, Mike Rosas and Lidiette Rosas.



At Thompson Intermediate are, left to right, Mike Rosas, parent coordinator Sanjuanita Garza, Claudia Cubos and Lidiette Rosas.



Thanksgiving donations were delivered to Dobie High School. Left to right, are Sunshine Cubos, Mike Rosas, DeRonda Pitre-Preston (Dobie counselor), Kelsey Davis (Dobie counselor), Lidiette Rosas and Claudia Cubos.

St. Luke Youth Ministry hosts gift wrapping event

Stuck in a tangle of tape and wrapping paper this Christmas? The St. Luke Youth Ministry is offering to help.

Community members can drop off unwrapped gifts, and volunteers will turn them into holiday-ready packages while donors relax.

The event is scheduled for Dec. 13 from noon to 8 p.m. at St. Luke Church in the education building.

Any gift, any size will be wrapped in exchange for a donation of the participant's choice. All proceeds will support the Brave and the Wilderness Retreat.

Dobie football booster club hosts Singo bingo night

The Dobie High School football program will host a fundraising evening of Singo bingo Dec. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Dobie main cafeteria.

Participants will attend an evening of bingo that will include a music-filled twist to the tradition. Tickets are \$25 each, which will allow participants to take part in eight total games of bingo. The first seven games will include \$100 victory awards, with game-eight worth \$500 to the winner.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and concessions as well as Longhorn team merchandise will be available for purchase.

Lone Star Flight Museum holds annual Jet Setters Ball

Continued from Page 1

Andell: Harris County Judge Caroline Dozier; Houston City Council Member At Large, Position 3 Twila Carter; Friendswood Mayor Mike Foreman and wife; Capt. Ron Caputo, deputy commander, Sector Houston-Galveston; and U.S. Coast Guard and Texas Aviation Hall of Fame members Bill Bussey and Al Cisneros.

Prominent guests included Chris and Ellen Clair Thomas, Michael and Alicia Fertita, Flo McGee and Wade Upton, Brenda and Joe Cialone,

Charlie and Carol Herder, Edith Hernandez, Kyra Joiner, Cheryl Bobbitt and Bill King, Ellen and Paige Michael Cokinos, Angie and Frank Hinnant, Ashley and Black Boyd, Holly Waltrip and Edward Sanchez.

LSFM President and CEO Anna Hawley commented, "Not only does Ralph serve as an impactful board member and generous donor for the Lone Star Flight Museum, but he also continues to fuel the museum's focus on supporting our country's veterans, celebrating Texas aviation

history, and inspiring future leaders in the workforce. Our gala chairs Donna and Matt Noll led a great team to create a fantastic event. Collectively, our chairs, the host committee, board members, sponsors, staff, and our guests made this year's gala a success. We are grateful to all of them for the enormous support."

The 2025 Jet Setters Ball lead sponsors included Fayed Sarofim & Co., Hildebrand Fund, Joan Skipper and Ed Peine, and Bette and Ralph Thomas. United Airlines served as the official airline of the Lone Star Flight Museum and this year's gala.

The Events Company established a distinctly French ambiance for the gala with special touches such as French and Parisian landscapes. The Events Company designed floral arrangements and décor that featured a stunning 8-foot Eiffel Tower

shimmering in the center of the hangar among the seated gala guests. For the pre-gala reception, City Kitchen prepared hors d'oeuvres featuring a mini lobster Newburg tart, seared tuna and other delicacies. The gourmet seated dinner featured a baby lettuce and shrimp salad, braised beef short rib, crepes, and broccolini with assorted desserts that included chocolate mousse, chocolate truffles, chocolate-dipped gooseberries and edible flowers.

The Honorable Eric Andell Expert, big board auctioneer, and Josh Rush, live auctioneer with Johnny Bravo Entertainment, inspired supporters to "bid big" and "bid often." Featured items on the big board were a curated case of fine wines, a private event at the Lone Star Flight Museum, a City Kitchen gourmet dinner at home, an upscale hunting trip to Cibolo Creek

Ranch and many others. Attractive live auction packages included a Ferrari Challenge Race Car experience, a food and wine inspired stay in a Tuscan villa, US Open Tennis Championship weekend in New York, a private jet getaway to Florida, an upscale European getaway, and many others.

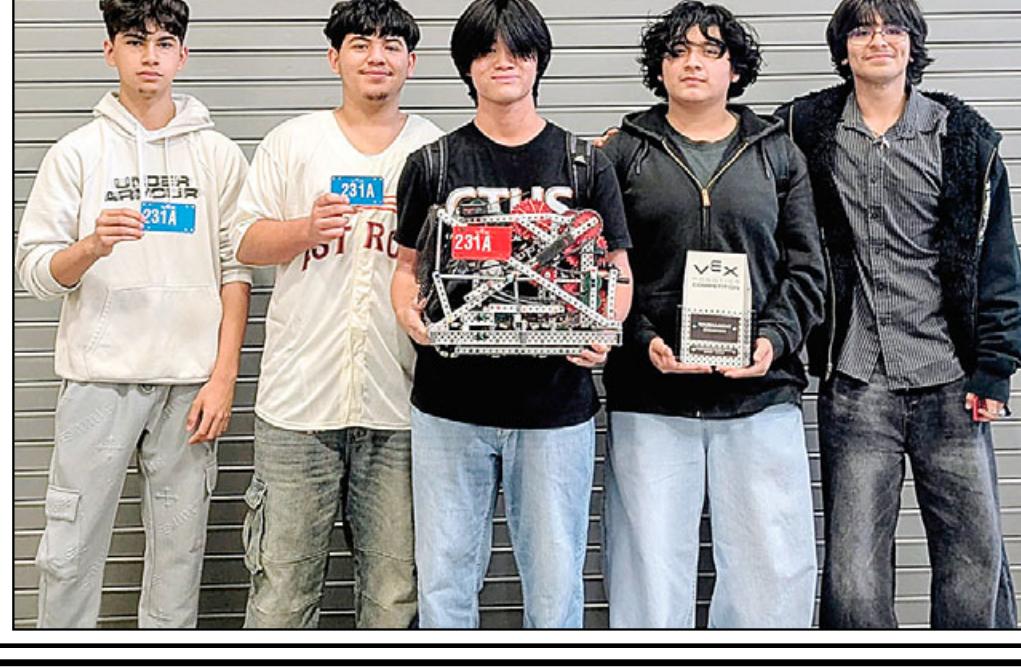
To support the Lone Star Flight Museum and to learn more about the STEM education programs and how one can get involved, visit LoneStarFlight.org or call the museum's development office at 346-352-7678.



Lone Star Flight Museum board member Ralph B. Thomas

Honoree Ralph B. Thomas and his wife Bette

CTHS takes home tournament champion trophy



Dr. Kirk Lewis, Career & Technical High School hosted the PISD Push Back High School Tournament VEX V5 Robotics Competition Dec. 5-6. The event was an in-person tournament with skills displayed on Dec. 5 and the teamwork and judging on Dec. 6. Twenty-three teams competed in the event. CTHS 231A KNIGHTS ROBOTICS and JACKBOT from Clear Creek ISD were paired as a Team and took home trophies. CTHS Team 231A KNIGHTS ROBOTICS members included, left to right, freshman Briso Moreno, juniors Kelvin Lopez, Henry Hong, Emmanuel Paz and Gael Salinas.



Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

Houston Lighting and Power Company, doing routine maintenance work in the Sagemont-Kirkwood area, caused power to be turned off and on in the area for anywhere from 10 minutes to two hours, averaging approximately 45 minutes in length. The work was scheduled to continue for the next six months.

40 years ago (1985)

The San Jacinto College District Board of Regents hoped to sell some \$16 million in bonds, with part of the proceeds going toward construction of a student center for the South campus.

The Thompson Intermediate twirlers, Susan Richter, Michelle Andrews, Jeanie Bland and Laura Hayes, earned a rating of I at the twirling competition at Sam Rayburn High School. They scored a I on their ensemble and each earned a I for solo routines.

Lori Sittin of Sageglen, a freshman at Clear Creek High School, was selected to play string bass in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra in San Antonio.

35 Years ago (1990)

During a maintenance operation at the Moto Superfund hazardous waste incinerator in Texas City, toxic chemicals caught fire. Although toxic fumes were released, no alarm was sounded nor was the community alerted. A spokesperson for Moto Trust (the PRP group) said they considered the incident minor and were not required to notify anyone except the Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 11 through Dec. 17.

Bush Elementary

Send a nice birthday greeting Dec. 16 to Jennifer Marquez.

Frazier Elementary

Dec. 15 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for Kristina Ponce.

students collected 56 individual awards and also took first place in the Super Quiz.

30 years ago (1995)

Michelle Baker, 9, was the winner of the Christmas card design chosen for the South Belt Graphics and South Belt-Ellington Leader Christmas card. She received a check for \$25.

The Larry Land residence at 9918 Sageroyal was a winner in the South Belt Chamber of Commerce Christmas decorating contest.

The Civil Rights Division of the Harris County District Attorney's office, Houston Police and Pearland Police Department

were investigating the shooting of South Belt resident Melvin Hernandez, 37, by a Pearland police officer. The shooting at Hernandez' residence occurred after the officer, Lynn Holleman, tried to arrest Hernandez, who was a suspect in the earlier theft of a single beer from a Diamond Shamrock convenience store in Pearland.

Dobie junior soccer player Carolyn Nedderman ranked as the Lady Longhorns' top all-time scorer with 84 goals and was voted to the Houston Chronicle's All-Greater Houston first team.

The city of Houston amended its parade policy to allow more than one parade per day. The annual

South Belt Fourth of July parade almost fell victim to the ordinance at times, and had to be classified as a mobile parade so it could be held on July 4 and not conflict with other parades that same day. The amended ordinance allowed as many as four parades on a single day.

PISD announced it would apply for a waiver for classes to start Aug. 10. Classes usually would start the Monday in which Aug. 21 falls.

20 years ago (2005)

Precinct 2 Deputy Constable Sgt. Zerick Guinn warned South Belt residents to be alert during the holiday season. Guinn asked residents to watch for unusual persons or vehicles or anything out of the ordinary.

The city of Houston amended its parade policy to allow more than one parade per day. The annual

15 years ago (2010)

The 28th annual South Belt-Ellington Leader Christmas program was a huge success this year, with many in the community

generously donating food, toys and cash to ensure that more than 60 needy families in the area had a happy holiday.

10 years ago (2015)

The results from the City of Houston's Dec. 12 mayoral runoff election were tallied, with state Rep. Sylvester Turner narrowly defeating businessman Bill King. Turner received 51 percent of the vote to King's 49 percent.

A 15-year-old juvenile was arrested Dec. 11 for the Dec. 3 armed robbery of a Pizza Hut delivery driver. The unnamed male was charged with aggravated

robbery. Police said the teen is a suspect in multiple other recent armed robberies. The investigation was ongoing.

5 years ago (2020)

The Pasadena Independent School District's Athletics Department took a blow when both its athletic director and assistant athletic director unexpectedly resigned from their posts to work for other school districts. Athletic Director Rodney Chant left to take over as AD for the Fort Bend Independent School District, while Assistant Athletic Director Jana Williams accepted a similar position with the Humble Independent School District.

his vehicle while at a gas station in the 11200 block of Almeda Genoa near the Genoa Post Office. No immediate arrests were made.

1 year ago (2024)

On Thursday, Dec. 5, a man was fatally shot inside



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Over The Back Fence by Nicole



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KENNEDY!

Kennedy Flowers celebrates a birthday Monday, Dec. 15. Best wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent from brother Owen; sister Evie; parents Stephen and Stacy (Hayes) Flowers; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (former long-time South Belt residents); uncles Tyler Scarberry, Joey Hayes, and Austin and daughters Jade and Lily Scarberry; and aunt Jenny (Hayes) and husband Josh Laney, and children Brayden, Baylee and Olivia. Kennedy's mom is a Dobie grad.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESSICA!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Dec. 16 are sent to Jessica Escobar, daughter of Leader staffer Luis Escobar, from the South Belt Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 11 through Dec. 17.

Bush Elementary

Send a nice birthday greeting Dec. 16 to Jennifer Marquez.

Frazier Elementary

Dec. 15 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for Kristina Ponce.

Genoa Elementary

The day for cake and ice cream for Lucy Ibarra is Dec. 13. Light the birthday candles Dec. 16 for Tiffany Lee.

Meador Elementary

Dec. 11 is a day of celebration for Eric Riojas for his birthday. Send birthday wishes to Katia Garcia Dec. 17.

South Belt Elementary

Dec. 17 is the day for a celebration for Alyssa Heuer.

Stuchberry Elementary

Send a birthday greeting Dec. 16 to Kevin Albert.

Melillo Middle School

Best wishes for a great birthday Dec. 11 are sent to Sandra Medina. Remember to wish Sheri Richardson a happy birthday Dec. 15.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Dec. 15 is the day for a party for Velia Grado-Gutierrez. Blow out the candles Dec. 16 for Ashley Martinez.

Thompson Intermediate

Remember to wish Olga Vega a happy birthday Dec. 14. Light the candles Dec. 16 for Cassandra Tabarez.

Dobie High

Send a nice birthday greeting Dec. 16 to Jennifer Marquez.

Sabrina Hinton

marks a birthday Dec. 11. Hector Del Rio celebrates a birthday Dec. 12. Send a happy birthday wish Dec. 13 to Virginia Osborne. A double-fun day is planned Dec. 17 for Joseph Duda and Juan Ramos.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, Dec. 11: Kara Toro, Robert Summers, Sandra Medina, Amanda Meili and Robert Royal; Friday, Dec. 12: Carolyn Sternes-Ontiveros, Joe Lewis, David Rojas Sr., Pepper Lowe and Diane Lakitis Black; Saturday, Dec. 13: Ryan Tucker, Dustin Cochran and Mike Stacey; Sunday, Dec. 14: Pedro Gutierrez III, Kay Wood and Melissa Duncan; Monday, Dec. 15: Cheryl Park, Ryan Rushing and Rita Tornaben; Tuesday, Dec. 16: Kamisha Dennis, Tamara Spencer and Adam Garcia Sr.; and Wednesday, Dec. 17: Joy Warneke, Dawn Watkins-Swain and Jabari Dobson.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

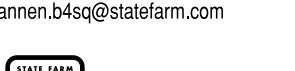
For birthdays, "Friends Celebrate Birthdays" or announcements email to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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11/04

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

LSA's Collins competes with GHVCA All-Stars



Lutheran South Academy standout Aniston Collins (10) participated in the Greater Houston Volleyball Coaches Association All-Star matches at Phillips Field House in Pasadena, A Stephen F.



Austin University signee, Collins twice helped the Pioneers to the state final and delivered nearly 2,500 assists to go along with more than 675 kills and 865 digs during her 4-year varsity career.

Dobie boys' soccer eyes championship run in '26

Resilient is the first word that comes to mind when Dobie varsity boys, head soccer coach Josh Kluka describes his 2026 group ahead of the upcoming season, and it's the grit and determination that comes along with that resiliency that Kluka is betting will carry his Longhorns to a terrific run.

Now in his second season at Dobie, Kluka says things are much more in focus and the goals and aspirations of this team are clear as the Longhorns will eventually look to get back to the postseason in a solid 22-6A field.

It all starts Dec. 12 as the Longhorns scrimmage at Santa Fe. Dobie will host defending 6A Div. 1 state champion Klein Cain

Dec. 16 and also scrimmage at Fulshear Dec. 19.

After a break for the holidays, Dobie will open the regular season with an appearance in San Antonio at the NEISD Invitational Jan. 1-3, taking on San Antonio Madison, San Antonio Roosevelt and San Antonio O'Connor.

With a 16-match district schedule to complete in District 22-6A, things will get started early as Dobie hosts Dawson Jan. 6.

South Houston is the defending league champion in 22-6A with Pearland second. Dobie was third in 22-6A before a first-round playoff loss to Ridge Point. For 2026, Kluka believes more is in store for the Longhorns.

Senior midfielder Axel Gonzalez will return after he was a first-team All-District performer a season ago. Midfielder Gabriel Martinez was the 22-6A Newcomer of the Year as a freshman two seasons ago and remained exceptional in his performance on his way to first-team All-District accolades last season.

Kluka will also lean on the skills of sophomore Cruz Jasso, a multisport standout for the Longhorns who was the Utility Player of the Year in the district in 2025.

Dobie is also excited about the return of midfielder Yuriel Sierra, whose absence a season ago during the key stretch run was felt in a big way.

With Sierra now back in the fold, Kluka says the team's key distributor of the ball will be back to his outstanding play to open this season.

Kluka also believes that Yureni Perez is in line for

Continued on Page 8



Longtime Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. recently received a proclamation from The State of Texas House of Representatives recognizing his upcoming induction into the Texas Tennis Coaches Association "Hall of Fame" on Friday, Dec. 12. Submitting the proclamation was congresswoman Terri Leo Wilson, House District 23. The induction will take place at the TTCA's annual convention and clinic being held at Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls. More than 600 high school and college tennis coaches from Texas and neighboring states will be in attendance. Swedish professional legend Mats Wilander

will be the guest speaker. Moreno, a 44-year veteran of coaching high school and college tennis, as well as 52 years overall of coaching youth tennis, is in his 27th year at Dobie High School. Nominating Moreno for the HOF honor were former Pearland High School head tennis coach Brittany Doyle, former Houston Stratford head tennis coach Rory Frazee, Friendswood High School head tennis coach David Cook, and Moreno's Galveston O'Connell High School teammate and lifelong friend, Bobby Kleinecke, the current TTCA executive director. Several family members and friends will also be present to help honor Moreno, including former Dobie High School principal Steve Jamail and his wife, Barbara. In addition, Friday, Dec. 12, is being declared "Coach Manuel Moreno Jr. Day" by the City of Galveston City Council.


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 We pick up from CCISD, Pasadena ISD, and Pearland ISD Schools





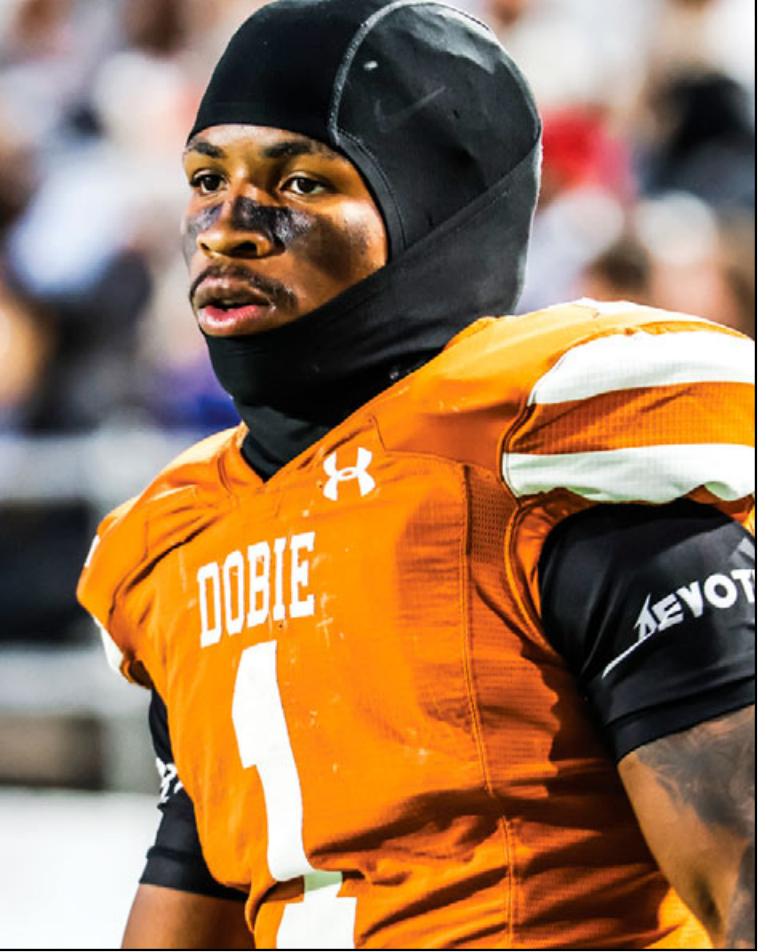

Dobie Academic All-District

Deacon Akinloye
Braylon Byrd
Nathaniel Belleville
Gabriel Campero
Alonzo Chapman
Maximus Esqueda
Christopher Flint
Oscar Hernandez
Marcus Jones
Donavin Lamas
Angel Lopez
Isaac Mendez
Harry Nguyen
Titus Randle
Cameron Robertson
Vincent Rodriguez
Achilles Rostro
Zachary Staten
Adrian Taylor
Nolen Thomas
Alex Vouffo
Clayton Washington

Hodges honored as 22-6A Offensive MVP

Dobie senior Da'Marcus Hodges (1) capped an outstanding three-year varsity career with the Longhorns by being named the Offensive Most Valuable Player in District 22-6A following the 2025 season. Hodges led the district in all-purpose yards during the regular season with 1,484 and also was the rushing yards champion with 1,380 to go with 15 touchdowns scored. Hodges wound up second in the district with 110 points scored. Hodges was the 22-6A Newcomer of the Year as a sophomore in 2023 and dealt with a few nagging injuries as a junior but still put together a solid season. He was the focal point of opposing defenses this season but, nonetheless, came through with several dazzling performances on his way to top honors in the league in his final season. For more on the Longhorns' All-District selections, see Page 6.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Upcoming Hoops Action

Brook boys at Friendswood
Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

Brook boys host Angleton
Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

Dobie boys host Memorial
Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

Dobie girls host Yates
Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

Dobie girls at Memorial
Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

Brook girls at Clear Springs
Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

Brook boys at Dickinson
Dec. 19, 5 p.m.

Dobie boys at Shadow Creek
Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Dobie girls host Shadow Creek
Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Brook girls host Dickinson
Dec. 19, 3:30 p.m.

Brook boys third at Carlisle/Krueger; locals have won 11 of 13 games overall

Both Clear Brook and Clear Lake delivered outstanding performances at the 92nd annual Carlisle/Krueger invitational December 4-6, proving that the upcoming District 24-6A varsity boys' basketball race will be one of the most competitive in recent years.

The Wolverines first collected a runner-up trophy in the Division 2 gold bracket at the McDonald's Texas Invitational the first weekend of the regular season, then came up with four wins in five overall games to finish third in the Carlisle bracket at the Carlisle/Krueger event.

The Wolverines edged MacArthur 55-53 to open the event and then cruised past Fort Bend Bush 68-49. Despite a 57-48 loss to Schertz Clemens, the Wolverines came back to down Heights 47-44 to finish third.

Hightower won its second consecutive tournament championship with a victory over Schertz Clemens. As for the 13-3 Clear Lake Falcons, that group dropped a pool play game to Heights by a 85-79 count but otherwise rolled in four other wins. Making their way to the Krueger bracket championship game, Clear Lake crushed Kempner to win the championship with a 49-58 victory.

Opening night to the

24-6A race Dec. 19 figures to be huge as Clear Lake will host Clear Springs while the Wolverines will play at Dickinson.

Clear Springs was at 7-4 through the first several weeks of the season but is led by sophomore sen-

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Longhorn football standouts earn 22-6A All-District honors for 2025



Senior Desmond Talib (10) was already an All-District performer at linebacker before making the switch to safety for the 2025 season. Talib responded with 72 total tackles, including 42 solo stops. He added a quarterback sack and four tackles for loss on his way to first team All-District honors.



David Agyemang (11) was a one-man wrecking crew up front for the Longhorns in 2025 as he was second in the district in quarterback sacks with seven and also had a league-high 30 quarterback hurries as he was an easy choice for first team All-District accolades.



Senior return man Marcus Jones (3) easily earned first team All-District honors as he was the top kickoff returner in the district and also contributed quite a bit as a game breaker out of the slot receiver spot on offense. Jones was the leader in the district with 290 total kickoff return yards, including an 88-yard touchdown return and also had 15 catches for 267 yards and a pair of scores.



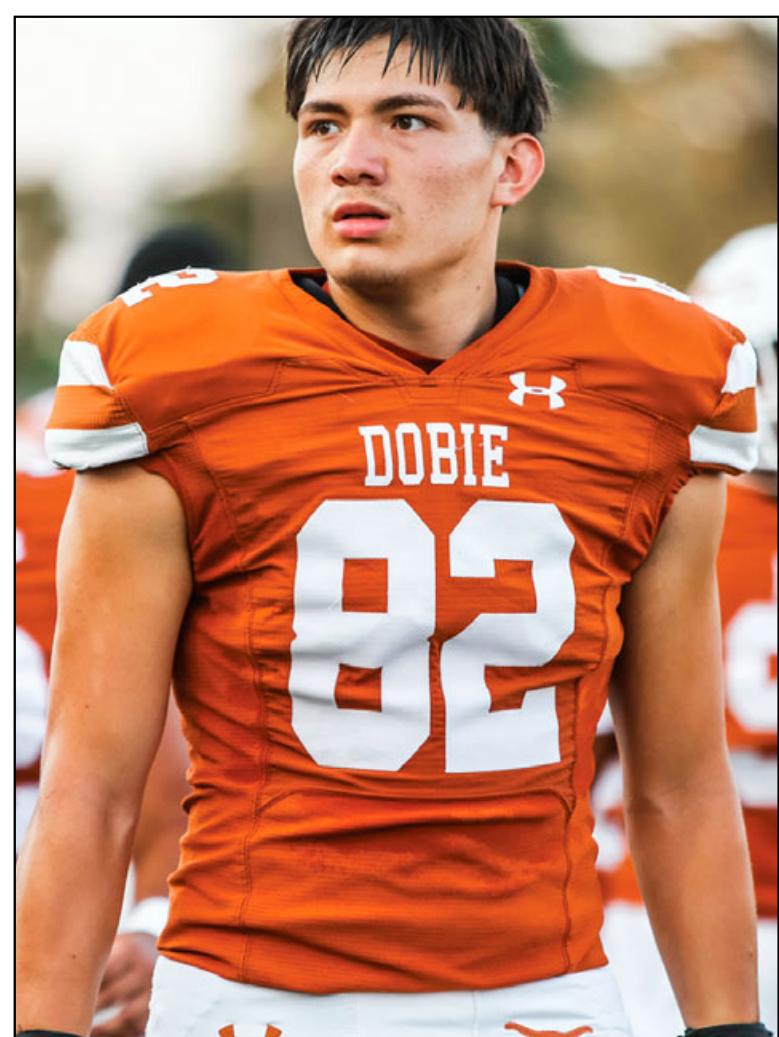
Vincent Rodriguez (68) was one of a Dobie offensive line that led the way to the offense rushing for 273 yards per game on the season as he was honored with first team All-District status following the regular season.



Longhorn senior defensive back Clayton Washington (2) was a second team All-District honoree as he turned in an exceptional final season. Washington was also honored on the academic All-District list for his outstanding work in the classroom.



Longhorns' defensive tackle Dario Rodriguez (94) was exceptional on the field as he was honored with second team All-District accolades.



Dobie defensive end Nathan Zavala (82) came up with a huge season for the Longhorns as a senior as he had five quarterback sacks and 25 quarterback hurries, causing a disruption up front throughout the season on his way to second team All-District honors.



Longhorn junior receiver Nolen Thomas (13) had 16 catches for 316 yards and a touchdown in 2025 as he earned second team All-District honors on the field and also was named to the academic All-District squad recognizing his outstanding performance in the classroom.



Dobie senior linebacker Rashaud Howard (7) was named a second team All-District honoree after registering 49 total tackles, including a tackle for loss during his third and final varsity season with the Longhorns.

Photos by Donna Alsdorf and Gloria Wallace

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Dobie boys' soccer poised for strong season in 2026

Continued from Page 5
terrific season in the nets. Julian Calderon and Allen Campos are also players to watch.

"We absolutely feel great about this group," Kluka said. "These guys are resilient, tough-minded and focused in on what our team goals are for the season."

"This program has an exceptional history of success, and we are looking forward to getting back to

the level that Dobie soccer is known for. We had a terrific offseason. We really found out where we needed to make some adjustments and were also able to fill in the gaps with some outstanding players."

"I really feel good going into the season. One of our goals is to get back to winning the district championship, and I really believe that is a realistic goal for this team this season."

Dobie won its 10th

consecutive district championship two seasons ago but then graduated a large group of seniors heading into the 2025 campaign.

Kluka was hired two summers ago and has had a full offseason leading into now.

Despite Kluka being hired in the summer and coach and players realistically not gathering as a full group until school started, the Longhorns finished third in 22-6A last

season before dropping that 2-1 decision to Ridge Point in the 6A Division 1 postseason.

Fast forward to now, and the Longhorns are determined to push the envelope further this go-around.

"You are going to face some bumps along the way in any sport, and soccer is no different," Kluka said.

"We are already dealing with one particular key

injury but are also getting another big time contributor back. We'll just have to see how everything fits together and make adjustments along the way."

"Early on, we will face defending state champion Klein Cain in a scrimmage and then that first tournament in San Antonio will be challenging for our group."

"It's all about getting ready for the district season, and I truly feel like we have a chance to win another championship."

BAFL honors 2025 Hall of Fame class



The Bay Area Football League honored its 2025 Hall of Fame class with a plaque ceremony to recognize four coaches for 30 years of service within the youth league. The inductees included, left to right, Chris Medina from the East End

Eagles (represented by his daughter Monique Medina), Tony Smith from the Sagemont Cowboys, Vernon Glover from the League City 49ers and Blane Smith from the Pearland Patriots.

2026 Boys' Soccer Opener

JFD at San Antonio Invite

Jan. 1-3, see schedule

JFD hoops face tough results; district play continues for both

The Dobie varsity boys' basketball team went into action against Dawson in the 22-6A opener for both programs Dec. 9 after press time, with the Longhorns holding a 7-7 record at this point in the season after a bit of a rough patch at the Carlisle/Krueger invitational within Clear Creek ISD.

At the event, the Longhorns lost a 58-57 decision to Clear Falls and then were on the short end of a 61-51 score against Strake Jesuit in pool play. Shifting to second-day action, Dobie suffered a 57-30 loss to Kempner. On the final day of the event, the Longhorns took down Texas City 63-41 before losing their final game

to Galveston Ball, 55-52. Aside from a holiday tournament upcoming, the locals will now focus primarily on district action. Dobie will host Pasadena Memorial Dec. 16, with the varsity game beginning at 7 p.m.

Things were similarly challenging for the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team as they competed in the Georgetown ISD Invitational, losing games to Argyle, Chaparral and Davenport to fall to 4-9 overall. Dobie also played Dawson Dec. 9 after press time and will host Yates in a nondistrict contest Dec. 12 at Dobie main before playing at visiting Pasadena Memorial Dec. 16.

Dobie Varsity Boys' Soccer Schedule

Scrimmages

Dec. 12 at Santa Fe 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 16 Klein Cain 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 19 at Fulshear 7:30 p.m.

Regular Season

San Antonio NEISD Invitational

Jan. 1 San Antonio Madison 7 p.m.

Jan. 2 San Antonio Roosevelt 2 p.m.

Jan. 3 San Antonio O'Connor 10 a.m.

Jan. 6 *Dawson 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 9 at Klein Forest 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 Houston Lamar 7 p.m.

Jan. 16 *at Pasadena Memorial 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 20 *Shadow Creek 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 23 *at Pearland 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 28 *South Houston 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 31 *at Sam Rayburn noon

Feb. 3 *Alvin 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 6 *at Manvel 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 10 *at Dawson 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 18 *Pasadena Memorial 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 21 *at Shadow Creek noon

Feb. 24 *Pearland 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 27 *at South Houston 7:30 p.m.

March 3 *Sam Rayburn 7:30 p.m.

March 6 *at Alvin 7:30 p.m.

March 9 *Manvel 7:30 p.m.

District 22-6A matches

Dobie Varsity Girls' Soccer Schedule

Scrimmages

Dec. 12 Clear Creek 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 16 at La Porte 7 p.m.

Dec. 19 Clear Brook 7:30 p.m.

Regular Season

Dec. 30 North Shore noon

Jan. 2 Northbrook 2 p.m.

Jan. 6 *at Dawson 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 9 at Kingwood Park 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 Baytown Sterling 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 16 *Pasadena Memorial 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 20 *at Shadow Creek 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 23 *Pearland 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 28 *at South Houston 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 31 *Sam Rayburn noon

Feb. 3 *at Alvin 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 6 *Manvel 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 10 *Dawson 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 13 Alumni Game 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 18 *at Pasadena Memorial 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 21 *Shadow Creek noon

Feb. 24 *at Pearland 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 27 *South Houston 7:30 p.m.

March 3 *at Sam Rayburn 7:30 p.m.

March 6 *Alvin 7:30 p.m.

March 9 *at Manvel 7:30 p.m.

*District 22-6A matches

Mustangs drop Gators 46-29

Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Famer John Snelson and his Dickinson Gators varsity football program finally saw its remarkable 2025 season come to an end with a 6A Division 1 regional championship loss to North Shore Dec. 5 at TDECU Stadium in Houston.

North Shore reached its eighth consecutive state semifinal with a thorough 46-29 defeat of the Gators, who had won each of their previous 13 games as part of an undefeated run to that point. Penalties were a big drawback for the Gators as they were flagged 13 times for 99 yards in the game. Dickinson will now graduate 41 seniors as Snelson and his staff head into the offseason with the memories of a terrific season.

While many of Dickinson's top performers from this season will now graduate, the team will return starting quarterback Lorenzo Aguirre, who threw for 302 yards and three

touchdowns in the loss to North Shore. Aguirre was easily one of the top performers in the entire Houston area at his position this season.

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