

# 50 Years!!!

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 50, No. 2

### Leader seeks submissions

The *Leader* encourages local schools, groups and individuals to continue sending story ideas and photos they'd like to see included in the newspaper. Submissions have declined following the death of *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger in November. Contributions may be submitted to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

### Beverly Hills to meet Feb. 10

Beverly Hills Civic Club will host a meeting Monday, Feb. 10, at the William Parker branch library, located at 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer, from 6 to 7 p.m. All Beverly Hills residents are welcome to attend.

### Ellington holds eRecycling

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Feb. 8, 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 information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 311.

### City to collect heavy trash

City of Houston residents living in the South Belt community south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Feb. 13 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua (and west of the Gulf Freeway) will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Feb. 14 (second Friday of the month). February is for junk waste but tree waste will also be accepted. Pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

### 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.

### Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event will be Thursday, Feb. 6, with another event happening the following Thursday, Feb. 13. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### 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.

### 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. until further notice. Significant delays are expected. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

### HPD's PIP set for Feb. 18

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria in the CES Classroom on the first floor of the main building. 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 Tuesday of each month. For additional information, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776 or Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org.

## Leader celebrates 50th anniversary!

### South Belt community newspaper turns 50, honors golden anniversary

This week begins the 50th year the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* has brought local news to the area one of its founders dubbed the "South Belt" community.

In honor of its golden anniversary, the *Leader* will publish photos and stories from the paper's archives throughout the year.

In the 1980s when Texas Super Foods was building a grocery store on Scarsdale Boulevard where Hong Kong Foods is now located, the

company commissioned demographic studies of the community.

The study found that the area had one particularly unique attribute: an unprecedented 85 percent of the residents in the South Belt area read the local newspaper, the *South Belt Leader*.

No other community in the nation had such high readership of a single newspaper.

Though Texas Super Foods is no longer, the *Leader* (which changed its name to the *South*

*Belt-Ellington Leader* in 1987) has continued to be, as its masthead slogan says, "The voice of community-minded people."

The *Leader* not only brings local residents news of youth sports, family vacations, school activities, and local government, it also has championed causes for the betterment of the community ranging from flood control to cleaning up a toxic dump site.

The paper started in 1976 by two housewives,

Marie Flickinger and Bobby Griffin, who had an uncanny sense of what people wanted to read.

The women had become close friends when they lived in the Genoa subdivision. Soon they moved across the freeway to the burgeoning community they would later name the South Belt area. They were especially interested in Little League baseball, since their sons, Fred Flickinger and David Griffin, played ball together.

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## Leader turns 50 years old!



The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* turns 50 years old this week! To celebrate its golden anniversary, the *Leader* will publish photos from the paper's archives throughout the year. The above photo appeared on Page 1 of Vol. 1, No. 1, published Feb. 5, 1976. The photo shows Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League official Miles Whittaw (second from right) registering youth baseball player Chris Alan Roberts (left), marking the local league's 1,000th child to register for the 1976 season. Shown in rear are, left to right, U.S. Sports Association President Dan Muskie, Little League President Alan Muz and Little League Treasurer Van Davis.

## Crash investigation changes direction

### Witnesses give conflicting reports; crash remains under investigation

A massive vehicular accident involving an 18-wheeler on the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road at Hughes/Sabo killed one and injured several others the evening of Friday, Jan. 31.

Francisco Medillin, 44, was pronounced dead at the scene.

While Houston police initially reported the accident as a hit-and-run, circumstances might not be as clearcut as originally believed by investigators, as new evidence emerges in the case.

According to a report from the Houston Police Department, the fatal accident began around 7:10 p.m. when the driver of a flatbed tractor trailer slammed into multiple parked vehicles as they were stopped at a traffic light in the 11400 block of Beltway 8 in front of the new Shell station. The report stated the driver of the 18-wheeler then fled the scene without stopping to provide assistance.

Surveillance footage from the Shell station obtained by Channel 13 KTRK News, however,

shows that it was actually another vehicle behind the truck that was responsible for the crash. Video captured from the convenience store shows the 18-wheeler also stopped at the light with other vehicles, when a fast-moving black SUV (possibly a Lexus RX350) coming from behind plowed into Medillin's Chevrolet Cavalier and then a white Chevrolet Tahoe. The impacts caused a chain reaction of other subsequent accidents. Between four and six vehicles were involved in the crash, according to various reports.

Surveillance footage shows the driver of the 18-wheeler briefly pulling over and coming to a stop after the accident near the Sagemont Church Annex and Chase Bank, before then pulling away and leaving the scene of the crash—perhaps after assessing the damage to his own vehicle and his own personal safety.

Surveillance footage from the *Leader* office located just one block west of the crash shows the

Continued on Page 2

## Man, 83, opens fire at Memorial event

### Victim nonfatally shot; off-duty HPD officer subdues suspect

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."

## Crash kills 1, injures many



A massive accident on the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road at Hughes/Sabo killed one and injured several others the evening of Friday, Jan. 31. The cause of the accident is still under investigation. After the accident, the driver of an 18-wheeler, along with another driver involved in the crash, left the scene and remained unidentified at press time.

Photo by Jeff Cope



## Dobie inducts Hall of Honor

Dobie High School inducted its 2025 Hall of Honor members at a ceremony held at the area campus Friday, Jan. 30. Now in its 13th year, this year's event recognized three distinguished alumni, two faculty members and one community volunteer (also a Dobie alumnus and former Dobie faculty member). Inductees shown to the left at the ceremony are, left to right, Jim Sawyer (volunteer), Audrey Castoreno (alumnus), Louis Parlange (faculty), Ahmed Badr (alumnus) and Jeane Parlange (faculty). Not shown is inductee Dr. Jean Liew (alumnus).

## Dobie inducts Hall of Honor members

### Ceremony recognizes 3 alumni, 2 faculty, 1 volunteer

Dobie High School inducted its 2025 Honor of Honor members at a ceremony held at the area campus Friday, Jan. 30.

Now in its 13th year, the Hall of Honor recognizes graduates who have made significant contributions to the community and serve as role models for current and future students.

This year's event recognized three distinguished alumni, two faculty members and one community volunteer (who also happens to be a Dobie alumnus and former Dobie faculty member).

Distinguished alumni included Ahmed Badr, Jean Liew and Audrey Castoreno.

Married couple Jeane and Lou Parlange were the two Dobie faculty members to be recognized.

Former Dobie student and teacher/coach Jim Sawyer was recognized at the ceremony for his volunteer work in the community.

Badr is an influential Iraqi-American author, poet and social entrepreneur.

Originally from Baghdad, Badr left home in July 2006 after his home was bombed by militia troops. He and his family relocated to Syria for two years before gaining approval to move to the United States, with the 16-year-old Badr entering Dobie as a junior.

Following graduation, Badr received a BA in Anthropology from Wesleyan University and a Master's in Education from Harvard University. He is the recipient of the Adrian Cheng Fellowship from Harvard Kennedy School, and the Social Innovation Fellowship Fund award from Harvard Business School. He is a National Geographic Young Explorer and serves as one of 17 UN Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.

Badr currently serves as director of the Patricia Center for Social Entrepreneurship and assistant professor of the Practice in Public Policy at Wesleyan University. At 26, he is one of the

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# South Belt-Ellington Leader celebrates golden anniversary!

## Community newspaper begins its 50th year of publication

Continued from Page 1

So it was that their newspaper, which was first named *South Belt Press*, brought hundreds of parents and players news of their games, along with standings and articles on the boards of the local sports association. People were hungry for this news they could get nowhere else.

The first three years, the paper was housed in Flickinger's and Griffin's homes. Bobby and Marie sold ads, wrote stories, pasted up pages, and did everything themselves those early days. They were not only fixtures at the Choate Road (Dixie Farm Road) ballpark, but they were frequently seen at local elementary schools, gathering the news.

In 1979, Flickinger persuaded local resident Cheryl Bolen to leave her reporting job at a rival paper to become the *Leader's* first editor (and first journalism grad) shortly

after the paper moved to an office in the strip center at Hughes and Beamer, where The Gardens is now located. For that first office, Marie's and Bobby's husbands, David and Kenneth, did the interior partitions.

It was at this time, the paper hired its first sports editor, Glenn Sattell. In subsequent years, he has been succeeded by Stephen Thompson and John Bechtel.

A contest to rename the former *Who's Who* gossip column was held, with *Over the Back Fence* emerging as the winner. Bolen reformatted the column, which had been one long paragraph, to be broken up into separate paragraphs for each item and to have subheads.

For the past 50 years, the paper has continued to deliver news that could not be obtained anywhere else. The PTA stories. Civic associations. Articles on road construction. Features on

South Belt area residents. It was news of the community.

And when there were problems or controversies or tragedies, the *Leader* was at the forefront of informing the community of these, too.

One of the area's first controversies was when Sagemont Park residents stormed the Pasadena school board meetings demanding that their children continue at Stuchbery Elementary instead of being transferred to Meador, which was less crowded. (The parents lost.)

When hundreds of area houses flooded in 1979, it was the *Leader* that stepped forward and worked with county officials to alleviate the problems that cause flooding.

Marie spent thousands of hours working with residents, meeting with county officials and spearheading meetings. She worked probably 12 hours a day, solely on addressing the

flooding issues.

Her efforts resulted in a \$30 million flood control project in the South Belt area.

For one of her flooding articles, Marie, with Bolen serving as a co-writer, won the *Leader's* first journalism award. It placed second in the Texas Community Newspaper Association contest in 1984.

Bolen also won a second award in the same contest for a series of articles she wrote on pregnancies in the Pasadena schools. Bolen said the series was suggested by Marie, who "had a remarkable nose for news — much better than mine."

In 1984, the *Leader* also began its annual Christmas food and toy drive for the needy. It all began when a Scarsdale man, who asked to remain anonymous, dropped off a turkey dinner

at the *Leader* offices with instructions to "find someone needy."

The *Leader* is so much a part of the community that residents call the *Leader* office when they want information on trash pickup or on who their congressman is.

They've even been known to call the *Leader* office when their toilet gets stopped up, their house is on fire or even if someone is having a heart attack. One woman, whose child was fatally struck by a vehicle, called for Marie at the accident site, and Marie said she hardly knew the woman.

"People just felt a closeness to Marie," said Bolen. "She was probably the most nurturing woman I've ever known. She was also the toughest. Whenever I couldn't get a public official to talk with me, Marie

would always say, 'Let me get a hold of them.' And she always would."

The 1980s were profitable years for the community and for the *Leader*, which sometimes ran 30 pages weekly.

By the late 1980s, however, growth of both the South Belt community and the *Leader* had declined. This can largely be attributed to the Brio Superfund site, located at the corner of Beamer and Dixie Farm Road.

Marie got involved — some would say obsessed. She dug deeper and learned many disturbing things, including a high number of birth defects in children living in the Southbend subdivision adjacent to the site. At her own expense, she attended conferences all over the country to learn about toxins.

Though she had no for-

mal education, she could intelligently discuss toxic waste with any Ph.D. She became obsessed over Brio, working on it 18 and more hours a day, seven days a week.

As she had done during the community's flood crisis a decade earlier, she organized and listened to community groups.

All of her findings were printed in the newspaper. This was a costly move because the community was so polarized over the toxic waste site. Many people firmly believed there were no problems. Others blamed the *Leader's* publicizing of the situation for the total lack of growth in the community. Realtors and others dropped their ads. The paper began to struggle financially.

Marie was vindicated when Weber Elementary, a school that was only 13

years old, was demolished along with the 677-home Southbend subdivision.

Now measures have been taken to stop the toxic air emissions, and new homes have once again been built near the remediated Brio Superfund site.

Because of Marie, with Bobby's full support, the air in the community is safe.

The newspaper's first color photo appeared in 1998, and the following year in 1999, the *Leader* became totally digital (no more paste up), with Marie's son Davy designing and installing the newspaper's computer system.

Marie's reach and power were extensive, according to Bolen.

"She was very influential in who would fill many local positions," said Bolen. "But, she never did these things for personal

gain. It was always about what was best for the South Belt community."

Many things about the paper have changed over the years. In 1998 Bobby sold her interest to Marie. Davy, who had worked in the company's print shop since he was 16, became company president, and since his mother's November death, has served as newspaper publisher.

After 1998, Bobby continued working for the paper as a trusted proofreader for several years until her health deteriorated a couple of years ago. Two weeks after Marie died at age 82, Bobby died at 86.

Although Bobby and Marie — along with so many other stalwarts for the community — are now gone, their legacy of bringing local and unique news to the South Belt community has not changed.

### Warehouse near Fuqua catches fire

Blaze causes \$150K in damage; no injuries reported

A warehouse caught fire the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 23, in the 10500 block of Moers Road near Fuqua and Monroe.

According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene around 10:30 a.m. to find heavy smoke coming from a medium-sized warehouse. Due to the amount of smoke, a defensive attack was made.

The fire was determined to be in an office area.

A warming trailer was provided for the crews and a team from Hazardous Materials determined there was no hazmat issue.

The fire was controlled and extinguished and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin. Investigators determined the fire was

accidental in nature.

Damage was estimated to be approximately \$150,000. Firefighters were able to save roughly \$200,000 on property.

No injuries were reported.

In all, 58 personnel responded to this incident, including firefighters from stations 15, 26, 70, 29, 36, 52, 61, 93, 94, 24, 30, Hazmat and Rescue 42.

### Shoplifting call leads to felony arrest

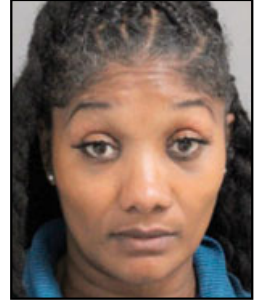
Baybrook Mall suspect wanted for ID theft in Nashville

A shoplifting call at the Target in the 1800 block of West Bay Area Boulevard near Baybrook Mall recently resulted in the arrest of a female suspect wanted for identity theft in another state.

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, deputies responded to a shoplifting-in-progress call the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 24, and swiftly detained the female suspect.

Initially, the suspect attempted to mislead law enforcement by providing a false name and date of birth. However, thanks to the Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), deputies were able to confirm the suspect's true identity as Tarsha

Nicole Jones. Further investigation revealed that Jones was wanted



Tarsha Jones

by the Nashville Police Department for identity theft. Following her arrest, Jones was transported to the Harris County Joint Processing Center, where she was booked on

charges of theft.

Garcia took to social media to celebrate the arrest. "We commend our deputies for their quick response and diligent investigative work that not only resolved the theft incident but also ensured a wanted individual was taken off the streets," a post on Garcia's Facebook page read.

This past November, deputies arrested two females at the same store for reportedly stealing merchandise worth more than \$3,000. In that case, suspect Cierra Collins was accused of being a shoplifter, while fellow suspect Kanika Williams was alleged to be a getaway driver. The pair were accused of targeting the store on at least three occasions.

### CCISD seeks Citizen of Year nominations

Winner to be honored in August; March 7 submission deadline

The Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustees is seeking nominations for the 2025 Citizen of the Year.

This distinguished award is presented each year to honor an outstanding member of the community who champions Clear Creek ISD and devotes their efforts to the betterment of public education.

The recipient will be announced at the Clear Creek Education Foundation's (CCEF) Awards Dinner on Aug. 23, 2025.

Recipients eligible for the Citizen of the Year award must meet the following requirements:

– Demonstrated a commitment to Clear Creek ISD through volunteer efforts.

– Contributed significantly in ways that have benefited the entirety of Clear Creek ISD.

– Maintained a reputation across the Clear Creek ISD community as an individual with high standards and dedication to excellence in public education.

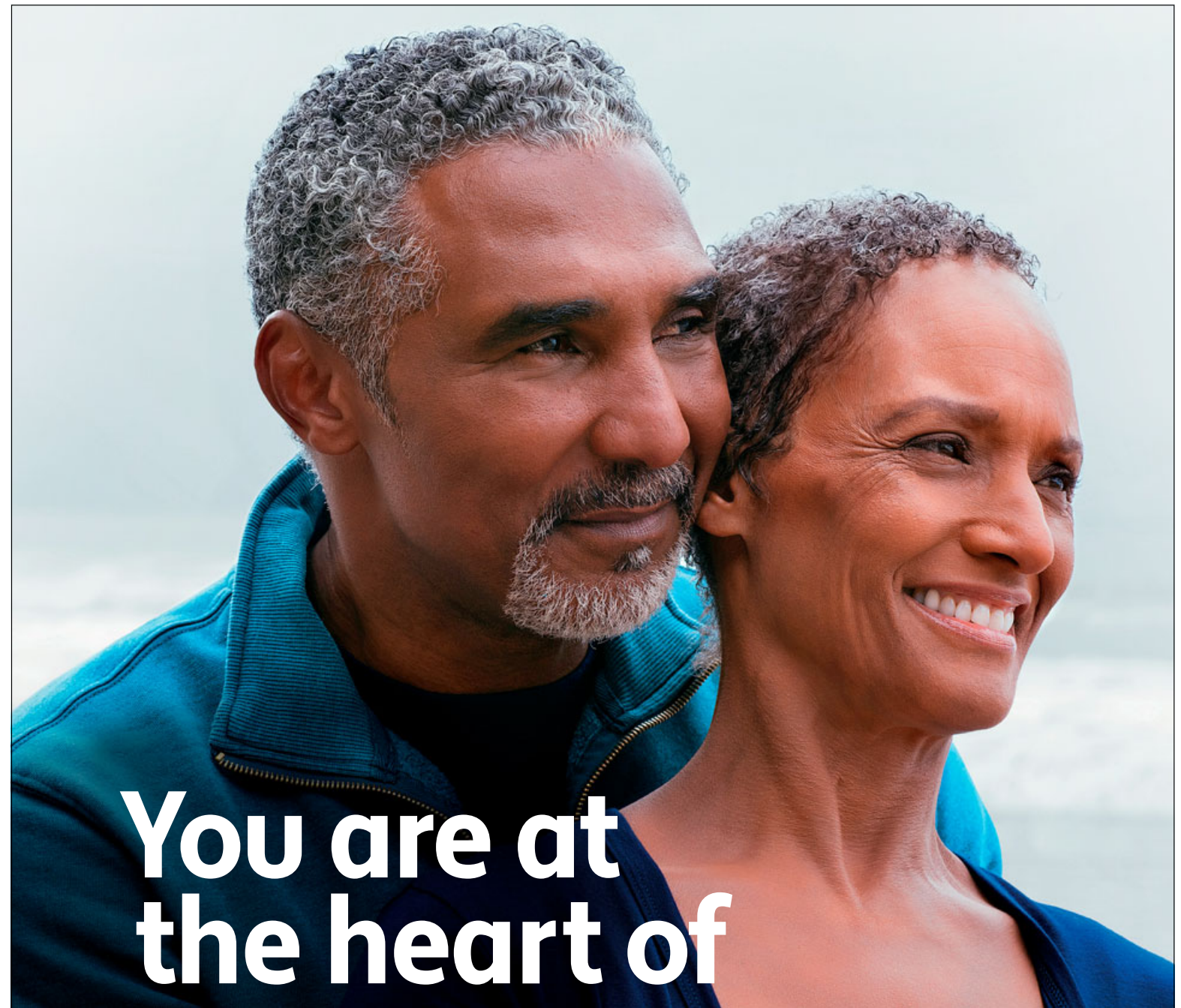
– Voluntarily served the District and its students and patrons over an extended period of time.

Former recipients of the CCISD Citizen of the Year honor include Dr. Glenn Freedman, Dr. Laura DuPont,

Lucien Junkin, Ralph Parr (posthumously), Chris Reed (posthumously), League City Mayor Pat Hallisey, Trent Martin, Joyce Abbey, Harv Hartman, Jamieson Mackay, David Braun and Dr. James O'Malley.

All nominations must be submitted no later than March 7, 2025, to be considered for the 2025 award. Nomination forms are available online on the CCEF website. Once completed, nominations may be emailed to ccef@ccisd.net or mailed to:

Clear Creek Education Foundation  
P.O. Box 1631  
League City, TX 77574.



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## PISD announces top three elementary winners

On Dec. 14, several of Pasadena's elementary schools participated in Pasadena ISD UIL A+ Academic Competition. This competition consisted of the elementary school students showcasing their skills in subjects such as number sense, music memory, chess puzzles, spelling and poetry. The top three winners are Frazier Elementary, Stuchbery Elementary and Atkinson Elementary.



Frazier Elementary fourth-grade students placed first in Pasadena ISD UIL competition. Left to right, are (first row) Xavi Mesta, Felix Starghill, Coach Patricia Perez, Coach Cathy Silas, Bailey Pharms, (second row) Delilah Dammel, Gabriel Luna, Levi Murphy, Orzorah Herrera, Isy Gonzalez, (third row) Noah Manzano, Jamiya McGillbray, Jeremi-



Stuchbery Elementary fourth-grade students placed second in Pasadena ISD UIL competition. Pictured, left to right, are (front row) Elias Gomez, Charles Cummings, Santiago Lara, Jace Ramirez, Nayelle Doston, Weston Havard, Dante Segovia, (middle row) Aya Ghneim, Alan Cummings, Ethan Thompson, Macie Salinas, Sophia Turrubiarres, Paulino Tovar, (back row) Linda Reyes (Pre-K bilingual teacher), Gilberto Reyes, Mckenzee Busbee, Alex Whited (fourth-grade teacher), Katalina Chapa, Jiselle Guevara, Vy Le and Sharon Idoux (ESL/GT teacher).



Atkinson Elementary fourth-grade students placed third in Pasadena ISD UIL competition. Pictured, left to right, are (front row) Martha Fardjo Martinez, Emma Valdez, Valerie Saenz, Sophia Garcia, Aiden Adame, Olivia Guzman, Benjamin Garcia, (back row) Kortnie Rieck (instructional coach), Nancy Vazquez (fourth-grade teacher), Andrew Vuong, Jacob Fonseca, Trang Hoang, Peyton Nunez, Isabella Caballero, Angelica Flores, Anna Ly and Tracy Nguyen.

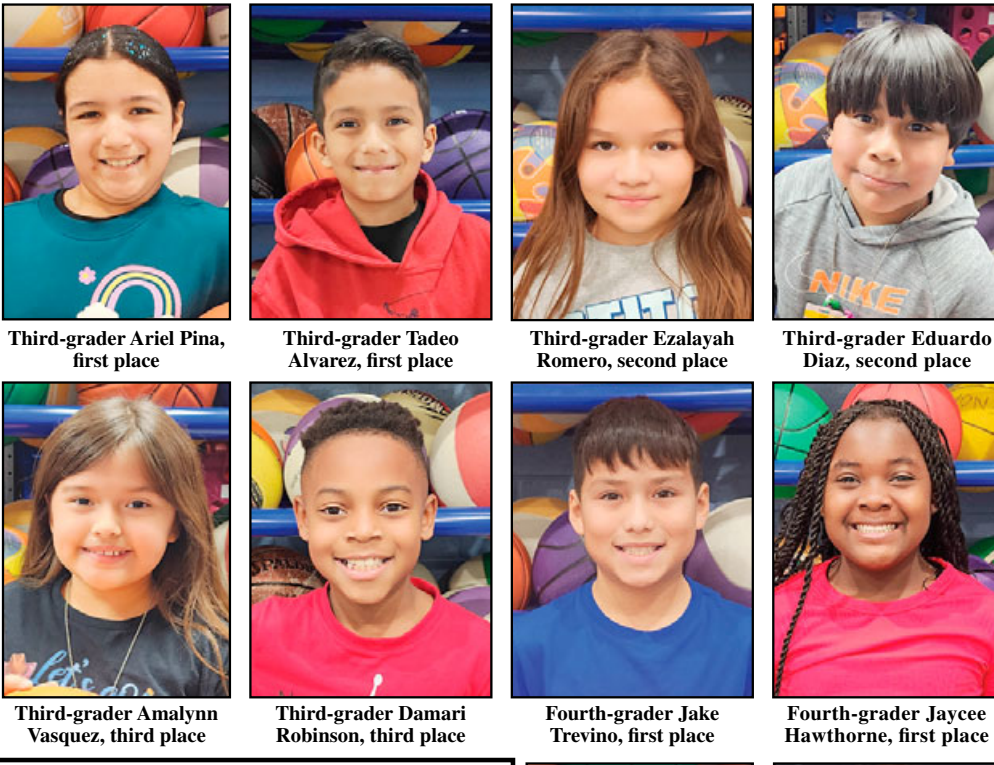
## Genoa Elementary hosts career day



Genoa hosted a career day for their youngest students, educating them about the various learning opportunities in high school and beyond. Left to right, are NASA technologist Dr. Gary Kitmacher, CTHS auto technology teacher James Jackson, commercial farmer Roy Kreitz, aspiring administrator Andrea Luna, Lone Star Flight Museum Chief Operating Officer Jerry Scott and Lone Star Flight Museum pilot Angie Terrell.

## Genoa names Big Shoot Out winners

The elementary school Big Shoot Out competition is a basketball skills contest open to all elementary girls and boys in third and fourth grade. The contest consists of two parts—shooting from the numbered "hot-spots" for one minute and then the "dribble, weave, pass" which is run against time. Scores from the two parts of the contest are added together to determine the winners. The students pictured below are Genoa's champions. The four first-place winners moved onto the district competition on Feb. 3 and competed against the other 35 elementary winners.



Third-grader Ariel Pina, first place; Third-grader Tadeo Alvarez, first place; Third-grader Ezalayah Romero, second place; Third-grader Eduardo Diaz, second place; Third-grader Amalynn Vasquez, third place; Third-grader Damari Robinson, third place; Fourth-grader Jake Trevino, first place; Fourth-grader Jaycee Hawthorne, first place; Fourth-grader King Smith, second place; Fourth-grader Neya Coopers, second place; Fourth-grader Dainel Espinoza, third place; Fourth-grader Genesis Favila, third place.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1980)**  
Scarsdale resident Charles Snyder was in good condition after being hit head-on in his car just south of the Beamer-Choate Road intersection. Questions surrounding school taxes were being asked of the Pasadena Independent School District. A districtwide reappraisal program was underway, and the tax rate and appraisal would determine tax due.

**The Sagement-Beverly Hills Pony-Colt baseball division formally changed its name to the South Belt Area Pony-Colt.**

**40 years ago (1985)**  
The investigation of a Jan. 4 shooting death of a 13-year-old Kirkwood South resident was turned over to Harris County Juvenile Probation.

**35 years ago (1990)**  
The Slaughter vs. Monsanto trial surrounding the Brio site went to the jurors as both sides completed their arguments.

South Belters Joe and Peggy Bennett were preparing for their annual Salt Grass Trail Ride. They served as cooks for the ride and had been involved for more than 10 years.

Clear Creek Independent School District officials gathered soil samples from the play area at Weber Elementary. The soil was gathered from depths ranging to three feet to test for toxicity.

**30 years ago (1995)**  
A runoff election for San Jacinto College and city offices was scheduled.

Dobie students Ashley Smith and Aaron Brown were selected to perform with the all-state band at the Texas Music Educators Association convention.

Southeast Area Ministries annual report stated the ministry assisted more than 7,000 persons the previous year.

A Galveston County deputy constable working a security job at Frankie Carter Randolph Park shot a suicidal man. The man had fired a shotgun once then put the barrel to his mouth. The constable ordered him to drop the weapon and fired a warning

shot before shooting the suspect in the leg.

**25 years ago (2000)**  
A newborn was abandoned at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. She was named Danielle Martin — after hospital CEO Dan Martin.

Longhorn cheerleaders finished fifth in the United Cheerleading Association national finals held in Disney World.

**20 years ago (2005)**  
Sixteen-year-old Melissa Mata died as a result of a multi-vehicle accident on Beamer at the Beltway.

The San Jacinto College South music department hosted jazz musician Maynard Ferguson for a performance.

A new business in a strip center on Hughes at Beamer raised questions. The windows were blacked out, a camera monitored the front door, and only select persons were admitted after ringing a doorbell. The business was later found to be an illegal gambling establishment with eight-liner machines and was closed after a raid.

Frazier Elementary held its second annual Family Hoedown. Proceeds from the event helped defray medical costs for Principal Rhonda Parmer, who was receiving treatment for cancer.

**15 years ago (2010)**  
Jim Phillips was named the new head football coach at Dobie High School. The

move came just two weeks after newly appointed Derek Fitzhenry resigned from the position before even starting.

A man was arrested after fatally shooting his estranged wife and her 15-year-old daughter at the Summer Cove apartments on FM 1959 at Gulfstream. Police say Jaime Piero Cole, 39, came to the apartment around 7:30 p.m. to drop off his 2-year-old and 10-year-old sons. Upon his arrival, Cole and his wife, Melissa Dawn Cole, 31, got into an argument. At some point, the fight escalated and turned violent. When Melissa Cole's 15-year-old daughter tried to intervene, Jaime Cole pulled out a gun and opened fire. Both were

struck multiple times and were pronounced dead at the scene. Jaime Cole left his 10-year-old son at the scene but fled with the toddler. An Amber Alert was issued, and the pair were spotted at a Wal-Mart in Wharton County. Police say Cole was trying to buy ammunition. A state trooper took Cole into custody. He was charged with capital murder. Cole's sons were unharmed, as was a second juvenile female at the residence at the time of the shootings.

**10 years ago (2015)**  
A former South Houston High School student and his parents filed a \$1 million civil rights lawsuit against the Pasadena Independent

School District, alleging that an on-campus police officer used excessive force the previous May, causing bodily injury and psychological damage. In the suit, Cesar Suquet alleged that Michael Y'Barbo, an on-campus PISD police officer, repeatedly struck him with a metal baton following a dispute over a confiscated cellphone. The case was settled later in November for \$60,000.

The father of a 3-week-old baby died Feb. 8, following a fight the previous night when he was accused of breaking into his neighbor's car near Southport and Bazin. Melvin Lee Nelson, 30, initially refused medical help before being pro-

nounced dead at his home. Autopsy results later determined his death was caused by heroin and alprazolam (Xanax) toxicity.

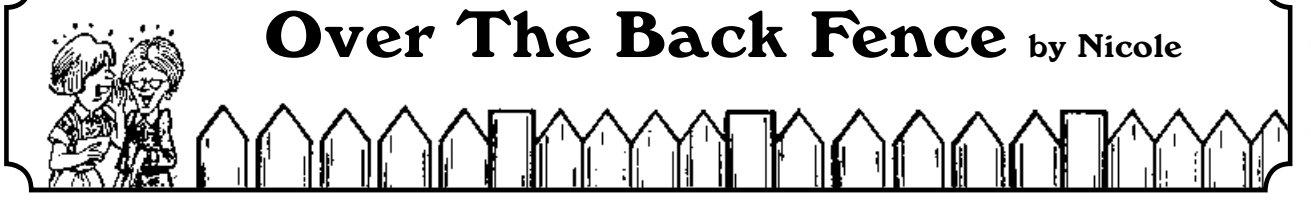
**5 years ago (2020)**  
Dobie High School announced its 2020 Hall of Honor inductees. Five individuals were recognized, including four graduates and one faculty member. Honorees included Houston Police department Sgt. Chris Brewster, Class of 2006; baseball player Shane Nance, Class of 1996; security analyst Joe Olivarez, Class of 1984; U.S. Army veteran Sgt. First Class James Daigle, Class of 1983; and former faculty member Rhonda Foster. An induction ceremony was held at the school Feb. 21.

**1 year ago (2024)**  
A house caught fire Saturday, Jan. 27, in the 10000 block of Kirkbluff near Blackhawk. According to Southeast Volunteer Fire Department officials, the blaze started in the backyard when a heater ignited straw/hay bedding used to keep animals warm. In addition to SVFD, units from the Houston Fire Department and the Pearland Fire Department also responded to the incident. No injuries were reported.

Pasadena ISD was named one of five finalists in H-E-B's 22nd annual Excellence in Education Awards in the program's Large District division. Galena Park ISD would later be selected winner at the groups' banquet held in May.

Longtime area educator Hollis Powell died Thursday, Jan. 25, at the age of 91. Powell served in Pasadena ISD for more than 30 years, working at Meador Elementary and Atkinson Elementary — serving as the first principal for both campuses. Powell first worked as a teacher and later serving as principal of Meador from 1963 to 1969. At Atkinson, Hollis Powell served as principal from 1969 until his retirement in 1995. A service for Powell was held Wednesday, Jan. 31, in Jasper.

## Over The Back Fence by Nicole



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

**DOUBLE BIRTHDAY WISHES**  
Kenney Griffin, son of Angela and David Griffin, and son-in-law Jim Giles of Kirkwood South celebrate their birthday Feb. 8. Birthday wishes are also sent from Kenney's wife Laurie and daughter Ellie Vera; and Jim's wife Tracy and children Cody, Kristen and Aaron and his wife, Ashley and sons, Jaxson and Jace.

**CHRIS ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY**  
Chris Clark marks a birthday Saturday, Feb. 10. Birthday greetings are sent to Chris from wife Mary and "babies" Zeldia and Maude. Special birthday wishes are sent from the Leader staff as well as a big thank-you for all he does for the community.

**LILY TURNS SEVEN!**  
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Lilian (Lily) Margaret Scarberry who celebrates her sixth birthday Monday, 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 Espinoza, Olivia Moreno, and Kennedy, Owen and

Evie Flowers.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 6 through Feb. 12.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Give a birthday shoutout Feb. 12 to Victoria Perez.

**Frazier Elementary**  
On Feb. 9, Jennifer Wilson enjoys a birthday. Send a humorous birthday card Feb. 10 to Rainy Sciba.

**Meador Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles for Maria Gonzalez Feb. 8. Remember to wish Erika Rodarte a happy birthday Feb. 12.

**Moore Elementary**  
Enjoy a triple-layer birthday cake with Angeline Perez, Gerri Watkins and Princess McGrew on Feb. 6. On Feb. 8 Mary Medina celebrates a birthday. Give a birthday shoutout Feb. 9 to Anita Nickelson. Kristy Chapa enjoys a birthday Feb. 12.

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

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Send a birthday greeting Feb. 9 to Kimberly Amaya.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Take out the balloons and party hats for Maria Martinez on Feb. 7. The day for birthday fun for Dawn Tomlinson is Feb. 9. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 12 is Michelle Rush.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Tina Delgado celebrates a birthday Feb. 10. Esmeralda Calvillo and Ronnie Thomas celebrate a birthday Feb. 11. A double-fun day is planned Feb. 12 for Juan Fernandez and Yesenia Ramirez.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Ruth Horton celebrates a birthday Feb. 10.

**Dobie High**  
The day for a party for Derek Beckham and Eric Bellah is Feb. 8. Remember to wish Angeline Benavides a happy birthday Feb. 10.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Feb. 6: Lisa Jackson and Chastity Napper; and Friday, Feb. 7: Paula Barnett and Lori McBride. Saturday, Feb. 8: Kim Scott and Mark Stanley; Sunday, Feb. 9: Erica Rodriguez, Amanda Bergeron, Tracy Matthew and Tammy Schweigert; Monday Feb. 10: Kathy Ramirez, Morgan Wingo, Angie Baucum, Jesse Chavez, Christina Parasco and Mike Huffman; Tuesday, Feb. 11: Cesar Ramirez and Jennifer Zanders; and Wednesday, Feb. 12: Greg Banhart, C.J. Jareo III, Chris Smith, Cynthia Tavera, Clyde Jones, Lisa Jones, Jacqueline Preston, Alex Lerma and Robert Barbosa.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Dickson takes 60m indoor silver



Event runner-up Camryn Dickson (above) led a trio of Texas A&M women's sprinters to the line in the 60-meter dash as she was second at 7.32 seconds, with Aggies Bria Bullard third (personal best of 7.34) and Jasmine Montgomery fourth (7.36) at the New Mexico Team Open Feb. 1 in Albuquerque. The Aggies also closed the meet with flourish as Dickson and Montgomery joined Latasha Smith and Kennedy Wade for the gold medal in the 4x400 relay at 3:37.08. Dickson, a Clear Brook graduate, and Montgomery went against one another in the 2021 Texas state championships in Austin in the 100 and 200 sprints. Montgomery won the gold in both events before beginning her collegiate career at Oregon then Florida. The pair are now teammates at A&M. Wade is a Clear Falls graduate.

## Brook girls' basketball grabs D2 top seed

The race to reach San Antonio's Alamodome for the Class 6A Division 1 and Division 2 varsity girls' basketball state championship final fours Feb. 28-March 1 begins Feb. 10-11, and the Clear Brook girls are looking to make a deep push within the Division 2 bracket as the postseason gets underway.

As the regular season came to a close Feb. 5 after press time, the Wolverines were assured of no worse than a second place overall finish in District 24-6A. With first-place Dickinson (12-1) a win over Deer Park away from claiming the league championship for a second consecutive season and Clear Creek all but assured of third place, Deer Park had control of fourth place and the final postseason seed out of the league.

With the University Interscholastic League employing separate Division 1 and Division 2 postseason brackets based on total student enrollment among the seeds, Dickinson and Deer Park will head to Division 1 beginning Feb. 10, while Clear Brook and Clear Creek will be part of the field in the Division 2 mix.

Winners of what would be 31 regular season games with a final win at Brazoswood Feb. 5 after press time, the Wolverines were solely focused on the postseason as the super senior trio of Rezia Castillo, Kamryn McLaurin and Chardel Terrell takes part in their final run of their standout careers.

Each of the three will play collegiate basketball beginning this fall but headed into the postseason focused on making a solid push toward San Antonio. In District 22-6A, league champion Dawson, led by head coach and Dobie graduate Sheree (Shepherd) Griffin, is headed to Division 1 along with runner-up Pearland, while Manvel and Shadow Creek will advance to the Division 2 field.

Heading into the regular season finales Feb. 5 after press time, Dawson was a road win over Alvin away from finishing with 31 overall wins and a perfect 14-0 record within 22-6A.

The Eagles, much like Dickinson in 24-6A, had reeled off nine consecutive wins on this side of the 2024-2025 schedule to close strong. The four 22-6A postseason qualifiers, all new to the district beginning this school year following realignment, were considered heavy favorites to reach the postseason and did just that. Clear Brook was also second in the 2023-2024 season.

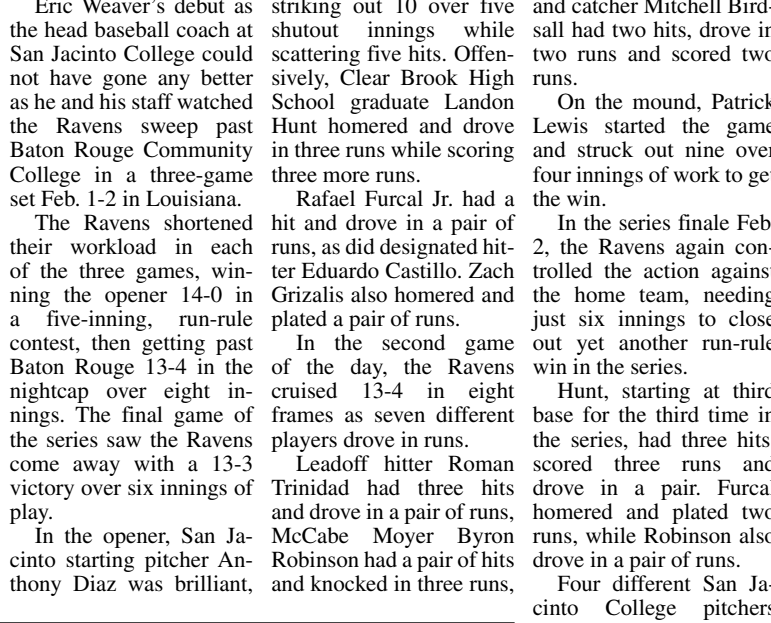
The 2025 high school baseball regular season will begin Feb. 17 as Dobie plays at Goose Creek Memorial at 3:30 p.m.

The Clear Brook Wolverines will open their season the same day at Pasadena Memorial, beginning at 3 p.m. Dobie head coach Miguel Torres and his staff continue to lead the Longhorns in scrimmage action in preparation for the regular season.

The Longhorns will scrimmage at Baytown Sterling Feb. 7, then scrimmage at La Porte Feb. 11 before rounding out the preseason with an appearance at Clear Brook Feb. 14.

The Wolverines will scrimmage at Pasadena Memorial Feb. 7, then scrimmage at Santa Fe Feb. 10 before welcoming Dobie Feb. 14. The Wolverines will also host their annual Marathon Day, a Feb. 15 fundraising event at Wolverine Field.

## Dobie tracksters eye Kethan, Brown meets



The Dobie boys' and girls' track and field teams will get the 2025 season started with an appearance at the Jim Kethan Relays in Deer Park Feb. 7 as regional qualifier Stacie Harris as well as the rest of the Longhorn program looks to get off to a solid start.

Week two action will be highlighted by Pasadena ISD's annual Brown Relays Feb. 14 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

The early session at the Brown Relays begins at 11 a.m. with the distance medley relay.

The field events will also take center stage, including the pole vault, triple jump, high jump, discus, long jump and shot put.

The running portion of the meet begins at 1 p.m., with the boys' and girls' 3,200 kicking off things and the 4x400 relay wrapping up things. At left is Dobie's Stacie Harris, who will compete in a variety of events this season as a senior with the Longhorns.

## SBGSA parade, opening day Feb. 9

The South Belt Girls Softball Association will host its annual opening day parade Sunday, Feb. 9, beginning at 8:30 a.m. as the community will have a chance to get out and support the players and coaches as they begin the 2025 regular season at El Franco Lee Park. The parade will begin at Weber Elementary at 8:30 a.m., and proceed to El Franco Lee Park, as each of the league's teams will then line up on the field at 9:30 a.m. with celebratory banners in hand. The 2025 regular season will then officially start at 10 a.m. as games commence. The community is invited to come out and celebrate along with the league and its sponsors during the special day.

## PISD intermediates run Feb. 19

The Pasadena ISD intermediate school track and field schedule will begin Feb. 19 as the Beverly Hills and Thompson programs will be in competition against South Houston and Miller at Dobie High School. Each of the district's 10 intermediate programs will then compete in other regular season meets prior to the PISD District Championships March 10-11 at Auxiliary Stadium in Pasadena.

## Baseball season opens Feb. 17

The 2025 high school baseball regular season will begin Feb. 17 as Dobie plays at Goose Creek Memorial at 3:30 p.m.

The Clear Brook Wolverines will open their season the same day at Pasadena Memorial, beginning at 3 p.m. Dobie head coach Miguel Torres and his staff continue to lead the Longhorns in scrimmage action in preparation for the regular season.

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The Wolverines will scrimmage at Pasadena Memorial Feb. 7, then scrimmage at Santa Fe Feb. 10 before welcoming Dobie Feb. 14. The Wolverines will also host their annual Marathon Day, a Feb. 15 fundraising event at Wolverine Field.

## Dobie tennis hosts Franklin/Kramer

The 2025 Franklin/Kramer Invitational tennis tournament will play out Feb. 7-8 as 35 different high school programs have committed to participate in the Pasadena ISD's long-standing event.

Eighteen of those programs will play in the Bobby Kramer Burnt Orange division beginning Feb. 7 at the Dobie main campus beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing throughout the day. The 17 remaining programs will follow the same schedule Feb. 7 at Pasadena Memorial High School.

Dobie will host the Kramer Burnt Orange division, with Galveston Ball, Brazosport, Dawson, Alief Elsik, Richmond, Foster, Friendswood, Alief Hastings, Iowa Colony, Katy, Magnolia, Magnolia West, Pearland, Randle, Alief Taylor, Terry, Tompkins and Willowridge all in action.

The Franklin White division at Pasadena Memorial will include Atascocita, Barbers Hill, Clear Creek, Deer Park, Dickinson, Galena Park, Humble, La Porte, Kingwood, C.E. King, Baytown Lee, Pasadena, Baytown Sterling, Sam Rayburn, South Houston and Summer Creek competing over the two days.

Clear Brook got off to a hot start and league play, winning four of his first five games but has since slipped to 5-6 and finishes with one of the toughest schedules league-wide.

Clear Springs and Dickinson will be the Division 1 playoff representative, while Clear Falls and Clear Lake will head to Division 2.

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## SJC baseball impressive to open 2025

Eric Weaver's debut as the head baseball coach at San Jacinto College could not have gone any better as he and his staff watched the Ravens sweep past Baton Rouge Community College in a three-game set Feb. 1-2 in Louisiana.

Rafael Furcal Jr. had a hit and drove in a pair of runs, as did designated center Eduardo Castillo. Zach Grizalis also homered and plated a pair of runs.

In the second game of the day, the Ravens cruised 13-4 in eight frames as seven different players drove in runs.

Leadoff hitter Roman Trinidad had three hits and drove in a pair of runs, McCabe Moyer Byron Robinson had a pair of hits and knocked in three runs, and catcher Mitchell Bird-sall had two hits, drove in two runs and scored two runs.

On the mound, Patrick Lewis started the game and struck out nine over four innings of work to get the win.

In the series finale Feb. 2, the Ravens again controlled the action against the home team, needing just six innings to close out yet another run-rule win in the series. Hunt, starting at third base for the third time in the series, had three hits, scored three runs and drove in a pair. Furcal homered and plated two runs, while Robinson also drove in a pair of runs.

Four different San Jacinto College pitchers worked in the game, with starter Hogan Shelby covering the opening three innings and earning the win. It's only the first week of the season, but Weaver and his staff certainly had to appreciate what they saw early on from their program.

## 24-6A boys' hoops seeds decided

Three games remained in the District 24-6A varsity boys' basketball race as of press time February 5, yet, the four playoff seeds heading into the postseason beginning Feb. 17 had all but been decided.

Clear Springs and Dickinson will be the Division 1 playoff representative, while Clear Falls and Clear Lake will head to Division 2.

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## Mathews, Terry choose collegiate football homes



At press time, a pair of Dobie football standouts, Cameron Mathews (left) and Markel Terry, verbally committed to play collegiately. Mathews, the all-time leading rusher in the history of Longhorn football, has announced via X that he will play at Memphis beginning this fall. Mathews, the two-time District



22-6A Most Valuable Player, will join the Tigers while Terry, a three-time All-District honoree at left tackle, goes to a Buccanar program that struggled to an uncharacteristic 4-5 overall finish in 2024 but has been historically very successful in the JUCO ranks.

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### Hoyas' Rivera scores BIG EAST basketball honor

At right, Dobie graduate Victoria Rivera, currently a junior with the Georgetown University women's basketball program, was named to the BIG EAST Weekly Honor Roll Jan. 20 after a big performance in the Hoyas' victory at Providence. Rivera bounced back from missing the Hoyas' game against nationally-ranked UCONN due to injury, sinking 5 of 7 shots from beyond the 3-point arc and scoring 19 points overall to lead Georgetown to a 60-48 victory over the Friars. Rivera is currently second on the Georgetown roster in scoring this season at just over 13 points per game. She also leads the BIG EAST with more than 50 three-pointers this season, which ranks her top 20 nationally.



### 22-6A softball race figures to be as competitive as ever

The "spring" portion of the 2024-2025 District 22-6A races promises to deliver more than enough competition for each of the nine programs involved in team sports such as softball, baseball and track and field.

On the varsity softball field, Dobie no longer has to contend with longtime nemesis Deer Park as the Deer now reside in 24-6A, but the Longhorns will nonetheless find the new 22-6A nine-program as challenging as any in recent memory.

Rosters do indeed change from season to season, but the decades-long success of programs such as Pearland and Alvin are sure to provide Dobie, also a perennial postseason attendee, with plenty of competition.

With 16 total games to be played within the league, the 22-6A starts relatively early in 2025, with Dobie opening play Feb. 18 at Dawson.

Pearland is just one of the stiff competitors set to make a run in the 22-6A varsity softball ranks after winning 34 overall games

a season ago, including an 11-1 roll through District 23-6A that won the district.

Longtime varsity assistant Michelle Hyden enjoyed a successful first season as the leader of the Oilers' program as the team ultimately reached the regional quarterfinals before enduring a sweep by Brazoswood. In 2023, Pearland won the Class 6A state crown.

Another 22-6A newcomer, Alvin, also has one of the most competitive programs in the region year-in, year-out and produced 30 overall victories a season ago, ultimately finishing second and 23-6A to Pearland.

Alvin also reached the regional quarterfinals in 2024 before losing to eventual Region 3 champion Kingwood.

Dawson, yet another tough customer arriving in the 22-6A field, won 20 overall games a season ago, finished third in the 23-6A ranks and pushed Clear Springs to a decisive third game in the bidistrict playoff round before falling.

Dobie remains far and away the class of the Pasadena ISD ranks, while Shadow Creek finished below .500 in league play in 2024.

In short, Dobie and Pearland would seem to be the top contenders for eventual Division 1 postseason berths, with Dawson and Alvin then headed to Division 2.

While it's certainly far too early to be predicting the exact order of finish in the 22-6A race, the likes of Dobie, Pearland, Dawson and Manvel certainly appear to have an advantage over the rest of the field.

Two-time regional champion Pearland no doubt heads the field in the revamped 22-6A varsity baseball lineup as the Oilers, despite significant graduation losses following the 2024 season, will again be a team to beat as the regular season gets started Feb. 17.

Dobie's Vanessa De La Fuente (7) is in line for a big season in the circle for the Longhorns in 2025.



### Beverly Hills seventh-grade basketball teams win district championships in Pasadena ISD action



The Beverly Hills Intermediate seventh-grade girls' basketball team celebrated winning the Pasadena ISD district championship for the 2024-2025 season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Crystal

Ventura, Noemi Vallejo Ramirez, Miia Soto, Marlee Johnson, Neriah LeBlanc, (back row) Aya Bahar, Tatiana Gamboa, Serenity Martinez, Abigail Rodriguez and Skylar Glayzer.



The Beverly Hills Intermediate seventh-grade boys' A team won the Pasadena ISD district basketball championship this season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front

row) Kai Tillman, Arias Garcia, Sean Umanzor, Joseph Martinez, (back row) Kayden Morris, Aiden Ruiz, Rylan Barker, Mekhi Royal and Desean Simmons.

### Dobie varsity boys' hoops push Trojans to the limit in 22-6A action as season nears close



Dobie junior Johan Villavicencio (14) challenges the Trojans' Makih Cowart (5) at the rim during South Houston's 56-53 win over the Longhorns Feb. 1 at Trojan Gym. Photos by Donna Alsdorf



South Houston's Xavier Muhammed (24) and Dobie's Roy Azinge (31) went to work against one another in the paint frequently as the two varsity boys' basketball teams went head-to-head Feb. 1 at South Houston. The Trojans came away with a 56-53 victory and will be a Division 2 playoff seed out of 22-6A when the postseason begins Feb. 17.



Dobie sophomore Anthony Miles (12) and his teammates will close out the 2024-2025 regular season by taking on the Sam Rayburn Texans Feb. 8. The postseason participants out of 22-6A will be Shadow Creek, Pearland, South Houston and Pasadena Memorial, with Pearland and Pasadena Memorial in the Division 1 bracket. Shadow Creek will be a No. 1 seed in the Division 2 bracket, with the Trojans occupying a No. 2 seed out of 22-6A. Miles had 38 points against South Houston Feb. 1.

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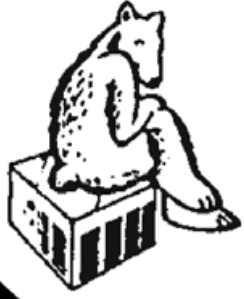
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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

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 Hollan at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

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.

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://naustuff.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.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.

9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

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, 5215 Preston Ave. Pasadena, 77505 Call 713-419-2635 for details.

8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** See Friday's notice.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@junocorn.com for details.

7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

10 a.m. **CCART** - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

10:30 a.m. **Tri County Republican Women** - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$20. Exact cash or a check requested. To RSVP, visit www.tricountyrw.club/.

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn, at 832-722-9061 for information.

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

**Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.

Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from 12:30 to 3:00 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 3:00 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, one may ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.

7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

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

8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

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 Hollan at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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This property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held online at [www.bid13.com](http://www.bid13.com). Facility is Boat and Camper Storage, Inc. located at 9021 Alameda Genoa Rd. Houston, TX, 77075. Bidding will open (2/11/25 8 a.m.) and Conclude (2/18/25 10 a.m.) Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:

**Cooper Penning:** 1991 Suntracker Pontoon Boat (HIN#BUJ29130K192)

**Mary Jackson:** furniture, display cases, antiques, paintings, bikes and misc.

**David Stremmel:** motorcycle parts, scrap metal, tools, misc.

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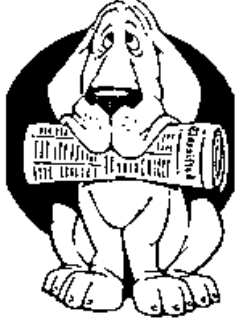
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# Longhorns' Moreno earns a second USTA Lloyd Sessions merit nod



Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. is the 2025 recipient of the United States Tennis Association's prestigious Texas Lloyd Sessions Educational Merit Award.

**By John Bechtle Sports Editor**  
 As an educator and high school tennis coach with more than 40 years invested into the generations of young players who have come through programs such as those at Dobie, O'Connell High School in Galveston and even Clear Lake High School within Clear Creek ISD, Manuel Moreno Jr. can take comfort in knowing that he has made a difference more than a few times along the way.  
 And clearly, there are those who are taking notice. Moreno, now in his 26th school year as head coach of the Dobie tennis program, was last December notified that he will be the 2025 recipient of the United States Tennis Association's prestigious Texas Lloyd Sessions Educational Merit Award. Moreno also won the

award in 2020.  
 He is one of only four individuals to have won the honor twice, joining the legendary John Wilkerson, who during his career helped guide the careers of future professional standouts Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil when they trained at the former McGregor Park Tennis Center in Houston, as well as two others.  
 Established in 1973, the Sessions honor annually recognizes an individual who is committed to the growth of junior tennis in Texas.  
 With an emphasis on the word "educational," it emphasizes the importance of teaching and developing junior tennis players of all levels and abilities.  
 Quite simply, Moreno's lifelong career in the sport near-perfectly embodies the description of the Ses-

sions Award.  
 As a youth, Moreno played tennis at Galveston's O'Connell High School under the tutelage of Vince Stiglich Jr. and then at Lamar University for legendary head coach Ron Wesbrooks as a college student.  
 Along the way, Moreno said he was guided by many of the similar teachings and beliefs upon which he has built his coaching career. Regardless of tennis skill, it's always been about development, and a focus on team and family for Moreno.  
 "We had one of the most successful high school tennis programs anywhere in the state of Texas when I played there at O'Connell, and that includes all of the best public high school programs," Moreno said.  
 "We were beating them all, the great Clear Lake programs at that time, too.

That's how good we were.  
 "But at the same time, coach Stiglich cared about us individually as student-athletes and really focused on family within our program. That stuck with me and has always been part of the foundation of my programs all these years.  
 "The achievements as a team and as players on the tennis court were important, but the other things off the court were equally as important. It was more of the same thing at Lamar University when I played for coach Wesbrooks.  
 "We were a family on and off the court, and he really poured a lot of his time into how we were doing as students and spent a lot of his time helping to prepare us for what our lives would become.  
 "In a lot of ways, that is all I've ever tried to do during my coaching ca-

reer. None of us are going to turn out a ton of professional players. For most if not all of them, their lives will include both victories and defeats just as they face in the game of tennis.  
 "I just try to help these kids realize that they have support through their family on the tennis court, and along the way try to guide them for life after Dobie High School."  
 The Dobie program has not cultivated regional final four-caliber fall team tennis programs nor state level individual performers in the spring, yet in many ways that is what's made it as rewarding as it has for Moreno all these years.  
 He readily admits that when he came to Dobie, his original intention was to stay one year and perhaps move on to another program.  
 Twenty-six years later,

he's the longest-tenured head coach at the school and says he is proud to have been a Longhorn for much of his career.  
 "I have to give credit to (former principal) Steve Jamail for not only hiring me at Dobie but providing all the support to both myself and the kids during his stay as principal," Moreno said.  
 "Mr. Jamail was at O'Connell shortly after I left there as a player, and he understood the importance of the tennis program and what it could mean to young student-athletes.  
 "So his support of our program all those years was tremendously appreciated. It has always meant a lot to the kids to feel like the school recognizes their accomplishments.  
 "(Current principal) Jorly Thomas has also been extremely supportive of our program, and I

know the kids appreciate it as well. Year after year, the kids here at Dobie High School have taken tremendous pride in their community, Dobie High School itself and the tennis program.  
 "As a coach, that's all you can ask for. It's been an award in and of itself just to be able to be a part of these kids' lives as their coach all of these years."  
 Including the Lloyd Sessions Award, Moreno has been the recipient of countless honors over the decades of his career.  
 To him, the credit goes elsewhere. "It's always been about the kids. I could go on and on with the names of some of the kids that deserve credit for the program that we've been able to establish here at Dobie High School.  
 "I'm just proud to have been their head coach all these years."

## JFD girls' basketball has plenty of which to be proud as 2024-2025 season closes out



Dezire Lewis (23) was another terrific performer during her senior season with the Longhorns as she helped her team pick up double-digit wins during the 2024-2025 season and will certainly draw All-District consideration. Photos by Donna Alsdorf



Dobie Tiara Charles (24) was able to pick up varsity basketball playing experience as a sophomore this season and certainly will be a key player heading into the future for the Longhorns under head coach Rachel Flores.



An All-District honoree last season as a junior, Dobie varsity girls' basketball standout Ulan Davis (5) was a team captain for the Longhorns this season and delivered an outstanding overall performance in her final season within the program.

## Dobie graduate Baldwin welcomes NFL possibilities as draft nears

**By John Bechtle Sports Editor**  
 With three years as a full-time starter at safety at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas under his belt and a college degree promising to be in his hand in mere months, Dobie Class of 2021 graduate Johnathan Baldwin plans to turn his attention to the National Football League Draft in Green Bay, Wis. in late April.  
 His collegiate playing career now complete after four seasons with the Rebels, Baldwin, easily one of the top pure athletes to emerge from the Dobie High School hallways this decade, intends to make a run at playing professional football.  
 The senior class safety profiles currently as a day-three draft choice or as an undrafted free agent signee following the draft proceedings. No matter the case, Baldwin is ready for the challenge.  
 "I feel like I have played a lot of college football (more than 32 career starts) at a high level, so physically I believe I know what it takes to

come in and help a team," Baldwin said.  
 "I'm willing to learn, I'm a good teammate and I will come in and do whatever is asked of me to the best of my abilities. We are all just looking for an opportunity at the end of the day, so we will see come April."  
 Since his collegiate career ended in December, Baldwin has had an opportunity to reflect on an outstanding four-year run with the Rebels as he and many of his teammates played a huge role and elevating the University of Nevada-Las Vegas program to new heights.  
 Overall, the Rebels in 2024 delivered the program's best overall season in decades, going 11-3 overall and 6-1 in Mountain West Conference play. UNLV lost to Boise State during the regular season, then took on the Broncos again in the MWC championship game, again won by Boise State.  
 UNLV went on to play in the Art of Sport LA Bowl, defeating Cal 24-13 as Baldwin totaled four tackles and half a sack in

his final collegiate game.  
 With his mind now shifting toward preparation for the NFL Draft in April and his expected college graduation with a degree in multidisciplinary studies in May, Baldwin said his four-year stay in Las Vegas was all he could have hoped for and then some.  
 "When I came here, I was really looking to be part of something special here. My first year, we won just two games (2-10) and then five games (5-7) my sophomore year," Baldwin said.  
 Barry Odom was hired at UNLV shortly after the

completion of the 2022 campaign, ultimately pushing the Rebels over the top within the Mountain West Conference the following two seasons.  
 UNLV went 9-5 in 2023 following a 49-36 loss to Kansas State in the Guaranteed Rate Bowl in Arizona and won 11 games this past season as Baldwin was again a key contributor at safety.  
 Shortly after the Rebels' bowl game this season, Odom was named as the head coach at Purdue University. Dan Mullen is now the head coach at UNLV heading into the 2025 season.

"We really made a jump in 2023, coach (Barry) Odom's first year, then put it all together this year," Baldwin said. "I'm very proud of what we were able to do at UNLV. In my mind, my college career was everything I could have hoped for.  
 "Make no mistake, I put in the work day in, day out, and the return was getting the chance to start each week and battle with my teammates out there on the field."  
**Elite at Dobie**  
 Simply put, Baldwin was a tremendous overall athlete at Dobie. He made the leap to the var-

sity football program as a freshman in 2017 during then head coach Mike Norman's final season.  
 Baldwin became an All-District safety the following two seasons under head coach Kevin Berneathy, who had a highly successful run at Dobie from 2018 through 2021, then helped guide the Longhorns to their first district championship in 10 seasons in 2020 as the team's star running back with more than 1,000 yards rushing.  
 Now the head coach at La Porte, Berneathy said Baldwin's willingness to switch to the offensive

side of the ball was all about being a team-first guy and doing what was best for the team.  
 "Clearly, he was outstanding for us in the defensive backfield, but during what turned out to be the pandemic season in 2020, we had a need at running back and I had approached Johnathan with the idea during the off-season about making the move," Berneathy said.  
 "He was all about doing whatever it took to help out the team. He's always been a tremendous teammate and has been willing to do everything

he needs to do both on and off the field to be a leader and a big contributor. It's been great to see Johnathan have great success at UNLV.  
 "He's put the hard work in and deserves everything that comes his way."  
 After leading Dobie to a 9-1 overall run during that 2020 district championship football season, the program's first-ever at the 6A level, Baldwin played his third and final season on the basketball court and again turned in an All-District performance.  
 A physical on-ball, tenacious defender, Baldwin in 2020-2021 was named

the co-Defensive Player of the Year in the 22-6A varsity boys' basketball ranks. Having signed with UNLV that February, he joined UNLV in the summer of 2021.  
 Baldwin's younger brother, Jalen Baldwin, a 2023 Dobie graduate, was also at UNLV in 2023 and again in 2024 and has since made his way to Mississippi Valley State University through the transfer portal.  
 Also a defensive back at UNLV, Johnathan Baldwin said the plan is for his brother to make the move to the offensive side of the ball.

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With his mind now shifting toward preparation for the NFL Draft in April and his expected college graduation with a degree in multidisciplinary studies in May, Johnathan Baldwin said his four-year stay in Las Vegas was all he could have hoped for and then some. Baldwin started for two seasons at safety for the Longhorns during his sophomore and junior seasons, and was then the 22-6A Player of the Year in 2020 as a running back as he rushed for more than 1,000 yards and led Dobie to its first district championship in a decade. He was also the co-Defensive Player of the Year as a senior on the basketball court as he concluded a three-year run at the varsity level. At the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Baldwin made more than 30 career starts and was a key contributor in the massive turnaround within the Rebels' problem both in 2023 and 2024.

