

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Email: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

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

Vol. 48, No. 1

### Library donations sought

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

### Sagemont to meet Feb. 7

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings take place the first Tuesday of each month.

### Ellington e-recycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Residents are encouraged to arrive early, however, as the event ends once trucks are full.

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, cell-phones, 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](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org) or call 311.

### Local COVID cases reported

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

As of Tuesday, Jan. 31, there were 110 active cases in 77089, up six from the previous week. To date, 137 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 19 active cases, down one from the previous week. To date, there have been 81 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 29 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 90 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

This marked the sixth consecutive week with no COVID-related deaths in the immediate South Belt community. See related story on this page.

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

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

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

Two outside northbound frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from West Medical Boulevard to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, May 5.

One middle northbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, May 22.

Two outside southbound lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Texas City Road to SH 6/SH 146 in La Marque nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

The northbound entrance ramps from both FM 519/Main Street and FM 1765/Texas Avenue in La Marque will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the next available northbound entrance ramp.

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.

### Beltway closures planned

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

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

## South Belt recovers from tornado damage

### Beamer Place Apartments, Beverly Hills Intermediate, Kirkwood subdivision suffer brunt

The South Belt community is recovering following a devastating EF-3 tornado that ripped through the area Jan. 24, leaving a path of rubble in its wake.

The twister touched down on Beamer Place Apartments and Beverly Hills Intermediate, as well as several homes in the Kirkwood subdivision. No injuries were reported.

According to Beverly Hills Principal Stacey Barber, both of the school's gymnasiums were damaged in the storm, as was the campus auditorium. The school's entire roof will need to be replaced, Barber said. Construction crews were able to temporarily repair the roof for now, allowing students to return to class Monday, Jan. 30, after a three-day closure.

### Leader begins 48th year in South Belt

This edition marks the beginning of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* 48th year of covering the South Belt community.

Begun by Marie Flickinger and Bobby Griffin in 1976, the *Leader* was originally called the *South Belt Press*. The newspaper would later change to the *South Belt Leader* before eventually becoming the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* in 1987.

While the South Belt community has expanded significantly over the last 48 years, the newspaper

has grown with it. Begun in Flickinger's house, the newspaper would later move into a strip center at the intersection of Beamer and Hughes Road that was anchored by a then-Eagle grocery store — the center now houses The Gardens. The *Leader* went on to purchase its own property at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Beamer, where it constructed its own building from the ground up.

Moving forward, the *Leader* looks forward to continue growing with the South Belt community.

residents affected by the recent storm. Examples of available legal assistance include the following:

– Assistance securing government benefits as they are made available to disaster victims.

– Assistance with life, medical and property insurance claims.

– Help with home repair contracts and contractors.

– Replacement of wills and other important legal documents lost or destroyed in the disaster.

– Consumer protection issues, such as price gouging and avoiding contractor scams in the rebuilding process.

– Mortgage-foreclosure problems.

– Landlord-tenant problems.

The mayors of Pasadena and Deer Park, along with various charities, have opened a joint emergency recovery center at the Pasadena Conven-

tion Center located at 7902 Fairmont Parkway. The center will have information provided by governmental agencies, area schools, local businesses, industry partners, nonprofit agencies and faith-based organizations.

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### Sagemont launches new payment portal

Several Sagemont residents have expressed concern in recent weeks about payments to Sagemont Maintenance Fund going to an address in California.

According to Sagemont Maintenance Fund officials, this is because the funds are being placed in a lockbox that is being managed by a company

located in California.

Officials further said there is now a dedicated portal where Sagemont homeowners can make online payments, view invoices and important documents and update contact information. To view the new portal, visit [app.payhoa.com/auth/](http://app.payhoa.com/auth/)

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### Cross appears in complex roof



A cross appeared on the roof of Beamer Place Apartments following a Jan. 24 tornado that devastated the area complex. Despite the devastation, there were no fatalities. The incident displaced hundreds of residents, many of whom were unable to retrieve their belongings. Beamer Place resident Cristian Adolfo Reyes snapped the above photo after the storm passed. See related photos on Page 4.

Photo by Photography Over the Sky

### Martin offers storm-related assistance

Following the recent F3 tornado that touched down in the South Belt area, Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin's team canvassed the area to assess damage.

According to Martin's office, damage from this event is isolated to the 77034 ZIP code in District E, and 77089 ZIP code in District D.

Houston Public Work's Emergency Operations has worked with City of Houston Solid

Waste Management Department to identify locations and scope of debris pickup needed. District E Staff has also surveyed the impacted area, for residential storm debris pickup.

Residential storm debris pickup can be reported to Houston 311 by calling 713 837-0311. Report the issue as "storm debris."

If there are trees blocking roadways or traffic lights not functioning, call and report these to

Continued on Page 4

### 2nd suspect arrested in 2022 murder

Charges have been filed against a second suspect in the fatal shooting of one man and the wounding of another that took place last September at an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.



John Howard

John Howard, 20, is charged with capital murder in the 338th State District Court.

Another suspect, Justin Thomas, 31, was previously arrested and charged with capital murder in the 209th State District Court.

The deceased victim is identified as Juan Juarez, 38. A second victim, 34, suffered non-life-threatening gunshot wounds.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the two victims were inside an apartment at the above address around 1:05 a.m. on Sept. 21, when two black male suspects entered and shot the victims. The suspects took money and other items from the victims and fled the scene.

Paramedics pronounced one victim, later

Continued on Page 4

## Leader continues look back at year 2022

The *Leader* continues its look back on 2022 with a list of some of the significant stories of the year. For highlights up to June 23, see the Jan. 26 edition of the *Leader*.

#### June 23

The South Belt community saw a surge in gun violence, with at least 10 shootings taking place — four of which were fatal. Incidents included seven shootings in the Edgebrook area and a pair of shootings that killed a father and son.

A Houston police officer was shot during a shootout with a suspect who barricaded himself in-

side his apartment early Saturday, June 18, in the 12800 block of Roydon near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway. The suspect later died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound following a six-hour SWAT standoff. The police officer was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was treated and released.

An 18-year-old male was killed during an armed robbery Wednesday, June 1, in the 12900 block of Nyack near Algonquin. Suspects, Johnathan Carter, 18, and Damon Steber, 20, were charged with capital murder in the death of Jorge Jaimas.

Houston police arrested a second suspect for his

role in a 2018 fatal shooting that took place outside the H-E-B in the 9800 block of Blackhawk at Beltway 8. The suspect, Johntiz Robertson, 23, was charged with capital murder. Another suspect, Reginald Hawkins, 22, was charged with capital murder back in 2018 for his role in the killing. Robertson and Hawkins were charged for their roles in the death of That Huu Le, 75. According to police, patrol officers responded to a shooting call in the store parking lot at the above address. An investigation revealed two suspects had followed Le to the parking lot where one suspect approached Le as he was exiting his vehicle. A short altercation took

place and Le was shot multiple times. Paramedics transported Le to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead. Further investigation identified Hawkins and Robertson as suspects in this case.

#### June 30

A pedestrian was killed in a hit-and-run crash that occurred about 1:45 a.m. Sunday, June 19, in the 13100 block of SH 3/Old Galveston Road near Fuqua. Baltazar Ramirez, 22, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver did not stop to provide medical assistance and fled the scene. No immediate arrests were made.

Continued on Page 4

### Pct. 2 deputies battle local crime

Deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office have kept busy with late making arrests from crimes ranging from DWI to auto theft.

On Friday Jan. 13, at approximately 8 p.m., deputies with the Precinct 2 Toll road Division stopped a vehicle for numerous traffic violations in the 8400 block of Beltway 8 near Pearland Parkway/Monroe. During the stop, the driver was found to have an open felony warrant out of Freestone County Sheriff's Office for driving while intoxicated. This warrant was confirmed, and suspect identified as 42-year-old John Powell, was arrested without incident.

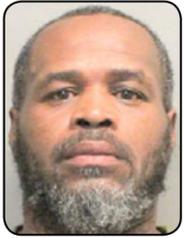
On Saturday, Jan. 14, at approximately 6 p.m., deputies with Precinct 2 Patrol Division arrested 41-year-old Jose Lopez in the 7600 block of Alameda Genoa for an open terroristic threat warrant. Upon conducting a search of the suspect, he was found to have a bag of cocaine on his person as well. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted, and accepted an additional charge of felony pos-

session of a controlled substance.

On Saturday, Jan. 14, at approximately 8:45 p.m., deputies with the Precinct 2 Toll Road Division stopped a vehicle in the 10100 block of Beltway 8 at Blackhawk for an illegal buyers tag. During the stop, the driver was found to have an open felony warrant out of the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office for assault of a family member and a misdemeanor warrant out of the Harris County Sheriff's Office for driving while intoxicated/second offense. These warrants were confirmed, and suspect identified as 38-year-old Kenneth Blevins was arrested without incident.

On Thursday, Jan. 19, at approximately 5 p.m., deputies were dispatched to a vehicle-recovery call where the reporting party, identified as longtime South Belt resident Jim Elder, stated that he was following a suspect vehicle wanted in a string of burglaries in the area.

Elder said that the vehicle turned into the Burger King parking lot and entering the



John Powell



Kenneth Blevins



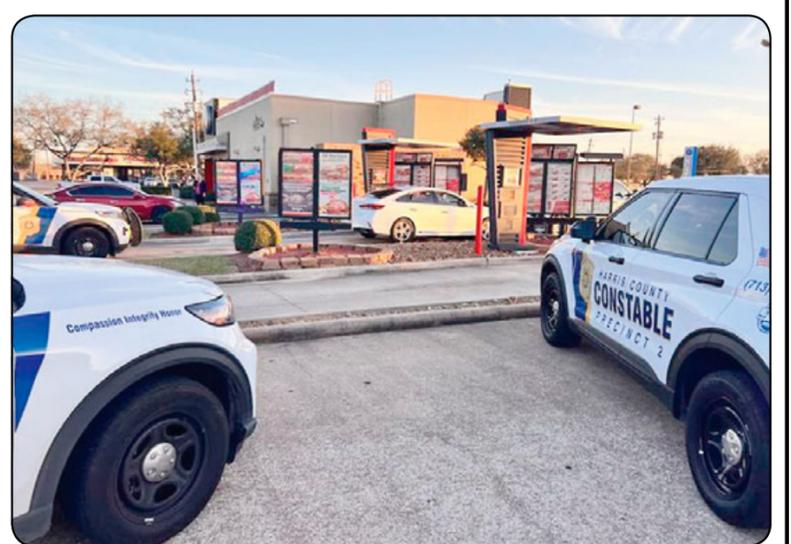
Jose Lopez



Hunter Schillaci

Continued on Page 4

### Elder helps catch drive-thru crook



Precinct 2 deputies nabbed a suspected burglar Thursday, Jan. 19, as he was in the drive-thru lane of the Scarsdale Burger King. The 28-year-old suspect was found to be driving a stolen car and was also carrying drugs. Hunter Schillaci was arrested on multiple charges. Longtime South Belt resident Jim Elder assisted in the arrest by alerting deputies of Schillaci's whereabouts, then following the suspect into the drive-thru and blocking his vehicle.

## Sagemont house demolished



A Sagemont home damaged during Hurricane Harvey back in 2017 was recently demolished so that a replacement could be constructed by the state. The homeowner had threatened a lawsuit against the Sagemont Civic Club for delaying the state's rebuild efforts. The Civic Club had been battling the Texas General Land Office because its initial replacement homes were substandard, threatening surrounding property values. Thanks to the civic club's efforts, the homeowner will now have a better home.

## In My Opinion

### Vicki Morgan writes on serving PISD

One of my greatest passions, throughout my adult years, has been and continues to be, working with and for children, preparing them for their future, thus ensuring the continued success of our communities.

Over the past few months, I have consistently prayed for God's guidance and direction in helping me explore His will for my future plans, in connection with my service to this district and community. I am proud to announce that I WILL BE seeking re-election to the Board of Trustees, in May of this year!

Your Superintendent, other administrators, teachers and support personnel work diligently to provide wonderful opportunities for students to grow and develop. Our employees and your Board of Trustees are fiscally conservative, innovative and always focused on student success and school safety.

My focus has ALWAYS been serving ALL children. I want to ensure you that every deliberation, decision and action I take, reflects the best interests of every student I serve. I take great pride in seeing the successes of many who have "grown up" in PASADENA ISD! I believe that I can help this district continue its current focus of success.

It is with a very humble heart, that I ask for your continued support as I once again seek this position and I also ask that you continue to support two of my colleagues, who share my commitment and values - Marshall Kendrick and Keny Fernandez.

Thank you again, for allowing me to serve as your trustee, through the years! With your support, we can "Continue the Success" in PISD and keep "Soaring to New Heights"!

**Vickie Morgan**  
Pasadena Independent School District  
Board of Trustees  
Position 7

### Local library events set

#### 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. 2, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Thursday, Feb. 2, 4 - 5 p.m. Polliwog club. Registration required.

Monday, Feb. 6, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 4 - 5 p.m. Kids STEM: Wind vane. Registration required.

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6 - 7:30 p.m. English class - food and grocery. 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.

#### Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has education resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

#### 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. 2, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Friday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.

Monday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. AARP Tax aid.

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Project grad.

#### 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, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.;

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

#### Online services

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

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

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

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

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

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

## Officials survey damage



Shown left to right, are Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia who recently visited the South Belt area to assess the damage left by a Jan. 24 tornado that left Beamer Place Apartments devastated. Hundreds of residents have been displaced from the complex, many without their belongings. According to Thomas Munoz, deputy director for the city's Office of Emergency Management, FEMA representatives visited the South Belt area this past week and are working closely with the city in gauging the need for federal assistance. Photo by Jeff Sypyak

## Storm recovery resources available

### Continued from Page 1

For additional information on Pasadena's recovery efforts, go to [www.pasadenatx.gov](http://www.pasadenatx.gov) or [www.readypasadena.org](http://www.readypasadena.org).

Residential storm debris in the city limits can be reported to 311. See related story on Page 1.

Clear Brook City MUD residents may get a quote to remove storm debris from their property by calling Texas Pride Disposal at 281-342-8178.

The Federal Communications Commission warns residents to be aware of potential scammers. Residents are urged to use only reputable contractors and to only donate through known charities.

To view a complete list of FCC tips to avoid scams, visit [www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/after-storms-watch-out-scams](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/after-storms-watch-out-scams).

According to Harris Central Appraisal District officials, residents who suffered

physical property due to the recent storm may apply for a temporary disaster exemption. See related story on Page 1.

Gov. Greg Abbott on Jan. 27 issued a disaster declaration for the communities impacted by the storms.

"The State of Texas is ready to assist Texans and businesses impacted by tornadoes in Southeast Texas communities," said Abbott. "This disaster declaration will swiftly provide all necessary resources to help Texans navigate the recovery process during this difficult time."

At the governor's direction, the Texas Division of Emergency Management deployed state emergency response personnel to affected areas to conduct preliminary damage assessments alongside local responders.

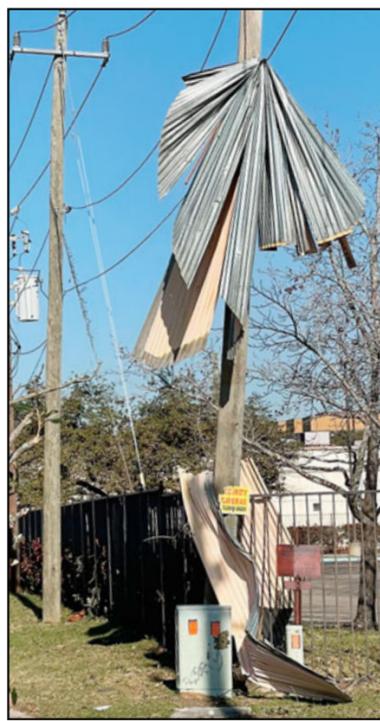
TDEM has requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency provide personnel to participate in joint pre-

liminary damage assessments to certify the damage. This effort will help determine whether Texas meets federal requirements for disaster assistance.

Abbott urged all impacted Texans to complete TDEM's iSTAT self-reporting damage survey to help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that occurred during the recent severe weather and expedite federal disaster assistance. The survey, available in both English and Spanish, can be accessed by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](http://damage.tdem.texas.gov). Reporting damage to TDEM is a voluntary activity, is not a substitute for reporting damage to an insurance agency, and does not guarantee disaster relief assistance.

To read the governor's disaster declaration, visit [gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/DISASTER\\_severe\\_weather\\_disaster\\_IM](http://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/DISASTER_severe_weather_disaster_IMAGE_01-26-2023.pdf)

## Strong winds cause damage



Strong winds ripped through the South Belt community Tuesday, Jan. 24, causing extensive damage. An EF-3 tornado touched down near Fuqua and Beamer then traveled across the Gulf Freeway toward Fuqua/Genoa Red Bluff and SH 3/Old Galveston Road. To the right, metal sheeting is shown blown onto power lines on Kurland Drive near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway. Photo by Patty Spence

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## Deaths

### Fernando Davila



Fernando Davila, 58, died Jan. 20, 2023. He was born in Houston, Aug. 10, 1964. He is preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Mary Scanlin Davila; his mother, Alice Davila; and his brother, Felix Davila.

Fernando attended South Houston High School and was a South Belt resident for more than 40 years. He worked in the wrecker service industry his entire life and was a respected member of the community.

Fernando was a kind and generous man who was always there to help when needed.

He was recently confirmed in the Catholic faith and had rededicated his life to the Lord and Savior.

Fernando is survived by his five children, Nicholas Davila, Joshua Davila, Christopher Davila, Joseph Davila and Grace Powell; and granddaughter Olivia Powell.

He is also survived by his father Jesus Davila; brothers Jesse Davila, Oscar Davila, Paul Davila, Armando Davila, Joel Gabriel Davila; sister Alice Stanford; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial Mass will be scheduled for a later date.

### Frances "Fran" Smith



Frances "Fran" Smith (nee Nigliazzo) was born Dec. 14, 1943 and died at home Jan. 23, 2023. She was the daughter of Leo "Luke" and Josephine Nigliazzo of Bryan. In 1963 she married the love of her life, Dr. Edwin "Ed" B. Smith Jr. She graduated from McKenzie-Baldwin Business College; and she would put that business acumen to good use when she and Ed founded EFEH & Associates in 1979.

Fran had a love for life and her pride and joy were her three grandsons.

Las Vegas was her favorite vacation destination and she vacationed there every year for many years, including a memorable trip with family just before Christmas this past year.

She is preceded in death by both parents. Those family members left to cherish Maw Maw's memory include her husband; her sister Debbie Meschler and husband Mike; her son Edwin B. Smith III and wife Donna; her daughter Holly Moffett and husband Al; and her grandsons Samuel Smith, Al Moffett III and Nathan Moffett.

Visitation was on Jan. 27, with the recitation of the rosary. Interment followed at South Park Cemetery.

### Barbara Jean Carruth West



Barbara Jean Carruth West, 92, of Houston, passed away on Jan. 15, 2023. She was born in Miami, Texas on Jan. 17, 1930, to Clyde L. and Virginia E. Carruth. She was married to Russell G. West Jr. for 67 years. Barbara had a career in retail and worked for several businesses including JC Penney and Card & Party House. She was a member of Kirkwood South Christian Church and was a resident of Sagemont for more than 40 years. She had a passion for her family, art, decorating, serving others and dancing, to name just a few.

She is preceded in death by her husband; parents; in-laws; sisters and brothers Eleanor Beard, Yvonne Wingert, John Lloyd Carruth and Dane Carruth and wife, Beverly; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Waltine and husband, Robert Zimmerman, Virginia Lee Doane, Don West and wife, Bobbee West.

Barbara is survived by her children Gina Lozano and husband Baldemar (Lozano), Miles West, Todd West, Julie Valenti and husband Steve (Valenti), Tara Dittmann and husband William (Dittmann); grandchildren, Clint Lozano, Angie Horne-Griffiths and husband Chris (Horne-Griffiths), Tony Lozano and wife Abbey (Lozano), Rachel Valenti Taylor, Gina Valenti, Dwight West and wife Rebecca (West), Tristan Dittmann, Layne Dittmann and Katelyn Dittmann; great-grandchildren, Major Horne, Marshall Horne, Abbey Griffiths, Lydia Fregia, Eric Marshall, Emma Taylor, Mia Lozano, Caroline West and Anna West; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation for Barbara will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, from 9 to 10 a.m. with a funeral to start at 10 a.m., committal and reception to follow. All services will be held at Forest Park East Funeral Home and Cemetery, located at 21620 Gulf Freeway in Webster.

## Leader checks out social media

### By Natalie Abarea

Sagemont Church is seeking volunteers for Tornado Relief Assistance Day, Saturday, Feb. 4, 9 a.m., Annex building, 11600 Hughes Road. If one is interested in helping, call 281-992-6421 or email [HelpingHands@SagemontChurch.org](mailto:HelpingHands@SagemontChurch.org).

A member of Neighbors app posted that their generator was taken from the driveway. The incident occurred Sunday, Jan. 29 on Caribbean Lane.

A member of the same app posted a video of a man seen walking near Kimberly Loch Lane and Blackhawk Boule-

vard in the Ashley Pointe subdivision on Sunday, Jan. 29. The member states the man was looking into vehicles with unlocked doors. The man is described as having a beard and wearing a hoodie. The member reminds the community to make sure one locks their vehicles and also reports any suspicious activity.

Another member posted a video of an individual looking into vehicles with a flashlight at an apartment complex parking lot. The member states the individual was in an unlicensed black Audi sedan. This incident occurred Saturday, Jan. 28 on Sabo Road.

## Lower taxes available for damage

The Harris Central Appraisal District is reminding property owners who have experienced physical damage to their property during the recent storm to apply for a temporary disaster exemption.

"The recent severe storms and tornadoes have caused physical damage to many properties in the area, and I want to remind everyone of the disaster exemption that is available to help those owners reduce their 2023 property taxes," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. "State law lets the individual owner apply for the temporary disaster exemption for physical damage to their property."

The Texas Tax Code allows a qualified property that is at least 15 percent damaged by a disaster in a governor-declared disaster area to receive a temporary exemption of a portion of the appraised value of the property.

Qualified property includes real property such as homes and buildings, certain manufactured homes and tangible personal property used for the production of income for a business.

The property owner must apply for the temporary exemption no later than 105 days after the governor declares a disaster area. Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared the state a disaster area on January 26

so the temporary disaster exemption application must be filed no later than May 11.

The disaster application form can be found online at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org) under FORMS > ALL FORMS > General Information > Form 50-312, Temporary Exemption for Property Damaged by a Disaster.

The form should be mailed to the address in the top left of the form, which is Harris Central Appraisal District, Information and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 922012, Houston, Texas 77292-2012. For further information, contact the HCAD's information center at 713-957-7800 or email [help@hcad.org](mailto:help@hcad.org).

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My name is Mike. I want to give you some reasons to let my company help you with your income taxes.

- We offer refund loans of up to \$6,000.
- We pay cash when you send income tax clients our way.
- We can quote you and process your return in office, by phone, fax or email.
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Text us your referrals or questions to **713-340-7963** or call **281-397-3294**

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## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer

281-481-5656

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

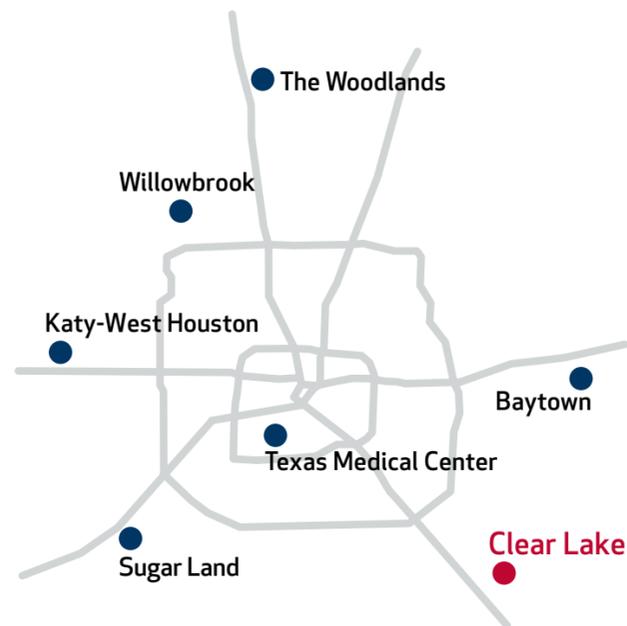
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# THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Clear Lake

At Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center, we treat every aspect of your cancer. Leading oncologists work with our specialists across disciplines to minimize cancer's effects on major organs. One comprehensive team — dedicated to your individual care — uses the latest research, treatments and technology to stop your cancer. From infusion and clinical trials to surgery and reconstruction, our innovative care is available in Clear Lake.

**That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it.**



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## Tornado strikes Beverly Hills Intermediate



Beverly Hills Intermediate was struck by a tornado Tuesday, Jan. 24, causing extensive damage. Despite students being in class at the time of the storm, none were injured. Pasadena ISD officials said the campus will need an entire new roof. The existing roof was repaired allowing students to return to class Monday, Jan. 30. The above photo shows a dugout on the school's baseball field that was destroyed by winds.

## Beamer Place units destroyed by EF-3 tornado



The roof was blown off Beamer Place Apartments Tuesday, Jan. 24, when a tornado touched down on the area complex. Damage from the storm displaced hundreds of residents, including local photographer Cristian Adolfo Reyes who took the above picture. See related photo on Page 1.

## Dobie focuses on security



In the wake of recent school shootings, Dobie High School officials remain vigilant in their efforts to provide student safety. As part of the school district's safety protocol, officers Rodriguez (left) and Wilson from the Pasadena ISD Police Department have both been assigned to the campus for the 2023 spring semester.

## Looking back at 2022

Continued from Page 1

A dead body was found floating in the Beamer Ditch near Scarsdale. Wednesday, June 22. The badly decomposed body was not immediately identified.

Houston police arrested a suspect charged in the fatal shooting of a man the previous April in the 13800 block of the Gulf Freeway near Beltway 8. The suspect, Alexander Ray Gonzales, 21, was charged with murder for his role in the death of Zefirino Baeza, 30.

The contractor hired to make drainage improvements to Beamer Ditch abandoned the project, according to officials with the Harris County Flood Control District. Officials said Complete Concrete was only about a third of the way through the contracted work before walking off the project, leaving construction equipment and debris at the site.

July 7

A motorcyclist was killed in a hit-and-run crash about noon Saturday, June 25, in the 8300 block of Alameda Genoa Road near Monroe. Arthur Montemayor, 39, died from injuries incurred during the crash. No immediate arrests were made.

A pedestrian was killed in an automobile accident around 4 a.m. Monday, June 27, in the 1500 block of Genoa Red Bluff Road near Beltway 8. Charles Drouillard was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver did not show signs of intoxication. He was questioned and released with no charges filed.

The execution of a federal arrest warrant recently led to multiple drug-related arrests in the 11000 block of Sageview near Sageorchard. Deputies with Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit assisted the U.S. Marshals Service Office with the execution. Michael Ramirez, 27; Brian Dolan,

31; and Brittney Chalen, age unknown, were all arrested. Deputies recovered more than 165 grams of methamphetamine, approximately 17 grams of heroin and a 0.40 caliber handgun. This was the second raid on this home in the past year and the third in the past five years.

July 14

Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Eric Williams announced his early resignation at a closed-session board meeting Monday, July 11.

The hiring of Williams last year drew the heat of many conservative parents in the district, who accused the superintendent of indoctrinating students with "critical race theory" at his previous position in Virginia. Former Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Karen Engle served as interim superintendent in Williams' absence.

To be continued in next week's Leader.

## Storm assistance set

Continued from Page 1

Residents in the affected areas reporting storm debris are asked to separate the debris into piles when being placed at the curb. Avoid placing debris piles near light poles, fire hydrants and mailboxes.

Once the storm debris has been reported to Houston 311, email service request number to [district@houstontx.gov](mailto:district@houstontx.gov) subject line "storm Debris." This will assist the District E office in keeping track of open storm debris cases to make sure they are handled expeditiously.

Residents should follow the link HTX Collects app for collection schedules, service alerts and updates from the Houston Solid Waste Management Department. Residents are encouraged to enable notifications via the app HTX Collects on their mobile devices.

The following is a list of additional service information:

- **Red Cross Location:** Barker Ripley Pasadena Campus, 720 Fairmont Parkway in Pasadena.
- **United Way:** Call 211.
- **Houston 311:** 713-837-0311, [www.houstontx.gov/311](http://www.houstontx.gov/311).
- **City of Houston Office of Emergency Management:** <https://www.houstonom.org>.
- **Houston Apartment**

Association: 713-595-0300, [Imis.haaonline.org](http://Imis.haaonline.org).

For additional information, contact the District E office at [district@houstontx.gov](mailto:district@houstontx.gov) or 832-393-3008.

## Pct. 2 vs. crime

Continued from Page 1

drive-thru line. Elder followed him, blocking him in. Deputies quickly responded to the facility in the 10900 block of Scarsdale and initiated emergency equipment and performed a felony stop on the vehicle. Deputies demanded the driver exit the vehicle, and he was quickly detained.

Upon further investigation the vehicle was flagged as stolen according to the Houston Police Department and was recovered. Upon inventorying the vehicle, approximately 1 gram of Xanax was recovered.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as 28-year-old Hunter Schillaci, who was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and possession of a controlled substance. Schillaci had an outstanding warrant out of the Harris County Sheriff's Office for DWI.

Schillaci was booked into the Harris County jail without incident. See related photo Page 1.

## 2nd suspect arrested

Continued from Page 1

identified as Juarez, dead at the scene and transported the other victim to an area hospital.

Further investigation led to the identity of one suspect as Thomas. On Sept. 23, officers with the HPD Clear Lake Crime Suppression Team arrested Thomas without incident.

Additional investigation led to the identification of

Howard as the second suspect in this shooting. On Thursday, Jan. 24, Thomas, who was in custody on an unrelated incident, was charged for his role in the shootings.

Anyone with additional information in this case or these two suspects is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously with Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## Sagemont launches new payment portal

Continued from Page 1

join/15891-sagemont-main-tenance-fund-inc.

Sagemont homeowners are encouraged to make online payments through the new portal. Homeowners with an email address on file with the maintenance fund should have received a detailed description of the

new portal.

Homeowners who would prefer to mail a check should send payment to P.O. Box 981506 West Sacramento, CA 95798.

For additional information or to arrange another payment method, contact Jeff Turnipseed at 346-297-1480.

# Remember When

45 years ago (1978)

Former Dobie football star Edward O'Brien was seriously injured in a shooting incident.

15 years ago (2008)

Clear Lake City residents were seeking assistance from residents of the city of Houston in their fight against the annexation of their area.

40 years ago (1983)

Approximately 5 percent of the 700 member families of the United Sports Association authorized the organization's board to borrow up to \$130,000 for field approvals to the Choate Road ballpark.

More than \$4,000 in merchandise, including a console and a portable TV, stereos, radios, an Intellivision, camera and several jewelry boxes were stolen from a residence in the 11400 block of Sage-downe.

35 years ago (1988)

Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees conducted its annual reorganization, electing Dr. Floyd Myers president, Ruth Walraven vice president and George Meriwether secretary.

Southbend Homeowners Association leaders said they would fight a proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency which called for partial cleanup of the Brio and Dixie Oil Processing sites adjacent to their subdivision.

30 years ago (1993)

Approximately 120 homes in the Southbend subdivision were boarded up. The titles of the homes were transferred to Farm & Home to prevent further Brio-related litigation.

Dobie High School band students Brian Hyatt, Laurie Succop, Mary Katherine Wright and Aaron Brown were chosen to be the all-state band.

25 years ago (1998)

Dobie High School's homecoming queen, Claudia Ortega, qualified to attend the Miss Texas Homecoming Queen Pageant held in Austin.

The Dobie cheerleaders were participating in the national high school cheerleading competition in Orlando, Fla.

Dobie's Academic Decathlon Team advanced to the state competition by placing second at the regional competition. Winning medals for Dobie were bronze medalists Rachel Castillo and Sheri Of-fenhauer, silver medalist Sabia Taqvi and gold medalist Leonard Lyons III.

20 years ago (2003)

A security-conscious resident of Highland Meadow turned over a videotape which documented that a large cat such as a mountain lion or cougar was roaming the residential streets near Scarsdale Boulevard.

north Houston was arrested in connection with residential burglaries in the area.

Construction worker Ricardo Vence, 24, fell 20 feet down into a well in the College Place subdivision. Vence, a Robertson Well employee, was reportedly reaching down for a ladder in the hole when he fell. Apparently, he was not wearing a safety harness that was required. Vence remained in the hole for nearly two hours before being rescued by city of Houston emergency personnel. The injured worker was transported by Life Flight to the medical center, where he was treated for a fractured femur and multiple bruises.

Houston police released the name of Anthony Wayne Motley, 23, who was the suspect in a home break-in that occurred in the 11000 block of Sagewillow.

Newly named St. Luke's pastor James Burkart was presented the Clergy of the Year award by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo at the Knights of Columbus' 24th Annual Clergy Appreciation Night. The event was attended by more than 1,300 people from throughout the Galves-

ton-Houston Archdiocese, including all of the organization's bishops. Burkart was also given a monetary stipend for his contributions.

The Texas Department of Agriculture asked the Pasadena Independent School District to put meat that it considered questionable on hold.

The San Jacinto College board of trustees voted to call a bond referendum in an effort to raise \$295 million to update the school's facilities. Impact on taxpayers within the district was expected to be minimal.

Sarah Elizabeth Coronado, 14, went missing after leaving Dobie High School with two Hispanic males in a white Dodge pickup. Authorities said she may have gone to Baytown, Spring or Hayward, Calif.

10 years ago (2013)

South Belt resident Malvin Baerga-Rivera was selected the Outstanding State of Texas Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year. A member of the Guard's 147th Reconnaissance Wing based at Ellington Field, Baerga-Rivera was chosen for his military leadership skills and community service involvement. Baerga-Rivera joined

the Guard in 1996 and was promoted to the duty of first sergeant in December 2009. In addition to his military service, Baerga-Rivera also works for the Pasadena Independent School District, where he has been a first-grade teacher at Pearl Hall Elementary for the past 21 years.

Cynthia Hawk was named president of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce at the group's 29th annual banquet. She replaced longtime president and Leader publisher Marie Flickinger. Ellington Airport General Manager Brian Rinehart was the guest speaker at the event, which was a salute to Ellington Field.

5 years ago (2018)

Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team advanced to the state competition following a strong performance at the regional tournament. Team members included Sarah Tyler, Madison Tobias, Jennifer Nguyen, Noelle Phan (captain), Freyda Orellana, Bob Daughtery, Ramon Hernandez, Vicente Trevino, Kennedy Ho and Hoang Le.

Investigators from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office have filed

felony theft charges on two suspects in connection to a lengthy string of wheel thefts in the South Belt area. According to Precinct 2 officials, there had been at least 30 reported cases in the South Belt area in the previous 14 months. It was estimated that at least \$50,000 worth of rims and tires have been stolen from this area alone. The crooks also targeted the surrounding areas of Houston, Pearland, Pasadena, La Porte and Deer Park, as well as other areas outside of Harris County. Most of the wheels were stolen from Chevy or GMC trucks that were 2014 models or newer. The thefts usually took place in the early morning hours between 2 and 5 a.m. Multiple other law enforcement agencies assisted in the investigation, including the Texas Rangers.

A fatal hit-and-run accident took place early Monday, Jan. 31, outside a bar in the 11000 block of Fuqua at Sabo. According to police, two pedestrians - a male and a female - were leaving the El Buho Bar and walking through the parking lot at the above address when they were struck by a black pickup truck traveling at a high rate of speed. Paramedics pronounced the male, Hector Valenzuela, 32, dead at the scene and transported the female, 27, to a hospital for treatment of abrasions and cuts. The driver fled the scene without stopping to render aid. The suspect, described only as a Hispanic male, was possibly intoxicated and, according to witnesses, had caused a disturbance in the parking lot prior to the crash. No immediate arrests were made.

The Scarsdale bridge reopened to traffic Tuesday, Feb. 1, following approximately four months of construction

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## Over The Back Fence by Natalie

### ANGELA ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Bobby Griffin sends birthday greetings to daughter-in-law Angela Griffin, who celebrates a birthday Feb. 2.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR KARMA**  
Birthday wishes are sent Feb. 2 to Karma Wright, former Leader staffer, from her family, friends and staff at the Leader.

**OLIVIA CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY!**  
Olivia Moreno celebrates her 10th birthday Saturday, Feb. 5. Wishing her a wonderful birthday with lots of love, hugs and kisses are her mom Jenny (Hayes) and husband Josh Laney of Spring; big brother Brayden; big sister Baylee; proud grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (former longtime South Belt residents) and Mike and Doris Hayes of Ada, Okla.; aunt Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; uncles Stephen Flowers, Joey Hayes, Austin and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers, and Jade and Lily Scarberry. Mom Jenny is a 1997 Dobie High grad.

**OWEN ENJOYS 14TH BIRTHDAY!**  
Owen Michael Flowers celebrates his 14th birthday on Friday, Feb. 3. Best wishes and lots of love, hugs and kisses are sent to Owen from big sister Kennedy, little sister Evie, parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents and Mike and Karen Flowers of Dickinson; uncles Tyler, Austin Scarberry, Joey, Wesley, Travis and Josh; aunts Jenny and Christine; and cousins Brayden, Baylee, Olivia, Jade, Lily, Sierra, Ryker,

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DANA!**  
Dana Lizik enjoys a birthday Feb. 6. Special birthday wishes are sent to Dana from her family, friends and former co-workers at the Leader.

**DOUBLE BIRTHDAY WISHES**  
Bobby Griffin sends birthday wishes to two family members enjoying a birthday the same day. Grandson Kenney Griffin, son of Angela and David Griffin, and son-in-law Jim Giles of Kirkwood South celebrate their birthdays Feb. 8. Birthday wishes are also sent from Kenney's wife Lacie and daughter Ellie Vera; and Jim's wife Tracy and children Cody, Kristen and Aaron and his wife, Ashley and sons, Jaxson and Jace.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 2 through Feb. 8.  
**Genoa Elementary**  
Light the birthday candles Feb. 2 for Anita Thibodeaux.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Feb. 2 is the day for a celebration for Cynthia Wright. Send a birthday greeting Feb. 4 to Melanie Thompson.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
Give a birthday shoutout Feb. 3 to Amalia Sifuentes.  
**Meador Elementary**  
Special birthday wishes are sent to Felipe Saucedo Feb. 5. Blow out the birthday can-

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Bobby Griffin sends birthday wishes to two family members enjoying a birthday the same day. Grandson Kenney Griffin, son of Angela and David Griffin, and son-in-law Jim Giles of Kirkwood South celebrate their birthdays Feb. 8. Birthday wishes are also sent from Kenney's wife Lacie and daughter Ellie Vera; and Jim's wife Tracy and children Cody, Kristen and Aaron and his wife, Ashley and sons, Jaxson and Jace.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 2 through Feb. 8.  
**Genoa Elementary**  
Light the birthday candles Feb. 2 for Anita Thibodeaux.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Feb. 2 is the day

# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Area hoops squads chase playoff positioning



A win over Clear Creek Jan. 28 has the Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team back to .500 at 4-4 in District 24-6A action, but as the Wolverines prepare to take on the Clear Springs Chargers Feb. 4 at home, they know there is more to do.

Dickinson and Clear Springs co-lead the league at 6-2 at press time Jan. 31, with Clear Springs at 5-2 and Clear Lake fourth with a 5-3 mark.

If the playoffs started today, those four teams would represent 24-6A, with Clear Brook now guaranteed no worse than fifth place.

The good news for the Wolverines? They will go head-to-head with three of the four teams in front of them in addition to 1-7 Brazoswood.

**At left, Clear Brook senior Ja'Michael Young (center) has averaged 14.8 points per game this season, and his continued production down the stretch will be key as the Wolverines aim to make up ground in the 24-6A varsity boys' basketball playoff chase.**  
Photo by Andy Tolbert

**Clear Brook girls – At 10-0, the Wolverines will take on Dickinson Feb. 8 for 24-6A top spot.**

**Clear Brook boys – At 4-4, likely need at least three wins in final four games and maybe some luck to secure No. 4 playoff seed in 24-6A.**

**Dobie girls – At 7-2, Longhorns have secured the No. 2 playoff seed in District 22-6A and will wait to see which 21-6A program they face in the bidistrict round.**

**Dobie boys – At 4-4, may face Pasadena in the 22-6A finale with the No. 4 playoff seed on the line.**

A downside? At this point in the season, there is no wiggle room for the Wolverines.

Seniors Broderick Jackson Jr. (16.4) and Ja'Michael Young (14.8) continue to lead the way in scoring, with Raymond Felton, another senior, averaging nine points per game.

Individual statistics are great, but the seniors aren't ready to see the season end without a playoff berth set. The task is tough, but the Wolverines

will give it a go.

**Brook girls at 10-0**  
The varsity girls' bidistrict playoffs begin Feb. 13-14, but Clear Brook and Dickinson are set to get things started a bit early.

At 10-0 after getting 22 points from Chardel Terrell is a 46-33 win over Clear Creek Jan. 28, Clear Brook is chasing its second straight 24-6A championship.

After playing at Clear Springs Feb. 4, Clear Brook will close the regu-

lar season at home against Dickinson Feb. 8.

The two programs have earned the top two playoff seeds out of 24-6A, but Clear Brook, a 62-58 winner over the Gators Jan. 13, is aiming at a second straight unbeaten run in 24-6A play, which would at this point pit Brook against either Alief Taylor or Alief Elsiek in the bidistrict playoff round.

**JFD boys are fourth**  
At 14-14 overall and 4-4 in league play, the Dobie varsity boys' team has experienced up and down results all season. The locals can change all of that with a win over Pasadena to end the regular season Feb. 15.

With South Houston, Deer Park and Memorial in control of the top three playoff seeds, Dobie's first-round district win over the Eagles is the difference for the fourth playoff seed as of press time Jan. 31.

A 38-37 win and subsequent season sweep of Pasadena Memorial has

the Dobie varsity girls' basketball program in firm control of the No. 2 playoff seed out of District 22-6A.

The Dobie girls have regular season business to clean up Feb. 4 in the regular season finale at home against South Houston, but Dobie will almost assuredly finish at 10-2 for second place behind undefeated league champion Deer Park.

As to whom Dobie will face Feb. 13-14 in the bidistrict playoff round, that's still up for debate.

As of press time Jan. 31, the District 21-6A trio including Summer Creek, Beaumont West Brook and North Shore were all tied for the top spot in the league at 9-2 with two games remaining in the league season. Dobie will play the eventual third place finisher.

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## San Jacinto College softball splits four to open 2023

The new-look San Jacinto College softball team went 2-2 at the McLennan Invitational Jan. 27-28 while facing a tough lineup of Division I powers.

The locals stumbled out of the gate Jan. 27 with an early 10-2 loss to preseason No. 3 Grayson. Arianna Wright doubled home a run for the locals.

The Ravens then rebounded in the second game of the day, topping Odessa 10-2 as Wright keyed a five-run second inning with a grand slam.

Kiren Diaz went 2 for 3 in the leadoff spot with two runs scored and a run driven in, and Chloe Foster and Kylie Hernandez doubled.

In all, Wright also doubled and scored three

times, while reigning Region 14 Pitcher of the Year Christin Haygood allowed two runs over five innings for the win.

### Ravens' baseball wins two of three

The San Jacinto College baseball program scored a run in the bottom of the ninth, walking off the University of New Mexico with an 8-7 win Jan. 29 in San Antonio.

The Ravens, ranked sixth nationally in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I preseason poll, lost the series opener 8-4 Jan. 24 but then battled back with 10-7 and 8-7 wins to take the season-opening series between the two programs.

San Jacinto College got

On the second day of the event, San Jacinto dropped a 4-3 decision to Butler but then nipped Chipola 4-3 in its final

### SJC hosts Tyler

Feb. 4, 2 p.m./4 p.m.  
SJC hosts Iowa Western  
Feb. 5, noon

### SJC hosts McLennan

Feb. 5, 2 p.m.

### SJC at Navarro

Feb. 8, 1 p.m./3 p.m.

game of the event.

Butler scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to win. Maci Beam tripled in two runs for San Jacinto

### Longhorns open 22-6A with win, draw

horns finished off 180 minutes of play over back-to-back days, beating Deer Park 4-1 and then tying the Eagles to start the season.

Going up against a pair of programs that finished just behind them in the 2022 standings was going to be a challenge for

and Wright had a double for her third straight game with an extra-base hit.

San Jacinto College will host a trio of programs

Feb. 4-5 for a total of four games and then travel to Navarro Feb. 8 for a doubleheader as early-season action continues.

### Longhorns open 22-6A with win, draw

horns went up against the Eagles less than 24 hours later, with the resulting tie playing out.

Now 10-0-2 to start the season as of press time Jan. 31, Dobie was set to face Memorial Jan. 31 after press time, with a Feb. 3 home match against Channelview coming Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Then there was the opener.

Continued on Page 6

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Then there was the opener.

Continued on Page 6

### JFD hosts Channelview

Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.  
Veterans Stadium

### JFD vs. Rayburn

Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Veterans Stadium

## Longhorns open 22-6A with win, draw

Dobie is out of the gate at 1-0-1 in the varsity boys soccer race within District 22-6A after playing Pasadena to a 1-1 tie Jan. 27 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Victor Hernandez scored his team-leading 12th goal as the Long-

horns finished off 180 minutes of play over back-to-back days, beating Deer Park 4-1 and then tying the Eagles to start the season.

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Continued on Page 6



Victor Hernandez (7), Kevin Guzman (3) and their Dobie varsity boys' soccer teammates are all smiles these days with a solid start to league play. The Longhorns are back in action Feb. 3, hosting Channelview at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Match time is 6:30 p.m.  
Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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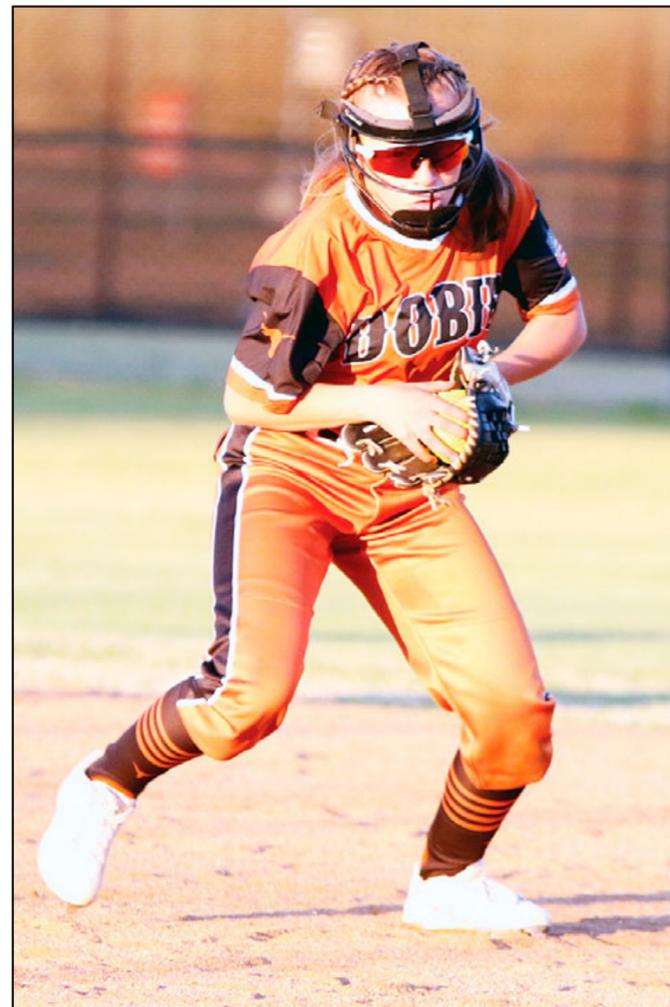
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Leslie Sarduy (1) made 31 starts as a freshman at second base and is in line for more plate appearances as she heads into the 2023 season. Dobie is preparing for the regular season opener, where it will host Clear Brook Feb. 13 at the Pasadena ISD Complex. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Dobie softball program starts march to opener

**By John Bechtle Sports Editor**

The return of eight seniors and the expected infusion of new varsity-level talent has the Dobie varsity softball program excited about the 2023 campaign as the Longhorns inch closer to opening night Feb. 13 against Clear Brook.

Head coach Robin Rackley guided her program to 22 overall wins in 2022, the fourth such 20-plus win run not counting the 2020 pandemic-affected season.

At Dobie, success is expected. The players come and go in all programs. Dobie is no exception.

And while offensive star Karlie Barba is now at Galveston College and Rackley is also replacing all three outfield starters, this group again plans to challenge defending league champion Deer Park for the top spot when the time comes.

Dobie will lean on the pitching duo of seniors Marisa Perla and Sandra Quiroz this season after the pair combined to collect 20 of the team's 22 wins a season ago.

Perla, who has announced her intention to play at Texas Southern University beginning this fall, won 13 games as a junior and also hit better than .500, while Quiroz, who has signed with Angelina College, won seven games.

Perla and Quiroz will no doubt draw much of the duty when the games mean the most, and Rackley and her staff also want to see what sophomore Jackie Peralta can accomplish with some opportunities.

The Longhorns also expect a big season from senior and four-year varsity performer Bella Perez behind the plate. A McNeese State University signee, Perez not only runs things from behind the plate but is, along with Perla, a proven run producer.

Infielders Leslie Sarduy and Karyme Leal combined to score nearly 30

## Longhorn boys' soccer team opens with win, tie in 22-6A

**Continued from Page 5**

In the first of two matches within 28 hours or so, Dobie extended its program-best season starting lossless streak to 11 matches, taking out Deer Park 4-1 in the District 22-6A opener for both teams.

Just over 48 hours after tornadic conditions hit both the Deer Park and Pasadena areas, the Longhorns and Deer were back on the field.

J.P. Rodriguez had a big role in the scoring with three assists, and Jordi Garcia ran his goal total to eight in all with two against the Deer.

Alex Escobar and Emerson Saravia had goals, and Daniel Blanco added an assist as the Longhorns went to 10-0-1 overall with the win on the road.

Deer Park, a Region III semifinalist a season ago, has struggled somewhat this season following the graduation of as many as six of its top-performing players from 2022.

Still, the Deer had hoped to equal its 2022 first-round win over the Longhorns. No such luck this time.

## Fundraising ongoing Lajaunie tennis calls netters

The Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Tournament will celebrate its 12th year with an exciting new format for 2023 that includes three doubles jamboree mixer events as organizers continue to raise funds for youth tennis and graduating senior class educational scholarships.

As the sponsorship efforts start for 2023, various sponsorship levels are available to individuals or businesses at DLTennisScholarships.com, where the "Be A Sponsor" tab may then be selected.

For students applying for the tennis camp and college scholarships on the same site, deadline for submissions is April 7, 2023. The scholarships will be awarded to all honorees in the latter part of April.

Dobie seniors who wish to apply for the college scholarships may do so by visiting the Lajaunie website or by picking up a packet in the school's counseling office.

The deadline for Dobie senior scholarship submissions is April 6, 2023.

The scholarship fund is named in honor of Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and lifelong tennis enthusiast who died in 2011 after a lengthy cancer battle.

Over the years, the fund has provided dozens of youth tennis scholarships and college education scholarships to deserving players.

The three jamboree series events will be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, with as many as 60 players (30 doubles teams) competing during the April 29, Aug. 19 and Dec. 2 events.

Individual players who would like to register without a predetermined playing partner will be paired with another player prior to the start of the first of the three jamborees.

Players/teams will earn points for performance during each jamboree segment, with an emphasis placed on competing in each of the three three-hour Saturday events.

The first segment - April 29 - will include a fun-filled April Fools theme.

Players may register for play at DLTennisScholarships.com.



Anthony Torres (12) has stepped in and played important minutes for the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team, which at 10-0-2 overall has opened the District 22-6A schedule with a win and a tie to this point. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Dobie girls' basketball snags second seed



The Dobie varsity girls' basketball team locked up the No. 2 playoff seed with a 38-37 win over Pasadena Memorial Jan. 26 at Dobie. On this sequence, Longhorns' sophomore guard Ulani Davis (5) works the ball up the court against Pasadena's Amy Escobar (14) in a 55-14 win Jan. 20. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

### Upcoming Basketball Games

**Dobie boys at South Houston**  
Feb. 4, 1 p.m.

**Dobie boys at Deer Park**  
Feb. 11, 1 p.m.

**Brook girls at Clear Springs**  
Feb. 4, 1 p.m.

**Brook girls host Dickinson**  
Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

**Brook boys host Clear Springs**  
Feb. 4, 1 p.m.

**Brook boys at Dickinson**  
Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

**Brook boys at Clear Falls**  
Feb. 11, 1 p.m.

**Dobie girls host South Houston**  
Feb. 4, 1 p.m.

## Berry, Brook graduate, paces Hill College women's basketball



Clear Brook High School Class of 2022 graduate Alyssa Berry (24) has enjoyed a terrific start to her collegiate career at Hill College, where she has averaged 16.3 points, 5.4 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game while leading the



program to an 12-7 overall start through Jan. 26 on the women's basketball court. Berry was a first team All-District selection as a senior at Clear Brook as she helped the locals win 30 overall games.

## Barba sparkles in Galveston debut

At right, Dobie Class of 2022 graduate Karlie Barba could not have dreamed of a better debut weekend to her collegiate softball career as she put on an offensive show while hitting leadoff for her Galveston College team. The Whitecaps went 4-1 overall at their Galveston College Invitational Jan. 27-28 as Barba hit .417 over the five games, blasting three home runs and a double while scoring eight runs. Driving in four runs and walking five times, Barba was continually on base as Galveston scored 42 runs over the five games.



## Baseball Scrimmage Action Upcoming

**Clear Brook schedule** — Feb. 4 Shadow Creek scrim., 11 a.m.; Feb. 6 at La Porte scrim., 4 p.m.; Feb. 10 at Pas. Mem. scrim., 3:30 p.m.; Feb. 14 at Santa Fe scrim., 4 p.m.; Feb. 17 at Dobie scrim., 3:30 p.m.

**Dobie schedule** — Feb. 4 Alvin scrim., 11 a.m.; Feb. 6 Angleton scrim., 4 p.m.; Feb. 10 at Bay. Sterling. scrim., 4 p.m.; Feb. 14 La Porte scrim., 4 p.m.; Feb. 17 Clear Brook scrim., 3:30 p.m.

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Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3**  
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) or <https://nastuff.com/>.  
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.  
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.  
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.  
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/>.  
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers

a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.  
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - For adults who have lost a loved one. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.  
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.  
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for appointment.  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Dance lessons taught each month. Call 281-554-1180 for details.  
6 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older meets for a potluck dinner at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 832-715-9658.  
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Call 281-488-2923 for details.  
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.  
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Friendswood chapter meets at 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.  
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.  
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
11:30 a.m. **Local NARFE Meeting** - National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 1321, meets at 5001 NASA Pkwy. Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Quilt Guild** - Meets at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit [www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild](http://www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild) or call 713-253-2521 for information. Visitors may attend two meetings free. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually every Tuesday. Visit [southeasthouston.toastmastersclub.org](http://southeasthouston.toastmastersclub.org) or call 281-467-1880.  
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. **Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real. Call 713-444-6744.  
9:30 a.m. **Young at Heart Senior Club** - Meets at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call 832-298-9480.  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.  
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - See Monday's notice.  
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. **BAHEP** - Bay Area Houston Economic partnership meets in David Braun conference room at 18045 Saturn Lane. Call 832-536-3252.  
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

## CALENDAR

## LEADER READERS

25 words: Personal: \$8 for 1 week/ \$21 for 3 weeks;  
Business: \$10 for 1 week/ \$27 for 3 weeks

**GARAGE SALE**  
11110 KIRKPARK DR. Fri. - Sat., Feb. 3 & 4, 8 a.m. - Noon. Moving - Everything must go! Appliances, electronics, tools, clothing, DVD movies and household items. (Not held last week due to the bad weather/tornado.) 2/2  
replace/repair. No Job Too Small. 281-948-8887. 3-9  
**PRESSURE WASHING!**  
Free Estimates. Call Scott and Sons at 979-235-0645. House, driveways, sidewalks, boats, R.V.s, etc. Time for cleaning. Free Estimates! 3-9

**SERVICE**  
ALL SEASON WOOD FENCES. Installation and repair, interior & exterior painting, drywall repair and installation and pressure washing. Free estimates. Call 832-406-0183. 3-9  
**CARPENTER/ HANDYMAN.** Light electrical, plumbing & painting.

**LAWN & GARDEN**  
ADRIAN'S TREE SERVICES.COM  
**713-501-0184**  
Licensed, Insured, Affordable  
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• Emergency Storm Damage  
Free Estimates  
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Flexible hours full or part time. Paid vacation and holidays.  
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Will train the right person  
\$14.00 per hour and up with experience.  
**832-671-0978**

**Wanted**  
**Part-Time Office Staff/Assistant**  
Located in the South Belt Area  
Looking for individual with computer & verbal skills  
Detail oriented, needs experience with Outlook, Access & Word  
Small Office with Flexible Hours: Mon. - Thur.  
Salary is commensurate with abilities.  
Send resume with current phone number to: [worker.needed101@gmail.com](mailto:worker.needed101@gmail.com)

**Looking to sell or lease your home?**  
**Let us help you!**  
Place an ad in the South Belt-Ellington Leader's weekly Real Estate section!  
**11555 Beamer**  
**281-481-5656**

## JFD tennis excels at Wesbrooks event; Franklin/Kramer Invitational up next

The Dobbie varsity tennis team will carry plenty of momentum and confidence into the Feb. 3-4 Bobby Kramer/Jerry Kramer Pasadena ISD Invitational as the spring season continues.

The Longhorns are coming off a successful appearance at the Ron Wesbrooks Lamar University Invitational in Beaumont, with Kayla Tran winning top honors in the girls' B singles and Dominic Ortiz and Leslie Figueroa winning first place in the mixed doubles

B division. Nolan Tran of Dobbie was runner-up in the boys' B singles.

Elsewhere, Tiffany Tran and Natalie Tran won consolation honors in the girls' B doubles, Pitou So and Rigoberto Alanis were winner of the boys' B doubles consolation and Nestor Garza was the winner of the boys' B singles consolation.

Dobbie coach Manuel Moreno Jr. played collegiately at Lamar University for Wesbrooks, and there has always been a special bond between

Wesbrooks and the player. To have success at the Lamar event is always a bonus for the players.

"The kids always have a great time at the Lamar Invitational, and I know coach Wesbrooks always enjoys visiting with the players.

"We found out the previous week in Fort Bend that we were going to need to step it up in terms of level of play, and our kids did that. I was proud of the effort."



At right, members of the Dobbie varsity tennis team again found success and had a great bonding trip to the Ron Wesbrooks Invitational at Lamar University in Beaumont. The Longhorns who excelled included, left to right, (bottom row), Leslie Figueroa, Kayla Tran, Tiffany Tran, Rigoberto Alanis, (back row) Janice Padilla, Vvyv Do, Nestor Garza, Natalie Vo, Nolan Tran, Dominic Ortiz and Pitou So.

Lutheran South Academy Varsity Softball 2023 Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 10	Concordia Luth.	5 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Hou. Christian	6 p.m.
Feb. 16-18	at North Shore tourn.	TBA
Feb. 21	at St. John's	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	Kinkaid	5 p.m.
Feb. 28	Beaumont Kelly	5:30 p.m.
March 3	at Frassati	4 p.m.
March 4	at Texans R/R	TBA
March 7	St. Pius X	5 p.m.
March 9	at John Cooper	5:30 p.m.
March 20	at F.B. Christian	5:30 p.m.
March 23	at St. John's XXIII	4 p.m.
March 28	Woodlands Christ.	5:30 p.m.
March 31	at Beaumont Kelly	5:30 p.m.
April 4	Frassati	5 p.m.
April 5	Second Baptist	5:30 p.m.
April 12	F.B. Christian	5 p.m.
April 18	St. John's XXIII	6 p.m.
April 21	at Woodlands Christ.	5:30 p.m.
April 24	at Second Baptist	5 p.m.

**Pasadena ISD**  
**Kramer/Franklin Invitational**  
**Fri. and Sat., Feb. 3-4**  
**13 Playing Sites**  
**Boys' and Girls' Doubles**  
**Boys' and Girls' Singles Boys'**  
**Mixed Doubles**

## South Belt youth soccer offers online late sign-up

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is offering online late registration into February for the upcoming 2023 spring season as the league may have a few spots to fill on teams.

The late registration fee for under-4, under-5, under-6, under-7 and under-8 divisions is now \$95 per player, while the fee is \$105 for the under-9, under-10, under-11 and under-12 divisions.

Players in the under-13, under-14, under-15, under-16, under-17, under-18 and under-19 divisions will pay \$115 per player, including late fee.

Payment must be made by credit card or debit card only.

Player families will be required to provide a soc-

cer ball, shin guards and cleats, while the league will provide uniform items including a jersey, game shorts and socks.

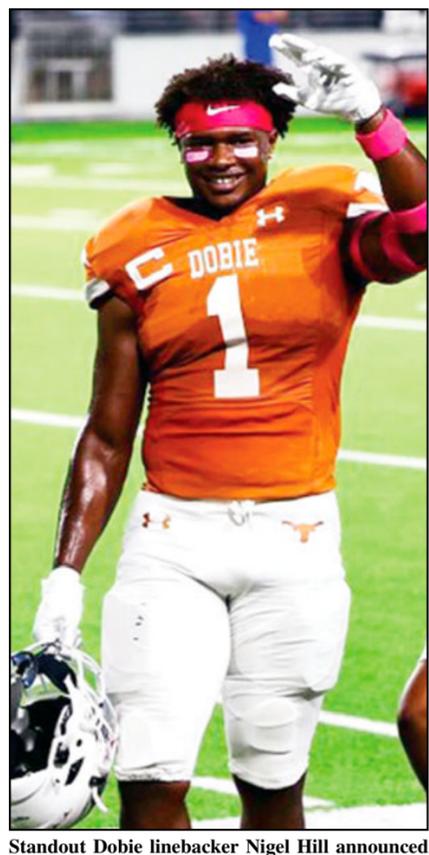
League officials also encourage parents to apply online for head coach, assistant coach, team parent and team manager opportunities.

A typical league week includes two practices and games on Saturdays, with no games on Easter weekend or during spring break.

Most age groups will compete in an 8-game regular season, with no Sunday games.

Visit [www.southbelt-soccer.org](http://www.southbelt-soccer.org) for registration options as well as other information about the league and the season.

## Dobbie's Hall, Hill make 2023 collegiate choices



Dobbie running back Raynard Hall announced via Twitter Jan. 22 that he has committed to play football collegiately at Virginia University of Lynchburg, which is an NCAA Division II program. Despite missing time with injuries as a senior during the 2022 campaign, Hall rushed for 731 yards on 80 carries and scored nine touchdowns.

Standout Dobbie linebacker Nigel Hill announced via Twitter late last month that he will continue his education and collegiate football career at Prairie View A&M University in Houston, where he will play for former Houston Oilers' standout Bubba McDowell, the Panthers' head coach.

Lutheran South Academy Varsity Baseball 2023 Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 9	HYCA	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	at St. John's	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	John Cooper	7 p.m.
Feb. 20	at Episcopal	6 p.m.
Feb. 23-25	at Texas City tourn.	TBA
Feb. 28	Second Baptist	7 p.m.
March 2	at Second Baptist	7 p.m.
March 3	Arch Bishop	7 p.m.
March 4	St. Thomas	3 p.m.
March 4	John Cooper	5:30 p.m.
March 7	at Beaumont Kelly	7 p.m.
March 20	at F.B. Christian	5:30 p.m.
March 23	at St. John's XXIII	4 p.m.
March 28	Woodlands Christ.	5:30 p.m.
March 31	at Beaumont Kelly	5:30 p.m.
April 4	at Frassati	4:30 p.m.
April 5	Galveston Ball	6 p.m.
April 6	Frassati	1:30 p.m.
April 11	Emery Weiner	7 p.m.
April 13	Martin Luther	5 p.m.
April 14	Waltrip	5 p.m.
April 18	at TWCA	7 p.m.
April 21	TWCA	7 p.m.
April 24	at Emery Weiner	7 p.m.

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