



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### CBCMUD office closure

Offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Thursday, July 4. The offices will reopen Friday, July 5, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

### Trash pickup

Clear Brook City MUD residents whose trash service is Thursday will have regular trash pickup July 4. All trash should be curbside by 6 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup will be serviced Monday, July 8. Residents with Tuesday/Friday service will not be affected.

### City of Houston trash set

There will be no city of Houston curbside collections Thursday, July 4, and all Solid Waste Management Department facilities are closed. Storm debris collections will continue to be collected. On Friday, July 5, all SWMD facilities will reopen. Thursday's garbage, yard waste, bulk waste, tree waste, and curbside recycling will be collected. Saturday, July 6, Friday's garbage, yard waste, bulk waste, tree waste, and curbside recycling will be collected. Collection schedule will return to normal on Monday, July 8.

### Games party June 29

Catholic Daughters Court #2292 will host its annual games party Saturday, June 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include a meal with dessert, chance for a door prize and games and prizes. Call Adele Roby at 832-692-3379 for games party tickets and Juanita Tristan at 281-814-6256 for 3-for-\$5 raffle tickets.

### Partnership meets

The next meeting of the South Belt Community Partnership will be at the Sageglen Community Center, 11610 Sageyork Drive Thursday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. All member communities and communities not yet represented by the group are urged to attend. Current and prospective stakeholders are also welcome. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, visit <https://southbeltcp.org>.

### Sagemont maintenance meets

The Sagemont Maintenance Fund (SMF) will hold an annual association meeting on Monday, July 15, at 6 p.m. at The Gardens Houston, 12001 Beamer. All Sagemont homeowners, according to the deed restrictions, are a member of the SMF. Only members in good standing and with no past due fees, can actively participate, run for office or vote. The purpose of the meeting is to elect directors for the volunteer directors' positions. All Sagemont homeowners are encouraged to attend. Any homeowner interested in the volunteer positions is urged to contact the SMF at [sagemont@att.net](mailto:sagemont@att.net) and/or attend the meeting.

### Sageglen Community meets

Sageglen Community Association will hold an annual meeting Monday, July 15, at 7 p.m. There are two board positions, and one architectural control position available for vote. Anyone interested in running for one of these positions, should contact the office at 281-481-2160 or email [sageglen@sageglen.com](mailto:sageglen@sageglen.com) for more information. All candidates should be at the meeting July 15. Doors open at 6:30. Light refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given.

### Sagemont Civic Club meets

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of the month. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one eastbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed continuously at Hughes Road/Sabo until further notice. At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed continuously from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway until further notice. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays. At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Greenshadow to SH 225 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through Tuesday, July 16.

### 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 nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

### Local COVID cases reported

The number of reported COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains roughly on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials. As of Tuesday, June 25, there were 295 active cases in 77089, no change from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. In ZIP code 77075, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week. In 77034, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. Statistics are updated weekly and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulativedata](https://covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulativedata).

## Houston passes historic \$650 million bargaining agreement

By James Bolen

Following months of debate, Houston City Council on Tuesday, June 18, unanimously passed a historic \$650 million collective bargaining agreement with the firefighters union, ending a years-long legal battle.

"A world-class city like Houston deserves a well-funded fire department to attract and retain talented individuals who are willing to risk their safety for us during our times of need," said Mayor John Whitmire. "Houston's fire department should be at or near the top among the ma-

ior cities in our state. This agreement resolves a long-festering pay dispute with firefighters, avoids further unnecessary litigation costs, and allows us to move forward together."

Passage of the landmark settlement came one week after Council voted 14-3 to approve the agreement the previous week after a heated dispute on the matter. Final approval, however, required certification from City Controller Chris Hollins, who had not signed off on the deal at the time.

Hollins reluctantly certified the agreement

late Monday, June 17.

"Just as my insistence on completing due diligence should not have been interpreted as opposition to the deal, my certification today should not be interpreted as a vote of confidence," Hollins said in a statement.

He and some Council members – led by Council Member Edward Pollard – had expressed concern about the settlement's cost and future impact on the city's finances, as the agreement is expected to take around 25 to 30 years to pay off. "If it were your money in your savings ac-

count, you would ask more questions," Pollard said to his Council colleagues last week. "But because it's the taxpayers' money and it's not coming out of your Wells Fargo or Chase account, you are not asking the questions."

The collective bargaining agreement had been a priority for Whitmire since taking office earlier this year and something that he campaigned on accomplishing. Throughout the talks, the mayor has repeatedly placed blame on his predecessor Sylvester Turner for not taking action quicker.

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## Community holds annual parade, July 4 at 10 a.m.

It's not too late to register to take part in the annual South Belt Fourth of July parade returns again this year, set to take place Thursday, July 4.

Houston District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz will serve as grand marshal of the parade, which is returning for the second

consecutive year following a three-year hiatus related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Begun in 1986, this will be the yearly parade's 34th time to roll through the South Belt community, as the event was rained out in 2018.

Participants are encouraged to decorate their

vehicles and floats as patriotically as possible, as prizes will be awarded in various categories.

Community and nonprofit groups may take part in the parade for free (\$25 if they want to be eligible for a prize), but commercial entries must pay a \$50 fee to participate in the event.

The parade will begin at Beverly Hills Intermediate, located at 11111 Beamer Road, at 10 a.m., but participants are urged to arrive an hour

early for lineup.

The route will take participants north on Beamer to Fuqua, then east to Sabo/Hughes Road, before traveling onto Beamer to the parade's final destination of San Jacinto College South.

Due to the length of the parade route, walking will not be permitted.

Entry forms are available on Page 3, [www.southbeltleader.com](http://www.southbeltleader.com).

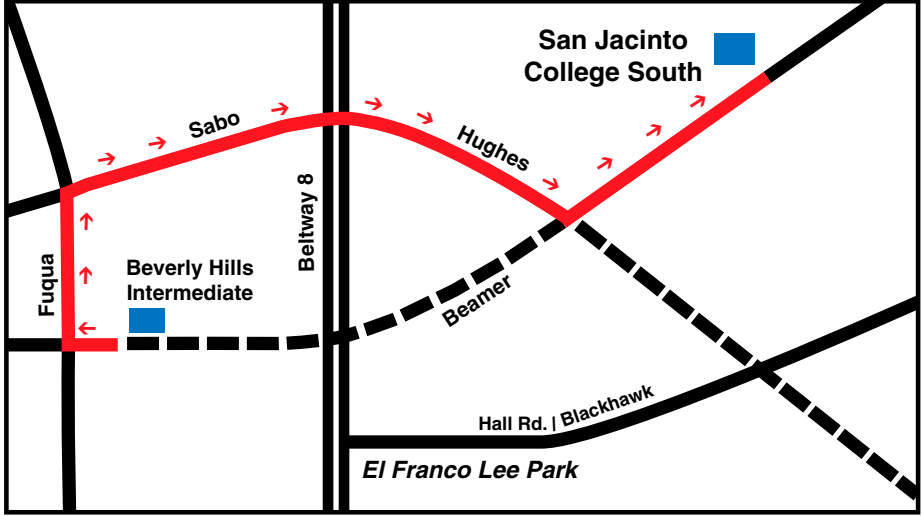
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## Squatters in Sagemont



Squatters have become a growing problem in the South Belt community, with multiple incidents being reported in Sagemont and areas around Edgebrook. Precinct 2 Deputy Jasmine Williams and Sgt. Robert Sanchez are shown above at an affected house on Sageview near the corner of Hughes Road and Beamer. Piles of trash can be seen inside the home, where Sanchez said there were signs of squatters using a portable tub as a toilet. According to Sanchez, the homeowners died approximately three years ago, and the residence is currently in limbo as part of an estate. During the visit, Sanchez secured the doors to the home but said that does little to dissuade potential squatters from entering. See next week's Leader for more information. Photo by Marie Flickinger

### July 4th parade route



## Man shot at Blackhawk, Almeda Genoa

This past week was a violent one for the South Belt community, with nonfatal shootings taking place at two different area gas stations.

On Thursday, June 20, Precinct 2 deputies responded to a drive-by shooting around 3:30 p.m. at a gas station in the 10800 block of Hughes Road at Beamer.

According to investigators, a white or silver passenger vehicle – possibly a Kia or a Honda – carrying several black males and one black female pulled into the parking lot and began firing at another vehicle already in the parking lot.

Both vehicles involved left the scene prior to deputies' arrival. Several bullets struck the business and windows, causing extensive damage.

Houston police later contacted Precinct 2 investigators and advised they had received a call from the victim of the shooting. Deputies responded to the victim's residence and obtained a statement.

No injuries were reported, and no suspects have been arrested at this time.

Deputies are currently following leads and investigating this case as an aggravated assault. Just three days later, a man was critically injured in a shooting

outside a gas station around 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 23, in the 9400 block of Almeda Genoa near Blackhawk.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the victim, a male reportedly in his 40s, was exiting the Quickstop convenience store and returning to his vehicle when another male approached him from behind and opened fire. Police described the attack as an "ambush."

Following the shooting, the victim managed to return to the store, where the clerk called for emergency assistance.

Paramedics from the Houston Fire Department transported the victim to a local trauma center, where he remained in critical condition at press time.

Police said there was no known motive for the shooting. The shooter, described only as a younger male with dreadlocks, fled on foot down Blackhawk and remained at large at press time, according to investigators.

Anyone with any information in either of these incidents is urged to contact Crimestoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

## City sets policy for water devices

The City of Houston will begin transitioning to actual usage water bills for some single-family residential customers who have working remote reading devices (RRD). Those customers will soon receive official letters that their accounts will return to actual water usage no sooner than 60 days from the date of the notification. As a result of this change, the customers will notice a change in their water bill from the blue "set

usage" to white "actual" usage bills.

The Houston Public Works Customer Account Services team has verified multiple readings to ensure the device is functioning and sending accurate information on water usage. Additional verification will take place during the 60-day transition period.

It's important to note that with the transition,

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## Fireworks regs confusing

Rules different for city, county, CBC MUD

The Fourth of July is around the corner, and many South Belt residents are understandably confused as to the current regulations involving the sale and possession of personal fireworks.

Fireworks have long been forbidden within the city limits, and both Clear Brook City and Sagemeadow MUDs have entered into strategic partnership agreements with the city of Houston, prohibiting the practice.

Despite the partnerships, however, many South Belt residents may have noticed fireworks

stands popping up in new locations other than traditional places.

According to Clear Brook City MUD Manager Chris Clark, this is because the district has grown since the strategic partnership agreement was drafted more than 20 years ago.

Clark acknowledged, however, he was uncertain of the district's exact boundaries, noting a precise map would have to be obtained from the fire marshal or fire department.

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## Deadline for scholarships June 30

The deadline to apply for the newly established Wings Over Houston Airshow scholarship program has been extended to Sunday, June 30.

Created by the Commemorative Air Force, the scholarship program is for college students who have completed one year of study in aviation or a related field. The applicant's academic discipline does not have to be in a technical area but may include business, management, marketing or other fields that are directly related to aviation.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the Wings Over Houston Airshow intends to award \$25,000 worth of scholarships in amounts up to \$5,000 each. The selections will be made by the Wings Over Houston Scholarship Committee in August 2024 and the winners notified in September 2024.

The WOH scholarships are intended to assist and reward students who have demonstrated academic potential, leadership and extracurricular involvement.

### Eligibility

Students in good academic standing at any accredited college or university within the United States are eligible for these scholarships subject to the requirements below.

Applicants pursuing an academic degree directly associated with aviation, aeronautics or aerospace will receive priority; the degree of association will be one of the selecting factors.

Students must be one of the following:  
– A Texas resident.

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# Thank you, Charles

The Leader recently launched a newspaper recycling program. The Leader is routinely asked by residents for extra newspapers for pet or packing needs. Extra copies of the newspaper are often taken from area dispensers for this purpose, prohibiting others from reading current editions. It is hoped the new recycling program can help with both issues. Residents may bring in any newspaper to be recycled, not just the Leader. South Belt resident Charles Robinson is shown at left dropping off some extra newspapers at the Leader office, located at 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8.

# No city pools for South Belt

The city of Houston announced the third and final phase of its 2024 swimming schedule, with no pools in the immediate South Belt set to open this year.

For the third consecutive year, Wilson Memorial Park, located at 100 Gilpin near Edgebrook and SH 3/ Old Galveston Road, was the nearest city pool to open in the South Belt community due to a national lifeguard shortage.

Opened over Memorial Day weekend during the first phase of city pool openings, the Wilson Memorial Park swimming pool is open daily from 1 to 7 p.m., except on Sundays when hours are 1 to 6 p.m. (All swimming pools are closed Mondays for cleaning.)

All swimming facilities are open free of charge to city residents. Multiple swimming and water fitness classes are also available free of charge.

The city's 2024 swimming pool season will continue through Sunday, Sept. 1. To see a complete list of city swimming pool locations, visit [www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html).

**Lifeguards needed**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is currently seeking lifeguards for the 2024 season. A \$500

bonus is being offered to lifeguards who can work throughout the remainder of the summer.

To become a lifeguard, one must be at least 16 years old and possess valid government-issued picture identification.

Potential lifeguards must prequalify for the position before applying.

New applicants or those who did not work for HPARD last summer must successfully pass a lifeguard swim evaluation for consideration. Candidates must contact the Parks and Recreation Aquatics Office at 832-395-7129 to schedule a swim evaluation.

The city's swim evaluation involves the following skill examinations:

- Starting at the deep end of the pool, swim nonstop for 150 yards (front crawl and/or breaststroke) and tread water in the deep end continuously for two minutes with arms crossed, using legs only and then swim nonstop for 50 yards (front crawl and/or breaststroke).
- Starting at the shallow end of the pool, swim 20 yards to the deep end, retrieve a 10-pound object from the bottom of the pool (approx. 10 foot deep), return to the surface, kick on one's back while controlling the object

with both hands, return to the starting point, place the object on the side of the pool and climb out without using a ladder, within one minute and 40 seconds.

All applicants who successfully complete the city's swim evaluation must then apply online at [www.houstontx.gov/jobs](http://www.houstontx.gov/jobs).

After successfully applying for the position, all applicants must then be certified by passing the American Red Cross Lifeguard Training offered/approved by HPARD Aquatic Administration each calendar year. Lifeguard certification is offered through the Parks and Recreation Department for a one-time \$46 payroll deduction fee when committing to work for the city of Houston during the summer (a \$295 value).

All applicants must pass a criminal background check, a physical and a drug screening to be eligible for employment. If under age 18, a written parental consent for physical examination and drug test is required.

For additional information on becoming a city lifeguard, visit [www.houstontx.gov/hr/careers.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/hr/careers.html), call the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Aquatics Office at 832-395-7129 or email [ask\\_parks@houstontx.gov](mailto:ask_parks@houstontx.gov).

# Community partnership meets with Adrian



Members of the new South Belt Community Partnership board recently met with the county commissioner. Shown above (left to right) are Seth Webb, chair; Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia; Cecelia Ganje, co-chair; Kay Barbour, secretary; Sam Weeke; and Susana Castillo, Harris County community liaison.

# Bionat named vice chancellor at SJC

Christian Bionat has been named vice chancellor of External Relations at San Jacinto College, where he will oversee marketing, fundraising and government affairs efforts.

"The opportunity to return and contribute to an institution that has significantly impacted my life is deeply meaningful. This position allows me to leverage my experience in advocacy, strategic planning and community engagement to support and enhance the college's mission to drive positive outcomes for students and the broader community in the Southeast Houston region."

Prior to his work with the GHP, Bionat served as district director for U.S. Congressman Randy Weber and as deputy chief of staff for former U.S. Congressman Pete Olson.

"The San Jacinto team is ready to welcome Christian to San Jacinto College," said Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "Christian has extensive relationships in government affairs and in the Texas legislature which are focal points for this position, and I look forward to working with him to promote the success of our students, employees and programs."

Bionat holds a master's degree in public administration from Penn State University. He earned a Bachelor of Science in political science from Sam Houston State University and an associate of arts degree from San Jacinto College. He is also active in the military as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Bionat will begin transitioning into the vice chancellor role on July 1, 2024.



Christian Bionat

Bionat comes to San Jacinto College from the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) where he served as vice president, Public Policy and Advocacy. In his position with GHP, he developed and executed comprehensive advocacy strategies, collaborating with policy experts, industry partners, and regional coalitions with substantial economic impact for the Houston region. He was responsible for managing legislative initiatives at various government levels to benefit the Houston region as a whole.

"San Jacinto College holds a special place in my heart, as it is where I began my higher education journey," said Bionat.

# Scholarship deadline June 30

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Or, a member of the Commemorative Air Force. (For information on becoming a member of the CAF, visit [www.commemorativeairforce.org/pages/CAF%20membership](http://www.commemorativeairforce.org/pages/CAF%20membership).)

**Criteria**

- Academic performance: This criterion will be evaluated on the basis of each applicant's grade point average or equivalent. A grade point average of at least 3.0 is required.
- Personal assessment of career goals: This criterion will be evaluated through an essay of approximately 1,000 words. The essay should describe the career objectives of the applicant and should outline the academic program required to achieve those career objectives. The essay should also state how the career objectives of the applicant are associated with aviation or aerospace.
- Recommendation: Each applicant will be judged on personal and academic merit based on the three required letters of recommendation, two if applicant is former WOH Scholarship recipient and as required for Corps of Cadets submission.
- Extracurricular activities: Each applicant's participation in college and community activities, organizational offices held, awards and work experience will receive consideration.
- Financial need: Determination of financial need.
- Personal interview: The scholarship committee may request a personal interview if the committee believes that more information, or clarification of some items, is required.

For more information on the Commemorative Air Force Wings Over Houston Airshow scholarship program, visit [wingsoverhouston.com/get-involved/scholarship/](http://wingsoverhouston.com/get-involved/scholarship/).

# Grandson publishes book



Andre Dominguez published his first children's book "Jeff and Jenn Search for a Planet Called Home" in North Carolina. Andre is the grandson of Joe (left) and Yolanda Dominguez, longtime residents of Sagemont. Andre is the son of Richard Dominguez, a graduate of Dobie High School who was active in track and field, soccer and band.

# Local library events set

**Bracewell Branch Library**

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstontxlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstontxlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Thursday, June 27, 3 - 4 p.m. Wild things zoofari live animal show.

Thursday, June 27, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lab - computer class.

Monday, July 1, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lab - computer class.

Tuesday, July 2, 1 - 2 p.m. Kids craft.

Visit <https://houstontxlibrary.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.:

- Thursday, June 27, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tots and teacups a dainty affair for little ones.
- Thursday, June 27, 2 - 3 p.m. Full stem ahead.
- Thursday, June 27, 2 - 4 p.m. Tech Help.
- Monday, July 1, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family story time.
- Tuesday, July 2, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
- Tuesday, July 2, 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Kids paint party finger and brush painting.
- Tuesday, July 2, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Homeschool hangout.
- Wednesday, July 3, 11 - 12 p.m. Family place- child workshop.
- Wednesday, July 3, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Laser cutter orientation.

**Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"**

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
- A pickup time and instructions will be given.
- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

**Online services**

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).
- Attend an HCPAL 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>.

# City of Houston sets water device policy

**Continued from Page 1**

about these changes and are prepared for any potential adjustments in your bill, allowing you to plan accordingly," said Houston Public Works Chief Operating Officer Randy Macchi. "This update only applies to single-family residential customers with an upgraded, working remote reading device (RRD)."

Other customers will remain on set usage bills until they have a verified functioning remote reading device. Customers can track the replacement of their RRD using the dashboard at [www.proveaterbills.org](http://www.proveaterbills.org).

Houston Public Works continues to ramp up the deployment of remote reading devices. Currently, more than 34,000 RRDs have been installed since the launch of the Water Bill Improvement Plan on April 1, 2024. The city expects to install approximately 125,000 remote reading devices throughout Houston by the end of 2024.

Houston Public Works continues to enhance customer service through the Water Bill Improvement Plan. The following changes have taken place since the plan launched:

- Expanded in-person customer service availability. Customers can schedule in-person or virtual appointments.
- Employed new quality control measures for an easier resolution process.
- Streamlined relief requests into one centralized form.

On March 20, 2024, City Council voted to repeal City Ordinance 47-72 to make it easier to provide accurate adjustments to customer accounts.

# Mosquito season is here

As temperatures rise, so does the prevalence of mosquitoes. In recognition of National Mosquito Control Week, proclaimed earlier this month, Harris County Public Health is raising awareness about the importance of mosquito control and prevention to protect public health.

Mosquitoes are not just a nuisance; they carry several dangerous diseases, including West Nile virus, Zika virus, dengue fever and chikungunya.

These diseases pose serious health risks, particularly to children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems. HCPH believes now is a critical time to educate the public on effective mosquito prevention strategies and the resources available to them.

**Mosquito prevention tips**

- Eliminate standing water: Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water. Regularly empty and clean birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, pet water dishes, and other containers that collect water.
- Use insect repellent: Apply EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus when spending time outdoors.
- Wear protective clothing: Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks to reduce mosquito bites, especially during peak mosquito activity times, such as dawn and dusk.
- Install screens: Ensure windows and doors are properly screened to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Maintain one's yard: Keep grass and shrubs trimmed and remove debris where mosquitoes can hide.

HCPH is committed to safeguarding the health of our community through comprehensive mosquito control programs. Our efforts include regular surveillance, larvicide applications, and public education campaigns to reduce mosquito populations and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

For more information on mosquito control and prevention, call 713-440-4800 or visit HCPH's Mosquito and Vector Control Division page at [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Divisions-Offices/Divisions/Mosquito-Vector-Control-Division](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Divisions-Offices/Divisions/Mosquito-Vector-Control-Division).

# Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series.

The next event will be Thursday, June 27, with another event happening the following Thursday, July 11. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club resident Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

# New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food for community people in need. The next event is July 13. For information, call 281-484-4230.

# Library seeks items

The Friends of the Parker Williams Branch Library appreciates the continued support from the community and is again accepting donations of good condition books, both hardback and paperback, as well as CDs and DVDs.

Donations are accepted during library hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd, Suite 510.

**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
Catholic Church  
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor  
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar  
11011 Hall Rd.  
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://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 Enrolling*

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](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com)  
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089  
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

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**Specializes in American Comfort Food cooked hot and fresh!**

**Bet you can't eat just once.**

12880 Beamer Rd., Suite N • Beamer @ Astoria  
Mon. - Tue. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Wed. - Fri. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Closed Sat. & Sun.

**The Southeast VFD needs you!**

We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: [southeastvfd.org](http://southeastvfd.org) to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors!

**Your community needs you!**

**South Belt-Ellington Leader**  
The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656  
E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)  
Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

## Pompas celebrate 50 years of marriage



Roger and Nancy Pompa will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary June 30. The couple married on June 30, 1974, in Bryan. Roger graduated from Texas A&M and is a professional engineer. Nancy graduated from cosmetology school in Bryan and loves making people smile. They have resided in the Sagemont subdivision for more than 35 years. They are very proud of their daughter Melissa



DeLeon and son-in-law John, their daughter Michelle Borrego and son-in-law Jaime and three granddaughters. Melissa and Michelle are graduates of J. Frank Dobie High School. Roger and Nancy are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. Their family wishes them continued love and asks for God's blessing as they celebrate 50 years of marriage.

## Kimber, Overall Texas Miniature Miss



Kimber Terry participated in the Texas Cinderella Scholarship Program this month and won the title of Overall Texas Miniature Miss. She has been participating in pageants since she was born and has held many state titles. She spent all year practicing her vocals and performed a musical theater piece called "Top Secret Personal Beeswax" by Junie B. Jones. She loves to do skincare, eat sushi and practice softball pitching. In July she will advance to the international pageant to compete for the international title in Dallas. Kimber is the daughter of former J. Frank Dobie 2007 graduate Courtney (Banks) Terry and husband Jacob Terry. Kimber attends Rustic Oaks Elementary School.

## City passes historic \$650 million bargaining agreement

**Continued from Page 1**  
"If the city would have handled it when they should have eight years ago, we wouldn't be having this discussion," said Whitmire. "Of course, it's huge numbers, huge challenges, but we've got to get out of the courthouse, and we've got to get back to running the fire department and focus on public safety."

Houston firefighters had been working without a contract since 2017. "For too long, Houston firefighters have remained dedicated to protecting us while they worked without a contract and other benefits," said Whitmire. The new five-year agreement makes firefighter's temporary 18 percent pay in-

creases permanent and will be compounded with a 10 percent increase on July 1. Firefighters will then receive subsequent pay raises the following four years. The total increases, however, will be dependent on the city's future revenue. City Council last week approved bonds to help pay for the \$1.5 billion settlement.

"This was a long time coming. It was always going to be a big number and I think we handled it as responsibly as you could expect," said Whitmire. "I understand that it's expensive; it was always going to be expensive." Despite the financial challenges, Whitmire said the agreement is necessary for the city to move forward.

"It will be challenging to pay for the agreement," said Whitmire. "But, the city cannot afford not to move forward, and it is a reasonable settlement." Patrick M. "Marty" Lancton, president of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, praised the new agreement. "This is a historic day,"

Lancton said in a statement. "I urge all Houston firefighters and their families to relish this well-deserved victory. Today's vote by City Council is not just a resolution of past grievances; it's recognition of our sacrifices and a commitment of providing the resources needed to continue serving Houston with dedication and pride."

## South Belt fireworks regulations confusing

**Continued from Page 1**  
To illustrate how confusing the MUD boundaries are, the *Leader* routinely receives calls from fireworks dealers asking for clarification. Once again this year, fireworks are expected to be available for sale in unincorporated parts of Harris County along Beamer Road

near Dixie Farm Road and FM 2351. While the stretch of road was once a hot spot for such booths, the practice was prohibited in July 2009 by the city of Friendswood Fire Marshal's office, citing extraterritorial jurisdiction. ETJ is the legal ability of a governing body to exercise

authority beyond its normal boundaries, given that an agreement has been reached with the adjoining municipality. In this instance, the city of Friendswood worked jointly with the city of Houston, the city of Pearland and Harris County. At that time, state law dictated that a governing

body may exercise ETJ up to 5,000 feet outside their established jurisdiction. The fireworks booths in question were located 1,800 feet outside the Friendswood city limits, which extends to Beamer and Dixie Farm Road. In 2015, however, Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. of Browns-

ville drafted Senate Bill 1593, which states a municipality may only prohibit the sale of fireworks within its own boundaries. The bill passed and was subsequently signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. The sale of fireworks along Beamer has been

an ongoing, controversial and confusing issue — even among law enforcement. In July 2008, city of Houston officials erroneously issued more than 30 citations on the stretch of Beamer between Astoria and Dixie Farm, as the northbound side of the street fell in the fireworks ban area, while the southbound side did not.

## Annual July 4 parade set

**Continued from Page 1**  
southbeltleader.com and the *Leader* office, located at 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8. The forms are to be filled out and returned to *Leader*. **Fireworks** Once again, there will be no annual South Belt

Fourth of July fireworks display held at El Franco Lee Park. Also once an annual event in the South Belt community, the fireworks display is funded by the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, which has also

been canceled the last four years due to county permitting issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Sagemont Church has no plans for a fireworks display this year as in past years, according to its website.

## 4th of July Parade Entry Form

A parade will be held in conjunction with the July 4th Spectacular. Parade lineup will be at 9 a.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate, 11111 Beamer.

The parade will begin at Beverly Hills Intermediate at 10 a.m. and will continue to 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](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com).

All entries must be received by July 2.

Name of entry \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization or Business \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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.

## The Southeast VFD needs you!



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come join us any Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: [southeastvfd.org](http://southeastvfd.org) to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors!

**Your community needs you!**

# South Houston High School releases final 2023-2024 honor roll

Officials of South Houston High School have announced the final honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Ninth grade**  
Alison Nicoll Abarca Angel, Gustavo Adrian Acosta, Emerson Eduardo Aguilar Perdomo, Jesus Alejandro Aguilera Arana, Sarah Jane Albert Mottley, Alexis Michelle Allen, Melany Mishell Alvarez Borrayo, Emanuel Elizandro Amaya-Urias, Marelín Andrade, Gabriella Ngozi Anowey and Jocelyn Lynette Arevalo.

Yelson Joel Argueta Caranza, Delilah Sannise Bailey, Oliver Barragan, Sergio Jeronimo Barreto Ramirez, Eric Oswaldo Beltran, Josue Enrique Benavides, Kevin Armel Binguimai, Alexander Bravo, Ricardo Antonio Bravo, Alina Marie Campos and Jose Miguel Campos.  
Elizabeth Campuzano, Alexa Cantu, Aubrey Hope Cantu, Pablo Yahir Carbajal Rodriguez, Jazzelle Nevaeh Cardona, Allison Marieth Castro Bonilla, Yurem Alejandro Cepeda, Katia Valeria Ceron Guevara, Diana Guadalupe Chavez Casillas, Jonathan Chavez, Leah Chavez, Marlen Milagros Colmenero, Daniela Sarai Coreas Rivas and Emanuel Cruz Mont.  
Adamaris Cruz, Ivan Cruz, William Julian Cruz, Beyonce Raynee Damian, Madeson Ann Davis, Michael Anthony De La Garza, Camila Victoria Del Villar Ramirez, Evanie Ruby Diaz, Anthony Michael Durant, Abigail Aniah Escobar, Reynaldo Espinoza, Jose Jonathan Falcon Cardenas, Ana Jazmin Flores, Christopher Flores, Hector Ivan Flores and Emerson Xavier Funes.

Azaliya Elizabeth Garcez, Luis Angel Garcia Ramirez, Christian Luis Garcia, Sergio Garcia, Wendy Garcia, Juan Antonio Garza, Jazlynn Rose German, Brigham Isaac Gomez Sabio, Alyssa Nicole Gonzalez Rodriguez, Karen Haydee Gonzalez, Melissa Alejandra Gonzalez-Moz, Rafael Angel Guerra and Diego Alexis Guillen.  
Gracie Leeanne Gusman, Javier Guadalupe Gutierrez Reyes, Alessandra Guzman, Ruben Isaias Hernandez Zavala, Isaijah Jaden Hernandez, Jahaziel Khiana Hernandez, Stephanie Ann Hernandez, Juan Daniel Hinojosa, Anne Tresor Hounmetin, Everardo Iniestra, Pedro Alexander Itzep Toc, Amada Elizabeth Izaguirre Ramos, Enrique Izaguirre and Johana Iveth Jaime Fraga.  
Alexander Juarez, Luis Guillermo Labrador Lucena, Oscar Alexander Lemus, Christian Daniel Lopez Fuentes, Adamari Edith Lopez, Carlos Joaquin Lopez, Jonathan Lopez, Sara Lopez, Nicholas Anthony Majano, Madison Precious Diane Manley, Gladis Yosselin Marquez Rodriguez, Angela Nicole Martinez, Valeria Nathalie Martinez and Guadalupe Yudith Mata.  
Jaime Adan Maya, Gleny Rodrigo Mejia Villalvir, Arturo Mendoza, Nevaeh Marie Mendoza, Jan Carlos Men-

go Godoy, Arianna Gracibel Gomez, Carlos Elias Gomez, George Jesus Gonzalez Aguilera, Antonio Gonzalez, Joel Gonzalez, Raul Ivan Gonzalez, Meagan Danielle Grays, Brianna Gisel Grimaldo, Miguely Alure Guadalupe, Miguel Junior Hernandez, Dayanis Araceli Hinojosa, Ann Precieuse Hounmetin and Roman Huerta.  
De'abron Kelandrix Hunter, Janette Hurtado, Mariela Angelica Ico Ojorn, Anthony Bryan Jaime Fraga, Mayra Jaime Jaime, Teyana La'nay Jenkins, Joyce Faith Jimenez, Marcus Anthony Kern, Jennifer Landeros, Averie Renee Lasalle, Anahi Ledesma, Faith Danaya Marilyn Lewis, Ivan Lopez, Anahi Lule, Evonny Madrigal, Helen Marisol Maradiaga Munoz, Dylan Alessandro Marquez, Diego Guadalupe Martinez and Dylan Martinez.  
Gerardo Martinez, Jonathan Martinez, Yair Martinez, Amanda Marie Medina, Gensil Ariel Melgar Molina, Maximo Christopher Mendoza, Kinereth Grissel Merz Zelaya, Beatriz Victoria Meza, Adam Ray Mize, Isai Emanuel Morales, Juan Jesus Morales, Nahum Jose Morales, Obed Julian Morales and Nelsy Jackelin Munoz Quintanilla.  
Jordy Santiago Orellana, Arianda Madelis Ortiz, Ra'tavia Leeann Osborne, Eroz Gustavo Osorio Bustamante, Ria T. Pandya, Noelia Berenice Pardo, Hector Javier Pena, Jayden Alexander Pena, Vladimir Perdomo Rodriguez, Annaly Itzel Perez, Gabriela Estefany Portillo, Johana Ramirez and Reggie Habib Rangel Quinones.  
Alexis Omar Rangel, Ceasar Gerardo Rasso, German Daniel Realejo Morataya, Katherin Clarissa Del Rosario Realejo Morataya, Michelle Angeliqwe Reyes, Yasmine Reyes, Martha Julia Reyes-Lechado, Antonio Eduardo Rodriguez, Brian-na Giselle Rodriguez, Alexia Giselle Romero, Jade Ruiz, Yamilette Salinas and Freddy David Sanchez Lopez.  
Sheryl Fernanda Sanchez Ortiz, Alexandra Santiago, Sophia Saucedo, Gabriel Serato, Andrea Nicole Silva, Julio Alberto Soledad Rivera, Grace Elizabeth Sonnier, Jhonatan Elias Sorto Sorto, Kayla Marie Suarez, Sarah Suarez, Kayleen Kianta Tall-ey, Erendira Dayanara Torres, Hayden Tinh Tran, Valery Trevino, Jayden Adonias Vasquez, Giovanni Aaron Vazquez, Amairani Herrejon Vega, Jayden Alexander Victoria, Annethe Valleria Zacarias Trevizo and Estrella Zavala.

**10th grade**  
Dalila Acosta, Agustín Jaime Aguilar, Jazlynn Angel Aguilón, Ghisell Danae Agurto Toapanta, Imelda Isali Aleman, Marvin Jesus Altamirano, Ashley Yamileth Alvarez, Carolina Alvarez, Kevin Excel Alvarez, Anderson Jose Amaya Uria, Leslie Irene Anaya Rauda, Emilio Anaya, Anastasia Chiamaka Anowey and Jose Guadalupe Aragon.

Jocelyn Maree Aranda, Esmeralda Arredondo, Edgar Davis Arzu Aguirre, Ashley Dallana Ayala Garcia, Galia Barbosa, Maria Fernandez Barboza Castro, Yamilet Becerril, Aryanna Benitez, Jazmin Bocanegra, Suany Jissel Bonilla Acosta, Ariyana Terrione Bowman, Reginald Ti'andre Brooks, Jordan Corey Buckner and Nevaeh Alianna Buenrostro.  
Carlos Rodery Burgos Reyes, Benito Cadena, Christopher Eduardo Calderon, Yerson Aron Carbajal, Emiliano Castilleja, Adamiro Castillo, Selina Marisol Chamorro, Melanie Estrella Chaverria, Cesar Gabriel Chavez, Vincent Chevez, Lee Brandon Cleveland, Perla Elizabeth Colmenero, Jose Contreras, Kenny Paola Contreras, Rosa Contreras, Victoria Raengel Contreras, Ivan Eleazar Coronel, Nataly Coto-Chong, Jeady Cruz, Valerie Del Valle and Isaac Isaiha Delacruz.  
Krystal Delgado, Lorenzo Delgado, Valeria Danahe Duran Iracheta, Ailen Sarahi Duran, Elizabeth Marie Erwin, Kayleen Lupe Erwin, Sharon Milhuska Escalante, Aaron Alexander Escareno, Erick Javier Estrada Guity, Edna Michelle Fernandez, Alyssa Arianna Flores, Andres Flores, Jennifer Flores, Ariana Franco and Isbery Abigail Garcia Romero.  
Briahna Lynkepfker Sherie Garcia, Brittany Yamileth Garcia, Carla Andrea Garcia, Diego Eli Garcia, Joey Lopez Garcia, Kevin Abrahan Garcia, Lupita Garcia, Xzavien Garcia, Rogelio Garibay, Tania Garza De Leon, Aldemy Joselin Garza, Alinna Zenett Garza, Ariana Dominique Garza, Brizeida Yaris Garza, Giselle Alexis Garza, Isabel Marie Garza, Isabella Garza and Mia Jazmin Gaytan.  
Deborah Debabush Geto, Maribel Gomez Camero, Conzuelo Abigail Gomez Ventura, Christopher Joel Gomez, Diana Lee Gracia, Yenny Granados, Aldo Guajardo, David Emmanuel Guevara, Debanhy Alizdey Guillen, Karina Lorraine Guillen, Lilian Alayaz Gutierrez, David Daniel Guzman, Rayne Marie Hale, Svenja Manuella Hardee, Jason Hernandez, Joselyn Hernandez and Kendy Denisse Hernandez.  
Ana Celia Herrera, Jordan Moises Hinojosa, Kaitlyn Elizabeth Houston, Thanh Truc Huynh, Ja-Nia Marlay Jerry-Jenkins, Aniya Cyann Johnson, Marina Gissell Joya Campos, Edward Steve Juarez, Jennifer Arlyn Leanos-Avina, Cecilia Yesica Lopez Gonzalez, Allison Lopez, Antonio Rodriguez Lopez, Jazmin Lopez, Juan Ramon Lopez, Luis Gerardo Lopez and Felix Reyli Lozano.  
Patricia Nohemy Luna Arqueta, Zariah Amori Madison, Raquel Janae Malbro, Alonso Marquez, Amanda Mae Martinez, Brianna Ellyssa Martinez, Daniel Vladimir Martinez, Diamond Kira Martinez, Eduardo Isaias Martinez, Joanith Yasireth Martinez, Raphael J. Martine, Ricardo Ivan Martinez, William Darwin Martinez,

Braden Lewis Mayberry, Nery Antonio Mejia Serrano, Pricisilla Ann Mendiola and Dante Oliver Mercado.  
Cecilia Abigail Molina, Cindy Giselle Molina, Adriana Montemayor, Kayden Micheal Montez, Sonia Stefany Morales Cordon, Jonathan Jahaziel Morales, Kevin Alexis Morales, Yasmine Danielle Moreno, Kiara Rochel Moya De La Rosa, Dayana Moya, Morayma Idaley Munoz, Gerald Yahir Murillo, Kimberly Negrete, Kristi Ngoc Nguyen, Leslie Caterine Oliveros, Jeremiah Louis Orta, Vanessa Ximena Ortiz, Diego Sebastian Osejo and Axel Blake Otto.  
Ruben Palacios, Fanny Brighet Palma, Noah Emmanuel Zamudio Parras, Kelly Patel, Christopher Jovanny Pena, Christian Alberto Perez, Victoria Elizabeth Perrett, Thien Phuc Pham, Jack Gui Phu, Jovanny Enrique Portillo, Valerie Michelle Portillo, Jovany Quezada, Chrissy Chris Ram, Fatima Nayeli Ramirez, Tyler Ethan Ramirez, Xiomara Sophia Ramirez, Caitlin Alysse Ramos, Aliyana Marie Rangel, Hugo Sebastian Rangel, Roselyn Rangel, Abigail Retiz and Davian Ruvelta.  
Inary Monserrat Reyes, Yaneli Reyes, Cassandra Rivas, Jennifer Elizabeth Rivera, Chelsea Jane Robertson, Allison Robles, Emma Nayeli Robles, Angel Oziel Rodriguez Castillo, Giovany Rodriguez, Aldamaris Roman Tellez, Alexis Jacqueline Romero, Luis Angel Rosales, Erick Rubalcava, Carlos Cesar Salinas, Deevanie Gizzelle Sanchez, Jeilyn Sanchez, Lindsey Alize Sanchez, Diego Fabian Santillan, Rodolfo Sarmiento and Jonathan Yahir Saucedo.  
Madison Dereon Scott, Ximena Victoria Storkamp, Camron Jarrell Taylor, Natalie Terrones, James Carlos Thomas, Jakeya Nashae Toliver, Xiomara Berenice Torres, Nancy Georgina Trevino, Francisco David Tudon Alvarado, Joaquin Vargas, Jonathan Alonzo Vargas, Maniah Janay Velez, Gianna Ilene Vera, Pamela Melina Viera, Sairah Ivania Villalobos, Annalisa Villalreal, Mariah Nicole Vizaaino, Keldriana Renee Walter, Courtney Claire Wright, Antha'najia Lynn Zamora, Marlen Leonela Zavala and Ruby Maritza Zuviri.

**11th grade**  
Francisco Nazario Lopez Tejada, Anahi Lopez, Yair Lopez, Rose Selesete Maciel, Daniela Maldonado, Estrella Mandujano, Jesus Marin, Judith Martinez, Cassandra Martinez, Raul Martinez, Jessica Alejandra Mejia, Ariana Mendoza, Angelina Gloria Molina, Antonio Moreno, Stephanie Moreno, Edgar Alejandro Najera, Erik Fernando Navarro, Jauí Polo Navarro, Anamarie Olvera and Luna Chenoa Pacheco.  
Rogelio Palma, Emily Michelle Parra, Juan Alfonso Pena Mendez, Wendy Selina Perez Morales, Michelle Anahi Perez, Ryan Duong Pham, Adrian Rey Pineda, Eryn Ian Ponce, Fernando Arturo Pruneda, Giselle Noemi Quintero, Kaylee Marie Ramirez, Joanna Monserrat Ramos, Najavi Gisel Ramos, Alexandra Rangel Rodriguez and Gerardo Damien Reyes, Rosa Anayeli Reyes, Kimberly Siomara

Rivera, Stacie Paola Rivera, Cheyenne Elizabeth-Kaye Robertson, Josephine Robles, Mansa Kawain Rogers, Carlos Roman, Victoria Isabella Romano, Monika Romero, Adrian Felipe Ruiz, Rosalinda Salazar, Natalie Salinas, Braylan Sanchez, Julian Sanchez, Roselyn Sanchez, Roselin Serna, Sonia Edith Sevilla, Urva Manish Shah, Jacob Emanuel Shepard-Rubio, Irma Sarahi Sosa Villafranca, Salomon Eduardo Sosa, Adrian Israel Soto and Miracle Zoe Soto.  
Bryanna Grace Suarez, Lindsay Olivia Tobias, Brandon Madison Trevino, Gabriel Valenzuela, Jamileth Vasquez, Noemi Crystal Vasquez, Daniel Elia Vazquez, Angela Daniela Villafranco, Magdalen Guadalupe Villalpando, David Villarreal, Taylah Ne'chel Washington, Ashley Zarate, Leslie Zavala and Evelin Zavaleta.

## Stuchbery summer school tea time



Stuchbery Elementary summer school staff members were given HTeO drinks to refresh their days. Summer school program manager Melissa Hickman provided the teachers and staff with a mini gallon of flavored teas from HTeO. Pictured, left to right, are Jacqueline Adame, Dania Garza and Bertha Guevara.

## San Jacinto College awarded mental health, wellbeing grant

San Jacinto College is one of eight higher education institutions in Texas to be awarded the Mental Health and Wellbeing Grant from the Trellis Foundation, a public charitable organization focused on enhancing postsecondary attainment for Texas students.  
**Before the grant**  
San Jac looked at the pandemic's impact on enrollment, instruction changes, and daily lives of students and faculty.  
Although the college created San Jac Cares to reach out to students throughout the pandemic, many struggled to adapt to new realities at school, work or home.  
"San Jac leadership recognized the need for more flexible options for student mental health care," said Suzanne Sambell, grant writer, office of resource development. "Our student support services staff also wanted to be able to provide more specialized training to staff and faculty so they could more effectively recognize students in mental distress, provide meaningful advice and counseling, and create effective referral systems for those needing assistance beyond what the college can provide."

In spring 2021, the college restructured counseling offices, securing licensed mental health counselors at each campus and enhancing the system for tracking mental health care requests.  
"As the grant writer, I worked very closely with Tanesha Antoine (student support services dean and grant leader) to establish what she would like to accomplish for her office," Sambell said.  
"We developed a list of improvements and needed resources for the student support services that she felt would most benefit San Jac students, faculty, and staff, and we named the project Assess and Improve Mental Health Services."

**Identifying students**  
In October 2022, the college received \$195,775 from the Trellis Foundation to support mental health and neurodiversity programs over a two-year period. Trellis connected San Jac with the JED Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes emotional health and suicide prevention for young adults.  
The JED collaboration offered an opportunity to participate in the Healthy Minds Study, developed by University of Michigan. The survey explores mental health, service utilization, and related issues among college students. Antoine explained that students are often unaware of the extent of support services available to them, so the team is eager to hear what they have to say.  
About 500 students have completed the survey as of Dec. 13. Antoine is confident the survey results will

help the team develop a plan to meet students' needs and better understand their perspectives on mental health services.  
"We have explored how to provide unique experiences for our students that we can tie to their mental health, such as goat yoga and engaging speakers that have shared experiences," Antoine said. "We also understand that we need to build connections and engage with our online students."  
Funding will also help increase staffing, expand available hours, support a marketing campaign and social media presence, and improve overall awareness and engagement efforts.  
**The plan**  
The grant money will help support the goals of AIMS:  
- Assess through Healthy Minds Study survey.  
- Create an awareness campaign for the college's mental health and basic needs resources and services.  
- Expand the number of mental health counselors and hours of counseling services.  
- Build culturally appropriate mental health resources so all student groups feel comfortable seeking help.  
- Create peer-led support groups to reduce stigma for those seeking mental health counseling.  
Antoine feels the college community should engage in efforts to support students. Being aware, spreading the knowledge, and sharing ideas are ways others can support these efforts.  
Learn more about student mental health services at sanjac.edu/support/health-support/mental-health-resources.

## Remember When

**45 years ago (1979)**  
Harris County Sheriff officers apprehended a juvenile in regards to a break-in of a Sageglen home. The youth, reported to be a neighbor of the victim, apparently gained entrance to the home by throwing a brick through a back bedroom window.  
Residents of Sageglen were asked to vote on a recreational facility for that subdivision that would include a 25-meter swimming pool with diving area, wading pool, offices, storage, lounge facilities and lighted tennis courts.  
A local resident reported her yard was vandalized when a car drove over a row of 22 silver-leaved poplar trees that had recently been replanted as a result of a similar incident that had occurred two weeks before, when eight trees were damaged.

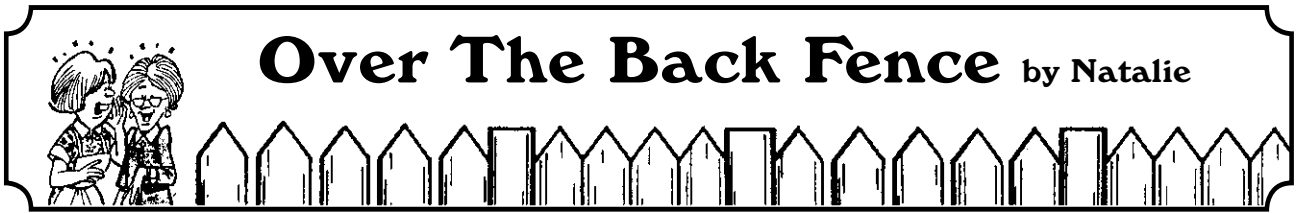
**40 years ago (1984)**  
The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees unanimously upheld the policy of subtracting grade points for unexcused absences for two brothers attending Beverly Hills Intermediate School.  
Councilman Frank Mancuso announced that Houston would not annex the Kirkmont subdivision.  
**35 Years ago (1989)**  
Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees named Stephanie Wright the assistant principal at Beverly Hills Intermediate School.  
**30 years ago (1994)**  
Thompson Intermediate School principal Vicki Thomas was named to direct

the Pasadena Independent School District's entire vocational program.  
The Holiday Foods space on Scarsdale, which had been vacant for three years, was leased by Hong Kong Supermarket.  
**25 years ago (1999)**  
Dr. John Morgan and four male companions survived a plane crash on a trip to Africa.  
Stan Labay, Dobie High School's head football coach, was to serve as parade marshal for the annual July Fourth parade.  
**20 years ago (2004)**  
The annual South Belt July 4th parade was just days away. Houston Mayor Bill White would serve as grand

marshal and City Council Member Addie Wiseman would be the special guest.  
The Texas Retirement Service notified Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Rick Schneider that he could not claim nontaken vacation pay for the purpose of increasing his retirement.  
Preliminary figures indicated a 7.9 percent increase for the Summer I session at San Jacinto College South campus.  
Dobie High student and Boy Scout Justin Lai designed a flagpole receptacle composed of a pipe with a cap to keep out dirt for the esplanades in Sagemont. The

project was part of his qualifications to become an Eagle Scout.  
**15 years ago (2009)**  
First Community Bank broke ground on its new facility in the 12900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Las Haciendas and the METRO Park and Ride. The bank formerly had two branches

in the South Belt area, but pulled out of the Houston market due to a purchase and noncompete agreement with Wells Fargo that ended earlier in the year.  
**10 years ago (2014)**  
Larry Savala was sworn in to the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees, replacing Jerry Speer. Savala was president of the Hispanic Family Initiative and received many honors for his volunteer work in the community.  
**5 years ago (2019)**  
Dr. John D. Morgan, senior pastor of Sagemont Church for 53 years, announced the beginning of a transition period that would find his successor as leader of the 21,000-member church. The church marked its 53rd anniversary, along with Morgan's 53rd as pastor, on June 2. In those 53 years, Sagemont Church witnessed more than 18,000 baptisms; 20,000 professions of faith; and gifts totaling nearly \$364 million. Morgan would continue to deliver the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship services for several more months.  
**1 year ago (2023)**  
A female driver was killed in a fiery crash around 9:30 p.m. Sunday, June 18, in the 8500 block of SH 3/Old Galveston Road near Fuqua. Kasey Ramirez, 37, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to a witness, Ramirez's vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed when it lost control, struck a signal pole and burst into flames. Ramirez's car was burned beyond recognition, investigators said.



**HARDYS CELEBRATE 65 YEARS**  
Congratulations are sent to **Rose and James Hardy**, who celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary June 30, from friends in the South Belt area.  
**POMPAS ENJOY 50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**Nancy and Roger Pompa** celebrate 50 years of marriage June 30. Best wishes are sent from friends to the special couple as they enjoy this anniversary.  
**ABIGAIL TURNS 12!**  
Best wishes for a happy birthday July 3 are sent to **Abigail Durham**, who turns 12 years old, from parents **Courtney and Chris Durham**, brother **Jackson** and baby sister **Penelope**; aunt **Kimberly** and husband **Matt Lipina**; grandparents **Fred and Leslie Flickinger**; great-grandmother **Olive Falkowski**; great-grandfather **John Fairchild**; great-grandparents **Marie and David Flickinger**; great-uncle **David Flickinger** (Leader president) and his wife **Ellie**; and **Marie's** sister **Alexis Lochner**.  
**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 27 through July 3.  
**Atkinson Elementary**  
Marking a memorable birthday July 27 is **Tulu Sarkar**. Birthday greetings are sent to

**Maria Zamora** June 28.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
Enjoying a birthday June 30 is **Yeliza Davila**.  
**Genoa Elementary**  
Birthday greetings go out to **Laura Garcia** June 29. Join in the birthday celebration July 2 for **Sugell Orocio**. **Alejandra Alcala** celebrates a birthday July 3.  
**South Belt Elementary**  
Light the birthday candles on a cake for **Jannette Gonzalez** June 28. **Amberlyn Olmeda** celebrates a birthday June 29. Birthday wishes go out to **Audra Taylor** July 2.  
**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Light the birthday candles July 3 for **Cheryl Wilson**.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
The day for cake and ice cream for **Kristin Konzelman** is June 28. Celebrating a birthday July 2 is **Stacy Anthony**.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
The day for a birthday celebration for **Joseph Peterson** is June 29. The day for a birthday cake for **Vanessa Schultz** is June 30. Join in the birthday celebration July 1 for **Melissa Garcia**. **Lauren Lester** and **Mark Samuel** enjoy a memorable birthday July 2. Send

birthday greetings to **William Agan**.  
**Thompson Intermediate**  
Sing a birthday song to **Stefanie Cantin** June 27.  
**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, June 27: **Lorie Medina, Zel Bell, Ruth Clay, Ynot Guillory, Danielle LeBlanc Judge and Robyn Bryant**; Friday, June 28: **Jan Edwards Barker, Daren Williams, Kim York Hills and Carla Pronio**; Saturday, June 29: **Kristi Rogers, Terri Nicholson, Cheryl Raymond and Judy Lannou Thiele**; Sunday, June 30: **Susan Jenins-Cowan, Marlene Varela, Sonya Hernandez and BJ Parmelee**; Monday, July 1: **Siobhan Strambler, Barbara Porbandt, Tina Ramirez and Piper Sais**; Tuesday, July 2: **Mary Collins, Brent Garza, Carrie Ramos, Nancy Pompa, Leslie Eaton, Paul Station, Randy Weber, Eddie Shields, Darrel Black and Carolyn Benitez-Pineda**; and Wednesday, July 3: **Nancy Smith, Frank Castillo, Bill Phenix and Benny Outland**.  
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# Regional cross-country qualifier Trevino chooses UT-Dallas program

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

Already a big name regionally on the NCAA Division III athletic scene, the University of Texas-Dallas programs have continued to add talented student-athletes ahead of a planned jump to Division II a year from now.

Clear Brook High School class of 2024 graduate Joseph Trevino figures to fit right in with the Comet men's cross-country and track and field programs as he heads for Dallas in mid-August.

A three-time Region III cross-country qualifier (2021-2023), Trevino also made his way to the regional meet a time or two in the distance events for the Wolverines.

Now, the youngest of three Trevino graduates (Madeleine, 2020 and Matthew, 2022) Joseph is ready to make his mark collegiately.

"I think I can step in and be a No. 4, No. 5 guy fairly quickly, I'm just looking forward to getting

to Dallas and doing what I can to help the team out. Starting up with a new team is going to be fun, and I'm looking forward to the experience."

For those who are not familiar with the Comets' lineup of 15 athletic programs, there has been plenty of competitiveness across the board.

The UT-Dallas men's cross-country team won its fourth league title in the last seven seasons in 2023, taking the American Southwest Conference championship at Abilene Christian University last October.

Two weeks later, the Comets traveled to Riverside, Calif., competing in the NCAA Division III West Regional at the Riverside city cross-country course, eventually placing 14th nationally.

UT-Dallas senior Graham McClain ran the ninth-fastest time in program history in the 8K event, placing 38th overall to highlight the team's appearance.

McClain was among three seniors competing within the top five finishers for the Comets a season ago along with two returnees.

The UT-Dallas men's and women's cross-country programs have obviously developed into key players within the DIII ranks.

Overall, the UT-Dallas athletic department turned in a terrific 2023-2024 season, recording the most points and program history in the NCAA Learfield Director's Cup standings.

The Comets sent five teams to NCAA Division III championship events last school year, earning 242 Deerfield Cup points and finishing 80th in the nation out of 438 institutions.

The UT-Dallas athletics program has been a member of Division III's American Southwest Conference for the entirety of the department's athletic history beginning in 1998.

Looking ahead to 2025-2026, the UT-Dallas ath-

letics program, including all 15 men's and women's varsity sports, are tentatively scheduled to move to the Lone Star Conference, which will include a move to the Division II ranks.

Next spring, Trevino said he is probably going to run the 5K and 10K distances when the track and field season begins for the Comets.

A season ago, the UT-Dallas men's track and field program finished third in the final standings of the American Southwest Conference Championships in Abilene.

Trevino said his sister, Madeleine, ran cross-country in intermediate school, which interested both him and older brother, Matthew. A class of 2022 Clear Brook graduate, Matthew Trevino competed for a season collegiately and is currently focusing on his studies.

Joseph Trevino, also a two-year varsity basketball player at Clear Brook, developed into a steady

shooter for the Wolverines. He will now focus on his running career while studying business analytics.

"Just being part of the team and being around the guys every day is what I'll miss about basketball," Trevino said.

"It used to be my favorite sport, but I quit growing and maybe I'm not as athletic as some guys. But I think I became a pretty good catch-and-shoot guy, so I think maybe I surprised my coach and maybe a few other people.

"I'm proud of the way it all played out on the basketball court."

Now, it's on to UT-Dallas. Trevino hopes to eventually work within the front office of a professional sports franchise in the ever-growing analytics field, but he's not finished running just yet.

"I'm ready to get there and get started with the guys," Trevino said. "They have some talented guys already there, so I just want to fit in."



At left, Clear Brook High School Class of 2024 graduate Joseph Trevino figures to fit right in with the Comet men's cross-country and track and field programs as he heads for Dallas in mid-August. A three-time Region III cross-country qualifier (2021-2023), Trevino also made his way to the regional meet a time or two in the distance events for the Wolverines. Now, it's on to UT-Dallas. Trevino hopes to eventually work within the front office of a professional sports franchise in the ever-growing analytics field, but he's not finished running just yet. A season ago, the UT-Dallas men's track and field program finished third in the final standings of the American Southwest Conference Championships.

# Lutheran South graduate Robbins ready for collegiate basketball jump

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

Having cemented her legacy as one of the all-time great student-athletes in Lutheran South Academy, Class of 2024 graduate Makynna Robbins will now continue a family tradition as she joins National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics women's basketball power Concordia University of Seward, Neb.

An accomplished three-sport performer for the Pioneers since the sixth-grade, Robbins will now turn her full attention to the hardwood in college.

As a senior during the 2023-2024 season, Robbins became Lutheran South Academy's all-time leading scorer Feb. 5 as she scored 36 points to lead the Pioneers to a 66-53 come-from-behind victory over Katie St. John XXIII.

At season's end, Robbins was named the district Most Valuable Player

as she finished her career as a first team All-State player as well as an Academic All-State honoree.

Robbins exited the Lutheran South program as the both the all-time leading scorer with 1,571 career points and rebounder with 1,199. Suffice to say, Concordia is set to bring in a highly-productive player.

Realistically, Robbins was meant to wind up at Concordia University with

the Bulldogs.

Her parents, Nathan and Laura Robbins, met while attending the same university. Her father played football, while her mother played volleyball and also participated in dance.

Concordia University is a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program, and the women's basketball program spent the majority of last season ranked within the top 10 spots nationally.

Veteran Bulldogs' head coach Drew Olson has led his program to national tournament appearances in each of the past four seasons, and adding Robbins to the mix should only benefit the Bulldogs

moving forward as they look to reload following the departure of a decorated senior group.

Featuring that senior-dominated roster, the 2023-2024 Concordia team exited the NAIA national tournament in the round of 16, posting a 27-7 overall record.

Where Robbins' high school chapter has ended, what a run it was. She began attending Lutheran South Academy as a first-grade student and began playing volleyball and girls' basketball, and running track and field as early as the sixth grade.

While she continued to play volleyball and participate in the weight throws (discus, shot) during her high school career on the track and field scene, Robbins said she always knew that basketball would be her favorite sport.

Simply put, Robbins had a dominant career with the Pioneers, arguably exiting as the top player in program history. "I am really proud of what I was able to accomplish at LSA," Robbins said.

"I feel like I was able to improve my game each season and add something new along the way. I feel like I am strong, and able to use my physical abilities to get inside and attack the basket.

"As I look to the college game, I'm hoping to improve my outside shooting and add things to my game which will only help me become a better player."

"Hopefully, I can step right in and help out at Concordia as soon as possible."

Robbins will now leave volleyball and track and field in the rearview mirror, but what a difference she made at the high school level.

On the volleyball court, Robbins was a solid contributor to a Lutheran South Academy program that won 71 matches over two seasons and advanced to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State tournament two years in a row. The 2023 team played in the state final.

Over those two varsity seasons, Robbins played in 252 overall sets, adding 360 career kills.

On the basketball court, Robbins played in 13 games as a freshman at the varsity level on the basketball court. For the next three years, she was one of the Houston area's top overall performers.

For her career, Robbins played in 94 basketball games, averaging 16.7 points and 12.8 rebounds per game. She had 1,199 total rebounds and scored

1,571 points, both Lutheran South Academy program records. As a junior, Robbins recorded a double-double in 21 of 25 games.

"My senior season didn't end the way we hoped as a team, but we gave it everything we had," Robbins said.

Her collegiate future decided, Robbins went outside for her final season with the Pioneers' varsity girls' track and field program, again finding the record books.

Setting a school mark at 112 feet in the discus earlier in the season, Robbins eventually qualified for the state meet in Waco.

At state, Robbins helped the LSA girls' team finish 10th overall, throwing the discus 111 feet, 1 inch to place fourth. She was also fourth at state in the shot put with a throw of 36-5.

Just like that, Robbins' stellar high school career was closed, yet there is more to come at Concordia.

Although Robbins has yet to identify her specific career path, she plans to pursue a behavioral science degree collegiately. At the end of the school year, Robbins was honored as LSA's Female Athlete of the Year, so she is certainly well-equipped to excel off the hardwood.



At right, class of 2024 graduate and three-sport standout Makynna Robbins (5) exited the Lutheran South program as both the all-time leading scorer with 1,571 career points and rebounder with 1,199. Robbins became Lutheran South Academy's girls' basketball all-time leading scorer Feb. 5 as she scored 36 points to lead the Pioneers to a 66-53 come-from-behind victory over Katie St. John XXIII.

## South Belt Girls Softball Association 10-U All-Stars take second



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 10-under All-Star team placed second at the USA Softball Houston Metro Tournament in Deer Park, making an undefeated run to the championship game. The locals have now qualified for the national event next month in Brenham. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Dulce Manríquez, Melinda González, Camila Bertoni, Ava Rodriguez, Presley McMurry, Torynn Casiano, (middle row) Anastazia Bernhardt, Kelsie Bolling, Aleena Robinson, Alexia Olivares, Janelle Auguson, Adrienne Guzman, Alessandra Gutierrez, (back row) assistant coaches Robert Bolling and Rene Rodriguez, head coach Pete Guzman and assistant coach Aaron McMurry.



Makynna Robbins was meant to wind up at Concordia University with the Bulldogs. Her parents, Nathan and Laura Robbins, met while attending the same university. Her father played football, while her mother played volleyball and also participated in dance.

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# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27**  
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/.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505 Call 713-419-2635 for details.  
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.

**MONDAY, JULY 1**  
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** See Friday's notice.  
12:30 - 3 p.m. **Ballroom Dancing** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

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

5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Monday for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@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 Rd., 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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

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

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

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

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

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

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** See Friday's notice.  
**TUESDAY, JULY 2**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

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

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.  
11:30 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.

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

6:30 p.m. **Noon Bay Area Quilt Guild** - Meets the first Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship; meeting/program at 7 p.m. Visit www.FaceBook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild or call Carol at 713-253-2521 for information. Visitors may attend two meetings free. No regular meeting in

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

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.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30**  
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 mes-

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# Ballard takes pass-catching talents to Tulsa University football team

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

Midway through his collegiate football career, former Dobie High School star receiver Jeremiah Ballard is getting a fresh start with the Tulsa University Golden Hurricanes.

Ballard was a first team All-District receiver during the 2020 season at Dobie, where he helped the Longhorns win the District 22-6A championship.

After his high school graduation, Ballard signed to play at the University of Texas-El Paso and subsequently spent two seasons with the Miners.

Ballard shortly after the completion of the 2023 season entered the NCAA transfer portal and ultimately joined the Golden Hurricanes at mid-semester last school year.

Ballard went through spring practices with the Golden Hurricanes, and said he expects to play a vital role within the receiver room heading into the 2024 campaign.

"I am looking forward to getting out on the field as a part of this Tulsa program," Ballard said.

"I just felt like it was a good fit for me, and so far the experience has been great. The college football

game is a lot different than at the high school level. Obviously, it's a lot more serious, and you individually are responsible for a lot of your own personal success on the field.

"Your results are what you make of it. I have found that you just have to get out there and do the best you can. There are a lot of guys out there battling for the receiver roles, and you just have to do what you can to get playing time."

While at Dobie, Ballard played in the Longhorns' run-heavy offense, but that didn't stop the 6-foot-3-inch wide receiver from becoming one of the top big-play threats in the Houston area.

As a senior, Ballard caught 39 passes for 765 yards and 11 touchdowns. After a redshirt season at UTEP in 2021 and then minimal production in 2022, Ballard stepped up in 2023.

Over two seasons at UTEP, Ballard played in 27 games, catching 45 balls for 685 yards and a pair of scores.

Ballard is aware that he has been known primarily as a down-the-sideline deep threat to this point in his career, but has worked on his route tree running

and is looking forward to adding more versatility to his game with the Golden Hurricanes.

As for the move to Tulsa, there was big change in the air at UTEP, with many of the program's returnees free to explore other opportunities.

UT-El Paso underwent a coaching staff overhaul at the end of the 2023 season, so it was a natural move for Ballard to look for another place to play football.

During his time in the portal, Ballard said he developed a connection with Tulsa recruiting coordinator and wide receivers coach Ryan Switzer, who Ballard said believes the junior receiver can come in and make a big difference on the outside for the Golden Hurricanes.

Ballard came away from spring practice excited about some of the possibilities with his new team heading into the 2024 season, and says if the 2024 season started today, he would be a starting receiver.

"I am really looking forward to this new opportunity for myself," Ballard said. "Tulsa is headed in the right direction, and I'm excited to be a part of what they're doing. I have

two years of eligibility left, and I feel like I have a lot to offer a program. I am ready to get out there and catch some passes, and just do what I can to help my team win football games."

Off the field, Ballard is well on his way to earning a degree in kinesiology with a minor in exercise science.

He envisions a coaching career post college, and is looking forward to the opportunity to help young players much in the same way that he has to this point.

As for the 2024 season and beyond with the Golden Hurricanes, Ballard believes he has done quite a bit with his opportunity in college football to this point but has more to offer.

"I'm really excited about the upcoming season," Ballard said.

"We have a talented group of guys out there, and I'm just looking forward to doing what I can to play a part in the process."

In between now and the start of preseason football practice, Ballard is also looking forward to getting a chance to get out and experience more of what the city of Tulsa has to offer.

Since his arrival on

campus in January, Ballard says he hasn't had a real opportunity to get out and explore some of the scenery in the area. That's all about to change, though, as he begins to get comfortable with his new surroundings.

"It's a great opportunity for me, both as a player and as a student-athlete. I'm just excited to continue the process and see what the possibilities are for both myself and this program."



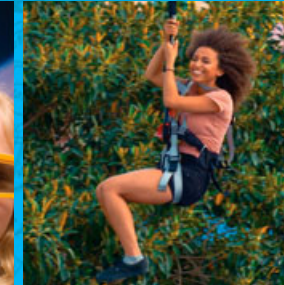
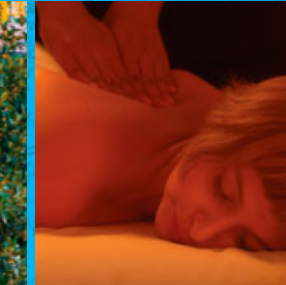



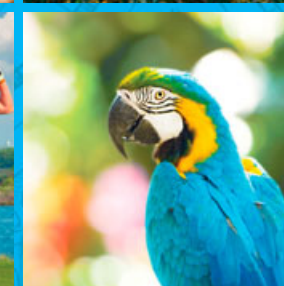


**At right, while at Dobie, Jeremiah Ballard (81) played in head coach Kevin Beneathy's run-heavy offense, but that didn't stop the 6-foot-3-inch wide receiver from becoming one of the top big-play threats in the Houston area. As a senior, Ballard caught 39 passes for 765 yards and 11 touchdowns. After a redshirt season at UTEP in 2021 and then minimal production in 2022, Ballard stepped up in 2023. Over two seasons with the Miners, Ballard played in 27 games, catching 45 balls for 685 yards and a pair of scores.**



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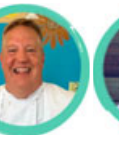
  
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### Dobie VB plans July activities

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host a pair of youth camps July 24-26 at the main campus, with incoming third- through sixth-grade students attending from 9 to 11 a.m. and incoming seventh- and eighth-grade students attending from noon to 2 p.m. The focuses of the camps will include individual skills training, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills and friendly match play. Cost of each camp is \$50 per student and may be paid in cash on the first day of the camps or via Cash App at \$Dvbbooster. For additional information, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

With an eye toward the start of preseason high school workouts, Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host incoming freshmen through returning seniors July 29-31 at Dobie main. The returning sophomores, juniors and seniors will train from 9 a.m. to noon each day, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m.

### SBYSC opens fall season registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has begun registration for the 2024 fall season and is currently offering early registration prices through July 14 at www.southbeltsoccer.org. Regular registration will then run July 15 through August 16 as the league continues to prepare for the season. Registration is accepted via credit or debit card only.

Practices will begin in August, and teams will typically train two days a week in the early evenings. Games will begin in September after the Labor Day holiday, and continue through November.

The registration fee includes a team jersey top, shorts and socks. Parents will provide shin guards, soccer cleats and a soccer ball. Registration age groups, fees and more information is available by visiting www.southbeltsoccer.org.

### Clear Brook summer volleyball camp activities

Clear Brook High School volleyball head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff will host the 2024 Wolverine Youth Volleyball Camp July 29 through Aug. 1. Session I is open to incoming third through fifth-grade students and will run from 8 to 10 a.m. each day.

Session II is reserved for sixth through eighth-grade students and will also run from 8 to 10 a.m. each day, while session III will include all incoming ninth- grade students in addition to elite level eighth-grade players. This session will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day.

Sessions I and II are \$90 per camp participant, while session III is \$100 per participant. Walk up registration fees increase by \$10 accordingly.

The Clear Brook youth camp will focus on the fundamentals of volleyball including serving, hitting, blocking, defense, team play and more. For more information direct email to Thompson at mthomp1@ccisd.net.

## St. Thomas hoops welcomes Jackson

**Continued from Page 5**

With Jackson and others coming on board for next season, the Celts are looking to build upon what was an outstanding 2023-24 season.

The Celts went 20-7 overall, including 12-4 in Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference play.

St. Thomas reached the conference semifinals, then drew an invitation to the NCAA Division III tournament.

In the first round of the tournament, the Celts dropped a 78-71 decision to Claremont.

Junior Calvin Williams IV led St. Thomas in scoring at 18 points per game, followed by sophomore Nick Anderson at 16.4 points per game.

Jackson is looking to bring his scoring abilities to the table for the Celts during his freshman season, but also said he is a distributor and will also commit to the defensive end.

"I'm just looking to help out wherever I can to help my team win. That's always most important," Jackson said.

"This is a great opportunity for me, and I just want to go out there and do what I can to help this team win games.

"The chance to contribute immediately as a freshman was something that was important to me, but at the same time, it's a

team game and I just want to do what I can to help my teammates."

Off the court, Jackson said he will study the business field. Ultimately, he is looking to become a coach, probably in the basketball arena, as he looks to further his career.

First and foremost, Jackson is looking forward to getting the start collegiately on the basketball court, and seeing where the game takes him.

"I've always wanted to play college basketball. Right now, my focus is to continue working on my jump shot, continue to work hard in the weight room, get stronger and working on the physical abilities that I'll need to play at the collegiate level," Jackson said. "On the court, I will continue to work hard defensively, as that is what's going to earn me playing time first and foremost.

"I really feel like my jump shot will help me out at the college level. I can fill it up, and I look forward to going out there and showing what I can do at the next level. St. Thomas has had a good program, and I just want to go in there and do what I can to keep things going."

Early on, Jackson no doubt will feel like he's starting over. But he's done that before, and things worked out rather well. With more than 1,000 career points at Dobie, Jackson knows he can score the basketball. Now it's time to go see what he can do collegiately.

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