

Leader seeks submissions

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* encourages local schools, groups and individuals to continue sending story ideas and photos they'd like to see included in the newspaper. Submissions have declined following the death of *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger in November. Contributions may be submitted to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Sageglen to meet July 21

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its annual election meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, July 21, at the Sageglen Building located at 11610 Sageyork. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for ballot registration. Photo ID will be required to receive a ballot. To be voted on are two board member positions and one Architectural Control Committee position. Guest speaker will be attorney Blair Farine from Daughtry & Farine. Light refreshments will be served. All homeowners in the Sageglen community are encouraged to attend the meeting or return their mail-in proxy ballot. For additional information, visit sageglen.com or call 281-481-2160.

Knights to hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, July 20, at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Donors must bring identification. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/geo.

Sagemeadow to meet July 17

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 17, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. Guest speaker will be Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia. The meeting is open to the public. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month. For additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, July 12, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

Coffee with the Constable

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

Lakes of Golfcrest to meet

Lake of Golfcrest will hold its quarterly HOA meeting virtually at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 17. To take part in the meeting, visit [teams.microsoft.com](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/227653262558) using Meeting ID: 227 653 262 558 and Passcode: Rn7Sd7SZ.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Hughes/Sabo closures set

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

Thompson named a "School to Watch"

Local school earns nationwide distinction among middle-grade campuses

Thompson Intermediate was recently designated a "Schools to Watch" by National Forum, earning a spot on the nonprofit's annual list of top-performing middle-grade schools in the country.

The prestigious designation celebrates middle schools nationwide for their excellence in academic achievement, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organizational structure.

Launched by National Forum in 1999, the "Schools to Watch" initiative recognizes schools that serve as models for middle-grade education. Each year, dozens of campuses across the country are selected through a rigorous application and site-visit process.

To date, 480 campuses have been recognized nationwide by the program.

In 2025, Thompson Intermediate was one of seven newly designated schools in Texas, joining a distinguished group of campuses that exemplify best practices in supporting young students.

Under the leadership of Principal Tanis Griffin, Thompson reportedly stood out for its inclusive learning environment, emphasis on student voice and innovative teaching strategies.

According to officials from the nonprofit group, the designation "reflects the hard work and dedication of Thompson's students, staff and community – and highlights Pasadena ISD's commitment to excellence and equity in education."

The national "Schools to Watch" program is coordinated with regional offices in 20 different

states. In Texas, the initiative is coordinated with the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

According to group's website, the program and its criteria were developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Schools are evaluated on academic excellence, meeting young student needs, social eq-

uity and collaborative leadership. The program is a longterm, continuous process, with schools being visited and reviewed by practicing middle-grades professionals.

Recognized campuses were recently celebrated at the National Forum's "Schools to Watch" 2025 conference, held June 26-28 in Washington, D.C.

San Jacinto trustee John Moon Jr. dies

Local businessman and longtime San Jacinto College board member John Moon Jr. died unexpectedly Friday, July 4, from a suspected heart attack.

A product of Pasadena ISD, Moon attended San Jacinto College after graduating from Sam Rayburn High School. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University and a Master of Science from the University of Houston-Clear



John Moon Jr.

Lake. Moon would later serve as an adjunct professor at San Jacinto College before being elected to the school's Board of Trustees Position 5 seat in 2009. At the time of his death, Moon served as vice chair of the board. He served as chair of the college's Building Committee and formerly served on the school's Finance Committee. Moon additionally served on the San Jacinto College Foundation's board of directors.

A certified public accountant and licensed real estate agent, Moon spent 30 years in the banking industry before shifting toward commercial real estate and investments later in his career.

Plans regarding possible services were unclear at press time. See obituary in next week's *Leader*.

Community donates to flood victims

Local groups hold drive; donations, volunteers sought

Several local community groups are coming together to collect and donate supplies to those affected by the recent floods in the Texas Hill Country.

Led by the Sagemont Civic Club and its President Kay Barbour, the drive is headquartered at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road, and features a drive-thru line staffed by volunteers, where residents may drop

off food and other items. Due to overwhelming support already, clothes are no longer being accepted at this time.

Originally set to end Tuesday, July 8, the drive has been extended through Friday, July 11, due to an outpouring of support from the South Belt community. Donation drive-thru hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Continued on Page 4

Thompson nationally recognized



Thompson Intermediate recently received national recognition by being named to the National Forum's 2025 "Schools to Watch" list. The area campus was honored at the National Forum's annual conference, held June 26-28 in Washington, D.C. School administrators shown above at the event are, left to right, Thompson Assistant Principal Christine Veltman, Principal Tanis Griffin and Assistant Principal Kelli Moneyhun.

Beverly Hills pool remains closed

Pool 1 of only 8 in city to remain closed; 30 pools now open

As of the city's latest update on June 30, the swimming pool at Beverly Hills Park remained closed for the 2025 summer season.

The area pool is one of only eight city that still remained closed due to lifeguard staffing issues. Pools at 30 other parks had already opened for the season after a short delay.

The lifeguard shortage has been a nationwide problem, following the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the closure of most community swimming pools 2020-2022.

It was unclear at press time, if the city planned to open the Beverly Hills pool this year or not, saying only that additional pools would open as

more lifeguards become available.

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

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

To see the city's most recent list of swimming pool openings, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html.



Locals support flood victims

The South Belt community is coming together to aid those affected by the recent flooding in the Texas Hill Country. Several local groups, led by the Sagemont Civic Club, have joined forces to hold a drive at The Gardens through Friday, July 11, to accept donations. Shown above at The Gardens helping to organize donated items is Elliana Abarca, daughter of *Leader* staff member Natalie Abarca.

Arlington Heights work continues

City project to make drainage improvements on schedule

Work on the city of Houston's Arlington Heights Area Drainage Improvements project continues and will remain underway for the next several months.

According to Houston Public Works officials, the purpose of the project is to construct storm drainage improvements that address and reduce the risk of structural flooding in the area by improving street conveyance and sheet flow and providing detention, as needed, for mitigation.

Public Works officials said the drainage improvement project will feature the following key

points:

- **Improves safety:** New sidewalks, curbs, driveway approaches, wheelchair ramps, streetlights, pavement markings, and permanent signage will create a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.
- **Reduces flooding:** Upgraded stormwater drainage lines are designed to better manage rainfall and reduce the risk of street and property flooding—an ongoing concern in this area of Houston.

Continued on Page 2

City officials praise Legislative Session

Whitmire calls session "most successful" in city's history

At a recent press conference, city of Houston officials praised the state's recent 89th Legislative Session, with Mayor John Whitmire calling it the "most successful legislative session in the city of Houston's history."

According to officials, the city will benefit from approximately \$267 million in direct appropriations from the Texas Legislature for parks, water infrastructure and public safety.

"I am extremely proud of the work my team has accomplished, thanks to the leadership of Mayor Whitmire, our City Council and especially our region's delegation," said Chief of Intergovernmental Relations, Joshua Sanders. "The city is successful because of our bipartisanship and the strong support of our Houston delegation."

This sentiment was echoed by Whitmire – a former legislator of 50 years.

"In all my time in public service, this has been the most successful legislative session for the city of Houston," said Whitmire. "Thank you to Josh, the team and all the city departments that made this happen. At the end of the day, Houstonians will benefit for years to come. My administration will continue to focus on quality of life issues while prioritizing infrastructure and public safety."

Bills passed during the state's 89th Legislative Session that will directly benefit the city of Houston include the following:

- Senate Bill 1164 introduced by Sen. Judith

Continued on Page 4

South Belt celebrates July 4



The 35th annual South Belt Independence Day Parade was a huge success Friday, July 4, attracting dozens of participants and hundreds of spectators. *Leader* co-founder Marie Flickinger posthumously served as grand marshal of the event, with her family members riding in the parade's lead vehicle. San Jacinto College received the award for Most Patriotic float. SJC team members shown above at the parade are, left to right, Maria Ramirez, Liliana Ramirez, Francisco Ramirez, Jesse Ramirez, Adriana Ramirez, Elias Ramirez, Luis Rauda, Kris Thompson, Jacquelynn Conger, Sochi Conger, Amanda Fenwick, Peyton Fenwick, Roseana Elizalde, Elizabeth Medrano, Andrew Elizalde, Lynda de los Santos, Joe Pena and newly elected SJC trustee Judy Harrison. See additional photos on Page 4.

In My Opinion

King speaks on the Big Beautiful Bill

President Trump has been boasting that his One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) eliminated income taxes on Social Security. But did it? The answer is: sort of.

There is no explicit repeal of taxes on Social Security benefits in the OBBB. However, the bill provides taxpayers over the age of 65 with an additional deduction of \$6,000 for individuals and \$12,000 for couples. This deduction is phased out based on income, starting at \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for couples. The deduction decreases by 6% for income above these thresholds and is fully phased out at \$175,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples.

There are various estimates of how many people will benefit from this new provision. Most analysts expect that about 85% to 90% of Social Security recipients will pay no federal income tax on their benefits. However, approximately 40% were already not paying any tax because their income was below the taxable threshold. When you exclude that group, about 34 million seniors (roughly half of all Social Security recipients) are expected to see some reduction in their income taxes as a result of the new provision.

The downside is that this change puts more financial pressure on Social Security's solvency. Taxes collected on benefits currently go directly into the program's trust fund. It is estimated that the new deduction will reduce the fund's income by about \$30 billion annually.

Before this change, the Social Security trust funds were projected to be depleted by 2033. Because benefits now exceed incoming tax revenue, the program will be unable to pay full benefits after that year. If Congress does not act, benefits would have to be cut by about 20% after the trust fund is exhausted. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the new provision likely moves that date forward by one year, to 2032.

Laying aside the fiscal implications, the provision is clearly a political win for Trump. CNN and MSNBC can, and will, relentlessly fact-check his exaggerated claim that the OBBB "eliminated taxes on Social Security." But the roughly 34 million seniors who will see a smaller tax bill this year are unlikely to be swayed by their technical clarifications. As political pundits often say, "if you are explaining, you are losing."

As for Social Security hitting the wall in 2032 instead of 2033 — well, Trump and most members of Congress will be long gone by then.

Bill King

Car catches fire on beltway



Emergency crews from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office and Houston Fire Department Station 61 responded to a vehicle fire shortly before 3:30 a.m. Sunday, July 6, on Beltway 8 near Telephone Road. No injuries were reported, according to Precinct 2 officials.

AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, July 22, to tour the Wharton 20th Century Tech Museum. Lunch will be at 9er's Grill. One may register for this trip at the July 10 AARP meeting. One must be a member of chapter 99 to participate in the chapter's bus trips.

If one is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact President Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or at veronica_sftrd46@yahoo.com.

NASA Aglow Lighthouse meets July 26

NASA Aglow Lighthouse invites all to its meeting on Saturday, July 26, beginning at 10 a.m. at Praise Chapel, 18516 SH 3, Webster.

Bruce Klinger, who was born and raised in Houston by parents who were Assembly of God pastors, and who graduated from Texas A&M and began a 40-year career in Information Technology, will be the guest speaker. Recently retired, he and his wife, Teresa, began leading a Healing Life group at a local church, teaching principles of divine healing and seeing God confirm his word with a demonstration of the holy spirit and power.

Bring a friend to the meeting as NASA Aglow celebrates the presence of the Lord.

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, July 10, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Thursday, July 10, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.

Thursday, July 10, 4 – 5 p.m. Bring your family to storytime. Registration required.

Monday, July 14, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required.

Monday, July 14, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Tuesday, July 15, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Wednesday, July 16, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Wednesday, July 16, 3 – 4 p.m. Squeeze art. Registration required.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, July 10, All day. Stuffed animal sleepover.

Thursday, July 10, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Friday, July 11, 1 – 3 p.m. Freestyle perler bead craft for teens and adults.

Friday, July 11, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Butterfly wing craft.

Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.

Saturday, July 12, 1 – 3 p.m. Sewing with Bianca. Registration required.

Monday, July 14, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.

Monday, July 14, 4 – 5:30 p.m. 3D printer orientation.

Tuesday, July 15, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

Tuesday, July 15, 4 – 5 p.m. Minecraft perler bead craft.

Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Minecraft movie.

Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Sewing with Bianca. Registration required.

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>.

Elected officials share their words

Letter from Fred Flickinger: Unusually high water bill? Here's what you need to know

Council Member Flickinger would like District E residents to know how anyone experiencing an unusually high water bill can have their concern investigated. It is important to understand all water bill issues are handled on a case-by-case basis as no two addresses are the same and water usage changes month to month, which is why it is crucial to report these issues to Houston 311 by calling (713) 837-0311.

If one believes their water bill is incorrect it is important to contact Houston 311 (713-837-0311) first. After residents have called Houston 311 a unique service request number is generated, which triggers an investigation. Once one receives their service request number after calling Houston 311, send one's service request number along with one's most recent water bill to their office at district@houstontx.gov for the District E office to monitor. Keep in mind a Houston 311 report needs to be submitted each time an issue occurs.

The City of Houston has established a "Consumption Awareness Program" for residents to use which alerts homeowners as soon as usage at one's address increases. To register for that program, sign up at <https://www.houstonwaterbills.houstontx.gov/ProdDP/Default/Default>. One can also estimate one's upcoming bills by using the calculator at <https://www.houstonwaterbills.houstontx.gov/ProdDP/CalculateConsumptionRate/CalculateConsumptionRate>.

It is important for residents to use Houston 311, as this is the only way for the City of Houston to know a problem exists. Additionally, the District E office compiles information and can identify a

trend, based on 311 reports. Based on historical information most cases investigated show increased usage by customers.

When leaks are investigated and discovered to be on the private side of the meter a one-time leak adjustment can be submitted. If one does find a leak and would like to submit a one-time leak adjustment one may use this form at <https://www.houstonwaterbills.houstontx.gov/ProdDP/Billing/AccountBasedServiceRequest/LeakAdjustmentRequest> (once a year). Continue to pay one's bill until one's form is approved/denied.

If one does experience unexplained usage over 200 percent of the average usage one may submit an "unusually large bill application" (once a year), found at <https://www.houstonwaterbills.houstontx.gov/ProdDP/Billing/AccountBasedServiceRequest/UnusuallyLargeBillApplication>. It is important in this instance as well, to continue to pay one's bill until one's form is approved/denied.

Keep in mind, leaks may not always present as gushing water, sometimes it is an area of one's yard that appears greener than the rest, or a running toilet in a part of one's home one does not use often. It is encourage for one to visit the City of Houston Water website at <https://www.houstonwaterbills.houstontx.gov/ProdDP/Default/Default> for tips on how to find a leaking toilet, how to test for a leaking toilet, and tips on in-home conservation.

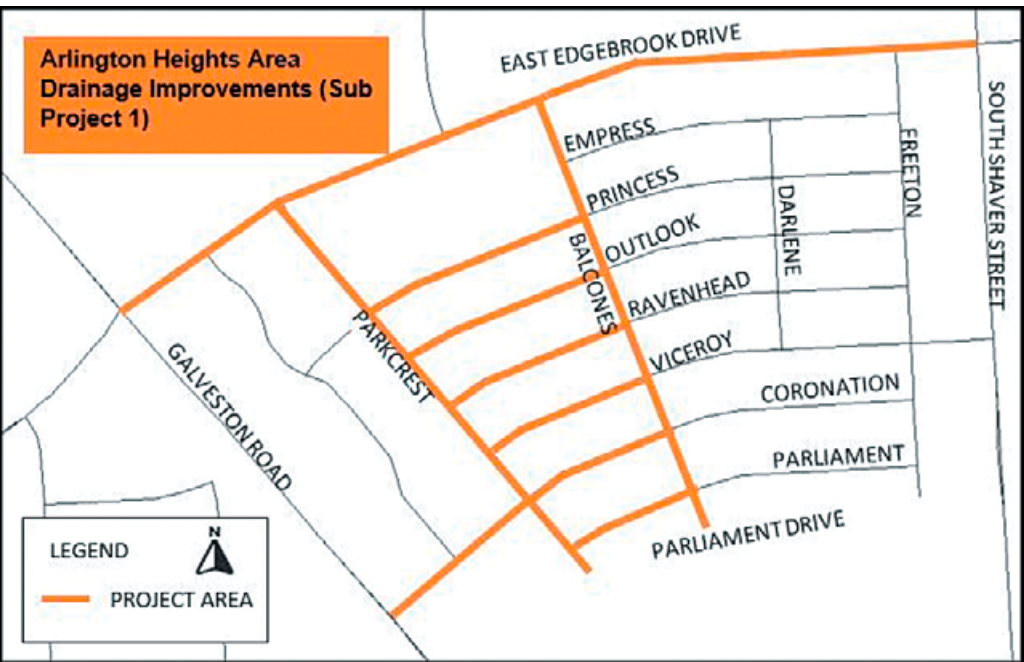
For more information, contact their office by calling 832-393-3008 or emailing DistrictE@houstontx.gov.

Fred Flickinger
District E

Deputies patrol Hughes



Acting on concerns voiced from local residents at a recent Coffee with the Constable event about vehicles speeding in the 9200 block of Hughes Road near Melillo Middle School, deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office have been conducting patrols on the area thoroughfare, initiating numerous traffic stops this past week.



Arlington Heights improvements underway

Continued from Page 1

Enhances mobility:

– Paving improvements and clearly marked streets will enhance traffic flow and access throughout the neighborhood, supporting smoother commutes and local travel.

Upgrades critical utilities:

– The project includes replacement and construction of water and wastewater lines, including a new 12-inch water line along East Edgemoor Drive using trenchless methods to minimize disruption. These upgrades ensure long-term service reliability.

Increases Accessibility:

– The installation of ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps and improved side-walks makes the area more accessible for people of all mobility levels, promoting inclusivity in public spaces.

Much needed in the aging community near Edgemoor and the Gulf Freeway, the project will be broken down into two subprojects, city officials said.

Subproject 1 will include the design and construction of stormwater drainage, water and wastewater lines, paving, sidewalks, driveways, curbs, wheelchair ramps, permanent signs, pavement markings and streetlights. In addition, necessary utility upgrades will be made.

A proposed 12-inch water line will be constructed primarily using trenchless construction along East Edgemoor Drive, from east of the Harris County Flood Control District to South Shaver Street, with only minor paving restorations.

Project updates

– Concrete installation is complete at the corner of Coronation and Arlington Square.

– The contractor is actively working on the storm water system and wastewater pipes along Parkcrest, Viceroy, Balcones, Parliament and Coronation.

– The contractor will soon begin work on stormwater pipes along Ravenhead, enhancing drainage and reducing flooding risk.

– All driveways and sidewalks along Parkcrest are nearly complete, improving access and walkability in the area.

– Landscaping will begin soon along Coronation (from Parkcrest) and on the west side of Parkcrest (from Parliament to Princess), adding beauty and greenery to these key areas.

– Paving completed on the west side of Balcones, from Edgemoor up to the median near Princess Drive.

– Driveway installations

along Princess Drive from Parkcrest to Balcones.

– Sidewalk poured along Balcones from Viceroy to Princess, along with driveways from Outlook to Parliament.

– The contractor has completed the installation of wastewater lines along the south side of Princess Drive from Parkcrest.

– Crews are currently working on wastewater line installation along the east side of Balcones from Edgemoor.

Cost of Subproject 1 is

estimated at roughly \$21 million. The project remains on track for completion by spring 2026.

For more information about Arlington Heights Area Drainage Improvement – Subproject 1, visit Engage Houston at www.engagehouston.org/arlington-heights-1.

Arlington Heights Area Drainage Improvement – Subproject 2 is in the final design stages, with construction scheduled to begin in fall 2025 and expected to be completed by spring 2027.

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Deaths

Anthony Joseph Scanlin Jr.



Anthony Joseph Scanlin Jr., lovingly known as Bubba, passed away on June 25, 2025, at the age of 69. Born in Houston on March 4, 1956, Bubba was a proud Texan with a big heart, a sharp sense of humor, and a love for music, family and his dogs "Big" and "Lucy." He is preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Sandra Scanlin; grandmother Grace Leffley; brothers Christopher Scanlin and Joseph Scanlin; sister Mary Scanlin Davila; and cherished pets "Sarge" and "Nikita."

Bubba is survived by his siblings: Camille York, Rob-in Kristoff, Sandy (Mike) Powell, John (Lisa) Scanlin, Dino Scanlin, David (Marie) Scanlin and Catherine Prince, as well as many nieces, nephews, and longtime friends who will miss him dearly.

Bubba was a 1975 graduate of J. Frank Dobie High School. He went on to become a master welder for Texas Pipebending Co. where he worked for many years. He was also a gifted musician who loved playing the piano and guitar, often bringing laughter and music to family gatherings.

Bubba faced life's challenges with grit and humor, living with Parkinson's Disease for more than 30 years with strength and determination.

He was one-of-a-kind, funny, loyal and full of love. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 11, at 2 p.m. at Crowder Funeral Home, 111 E. Medical Center Blvd., Webster, TX, 77598.

A memorial contribution may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research in honor of Anthony J. Scanlin Jr.

Joe P. Briones



With heavy hearts, the family announces the passing of Joe P. Briones, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, friend, proud U.S. Navy veteran and fantasy football champ. His love, laughter, and larger-than-life presence will forever echo in the hearts of those who knew him.

Joe's life was defined by love for his family, his friends, good food, sports, and the simple joys that made life meaningful. He took immense pride in caring for others, always putting his family first. Whether he was lending a helping hand, cooking something delicious, or sharing a story with a warm smile, Joe made sure the people he loved felt that love deeply.

On Oct. 16, 1965, Joe married the love of his life, Petra Briones. Together, they built a home filled with laughter, warmth and family. Their enduring marriage lasted more than 41 years until Petra's passing on March 31, 2007. Joe never stopped cherishing her memory.

A proud father to a son and daughter, a cherished grandfather, and a joyful great-grandfather, Joe built a family that was his greatest joy. He lived for his loved ones and found true happiness in watching them grow, laugh and thrive.

As a young man, Joe honorably served in the United States Navy, a time in his life that shaped his strength, discipline and deep sense of responsibility. He carried those values with him throughout the years, both in his work and in his relationships.

Joe had a lifelong passion for sports, especially football. A fierce fantasy football competitor, he was known for his clever picks, playful trash talk and the spark in his eye on game days. Sundays were sacred-filled with football, family and food. His love for competition extended beyond the field as he was also a devoted wrestling fan who never missed a WWE match. Whether it was classic rivalries or modern-day bouts, he followed the action with the excitement of a true fan.

Joe worked hard throughout his life, spending many years behind the wheel as a

truck driver, warehouseman and representative for a vending company. His strong work ethic and dependability left a lasting impression on those who worked with him. In his later years, he found deep fulfillment serving others through his work with Catholic Charities, bringing compassion and care to those in need.

A true foodie at heart, Joe never met a plate he didn't love. He enjoyed trying new flavors and took great joy in preparing meals that brought his family together around the table.

To know Joe was to be welcomed, fed and loved. His humor, his strength and his steady, calming presence will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

The family finds comfort in knowing he leaves behind a legacy of love, generosity and resilience. His spirit lives on in his family, his friends and all who had the blessing of knowing him.

Joe is preceded in death by wife; parents Delphina G. Redding and Joe P. Briones; stepfather Douglas Redding; and sister Elizabeth Betty Gonzalez and husband Gilbert Sr.

He is survived by his beloved family which includes son Joe P. Briones Jr. and wife Esperanza; daughter Anna Marie Flores and husband Jorge; grandchildren Joe P. Briones III and wife Marissa, Michael J. Briones, Nathaniel C. Flores and fiancée Allison G. Villarreal, Celeste M. Briones, Brandon A. Flores and fiancée Haley Blackford, Jorge P. Flores, Zarahi C. Flores; great-grandsons Diego Xavier Flores, Elijah Christian Flores, Aiden Rey Flores-Nelson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held Monday, July 14, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Felix H. Morales Funeral Home, with a rosary to be recited at 6 p.m.

In honor of Joe's love for the NFL, Houston Oilers, Houston Texans and Fantasy Football, the family asks everyone to wear their favorite NFL team polo, shirt or jersey in his honor.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, July 15, 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 2405 Navigation Blvd., Houston TX, 77003.

Interment will follow at The Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77038.

Leader

obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

Crash kills pedestrian

Man, 72, dies in Dixie Farm accident

A pedestrian was killed around 9:35 p.m. Thursday, July 3, after being struck by a vehicle in the 500 block of FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road between the Gulf Freeway and Beamer.

The victim was identified as 72-year-old James Morris. According to Houston Police Department officials, Morris was attempting to cross the street at an undesignated crossing point when he

was struck by a blue Honda Odyssey minivan.

Responding Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the male to an area hospital where he later died.

The 59-year-old male driver of the Honda remained at the scene, did not show signs of intoxication, was questioned and released.

The investigation was ongoing at press time.

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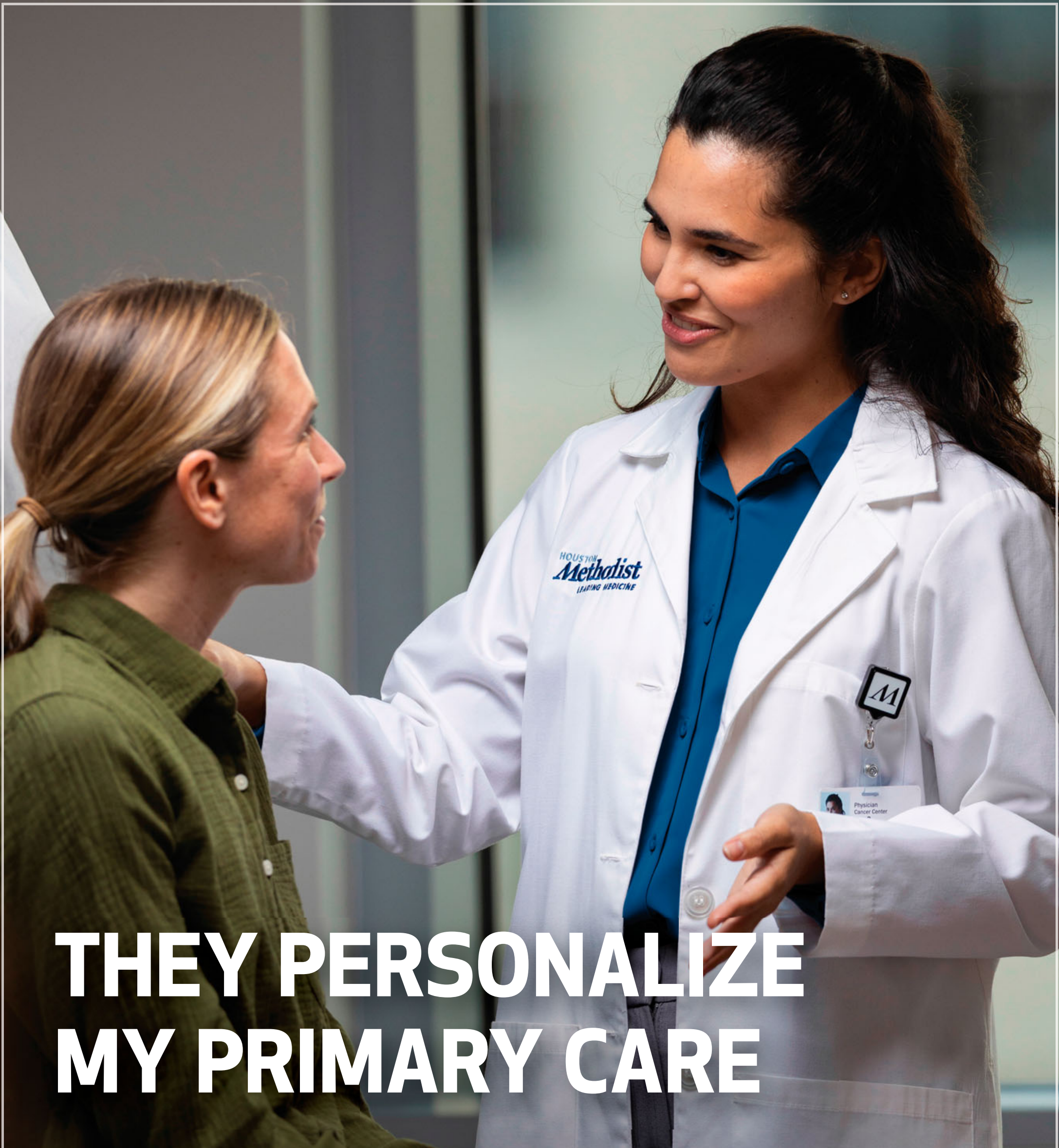
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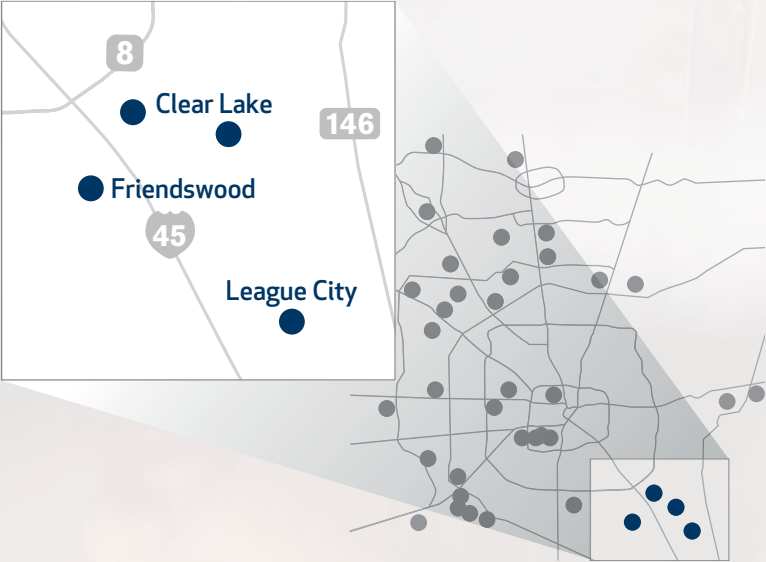
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Medina, Cano donate to local drive

Two females traveled all the way from Beeville to donate to the local drive helping victims from the recent floods in the Texas Hill Country. Lia Medina (left) and Ellena Cano donated bags filled with toiletries and other items for both adults and children.

Community donates to Kerrville

Continued from Page 1

“Why are we doing this?” Barbour asked rhetorically. “It’s because it’s what Texans do. We come together to help other Texans when they are in need. It is amazing to see our community come together and show what it means to be Sagemont Strong.”

Inside The Gardens, a team of volunteers, including some local children sorts and organizes the donations.

Other community partners include Knights of Columbus Council 9201, Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 2292, Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia’s office, the Greater Houston Veterans Rotary Club and the *Leader*.

Desired items include water, nonperishable foods, baby items (wipes, diapers, bottles, food, etc.), household items, cleaning sup-

plies (laundry detergent, bags, etc.), batteries, flashlights, toiletries and pet food/items.

Barbour said the local groups have teamed up with other more established organizations to ensure all the donations are best distributed and utilized.

“We are working closely with Disaster USA and Mattress Mack (Gallery Furniture) to ensure all of our donations are delivered to and benefit those impacted by these floods,” said Barbour.

Volunteers are being sought. Those wishing to volunteer may just show up at The Gardens between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

For additional information about the drive, contact Barbour at 713-419-3545.

The deadly floods struck Central Texas early Friday, July 4, with Kerrville suffering the most damage, as

strong flood waters carried away entire homes and cottages.

At press time, there were 108 known fatalities, including at least 30 children. At least 87 of the known deaths occurred in Kerr County, where there are several summer camps and RV parks.

Another 21 deaths were reported in Travis, Burnet, Kendall, Tom Green and Williamson counties.

A popular spot among July 4 campers, the Guadalupe River reached heights nearly 38 feet above normal.

Officials at Camp Mystic, a 100-year-old summer camp located along the Guadalupe River, confirmed that they lost 27 campers and counselors in the floods.

At press time, 11 individuals, including 10 campers and one counselor from Camp Mystic remained unaccounted for.

Fourth of July parade brings community together



The 35th annual South Belt July 4 Parade was a huge hit, attracting hundreds of local spectators, along the event’s detoured route. The late Marie Flickinger – *Leader* co-founder who died this past November – served as grand marshal of the event. In her absence, Flickinger’s family rode in the parade’s lead vehicle. Dobie football representatives shown above taking part in the parade are, left to right, (on truck) coach Daniel Fitzmorris, Adrian Taylor, Jalen Miles, Nolan Thomas, Dailenn Mitchell, (on float) DK Parker, Landon Royal, Nathan Precella and David Harris.



Dozens of community members participated in the 35th annual South Belt July 4 Parade this past week. Winning Most Patriotic was San Jacinto College; winning Best Commercial was Kids Come First; and winning Best Non-commercial was Dobie cheer. Representatives from Dobie cheer shown are, left to right, (front row) Sophia Gonzalez, Charel Cole, Deisy Meza, Linnea Fonseca, Isabella Avila, Lexie Martinez, Amirah Carraway, Judy Harrison, Avery Mendiola, Madison Ramsey, Isabelle Charez, Arielle Martinez, (middle row) Maylene Rodriguez, Bella Sherwood, Cullen Ponder, Aubree Rodriguez, Arianna Burmudez, Mya’ Sanders, Yazlyn Brown, Natalie Elkins, (back row) Nyla Richardson, Alyana Montes, Kallie Troxler, Gabriella Franklin, Vida Sosa, Alysia Rodriguez and Kiahna Davis. See related photo on Page 1.



Knights of Columbus Council 9201 member Mike Work is shown above volunteering at The Gardens, as several local groups join forces to help victims from the recent floods in the Texas Hill Country. The drive will continue through Friday, July 11. See related photo on Page 1.

Local family volunteers Gold Cup



A Sagemont family recently volunteered at the Concacaf Gold Cup at NRG Stadium, as the USA men’s soccer team faced off against Mexico. Shown above volunteering at the event, are, left to right, Veronica Delgado, her daughter Ruby Delgado (an incoming Dobie freshman), her brother-in-law Omar De La Garza and her sister Joanne De La Garza. Mexico defeated USA 2-1, securing its 10th Gold Cup title.

City praises Legislative Session

Whitmire declares session “most successful” in history

Continued from Page 1

Zaffirini will assist the city in providing mental health services to the most vulnerable.

– House Bill 3611 introduced by Rep. Pat Curry will increase penalties for repeat offenders who place bandit signs in the public right-of-way.

– Senate Bill 1620 introduced by Sen. Joan Huffman will create a Texas Forensic Apprenticeship Pilot Program that will increase forensic analyst workforce capacity in Texas.

– House Bill 1584 introduced by Rep. Lacey Hull

will codify the requirement that electric utilities prioritize critical, high-impact facilities, such as public safety and water when restoring power during times of disaster.

Houston delegates were also successful in securing the following appropriations for the city and surrounding region:

– \$100 million: Lynchburg Pump Station.

– \$50 million: Continuation of Lake Houston dredging.

– \$5 million: Spring Shadows Drainage Paving Project.

– \$17 million: Parks.

– \$10 million: Police vehicles.

– \$10 million: Sergio Ivan Rodriguez Memorial Pedestrian Bridge.

– \$5 million: Railroad-grade crossing bridge at Little York and Hirsch.

– \$5 million: Railroad-grade crossing bridge at Tidwell and Hirsch.

– \$5 million: Forensic analyst apprenticeship.

– \$60 million: Lake Livingston Dam.

For information on the state’s 89th Legislative Session, visit www.houstontx.gov/govrelations.

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

In an election sparked by controversy, write-in candidates Joe Champion and Norma Stroud were elected to the Sageglen Community Association board.

Houston City Council passed a motion to have the city legal advisers prepare an ordinance that would permit the introduction of fluoride into the city’s water system.

Alameda Mall was undergoing approximately \$2 million of improvements which included more parking for shoppers.

Sageglen resident Angela Shiflett placed in the top 10 out of 69 girls in the Miss Texas pageant.

40 years ago (1985)

Redesigning and widening of the Kingspoint/Kleckley intersection at Alameda Mall would cost \$267,743 and would take two months to finish.

Houston Arson investigators arrested a southeast Houston man in connection with the May 29 fire at the Sagemont Townhomes on Beamer. The fire was allegedly set to get back at the man’s ex-wife who lived in the townhomes.

The South Belt Security Alliance filed a \$10,000 lawsuit against Southeast Security Associates for remarks made against the company on a local news program.

Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation by a lifeguard at the Sageglen Community Association swimming pool was credited with saving the life of a 3-year-old girl.

Houston homicide detectives investigated the skeletal remains found on Dixie Farm Road near Clear Creek, south of the creek.

35 years ago (1990)

The Veteran’s Administration altered its policy. Under the new policy, any veteran considering buying a new

home in Southbend would have to visit the regional VA office to review the information on file before a case number or appraiser could be assigned.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced it was temporarily discontinuing insuring mortgages in the Southbend subdivision.

Lawyers for two Weber Elementary students charged the Clear Creek Independent School District with fraudulently withholding documents concerning alleged contamination of the school’s water supply in 1985.

30 years ago (1995)

Christopher Williams, Mr. J. Frank Dobie High School of 1984, was killed at Fort Sill, Okla., during a training exercise. He reportedly lost his life while trying to save the lives of many of his men.

A nine-member Community Partnership Team from the Clear Creek Independent School District supported a reduced bond issue.

Cash, checks and charge slips were stolen from Ace Central Hardware during an after-hours burglary.

Only two of the original 670 homes in Southbend remained three years after

a court settlement in which the subdivision’s developer agreed to take title to all houses.

25 years ago (2000)

Rep. Ken Bentsen announced \$10 million in federal funding for a new supply complex for the Air National Guard located at Ellington Field.

Southeast Volunteer Fire Department called on the community for assistance. The fire department was seeking volunteers to help serve the 30,000 residents in its zone. It was serving the area with only 30 volunteers – a ratio of 1,000 to 1.

20 years ago (2005)

At a public hearing in San Antonio, accusations were made that the decision to eliminate the Texas Air National Guard at Ellington was flawed, inaccurate and mathematically wrong. The accusations were made to members of the Base Realignment and Closure committee by Rep. Tom DeLay, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia and Houston Mayor Bill White.

Trial dates were set for two of the four men accused in the murder-for-hire killing of South Belt resident Luan Cong Pham. The other two

men remained in the Harris County Jail awaiting trial.

The pool at Beverly Hills Park was closed after plaster began falling off the sides, making it unsafe for swimmers.

Charges of indecency with a child were filed on a 17-year-old Kirkmont resident after his stepmother walked in while he was exposing himself to his 5-year-old stepister.

Houston police released a photo of the wig-wearing man who robbed the Bank of America on Blackhawk at Beltway 8.

Clear Brook principal

Michael Kreis resigned after only one year to return to the Dallas area, his original home.

15 years ago (2010)

Multiple law enforcement agencies raided two suspected illegal gambling operations on the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua. Undercover FBI agents, deputies from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office and officers from the Houston Police Department conducted the raids, which netted 14 arrests. Police described the locations as nondescript storefronts with no visible signage.

Nancy Flores was named the new principal of Morris Middle School. She replaced Susan Blalock, who retired.

The South Point Park and Ride expansion project finalized with the ribbon-cutting for the new facility located at 12410 Kurland at Interstate 45 South. The capacity of the facility was more than doubled, adding 390 extra parking spots.

10 years ago (2015)

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved multiple administrative promotions involving staff members with close ties to the South Belt community.

Former Dobie High School assistant principal Melissa Allen was named principal of Thompson Intermediate School. Allen had worked for PISD since 2002, moving from teacher to peer facilitator then as an administrator. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Houston and a master’s degree in educational management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. In 2013, Allen earned her Ed.D. from the University of Houston.

Former Thompson Intermediate Principal Toni Lopez was named executive director

of Curriculum and Instruction. Lopez served as principal for six years at Thompson and 19 years of educational experience. Lopez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University and a master’s in educational management with principal certification from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Previously a fifth-grade teacher at Beverly Hills Intermediate School for 14 years, Travis Teichelman was hired as assistant principal of Thompson Intermediate School. Teichelman earned his Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice from Stephen F. Austin University and a master’s degree in educational management from the University of Houston Clear Lake.

5 years ago (2020)

The results from July 14 primary runoff elections were announced. In the race for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable, challenger Jerry Garcia squeaked out a victory over incumbent Chris Diaz, receiving just 229 more votes. Garcia went on to face Republican Daniel Vela in November’s general election. In the contest to fill the U.S. House District 22 representative seat being vacated by Rep. Pete Olson, Troy Nehls handily defeated Kathleen Wall. Nehls went

on to face Democrat Sri Preston Kulkarni in November’s general election.

Both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD announced their plans to reopen for in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. The school districts, however, said they would also allow concerned parents to opt out and have their children continue to learn distantly from home out of COVID-19 fears.

Two fatal accidents took place on the Gulf Freeway, one involving a pedestrian and one involving a motorcyclist. A female pedestrian was killed July 13 while attempting to cross the Gulf Freeway on foot near Beltway 8. A male was killed in a motorcycle crash on the Gulf Freeway near Dixie Farm Road.

1 year ago (2024)

On Monday, July 8, the South Belt community was struck by Hurricane Beryl, which brought devastating winds and torrential rainfall to the area. The rain gauge located at the Beamer Ditch at Hughes Road recorded 8.04 inches of rainfall during the storm, according to the Harris County Flood Control District. Despite the high amount of rain, however, it was Beryl’s winds – topping out around 90 mph – that wrecked havoc locally, leaving thousands without power for several days.



SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 10 through July 16.

Atkinson Elementary

Light the birthday candles July 12 for **Laura Donan**. Celebrating a birthday July 13 is **Regina Barnes**. Send a birthday greeting July 14 to **Chelsea Hickman**. Break out the party favors and balloons for **Velma Medina** and **Claudia Trevino** July 15.

Bush Elementary

Joleah Pierce celebrates a birthday July 10. Sing a happy birthday song to **Zarait De Leon** July 15. Remember to wish **Sofia Martinez** a happy birthday July 16.

Frazier Elementary

July 14 is the day for a fun celebration for **Lillie Fraide**.

Genoa Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song July 15 to **Kathryn Martinez**.

Hancock Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout July 12 to **Raquel Garza**. Blow out the birthday candles July 13 for **Iliana Quezada**. July 14 is the day for a fun celebration for **Sue Perkins**.

Meador Elementary

Cheers for a happy birthday on July 15 for **Janeth Reyes**.

Moore Elementary

The day for a double-fun birthday for **Ana Herrera** and **Elizabeth Taylor-Segovia** is July 14.

South Belt Elementary

Light the birthday candles July 13 for a double celebration for **Eric Dockery** and **Kellie Hodge**.

Stuchbery Elementary

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday July 12 are sent to **Clarissa Ridge**. Birthday greetings go out to **Ngan Nguyen** July 13. **Jade Kuhn** celebrates a birthday July 15.

Melillo Middle School

Remember to wish **Karen Sanchez** a happy birthday July 11.

Dobie High

Blow out the candles July 10 for **Daniel Giedraitis**. **Kameron Eloph** and **Paul Wall** celebrate a birthday July 11. Send a happy birthday wish July 13 to **Joshua Kluka**. Best wishes for a special birthday July 14 are sent to **Audra Lozano**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbelt-leader.com with “OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays” in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week’s publication.

leader.com with “OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays” in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week’s publication.

Thursday, July 10: **Tannia Leal**, **Sharon Blackston**, **Juanjose Armenta-Aguirre** and **Jimbo Shimmfessel**; Friday, July 11: **Andy Cross**, **Anne Allen**, **Kolleen Bingham** and **Jasmine Mendez**; Saturday, July 12: **Sharron Moore**, **Mary Renfro Heldman**, **Emma Rodriguez** and **Pam McEntire Ellis**; Sunday July 13: **Stephanie Pyle**, **Robin Read**, **Sandy Ward**, **Angela Wilkerson**, **Robin Stone Collins** and **Tyler Pearson**, Monday, July 14: **Elaine Ann Monagas**, **Monay Noyobiz**, **Courtney Amelia Alba**, **Riva Saenz**, **Veronica Mier** and **Jeffrey Robert McGee**; Tuesday, July 15: **Soyla Tovar**, **Irma Villanueva**, **Rachel Garza**, **Marlon Taylor**, **Teresa Reynolds Abel** and **Harley Rankins**; Wednesday, July 16: **Jessika Paquinto**, **Mark Campbell**, **Kelly McBeth**, **Angie Roach**, **Clarissa Garza Andrus** and **Brad Janacek**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Send and email with anniversary, vacation and information on other events 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

Three new hires within 22-6A football

The focus will no doubt primarily be on the players as preseason workouts begin August 11 across the state in the high school football landscape in Texas, but there is also a change among the head coaching ranks in District 22-6A.

Among the off-season headlines, there were three varsity football head coaching changes in 22-6A. Pasadena ISD saw two changes, including one that was necessitated by Patrick Longstreet climbing the ranks and becoming the district's new athletic director.

Longstreet, who led the South Houston Trojans for seven years, was certainly pleased to see that his former defensive coordinator, Lamont Mayberry, was officially named head coach of the Trojans May 27.

Surprisingly, Jamie Crocker resigned his role as head coach at Pasadena Memorial this summer well after the completion of spring football workouts.

With Crocker bailing out, the Mavericks have turned to offensive coordinator Colton Freeman, who has been named interim head coach for the 2025 season.

Elsewhere in 22-6A, the Alvin Yellowjackets feature a new leader heading into the 2025 season as Matt Bass, formerly the defensive coordinator at Shadow Creek, is now head coach after the resignation of James Gage.

Each of the three first-year head coaches will be looking to bolster the win totals of their respective programs as Alvin, Memorial and South Houston were all 3-7 a season ago.

BHI sets athletic preseason details

The Beverly Hills Intermediate athletic staff will continue strength and conditioning workouts July 15-17 and July 20-24 before looking ahead to football and volleyball preseason plans.

The staff will host a one-day basketball and soccer camp July 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. The Beverly Hills football and volleyball camps will be held separately July 29-31, from 10 a.m. to noon.

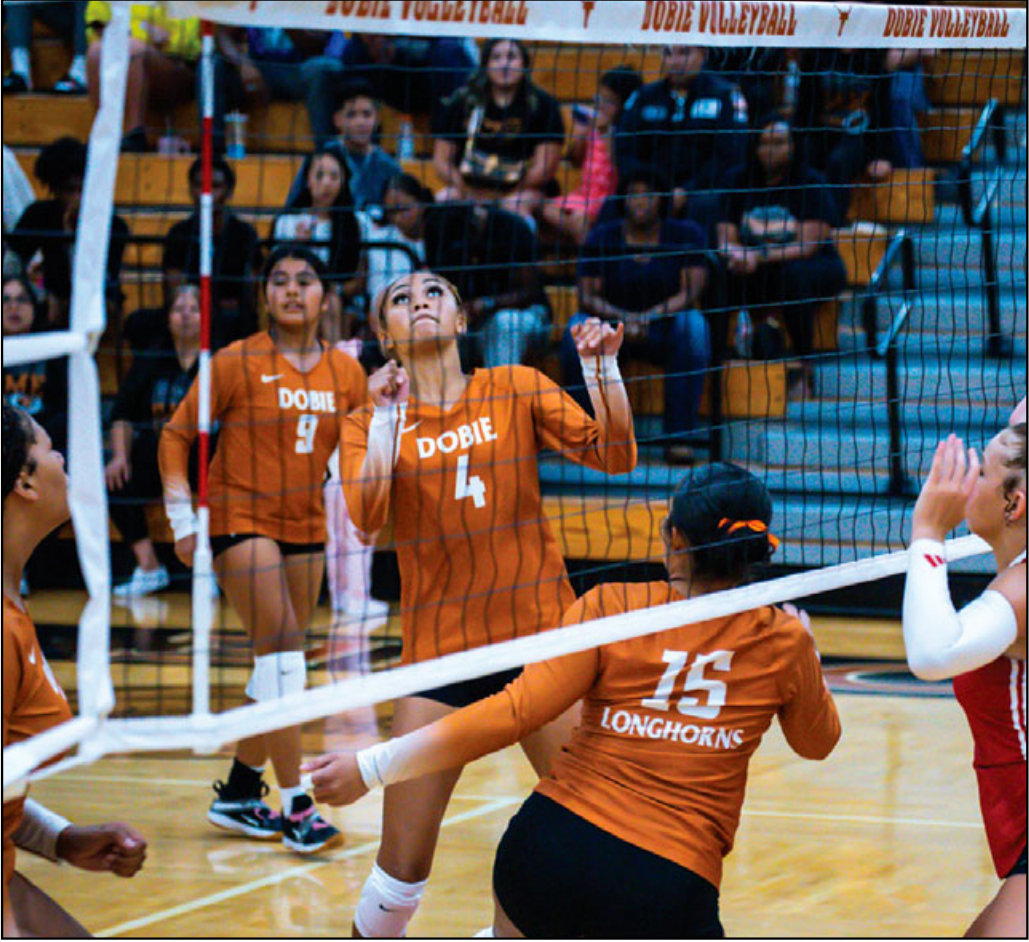
Under the guidance of head football coach Joseph Peterson, the Bears will begin preseason football practice Aug. 14, which is also the first day of school.

For the Bear girls' athletes, eighth-grade volleyball tryouts will also be held that day. Seventh grade volleyball tryouts will be held Aug. 15. Both tryouts will be held after school from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

SBGSA opens fall ball registration through Aug. 1

The South Belt Girls Softball Association has opened fall ball registration now through Aug. 1 for competition within the 6-under through 16-under divisions at a cost of \$100 per player. The league is also registering a 4-under division at \$40 per player. Visit <https://southbeltsoftball.sportngin.com/register/form/973485104> to get started or visit the league's Facebook page at South Belt Girls Softball Association-SBGSA.

Area volleyball programs near start



Kylar Joseph and her Dobie varsity volleyball teammates will open workouts Aug. 1 ahead of the 2025 season. Dobie will then begin the regular season on the road against Baytown Sterling Aug. 12 in a match that begins at 6 p.m. at the varsity level. Photo by Gloria Wallace

JFD volleyball tryouts Aug. 1-2

Dobie varsity girls' volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host 2025 tryouts August 1-2 on the main campus. Incoming freshmen will try out from 9 a.m. to noon, with sophomores, juniors and seniors then trying out from 1 to 4 p.m. both days. All players looking to attend the tryouts must have their current Pasadena ISD athletics physical as well as all of their Rank One forms completed.

Dobie volleyball offers camps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Football programs have dealt with graduation losses

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While those terms are certainly most associated with everyday life, they also extend to competitive athletics as both individual players and teams prepare for a given season.

Whatever the term, having a certain degree of reliability based on experience entering any season is beneficial to any program.

Looking ahead at the District 22-6A varsity football race, each of the nine programs have a varying degree of returning experience entering the 2025 season.

Undefeated district champion Shadow Creek (9-1 overall) along with runner-up Pearland (8-2) will certainly enter the season with designs on repeating the success they delivered on the field a year ago en route to the postseason.

The same can be said for third-place Dawson in addition to Dobie, which secured its playoff berth with a dazzling last-minute finish against Manvel.

Those same Manvel Mavericks will be looking

to turn the tables this season.

Elsewhere within the district, South Houston, Alvin, Memorial and Sam Rayburn will all be seeking to provide plenty of excitement for their fan bases as the season progresses.

Regardless of the name on the front of the jersey, each of the district's nine programs have dealt with a certain degree of turnover during the offseason. With the start of the preseason workouts roughly a month away, the *Leader* is taking a look at some of the biggest returning playmakers across the board within the 22-6A lineup.

Significant change will come at the quarterback position as three of the playoff qualifiers will welcome new starters under center.

Pearland's Jake Westmoreland and Manvel's Cam Renfro are the top two returning true passers, while Pasadena Memorial third-year starter Logan Johnson represents the top dual-threat quarterback returning within the league.

Westmoreland completed 88 of 142 total passing

attempts for nearly 1,600 yards and 21 touchdowns in 2024.

Meanwhile, Renfro completed 115 of 186 pass attempts for 1,584 yards and 20 touchdowns.



Dynamic playmaker Marcus Jones made plenty of huge contributions in the return game a season ago for Dobie, and the Longhorn coaching staff has designs on a much bigger role for Jones on the offensive side of the football heading into the 2025 season.

Johnson of Memorial is also the top returning rusher in the district after collecting 1,288 yards a season ago with an average of nearly 11 yards a carry. He also passed for

1,240 yards and 12 touchdowns.

District champion Shadow Creek will be looking for a new full-time starter, and junior-to-be Dante Mayes is an

option after seeing limited action in 2024. Another junior-to-be, Manvel's Brayden Tuiasosopo is an option for the Mavericks along with Renfro.

South Houston, 3-7 a season ago, appears to be in really good shape with junior-to-be La'Kee Baker returning as its full-time starter after a solid sophomore season in 2024.

Sam Rayburn could also turn to Malachi Rivas at quarterback as he saw quite a bit of action under center for the Texans as a junior.

Dobie is not the only program dealing with turnover at the running back position. Six of the seven top rushers from 2024 have graduated, including Matthews, who with more than 5,000 yards ended his career as the Longhorns' career rushing leader.

Da'Marcus Hodges is set to step in as the lead runner at Dobie, while Baker had just over 700 yards rushing for South Houston a season ago from his quarterback spot.

First-year head coach Lamont Mayberry and his staff have also certainly developed additional reinforcements that running back for the Trojans.

Tristan Willis, a junior-to-be at Shadow Creek, returns after rushing for 673 yards and 13 touchdowns a season ago.

Jordan Hernandez, who played intermediate level football at Thompson, enters his senior season as far and away the top returning receiver in the 22-6A ranks after putting a 2024 season together

Ballard hits restart at Tulsa



Jeremiah Ballard, a Class of 2021 Dobie High School graduate, performs box of jumps as part of his strengthening program as he continues to work his way back to the playing field following ACL surgery that cut his 2024 season at Tulsa University short after just one quarter of play in the season opener. Ballard has two years of eligibility remaining collegiately.

Mathews gets started at Memphis



Dobie star running back Cameron Mathews, the program's all-time leading rusher, has already been getting his work in at Memphis as he looks to play an immediate role with the Tigers heading into the 2025 season. Mathews rushed for more than 5,000 yards during his career with the Longhorns.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 10
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 11
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.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JULY 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.
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>.
SUNDAY, JULY 13
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican**

Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, JULY 14
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 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 at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JULY 15
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from noon to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. - **New Directions Singles Social Group** is a singles group for those 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held

in the community room at Maplewood Crossing, 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will be a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For further information, call Carol at 281-508-1663. See their Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group, 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.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

THURSDAY, JULY 17
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Ballard back from ACL repair, has big plans at receiver with Tulsa football

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**

A touchdown catch already in pocket following just a quarter of play, Jeremiah Ballard had to be feeling great about his quick start as a newcomer within the University of Tulsa football program in 2024.

Then, just like that, his season was finished and Ballard was staring at the beginning of a long recovery following surgery to repair an injury to his right anterior cruciate ligament.

Ballard went ahead and had some cleanup work done to his left knee in the process last fall and subsequently missed spring workouts, but has been back on the field in recent weeks.

Needless to say, Ballard has been very much looking ahead to the season opener as he restarts his career at Tulsa.

A big play receiver while at Dobie, Ballard was an All-District performer as he helped lead the Longhorns to their first district championship in 10 years, culminating with the trophy returning to Dobie following the 2020 season.

Ballard originally signed with the University of Texas at El Paso and spent two seasons there prior to transferring to Tulsa.

He had designs on a big season in 2024 prior to the injury. Despite a recovery process the last and nearly a full calendar year, Ballard is back on the field and confident that he can finish strong with Tulsa.

Tre Lamb is the new head coach of the Golden Hurricane, and receivers coach Ryan Switzer was retained following the arrival of Lamb during the offseason.

With basically an all new coaching staff in place, there is a fresh outlook among everyone at Tulsa involved with the football program, and Ballard says he believes things are on the right track in order for the Golden Hurricane to have a big season.

"I really do believe the opportunities are out there for us to have a great year," Ballard said.

"For me personally, I feel great physically and really feel like I can go out there and lead the receiver group and make some big plays along the way.

"There are opportunities for a lot of guys to make a name for themselves, and I'm just one of those guys looking forward to getting out there and making plays when my number is called."

Ballard who has two years of eligibility remaining on the gridiron, is majoring in kinesiology and eventually is planning to land a spot within the collegiate football coaching ranks.

Everything in the classroom is on schedule for Ballard, and now he's just excited to be able to get out onto the field and make up for lost time.

"Having coach Switzer back has been big in that he knows me and understands my game, and I also understand what he is looking to get out of our position," Ballard said.

"I think we're going to have a more up-tempo offense, more of a pro style fit that allows receivers to get involved in a big way in the game plan, and I think there's a lot of us looking forward to getting started."

Ballard said he realizes that injuries are part of the game, but his came at an inopportune time as he was off to a quick start with the Golden Hurricane a season ago.

Still, Ballard did everything needed and then some to be able to get back out on the football field, and 2025 very well could be a breakout season for the former Longhorn.

"It's all systems go as far as I'm concerned," Ballard said. "Everybody is excited to be able to get out there and show what they can do."

"The coaching staff has been open to allowing a lot of different guys to showcase their skills, and I believe I'm one of those guys that can really make a difference when the ball comes my way. Let's get it rolling."

SBHLL coach pitch wins District 15 All-Stars



The Sagemont Beverly Hills Little League coach pitch All-Stars emerged victorious in a tournament that also featured talented squads from East End Little League, Southeast Little League and a second squad from SBHLL. Members of the championship All-Star team included, left to right, (front row) Kevin Garrido, Elijah Resendiz, Donovan DeAnda,

Damian Alcala, Roldy Hernandez, Sebastian Dominguez, (middle row) Jayvian Guzman, Easton Rodriguez, Landon Hinton, Melanie Rodriguez, Matthew Machado, Morrison Garcia, (back row) Micheal Vargas (assistant coach), Carol Dominguez (team mom), Jay Guzman (team manager/coach), Jesus DeAnda (assistant coach) and Juan Herrera (head coach).



After having lost his debut season at Tulsa following a knee injury that required surgery, Dobie Class of 2021 graduate Jeremiah Ballard says he feels great heading into the 2025 season as the entire program has a fresh outlook.



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CB's Garcia to TSU softball



Clear Brook Class of 2026 senior and standout catcher Ahiza Garcia has announced via social media that she plans to continue her education and playing career at Texas Southern University. Garcia will no doubt play a huge role for the Wolverines during her final prep season before joining the Tigers in Houston a calendar year from now.

South Belt soccer club registers

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has opened registration for the fall 2025 season as early registration will allow players to save \$20 on registration fees through July 14.

Registration fees include \$125 per player for the under 4- through under 8-age groups, \$145 per player for the under 9 and under 10-age groups, \$165 per player for the under 11- and under 12-age groups and \$185 per player for the under 13- through under 20-age groups.

The league will provide uniform items such as shirt, shorts and socks, while parents are required to provide shin guards, soccer cleats and a soccer ball.

The league will continue to seek volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and

team parents, particularly for the under 4 through under 8 groups.

Visit www.southbelt.org and click on the registration fall 2025 tab to get started on registration details. The regular season begins in August, and games will be contested primarily on weekends at El Franco Lee Park and other locations in the community.

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