

Holiday trash schedule set

There will be no city of Houston trash collection Thursday, June 19, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. Residents who have their curbside trash collection on Thursdays will have their waste picked up Friday, June 20. Residents who usually have their trash collection on Friday will have their waste collected Saturday, June 21. All city waste-collection facilities will also be closed Thursday, June 19, in observance of the holiday, set to reopen Friday.

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 will be submitted to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

HPD PIP changes day, venue

The Houston Police Department Clear Lake Division has changed the day and location of its monthly Positive Interaction Program meetings. Previously held the third Tuesday of each month at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, the meetings will now take place the third Monday of each month at Grace Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway Classroom No. 103. The meetings will also have a new start time, beginning at 6 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. The next event will take place Monday, July 21.

Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. HPD also now lists a new local contact for the program. To learn more about the Clear Lake Division PIP meetings, contact HPD Officer C. Castillo at 832-395-1777. See related ad on Page 2.

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.

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.

Coffee with the Constable

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

Beltway closures planned

One outside lane of the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Beamer to Hughes Road/Sabo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays through Wednesday, Sept. 3.

One outside lane of the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Red Bluff in Pasadena continuously through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

One inside lane of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Greenshadow to Red Bluff in Pasadena continuously through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Hughes/Sabo closures set

At least one southbound lane on Hughes/Sabo will be closed continuously at Beltway 8 until further notice. Westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads may also be intermittently closed at Hughes/Sabo until further notice. The closure is associated with an ongoing Houston Public Works project to replace a force water main at the intersection.

Kirkwood to meet June 30

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

Melillo named a Houston School That Inspires

Local school 1 of only 4 in city to be honored by Good Reason Houston

Melillo Middle School was recently recognized as a "School That Inspires" by Good Reason Houston.

The local school was just one of a select few in the Greater Houston area to receive the prestigious honor, beating out hundreds of other campuses from 13 Houston-area school districts.

Last month, Melillo was named one of 18 semifinalists, before later making the final cut and becoming one of just four area campuses to receive the final honor. Other final winners in-

cluded Nitsch Elementary School, Harmony School of Fine Arts and Technology and Laurenzo Early Childhood Education Center.

"We didn't apply for this recognition," said Melillo Principal Jennifer Saucedo. "Good Reason Houston came to us. They visited our campus in February, observed our classrooms and interviewed our leadership team. This award validated the incredible work our teachers and staff do every day."

The recognition celebrates schools where all

students – including black, Latino, emergent bilingual and special education populations – are thriving above both state and local averages.

According to Saucedo, the school's success is rooted in its culture of high expectations, strong relationships and a commitment to making learning engaging and meaningful.

"Our motto is 'One Team, One Dream' because we believe education is a partnership between the school, the student and the families we serve," said Saucedo. "Melillo is a school of high academic standards with a strong emphasis on social-emotional learning and outstanding fine arts programs. This recognition is not just about test scores; it's about the heart of our school. Our teachers are the secret sauce. They mentor, they inspire and they make learning fun."

"Through its Houston Schools That Inspire, Good Reason Houston is celebrating high-performing schools – and the exceptional educators who help them thrive," said Good Reason Houston Managing Director Meron Tekle, who leads the Houston Schools That Inspire initiative. "These schools remind us that while there's still a lot of work to do, there's also a lot to celebrate. This is a campaign rooted in the belief that change can grow from success. When we find what's working, what's beautiful, bold and quietly revolutionary, we can do more of it, replicate it, expand it and, most importantly, believe in what's possible. By recognizing schools achieving remarkable results through innovation, we nurture excellence across our educational landscape. This celebration honors the selected schools, vibrant communities that support them, and the unique promise of Houston."

This point was reinforced by Good Reason Houston CEO Cary Wright.

"Good Reason Houston runs this annual campaign to shine a light on schools that are deliv-

ering exceptional learning environments, strong student outcomes, and a deep belief in what's possible for every child," said Wright. "These are schools that challenge the status quo – and we want more of them across our region."

Tekle wrote a lengthy piece on Good Reason Houston's website, heaping praise on Melillo.



Melillo teacher Tyler Oakes

"Melillo Middle School is a Good Reason Houston 2025 School That Inspires because it challenges everything we think we know about middle school," wrote Tekle. "In a time when most schools double down on structure and control to manage adolescent chaos, Melillo leads with trust, creativity, and joy – and it's working. Students are outperforming peers across the state in both reading and math, not by tightening the

Continued on Page 2

Melillo receives \$2,500 check



Melillo Middle School was one of only four schools in the Greater Houston area to be selected as a "School That Inspires" by Good Reason Houston. As part of the honor, the area campus received a \$2,500 check, shown above being received by Melillo staff members Jessica Adamek (sixth-grade reading teacher) and Debbie Bass (sixth-grade science teacher). Also recognized was Melillo fifth-grade teacher Tyler Oakes, who was presented a \$500 check by the nonprofit group. See related photo on this page.

City announces swimming pool season

Delayed announce due to lifeguard shortage; two area pools now open

After weeks of delays, the city of Houston announced its 2025 summer swimming pool schedule, with two local pools being among the first to open.

According to Houston Parks and Recreation Department's website, the swimming pools at both Sagemont Park and Wilson Memorial Park, located on Gilpin near Edgebrook and SH 3/Old Galveston Road, have officially opened for the summer season, set to continue through Sept. 1.

HPARD officials said the delayed announcement was related to a national lifeguard shortage – a problem that hindered local swimming pools since they began to reopen in 2022 following a two-year hiatus related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials said additional pools are expected to open later in the summer as more lifeguards become available.

At press time, there was no word on a possible opening of the swimming pool located at Beverly Hills Park.

City swimming pool hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. All pools are closed for cleaning on Monday (except on Labor Day Sept. 1).

To see the city's latest swimming pool openings, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2025/2025SummerPoolSchedule.pdf.

The city is offering a \$500 incentive to potential lifeguards. All lifeguards must be 16 years of age or older. While all lifeguards must be strong swimmers, previous lifeguard experience is not necessary.

For more information on applying to become a city lifeguard, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2025/AquaticsHiringProcess_2025.pdf or contact the HPARD's Aquatics Office at 832-395-7129.

Despite the national lifeguard shortage, all community swimming pools located in the South Belt area are open and operating on normal hours. For a complete listing of local swimming pool hours, see the May 22 edition of the *Leader*.

Annual South Belt parade set for July 4

Parade route altered for 1st time in event's 35-year history

The annual South Belt Fourth of July parade is set to take place Friday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Residents should note that due to ongoing construction at Beltway 8 and Sabo/Hughes Road, the parade route has been detoured for the first time in the event's 35-year history.

Rather than beginning at Beverly Hills Intermediate (old Dobie campus), this year's parade route will begin at Sagemont Church on Hughes Road. The route will still conclude at San Jacinto College South as in previous years. See related map on Page 2.

Participants are encouraged to arrive an hour early for lineup.

All are welcome to participate in the event, including both commercial and noncommercial

entries. While it is not necessary to do so, participants are encouraged to decorate their vehicles, trailers and floats. Prizes will be awarded to the most patriotic and most original entries in both commercial and noncommercial categories.

Community groups and nonprofit organizations may sign up for the parade at no charge, unless they wish to be eligible for a prize. Non-commercial entries competing for a prize are required to pay \$25. Commercial entries are required to pay \$50, whether or not they choose to enter the contest.

Entry forms are available on Page 4, online at www.southbeltleader.com/Parade_form_2025.pdf and the *Leader* office, located at 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8.

CCISD to honor athletic alumni, staff

2 coaches, 4 students, 5 teams to be inducted into Hall of Honor

Clear Creek ISD announced the inductees into the school district's Athletic Hall of Honor Class of 2025. (See related story on Page 6.)

This year's class of inductees includes two coaches, four students athletes and five Clear Creek ISD teams.

The 2025 Athletic Hall of Honor inductees are to be honored at an induction ceremony scheduled to take place Saturday, Sept. 20, at the CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium Fieldhouse Community Room.

The newest members of the Clear Creek ISD

Athletic Hall of Honor are elite and accomplished coaches, teams and athletes who graduated from Webster, Clear Creek, Clear Lake, Clear Brook or Clear Springs high schools between the years of 1948 and 2012.

The following is a list of 2025 inductees into the Clear Creek ISD Athletic Hall of Honor:

Coach honorees

– Jim Hatfield, Clear Brook High School, 1985-2003 (football).

– Doug Elder, Clear Lake High School, 1988-

Continued on Page 2

Man shot under Gulf Freeway overpass

Shooter on bicycle, remains at large; victim in critical condition

A man is in critical condition after being shot multiple times around 9 p.m. Monday, June 16, under the overpass in the 11600 block of the Gulf Freeway at Alameda Genoa Road/South Shaver Street.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the shooter was on a bicycle at the time of the incident. Police said a male in a black hoodie rode up to the victim on a bicycle and shot him. He then stood over the victim and shot him multiple more times, before pedaling off on his bike, heading west on Alameda Genoa. No further de-

scription of the suspect was available.

The unidentified victim – a male who appeared to be homeless and in his 40s – was transported to a nearby hospital in critical condition.

A manhunt in the surrounding area proved unsuccessful, and the suspect remained at large at press time.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact HPD's Major Assaults Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222TIPS (8477).

Officials launch Beat the Heat campaign

City to open 23 cooling centers; Reliant to donate 200+ A/C units

The city of Houston and Reliant Energy recently launched their 20th Beat the Heat campaign to help Houstonians stay cool during the brutal Houston summertime heat.

As part of the program, the city announced it will open 23 cooling centers throughout the Greater Houston area.

"We will have cooling centers at all our multi-service centers this summer, our public libraries, yes (even) City Hall," Houston Mayor John Whitmire said at a June 12 press conference. "Wherever you need to get out of the heat and the city can provide a service, we will work with you."

Houston City Council Member Mario Castillo said taking advantage of the cooling centers can also save on residential electric bills.

"We want people to use the cooling centers," said Castillo. "It's a way to seek relief; it's a way to get a break on your energy bill."

The following is a list of cooling centers, including 12 city multi-service centers, nine county precinct centers and one community family center:

- Acres Homes Multi-Service Center: 6719 W. Montgomery Road.
- Alief Neighborhood Center: 11903 Bellaire Blvd.
- Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center: 6402 Market St.
- Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center: 4014 Market St.
- Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center: 4014 Market St.

Continued on Page 2

New CCISD trustees sworn in



Newly elected Clear Creek ISD board members were sworn into office at the local school district's monthly meeting Monday, May 19. Shown above taking their oaths of office are District 1 trustee Jessica Cejka (left) and At-Large Position B trustee Rebecca Lilley. The pair are being sworn in by Greta McMahon, executive assistant to Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Karen Engle (not shown). Shown in the rear are Clear Creek ISD trustees Jeff Larson (left) and Arturo Sanchez.

Washington: A golden opportunity in New York City

Pasadena ISD is proud to celebrate an extraordinary achievement by Joshua Washington, a senior at Pasadena Memorial High School, who has been awarded a National Gold Medal from the 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, one of the most prestigious recognitions for creative teens in the nation. Joshua's award-winning drawing earned him a place among a talented group of young artists who were honored last week at a special ceremony held at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards received more than 300,000 submissions from students across the United States. Of those, about 2,500 were selected as National Medalists, representing the top tier of student creativity in visual art and writing.

Joshua's gold medal award-winning piece, a powerful drawing of his former art teacher, titled "Age in Bloom," places him in the top 1 percent of participants nationwide. His work stood out for its emotional depth, technical skill, and

originality. "This is actually my second gold medal. My first was as an eighth-grader, and I'm excited to finally go to New York City to be a part of the ceremony," Joshua said.

"I couldn't be prouder to see Joshua receive such well-deserved recognition," said Kim Nguyen, Joshua's art teacher. "His passion and creativity truly set him apart and watching him grow and succeed in many art contests has

been inspiring to us at Pasadena Memorial."

In addition to the prestigious medal and the Carnegie Hall recognition ceremony, Joshua's work is featured in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Exhibition in New York City, where it will be displayed alongside pieces from other national winners.

"I first met Joshua as a sixth-grader at Marshall Kendrick Middle School and have witnessed his growth over the

years," said Gabriel Flores, assistant director of Fine Arts. "From the moment he submitted his first entry in an art contest, it was obvious he was destined for greatness. This is his second national gold medal, and I am thrilled that he had the opportunity to travel to New York to be recognized at

such a prestigious ceremony, accompanied by his dedicated art teacher and supportive mother."

Joshua's artistic journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. Over the course of his high school career, he has participated in more than a dozen major art competi-

tions across Texas and beyond, earning widespread recognition for his talent and dedication.

The Pasadena ISD family congratulates Joshua Washington on this incredible accomplishment and looks forward to seeing where his artistic journey leads next.



Shown with Joshua Washington (center), is his mother Andrea Connors (left) and Pasadena Memorial art teacher Kim Nguyen, .

Deaths

Marika Simpson



Longtime South Belt area hair stylist, Marika Simpson, passed away on April 16 after fighting a battle with cancer. She was born in Germany on January 16, 1950, and came to America as the young bride of an American G. I. in 1971. She was already a licensed beautician in Germany. When her marriage ended, she went to beauty school and attained her Texas license and then began her more than 50-year history in the South Belt area. One of her longtime customers remembers when she first met Marika fifty years ago working with one other operator in the Sabo One Building on Sabo at Fuqua. She worked as a beauty operator at the JCPenney beauty salon at Alameda Mall for several years. After a second marriage,



Teresa Silva in Houston. Roque was a strong, kind, loving and supportive father. His work ethic, discipline and guidance were the foundation of his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers John Silva, Richard Silva, Henry Silva, Ruben Silva, and sister Annie Silva.

Roque leaves behind his family, including his wife of 67 years, Lillie Silva; and children Roland Silva, Steve Silva and wife Alison, Rene Silva and wife Gina, Natalie Saucedo and husband Jonathan and Matthew Silva and wife Aurea. He is also survived by grandchildren, Gabriella and Drew Casey, Nicholas Silva, Lucas and Kaitlin Saucedo, Brianna Silva, Joshua Silva, Angelina Saucedo, Andrew Silva and great-granddaughter, Isabella Casey. He found great joy in the simple things — sharing stories, offering heartfelt advice and giving the warm hugs that will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A passionate baseball fan and a lifelong supporter of the Houston Astros, his spirit, kindness, and unwavering love will live on in the hearts of his family and friends and will be remembered always with love, gratitude and admiration.

A visitation was held on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at Forest Lawn Funeral Home and was followed by a funeral Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church on Monday, June 9, 2025.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the *Leader* style.

Roque Silva

Roque Silva, also known as Rocky or "The Rock," age 88, passed away on June 3, 2025, surrounded by his family.

He was born on September 9, 1936, to Cesario and

CCISD to honor athletics

Continued from Page 1

2000 (soccer).

Student athlete honorees

– Carol Atchinson

Hollinger, Clear Creek High School, 1990 (swimming).

– Roger Jordan, Clear Creek High School, 2000 (football, basketball, track).

– Tymeka Charelle Moore, Clear Creek High School, 2000 (volleyball, basketball, track).

– Erica Alexander Guidry, Clear Brook High School, 2008 (track).

Team honorees

– Clear Creek High School Boys Basketball, 1966 (UIL 3A state runners-up).

– Clear Creek High School Boys Basketball, 1967 (UIL

3A state, third place).

– Clear Creek High School Boys Basketball, 1968 (UIL 3A, regional finalists).

All basketball teams to be recognized were led by Coach Bill Krueger.

– Clear Lake High School Girls Swimming and Diving, 1981 (UIL 5A state champions).

– Clear Lake High School Girls Swimming and Diving, 1982 (UIL 5A state champions).

All swimming teams to be recognized were led by Coach Lanny Landtroop.

For more information, contact Dede Macpherson at dmacpherson13@comcast.net.

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.

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care

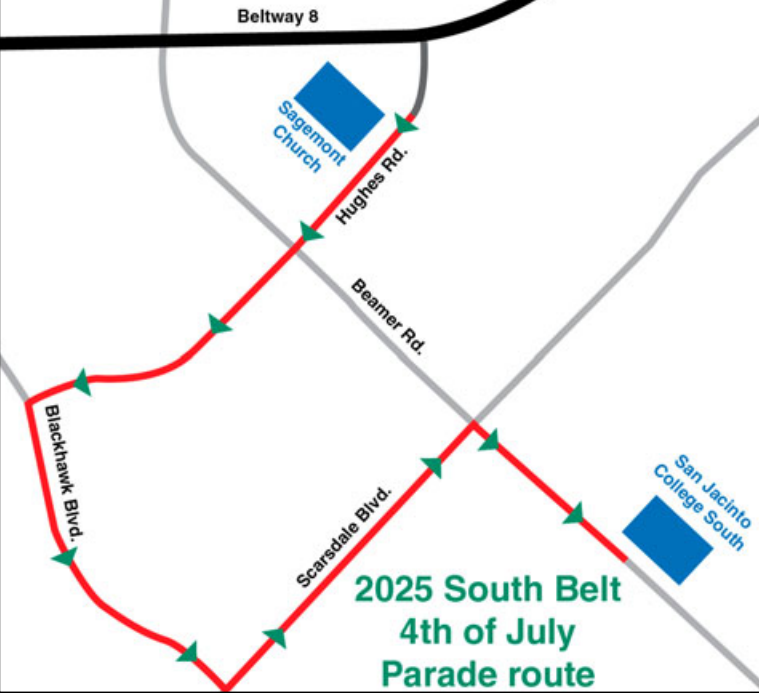


New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

281.481.2003
www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

July 4 parade route to change

Due to construction, change marks 1st in event's history



For the third consecutive year following a three-year hiatus associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual South Belt Fourth of July parade is scheduled to roll through the community Friday, July 4. Area residents should note that for the first time in the event's 35-year history, the parade will have a different route. This is due to ongoing construction at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Hughes Road/Sabo, where Houston Public Works crews are replacing a force water main. Unlike previous parade routes that began at the Beverly Hills Intermediate campus on Beamer north of Beltway 8, this year's parade will begin at Sagemont Church on Hughes Road south of Beltway 8. As in previous years, the parade route will still conclude at San Jacinto College South on Beamer. See related store on Page 1. See related entry form on Page 4.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Library
Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/. For online learning, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556 or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.
Monday, June 23, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required.
Monday, June 23, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.
Tuesday, June 23, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.
Tuesday, June 24, 4 – 5 p.m. Board games at the library.
Wednesday, June 25, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.
Wednesday, June 25, 3 – 4 p.m. Library littles sensory art. Registration required.
Visit https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events for more library events.

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

Parker Williams Library
Parker Williams Library is open. Visit https://www.hcpl.net/reopening for reopening information or the main website at https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing. The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Friday, June 20, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.
Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
Saturday, June 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Sewing with Bianca. Registration required.
Monday, June 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.
Monday, June 23, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Laser cutter craft: custom earrings.
Monday, June 23, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Superhero kids science workshop.
Tuesday, June 24, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Tuesday, June 24, 4 – 5 p.m. Kids Macrame.
Wednesday, June 25, 10 – 11 a.m. Senior coloring club.
Wednesday, June 25, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"
– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.
– Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library for details.

Online services
– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
– Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
– Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.
Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card for a HCPL card. For details, visit https://www.hcpl.net.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer **281-481-5656**

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

David Flickinger, owner

Melillo Middle School was recently recognized as a "School That Inspires" by Good Reason Houston. The area campus was one of only four schools in the Greater Houston area to receive the honor, beating out hundreds of others from 13 school districts. Following the announcement, the local school was highlighted on

Melillo Middle School recognized

Continued from Page 1

reins, but by loosening them. Here, academic excellence is built on a culture of ownership, collaboration and authentic learning that feels anything but traditional."

As part of the honor, Melillo was presented a check for \$2,500. Melillo teacher Tyler Oakes was singled out for praise by Good Reason Houston and presented an individual check for \$500 for her efforts.

In a separate entry on Good Reason Houston's

website, titled Houston Loves Teachers, Tekle lauded Oakes' contributions toward the Melillo's success.

"Ms. Tyler Oakes is redefining what it means to teach middle school" said Tekle. "A fifth-grade educator, student council advisor and campus culture champion, she's the heart of Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School's vibrant, student-centered approach. Known as the school's 'hype woman,' Ms. Oakes creates a classroom where every student feels seen, heard and celebrated."

Her creativity shines in lessons, while her compassion shines in the relationships she builds. At Melillo – where joy and trust take precedence over rigid structure – Ms. Oakes is a perfect fit. Her work embodies the school's belief that when students are empowered, they soar. It's no wonder she was honored through Houston Loves Teachers. With her bold energy and boundless heart, Ms. Oakes is helping shape a future where middle school is something students actually love."

Following the recent announcement, the local school was highlighted on KHOU Channel 11's "Great Day Houston," where host Deborah Duncan (left) interviewed Good Reason Houston Managing Director Meron Tekle (second from left), Melillo Principal Jennifer Saucedo (second from right) and Pasadena ISD Superintendent Toni Lopez (right). See related photo on Page 1.

City opens 23 area cooling centers

Continued from Page 1

3810 W. Fuqua St.

– **Kashmere Multi-Service Center:** 4802 Lockwood Drive.

– **Magnolia Multi-Service Center:** 7037 Capitol St.

– **Northeast Multi-Service Center:** 9720 Spaulding St.

– **Southwest Multi-Service Center:** 6400 High Star Drive.

– **Sunnyside Health and Multi-Service Center:** 4410 Reed Road.

– **Third Ward Multi-Service Center:** 3611 Ennis St.

– **West End Multi-Service Center:** 170 Heights Blvd.

– **Bay Area Community Center:** 5002 East NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

– **East Harris County Activity Center:** 7340 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

– **Felix Baldree Community Center:** 13828 Corpus Christi St.

– **Hardy Community**

Center: 11901 West Hardy Road.

– **J.D. Walker Community Center:** 7613 Wade Road in Baytown.

– **Leonel J. Castillo Community Center:** 2101 South St.

– **Mangum-Howell Community Center:** 2500 Frick Road.

– **Martin Flukinger Community Center:** 16003 Lorenzo St. in Channelview.

– **Deputy Darren Almandarez Community Center:** 10918 1/2 Bentley St.

– **Community Family Center:** 7524 Avenue East.

Reliant will also donate \$78,000 to provide more than 200 air-conditioning units to Houston residents, according to Bill Clayton, vice president of customer care at Reliant Energy.

Clayton joined Whitmire and Castillo in urging Houston residents to take advantage of the area cooling centers, which will each be

equipped with snacks, water and activities.

"It can be hazardous to seniors; it can be hazardous to children," Clayton said at the recent news conference.

"So we're making a stand for

everybody to come into the cooling centers to have some fun."

For information on the Beat the Heat campaign, visit www.reliant.com/en/about/community/beat-the-heat.

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Beverly Hills Intermediate School announces sixth six-weeks honor roll

Officials of Beverly Hills Intermediate have announced the sixth six-weeks honor roll for the 2024-2025 school year.

Seventh grade

Abigail Grace Acatitlan, Valeria Nichole Aguilera, Jafet Adonai Aguirre, Pablo Alexander Alvarenga Pineda, Diana Paola Alvarez, Jaelyn Alicia Alvarez, Abel Ambriz, Jakayah Ayira Amos, David Alexander Arias, Paulina Arredondo, Evelyn Arzate, Robin Chigozie Azinge, Aya Raed Bahar, Allison Banda, Genesis Ariadna Banda, Rylan Nicholas Barker and Noah Christian Barrios.

Adrian Bryce Bell, Ashley Daniela Bonilla Alvarez, Alani Lee Bravo, Dean Lamar Brewer, Maiko Miguel Bueno, Alannah Janay Calzada, Jaycee Nicole Cantu, Aaron James Palma Cardenas, Liliana Jacqueline Castillo, Jayden Jahir Cevallos Mejia, Huy Cat Gia Chung, Jennifer Sarahi Cortez, Timothy David Lee Craige, Julieta Fernanda Cruz and Ruth Estefani Cruz.

Isabella Ho Dam, David Dang, Myrion Davis, Anthony Cecilio Del Campo, Ruizhi Deng, Zuri Yadira Dias, Brandon Le Do, Henry Hung Do, Sophia Arianna Echevarria,

Luis Ernesto Escobar Gonzalez, Nathan Alexander Esquivel, Ashton Markell Farris, Isabella Ferrufino, Fabian Alexander Figueroa, Diego Alberto Flores and Christopher Gamboa.

Tatiana Esther Gamboa, Carlos Enrique Garcia, Nicolas Garcia, Angel Efrén Garza, Natalia Celeste Garza, Mekhi Christian Gill Royal, Skylar Cheyenne Glayzer, Blake Andrew Gonzalez, Layla Leticia Guerra, Ellis Ramon Guzman, Jaythan Elian Guzman, Nyroshi Da'Von Harris, Lilly Heng, Arlen Siup Hernandez, Cesar Fabian Hernandez and Hannah Lily Hernandez.

Noah Marley Hodgson, Aria Rose Holcomb, Huy Hoang Huynh, Khloe Lynn Thi Huynh, Erik Ibarra, Shae Avery Ibarra, Ja'Celynn Joy Jack, Jayden Micah Jackson, Omar Anthony Jimenez, Marlee Alyse Johnson, Zeniah Monae Johnson, Kinley Louanne Lerche-Fowler, Noah Michael Lewis, Camille Jean Lilly, Ayden Alexander Lima and Alejandro Lopez.

Emma Rose Lopez, Evelyn Michelle Lopez, Roland John Luna, Minh Ngoc Luong, Lam Thanh Luu, Arleny Gisel Maldonado, Ethan Edward Mancillas, Robert Angelo Mares, Emily Michelle Martinez, Isabella Martinez, Luke Jimmy Martinez, Serenity Faith Martinez, Valeria Martinez, Ibrahim Ali Masoom, Jayden De'Ray McKinney and Noah Axton McSwen.

Elise Ava Mendiola, Michael Saul Mendoza, Penelope Louisa Eunice Mendoza, Kayden Monroe Milton, Alan Joel Montano Umanzor, Sethareh Dannae' Montes, Adysun Zoi Montgomery, Eponda Kasey Moore, Melani Aylin Morales Cordon, Alejandro Gomez Nevarez, Zyan Marie Newman, Angelina Tien Nguyen and Duy Minh Nguyen.

Ky Dang Minh Nguyen, Pham Bao Khang Nguyen, Phillip Dinh Nguyen, Allan R Nunez-Lozano, Skylar Casey

O'Rourke, Livvy O., Grace Marie Olea, Abigail Layla Orozco, Matthew David Pantoja, Delilah Jolie Parra, Liv Rosalyn Pastrana, Mia Belinda Pastrana, Andrew Donovan Perez, Kenneth James Perry, Katelyn Uyennhi Pham and Tyler Pham.

Miguel Julian Pineda Teissoniere, Logan Xavier Pineda, Leah Eileen Ponce, Jake Moses Ramclam, Sophia Makayla Ramos, Jen Carlos Read Carpio, Jonas Gabriel Reyes, Melanie Rico, Isabella Rena Rios, Marvin Alexander Rivas, Abigail Sofia Rodriguez, Kenndry Jacoby Rodriguez, Samantha Abigail Rodriguez, Julieta Rodriguez-Sotelo and Xavi Enrique Romero Chavez.

Maria Alejandra Romero Hernandez, Elaya Isys Rubins, Aiden Joel Ruiz, Briana Nathaly Saenz Garcia, Aaron Salas, Natalia Kaylee Salas, Julio Salazar, Jacobo Ray Salinas, Aaron Christopher Sanchez, Kaelyn Nicole Sanchez, Stephen Paul Sanchez, Leslie Serrano, Joshua Silguero, Desean Marquis Simmons, Adyleen Solache, Emiliano Solis and Isaiah Ray Sonnen.

Josiah Van-Son Sonnen, Izaiah Scott Taylor, Sophia Jamileth Tellez, Devon Michael Thompson, Kai Dejean Tillman, Christian Alexander Torres, Lilliana Isabella Torres, Sebastian Ray Torres, Michael Duc Tran, Quy Phu Tran, Ryan McQuinn Tien Tran, Julian Andres Trevino, Lyric Michelle Turner, Sean Matthew Umanzor and Victor Eddiel Vallejo Moreno.

Noemi Yadira Vallejo Ramirez, Anthony Vega, Giovanni Alexander Ventrella, Juan Gustavo Villalta Andrade, Mina Huynh Vy, Michael Thien Vu, Sa Kim Vu, Justin Andrew Ward, Mia Washington, Gabriel Laird Wotkyns, Roman Noah Wynn, Kimberly Logan, Maylen Virginia Zambrano, Braidan Anderson Zamora and Erik Alexander Zavala.

Eighth grade

Sophia Isabel Acatitlan, Leslie Patricia Aguilar, Ryan Jacob Aguilar, Tatyanna Makayla Alatorre-Minkins, Alyssa Pilar Allison, Alyssa Jenelle Alvarez, Brandon Wayne Anderson, Jade Nicole Arceneaux, David Gaspar Arredondo, Leonel Arredondo, Julio Santos Ayala Contreras, Rick Chidubem Azinge, Allison Guissell Baca and Matthew Antonio Barragan.

Natalie Ariel Bazan, Xavier Alexander Benavidez, Liliana Bermudez, Jeremy Alberto Beteta, Ameer Ahmed Bilal, Chloe Annmarie Bizzarri, Camila Aime Bruno, Vy Nguyen Thao Bui, Diamoche Nishiael Burton, Joshua Robert Byron, Jannette Teresa Campos, Valery Yesenia Casillas, Daziel Favian Castillo, Mia Mariana Castillo and Amy Marisol Cedillos.

Alexander Paxton Chaney, Mia Gabrielle Chavez, Duyen Cach Chung, Isabella Cisineros, Kayla Alyssa Cisneros, Sophia Elizabeth Claros Mendoza, Zorion Knight Collins, Natalia Contreras, Angelina Cuevas-Arredondo, Anna Nguyen Dao, Tiph Phan Dao, Railin De La Cruz Laureano, Jocelyn Citlali De La Rosa Chavez, Aurease Delfante and Jade Delfante.

Danna Delgado, Ruby Bella Delgado, Angel Diaz Mendoza, Khloe Nicole Dominguez, Deziah Aryanna Doss, Carolyn Elizabeth Erazo, Isabella Emma Espinoza, Arlana Catalina Estrada, Lorale Adele Eubanks, Alessandro Ferrufino, Antonio Emmanuel Flores, Faith Aileen Flores, Jonathan Noah Fonseca, Nicole Fonseca and Aliyah Lynn Francis.

Elida Sarahi Garcia, Evany Garcia, Layla Maribel Garcia, Leyton Thomas Garcia, Ana-sophia Garibay, Antonio Garza, Carlos Eduardo Garza, Andrea Guadalupe Gomez, Elizabeth Gomez, Malachi Jesse Gonzales, Alayna Noemi Gonzalez, Giovanni Gonzalez, Joselyn Gonzalez, Sophia Giselle Gonzalez, Xitlalic Gonzalez, Chloe

Marie Graff and Kennedy Denise Grice.

Arleen Guadalupe Grimaldo, Jiszele Jazmyñ Guerrero, Melanie Guerrero, Alexa Yumari Guevara, Kimberly Solanllis Gutierrez, Roland Cody Guzman, Elias Erik Hernandez, Nevaeh Michelle Hernandez, Valeria Marlen Hernandez, Han Ngoc Ho, Alaunie Monique Holmes, Kaleb Bee Jack, Alaya M Jasso, Ruby Jasso and Isela Nicole Jimenez.

Kenberly De'Asia Jones, Shaupon Ann Lamb, Regina Guadalupe Leal Garza, De-shaun Willie George Lee, Jonathan Leon, Adam Isaiah Lopez, Omar Luna, Veronica Madrid, Diego Nicholas Majano, Daniela Mangandii, Gabriela Mangandii, Ja'Daryus Manuel, Arielle Jimena Martinez, Esmeralda Martinez, Hailley Julissa Martinez and Isaac Martinez.

Isaiah Ryan Martinez, Jalisssa Marie Martinez, Joseph Paul Martinez, Sylvia Alexandra Martinez, Tanveer Ali Masoom, Nevaeh Leiana Mata-Williams, Da'Shon Marque McCall, Gregory Charles McNeil, Mar'Cella Matay McNeil, Miyah Alainah McSwen, Eleana Alexandra Medina, Antonio Xavier Medrano, Donavien Medrano and Kevin Alexander Mejia.

Melissa Melendez, Jeanelle Naohmi Melgoza, Carissa Nicole Mendez, Salma Osama Mohamed, Omar Monroy, Isaac Montano, Leonardo Vadhiri Moran, A'shawnnee Nevaeh Mose, David Munoz, Isabella Munoz, Caleb Tien Navarro, Bang Hai Nguyen, Bich Hoang Ngoc Nguyen, Joseph Duc Nguyen, Khang Minh Nguyen, Michael Thanh Nguyen and Trieu Hai Nguyen.

Fergie Amayrany Ochoa Arce, Johan Efrén Oviedo, Evelyn Padilla, Makayla Rayne Palm, Jayden Eli Pereira, Angel Anthony Perez, Janeisy Arlene Pineda, Ayari Aylin Pino, Hannah Giselle Ponce, Grasiela Nicole Preza Cardoza,

Monserath Noelani Ramirez, Sansa-Ray Shannon Ramsay, Isela Resendiz, Alkeimi Reyes Polanco and Alkeisi Reyes Polanco.

Nyla Adryanna Richardson, Sonny Rene Ritenour, Alexa Sofia Rodriguez, Annabelle Jasmine Rodriguez, Jade Naomi Rodriguez, Laila Rose Rodriguez, Javier Modesto Romero Argueta, Genesis Abigail Rosa Mejia, Naveah Nicole Rosas, Emily Renee Rossett, Isabelle Ruiz, Lyla Marie Saldana, Ronaldo Roel Salinas, Camila Salomon and

Savannah Raquel Sandoval, Regina Saucedo Carrillo, Phoebe Cheyenne Schlueter, Daisy Seledon, Sophia Isabella Serafine, Viviana Araceli Serrano, Arturo Serrano, Makaylah Aije Shyne, Monserath Sibaja Sanchez, Anaxandra Cecilia Sierra-Martinez, Ava Love Soloya, Laryn Ednya Stevenson, Abbygail Hope-Marie Stockton, Mario Suazo, Yahir Moises Tejada and Taslyn T'Nea-Marie Thomas.

Marissa Rose Thompson, Dailey Josiah Thrower, Gabriela Torres, Ian Aaron Tovar,

Linda Tran, Estrella Gabriela Triminio, Anna Thanh Trinh, Jose Angel Turruabartes Gomez, Darwin Mariano Tzalam Cuc, Vanessa Vernell Udoh, Alejandro Leonel Urrutia Gonzalez, Sophia Ayleen Vanegas, Nivi Chrissy Villareal and Camila Villarreal Montoya.

Malia Tyrone Watson, Josiah Darnell Wilkins, Miley Naliah Williams, Chanel Adriana Willis, Karman Lashon Willis, Cristian Andres Zamora, Diego Alexander Zelaya Rodriguez and Emily Maritza Zuniga.

County launches summer programs

Harris County officials this past week officially kicked off the annual One For All summer programs, aimed at providing enrichment, recreation and internship opportunities for underserved youth and young adults in the community.

Formerly known as the Street Olympics, the One For All program is spearheaded by Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. Founded as a nonprofit nearly 40 years ago, Ellis inherited the program from his predecessor County Commissioner El Franco Lee.

"Since 1986, The One for All Foundation (formerly Street Olympics) programs have inspired thousands of Houston area youth and young adults with positive educational and social opportunities, all of which lead our next generation to make healthy, constructive choices in life," said Ellis. "It is an honor and privilege to take the Street Olympics torch passed on by my dear friend the late Commissioner El Franco Lee, who founded the program, and expand it into the One for All Foundation. In his honor, we all want to continue the vision of providing young people educational, social, health, vocational and recreational services aimed at empowering them

to lead our society to a better tomorrow."

Once focused primarily on athletics, the summer program has expanded over the years to now include STEM activities and literacy programs. County officials said nearly 2,000 area youths are expected to take part in educational programs this summer at 66 different facilities located throughout Harris County.

New activities added to the Harris County summer enrichment program include Children's Defense Fund, which combats reading loss during the summer months, and Discovery Camp, which promotes science and STEM education. Approximately 100 area students are expected to take part in the Children's Defense Fund program at two sites, and around 400 area students are expected to take part in Discovery Camp at 25 different sites, according to county officials.

Traditional highlights from the county's summer enrichment program include three-on three basketball and the Summer Games.

A three-on-three basketball tournament will be held July 15-16 at Fonde Recreation Center. This year's summer enrichment program will culminate with the Summer Games and the Parade of

Champions closing ceremonies, scheduled to take place Friday, Aug. 1, at NRG Arena.

Ellis said the annual summer program helps level the playing field, making things more equitable for underserved youths throughout Harris County.

"For over 30 years, the One for All Foundation, formerly the Harris County Street Olympics, has remained committed to providing resources for programs that offer recreational, educational, economic, social and health benefits for Harris County residents," said Ellis. "That's why every One for All program is thoughtfully designed to empower our youth and families and help build a more vibrant, equitable Harris County where every child has the foundation for a bright future."

Ellis emphasized that all of the summer enrichment programs will be offered at no cost to county residents.

"Too many in our region miss out on organized enrichment activities like these due to financial barriers," said Ellis. "We refuse to accept this reality. That is what One for All is all about."

For additional information on Harris County's One for All 2025 summer enrichment programs, visit www.hcp1.net/OneforAllFoundation.

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

The superintendent of Pasadena Independent School District was pleased with the performance of the district's students on the Texas Assessment of Basic Skills test which was administered to all fifth- and ninth-graders in the state.

Beverly Hills Intermediate was undergoing major construction involving the expansion and updating of its facilities, but work was not expected to be completed until November.

PISD board of trustees named Thomas D. Baccaro assistant principal of Beverly Hills.

40 years ago (1985)

MUD 13 directors would not pursue a planned election

calling for the annexation of the proposed new MUD 192. Response to a questionnaire sent to the 2,200 homes in MUD 13 was not great enough to warrant another election.

Dr. Lon Luty, former superintendent of schools at Alamogordo, N. Mex., was expected to be named the new superintendent of schools for the Pasadena Independent School District.

Work began to remove 160,000 square feet of asbestos at South Houston High School — one of 19 PISD schools found to have traces of asbestos.

35 Years ago (1990)

Within the previous six months, three outside independent agencies had called

for further investigation of Brio toxic waste dump including the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Members of the U.S. Geological Survey said the Brio Task Force's 250-foot impermeable clay buffer between aquifers did not exist.

Clear Creek Independent School District board members had to pick and choose as they began to whittle down a proposed \$99.6 million budget for the 1990-91 school year.

30 years ago (1995)

Sageleen resident Eunice Acott, mother of Houston Rocket Clyde Drexler, was announced the grand marshal of the annual South Belt July 4th parade.

Construction began on

eight blocks of Scarsdale west of Beamer which would create a four-laned, esplanaded roadway from Beamer to 300 feet west of Sageking. Future plans were to extend Scarsdale into Pearland as funds would become available.

San Jacinto College regents

raised tuition for the first time since 1991 to offset decreasing state appropriation.

25 years ago (2000)

The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees selected Chuck Schneider, 46, as the board member to replace Allison Cambre.

Construction on the new \$227 million expansion for Hobby Airport was officially underway.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce building committee approved the plans for the construction of the chamber's proposed building to be constructed on Scarsdale just west of Beamer Road.

20 years ago (2005)

Another motor vehicle accident, although not a fatality, occurred at the intersection of Beamer and Beltway 8. Texas Department of Transportation officials decided to adjust the timing of the lights due to the high number of accidents there.

Police were investigating burglaries at local car dealerships in which customers' vehicles had been broken into and possessions stolen.

With the Fourth of July coming, investigators from the fire marshal's office began patrolling the South Belt area educating residents that possession of fireworks was illegal within the city limits. Representatives said the marshals patrolled 10 days prior to July 4 and New Year's Eve to remind people of the laws and answer questions.

15 years ago (2010)

The man charged with kidnapping and murdering former South Belt resident Susana De Jesus was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.

South Belt resident and board of trustee member Stuart J. Stromeier resigned from the Clear Creek Independent School District. A member of the CCISD board for four years, Stromeier left his post because he moved out of the district.

10 years ago (2015)

Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis announced he was retiring as superintendent, after serving nine years in the position. The retirement will take effect January 15, 2016. Originally from Ropesville, near Lubbock, Lewis received his bachelor's in advertising/public relations from Texas Tech in 1976. Following this, he attended the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where he received a master's in education futures in 1983. Lewis went on to earn a doctorate in education leadership from Lamar University in March 2008. Lewis began at PISD in 1986 as administrative assistant to the superintendent, responsible for communications and policy development. He was promoted to executive director for communications and community relations in 1995 and to deputy superintendent for administration, public relations and governmental affairs in 2001, before being promoted to superin-

tendent in April 2006. Under his leadership, PISD saw an increase in graduation rates, a dramatic reduction in dropout rates, a significant increase in number of students taking and passing AP exams and dual credit courses and the creation of Early College High School concept and the Career and Technical High School that now bears his name. He also oversaw the successful passage of six bond programs valued at more than \$1.3 billion. The funds were used to construct six new elementary schools, nine middle schools, two intermediate schools and two high schools (Memorial/CTHS). Replacement campuses constructed include 11 elementary schools, two middle schools, six intermediate schools and one high school. Numerous new wings and renovations were also added with the secured funds. Lewis has resided in Pasadena for 39 years. He and his wife, Robin, have been married 34 years and have two sons, Adam, a teacher at Sam Rayburn High School, and Andrew, an electrical engineer for Dashiell Corporation in Houston. In addition to his work at PISD, Lewis also teaches Sunday school at South Main Baptist Church, where he also serves as a deacon.

A South Belt man was

charged with murder in the death of his girlfriend's 4-year-old son on Father's Day in the 11800 block of Algonquin near Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway. The suspect, Usbaldo Franco, 27, is charged for his role in the death of Jordan Aragon, 4, of the above address. He was reportedly babysitting the child for his girlfriend at the time of the incident. The child, who was found unresponsive, was rushed to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital with multiple injuries to his chest and stomach. He was pronounced dead a short time later. Franco was arrested on June 22 without incident.

5 years ago (2020)

The annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show at El Franco Lee Park was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This marks the second time in the event's 32-year history the display has been called off, as it had previously experienced a rainout. The annual South Belt 4th of July parade was also canceled out of social-distancing concerns. This marked the second time in the parade's 33-year history that the event had been canceled, as the 2018 parade was rained out.

A 24-year-old man was shot in the face during an altercation with an unknown

male at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook. The victim was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. No immediate arrests were made.

1 year ago (2024)

The results were tabulated from the June 15 Harris County Appraisal District board of directors runoff election, with longtime South Belt resident Ericka McCrutchcon easily winning the At-Large Place 3 race. In that contest, McCrutchcon — who serves as president of the Kirkwood Civic Club — took home 62 percent of the vote (28,786 total votes) to Pelumi Adeleke's 38 percent of the vote (17,979 total votes). In the At-Large Place 2 race, Kyle Scott handily defeated Melissa Noriega, receiving 57 percent of the vote (26,880 total votes) to Noriega's 43 percent (20,106 total votes). There was no runoff election for the At-Large Place 1, as Kathy Blueford-Daniels was able to defeat opponents Bill R. Frazer and Ramsey Isa Ankar by a 50-plus-percent margin in the May 4 election. While McCrutchcon received approximately twice as many votes as Adeleke in the May 4 election, she fell just short of the 50-percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

2025 South Belt 4th of July Parade Entry Form

Parade lineup will be at 9 a.m. at Sagemont Church, 11300 S Sam Houston Pkwy E.

The parade will begin at Sagemont Church at 10 a.m. and will end at San Jacinto College on Beamer Road. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to build floats and participate in the parade.

NO WATER BALLOONS, WATER GUNS, ETC.

For more information, contact South Belt-Ellington Leader at 281-481-5656 or email mynews@southbeltleader.com.

All entries must be received by July 2.

Name of entry _____

Name of Organization or Business _____

Person to Contact _____

Email _____

Phone _____

☐ Truck (2 axle) ☐ Car ☐ Float Truck (3 axle) ☐ Other

Due to the length of this parade, we request participants do not attempt to walk.

All entries for community and nonprofit groups are free of charge—unless those participants wish to be eligible for a trophy in the judging contest. These contest entries require a \$25 entry fee.

ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS.

All entries for business require a \$50 entry fee. Commercial float: \$50

Noncommercial for trophy: \$25 Noncommercial, not competing: no charge

* Each entrant is liable for the entry & participants involved with their entry. Adult supervision is a must!

Please complete this entry form & email or drop off at South Belt-Ellington Leader office (11555 Beamer) before July 2nd.

See new Parade route map on Page 2.



Over The Back Fence by Nicole

ISABELLA CELEBRATES 20!

Best wishes for a happy 20th birthday June 20 are sent to Isabella Abarca from her husband Sebastian Delgado and child Esme Delgado; dad Jose Abarca and wife Natalie Abarca; siblings Kelvin Lopez, Noah and Eliana Abarca; grandpa David Flickinger (Leader president) and "Mimo" Ellie Flickinger; and great-grandfather David Flickinger.

BIRTHDAY WISHES SENT TO EMORY

Best wishes are sent June 21 to the Rev. Emory Gadd, retired associate pastor and longtime youth counselor who was active in many areas at Sagemont Church, from friends and the Leader staff. He is also active in community organizations, sports and various events.

NATALIE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Wishes for a happy birthday are sent June 21 to Natalie Abarca from husband Jose Abarca; children Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Eliana and Isabella and husband Sebastian Delgado; their child Esme Delgado; mother Ellie and husband David Flickinger; grandparent David Flickinger; and friends at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 19 through June 25.

Atkinson Elementary

Blow out the candles June 25 for Jeannette Guerrero.

Frazier Elementary

The day for a double-layer cake for Candace Kliesing and Katie Posey is June 19.

Genoa Elementary

Join in the fun birthday celebration June 20 for Angel Perez.

Meador Elementary

Marking a special birthday June 24 is Esmeralda Araujo.

Moore Elementary

Mia Reyna and Betis Molina celebrate a birthday June 22.

South Belt Elementary

Send a birthday greeting June 23 to Susi McDaniel.

Stuchbery Elementary

Remember to wish Alyssa Valdez a happy birthday June 20. June 22 is the day for a party for Lauren Nalepa and Johovana Rodriguez. The day for Rosalinda Estrada and Dana Sylvester to celebrate with ice cream and a double-layer birthday cake is June 23. Sing a happy birthday song to Samantha Barboza June 25.

Melillo Middle School

Light the birthday candles June 20 for Florinda Gonzalez.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

June 22 is a day of celebration for Angelica Bledsoe for her birthday. Break out the balloons and party favors for Christian Miller on her birthday June 24.

Thompson Intermediate

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Brister relishes in Longhorn’ first-ever college world series victory

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Lien Brister no doubt had national championship aspirations in mind as she joined the University of Texas women’s softball program prior to the 2025 season, and the former Clear Brook High School star has already been sized for her shiny golden NCAA Women’s College World Series champions’ ring.

Brister, a Class of 2024 Wolverine graduate and freshman utility player for the burnt orange, provided plenty of cheers along the way as the Longhorns claimed their first-ever NCAA Division I national title with a 10-4 win over Texas Tech June 6 in Oklahoma City.

Making their way to the national championship best-of-three series for the second straight season, the Longhorns officially avenged a two-game sweep defeat to eventual four-consecutive-time winner Oklahoma a season ago, capping an amazing 2025 postseason run with a championship win over the Red Raiders.

Champions in most team sports are almost always first required to build a terrific regular season resume for the purposes of obtaining optimum post-season seeding, but then must finish the deal by executing at a high level

and the biggest moments of postseason play. The Longhorns checked both boxes.

Losing two of three in Austin to nationally ranked Tennessee and then being swept by then third-ranked Oklahoma April 25-27 in Norman, the Longhorns finished Southeastern Conference play at 16-8 overall and then were run-ruled by top-ranked Texas A&M to exit the postseason SEC tournament in the semifinals.

Despite the late-season slumber, Texas earned the right to host the Austin Regional to begin the postseason, going unbeaten with wins over Eastern Illinois, Michigan and Central Florida to reach the Super Regionals against visiting Clemson.

A 7-4 loss to the 13th ranked Tigers in the best-of-three series opener had the Longhorns facing elimination, but head coach Mike White’s group downed Clemson 7-5 in 10 innings to even the series and then won the clincher 7-6 to advance to Oklahoma City.

Brister herself be-moaned the luck of the draw as Texas was in the same side of the World Series bracket alongside SEC powers Florida and Tennessee in addition to Oklahoma, owner of four consecutive national

championships.

Indeed executing at a high level in the biggest moments of postseason play, Texas defeated Florida 3-0 before taking out Oklahoma 4-2 and then Tennessee 2-0 to reach the championship series.



Clear Brook High School Class of 2024 graduate and University of Texas women’s softball team freshman Lien Brister hoisted the NCAA Division I National Championship trophy after the Longhorns defeated Texas Tech in the best-of-three title series in Oklahoma City.

Texas sophomore pitcher Teagan Kavan, mourning the death of her grandmother just prior to the start of the World Series, blanked Florida with a two-hit complete-game shutout in the opener while Joley Mitchell had a pair of solo home runs to go with another solo blast from Katie Stewart.

Going against Oklahoma in a winner’s bracket matchup, Texas scored solo runs in the bottom half of the fifth and six Innings to come away with a 4-2 win over the Sooners.

Kavan again went the distance, striking out eight and allowing no earned runs for her second straight series win.

Poised with a chance to reach the championship series, White turned to senior Mac Morgan in the circle for the start, with Kavan then working the final three innings as part of a brilliant 2-0 shutout of the Volunteers.

Stewart rocked a solo homer in the bottom of the fourth inning to make a winner out of Morgan, Texas plated an unearned Insurance run in the bottom of the sixth inning and Kavan slammed the door on Tennessee.

Both Texas and Texas Tech entered the best of three championship series seeking their first national championships. To win, the Longhorns knew

very well that they would have to deal with reigning NCAA Player of the Year and star pitcher NiJaece Canady.

Trailing 1-0 in the opener, Texas got a clutch two-run single in the bottom of the sixth inning from Reese Atwood as Angleton High School graduate Mia Scott and Kayden Henry of Dickinson High School scored on the play.

Kavan then silenced Red Raiders in the top of the seventh inning as Texas took the series opener in a true classic.

Texas Tech evened the series with a 4-3 middle game win, but Scott’s grand slam in the first inning led to a 5-0 lead for the Longhorns as they coasted to the championship with a 10-4 win over the Red Raiders in the winner-take-all finale.

Where did Brister fit into the mix for the Longhorns? The three-time 24-6A first-team All-District performer registered 37 at bats during the season, hitting .216 along the way.

While Brister admits she was more than ready to play a bigger role on the 2025 team, she acknowledges the overall talent within the program, has soaked in her overall freshman year in as a learning experience and promises to be more than ready for a larger role in

Continued on Page 8

Free youth FB camp at JFD

Coaches from the Sagemont Cowboys youth football organization as well as Dobie High School will host a free-of-charge Matt Bergeron Memorial youth football skills camp for area fifth- through eighth-grade boys and girls June 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Dobie main.

To register, visit the Sagemont Cowboys and Cow-girls Facebook page and scan the QR code. Walk-ups are welcomed.

Dobie volleyball offers camps

Dobie varsity volleyball coach Dawn Sexton and her staff are excited to offer a pair of summer camps aimed at both helping younger players develop their skills within the sport as well as preparing incoming high school-aged players for the upcoming 2025 season.

Students entering the first through eighth grades are invited to attend the Longhorns’ developmental camp July 21-23 at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

Incoming first- and second-grade students will attend the camp from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at a cost of \$35 per participant. Incoming third- through sixth-grade students will attend from 9 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$50 per participant, while incoming seventh- and eighth-grade students will attend from noon to 2 p.m. at a cost of \$50 per student. To register, visit the link at <https://square.link/ut/5GddvXYw>.

Players ages 14 through 18 may attend the Longhorns July 28-30 camp, to be held at Dobie main at \$60 per participant. Dawn Sexton and other experienced volleyball coaches will direct participants in skill development, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills as well as friendly match play.

Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m.

Visit the Dobie High School website issued link at <https://square.link/ut/5GddvXYw> to register. For any questions, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

ENROLL TODAY

Ask about our Introductory Specials

Join our martial arts family today!

USA Karate - Now serving East Pearland

- ✓ Licensed after school program
- ✓ Homework assistance
- ✓ Evening Karate Classes
- ✓ Self Defense Classes

- ✓ Mighty-Mights Program (Ages 3-5)
- ✓ School-age Program (Kindergarten and Up)

We pick up from CCISD, Pasadena ISD, and Pearland ISD Schools

PEARLAND 832-432-0008 HOUSTON 281-254-2008

New Mexico softball program gets key player in Brook’s Rowe

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Having watched former Clear Brook teammate Lien Brister and her University of Texas



Estrella Rowe enjoyed a standout career at Clear Brook, finishing her 2025 senior season as the Offensive Most Valuable Player within District 24-6A. She is now headed to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque to play for the Lobos.

PISD welcomes Haggerty

Astin Haggerty is the newest addition to the Pasadena ISD Athletic Department after she gained school board approval June 17.

Patrick Longstreet, who is the incoming PISD athletic director, played a key role in the hiring process as he has now selected Haggerty as his top assistant.

Haggerty had been an assistant principal at Clear Springs High School, and celebrated 20 years within Clear Creek ISD at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

She was also previously the head coach of the Charger girls’ cross-country and track and field programs and has held a variety of coaching roles during her career.

The PISD athletic department has undergone an overhaul late this spring following the retirement of both Rupert Jaso, athletic director, and Donna Branch, assistant athletic director.

The *Leader* will have additional information on Haggerty’s hiring in the June 26 issue.

giate game as she joins the University of New Mexico later this fall in Albuquerque.

In the midst of Clear Brook’s postseason push in 2024, Rowe announced via X that she was signing with the University of New Mexico. She made it official at the high school last November and is as ready as ever to be on campus.

It may seem like forev-

er since Rowe committed to New Mexico, and while she certainly has had opportunities to pursue other options, she is as committed as ever to the Lobos and feels like she can be part of the equation as the program chases its own big moments on the field.

The Lobos, who dawned a new playing field prior to the 2025 schedule, were 21-30 a season ago, including 6-16

in Mountain West Conference play.

Rowe said she has a great vibe about what head coach Nicole Dickson and top assistant Morgan Spearman have done with the program, and believes she can have an immediate impact on the success of the New Mexico program moving forward.

“I’m really looking forward to getting started at New Mexico and doing

what I can to help promote success within the program,” Rowe said.

“Whether that’s leadership out there on the field or delivering with my bat or the glove, I’m excited to see what I can step in and do as a Lobo.”

Her collegiate future certainly secured, Rowe could have opted to take a break this summer as she prepares to make the trip to Albuquerque. Instead,

Rowe is as active as ever and at home on the softball field.

“I just love the sport, and like to be out there on the field doing whatever I can to help my team find success. I really feel like

Continued on Page 6

CB’s Flores to join San Jac

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Count recent Clear Brook High School graduate Trenton Flores among those ready to step in and help the San Jacinto College baseball program as the Ravens have taken a huge step forward in the recruiting game ahead of the 2026 JUCO baseball season.

Flores the son of former Clear Brook head coach Gene Flores, who earlier this spring took over as the head coach at Clear Falls High School, is a four-year varsity performer for the Wolverines who should be

able to step in as a Swiss army knife for the Ravens beginning this fall during off-season workouts.

Flores, who caught and also pitched for the Wolverines in addition to infield duties, says he can step into a variety of roles at San Jacinto College based on need.

The Ravens, who have reshaped its prestigious program in head coach Jared Weaver’s second off season, have also added 2025 Dobie High School graduates Juelz Martinez and Aiden Sanchez.

Martinez is a do-it-all outfielder with the ability

to steal bases while Sanchez profiles as a capable left-handed starting pitcher with three years of varsity experience under his belt.

“During the recruiting process, the San Jacinto coaching staff was real big on me getting stronger in the weight room to being able to handle a variety of duties once I get there,” Flores said.

“I believe I can step in and help out wherever they need me. I’m just excited to be able to play the college game, stay close to home where my family can watch me play, and be

part of what has been a tremendous program at San Jacinto College. I’m really looking forward to the experience, I feel like I did a great job at Clear Brook and showed that I was able to compete at a high level.

“I’ve played a lot of baseball, have a lot of experience and know I can step in right away and be part of a winning program.”

Flores the player said it was the experience of a lifetime to be able to play for his father while at Brook.

The journey also came with the usual glances and whispers that go with any player who has the opportunity to play for their father.

Gene Flores was a collegiate pitcher at the University of Houston and spent more than 15 years in the dugout with the

Continued on Page 6



Clear Brook Class of 2025 senior Trenton Flores played catcher for the Wolverines during his career but can also pitch and play in the infield as he prepares to take his talents to San Jacinto College beginning this fall with the Ravens on the North campus.

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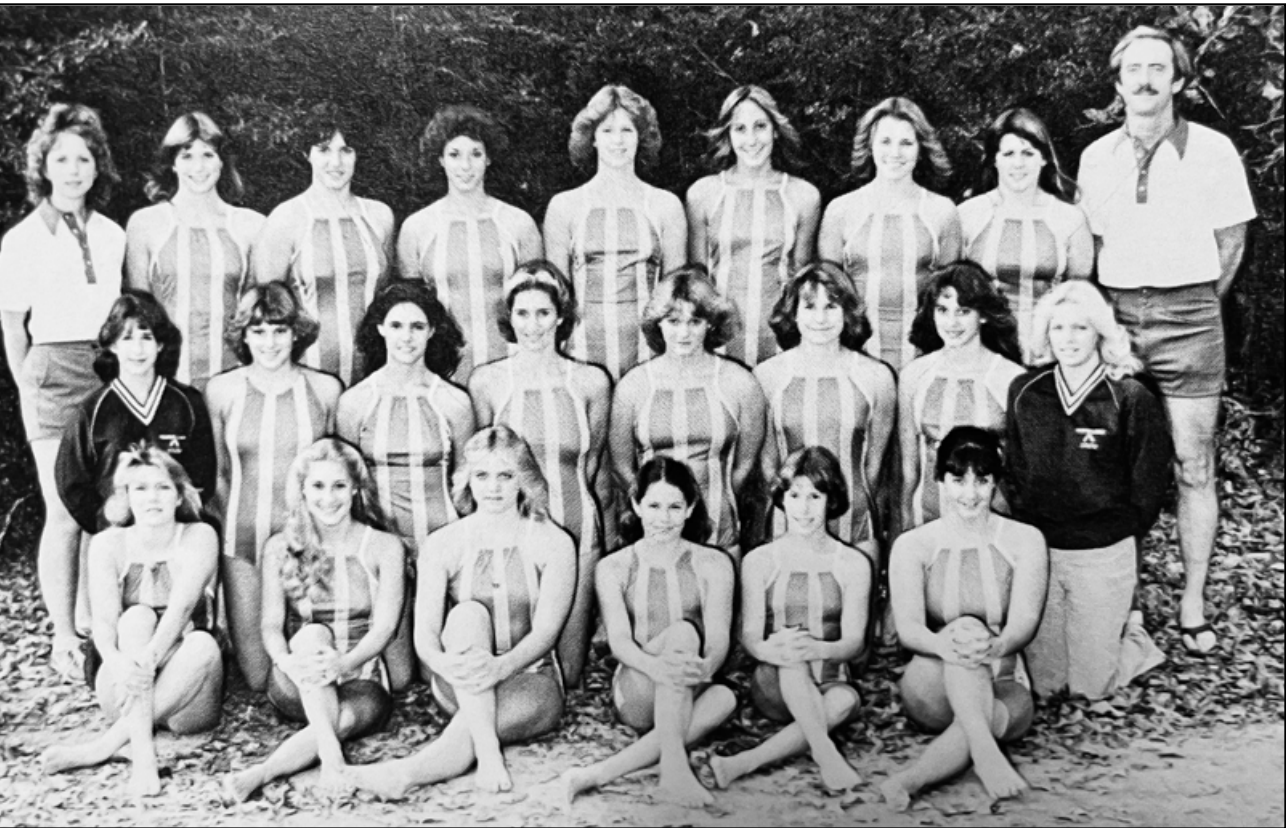
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The Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor bound-1981 Clear Lake High School girls' swimming and diving state champions included, left to right, (front row) Terri Garfalo, Lori Olson, Jill Williams, Angie Magee, Leslie Pendleton, Dawn Gallagher, (middle row) Kelly McCann, J. Wad-

kins, Mary Anne Chapman, Angela Lysandrou, Bonnie Nash, Nancy McCrea, C. Simmons, Ami Poindexter, (back row) coach Debra Reichle, Jean Heffernan, Chris Bieber, Candy Smith, Julia Haycraft, Kathy Joslyn, Holly Musgrave, Darcy Wilson and coach Lanny Landtroop.

Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor names '25 class

The Clear Creek ISD athletic Hall of Honor board of directors has announced the members of the class of 2025 who will be inducted during a September 20 ceremony at the district's Challenger Columbia Stadium Fieldhouse Community Room.

The newest members of the athletic Hall of Honor include accomplished coaches, teams and athletes who graduated from either Webster, Clear Creek, Clear Lake, Clear Brook or Clear Springs high schools. Jim Hatfield, the first-ever football head coach hire at Clear Brook, had an 85-30-2 overall record over 10 seasons, with the Wolverines winning 10 games or more in a single season four times.

Hatfield died in 2014 after battling cancer. Erica Alexander Guidry is widely considered the greatest female sprinter in Clear Creek ISD history, capturing six gold medals and a silver medal over the three years from 2006 through 2008 at the state championships in Austin.

As a senior in 2008, Alexander was the most dominant individual athlete at the state championships as she earned three gold medals to cap off a terrific career at Clear Brook.

As a senior in 2008, Alexander came up with a distance of 19 feet, 6 1/2 inches for the gold medal in the long jump. She dashed to a gold medal in the 100 at 11.48 seconds, then took a third gold medal with a time of 23.53 in the 200.

As a sophomore in 2006, Alexander won a state

At right, the 1966 Clear Creek High School varsity boys' basketball team advanced to the Class 3A State Championship game, eventually finishing as the runner-up to begin a remarkable three-year run in program history.

At right, the 1968 Clear Creek varsity boys' basketball team, a regional finalist that season, will join the 1966 and 1967 Wildcat teams for induction into the Clear Creek ISD Athletics Hall of Honor in September. The team was led by legendary head coach Bill Krueger, himself an individual Hall of Honor inductee. Krueger was once the state's all time winningest varsity boys' basketball head coach and went on to win a state championship at Clear Lake High School in 1989. Founded in 2016, the Hall of Honor has annually recognized the school district's all-time individual and team athletic stand-outs.

championship in the 100 and was second in the 200.

A year later as a junior, Alexander captured golds in both the 200 and 400.

Other inductees include legendary Clear Lake High School boys' soccer coach Doug Elder as well as student athletes Carol Atchison Hollinger of Clear Creek, Roger Jordan, also of Clear Creek and three-sport Clear Creek standout Tymeka Charelle Moore.

The team inductees for 2025 include three Clear Creek High School boys' basketball teams. Head coach Bill Krueger, himself a member of the Hall of Honor as an individual, now will see three different Wildcat basketball teams from 1966, 1967 and 1968 inducted.

Clear Lake girls' swimming and diving teams, both which claimed state championships in 1981 and 1982, will also enter the Hall of Honor on the special day.

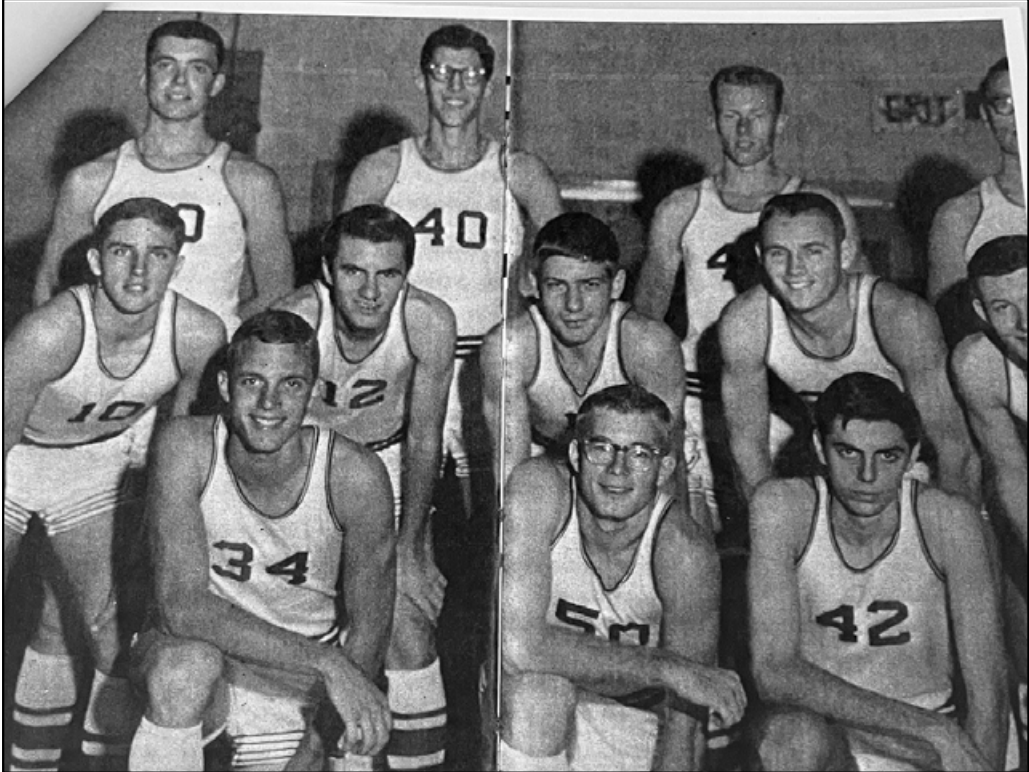
Before Krueger became a head coaching legend at

Clear Lake High School, he put together one of the state's most successful programs at Clear Creek High School.

Beginning a remarkable 3-year run in 1966, the Clear Creek varsity boys' basketball program was the state runner-up in the class 3A division, followed by third place state finish in 1967. In 1968, Clear Creek was a regional finalist. Each of the three teams will now be part of the 2025 induction class.

For information on how to support the Clear Creek ISD Athletic Hall of Honor, direct email to Athletic Hall of Honor Board President Dede MacPherson at dmacpherson13@comcast.net.

At right, Erica Alexander Guidry is widely considered the greatest female sprinter in Clear Creek ISD history, capturing six gold medals and a silver medal over the three years from 2006 through 2008.



Offensive Most Valuable Player Rowe finds home at New Mexico

Continued from Page 5
coach Dickson and coach Spearman have the program going in the right direction, and I just want to do my part to help out."

As her final high school season at Clear Brook unfolded, Rowe said she and junior catcher Ahiza Garcia, herself a Strykers National Esparza player, did their best to keep themselves and their Wolverine teammates upbeat despite what turned out to be a winless run through 24-6A action this season.

Despite the Wolverines' struggles as a team, Rowe was named the Offensive Player of the Year in District 24-6A and now aims to be a fast contributor to the left side of the infield at the University of New Mexico.

Garcia, who possesses a solid grade point average of 4.56 heading into her senior year, was honored as second-team All-District performer in the At-Large spot.

Rowe, Garcia and Brook teammate Jocelyn Dubec were also 24-6A Academic All-District honorees. Dubec and Rowe were Clear Brook's lone seniors for 2025.

Now ready for the jump to college, Rowe currently hopes to become a physical therapist with a final plan on getting into the sports medicine field. "I'd like to stay as close to athletics as possible," Rowe said. "Softball has been

SJC builds stellar class

Flores excited to play baseball at San Jac

Continued from Page 5
Wolverines prior to his move over to Clear Falls.

At the very least, Trenton Flores said it has been a tremendous experience to be able to share the baseball knowledge his father possesses along the way.

"There's no doubt that I feel like it helped me having my father on my side as he is experienced so many of the things that we are going through as young players," Flores said.

"Whether it be during his time as a player or during his time as a coach at the high school level, there's not a whole lot that my father hasn't seen. "He is a wealth of knowledge, and the experience has been tremendous. Even though I'm moving on to San Jacinto College and hopefully another college program after that, I know I'll always have my dad with me. It's just a huge benefit."

As he moves along to San Jacinto College, Flores says he can lend both talent on the field and the experience of the knowledge of the game to help himself and his teammates be successful heading into 2025 and beyond.

"The San Jacinto College program has been one of the finest in the country over the years, and I'm excited to be a part of it,"

in my blood really since about the age of 12, and I have been working pretty hard at the game since then.

"I do feel fortunate to be able to pursue my col-

lege education while also pursuing my game on the field. I put a hard lot of hard work into it, and I know a lot of other players have done the same thing, all of us are just trying to

make a difference in the game of womens' softball, and I'm also excited to try to make a big difference at the University of New Mexico. I'm excited to get there."



Estrella Rowe was honored as part of Senior Day earlier this spring as the Clear Brook varsity softball program finished out its 2025 season. Rowe, the 24-6A Offensive Player of the Year, is now headed to the University of New Mexico to play for the Lobos.

Flores said.

"Coach Weaver and his staff have a great thing going there, and I'm just one of the guys as part of a tremendous recruiting class looking forward to coming in and getting the job done out there on the field.

"We all know that it's going to be the best eight guys out there on the field

playing on a daily basis, and you just have to go out there and show that you can get the job done.

"I've been working on my game both this spring with the Clear Brook program and now this summer, working on getting stronger and being able to handle the workload no matter where I get chosen

to play.

"I think as a player, you just want to have the opportunity to go out there and contribute to a winning program.

"That's all you want to do when you're coming in as a first-year guy is to show what you can do, and I'm looking forward to prove that I can compete."



Clear Brook Class of 2025 senior Trenton Flores is headed to San Jacinto College and feels he can contribute on the mound, behind the plate or in the infield for the Ravens heading into the 2026 campaign.

Unbeaten CP Blue Jays capture TD 15 crown



The undefeated coach pitch division Blue Jays went a combined 16-0 to win their division and then the Texas District 15 championship. Members of the team include, left to right, (front row) Landon Hinton, Damian Alcala, Ethan Martinez, Melanie Rodriguez, Sebastian Dominguez, Elijah

Resendiz, Jacob Garcia, (middle row) Jayvian Guzman, John Thomas, Kevin Garrido, Eliseo Jaime, Michael Tanguma Jr., (back row) team manager/coach Jay Guzman, team mom Carol Dominguez, assistant coach Michael Vargas and head coach Juan Herrera.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m. **NA - Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
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

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

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, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

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 IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
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 seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

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

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

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

Noon Ballroom Dancing - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 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.

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

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

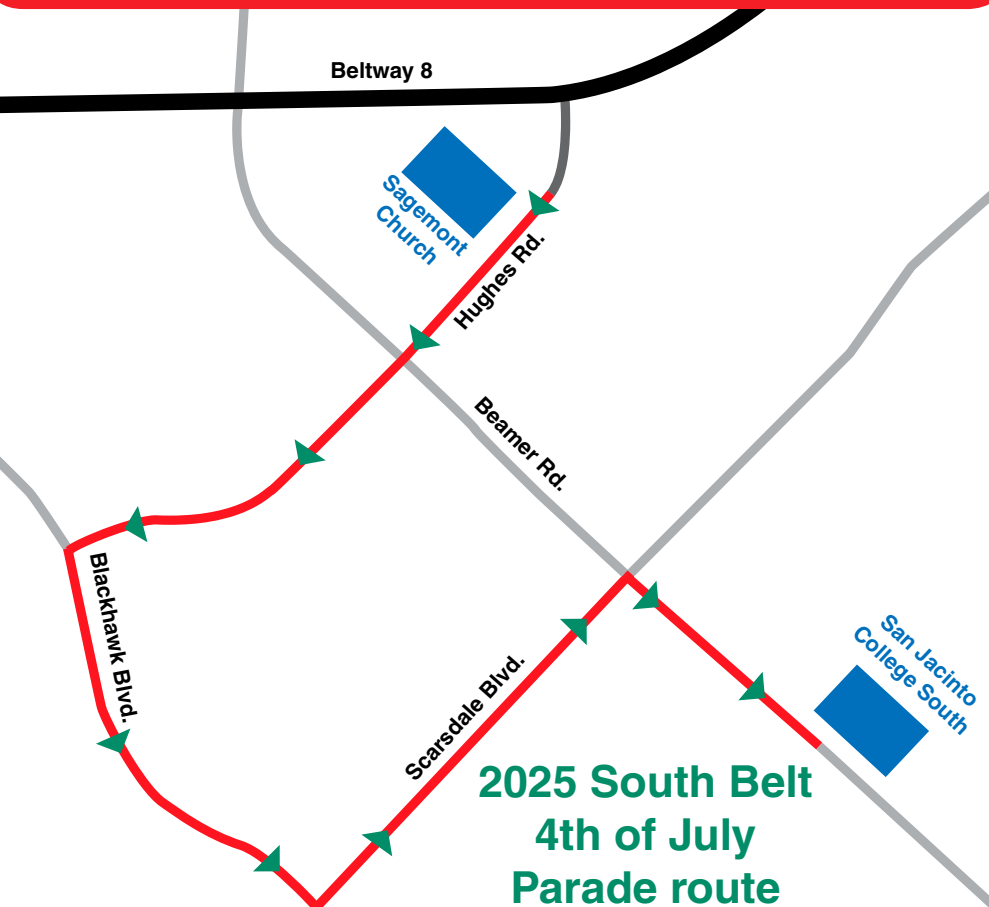
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

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.

July 4th Parade Detour



2025 South Belt 4th of July Parade route

Information and entry forms available at southbeltleader.com/parade.html

Brister realizes championship aspirations as UT Longhorns win it all

Continued from Page 5

maneuver wherever they would like via the transfer portal for financial gain or otherwise, Brister said she is committed to the Long-

horns. There could be opportunities for players to make a name for themselves both in the infield and outfield

for White's 2026 team, and Brister is determined to be in the mix. Brister knew what she was getting into from a competitive standpoint when she joined the Longhorns, and looks forward to next season.

From her spot in the dugout, Brister described it as a blackout moment but also one of the life experiences she will never forget as she recalled celebrating with her teammates.

"Running out there on the field to celebrate with my teammates was truly a blackout moment," Brister said.

"It was truly an unbelievably satisfying experience to come away with a national championship. It's what we all knew we were playing for all season, and what we tried to stay focused on each and every day."

"We had to battle our way through the tough side of the bracket, having to face Florida and Tennessee, two teams that actually beat us in conference series. And then we also had to beat the defending four time national champions (Oklahoma)."

"After doing all of that, then we had to face one of the best pitchers in the nation in Canada from

Texas Tech. I can't say enough about what our team accomplished. "We knew coming into the season that we had everything that it would take to compete for a national championship, but at the same time it's hard to go out there and do that."

"There is so much competition in the sport, and every day is a battle to keep things going in a positive direction. I'm so proud of our team. Teagan Kavan did a great job in the circle for us all season and then especially at the World Series."

"It's just truly one of those life experiences that I'll never forget. We got sized for our championship rings last week. And that is something that can never be taken away from us. I myself will never forget it as long as I live."

Brister has returned to the Houston area for a few weeks and is likely here through the July 4 holiday before returning to Austin.

Including the Longhorns' seemingly never-ending run to the national championship, it's been quite a long year for Brister and her teammates.

Make no mistake, Brister knew and accepted what the challenge would be as an incoming fresh-

man within one of the top programs in the nation. Still, to go from being one of the top overall performers in the entire Houston area to fighting for an everyday spot in a major college lineup brings about an adjustment.

Add to that the challenge of adjusting to collegiate academic life while also traveling for softball, and any first year can be daunting for a freshman.

"It's always a challenge for everyone," she said. "The coaches are looking for players to get the job done both at the plate and in the field, and it can be the day by day process."

"You just have to go out there and prove your value. I think I had a little bit of difficulty adjusting to the speed of the game and just everything that comes with being in one of the top programs in the nation."

"With that said, I certainly believe that I have worked on the mental side of the game and that things will begin to slow down for me. I'm still very much committed to being here at the University of Texas and look forward to being a bigger part of what we have going on next season and beyond."

"We have that one national championship, and I

know that I can speak for the players that we have returning in saying that we are going to do everything possible to repeat as champions.

In the classroom, Brister is studying in the public health field with an eye toward social work in the future.

Specifically, she intends to focus on hospital policy and working with patients as they transition out of the hospital setting.

While she says she had very little difficulty with her studies at Clear Brook, easily making A's without much effort, the collegiate academic road is everything it's cracked up to be and more.

Brister has also made some adjustments on the academic side in terms of her study habits, getting exceptional use out of tutoring opportunities that every student is required to utilize, and more. In short, just as things should progress on the softball field, Brister believes things will slow down for her on the academic side as well.

"It's been a great year for me," Brister said. "Every player knows what they are getting into when they agree to join a prestigious program like the University of Texas."

"I came here to win a national championship, and we have done that. For myself individually, I am

more than ready to make a bigger contribution on the softball field heading into my sophomore year.

"In the classroom, I'm very excited to get back to campus and get going. At the college level, you really have to begin to understand time management and what is most important at that time, I feel like I have that first year behind me, so everything should go a little bit smoother from here forward."

"In all, I have had a terrific experience so far the University of Texas. I look forward to what the future holds for me as well as my teammates and the University of Texas softball program."



Lien Brister was understandably all smiles as she celebrated postgame with her University of Texas women's softball teammates after the Longhorns defeated Texas Tech to win the NCAA Division 1 Women's College World Series championship for the first time in program history earlier this month in Oklahoma City.



Lien Brister (center) shared a special moment with parents Thao Huynh (left) and Dale Brister as the three relished in the University of Texas Women's College World Series victory over Texas Tech earlier this month. A star performer at Clear Brook, Brister was a freshman with the Longhorns this season.



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Martinez is TSBCA All-State first team



Dobie High School baseball star Juelz Martinez (31) added to his long list of career accolades as he was named an All-State first-team outfielder by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association following the conclusion of the 2025 season. Both a single-season and career record holder in several categories for the Longhorns, Martinez will begin his collegiate baseball career this fall at San Jacinto College.

Summer basketball camps upcoming

Local youths will have their choice of a pair of summer basketball camps hosted by high schools later this month.

Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball head coach Nathan Janak and his staff will host a youth boys' summer camp/clinic June 23-26 at the high school as participants will receive instruction in all phases of the game.

Boys entering the fourth through sixth grades as of the 2025-2026 school year will attend from 9 a.m. to noon at \$125 per student.

Boys and girls entering kindergarten through third grade will attend from 9 a.m. to noon at \$85 per student, and seventh- through ninth-grade students will attend from 1 to 4 p.m. at \$125 per student.

Visit ClearBrookHoops on X (Twitter) to register via QR code.

Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Rachel Flores and her staff are

now accepting registration for the 2025 Longhorn Youth Basketball Clinic June 23-25 at Dobie main as incoming first- through ninth-grade boys and girls will be eligible to attend the fun-filled, three-day event at \$60 per participant.

Participants will receive instruction in all phases of the game of basketball, including shooting, passing, dribbling, rebounding, offensive and defensive team concepts and more.

Visit DoBiEGBB on X, then scan the QR code to begin registration or direct email to Flores at R.RodriguezFlores@PasadenaISD.org.

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