

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### Holiday closures set

#### South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Leader offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, through Monday, Jan. 5, for the Christmas/New Year's holidays. Inquiries may be emailed to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

#### Clear Brook City MUD

Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, and be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. The office will reopen Friday Dec. 26, 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.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who receive trash services on Thursday will not have pickup on Christmas. Trash services will resume Monday, Dec. 29. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup.

Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, and will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. The office will reopen Friday, Jan. 2, 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.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who receive trash services on Thursday will not have pickup on New Year's Day. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on day of pickup.

### City sets trash pickup

The Houston Solid Waste Management Department has announced its holiday collection schedule, with the following alterations its in place:

#### Christmas

– **Wednesday, Dec. 24:** All regularly scheduled curbside collections will be serviced. Neighborhood depositories, recycling centers and administrative offices will be closed.

– **Thursday, Dec. 25:** There will be no collection services. All facilities and administrative offices will be closed.

– **Friday, Dec. 26:** Thursday's garbage, recycling, yard waste and bulk waste collections will be serviced. All facilities, including neighborhood depositories, recycling centers and administrative offices, will reopen.

– **Saturday, Dec. 27:** Friday's garbage, recycling, yard waste and bulk waste collections will be serviced.

#### New Years Day

– **Thursday, Jan. 1:** The will be no collection services. All facilities and administrative offices will be closed.

– **Friday, Jan. 2:** Thursday's recycling, garbage, yard waste and bulk waste collections will be serviced. All facilities, including neighborhood depositories, recycling centers and administrative offices, will reopen.

– **Saturday, Jan. 3:** Friday's garbage, recycling, yard waste and bulk waste collections will be serviced.

For more information, visit us at www.hous.tonsolidwaste.org or call 311.

### 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.

### 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.

### Kirkwood meeting canceled

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, Dec. 29, has been canceled in observance of the Christmas holidays. Typically held the last Monday of the month, the meetings will resume 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Jan. 29. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

## PISD students accused in school-shooting plot

### 2 Memorial students charged with conspiracy to commit capital murder

Two students from Pasadena Memorial High School have been arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit capital murder after investigators uncovered text messages suggesting plans for a mass shooting at the campus.

Although the arrests took place before Pasadena ISD's Thanksgiving break, it was not made public until this past week.

Court records identify one of the suspects as 18-year-old Emilio Lopez, an 11th-grader. Lopez was taken into custody and later released on a \$100,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 7. The second suspect, a 10th-grade

student, is a juvenile and has not been publicly named.

According to Harris County court documents, Lopez was taken into custody after investigators uncovered alarming text messages exchanged between him and the juvenile suspect, which allegedly included references to guns, ammunition and carrying out violence at the school. The investigation began when another student reported screenshots of the messages to a parent, who then alerted authorities.

Images posted to Instagram also reportedly showed Lopez with weapons.

While parents and students expressed relief that the alleged plot was intercepted before any violence occurred, the arrests have sparked renewed concern about school safety in Pasadena ISD in an era when such shootings have become commonplace in the national setting.

Pasadena ISD officials were grateful for the community's assistance in alerting about the potential crime, releasing the following statement:

"Pasadena ISD is aware of the arrest of two students who allegedly conspired to commit acts of violence. Parents and staff of Pasadena Memorial High School were immediately notified of the situation during the Thanksgiving break. At this time, there is no active threat to Pasadena Memorial High School. The District continues to cooperate fully with authorities. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Pasadena ISD Police Department, the Pasadena Police Department, and the US Marshals Gulf Coast Violent Offenders and Fugitive Task Force for their professionalism and immediate response to the threat. Our priority remains the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We are committed to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment for all. We are thankful for our community's continued partnership in promoting safety."

Pasadena ISD police and district officials have pledged to maintain heightened security measures and continue working closely with local law enforcement to ensure campuses remain

safe.

#### Past incidents

This marked the third time this year an event involving a gun – or a potential event in this case – has taken place at or near the Memorial campus.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, an 83-year-old man was arrested after allegedly firing a gun at a band event being held at Pasadena Memorial High School. Dennis Erwin Brandl Jr. was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

According to police, Brandl had no connection to the school or any of the students involved in the event that involved schools from multiple districts. Brandl told police he had been followed from his house in Spring and he was in fear for his life at the time of the shooting.

A 26-year-old male at the band event was shot in the shoulder and had to be airlifted to an area hospital for treatment. He was expected to make a full recovery. As Brandl was firing his small-caliber handgun, a group of attendees, parents and students led by Cy-Fair dad Juan Lopez tackled the suspect and was able to subdue the shooter until police arrived. Before he could be sentenced for his role in the shooting, however, Brandl died from a medical episode Sunday, March 2, according to police.

Pasadena ISD officials officially recognized Lopez and the other heroes responsible for

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## New market to replace Macy's



The Market at Alameda is set to occupy the 290,000-square-foot space that formerly housed Macy's at Alameda Mall. The future of the longtime area mall had been in question since the retailer shuttered its doors this past January as part of a nationwide downsizing. Developed by Read King, the new market will feature a grocery store, fitness center and beauty training school.

## New development breathes life into Alameda Mall

### The Market at Alameda to feature grocery store, restaurants, fitness center

Alameda Mall's future just got brighter: The long-vacant Macy's space will soon be reborn as The Market at Alameda, a grocery-anchored indoor marketplace that developers say will breathe new life into one of southeast Houston's oldest shopping centers.

#### A new chapter

For decades, Alameda Mall has been a fixture in southeast Houston, serving generations of South Belt families since its opening in 1968. But when Macy's shuttered its doors earlier this year as part of a nationwide downsizing, the mall lost its last major anchor tenant, leaving many residents worried about its future in an era when

brick-and-mortar retail faces mounting pressure from online sales.

Now, Houston-based developer Read King is stepping in with a bold plan: converting the former two-story, 290,000-square-foot Macy's into The Market at Alameda, a retro-styled indoor marketplace. The project will feature a grocery store, restaurants, a fitness center and even a beauty school, according to early plans.

Despite having a grocery store, there is no sign that the development is affiliated with Fiesta Mart, as previous rumors had suggested.

#### What's coming

– **Grocery anchor:** About 65,000 square feet

on the first floor will be dedicated to a supermarket, giving nearby neighborhoods a new option for fresh food.

– **Restaurants:** Dining spaces are planned

to bring back the bustle of family outings and weekend gatherings.

– **Fitness center:** A modern gym concept is

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## Channel 2 news story causes confusion

### PISD not connected to alleged misconduct at Pasadena Head Start

A recent Channel 2 KPRC news story about a pair of teachers at a Pasadena-area Head Start program being accused of sexual misconduct with students and the school's failure to notify parents about it may have inadvertently led viewers to believe the school in question was affiliated with Pasadena ISD.

Although Pasadena ISD does have Head Start campuses, the alleged misconduct – which possibly involved children as young as 3 or 4 years old – took place at the Gulf Coast Community Services Association (GCCSA) Pasadena Head Start Center on Wafer Street in Pasadena, which has no connection to the local school district.

The news story repeatedly shows a sign with large capital letters that says "PASADE-

NA HEAD START" and refers to the affected campus as a "Pasadena school" possibly giving viewers the wrong impression.



Photo courtesy of KPRC

## Houston police offer holiday safety tips

### Residents encouraged to use precautions when shopping

With holiday shopping and celebrations in full swing, the Houston Police Department has released a comprehensive list of safety tips to help residents protect themselves and their property. The guidance covers precautions both while shopping and at home.

#### While shopping

– Shoppers are urged to remain alert to surroundings and trust instincts; suspicious activity should be reported to 911.

– Shopping with a companion is recommended, as safety increases in numbers.

– Carrying large amounts of cash should be avoided; checks, credit cards, or debit cards are safer alternatives.

– Purses and wallets should never be left in shopping carts.

– Wallets are best kept in front pockets rather than back pockets to reduce risk of theft.

– Criminals often target branded shopping bags; purchases should be placed in plain, non-

descript bags when possible.

– Items should be monitored closely in food courts, where bags and purses can be easily taken.

– Overloading with packages can reduce visibility and mobility; package pickup services in well-lit, populated areas are safer options.

– Keys should be ready before leaving a store to avoid distraction in parking lots.

– Packages should not be left in vehicles; items should be placed in trunks before leaving one destination. Awareness of anyone following in parking lots or vehicles is critical.

– Shopping earlier in the day reduces exposure to evening darkness; parking in well-lit, high-visibility areas close to store entrances is advised.

– Personal valuables should be stored out of sight before shopping trips.

– Security officers can provide escorts to vehi-

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## Teen charged with murder in fatal chase

### Police chase ends in Blackhawk crash killing passenger

A teen driver was charged with murder after a high-speed police chase ended in a crash killing his passenger and severely injuring himself.

Ruben X. Mendoza, 18, was charged with murder in the 184th Criminal District Court. At press time, he remained hospitalized in critical condition, investigators said.

The identity of the dead male, 18, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the chase began on the Gulf Freeway near Edgemoor/Clearwood when Precinct 2 deputies observed a blue Dodge Charger traveling south at a high rate of speed going in and out of traffic.

As deputies attempted to catch up to the speeding vehicle and conduct a traffic stop, the driver turned off his lights and accelerated even

more. Deputies activated their emergency lights and chased the Dodge, which exited to the west-bound lanes of Beltway 8.

Investigators said the suspect vehicle exited Blackhawk and headed north at a high rate of speed, running multiple lights. As the driver approached the intersection of Blackhawk road and Alameda Genoa at a high rate of speed, the vehicle struck a raised portion of the intersection, went airborne and then struck a tree on the driver's side, killing the passenger.

Mendoza was transported to an area hospital with life-threatening injuries and was found to not be intoxicated.

Mendoza had reportedly bonded out of jail the previous day on weapons charges.

HPD officials said the investigation was ongoing at press time.

## Zaire earns group's 200,000th bike



Second-grade students at Laura Bush Elementary who met their reading goals this year were awarded with new bicycles and helmets courtesy of CYCLE Houston. Bush student Zaire Lee (shown above) made headlines by receiving the group's 200,000th donated bike. CYCLE Houston is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting childhood literacy.



Deaths

Joe Leos



Joe Leos lived a long and beautiful life grounded in family, laughter and kindness. Born on Feb. 16, 1944, Joe grew up in Ganado, then spent the remainder of his life in South Houston and the South Belt area, where he raised his children, built lifelong friendships and became a beloved presence in the community. He retired from Albemarle Oil Company (formerly Ethyl), but never retired from being someone people could rely on. Joe shared 61 wonderful years of marriage with his

wife, Mary Ann Leos, who preceded him in death on May 26, 2023. Their love was deep, steady and the heart of their family. Together they created a home filled with warmth, humor and open doors — memories that their children and grandchildren will carry with them forever.

Joe had a remarkable ability to brighten a room the moment he walked in. He lived life to the fullest, carried an unforgettable sense of humor and was never — ever — seen in a bad mood. Whether sharing a joke, offering a helping hand, or simply showing up with his warm smile, Joe made others feel lighter just by being near. His joy was contagious, and his generosity unwavering.

Joe is survived by his son Jesse Lee Leos, wife Lisa and grandson Ian Leos; his daughter Denise Palos, husband Art and grandchildren Justin and Lauren Palos; and his daughter Darleen Leos and grandchildren Gabby Perez and Elizabeth Leos. He is also survived by great-grandchildren Josiah Perez, Alex

Cavazos, Gabriel Cavazos, Aidan Hymas-Palos and Jade Rodriguez; his twin brother Jesse Leos; sister Emma Perez from Texas; sister Gloria Aguilar; brothers Tom and Robert Garcia from California; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He loved each of them deeply and was endlessly proud of his family.

Those who knew Joe will remember him as a man who loved fully, laughed often and gave freely. His legacy lives on in the stories he told, the kindness he shared and the joy he brought into the world. Joe's memory may be honored by living with the same warmth, humor and generous spirit that defined his life.

Freda (Hutchison) Mathews

Freda (Hutchison) Mathews was born April 27, 1961, and passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 1, 2025, her mother's birthday, after a valiant battle with cancer. She



is preceded in death by her mother, Doris Hutchison Walters, her father, Joe Hutchison, her grandmother, Lena McClain, her husbands, Johnny Wienecke and Gary Mathews, and her son, Stephen Michael Wienecke.

Freda was born in New York while her father was in the military, but she spent most of her life in Texas. She attended J. Frank Dobie High School, where some of her fondest memories included her involvement with the Lat-in Club and playing drums in the marching band with her best friend, Becky (Combs) Au. After graduating in 1979, she moved to Kerrville to attend Schreiner University on a scholarship. While attending college, she met and married Johnny Wienecke. They had two beautiful daughters, Stephanie Gilmore and Katie Garza-Villalon, and a son, Stephen, who passed shortly after birth. Freda moved back to the southeast Houston area to raise her daughters closer to family, and both daughters also graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School. She later married Gary Mathews and moved to Danbury, where she lived the rest of her earthly years. Freda enjoyed traveling, taking cruises, a little gambling, researching ancestry and mostly just spending time at the farm with her kids and grandkids.

As the oldest of seven, she is survived by her siblings Rosie Hutchison, Loretta Kelley, Janie Bishop, Joey Hutchison, J.D. Hutchison and Melissa Hutchison, their spouses and families; Jerry Walters; and numerous nieces and nephews. Most importantly, Freda leaves behind her two beautiful daughters, Stephanie and Katie, whom she loved more than anything in the world, along with grandchildren Joseph Toole Jr., Hannah White, Abby Orlando, Gage Orlando, Cole Orlando, Michael Garza-Villalon, Joseph White, Heavenly Wright and Kaisley Wright whom she absolutely adored. Although Freda will be missed by her family, many friends and co-workers, all will take comfort knowing she is in heaven with her Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, and

is reunited with her son and her mother, whom she missed deeply.

A celebration of life was held at Peevey Funeral Home, Tuesday, Dec. 16.

David Lee Alsworth



David Lee Alsworth, age 77, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025. Born in Baytown, David lived a life defined by faith, honor, service and devotion to his family and friends.

A devoted Christian, David's life reflected his deep faith and commitment to serving others. He proudly served his country in the United States Army, earning the respect of his fellow servicemen and the gratitude of his nation. After his military service, David dedicated his career to public service and retired as a coordinator at the Harris County Courthouse.

David was more than a husband, father, brother and friend — he was a man of integrity, compassion and unwavering devotion to God and his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Kathy Alsworth; daughters Annie Garcia and Jennifer Alsworth; and stepchildren Jaime Martinez, Trisha Martinez and Sonya Martinez. He is also survived by his sisters Jeanne Puryear, Joan Bacon, Sue Houska and Rita Atkinson; along with many cherished grandchildren, extended family, friends and his beloved pet, Penny.

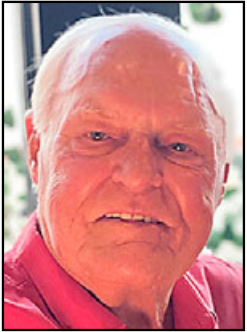
David will be remembered for his kindness, wisdom and unwavering support for those he loved. He enjoyed spending time with family, attending an Astros game, watching western TV shows, and volunteering at Sagemont Church especially with Helping Hands. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

A celebration of David's life will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, at Peevey Funeral Home at 3 p.m., with visitation beginning one hour prior to the service. The burial will take place at the Houston National Cemetery on a later day, in a private ceremony attended by family only.

In lieu of flowers, the

family suggests donations be made to MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Larry Doyle Muse



Larry Doyle Muse was born Aug. 17, 1946 and passed away Dec. 9, 2025, joining his wife of 53 years (Toni Muse) in heaven, leaving a lifetime of wonderful memories for so many family and friends who knew him. Larry will be remembered as a fantastic fisherman and storyteller, a "this is what we need to do" task master and an even better husband, father, grandpa and friend.

Larry leaves behind his son, Jason Muse and wife, Laurie and his four grandchildren Lyndon, Devon, Luke and Elle; stepbrother Tommy James; nieces Dee Dee Aldana, Lynea Clark, Denise Carlson; nephew Bill Dideon; sisters-in law Waldine Ross and her husband Jack Sr., Beverly Phillips, Betty-Sue Bradley and husband Curtis Sr.; nephews Jack Ross Jr. and wife Elon, Joe David Phillips and wife Carolyn, Curtis Bradley Jr.; niece Tonya Bentley and husband Ellis; and so many more family members and friends.

Son of Doyle Muse and Lilly "Lorene" Burris, Larry grew up in Long Beach, Calif. as a quintessential "surfer dude." While growing up, he spent most of his time in the water surfing or on the water in a fishing boat, starting first

as a tuna boat deckhand and quickly moving up to captain before he was 20 years old. Larry's passion for fishing was instilled in him very early and this passion would continue throughout his entire life.

Larry was drafted to serve in the Vietnam War not long after his 21st birthday. Larry being drafted into the Army 100 percent changed his life. His boating experience led to him being selected as a river boat captain and the stories he told about the year spent in Vietnam could keep one captivated for hours. Being in the Army, completing basic training and preparing to leave for Vietnam would also grant him his greatest gift, his wife, Toni Muse. While in Virginia, just before leaving for Vietnam, Larry and a friend spotted Toni and my Aunt Deanie at a drive-in burger stand. It was love at first sight, courtship over just a few weeks, an actual marriage proposal by mail followed by a wedding in Hawaii while he was on a five-day rest and recuperation that led to a 53-year commitment.

Returning home, Toni and Larry gave California a quick try and realized that Texas was the place they needed to call home. Larry quickly found work in Houston as a boilermaker at a chemical plant. While Larry didn't have a college degree, he had an engineer's mind which would serve him well throughout a successful career as a project manager building LNG plants for Halliburton throughout the world for many years prior to his retirement.

Larry was quite simply the "greatest fisherman." Whether it was tying his 18-month-old son to a stringer in a life jacket to go wade fishing or right up until his last day before becoming ill, rigging baits to go offshore fishing, Larry simply loved to go fishing. His passion for working hard, fishing, hunting and attempting to perfect all that's

necessary to be good at those things, provided a lifetime of fulfillment for both him and those who got to experience it with him. Larry will be remembered as the greatest dad, husband, uncle, grandfather and friend one could ask for and all will cherish the thousands of outstanding memories he gave. He will be missed and was loved so very much by so many.

The visitation and the receiving of friends was held Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Peevey Funeral Home.

Glyn Roy LeBlanc



Glyn Roy LeBlanc, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and veteran, passed away peacefully on Dec. 12, 2025. He was 83 years old.

Born on Dec. 23, 1941, in Erath, La., to Elito and Amy LeBlanc, Glyn grew up in a closely knit community that shaped his strong values and work ethic. He was a quiet honorable man that never spoke an unkind word about another person. He graduated from the University of Louisiana in 1963 with a degree in math and physics.

Immediately following graduation, Glyn attended Navy Officer Candidate School and during service achieved the rank of lieutenant. He was stationed aboard the USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, where he

oversaw the weapons room. His service extended into the early months of the Vietnam War, after which he was honorably discharged.

In 1965, Glyn joined NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, during a pivotal era in America's space exploration. He was responsible for CCATS (Communications, Command, and Telemetry System) and operated console for missions from the early Gemini program through every manned Apollo flight, including the historic Apollo 11 moon landing and the Apollo 13 rescue mission. He continued supporting NASA's human spaceflight programs, including Skylab, Spacelab missions, and planning for the International Space Station until his retirement in 1999. He served in America's space program for over 30 years.

In 1964, Glyn married Sherry Ellen Romero of Erath, La., and together they built a loving home and marriage for over 61 years. Devoted to their faith, Glyn and Sherry were among the founding members of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. Glyn volunteered at the church for various events in his early years there and again in retirement. He is survived by his wife, Sherry; his son, Eric LeBlanc, and Eric's wife, Annette; his daughter, Roxanne Tate, and her husband, Jeff; his grandchildren, Nicole LeBlanc, Phillip LeBlanc, Benjamin Tate, and Bryn Tate; and his sister, Lois Suire, and her husband, Jimmy Suire. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral rites are to be held on Thursday, Dec. 18. A viewing will be held at 11 a.m., followed by recital of the rosary and funeral Mass at noon at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, Houston, TX 77089. Burial will follow at Forest Park East Cemetery, 21620 Gulf Freeway, Webster, TX 77598.

Memorial shooting thwarted

Continued from Page 1 bringing down the shooter at the school district's monthly board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Roughly just one month later, a 19-year-old suspect was accused of shooting two Pasadena Memorial High School students during a fight after school near campus around 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. Damian Alexander Saiz, 19, was charged Monday, March 3, with two counts

of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

According to Pasadena ISD Police Department officials, the incident took place at what appeared to be a pre-planned fight after early dismissal Friday at the church grounds across the street from the high school. As several different physical altercations were taking place at the church, two cars pulled up — one containing Saiz, who reportedly produced

a pistol and fired multiple times, striking two students. The crowd then reportedly dispersed quickly. Responding paramedics transported the two victims to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. One student was shot in the arm and the other in the chest.

Pasadena ISD officials said Saiz was a former Memorial student but he hadn't been enrolled since the 2022-2023 school year.

HPD offers holiday safety tips

Continued from Page 1 cles if discomfort arises.

Walking briskly, confidently and directly through parking lots reduces vulnerability; distractions such as cellphone use should be avoided.

Caution is advised when approached by individuals handing out flyers or asking questions in parking areas.

Suspicious behavior, including individuals following inside or outside stores, should be reported immediately to store security.

At home  
Doors and windows should remain locked whenever a residence is unattended, even briefly.  
Extended absences call

for neighbors or family members to monitor homes, collect mail and newspapers, or for delivery holds to be placed.

Online purchases should be tracked; packages can be collected by trusted neighbors or scheduled with signature requirements to ensure secure delivery.  
Homes that appear occupied are less likely to be targeted by thieves.  
Indoor and outdoor lights should be placed on timers to simulate occupancy, with varying schedules across different rooms.

Large displays of gifts should not be visible from windows or doors.  
Boxes from new purchases should not be placed outside before garbage day, as they signal valuable items inside.

Unknown visitors at the door should not be answered directly; communication through the door can indicate occupancy without revealing children are alone.

Suspicious individuals should be reported to 911 immediately.  
Keys should not be hidden outside or in common concealment devices, as burglars are familiar with typical hiding places.

The department will also increase patrols in shopping districts and neighborhoods throughout December to deter criminal activity.

Changes coming to Alameda Mall

Continued from Page 1 in the works, appealing to younger residents and health-conscious shoppers.

Beauty school: Educational and vocational opportunities will add a unique dimension to the mall's offerings.

A nod to the past  
Developers say the design will carry a "retro vibe" as an homage to the mall's history, while also positioning it for relevance in today's retail landscape.

"It's going to be really, really, really cool — a little bit of a retro vibe as kind of an homage to the mall's history," Travis Read of Read King told the Houston Business Journal.

The decision to preserve the old Foley's/Macy's also resonates with longtime residents who see the mall as more than just a shopping destination; it's a community landmark.

The recent announcement comes at a critical time in re-

tail. Across the country, malls have struggled to reinvent themselves, as traditional department stores vanish.

For Alameda Mall, the arrival of The Market at Alameda could stabilize foot traffic, attract new tenants and reassure locals that the mall still has a role to play in southeast Houston's daily life.

Groundbreaking is expected to begin later this year, with completion projected in early 2026.

Kirkwood Church to host Christmas event

All are welcome to attend a Christmas Eve service to be held on Dec. 24, beginning at 4 p.m. at Kirkwood South Christian Church located at 10811 Kirkfair. The one-hour event will include a sing-along time of traditional Christmas carols and conclude with a candlelit singing of Silent Night followed by a wassail and dessert reception.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Saturday, Dec. 20, 3 – 4 p.m. Board games at the library. Registration required. Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.: Thursday, Dec. 18, 10 – 11 a.m. Thrillers, killers, and mayhem book club. Thursday, Dec. 18, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time. Friday, Dec. 19, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy. Friday, Dec. 19, 3 – 5 p.m. Adult diamond painting club. Registration required. Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 – noon. Tai Chi. Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Adult diamond painting club holiday party. Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Holiday photo frame embroidery. Registration required. Monday, Dec. 22, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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

After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.  
Have a library card number and PIN handy.  
A pickup time and instructions will be given.  
Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.  
Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.  
Hours are Monday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.  
Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).  
Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.  
Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.  
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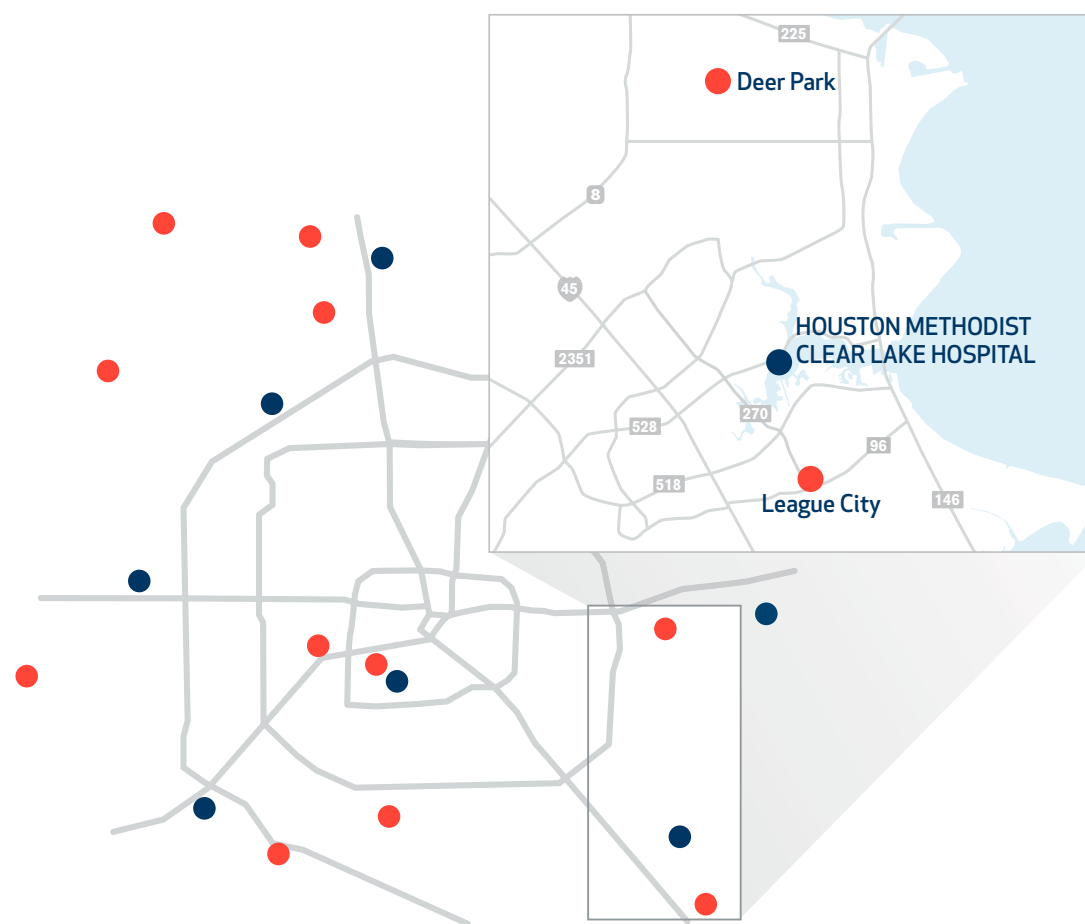


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# Dobie High School FFA members attend, place at La Porte Fall Festival Prospect Show



Dobie High School FFA students and members participated and placed high in the La Porte Fall Festival Prospect Show on Sunday, Nov. 30. Fifth-grader and member of the Dobie FFA chapter for three years, Kacey Martinez placed fourth in both Ring A and Ring B.



Older brother and former Dobie FFA class president Hunter Stacey (left) holds up his brother's two ribbons. Luke Stacey and his heifer, Princess placed second in both Ring A and Ring B.



Dobie High School FFA member Kaleb Jones is pictured with his heifer which placed fourth in Ring A and fifth in Ring B.



Dobie FFA member Pablo Reyes' entry placed third in both Ring A and Ring B.

## CBHS speech and debate team take on another competition



The weekend of December 5-6 saw a small contingent of Wolverine speakers at Spring High School flexing their verbal muscle in a host of events ranging from Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking to Dramatic Interpretation. Second-year member Brianna DeLeon seized first place in her preliminary round while fellow teammate Suven Dhakal landed in third which propelled both to the semifinal round. DeLeon missed the final round by just one rank and both are looking to better their odds after great feedback as they attend future meets this semester. After two rounds of preliminary

competition, novice extemporaneous speakers Lydia Hartless and Ricki Fort found themselves in the final round where Ricki walked away with a third-place finish while Lydia took home sixth place. In Dramatic Interpretation, sophomore Sophia Merchant came away ranked fifth which earned her one additional point toward her state goal of twelve. She now stands at seven as she continues her quest to state competition. Left to right, are (front row) Merchant, Sara Sijo, Khang Ngo, Fort, (back row) Zaahid Mansoor, Dhakal, Abhi Kom-miredy, Kendrick Toennies and DeLeon.

## Meador announces spelling bee winners



Officials at Meador Elementary would like to congratulate third-grader Jennifer Nguyen (left) as the runner-up and fourth-grader Michelle Ortega as the winner of the 2025-2026 school spelling bee. Ortega will represent Meador at the district spelling bee on Feb. 3.

## Fred Roberts names Aviators of the month



Fred Roberts Middle School officials recently announced the November and December Aviators of the month. These students are recognized for being self-directed learners. They take initiative, find and use resources, reflect on their progress, seek help when needed and stay organized and focused. Left to right, are assistant principal Karen Pena, fifth-graders Bastian Hernandez, Christina Jackson, sixth-graders Marco Lopez, Valkyrie Dennis, principal Lali Guerrero and counselor Crissy Higham.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1980)**  
Houston Lighting and Power Company performed routine maintenance in the Sagemont-Kirkwood area that caused power to be turned off and on during the maintenance. According to HL&P's A.C. Czigán, the work had been going on all year and was expected to continue until June 1981. The power disturbances lasted anywhere from 10 minutes to two hours, but were usually 45 minutes in length. Letters were sent two to four weeks in advance of the event, notifying residents. However, if residents had a business computer, they were instructed to call the phone number on the notification letter and request someone knock on the door a few minutes before the electricity was shut down.

**40 years ago (1985)**  
The arson division of the Houston Fire Department investigated a fire which occurred in the Scarsdale Shopping Center. Most of the shops in the small center suffered smoke damage from the fire which began in Lee's Tailoring. Five fire stations, including Station 70, responded to the fire. Witnesses told firemen they heard three explosions around the time the fire occurred. The design development phase of construction for Clear Creek Independent School District's third high school was approved by the district's board of trustees and construction was slated to begin in June 1986. The Dixie Farm Road bridge that passed over the Gulf Freeway would be closed for at least two months as a result of being hit by an overheight truck on the freeway. Dobie High School's team finished second in the PISD's Academic Decathlon held at Pasadena High School. Dobie finished behind Pasadena High which won the championship for the second consecutive year.

**35 years ago (1990)**  
South Belt's City Councilman Frank Mancuso was nominated mayor pro tem after the illness and death of Councilman Judson Robinson. Mayor Kathy Whitmire released the nomination. Thompson Intermediate assistant principal Stan Honeycutt, eighth-grade science teacher Bill Saxon and seventh-grade science teacher Bill Taylor camped out on the roof for the school to satisfy a promise made to students. Taylor inspired students to raise more than \$2,000 for United Way when he promised to spend the night on the roof. Thompson students met his challenge and raised close to \$2,300 in one week. In PISD, Thompson ranked first among intermediate schools and second in the district for the most money raised. A record 23 Dobie High School band members placed

at various levels at the All-Region try-out competition held at Aldine High School. **30 years ago (1995)**  
San Jacinto College regents met in closed session to discuss grade tampering allegations against chancellor Tom Sewell. A 31-year-old Highland Meadow resident and a 25-year-old female were found dead, each from a self-inflicted single bullet. A note written in Vietnamese was translated and revealed a suicide pact. A medical fund was established for Sagemeadow resident Kathy Wilder for injuries she sustained after being thrown from her own van by abductors. Beverly Hills Intermediate

students and faculty mourned the death of 13-year-old Clarke Flynn. He suffered from a rare genetic defect and had been in a coma for about a week. Dr. Tom Spencer announced his retirement effective Dec. 31 as president of the San Jacinto College South campus. **25 years ago (2000)**  
Ten-year-old Lindsay Simpson was facing her second heart transplant. Gordon and Pat Berg celebrated 10 years of service with Action Ministries. **20 years ago (2005)**  
Alert neighbors and a less-than-three-minute response by Precinct 2 Constable Deputies Juan Izaguirre and Sgt. Zerick Guinn resulted in the capture of

two men hiding inside a closet in a home they were burglarizing in Clear Brook Meadows. One of four suspects charged in the capital murder-for-hire death on Luan Cong Pham pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of murder. As part of the plea bargain, Huan M. Vuduan, 18, would serve 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice but would not be required to testify against the others. South Belt physician Dr. Mary Campbell-Fox, a 1976 Dobie graduate, was named the 2005 PISD Distinguished Alumna. **15 years ago (2010)**  
The Leader contacted the City of Houston and repre-

sentatives from City Councilmember Mike Sullivan regarding the troubling north-bound traffic at the intersection of Beamer Road and Beltway 8. Drivers wanting to turn left were restricted to a single lane at the traffic light before the beltway. Due to so many vehicles wanting to turn left as opposed to continuing north on Beamer, a line of vehicles repeatedly causes congestion at the intersection. The response from the city was brief, but firm that no changes to the intersection would be made. After receiving the response, the Leader contacted Lauren Doak, South Sector manager for Sullivan, who assisted the Leader in contacting Jeffrey

S. Weatherford, deputy director of the Department of Public Works and Engineering, Traffic and Transportation Division, who played a crucial role in resolving the traffic issue. Weatherford concluded that the traffic count on vehicles turning onto the beltway, as opposed to vehicles proceeding straight through the intersection on Beamer, was significant enough to warrant a change in lane markings, which will greatly reduce congestion at the intersection and make a left turn from the second-to-left lane no longer illegal. According to Weatherford, the timeline on changing the lane markings and signage was to be completed by March

2011. **10 years ago (2015)**  
The Leader's annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to roughly 70 area families in need. Several local organizations, schools, businesses and residents stepped up to the plate, making the 2015 drive the most successful in the event's history. **5 years ago (2020)**  
The Leader's annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to more than 40 area families in need, including around 120 children. Several local organizations, businesses and residents stepped up to the plate, making the drive one of the

most successful in the event's history. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all aspects of the 2020 Leader drive were moved outdoors as a safety precaution. **1 year ago (2024)**  
Harris County officials held a ribbon-cutting Friday, Dec. 13, to celebrate the completion of the Beamer Ditch improvements project. A joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Harris County, the \$10.7 million project widened the ditch and installed concrete lining from Sagerock to near Astoria. Longtime Pasadena ISD board member Vickie Morgan died Wednesday, Dec. 18, after serving nearly 40 years.



## Over The Back Fence by Nicole

**JOEY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
Joseph "Joey" Hayes celebrates his birthday Thursday, Dec. 21. Best wishes and lots of love are sent from mom and dad, Jan-nie 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. **JACQUELYN CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
Happy Birthday to Jacquelyn Wiess who celebrates her birthday Dec. 22. The family can't wait to share another fun year of travel and adventure with her. Much love from all her Texas family: husband, Louie; children Heidi, Louie, Kara and spouses; and grandchildren Cody, Louie, Arianna, Ameila and Jence. Many hugs and best wishes from all her friends in North Carolina. **BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR DAVID**  
David Flickinger is celebrating a birthday Dec. 22. Wishes are sent from his sons Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger and David and wife Ellie Flickinger, granddaughters Kimberly and husband Matt Lipina and their child William; Courtney Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; Natalie and husband Jose Abarca and their children Kelvin Lopez and Noah and Eliana Abarca and Isabella and husband

**Sebastian Delgado and their child Esme. SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 18 through Dec. 24. **Burnett Elementary**  
Sing a happy birthday song to Teri Owen Dec. 21. Remember to wish Sylvia Lazard a happy birthday Dec. 22. **Bush Elementary**  
Blow out the candles Dec. 22 for Cathy Perez. **Genoa Elementary**  
Send a nice birthday greeting Dec. 18 to Maria Villarreal. Rosa Silva enjoys a birthday Dec. 24. **Hancock Elementary**  
Blow out the candles for Adriana Garcia Dec. 19. **Meador Elementary**  
The day for a celebration for Jill Gifford is Dec. 18. **Moore Elementary**  
Marie Alanis marks a birthday Dec. 18. Send a birthday greeting Dec. 20 to Erica Villarreal. **South Belt Elementary**  
Dec. 18 is the day for a party for Jasmine Olvera and Joshua Trevino. **Stuchbery Elementary**  
Sharon Idoux celebrates a birthday Dec. 19. Light the birthday candles Dec. 24 for Cynthia Ramon. **Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Dec. 21 is the day for a party for Jaimie Green. Sing a chorus of a happy birthday

song to Johna Moreland on Dec. 22. **Thompson Intermediate**  
Send a nice birthday greeting Dec. 18 to Karla Chavez. Dec. 21 is the day for a birthday party for Kevin Paul and Maggie Allen. **Dobie High**  
A day of fun is planned Dec. 18 for Kareem Salomon. Remember to wish Meleny Nunez a happy birthday Dec. 21. Best wishes for a special birthday Dec. 23 are sent to Christopher Alaniz. Break out the balloons and party favors for Sydnee Chollett on Dec. 24. **FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Dec. 18: Jackie Klayman, Damen Polleck, John O'Connor and Felicia Sharp; Friday, Dec. 19: Randy Tenorio, Beckie Davidson, Kim Jones and Rene Gomez; and Saturday, Dec. 20: Sally Esquivel, Lisa West and Michelle Gerbach; Sunday, Dec. 21: Jimmy Thomas, Patricia O'Brien, Scott Louvier, Helen White, Christopher Lewis, Jeana Pierce, Ruth Fischer, Tara Garven and Crystal Billeri; Monday, Dec. 22: Jennifer Bryant and Tiffany Wennerstrom; Tuesday, Dec. 23: Miguel Lopez, Sarah Smith and Holly Fielder; and Wednesday, Dec. 24: Lori Lee, James Perales, Tiffany McCullough and Kim McDonald. **LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

### Merry Christmas

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES



Desmond Etienne (11) and his teammates went into action against Pasadena Memorial Dec. 16 after press time at 7-8 overall but had lost three games by three points or less each time.

## Pioneers earn AD honors

Lutheran South's terrific run to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state semi-final football round was exciting for the entire school, and several players were rewarded for their play following the season with the announcement of District 4 Division II All-District honors.

Receiver Braeden Robinson was named the offensive Most Valuable Player in the district while linebacker Kade Griffin was recognized as the co-Defensive Most Valuable Player.

LSA's first team honorees on offense were Robinson, tight end Luke Mazur and linemen Antonio Castillo and Zach Johnson.

On defense, linebacker Noah Harris made the first team as did punter Rhett Lavergne and running back/linebacker Griffin.

The Pioneers' second team All-District honorees on the defensive side of the football included linemen Hank Hughes and Ladin Heinemann as well linebacker Jack Sloan and Max Saldana.

LSA's second-team offensive selections included quarterback Holt Teichman and running back Carson Rocha.

Honorable mention all-league status went to receivers Khyree Sadler and Brayden Arceneaux, lineman Brad Whitehead and running back Cortez Taylor on offense and lineman Tim Lala, linebacker Elijah Brown and secondary performers Brycen Gilbert and Ethan Saucedo on defense.

## PISD Athletics Hall of Fame reveals prestigious 2026 class

**PISD Athletics Hall of Fame  
Induction Ceremony  
April 9, 2026**

**Al Carter, South Houston  
(Class of 1970)**  
**Lionel Dotson, Dobie  
(Class of 2003)**  
**Andrew Gonzalez, Rayburn  
(Class of 2007)**  
**Keith Kveton, Dobie  
(Class of 1977)**  
**Coach Dennis Shippey  
(Dobie 1976-2004)**  
**Amy (Williams) Stewart, Rayburn  
(Class of 1995)**

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## Clear Brook, Dobie boys' hoops set for tough league action

District play is the focus on the high school basketball scene as the Clear Brook programs are about to find out where they stand.

The 24-6A varsity boys' basketball race will include some of the most intense competition around the area as most of the programs within the district have delivered outstanding results to this point.

Clear Lake, Dickinson and Clear Springs no doubt count themselves as contenders within the ranks, but at this point the Clear Brook Wolverines can't be discounted. Coach Nathan Janak's team ran its record to 12-2 with Abdiel Jimenez and Ayden Harvey leading the way for Clear Brook with 15 points each. Jimenez added seven rebounds while Harvey collected four caroms. Christian Brown tossed in 12 points, five assists and five steals

while Jace Walker had nine points, five assists and three steals. Joshua Pichon had seven points and four rebounds as the Wolverines put together their usual full-team performance to get the victory.

It was a game of runs as Friendswood actually held an 18-point lead over the Wolverines early on before Clear Brook's shooting heated up the rest of the way en route to the victory.

Clear Brook hosted An-

gleton Dec. 16 after press time and will waste little time in finding out where they stand in the 24-6A field as they play at state-ranked Dickinson Dec. 19.



At right, Dobie first-year varsity boys' basketball head coach Branford Jones has his Longhorns playing solid basketball mid-way through the regular season and will now navigate his group primarily through district play the rest of the way.

Photos by Donna Alsdorf

## Touchdown Club of Houston honors LSA players



From left, Cade Griffin, Zach Johnson and Braeden Robinson of Lutheran South Academy along with varsity football head coach Corby Meekins (far right) attended the Touchdown Club of Houston's annual post-season awards banquet earlier this month. In the private school category, Griffin was a finalist for Ironman of the Year, Johnson for Top Offensive Lineman and Robinson for Offensive Player of the Year.

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## Calone commits to Schreiner

Clear Brook varsity basketball post Cruz Calone (35) has chosen to continue his education and playing career at Schreiner University, an NCAA Division III program in Kerrville, Texas. The Mountaineers compete in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference under the direction of first-year head coach Kyle McLeroy. Calone has helped Clear Brook to a terrific nondistrict run this season ahead of the 24-6A opener Dec. 19 at Dickinson.

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# PISD Athletics Hall of Fame group will enter April 9, 2026

Continued from Page 5

The Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame inductees that will enter the prestigious group April 9, 2026, include:

**Coach Dennis Shippey**  
**Dobie Aquatics**  
**1976-2004**



Coach Dennis Shippey served as swimming and diving coach at Dobie from 1976 until his retirement in 2004. From 1988 until his retirement, he also served as aquatics coordinator for the Pasadena ISD.

Shippey produced numerous individual champions and district championship teams while earning several coach-of-the-year honors. The Longhorns' glory years were 1976-1984, but available records show that Dobie's fortunes slipped after that.

Two of Shippey's

swimmers qualified for state his first year at Dobie, and from 1982-1984, his teams won at least one district title every year.

Shippey was also a nationally recognized adult swimmer. In 2005, he was named All-America swimmer by United States Masters Swimming, and was one of the few swimmers to be honored as an All-American at three different levels: high school, collegiate and masters. Shippey was a high school state champion at Davenport West High School in Iowa.

At Eastern New Mexico University, he earned NAIA All-America honors. He also served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division.

In 2009, he received the prestigious Theron Pickle Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association and is a member of the Texas Senior Games Hall of Fame.

Shippey died on Aug. 31, 2011. The cause was early onset dementia. He was 65. The Pasadena ISD Aquatic Center is named in his honor.

Shippey is the father of former standout Ray-

burn High School swimmer Scott Shippey, now an Austin resident.

**Amy Williams (Stewart)**  
**Rayburn Class of 1995**  
**Track/Cross-Country**



A 1995 Sam Rayburn graduate, Amy Williams ran cross-country and competed in middle-distance track events at Rayburn for four years under Joan Walker Propp, who is also a PISD Athletics Hall of Fame member.

In cross-country, Williams was a three-time regional qualifier and a state qualifier in 1992.

In track, Williams was a four-time regional qualifier in the 800 meters and as a senior, took fifth place at state in the 800 with a time of 2 minutes, 16.04 seconds.

Williams' talent on the track and hard work in the classroom earned her a scholarship to Stephen

F. Austin, where she lettered three years in both sports.

In college cross-country, Williams was named to the All-Southland Conference team as a senior. As a junior, Williams was named the winner of the Gwen Cole Cross-Country Award.

In college track, she set school records in the 3,000-meter run (10:03), the 1,500-meter run (4:34.11), the indoor mile (5:01/93) and also as part of the 4x800 meter relay team (9.08).

As a sophomore, Williams was named to the All-Conference Distance Medley Relay team.

Williams was three times named to the Southland Conference Commissioner's List for academics.

Post graduation, in 2005 and 2006 she qualified for the Boston Marathon and began her coaching career at Hudson High School (Class 4A).

Over two decades, she has produced 17 district team champions and qualified teams for state 10 times. Williams has coached some two dozen athletes to state berths in both cross-country and track at Hudson.

**Journalist Al Carter**  
**South Houston Class of 1970**



Al Carter was a former reporter and sports columnist for the Houston Chronicle, The Dallas Morning News and other major daily newspapers in Texas and Oklahoma. His writing career spanned three decades.

He was the recipient of numerous national and regional writing awards, including Oklahoma Sportswriter of the Year (1980) and Texas Sportswriter of the Year (1985).

He has made frequent appearances on TV and radio shows and has had numerous articles published in sports magazines and books.

From 2003 to 2008, Carter served as deputy sports editor for

the San Antonio Express-News. In 2008, with most major newspapers undergoing dramatic downsizing and coverage reductions, he retired from journalism and returned to Houston. He taught history at his alma mater, South Houston High, before joining the Pasadena ISD communications department in 2010. He retired from the district in 2017.

While a student at South Houston, Carter wrote for the student paper and earned a sports writing award his senior year.

After high school, Carter attended San Jacinto College for two years, graduating with an associate of arts degree in 1972. He was later named a distinguished alumnus of the school.

His work as a sports writer for the San Jacinto College for two years, graduating with an associate of arts degree in 1972. He was later named a distinguished alumnus of the school.

Carter began his daily newspaper career with the Savannah Morning News in 1974, but left

after a few months to return to Texas. He wrote for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times from 1975 to 1979, covering mostly high school athletics.

In 1976, he won the Texas Headliners Award for an account of a record-shattering minor-league baseball game. In 1979, he moved to The Daily Oklahoman as the Oklahoma Sooners beat reporter and general sports columnist.

After three years, Carter returned to his hometown and joined the sports staff of the Chronicle, originally as the beat writer for the Southwest Conference.

Carter was honored by the Associated Press Sports Editors in 1986 for his coverage of the circumstances that led to the resignation of UT football coach Fred Akers.

In 1990, Carter accepted an offer to jump to the Chronicle's rival, the Houston Post. At the Post, Carter covered college athletics for one year before taking over as beat reporter on the Houston Oilers for two years.

In 1993, Carter left newspapers for a high-school teaching position. A year after that, with the Big 12 Conference about to begin operations, Carter accepted an offer to cover Texas A&M for The Dallas Morning News, a position he held for nine years.

**Keith Kveton**  
**Dobie Class of 1977**  
**Football**



Dobie Class of 1977 graduate Keith Kveton first starred for Dobie and was a prestigious All-Greater Houston selection as a senior in 1976 before heading to Rice University.

Kveton lettered in football all four years at Rice, from 1977 through 1980. He started for three seasons at Rice, played center and was co-captain for the Owls as a senior.

Kveton's stellar play led him to being named a UPI All-Southwest Conference second-team as a senior. Rice as a team went 5-6, its best record in seven years.

The Owls' record that year included victories over LSU, A&M and Arkansas.

Kveton was considered by his coach, Ray Alborn, to be one of the best centers in the country during his college days. After college, Kveton signed as a free agent with Oakland, and became the first former

Dobie player to sign a contract with an NFL team, but did not play in the NFL.

**Lionel Dotson Jr.**  
**Dobie Class of 2003**  
**Football**



Lionel Dotson Jr. was an imposing defensive end (6-5, 240 pounds) who also excelled in basketball. He signed to play football with the University of Arizona, where he lettered four years and was named second-team All-Pac 10 as a senior.

The Dobie Longhorn was a seventh-round NFL draft pick who saw spot duty with three teams – Miami, Denver and Buffalo – over four years.

At Dobie, Dotson lettered two years in both football and basketball, earning first-team All-District honors in both sports both years.

As a senior, he was nominated to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. In basketball, Dotson was picked to play in the Texas High School Coaches All-Star Game.

At Dobie, Dotson recorded 13 sacks and 50 tackles his senior season to garner plenty of collegiate attention.

Dotson went on to hit his stride as a collegian during his senior year at Arizona when he recorded 50 tackles and a team-best 6.5 sacks.

That earned him second-team all-conference honors. (He was redshirted as a freshman and saw only spot play over the three following seasons.) He finished his college career with 121 tackles and 10.5 sacks.

A defensive tackle in the NFL, Dotson played sparingly with the Dolphins in 2008, 2009 and 2010 – and finally with Buffalo in 2011.

His career totals included 12 games played with seven total tackles. He saw just enough action to earn his NFL pension.

Dotson was an Eagle Scout who is well-remembered for wearing his scout uniform to school. His father played basketball for Guy Lewis' UH Cougars in the late 1960s.

**Andrew Gonzalez**  
**Sam Rayburn Class of 2007**  
**Basketball**



Andrew Gonzalez could simply score the basketball. He elevated the Texans' program to great heights at a point when it was needed as the group made a big push in the 5A ranks during his day.

Staying close to home following his graduation in 2007, Gonzalez put together a solid run at San Jacinto College in Pasadena before moving on to Houston Baptist University.

Pasadena ISD has certainly seen its share of exceptionally talented basketball players over the decades, and Gonzalez is right there with all of them.

A prolific scorer, Gonzalez was one of the top players in Houston Baptist basketball history, playing two seasons (2010 and 2011) at HBU after two years at San Jac.

He posted a 20.9 scoring average that still ranks third in HBU history and was team MVP both seasons.

A first team All-Great West Conference selection after both his junior and senior seasons, Gonzalez was honored as the Great West Newcomer of the Year after his junior season.

Gonzalez ranks ninth on HBU's career scoring list with 1,292 points. He ranks No. 1 in career scoring among those Huskies who played only two years and is No. 9 in career field goal percentage.

In 2011, Gonzalez posted a scoring average of 22.9, still the second highest in school history that ranked No. 6 in the NCAA that season.

He also posted the second highest point total in school history (686).

Twice that season, he scored 36 points in a game. In his HBU career, Gonzalez scored 30 or more points eight times.

As a junior in 2010, he scored 606 points. He ranked No. 7 on the school's all-time list for an average of 18.9 points per game.

At Rayburn in his senior year, Gonzalez averaged 25 points and eight rebounds a game. He was named district MVP, All-Greater Houston and All-Region.

As a sophomore at San Jacinto College, Gonzalez averaged 11 points and 4.6 rebounds under coach Scott Gernander and helped lead the Ravens to the quarterfinals of the regional tournament.

## Ticket sales will kick off in February

The Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame class of 2026 induction ceremony will return to Philips Field House in Pasadena this time around.

Committee members indicate that ticket sales will begin in February, with both full table and individual ticket sales available for purchase.

While it has not been officially confirmed through event officials, yes, the 2026 emcee is expected to be Jim McGinvale of Gallery Furniture as he will be heading the ceremonies for the special night in April.

## District boys' hoops arrive

Continued from Page 5

its 11-4 record at this point. The 22 6A varsity boys' field doesn't appear to be as deep in talent as that of 24-6A, but TABC 6A No. 9 state-ranked Pearland is 13-1 as of press time with a 12-game winning streak intact.

Dawson is 10-4 overall and has won two straight to open league play, including a 57-55 home win over the Longhorns.

Shadow Creek, next up for Dobie on the road, came away with victories in eight of its first 12 games.

After that, though, there appears to be an opening for a program to step up in the standings. Dobie can be that team.

There are no moral victories in win/loss columns, but the Longhorns have to feel good about their pro-

cess after going toe-to-toe with Dawson in their league opener.

Upon taking on Memorial after press time, the locals will prep for a tough game at Shadow Creek Dec. 19 and then will compete in the Conroe

Christmas Classic over the break.

Desmond Etienne (11) and his teammates went into action against Pasadena Memorial Dec. 16 after press time at 7-8 overall but had lost three games by three points each.

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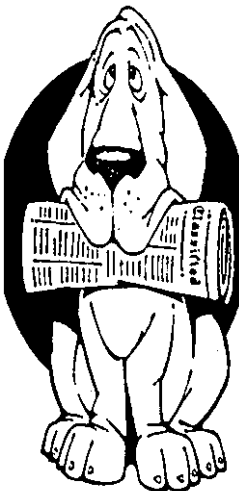
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# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Monday through Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.  
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.  
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at Cross Roads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.  
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**  
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.  
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.  
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 22**  
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.  
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email [huff\\_reunion@juno.com](mailto:huff_reunion@juno.com) for info.  
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.  
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
10 a.m. Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.  
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
**Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.

Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.  
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office (281-554-1180) for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.  
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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*Pope Francis*



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## Stuchbery second-graders write to Santa Claus

Second-grade students from Stuchbery Elementary wrote the following letters to Santa Claus.

**Cristel Hines' class**  
Dear Santa, My name is Leah. I am 8 years old. I been nice. For Christmas I want a IPhon 17, and robacs. I have a question. who is your favorite reindeer? I will leave hot coco.

**Love, Leah.**  
Dear Santa, my name is kevin Iam 8 years old I have been nice for christmas I want a ps5 and VR I have a question. who is your favorite reindeer? I will leave milke and cookies

**Love Kevin**  
Dear Santa, I'm Sumnima. Im 7 years old. I don't know if i'm naughty or nice. I'll leave cookies and mild and carrots for The reindeer. Who is your favorite reindeer and how do you go to many houses in a day? For Christmas I want an artset, slime, and an iphone 18 pro max.

**Love, Sumnima**  
Dear Santa, My name is Josiah. I am 8. I been nice. For Christmas I want tims, a necles, and a poste of me. I have a question. Who is your favorito reindeer? I Will teave i Will leave. milke and cookes

**Love, Josiah**  
Dear Santa, My name is skyler. I am 8 years old. I have been nice. For christmas I want Buney, plushey, and phone. I havea question. Who is your favorite reindeer?I will leave milk and cookes.

**Love,skyler**  
Dear Santa, My name is Benjamin. I am 8 years old I have been nice. For Christmas I want pc,ps5 and Roblux. I have a question. who is your favorite reindeer? I will leave.

**Love, Benjamin**  
Dear Santa, My name

is jaclyn. I am 7 years old. I been nice. For christmas. I want some Roblox also pj and newRoom. I have a question. who is the favorite child? I will leave cookies and milk

**love jaclyn.**  
Dear Santa, My name is Brielle I wood like to no how old are you I Have ben nice this year I will remedr to leve you sam cookies and milke and I want a toy kitchen and sam slime and a iphone 15.

**love Brielle.**  
Dear Santa, My name is own I am 8 years old for christmas can you give me presents please me. I will leave you cookies and milk also its going to be 5 cookies.

**Love Owen Hood**  
Dear Santa, My name is Alaina. I am 8 years old. I have been nice. For christmas I want mini vesos. I have a question. Who is your favorite reindeer? I will leave cookes and milkk.

**Love, Alaina.**  
Dear Santa, Jingles is so nice. My name is Khloe. I am 7 years old. I have Been Good. For christmas I want a IPad and a slole kit also a Baby alive.

**Love, Khloe**  
Dear Santa, My Name is cassidy. I am 8 year I have been nice. For christmas I want a Bar-Bie house, slime. I have a question Does Rudof have a glowing nose? I will leave cookies.

**love cassidy**  
**Janet Daodu's class**  
Dear Santa, What is your faVrel snack? My Name is Saith. I am 7 years old. I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like 10 socer Ball and a New Dog Man Book I,Il Make Sure to leave out soMe cookes.

**From, saith**

Dear Santa, How do you live in the north Pole without dying. Iam 8 years old. I think i', on the naughtylist because I've been mean to my sister. All I want for cristmas is one lego set andone ps5 and a psVR2 head set!

**EganPeveto**  
Dear Santa, I have a question how old are you? My name is Brooklyn Thomas, and I am 7 years old. This christmas I woul like a big Teddy bear. I Think I am on the nice list because I am helpful. I'll make sure To leave you cookies to eat.

**From Brooklyn**

**Thomas.**  
Dear Santa, How many elves do you have? My name is Sophia and I am 7 years old. I think i'm on the nice list because I share with my sister even though I had it first. This year for Christmas I would like a lot of Books and legos. I'll make sure to leave cookies and carrots for your raindeer.

**Love Sophia.**  
Dear Santa, When are you going to give us our presents? I'm 7 years old and I think I'm on the nice list. I want a barbie and I wish for are no homework!!!! I will give you some cookies I will try to.

**Alissa**  
Dear Santa, How old are you? I am 8 years old. I think I'm on the nice/naughty list because nice becus Ishare. This year for Chistmas I want 7elves. I'll make sure to leave carrots, milk and cookies for you.

**from Aliana**  
Dear Santa, If I see you sant. I Will hug u and I will say omg. My name is La'Khyah and 8 years old and I think I'm on the nice list because I help and clean and. I clean the classroom. I want

mack up and a kitten and a Tv, vr, uggs, and some clothes and shoes and the new dog man, and the bad seed, and a bike. I will leave Santa cookies and milk and carites for the reindeers and Lettuce. to santa

**From, La'Khyah**  
**Rosalinda Estrada's class**  
Dear Santa, I am 7 years old. I live in Texas. I have been nice this year. What is your favorite food? Are you coming to my house? I will leave milk and cookies for you. I would like a Hamster and a catus toy.

**Kathy**  
Dear Santa, I am 7 years old. do you nowe wut is yor fivret book? I have been nice and noghty. I will leave cake. I wont a camra and film.

**Anastasia Gaudht**  
Dear Santa, My name is Luke and I'm 8 years old. I live in Texas. I have been nice I will leave you something. I would like a backpack.

**Sincerely, Luke Oliva**  
Dear Santa My name is Avery and I am 7 yrs old. I have been nice This year. When were you Born? I will Leave a cupcake and some

**Sincerely, Avery**  
**Isamar Garcia's class**  
Dear Santa, I would like The Ifon 17 prow max en new soshe en a new baskeko Ineed a new toy to wer out sots en cat shus atoy a Labubu but I wot the reire wunneu en ken I hav a ese Book en a cat stekrs even I wot a new cat woDBoDor Loue Damaris my name is Damaris Ima 7 year old

**love Damaris**  
Dear Santa, For Christmas I want Zootopia blind Boxes And iPhone17.....I need a elf in the shelf Book. to wear a christmas shrit and shorts. To Read

a Book.

**Sincerely, Daniel Borne**  
Dear Santa, for christmas I want a slime. I need a banana. I want to wear a Dress. I wanta book.

**sincerely, Jennelle**  
Dear Santa, For cristmas I want a New PS5. and I want to go to cheer-LeADing. for a new skill. And after that I need a new house. I want to eat ramen. and then get a stuffy.

**Love KAMmy**  
Dear Santa, For Christmas I want a. elf plushe I need long cloths. To wear I want long Pants. for Reading want Dog man Book. I want. to play with a Bat man robot.

**love noah**  
Dear Santa, For Christmas I want a barbie bream house I have been wanting it so so much. Something I need is some new books. Something I cold wear is some bagy jeans and some cute shirts. And just so you know I'm 8 years old

**Love kameelah**  
Dear Santa, My name is Ji'aire. I want a scooter and a blue bike. My sister wants a barbie and a dino-saur.

**Love Ji'aire**  
Dear Santa, To Kninedndnv A air forsed poller-scontAt

**Jayleen**  
Dear Santa, My name is Jayleen. I am 8 years old. This year for christmas I would like a ps5 and tv.

**Love Jayleen**  
Dear Santa, Hi. my name is Aviana. I an 7 years Old. This year for Christmas I would like jacket.

**Love. AviANA**  
Dear Santa, my name is Easton I am 8 years old. For trinus I wot. maDin26 and a crowosh stashun and I wot to meet Lmar Jazin He is my frav-it plaire for a uif plaire

**Love, Easton**

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Justice of the Peace  
Precinct 2, Pos. 1**

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Kenny Fernandez**  
Pasadena ISD Board Member

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Merry Christmas & God Bless you

**Pct. 2 Constable  
Jerry Garcia**  
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