

### Electronic recycling June 8

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, June 8, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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

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

The city's collection events traditionally take place the second Saturday of each month.

For additional information, visit [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org) or call 311.

### KC sets date for BBQ sale

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 from St. Luke Catholic Church, 11011 Hall, will host a pulled pork barbecue and sausage sale Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sale will be held in the social hall. Attendees will have their choice of pulled pork sandwich with onions and pickles, chips and water or tea for \$12 or a sausage on a stick for \$6.

### Kirkmont Sec. 1 meets

Kirkmont Sec. 1 HOA will hold a meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, at the Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk. Deed restrictions and monthly business will be discussed.

All Kirkmont Sec. 1 residents are encouraged to attend.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Bay Area Boulevard to Flyway Drive daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Saturday, June 15.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lanes 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.

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

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

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

### Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one eastbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed at Hughes Road/Sabo continuously until further notice.

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway continuously until further notice.

No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

At least one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from SH 225 to Pasadena Boulevard continuously until further notice.

No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

At least one eastbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed at SH 288 until further notice.

### Library seeking books

The Friends of the Parker Williams Branch Library needs donations of both fiction and non-fiction books, either paperback or hardcover, in gently used or like new condition.

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

### 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 6, with another event happening the following Thursday, June 13.

For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

## Whitmire, Ogg name 7 arrested in water repair scam

A former Houston Public Works employee and six others were arrested in an alleged bribery scheme related to waterline repairs, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg and Mayor John Whitmire announced at a joint press conference Friday, May 31.

Patrece Lee, a former Public Works maintenance manager, was charged with abuse of official capacity and four counts of bribery.

"Abuse of official capacity punishes public employees and officials for using their position to steal," said Ogg.

Lee - who was solely responsible for verifying potential vendors - allegedly used her position to steer more than \$400,000 in city funds to her brother's business, LCI Construction.

Lee's brother, Andrew Thomas, was also charged with abuse of official capacity.

Lee was suspended this past November following an investigation by KPRC Channel 2. That news report launched a criminal investigation by the county. That investigation has now been taken over by the Texas Rangers.

According to Channel 2 reporting, the incidents in question took place between January 2023 and November 2023, as the city was experiencing an extreme drought. The city had allotted \$80 million for emergency waterline repairs, and because of the emergency conditions, potential contractors were able to bypass the city's normal bidding and verification.

Lee reportedly started her own company, KB3 Construction, and would then require the selected contractors to pay her company a consulting fee in exchange for hiring them.

According to investigators, at least four ven-

dors allegedly paid money directly to Lee to obtain contracts from the city. The following vendor were all charged as part of the ongoing investigation:

- Joseph Nerie, owner of Nerie Construction: charged with bribery (second degree felony) and tampering with a government document (state jail felony).

- Edelmiro Castillo, owner of Omega Engineering: charged with bribery (second degree felony) and tampering with a government document (state jail felony).

• Teasha Coleman Houston, Owner of T. J. Cole Enterprises: charged with bribery (second degree felony).

• Frank Perkins, owner of CST Connections: charged with bribery (second degree felony).

Investigators said the two tampering with government document charges relate to lying on a conflict of interest form when applying with the city.

The alleged kickbacks amounted to more than \$320,000, according to investigators.

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## HCAD election day June 15

Early voting for the June 15 Harris Central Appraisal District board of directors runoff election began Monday, June 3, and continue through Tuesday, June 11.

In two of the three Harris Central Appraisal District board of directors contests on the May 4 ballot, no candidate received the 50 percent of the vote required to avoid a runoff. As a result, the At-Large Place 2 and At-Large Place 3 races will now head to a June 15 runoff election.

"The Harris Central Appraisal District is the largest appraisal district in Texas and one of the largest appraisal districts in the United States," said Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth, the county's chief election official. "If you own property in Harris County, this election will impact you."

In the At-Large Place 2 race, Kyle Scott will

face Melissa Noriega.

In the At-Large Place 3 contest, Pelumi Adeleke will face longtime South Belt resident Ericka McCrutecheon. President of the Kirkwood Civic Club, McCrutecheon received approximately twice as many votes as Adeleke in the May 4 election but fell just short of the 50-percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

Although the HCAD board of directors is not directly responsible for assessing property values, the newly elected members will have significant administrative responsibilities. Their role includes hiring the chief appraiser, appointing members to the appraisal review board, setting the district's budget, and communicating with external stakeholders. The winner of each contest will assume office on July 1, 2024, and serve

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## Stuck in Beamer ditch



This past week, two excavators belonging to Rebel Construction, the company hired by Harris County to finish the Beamer Ditch improvement project, became stuck in the ditch following heavy rains in the area. The excavators were freed when the water drained allowing crew members to return to work on the project, which is now in its final phase and expected to be complete by the end of year. The Leader thanks South Belt resident Becky Au for notifying the newspaper about the incident. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## CCISD recognizes dads, dogs

The Clear Creek ISD community recently came together in a celebration of a "Doggone Great Year" in a spirited nod to 2024 Community Partners of the Year, the Faithful Friends organization and CCISD Campus Watch D.O.G.S., or Dads of Great Students.

Clear Creek ISD also recognized 44 volunteers of the year, representing every CCISD school, at the district's annual Volunteer and Partnership Breakfast at the Clear Creek ISD Challenger Columbia Stadium Fieldhouse Community Room.

In surprise announcements during the event, the district also named Leslie Holcomb of Hyde Elementary the Elementary Volunteer of the Year and Hilton Koch of Clear Falls High School the Secondary Volunteer of the Year for their contri-

butions and commitment to their school communities.

"You may have heard it said, if you want to go fast, you run alone, but if you want to go far, you walk together," said CCISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Engle. "This proverb has been the drumbeat of the Clear Creek ISD community. Because of this belief, and for all that you do for a CCISD student, staff member or school, we honor and thank you this morning."

Besides the obvious canine connection, the two community partners of the year have a lot in common when it comes to the safety and well-being of students.

Faithful Friends is an animal-assisted therapy ministry whose volunteers, both two-leg-

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## Ellington Airport celebrates milestone, 107th birthday

This past month, Ellington Airport celebrated its 107th birthday, a remarkable milestone that reflects the rich tapestry woven from military aviation, space exploration and commercial innovation.

Established in 1917, Ellington Field, as it was known then, served as a training ground for World War I pilots. Fast forward to the present day, and the scene is a mosaic of hangars, laboratories, and bustling tarmac; a testament to Ellington's continuous evolution.

World War II saw Ellington transform into a critical training center for thousands of pilots, navigators and bombardiers. Following the war, the base transitioned into Ellington Air Force Base in 1947, specializing in navigator training. The 1950s and 1960s witnessed a period of diversification as Ellington provided pilot and nav-

igator training for not only the U.S. Air Force but also for air reservists, air guardsmen and even international students.

A pivotal moment arrived in 1962 when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) became a tenant at Ellington. The airport's flight facilities became an essential training ground for astronauts, with Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo astronauts logging countless hours honing their skills in T-38 Talon jets. Ellington's role in nurturing the flying proficiency of these astronauts proved to be a significant factor in the success of the U.S. space program.

Arturo Machuca, director of Ellington Airport, underscores this impact: "Ellington helped to transform Houston into Space City."

By 1967, Ellington had become the stage for the Apollo lunar landing training program,

solidifying its connection to one of humanity's greatest achievements. The year 1976 marked the official deactivation of Ellington Air Force Base, with Air Force Reserve squadrons relocating. Texas Air National Guard flight operations, however, have remained a continuous thread throughout Ellington's history.

Embracing its civilian future, Ellington Field was transferred to the city of Houston in 1984, and reborn as a municipal airport. While supporting military reserve and guard units, it also con-

tinued its partnership with NASA and expanded its reach to encompass general aviation and aerospace activities. The annual Wings Over Houston Airshow became a signature event, while the Johnson Space Center astronauts continued to rely on Ellington for ongoing space training.

Ellington's legacy took another giant leap forward in 2015 with the establishment of the Houston Spaceport, the nation's 10th FAA-licensed commercial spaceport. This innovation offers un-

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## New program tracks storm debris collection

On May 31, the city of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) announced the release of its Storm Debris Collection progress tracker. This tool enables residents to monitor the daily progress of debris collection efforts following the devastating Derecho Storm on May 16.

Updated every evening, the public can access the webpage with this link [bit.ly/HTXStormDebris](http://bit.ly/HTXStormDebris) to receive information on estimated collection schedules and progress in their neighborhoods. This map displays areas where collections have occurred, where crews are currently working, and where collections are scheduled for the next two days. Additionally, residents have the ability to type their address in the tool bar provided to determine their approximate collection schedule. Residents can revisit the site, at their

convenience, to get the latest updates on the city's debris removal efforts.

Approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of residential storm debris was generated from the devastating storm - enough to fill half of NRG Stadium. Over the next 90 days, SWMD will utilize the resources of supplemental disaster collection contractors to expedite the debris removal operations in neighborhoods throughout the city. Over the past eight days, contractors have safely collected more than 380,000 cubic yards of storm debris.

To aid in the coordination of collection efforts, SWMD encourages residents in impacted areas to report all debris removal needs to [www.houston311.org](http://www.houston311.org), call 311 or visit the website at [Houstonsolidwaste.org](http://Houstonsolidwaste.org), and download the HTX Collects mobile application.

## No city pool open, only area pools

The City of Houston has announced its initial 2024 swimming schedule, with no pools in the immediate South Belt area being in the first two of three phases of opening.

This year's swimming season kicked off over the Memorial Day weekend in Phase I of the city's staggered pool openings.

Phase II of the swimming pool openings began Saturday, June 1. Phase III of the openings will take place Saturday, June 8.

At press time, the city had yet to announce the swimming pools to open during Phase III.

The rationed park openings are due to a nationwide pool shortage. Officials said the swimming pools to be opened were selected according to their past usage.

Wilson Memorial Park, located at 100 Gilpin

## At Texas GOP convention



Community members Barry and Denise Burleigh attended the Texas GOP convention as delegates May 23-24 in San Antonio. There were more than 9,000 delegates and alternates from across the state in attendance. According to Matt Rinaldi, (chairman, Republican Party of Texas) delegates and alternates were given the opportunity to discuss, debate and determine the positions and priorities that will direct and define the party over the next two years, as well as elect the party's leadership that will work with the members to ensure a statewide victory in November. Denise and Barry are local business people and are active in various endeavors including the South Belt Chamber of Commerce.

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# 7 arrested in city's water scam

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Danielle Hurts, a former contract employee with Public Works, was also charged with abuse of official capacity and bribery for allegedly aiding Lee in the scheme.

In all, there was a total of 14 criminal charges filed against seven defendants.

Ogg said steps will be taken to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

"All of the normal checks and balances were averted, and that is a recipe for corruption," said Ogg. "The damage of public corruption in the big picture is the public's loss of trust in government to be responsible stewards of their money."

Facing sharp financial challenges with the city, Whitmire shared a similar sentiment.

"I've already sent word to all of my department heads. We're watching. Don't even think about cutting corners or playing favorites," Whitmire said at Friday's press conference. "I assured the public we wouldn't ask for additional revenue until we can guarantee that we removed conflicts of interest and public corruption."

Many South Belt residents - particularly in the Sagemont Park subdivision - have experienced issues over the past year with excessive water billing. Those problems were believed to be associated with the installation of new digital meter readers, and at press time, it was unclear if the two matters were related in any way.

The investigation is ongoing.

## Whitmire, Ogg on water arrests



District Attorney, Kim Ogg and Mayor of Houston, John Whitmire are shown above at a press conference where the pair informed the media about the recent charges against seven individuals involved in a criminal scam concerning water repair contracts for the city of Houston.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Elected officials share their words

### Sen. Cornyn slams Biden's immigration executive order

On June 4, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) led a press conference with Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and a group of their Senate Republican colleagues to discuss the executive order on immigration President Biden is expected to announce later today and the consequences of his administration's failure to secure the border. Excerpts are below, and video of Sen. Cornyn's remarks can be found here.

"My question to [President Biden] is, why did you wait until now if you were serious about doing it? The simple answer is he's not serious about securing the border."

"The simple fact of the matter is that the same laws that were in effect back when President Trump was in office are still in effect, but the difference is the unwillingness of this White House and this administration simply to enforce the law."

"It is a shell game. They are not serious about it."

"This is a conversion based on the proximity of the next election and sinking poll numbers."

"This executive order is just political cover, and the American people aren't going to be fooled."

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.

### Local library events set

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

#### Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, May 6, 3 - 4 p.m. Family story time.  
Thursday, May 6, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lab - computer class.  
Monday, June 10, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lab - computer class.  
Tuesday, June 11, 4 - 5 p.m. Youth-board games. Registration required.  
Wednesday, June 12, 6 - 7 p.m. Relax and read party.  
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

#### Book drop

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

#### Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for reopening information or the main website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:  
Thursday, June 6, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.  
Friday, June 7, 1 - 2 p.m. Genealogy.  
Friday, June 7, 4 - 5 p.m. Lego club.  
Saturday, June 8, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Detox your mind through meditation.  
Monday, June 10, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family story time.  
Monday, June 10, 2 - 3 p.m. Real life Mario Kart.  
Monday, June 10, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Book buddies.  
Tuesday, June 11, 1 - 2 p.m. Citizenship 101.  
Wednesday, June 12, 1 - 2 p.m. Cricut orientation.  
Wednesday, June 12, 11 a.m. - noon. Family place- Child workshop.  
Wednesday, June 12, 6 - 7 p.m. John O' Bryant magic show.

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

## Sagemedow names Yard of the Month



Sageeadow resident Elvira Salazar was awarded the Sagemeadow HOA Yard of the Month for May 2024. Salazar is a first-grade teacher and likes to raise colorful annuals and perennials in her front yard. The house entrance features potted plants, while a sago palm in the center of the lawn is surrounded by impatiens, lantana, society garlic and salvias (sages). Her property is located on Sage Gale Drive.

## Genoa 4th nine-weeks rolls set

Genoa Elementary School officials have announced the fourth nine-weeks honor and merit rolls.

**Third grade Honor roll**  
Dailyn Cuyuch, Jiselle Guevara, Santiago Lara, Dante Segovia, Sophia Pachon, Miguel Perez, Miguel Amaro, Olivia Brito, Jackelin Flores, Katie Garza, Ethan Thompson, Kiyomi Anderson, Owen Guerra, Clara Kearbey, Macie Salinas, Alex Nguyen and Elais Gomez.

**Third grade Merit roll**  
Anabell Amezcua, Kataly-

**Fourth grade Honor roll**  
Andres Arizmendez, Leila Arrieta, Laila Batiste, Melody Cantu, Sophia Cavazos, Gabriel Espinoza, Ayden Farris, London Ferguson, Christian Flores, Javier Garcia, Jase Hernandez, Dorianne Hood, Charlotte Kearbey, Damian Lopez, Max Lo-

**Fourth grade Merit roll**  
Chloe Balbosa, Kaylee Bohannon, Danielle Cervantes, Rodrigo Ortiz, Aiden Saldana, Maliyah Sykes, Derek Thompson and Genesis Turner.

## Sagemont, Beverly Hills pools close due to shortage of lifeguards

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City swimming pool hours are 1 to 7 p.m., except on Sundays. (All swimming pools are closed for cleaning on Mondays.)

The city's 2024 swimming pool season will continue through Sunday, Sept. 1.

To see a complete list of city swimming pool openings, visit [houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html](https://houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html).

**Community pools**  
Despite the city's staff shortage, B. Cole and Associates, which is responsible for guarding and maintain-

ing the majority of swimming pools in the South Belt community, said it was once again unaffected by the shortage, securing roughly 325 lifeguards for the 2024 season.

The following is a list of local community pool schedules:

Clear Brook Meadows: Pool hours will be from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sageglen: Pool hours will be from noon through 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 1 to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Riverstone Ranch: Both pools will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., except on Sundays, when hours will be from noon to 8 p.m.

Ashley Pointe: Pool hours will be from 2 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 1 to 9 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Highland Meadows: Pool hours are 3 to 8 p.m.

All community pools will be also closed for cleaning on Mondays, with the exception of Labor Day.

## CDC outlines food safety tips

In the wake of recent power outages associated with recent storms, the Houston Health Department urges residents to prioritize food safety to prevent foodborne illnesses.

Power outages can compromise the safety of refrigerated and frozen foods. Health department officials said it is essential to follow guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Keep refrigerator/freezer doors closed**  
A refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if unopened.  
A full freezer will maintain its temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if half full) if the door remains closed.

**Monitor temperatures**  
Use a food thermometer to check the temperature of one's refrigerator and freezer. The refrigerator should be at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and the freezer should be at or below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

Discard any perishable food (meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that has been above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for 2 hours or more.

**When in doubt, throw it out**  
If one is unsure whether a particular food item is safe, do not taste it. It is better to discard it to prevent the risk of foodborne illness.

**Examine each item**  
Some foods may appear safe even if they are not. Use both time and temperature to decide which foods to keep and which to discard.

**Additional tips**  
Have appliance thermometers in one's refrigerator and freezer to ensure they are at the correct temperatures.  
Consider keeping a supply of nonperishable foods that do not require refrigeration.  
For additional information on food safety, visit [www.cdc.gov/food-safety/foods/keep-food-safe-after-emergencies.html](http://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/foods/keep-food-safe-after-emergencies.html).

## HCAD election runoff voting is currently underway

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through Dec. 31, 2026.

"Every election is important, and I hope Harris County voters keep up the vote during the June 15 Runoff Election," said Hudspeth. "Even if you did not vote in the May 4 Uniform Election, you still have an opportunity to ensure your voice is represented."

The following forms of photo ID are acceptable when voting in person:  
- Texas driver's license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.  
- Texas election identification certificate issued by DPS.  
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS.  
- Texas handgun license issued by DPS.  
- U.S. identification card containing the person's photograph.  
- U.S. citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph.  
- U.S. passport (book or card).

Voters who do not possess and cannot obtain one of the approved forms of photo ID may fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration at a Vote Center and present another form of ID, such as a utility bill, bank statement, government check or voter registration certificate.

Nearby early polling locations include the following sites:  
- Harris County Annex, 10851 Scarsdale.  
- Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane.  
- San Jacinto College Central Campus Library, 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

Early voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except on Sunday when hours are noon to 7 p.m.

For additional information on the upcoming HCAD runoff election or to see a complete list of polling locations, visit [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org).



Ericka McCrutchon

## Deaths

### Howard Ray Ranft



Howard Ray Ranft was born July 30, 1937. (See related story Page 5.)

### James "Jim" Edward Wright



Angels escorted James "Jim" Edward Wright home to Jesus on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at the age of 80. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Everett and Edna (Walters) Wright; brother, William Wright; and sister, Marianna Hackbarth.

Howard was a beloved father, grandfather, coach, teacher and husband. He is survived by his daughter, Leah Poirier; his son, Randy Ranft; and four cherished grandchildren. Howard's love for his family was immeasurable, and his impact on their lives will forever be treasured. He loved watching his kids and grandkids grow and achieve their dreams.

In the 1970s, Howard began his journey as a coach, dedicating himself to mentoring young athletes in soccer, baseball and basketball. His coaching was unparalleled, leading an all-star baseball team in 1983 to within one game of the Little League World Series.

In 1987, his leadership guided a soccer team to a state championship, leaving a mark on his players' lives. Howard's passion for coaching extended beyond the field; he instilled values of teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship in all who had the privilege of being under his guidance. He was adored by his players and remembered fondly by the countless lives he touched.

In addition to his coaching career, Howard was a dedicated substitute teacher who enjoyed sharing his love for tennis with his students.

He shared his enthusiasm for the sport by helping coach and attending the students' games no matter how far away.

Howard's kindness and encouragement left a lasting impression on all who knew him. Above all, Howard cherished his role as a husband to Linda.

Their love was a testament to devotion and partnership, exemplifying a bond that was truly one of a kind. A love that his family saw every day.

Howard's legacy lives on through the memories he created with his family, students, players and colleagues.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A graveside service will be held on June 8, at 10 a.m. at Forest Park Lawn Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale St. Houston TX 77023.

Jim's faith in the Lord flourished at Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Houston, where he grew his faith and served the church as he often did in fellowship with other members. In Pearland, Jim became a member of the First United Methodist Church of Pearland. He was a faithful member and enjoyed serving the church community for more than 20 years. Jim helped design and build countless woodworking projects that can be found in literally every room of the church. In 2023, Jim became an active member of Redeemer Church in Manvel, where he and Dee attended until his passing.

In his free time, Jim enjoyed reading, traveling, and spending time with family, friends, and especially with his grandchildren. Jim was known to linger at the dinner table as long as everyone would stay - often for hours. He was an avid outdoorsman as well, who enjoyed hunting and fishing. Jim and Dee loved to travel and their favorite trips were cruises.

They logged 22 cruises, traveling the world over, with his favorites being those to Alaska. Jim was also blessed to be able to take several trips with his entire family, and never missed events like weddings, graduations, births and other life events for his children and grandchildren. He devoted countless hours of service to anything and everything his family was involved in as well; including, serving as president of a softball association, president of the YMCA Indian Princesses, and as an active member of the Lions Club. Jim's legacy will always be rooted in his work ethic. It was evident in everything important to him - his marriage, his family, his job, his volunteer work, his battle with cancer, and even his daily life at home. Jim will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. If anyone asked for Jim's help, they would have it. If they didn't ask, but he saw the need, they would still be on the receiving end of his support.

The family is confident when Jim entered the gates of heaven Jesus greeted him saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Services for Jim will be held at Clayton Funeral Home of Pearland, 5530 Broadway St.

Visitation will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 7. The funeral service will be at Redeemer Church, 18218 SH 6, Manvel TX 77578 the following morning at 10 a.m. Interment will follow the service at Confederate Cemetery in Alvin.

## 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

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**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.

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All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

# CCISD recognizes 2024 volunteers of the year

**Continued from Page 1**  
 helps improve school safety and four-legged, aim to support children by way of their caring hearts and listening ears. Faithful Friends visit with students in the comfort of their CCISD elementary school libraries, listening to them read aloud, building literacy and confidence.  
 A nationally-recognized program, Watch D.O.G.S.

helps improve school safety and increase parental involvement. Every elementary school and several intermediate schools in CCISD are home to Watch D.O.G.S. volunteers; dads, grandfathers and uncles who serve as an extra set of eyes and ears around campus and model service and other core values for students.

To view a video of Faithful Friends in action on CCISD campuses, visit <http://vimeo.com/940849600/b55556beb9?share=copy>.  
 To view Watch D.O.G.S. in action, visit <http://vimeo.com/942042219/c5bf3caef0?share=copy>.  
 The more than 200 VIPs, or Very Important Partners, in attendance were treated to

special performances by top student talent in CCISD. Danielle Sanchez of Westbrook Intermediate, Clear Creek High School String Quartet musicians Bryan Stevens, Suri Xu, William Nolan and Eve Hewett, and Iyla Pettiett of League City Elementary brought the crowd to their feet with their memorable performances.

Wrapping up the break-fast celebration, Cathy Gault, president of the Clear Creek Community Council of PTAs, thanked all those who are members of the PTA and their advocacy efforts on behalf of the school district and its more than 40,000 students. For the second year in a row, Mossman Elementary won the traveling trophy for Volunteer Champion Campus awarded each year to the school boasting the highest PTA membership per student enrollment.

The following is a list of the 2024 CCISD campus volunteers of the year.

- Elementary volunteers of the year**
- Lauren Pearson, Armand Bayou
  - Rani Tate, Bauerschlag
  - Kumiko Kadohama, Bay
  - Amy Xenefos, Brookwood
  - Karen Tulloch, Campbell
  - Michelle Ashley, Clear Lake City
  - Alicia Morgan, Ed White
  - Louisa Weise Barausky, Falcon Pass
  - Tony Simmons, Ferguson
  - Vickie Miller, Gilmore
  - Gwen Torstrick, Goforth
  - Vanessa Trevino, Greene
  - Courtney Boudreaux, Hall
  - Leslie Holcomb, Hyde
  - Julia Mergerle, Landolt
  - Sergio Medina, League City
  - Melissa Porter, McWhirter
  - Shannon Sobkowiak, Mossman
  - Heather Strawser, North Pointe
  - Melissa Thomas, Parr
  - Melissa Bittick, Robinson
  - Rebecca Walker, Ross
  - Ashley Gilfoil, Ross

- Liane Soukup Chlebowski, Stewart
  - Leslie Butts, Ward
  - Karina Quijada, Weber
  - Rhonda Rogers, Wedgewood
  - Bernadette Chessman, Whitcomb
- Intermediate volunteers of the year**

- Anna Hubbard, Bayside
- Debi Matthews, Brookside
- Citymark Church, Clear Creek
- Michelle Ashley, Clear Lake
- Julie Hyde, Creekside
- Dr. Mark Matney, League City
- Seabrook PTA Executive Board, Seabrook

- Amy Xenefos, Space Center
  - Kimberly Spreeman, Victory Lakes
  - Candice McCormack, Westbrook
- High school volunteers of the year**
- Michelle Stuart and Kari Ayala, Clear Brook

- Michael and Sherri Crendon, Clear Creek
  - Hilton Koch, Clear Falls
  - Selena Bradley, Clear Horizons
  - Jana Paul, Clear Lake
  - Nate Shandera, Clear Springs
  - Eric Foster, Clear View
- Congratulations to all.



Leslie Holcombe, second from right, of Hyde Elementary accepted the Elementary Volunteer of the Year award from (left to right) CCISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Engle, Hyde Elementary Principal Belinda Garcia and CCISD Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Elementary Education Holly Hughes.



Hilton Koch of Hilton Furniture (second from the right) accepted Clear Falls High School's Secondary Volunteer of the Year award from (left to right) CCISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Engle, Clear Falls High School Principal Klayre Poa and CCISD Executive Director of Secondary Education Dr. Sharon Lopez.

## St. Luke's Catholic Guadalupanas award scholarships



St. Luke the Evangelist's Asociación Guadalupanas awarded scholarships to area high school graduates during the church's graduation celebration May 18, 2024. Members of the association wish the graduates the best of luck in continuing their education. Shown, left to right, are Jose Estrada (scholarship committee chairman), scholarship winners Angelina Salazar, Sophia Rodriguez, Joshua Martinez, Gabrielle Holstein, Rey Aguirre and Leticia Aguilar Cruz (Asociación Guadalupanas president). Photo by Yvette Rodriguez.

## Stuchbery lists final honor rolls

Stuchbery Elementary school officials have announced the last nine-weeks honor and merit rolls. These are the final rolls for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Third grade Honor roll**

- Dailyn Cuyuch, Giselle Guevara, Santiago Lara, Dante Segovia, Sophia Pachon, Miguel Perez, Miguel Amaro and Olivia Brito.
- Jackelin Flores, Katie Garza, Ethan Thompson, Kiyomi Anderson, Owen Guerra, Clara Kearbey, Macie Salinas, Alex Nguyen and Elais Gomez.

**Third grade Merit roll**

- Anabell Amezcua, Katalyna Chapa, Chloe Fuentes, Mia Gallegos, Scarleth Gomez and Taylor Hall.
- Vy Le, Julissa Montejano and Anthony Nazario.
- Jace Ramirez, Gilberto Reyes, Daliany Rodriguez, Sophia Turrubartes, Ricardo Valdez and Victoria Vo.

**Fourth grade Honor roll**

- Andres Arizmendez, Leila Arrieta, Laila Batiste, Melody Cantu, Sophia Cavazos and Gabriel Espinoza.
- Ayden Farris, London Ferguson, Christian Flores, Javier Garcia, Jase Hernandez, Dorianne Hood, Charlotte Kearbey and Damian Lopez.
- Max Lopez, Bra'Niyah Mckenzie, Adalynn McMullin, Leonardo Medina and Christopher Melchor.

**Fourth grade Merit roll**

- Chloe Balbosa, Kaylee Bohannon, Danielle Cervantes and Rodrigo Ortiz.
- Aiden Saldana, Maliyah Sykes, Derek Thompson and Genesis Turner.

Alma Mendez, Gift Obah, Shane Ogaga, Allison Ortiz, Luke Perez, Jackson Pham and Jose Rodriguez.



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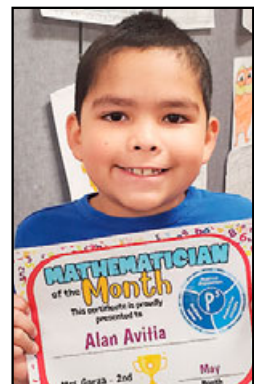
# Frazier Elementary recognizes mathematics students



Matthew Dionne, pre-K student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Shannon Davis' class.



Melanie Galaviz, third-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Catherine Silas' class.



Alan Avitia, second-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Deidra Garza's class.



Jayden Saldivar, third-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Jennifer Wilson's class.



Mia Amaro, third-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Diana Avitia's class.



Isaac Torres, third-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Elsa Martinez's class.



Kylie Betancourt, kindergarten student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Luisa Lewis' class.



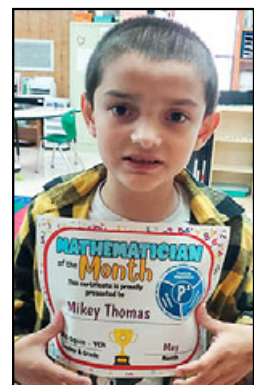
Dahlia Williams, kindergarten student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Betsabe Herrera's class.



Brisa Cavazos, pre-K student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Denisse Saldivar's class.



Jordynne Washington, third-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Sara Rodriguez's class.



Mikey Thomas, fourth-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Amy Oquin's class.



Layla Kidd, fourth-ECSE student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Maria Munoz's class.



Antonella Bautista, first-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Guadalupe Moreno's class.



David Barron, first-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Amanda Hooper's class.



Sophia Covarrubias, first-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Jacqueline Rojas' class.



Lucas Hernandez, second-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Liana Luna's class.



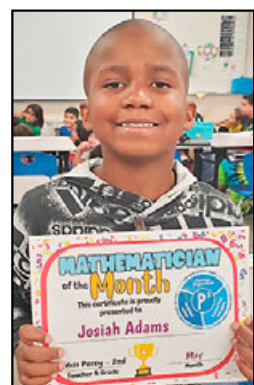
Leandro Leal, pre-K student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Mayra Villarreal's class.



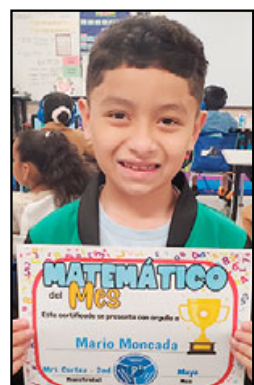
Miah Sanchez, fourth-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Kayla Pitts' class.



Ximena Mesta, fourth-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Gustavo Gomez's class.



Josiah Adams, second-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Katie Posey's class.



Mario Moncada, second-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Adriana Cortez's class.



Izaiah Perez, second-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Jessica Vela's class.



Cash Pendleton, kindergarten student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Ashley Jones' class.



Aubrey Guerrero, kindergarten student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Jill Westfall's class.



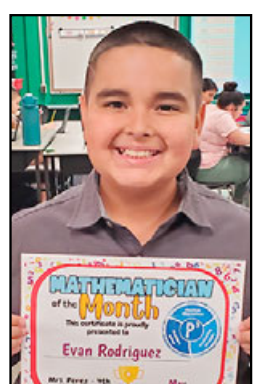
Kya Truong, first-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Candace Kliesing's class.



Vincent Estrada, kindergarten student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in India Kemp's class.



Sadie West, fourth-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Kayla Pitts' class.



Evan Rodriguez, fourth-grade student at Frazier Elementary, was the May mathematician in Patricia Perez's class.

## Ellington experiences new life

Continued from Page 1  
paralleled access to a thriving aerospace community, functioning as a launch and landing site for suborbital, reusable launch vehicles. Beyond launch capabilities, Houston Spaceport provides laboratory office space, technology incubators, and large-scale hardware production facilities, fostering a complete aerospace ecosystem.

Leading aerospace companies like Axiom Space, Collins Aerospace, and Intuitive Machines have all found their home at the Houston Spaceport. In February 2024, Intuitive Machines, the first Houston Spaceport anchor tenant, achieved a historic milestone with the successful landing of its NOVA-C lunar lander on the moon. This marked the first U.S. return to the lunar surface since 1972 and the first landing by a private U.S. company. "The Houston Airport System has been dedicated to creating the infrastructure and building the ecosystem for companies like Intuitive Machines to reach the moon," said Machuca. "We're proud of the crucial role the Houston Spaceport played in the success of the Intuitive Machines mis-

sion." The public-private partnership between Houston Airports, NASA, and the aerospace industry has yielded remarkable results. In February 2024, Houston City Council member Abbie Kamen aptly

described the Houston Spaceport's impact: "It has rejuvenated and revitalized Houston as Space City 2.0, and that will last for generations to come."

As Ellington Airport celebrates its 107th anniversary, it stands not only as a testament to its re-

markable past, but also as a vibrant launch pad for the future of aviation and aerospace.

To scroll through an on-line gallery showcasing the rich history of Ellington Airport, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/houstonairports/albums/72157678154661873](http://www.flickr.com/photos/houstonairports/albums/72157678154661873).

## Girl Scouts place flags



Local Girl Scout Troop 143012, which meets at South Belt Elementary, had the honor of placing flags on the fallen heroes' gravesites at Houston National Cemetery Sunday, May 26. Shown are (left to right) RealyN Mims, Gabby Guerra, Becca McNaspy, Madilynn Davis and Belinda Franklin. Photo submitted

## Remember When

**45 years ago (1979)**  
A 16-year-old died after he was accidentally shot at a business location on the Gulf Freeway.

The Kirkmont Association went to court and was granted a temporary injunction against a homeowner who was in violation.

**40 years ago (1984)**  
City Councilman Frank Mancuso said that the city had ruled out annexing either the Sagemeadow Utility District or the Harris County Municipal Utility District 13 at that time.

Ground was broken toward construction on the first bowling center in the South Belt area. Armadilla Lanes would be built on Fuqua.

**35 Years ago (1989)**  
Dobie High School Lariette director Patty LaTouche resigned after seven years to pursue endeavors including an addition to her family.

The Orioles won the major division title of the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League with a record of 15-2-1.

**30 years ago (1994)**  
Alisha Kris Santos, a South Houston High School graduate, was crowned Miss South Belt.

Funding for a \$1.6 million security system in the Pasadena Independent School District was authorized by the board.

**25 years ago (1999)**  
John Scheschuk, a 1995 Dobie High School graduate, was a seventh-round selection by the San Diego Padres in the amateur draft.

**20 years ago (2004)**  
Contractors working on the Sagemeadow bridge were instructed to remove the drainage improvements and cease work. The project had not been approved by the Harris County Flood Control District, and

A newborn baby was abandoned at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital by a mother who said she had the baby at home, and it needed to be examined. The mother said she had to move her car but never returned. No charges were filed citing the Baby Moses Law.

A "most entertaining" category was added to the awards given at the annual South Belt July 4th parade.

Thompson Intermediate students Mariel Arhelger and Aun Nguyen received awards for outstanding performance as good citizens.

**15 years ago (2009)**  
Kenneth Flolo was killed in a traffic accident in the 13100 block of the Gulf Freeway service road near Beltway 8.

Brianna Perez died at Ben Taub General Hospital from severe brain injuries she suffered in a hit-and-run accident. No charges were filed on the driver of the other vehicle, Theophilus Tarrant, as a grand jury handed down a no bill, saying there was a chance he was unaware of the collision.

Former Dobie student Jeremy Lee Cox died while driving in Wharton. Cox, 32, was driving to work for a land surveying company when his truck veered off the road and struck a tree. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Two homes in the 11500 block of Sagedowne were demolished as the result of a government buyout due to repeated flooding. Several other homes on the area street had been leveled over the last decade.

Lutheran South Academy student Makenzie Stocker died in a Pasadena traffic accident. Stocker, 18, was the daughter of Todd Stocker, a campus minister at Lutheran South Academy.

**10 years ago (2014)**  
Mariselle Quijano-Lerma was elected to serve as president of the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees. She replaced Jack Bailey, who had served as

the improvements made were deemed inadequate. A newborn baby was abandoned at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital by a mother who said she had the baby at home, and it needed to be examined. The mother said she had to move her car but never returned. No charges were filed citing the Baby Moses Law.

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### Over The Back Fence by Natalie

**WELCOME BABY FRANCIS!**  
Guardians **Tristan Millien** and **Nicole Friday** announce the birth of **Francis Raleigh Millien**. Frances was born Thursday, March 21 and weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

**ENJOY YOUR DAY, LAURA**  
Birthday greetings are sent to former *Leader* staffer **Laura Aguilar** on June 7 from her former co-workers.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. CAMPBELL-FOX**  
**Dr. Mary Campbell-Fox** of Campbell Family Practice and Ghebranious Internal Medicine is wished a happy birthday Sunday, June 9, from her family and friends.

**SAMANTHA HAS A BIRTHDAY**  
**Samantha Guerra**, former *Leader* staff member, celebrates her birthday Sunday, June 9. Wishes for a happy birthday are sent from her former co-workers.

**VIRGINIA CELEBRATES 79 YEARS**  
Longtime South Belt resident Virginia Simon celebrates her 79th birthday June 9. Birthday wishes are sent from her son Nick Simon and the *Leader* staff.

**GILES MARK 35TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**Tracy and Jim Giles** of Kirkwood South celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary June 10. Congratulations and best wishes are sent from mother, **Bobby Griffin**; sons Aaron Giles and wife, **Ashley**; Cody Giles and daughter **Kristen Giles**; grandchildren **Jaxon, Jace and Braelyn Giles**; nephews **Robert Griffin**; other family members and friends; and the *Leader* staff.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LESLIE!**  
**Leslie Flickinger** celebrates a birthday June 11. Wishes for a wonderful day are sent by her husband **Fred**; daughter **Kimberly** and husband **Matt Lipina**; daughter **Courtney** and children **Abigail, Jackson and Penelope**; moth-

er-in-law **Marie** (*South Belt Leader* publisher) and husband **David Flickinger**; and brother-in-law **David** (*Leader* president) and wife **Ellie Flickinger**.

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

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Remember to wish **Emy Lewis** a happy birthday June 7. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday June 8 to **Jessica Carlos**. **Mercedes Schreiber** celebrates a birthday June 12.

**Frazier Elementary**  
**Elsa Martinez** celebrates a birthday June 7. June 8 is the day of celebration for **Denisse Saldivar**. **Adriana Cortez** celebrates a birthday June 9.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Enjoying a memorable birthday June 11 is **Felicia Oliva** and **Alije Kivijav**. Send a birthday greeting June 12 to **Cheryl Helaire**.

**Hancock Elementary**  
**Ariana Guerra** celebrates a birthday June 6. Birthday greetings go out to **Lizet Turcios** June 8.

**Meador Elementary**  
Remember to wish **Laura Alvarez** a happy birthday June 6. The day of celebration for **Holly Nelson** is June 10.

**More Elementary**  
June 9 is the day for a fun celebration for **Tania Gomez**. Light the candles on a birthday cake for **Laura Rodriguez** June 11.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Break out the balloons and party favors June 12 for **Sherly Tomaskovic**.

**Fred Roberts Middle School**  
**Esmeralda Mayorga** enjoys a birthday June 6.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Celebrating a memorable birthday June 8 is **Lilliana Monita**.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Sing a happy birthday song to **Jessica Krustchinsky** June 6. June 7 is the day of celebration for **Jose Lozano**. **Lisa Burkett** celebrates a birthday June 10. **Kaylin Harlan** enjoys a birthday June 11. **David Martin** is wished a happy birthday June 12.

**Dobie High**  
Send a birthday greeting June 7 to **Linu John**. Blow out the birthday candles June 9 on a double-layer cake for **Larry Davis** and **Patrick Payne**.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, June 6: **Amanda D'Orazio**, **Timothy Turbeville**, **Vicki Derobles**, **Tracy Harder** and **Jay Hyle**; Friday, June 7: **Damon Dixon**, **Nancy Carlton**, **Liza Vasquez Ybarra** and **Dee Foster**; Saturday, June 8: **Baron Jones**, **Tamisha Lowe-Hendricks**, **Diane Cardenas**, **Judd Montes**, **Jennifer Hunter**, **Delia Marcum**, **Carolyn Valdez-Gomez**, **Victoria Wright** and **Byron Ewald**; Sunday, June 9: **Trey Wilmore**, **Angel Ortiz**, **Gene Robertson**, **Estella Davis**, **Anthony Berg**, **Sandy Ann**, **Heather Walker**, **Austin Gates** and **Summer Keys**; Monday, June 10: **Russell Simon**, **Mariela Ramirez**, **Shawn Barras** and **Francine Bretado**; Tuesday, June 11: **Greg Medina** and **Debbie Mills**; and Wednesday, June 12: **Charlie Groover**, **Marilyn Millet** and **Edily Watson**.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## South Belt's own Fitzmorris excited to lead Longhorn football

**By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor**

Danny Fitzmorris has now gotten himself fully immersed in his new role at Dobie High School, and the smile may never leave his face.

The 1999 Dobie graduate and football standout was approved May 28 as the Longhorns' varsity football head coach and campus athletic coordinator, having secured Pasadena ISD board of trustees approval that night.

The former Sagemont Cowboy, Thompson Lion and then Dobie football player told the *Leader* his new role represents a dream come true in many ways, a full circle moment for sure and an opportunity he won't ever take for granted.

"I'd like to of course extend my thanks to Dr. Jorly Thomas, Dr. Alya Harrell and Dr. DeeAnn Powell for giving me this opportunity to lead a Dobie football program that means so much to me," Fitzmorris said.

"The program is in great shape. The varsity team won a district championship last season. My job is to ensure we continue to strive for excellence, continue to carry ourselves with the Dobie way in mind and develop our athletes in ways that allow them the best chance to succeed."

As Dobie's principal, Thomas led the search that saw Fitzmorris emerge as the top choice to guide the Longhorns into its future within the revamped District 22-6A ranks.

Harrell is a Pasadena ISD associate superintendent of campus development who was also part of the search committee.

As a former principal at Beverly Hills Intermediate, Harrell also has a good feel for the needs of the South Belt community and its Dobie High School students, while Powell is the PISD Superintendent who cast her approval of Fitzmorris' hiring.

Fitzmorris said he won't soon forget the vote

of confidence the trio gave him to lead the Longhorns' football program.

"This is such a dream come true for myself and my family," Fitzmorris

said. "My parents (Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris) I know would be so proud

of this moment. They helped develop me into a young man who always

strived to be the best person individually and best teammate I could be on the field. We will continue to encourage our Dobie High School athletes to have the same traits."

Fitzmorris, however, said the celebration of his hiring was brief and the work to build toward the August 29 regular season opener against Clear Brook has taken center stage.

The new man in charge said his former Dobie teammate, Charles Washington, will be the Longhorns' assistant head coach and likely direct the offense on game nights. Jermaine Gasaway has been promoted to offensive coordinator, while Cohen Landry will lead the Longhorns' defense.

Fitzmorris will need to make about four hires to the staff, and is also the lead voice on hiring Dobie's next varsity boys' soccer head coach after the departure of Justo Manrique. The weight room is open

daily. Dobie has started 7-on-7 league play, and Fitzmorris has already visited Beverly Hills Intermediate's summer football camp and staff meetings continue as Fitzmorris learns more and more about team personnel.

"The timing is rarely perfect on coaching changes, but we will get up to speed in a hurry and be ready to go against

Clear Brook. The Dobie football program has a rich tradition. This is Team 56 for us this season, and we are focused on everything Team 56 right now.

"I'm excited to be in this position, and we all know that putting in the work will lead to great things for us. Having the chance to come home and lead this program means everything to me. We are going to do great things."



### New coach knows area

At left, Danny Fitzmorris (second from left) and his family celebrated joining the Longhorn family after the Pasadena ISD board of trustees approved the hiring of Fitzmorris as Dobie's campus athletic coordinator and varsity football head coach May 28. A 1999 Dobie High School graduate, Danny Fitzmorris also played for several seasons with the Sagemont Cowboys and attended Thompson Intermediate. He went on to play football collegiately at Missouri State University. From left is Fitzmorris' son, Thomas, his wife Jessica and daughter Ella.

## Cowboys' FB offering Fitzmorris scholarship

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls have announced submission guidelines for the third annual Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris Memorial Scholarship Fund, dedicated to honoring the longtime members of the organization.

In honor of the Fitzmorris family, the organization will award a \$500 scholarship to a former participant of the Sagemont football program.

Class of 2024 graduates who are former Cowboys or Cowgirls and have previously been part of the organization for at least three seasons are eligible to apply. Applicants must submit an essay explaining their time with the organization and what they are planning to study in college, including their career path after graduation. Each applicant is required to submit a copy of their high school transcripts with their essay. All paperwork/documents must be submitted to the Sagemont Cowboys organization no later than June 16. Submissions are to be directed to Cowboys' athletic director Denny Wranich Jr. at [dwrnich82@gmail.com](mailto:dwrnich82@gmail.com).

## All-American Wright highlights SJC softball accolades

A pair of one-run losses led to a short stay for the San Jacinto College softball program at the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I Softball World Series, but all in all, the 2024 season was another in a string of stellar runs for head coach Kelly Saenz's program.

The Ravens reached the World Series for the third time in the span of four years. This time around, Temple walked off San Jacinto College 1-0 in the opening round with a seventh-inning run.

The locals got a brilliant pitching performance from sophomore Kristina Nash in a 4-1 win over Iowa Western, but then fell from the tournament field following a 3-2 loss to Galveston College in a game pitting the Region 14 regular season co-champions.

With the loss came the

end of the stellar two-year career of sophomore shortstop Arriana Wright, who reset the standard for offensive players during her stay.

Wright, who is set to continue her education and playing career at NCAA Division I rising power Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz., put together the greatest two-year run in program history, and piled up the accolades to prove it.

Now the two-time All-Conference and All-Region Player of the Year, Wright is the Ravens' career leader in the major offensive categories with 32 home runs and 144 runs batted in.

As a freshman in 2023, Wright set single-season team records in batting average (.522), home runs (17), runs batted in (71) and slugging percentage (.968).

Following the 2024 sea-

son, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association listed Wright as a Midwest Region First Team honoree.

Off the field, the Ravens' student-athletes made sure to place a high priority on "student," with nine players qualifying

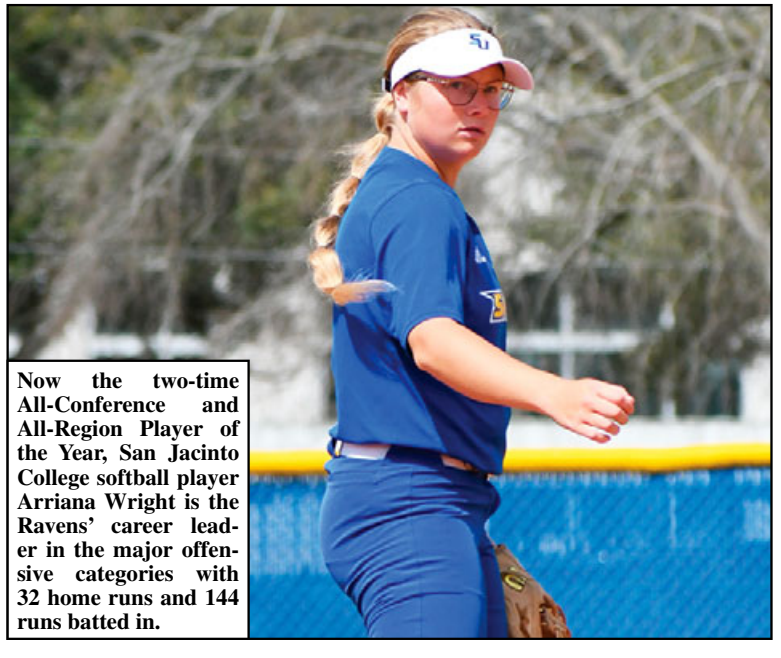
for the spring 2024 dean's list, including Maggie Evans, Chloe Foster, Ashleigh Heiderscheidt, Kylie Hernandez, Mia McLeer,

Kristina Nash, Chloe Perez, Emma Pierce and Wright.

Collectively, the San Jacinto College softball program had a grade-point-average of 3.36 for the 2023-2024 academic year as those nine players in addition to Kiren Diaz, Iliana Melendez and Claire Ramirez were all named to the Region 14 All-Academic Team.

While Wright will play at Grand Canyon University, Nash, a right-handed pitcher, has signed a letter of intent to continue her education and playing career at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Evans and freshman Madison Carr were first team All-Conference and second team All-Region selections for their play on the field, while Foster and Izzy Farmer were second team All-Conference picks along with Kiren Diaz, Vivien Thames and



Now the two-time All-Conference and All-Region Player of the Year, San Jacinto College softball player Arriana Wright is the Ravens' career leader in the major offensive categories with 32 home runs and 144 runs batted in.

## Dobie High School programs recall Ranfts

The news of the death of "Coach Howard" Ranft no doubt brought frowns to the faces of many Dobie High School faculty members, students and support staff, both past and present.

Manuel Moreno Jr., a 25-year staff member and head coach of the school's tennis program, remembers Ranft and his wife, Linda, as "grandparents" to generations of players over the decades, saying their legacy within the

program will live on for many years to come.

"Coach Howard and coach Linda were as supportive of our program as anybody that we've ever seen out at the courts," Moreno said. "When they were both healthy, they made a lot of the out-of-town trips with us."

"They were so supportive of these kids for decades, and I know the kids through the years considered them a part of our team."

Lifelong South Belt residents, the Ranfts were once big supporters of the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League program, with Howard Ranft part of the coaching staff of the league's 1983 major division All-Star team that came within a win of reaching the Little League World Series.

The Ranfts had two children of their own, including 1988 Dobie graduate Leah Poirrier and Randy Ranft, who gradu-

ated a year later.

Randy Ranft told the *Leader* that his mother for many years played tennis in leagues and social settings at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center, and that his father subsequently was also known to swing a racket from time to time.

Howard Ranft spent many years of his professional career working at The Grocer's Supply, Inc., the state's largest wholesale supplier, but also began a second career as a

substitute teacher in the 1990s.

Starting as a substitute teacher at Dobie in 1998, Ranft for 26 years was on campus near daily. He would regularly fill in for Moreno when Moreno would travel to both local and statewide tournaments.

When the Longhorns hosted play on campus, the Ranfts were always seated courtside.

"So many of our kids benefited from coach Howard and Linda being out here with them courtside," Moreno said.

"They really were such a big part of our program, really for as long as I've

been here. Howard was also such a valuable support system for me."

"They were at the courts and around the school so often. We have two team awards named in their honor, and they deserve it."

Linda Ranft died in 2017, and Howard Ranft left the longtime family home after it was heavily damaged by Hurricane Harvey and resided in the Houston area with Leah at the time of his death.

"What a legacy those two created within our program, and I know they were proud to do so," Moreno said.

"It was a privilege to be around Howard and Linda. So many of us will remember them forever."



At left, starting as a substitute teacher at Dobie in 1998, Howard Ranft (right) for 26 years was on campus near daily. He would regularly fill in for Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. when Moreno would travel to both local and statewide tournaments. His wife, Linda Ranft for many years played tennis in leagues and social settings at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center, and her husband was also known to swing a racket from time to time. Linda Ranft died in 2017. The Ranfts were the top fans of the Dobie netters for many years. See Howard Ranft's obituary on Page 2.

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# J. Frank Dobie High announces final honor roll

Officials of J. Frank Dobie High School have announced the final honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Ninth Grade**  
Matthew Mostafa Abidin, Itzel Pamela Adame Novela, Aiden Lorenzo Aguilar, Steven Alexander Aguilar, Arlette Guadalupe Aguirre, Deacon Akinsola Akinloye, Jordan Renee Alanis, Vianka Ilyla Alanis, Reemas Abdelmajeed Alazeh, Carlos Constancio Albarran, Ernesto Alcantar and Isabella Hila Allen.

Donavin Nathaniel Lamas, Amaya Katherine Langellier, Anthony Tran Le, Hau Duc Le, Huy Minh Le, Huy Xuan Le and Sheyla Yen Vi Le. Genesis Adriana Leal, Hayden Rose Limas, Lauren Rae Liscano, Sebastian Isaac Lizama, Ja'niya Simone Lopez, Jennifer Michelle Lopez Carrasco, Andrea Lizbeth Lopez, Angel Israel Lopez, Daisy Lopez, Esther Bella Lopez, Aubrey June Lugo, Juliet Lilibeth Maldonado, Allynna Grace Mariscal and Allyson Bella Marquez.

Alexis Rosemary Martinez, Allan Jose Martinez, Ismael Martinez, Jacob Elliot Martinez, Jorge Jesus Martinez, Miah Rose Martinez, Serina Michelle Martinez, Auriana Michelle Mata, Molly Marie Mata, Jonathan Basem Maximos, Jayden Joe Meyeux and Pretty Armando McCoy.

Kacey Nevaeh Mcdonald, Jaiden Robert Medina, Adlin Leah Mena, Grace Bracha Menahem, Yasmin Cassie Mendez, Emma Alyssa Menodiola, Mohammad Aneq Mian, Karen Adriana Mier, Mckenzie Lynn Milburn, Dylan Ashton Mohwinkel, Jenna Michelle Molina and Morgan Olivia Momie.

Evangelina Cate Adam, Adam Aguilar, Fernando Javier Aguilar, Juliana Lysette Aguirre, Rigoberto Alanis, Ashley Tisha Aldrete, Manal Kamran Aleem, Azeneth Isel Aleman, Casey Marina Aleman, Rachel Alonso, Sophia Michelle Alonso, Keven Alexander Alvarenga, Khnum Atun-Ra Amos and Artemio Jesus Ayuda.

Keyla Montserrat Lara Villanueva, Mabeline Sheyshi Lazo, Alex Anh Le, Danton Coppell Le, Minh Le, Nathan-Cuong Huy Le, Richard Le, Janiel Omar Lebron Delgado, Jandel Jael Leon Ortiz, Kevin Leon, Elena Lomeli, Dominick Antonio Lopez, Edgar Lopez, Santiago Lopez, Sara Alicia Lozano and Franca Aganit Luengo Montano.

Ilana Raquel Luna, Peyton Evan Lynn, Ava Macias, Kristin Bre'ann Madise, Evelyn Nevaeh Martinez, Gisella Marisol Martinez, Jaczyn Angel Martinez, Xavier Martinez, Mark Phillip Mata, Ty Williams Mata, Hania Matin, Leudy Alexander Matos, Katherine Elizabeth Matute, Tristan Michael McKissick and Dulce Mejia Hernandez.

Isaac Orlando Mendez, Kiara Lynn Merkerson, Mehreen Mortaza Mir, Jessica Chelsey Moise, Cristian D'angelo Monge, Simon Montemayor, Briana Michelle Mora, Hector Morales, Jazliyah Iyla Morenodi, Anthony Yves Moussambani Mandje, Jacoby Austin Muniz, Marley Jade Munoz, Addison Elizabeth Murdoch, Jawad Naser and Heidi Marcelle Wouapi Nganou.

Tommy Minh Ngo, Chloe Bao-nhu Nguyen, Cj Ho Nguyen, Dan The Nguyen, Diana Ngoc Nguyen, Gia Vy Nguyen, Hannah Anh Nguyen, Harry Thinh Nguyen, Hoang Phu Nguyen, Linh Phuong Nguyen, Mary Ngoc Nguyen, Matthew Hien Nguyen, Minh Tuan Nguyen, Ngan Thi Kim Nguyen, Nhan Tue Nguyen, Rosalynn Thinh Nguyen, Thu Hoang Anh Ninh, Thalia Evangelina Oddo and Kamillah L. Oliva.

Jonathan Carlos Orellana Sarmiento, Edgar Ariel Orozco, Awele Favour Ngozi Marvelous Ogochukwu Ozieh, Amairani Zoe Pena, Isabella Daniela Pena, Ethan Ervey Perez, Jesus Roberto Perez, Max Aaron Perez, Stephany Perez, Lindsey Angelli Perrett, Don Nath Pham, Hannah Pham, Thi Minh Ngoc Pham, Cynthia Pineda and Jazmin Elizabeth Pineda.

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Thao Nguyen Thanh Ta, Angie Francisca Tinajero, Anthony Tinajero, Jenna To, Kian Carter Ton, Jaiden Nathaniel Torres, Victoria Ximena Torres, Jose Juan Tovar, Aiden Hao Nam Tran, Kaylani Yen Nhi Tran, Parker Minhquoc Tran, Victoria Bao Han Tran, Alexandra Ayleen Trevino and Emily Isabel Trevino.

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Kyla Aileen Lobo, Joan Eduardo Loera Coronado, Alejandro Lopez, Jonathan Nathaniel Lopez, Joshua Jeremiah Lopez, David Lozoya, Stephen Mark Lukner, Caleb Joel Luna, Victoria Marie Luna, Han My Ly, Jennifer Ly, Julie Ann Machado, Aidan Jacob Maldonado, Hailey Blue Maldonado and Cesar Antonio Martinez.

Daisy Juliet Martinez, Gabriel Javier Martinez, Gissette Jassai' Martinez, Jazmyin Marie Martinez, Andrea Medrano, Jasmine Medrano, Frida Mejia, Darianny Mercedes, Matthew Nicholas Merlos, Shaina Monee Miles, Seth Michael Miller, Maya Nicole Molina, Roselynn Molina, Frida Miranda Monreal and Jesus Elias Montano Barba.

Michael Anthony Montano, Jasin Renee Mooney, Alexa Morales Acosta, Carlos Ignacio Morales, Jazmin Melanie Morales, Kevin Navarro, Kameron Deondre Nettles, Jessica Yen Ngo, Linh Solena Ngo, Tran Bao Ngo, Tri Kelvin Ngo, Alex Cong Nguyen, Anh Huynh Nguyen, Cindy Huynh Nguyen, Crystal Tien Nguyen and Don Nguyen.

Elexy-Lyn Ugalde Nguyen, George Nguyen, Hoang Hai Nguyen, John Tang Nguyen, Loi Tan Nguyen, Long Dat Nguyen, Mason Xuan-Huy Nguyen, Myan Nguyen, Nghi Phuong ngoc Nguyen, Peter Thang long Nguyen, Taylor Truong Nguyen, Thien Kim Nguyen, Troy Nguyen, Tuyet Thien Nguyen, Tyler Tuon Minh Nguyen and Malik Jabril Nguyen-Simmons.

Cindy Ni, Aaryan Nizam, Orlandaneisha Lavette No-

ble, Jackelyn Alyssa Ochoa, Yulissa Estefania Oliva Lopez, Axel Ryan Olmedo, Jennifer Isabel Olivera, Arnulfo Orozco, Diego Francisco Orta, Sabino Alexander Ortiz, Trinity Rose Osborne, Ashlyn Jade Otero, Adrian Pantoja, Abigail Rose Bayang Panza, Audrey Anna Paredes and Prasadhi Pawani.

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**Poffinbarger All-State honoree**

Lutheran South Academy varsity golfer Audra Poffinbarger, who helped the Pioneers win a second straight Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state championship, was also a TAPPS Academic All-State honoree.

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# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/  
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 7**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum See Thursday's notice.  
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.  
8 p.m. Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.  
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 9**  
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of

Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.  
5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details.  
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous See Friday's notice.  
**MONDAY, JUNE 10**  
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) See Friday's notice.  
6 p.m. Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@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.  
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourtete 713-875-8820.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) See Friday's notice.  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 11**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
10:00 a.m. CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.  
10:30 a.m. Tri County Republican Women - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$20. Exact cash or a check requested. To RSVP, visit www.tricountyrvw.club/.  
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn, at (832) 722-9061 for information.

7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12**  
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum See Thursday's notice.  
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) See Friday's notice.  
7 p.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.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous See Friday's notice.  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 13**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/  
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.  
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
9:30 a.m. NASA Aglow Community Light-house - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.  
11:30 a.m. ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South American Business Women's Association - Meetings are held January - November on the second Thursday of the month at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland, TX 77584. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.  
6:30 p.m. Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets monthly on the second Thursday (except June, July and December) at VFW Post 7109 Pearland, 4202 W Walnut St., Pearland. For details, email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.

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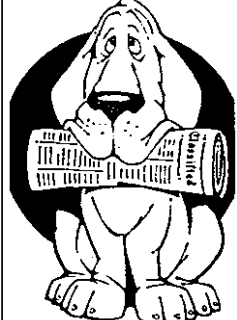
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**Your community needs you!**



## Clear Creek ISD honors district's athletic scholarship signees



A total of 115 student athletes were celebrated during the 11th Annual Clear Creek ISD Scholarship Luncheon in May for committing to play at the next level after graduation. Sponsored by Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital, the event spotlighted students across the district's five high schools who will be continuing their athletic journeys in 13 different sports next year, ranging from wrestling to football. "Continue to develop as a productive citizen through your work ethic, discipline and competition," said CCISD Athletic Director Kirby Killingsworth during the ceremony. "Accept the idea that you deserve the right to be a champion. We are excited to watch your journey," she added. The graduating seniors also had the opportunity to listen to some words of wisdom by Clear Creek High School alumnus Sam Mathews. He is a 2018 graduate who was named as Texas A&M's 12th Man designee for the 2023 football season. The Clear Brook

High School Class of 2024 graduates who have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their education and collegiate playing careers beginning this fall include, left to right, Jizzale Davis, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (track and field); Azayla Smith, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (track and field); Inayah Caldera, Southeastern Oklahoma State University (track and field); Maci Miller, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff (volleyball); Kasey Oliver, Western Gulf College (women's basketball); Shyllen Brister, University of Texas at Austin (softball); Jaylon Owens, Louisiana Tech University (track and field); Zion Norl, Midland University (men's basketball); and Joseph Trevino, University of Texas at Dallas (cross-country/track and field). Not pictured are Lily King, McLennan Community College (softball) and Alyssa Terry, University of Texas-Arlington (softball).

## Clear Creek ISD student-athletes hear Mathews' experience



Sam Mathews, a Class of 2018 graduate of Clear Creek High School who led the Wildcats to the playoffs in 2017 as the team's quarterback, was the guest speaker in May as the Clear Creek ISD honored its student-athletes who have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their education and athletic playing careers. Mathews, fourth from left, in 2023

was the 12th Man designee as a member of the Texas A&M University football program. CCISD board of trustee members with Mathews at the event included, left to right, Jay Cunningham, Jeff Larson, Jessica Cejka, Superintendent Dr. Karen Engle, Jonathan Cottrell and Jamieson Mackay.

## JFD youth hoops camp is June 25-27

Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Jasmine Hartman, varsity boys' basketball head coach Timir Patel and their staffs will host a pair of youth basketball camps for boys and girls June 25-27 at the Dobie9 campus, with incoming first- through fifth-grade students attending from 8 to 10 a.m. and incoming sixth- through ninth-grade students attending from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The focuses of the camps will include individual skills training, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills and friendly game play. Cost of each camp is \$60 per student and may be paid in cash on the first day of the camps or via the camp link at [www.dobiepride.com](http://www.dobiepride.com). For additional information, direct email to Hartman at [jhartman@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:jhartman@pasadenaisd.org).

## Dobie volleyball 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](mailto:dsexton@pasadenaisd.org).

## Clear Brook boys' hoops is June 24-27

Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball head coach Nathan Janak and his staff will host the 2024 Wolverines' youth basketball camp June 24-27, as students will receive instruction, both individually and from a team standpoint in all phases of the game. Students entering the fourth through sixth grades as of the 2024-2025 school year will attend from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. each day at \$125 per student, with boys and girls entering kindergarten through the third grade attending from 9 to 11 a.m. at \$85 per student. Students entering the seventh through ninth grades will attend from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at \$125 per student. Registration details are available at [wolverine-basketball-camp.square.site](http://wolverine-basketball-camp.square.site). Direct any questions to Janak at [njanak@ccisd.net](mailto:njanak@ccisd.net).

## South Belt Youth Soccer Club hosts skills camp

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is set to host its Summer Skills Camp June 11 through July 9, coming to El Franco Lee Park each Tuesday and Thursday, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Boys and girls in the 2013 through 2017 age groups are eligible to participate at \$95 per player (10 sessions). Registration is ongoing at [www.southbeltsoccer.org](http://www.southbeltsoccer.org).

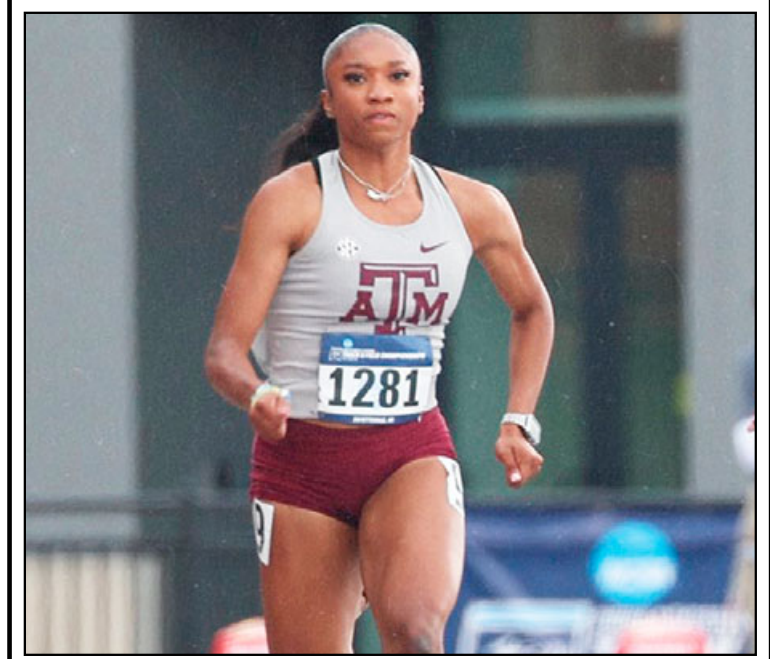
## Dobie strength/conditioning

The Dobie coaching staff will host six weeks of strength and conditioning training in June and July, with returning 10th- through 12th-grade students attending from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. each day and incoming freshmen following from 9:45 to 11 a.m. The dates are June 10, 11 and 13, June 17, 18 and 20, June 24, 25 and 27, July 1-2, July 8, 9 and 11 and July 15, 16 and 18.

## Brook 1998 track champs sought

Committee members with the Clear Creek ISD Athletics Hall of Honor would like to reach out to athletes involved in the 1998 Clear Brook High School girls' state champion track and field program, including Aadaeze Ugwu, Alicia Emanuel, Natasha Davis, Gladys Harvey, Brandy Walker and Tierra Walker. The team will be part of the Hall of Honor's 2024 induction class. Families and/or athletes are encouraged to direct email to the committee at [CCISDAHOH@gmail.com](mailto:CCISDAHOH@gmail.com).

## Dickson competes in championships



Camryn Dickson, a Clear Brook graduate and current Texas A&M University sophomore track and field standout, is with the Aggies at the NCAA Division I Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Oregon. See results in the June 13 Leader issue.

# Dobie graduate Lobo comes through with decorated career in three different sports

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

She was a key contributor to three different Dobie teams that won back-to-back District 22-6A cross-country championships from 2020 to 2022. Over her four-year stay in the program, Kyla Lobo, a Dobie Class of 2024 graduate, was twice

the silver medalist at the league championships. As a senior, Lobo was encouraged to play varsity soccer, where she helped the program win a co-championship on her way to second team All-District honors. Every athletic program needs both a competitor and a teammate like Kyla

Lobo. And while some of her accomplishments weren't as front and center as others, Lobo gave her all in three different sports over her four years and was the consummate teammate, encourager and competitor.

Simply put, Lobo represented what Dobie athletics is all about. Her graduation, while celebrated, will leave a void that isn't easily filled within several athletic programs. A quick review of Lobo's resume includes one common trait....the willingness to run. Lobo said it all started for her as a child as she spent many days trying to outrun her father on the hike-and-bike trails around the South Belt area. She began running cross-country at Thompson Intermediate and also played soccer and ran track and field.

Ditto at Dobie, where Lobo quickly became a contributor to head coach Mo Hickman's program. The Dobie girls' cross-country team won the first of its three straight 22-6A championships in 2020 as Lobo was sixth individually at district, covering the 5,000-meter course at 21 minutes, 01.58 seconds. The 2021 season, Lobo's sophomore run of things, saw her take 20th place at the 22-6A Championships in a time of 23:53. She then was the 22-6A silver medalist both in the 800.

Lobo won a district bronze medal at the 3,200 distance and also reached the 21/22 area round with a fourth-place 1,600 finish. Lobo also placed fifth in the 800.

Now a high school graduate, Lobo says she plans to attend San Jacinto College and could pursue becoming a surgical tech. "I won't stop running," Lobo promises. "It's a release for me. It gives me a chance to think things in life through, and I can maintain good health."

Lobo said as her time allows, she'd like to continue to support the athletes within the cross-country program.

The support was there for Lobo when she needed it most over the years, and she'd like to pay it forward. It's what a true team player would do.

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As a senior, Kyla Lobo was encouraged to play varsity soccer with the Longhorns' varsity girls' program, where she helped the team win a co-championship on her way to second team All-District honors.



The Dobie girls' cross-country program was led in 2023 by eventual state meet qualifier Lauren Garza (left) and teammate Kyla Lobo, who was the District 22-6A silver medalist both as a junior and senior.