

Kids splash day June 11

Crossroads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd., will have a kids water splash day Sunday, June 11, beginning at noon. Everyone is invited to attend the free fun event.

Car show set for Father's Day

The Father's Day Classic Meet/Pop-Up Market car show will take place Sunday, June 17, at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 8601 Alameda Genoa, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by OceanView Classics, the free event will feature a disc jockey, food, prizes, vending and raffles. For more information, call or text 713-865-1342. See related ad on Page 4.

Sagemeadow meets June 15

Sagemeadow HOA's monthly meeting will be held at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. This month's meeting will feature a workshop from the Harris County Tax Assessor's Office. All Sagemeadow meetings are open to the public. For additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

PW Library begins summer

Parker Williams Library's Summer Reading Program will begin Saturday, June 10, with a kickoff from 10 to 11 a.m. One can sign up for the SRP, games, a camp photo booth, s'mores by the "campfire," potted plants, butterfly tie dye, story time, friendship bracelets, and more. Concurrently, Friends of the Library will have a book sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All unpriced books are 4/\$1, DVDs are 4/\$1, and pocket paperback books are 5/\$1. This is an opportunity to load up on summer reading material or to start a library at home.

Kirkmont I to meet June 14

Kirkmont I HOA meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, at the Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk. Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be the featured speaker. All Kirkmont I residents are encouraged to attend.

Beltway closed for repairs

All westbound Beltway 8 main lanes near the Gulf Freeway will be closed through Thursday, Aug. 31, to make emergency repairs, according to Texas Department of Transportation officials.

All westbound traffic will be forced to exit the main lanes at SH 3/Old Galveston Road and be diverted to the Beltway 8 frontage road lanes.

The westbound entrance ramps will be closed at SH 3/Old Galveston Road, Crenshaw and Genoa Red Bluff. The westbound main lanes will reopen at Beamer. Eastbound Beltway 8 main lanes and all connector ramps to the Gulf Freeway will remain open. TxDOT officials say the closures are necessary to make emergency repairs near the westbound Sabo exit, where the ground is sinking. The closures are expected to cause traffic delays.

Ellington holds e-recycling

City of Houston's Solid Waste Department's monthly electronic recycling event is Saturday, June 10, at the Ellington Airport Recycling Center 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, faxes, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras. The collection is the second Saturday each month. For information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 311.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID cases in the South Belt community remained roughly on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials. As of June 6, there were 216 active cases in 77089, up three from the previous week. To date, 140 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. In ZIP code 77075, there were 16 active cases, no increase 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 18 active cases, no increase from the previous week. To date, 91 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues. Statistics are updated daily 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/cumulative-data.

Gulf Freeway closures set

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will close from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sept. 30. One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 in League City to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road in Dickinson/Texas City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sept. 30. One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road in Dickinson/Texas City to FM 519/Main in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

Knights host spaghetti dinner

The Knights of Columbus will hold a spaghetti dinner Friday, June 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the social hall at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 11011 Hall Road. For \$10, get a plate of spaghetti with meatballs, salad, bread, and a drink, benefitting the Knights of Columbus charities.

EFL baseball field use ordeal continues

Sports Association unanimously votes to bar baseball from currently using EFL fields

The five-member board of the South Belt Sports Association unanimously voted Thursday, June 1, to temporarily halt all youth baseball at El Franco Lee Park, following recent allegations that former South Belt Little League president and current South Belt Baseball League president Johnny Ramirez mishandled funds.

The decision came after a baseball parent publicly threatened Ramirez and the newly formed South Belt Baseball League (pony League) with a lawsuit alleging he illegally transferred funds and subleased playing fields at El Franco Lee Park.

Following the proposed lawsuit, web pages affiliated with Ramirez and the new league stated on-

line that the parent who threatened the lawsuit was a pedophile. While court records indicate the individual in question was charged with multiple sex offenses with a minor, those charges were later expunged from the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Following the online accusations, the parent then threatened another lawsuit if the accusations were not retracted.

Online discussions further suggested that *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger was behind the decision to prohibit play at El Franco Lee, with some suggesting a boycott of the newspaper's advertisers. (See related editorial Page 2.)

While Flickinger has publicly voiced opposi-

tion to Ramirez and the new league, including multiple editorials, she does not serve on the South Belt Sports Association board, nor does she even know all of its members. She said her main concern is twofold. What happened to thousands of dollars meant for Little League and why does it cost nearly triple to play Pony vs what it cost to play Little League.

Regular play had already ended for the season but the El Franco Lee still served as practice fields for the league's All-Star teams.

Harris County officials have remained neutral, saying they would leave the decision regarding field usage up to the sports association board. The board of directors is scheduled to meet next week

to further discuss the future of the El Franco Lee playing fields.

District Attorney to investigate

Sources close to the case shared with the *Leader* that Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg's office plans to open an investigation into the matter regarding the unaccounted for Little League funds.

Little League pens letter to Ramirez

The following is a copy of a letter sent from Jose "Shorty" Sanchez of the Little League District 15 office to Johnny Ramirez, former president of the South Belt Little League and current president of the South Belt Baseball League (Pony League). It is run unedited, as sent by Sanchez.

- "Johnny,
1. On Dec. 31, 2022, Texas East District 15 Little League (LL) District Administrator Manny Carrillo, accepted you and the boards resignation from Little League.
 2. From that point forward, you and your board were no longer an Officer of Southbelt Baseball Little League.
 3. Jan. 11, a new President was elected (Juan Herrera).
 4. Send the following Documentations:
 - a. Meeting
 - i. Agendas
 - ii. Minutes

Continued on Page 4

Community involvement improves homes



New houses recently going up in the South Belt (shown left) intended to replace homes destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 show vast improvement over those initially proposed by the Texas General Land Office (shown right). The *South Belt Leader* and Sagemont Civic Club and Sagemeadow HOA members fought tirelessly for the changes, which included adding brick, which was not going to be included in the planned homes, garages which also were not included and extra square footage. See related photo on Page 4.

Problems persist with local city water bills

Confusion still surrounds local water bills for many Sagemont Park residents after new digital meters were installed by the city this past spring, causing many statements to skyrocket.

The switch in hardware caused several city customers to receive bills with exorbitant water usage issued in error.

For longtime resident Wayne Hanks, that meant an increase from around \$30/month to more than \$3,000/month. According to Houston Public Works, Hanks used 112,000 gallons of water in just one day – the same day his meter was swapped out.

Following the erroneous bills, Public Works

PISD hosts public meeting June 13

Pasadena ISD will hold a pair of public information meetings Tuesday, June 13.

The local school district is seeking community input and public comments on the needs and use of federal funds within Title I, II, III and IV.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek input on how the district can use funds to provide supplemental services and support to students, families,

teachers, administrators and other district staff.

Meetings are scheduled at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Pasadena ISD – Carmen Orozco Professional Development Complex, located 1832 E. Sam Houston Parkway S., Room #101A, in Pasadena.

For additional information, contact the Pasadena ISD - Special Programs office at 713-740-0225.

City, county to host gun buyback

Mayor Sylvester Turner joined Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Houston Police Chief Troy Finner Tuesday, May 30, to announce the date of the next gun buyback.

The next gun buyback will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 10, at NRG Park, in the Yellow Main Street lot, 9051 S Main Street. The location is Gate # 16 off Main Street, the Yellow Main Street lot main gate.

The gun buyback program is part of the Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention section of the Houston Police Department. The City of Houston has committed \$1 million to a robust

gun buyback initiative to reduce violence and prevent crime by removing illegal or unwanted firearms from the street.

People can bring their unwanted guns and exchange them for a gift card for the following amounts:

- \$50: nonfunctioning firearm
- \$100: shotgun or rifle (hunting)
- \$150: revolver
- \$150: semiauto handgun
- \$200: rifle semiauto

The Gun Buyback program is completely

Continued on Page 4

Woman, 95, killed in freeway crash

Houston police have learned a woman critically injured in a crash about 10:15 a.m. Friday, May 26, in the 13600 block of the Gulf Freeway near Beltway 8 has died from her injuries.

The identity of the victim, 95, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the woman was a passenger in a red Cadillac CT6 traveling south on the freeway near the above address.

The driver of a red Honda Civic, also traveling southbound, failed to control his speed

and struck the rear of the Cadillac. The impact caused the Cadillac to strike the rear of a maroon Dodge Dart.

The woman was transported to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, where doctors pronounced her dead Tuesday, May 30. The male driver of the Cadillac and the female driver of the Dodge were not injured.

The male driver of the Honda, 37, remained at the scene, was determined not to be impaired and was questioned and released.

At press time, no charges had been filed, as the investigation is continuing.

Crenshaw to undergo repair work

According to Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin's office, crews are set to begin making repairs to Crenshaw Road from South Shaver to Allen Genoa. (See related map Page 2.)

According to Houston Public Works officials, workers will be milling and overlaying approximately 4,300 linear feet, including base and subgrade repair. They will also be installing 500 linear feet of new 6-foot wide sidewalk between the driveways of YES Prep School. This project includes pavement markings, ditch regrading and the reconstruction of nine driveways.

Construction is expected to begin summer 2023

and is estimated to be completed by the end of summer 2023, (30 days), weather permitting. The project is being managed by Harris County and is designed to preserve and prolong the life of the road base and provide for a smoother riding surface.

Houston Public Works and Harris County recently hosted a virtual community meeting to discuss how to prepare for construction for this project.

For more information regarding this project, contact Harris County Precinct 2 by calling 713-274-2222. For more information or questions, contact Martin's office at 832-393-3008 or district@houstontx.gov.

City reports decrease in homelessness

Street homelessness down 17 percent in 1 year

Results for the Greater Houston area's annual Homeless Count and Survey were recently released, revealing a remarkable, one-year 17 percent decrease in street homelessness from January 2022 to January 2023. The reduction is one of the biggest in the city's history and the largest since Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017.

In 2020, Mayor Sylvester Turner partnered with Harris County to specifically reduce the number of individuals and families living on Houston's streets. The city and county jointly funded and worked with The Way Home, the region's homeless response system comprised of more than 100 agencies and organizations, to launch the nationally recognized COVID-19

Homeless Housing Program.

Last year alone, the program housed (with supportive services) or diverted from homelessness more than 4,580 people.

"Reducing homelessness by 17 percent in one year, and nearly 40 percent since coming into office, does not happen by mistake," said Turner. "Rather, it's the result of making it a top priority, enhancing our invaluable partnership with Harris County and the community, and strategically funding data-proven, holistic housing solutions."

"Although Houston is showing the state and nation how to reduce street homelessness and encampments successfully, the job is not done."

Continued on Page 2



Davila battles homeless trash

Beverly Hills Civic Club President Angel Davila is on a mission to help clean up the South Belt community, in part by targeting local homeless encampments and the trash associated with them. Davila said he has been in contact with District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz regarding the debris shown on Kingspoint near the Gulf Freeway. Davila said Shabazz's office is receptive to assisting in the matter.

In My Opinion

Is HB 2127 like Big Brother?

Is it only me or does House Bill 2127 seem a little like Big Brother overreach? It assumes the lawmakers at the state level, know what's best for the cities at the local level, and have passed laws telling those down in the cities that they (those in Austin) can do a better job for

them from way up there. Suppose it was the lawmakers at the national level, passing laws telling those at the state levels that they (those in Washington) know what's best for them down in the states, and that they could do a better job for them from way up there? I wonder if "overreach" would be the first word out of Austin. **Ed Jackson**

Publisher's Opinion

Time to get to the truth

People of Sagemont 2 ... X

Isabel Rodriguez · 17m · 📍

It's incredible how this type of behavior is supported by the local Southbelt newspaper. Yet, our law abiding citizens and their kids who want to play baseball get shut down. I feel sick.

🙄 It's a sad, sad day for our kids. Southbelt Baseball **Posted on Facebook last week**

It is time both sides settle down and quit hurting the community and it's residents. I am so happy that the county attorney's office plans to investigate this matter. We need an independent group that will investigate and help us do the right thing for the future of Little League. I was sad to see this Facebook post (see attachments). Two things are very wrong with it. First it is against a man accused of wrongdoing, but he was never tried due to lack of evidence. Second, anyone who really knows about our newspaper knows we would never support any illegal activity! We know the county will try people three or four times (such as A.J. Armstrong, whose case is being tried for the third time) in an effort to get a conviction if they believe there is wrongdoing. It appears someone, who may be trying to get the heat off himself, was showing pictures of a Little League father to attendees at the park. The man, had been charged with inappropriate activities with a juvenile, but those charges were dismissed by Harris County. It is hard to believe the reported attorney who put this on Facebook did not know the facts of the dismissal of charges including his right to share custody and having the mother of the alleged victim in full agreement. I am not an attorney, but was able to find this out in minutes. Why would anyone ruin someone's reputation and take a chance of being sued because they didn't spread the all the facts. Facebook people need to calm down, not

only are they hurting others, but they may be opening themselves for law suits. The truth, whatever it is, needs to come out, and with help of the district attorney's office, I believe one day it will. In this case the mother of the alleged victim agreed that visitation rights with him were best for all concerned. While I understand concern of parents who were with the team, knowing what the facts are should make one see how sad the entire issue is. Apparently there was no danger if the mother was willing to not only allow visitation, but support dual custody. There are so many lies going around it truly blows my mind. One in particular is that I shut down Little League. Next Johnny told Channel 13 he had called the police to have my son removed from the facility. If this is true, Johnny can provide the information to prove it. To the best of our knowledge he has not provided that information to anyone including Channel 13. It seems like anyone who ask questions or demands transparency becomes the target of lies and slander. That is why I was over joyed when I heard the Harris County district attorney was looking into investigating our park situation. Hopefully, an independent person will shine a light on this situation. Till then, please stick to facts, not rumors. This community for many decades has been great, let's work and pray to keep it that way. **Marie Flickinger** Publisher

People of Sagemont 2 ... X

Monica D Breen · 1h · 📍

This is the type of predatory behavior this league does. When asked for transparency they retaliate. with that being said, I think it's fair to our community to make the statements that the league and an attorney, who chose to access an attorney private record and post only half of the story to attempt to discredit a parent who has questions their integrity.

In 2017 my husbands now ex wife , during a custody battle, chose to take an extreme stance and make a false outcry of child abuse of the worst nature. Everyone with a brain knows, these type of cases are taken seriously and many times based only off of word and no evidence. This case was delayed for years due to hurricanes, Covid and other court issues. In the end, my husband not only was proven right, his case was dismissed for insufficient evidence, and to make it even more clear, the county agreed that he was so far from being guilty they would agree to expunge it as to not affect his life again. additionally he was awarded shared custody of his children and his ex made it clear in family court it was in the best interest for him to be able to have custody. I am including the receipts.

The facts are , this lawyer , Isabel , had access to the full information and chose to only post in negligence , the information that would cause the very public outcry that happened in an attempt to undermine his credibility and attempt to make it clear of potential wrongdoing by the league and Johnny Ramirez . You were duped, the same way he potentially duped you with your hard earned money. Please keep an mind and when the facts come to light , keep that same energy with the pony league.

City homeless population down

Continued from Page 1
We will continue our groundbreaking, successful efforts until every Houstonian is off our streets. We must do more." The city and county's focus on holistically decommissioning encampments through housing also significantly reduced street homelessness. The city and county worked with the Coalition for the Homeless and agencies of The Way Home to house individuals out of encampments strategically. To date, 85 encampments (nearly 500 people) have been compassionately and effectively decommissioned, with 90 percent of encampment inhabitants going into housing. The Coalition for the Homeless coordinated the annual count. More than 450 volunteers spent three days canvassing the region's streets, bayous, woods, parking lots, etc., locating individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Volunteers counted 1,242 individuals people living unsheltered in the greater Houston area, of which: - 42 percent are experiencing homelessness for the first time. - 77 percent are male. - 7 percent are veterans. - 33 percent are homeless due to loss of job/income. - 21 percent are homeless due to family conflict. - 17 percent are homeless due to COVID or a disaster (e.g., Hurricane Harvey). Many cities are experiencing an increase in homelessness due to the expiration of rental assistance programs, a sizable increase in evictions, and looming inflation. The greater Houston area, however, successfully prevented such an increase, as the size of the region's overall homeless population stayed relatively unchanged. An independent analysis by UTHHealth Houston School of Public Health noted, "The 2023 count would have been higher had housing initiatives not been underway." More than 9,000 formerly homeless were residing in safe and stable, permanent housing (with services) during the count, up nearly 30 percent from 2020 and almost 60 percent from 2014. Although well below pre-pandemic levels, the number residing in homeless shelters increased from the previous year, as capacity increased with beds that were closed during the pandemic returning online. For information, visit irp.cdn-websitesite.com/2d_521d2c/files/uploaded/HomelessCount2023_full.pdf.

Deaths

Joseph "Joey" Drake Castro



Joseph "Joey" Drake Castro, 44, a resident of Alvin passed away May 30, 2023. Joey was born in Webster, on Dec. 13, 1978. He graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 1997. He served with the League City Police Department as a patrol officer and then a detective from 2001-2011.

He was selected to attend the United States Marshals Service Academy in March 2011. Joey served as a Deputy U.S. Marshal from 2011 until his death. He attended First United Methodist Church in Friendswood. Joey leaves behind his beautiful wife of 16 years, Rachel Castro; their two children, daughter Vivienne Castro and son Garrett Castro; parents Frank and Debbie Castro, Jr; father-in-law and mother-in-law Jim and Karen Little; brothers Daniel Castro (wife Joanne), Toby Castro (partner Peter Newman); sister-in-law Christina Lopez; brother-in-law John Little (wife Courtney); and nephews and nieces Coby Castro, Cameron Castro, Braeden Lopez, Briana Hernandez, Julian Macias, Ethan Macias, Raziel Macias, Nathaniel Castro, Daniel Castro, Henry Little and Rowan Little. He is preceded in death by his brother, Tim Castro.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 8, at Grace Community Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway. Family requests memorial contributions be made to: U.S. Marshals Survivors Benefit Fund at <https://usmarshalsfund.org/get-involved/donate>.

Gary Thomas Patterson



Gary Thomas Patterson, 60, of Willis passed away on May 31, 2023, from cancer at his home on Lake Conroe. He was born on Oct. 24, 1962, in Pittsburgh. Gary, a former longtime South Belt resident

graduated from Dobie High School in 1981. Gary is preceded in death by his father and stepmother, James and Carole Patterson; mother, Judy Wheeler; and sister Patti Gilbert. Gary is survived by his significant other, Beverly Greig; and daughter, Trisha Rodriguez and husband, Justin. He is also survived by his brothers Brett Patterson (Denise); Eric Patterson (Evie); Toby Patterson (Jennifer); John Martin (Brenda); numerous nieces and nephews; mother-in-law, Lucy Greig; and longtime friends. He truly appreciated each of those friendships. Gary was loved by many.

He lived his life to the fullest. He liked to say he wreaked havoc in his youth in the streets of Sagemont and had some of the best times at "the Patterson house." He also played varsity baseball while at Dobie High School. Gary worked at United Casing Inc. for the past 13 years and served as the vice president of operations. He worked in the oil industry his whole career where he had a passion for what he did. Gary was always eager to share the wisdom from his own personal experiences. His thoughtful advice shared with those dear to him was an expression of love and created bonds that will be forever cherished. His smile and sense of humor will be remembered and greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Gary loved living on Lake Conroe where he was the happiest; he loved spending time fishing and playing golf. In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family will hold a celebration of his life, with place and time to be announced soon.

Mary Ann Leos



Mary Ann Leos, 78, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2023, after a lengthy illness. Mary was born to parents Faustina (Tillie) Hernandez and Richard (Ricardo) Barrera on May 2, 1945, in Victoria. Mary attended school through the seventh grade, eventually receiving her GED. Upon finishing cosmetology school she became a hairdresser and enjoyed meeting the many clients she had. She met her husband-to-be Joe Leos at

a dance and it was love from then on. Mary and Joe were married on Aug. 11, 1961, in the Catholic church. Mary and Joe went on to have three children who were raised in the Houston area, eventually settling in the South Belt area. Mary became a born-again Christian in the 70s and loved the Lord with all her heart. She attended Lakewood Church Bible Institute and graduated in 1986. Mary and Joe became active for a time with the seniors group at Lakewood Church and helped to organize many day trips as both she and Joe loved to travel.

Mary loved gardening and her favorite flowers were roses. She would spend hours outside just taking care of and talking to her plants. She loved painting, coloring, playing games cards, dominoes and singing with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mary was also a beautiful florist who was able to create the most stunning arrangements and create the perfect blend of colors for many weddings, birthday events and celebrations that left a memorable impression on so many.

She was a kind, caring and giving person who always put the needs of her family before her own. Mary was always there for anyone, be it her children or a friend, to offer advice, or just a shoulder on which to cry. She was a woman of strong faith and instilled in everyone the importance of family, hard work and doing what is right. She was a true inspiration for many that looked up to her. She was a strong woman who faced every challenge in her life with courage and dignity. She will be deeply missed by everyone whose lives she touched. Mary loves her parents; father; sister Mary Agnes Barrera; and brothers Sabas, Tony and Lewis Barrera who have already passed into heaven.

She is survived by many loving family members including her husband of 61 years; brother Victor (Jan) Barrera; sister Martha Camacho Aguirre; children Jesse Lee (Lisa) Leos, Denise (Art) Palos and Darleen Leos. She leaves behind five grandchildren Justin, Gabby, Lauren, Elizabeth and Ian Barrera; and five great-grandchildren, Josiah, Jade, Alex, Aidan and Gabriel Barrera; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. She loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, they were the pride and joy of her life.

A memorial service for Mary will be held at Templo Jerusalem Assembly of God Church, 1110 Washington St., South Houston, TX on June 24, 2023, from 2 to 4 p.m. A private graveside service will be held in Ganado, Texas at a later date.

Support Leader Advertisers!

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://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, June 8, 3 - 4 p.m. Roly the clown. Registration required.
Monday, June 12, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
Tuesday, June 13, 3 - 4 p.m. Tom's Fun Band. Registration required.
Wednesday, June 14, 6 - 7:30 p.m. English class: Dreams and goals. Registration required. Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

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

Additional resources
The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.
Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library
Parker Williams Library is open. 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 8, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.
Thursday, June 8, 10 - 11:30 a.m. ESL conversation club.
Saturday, June 10, 10 - 11 a.m. Parker Williams Summer Reading Program Kickoff event.
Saturday, June 10, 2 - 3 p.m. Young at Heart YA book club
Monday, June 12, noon - 1 p.m. Adult coputer class: Canva.
Tuesday, June 13, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Magic: The Gathering.
Wednesday, June 14, 11 a.m. - noon. Tech time.

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

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

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

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Crenshaw under construction



Construction is set to begin on Crenshaw from South Shaver to Allen Genoa. The project will mill and overlay roughly 4,300 linear feet of the area thoroughfare. The endeavor will also install 500 linear feet of new sidewalk between the driveways of YES Prep School and reconstruct nine separate driveways. Work is expected to take approximately 30 days to complete. See related story on Page 1.

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

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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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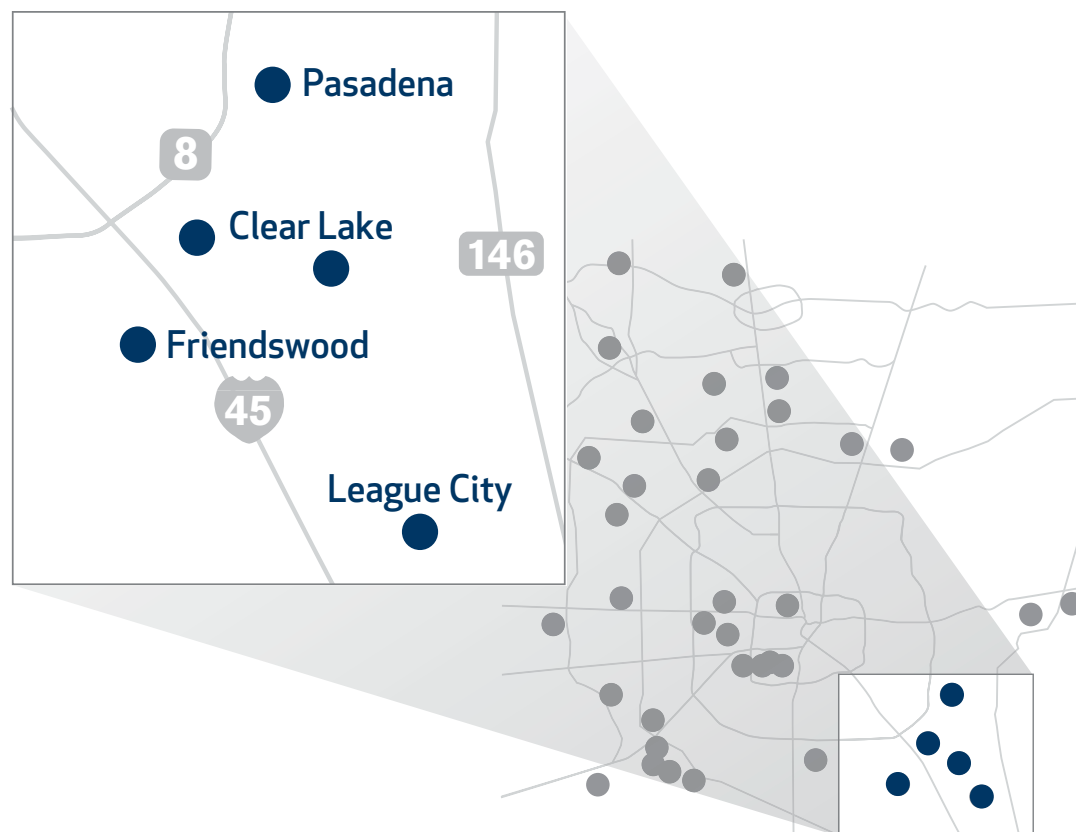


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Gonzalez enjoying a better home



Sagemont resident Izy Gonzalez (back row, third from left) is shown above enjoying his new house that was recently constructed to replace his previous home, which was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The new house, located on Sagehaven, is a vast improvement from the initial replacement home proposed by the Texas General Land Office. South Belt community leaders such as the Leader and Sagemont Civic Club strongly opposed the proposed houses, which were smaller in size, had no brick and did not include garages. Opponents contended the initially proposed houses were incongruent with the surrounding residences and a negative impact on neighboring property values. After months of dispute, the state made significant concessions, providing for changes to make the new homes more harmonious with their surroundings. Gonzalez is happy to have the ordeal behind him. "It was a long process, but it's done," said Gonzalez. Shown above with Gonzalez are, left to right, (front row) Jeff Turnipseed and Kay Barbour, Sagemont Civic Club, (back row) Kay Hammet, Greg Barbour, Sharon Turner, Norman McIntyre and Ellen McIntyre. See related photo on Page 1.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Little League sends letter

Continued from Page 1
b. Audits per the Constitution (Sagemont Beverly Hills LL & Southbelt Baseball LL Constitution).
c. Bank Statements
d. Receipts e. Checks
5. Juan Herrera, President of Southbelt Baseball Little League, will be reaching out to you for collection of the LL documentation. Note:
1. Southbelt Baseball (Sagemont Beverly Hills) L.L.
a. Did not dissolve as per Article XII (Disposal of Assets Upon Dissolution).
i. **See links below for the Constitution.
b. Is the same Little League (At the end of Sagedowne) established in 1967.
2. The LL bank account was accessed multiple times after Dec. 31, 2022. (See last week's Leader page 2.
a. January Bank Statement (See last week's Leader page 2.
i. \$297K in withdrawals
ii. \$206.68K in deposits.
iii. Payment to Pony Baseball Inc.:
1. Date: January 4, 2023
2. \$521.50
3. Card 9627 (Ramirez)
3. Southbelt Baseball Little League - 501c3.
a. It was confirmed by a phone conversation, Marie (Flickinger) had with you January 2023, that the 501c3 number was reported to be the same number as Southbelt Baseball Little League.

4. Meeting (Feb. 13, 2023) with Sports Association, Southbelt Baseball Little League and Southbelt Baseball (Pony League), the following:
a. Confirmed
i. Pony League stated 500 players were registered with them, but were actual original registered with Little League.
1. Pony League are and still using the Registration System (Sports Connect) which all Little League's have access.
a. When registering in Sports Connect information is sent to the LL Data Center.
b. Documents presented at the meeting were from the LL Data Center as of Feb. 6, 2023.
c. See attach for Sports Connect. **
i. Original access given to Sagemont Beverly Hills Little League
ii. Note: Website Address (SBHLL)
1. Sagemont Beverly Hills Little League
b. Presentation of Documents i. Charter
1. LL. a. See links below. **
2. Pony League pending
ii. 501c3
1. LL. a. See links below. **
2. Pony League applied
iii. Insurance.
1. LL. a. See links below. **
2. Pony League on phone.
5. Summary: a. Southbelt Baseball Organize (Pony League)
i. Took all that the Southbelt Baseball (Sagemont Beverly Hills) Little League has built for the community since 1967 for their own.
1. Such as:
a. Total Assets.
b. Facebook Page.
c. At the time 501c3.

d. Web page.
e. Sports Connect (Registration Hub).
f. SBHLL - email.
g. Keys to complex.
h. Fields.
i. Southbelt Baseball Organization (Pony League) as far I know was established Dec. 31, 2022.
1. There was no Organization called "Southbelt Baseball" within a Southbelt Baseball (Sagemont Beverly Hills) Little League.
2. Plain and simple.
a. The Southbelt Baseball (Pony League) took all that was Little Leagues to start their program.
Southbelt Baseball (Sagemont Beverly Hills) Little League wants all kids from the community to play ball as the League has done since 1967.
See articles from the South Belt-Ellington Leader:
www.southbeltleader.com/Leader2-9-23.pdf.
www.southbeltleader.com/Leader2-16-23.pdf.
www.southbeltleader.com/Leader6-1-23.pdf. Many
Thanks, Shorty
ADA - Challenger Division - Texas East District 15; Assigned to Southbelt Baseball Little League."
** Open each link individually. www.southbeltleader.com/Southbelt_Sports_Connect_Screen.jpg; www.southbeltleader.com/LL_Insurance_Certificate_3431515-2023-2_1.pdf; www.southbeltleader.com/IRS_scan_bbassett_2023-01-19-15-55-40_3.pdf; www.southbeltleader.com/Southbelt_Baseball_Constitution_Approved.pdf

Dyers celebrate 45 years June 10



Mable Dyer (left) and Ken Dyer, Sageglen residents for more than 40 years, will celebrate 45 years of marriage June 10. Their friends and family including their two sons, Quentin and Alex Dyer; daughter-in-law, Bianca Gaytan; and grandson, Greyson Dyer send them congratulations. Their sons are both graduates of Clear Brook High. Ken and Mable are both retired and enjoying family, friends and traveling. Mable worked as a NASA contractor and Ken worked for Metro.

City of Houston seeks lifeguards

Continued from Page 1
ng pools."
Phase I openings began Memorial Day, with Wilson Park being the only pool in the South Belt area included.
Phase II openings began June 3, and is separated into two groups - Schedule A and B. Schedule A will be open Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday 1 to 7 p.m.; Schedule B will be open Sunday 1 to 6 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday 1 to 7 p.m. Schedule A includes Wilson Park; B includes Sagemont, 11507 Hughes.
While Beverly Hills Park did not appear on the city's initial press release, District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz assured the Leader it would be open for the 2023 summer season.
City officials said Phase III would be enacted only if additional hiring and onboarding of staff occurs. Ongoing recruitment and certification will continue through June.
The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is seeking individuals with excellent swimming skills. All applicants must be at least 16 years. Interested parties should call 832-395-7129 to set a swim evaluation. For information, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html. All pools will be closed Mondays for maintenance. As more lifeguards are processed and come

Grants benefit STEM programs

The 2023 Clear Creek Education Foundation Sur-Prize Patrol was in full swing May 16, surprising 20 campuses across CCISD, awarding \$140,469.33 in grants to a total of 47 teachers during a surprise grant patrol consisting of Clear Creek Education Foundation board members, local business sponsors and CCISD administration. This funding provided for the 2023-2024 school year will impact over 28,000 students.
The purpose of the grant program is to fund innovative projects that impact student learning. "Hats off to our teachers this year who took the extra time to submit some truly innovative programs for students, beyond the great work they do daily. It's going to be an exciting year to see the results of these grants," stated Executive Director Deborah Laine.
Programs funded include a math manipulatives tool

Houston water bills flush with confusion

Continued from Page 1
Hanks and his wife Sue used exactly 7,000 gallons of water. He said nowhere on the bill does it say what that is based on and what the actual digital readings were.
"I'm not debating the usage, but they ought to tell you what they're basing it on," said Hanks. His neighbors had similar estimates on their monthly statements, such as exactly 7,000 gallons and 8,000 gallons. The specific figures seem odd to Hanks, as he said the new digital readers are capable of reading water usage down to 1/10th of a gallon.
While Hanks is not disputing the 7,000 estimate, he believe it is significantly high, as his own readings place the actual usage closer to 4,000 gallons/month. In mid-May, Hanks began taking daily photos of his water meter, with usage being 2,691 gallons in the 20 days. Confounding matters, Hanks said he can find no consistent formula for calculating the bills. Using a formula provided on his monthly statement, he calculated a bill estimated at 7,000 gallons/month and got one total but then got a different total when calculating the same usage using an online calculator provided on the city's website. Both of the estimates were different than the actual \$157 bill Hanks received for his estimated 7,000 gallons of usage last month. "It's like they're just pulling a number out of thin air," Hanks said.

Officials speak on gun buybacks

Continued from Page 1
anonymous for the public in keeping with the city's objective of retrieving as many firearms as possible from Greater Houston residents.
"I know someone will criticize the program - but the truth is gun buybacks work as one tool in a comprehensive initiative to fight gun violence. Homicides, gun violence, and overall violent crime is down across our city, and we want to keep that momentum going," said Turner. "The gun buyback along with the use of shot spotter, doing more to reduce domestic violence and mental health calls and robust technology and police overtime are pieces of the puzzle that may prevent someone from pulling the trigger in the future or at least think twice before resorting to violence."
The city has held two previous successful gun buybacks. The first gun buyback collected 793 guns, and the second event collected 1,252 guns. Harris County Precinct One, the Harris County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Houston collaborat-

ed on a third gun buyback at Deussen Park earlier this year. Officials collected 793 firearms.
"As Mayor Turner alluded, there have been questions about gun buybacks and whether or not they're effective at improving public safety," said Ellis. "After three wildly successful buyback events, one thing is not up for debate: that this community is ready to be a part of the solution to end gun violence."

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2023-2024 Pasadena ISD Public Information meeting:

A public informational meeting will be held by Pasadena Independent School District on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, to seek public comments on the needs and use of federal funds within Title I, II, III and IV.
The purpose of the meeting is to seek input on how the district can use funds to provide supplemental services and support to students, families, teachers, administrators, and other district staff.
Meetings are scheduled at 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Pasadena ISD - Carmen Orozco Professional Development Complex, 1832 E. Sam Houston Pkwy S., Room #101A, Pasadena TX 77503.
For more information, please contact the Pasadena ISD - Special Programs office at 713-740-0225.

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)
Jeff Jacobson, a Dobie graduate, signed a letter of intent with San Jacinto College. The Dobie All-Star catcher would attend San Jac on a full scholarship.
Teachers and other district personnel from the Pasadena Independent School District were to receive a much smaller increase in salaries than the previous year's 10 and 11 percent increase.
40 years ago (1983)
South Belt area voters voted 5-to-1 against the \$2.35 million Metropolitan Transit Authority's referendum.
Dobie students Kevin Buras and Mike Parker won a First Division rating at the Texas State Band and Orchestra Solo and Ensemble Contest.
35 years ago (1988)
The Southbelt MUD elected new officers with the board consisting of Jim Finley as president, Matt Neimeyer as vice president, Regina Cowen as secretary and Bob Lendecky and Tracy Sugasti as directors.
Mayor Kathy Whitmire proposed a tax increase of 36 percent.
30 years ago (1993)
Newly released reports on air monitoring from atop Weber Elementary showed significant increases of the cancer-causing chemical benzene during October, November and December of 1992. Benzene, a Brio chemical, was considered a possible source of the leukemia-related death of a fourth-grade Weber student. Two students in the same class were diagnosed with leukemia. One died the year before; the other was still recovering.
South Belt was depending on assistance from the community to donate funds for the July 4 fireworks display. For the previous five years, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce had funded the fireworks through a casino night, but because of controversy, they opted not to hold the activities.
25 years ago (1998)
Beverly Hills seventh-graders Shelia Scott, Marianne Do, Daniel Collins and Travis Smithson were recognized by Duke University for their high performance on the SAT.
20 years ago (2003)
Annie McLeod and Donald McCoy were arrested on felony charges involving forgery

and credit card abuse.
Brian Sawyer and Amy Pen, Thompson Intermediate eighth-graders, were awarded the American Legion Post 490 award.
15 years ago (2008)
A private ceremony was held to commemorate the final F-16 Falcon alert mission to be conducted by the Texas Air National Guard's 147th Fighter Wing. The wing had its air sovereignty duties replaced by a squadron of F-16s from the Oklahoma Air National Guard's 138th Fighter Wing, located in Tulsa. The decision stemmed from recommendations of the Department of Defense's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, despite strong opposition from several local military and political leaders. The 147th had performed alert duties along the Gulf Coast since 1958. Members of the 147th would control 12 MQ-1 Predator drones and be collectively known as a reconnaissance wing, rather than a fighter wing.
James Hulme, the last original Dobie teacher, retired following the 2007-2008 school year. Hulme taught French and was the head of foreign language department at the school since it opened in 1968.
Longtime Kirkwood resident Raul "R.C." Rivera was reported to be the first person nationwide to die from complications related to the outbreak of Salmonella Saintpaul. Rivera, 67, was celebrating good news he had received regarding his ongoing bout with lymphoma when he contracted the rare disease, believed to be spread by eating contaminated raw tomatoes.
10 years ago (2013)
An off-duty police officer was one of two people killed in a wrong-way crash on the Gulf Freeway near Alameda Genoa. Joe Segovia, 56, of the University of Houston-Clear Lake Police Department was pronounced dead at the scene.
The wrong-way driver, Amulso Samuel Cerna, 45, of South Houston, was also killed in the accident. According to police, the accident happened around 2:30 a.m. on the southbound side of the freeway. Authorities said Cerna was driving a Chrysler 300 north on the freeway when he slammed head-on into Segovia's Scion xB, which was traveling south. The uniformed officer was on his way to work at the time of the crash.
5 years ago (2018)
A man was shot inside his apartment in the 10200 block of Windmill Lakes Boulevard on Monday, June 4. According to police, the 18-year-old victim answered a knock on his door around 7:30 p.m., and three male suspects allegedly forced their way inside, pushed the resident down to the ground, then shot him in the head. The suspects reportedly then fled the scene in a white Dodge Charger. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital and was expected to recover from his injuries. The three suspects are described merely as black males. No immediate arrests were made.
A temporary restraining order was issued June 6 against Bombshells Restaurant & Bar on the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua, citing multiple alcohol-related crimes. The TRO demanded the facility close at 9 p.m. and only serve food, not alcohol, for 14 days. The business opted to close its doors rather than serve food exclusively. The rare order was put in place after a series Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg described the bar as a "crime factory." According to court documents, at least 90 people have been arrested at the business since it opened roughly four years ago. Some of those arrested have been known gang members. In May alone, there were four DWIs related to the bar, one of which seriously injured Houston Police Officer Chayne Brothers, who on June 11, filed a lawsuit against the establishment for overserving the driver responsible for the accident. A second lawsuit was filed by an injured party from a DWI crash in February. Other reported crimes at the site include shootings, assaults, robberies and drug possession. In January 2015, an off-duty police officer working security at the bar shot and killed a man after he allegedly pointed a gun at him in the parking lot after being kicked out for fighting. In March of that year, the business made national headlines after it refused to serve patrons with face and neck tattoos, claiming it represented gang affiliation, most notably the Houstone sect of the Tango Blast prison gang. The business reopened later that month under requirements that it use computerized systems to monitor alcohol consumption, and that it provide two police officers on site from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. daily.
1 year ago (2022)
Atkinson teacher Ambika Adimoolah was selected Pasadena ISD's 2022 New Elementary Teacher of the Year. Williams Elementary teacher Jessica Garza was named the district's Elementary Teacher of the Year, while South Houston High School teacher Tim Laza was named the district's Secondary Teacher of the Year.
Houston firefighters responded to an apartment fire around 1:30 a.m. May 27 in the 9900 block of Windmill Lakes Boulevard. According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene to find and extinguish a small fire that was confined to one bedroom. The fire caused approximately \$7,000 in damage. No injuries were reported.

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

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

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

VIRGINIA CELEBRATES 78 YEARS
Longtime South Belt resident Virginia Simon celebrates her 78th birthday June 9. Birthday wishes are sent from her son Nick Simon and the Leader staff.

GILES MARK 33RD ANNIVERSARY
Tracy and Jim Giles of Kirkwood South celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary June 10. Congratulations and best wishes are sent from mother, Bobby Griffin; sons Aaron Giles and wife, Ashley; Cody Giles and wife Liz; 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 husband Chris Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; mother-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 8 through June 14.

Atkinson Elementary
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday June 8 to Jessica Carlos. Mercedes Schreiber celebrates a birthday June 12.

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

Genoa Elementary
June 10 is the day for a celebration for Silvia Gonzalez. Enjoying a memorable birthday June 11 is Felicia Oliva. Send a birthday greeting June 12 to Cheryl Helaire.

Meador Elementary
The day of celebration for Holly Nelson is June 10. Remember to wish Genoveva Arrona a happy birthday June 13.

Moore Elementary
Light the candles on a birthday cake for Laura Rodriguez June 11.

South Belt Elementary
Melissa Linder celebrates a birthday June 8. Break out the balloons and party favors June 12 for Sheryl Tomaskovic.

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

Stuchbery Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles June 13 for

Lisette Gallegos. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday June 14 are sent to Heather Trog. Thompson Intermediate
Lisa Burkett celebrates a birthday June 10. Kaylin Harlan enjoys a birthday June 11. David Martin is wished a happy birthday June 12. Sing a happy birthday song to Rachel Heffernan June 13.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles June 9 on a double-layer cake for Larry Davis and Patrick Payne.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, June 8: Baron Jones, Tamisha Lowe-Hendricks, Diane Cardenas, Judd Montes, Jennifer Hunter, Delia Marcum, Carolyn Valdez-Gomez, Victoria Wright and Byron Ewald; Friday, June 9: Trey Wilmore, Angel Ortiz, Gene Robertson, Estella Davis, Anthony Berg, Sandy Ann, Heather Walker, Austin Gates and Summer Keys; Saturday, June 10: Russell Simon, Mariela Ramirez, Shawn Barras and Francine Bretado; Sunday, June 11: Greg Medina and Debbie Mills; Monday, June 12: Charlie Groover, Marilyn Millet and Edily Watson; Tuesday, June 13: Daniel Huston, Rhonda Jones, Heidi Beckham and Keshia Rodriguez; and Wednesday, June 14: Thomas King, Thomas Golithly, Sandra Torres, Dale Brister, Karl Jasso and Sandy Gutheinz.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie youth basketball camp

Registration is now open for the Dobie Longhorns Basketball Skills Camp to be held June 27-29, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day at the Dobie High School main campus.

The skills camp is open to any male or female students entering the first through ninth grades as of the 2023-2024 school year, with first-through fifth-grade participants attending from 8 to 10 a.m.

Sixth- through ninth-grade students will attend the camp from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost of the camp is \$50 per student, payable with cash in person or online payment only.

Dobie basketball coaching staff members will direct the camp, with volunteer coaches assisting in some of the drills including shooting, ballhandling, rebounding and passing fundamentals.

There will also be 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 games and a Hot Shot competition included.

Camp T-shirts are not guaranteed as of now but could be available.

Direct any questions about registration or other camp details to Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Jasmine Hartman at jhartman@pasadenaisd.org.

Dobie volleyball youth clinics

Dobie High School volleyball coaching staff is offering a variety of summer camps for youth players of all ages and skill levels this summer.

The purpose of these camps is to improve the skills of each girl by enhancing strengths and correcting weaknesses. The basic rules and strategies of the game will be taught along with the skills of the game. These skills include passing, setting, hitting, serving, blocking, offense and defense.

Girls entering the third through eighth grades as of the 2023-2024 school year will attend the camp July 18-20, with those entering the third through sixth grades attending each day from 9 to 11 a.m., and seventh- and eighth-grade students attending from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$50 per student.

Girls entering the ninth grade as of the 2023-2024 school year will attend the camp July 24-26 from 1 to 4 p.m. at \$60 per student.

Girls entering the 10th through 12th grades as of the 2023-2024 school year will attend the camp July 24-26 from 9 a.m. to noon at \$60 per student.

To register for any of the camps or to get additional camp details, direct email to Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

Wolverine boys' hoops camp

Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball head coach Nathan Janak and his staff will host the 2023 Wolverine Youth Hoops Camp June 12-15 for three separate sessions.

Boys entering the fourth through sixth grades as of the 2023-2024 school year will attend from 9 a.m. to noon each day, while boys and girls entering kindergarten through the third grade will attend from 10 a.m. to noon. The 1 to 4 p.m. session is for boys entering the seventh through ninth grades. Direct email to njanak@ccisd.net for registration details.

Locals play in Futures Game

Dobie sophomore right-hander Cruz Torres, the 2023 Newcomer of the Year in the District 22-6A varsity baseball ranks, was joined by Lutheran South's Victor Coronado and Roland Aguillon at the Greater Houston Baseball Coaches Association's Futures Game June 6 after press time. See more details in the June 15 issue.

Dickson, TAMU teammates at NCAA track nationals



The Texas A&M track and field program qualified 28 athletes in all for the NCAA Division I Track and Field Championships June 7-10 in Austin at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the University of Texas campus. Among the Aggies' 13 women's qualifiers were the four members of the 4x100 relay group, which posted a time of 43.35 seconds to reach Austin. Above that foursome includes, left to right, Semira Killebrew, Camryn Dickson, Jania Martin and Leah Burr. Dickson, a Class of 2022 Clear Brook graduate, also made her way to nationals in both the 100 and 200. Portions of the national championships will air on ESPN and ESPN+, and live results can be viewed at www.texasports.com.

Campa 10th at nationals



Alberto Campa, a Dobie graduate and current Colorado School of Mines men's distance runner, earned U.S. Track and Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association second-team All-American status after placing 10th in the 1,500 at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships, clocking in at 3 minutes, 56.03 seconds in Pueblo, Colo.



San Jacinto College freshman softball star Arianna Wright put together one of the best offensive seasons in program history in 2023 and has collected plenty of postseason honors.



Christin Haygood of San Jacinto College won 37 career games over two seasons as she was named the Region XIV and Conference Pitcher of the Year in both 2022 and 2023.

San Jac softball collects honors

Despite falling one win shy of a third consecutive national tournament berth, the San Jacinto College softball program still had plenty to celebrate after finishing 42-19 overall in 2023.

Leading the way for the Ravens was freshman infielder Arianna Wright, who set all-time single-season marks in several offensive categories at San Jacinto College on her way to being named the Region XIV South Division and overall Conference Player of the Year.

Wright is now the program's single-season leader in batting average (.522), slugging percentage (.968), home runs (17) and runs batted in (71) as she delivered arguably the best all-around season in SJC softball history.

Along with the region and conference honors, Wright has also been named a National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Midwest Region first-team honoree and is sure to draw National Junior College Athletic Association All-American consideration later this month.

While Wright established herself as an all-time great at San Jacinto College on the offensive

side of things, sophomore pitcher Christin Haygood now departs San Jacinto College as perhaps its top all-time pitcher.

A two-time Region XIV and Conference Pitcher of the Year, Haygood was 19-2 with a 1.50 earned run average in 2023 and collected 37 wins over her two seasons with San Jacinto College.

Like Wright, Haygood was named a National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Midwest Region first-team performer. Wright and Haygood were San Jacinto College's top performers over the 2023 season, and they were joined by several teammates who also earned all-region and all-conference honors.

Outfielders Chloe Foster and Leslie Longoria as well as designated player Izzy Farmer were Region XIV All-South Conference honorees. Foster hit .375 and had 12 extra-base hits while scoring 39 runs. Longoria, a Class of 2021 Dobie High School graduate, scored 37 runs and hit .386, second-best on the team. Farmer hit .374 with 29 runs batted in.

San Jacinto College's Region XIV All-South Conference second team honorees included catcher Haleigh McDonald and infielders Ella Casas and Emma Garcia.

McDonald drew praise for her outstanding defensive work as well as her guidance of the pitching

SJC's Wright All-American

The National Junior College Athletic Association on June 6 named San Jacinto College freshman shortstop a second-team All-American in the Division I ranks.

Wright (see story below) was previously named the Region XIV Player of the Year.

ENROLL TODAY

For More Info Check Out Our Website

USA Karate Houston

- ✓ Summer School-age Program (Kindergarten and Up)
- ✓ Evening Karate Classes
- ✓ Self Defense Classes

USA Karate Pearland

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- ✓ Mighty-Mights Program (Ages 3-5)
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Dobie soccer's Guzman to play at Concordia University



Dobie Class of 2023 graduate Ronaldo Guzman (second from left), who as a junior in 2022 scored 22 goals and dished out seven assists for the District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer championship team, will continue his education and playing career at Concordia University in Austin after signing with the Tornados of the NCAA Division III ranks. Those with him at the signing included, left to right, Roberto Guzman (father), Rosa Guzman (mother), Romario Guzman (brother), Roberto Guzman Jr. (brother), Karla Bueno (girlfriend) and Auriela Bueno (Karla Bueno's mother). Concordia University late last month announced that each of its varsity sports, men's soccer included, will join the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference for the start of the 2024-2025 academic year. The Tornados, who play a fall schedule, were 10-3-4 overall, advancing to the conference tournament semifinals.

man Jr. (brother), Karla Bueno (girlfriend) and Auriela Bueno (Karla Bueno's mother). Concordia University late last month announced that each of its varsity sports, men's soccer included, will join the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference for the start of the 2024-2025 academic year. The Tornados, who play a fall schedule, were 10-3-4 overall, advancing to the conference tournament semifinals.

Longhorn soccer star Victor Hernandez to Berea



Senior co-captain Victor Hernandez (third from left), who scored a program second-best of 23 single-season goals in 2023 while leading the Dobie varsity boys' soccer program to the Region III title game, will continue his education and playing career at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, after signing a letter

of intent with the Mountaineers. Those with him at the signing included, left to right, Guadalupe Cota (grandmother), Luna Hernandez (sister) and Mauricio Hernandez (father). Berea is an NCAA Division III program and went 9-7-3 overall last fall. Hernandez had 31 career goals at Dobie.

Berea College soccer inks JFD's Emerson Saravia



Dobie Class of 2023 graduate and varsity boys' soccer standout Emerson Saravia (seated second from left) is set to join the NCAA Division Berea College men's soccer program in Berea, Ky. after signing a letter of intent with the Mountaineers. Those with Saravia at the signing included, left to right, Daniel Saravia (brother), Maria Saravia (mother), Hector Saravia (father) and Isai Saravia (brother). Emerson Saravia was a 2023 first-team All-District selection.

ers. Those with Saravia at the signing included, left to right, Daniel Saravia (brother), Maria Saravia (mother), Hector Saravia (father) and Isai Saravia (brother). Emerson Saravia was a 2023 first-team All-District selection.

Brook's Smith picks East Texas Baptist hoops



Clear Brook Class of 2023 graduate Nalani Smith (seated center), a key contributor to the Wolverine varsity girls' basketball program's back-to-back District 22-6A championship squads, is set to continue her education and playing career at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, after signing a letter of intent with the Tigers. With Smith at the signing included, left to right, (standing) Ryan Zeleski (varsity assistant, Mileka Loydrake (varsity head coach), Kyelah Hodges (freshman assistant) and Alfredo Gonzales (junior varsity assistant).

ter signing a letter of intent with the Tigers. With Smith at the signing included, left to right, (standing) Ryan Zeleski (varsity assistant, Mileka Loydrake (varsity head coach), Kyelah Hodges (freshman assistant) and Alfredo Gonzales (junior varsity assistant).

Clear Brook's Williams picks Texas Lutheran

At right, Clear Brook High School Class of 2023 graduate and standout football player Jydius Williams (seated center) will continue his education and playing career at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. Smith's parents, Chasity George (left) and Jydius Williams Sr., were at the signing to celebrate the event. In 2023 with Clear Brook, Williams had 83 total tackles as one of the Wolverines' top run stoppers and will look to make a quick impact for the Bulldogs, who were 4-6 overall. Texas Lutheran University is an NCAA Division III program that competes in the American Southwest Conference. The Bulldogs will open the 2023 season at Wisconsin Oshkosh Sept. 2.



Alumni, Friends Invitational comes June 22

The Clear Creek Education Foundation is in full swing while planning its eighth Annual Clear Creek ISD Alumni and Friends Topgolf Invitational.

This year's tournament will be held on June 22, with plenty of fun-filled competitions in the works.

Event organizers will host a 19th Hole Par-TEE at the "Caddy Shack"

from 3 to 7 p.m., and there will be plenty of games, drinks, toss a tee and a raffle during the event.

Registration and sponsorships are available now, and with limited bays remaining, quick action is encouraged. Visit <https://www.clearcreekeducationfoundation.org/alumni-topgolf/> for more information.

Last year's tournament raised more than \$50,000

for CCISD teachers and staff.

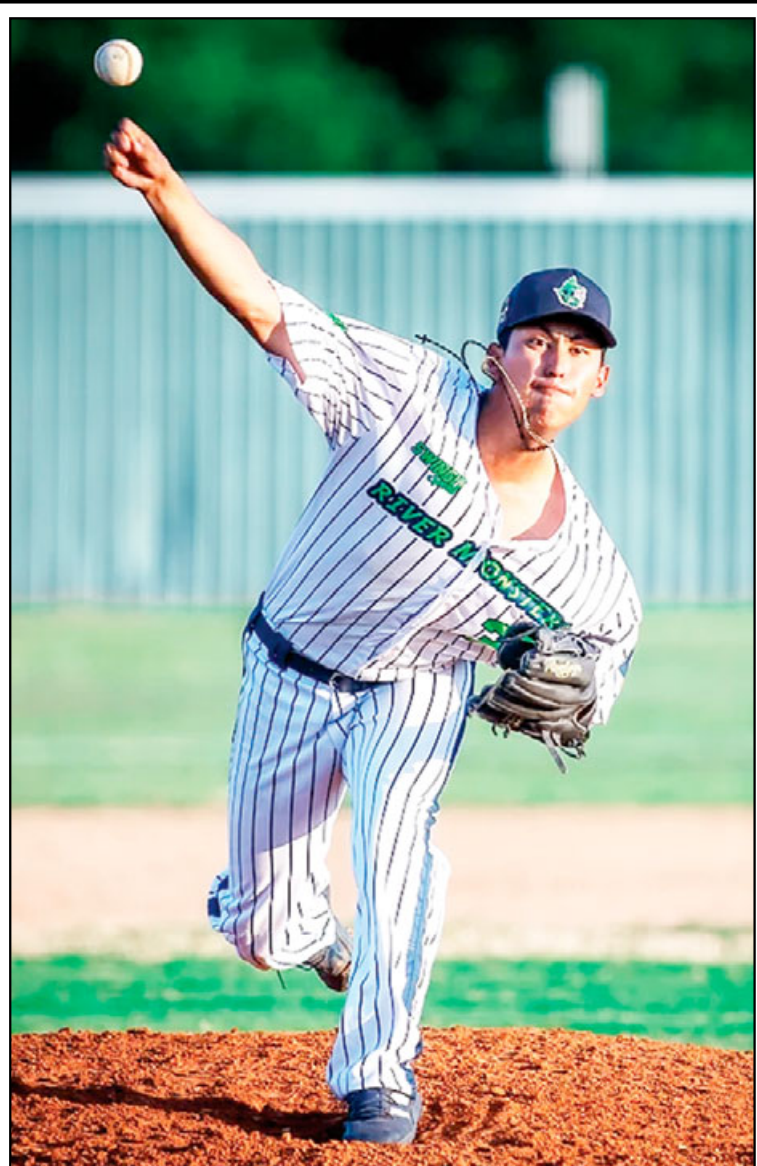
All funds raised from the event go toward inspiring educational excellence within CCISD through CCEF's programs that include educational grants for both teachers and students, supporting Clear Horizon Early College High School and underwriting the costs for teachers to obtain National Board Teacher certification.

Since its founding in 1992, CCEF has been a nonprofit dedicated to building public education in Clear Creek ISD through grants and programs that empower every student to achieve academic and personal success. CCEF has contributed over \$5 million to CCISD for innovative programs in the classroom.

JFD's Garza joins River Monsters

At right, Dobie High School graduate and current University of Texas at San Antonio senior-to-be Daniel Garza was the opening night starting pitcher for the Seguin River Monsters May 31 as they began the 2023 Texas Collegiate League summer season with a 7-6 walk-off win over the Brazos Valley Bombers at Smokey Joe Williams Field in Seguin. Garza, a four-year varsity starting pitcher at Dobie, was used quite a bit as a multi-inning reliever at UTSA this spring as the Roadrunners put together one of the best regular seasons in program history despite seeing their season end at the Conference USA postseason tournament. In 2023, Garza was 5-1 with a 4.75 earned run average, appearing 19 times and logging 47 1/3 total frames. In his start with the River Monsters, Garza struck out five over three frames.

Raymond J Photography



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 8
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Chamber of Commerce website or call 281-485-3634.
9:30 a.m. NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. Call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.
11:30 a.m. ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South meetings are held at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland, TX 77584, Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking; all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6:30 p.m. Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets at VFW Post 7109 Pearland, 4202 W Walnut St., Pearland. Email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARTX.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - free discussion about Judaism and religion in general at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real, Houston. Contact socialaction@shaarhashalom.org for more information.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and Zoom online. For details, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
8 p.m. Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalananon.org/.
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
SUNDAY, JUNE 11
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. in the back of a medical/retail community. Call 281-479-7285 or stop by.
2 p.m. Grief Support Group - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Almeda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, JUNE 12
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for tours of exhibits.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. Hometown Heroes Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.
6 p.m. Scrabble Club #511 - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. Call 281-488-2923.
7 p.m. AA - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting in the education Bldg., room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 chapter meets at Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10:00 a.m. CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Monday's notice.
10:30 a.m. Tri County Republican Women - General meetings held at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Visit www.tricountyrw.club/ or call 832-250-8901.
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - Club #05324194 meets in person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd (SB Chamber of Commerce) for a hybrid meeting. Visit seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org or call 832-722-9061.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing. Call 281-554-1180.
7 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.

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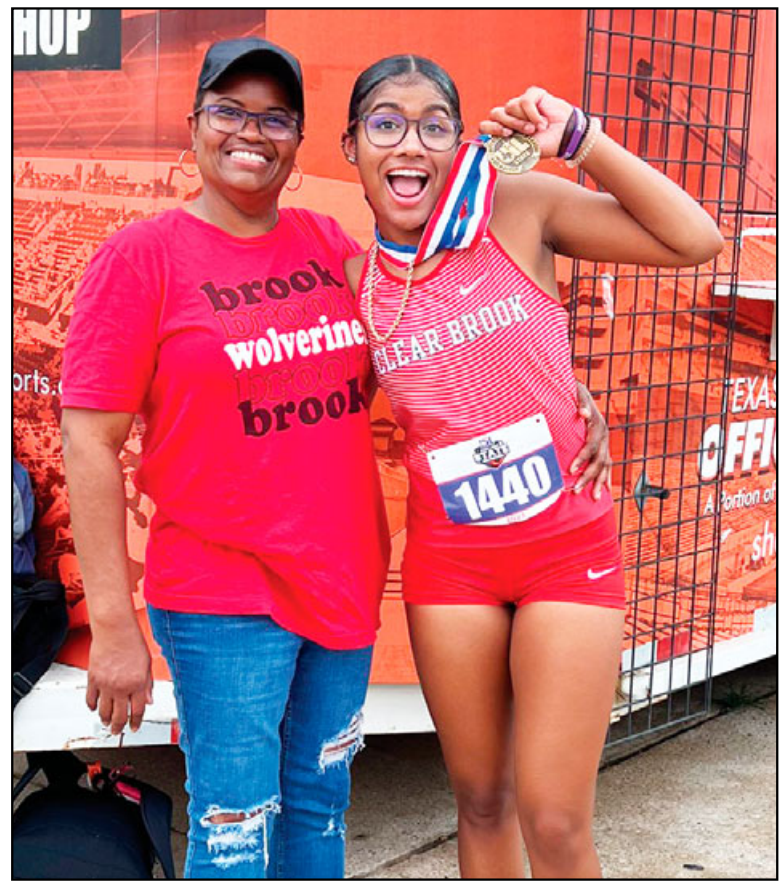
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2023-2024 Pasadena ISD Public Information meeting:
A public informational meeting will be held by Pasadena Independent School District on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, to seek public comments on the needs and use of federal funds within Title I, II, III and IV.
The purpose of the meeting is to seek input on how the district can use funds to provide supplemental services and support to students, families, teachers, administrators, and other district staff.
Meetings are scheduled at 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Pasadena ISD - Carmen Orozco Professional Development Complex, 1832 E. Sam Houston Pkwy S., Room #101A, Pasadena TX 77503.
For more information, please contact the Pasadena ISD - Special Programs office at 713-740-0225.



At left, Dobie varsity boys' soccer head coach Justo Manrique is shown with each of the program's nine consecutive district championship trophies as well as other hardware earned over the years following a 2023 season that saw the Longhorns reach the Region III title game. Meanwhile, Clear Brook High School Class of 2023 graduate Kennedy Thompson (above) celebrates with her mother, Joy Thompson, after winning a state bronze medal in the Class 6A discus event at the state championships in Austin. Dobie's impressive 24-1-4 season along with Thompson's state run combined to represent the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* Top Story of the 2022-2023 school year.

Top 2022-2023 honors

Dobie boys' soccer run to final; Thompson's bronze lead year

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* Top Sports Stories of the 2022-2023 School Year could have very well begun as rather unlikely tales, yet ended up earning equal measures of admiration for their final chapters.

The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team delivered a run in 2023 that very well could have qualified as the best in program history, earning its rightful spot as the top team honor of the school year.

The Longhorns ultimately fell short of reaching state – something the 2017 team did – but an undefeated run to the Region III championship match, just one win away from state, was enough to give the decorated program its best-ever record at 24-1-4.

And while the Longhorns were busy turning heads on the pitch with first a ninth straight district championship and then four playoff wins, Clear Brook senior Kennedy Thompson was seemingly coming up with personal records on a weekly basis en route to a state berth in the girls' discus throw.

Thompson, a relative newcomer to the sport, came up with PRs on three different occasions during the postseason alone to qualify out of Region III for the Class 6A state championships.

There, her best throw of 148 feet, 6 inches earned Thompson a bronze medal, capping a remarkable senior season and certainly qualifying as the top individual performance of the school year.

JFD soccer jumps hurdles

The Dobie soccer program entered the 2023 season with plenty of fanfare.

And with already eight straight league titles in house, the Longhorns very well should have been on the short list of region title contenders.

Yet if those on the outside had known a little bit of what had gone on during the offseason, perhaps the Longhorns would have been given a muligan if things had come apart in 2023.

First, Ronald Guzman, who as a junior in 2022 was named the District 22-6A Offensive Most Valuable Player while tying the Dobie single-season record of 22 goals, suffered a knee injury that would ultimately rob him of his final prep season.

As if that news cost Dobie head coach Justo Manrique some sleepless nights, the veteran leader of the Longhorns would later hear from 22-6A Newcomer of the Year

Victor Hernandez that he, too, had knee issues and was less than 100 percent physically leading up to the preseason.

Hernandez healed quickly and delivered a senior season that included 23 goals on his way to 22-6A Most Valuable Player honors.

Fellow senior Jordi Garcia became the new all-time single-season goal scorer in Dobie program history with 28 as he was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player in the district.

Hernandez and Garcia were far from the lone stars for the Longhorns, who first pocketed the annual Pearlman/Pasadena ISD Cup crown and then were one of just three unbeaten programs at the Austin Lakes Elite Showcase. Two more wins at the Battleground Invitational in Deer Park produced a 9-0-1 nondistrict push.

Dobie's District 22-6A championship run, again, No. 9 in a row, included a pair of 1-1 ties against the Pasadena Eagles as the lone blips.

In closing out a 10-0-2 record to get to 19-0-2, the Longhorns outscored their final four opponents by a combined 26 to 0. In league play alone, Dobie outscored its 12 foes 60 to 8.

After reaching the state tournament in 2017 for the first time in program history, the Longhorns had experienced a mixed bag in the postseason.

The 2018 squad reached the regional quarterfinals before a loss to North Shore, but Strake Jesuit knocked the Longhorns out in the bidistrict round a season later via penalty kicks.

The 2020 squad did win the 22-6A crown and was 16-1-4 overall when the pandemic ended play.

From there, the 2021 and 2022 squads lost bidistrict round games, with Kingwood winning 1-0 in 2021 and Strake Jesuit claiming a 3-2 win

last season.

The 2023 playoff run began with a 4-0 bidistrict victory at Humble, and the Longhorns then scored a 1-0 win over Region III power Alief Elsik in the area round.

Playing on the road yet again in the regional quarterfinals, the Longhorns clipped Pearland 3-1 at The Rig to reach the Region III Final Four for the first time since 2017.

Dobie then downed Katy ISD's Jordan 3-2 before losing to eventual state champion Seven Lakes in the Region III final.

Considering how the offseason played out, what the Longhorns did on the pitch in 2023 was nothing short of Sports Story of the School Year worthy.

To say Thompson enjoyed a whirlwind of a school year might just be an understatement.

She won the first of two straight 24-6A discus titles and then continued to excel on the summer track and field circuit as she sought a college scholarship opportunity.

Thompson first finished her final season with the Clear Brook varsity volleyball program, ultimately scoring second-team All-District honors at middle blocker.

On Feb. 9 via her Twitter account, Thompson announced her collegiate signing with Mississippi College.

Instead of coasting through her final discus/shot season in the spring, Thompson instead went all in.

Six different regular season meets ended with Thompson winning gold medals in the discus. She won her second straight 24-6A crown and then won a 23-6A/24-6A area round gold before finishing second at regionals.

Despite entering the state meet as the lowest seed based on regional performance, Thompson claimed a bronze medal. What a top story.



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