

### Leader seeks submissions

The South Belt-Ellington 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.

### Knights sell fish during Lent

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will hold a weekly fish fry at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, each Friday during Lent from 4 to 7 p.m. Dinners will include fried, grilled or baked fish with fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea for \$15. Dine-in or take-out dinners will be available. Desserts will also be available for purchase at the events, courtesy of Catholic Daughters Court 2292.

### Freeway Manor to meet

The Freeway Manor Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Bible Way Church, 10120 Hartsok. Residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley and Gulfway Terrace are encouraged to attend.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

### 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.

### 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.

### Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, April 12, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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

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

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

### City to collect heavy trash

City residents living in the South Belt community south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, April 10 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua (and west of the Gulf Freeway) will have heavy trash pickup Friday, April 11 (second Friday of the month).

April is for junk waste but tree waste will also be accepted. Pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit www.houstonx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

## Virtual learning moves forward for local ISDs

### Bettencourt bill passes state Senate, heads to House for consideration

State Sen. Paul Bettencourt recently advanced Senate Bill 569 through the Texas Senate, expanding access to virtual and hybrid learning for area students.

"We're going to dramatically increase the scores for these 51,884 students already enrolled, and expect over 100,000 students to benefit when the bill is finally passed into law and signed by Gov. Abbott," said Bettencourt. "This bill empowers students, parents and teachers with the tools for success."

According to Bettencourt, SB 569 builds on previous virtual learning reforms and incorporates key recommendations from the 2022 Texas Commission on Virtual Education.

Key features of SB 569 include the following:

- **Delivers more access to advanced coursework:** SB 569 allows students to enroll in up to three individual virtual Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual-credit courses, and specialized electives that may not be available at their local school.
- **Provides faster pathways to graduation and college readiness:** SB 569 gives students more flexible time to pursue work based learning like apprenticeships, early graduation, and access to college credits while in high school, reducing time and costs of earning a degree.
- **Enables high school students to earn an associate degree:** SB 569 allows students to complete up to two years of college coursework while in high school through virtual course of-

ferings and dual-enrollment opportunities.

- **Maintains families choices and teacher rights:** SB 569 prevents school districts from requiring virtual enrollment and from forcing in-person teachers to teach virtual classes without proper training or consent.

- **Creates clear standards and accountability measures:** SB 569 upholds quality curriculum for virtual education providers.

SB 569 modernizes Texas' approach to digital learning and responds effectively to increasing demands for flexible learning options.

"Customizing learning options to meet unique needs is a good thing for all Texas kids and families," said Bettencourt. "There is a cohort of stu-

dents that can flourish in the virtual and hybrid courses, programs and campuses."

Passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate, SB568 has now been sent to the Texas House where state Rep. Keith Bell is the House sponsor. The bill will first head to the House Public Education Committee for consideration.

In recent years - more so since the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic - both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD have launched virtual learning programs, allowing students to take select courses remotely.

Pasadena ISD Continued on Page 3

### Bleach leak closes Dixie Farm



On Monday, March 31, the Pearland Fire Department, with support from the Harris County HazMat team, responded to a slow leak of liquid bleach at the Longwood Water Reclamation Facility on Dixie Farm Road between Blackhawk and FM 518/Broadway. The surrounding area was in no immediate danger, officials said. Pearland police are shown above directing vehicles away from the spill, as Dixie Farm Road was closed because of the leak. Photo by Cindy Medina



### Houston police seek 2024 robbery suspect

#### Same suspect accused in at least 2 Beltway 8 heists

The Houston Police Department Robbery Division has released surveillance photos from a pair of robberies from late last year along Beltway 8 in hopes of identifying the suspect accused in both crimes.

The first incident took place Sunday, Nov. 10, in the 11500 block of Beltway 8 at Sabo/Hughes, where the unknown suspect entered a convenience store, approached the counter as if to make a small purchase, then demanded cash from the clerk, before fleeing in a vehicle.

A similar incident occurred Wednesday, Nov. 27, in the 7800 block of Beltway 8 at SH 35/Telephone Road, where the same suspect allegedly robbed another convenience store. According to Houston police officials, the unknown male entered the store, walked up to the counter as if to make a small purchase, then demanded

cash, Newport cigarettes and lottery tickets from the clerk, before fleeing in the same car as before.

Investigators described the suspect as a black male, between 40 and 50 years of age, standing approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing around 160 to 180 pounds. While the suspect made efforts to conceal his face, police said the suspect has heavy acne scars. The man is also reportedly very soft-spoken. The suspect vehicle is described as a silver four-door sedan, possibly a Hyundai with a dent on the driver side near the front door. (Vehicle pictured below.)

Anyone with information on these incidents or on the suspect's identity is urged to contact the Houston Police Department Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).



### Murder-suicide attempt kills 2, injures 1

#### Initially declared dead, shooter survives incident outside theater

Two women are dead and one man critically injured following a murder-suicide attempt Monday, March 31, outside a movie theater in the 20900 block of the Gulf Freeway at NASA Road 1.

Webster police responded to the shooting around 9:45 p.m. in the parking lot of the Cinemark NASA to find two females and a male suffering from gunshot wounds, the male's being self-inflicted.

All three were transported to a nearby hospital in critical condition. Webster police initially told

the media that all three died from their wounds while at the hospital but later retracted, saying the male shooter had survived his gunshot and remained in critical condition.

A BMW SUV with a shattered front passenger window could be seen in the parking lot protected by crime-scene tape.

At press time, it remained unclear what led up to the shooting.

Led by the Webster Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division, the investigation was ongoing at press time.

### Arrest made in missing UH student's death

#### Body of Payas Deo found near Genoa; motive remains unclear

An arrest has been made in the death of missing University of Houston-Clear Lake student Payas Deo, whose body was found Saturday, March 1, in a field on Dumas Street near Alameda Genoa, located east of the Gulf Freeway near the Genoa Post Office.



Nickalous Benjamin

According to Pasadena Police Department officials, Nickalous Ahmed Benjamin, 20, was arrested March 20 and charged with murder and tampering with a corpse. No additional details were available at press time.

Deo, 20, had been missing since Feb. 8 - roughly three weeks earlier before his body was discovered.

According to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Deo's death was ruled a homi-

cide, caused by a gunshot to the head and neck. Houston Police Department officials said Deo's body was in an advanced stage of decomposition when discovered. At press time, it remained unclear when exactly Deo was killed.

Deo was last seen at his home in the Clear Lake area near Space Center Boulevard and Sunrise Lake Drive. The following day, his vehicle - a gray 2015 Toyota Camry - was found abandoned near the intersection of Allen Genoa Road and Smith Avenue in Pasadena.

According to Pasadena Police Department officials, the vehicle had a cracked window and blood on the front seat. Deo's shoes, which he usually wore, were found inside the car, leading investigators to believe he hadn't walked away from the vehicle. The car was examined by Pasadena PD for any possible evidence.

Volunteers from Texas EquuSearch assisted in the search for Deo. According to Texas EquuSearch officials, Deo's body was discovered roughly six miles from his home.

At press time, the motive remained unclear.

### Man fatally shot near Alameda Mall

#### Latest murder at complex renews subsidized-housing concerns

A man was fatally shot around 11 p.m. on Sunday, March 23, outside an apartment complex in the 10950 block of Tanner Park Court near Alameda Mall.

Joseph Thompson, 27, was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting at Alameda Park Apartments at the above address and found an unresponsive male in the parking lot suffering from a gunshot wound.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced Thomp-

son dead.

A preliminary investigation and witness statements determined Thompson got into a verbal altercation with an unknown suspect before shots were fired. The suspect then fled the scene on foot and was last seen running north across the apartment complex.

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

Construction of the government-subsidized

Continued on Page 4



### Dobie's Garza makes hole-in-one

J. Frank Dobie High School senior Max Garza made a hole-in-one shot Tuesday, April 1, on Day No. 1 of the district golf tournament being held at Wilderness Golf Club in Lake Jackson. The 204-yard drive was a Par 3 hole.

# In My Opinion

## O'Brien backs Harrison

I support Judy Harrison for Position 3 on the Board of Trustees of San Jacinto College District. I have known Judy Harrison as a friend and colleague at San Jacinto College and in the South Belt for some 30 years. We worked in the same division (Math, Science, and Physical Education) on the South Campus. When I moved to the district as Associate Vice Chancellor for Curriculum and Assessment, I worked directly with Judy as she developed the dance program and the personal trainer program. I have observed her organizational skills firsthand. I have watched as she developed the soccer and softball programs on the South Campus. Her dedication to physical fitness has been exceptional, but Judy has always been as concerned about the students' education as she was their athletic abilities. In her capacity with the Chamber of Commerce, I remember when she worked on a project to gather backpacks for students who needed them to start school.

As the athletic director of the Health and Fitness Department, Judy has knowledge of the inner workings of the college budget process, and she knows how to organize fundraisers. Judy has organized many Fun Runs in the community. In today's climate, funds to operate a community college are essential for a good trustee. And Coach Harrison has the team building skills required to work with businesses in our community. Judy's experiences stretch beyond Texas. She has served as a USA Olympic Track and Field Coach, including serving at the 2000 Olympics in Australia, and more recently has served as a coach for Paralympics, working with many disabled veterans.

Judy Harrison has always been a dedicated educator and understands how important it is for students to complete their certificates and degrees as quickly as possible. Her knowledge of the role of community colleges in supporting workforce education and building a strong economic base well-trained employees make her an ideal candidate for Position 3, Board of Trustees at San Jacinto College.

Catherine O'Brien

## King kicks off review initiative; city first

All governmental entities in Texas are required to issue an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) within six months of the end of its fiscal year. These reports must comply with the Government Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) rules. For larger entities, the reports are very lengthy, running hundreds of pages, and written in accounting and financial jargon that requires specialized knowledge to decipher. As a result, the reports are rarely used by the public or even those in the media.

At the Center for Tax and Budget Policy at the Baker Institute, we have decided to begin reviewing the ACFRs for the City of Houston, Harris County, Houston ISD, Metro, and the Harris County Toll

Road Authority on an annual basis. To kick off this initiative, we have just released our first review, which is of the City of Houston's most recent ACFR.

The City's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. It issues its ACFR about six months after the close of the fiscal year. In January, the City issued its ACFR for 2023-2024. While the reporting period straddles the Turner and Whitmire administrations, the report reflects the last budget, which was adopted under the Turner administration in the spring of 2023.

We synthesized the 358-page ACFR down to a 20-page review and attempted to simplify it as much as possible. However, I will have to warn you that it is impossible to avoid the use of many technical accounting terms, and because the City's finances are so wickedly complex, it is still a difficult read. For that reason, we plan to hold town hall-type meetings to review each of the ACFRs as they are released, where citizens can ask questions. The review of the City's audit is scheduled for this afternoon at the Greater Houston Partnership's offices downtown. But unfortunately, it is already sold out. In the future we will get you more notice and schedule larger venues for the meetings.

East Water Purification Plant, originally built in 1954.

Here are some highlights from our review:

- The City ended the year with a nearly \$5 billion unrestricted deficit. This has come down over the last three years, however, mostly as the result of a torrent of federal assistance.

- The City continues to be hobbled by its pension obligations. Even though the pensions' investments have performed well over the last several years, reducing the likely future liability, the City is spending over half a billion dollars annually to make contributions to the plans and payments on pension bonds issued in the past to shore up the plans.

- While the City, like most other major cities, has long received federal grant funds regularly, the amount of those funds increased dramatically in the last few years. In 2021 and 2022, federal funds made up more than 30% of the City's revenues. In total, from 2021 through last year, the City received \$6.1 billion in grants. However, that has already begun to recede and given the current political climate in the Washington is likely to continue to do so.

- The City's population has flattened since 2016. If this trend continues, it will be difficult for the City to expand its tax base.

- The City's General Fund, which pays for most of the services the City provides to its citizens (e.g., police, fire, EMS, garbage disposal) has been and continues to be under considerable stress. The two principal sources of General Fund revenue are property and sales taxes. Property tax receipts have consistently increased, but sales taxes declined slightly last year. When discounted inflation, sales tax receipts have shown only tepid growth over the last decade.

- The stress on the General Fund will increase with the City's loss in a lawsuit alleging that the City failed to make the required contribution to the Dedicated

Drainage & Street Renewal Fund (DDSRF) as mandated by the City Charter. The court found that the City had been shortchanging the DDSRF by approximately \$100 million annually.

- The City continues to grossly underinvest in the upkeep of its infrastructure. Last year, the City resurfaced only 131 lane-miles of its streets. That is the lowest level since the City began reporting this metric, and it is less than half of what engineering standards require to maintain the streets.

- The City's water and sewer system, which is financed through a segregated fund, has seen its fund balance rise significantly over the last several years thanks to aggressive rate increases.

However, regulatory scrutiny by the EPA of the wastewater system, combined with the rapidly deteriorating condition of the City's principal freshwater plant, suggests that the fund will be financially strained for many years.

I wish I could bring you less gloomy news, but unfortunately, the City has, over several decades, worked itself into a very difficult place. Many of these problems would have come home to roost in the last administration had it not been for the largesse of the federal government. With the likelihood of those funds drying up, the city will be forced to address the structural deficit that many have been warning about for some time.

Bill King

## Sanchez headlines CCRW meeting April 4

The Clear Creek Republican Women group (CCRW) is holding their monthly luncheon meeting on April 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Brisa Mexican Grille, 501 N. Wesley Drive, League City.

Founder of Texas Latino Conservative (TLC) Orlando Sanchez, will be the guest speaker. Register today at <https://clearcreekrw.org>. Cost of the luncheon is \$20.

## Seniors Helping Seniors seeks seniors in need

Organizers of the annual Seniors Helping Seniors event are seeking input in identifying local parties deserving of a free home overhaul.

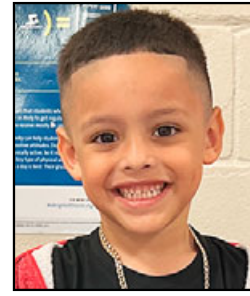
Now in its 17th year, the charitable program pairs area high school seniors with local senior citizens in need of minor home repairs, primarily exterior painting.

The endeavor is a joint project between Dobie High and local sponsors, including Sagemont Church. Students provide the manpower, while sponsors provide the necessary materials. Each year, approximately 100 student volunteers step up to help restore the homes of three to five local senior citizens. The event will take place Friday, May 2. Military veterans are also eligible to participate in the program.

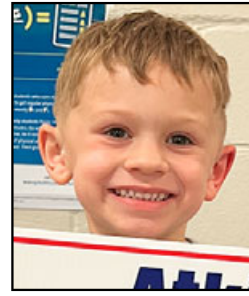
Anyone who knows of a potential recipient may contact Jimmy Sawyer at 281-382-1217.

# Atkinson announces March students of the Month

Atkinson Elementary officials announced their students of the month for March from each grade level. These students were selected for showing responsibility, kindness and hard work around the classroom.



Pre-K student Isaac Peralta



Pre-K student Kacey Robinson



Second-grader Isaac Batista



Second-grader Ariel Hernandez



Third-grader Cameron Nunez



Third-grader Huy Hang



Fourth-grader Anehi Martinez



Fourth-grader Alessa Gamez

## New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

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www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com  
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089  
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

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

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)	
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862  
*All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.*

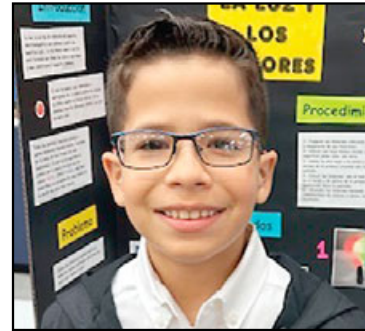
## Moore attends PISD STEAM fair



Meador Elementary students participated in Pasadena's STEAM fair 2025. Shown left to right, are third-grader David Priestley, third-grader Lorelai Mayorga, fourth-grader Samuel Gonzalez Ardevol, fourth-grader Sofia Arzate and third-grader Mariana Anderson.



Fourth-grader Arzate placed second in Physical Science-Energy category.



Fourth-grader Gonzalez Ardevol placed third in Physical Science-Energy category.

**FREE EVENT** **GAMES**

# FLOCK TO THE BLOCK

2025

**FREE MENINGITIS SHOTS** **FAMILY FUN**

## APRIL 5

### 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

**FOOD**

**SAN JACINTO COLLEGE**  
**CENTRAL CAMPUS**  
**(PARKING LOT OFF SPENCER HIGHWAY)**

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**Sal SERRANO**

FOR SAN JACINTO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES POS. 3

**Vote Saturday May 3**

Advt. Paid for by the Salvador Serrano Jr Campaign, Esmeralda Serrano, Treasurer. [Serranoforsanjac.com](https://www.serranoforsanjac.com) @SalforSanJac

# Pasadena ISD fine arts releases April, May dates

Pasadena ISD has announced dates for its April and May fine arts performances.

Melillo Middle School Beginner Band spring concert – Thursday, April 3, 6 – 7 p.m., at Melillo Middle School cafeteria.

High School Band UIL Concert and Sight Reading – Friday, April 4, 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m., at Dobie High School.

Thompson Intermediate Dance/Cheer Invitational – Saturday, April 5, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., at San Jacinto Intermediate gym.

Melillo Middle School Band solo night – Wednesday, April 9, 4:45 – 6:45 p.m., Dobie gym.

Big Art Day – Friday, April 11, 5 – 8 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

South Houston High School Dance spring show – Friday, April 11, 7 – 8 p.m., South Houston High School Auditorium.

Intermediate Orchestra S&E – Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Memorial High School.

South Houston High School Dance spring show – Saturday, April 12, 7 – 8 p.m., South Houston High School Auditorium.

Intermediate Orchestra S&E – Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Thompson Intermediate School.

Intermediate Choir S&E – Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Queens Intermediate School.

High School Orchestra S&E not going to state – Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Memorial High School.

South Houston High School Dance spring show – Saturday, April 12, 7 – 8 p.m., South Houston High School Auditorium.

Dobie High School Lariatte spring show – Wednesday, April 16, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Dobie High School Auditorium.

Dobie High School Lariatte spring show – Thursday, April 17, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Dobie High School Auditorium.

Intermediate Band S&E – Saturday, April 26, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Bondy Intermediate School.

Melillo Middle School Orchestra spring concert – Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Melillo Middle School cafeteria.

Morris Middle School Band spring concert – Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at BHI Auditorium.

Melillo Middle School Honor Band spring concert – Tuesday, May 1, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., at Thompson Intermediate School.

South Belt Elementary Choir spring concert – Thursday, May 1, 7 – 8 p.m., at South Belt cafeteria.

Beverly Hills Intermediate Band Spring Concert – Tuesday, May 6, 7 – 8 p.m., at BHI Auditorium.

Morris Middle School Orchestra spring concert and awards – Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at BHI.

South Belt Elementary music program – Thursday, May 8, 7 – 8 p.m., at South Belt cafeteria.

Thompson Intermediate Dance spring showcase – Thursday, May 8, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Thompson gym.

Robert Middle School Choir spring concert – Monday, May 12, 6 – 7 p.m., at Roberts Middle School cafeteria.

# Frazier recognizes staff members of the year



Frazier Elementary officials recognized their Paraprofessional of the Year, New Teacher of the Year and Teacher of the Year. Left to right, are (front row) assistant principal Isaac Romero, first year teacher Katrina Mitchell (New Teacher of the Year), Kaly Franco (Paraprofessional of the Year), Candace Kliesing (Teacher of the Year) and (back row) principal Kristina Ponce.

# Virtual learning moves forward

**Continued from Page 1**

The Pasadena Virtual School program allows Pasadena ISD students to take select online courses through the Texas Virtual Schools Network.

World geography.  
World history.  
Psychology.  
Sociology.  
Spanish I, II and III.

with experienced and well-trained CCISD teachers as they master course content, and develop communication, collaboration and creative problem-solving skills.

Grades for Clear Access classes completed outside of the school day will show up on the transcript but are not calculated in a student's GPA.

Taught by Texas-certified teachers, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)-aligned courses offered by the Pasadena Virtual School courses meet NCAA eligibility requirements.

According to Pasadena ISD officials, its virtual learning program specializes in teaching small groups, allowing students easy access to their teachers.

For additional information on Pasadena ISD's Pasadena Virtual School program, visit [virtualschool.pasadenaisd.org](http://virtualschool.pasadenaisd.org).

**Clear Creek ISD**

Clear Creek ISD offers two options for students to take virtual high school courses outside of their regular schedule to meet high school graduation requirements.

Clear Stars gives CCISD students the opportunity to recover credits to meet high school graduation requirements outside of the school day at home or another location. Credit recovery courses in the program are online courses taught through the credit recovery system with a CCISD teacher. Students are enrolled in one credit recovery course at a time. If the student finishes a course by the midpoint of the session, they can be enrolled in another credit recovery course.

The following is a list of online courses offered by Pasadena ISD (not all courses are offered each session):

- English I, II and III.
- Speech.
- Business information management I and II.
- Computer science.
- Health.
- Lifetime fitness (PE).
- Music appreciation.
- Principles in informational technology.
- Principles of business, marketing and finance.
- Algebra II.
- Geometry.
- Environmental systems.
- Biology.
- Chemistry.
- Physics.
- Government.
- Economics.
- U.S. History.

Clear Creek ISD's Clear Access program offers students the opportunity for original credit courses, while the district's Clear Stars program offers students the opportunity to recover course credits.

These fee-based programs are available for registration through the student's home campus counselor.

Clear Access enables Clear Creek ISD students to obtain credits to complete their course work early, participate in other academic opportunities and gain experience in an online learning environment.

Clear Access courses are developed with the same requirements as traditional high school courses and follow the district curriculum, state TEKS and national standards. Students interact

As with Clear Access courses, grades for Clear Stars classes will show on the transcript but are not part of a student's GPA.

Clear Creek ISD students interested in taking either Clear Access or Clear Stars courses should contact their home campus counselor for registration.

To learn more about Clear Creek ISD's Clear Access and Clear Stars virtual learning programs, visit [www.ccisd.net/clearaccess#access](http://www.ccisd.net/clearaccess#access).

# CCART hosts Ezhevskaya

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its April meeting on Tuesday, April 8. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, in Seabrook. The featured speaker is Russian translator, Anya Ezhevskaya, presenting "Taking the Next Step." The association will conduct a book sale with proceeds going to the Children's Book Project.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas-retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

## Family is why WE DO IT ALL.

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[memorialhermann.org/cancer](http://memorialhermann.org/cancer)



Advancing health. Personalizing care.

**JERRY GARCIA**  
HARRIS COUNTY  
CONSTABLE - PRECINCT 2

## ANNUAL SOUTH BELT EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12 | 1 PM - 3 PM**

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# Dobie soccer visits Melillo, offers motivation



Recently the Dobie High School soccer team visited Melillo Middle School students to motivate them on upcoming STAAR testing season. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Lilliana Monita (sixth-grade counselor), Cruz Jasso, Julian Calderon, Allen Campos, Jacqueline Carmona (fifth-grade counselor) Jennifer Saucedo (school principal), Kelsey Campos (parent coordinator), (middle row) Me-

gan Medina (campus reading coach), Heather Kaboutari (campus math coach), Daniell Velasquez, (back row) Rebecca Castaneda (campus science coach), Josh Kluka (varsity boys' head coach), Diego Reyes, Mikel Pantaleon, Franchesco Torres, Emmanuel Vazquez, Jezreel Rameses, Pavel Gonzalez, Angel Hernandez and Matthew Sanchez (fifth-grade assistant principal).

# Meador takes on district Olympiad



Officials at Meador Elementary are proud of the fourth-grade students who represented Meador at the district Olympiad. Left to right, are (front row) Nicolas Ramirez, Isabelle De La Cruz, Aylin Chairez, Caleb Marciano, Ce-

sar Hernandez, PE aide Vianney Trevino, (back row) PE coach Stephanie Bounds, Jonathan Figueredo, Joshua Bil-lups, Angela Nunez, Evelyn Alanis, Adriana Cortez-Reyes and PE coach Malorie Ehrlich.

# Stuchbery recognizes Stallions of the Month



Stuchbery Elementary School announced their Stallions of the month for March. Left to right, are (first row) Sergio Paredes, Daniela Hernandez, (second row) Josiah Donham, Kareem Ghneim, Ivy Nguyen, Alijah Arizmendi, Lexy Quiroz, Jonathan Montoya, Delilah Terran, (third row) Samantha Arboresi, Jade Garrett, Kamila Alfaro, Gianna Vidal, school counselor Alyssa Valdez, (fourth row) Javier Rodriguez, Julian Mier, Kah-

lia Jarvis, Daniella Okoro, Abigail Castillo, (fifth row) Elizabeth Verdecia, Miguel Perez, Aryana Johnson, Chris Cahee, Adilene Tovar, Emmanuel Saldana, (sixth row) Khloe Davis, River LeBlanc, Vy Le, Renatta Baca, Paulino Tovar and Luca Flores. Not pictured, are Sky Smith, Cameron Maxson, Summer Jones, Diego Martinez, Ariana Arrieta, Story Lee Carter, Kyleigh Van Dike and David Ochoa.

# MHSH's Cardenas named ACHE chair-elect CEO to assume chair position next year

Noel Cardenas, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital, has been named chair-elect in 2025 and chair in 2026 of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The announcement was shared at the ACHE's Annual Congress in Houston, which took place on March 22.

Cardenas, who just completed serving a three-year term on the ACHE Board of Governors, previously served as vice president of operations and chief operating officer of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital in Humble and has nearly 25 years of executive leadership experience. He has overseen operations for outpatient clinics, surgical centers, hospitals, medical centers and health systems, nationally and internationally. Prior to joining Memorial Hermann, he served as CEO and hospital commander for the Reynolds Army Community Hospital in Fort Sill, Okla.

an outstanding professional organization that provides educational, mentorship, networking and service opportunities," Cardenas said. "I have been fortunate to serve ACHE on numerous boards and committees, as the Army regent and as president of the Southeast Texas Chapter. My service to ACHE for more than 30 years has shown my support and commitment to ACHE's vision, mission and values, and I look forward to serving in these leadership roles over the next three years."

The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 48,000 health care executives who lead hospitals, health systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE credential, signifying board certification in health care management. The Foundation of the American College of Healthcare Executives was established to further advance health care management excellence through education and research.

# Man killed near Alameda Mall Incident marks 3rd murder at low-income complex

Continued from Page 1 Alameda Park Apartments was met with opposition from many community leaders, who argued that such complexes, which allow qualifying low-income tenants to pay a discounted rent, are a hot bed for crime.

The issue of government-subsidized housing has long been a controversial one in the South Belt community. A primary concern is the high concentration of existing low-income apartment complexes already in the area, with at least 10 such apartment complexes be-

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1980)**  
The \$1.66 million city of Houston road project under way in the South Belt area was not expected to be completed until April 1981.

resident and his mother believed the youth was a target of an unsuccessful abduction. The boy was playing basketball in his driveway when a black car stopped and the driver ordered the boy into the car. The car sped away as the mother approached it.

the O'Reilly Auto Parts in the 10900 block of Beamer. Davis was found hiding in the parking lot of the nearby Beamer Place apartment complex during a manhunt after the robbery.

**40 years ago (1985)**  
Pasadena Independent School District trustees, in an unprecedented move, reduced the administration-recommended contract length of six district employees, two of those being assistant superintendents.

went as scheduled with church members meeting on the grounds where the building once stood. Subsequent services were held at Stuchbery Elementary after reaching an agreement with the Pasadena Independent School District.

community Partnership. The brainchild of longtime resident Seth Webb - who serves as Sagemeadow HOA chairman and Sagemeadow MUD vice president - the event was also supported by representatives from at least eight other local community groups.

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# Over The Back Fence by Nicole

**ELLIANA TURNS EIGHT!**  
Happy birthday wishes are sent April 4 to Elliana Abarca who turns six years old from parents Natalie and Jose Abarca; brothers Kelvin Lopez and Noah Abarca; and sister Isabella and husband Sebastian Delgado; niece Esme Delgado; grandparents David and Ellie Flickinger; and great-grandparent David Flickinger.

a celebration for **Loreno Lucio Moore Elementary**. Send a birthday greeting April 9 to **Maria Vega**.

happy birthday are sent to **Anyssa Arispe and Lorena Calderon** April 8. Break out the balloons and party favors April 9 for **Michael Sparks**.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## JFD softball headed down playoff stretch

The Dobie varsity softball team will go into a second round matchup against undefeated District 22-6A leader Pearland April 4 with plenty of confidence after crushing rival Pasadena Memorial 16-1 March 31 to improve to 8-2 overall within league play.

The first time the Longhorns met up with the Mavericks, the outcome was much closer as Dobie came away with a 1-0 victory, but this time the locals left no doubt in the game while cruising to the easy win.

The Longhorns scored five runs in the first inning and added nine more in the top of the fourth inning to close out the victory in four innings. Alexis Martinez and Natalie De Hoyos both drove in three runs in the win over the Mavericks, with De Hoyos smacking a home run along the way.

Dobie had 18 hits in the game, led by De Hoyos with three. Leslie Sarduy, Martinez, Amaya Corona, Persephone Soria and Jackie Peralta all had two hits.

Vanessa De La Fuente pitched the first three innings to earn the victory for the Longhorns.

Dobie is very much in control of a Division 1 postseason berth with its 8-2 mark. Pearland holds the league lead at 11-0, with the Longhorns second at 8-2 and Alvin sitting third with an 8-3 record.

Alvin does own a first round district victory over the Longhorns. Shadow Creek and Dawson both have five losses in the race for the fourth playoff seed, which would be in the Division 2 bracket.

In the first year of the revamped 22-6A alignment, Pearland has controlled the action within the league, but Dobie will

be looking to turn the tables at home April 4.

Pearland has been the class of the district to this point with an undefeated

run, but Dobie can both enhance its playoff positioning and deal the Oilers a setback in a rivalry that has decades of history.



Senior Leslie Sarduy and her Dobie teammates dealt with a pair of rainouts ahead of a second round matchup against Pasadena Memorial March 31. After also going up against Shadow Creek after press time, the Longhorns will host first-place Pearland April 4 at Dobie main. Game time is 4 p.m.

## Cowboys offer Fitzmorris family scholarship

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls are now accepting applicants for the fourth Annual Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is dedicated to honoring the lives of two members of the organization, the parents of Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris.

In honor of Mary Beth and Tom, the organization will award a scholarship to a former participant of the Cowboys/Cowgirls program. Class of 2025 high school graduates who are former Cowboys or Cowgirls, having been part of the organization for at least four seasons, are eligible to apply.

Applicants must submit an essay explaining their time with the organization, what they are planning to study in college, including their career path after graduation. Each applicant will also be required to submit a copy of their high school transcripts with their essay.

All paperwork/documents must be submitted to the Sagemont Cowboys' organization no later than April 17, 2025.

Submit all information to [dwrnich82@gmail.com](mailto:dwrnich82@gmail.com).

## Brook camps set

The summer youth camp circuit is beginning to take shape as both Clear Brook varsity baseball head coach Gene Flores and Mileka Loydrake, varsity girls head coach, have announced plans for their camps coming in June.

Flores and his staff will lead the Wolverines baseball camp June 2-4 at the school as hitting and defensive drills will be featured from 9 a.m. to noon, with pitching and catching drills to follow from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Students ages 7 to 14 are eligible to attend, including incoming second-grade through incoming freshman students. The cost is \$120 for the hitting and defensive drills and \$80 for the pitching and catching drills, or \$175 for both. Direct email to [euflores@ccisd.net](mailto:euflores@ccisd.net) for additional details.

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The Dobie boys dominated the 3,200 distance at the district 22-6A track and field championships March 31 at Pearland ISD Stadium. Longhorn senior Chris Torres (center) was the gold medalist in the event, with freshman teammate Jordan Roman (right) second for a silver medal. Freshman Cruz Jasso (left) was fourth as he also qualified for the area championships.

## 22-6A track underway at The Rig

The District 22-6A Track and Field Championships began March 31 after press time with the field events as well as the running event preliminaries at The Rig in Pearland as the postseason began for athletes aiming to make a run toward state.

Dobie senior Stacie Harris was a regional qualifier in the long jump a season ago as a junior and will face stiff competition from the current 22-6A alignment that also includes state power Shadow Creek in addition to host Pearland, Dawson

Manvel, Alvin and the other four Pasadena ISD high schools.

The top four finishers in each event will qualify to advance to the 22-6A/23-6A area championships, hosted April 9-11 within Fort Bend ISD. Times to be determined.

## Dobie football anticipates program-building spring opportunity

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

There is little doubt that what happens out on the football field beginning April 15 at Dobie main will go a long way toward shaping the future of the Longhorns' program.

Team 57, referring to the 57th varsity football group in the school's history, will take to the field for the preseason beginning Aug. 11 and then open the 2025 regular season Aug. 28-30 against the Clear

Brook Wolverines at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

As excited as the Longhorns might be about all of the buzz coming in August, the progress made and any questions answered during the April 15 to May 15 spring practice window very well could be more important than anything that occurs in the August preseason.

This spring is simply that important.

Beginning on tax day of this month, Longhorn

varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff will lead the school's returning players through spring football practice that will culminate with a to-be-determined game that will celebrate what everyone believes will be a month of building block sessions within the program.

Fitzmorris, heading into his second season as the school's varsity football head coach, will have the benefit of spring practices

with his guys for the first time.

At this time last year, then Dobie head coach Diamond Stafford was the man in charge as the Longhorns conducted spring practices.

By May 6 of last year, Stafford was named varsity head football coach at Northbrook. Fitzmorris, a Dobie graduate who had been an assistant at Pasadena Memorial, was officially hired as the Longhorns' varsity football head coach May 28.

Hired last summer well after the completion of spring football workouts and essentially after the team's returnees had gone home for the summer, Fitzmorris had to feel like he was running behind leading into preseason workouts in August.

Despite the late start from a staff standpoint, the Longhorns in 2024 rallied from a slow start for a 6-4 overall push that included a playoff matchup against Ridge Point.

Dobie has not won a class 6A playoff game and has not reached the area round of any postseason since 2004.

Regardless, standards within the program will always be high as the coaches and players begin working toward the 2025 campaign.

Simply put, the Longhorns will be looking to restock the talent pool at the varsity level after the upcoming graduation of so many playmakers on both sides of the football who were seniors during the 2024 season.

Senior-to-be Da'Marcus Hodges figures to be the key performer from an offensive skill standpoint role as he will assume the responsibility as the primary ball carrier.

Hodges was the 22-6A Newcomer of the Year in 2023 as a sophomore, running for nearly 800 yards and nine scores during the regular season before burning North Shore for a long scoring run in the bidistrict playoff game.

Dealing with bumps and bruises as a junior, Hodges still ran for 755 yards and 11 scores, and Fitzmorris stated in recent

days that Hodges will no doubt be relied on heavily.

Continued on Page 6



Officially hired May 28 of last year, Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris will lead spring practices with the Longhorns for the first time as the program continues its build up toward the 2025 campaign.

**Dobie Spring Football 2025**  
**April 15 to May 15**  
**2025 preseason: Aug. 11**  
**Opening Week 2025: Aug. 28-30**



Dobie offensive lineman Camron Robertson was a first team all district selection after the 2024 season and will certainly lead things up front once again for the Longhorns as the varsity football program begins preparation for the 2025 season with spring practices beginning April 15.

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# Dobie students take a bow during National Athletic Training Month

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

Much like Dobie Class of 2024 graduate Jordan Leahman before her, Anh Nguyen of Dobie is a Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame academic college scholarship winner for this school year and can say she has given her all within the school's athletic training program.

Dobie head athletic trainer Jesse Lopez teaches the school's sports medicine program and also oversees the Longhorns' group of roughly 35 or so student athletic trainers who do much more than stand on the sidelines each school year.

Spring break? There is no spring break for athletic trainers, nor those for Thanking or Christmas.

While the Dobie baseball, softball, track and field and boys' and girls' soccer programs were in action on the field during the spring break holiday last month, so were the school's student athletic trainers who were assigned to those programs.

"It's a big commitment for these students, and we make sure that they understand that commitment up front when they decide to become part of our program," Lopez said.

"Being a student athletic trainer is a very rewarding role, but at the same time it's a huge responsibility. We rely on our trainers to be our eyes and ears within the program. They are the ones up close and personal with the athletes on a daily basis.

"In today's world where communication is almost always via text and very very little by voice and personal conversations, we rely on our student trainers to keep us informed about what's going

on from a physical standpoint with these athletes.

"They get a chance to interact with the athletes every day and can typically have a better understanding of exactly what's going on with an athlete from a health standpoint, no matter the type of injury or nagging issue on the field that an athlete might have."

Each March is National Athletic Training Month, a time to recognize the vital role of athletic trainers in health care, focusing on their expertise and injury prevention, treatment and rehabilitation while promoting their contributions to the well-being of athletes and others.

Almost every high school across the state of Texas has a student athletic program. Lopez, a graduate of the University of Texas, is in his 14th year at Dobie and leads a student athletic program that has contributed greatly to all of the successes as well as the comeback stories of generations of athletes within the Longhorns' program.

Freshman students first take sports medicine courses both semesters and then are eligible to become in-action athletic trainers within Lopez's program.

From prior to the start of school sometimes in July to well past the end of school in May or early June, student trainers are a big part of the action.

"It's a lot more than filling water bottles or simply taping ankles," Lopez said.

"There's a big responsibility within our program to ensure that the student athletes at Dobie are best prepared to compete out there on the field. In order to do that, we have to be able to do our jobs well off

the field.

"It's not only helping them prepare for events or recover from events but also to provide proper rehabilitation practices when necessary to help them get back out on the field as soon as possible.

"It's a big job. There is such a thing as a 7-year flame out scenario within athletic training, and the biggest reason is that there is a ton of responsibility that comes with the job, combined with not always enough recognition."

Lopez says more than 10 of his senior student athletic trainers have gone on to receive the prestigious academic scholarships from the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame.

Last year and now this year, the recipients received \$2,500 toward academic expenses at the collegiate level, including things like tuition and books.

It may not be much money in an era where collegiate athletes are sometimes becoming millionaires courtesy of the name, image and likeness program, but it is certainly a nice honor for the high school students who contribute so much of their free and spare time during the school year to their craft.

Certainly not all athletic trainers in high school will continue the degree program in college. Nguyen, for example, plans to study nursing at the University of Houston beginning this fall.

But now with her athletic training background in her pocket, Nguyen certainly has a set of tools that relate to the medical field through her experiences. It will certainly help her down the line.

"We typically start a

school year with a state and athletic training program of 30 or more kids, and by the end of the school year that number is in the twenties for a variety of reasons," Lopez said.

"But the athletic training field can be very rewarding and can be a very nice career for the right person.

"Our job here at Dobie, and really within other high school programs across the nation, is to help prepare students for a future in the program if they so choose," Lopez added.

"Yes, it's a big job, but I really feel like it helps a lot of students in ways that you don't really see physically.

"I think it helps kids develop interpersonal skills, certainly better communication skills and allows young people in general to learn how to work together to achieve a common goal.

"I try to remind our student trainers that they are very much a part of the team no matter the level of success.

"They may not be the ones out there throwing the football or throwing the softball across the playing field, but they are certainly a big part of the final outcome for a given team.

"We're proud of what we've been able to do here in the student athletic program at Dobie. Again, it is not a field for everybody, but it can be very rewarding and really give somebody an opportunity at a career that is in need of staff members nationwide.

"Being an athletic trainer takes up a lot of your time no doubt, but I really believe that the rewards and the things that you can get out of the field professionally are worth it all."



Dobie Class of 2025 senior and student athletic trainer Anh Nguyen (third from left) was honored with a collegiate academic scholarship during the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame banquet last month. Those with her at the event included, left to right, Jesse Lopez (Dobie head athletic trainer), Dr. Theresa Phan (Houston Methodist Primary Care Physician), Emma Hernandez (Dobie assistant athletic trainer) and Kristin Howard (Houston Methodist Outreach Athletic Trainer).

## Dobie spring football to provide early look at 2025 team

Continued from Page 5

standout at tackle as well as at least one other key senior from 2024.

But Camron Robertson was a first team All-District offensive lineman a season ago and has been voted a team captain heading into 2025.

Alonzo Chapman, who like Robertson will be a senior, was a second team All-District offensive lineman and will also help fortify things up front.

The same goes for the defense, where 2024 All-District linebacker Desmond Talib is set to move to safety and be joined by returning sophomore Adrian Taylor, who very well could see action on the offensive side of the football as well.

Fitzmorris acknowledges that guys who show skills out on the field in the spring will certainly get a great look come August in preparation for the 2025 season.

"There's no doubt that this spring is key for our program," Fitzmorris said. "We elevated 21 freshmen to the athletic period with the intention of giving those guys a good look at the varsity level, and right

now I'd say 17 of them have really put themselves in a position to be able to help us.

"You never want to say transition, but we have some holes to fill on the roster in terms of the starting 22.

"There's no getting around the fact that we lost a lot of playmakers and guys who made a big difference for our football program in all phases of the game.

"But the thing we need everyone to understand is that there are opportunities out there for the next wave of talent within the Dobie High School football program.

"We are going to give our kids every opportunity to be successful out there, and we are going to adjust what we do on the field schematically to fit the skills and talents of our kids."

Cameron Mathews, headed to Memphis, became the program's all-time leading rusher with more than 5,000 career yards and 50 touchdowns.

Fellow senior Bryce Evans assumed a larger role in the backfield with

Hodges sidelined and also had a huge final season with the Longhorns.

Markel Terry heads to Blinn College in Brenham as one of the most accomplished offensive linemen in program history, and Tariq Riley is on his way to Mary Hardin-Baylor as a big play receiver threat.

Senior James Spivey was also in on quite a few big plays in the passing game in 2024.

Heading into the spring, the next wave of playmakers will be welcomed.

"We at this point feel like we will be a run-heavy offense with Hodges and other guys getting opportunities to run the football," Fitzmorris said.

"At the same time, we will certainly take advantage of the skill sets of guys who show us that

they can contribute. Defensively, you're always looking for guys who are going to rally to the football and make plays.

"Just like on the offensive side, there are opportunities on defense for some of the younger guys or maybe guys who haven't had a huge opportunity at the varsity level yet to contribute to what we're doing.

"As a head coach or even as an assistant leading a position group, you're always excited about the spring because you get a good look at what your future looks like out there on the field.

"It's been a tremendous offseason for us to this point, and it'll be nice to get outside and see how some of it translates to the field."

## BHI to host physicals April 7

Beverly Hills Intermediate student-athletes involved in any sport as well as/or the cheerleading or dance programs will have a one-time chance to take care of their required athletics physical for the 2025-2026 school year as the coaching staff hosts a

session with a physician in the gymnasium April 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Students must be academically eligible and should have their necessary paperwork on file with the coaching staff prior to taking the physical. Cost is \$25 cash only.

## JFD baseball all even

A pair of losses, 7-4 and 3-1 to Pearland, left the Dobie varsity baseball team at 4-4 heading into the first game of a two-game set against South Houston. The Longhorns played at South Houston April 1 after press time and will host the Trojans April 4 at Dobie main.

Battling to hold on to fourth place at present, the Longhorns will take on South Houston and Sam Rayburn in a back-to-back, two-game series before going up against a very good Alvin program. Debbie will then close the regular season against the Manvel Mavericks.

Dobie will likely be playing for the No. 2 seed in the Division 1 playoff bracket, with Pearland almost assured of the top seed representing District 22-6A in the Division

1 field. Current district leader Dawson is trying to hold off Alvin as the two programs currently hold the Division 2 playoff seeds in 22-6A.

Isaiah Jones, Miguel Mercedes and Juelz Martinez with help from Wilard Joiner III have been the catalysts for the Dobie offense of late, while freshman Jaylen Aguilar and Aiden Sanchez have pitched exceptionally well by keeping the locals close in recent games.

Dawson began league play with a sweep of Dobie and also split a two-game series with Pearland and has won nine of 10 to this point to lead the way. Alvin and Pearland have also both separated themselves from the rest of the pack as the playoff stretch hits the second half.



Senior Julian Valencia (4) has continued to excel behind the plate for the Longhorns as the locals have split eight games to complete the first half of District 22-6A play with a favorable schedule coming down the back stretch. Photos by Gloria Wallace



Dobie senior Miguel Mercedes (34) is in the midst of a terrific final season with the Longhorns, driving in 10 runs and scoring five more during a recent two-game stretch to help the locals to a 4-4 league mark.



Dobie freshman pitcher Jaylen Aguilar went five innings against current Region 3 champion Pearland, allowing just two hits while fanning eight. While the Oilers' Nicholas Partida tagged Aguilar for a three-run homer in Pearland's eventual 7-4 win March 25 at Dobie, the freshman has continued to turn heads within the program.

# ST. LUKE FOOD FEST

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Dobie's Lauren Garza (center) was the gold medalist in the 3,200 at the District 22-6A championships with a time of 11 minutes, 34.63 seconds as she advanced to the area track and field round. The sibling duo of Jannie Cardenas (left, second at 11:35.20) and Jessica Cardenas (right, third at 11:39.76) also moved on to areas.



Dobie distance runners, from left, Jordan Roman, Lauren Garza, Chris Torres and Cruz Jasso each qualified for the area round in the 3,200 on the first day of the district 22-6A championships. Torres and Garza were the respective boys' and girls' district champions in the event, while Roman was the boys' silver medalist and also was fourth in the event to advance.



Longhorn junior Da'Marcus Hodges is on his way to the next round of the track and field postseason after he claimed the fourth and final qualifying spot in the triple jump at 43 feet, 9 inches at Pearland ISD Stadium March 31. Hodges was sixth in the long jump at 21-0 1/2.

**Giron tops hoops career at Weatherford**



Dobie Class of 2023 graduate Jacque Giron finished with a team-high 15 points and four steals in mid-March as her Weatherford College women's basketball team was eliminated by New Mexico, 76-66, in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Region 5 postseason tournament. With Giron leading the Coyotes in scoring and assists during the 2024-2025 season, the program reached the postseason for the first time in three seasons and put together a 20-11 overall record, collecting the most wins in five seasons for the program. Giron, a former District Most Valuable Player at Dobie, will now look to continue her collegiate career at a four-year program.



Miah Hypolite of Dobie threw the discus 108 feet for the silver medal in the District 22-6A championships March 31 at Pearland ISD Stadium. With a top-two finish, Hypolite will now represent the Longhorns in the area championships later this month within Fort Bend ISD.



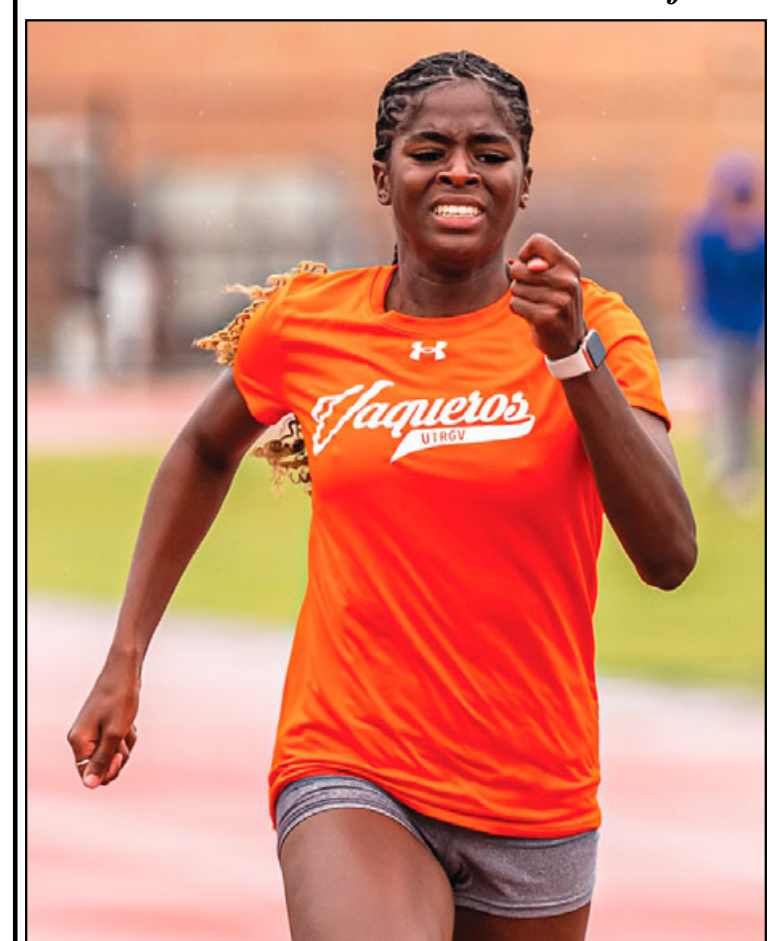
Longhorn throwers Cedric Gillespie (left) and Markel Terry finished the regular season with medals in Baytown but found the competition strong as the postseason began with the 22-6A championships at Pearland ISD Stadium. Terry has signed to play football beginning this fall at Blinn College.

**Dickson is SEC's co-Runner of the Week**



Texas A&M track & field's Camryn Dickson was named SEC Women's co-Runner of the Week following her two-win weekend at the UTSA Invitational, the league announced March 25. Dickson, a Clear Brook graduate and former three-time state meet qualifier, started the 2025 outdoor season strong with a pair of victories and two national-leading marks in San Antonio. Her first win came in the 4x100 relay, as the team crossed the line in 43.43 seconds to convincingly take the event and claim the No. 1 spot in the nation. She tallied her second victory of the day in the 100, where she put up a personal best time of 11.06, which also ranks her at the top of the national leaderboard. At the Louisiana State University Battle on the Bayou, the TAMU women's 4x400 (Latasha Smith, Brija Bullard, Dickson and Jasmine Montgomery) secured the gold March 29 with their time of 43.44.

**Davis shines with UTRGV track and field**



Clear Brook Class of 2024 graduate Jizzale Davis continued to shine early on during the collegiate outdoor track and field season as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros tallied three top-10 finishes March 28 during day two of the Bobcat Invitational at the Texas State University Track & Field Complex. Competing in the 200, Davis delivered a time of 24.12 seconds to finish ninth overall. On the final day in the 100, Davis was in at 11.89 for 20th place.

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**Bowlers roll on at state**  
 The Dobie boys finished 13th and one spot out of the final 12 qualifiers for the state tournament championships March 29 in San Antonio during the Texas State High School Bowling finals.  
 Zaniya Franklin of Dobie made her way to the state semifinals and the individual girls' state championship before bowing out.  
 The Clear Brook girls finished 18th in the team championships to close out the 2024-2025 season.

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