

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Graduation location changes

Families of Pasadena ISD graduates should know that all 2026 graduation ceremonies have moved from NRG Stadium to the University of Houston-Fertitta Center due to the upcoming World Cup soccer tournament. Due to limited seating, tickets will be required for entry.

Pasadena ISD's graduation ceremonies are scheduled to take place Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22. For additional information, visit www.pasadenaisd.org/graduation.

See the *Leader's* 2026 graduation issue Thursday, May 21.

Sagamont to meet May 5

The Sagamont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagamont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagamont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

HPD's PIP set for May 18

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, May 18, at Grace Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway, Classroom No. 103. Guest speaker to be announced.

Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings typically take place the third Monday of each month. For additional information, contact HPD Officer C. Castillo at castillo@houstonpolice.org or 832-395-1777.

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 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 Sagamont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

Ellington eRecycling set

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

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

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

Local school, MUD elections set for May 2

Clear Creek ISD, Clear Brook City MUD to elect new board members

Clear Brook City MUD residents and select Clear Creek ISD voters will take to the polls Saturday, May 2, to see who will fill multiple key positions.

Clear Creek ISD voters will decide who will serve in the Position 2 and Position 3 seats. Only voters who live in those districts may participate as they are single-member positions, rather than at-large. Both districts are located east of the Gulf Freeway (see map). Boundary information is available through CCISD's interactive map at ccisd.net/elections/boundaries.

Vying for the Position 2 seat are incumbent Jameson Mackay and challenger Ernest A. Hall-

man II. Competing for the Position 3 seat are incumbent Arturo Sanchez and challenger Gabriel F. Gonzales II.

Terms are three years. Voters must cast a ballot at their assigned location on Election Day. Assigned locations are determined by the county precinct the voter resides in.

For additional information or to see a list of polling locations, visit ccisd.net/elections.

See related questionnaire on Page 2.

Clear Brook City MUD voters will decide who will occupy the Position 4 and Position 5

seats. Campaigning for the Position 4 seat are incumbent Jim Towey and challenger Karen Richards McMillan.

Position 5 incumbent Jim Bishop is not seeking re-election.

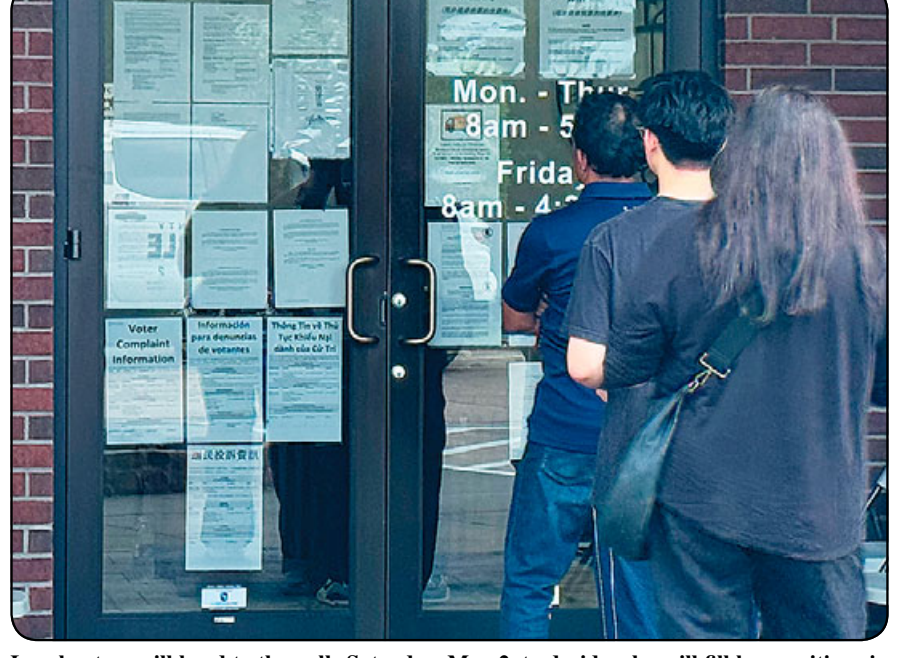
Jockeying to replace him are Delfina (Fina) Govea, Dawn McDonald and Yen Rabe.

Election Day voting will take place at the Clear Brook City MUD office at 11911 Black-

hawk Blvd. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Pasadena ISD, Sagemeadow MUD and Kirkmont MUD are not holding elections this cycle.

Correction: Last week's *Leader* reported that Pasadena ISD elections take place in November of odd-numbered years when they actually occur in May of odd-numbered years, with the next one taking place in May 2027. The *Leader* apologizes about any confusion.

Local residents head to polls



Local voters will head to the polls Saturday, May 2, to decide who will fill key positions in Clear Brook City MUD and Clear Creek ISD. Clear Creek ISD voters will select who will serve in the Position 2 and Position 3 seats, while Clear Brook City MUD voters will decide who will occupy the Position 4 and Position 5 seats. Voters are shown in line at Clear Brook City MUD to cast their ballots before early voting closed on Tuesday, April 28.

Clear Creek ISD hosts AI Hackathon

Nearly 200 CCISD students take part in inaugural event

Nearly 200 Clear Creek ISD students in grades 5-8 took part in the inaugural CCISD AI Hackathon April 11 – one of the first K-12 AI events of its kind in the world.

Throughout the event, students worked in teams to tackle real-world challenges in health care, financial literacy and education, creating AI-powered games and solutions designed to make a difference in their families, schools and communities. Students participated in guided build sessions, where they refined their ideas and strengthened their projects before presenting them to a panel of judges and an audience of families and community members.

"Seeing students use AI as a creative tool to support coding was incredibly exciting," said Laura Mackay, CCISD coordinator for innovative programs. "Our students came with big ideas, and in a traditional coding environment, many of those visions would have required extensive experience to bring to life. By using AI to support the coding process, students were able to turn their ideas into reality in a matter of

minutes, which opened the door for even greater creativity and innovation," she added.

The hackathon gave students hands-on experience with artificial intelligence while showing how emerging technologies are shaping industries such as health care, finance and education. The event also brought together educators, industry professionals and community partners to support student learning and innovation.

Houston Methodist served as the presenting sponsor, leading the health care challenge and supporting mentoring and judging alongside Wellby Financial and CCISD representatives. Their involvement, along with the support of sponsor Wellby Financial and partners Austin Christian University, Gloo and Quite Uncommon, helped make the day a meaningful and inspiring experience for students.

Clear Creek ISD plans to continue and expand upon this event each year, offering more opportunities to explore emerging technologies in responsible, relevant and future-focused ways.

City, county launch joint health hub

New hub allows residents to monitor local health data

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) and the Houston Health Department (HHD) recently announced the launch of the Houston-Harris County Joint Public Health Data and Reporting Hub.

This new online resource brings together important health data for the region in one place, making health information more easily accessible.

The site features interactive dashboards and reports from both departments, covering health topics affecting people across Houston and Harris County. The dashboards present data in straightforward charts and visuals, while the reports provide insight into the health of Harris County communities, recent trends, actions being taken to address health challenges and recommendations for community partners.

Users can find reports and dashboards on a variety of public health priorities, including the following:

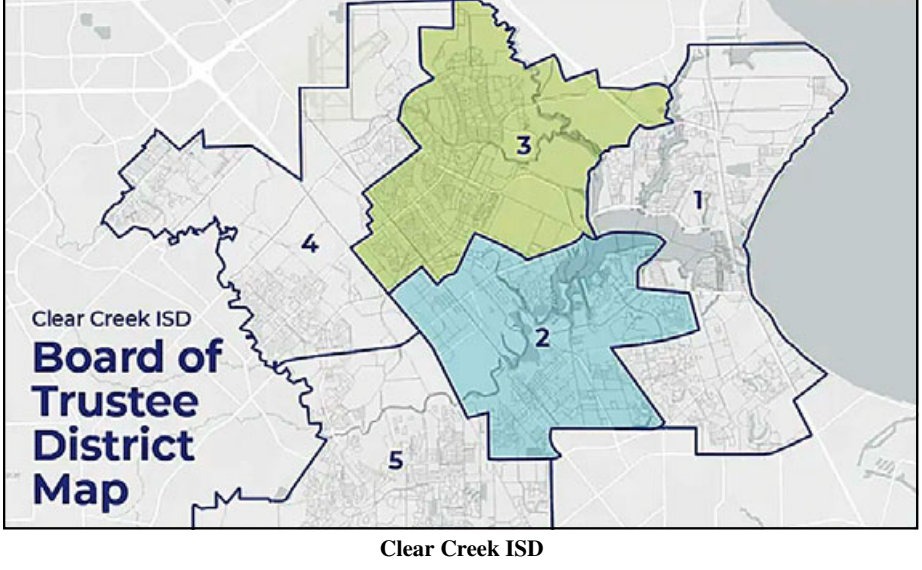
- Infectious diseases and emerging threats
- Environmental health and climate impacts
- Injury and violence prevention
- Maternal and child health
- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments and strategic planning

public health strategists," said Leah Barton, executive director of Harris County Public Health. "This hub makes health data more easily available to the public, researchers, and local partners, helping people understand health issues and take action based on data. We're thrilled to be collaborating even more closely with the Houston Health Department to build a more comprehensive picture of the health of Houston and Harris County."

"When people can see and understand the facts, they're empowered to make informed decisions for themselves and their families," added Dr. Theresa Tran, director of the Houston Health Department. "Removing barriers to better health includes providing access to clear, reliable information. This joint initiative is about putting real data, not opinions or speculation, directly into the hands of our community. That's how we build healthier communities, through knowledge, transparency and trust."

This joint effort highlights the ongoing collaboration between HCPH and HHD and supports the use of data to inform decisions, strengthen programs, and improve community health.

For additional information or to explore the dashboards and reports, visit www.houstonconsumer.org/houston-harris-county-joint-public-health-data-reporting-initiative.



Annual cleanup to beautify community

Local groups, volunteers gear up for May 2 South Belt Cleanup

Multiple local groups are coming together Saturday, May 2, in an effort to beautify the community, as the annual South Belt Cleanup is set to take place for its fourth consecutive year.

"South Belt's strength is its people," said Kay Barbour, president of the Sagamont Civic Club, one of the event's chief organizers, along with Knights of Columbus Council 9201. "Every piece of litter picked up represents a volunteer who cares deeply about this community. These cleanup efforts aren't just about beautification – they're about pride, connection and shared responsibility. With the continued support of our local organizations, businesses and residents, we're not only keeping South Belt clean – we're building a stronger, more united community for everyone."

The annual cleanup continues to grow in size each year, attracting many other major partners.

In recent years, the event has expanded beyond the local civic club to Knights Council to now include Pasadena ISD, Harris County Precinct 2, City of Houston Solid Waste Department, Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, M & D (Ace) Hardware, Food Town, B&L Lock

and Safe, the *Leader* and others. Additionally, organizers are expecting approximately 250 volunteers to take part in this year's cleanup.

Volunteers will clean up from the Gulf Freeway to Blackhawk, east to west, and from Fuqua to FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road, north to south. Volunteers will not clean Dixie Farm Road out of safety concerns. The thoroughfares encompass an area approximately 6.25-square miles in size.

Organizers are currently seeking volunteers. All supplies will be provided and lunch (hamburgers and hot dogs) will be served by the Knights of Columbus following the event. No open-toe shoes will be allowed. While volunteers are encouraged to register in advance, walk-ups will be welcomed.

The cleanup will begin at 8 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate, located at 11111 Beamer. Volunteers who have not preregistered are asked to arrive early.

For additional information or to register as a volunteer, see related ad on Page 7 or contact event organizer Mike Work at mrwork2@att.net or 832-338-5156.

Resident arrested following naked chase

Apprehended suspect employed as Spring ISD teacher

A Sagamont resident – and Spring ISD teacher – made headlines this past week when he fled on foot from police in a residential neighborhood while naked from the waist down.

According to the Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers were on Milam Street downtown the evening of Friday, April 17, when

they spotted a black Volkswagen Atlas speeding and going through several red lights. Police said the suspect then began driving the wrong direction on Main Street.

Police activated their emergency lights and attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle.

Continued on Page 2

Sagamont house being raised



A house on Sageleaf near Beamer and Hall Road is being raised by roughly 5 feet, presumably to avoid high water in the flood-prone portion of Sagamont. Several other properties in the area have been purchased as part of county buyouts due to repeated flooding. At least one home in the area was rebuilt by the state following Hurricane Harvey. Photo by David Flickinger

In My Opinion

Why local elections matter

After walking over 21,000 steps yesterday (about 11 miles) throughout our neighborhoods to remind people about the current MUD election that Dawn McDonald and Jim Towey are running in, something really stood out to me: a lot of people are simply apathetic (not pathetic) when it comes to grassroots, local elections such as MUD/water district board elections.

Many didn't come to the door at all, letting their doorbell cameras handle it. Others answered but clearly weren't interested. They took the candidate/election information handout just to be polite, but you could tell they wanted to end the conversation as quickly as possible. Most of those handouts will likely end up in the trash, treated like junk mail without giving it a second thought. Some say, "Oh, we'll be there to vote," and then don't show up. Granted, people are busy. They have lives and family and other obligations and plans, but it takes 5-10 minutes, especially during early voting, and then they will most likely forget when the election date comes around to go vote. One person even told me he's lived here for over 40 years and has never voted—not once. Most likely because, if it's not a major election like president or governor, and doesn't see the point.

I'll admit, for most of my adult life, especially when I was raising my daughter and living in an apartment, I wasn't very tuned into these smaller elections either. I always voted in primaries and general elections because that was my civic duty, something I learned from my parents. My dad was actually the presi-

dent of our civic club when I was growing up, so that sense of responsibility was always there, even if I didn't fully understand the impact at the time.

That's changed over the past few years, especially living with Dawn and seeing how involved she is in local and state politics through her work. What I've learned is that these "small" elections actually have real consequences. Even if you're happy with how things are now, choosing not to participate isn't a neutral decision. If you stay home and don't vote, someone with very different priorities can step in and make changes—whether that's higher taxes, increased water rates, or decisions that impact the community in ways you might not like.

You may not want to be involved in politics, and that's absolutely ok, but at least let your voice be heard and go vote.

These local races may not get the headlines, but they shape the day-to-day reality of where we live. That alone makes them worth paying attention to. And the encouraging part is this: it doesn't take a massive effort to make a real difference. Just a few minutes of your time can help shape the future of your neighborhood in a positive way. Every vote truly does count in elections like these, and when more of us show up, our communities become stronger, more connected, and better represented.

If you live in Clear Brook City MUD please vote for Dawn McDonald for Clear Brook MUD and Jim Towey for Clear Brook City MUD.

Election date is Saturday, May 2nd from 7am to 7pm at the Clear Brook City MUD building at 11911 Blackhawk.

Brian Lambert

Clear Brook City MUD resident.

Beth Adell Northrup



Beth Adell Northrup, 63, died peacefully in her sleep surrounded by her family at Houston Hospice on April 17, 2026. She fought a long and courageous battle against multiple myeloma cancer for three and a half years. She was born on Feb. 27, 1963, to Roger and Donna (Bisell) Northrup in East Cleveland, Ohio. She was the youngest of five children.

Beth attended Painesville City Schools in Painesville, Ohio from kindergarten to eighth grade. She and her friend Gayle Burns Jones went to school together from kindergarten through graduation. Beth was a very proud graduate of The Andrews School for Girls in Willoughby, Ohio, graduating in 1981 where she met her best friend Lauren Hartigan. They had many fun adventures throughout their four years of high school, including a trip to New York City. Beth moved with her family to Houston in 1982 where they lived in the South Belt area. Her first job was at C & D Burger Shop where she met her lifelong best friend Tammy Campbell Pues who was always there for Beth no matter what. She loved Tammy so much. Beth attended San Jacinto College where she learned data processing and Excel which enabled her to work as a bookkeeper in a law firm for

many years. She decided to go back to school to earn a certificate in billing and coding. She worked for many years for Campbell Family Practice and Internal Medicine. Then she worked for One Behavioral Health until her illness would no longer allow her to work.

Beth was a member of First United Methodist Church in Pearland where she loved contemporary Christian music. Beth loved watching movies, eating out in various restaurants, shopping and attending craft shows. She loved making handcrafts especially Diamond Dot projects.

Beth had a heart of gold and was always willing to help anyone in need. It was very hard for her to ask for help as her health declined.

The family would like to extend heartfelt love and thanks to Debbie and James Gilbert, who helped Beth in so many ways over the years. They could not have gotten through many hard times without their help, love and prayers.

Deaths

The family also thanks Tammie Harrison and her husband Brandon for always being there when they needed some kind of help.

Beth is survived by her brother Jim (Julie) Northrup, sister Margie Remely, sister Darla (Steve Tippet) Northrup, brother Lee Northrup; niece Lisa (Greg) Golden, nephews Jim II (Betsey Rossman) Northrup and Dono (Nicole) Tippet; great-nephews Chester and Greg Golden; great-nieces Pippa and Tessa and Lottie Northrup; her 10-year-old Chihuahua Ollie, Chihuahua mix Teddy; honorary sister Debbie (James) Gilbert and best friend Tammy (Manuel) Campbell Pues and her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother-in-law Mark Remely.

Beth did not like dark depressing colors. Wear bright colors to celebrate her life.

Visitation will be held Saturday, May 16, from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a memorial service in the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church, 2314 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland, Texas 77581.

Salam "Sal" Hanna Boridy



Salam "Sal" Hanna Boridy, 85, of Houston, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Sal was born on Jan. 12, 1941, in Dakar, Africa, and grew up in Lebanon. He came

to the United States to complete his studies, marry and settle down. While living in the South Belt area, he coached youth soccer for many years. He also enjoyed fishing, gardening, smoking cigars and spending time with family and friends.

After retiring from the railroad, he cherished the extra time he had to cook traditional Lebanese dishes.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hanna and Nasima Boridy and his sister, Najat Hindi.

He is survived by his sister, Maha Mansour; his children, Nina Abrego and John Boridy; his five grandchildren; his two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A viewing will be held at Peevey Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 28, from 5 to 8 p.m., with a rosary recited at 6 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at St. Luke Catholic Church on Wednesday, April 29, at 11 a.m., followed by interment at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery.

Clear Creek ISD candidates respond to questionnaire

Clear Creek ISD voters will take to the polls Saturday, May 2, to decide who will occupy the Position 2 and Position 3 seats. The following is a questionnaire conducted by the school district to better inform residents about the four candidates seeking the offices. While the format of the responses has been adjusted to match Leader style, the content is published unedited. (See related story on Page 1.)

I love fishing and spending time on the beautiful waterways our community has to offer. I moved here in 1993, and it remains one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Is there anything else you would like the CCISD community to know about you and your candidacy for the CCISD school board?

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the school board for the past three years. This is a responsibility I take very seriously, and with your continued support, you can be assured that I will keep working tirelessly toward one simple goal: improving outcomes for every student in CCISD.

As a hobby I like to hunt and I am an avid reader.

Is there anything else you would like the CCISD community to know about you and your candidacy for the CCISD school board?

My goal is not just to help the CCISD community but to help all students of all local districts as well. In my vision this can be done if we excel in state of the arts programs and education, and others will want to know why CCISD is so great and what steps we took to get it right!

Position 3

Gabriel F. Gonzales II



What motivated you to want to be a CCISD school board member?

As a proud product of Clear Creek ISD, this district helped shape who I am today. I attended Weber, Brookwood, and Wedgewood Elementary, Webster Intermediate, Brookside Intermediate, and Clear Brook High School. CCISD didn't just educate me—it helped raise me.

Today, as a teacher, I see education from both sides: as a former CCISD student and as someone working in classrooms every day. I understand the pressures teachers face, the concerns parents have, and the challenges students bring with them.

I'm running because I believe our school board benefits from having someone who understands education from the inside. I want to ensure decisions always prioritize students, support teachers, and preserve the strong tradition of excellence CCISD is known for.

This community invested in me. Running for school board is my way of giving back.

What is your vision for education in this community?

My vision is to keep CCISD strong academically while making sure every student feels safe, supported, and prepared for their future.

That means: I also believe student safety includes emotional safety. Through my work supporting domestic violence awareness programs, I have seen how outside challenges can impact student success. Schools must be places where students feel secure, supported, and able to focus on learning.

Education works best when we educate the whole child.

Supporting academic excellence; Supporting and retaining great teachers; Maintaining safe schools; Expanding career and college readiness; Strengthening partnerships between schools and families.

What do you feel are CCISD strengths and weaknesses?

CCISD's strengths include: Like many districts, challenges include: I believe solutions start with listening. When educators, parents, and the community are part of conversations, better decisions happen.

Strong academic performance; Dedicated educators and staff; Community pride in schools; Strong extracurricular programs; College and ca-

reer readiness opportunities; Teacher retention; Supporting student mental health; Maintaining strong communication with families; Meeting the needs of a diverse and growing student population.

How would you go about engaging the community in the decision-making process of the school board?

I believe engagement starts with being present and approachable.

I would, I believe leadership means listening first. The best board members are those who stay connected to the people they serve.

Attend school and community events; Host listening opportunities; Maintain open communication with families and staff; Encourage constructive feedback; Be transparent about decisions.

Tell us something that people may not necessarily see about you in your candidate biography? What do you like to do as a hobby?

Many people know me as a teacher, but they may not know how much I enjoy community advocacy and writing. I write about education and ways communities can support students.

I also enjoy history research, reading, and connecting real-world lessons to what students experience today.

I also support domestic violence awareness efforts because I believe safe families help create successful students.

And on a lighter note, I am known for my "Gonzales Cat Team," which I use to connect with students and families in positive and fun ways. Education should be serious work, but we should never lose the human connection that makes schools special.

Is there anything else you would like the CCISD community to know about you and your candidacy for the CCISD school board?

I want the community to know I am running as an educator and lifelong member of this community.

I understand CCISD not just from data, but from lived experience as a student, educator, and community member.

I believe in: Students first; Supporting educators; Community trust; Responsible leadership; Safe learning environments.

Most importantly: I am not running for politics; I am running for students.

Arturo Sanchez



What motivated you to want to be a CCISD school board member?

CCISD is where my wife and I chose to raise our family. As a parent of two students, I am motivated by the desire to ensure every child in our community has access to the same world-class education that drew us to this district.

What is your vision for education in this community?

My vision is a system where every student, whether headed for college, the military, or a high-demand technical career path, is prepared to lead. This requires a relentless focus on academic excellence, safe and innovative learning environments, and a transpar-

Resident cuffed following naked chase

Suspect employed as Spring ISD middle school teacher

Continued from Page 1

but the driver—later identified as Tyler Canada—refused to stop, and a chase ensued.

According to authorities, Canada, 32, was able to lose police during the chase, but officers were able to locate the vehicle in the driveway of his Sagemont home.

When police attempted to make contact with Canada at his residence, he then fled on foot, allegedly running down his street nude from the waist down.

Police officers were eventually able to catch up

with the fleeing suspect, but Canada reportedly resisted arrest, prompting the officers to tase him. Once sub-



Tyler Canada

dued, police were able to successfully apprehend the suspect.

According to court records, Canada was charged with felony evading arrest with a vehicle and a misdemeanor charge of evading arrest on foot. He has no prior arrest history.

Court records indicate Canada is a theater arts teacher at Claughton Middle School in the Spring Independent School District.

At press time, the status of Canada's employment with the school district was unclear.

Position 2

Jamieson Mackay



What motivated you to want to be a CCISD school board member?

I am deeply passionate about CCISD and public education. My family has benefited greatly from this district—both of my daughters received an outstanding education here, and my wife has built her career in CCISD. I have volunteered in the district for more than 30 years, serving on DEIC, bond committees, the Education Foundation, Communities In Schools, PTA, and other organizations. I wanted to give back in a meaningful way, and during my first three-year term, I have been grateful for the opportunity to do so through service on the Board of Trustees.

What is your vision for education in this community?

My vision is that every student receives a world-class education from a district that is locally controlled and closely aligned with the unique needs of our community. Every student should graduate from CCISD prepared to enroll in higher education, enter meaningful employment, or enlist to serve our country in the armed forces.

What do you feel are CCISD strengths and weaknesses?

Our greatest strength is our people. Every team member I have met throughout my 30 years of involvement with CCISD is passionate about ensuring student success. We have built a strong culture where educators and staff can thrive, and that directly benefits our students.

One challenge we share with public education systems nationwide is the pace at which we adapt to change. That said, I am proud of the progress this Board and administration have made. A strong example is the sixth-grade Launch class—something that once might have taken several years to develop was implemented in a single school year.

How would you go about engaging the community in the decision-making process of the school board?

It starts with listening. Our community should know they can reach out to board members at any time with questions, concerns, or feedback regarding decisions affecting the district. Open communication and accessibility are essential to building trust and making informed decisions.

Tell us something people may not necessarily see about you in your candidate biography. What do you like to do as a hobby?

Position 3

Ernest A. Hallman II



What motivated you to want to be a CCISD school board member?

I am currently a Special Education Teacher in HISD and I have children in the CCISD District. I see how the education system is failing some children and the mistakes that are being made in educational components. I have heard the concerns of students, parents and teachers. I would like the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded people to try and help concerns for all students state wide. It starts with CCISD and my own community and children.

What is your vision for education in this community?

The vision of CCISD is to empower every student with a world-class education that ignites passions, fosters creativity, and ensures they thrive academically and emotionally. My vision is to be sure to have educators and parents buy into this vision of CCISD to better educate our children and encourage them to be leaders not just in their schools or communities, but the world.

What do you feel are CCISD strengths and weaknesses?

CCISD is a large district with wonderful schools, programs and communities. These are the strengths. I believe the weakness lies in getting more parents and the communities to stand behind the work of CCISD and getting parents more involved in the success of students.

How would you go about engaging the community in the decision-making process of the school board?

I would like to try and encourage parents to talk to their students and the teachers about concerns and to give opinions in changes that they think should happen. Let's make sure they know when Board meetings are and encourage them to come. We can create a forum to include parents and actually listen to and address concerns instead of just hearing them. Let's do more to reach members of our community and let them know our concerns and how we would like to address them. Let's have a "open door" policy for not just staff members but community members also.

Tell us something that people may not necessarily see about you in your candidate biography. What do you like to do as a hobby?

Community Market at The Gardens Houston

The South Belt Community Market at The Gardens Houston, 12001 Beamer Rd, is scheduled for Sunday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exhibitors, crafters and small businesses from South Belt and surrounding areas will sell, display merchandise and promote services. The event is to be open to the public. Vendor paces are available including no-cost booths for kidpreneurs. For additional information, call or text Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library: Thursday, April 30, 4 - 5 p.m. Living English lessons. Registration required. Saturday, May 2, 2 - 4 p.m. Saturdays at HPL. Registration required. Monday, May 4, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Bring family to storytime. Registration required. Tuesdays, May 5, 4 - 5 p.m. Join family STEM. Registration required. Visit https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. Hours are Monday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library for more information. One can also visit social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library: Thursday, April 30, 10 - 11 a.m. Libby app audiobook club. Thursday, April 30, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time. Friday, May 1, 1 - 3 p.m. Genealogy. Friday, May 1, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Lego club. Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. - noon. Tai Chi. Monday, May 4, Noon - 1:30 p.m. Basic computer classes with Harris County universal services. Registration required.

Monday, May 4, 1 - 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required. Monday, May 4, 4 - 5 p.m. Laser cut orientation. Registration required. Monday, May 4, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Tuesday, May 5, 10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Personas que corren con libros: Club de lectura en Espanol.

Tuesday, May 5, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.

Wednesday, May 6, Noon - 1 p.m. Family place workshop with free Children's Museum passes.

Wednesday, May 6, 5 - 6 p.m. Kids paper lillies craft.

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

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi. - Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.

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

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

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

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

For additional information, visit www.hcpl.net.

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Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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Thompson NJHS Club raises money for Project Joy and Hope



Thompson Intermediate School National Junior Honor Society Club sponsored a fundraiser competition during three lunch periods to raise money for Project Joy and Hope. The lunches combined raised almost \$600 to help support families of children with life-threatening

illnesses. Left to right, are (front row) Mallory Serrano Aquino, Hannah Bui, Alexavier Rodriguez, Viviana Salazar, NJHS sponsor Stefanie Cantin, NJHS sponsor Melissa Prestridge, (back row) McKensie Turpin, NJHS sponsor Rebecca Eloph and Kyle Ramos.

BHI names students of the month



Beverly Hills Intermediate School recently announced the March students of the month. Seventh-grader Savannah Ollervides (left) and eighth-grader Alice Rodrigues De Soiza Castro were chosen for having shown outstanding effort, kindness and dedication during the month of March. School officials are proud of their achievements and their hard work and positive attitudes that genuinely reflect the spirit of school community.

Funeral home, cemetery honor flags, vets

As America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, Grand View Funeral Home and Grand View Memorial Park/ Bethany Cemetery, Pasadena, is planning two ways to honor the country, Old Glory and the nation's veterans, who have protected America in times of war and peace since 1776.

A flag retirement box has been installed at the funeral home's front door. Anyone in the area who has a tattered flag may place it in the box, and American Legion Cortez-Norris Post 319, which serves La Porte and Deer Park, will work with the Eagle Scouts to properly retire the flag in a dignified ceremony. American flags should be retired if they are worn, torn or soiled.

Separately, on Saturday, May 23, at 9 a.m., Grand View invites the community to place flags on the graves of veterans ahead of Memorial Day. The cemetery wants to show the community's gratitude and respect for those who have served and sacrificed for the country. Community groups, families and individuals are invited to volunteer. Register by calling 281-479-6076.

AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 invites one to join them at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586. The chapter meets in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. One is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

The program this month will be a presentation on Health Walk. The social event will be BACC Derby Days. Bring quarters and get ready to cheer for a favorite horse.

AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, May 19, to Eternal Ghandi Museum. Ghandi Museum is a cultural and educational museum dedicated to Ghandi's legacy of nonviolent conflict resolution. The trip price is \$12. Lunch will be at Lazy Dog Cafe. Members may register and pay for these trips at the Thursday, May 14, monthly meeting. One must be a member of Chapter 199 to participate in the bus trips.

If one is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact President Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or at veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)

Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Tom Bass and his assistant, Mike Noblet, were guest speakers at the Southeast Civic Association. They gave an update on work being done in the Edgemoor area to alleviate flooding.

Dorothy Wells, fourth-grade teacher and team leader from Frazier Elementary, was named Educator of the Year by the Pasadena Knights of Columbus Council 3700.

35 years ago (1991)

The pilot of an Eagle Airlines craft carrying eight passengers landed the airplane safely near the Gulf Freeway at Edgemoor after both engines failed.

45 years ago (1981)

Ayrshire Corporation was set to begin development on a subdivision to be located between Sageglen and South Bend, west of Beamer Road. The subdivision, South Brook, was composed of two tracts of land. One was 168 acres, the other was 138 acres.

30 years ago (1996)

The U.S. Assistant Surgeon General presented the South Belt Brio Community Assistance panel its 1995 Auxiliary Mission Support Award.

25 years ago (2001)

Thompson Intermediate School's National Academic League team claimed its third national championship in eight years by defeating Wichita, Kan., during the NAL National Finals held at the Houston Exxon Building.

10 years ago (2016)

Multiple assaults were reported as taking place along the Blackhawk hike-and-bike trail, sending two female victims to the hospital on the same day. Despite increased police patrols at the trail, no arrests were made.

1 year ago (2025)

Three puppies worth more than \$10,000 were stolen Monday, April 14, from a pet store on Beamer Road near San Jacinto College South.

Cook-off team won first place in the fifth annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.

20 years ago (2006)

For the third year in a row, the Blues Brothers team was the all-around champion at the South Belt Annual Cook-off Spectacular.

A traffic stop for a broken tail light resulted in the arrest of a suspect for felony possession of a weapon and the recovery of a vehicle allegedly highjacked from a Highland Meadow resident.

The Bank of America on Blackhawk at Beltway 8 was robbed for the third time in less than a year.

15 years ago (2011)

District E City Councilmember Mike Sullivan held a groundbreaking ceremony April 26 for the new Sagemont Community Center, to be located at the corner of Hughes Road and Beltway 8. Scheduled to be completed the spring of 2012, the new facility will be 11,526 square feet and cost roughly \$2.4 million to construct (funded in part by a \$1 million grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department). Included in the plans are a full-sized gymnasium, lobby, office space, storage and two classrooms.

10 years ago (2016)

Chris Clark retired from his position as general manager of the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District, after serving in the position for 16 years. Before joining the MUD in a paid capacity, Clark was an elected official on the district's board from 1982 to 2000, serving 16 of those years as the organiza-

tion's president. Clark also stepped down from his role as chair of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. A founding member of the organization, Clark had served four terms as chamber president.

5 years ago (2021)

Dobie High School senior Nabila Munshi was awarded the prestigious National Gold Medal in the Scholastic Art and Writing Contest for her artwork titled Ornate Origins. Inspired by artist Yulia Brodskaya, the 18-inch-by-24-inch art piece was created using a technique called paper quilling, the coiling and shaping of narrow paper strips to create a design. The art of paper quilling is a tedious and detail-oriented medium and took Munshi roughly four months to complete. More than 80,000 students submitted 230,000 art and writing entries this year. But the judging committee, comprised of some of the most notable leaders in the visual and literary arts, only chose 803 students to receive the National Gold Medal award. Ornate Origins was selected for "excellence in originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal vision."

1 year ago (2025)

Adam Abidlatif, owner of Pet Place, said a group of four, including a male, two females and a young child, visited the store twice the day of the theft during normal business hours. On their second visit, the group entered the store, then split up, with the two females going into a back room, where the puppies were stored.

The females removed three of the puppies from a cage and can be seen on surveillance footage handing two of them off to the

man in the group, who then placed the puppies in his pockets before leaving the store. The female suspect then concealed the third puppy in her sweater before exiting the business.

The group then fled the scene in a white Cadillac sedan.

The thieves also left with various merchandise, including collars and leashes. Abidlatif said the crooks likely would have taken a fourth puppy in the cage, but it was cowering in the rear out of sight.

Abidlatif said he only wants to get the puppies back, but the incident is being investigated by Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office as a crime.

This marked at least the fourth time dogs have been stolen from the store. The last known incident took place in August 2018 when the store was under different ownership.

On Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, four suspects broke into the business around 6:15 a.m. by using a pry bar to open the door. Once inside the building, the suspects - four males in black hoodies with their faces hidden - stole multiple dogs and two lizards.

The previous year, three dogs worth around \$8,000 were stolen from the store during a similar break-in the evening of Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017.

In that case, investigators said a male suspect used a large rock wrapped in a cloth to break a window to gain entry to the building shortly before 9 p.m.

Once inside the establishment, the thief went straight to where the canines are held and stole two English bulldogs (valued at \$3,500 each) and one Maltese (valued at \$900).

The crook then exited the business and fled the scene in a getaway car driven by another male.



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Over The Back Fence by Nicole



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STACEY!

Happy birthday wishes are sent to long-time South Belt resident Stacey Waugh who enjoys a birthday May 4 from her mother Sandy Robb, friends and the Leader staff. She and her mother have volunteered for the Leader Christmas program for years, giving many hours of time during the holiday. She also donates money to the program by collecting aluminum cans throughout the year.

FRED AND LESLIE MARK 31 YEARS

Best wishes are sent to Fred and Leslie Flickinger who celebrate 31 years of marriage May 7 from daughters Kimberly and husband Matt Lipina and child William; and Courtney and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; Leslie's mother Olive Falkowski; Fred's dad David Flickinger; and brother Davy and wife Ellie Flickinger.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BRITTNEY!

Best wishes to former Leader staff member, Brittney Cubos, who celebrates her birthday May 7 from her parents Claudia (former Leader staffer) and Erik Cubos, her family members and friends.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 30 through May 6.

Atkinson Elementary

The day for Magdy Canales and Mandy Ramirez to celebrate with ice cream and a double-layer birthday cake is May 4.

Burnett Elementary

Daren Dibble enjoys a birthday May 4. May 6 is the day to send Stephanie Gonzalez a birthday greeting.

Bush Elementary

Blow out the candles May 1 for Ana Reyes. Erika Gonzalez and Nicole Holguin celebrate a birthday May 3. Send a nice birthday greeting May 4 to Mindy Broaddus.

Meador Elementary

May 4 is the day for a fun celebration for Paulina Rivas-Lopez.

Moore Elementary

Birthday greetings go out to Bethanne Mullen May 6.

South Belt Elementary

A fun day is planned May 3 for Megan Sgarlata.

Stuchbery Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to Bindu Abraham May 1.

Thompson Intermediate

Maria Lopez celebrates a birthday May 3. Enjoying a birthday May 4 is Kelli Monaghan. Birthday wishes go out to Heather Nielson May 6.

Dobie High

A double-layer birthday cake April 30 is in order for Erica Moreno and Mathew Ortiz. The day for a party for Marcia Griffin is May 2. Break out the party favors May 4 for Zacorian Blueford. Sing a happy birthday song to Elizabeth Saldivar May 6.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, April 30: Walter Trojanowsky, Norma Partida, Cindy Munoz, Diana Guzman, Scott Koplin and Mathew Ortiz; Friday, May 1: Jacob De La Rosa, Kenneth Zermeno, Ladonna Alvarez, John Anderson, Elizabeth Lastovica, Vareck Herrera, David Payne, Shanna Mounce, Clint Simmons and Stephanie Sirt; Saturday, May 2: Chris Weatherford, Douglas Redhun, Troy Goffney, David Tho; Sunday, May 3: Craig Pittman, Keith Richardson, Tanya Morales and Brandie Ash; Monday, May 4: Scott Siscoe and Tamara Fisher; Tuesday, May 5: Tori French, Alice Wright, Pat Becker and Amanda Zamora; and Wednesday, May 6: Patrick Ermis, Roni Gonzales and Erin Hill.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

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

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie softball gets Ridge Point rematch

The Longhorns are into the area round of the Division 1 postseason bracket after eliminating District 21-6A champion Ridge Point for the second consecutive season.

The locals scored 10 runs in consecutive games to knock out the Panthers in 2025, and used a three-run uprising in the first inning this time around

vided De La Fuente with plenty of breathing room early on after plating three runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Sophomore Destiny Sidirooulos had an infield single with one out in the bottom of the first and scored on a double to left field by Persephone Soria for a quick 1-0 lead. Gabby Ramirez then singled into center



Senior pitcher Vanessa De La Fuente (7) will lead the Dobie varsity softball program into the class 6A Division 1 area playoff round in a repeat of the 2025 series against Clear Springs. Dobie defeated Ridge Point 6-1 in a single game playoff to advance.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



D.K. Parker will be among the Region 3 competitors at the championship meet May 1-2 at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster as athletes from across the region go head-to-head for a spot at the state championships. Parker, a Dobie junior, will compete in the triple jump event.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

JFD track athletes to vie at regionals

Six Dobie track and field standouts will be among the competitors at the Region 3 Track and Field Championships May 1-2 at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster as the quest to reach the state championships continues.

The region's best will be in action as only the top two finishers in each of the individual and relay events are guaranteed an invitation to the state championships May 16 at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin.

The Longhorn girls' competitors at the regional meet include a pair of seniors, Kylar Joseph and Blessing Akinloye. Joseph will take part in the long jump while Akinloye will be part of the field in the shot put.

Both the 6A long jump and shot put on the girls' side of things will be held May 2 in the morning.

The Longhorn boys will have four athletes among the elite field in a variety of events, including seniors Marcus Jones and Yohan Villavicencio as well as Junior D.K. Parker and sophomore Jordan Roman.

Jones will sprint in the 100 while Villavicencio is part of the 400 run qualifiers. Parker has been one of the area's top competitors in the triple jump throughout the season, and Roman will run in both the 3,200 and 1,600 distance events.

See related photos on Page 6.

D1 Area Softball Round Dobie vs. Clear Springs

Game 1: April 29 after press time

Game 2: April 30, 6:30 p.m.

*Game 3 May 1, 6:30 p.m.

*(if necessary)

All games at Goose Creek Memorial

to complete a 6-1 winner-take-all victory over Ridge Point April 23 at Almeta Crawford High School.

Senior Vanessa De La Fuente came up with a masterful pitching performance against Ridge Point as she went the distance, scattering six hits and allowing only a sixth inning single run to earn the victory.

field as Soria advanced to third base. With Soria and Ramirez in scoring position, freshman Maddi Campos doubled to center field, scoring Soria and courtesy runner Madison Villatoro as the Longhorns moved ahead 3-0.

Dobie added to its lead in the bottom of the third inning as Ramirez singled to

Continued on Page 6

May 1 Dobie athletes' events

8:50 a.m. Jordan Roman, 6A Boys' 3,200

Noon Marcus Jones, 6A Boys' 100 prelims

3 p.m. D.K. Parker, 6A Boys' triple jump

May 2 Dobie athletes' events

8:30 a.m. Blessing Okinloye, 6A Girls' shot put;

Kylar Joseph, 6A Girls' long jump

3:15 p.m. Johan Villavicencio, 6A Boys' 800

5:25 p.m. Jordan Roman, 6A Boys' 1600

Region 3 Track and Field

May 1-2, Webster

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Dickson, A&M track dominant at Penn Relays

What a weekend it was for the Texas A&M track and field program at the prestigious Penn Relays in Philadelphia April 24-25. The Aggies scored a school record in the men's 4x800 relay, and the program registered victories in each of the women's 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400 relay events. In the 4x100, the quartet of Anya Jackson, Clear Brook High School graduate Camryn Dickson, Aysha Shaheed and Jasmine Montgomery crossed the finish line in a time of 43.88 seconds to secure the title. At right, it was Lac Arthea Cooper, Jahnilie Registre, Montgomery and Dickson first to the finish line in the 4x400 in a time of 3:32.31 as the Aggies completed a dominant weekend at the prestigious event a day earlier, the Aggie women also produced a relay victory in the 4x200 as it was Shaheed, Montgomery, Jackson and Dickson combining to produce a time of 1:31.25 to claim the gold medal in the event. Dickson, three times a UIL state championship meet qualifier while at Clear Brook, is in her final season of what has been a tremendous all around career at Texas A&M.



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JFD baseball to take on Ridge Point and best of three series

D1 Bidistrict Baseball Round Dobie vs. Ridge Point

G1: April 30, at Ridge Point, 7 p.m.

G2: May 1, at Maguire, 6 p.m.

*G3: May 2, at Shadow Creek, 3 p.m.

*(if necessary)

The Dobie varsity baseball program will take on District 21-6A champion Ridge Point and the first round of the 6A Division 1 playoffs as both competitors will enter the postseason with plenty of confidence.

Dobie swept past Manvel in the final head-to-head series of the 22-6A schedule to finish second overall at 13-3, with the district champion Pearland securing the top seed in the Division 1 bracket.

The Longhorns had their playoff seeding secured and went ahead and took care of business against Manvel to close out the regular season on a high note.

Dobie head coach Miguel Torres earned his 300th career victory as the Longhorns defeated the Mavericks 9-5 in the series opener.

Julian Ricks drove in two runs while Gio Ramirez and Ramon Arredondo scored two runs each as the Longhorns absorbed a three-run Manvel seventh to coast to the victory.

In the April 24 finale at Manvel, the Longhorns scored two runs in the top of the sixth inning to take a 7-6 lead, then added an

insurance run in the top of the seventh to win 8-6.

The Longhorns had 10 hits in the game, led by

sophomore Jaylen Aguilar, who was 3 for 4 with a run scored and two runs driven in. Alfredo Guer-

rero had two hits and scored a run while Maximilian Torres had two hits, scored two runs and drove in another.

Longhorn junior Isaiah Jones (11) and his teammates finished as the 6A D1 second seed and will face Ridge Point.



Longhorn junior Isaiah Jones (11) and his teammates finished as the 6A D1 second seed and will face Ridge Point.

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BHI eighth-grade girls win Pasadena ISD Zone Soccer title



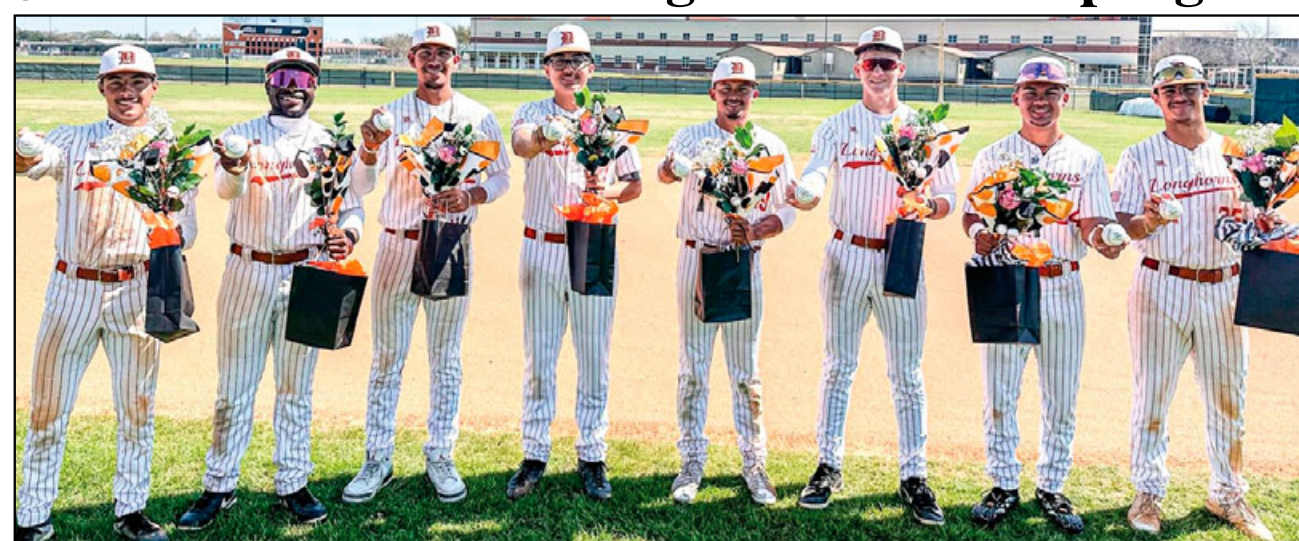
At left, the Beverly Hills Intermediate eighth-grade girls' soccer team won the Pasadena ISD Zone One title ahead of the district tournament. Members of the team present at practice for the above photo included, left to right, Tatiana Gamboa, Abigail Rodriguez, Evelyn Arzate, Kaelyn Sanchez, Nydine Castillo, Valeria Aguilera, Crystal Ventura, Neriah LeBlanc, Serenity Martinez, Skylar Glayzer, Natalia Garza, Delilah Parra and Gabriella Gomez. Arianna Castillo, Ixhalia Flores, Isabella Rios, Sophia Salas and Noemi Vallejo Ramirez are not pictured.

Dobie's Torres collects 300th



Dobie varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres had plenty to celebrate in the final regular season series against Manvel as his Longhorns produced a pair of victories to close league play at 13-3. Along the way, Torres earned career victory No. 300.

JFD Diamond Club recognizes baseball program's seniors

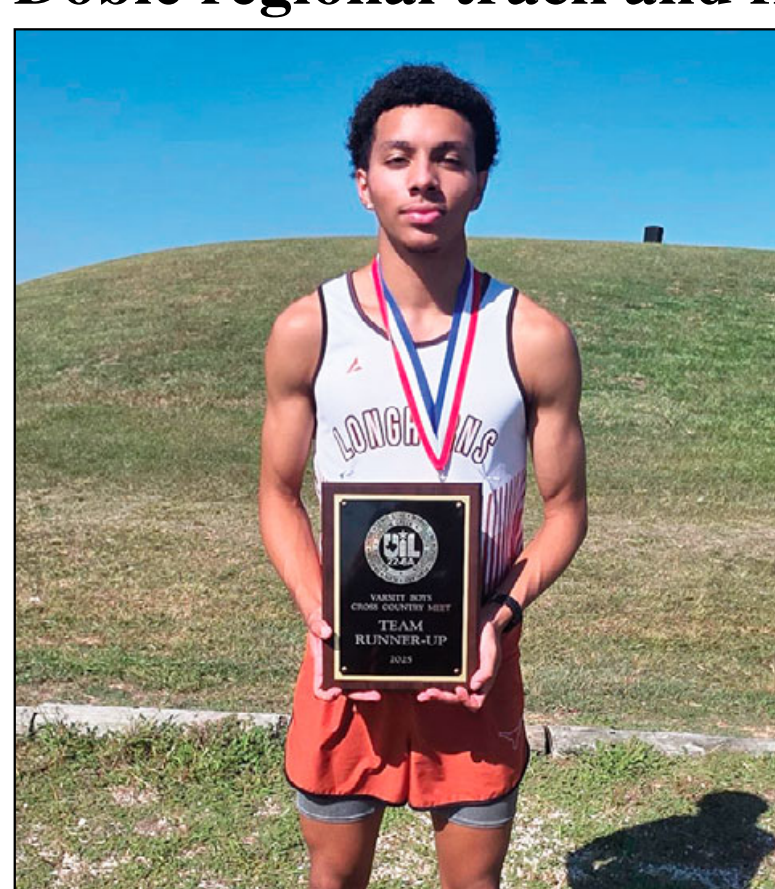


At left, the Dobie baseball Diamond Club hosted a big celebration for the seniors within the program at the end of the regular season. Taking part in the fun included, left to right, Gio Ramirez, Gabriel Swann, Abraham Martinez, Nico Sepulveda, Steven Umanzor, Tristan McKissick, Ethan Gomez and Noah Villarreal. The seniors have helped the Longhorns reach the postseason, yet again, with the locals set to take on Ridge Point in the 6A Division 1 opening round.

JFD softball wins, advances

Continued from Page 5
The Longhorns extended their edge to 6-0 in the bottom of the fourth inning as Sidiropoulos and Genesis Leal scored on a single by Ramirez combined with an error committed by the Panthers. Now it's on to the next challenge as the Longhorns will be looking to advance to the third round of the postseason. With 23 overall victories, the 2026 season already qualifies as a huge success for the locals, but this program has always pushed for more and will be ready to go this time around.

Dobie regional track and field qualifiers have excelled in other athletic endeavors



Hard work and determination epitomizes Johan Villavicencio, who has been a leader within both the cross-country and track and field programs at the varsity level for three seasons now. In the fall, Villavicencio was sixth overall in the 5,000-meter 22-6A cross-country championship race as he posted a time of 17 minutes, 5.64 seconds. He has experience in several of the distance events on the track and has now made his way to the regional championship meet at the 400 distance.



Jordan Roman has had a masterful sophomore season. Despite battling an injury early on during the cross-country season, he bounced back to win the 22-6A individual gold medal at the 5,000-meter distance at 16 minutes, 22.62 seconds. Now with regional qualifications in both the 1,600 and 3,200 events, Roman is on track to become one of the best in Dobie program history.



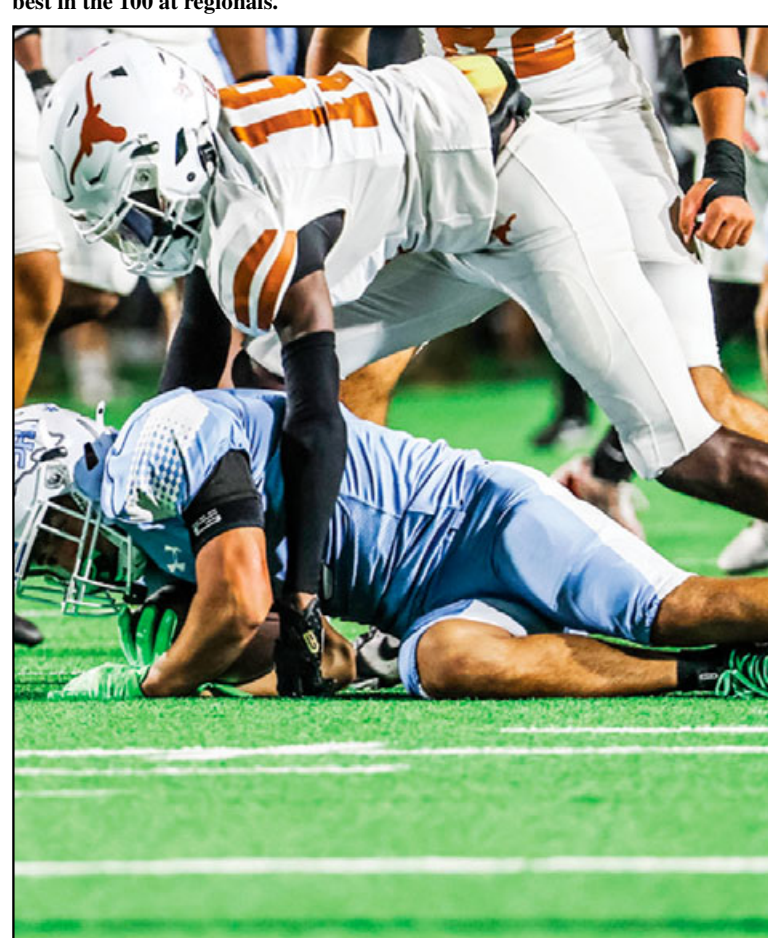
Dobie senior Marcus Jones has signed to play football at Texas Wesleyan University after he was the most dangerous return man in the District 22-6A ranks for two seasons. Now Jones will get to match his talents against the best of the best in the 100 at regionals.



In the fall, Dobie senior Kylar Joseph (4) completed a very successful two-year run at the varsity level on the volleyball court as she registered 200 kills for the Longhorns. Following the season, Joseph was a first-team All-District selection and was voted as the Most Improved Player and Best Offensive Player among her teammates who included Mahoganii Davis (10) and Allison Walker (6) during the 2025 season.



Blessing Akinloye (34) played basketball through her junior season and was an All-Academic Team selection in her final season with the Longhorns. She is now focused on the weights this spring and will compete in shot put at regionals after putting together a solid run of things.



D.K. Parker (19), a junior, has been one of the top performers in the triple jump within the area this season and will give it a good run in the event at regionals. Parker will then turn his attention to the football field, where he will be a defensive back for the Longhorns during the 2026 season later this fall.

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 Beverly Hills Intermediate School Parking Lot
 Saturday, May 2, 2026 @ 8:00 a.m.
 (rain-date May 9)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Lunch for all Volunteers will be prepared by the Knights of Columbus / St. Luke Catholic Church

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

FRIDAY, MAY 1
 7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
 9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.
 Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
 7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
 8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
 8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
 8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, MAY 2
 7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
 9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

SUNDAY, MAY 3
 8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
 5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
 8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.
 8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, MAY 4
 5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
 6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
 7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's Group**, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
 7 p.m. **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 at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
 7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, MAY 5
 7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
 9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
 11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
 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 sehoustontostmastersclubs.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, MAY 6
 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 **AA - Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.
 Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office 281-554-1180 for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
 7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
 7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
 8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
 8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

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

TASCO honors JFD boys' soccer standouts after great season



Dobie senior midfielder Yuriel Sierra (6) was named as a Texas Association of Soccer Coaches All-Region honorable mention choice following the 2025 season. Sierra was also a District 22-6A first team pick.



A TASCO first-team All-Region choice, Dobie sophomore defender Klevin Bonilla (22) certainly appears to have a bright future in front of him over the next two seasons with the Longhorns. He was also named a first-team All-District performer.



With 19 career goals scored, Dobie senior Allen Campos (10) is ranked as the No. 9 all-time goal scorer in Longhorn varsity boys' soccer history. He was the 22-6A Most Valuable Player during his final season and was a first-team All-Region pick via the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches.



Julian Calderon (8) of Dobie certainly had a senior season to be proud of in 2026 as he was honored by the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches as a first-team All-Region selection. Calderon was also a 22-6A first team All-District pick.

Pasadena ISD all in on She's Next flag football

Count Pasadena ISD among the many school districts both across the Houston area and the state of Texas that have jumped aboard the fast moving locomotive that is girls' flag football and is all the rage this spring.

Pasadena ISD has enthusiastically encouraged its high school girls to participate this spring, and the invitation has been accepted in huge numbers.

Dobie has responded with enough excitement and support to include two teams. The other four high schools, Pasadena, Pasadena Memorial, Sam Rayburn and South Houston have all fielded teams in a league including the Alvin ISD programs as well as Brazoswood this spring.

Saturday morning games have been contested at Alvin ISD's Freedom Field for three weeks and will now shift to Veterans Stadium in Pasadena May 2.

The postseason tournament, with final details yet to be finalized, will also be held at Veteran Stadium.

The Houston Texans and Dallas Cowboys joined forces with the She's Next initiative to deliver the first-ever girls' flag football Texas state championship June 13-14 at DATCU Stadium on the University of North Texas campus.

According to a press release delivered via the Houston Texans' web-

site, the event will bring together top programs from both the Texans and the Cowboys' flag football leagues in an effort to showcase the growing talent and passion for the sport.

According to the release, the NFL and its 32 clubs and partners for the past 10 years have worked to first kickoff then increase high school girls' flag football participation nationwide.

Today, more than 500,000 girls ages 6 through 17 play flag football across the United States.

While the official governing body of extracurricular activities in Texas, the University Interscholastic League, has yet to officially sanction flag football as a sport under its umbrella, the push to get the sport over the finish line is immense.

Pasadena ISD athletic director Patrick Longstreet told the *Leader* that he and district superintendent Dr. Toni Lopez were among area leaders in attendance at a preseason football Rotary luncheon in August.

There, longtime Texans' radio play-by-play announcer Marc Vandermeer promoted the organization's broadening initiative that has now led to the Cowboys and Texans establishing more than 200 scholastically based varsity girls' flag football teams across the state.

From there, Longstreet and Lopez essentially knew that day that Pasadena ISD girls needed to be included in this terrific opportunity. "It's just a win-win for the girls," Longstreet said.

"We have seen a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for the program. Like anything else that is starting from the ground up, the programs are in many cases learning on the fly, but the excitement out there on the field and the support that we have seen in the stands through the first three weeks tells us that this is something that is potentially only going to grow more and more as word gets out."

Willard Joiner Jr., an assistant coach on the Dobie High School football staff, has taken the lead in helping get the Longhorn girls' flag football program off and running this spring.

He says that while plenty of the participants also compete in other varsity sports at Dobie, roughly half of the girls' flag football players are taking part in the sport as their only endeavor.

"It is a tremendous opportunity for the females at Dobie High School to be able to compete in a growing sport," Joiner said. "It is a different sport for the girls in terms of learning the skills required for football. They are relatively new to throwing, running, catching and

even blocking for plays out there on the field, but it has been my experience that each and every one of them are eager to learn.

"We have had a terrific amount of fun doing this. At the same time, we really believe that the girls at Dobie High School can and will put together a tremendously successful program.

"We have already seen what some of the possibilities are, and I can only see it going up from here."

In terms of the sport potentially becoming officially sanctioned by the UIL, there are many factors that both need additional consideration as well as logistical issues to iron out.

Pasadena ISD officials already allow for bus transportation to and from the current Saturday events, and Joiner said he drives the JFD bus.

While the Houston Texans have to this point provided a great deal of equipment and other items necessary to compete, there will be additional costs associated with the sport that will ultimately fall upon the individual school districts.

Those details require careful consideration.

There is also the issue of just where on the current athletic calendar a potential girls' flag football season would fall.

A late spring schedule seems to work out well at

May 2 Flag Football at Veterans

Dobie2 vs. Manvel, 10 a.m.

Dobie1 vs. Brazoswood, 11 a.m.

The Pasadena ISD programs along with those from Brazosport ISD as well as Alvin ISD will compete in a district tournament May 9 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. From there, the tournament champion will be eligible to compete in the state competition hosted by representatives from the Houston Texans and Dallas Cowboys organizations later this summer.

the moment, but also precludes many softball and track and field competitors from being able to participate. Joiner acknowledges that while the sport is ever-growing in popularity, no one wants to see girls have to make a decision on leaving one sport for another.

In other words, high school volleyball players might like the opportunity to play flag football in the midst of spring leagues, while softball and track and field competitors will still want the opportunity to represent their school at district, area, regional and potential state competitions but also have the opportunity, if they wish, to take part in flag football.

All of these issues, and more, are things that the UIL will need to consider before officially sanctioning the sport.

"I really believe the time is coming," Longstreet said.

"I know there will be additional conversations. For now, we know that the girls are really enjoying the flag football experience.

"From a district standpoint, we are very thankful to have the support of the Houston Texans as they have allowed not only us but many school districts across the Houston area to be involved in flag football.

"It has been really exciting to watch out there on the field. I can only imagine what the potential talent level can be as some of these girls get more and more experience in the sport.

"From what I've seen in just a couple of weeks, flag football definitely has a future in our school district."

Dobie girls' basketball camp

Dobie girls' basketball head coach Rachel Flores will host the 2026 Longhorn basketball camp June 8-10 at \$60 per student at the main campus. Incoming first- through fifth-grade students will attend the camp from 8 to 10 a.m., while incoming sixth- through ninth-grade students will attend from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those who wish may register via X at DoBiE GBB, then scan the QR code. For additional information, direct email to Flores at RRodriguezFlores at pasadenaisd.org.

Clear Brook girls' basketball camp

Clear Brook girls' basketball head coach Mileka Loydrake will host the 2026 Wolverine Summer Camp June 2-3 on the main campus. The elementary camp is designed for incoming third- through sixth-grade students and will cost \$65 per student. The camp will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those entering the seventh through ninth grades as of next school year will attend the elite camp at \$65 per student from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each camper should wear a T-shirt, shorts, socks and basketball shoes. Personalized water bottles are recommended, and basketballs will be provided. Camp activities will include instruction in the areas of shooting, passing, rebounding, ball handling, offense and defense, game action and end of camp awards. To register for the camp, visit the girls' basketball site on X at Brook Girls BBA.

Clear Brook boys basketball camp

Clear Brook boys' basketball head coach Nathan Janak will host the 2026 Wolverine Basketball Camp June 15-18 at the main campus. Session one will be open to students answering the fourth through sixth grade as of next school year and will run from 9 to 10 a.m. Cost of the campus is \$125 per student. Session two is for boys and girls entering kindergarten through the third-grade levels and will begin at 10 a.m. Cost of the camp is \$85 per student. The third session will be open to students entering the seventh through ninth grades and will begin at 1 p.m. Cost of the camp is \$125 per student. To register for the camp, visit the Clear Brook boys' basketball site on X at Clear Brook Hoops.

SJC's Raven baseball holds steady in Region 14

Despite a pair of losses in recent action, the San Jacinto College baseball team sits third in the Region 14 South Division at 18-13, having put together an overall record of 32-16. Blinn leads the way in the conference at 25-7 and has strung together 37 victories to this point in the season against just 12 losses. Wharton County junior College, despite an overall record of 24-24, is second in a conference with a record of 20-12.

San Jacinto College had actually won five straight games before losing 7-3 and 10-6 games to Wharton. In the opener of a three-game set against Wharton April 24, the Ra-

vens walked away with an 8-5 victory.

In that one, the Ravens came from behind with four runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to walk off with a victory after trailing 5-4. Nathan Belle scored two runs and drove in a pair of runs, Christian De Los Santos knocked in a pair of runs, and Andrew Ramos had two hits, including a triple and scored a run.

Ramos doubled and tripled in the game, Cody Palacios smacked a double and Belle homered in the game. Kade Johnson earned the victory in relief as he was the fifth Raven pitcher to see action in the game.

From there, Wharton eventually came out on top in the series with a pair of victories. In the middle game, Wharton scored three runs in the bottom of the first and second innings to lead 6-0 and went on to claim the victory.

Ramos led the way offensively for the Ravens as he smacked a home run. R.J. Furcal also homered in the game. In the series finale, Wharton came up with a 10-6 victory, scoring four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and five more in the bottom of the sixth frame to erase a 5-1 deficit. Danati Frodundo and De Los Santos had doubles for the Ravens in the game.

First place San Jacinto College softball on a roll

Five straight conference victories, including sweeps of Alvin College and Blinn College, have allowed the San Jacinto College softball team to take control of the South Division standings within the Region 14 ranks.

Now at 29-23 overall, the Ravens have put together quite an impressive 13-3 record in the South Division to this point of the season, good for a three-game lead over second-place Alvin. Galveston is third at 11-7, with Blinn fourth at 12-8.

Defeating nationally ranked Galveston by a 10-2 count in the second game of a twin set April 11, the Ravens began their latest run of success in the schedule. Fast forward to April 25 at home, and San Jacinto College swept Alvin 10-7 and 8-5. Two days later, the Ravens traveled to Brenham to take on Blinn, ultimately coming away with 9-7 and 14-12 victories.

Scoring 51 runs in the five-game win streak, the Ravens have certainly seen an uptick on the offensive side of things. Now through 51 games, the Ravens have scored 331 runs and have hit .342 as a team. While the Ravens do not deliver a ton of sock in the lineup as evidenced by a relatively low total of 21 home runs, this group has proven to be able to string hits together.

In the opening game of an April 25 set against Alvin, the Ravens scored runs in five of their six offensive frames to come away with a 10-7 victory despite the Dolphins plating three runs in the top of the seventh inning.

Offensively for the Ravens, Kam DeLeon was huge with three hits, two runs scored and two runs driven in. Teammates Maddie Perez and Ary Garcia both had two hits and scored a run.

Perez and Garcia also

knocked in runs in the victory.

In that one, the Ravens came from behind with four runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to walk off with a victory after trailing 5-4. Nathan Belle scored two runs and drove in a pair of runs, Christian De Los Santos knocked in a pair of runs, and Andrew Ramos had two hits, including a triple and scored a run.

Ramos doubled and tripled in the game, Cody Palacios smacked a double and Belle homered in the game. Kade Johnson earned the victory in relief as he was the fifth Raven pitcher to see action in the game.

Addison Opela closed out the victory with two solid innings, allowing just one hit and a walk.

Perez has continued to be one of the top offensive performers across the conference as she has hit .483, driving in a team-high 49 runs and collecting 73 hits overall.

Norman is hitting .412 while knocking in 30 runs and collecting 47 hits. Mia Ortega is hitting .344, having driven in 38 runs, and Garcia is hitting .361 with 39 runs driven in. Alyssa Terry is hitting .359, having collected 52 hits and driven in 22 runs. Hicks has easily been the top-performing pitcher, registering a win-loss record of 10-6 with a 2.86 earned run average over 115 innings of work.

Trinity Valley Community College has run away with things in the North Division with a 16-2 conference record as part of a tremendous 46-6 overall record. Paris Junior College has gone 40-10 overall and put together 14 wins in 18 overall conference games.

Those two programs will certainly be heard from in the conference tournament, but the Ravens have also proven to be a top-notch competitor as the postseason tournament comes together in a little over a month.

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