



South Belt-Ellington Leader

46 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 47, No. 46

Holiday schedules set

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Leader offices will be closed from Wednesday, Dec. 21, through Monday, Jan. 9, for the Christmas/New Year's Day holidays. Emergencies may be directed to Leader publisher Marie Flickinger at 281-948-2714.

Clear Brook City MUD

The Clear Brook City MUD offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in celebration of the Christmas holiday. They will reopen Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day. They will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Residents living in Clear Brook City MUD receiving trash service on Fridays and Mondays will have regular trash service on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26.

Residents living in Clear Brook City MUD who receive trash service on Mondays will have regular trash service pickup on Monday, Jan. 2.

All trash must be at curb side no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup.

New Covenant sets food drive

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have a food distribution event the fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 2 p.m. This event will take place Saturday, Dec. 17. For additional information, contact the church at 281-484-4230.

Sageglens to judge lights

Sageglens will hold its annual Christmas light contest on Friday, Dec. 16. Categories will include most colorful, best Christmas spirit, most elegant display and honorable mention. Residents should have their lights on no later than 6 p.m. to be judged.

55+ singles group to meet

New Directions, a singles group for those 55+, meets the first and third Mondays at the Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway, at 5 p.m. The functions will feature a potluck dinner and may include guest speakers and/or group activities. For more information, call 832-715-9658.

Library donations sought

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

Local COVID cases reported

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

As of Tuesday, Dec. 13, there were 74 active cases in 77089, down one from the previous week. To date, 135 from the ZIP code have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 138 deaths the previous week.)

In ZIP code 77075, there were 19 active cases, down 15 from the previous week. To date, there have been 81 deaths in the ZIP code. (Harris County reported 84 deaths the previous week.)

In 77034, there were 32 active cases, down three from the previous week. To date, 91 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

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

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

Kirkmont meeting canceled

The Kirkwood Civic Club will not have a December meeting due to the Christmas holidays. Normally scheduled for the last Thursday of the month, meetings will resume next month on Thursday, Jan. 26. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCratheon at 281-989-9990.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

City seeks public input on upcoming budget

Budget begins transition to being outcome-based

The City of Houston is seeking the public's input on its upcoming budget and is soliciting the community's opinion as how to best spend funds. The city's budget reflects the priorities and realities of funding programs and services in the nation's fourth largest municipal government.

For the upcoming budget cycle, the City of Houston will begin the transition to a new approach to budgeting.

Rather than the traditional incremental budgeting, the city will start incorporating elements of outcome-based budget, which seeks to transform the way city leaders make decisions on the allocation of financial resources by focusing on expected results and outcomes of city programs and services.

With this new process, the city is soliciting feedback on what Houstonians believe is important in a city budget and where they believe the city should spend its tax dollars. Residents may visit this link to provide input and public comment.

For more information on the city's finance department, visit houston.tx.gov/finance.

One may submit any questions regarding the survey to Thy-Huyen.Ruiz@houston.tx.gov.

Santa visits Clear Brook City MUD



Santa's helper, Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, (left) visited the Clear Brook City MUD Building on Blackhawk Sunday, Dec. 11, for the district's inaugural Clear Brook Express holiday event. Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado is shown seated with Garcia. Children shown with the pair are, left to right, Brielle and Adelina Borrego, the children of Jaime and Michelle Borrego; and grandchildren of Roger and Nancy Pompa. See related photo Page 2.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Flu shots urged ahead of holidays

The Houston Health Department urges people get vaccinated now against the flu to allow the vaccine's full protection to take effect by the upcoming holidays.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 9 out of 10 adults hospitalized with the flu have at least one underlying medical condition.

This flu season began earlier in Texas with cases trending up as early as late August and the beginning of September.

Getting vaccinated soon will further protect children, families, and people with compromised immune systems from becoming sick during the holidays.

People not yet fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or currently eligible for a booster should also get their shots as soon as possible. Everyone 6 months and older is eligible for free COVID-19 vaccination and people 5 years and older are eligible for a booster shot.

It typically takes up to two weeks to build protection after vaccination.

People can also help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses by:

- Wearing a mask covering the nose and mouth in indoor public settings.
 - Staying six feet from others who don't live with them.
 - Avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
 - Increasing ventilation by opening windows or doors for fresh air.
 - Washing hands often with soap or using hand sanitizer.
 - Getting tested for COVID-19 before and after gathering with family and friends.
- The department offers flu shots at its health centers to everyone age 6 months and older with or without insurance. Administration costs are based on a sliding scale fee up to \$15 depending on income.
- It offers all doses of COVID-19 vaccines to eligible people at its vaccination sites. COVID-19 vaccination is free for everyone regardless of immigration status.
- A list of health department vaccination sites is available at HoustonHealth.org or by calling 832-393-4220. Vaccines are also readily available at pharmacies and doctors' offices.

House catches fire near Edgebrook

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the 800 block of Roper near Edgebrook and Theta.

According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes to find fire coming from the corner of a house at the above address.

They quickly forced entry and extinguished the blaze.

A primary search was completed, and the roof was subsequently ventilated.

The homeowners reported they left clothes in the washer and dryer and returned to find heavy fire in the laundry room.

Crews remained on scene and conducted salvage and overhaul.

The fire caused an estimated \$20,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save approximately \$180,000 in property.

No injuries were reported.

Firefighters from stations 23, 26, 70, 29, 36, 52, 61, 55 and 24 responded to this incident.

Turner encourages solar power use

The City of Houston, in partnership with Solar United Neighbors, recently launched a new group-buying program - Texas Solar Switch Houston - offering Houstonians a hassle-free way to install rooftop solar panels and battery storage.

By coming together as a group, Houston-area residents can secure a discounted price on a rooftop solar system for their home or small business.

Combined with the new Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy incentives, Texas Solar Switch Houston will provide Houstonians with an easy way to go solar. The program is another step toward reaching the City of Houston's Climate Action Plan goal to generate 5 million MWh per year of local solar.

"With energy prices increasing, homeowners and small businesses are looking for opportunities to save on their energy bills and increase their resilience to climate-related events," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Texas Solar Switch Houston provides our community with a simple and straightforward way to become better informed about solar energy and access a competi-

tive offer from a vetted, experienced solar installation company."

It is free to register online at TexasSolarSwitch.com/houston, and there is no obligation for homeowners to purchase solar panels. Houstonians will have the option to move forward with a solar installation based on program-negotiated pricing that includes the group discount. The group discount and selected installer(s) are determined through a competitive auction process.

"More and more Houstonians are looking to solar and battery storage for self-sufficiency, which has the added benefit of making our grid more resilient," said Hanna Mitchell, Texas program director for Solar United Neighbors. "With the recent passage of the IRA, now is a particularly good time to go solar."

The Inflation Reduction Act will enable customers that install solar to take advantage of the new 30 percent tax credit.

Houston area residents and small businesses that are interested in Texas Solar Switch Houston can register for the program now.

Leader Christmas drive underway

There is still time to donate to the Leader's 40th annual Christmas program.

Begun in 1982, the yearly drive helps needy families in the immediate South Belt area with food and gifts.

Desired items include toys for children of all ages, nonperishable food items, paper products and cash. There is a particular need for gifts appropriate for older children and teens, such as clothing, sporting goods, makeup kits and gift cards.

All gifts should be new and unwrapped.

Past donors include the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, the Harris County Precinct 2 constable's office, American Legion Post 490 and numerous local businesses and individuals.

Local schools also play a large role in the drive. Past participating campuses include Atkinson, Moore, Stuchbery, South Belt and Frazier elementary schools, Melillo Middle School, Beverly Hills and Thompson intermediate schools and Dobie High School.

Past recipients include single-parent families and families suffering from unemployment and incarceration. Many past beneficiaries have reciprocated and later donated items themselves.

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.

Unlike in previous years, all recipients must apply in person, as online applications will no longer be accepted.

All applicants must undergo a screening process to determine the family's need. This is done through various means, including verification from school nurses. To qualify, one must be a South Belt area resident and possess one form of identification verifying their address.

To apply for assistance or to donate items to the drive, visit the Leader office, located at 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8, during normal business hours.

LULAC files lawsuit against city

Lawsuit challenges city's at-large districts

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) filed a federal lawsuit Monday, Dec. 5, demanding the discontinuation of at-large city council elections in Houston.

The lawsuit was filed in United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. LULAC asks the court to grant injunctive relief, through fair and open elections, to the city's more than one million Latinos from the continued denial of their civil rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

"LULAC says basta after generations of Latinos have endured deliberate and systematic discrimination for years through the good-old' boy system of the past controlled by a few," said Domingo Garcia, LULAC national president. "Latinos make up 44.5 percent of the city's population, yet we have only one Latino out of 16 positions on the city council that controls a \$5.7 billion annual budget. Our battle is against an outdated system that denies Latino taxpayers and their families their lawful participation deciding vital services, resources, jobs and investment this city makes. This action by LULAC ensures that Latinos can and will have a major voice in deciding Houston's future," added Garcia.

Specifically, the lawsuit names four Houston plaintiffs who ask the court to discontinue at-large elections for five members of the council who run citywide. The lawsuit seeks to provide for more equitable representation in the nation's

fourth largest city. "Houston is the only major city left Texas that lacks 100 percent single-member districts," said Ivan Sanchez, one of the plaintiffs. "LULAC believes we need to bring the city of Houston up to date, and modernize it politically, like other major Texas communities," he added. Another plaintiff is Anthony Rios who states, "Every major city in Texas has abolished at-large city council seats because they are discriminatory. It is time that Houston joins the future by providing fair representation to all of its citizens."

Sergio Lira is Houston LULAC's redistricting chair who states that at-large elections have historically favored the status quo and demographically dilute Latino voting strength. "Having just one Latino on the city council is an outcry," said Lira. "We need more equitable representation at a time when Latinos are building Houston with our labor, and our businesses are pumping in millions in tax dollars. Making this change is not a favor, rather a right we have earned. LULAC is here to claim that right and trusts that the federal court will agree," he said.

City of Houston Attorney Arturo G. Michel defended the city's current systems and said he predicts the city will be victorious in the lawsuit brought by LULAC.

"The city believes its system of 11 single-member districts with 5 at-large districts has benefited its residents," Michael said in a state-

Continued on Page 2

Beltway car fire extinguished



A car caught fire around 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the parking lot of a service station at Beltway 8 and Beamer. Firefighters from the nearby Station 70, located directly across the street, were quick to arrive at the scene and extinguish the blaze. No one appeared to be injured in the incident.

Photo by James Bolen

Meador fourth-graders put on show



Meador Elementary fourth-graders recently held their annual holiday program for the students and their parents. Meador faculty is proud of all their hard work and that of Meador's music teacher, Tracie Nair. Shown above are, left to right, the toy soldiers, Pablo Martinez, Gael Lopez, Maximus Hernandez, Oscar Barrera and Brycen Jones.



Shown above are the rag dolls (left to right) Imri Navarro, Arleth Garcia and Makayla Clemons with music teacher, Tracie Nair.



Shown above are hardworking actors Bryson Harris and Sam Nfor.

Deaths

John Moon Sr.



John H. Moon Sr. went to be with the Lord on Dec. 7, 2022. He was born on Aug. 19, 1937, in Van Buren, Ark. His dad was a minister and later a farmer. The family left Arkansas when John was 6 months old.

The family moved to Oklahoma, then Kansas, and then Robstown, Texas. John began his business career selling tomatoes for 25 cents a bag. When the opportunity came after school hours, he drove tractors and combines.

A strong work ethic was instilled in him and he advanced rapidly through school. He graduated from Robstown High School at the age of 16, enrolled in Delmar Jr. College and graduated with an associate degree. From there, he went to Texas A & I University, which later became Texas A & M University-Kingsville, where he majored in accounting and finance and received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with honors at the age of 20.

When he was 21, he passed the CPA exam to become the youngest CPA in Texas history.

John's extensive banking and business career began with Texas Eastern Transmission, Houston Research Center and then, Main Bank in Houston with then Houston Mayor Bob Lanier. He became part owner of Northeast Bank and full owner by the age of 33.

He purchased controlling interest in Pasadena National Bank. After he sold it, he was CEO of five other financial institutions before selling them and forming Moon Capital Corporation and Moon Credit Corporation. He was instrumental in the creation of Beltway 8 East and involved in the groundbreaking. John was also a lifetime member of the Texas Rangers.

John preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Alma Moon, and siblings.

John loved his family and his Lord, and his life was a testimony to that. John is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Rose Moon; sons John H. Moon Jr., and Randy Moon and wife Kim; grandchildren John H. Moon III and wife Vennessa, Lindsay Moon Poage and husband Carter, Donovan Moon and wife Julia, Ryan Moon and wife Lacy, and Kyle Moon and wife Calli; great-grandchildren Violet Poage, Lori Moon, Henry Moon, Iris Poage and Wilder Moon.

John's family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road. The service celebrating John's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at Sagenmont Church, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will be privately held at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Michael Gilliland Jr.



Michael Gilliland Jr. was called home peacefully with his praying hands on Dec. 7, 2022. He is preceded in death by his dad Michael Gilliland and grandparents Claudio Jo Gilliland, Julio Hernandez, Lillian Rose and Joe Horak. Michael is survived by his mother Betty Jean Horak Doyle, his siblings Michelle Turner Buchanan and Byron Clay Doyle, his sister-in-law Dora Doyle and his nephew Colton Davis Buchanan.

He is also survived by his uncles Daniel Horak, Mark Hernandez and Mark Horak as well as numerous other relatives and friends from near and far.

Michael was born in Houston on July 17, 1968. He grew up in Sagemont and graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School where he played football and was a loyal team member on the 1985 Dobie Longhorns 23-5A Regional Finalist team. He also played baseball at Sagemont Little League with Coach Tommy Bischoff. Michael loved life to the fullest and spent most of his time in the great outdoors hunting, fishing, camping and just enjoying time with his family and friends.

Michael was known as Mike, Big Mike, Big Red - just to name a few of his beloved nicknames. But most of all, he was known for his heart of gold, his big laughter and the most genuine friendships his family and friends will treasure for a lifetime.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Texas Wildlife Association, 6644 FM1102, New Braunfels, TX 78132 or Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 4384, Houston, TX 77210-4384.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022, a rosary followed by a brief visitation will be recited at 5 p.m., all held at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, Houston, Texas 77089. Rite of Committal will privately be held at Glenwood Cemetery in Houston.

Winter wonderland at Clear Brook



The inaugural Winter Wonderland, held Dec. 11 at Clear Brook City MUD Building, was a huge success, attracting hundreds of area residents. The brainchild of Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (who played Santa at the function), the event will replace the MUD's annual Family Fun Fest. Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado served as Mrs. Claus for the festivities, which was hosted by the CBCMUD with assistance from the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Sponsors for the event included Norton Rose Fulbright, Texas Pride Disposal Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, State Farm, Chicken Salad Chick, Sam's Club, D'lish Catering, Celeste's Cakes n More and Community Health Care Network. Exhibitors included Burleigh Chiropractic, Crazy Alan's Swamp Shack, Memorial Hermann Healthcare, CrossRoads Church, Welby Financial, Betty Walter (dog rescue) and the Snow Genie. CBCMUD Director Operations Dean Baier played a crucial role in the event's production. Shown above at the event are, left to right, Alesia Caldwell, chamber assistant; Susana Castillo, liaison for County Commissioner Adrian Garcia; Chris Clark, CBCMUD director; Precinct 2 Capt. Marcus Anderson as the Grinch; Mary Clark, wife of Chris Clark; and Cecelia Ganje, CBCMUD general manager who was in charge of the event. See related photo on Page 1.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Elected officials share their words

Yesterday, I toured the Battleship Texas hull repair project. We are protecting a true Texas monument. The dry dock (the only dry dock of this size on the Gulf Coast) will continue to sustain hundreds of maritime jobs after the Battleship is complete!

Sincerely,
Mayes Middleton
Senator-Elect, Senate District 11

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is located at 9002 Kingspoint. 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. Closed Sundays.

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m. Outdoors storytime for all ages. Plan to enjoy a good story at Bracewell in the fresh outdoors, weather permitting.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> for more library events.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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 - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

H-E-B hosts Santa

H-E-B Blackhawk, 9828 Blackhawk at Beltway 8, will host pictures with Santa Saturday, Dec. 17, from noon to 4 p.m. Cookies and punch will be served. Participants must provide their own camera.

Bay Area dance set

The Bay Area Singles monthly dance is Dec. 17, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Lodge, 5204 Highway 3, in Dickinson. All singles are invited. Bring party snacks to share. The event is free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information, call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

A TRULY ENCHANTING
HOLIDAY DESTINATION
NOVEMBER 19 - JANUARY 7

Holiday

IN THE
GARDENS

SAVE WITH A
HOLIDAY PASS

Nine Holiday Attractions • Hotel • One Venue

Create special memories as Galveston Island transitions to a Winter Wonder Island!

Festival of Lights • Ice Land • 3D Holiday Films • Rudolph 4D • Arctic Slide
Train Rides • Holiday Buffets • Breakfast with Santa • New Year's Palooza • Cirque Joyeux

Hotel Packages Available Now!

ICE LAND is back
with a cool island theme!



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DECEMBER 17 - 20

Save Big:
Value Days, Group Rates and Discounts.
Online Always: The best deals are always at www.moodygardens.org



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Hotel Reservations: 409-741-8484
MoodyGardens.org

LULAC sues Houston

Continued from Page 1
ment. "At-large council members are engaged in and advocate for district issues. The city held numerous hearings regarding redistricting and solicited alternative plans. Its goal included providing an equal opportunity for all voters to elect candidates of their choice, preserve communities of interest and avoid diluting the voting strength of any group of voters. The city expects that evidence presented in this lawsuit will support its adopted plan which is consistent with the City Charter."

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.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
*Also Available on Facebook Live	
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
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair



Praise Chapel
Loving People Back To Life



Some of the greatest music and singing you will ever hear!

A Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 18th
at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
A Musical with Zion Sound
Pastor Roy Love has prepared an exciting Christmas message for the whole family.

Save the Date Candle Light Service

Saturday, December 24th
5p.m. - 6 p.m.
Outstanding music & singing
Bring a friend
Communion will be served

Save the Date

A Special Church Service

Sunday, December 25th, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
This will be a service you will not want to miss.
Special singing & lots of joy!

Save the Date

Sunday, January 1st, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

What will happen in 2023?
Join us for a New Year service with noted author and revivalist
Dr. Tim Hill

18516 HWY 3 Webster, TX

praisechapelhouston.com

Moore students honor armed forces with performance



Moore Elementary third-graders recently performed a "Salute to America" program for students and families. Armed services members from the past and present were honored during the program.

Shown at left, left to right, are (first row) Alexia Lozano; Emiliano Saldaña; Melanie Lopez; Mateo Vazquez; (second row) Giovanni Hernandez; Antonio Aguirre; Elena Martinez; Miah Nolasco; Evelyn Falcon (third row); Sheryl Munn, music teacher; Hector Gomez; Amelia Gomez; David Gloria; Ana Villarreal; Cindy Montemayor, classroom teacher; (fourth row) Allyson Moreira-Salas; Dylan Romero; Patricia Jimenez; Thiago Ortiz; Luciana Jaramillo; and King Dozier.

Photo by Guadalupe Hudson

D'Armata earns bachelor's

Not every college student knows what they want to do when they graduate, but for Gaspar D'Armata (shown at right), the decision was always clear—he wanted to get a degree in communication so he could use his skills to help others.

D'Armata transferred to University of Houston-Clear Lake from San Jacinto College and received his Bachelor of Arts in communication as part of the fall Class of 2022, Dec. 10. "I chose to come to UHCL because I knew a lot of people who came here," he said. "Most of my classes were able to help me in terms of accessibility for my disability."

Born very prematurely as one of a set of twins, D'Armata suffered from lack of oxygen to his brain at birth, resulting in a mobility issue as well as other health challenges.

He did not let any of that stop him from achieving his goal. "I am not special," he said. "I believe in God, and discipline is the key. I am not an expert or anything, I just never give up. I am someone who walks by faith. I try to be better every day."

He added that there are lots of people with disabilities of

all kinds. "They might think they are the only one who's going through it, but if you are the voice that believes in yourself, and you are ready to do the work, then you will make things happen."

He said his career goal was to use his communication and interpersonal skills to become a recruiter for a company. "I'm social and outgoing, and when you're a recruiter you can make connections and help people get to their professional goal," he said. "But my ultimate dream job is to be a motivational speaker. I would like to tell my story to impact people."

Everyone has challenges and problems, he said. "We all need help sometimes. I would say, some scenarios are more difficult than others, but it's your mindset and your attitude that will determine the outcome of what you're trying to achieve."

Without God and his family, D'Armata said he would not be the person he is. Each day, he says he just focuses on getting where he's going.

"I use a walker to help me walk, but there's nothing else wrong with me, and there's nothing preventing me from doing what I want to do," he explained. "I think the question is, how can we make things more accessible? There are physical challenges we can't change, but how can we find a way to work it out? Using resources well, and knowing that everyone needs help some-



times is a way to keep from feeling sorry for yourself."

He has worked as a student administrative assistant in the College of Human Sciences and Humanities, and did an internship with the Institute for Human and Planetary Sustainability last summer. He said now that he's graduating, he's been applying for jobs and waiting for his opportunity.

"It took me awhile to realize I can't ever do everything on my own, but I can be patient, rely on others, and learn to adapt to the situation," he said. "It might take longer, but I will find a way. I think we all have some difficulties in life, but in every challenge we face, there is an opportunity to learn and show how much we are capable of."

For more information about UHCL's communication program in the College of Human Sciences and Humanities, visit www.uhcl.edu/human-sciences-humanities/departments-communication-studio-arts-communication/.

Dobie's Toys for Tots successful



The Dobie Cheer team enjoyed the season with their holiday party as well as support for the Toys for Tots program. Pictured above are Dobie seniors, from left to right, (front row) Leilani Moorman, Giselle Valencia, (back row) Isabella Lara, Yahir Tovar, Destiny Ramirez, Eduardo Avilez and Sarah Salazar.

UHCL expands mental health program

Counseling Services at University of Houston-Clear Lake has been selected to receive a grant to expand their outreach programs to students, faculty and staff on recognizing the signs of mental health issues, connecting to resources, preventing poor mental health outcomes, and most importantly, ensuring student retention and success.

The Student Success Acceleration Program Implementation Grant, in the amount of \$132,695, will fund a proposal that aims to create a research-based program that ultimately supports students' persistence in remaining enrolled in college until completion.

Counseling Services Executive Director Cindy Cook said one area that supports students' persistence to completion is mental health. "We have proposed to design our own version of mental health awareness training," she said.

"With this grant, we are going to design a program specifically for our own cam-

pus," she said. "This goes along with our belief that when students come to receive services in our office, they say it helps them remain in school."

That means, for students who come to therapy, the retention rate is higher."

Cook said that for the past four years, UHCL Counseling Services and the College of Education have been providing mental health first aid training to students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the community, through a Mental Health Awareness Training grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. After training more than 1,200 people, the grant ended.

"This grant allows us to customize the content and address the specific populations at UHCL," she said. "Developing a more targeted program in a shorter format with local data and resources will ensure sustainability and allow us to have a broader impact on student mental

health."

The program would allow mental health professionals in Counseling Services to reach students through regular classes lasting two-three hours.

The previous Mental Health First Aid program satisfied the Texas Education Agency's requirement for all teacher candidates to have mental health awareness training.

"It's our goal to ensure this program will meet that requirement as well," said Cook.

"It's our hope to get more faculty and staff involved. They are the ones to recognize students who are struggling in classrooms. It would be free to participants. The grant covers the cost of us developing the program, which would include videos highlighting what to look for and how to intervene."

Additionally, Cook said the grant provided funding for gun locks and pill bottle locks that can be available to students to add one more

layer of suicide prevention. "For students who are suicidal, these can slow down what might be an impulse action. If a student's suicide plan is to take pills, then the pill bottle lock could slow them down long enough to help them think about what they're doing."

Creating and implementing the program makes her feel hopeful, Cook said.

"We are not the first person who notices someone struggling. It will be a professor, a classmate, or someone else. Most people go to therapy because someone else suggested it. We are hoping to build a campus culture where there is no stigma around receiving counseling services," she said.

A multidisciplinary team of mental health professionals, faculty, marketing and design professionals and researchers will produce this curriculum by summer 2023 and implement the early stages of the training by fall 2023.

Frazier honor roll

Frazier Elementary recently awarded its honor roll students for the first nine weeks of the 2022-2023 school year.

Third grade
Yarieli Aguilar, Abel Dominguez, Lauren Hinojosa, Luke Nguyen, Luke Stephens and Nicholas Wiseburn Williams.

Fourth grade
Nathalia Candelaria, Lizzy Castellanos-Ortiz, Lujze Irizarry, Gibson Kudrle, Roy Thomas and Jayden Turcios.

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Thompson Dance spread cheer



Thompson Intermediate Dance team recently displayed its Lion Pride at the City of Pasadena's annual lighted parade. The area campus is currently celebrating its yearly 12 Days of Christmas program, in which students observe a different theme each day before the upcoming holiday break.

CBHS debate qualifies as best in district

Clear Brook Speech and Debate had a busy November and December beginning by the hosting of their own meet at the start of November. Thereafter, the team has been busy picking up more points and state qualifications — at Katy Taylor High School on Nov. 10-12 and at Tompkins/Clear Lake on Dec 2-3. Their successes have been numerous.

Beginning with their success at Katy Taylor in November, the team returned home with 17 additional state points, largely garnered by the World Schools Debate team consisting of Maha Majid, Simran Lama, Qaswa Khan and Daniela Paul.

The team placed third overall at the meet. One additional point was picked up by teammate and Informative Speaker Jasmine Tran who placed sixth overall. Novice member Stephen Wiggins also made it to the finals bracket in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking where he placed fifth.

Team members who fought their way into the semifinals bracket in their respective events were Greg Stuart, Safiya Rafiq, Stella Smith, Gwen Attanasio, Isabella Tripoli, Jolina Nguyen and Danetta Paul.

After a much-needed and well-deserved holiday break, the team returned to attend two

meets in Katy, both the same weekend. Tompkins High School hosted meets for their own school and Clear Lake High School. At this meet, the team secured five additional qualifiers for their impressive calendar year total of thirteen — the best in the district. These new qualifiers are Qaswa Khan, Simran Lama and Maha Majid who placed third overall in World Schools Debate with the

help of their varsity teammates Ava Soza and Daniela Paul. Additionally, Informative Speaker Jasmine Tran took home the first place trophy at Tompkins to earn her state qualification and Ayla Yoakum also picked up her qualification by placing first at Tompkins and third at Clear Lake in Program of Oral Interpretation. Member Greg Stuart fought his way to the finals bracket at both meets in Domestic Ex-

temporaneous Speaking where he picked up two points toward his state goal.

To round out the winners brackets this past weekend, Prose Speaker Moyin Animashaun took home the fourth place trophy in her event while novice member Alim Merchant took home third in Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

Additional members who made it to the semifinals bracket here, as well, before being

eliminated were Claire Mayfield, Merab Saim, Hareem Tariq and Isabella Tripoli.

The team looks forward to a few weeks off before heading to Elsie High School during the first weekend of January to continue their quest for their best and more state qualifications. The team total is now 13 with a cumulative point total of almost 200 — more than double any other CCISD campus.



Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Kayanath Chowdhury, Elaina Joseph, Greg Stuart, Anthony Van, (middle row) Elianna Vasquez, Emily Joseph, Helena Simpton, Danetta Paul, Jasmine Tran, Jolina Nguyen, Kelyn Tran, (back row) Matilda Rice, Layton Stansell, Stephen Wiggins, Gwen Attanasio, Isabella Tripoli, Rich Vo, Harris Babar, Alim Merchant, Moyin Animashaun and Safiya Rafiq.

Thompson names students of the month



Thompson Intermediate recently recognized their Student of the Month recipients for October 2022. Shown above, left to right, are seventh-graders Isaiah Haywood and Saja Wall, and eighth-graders Dakari Parker and Sophia Saucedo.

Photo submitted

Beverly Hills Intermediate hosts food drive



Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Joseline Perales, Alexis Hernandez, Yaritza Luna, Damien Gutierrez, Javanni Capuchino, Victoria Vu, (middle row) Lluvia Adan, Yahir Torres, Gio Aluear, Jason Jasso, Sasha Cepeda, Rey Rivera, Dr. Grant Pector, (back row) Andrew Banks, Camilla Franco, Helen Hernandez, Johnny Nguyen and Robert Villatoro. These BHI students volunteered to assist with the food drive in conjunction with the Leader's Christmas drive, collecting 1,249 donations in total.

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)

With an overwhelming 41-10 vote, membership of the local Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League adopted the Pony-Colt organization for the teenage boys in the area.

The Dobie Freshman "A" football team won first place in district with a 16-12 win against South Houston. They finished the season with a 9-1 mark.

40 years ago (1982)

Piloting an interscholastic league soccer program at Dobie High School was unofficially approved by Pasadena trustees in a regular meeting.

Joey Moore was suspended from Dobie for refusing to take off two small earrings he wore on his left ear.

35 years ago (1987)

Sixteen-year-old Dobie honors student Lamont Roberts was back in class after being acquitted of murder in the shooting death of his father, 42-year-old Benny Roberts, a state trooper.

Martha Marie Preston, 38, was arrested following a federal indictment naming her as a kingpin of a ring that supplied 60 percent of the "crack" cocaine sold in the Houston area.

30 years ago (1992)

Three more Brio-related lawsuits involving 63 plaintiffs were filed. All three seek intervention in the Acosta case of the 151st District Court where initial settlements were agreed to earlier in the year.

Clear Creek third- and seventh-graders were well above state averages on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills while students in the Pasadena school district scored below the state averages in every subject.

25 years ago (1997)

The \$24 million AMC 30-screen theater at the intersection of the South Belt and I-45 opened.

Dobie senior Kenneth Okwuonu was selected as the varsity football team's Most Valuable Player at the football banquet.

20 years ago (2002)

The Leader held its annual food and toy drive for needy families in the area. Schools donating to the drive were Frazier Elementary, Beverly

Hills Intermediate and Moore Elementary. Other members of the South Belt community also donated money, food and toys.

Edward Arledge, former head coach at Cleveland High School, was named head football coach at Clear Brook.

15 years ago (2007)

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees named Marshall Kendrick its president. Kendrick replaced Nelda Sullivan, who had served in the position since 2005.

Sullivan, however, remained a member of the board. While such appointments usually coincide with board elections, the issue was brought up as an agenda item at the board's monthly meeting.

An unidentified man was fatally shot at an apartment complex in the 12000 block of Sabo. According to Houston police officials, there were

no immediate suspects or motives in the case.

Local author Carlos Salazar published "Sagewillow," a novel inspired by events that took place on the area street. Salazar, 22, was born in Honduras before moving to Houston at the age of 6. He graduated from South Houston High in 2004 and attended San Jacinto College South, where he was an English major.

Mike Sullivan won the Houston District E City Council seat formerly held by Addie Wiseman in a runoff against Annette Dwyer. The At-large Position 5 formerly held by Michael Berry was won by Jolanda Jones. Wanda Adams defeated Lawrence Allen Jr. for the District D seat. While South Belt residents were ineligible to vote in that race, Adams had worked extensively in the community on Super

Neighborhood projects.

A disaster relief bank account was set up to aid victims of the fire that destroyed two Sagemeadow homes on Dec. 5. An account was set up at Pearland Furniture so community members could help families replace items lost in the blaze.

10 years ago (2012)

The City of Pearland held a grand opening for the Hughes Road extension to Barry Rose. Construction was a joint venture involving Harris County, the City of Pearland, Holcomb Properties and Beazer Homes.

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved two new assistant principals for J. Frank Dobie High School. Carey Sink and Tonie Noise were to take their positions at the school following the Christmas holidays.

5 years ago (2017)

A man accused of imper-

sonating a police officer in order to rob multiple pharmacies across the Greater Houston area, including two in the immediate South Belt community, was arrested.

Travis Lee Wilson, 32, was accused of targeting the CVS pharmacy in the 10900 block of Scarsdale near Beamer and the H-E-B pharmacy in the 9800 block of Blackhawk at Beltway 8, both on Monday, Nov. 27. He was also suspected in robbing a Walgreens pharmacy located in the 2100 block FM 2920 in Spring; the Edgewood Pharmacy at 120 S. Friendswood Drive in Friendswood; and a Kroger pharmacy at 12000 Highway 6 in Missouri City.

Christmas came early for South Belt residents when the community received unexpected snowfall late Thursday, Dec. 7 and early Friday,

Dec. 8. Some areas reported receiving as much as 5 inches of snow.

1 year ago (2021)

An alteration at a convenience store in the 9200 block of Nathaniel led to a shooting Tuesday, Dec. 7. The victim was subsequently transported to the hospital via a private car in critical condition. No immediate arrests were made.

Filing to appear on the 2022 primary ballot ended Monday, Dec. 13, with a couple of last-minute surprises. George Risner, who currently serves as Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 justice of the peace, filed to challenge Adrian Garcia for the Democratic nomination to serve as Precinct 2 county commissioner. On the Republican side of the aisle, longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell, who currently serves as president of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, filed to fill the state Senate District 11 seat being vacated by Larry Taylor.

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KENNEDY!

Kennedy Flowers celebrates a birthday Thursday, Dec. 15. Best wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent from brother Owen; sister Evie; parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (former longtime 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.

LUCY ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Lucy Peterson celebrates a birthday Monday, Dec. 19. She is wished a wonderful day from her family, especially her nine grandchildren; all her friends; and her former co-workers at the South Belt Leader.

JOEY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Joseph "Joey" Hayes celebrates his birthday Wednesday, Dec. 21. Best wishes and lots of love are sent from mom and dad, Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents; sister Jenny (Hayes) and Josh Laney and children Brayden, Baylee and Olivia; sister Stacey (Hayes) and husband Stephen Flowers and children Kennedy, Owen and Evie; brother Austin Scarberry and

daughters Jade and Lily; and brother Tyler Scarberry. Joey was a member of the Dobie High School Class of 2000 and the Longhorn Marching Band.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 15 through Dec. 21.

Frazier Elementary

Dec. 19 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for Alicia Tucker.

Meador Elementary

Enjoying a birthday Dec. 17 are Omega Pena and Katia Garcia. The day for a celebration for Jill Gifford is Dec. 18. Blow out the birthday candles for Lanalisa Sinclair Dec. 20.

Moore Elementary

Light the birthday candles Dec. 15 for Bobbie Bashinski. Marie Alanis marks a birthday Dec. 18. Light the birthday candles Dec. 20 for Erica Villarreal.

South Belt Elementary

Dec. 20 is the day for a celebration for Roneasha Reliford.

Melillo Middle School

Dec. 15 is the day for a birthday celebration for Sheri Richardson.

Roberts Middle School

Give a birthday shoutout Dec. 19 to Charlotte Godley.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Dec. 15 is the day for a party for Velia Grado-Gutierrez. Send a warm birthday greet-

ing to Geraldine Jones Dec. 18. Mai Tram Tong celebrates a birthday Dec. 20. Dec. 21 is the day for a party for Jamie Green.

Thompson Intermediate

Remember to wish Fani Agüero a happy birthday Dec. 15. Sing a birthday song to Shay Arnold Dec. 20.

Dobie High

Dec. 15 is the day for a birthday celebration for Matthew Park.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, Dec. 15: Cheryl Park, Ryan Rushing and Rita Tornaben. Friday, Dec. 16: Kamisha Dennis, Tamara Spencer and Adam Garcia Sr.; Saturday, Dec. 17: Joy Warneke, Dawn Watkins-Swain and Jabari Dobson; Sunday, Dec. 18: Jackie Klayman, Damen Polleck, John O'Connor and Felicia Sharp; Monday, Dec. 19: Randy Tenorio, Beckie Davidson, Kim Jones and Rene Gomez; Tuesday, Dec. 20: Sally Esquivel, Lisa West and Michelle Gerbich; Wednesday, Dec. 21: Jimmy Thomas, Patricia O'Brien, Scott Louvier, Helen White, Christopher Lewis, Jeana Pierce, Ruth Fischer, Tara Garven and Crystal Billeri.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie at Mavs Dec. 20

22-6A boys' basketball race features contenders aplenty

The Dobie varsity boys' basketball team will open defense of its 2021-2022 District 22-6A championship Dec. 20 at Pasadena Memorial as the playoff race has shaped up to one of the region's most competitive from top to bottom.

Even as seemingly the entire 22-6A lineup of varsity boys' basketball teams has produced winning records on the court midway through the season, the locals have every intention of retaining what is theirs as the race gets started Dec. 20.

The Longhorns put together one of the best-ever runs in league play a season ago, going a perfect 12-0 to win the program's first Class 6A title before a bidistrict playoff loss to C.E. King.

With eight players back in the fold this season, the Longhorns have every intention of repeating as champions, yet the road to said championship could be as challenging as ever.

Dobie's primary competition? Got a dart board?

In other words, the options are aplenty, and that's no knock on the Longhorns.

Predistrict records can be tricky to get a read on given the usual varying strength of schedules.

As of Dec. 8, the Longhorns were at 8-9 overall, boasting a win over 4A state-ranked Silsbee (TABChoops.com) but losing to 6A No. 2 North Crowley, No. 6 Beaumont United and No. 13 Dawson as well as 5A No. 18 Barbers Hill.

And while the Longhorns have experienced up-and-down results in conjunction with a tough schedule, District 22-6A foe Pasadena ripped off 10 straight wins at one point en route to a 13-1 start.

The Eagles, just two seasons removed from their own 22-6A crown, got the ball bouncing by

grabbing the Division 2 silver bracket championship at the McDonald's Texas Invitational before Thanksgiving and then won the overall tournament crown at the Nederland Classic.

The biggest boon in the Eagles' favor? They believe they are going to win every time they take the floor.

Dobie won't face Pasadena until January 23 as the Longhorns' lone 22-6A battle on the 2022 side is Dec. 20 at Memorial.

Even as the Eagles have started the season red-hot in nondistrict play, they are

Continued on Page 6

At right, Dobie senior forward Jaden Shanklin (13) was part of last season's 22-6A champion varsity boys' basketball squad and now leads the Longhorns' repeat hopes along with seven other returnees. Dobie opens league play Dec. 20 at Memorial as the race to the playoffs begins. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Girls' basketball races get started

Defending District 24-6A champion Clear Brook is looking every bit the frontrunner in the varsity girls' basketball race with an 11-6 overall mark prior to its league opener against Clear Falls Dec. 13 after press time.

Meanwhile, varsity girls' 22-6A two-time champion Dobie figured to have its mettle tested early with a Dec. 13 league game against Deer Park, also after press time.

While Deer Park has won 15 of 18 overall games to start the season, Dobie was at 3-11 following a Dec. 9 loss to Manvel.



The Longhorns will play at Pasadena Dec. 16 before taking on Memorial Dec. 20 at home.

At Clear Brook, the Lady Wolverines continue to be led by the sophomore trio of Rezia Castillo, Kamryn McLaurin and Chardel Terrell, with all three players averaging double-figure scoring through nondistrict play.

Entering the 24-6A race, just three programs including Dickinson (11-5), Clear Brook (11-6) and Clear Creek (9-6) had winning records.

Clear Brook is at Brazoswood Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., and will then host Clear Lake Dec. 20, featuring a 1 p.m. varsity start time.

The Wolverines went undefeated in league play for the school's first Class 6A district title a season ago.

More than 30 overall wins and an area playoff round appearance resulted, and now the program has continued its momentum.

The makeup of the roster has changed some, but the expectations remain high.

Dobie's Trinity Maxwell (left, with ball) and her Longhorn teammates will aim to pick up their pace with the start of 22-6A play.

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Kramer, Moreno Jr. earn TTCA honors



The past reconnected with the present Dec. 9 at the Texas Tennis Coaches Association's annual conference and awards extravaganza in Marble Falls as honorees Manuel Moreno Jr., Dobie current head tennis coach, met with former longtime Longhorn head tennis coach Bobby Kramer. In above photo, Moreno (left) chats with Kramer, a TTCA Class of 2022 Hall of Fame inductee. Kramer, the Longhorns' head coach from 1977 to 1995, was a Class of 2017 Dobie Hall of Honor inductee. He led the school's varsity girls to five consecutive district team tennis championships from 1983 to 1987, with both the girls' and boys' squads winning team tennis league titles from 1985 to 1987. In photo at right, Moreno was joined by Phillip Farmer (left), who was at the convention as a clinician and guest speaker after Moreno accepted the TTCA's Brandon Clark Courage Award.

The Longhorn boys, eyeing a ninth consecutive district championship in 2023, are set to scrimmage at Katy ISD's Jordan High School Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

As for the regular season, the Longhorns will return to Katy, taking on Morton Ranch Jan. 3, 2023, at Legacy Stadium. Varsity match time is 7:30 p.m. as two Region III powers clash.

The Dobie boys are also looking forward to the 2023 PISD Cup, with matches against Fort Bend Bush Jan. 5, Goose Creek Memorial Jan. 6 and Waltrip Jan. 7.

The Dobie girls' program, which has been under the leadership of first-year head coach Xanthe Sanchez, will scrimmage at Crosby Dec. 20 in a final tuneup prior to opening the regular season Jan. 2 at Northbrook, at 5 p.m.

Scrimmages await Dobie boys', girls' soccer

The Dobie boys' and girls' soccer programs have a remaining scrim-

mage date prior to opening the 2023 regular season post New Year's celebrations.

The Longhorn boys, eyeing a ninth consecutive district championship in 2023, are set to scrimmage at Katy ISD's Jordan High School Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

As for the regular season, the Longhorns will return to Katy, taking on Morton Ranch Jan. 3, 2023, at Legacy Stadium. Varsity match time is 7:30 p.m. as two Region III powers clash.

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The Longhorn varsity girls will play in the Port Neches-Groves Invitational Jan. 13-14 against to-be-determined foes.

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JFD Soccer Scrimmages

Dobie boys at Katy Jordan
Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Dobie girls at Crosby
Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Season Opens
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Dobie girls at Northbrook
Jan. 2, 5 p.m.

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Dickinson boys will defend

24-6A boys' basketball playoff hunt could be one for ages

It's going to be a day filled with huge implications as a trio of 1 p.m. tipoffs on Dec. 20 serve to start a District 24-6A varsity boys' basketball

race that could be one of the most competitive the league has seen.

24-6A Boys' Basketball (Through Dec. 12 Games)

Clear Lake	14-6
Dickinson	10-6
Clear Falls	8-3
Clear Springs	8-5
Clear Creek	9-10
Clear Brook	7-8
Brazoswood	3-13

Dec. 20 Games
 Clear Brook at Clear Lake, 1 p.m.
 Dickinson at Clear Falls, 1 p.m.
 Clear Springs at Brazoswood, 1 p.m.

Numerous 22-6A squads line up in basketball race

Continued from Page 5 far from the only varsity boys' basketball squad enjoying plenty of success midway through the regular season. Deer Park is another title contender based on its 14-5 season. The Deer won the Tulo-Midway tournament Dec. 8-10 as Josh Anderson scored tournament Most Valuable Player honors and Andrew Aguilar and Malachi Martinez Miller landed on the All-Tournament squad. Deer Park won the crown by topping Vandergrift 60-56. South Houston has also gotten out of the gate with plenty of confidence at

10-4 through nondistrict play. On Dec. 12, the Trojans crushed Wisdom as Josh Larry and Joseph Buckner both had 23 points, with teammate Jordan Buckner at 22 in the game. The Memorial Mavericks are also rolling into district play ahead of its opener against Dobie with big man Robert Miller standing out as expected. The Mavericks are at 11-5 and playing great basketball, as is the rest of the league. Dobie is the champion until proven otherwise, but the race for a playoff berth is certainly looking as though it could be a tough one to win.

Defending 24-6A champion Dickinson will take on Clear Falls Dec. 20 as part of a 24-6A opening day slate that also includes Clear Brook at Clear Lake and Brazoswood hosting Clear Springs. Clear Creek, 9-8 to start the season, draws the bye date.

With only 12 games in all to decide hierarchy in the league, each outing will hold huge implications, and it all starts Dec. 20.

The Dickinson Gators entered the season with a state ranking and have played up to their reputation of late.

Playing in the opening round of the Cy Hoops Invitational Dec. 8, the Gators got a game-high 23 points and five rebounds from Zyon Little and 22 points, six steals and four rebounds from junior Qasim Boyd.

Little, who competed at Clear Brook as a freshman at the varsity level, is in the midst of his best season with the Gators, while Boyd has been one of the area's top scorers at more than 28 points per game.

Keithon Leach, a sophomore, is also averaging in double-figure scoring for the Gators, who reeled off four straight wins at one point to get to 7-5 overall. Dickinson, a regional quarterfinalist at 33-4 a season ago, won the District 24-6A crown with an 11-1 record and has shown few signs of letting up as the race gets underway, and then there is Clear Falls.

The Knights used a furious late-season charge a season ago to ultimately grab second place with an 89-79 victory over the Wolverines.

Falls' Corey Kelly and Orlando Horton Jr. both had 20 points in that win over the Wolverines and have combined to lead the way to eight wins in 10 starts this season.

Horton was named Most Valuable Player at the Dec. 1-3 Carlisle/Krueger Classic, hosted by Clear Creek ISD, leading the Knights to four straight wins in the tournament.

Kelly was also named to the All-Tournament squad as the Knights defeated Clements for the gold bracket champion-

ship. Now, it's the Knights and Gators to open the 2022-2023 race Dec. 20. Dickinson is working on a 24-6A win streak of 11 games, overcoming a loss to Clear Brook in last season's opening game to run away from the field.

While Falls and Dickinson will clash on opening day in a pairing of teams that finished 1-2 last season, Clear Brook, 8-4 for third place in 2021-2022, will visit the Clear Lake Falcons at Krueger Field House.

The Wolverines won the 24-6A crown two seasons ago and have gone 18-6 overall in league play over the two seasons.

While the Wolverines' roster was overhauled in the offseason with Ja'Michael Young, Triston Lisbony and Broderick Jackson as the primary returnees, the team has been around the .500 mark to this point and has every intention of grabbing a fourth straight playoff berth.

Clear Lake, meanwhile, won 23 overall games a season ago but stumbled to a 4-8 finish within 24-6A play for sixth place in

the seven-team field. Clear Lake ran into quite a bit of tough competition at the Dec. 8-10

Pflugerville Holiday Classic, but with nondistrict games coming against Klein Collins and Dawson

before the 24-6A opener against Clear Brook. But in getting what head coach Tommy Pend-

ers termed the program's best win of the season, the Falcons topped state-ranked Class 5A Killeen Ellison 65-62 in the Pflugerville event opener as Ethan Landers and Erik Villarreal both pumped in 21 points.

The Falcons grew to rely heavily on the scoring punch of Alex Lee a season ago but have been a bunch more versatile this season as players such as Landers, Villarreal and Jerick Guidry, with Villarreal snagging All-Tournament team honors at the Carlisle/Krueger Classic.

With 14 wins to date, the Falcons are well on their way to another 20-plus win season, and this 2022-2023 bunch seems positioned to bounce back from last season's disappointing 4-8 district run.

With quality wins over North Shore, Strake Jesuit and others, the Clear Springs outfit is yet another looking to do damage in District 24-6A play.

The Knights won eight of 13 overall games prior to press time Dec. 12, and certainly have what it takes to compete and win on a nightly basis in the league.

Ricky Young and Romulus Caroselli have come up big for the Knights of late, and head coach Chris Hairfield will have his team ready to go when it opens 24-6A play Dec. 20 at Brazoswood.

Speaking of Brazoswood, the Bucs are one of just two squads entering league play with a losing record, but the Bucs will nonetheless be looking to pull out an upset here and there.

Senior Colton Naquin has averaged nearly 16 points per game to lead the Bucs.



Tristan Lisbony (2) has provided solid play at guard for a Clear Brook varsity boys' program that will begin its quest for a fourth consecutive playoff berth as the District 24-6A race starts Dec. 20 with the Wolverines at Clear Lake. Photo by Andy Tolbert



Elijah McNeil (4) and the Pasadena Eagles' varsity boys' basketball team reeled off 10 straight wins as part of a 13-1 overall start through a month of the season, thrusting the group squarely in the mix for the District 22-6A championship, which currently belongs to Dobie. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

22-6A Boys' Basketball (Through Dec. 12 Games)

Pasadena	14-1
Deer Park	14-5
Memorial	11-5
S. Houston	10-4
Channelview	7-6
Dobie	8-9
Sam Rayburn	4-11

Dec. 20 Games
 Dobie at Memorial, 1 p.m.
 Deer Park at Pasadena, 1 p.m.
 S. Houston at Channelview, 7 p.m.

LSA's Robbins nets rebound mark in win



Junior Makynna Robbins improved her own school record with 24 rebounds in a single game as the Lutheran South Academy varsity girls' basketball team cruised to an 89-54 district win over Frassati Catholic Dec. 9. Robbins also had a game-high 33 points for the Pioneers.

Melillo Middle School students excel at Jingle Bell Run



Melillo Middle School hosted its annual Jingle Bell Run, honoring students who excelled in the holiday season-themed event. Those recognized included, left to right, (front row) Prince Hubbard (sixth-grade boys' second place), Jada Lasker (sixth-grade girls' first place), Hannah Harmouche (sixth-grade girls' second place), (back row) Robert Pheister (sixth-grade boys' first place), principal Diane Wheeler, Aiden Padilla (fifth-grade boys' first place), Robert Capers (fifth-grade boys' second place), Kobe Rodriguez (fifth-grade girls' first place) and Melanie Chavez (fifth-grade girls' second place).

Coach Sho to return to TAMU as MSU leader

At right, the Michigan State University softball program has announced its 2023 schedule as Dobie High School graduate and first-year Spartans' head coach Sharonda McDonald Kelley will lead her team into opening weekend action at the Texas A&M University Invitational in College Station Feb. 10-12. McDonald, a one-time star player at Texas A&M during her collegiate career, took over the Michigan State University program just after the end of the 2022 season after previously leading the program at Campbell University. For 2023, Michigan State will feature senior first baseman Camryn Wincher, who played three varsity seasons at Dobie. As a junior, Wincher hit a team-high .331 with 51 total hits.



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon **(AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets at 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com for details.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/>.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - For adults who have lost a loved one. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19
10 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment.
10:30 a.m. **TRIAD** - Meets at 1700 East Thomas St., in Pasadena. No December meeting. Meetings teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud, etc. Police officers and sheriffs may attend. Call 713-477-0175.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Different dance lessons each month. Call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
2 p.m. **The National Active and Retired Federal Employees** - NARFE Chapter 941 meets at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Call 713-734-1461 or 281-464-9708.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Carmelites** - meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real. Call 713-444-6744.
10 a.m. **The Community Club** - meets at Pappa Yolks Grill, 5824 Spencer Highway. For details, email jmopry@yahoo.com.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at 1001 E. League City Parkway. Call 281-554-1180.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

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Dobie varsity girls' standout Karen Hernandez could very well be a top-scoring threat for the Longhorns' varsity girls' soccer team as she returns in 2023 after first team All-District honors a season ago. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobie Girls' Soccer 2023 Varsity Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec. 10	Clear Creek scrimm.	10 a.m.
Dec. 13	North Shore scrimm. (PISD)	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	at Crosby scrimm.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 2	at Northbrook	5 p.m.
Jan. 5-7	at Angleton tourn.	TBA
Jan. 13-14	at Port Neches tourn.	TBA
Jan. 19	at La Porte	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	*Deer Park (PISD)	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	*Pasadena (SJC South)	7 p.m.
Jan. 31	*Pas. Memorial (PISD)	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	*at Channelview	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	*Rayburn (PISD)	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	*S. Houston (SJC South)	7 p.m.
Feb. 17	*at Deer Park	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	*Pasadena (PISD)	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	*Pas. Memorial (PISD)	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 27	*Channelview (PISD)	5:30 p.m.
March 3	*Rayburn (PISD)	8:30 p.m.
March 6	*S. Houston (PISD)	7:30 p.m.

*22-6A matches



Aylin Reyes (5) returns in 2023 as she looks to build on her career with the Dobie varsity girls' soccer program, which included District 22-6A first team all-league honors as a sophomore.

Brown a freshman at Okla. Christian



Dobie Class of 2022 graduate Kendall Brown has seen some early court time at Oklahoma Christian University as a member of the women's basketball program in Oklahoma City. The Eagles were winless through seven games thus far in the 2022 portion of the schedule, yet hoping to pick up the pace as Lone Star Conference play nears. Brown, a three-year varsity performer at Dobie and a 22-6A All-District first team performer as a senior, has played just more than six minutes per game to this point for the Eagles, making three of seven shots. Oklahoma Christian is an NCAA Division II program.

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All-District honors go to Lutheran South Academy football players

Hunter Teichman light Lutheran South named Freshman of the er Matthew Furness was Savell and receiver Jaylin linebacks Cole Noack and Furness. Defensive linemen Colin Fox and Kris St. Clair were also second-team selections. As a team, the Pioneers were 5-5 overall in 2022, taking fourth in the district before a first-round playoff loss to Regents.



Lutheran South Academy linebacker Matthew Furness was one of several Pioneer varsity football players who earned All-District accolades following the 2022 campaign. LSA went 5-5 overall in the regular season.

er Matthew Furness was named the league's New-comer of the Year. With Teichman earning first-team honors, the Pioneers also had offensive lineman Bradyn Reynolds, running back Wesley Willingham, running back Jaxson Oliver, tight end Ethan

Southbelt Little League baseball signup is online through Jan. 6

The Southbelt Little League is currently accepting online registration for youths ages 3 through 16 for competition in the spring 2023 season at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park. The registration fee is \$150 per player, in addition to a \$75 prepayment for the league's raffle ticket fundraiser. There is also a \$100 nonvolunteer fee due at registration. With registration, players receive a uniform consisting of a hat, belt, socks, pants and team jersey. Those in the junior/senior leagues will be responsible for their own pants' purchase. League officials have planned a 14-game schedule, with games currently slated to begin the week of February 20. The sign-up session online will run through Jan. 6, 2023, and late registration will cost more. The divisions available include instructional T-ball (new 3-5s) T-ball (experienced 5-6s) coach pitch (7-8s), peewee (all 9s, new 10s), minor (experienced 10s, 11s), major (all 12s), junior and senior (13 to 16). For additional information about the league and to register, visit www.southbeltll.org.

San Jac baseball tops nation's picks

San Jacinto College head baseball coach Tom Arrington made a promise to prospective recruits long ago that he's obviously kept. Now in his 23rd season with more than 900 career wins, Arrington began to tell players he and his staff could help them get chosen in the annual MLB first-year player draft. Since the 2003 season, Arrington's San Jacinto College program leads the national junior college ranks in total draftees with 77 over the 20-year span. The Baseball Cube, an online data service covering high school through professional baseball, compiled the totals beginning in 2003 and ending in 2022, covering 20 years of the Major League Baseball draft. San Jacinto College will begin the 2023 regular season Jan. 27 with plans to return to Grand Junction, Colo., next summer for the World Series.

Newsome earns AVCA All-South Region first team

The American Volleyball Coaches Association has honored Clear Brook High School graduate and Southeastern Louisiana University standout Kailin Newsome as a member of the All-South Region team. Newsome, a junior outside hitter from Friendswood, quickly turned into the top offensive threat for the Lady Lions on their way to their first Southland Conference Championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. She finished the 2022 season with 467 kills, the fourth most in a single season in Southeastern program history while her 1,172 total attacks are seventh most in a season in the history of the SLU program. Newsome was the lone player in the Southland Conference to average four kills per set or more the entire season, finishing the year at 4.17. Her efforts netted her an All-Southland first team honor prior to the announcing of the AVCA awards. Newsome and the Lady Lions finished the season with a 25-8 record, 13-5 in conference play and earned not just the program's first-ever win in the Southland Conference Tournament, but won the program's first ever Southland Conference Tournament Championship and a berth in the NCAA National Championship Tournament.



JUCO Draftees 2003-2022

1. San Jacinto College 77
2. Chipola 72
3. Miami-Dade 61
4. Central Arizona 55
5. Southern Nevada 54
6. Walters State 39
7. St. Petersburg 39
8. State College/Fla. 35
9. Cypress College 34
10. Yavapai 34

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