

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, February 12, 2026 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 51, No. 2

HPD to host PIP Feb. 16

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, 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. PIP meetings typically take place the third Monday of each month. For additional information, contact HPD Officer C. Castillo at castillo@houstonpolice.org or 832-395-1777.

Sagemeadow to meet Feb. 19

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. Homeowners are encouraged to attend.

Meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month. For meeting agenda, guest speaker or other additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series.

For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

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

New Covenant feeds needy

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

Kirkwood to meet Feb. 23

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Deats Road in Dickinson to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access in Texas City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until further notice.

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

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.

Chamber of Commerce holds annual gala

Sold-out event drew attendance from dozens of community leaders, elected officials

Dozens of community leaders and elected officials gathered at the Hobby Airport Marriott Friday, Feb. 6, for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 40th annual banquet.

Titled *Suede, Leather & Lace*, this year's event had a country and western theme, and with 2009 Dobie graduate Rodell Duff – a nationally recognized country and western recording artist – providing musical entertainment, attendees, wearing their best boots and cowboy hats, two-stepped into the evening.

Colby Reed was named the chamber's Volunteer of the Year for his selfless efforts in the South Belt community.

"This honoree is the kind of person every chamber hopes for – dependable, enthusiastic

and always ready to step in," said South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Chair Kristi Koncaba. "Whether it's moving furniture for an event, transporting donated items, hauling materials for off-site activities, or tackling last-minute challenges, this volunteer shows up without hesitation and often before the request is even finished. His cheerful attitude is as reliable as their work ethic, brightening even the busiest event days and turning stressful moments into manageable ones."

Burnett Elementary Principal Jae Lee was presented the group's Citizen of the Year Award.

"Tonight's honoree understands the value of giving back and lifting others up," said Koncaba. "Through thoughtful partnerships and a deep

belief in every child's potential, this leader has cultivated programs that encourage students to embrace community and take pride in their role as emerging leaders."

Koncaba was presented the organization's annual Chairman's Award.

South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lisa Holbrook described Koncaba as a "leader with exceptional vision" and said she's committed to lifelong service.

The following individuals make up the chamber's 2026 board of directors:

- Kristi Koncaba, KR Koncaba Interests, chairman.
- Noble Alix, b1Bank, past chairman.

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Lee named Citizen of the Year



The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 40th annual gala was a success Friday, Feb. 6, attracting dozens of community leaders to the Hobby Airport Marriott. Burnett Principal Jay Lee (second from left) was presented the group's Citizen of the Year Award. Shown above presented the award are, left to right, Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado, Constable Jerry Garcia and Chamber Chair Kristi Koncaba. See additional photo on Page 2. Photo by Bruce Summers

City to transition heavy trash pickup

Tree, junk waste to now be picked up by appointment only

Starting March 2, the city of Houston is transitioning to an appointment-based system for heavy trash (junk waste and tree waste) pickup.

Residents must schedule pickups by calling 311 or using the 311 website, with collection to be completed within five working days, according to Solid Waste Management Department officials.

The new, on-demand, or "by appointment" system, limits residents to four heavy trash pickups per year to reduce backlog and illegal dumping.

The new appointment-only system is aimed at ending long-running delays and easing pressure on an overextended Solid Waste Management Department. City officials say the change is driven by chronic staffing shortages, inconsistent pickup times and a system that simply couldn't keep up with demand.

"The previous system wasn't sustainable at a citywide scale," Solid Waste Director Larius Hassan recently told Houston City Council.

The department has faced months of delays, and officials say the new model – where residents request pickup rather than wait for trucks to sweep entire neighborhoods – will help crews work more efficiently.

Crews will only collect from addresses with confirmed appointments. City officials said the change is expected to

provide faster and more predictable service, eliminating the current weeks-long backlogs.

Key details

The new Houston heavy trash system will include the following key details (starting March 2):

- **How to schedule:** Call 311 or use the city of Houston 311 website to request a pickup.
- **Pickup limit:** Households are limited to four heavy trash/junk waste collections per calendar year.
- **Collection timeline:** Once scheduled, the city aims to collect items within five working days.
- **Confirmation:** residents will receive photo confirmation of their pickup.
- **Items accepted:** The service covers heavy trash, junk waste and tree waste.

Additional information

City residents should also be aware of the following information about the upcoming transition:

- The old, scheduled monthly or bimonthly system will remain in place until March 2.
- **Drop-off locations:** Residents can still use city depositories for immediate disposal of large items.
- **Construction debris:** Materials from private contractors or significant remodeling (dirt, etc.) are not accepted.

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Early voting begins for March 3 primary elections

County, state, federal elections on ballot; early voting set for Feb. 17-23

Early voting for the upcoming March 3 primary elections will begin Feb. 17, and continue through Feb. 23.

County, state and federal races will all appear on the ballot, as well as 10 proposed amendments to the state constitution.

At the top of the ballot, voters will cast their ballots for one of the state's two U.S. Senate seats.

Republican incumbent John Cornyn has filed to maintain his position.

Republican challengers vying for the position include the following candidates:

- Wesley Hunt
- Virgil John Bierschwale
- John O. Adefope
- Anna Bender
- Sara Canady
- Gulrez "Gus" Khan

Ken Paxton (current Texas attorney general) Democrats seeking the position include the following candidates:

- James Talarico
- Jasmine Crockett
- Ahmad R. Hassan

The U.S. House District 22 seat is open, as Republican incumbent Troy Nehls is not seeking re-election.

Republicans seeking the position include the following candidates:

- Trever Nehls (brother of outgoing Troy Nehls)
- Rebecca Clark
- Robert "Puga" Thomas is the lone Democrat seeking the position.

U.S. Rep Brian Babin is the only Republican to file in the House District 36 primary. Democratic challengers include the following

candidates:

- Rhonda Hart
- Doug Alan Rogers

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has filed to keep his position.

Fellow Republicans challenging him for his seat include the following candidates:

- Mark V. Goloby
- Charles Andrew Crouch
- Ronnie Tullios
- Pete "Doc" Chambers
- Stephen Samuelson
- Nathaniel Welch
- R.F. "Bob" Achgill
- Kenneth Hyde
- Evelyn Brooks
- Arturo Espinosa

Democratic challengers include the following candidates:

- Zach Vance
- Andrew White
- Angela "TiaAngie" Villescaz
- Gina Hinojosa
- Jose Navarro Balbuena
- Bobby Cole

Republican Dan Patrick has filed to keep his job as lieutenant governor.

Republicans challenging him for his seat include the following candidates:

- Perla Muñoz Hopkins
- Esala Wueschner
- Timothy Mabry

Democrats seeking the position include the following candidates:

- Marcos Isaias Velez
- Vikki Goodwin
- Courtney Head

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Dobie student struck by vehicle

Student suffered minor injuries; driver cited and released

A female Dobie student was struck by a vehicle as she was walking to school early Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Blackhawk and Kirkville.

According to Precinct 2 officials, deputies were dispatched to the accident around 6:30 a.m. to find the 17-year-old student was using the crosswalk to cross the street at the above intersection when she was hit by the car.

The female student reportedly sustained minor non-life-threatening injuries. Ambulance transport was not necessary, as the student's mother arrived at the scene and took the girl home with her.

The driver remained at the scene and was cooperative with deputies. He was determined to not be impaired.

According to Precinct 2 officials, the driver was cited and then released.

Brook Debate team continues tear

Team dominates tournament for 3rd consecutive week

As the regular season for the Clear Brook High School Wolverine Speech and Debate team draws to a close in the coming weeks, the team attended Bellaire High School's annual individual qualifying tournament from which wins, points and state qualifications were realized.

The World Schools Debate team that consists of Jaza Sheikh, Jackson Barnett, Hania Khan, Luke Wills and Khang Ngo was the only team, after a four-round preliminary portion that ended with a win/loss record of 4-0, besting the top-ranked Elkins High School. After a hard fought final round, the team walked away with first-place trophies and two additional state qualifiers – Jaza Sheikh and Jackson Barnett.

Additional final wins also included Khang Ngo who placed third overall in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking as well as Kelyn Tran

who placed sixth in Informative Speaking and Kayanath Chowdhury who placed fourth in Original Oratory. These varsity wins catapults the Wolverine Speech and Debate team to the leading district team in Clear Creek ISD for more than the 15 consecutive years.

Novice members were not to be outdone on their quest to move into the varsity ranks in the coming year. Team members Lydia Hartless, Adrian Cordova, Zaahid Mansoor, Tay Vo and Ricki Fort all stepped into varsity Extemporaneous Speaking where they picked up critical skills and it was here where Lydia and Zaahid advanced to the semifinal round.

This marked the third consecutive weekend the team excelled at local tournaments, also winning big at the recent contests at Clear Creek High School and Alief Elsik High School.

Clear Brook Debate dominates



For the third consecutive week, the Clear Brook High School Speech and Debate team has dominated local tournaments, advancing students to the upcoming state finals. Wolverines shown above at the most recent contest, held this past week at Bellaire High School, are, left to right, (front row) Khang Ngo, Luke Wills, Jaza Sheikh, Hania Khan, (back row) Kendrick Toennies, Adrian Cordova, Tay Vo and Zaahid Mansoor.

In My Opinion

Salazar vows fairness

Hi, I am Oscar Salazar, Jr. I am your Precinct 2 neighbor in the South Belt. I have tossed my hat in the ring to serve you as your next Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Place 2. That's the courthouse in Pasadena, where I grew up.

I am the owner of Mornings Kolaches. We have been serving Harris County for over thirty-five years at six locations. Thirty-five years in business is no small feat. It is through a tremendous work ethic and the love and support of our community that we are still in business. When I take the bench on January 1, 2027 that same work ethic goes to the bench with me.

I am a United States Marine. I served proudly and I served honorably and I would do it again, in a heartbeat. I served to protect and defend our great country. Now I will serve to protect and defend your rights. I will restore public trust to

this courthouse in Pasadena, serving you and the community in the manner in which you deserve. I will restore judicial efficiency to this courthouse, putting a stop to the waste and abuse of our taxpayer dollars. I will ensure that you always have access to every service you are entitled to and most of all I will make sure you always have fair, impartial and unhindered access to justice.

As things stand now, the sister courthouse in the South Belt is shouldering 78% of all court cases in the precinct. The courthouse in Pasadena is hearing only 22% and is still backlogged. That is NOT acceptable. I will work hand-in-hand with the courthouse in the South Belt to fix this abominable disparity and restore balance to our two JP courts.

I am a lifelong resident of Harris County and I have been here in Precinct 2, in the South Belt, for the last twenty years. I am a published author. My book, *Prodigal*, is a Christian novel that can be

found on Amazon and, as an audiobook, on Audible.

My wife and I are very proud of having raised our two kids here in Precinct 2, in the South Belt. My wife was a dedicated first grade public school teacher here in Precinct 2, at Landolt Elementary, she taught for twenty-six years. Our daughter, following in her mother's footsteps, is a first grade public school teacher. Our son is a law student right here at the University of Houston Law Center.

We have deep roots in our community. We love our community and we love our people.

I will always serve you in the manner in which you deserve. It will be my greatest honor to serve you as your next Harris County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Place 2. I vow to bring my thirty-five years of business and leadership experience and my uncompromised work ethic to serve you to my utmost ability.

Sincerely,
Oscar Salazar, Jr.

made the decision to stay, work, and finish school on his own working on the docks at the Port of Houston.

Those experiences shaped his character. They instilled in him resilience, faith, personal responsibility, and a deep respect for the stabilizing role families play in a child's life.

That's why Bob is so passionate about protecting children and ensuring parents, not the government, are the primary decision-makers in their children's lives.

As I am out and about in our area, I hear regularly from parents and families who feel shut out of decisions about what their children are exposed to in schools and public spaces. Bob Mitchell is clear and unwavering on this issue; parents should be in charge.

During his 15 years as President of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, Bob helped create more than 120,000 jobs and fought Washington bureaucracy to protect local funding for our aerospace industries. His leadership helped keep our region competitive and prosperous, and that experience is exactly what Texas needs in Austin.

He has also been trusted by other Republican leaders to serve in key roles, including as Vice Chair of the Gulf Coast Protection District under Governor Abbott and previously on the Texas Space Commission under Governor Perry. Those appointments speak to his credibility and results-driven leadership.

Bob will fight for property tax relief because skyrocketing property taxes are hurting homeowners, seniors, and families across our district. He will defend the Second Amendment, support law enforcement, protect innocent life, and uphold the rule of law.

But above all, Bob Mitchell understands that strong families are the foundation of a strong Texas.

Bob Mitchell has the experience, values, and character to serve House District 129 with integrity. I trust him to stand up for our families, protect our children, and keep Texas strong.

That's why I'm proud to support Bob Mitchell for State Representative, and I encourage my fellow residents to do the same.

William Paul (Bill) Bardwell



William Paul (Bill) Bardwell of Clear Lake City, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026. Bill graduated from Dobie High School in Pasadena, in May 1981. He attended Lamar Uni-

Death

versity in Beaumont. Bill retired from JC Penney Department Stores where he was in retail sales.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, Charlotte and Paul Bardwell; grandparents, Catherine and John Narva, Mary and William Bardwell; and brother-in-law, Chris Leavitt.

Bill is survived by his loving partner of 30 years, Barbara Combs; brother, Patrick Bardwell (Sarah); and sister Cathy Leavitt. Additional family loving Bill are Daniel Combs (Ashley) and Susan Combs-Wilson (Danny). Bill is survived by a host of nieces, nephews and now, great-nieces and great-nephews. He loved them unconditionally and they loved their Uncle Bill.

The service honoring Bill's life will be held at

10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities, Cross Catholic Outreach or Doctors Without Borders.

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.

Elected officials share their words

Letter from Fred Flickinger

Dear District E Residents,

Over the past several months, many of you have reached out about ongoing heavy trash delays, recycling backlogs, and the lack of predictability in service. Those concerns were front and center this week during a City Council committee meeting where the Director of Solid Waste outlined significant operational changes now underway.

The City is preparing to transition heavy trash collection to a scheduled, on-demand system, replacing the current model that sends crews down every street whether trash is present or not. That approach has contributed to inefficiencies, backlogs, and long wait times in neighborhoods across District E. Under the new system, residents will request heavy trash pickup through 3-1-1 and receive a confirmed collection date, with service completed within a defined window. This change is intended to improve accountability, reduce delays, and ensure crews are sent where they are actually needed.

The department is also implementing, for the first time, a modern work-order and tracking system that allows routes to be balanced, service requests to be documented, and collections to be verified.

These tools are already improving regular trash and recycling service citywide and will be critical to making the new heavy trash program work as intended.

Another key takeaway from the meeting was the importance of residential drop-off centers, which many residents might be unaware are available and free to use. These depositories can accept bulky items, yard waste, and recycling, helping prevent piles from sitting curbside for extended periods. You can find the full list of drop-off centers and recycling centers along with hours of operation here.

While the planned launch for scheduled heavy trash service is early March, regular pickup continues for now. My office will continue working closely with Solid Waste leadership to push for clear communication, neighborhood outreach, and accountability as these changes roll out. I will also keep advocating for District E to receive reliable, consistent service that meets the expectations of our residents.

As always, thank you for your patience and for continuing to report issues through 3-1-1 and to my office.

Fred Flickinger
Council Member District E

Gebhard supports Mitchell for state representative

We need more leaders to focus on protecting families, strengthening our local economy, and ensuring the next generation has every opportunity to succeed. That's why I'm proud to support Bob Mitchell for State Representative in House District 129.

Bob Mitchell isn't just a candidate, I know him as a local leader, and as someone who has spent nearly six decades investing in this district. He's raised his family here, coached our kids, worshiped alongside us, paid taxes here, and dedicated his professional life to building prosperity in our area. That kind of commitment can't be manufactured; it's earned over time.

Bob's life story explains why he understands the importance of strong families and safe communities.

He grew up in the Texas foster care system, experiencing instability at a very young age. By the time he reached high school, he had attended six different schools. When circumstances once again threatened to uproot him, Bob

lington Airport.

These sites require proof of residency and operate Tuesday through Saturday, typically from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Restrictions

Residents should expect the city to continue enforcing its standard rules regarding heavy trash, including the following guidelines:

- No household garbage will be accepted.
- No commercial or tractor debris will be accepted.
- Tree waste and junk waste must be properly separated when applicable.
- All waste must be in compliance with the city's size and weight limits.

City officials are expected to announce more details about the new appointment-only system as the March 2 launch approaches.

Chamber holds annual gala

Event attracts dozens of community leaders, elected officials

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- Alyta Harrell, Pasadena ISD, chairman-elect.
- Chris Clark, Clear Brook City MUD.
- Stephanie Clawson, Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital.
- Darlin Colon, Community Health Network.
- Sarah Ferguson, Home Bank.
- Kenny Fernandez, North American Shipping Agencies.
- David Flickinger, South Belt Graphics and Printing.
- Emory Gadd, Sagemont Church.
- John Herman, AMOCO Federal Credit Union, treasurer.
- Rosanne Kerr, H-E-B Blackhawk.
- J. Aaron Knight, San Jacinto College.
- Reyna Lara-Lagunas, Shell Federal Credit Union.
- Rebecca Lilley, Memorial Hermann, secretary.
- Crystal Rhamé, Lunas Mexican Restaurant.
- Robert A. Whitley, Robert Whitley Attorney at Law.
- Tristan Williams, Island Breeze Car Wash & Auto Services.



Colby Reed (center) was named the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Volunteer of the Year at the group's Feb. 6 gala. Shown presenting the award are Chamber Executive Director Lisa Holbrook (left) and Chamber Chair Kristi Konecaba. See additional photo on Page 1.

City heavy trash pickup changes

Appointment now required for tree, junk waste

Continued from Page 1

concrete, rocks) are generally excluded from residential heavy trash pickup.

Safety check: Use the city's interactive map to track the progress of heavy trash crews and check status.

Neighborhood Depositories

For items not eligible for curbside pickup, residents can still use the city's six Neighborhood Depositories, including one located at El-

Friends of PWBL seeks book donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library would like to thank the South Belt community for their continuing support. The library is currently in need of new or gently used children's books, adult paperback novels (both fiction and nonfiction) and DVDs and CDs. Donations can be made during open hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Ste. 501.

AARP offers tax preparation service

The AARP Foundation Tax Aide program is now offering free tax preparation service where certified tax counselors will prepare your tax return and e-file the return for free. Anyone of any age especially those 50 years old or older or who can't afford paid tax preparation can take advantage of the free tax preparation services offered by the AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program. For site location information, see www.tx3d5.com/home/site.

St. Paul's Anglican Church to host upcoming events

St. Paul's Anglican Church will hold a Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage supper on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The supper is open to the public free of charge. Traditionally, pancakes were served prior to the beginning of Lent when eggs and fats were forbidden.

Ash Wednesday services with the imposition of ashes will be held at noon and 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten season, a time of fasting and repentance. Lent reflects the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert in prayer and fasting before beginning his public ministry.

For more information, contact the church at 281-479-7285. St. Paul's is located at 11456 Space Center Blvd., in Clearpoint Crossing, just south of Genoa Red Bluff Road between Pasadena and Clear Lake. St. Paul's is a parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church. Services are Sunday at 8 and 10:15 a.m. with evening prayer Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Feb. 12, 4 - 5 p.m. Living English lessons. Registration required.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 4 - 5 p.m. Join our family craft adventure. 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, Feb. 12, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Tots and teacups. Registration required.

Friday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP free tax services.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m. - noon. Tai Chi.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. VITA free tax services.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunar New Year festival 2026: Year of the fire horse.

Monday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP free tax services.

Monday, Feb. 16, noon. - 1:30 p.m. Basic computer classes with Harris County Universal services. Registration required.

Monday, Feb. 16, 1 - 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.

Monday, Feb. 16, 4 - 5 p.m. 3D printer orientation. Registration required.

Monday, Feb. 16, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Personas que corren con libros: Club de lectura en Español.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

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.
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
- Read aloud and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

RE-ELECT

CIVIL JUDGE

DEDRA 270th DISTRICT CIVIL COURT

DAVIS

DELIVERS JUSTICE DAILY!

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Early Voting Feb. 17 - 27

DebraDavisForJudge.com ★ "Making Law and Order EQUAL Justice!"

Paid Political ad by Dedra Davis for Judge Campaign in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial campaign fairness act. To Anderson, Cpa, Treasurer

OSCAR SALAZAR, JR.

For Justice of the Peace

DEVOTED TO SERVICE. COMMITTED TO JUSTICE.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

EARLY VOTING:
Feb. 17 - Feb. 27

ELECTION DAY:
March 3

Church provides ashes, brunch

Kirkwood South Christian Church will host an Ash Wednesday brunch on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, at 10811 Kirkfair Drive. One can stop by to have a free brunch, meet neighbors and receive ashes on-the-go. For more information, visit www.kirkwoodsouthcc.org.

Gibson Insurance

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jeffrey@jeffreylgibsoninsurance.com

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukecatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
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All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

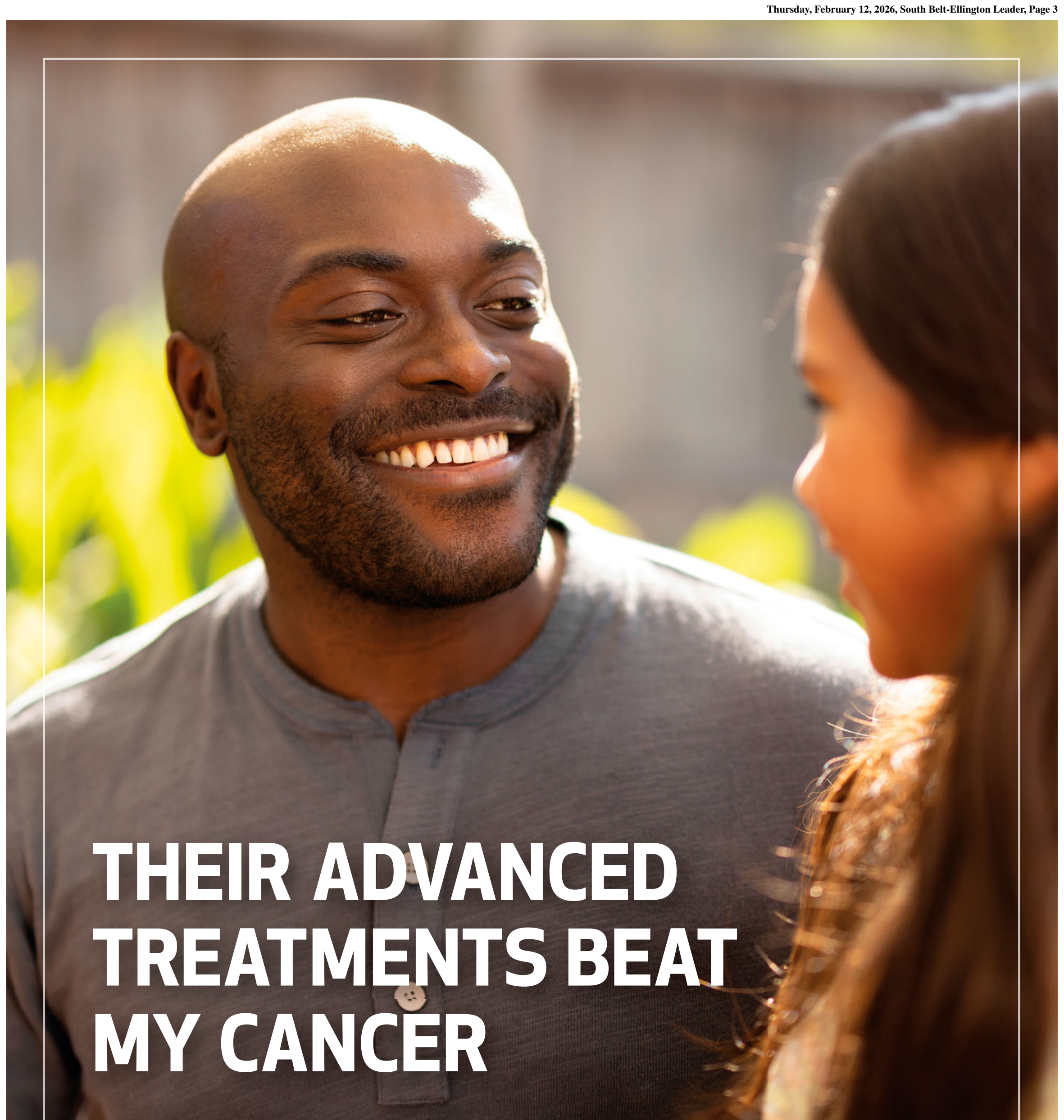
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CCISD names 66th Science and Engineering Fair winners

Clear Creek ISD recently recognized secondary-level student winners at the 66th Annual CCISD Science and Engineering Fair Awards Ceremony held on Jan. 28, 2026, at the Learner Support Center. The district announced a total of 126 students will now advance to the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston this month.

For a complete list of secondary winners of the 2026 CCISD Secondary Science and Engineering Fair Awards ceremony, visit <https://www.ccisd.net/sef>.

A total of 310 intermediate and high school students advanced from their campus fair to the district-level

competition with 182 earning an award. Students compete in the categories of life science, physical science or engineering.

"The spirit of exploration is in our mission statement and flows from our deep roots and strong ties to the Johnson Space Center," said CCISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Engle, speaking directly to the student winners. "The countdown clock is ticking for our nation's bold mission to return to the moon. Those who have worked to make the Artemis II mission possible — from the astronauts to engineers — were likely science and engineering fair winners just like you and maybe even sat

where you are seated here this evening."

Over the decades, the CCISD Science and Engineering Fair has evolved into a community event, drawing together hundreds of student competitors with volunteer judges, special category award sponsors, the Clear Creek Education Foundation which provides innovative grants for student projects, and the fair's longtime presenting sponsor, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Business and industry partners who sponsored special category awards this year included Coastal Waves Vacations, Exploration Green, Galveston Bay Foundation, iYar Fine Arts, Texas A&M

Department of Computer Science & Engineering, and Topsoe.

Each year, CCISD also recognizes students who participated in the fair for 12 years of their education journey. The following students received this esteemed recognition: Rima Shah, Esah Hussaini, Nidhi Patel, Briley Grimm, Riya Dabi, Liam Trevino, Aman Wairkar and Surabhi Kashyap. The following students received the Lucky 13 participation award for 13 consecutive years competing in the fair: Nuha Dhuka, Akhil Rajarathnam, Azhmeer Jesani, Jonathan Zwart, Francisco Delgado and Cara Anderson.

The fair culminated with the announcement of the

CCISD 2026 District Science Fair Grand Award winners and runners-up, Kendrick Toennies (Jesse A. Dorrington 2026 Grand Award, life science); Raef Dean (Jesse A. Dorrington 2026 Grand Award, physical science); Alaina Van and Danielle Trinh (Jesse A. Dorrington 2026 Grand Award, engineering); Reed Glisson (Jesse A. Dorrington 2026 Grand Award runner-up, life science); Luke Porterfield and Mikayla Porterfield (Jesse A. Dorrington 2026 Grand Award runner-up, physical science); and Victoria Sifuentes (Jesse A. Dorrington 2026 Grand Award runner-up, engineering).



Pictured, left to right, are (front row) Scott Simpson (SAIC), Jonathan Cottrell (CCISD board president), Dr. Karen Engle (superintendent), Reed Glisson (Brookside Intermediate), Victoria Sifuentes (Brookside Intermediate), Danielle Trinh (Clear Lake High School), Alaina Van (Clear Brook High School), Mikayla Porterfield (Clear Brook High School), Jessica Cejka (board vice president) and Arturo Sanchez (trustee), (back row) Jeff Larson (board secretary), Jamieson Mackay (trustee), Kendrick Toennies (Clear Brook High School) and Luke Porterfield (Clear Brook High School). Raef Dean (Clear Springs High School) is not pictured.

Fred Roberts celebrates Aviators of the month



Fred Roberts Middle School recently announced their January Aviators of the month. The students chosen are being recognized for their innovative thinking. Pictured, left to right, are counselor Crissy Higham, fifth-graders Alorah Esparza, Hunter Burnham, sixth-graders Houston Castillo Salazar, Genesis Valdez and principal Citlali Guerrero.

Early voting begins March 3

Continued from Page 1

The Texas attorney general seat is open because Paxton is seeking the U.S. Senate seat.

Republicans seeking the position include the following candidates:

- Aaron Reitz
- Chip Roy
- Joan Huffman
- Mayes Middleton (current state senator for District 11)

Democrats seeking the position include the following candidates:

- Anthony "Tony" Box
- Nathan Johnson
- Joe Jaworski

Current state Rep. Dennis Paul is the lone Republican running for the state Senate District 11 seat being vacated

by Middleton.

Democrats seeking the position include the following candidates:

- Shannon Dickey
- Cameron A. Rollwitz

Republican candidates looking to replace Paul in his state House District 129 seat include the following candidates:

- Bob Mitchell (longtime South Belt resident)
- Scott Bowen (former Clear Creek ISD board member)

Albert Wittliff is the sole Democrat seeking the position.

Democrat Mary Ann Perez has filed to keep her job as representative for state House District 144.

Challengers from her own party include the following candidates:

- Emmanuel Guerrero
- Michael Montemayor

David Flores is the only Republican seeking the position.

A wide range of candidates are competing for the Harris County judge seat being vacated by Lina Hidalgo.

Republicans seeking the position include the following candidates:

- George Harry Zoes
- Warren A. Howell
- Oscar Gonzales
- Marty Lancton

Democrats seeking the position include the following candidates:

- Matt Salazar
- Letitia Plummer (former Houston City Council member)
- Annise Parker (former Houston mayor)

Democrat Adrian Garcia has filed to maintain his position of Harris County Precinct 2 commissioner.

Republican challengers

include the following candidates:

- Raquel Hernandez Boujorne
- Richard Vega

Harris County Precinct 2, Place 2 Justice of the Peace Dolores Lozano is campaigning to keep her position.

She is being challenged by fellow Democrat Oscar Salazar Jr.

Jack Ezell is the only Republican seeking to unseat Lozano.

Early voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Polling locations had not been announced yet at press time.

Voters may cast a ballot at any location during early voting, regardless of precinct. Residents should bring an approved photo ID.

For additional information, to see a sample ballot or a list of polling locations, visit www.harrisvotes.org.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)
The J. Frank Dobie Lariettes Drill team won a sweepstakes trophy for the second year in a row at the Annual Blue and Gold Drill Team Contest.

County Commissioner Tom Bass, state Rep. Bill Caraway and Houston City Councilman Frank Mancuso attended the Bicentennial program at Frazier Elementary sponsored by the Frazier Parent-Teachers Association.

45 years ago (1981)
William E. "Buster" Gilbreth took over the head coaching job at Dobie. Andy M. Griffin and Sagemont resident Bill V. Newcomb took the similar positions at Pasadena and South Houston high schools respectively.

Sagemont Jaycees and Alameda Mall sponsored a country-western dance at the mall to benefit the family of Rochelle Townley, a student at Frazier Elementary who had been struck with herpes encephalitis.

40 years ago (1986)
A bridge connecting the Sageglen and Green Tee subdivisions was under construction by Harris County Flood Control.

PISD Board of Trustees

President Dr. B.J. Garner was selected by the board to seek placement on the Texas Association of School Boards Board of Trustees.

35 years ago (1991)
Dobie decathlon won regional match scoring 4,000 points ahead of its nearest competitor, Deer Park.

Former Dobie football player and 1986 graduate Sedic White died after being shot several times following an argument in the 5900 block of Southwind which is off Cullen and Bellfort.

30 years ago (1996)
Approximately 80 percent of the South Belt area had to change their numbers to the newly created 281 area code following a 2-1 vote of the Public Utilities Commission.

John Wayne Sammons of Sageglen, 43, died of an apparent heart attack after collapsing on the Harris County jogging trail adjacent to Scarsdale Boulevard.

25 years ago (2001)
Sixty-five residents attended a meeting to discuss securing a Weber school replacement.

Dobie cheerleading squad took sixth place in the small varsity division at the UCA national finals.

South Belt Dolphin Youth football league reported approximately \$15,000 worth of equipment stolen.

Roseanne Salas, 26, Darrell Bishop, 19, and James Santos, 26, were identified as the three suspects arrested by Houston Police for robbing 17 insurance agencies.

20 years ago (2006)
A \$1.3 million software program was causing chaos inside PISD. Administrators and counselors were experiencing great difficulty in retrieving necessary reports regarding attendance, discipline, tardies and student whereabouts at a particular time.

Clear Brook High School student Samantha Underwood raised the grand champion steer at the 24th annual livestock show. Underwood's steer was sold for \$7,500. The total amount earned by Brook students was more than \$83,000.

15 years ago (2011)
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce held a banquet to celebrate its 27th anniversary. Houston Mayor Annise Parker was the guest of honor at the annual event. A former small business owner, Parker stressed the importance of local chambers of commerce,

as well as Houston's role in international business.

Pariyanan Vaduganathan, M.D., was elected chief of the medical staff by his physician peers at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. A board-certified cardiologist, Vaduganathan would act as a liaison between the medical staff and hospital employees and administrative staff during his two-year term.

The South Belt community was struck by a hard freeze with temperatures dipping into the mid-20s. While the area was spared the snow that was predicted, icy conditions led to the closure of many local schools, businesses and non-emergency government entities. While road closures and traffic accidents were widespread across the Greater Houston area, local problems were limited.

10 years ago (2016)
Two South Belt siblings were killed early Sunday, Feb. 7, in a house fire that took place in Pasadena. Jesse Walker, 19, and Taylor Walker, 20, were pronounced dead at the scene. Both were Dobie graduates.

A local man was killed Saturday, Feb. 6, in an auto-pedestrian accident at the corner of Scarsdale and Beamer. Ced-

ric Roby, 59, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Roby was attempting to cross the street when he was struck by a vehicle heading north on Beamer. Witnesses said driver had a green light. No charges were filed.

5 years ago (2021)
Two local Pasadena ISD staff members died this past week in a two-day period. Dobie teacher Melissa "Missy" Gutierrez, 45, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, from issues associated with the COVID-19 virus. Gutierrez taught family consumer science at Dobie High school for 11 years. She previously taught fourth grade at Atkinson Elementary. Gutierrez also attended Dobie, graduating from the area high school in 1993. The previous day on Monday, Feb. 1, Lomax Middle School principal Norma Jean Penny unexpectedly died at the age of 52. Penny began her career at Miller Intermediate, where she served three years as a reading teacher and three years as a student counselor. She was then promoted to assistant principal at Thompson Intermediate, where she served three years, before being promoted to principal at Carter Lomax Middle School, where she served 15

years. While at Lomax, Penny was named Pasadena ISD's Middle School Principal of the Year.

1 year ago (2025)
An 83-year-old man opened fire at a band event being held at Pasadena Memorial High School Saturday, Feb. 1, striking one male in the shoulder.

According to Pasadena ISD officials, the elderly man entered the school auditorium where numerous schools were having a band competition around 6 p.m. and began discharging a small-caliber handgun.

An off-duty Houston police officer tackled the suspect, and with the help of others, was able to subdue the shooter until police arrived.

Dennis Erwin Brandl Jr. was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. At press time, he was being held without bond.

A 26-year-old male was hit by a bullet in the shoulder and needed to be airlifted to a nearby hospital. At press time, the male victim was listed in stable condition and was expected to make a full recovery.

Investigators said the shooter had no connection to the victim and no affiliation with any of the schools/students involved in the event.

According to investigators, the suspect told police he believed he and his wife had been chased from the house in Spring to the campus in Pasadena, prompting him to enter the school and fire his weapon.

The Pasadena Police Department and Pasadena ISD Police Department will be working together on the investigation.

Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell sent out an alert to parents notifying them of the incident.

"We are grateful for the brave citizens and the officers who were on the scene for security at the event and courageously stepped up to detain the shooter and prevent any possible further violence. While we do not yet know the motive for the shooting, we are confident that the actions of the bystanders will prove to be heroic," Powell's message read in part. "Pasadena ISD crisis counselors will be at Pasadena Memorial on Monday for students and staff, as well as at other campuses for students and staff that may have been impacted. Additional security will be provided all next week as we work to continue to keep our campuses safe. Our thoughts and prayers are with all involved. I am so proud of our staff members, police from our district and city and community members who made sure there was no further harm that could have taken place."

Church to hold 25th annual Jog-Walk-a-Thon

The New Covenant Christian Church Usher's Ministry will host its 25th annual Jog-Walk-a-Thon on Saturday, March 7, 2026. The event begins at 8 a.m. at New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk Blvd.

Proceeds will benefit the Willie V. Hahn and Mary Coleman scholarship fund. Organizers hope to attract 200 participants and raise \$5,000.

On-site registration will be available the day of the event. Registration fees are \$25 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and under.

For more information, call 281-484-4230.

Shaar Hashalom hosts Purim carnival

The Congregation Shaar Hashalom annual Community Purim Carnival is at 16020 El Camino Real, Houston, TX 77062 in Clear Lake City midway between El Dorado and Bay Area Blvd. on Sunday, March 1, from noon to 3 p.m.

The family-friendly carnival is for all ages with games, food, face painting, live petting zoo, bouncing structure, wall climbing, auctions and more. One can bring their kids, grandparents, friends' and neighbors' kids for fun, food and merriment.

Presale tickets are available online at shaarhashalom.org. Activity tickets which include all the indoor and outdoor rides plus popcorn and cotton candy are \$10 and \$13 at the door. Meal tickets are \$12 online or \$14 at the door.

The Clear Lake Community Purim Carnival is a fundraising event. The entire community is invited to join in the fun, food, auctions and merriment.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is the Conservative synagogue in the Bay Area. For information about religious services or activities, call 281-488-5861.

2025-2026 Pasadena ISD Public Notice on Annual Performance Report

Pasadena Independent School District will hold a public meeting on the 2025-2026 Annual Performance Report during a scheduled Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Pasadena ISD Administration Building, located at 3920 Mickey Gilley Blvd., Pasadena, TX 77505.

For more information, please contact the Pasadena ISD Department of Communication at 713-740-0248.

Aviso público del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Pasadena para el período 2025-2026 sobre el informe anual de desempeño

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Pasadena llevará a cabo una reunión pública sobre el Informe Anual de Rendimiento 2025-2026 durante la reunión programada de la Junta Directiva el 24 de febrero de 2026, a las 5:30 p.m. La reunión se llevará a cabo en el Edificio Administrativo del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Pasadena, ubicado en 3920 Mickey Gilley Blvd., Pasadena, TX 77505.

Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con el Departamento de Comunicación del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Pasadena en el 713-740-0248.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

LILY TURNS EIGHT!
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Lilian (Lily) Margaret Scarberry who celebrates her eighth birthday Thursday, Feb. 12, from dad Austin, mom Tiffany and big sister Jade Scarberry; grandparents Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents; aunts Jenny (Hayes) Laney and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; uncles Stephen Flowers, Joey Hayes and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Brayden and Baylee Espinosa, Olivia Moreno, and Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flores.

BAIERS COMMEMORATE ANNIVERSARY
Congratulations are in order for Dean Baier and his wife Barb as they celebrate the five years of their marriage. Dean and Barb married Feb. 13, 2021. Here's to many more wonderful years of marriage.

JADE CELEBRATES 18TH BIRTHDAY
Special happy birthday wishes are sent to Jade Elizabeth Scarberry who turns 18 years old Wednesday, Feb. 18. Hugs and kisses are sent to her from dad Austin, wife Tiffany and little sister Lily Scarberry; mom Nicole Scarberry; grandparents Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents; aunts Jenny Hayes and Stacey Flowers; uncles Stephen Flowers, Joey Hayes and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Brayden and Baylee Espinosa, Olivia Moreno and Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flores. Jade's parents are both Dobie High School graduates.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 12 through Feb. 18.

Atkinson Elementary
The day for a party for Diana Trevino is Feb. 14. Send a birthday greeting Feb. 17 to Ludivina Perez.

Burnett Elementary
Give a birthday shoutout Feb. 12 to Victoria Perez. Remember to wish Carla Reyes a happy birthday Feb. 13.

Bush Elementary
Party with Aide Buenrostro and Brianna Villarreal on Feb. 18.

Genoa Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to Brenda Melendez Feb. 12. The day for a party for Summer Bradley is Feb. 18.

Hancock Elementary
Maritza De La Garza enjoys a birthday Feb. 15.

Meador Elementary
Remember to wish Erika Rodarte a happy birthday Feb. 12. Blow out the birthday candles for Natalie Aviles Feb. 15. Feb. 16 is the day for a fun celebration for Tania Castillo.

Moore Elementary
Kristy Chapa enjoys a birthday Feb. 12. Join in on the birthday fun Feb. 18 for Ashley Evans.

South Belt Elementary
Melissa Cerda enjoys a birthday Feb. 12.

Melillo Middle School
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 12 is Michelle Rush. The day for a birthday cake for Gabrielle Creagh is Feb. 14.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
A double-fun day is planned Feb. 12 for Juan Fernandez and Yesenia Ramirez. Birthday wishes are in order on Feb. 15 for

Barbara Henderson.

Thompson Intermediate
Heidi Applegate enjoys a birthday Feb. 13. Blow out the candles Feb. 16 for Yvonne Rojas. Selena Dela Fuente celebrates a birthday Feb. 17.

Dobie High
Holly Peel and Alexys Salguero enjoy a wonderful birthday on Feb. 13. The day for birthday balloons and party favors for Willard Joiner is Feb. 16. Send birthday greetings on Feb. 18 to Mariah Maya and Reema Shaikat.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Feb. 12: Greg Banhart, C.J. Jareo III, Chris Smith, Cynthia Tavera, Clyde Jones, Lisa Jones, Jacqueline Preston, Alex Lerma and Robert Barbosa; Friday, Feb. 13: Celeste Beaty, Trisha Waguespack, Cristi Skerrett and Randy Harms; Saturday, Feb. 14: Cathi Brockman and Jon Baker. Sunday, Feb. 15: Mark Wilson, Laura Allison, Gene Cernal and Kelley Huebner; Tuesday, Feb. 17: Jeannie Nelson, Monica Gonzales, Dawn Armstrong, Jeri Joslin, Donn Reichelt, Russell Janacek and Susan Slater, and Wednesday, Feb. 18: Sonja Britt, Jason Jaeger, Leslie Barr, Sterling Washington, Rose Pena, Tianne Bernal, LeRoy Peters, Shana Kiser, Daer Platt, Valerie Chavez and Troy Taormina.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject.

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P02640 11/04

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Brook boys seek playoff position



Junior Christian Brown and his Clear Brook Wolverines have very much positioned themselves for a shot at the postseason in the 24-6A varsity boys' basketball race following four consecutive wins in league play.

Once seemingly buried in the standings following a rather sluggish 2-5 first-half run through the District 24-6A field of varsity boys' basketball programs, Clear Brook had seemingly put itself in a must-win situation on a nightly basis moving forward.

That was then, and this has now been a massive push for the Wolverines, who took a four-game winning streak into action at Brazoswood Feb. 10 after press time seeking a fifth. The four wins have been good enough to push the Wolverines all the way to third place in the standings behind 10-1 co-leaders Dickinson and Clear Springs With Senior Night coming Feb. 13 at home against those very good Clear Springs Chargers, and then a road game at Deer Park Feb. 17 to close the regular season, the Wolverines know that they just may need to win out to ensure a postseason berth.

The Wolverines stayed on a roll Feb. 3, cruising past Clear Falls by a 76-59 count to get to 5-5 in league play. Abdiel Jimenez and Joshua Pichon led the way with 21 points each, and

Jace Walker at 11 points and six assists. Christian Brown chipped in with his all-around game of eight points, seven assists and four steals, while Ayden Harvey added eight points and four rebounds. Still needing a signature victory to get over the hump, the Wolverines did just that, hammering Clear Lake 80-60 as Walker led the way with 25 points, six rebounds and seven assists. Pichon came through with 22 points, four rebounds and three assists. Jimenez had a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds, and also dealt seven assists. Cruz Calone added eight points and eight rebounds in the huge win for the locals.

Clear Brook went into the Brazoswood game at 24-7 overall and had jumped over Clear Lake for third place in the standings, with both programs at 6-5. It very well could be that the Brook\Deer Park winner in the regular season finale will head to the postseason.

Should Clear Brook qualify for the postseason, it would enter into the 6A



Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris has finalized both Clear Springs and Alief Taylor as the Longhorns' nondistrict football opponents over the next two seasons. The 2026 final schedule will be released at a later date.

Following UIL reclassification, Dobie football picks opponents

As reported in the *Leader* last week, the newly formed District 18-6A alignment will feature the five Clear Creek ISD programs, new comer Barbers Hill as well as Deer Park and Dickinson. Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Clear Falls, Clear Lake and Clear Springs represent Clear Creek ISD. The two largest high schools in the district by enrollment are Deer Park and Dickinson.

Following the University Interscholastic League's Feb. 2 reclassification announcement for the 2026-2027 through 2027-2028 school years, Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris has finalized the Longhorns' nondistrict opponents for those two seasons.

The Longhorns will take on perennial playoff maker Clear Springs as well as Alief Taylor.

Dobie beginning next school year will be part of District 19-6A along with Pasadena ISD programs

Pasadena Memorial and Sam Rayburn together with Alvin, Manvel, Shadow Creek, Dawson, Pearland and new comer Brazoswood. As reported last week, South Houston is now part of the Class 5A ranks.

On the football field a season ago, the Longhorns finished at 5-5 overall and missed the postseason.

Heading into the 2026 season, the coaching staff has already been hard at work along with the student-athletes in the off-season program.

With just one starter back on defense, as well as a newcomer at quarterback and at several spots along the offensive line, the Longhorns are sure to have plenty of first-time performers out on the field as they enter into the newly formed district.

Other tidbits coming out of the reclassification include Bridgeland entering Region III as former Dobie boys' soccer coach Justo Manrique will bring his state-ranked soccer program into the Houston-rich region.

Bridgeland is currently in Region II.

The Pasadena in South Houston programs, now headed to district 11-5A, will earn plenty of travel points over the next two years while traveling to schools such as Angleton, Katy Freeman, Richmond Randle and Victoria East.

The district as a whole will include the Eagles and Trojans in addition to Iowa Colony, Angleton, Fort Bend Dulles, Friendswood, Freeman, Randle and Victoria East.

It surely would have been fun to match the Pasadena ISD programs and their fellow 19-6A competitors against those of Clear Creek ISD, Deer Park, Dickinson and Barbers Hill, yet it wasn't to be.

Instead, the Clear Creek ISD programs and others are part of 18-6A and will be matched with possibly the most competitive district in the region as 17-6A now include Channelview, Crosby, North Shore, Humble, Atascocita, Kingwood, Summer Creek and C.E. King.

Longhorn varsity boys' soccer finishes first half atop 22-6A

The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team entered the second half of District 22-6A action atop the standings at 5-0-3, looking to continue a strong push toward the postseason in the back half of league play.

The Longhorns defeated Manvel 5-0 Feb. 6, closing out the first half with 18 points. The Longhorns are technically tied with Pearland, also 5-0-3 but ahead of the Oilers in goal differential.

The two programs played to a 1-1 draw in the first round.

"Really, it has come down to an everyday mindset and focus for the guys," Dobie head coach Josh Kluka said.

"We set team goals at the beginning of the season, and the guys have really developed a consistency and a belief in themselves to come out and do the things necessary each

and every day to be able to get wins on game nights.

"Obviously, we feel really good to be where we are, but there is a lot of soccer to be played."

The race to the 22-6A championship appears to be down to three programs, including the Longhorns, Pearland and Memorial. Dobie and Pearland have earned 18 points, while the Mavs have 17. Wins are worth three points, ties a single point and losses earn nothing.

Dobie will host Memorial Feb. 18 and then host Pearland Feb. 24. Memorial, third in the standings at 5-1-2, played eighth-place Alvin to a draw to close out the first half.

"Our guys know that we have set standards for ourselves within the program, and they really have done a fantastic job of following through on those standards every day.

"A lot of times it has little to do with a win, but instead how we won the match. In other words, did we play up to our standards and did we execute the plan the way that we wanted to? So far, we have come through in a big way."

Devin Umazor, a sophomore, and senior Jezreel Ramales had goals against the Texans to go with an own goal, and goalkeeper Yurem Perez, a sophomore, continued to play exceptionally well in the nets.

Kluka also mentioned Axel Gonzalez and Mikeal Pantaleon as those among many who have excelled on the defensive side of things as the Longhorns still have surrendered a single-digit goal total through 13 total matches heading into action against Dawson after press time.

"There is a pride and

expectations that are very high in this program," Kluka said. "It's a tremendous credit to these

guys to be in this position at this point, but they also know that there is plenty of work to be done down

the stretch. "Hopefully, we can continue to come out with the focus and the deter-

mination to get the job done over these next eight matches and then into the playoffs.

"This group is never satisfied and is typically never looking ahead but instead focused on that particular match. They know that we need to continue to do exactly that as we move forward."

The Longhorns' junior varsity team also finished the first half of district 22-6A play with a perfect 8-0-0 record, providing proof that this year's success is far from a one-hit wonder.

22-6A Boys' Soccer Standings (Through Feb. 6 Play)

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Dobie	5	0	3	18
Pearland	5	0	3	18
Memorial	5	1	2	17
Dawson	3	2	3	12
S. Houston	2	2	4	10
Rayburn	2	3	3	9
Shadow Creek	2	3	3	9
Alvin	0	6	2	2
Manvel	0	7	1	1

JFD boys second at Kethans; Brown Relays next

The high school track and field season is off and running, and the Dobie varsity boys' program should be a top contender at the Feb. 12 Pasadena ISD Brown Relays at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

The Longhorn boys, in their second season under head coach Jacob Watson, put together a fantastic performance to open the season Feb. 6 at the Kethan Relays in Deer Park, ultimately finishing second in the team standings behind Clear Creek.

The Wildcats posted a meet high of 139 points, followed by Dobie with 120. Brazoswood was a distant third with 73 points.

Dobie's 4x100 relay squad delivered an early highlight on the track in a gold medal performance as Marcus Jones, who also captured a gold medal in the 100, was joined by Titus Randle, Adrian Taylor and Da'Marcus Hodges to claim a victory at 42.234 seconds.

As for Jones, he claimed the gold in the 100 with a time of 10.601, followed by Randle at 11.059 as the two seniors grabbed the top two spots in the sprint. Hodges was the gold medalist in the long jump as he made his way to the 21 feet, 7 1/4 mark for the gold medal.

It was Jones, Taylor, Javeon Polidore and Tyler

Owens in the 4x200 as the Longhorns captured third place and a bronze medal in a time of 1 minute, 31.389 seconds.

As expected, sophomore Jordan Roman delivered in a big way in the 3,200 as he was second overall for a silver medal in a time of 9:57.435.

Senior Johann Villavicencio, looking to cap what has been a tremendously successful career for himself, was a bronze medalist at the 800 distance as he finished in a

time of 2:00.354.

Finishing off what was eventually a 44-point day in the relays, Polidore combined with Ruben Vasquez, Villavicencio and Jaedon Sinclair for third place and a bronze medal in the 4x400, clocking in at 3: 35.919.

Dakarai Parker was a gold medalist for Dobie in the triple jump as he made his way to the 43-9 mark for the win.

Hodges was third for a bronze medal as he scored in at 42-11, with the Long-

horns collecting 16 total points in the event.

A couple of varsity football standouts combined to score well for Dobie in the discus as Leudy Matos came away with a throw of 141-4 for second place and a silver medal, just ahead of Cedric Gillespie, who was third at 131-1 for a bronze medal.

As for the Dobie girls, the group produced 51 team points for fifth place in the final standings.

Daisha Jackson was one of the top stars for the

Longhorns and she captured a gold medal in the 100, crossing the finish line at 12.449.

The Longhorn girls medaled in the 4x100 with a bronze medal for third place. That group, which clocked in at 51.105, included Maleiyah Hoop, Jackson, My'Kaila Mitchell and Aniya Menefee.

It was Hoop, Jackson, Menefee and Izzlliah Williams for fourth place in the 4x200 with a time of 1:48.809.

Menefee finished at 16-4 for second place and a bronze medal in the long jump. Dobie could also see the return of multi-event standout Kylar Joseph at the Brown Relays.

Byrum is Making the Grade

At right, Dobie varsity girls soccer standout Bella Byrum (left) received a visit from Fox26 reporter Nate Griffin as the Longhorn senior was recognized as part of the station's Making the Grade program for her outstanding work both in the classroom and on the athletic field. A team captain, Byrum has helped the Longhorns climb into playoff contention midway through the 22-6A varsity girls' soccer race and is also on track to graduate with an associate degree through the Dobie Early College program.



Longhorn softball takes down Brook

Visiting Dobie pushed across two runs in each of the third, fourth, and fifth innings to build a 6-2 lead, then added a pair of insurance runs in the top of the seventh inning to defeat Clear Brook 8-2 in the 2026 regular season varsity softball opener for both programs Feb. 9.

Senior Natalie De Hoyos was the catalyst for the Longhorns throughout the night and she had three hits and scored three runs, while junior Persephone Soria scored a run and knocked in two runs. Genesis Leal, Alexis Martinez, freshman Madie Campos and Khloe Coronado all drove and runs. Martinez, Campos, Coronado and Soria all

had doubles among the Longhorns eight total hits. Senior pitcher Vanessa de la Fuente started for the Longhorns and struck out seven over four innings, allowing one earned run. Chloe Nunez pitched the final three innings, allowing just one hit and no runs while striking out five.

Clear Brook was led by Camila Padua, who doubled in a pair of runs. Ahiza Garcia also had a pair of hits, including a double. Dobie will now head to College Station Feb. 12-14 to compete in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Invitational. The locals will then return to the Houston area and take on Dawson Feb. 17 to open District 22-6A play.

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Dobie baseball nears opener



Dobie varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres (left) and assistant coach Kevin Schulba are busy preparing the Longhorns for the 2026 opener Feb. 15 at Goose Creek Memorial.

JFD girls' basketball hosts Senior Night to cap 2025-2026



Four-year varsity letter-winner Audrey Volper (1) was part of a special Senior Night celebration Feb. 10 as the Longhorns closed out the 2025-2026 basketball regular season.



Dobie's Hailey Butler (23) enjoyed Senior Night Feb. 10 as she closed out a successful career with the Longhorns as part of a final evening of basketball against Manvel.

Branch, Yusuf personified Longhorns' competitive spirit on way to Hall of Honor

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**

Dobie High School will host its 14th annual Hall of Honor induction ceremony Feb. 20 in the school auditorium on the main campus, with a total of seven deserving individuals entering the Hall as part of the 2026 class.

Each year, the Hall endeavors to recognize individuals with ties to the school who have made significant contributions to the community and/or serve as role models for current and future students.

The entire class for 2026 includes Capt. Larry Arcement (Class of 1974); Laura Dominguez Chan, (Class of 1985), Remi Yusuf class of 2002, Sgt. Major Alan Daigle (Class of 2005); coach John Bryan (faculty), Donna Branch (faculty), and Seth Webb (community volunteer).

The *Leader* in recent weeks had a chance to catch up with a pair of inductees who first produced remarkable careers in athletics with the Longhorns and then subsequently have contributed greatly to generations of young student athletes.

Donna Branch was first the winner of more than 500 career matches during a varsity volleyball head coaching career that spanned more than 20 seasons.

She then went on to guide students as an administrator at Dobie before finishing her career as an assistant athletic director in the Pasadena ISD athletic department.

Star basketball player Remi Yusuf, a class of 2002 graduate, is widely considered to be perhaps the best overall performer in program history.

He went on to play collegiately at Texas A&M-Kingsville, where

he is in the Javelina Hall of Fame and is now contributing to at-risk youth across the Houston area through his Be A 9th Wonder foundation

First a standout student-athlete at Sam Rayburn High School in both volleyball and middle distance running, Branch was a star volleyball player who also taught herself to throw the javelin collegiately at San Jacinto College. She subsequently had a very successful career in her own right with the Ravens before joining the coaching ranks.

Her record at Dobie High School speaks for itself. She guided the Longhorn volleyball program for more than two decades, accumulating more than 500 career victories along the way before retiring from coaching following the 2002-2003 school year.

She is a member of the PISD Athletics Hall of Fame, having been inducted in 2016 and has collected nearly every award/benchmark possible for anyone ever associated with Pasadena ISD. The accomplishments go on and on, but to understand what truly made Branch so successful, one should study just what actually made her tick in competition.

Branch's career resume is truly something to behold. As mentioned, she collected more than 500 career victories on the court, and the volleyball court at the current Dobie main bears her name.

She is one of two head coaches of JFD programs to have eclipsed the career 500 or more victory plateau, the other being Longhorn boys' basketball legend Scott Talton.

It should also be noted that current Dobie softball coach Robin Rackley, who played volley-

ball under the guidance of Branch, is very much on her way to 500 or more career victories on the field.

Even to this day, several months after her official retirement, Branch still relives special moments again and again. She told the *Leader* recently that she was rummaging through a box of old articles detailing some of the successes of her Dobie volleyball program over the years.

Even though she knew full well the eventual outcome of many of those matches, Branch said she found herself wrapped up in the emotions and the individual points and games of particular matches as she read the articles. Even as an assistant athletic director with in Pasadena ISD, Branch said she thrived on the true competition of every sport.

"I just get wrapped up in it," she said. "I always have. Even when I was a student-athlete at Sam Rayburn, I was extremely competitive and would play the results over and over in my mind."

"At Dobie, we were truly blessed with tremendous athletes who were willing to put in the hard work year after year. I had three legitimate opportunities that come to mind in terms of being able to move to another program, but I always chose to stay. I'm truly happy that I did."

Branch retired from coaching following the 2003-2004 school year. That final 2003 volleyball team enjoyed a tremendous amount of success, ultimately reaching the regional quarterfinals before a loss to Stratford.

She immediately transitioned into administration at Dobie High School, and get this, most enjoyed the sense of teamwork within the group whether it was under former principals Jerry Speer, Steve Jamail or Franklin Moses.

As an athletic administrator during the final stretch of her career, Branch enjoyed all of the team sports as well as the individual performances.

She could be found often in the press box at Veterans Memorial Stadium watching football, but was in her element watching volleyball matches at Phillips Field House.

Of course, each week she traveled to many of the intermediate and high school campuses to witness play. Again, it's the feel of competition, both the anticipation and the risk/reward of wins and losses at the end that most excited Branch. "45 years was enough," Branch said. "I really have

enjoyed the freedom that comes with retirement. I don't think I will ever not miss the competition, and I follow the results of a lot of the programs within the district.

"I am truly honored to join the Dobie Hall of Honor. A lot of us over there put in many many years of blood, sweat and tears. I happen to be one of the ones being honored this time around, but there are so many more that are equally deserving of the recognition."

"It was a blessing to be associated with both Dobie High School and Pasadena ISD as long as I was able to."

Remi Yusuf didn't even arrive in the South Belt area until his sixth-grade school year but rather quickly became the Lions' best player on the hardwood at Thompson Intermediate and joined the varsity basketball unit at Dobie High School as a sophomore.

One of the most gifted players in program history, Yusuf went on to play collegiately at Texas A&M-Kingsville and played professionally both overseas and was a Houston Rocket in 2015, albeit briefly.

He founded the non-profit Be A 9th Wonder foundation roughly 10 years ago in honor of his sister and now will join the Hall of Honor as one of the great contributors as a Longhorn.

Yusuf at Dobie put together the type of explosive three-year varsity career that has one former coaching staff member naming the left-handed scoring machine as the best player to ever take the court for the Longhorns.

A spectacular career with the Longhorns behind him, Yusuf began the quest to find a collegiate home during his senior year, the 2001-2002 school year. Despite his skill set, the big names in collegiate hoops were not checking in much on Yusuf.

"Dobie was not really known as a basketball school at that point in time, and obviously we didn't have the exposure to social media that athletes have today," Yusuf said.

"But we had just come off an appearance in the regional quarterfinals, and I had put together a pretty good season as the Most Valuable Player in the district. Texas A&M-Kingsville welcomed me into their program, and I had belief in myself that I could be a pretty good college player."

Yusuf indeed was a solid player for the Javelinas during a career

that spanned from 2002 through 2007 as he overcame the loss of a complete season due to a torn pectoral muscle.

In fact, Yusuf late last year was inducted into the Javelina Hall of Fame at Texas A&M-Kingsville. Yusuf has previously been awarded the Texas A&M-Kingsville Heritage Hero award, the Autism Educator of the Year Award and enjoyed Remi Yusuf Day in Houston on Sept. 17, 2002.

A four-year letter winner from 2002 through that 2007 season, Yusuf is now considered one of the greatest men's basketball players to ever don the blue and gold for the Javelinas.

During the 2005-2006 season, Yusuf was named the Lone Star Conference Most Valuable Player and later became a South Central Region first-team selection and an NCAA Division 2 All-American Honorable Mention selection. Yusuf followed that up in his final season by being named to the LSC second team all-conference group.

Today, Yusuf stands No. 3 overall in program history in games played with 112 and is sixth overall in minutes played. He is one of just five A&M-Kingsville players to score more than 1,500 points in his career.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree in social work, Yusuf enjoyed multiple stays on the international basketball scene, as he played in Slovakia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and more. In 2015, he concluded his professional basketball career with a brief stint with the Houston Rockets.

Of all his achievements, perhaps Yusuf is most proud of what he has been able to do professionally over the last decade or so through his Be A 9th Wonder Foundation in honor of his late sister, Marea, born on Sept. 9.

There is more to the story of course, but Marea faced a number of health challenges from the age of 12 forward and lost her life due to a rare lung condition at the age of 19. Yusuf in 2015 founded Be A 9th Wonder, a program dedicated to mentoring youth, particularly those with autism and special needs, through skill development and life skills training to prepare them for future adulthood.

"I believe I have always been someone who wants to give back to my community to be able to help out in any way that I can," Yusuf said.

"To be able to do something so nice through the

foundation in honor of my sister has been truly more than I could have ever expected. We have been able to have exposure in other countries as well as here in the Houston area and have really been able to help a lot of people along the way."

"I'm very thankful to all of the volunteers who have contributed their time over the years. We couldn't do it without them, and I certainly look forward to many more years with Be A 9th Wonder and to be able to envision what we can accomplish in the future."

Yusuf truly has made his family proud after arriving in the South Belt area for his sixth-grade school year. Raised by a single mother, Yusuf met his wife, Latasha Davis, when both were students at Thompson Intermediate.

Davis, who was also a basketball star at Dobie, played collegiately and holds a masters degree in social work.

As for how Yusuf's hoops career played out, he clearly maximized his potential and abilities.

Yusuf played basketball at the intermediate level at Thompson, then made the move to Dobie, where he went on to play for Scott Talton, who won more than 500 games in his career and is a member of the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame.

"I truly owe a lot to Scott Talton," Yusuf said. "I needed discipline, and he taught me that discipline and teamwork that I needed to become the player that I wanted to be. I played my freshman year at the freshman A level and then made the jump to varsity, where I played for three seasons."

"We had some pretty good talent back then, and during my junior year we had to overcome the death of our best player Jonathan Alexander. It was tough at the time and we will always remember his influence on us on the court."

"I also have to give credit to Joe Horton. He took time out of his schedule to always be available to open up the gymnasium for me and some of my teammates to get up extra shots. I will always be grateful to coach Horton for the time and effort that he gave me."

Horton, who has spent the majority of his career within Pasadena ISD, taught at Beverly Hills and was also an assistant coach at during Yusuf's career beginning with the players' junior year. Today, Horton has for 10 years been an assistant principal at South Houston High School.

"In my opinion, Remi

is the best player that I have ever seen and been around at Dobie High School, and I do realize that we had Gerald Green (a future NBA draft pick) briefly in the program," Horton said flatly.

"He was just a terrific talent, but he was also an inquisitive player who took the time to study his opponent and generally knew what was coming on the defensive end of the floor."

"As a coach you are willing, or at least should be willing, to do whatever you can in support of all of your kids. But with Remi, of course I wanted to be able to do whatever I could to assist him in his journey."

"He had the desire to be great, but he also wanted to do well overall in his life. He comes from a terrific family, his mother is wonderful, and Remi just overall deserves all of

the credit that he gets. It's going to be special to see him enter the Dobie Hall of Honor."

"Of course there are a lot of deserving individuals each and every year, but it's going to be great to see Remi get his time to shine."

Yusuf will get his time to shine in just days as he and Branch as well as the rest of the 2026 induction class join the list of Longhorn legends.



Of all his achievements, perhaps Remi Yusuf is most proud of what he has been able to do professionally over the last decade or so through his Be A 9th Wonder Foundation in honor of his late sister, Marea, who died at the age of 19.



Remi Yusuf enjoyed multiple stays on the international basketball scene, as he played in Slovakia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and more. In 2015, he concluded his professional basketball career with a brief stint with the Houston Rockets.



Now retired, Donna Branch won more than 500 career matches over 23 seasons at Dobie and was inducted into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016.

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CALENDAR

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 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.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13
 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 or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
 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.
 8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 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.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
 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.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15
 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, FEBRUARY 16
 Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
 5 p.m. **New Directions Singles Social Group** is a singles group for those 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held in the community room at Maplewood Crossing, 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For further information, call Carol at 281-508-1663. See Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.
 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 for info.
 7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
 7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.
 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 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
 7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
 9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
 7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
 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**. See Friday's notice.
 Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from noon to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.
 6 p.m./7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
 7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.
 7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
 8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous**. See Friday's notice.
 8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA**. See Friday's notice.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
 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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BHI 8A boys make hoops final



Despite a loss to Southmore in the district championship final, Kai Tillman and his Beverly Hills eighth-grade A basketball teammates put together a terrific season.



Elijah Betancourt makes a move toward the basket during the Bears' eighth-grade A championship basketball game against Southmore at Phillips Field House in Pasadena.



Southmore downed Beverly Hills 62-36 in the championship final, but Rylan Barker and his Bear teammates nonetheless celebrated a solid run.

Lions 7th-grade girls' basketball wins PISD championship



The Thompson Intermediate seventh-grade B girls' basketball team finished the 2025-2026 Pasadena ISD in style, winning the district championship. Members of the team are, left to right, Janney Hernandez, Kourtney Hinojosa, Zuleigh Gaona, Jennifer Marquez, Aliana Duresseau, Sophia Franklin, Marie Sanchez, coach Mikel Arnold, Torrie Caniff, Kassandra Perez-Melendez and Leona Senter.

Lutheran South Academy football players sign collegiately



Five standout Lutheran South Academy football players have signed to play collegiately. Those players include, left to right, (front row) Holt Teichman (Tulane), Zach Johnson (Jamestown), Braeden Robinson (Houston), Hank Hughes (Schreiner), Elijah Brown (Millsaps College), (back row) assistant coaches Jake Justice and Jon Mueller, head coach Corby Meekins and assistant coaches Jeff Poth and Troy Aduddell.

San Jacinto Ravens outslug Baton Rouge in sweep

The San Jacinto College softball program squared its early-season record at 3-3, scoring a combined 29 runs in a doubleheader sweep of Baton Rouge Community College Feb. 7. In the opener, Mia Ortega, Maddie Perez, Kennedy Guthrie, Ary Garcia and Alyssa Terry all drove in two runs apiece as the Ravens went on to win 12-5. Garcia was 3 for 4 with two runs scored, and Terry, a Clear Brook High School graduate, was 2 for 3 with a run scored. San Jacinto College had 14 overall hits in the game to give plenty of run support to its pitching staff. Starting pitcher Audrey Dierks went the distance, covering the seven innings by allowing just two earned runs. The second game was a back and forth slugfest as San Jacinto College scored six runs in the top of the first inning yet needed seven runs over the final two innings to secure a 17-10 victory that got the team to 3-3 overall heading into action Feb. 10 after press time. Perez was a force against Baton Rouge in the second game in which she was 4 for 5 with three runs scored and another four runs driven in. Adrian Cantu was 3 for 4 with two runs scored and two more runs driven in, and Terry was 2 for 4 with a run scored. Perez, Cantu, Garcia and Zoie Powell all had doubles, while Cam Deleon and Perez tripled. In the circle, Vanessa Valdez came on in relief and got the victory as she threw the final 3 1/3 innings, allowing no earned runs and striking out three. San Jacinto College will host Cisco in a pair of games Feb. 13 and then host Baton Rouge in a doubleheader Feb. 14.

22-6A playoff picture now coming into focus

Continued from Page 5 Division II bracket. In the District 22-6A mix, Pearland and Dawson have likely secured 6A Division I playoffs positions, while Shadow Creek has also earned itself a spot in the Division II bracket. At 6-7 as of press time, both Pasadena Memorial and South Houston were tied for fourth place, with Dobie sixth at 5-8. With games remaining at Rayburn, at home against Alvin and at Manvel Feb. 17 to close the regular season, the Longhorns were holding on to slim hopes of reaching the postseason. Should the Longhorns advance, they would grab a Division I seeding, bumping Dawson to Division II.

Dobie grad Spears II headed to Lincoln Univ.



Former Dobie football standout Dempsey Spears II (13) has announced via social media that he is transferring to Lincoln University of Nebraska and will have three years of eligibility remaining beginning with the 2026 season. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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