

### School supply drive set

Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 9850 Mango, and Beta Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gammas, will host a school supply drive thru Saturday, Aug. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Starter kit backpacks with school supplies will be distributed until supplies run out.

### Sagemont Park to meet

The Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association will hold its homeowners' meeting Thursday, July 13, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Agenda includes election of officers for the upcoming year, proposed deed restriction changes, deed restriction violations and community improvement issues and actions. The meeting is open for all Sagemont Park homeowners and residents.

### Sagemeadow HOA meets

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer. All Sagemeadow residents are encouraged to attend. For information, visit sagemeadow.org.

### New Covenant feeds needy

The New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have new dates for its weekly food distribution events. The church will now have distribution events on the first and third Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon and the second and fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 2 p.m. The purpose of the distribution events is to provide food to people in need in the surrounding community. For information, call 281-484-4230.

### Knights to hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, July 16, 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. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/geo.

### Riverstone to hold meeting

Riverstone Ranch HOA will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 20, via Zoom videoconferencing. An in-person meeting will not be held this year. Candidates Adama Hernandez and Yen Rabe are running for the position of director. All voting in the HOA's election will be done by absentee ballot. Residents should have received a password to take part in the Zoom meeting. For more information, call VanMor Properties at 832-593-7300.

### 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 as part of the weekly Coffee With the Constable series. The next event will take place Thursday, July 13. For more information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, July 13 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, July 14 (second Friday of the month). July is for tree waste only. Due to a larger amount of debris being discarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, pickups may be delayed. For information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

### Beltway closed for repairs

All westbound Beltway 8 main lanes near 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 and be diverted to the Beltway 8 frontage lanes. The westbound entrance ramps will be closed at SH 3/Old Galveston, 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.

### Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains on par with preceding weeks, according to Harris County health officials. As of Tuesday, July 11, there were 225 active cases in 77089, up one from the previous week. To date, 142 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. In ZIP code 77075, there were 13 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week. In 77034, there were 22 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. Statistics are updated 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.

### Sageglen to hold meeting

The Sageglen Community Association holds its annual election meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, July 17, at the Sageglen Building, 11610 Sageglen. Rep. Dennis Paul will serve as guest speaker. Refreshments will be served, and door prizes awarded. For more information, visit sageglen.com.

### JFD 35-year reunion planned

Dobie Class of 1988 holds its 35-year reunion July 21, and July 22. The weekend kicks off with two events Friday before the main event Saturday. Friday will begin with an icebreaker from noon to 6 p.m. at Southshore Harbour Resort, 2500 Southshore Blvd. followed by a pub crawl in the Strand at Galveston. The weekend concludes with a main event from 6 to 11 p.m. at Top Water Bar and Grill (under the palapa, 815 Ave O in San Leon. For ticket information, visit www.eventbrite.com/dtx--houston/dobie-high-school-1988-reunion.

### PopUp market July 16

Get some cool deals at the Hot Summer Days Market, Sunday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Gardens PopUp Market, 10211 Beamer. Open to the public. Vendors being accepted. Call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545 for information.

## Abbott calls for second special legislative session

### Governor calls on lawmakers to make property tax cuts

After the state's first special legislative session quietly ended without any new bills being passed, Gov. Greg Abbott called for a second special session with the sole mission of cutting property taxes.

"We achieved a great deal during the 88th Legislative Session that I have signed into law, including laws to provide more than \$5.1 billion for border security, hold rogue district attorneys accountable and add \$1.4 billion to make schools safer, but the job is not done," Abbott said in a press release. "I am bringing the Texas Legislature back for Special Session No. 2 to provide lasting property tax cuts for Texans."

The governor's proclamation called for the following two agenda items:

— Eliminating a property tax in Texas: Legislation to put Texas on a pathway to eliminate school district maintenance and operations property taxes.

— Lasting property tax rate cuts: Legislation to cut property tax rates solely by reducing the school district maximum compressed tax rate in order to

provide lasting property-tax relief for Texas taxpayers.

Lawmakers have already agreed to \$12.3 billion in property tax relief, but top Republicans are at odds at how to best dole out the cuts.

The new session seems to be a battle between both chambers, each with their proposal.

The House plan — supported by Abbott — would favor businesses, while the Senate's proposal — supported by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick — would more benefit homeowners.

The House proposal would take all \$12.3 billion and send it to school districts so they could then lower their tax rates, a practice referred to as "tax rate compression."

While all property owners would see a tax cut under the House plan, businesses and wealthier homeowners would see a greater benefit.

Under the Senate proposal, roughly two-thirds of the \$12.3 billion would still go toward compression but the remaining third would go toward in-

creasing the state's homestead exemption rate for local school districts. The plan would increase the exemption rate — or the amount of a home's value that can't be taxed to pay for public schools — from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

While the average homeowner would benefit under both proposals, the Senate plan would provide for more immediate relief.

"During the five-month regular session, the Texas House and Texas Senate both agreed on cutting school district property tax rates, while the House wanted to add appraisal caps and the Senate advocated for increased homestead exemptions," said Abbott. "The Special Session No. 1 agenda was limited to the only solution that both chambers agreed on — school property tax rate cuts. After yet

another month without the House and Senate sending a bill to my desk to cut property taxes, I am once again putting the agreed upon school district property tax rate cuts on the special session agenda. Unless and until the House and Senate agree on a different proposal to provide property tax cuts, I will continue to call for lasting property tax cuts through rate reductions and working toward eliminating the school property tax in Texas. Special sessions will continue to focus on only property tax cuts until property tax cut legislation reaches my desk."

Following the governor's announcement, Patrick released his own statement, differentiating the two proposals.

"Over the last week, there have been many dis-

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## All-Star Teams Need help!

### It really is about the kids!

**Publisher's comment:** It is very rare the South Belt Leader does a "stop the press," but this is a special occasion. A reader informed us that some of our young baseball players are going to Louisiana Pony-Colt All-Stars, but additional funding is needed. We received the following message, however, the author asked to remain anonymous to the public. We urge that those interested put aside differences and just support the kids. At press time, it was unclear if there was one team or multiple teams. We are asking that we all remember it is about the kids. This will be overseen by the Sports Association. To donate, send to [Sutjuan13@CashApp](mailto:Sutjuan13@CashApp).

**Thanks, Marie Flickinger**  
**Attention, South Belt community!** An extraordinary opportunity awaits as the South Belt Pinto 8U All-Star Team, a four-time tournament champion, gears up to compete in the Pinto World Series in Louisiana from July 19 to 23. These athletes represent the pinnacle dedication in our community. As

they prepare to face off against teams from across the nation, the 8U All-Star Team seeks the support of our united community. The South Belt Sports Association, the driving force behind youth teams, urges community to rally behind these athletes not only for this event but for future All-Stars.

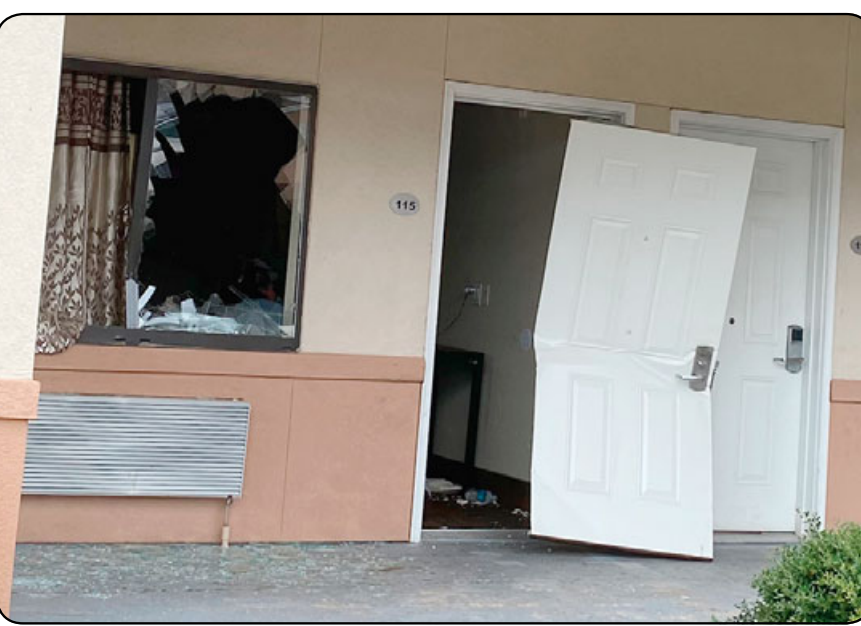
Financial assistance is crucial to cover essential expenses. By contributing through Cash App at [Sutjuan13@CashApp](mailto:Sutjuan13@CashApp), you can ease the burden these athletes face, allowing them to focus on their game. Every contribution, will have a significant impact on their journey toward victory.

Your support will not only propel this team to success but pave the way for future All-Star teams from our community. Together, we can nurture and showcase the extraordinary talent within the South Belt.

Join us in celebrating the All-Star Team. Your contribution through Cash App at [Sutjuan13@CashApp](mailto:Sutjuan13@CashApp) will make a lasting impact on these athletes' lives, fostering their growth and development.

**Go Team South Belt!**  
**— Your neighbor supporting kids**

## SWAT team breaks into motel



A man barricaded in his motel room had a two-hour standoff with police early Friday, July 7, after allegedly stabbing a woman at the Mustang Inn in the 12000 block of Beltway 8 at the Gulf Freeway. The woman was transported to a hospital and is expected to survive the incident. The above photo shows were SWAT officers forced their way into the suspect's motel room through the door and window. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## City water billing problems continue

More than three months after the City of Houston installed new digital water meters, Sagemont Park residents are still experiencing problems with their bills.

The new equipment caused many water bills to skyrocket, from around \$30/month to more than \$3,000/month in one case.

While the city issued an apology this past May for estimating bills, vowing to base bills on actual reading moving forward, several Sagemont Park residents said their bills are still clearly being estimated.

"Over the last several weeks, HPW installed

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## Man fatally shot near Edgebrook

### Event marks 1st fatal shooting at The Redford in 8 months

A man was found fatally shot inside a parked car about 3:05 a.m. Monday, July 3, at an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

The identity of the victim, believed to be in his 20s, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting call in the parking lot of an apartment complex at the above location and found the victim inside a parked vehicle. He had suffered a gunshot wound.

Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced the man dead at the scene.

At press time, there was no known motive or suspect(s), police said.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Dubbed a hot spot for violent crime by Houston police, this marked the first fatal shooting this year at The Redford apartment complex. By comparison, there were at least five fatal shootings at the complex last year. There were at least 13 total shootings at the complex in 2022.

The last reported deaths at the complex occurred in October 2022 when two bodies were

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## County offers mosquito-prevention tips

Harris County residents have been hearing the buzzing and have been scratching from bites for weeks. This is because of increased mosquito activity.

One may not realize however, that many mosquitoes come from around their own homes. National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, observed from June 18 — 24, 2023, is a good time to remember that all mosquitoes require water to breed. Therefore, residents should make sure to empty any containers that hold water to help eliminate mosquito breeding around homes such as, tires, glower pots, pet bowls, buckets, and other items. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes, even a soda cap full of standing water can breed up to 200 mosquitoes.

Harris County is home to approximately 56 species of mosquitoes, but only a handful transmit diseases, such as West Nile virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis, Chikungunya, Zika or Dengue. The most common disease transmitted by mosquitoes in our area is WNV. While most people infected with WNV (80 percent) don't even know it 20 percent develop a fever, headache, vomiting and or a rash. Meningitis and encephalitis can occur in less than 1 percent while risk of death is 10 percent among those whose nervous system is affected. About one in five people infected develop symptoms.

Approximately one out of 150 infected people, particularly the elderly, can develop serious and even fatal neurological diseases like encephalitis or meningitis. The Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Mosquito and Vector Control Division (MVCD) tests mosquitoes year-round for diseases they can transmit such as WNV, Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue. To date, Harris County Public Health MVCD has detected one positive sample of WNV in the local mosquito population.

"MVCD is committed to protecting residents from diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, but we cannot do it alone. We need the assistance of our residents because the fight against diseases transmitted by mosquitoes such as West Nile Virus, Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya must be a collaborative effort," said Dr. Maximea (Max) Vigilant, MVCD director. "As we move into the summer months, please continue to enjoy the outdoors but remember to protect one's self and their family from diseases transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The best defense against being bitten is simply to be prepared."

### Tip, Top, Take Action

As temperatures rise, so do mosquito populations. HCPH wants residents to remember the

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## SWAT standoff occurs at area motel

### Female victim stabbed prior to 2-hour incident

A SWAT standoff took place following a stabbing early Friday, July 7, at the Mustang Inn in the 12000 block of Beltway 8 at the Gulf Freeway.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to an incident around 4 a.m. in which a female victim had been stabbed.

The victim was transported to a nearby hospital to be treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

The woman identified Justin Lee Riojas as the suspect, and hotel records confirmed the man's identity.

Officers attempted to make contact with Ri-

ojas but he refused to come out of the room. SWAT officers were called to the scene, and a two-hour standoff ensued.

Police entered Riojas' room by force at approximately 6 a.m. and apprehended the suspect.

The knife allegedly used in the crime was found inside the room, police said.

Riojas was also transported to a nearby hospital to be treated for unspecified wounds. Following his release, Riojas was arrested and placed into custody.

Riojas, 34, was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the 177th State District Court.

## Turner, Pena note HFD highlights

### Fire chief issues report to mayor, City Council

Mayor Sylvester Turner recently made an announcement highlighting the robust investment the City of Houston has made in the Houston Fire Department through equipment acquisition, funding and personnel during his administration. Despite numerous court decisions on lawsuits filed by the fire union, including the Texas Supreme Court's most recent ruling in favor of the City of Houston against pay parity, this administration has remained steadfast in its support of the brave men and women of the Houston Fire Department. HFD Chief Sam Pena

recently shared a detailed report with the mayor and members of the Houston City Council that provides a high-level overview of over \$155 million in investments for the HFD from FY2017 through FY2023. Mayor Turner and City Council have approved \$16.3 million for fire trucks, aerial trucks, and utility vehicles, plus another \$3.8 Million for tools and personal protective equipment in FY24.

"Public safety and protecting all Houstonians have remained a priority during my adminis-

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## Pct. 8's Kirkpatrick retires



Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin recently held a retirement ceremony for Deputy Lynn Kirkpatrick who retired from full-time service after serving nearly 40 years in law enforcement. Prior to his nine years of service with Precinct 8, Kirkpatrick worked with the Deer Park Police Department, retiring in 2010 with more than 26 years of service. Kirkpatrick will remain on the Precinct 8 force as a reserve deputy.

# Capt. Carter takes command of Cutter Stone

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Jonathan Carter took command of the USCGC Stone in a change of command ceremony in North Charleston, S.C., on June 23.

Carter, a 1995 Dobie graduate, received his new orders from Rear Adm. Laura Dickey, the Coast Guard's Atlantic area deputy commander.

He replaces Capt. Clinton Carlson as skipper of Stone, which is part of the Coast Guard's Legend Class cutter fleet. The 418-foot cutter, the Coast Guard's

largest, is maintained by a crew of 140. Carter is only the third commanding officer of Stone, which was commissioned in 2019.

A reception for the outgoing skipper was held on the deck of Stone following the change of command. Carter, a 1999 Sam Houston State graduate, received his commission in 2000. Com-

mand of Stone will be his final seagoing assignment. *Additional information can be found in the story on Carter in the June 1 edition of the Leader.*



Capt. Jonathan Carter exchanges salutes during the change of command ceremony.



Shown are (left) Carter and Capt. Clinton Carlson on the deck of the Stone.

## Elected officials share their words

### Sylvester Turner announces City lawsuit against Texas

Monday, July 3, the City of Houston filed a lawsuit in Travis County against the State of Texas to have declared unconstitutional, void, and unenforceable House Bill 2127, the so-called "Death Star" or "Super" preemption bill. Gov. Greg Abbott signed Texas House Bill 2127 on June 14, with an effective date of Sept. 1, 2023.

Preemption under established law is a constitutional doctrine by which our judiciary carefully considers and determines in rare instances that state law displaces conflicting local law, finding there is no possibility that State and local law can coexist. Under HB 2127, preemption is given a new meaning and one that effectively repeals Texas constitutional home rule. Not only is preemption given a new meaning, this legislation disregards the hierarchy of Texas laws where a statute such as HB 2127 cannot repeal a constitutional provision. Our laws require a constitutional amendment election to effect a repeal.

Constitutional local control gives Texas cities the power of self-government, permitting them to tailor their laws specifically to address local residents' and businesses' needs and desires. Well-established Supreme Court decisions place the burden of proof on the party challenging a city law to establish a direct and irreconcilable conflict with unmistakable clarity of preemption.

HB 2127 creates a one-size-fits-all statewide regulation scheme with no attempt to address areas of concern that prompted cities to pass laws in response to constituent requests. Programs like Houston's pay-or-play programs for city contractors, which provide 30,000 uninsured Houstonians with health care, would die under HB 2127. Dallas and Austin's ordinances that mandate water breaks for workers in the Texas heat would similarly go by the wayside.

The bill permits the State of Texas simply to decree that whole "fields" of current and future local regulation are off limits to

city government. This would be true even in emergencies like Hurricane Harvey. Short of filing lawsuits in the hope that local law is not in one of HB 2127's several "fields" of law, citizens only recourse would be to petition their State Legislature to pass a law addressing the concerns during the five months every two years the Legislature meets or petition the Governor to call a special session.

HB 2127 would improperly shift the heavy burden of disproving preemption to cities—clearly violating the Texas Constitution and decades of the Texas Supreme Court's preemption rulings.

HB 2127 achieves these unconstitutional ends by using vague language so indefinite and opaque that Texas cities cannot know which of their laws they may enforce, and Texas businesses and residents cannot know which local laws they must obey. Instead, the Legislature has unconstitutionally delegated to the courts the legislative responsibility to identify specific laws or purported fields allegedly preempted, if they can. Adding insult to injury, HB 2127 encourages and forces home-rule cities and their taxpayers to pay fees to finance such lawsuits filed by trade associations seeking to deregulate their industries at the local level.

"The Texas Constitution expressly champions the local control and innovation that has been key to the tremendous economic dynamism in cities like Houston. HB 2127 reverses over 100 years of Texas constitutional law without amending the Constitution. Because Texas has long had the means to preempt local laws that conflict with State law, HB 2127 is unnecessary, dismantling the ability to govern at the level closest to the people and therefore punishing all Texas residents. Houston will fight so its residents retain their constitutional rights and have immediate local recourse to government," said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

## In My Opinion

### Muecke invites public to PIP

I would like to invite all the residents in the Houston District E and Sagemont area to attend the July PIP (Positive Interaction Program) meeting. Each day we read and hear about crime but do not think it may happen to us. Wrong. You go to the bank or ATM to get cash. Do you watch who is standing behind or nearby watching? You get the cash and leave and are followed. Get to your destination and this criminal is there to relieve you of your cash. Yes, happens all the time.

Commander Cruz of the Clear Lake station gives us an overview of crime in our community; where, who, when and how. You can ask questions or if you know of

crime in your area, you can discuss and ask for help. We have several hotspots, the apartments at I-45S @ Edgebrook, Almeda and Baybrook mall and business along I-45. Criminals are interested in one thing, your cash and jewelry or vehicle and parts or whatever they can steal.

The meeting is held at the Southeast Memorial Herman Hospital, 11800 Astoria Blvd., First floor, left from the elevators. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM. The speaker will be Officer Brandon Bullock, Traffic Enforcement Div. The TOPIC - Road Rage and safe driving. Just this past week a 7 year old girl was shot by an outraged driver because the mother did not move immediately when the light turned green. This could also have been you. Hope to see a standing room only attendance.

**James E. Muecke**

## Abbott calls for special session

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cussions between the Texas Senate and House to find a deal on the largest property tax cut in Texas history. In today's statement, the governor said that during the regular session, the House and Senate both agreed on cutting school district property tax rates. He is correct. However, he did not mention that during the regular session, both the House and Senate also unanimously voted for a \$100,000 homestead exemption," said Patrick. "The Senate will continue to support cutting the tax rate through compression. We will insist upon a homestead exemption, giving homeowners a \$1,250 to \$1,450 annual tax cut as opposed to receiving only \$740 without a homestead

exemption. We will pass the same bill that we passed to the House last week that cuts school property taxes for the average homeowner by nearly 43 percent, almost double the tax cut one would receive with only compression."

Patrick said the governor's call to eliminate school property tax altogether is not realistic.

"Regarding the call to pass legislation to eliminate school property taxes all together, to do so would require increasing the sales tax dramatically, which clearly has no support from the legislature or the people," said Patrick. "The only other pathway is using current sales tax dollars, which can never be achieved. The governor mentions that cutting

the tax rate is a lasting tax cut. It is not. As soon as sales tax flattens or declines in any year, property tax rates would skyrocket. The only tax cut that is lasting is a homestead exemption, which is locked into the Texas Constitution." Despite their differences, Patrick is hopeful an agreement between the two camps can be reached.

"Gov. Abbott's call for a new special session is a renewed opportunity for the Texas Senate and House to deliver vital property tax relief as quickly as possible," said Patrick. "The Texas Senate will continue to fight for homeowners, and we look forward to working with the House to pass property tax relief legislation in the coming weeks."

## 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 13, 4 - 5 p.m. Family storytime. Registration required.

Monday, July 17, 11 - noon. One Houston One Book Kids Craft. Registration required.

Monday, July 17, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Wednesday, July 19, 5 - 6 p.m. Retro games. 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](http://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](http://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, July 13, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.

Thursday, July 13, 10 - 11:30 a.m. ESL conversation club.

Thursday, July 13, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Saturday, July 14, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Camp lego.

Saturday, July 15, 2 - 3 p.m. Young at Heart YA book club.

Saturday, July 15, 3 - 4 p.m. World snack day.

Monday, July 17, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Adult computer class: Cell phones 101.

Monday, July 17, 5 - 6 p.m. Tween DIY spa night.

Tuesday, July 18, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

Tuesday, July 18, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. D&D.

Wednesday, July 14, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Camp little rock stars.

Wednesday, July 14, 6 - 7 p.m. Circuit Orientation.

**Online services**

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

## Turner highlights HFD's robust investments

Mayor Sylvester Turner today is highlighting the robust investment the City has made in the Houston Fire Department through equipment acquisition, funding and personnel during his administration. Despite numerous court decisions on lawsuits filed by the fire union, including the Texas Supreme Court's most recent ruling in favor of the City against pay parity, this administration has remained steadfast in its support of the brave men and women of the Houston Fire Department.

HFD Chief Sam Pena shared a detailed report with the mayor and Houston City Council members that provides a high-level overview of more than \$155 million investments for the HFD from FY2017 through FY2023. Turner and Council have approved \$16.3 million for fire trucks, aerial trucks and utility vehicles, plus another \$3.8 million for tools and personal protective equipment in FY24. "Public safety and protecting all Houstonians have remained a priority during my administration in the past 7 1/2 years. The city has invested in equipment and budgeted additional cadet classes for FY 24 to enhance HFD's response capabilities. Whether we are replacing aging equipment for fire and rescue or providing new high-water rescue apparatus, I do not want the public to overlook our commitment and the taxpayers' investment in building a highly-skilled and well-equipped department," said Turner.

The following is from Pena to the mayor and City Council.

"The past seven years have been pivotal for the City of Houston and the Houston Fire Department. Despite a global pandemic and several weather-related disasters, the last few years are a story of how the city confronted a series of unprecedented challenges and, with resolve and ingenuity, rose to meet each of them. The following represents accomplishments and investments in HFD that have enabled us to protect our residents and firefighters.

"As fire chief, it is important for me to maintain the trust bestowed upon us and to fulfill the promise to our community. Through responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and sound planning, we have aimed to make good on

those promises. The department's priorities are focused on improving reliability of our response fleet and resources; updating emergency response guidelines and deployment models; certification and continuing education training; and investing in essential public and firefighter health and safety resources. With support from Mayor Turner, Council, and taxpayers, HFD has significantly progressed in meeting stated priorities. The report highlights the progress and provides information on the efforts to improve service to our community and employees.

"The following is a high-level overview of over \$155 Million in investments for the HFD from FY2017 through FY2023. Countless minor investments are not highlighted here, but they are no less significant and can be quantified by referencing purchase orders approved through council action over the last seven years. The work ahead is vital, and I look forward to building on the momentum we have created. Do not hesitate to ask if you need additional information or have any questions.

**Fire department budget**

- FY2024 = \$593,314,576.
- FY2023 = \$559,069,018.
- FY2022 = \$535,459,419.
- FY2021 = \$509,950,566.
- FY2020 = \$507,076,141.
- FY2019 = \$503,459,709.
- FY2018 = \$481,151,022.

**Grants and donations (2017-2023)**

- Total non-traditional funding = \$27,610,833.
- Donations = \$1,402,769.
- Grants (local, state, federal) = \$26,208,064.

**Personnel**

- Headcount ~3,700.
- 18% total pay raise for all classified employees (6% per year from FY22-FY24).

**Cadet hiring**

- 1, 127 fire cadets hired from 2017 through June 20, 2023.
- 25% pay increase for HFD cadets starting Feb. 2020 (First cadet pay raise since 2001).

**\$5,000 Cadet Incentive Pay.**

**Department Awards**

Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) accredited agency 2021.

Insurance services office public protection classification.

- HFD was awarded an ISO

**PPC of one in 2022.** The PPC is a community fire protection scoring system that grades the community's water distribution system, fire department equipment and manpower, fire alarm facilities, and other factors. Communities are given a PPC score from 1 to 10.

- One means the community has superior property fire protection. Ten means the fire protection efforts don't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

**Personnel health and safety**

- NFPA 1582 Compliant Medical Physicals/Cancer Screening to be available for all classified employees.
- Health and Safety Chief Position Created.

**Operational investments**

- Added a HazMat Response Unit.
- Added five (5) Peak-Time Ambulance Units.
- Added and formalized 42-member Wildland Firefighter Team.
- Added and formalized 80-member Water Strike Team.

**Apparatus/equipment Fleet capital investment**

- 2016 = \$5.7 mil.
- 2017 = \$6.2 mil.
- 2018 = \$7.5 mil.
- 2019 = \$10.6 mil.
- 2020 = \$10.1 mil.
- 2021 = \$14.9 mil.
- 2022 = \$10.3 mil.
- 2023 = \$10.3 mil.
- Over 50% of all HFD fleet vehicles were replaced in the last seven years (including Engine Units, Aerial Units, District Chiefs vehicles, Supervisor Vehicles, Brush Trucks, and Cascades Units).
- 105 Light duty vehicles replaced under the lease program.

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

*New Enrolling*

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

**281.481.2003**  
[www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com)  
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089  
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

## Deaths



Joseph "Joe" Ferraro, 90, peacefully went to be with the Lord on June 15, 2023. He was born to Joe and Rosaria (Sadie) Ferraro in Houston, on July 29, 1932. After high school he worked for the Houston Belt and Terminal railroad company. He later joined the Army during the Korean War, the first clear battle of the Cold War. During that conflict, he was part of the anti-aircraft gun unit that protected the United States base in Germany.

After leaving the service, he married the love of his life - Opal Jean Majors - in 1955. They had three sons, Bruce, Keith and David, and lived in the South Belt area for the past 65 years. Both were faithful members of South Belt Church. After working in the railroad industry for many years, he joined Houston Pipe Line Company, then Houston Natural Gas, before working for and retiring from Enron in the early 1990s. In retirement, he worked for SMG at Reliant Park until 2008, when he hung up his work badge for good.

Joe was a charismatic husband, dad and brother. He loved painting, playing the gui-

tar and singing old hymns in his living room. He also loved barbecuing and growing tomatoes, jalapeños and other vegetables in his backyard garden. In his later years, he learned to cook and became quite a chef. Joe loved taking trips with Jean to Fredericksburg in the Hill Country and attending the many baseball, football, basketball and volleyball games, recitals, concerts and plays in which his grandchildren and great-grandchildren participated. Rarely did he leave early, and he made sure to say hello, give some encouragement and take a quick photo with the real star of the performance.

Joe had an unmistakable laugh, a never-ending smile and a well-timed joke or meaningful and funny story for any occasion. His quick wit and impeccable wisdom will be sorely missed because one never felt alone when around him. Joe adored his family dearly and loved spending time with his closest relatives.

He loved company and always had time to host a family dinner or holiday celebration. Joe loved worshipping the Lord, too, and was a deacon at South Belt Church, formerly known as Easthaven Baptist. He loved helping his brothers and sisters in Christ with their annual Vacation Bible School program and helping the other deacons serve the church's famous snow cones at the day's or activity's end.

Loyalty was Joe's best trait, and he took care of Jean until the very end of his own life.

He was trustworthy and one could tell him anything. He put others' needs before his and he always provided for his family no matter what hardships were thrown his way. While a cliché, "the word quit was not

in his vocabulary." He fought for his friends, family, wife and himself until the very end. He was perpetually supportive, empathetic and appreciative - a true patriarch, forever on the side of his beloved friends and family.

Joe is preceded in death by beloved wife; his parents; sisters Mary Cuccia, Josie Cutia, Rosalie Roberts and Nancy Bauerkemper; and his brother, Tony Ferraro. He is survived by his three sons and their wives, Bruce and Janet Ferraro of Houston; Keith and Susan Ferraro of Manvel; and David and Debra Ferraro of Alvin; his sister Joyce Milner of Austin; and grandchildren and their spouses Joseph and Tamara Ferraro, Andrew and Dana Ferraro, Todd and Natalie Ferraro, Gina and Ovie Thomas, Anthony and Jennifer Ferraro, Amy and Paul Flanigan, Selena and Jeremy Hann, Lisa and Luke Pearce; Joey Urbino and Shelly Extrom.

Joe is also survived by 24 great-grandchildren: Kayla and Joseph Ferraro Jr.; Caden, Ellie and Brady Ferraro; Noah and Colton Ferraro; Jade Anderson; Zoey and Meah Thomas; Jacob and Kynlee Ferraro; Kristopher Neighbors; Alexis Ferraro; Elizabeth and Cameron Coffman; Easton and Carter Hann; Lauren Comstock and Levi Pearce; Gabe Urbino; James Leining; and Alysa and Layla Tello. He is also survived by two great-great-granddaughters: Parker Kate Ferraro and Anna Lisa Winters.

A memorial service will be held at South Belt Church, 13100 Beamer Saturday, July 15, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks those interested in contributing consider donating to the South Belt Church in Joe and Jean's memory.

## Water billing problems continue

### Problems persist 3+ months

Continued from Page 1

new meter reading devices in neighborhoods where the previous ones were not working properly," a May 10 press release from Public Works read. "The old devices led to some accounts being estimated and charged incorrectly. Moving forward, bills will be generated based on actual readings."

Multiple Sagemont Park residents, however, have reported still receiving even usage estimates, such as 5,000 gallons/month or 7,000/gallons/month, depending on how many household members here are.

The rounded estimates are used by Public Works despite the new digital readers being capable of reading water usage down to 1/10th of a gallon.

"It just keeps going on and on. They're not even trying to resolve it," said Sagemont Park resident Wayne Hanks. "I don't think they ever intend to fix it."

This past month, Hanks was billed \$111.92 for 5,000 gallons of usage. Hanks, how-

ever, said his personal records indicate he used closer to 4,200 gallons.

"They told me they don't read hundreds just thousands," said Hanks. "Then why even install the digital readers? You could just get some cheap ones that read thousands."

City residents experiencing problems with their water bills may contact the Customer Account Services Team at 713-341-1400.

fatally shot at the complex. (Parys Burks-Henderson, 18, was charged with murder in the crime.)

- Feb. 6: unnamed male, 21, shot outside the complex but survived. (Parys Burks-Henderson was charged with attempted capital murder.)
- Jan. 28: Lee Mayfield fatally shot inside an apartment. (Eddrel Antonio Brown, 28, was charged with murder.)
- Jan. 8, victims, James Sipes, 41, and Kelvin Menefee, 57, shot inside an apartment but survived.
- Jan. 5: Marilyn Lee Lambert, 70, and Marcus Ray Hawkins, 51, shot inside an apartment but survived.
- In September 2021, three victims - two males and one female - were all shot in the same night at the complex. All were transported to the hospital in stable condition.
- The Cabo San Lucas Apartments, on the opposite side of the Freeway at Edgebrook, has also been a hot spot for shootings in the past, with at least six taking place in late 2021, including two fatal shootings in two days in October.

## JFD 40th reunion planned

The J. Frank Dobie class of 1983 will hold its 40th reunion Sept. 15-17, 2023. Contact [jfdclassof1983@gmail.com](mailto:jfdclassof1983@gmail.com) if you aren't on its Facebook page.

Look forward to seeing all graduates.

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *People of Sagemont2* Facebook page posted a photo of two individuals who were caught on video surveillance breaking into cars Monday, July 10

around 5:20 a.m. near Caribbean Lane and Rambling Trail. The member states that she made a mistake and left her truck unlocked and the only thing taken was a charger.

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[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://www.stlukesatholic.com)

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)  
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

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

# More South Belt July 4 parade participant pictures

## Constable Garcia and the motorcycle buddies



Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (front) poses with, left to right, (middle row) Betty Brown, Paul Torres, Helen Torres, Adam Carroll, Ken Gross, Vance Britt, Mario Saez, Angie Saez, Kevin Jones, Kitty Crutcher-Markle, (back row) Sabine Jones, Greg Markle and Stacy Carroll.

## S.W.A.T. float wins non-commercial trophy



South Belt Girls' Softball Association (S.W.A.T.) members on their winning float are left to right, Rylee Thomas, Lily Mendez, Ivan Mendez, Eliza Garza, Mia DeLeon, Ruby Salinas, Dahila Salinas, Isabella Garza and Lynette Hodges.

# Beverly Hills all-stars crush national academic pentathlon

By M.T. Duke

Beverly Hills Intermediate is no stranger to the academic decathlon, with their AP team holding the title of district champions for eight years now. However, their most recent induction into the national pentathlon proved to be a victorious one, as students proved without a doubt their academic excellence.

Described as the "premier academic competition" by Dr. Tom Le, director of advanced academics for PISD, this competition requires not only gifted thinking, determination and initiative, but also the ability to showcase one's own talents while working within a team.

It also requires an unparalleled support system, as evidenced by the diligence of coaches Stephanie Gonzalez, Mack Hickerson and Grant Pector of BHI, who worked tirelessly to train and prepare their students.

"I teach three subjects and just to learn and prepare my students for those three subjects, I had to put in hundreds of hours of reading, studying, and preparation," says Pector. "The kids have to do it for five subjects and a novel. So, you begin to see the determination and focus required for a student to make it through the competition cycle."

The five subjects mentioned by Pector are, math, social studies, science, literature and fine arts. In addition, this year's theme was the American Revolution. The aptly chosen novel was "Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson, which chronicles the lives of two young, enslaved African-American sisters and their experiences during the American Revolution time period.

Preparation for the pen-

athlon begins in October with after-school sessions, as well as studying on a student's own time.

When it is time to put all their preparation into practice, campus teams compete at the local district level, then regionals and finally nationals. BHI took home first place at regionals and qualified to compete at the nationals level. Students

also entered the Pentathlon Nationals Online competition.

Medals — gold, silver and bronze — are awarded in specific subjects, while the composite score is a culmination of all test scores added to an essay score.

Accordingly, the division in which a student participates reflects their GPA, honors being a 3.8-4.0, a

straight-A student; scholastic being a 3.2-3.79, an A/B student; and the varsity division being a 0.0-3.19, a B/C student.

Commenting on the scoring process of the national competition, Pector says, "Composite score . . . is the most recognized score out of all scores . . . and usually demonstrates a well rounded competitor whereby in-

dividual medalists usually demonstrate a subject specialist."

Out of the 50 students who originally tried out for the AP team at the start of the year, only 17 competed at nationals. Below are the results of the placing competitors — and their coaches, discipline and preparation.

### Eighth grade

This team placed fourth

and his composite score ranked him 16th in the nation.

Henry Hong captured two national medals in the honors division, one silver medal in fine arts and one silver medal in social sciences.

His composite score ranked him sixth in the nation for this competition.

George Nguyen competed in the honors division

and his composite score ranked him 32nd in the nation.

Huy Le competed in the honors division and his composite score ranked him 32nd in the nation.

Tatiana Rodriguez competed in the scholastic division and her composite score ranked her fifth in the nation.

Although she did not win

any medals, she placed in the top 10 for four out of five subjects tested.

Pretty McCoy captured one national medal in the scholastic division. She earned a gold medal in fine arts and her composite score ranked her 12th in the nation.

Gissell Barba competed in the scholastic division and her composite score ranked her 24th in the nation.

Michael Perez competed in the varsity division and his composite score ranked him 19th in the nation.

Desirae Lozano competed in the varsity division and her composite score ranked her 35th in the nation.

Cesar Garcia competed in the varsity division and his composite score ranked him 42nd in the nation.

### Seventh grade

The seventh grade team placed seventh out of 31 competing teams.

Javanni Capuchino competed in the honors division and his composite score ranked him 44th in the nation.

Karely Maldonado competed in the honors division and her composite score ranked her 68th in the nation.

Kathleen Nguyen competed in the honors division and her composite score ranked her 69th in the nation.

Amiyah Barnes competed in the scholastic division and scored a bronze medal in science, a gold in fine arts and a silver in social sciences. Her composite score ranked her second in the nation.

Dawson Tran competed in the scholastic division and his composite score ranked him 19th in the nation. Although he did not win any medals, he placed in the top 10 for four out of the five subjects tested.

Gabriel Trevino competed in the scholastic division and was awarded a bronze medal in science. His composite score ranked him 21st in the nation.

Reyna Rivera competed in the varsity division and earned a silver medal in science, a silver in fine arts and a bronze in social sciences. Her composite score ranked her third in the nation.

Khinydi Frizell competed in the varsity division and scored a silver medal in science and a bronze in fine arts. Her composite score ranked her 14th in the nation.

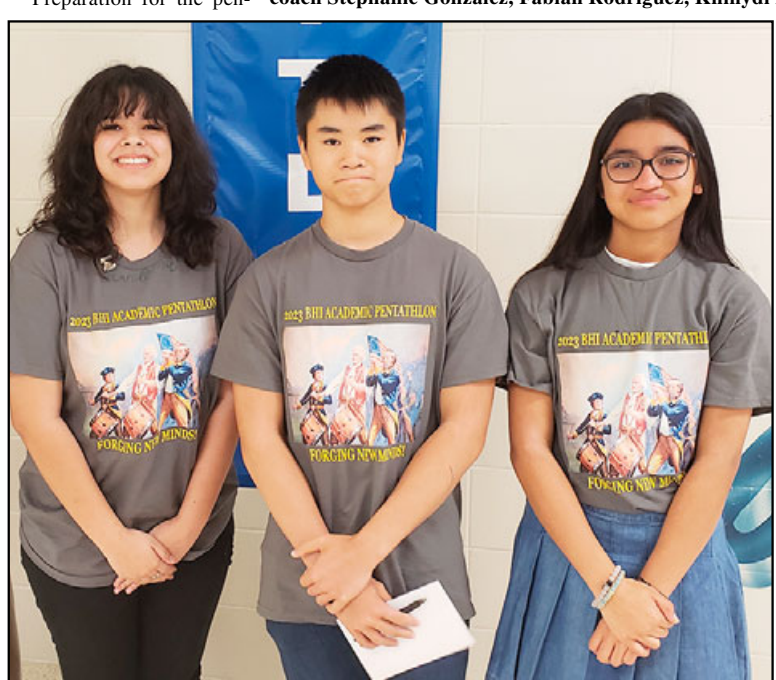
When asked how this competition provides benefits for a student's future, Pector frankly explained that, yes, it can help in procuring scholarships and college admissions. "However, not every student is going to get a scholarship. So for most, I think the biggest thing this competition does is build confidence and gives students an identity. They make new friends, learn to collaborate, build grit, learn studying techniques and test taking strategies. They learn organization and how to avoid procrastination."

He explains this creates better students who are eager to participate the following year, regardless of how they finished in the previous competition.

BHI officials proudly stated on social media that coaches Gonzalez, Hickerson and Pector "are extremely proud of all of their students' achievements. Their true success can be found in their willingness to accept the challenge of learning an additional curriculum, putting forth the effort towards hundreds of hours of extra study time and afterschool practices, and riding out the competition year all the way to nationals."



Shown, left to right, are BHI's winning academic pentathlon students (first row) Gabriel Trevino, Henry Hong, Tatiana Rodriguez, Candi Zuniga, Andrew Zamora, Javanni Capuchino, Amiyah Barnes, Karely Maldonado, Reyna Rivera, (second row) coach Stephanie Gonzalez, Fabian Rodriguez, Khinydi Frizell, Kathleen Tran, Hannah Hua, Mikayla Rodriguez, Pretty McCoy, Valeria Garza, (third row) Vu Le, Huy Le, Ariana Kainer, Alissa Nguyen, Hermallyon Campos, Dawson Tran, coach Grant Pector, (fourth row) George Nguyen, Michael Perez, Carlos Faife and Andrew Posey. Photo by Coach Hickerson



Featured here are the eighth-grade medalists from the Pentathlon Nationals Online. Donning the decathlon's merchandise are, left to right, Pretty McCoy (gold medal in fine arts); Henry Hoang (silver in fine arts and social sciences); and Tatiana Rodriguez (bronze in literature).



Shown is pentathlon finalist, (left) seventh-grader Reynah Rivera, who placed third overall at online nationals for the varsity division, medaling in three of five subjects (silver in fine arts, science; bronze in social science). Beside her is seventh-grade finalist Amiyah Barnes, who placed third overall at online nationals for the scholastic division, medaling in three of five subjects (gold in fine arts, silver in social science, bronze in science).

## Byrd sets the bar for teachers, cares for Chapa

"There is an essential difference between a good teacher and a great teacher," says Dobie Shining Star Nathaneal Chapa, pictured with distinguished educator Felicia Byrd. Dobie's ECHS AVID 3 teacher.

"A good teacher effectively teaches the curriculum, but a great teacher does more than that. A great teacher cares about

their students and truly wants them to succeed. I was lucky enough to have a great teacher, Ms. Byrd, who truly cared about my future and wanted to help me achieve my goals.

"Countless times I would come to Ms. Byrd with my issues, and she would guide me through them, and make the big problems seem manageable. She would calm me down through troubles and help me with things I did not learn in school. Whether I needed help with a job application, writing a professional email, or a person to talk to, Ms. Byrd was always there. A good teacher prepares their students for the curriculum, a great one prepares their students for life."



Chapa holds the position of percussion lieutenant in the marching band at Dobie and plans to earn his bachelor's in computer engineering from Texas A&M.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Top J. Frank Dobie High School students. The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running Top Shining Stars from South Houston, Pasadena Memorial and Kirk Lewis Technical high schools.

# Harris County offers mosquito-prevention tips for residents

Continued from Page 1  
three Ts to mosquito control — Tip, Toss, Take Action.

### Tip

Heavy rains during the summer in the Houston region can create a "perfect storm" for mosquitoes to breed. Follow these simple tips to prevent mosquito breeding sites around your

home, especially right after a weather event:

- Tip or empty standing water from pet bowls, flowerpots, tires, buckets and other containers. If one has a bird-bath, change its water every three to five days.

### Toss

Mosquitoes are able to breed in small spots where

stagnant water might be hidden from the human eye. Practice the following tips to reduce mosquito breeding in those covered spots:

- Toss out debris, trash and other unwanted items.
- Clean out clogged drain gutters.
- Keep outdoor trash bins closed-avoid overflowing them.

— Do not sweep lawn clippings, leaves or litter into storm drains as this will prevent water from flowing, creating ideal mosquito-breeding sites.

- Minimize standing water to accumulate by emptying stagnant water from flowerpots, buckets, tires or any other water-collecting objects.

### Take Action

There are also a number of ways to take action and reduce mosquito populations.

- When using mosquito repellent, keep these points in mind:
  - Use as directed by the label instructions on the product.
  - Do not use insect repellents on babies younger than 2 months of age.
  - Do not use products containing oil of lemon, eucalyptus or para-methane-diol on children younger than 3 years.
  - Apply an EPA-registered repellent on yourself and your loved ones when outdoors.
  - When possible, wear

long sleeves, pants, and socks.

- Treat standing water with larvicides in areas where water cannot be covered, emptied, or removed and will not be used for drinking. Larvicides are a type of pesticide that is applied to kill mosquitoes in their early stages of development (larvae) before they become biting adults.

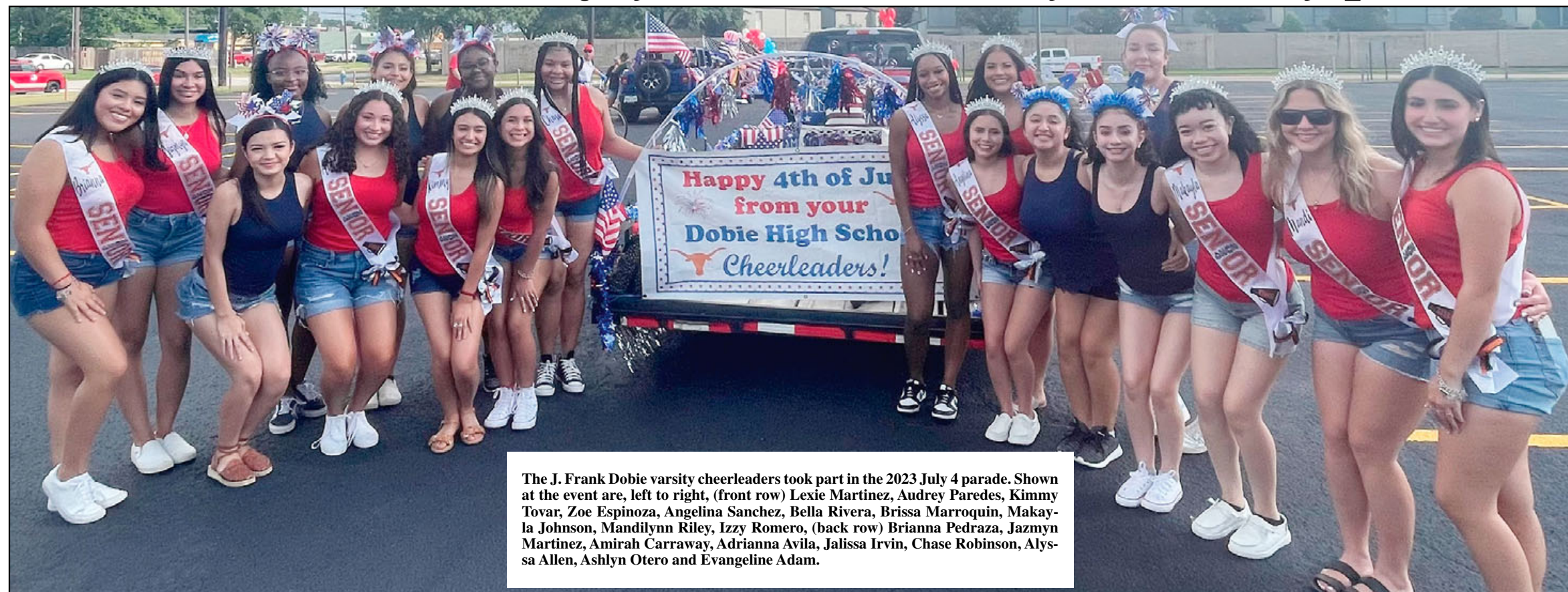
They are sold in forms of liquid, tablets, pellets, granules and briquettes and available in most hardware stores. Larvicides are safe to use for the environment.

- Follow the instructions of the particular larvicide product you are using.
- Make sure to completely turn off outdoor faucets to

prevent leaks; fix any faucets that are constantly leaking.

- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows.
- For mosquito prevention tips and resources, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/About/Organization-Office/Mosquito-Vector-Control-Division/Mosquito-Vector-Borne-Resources.

# JFD cheerleaders enjoy South Belt July 4 holiday parade



The J. Frank Dobie varsity cheerleaders took part in the 2023 July 4 parade. Shown at the event are, left to right, (front row) Lexie Martinez, Audrey Paredes, Kimmy Tovar, Zoe Espinoza, Angelina Sanchez, Bella Rivera, Brissa Marroquin, Makayla Johnson, Mandilynn Riley, Izzy Romero, (back row) Brianna Pedraza, Jazmyn Martinez, Amirah Carraway, Adrianna Avila, Jalissa Irvin, Chase Robinson, Alyssa Allen, Ashlyn Otero and Evangeline Adam.

## Remember When

**45 years ago (1978)**  
Donald Roberts was the victim of a hit-and-run accident. Dr. James E. "Gene" Stuchbery, 83, for whom Stuchbery Elementary was named, died of heart failure. Sageslen residents overwhelmingly approved a proposed plan to build a recreation center, complete with swimming pool and tennis courts. John Robinson, a Dobie High School senior, won the mile run at the state championship junior olympic meet held in Lubbock.

under the city's aviation director, Paul Gaines. Houston Police Chief Sam Nuchia presented Kirkwood South's Neil West a public service award at a ceremony. West was specifically recognized for developing an anti-gang program for fifth-graders titled Gangs Are No Good (G.A.N.G.). While the program targeted fifth-graders, it also involved Dobie High School students who wrote and performed anti-gang skits for the elementary students. A ribbon-cutting was held for the Johnson Space Center

Credit Union's new branch office. The Sagemont Cowgirls selected new officers for the drill team. They were Lt. Col. Courtney Kennedy, Col. Courtney Burns, Col. Tiffany Clark, Lt. Col. Shannon Robinson, Lt. Shawna Roberson, Maj. Celina Clark, Capt. Megan McKinney and Lt. Lindsay Saucedo. **25 years ago (1998)** Uduak "Judy" Inyangumia's body was found dead in her Kirkwood home. Her father, Ekerete Inyangumia, was charged with her murder.

Judge Ted Poe was the guest speaker at the July meeting of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. **20 years ago (2003)** PISD spokesperson Kirk Lewis admitted that Memorial High School principal Billye Smith was wrong in offering an additional \$3,000 annual stipend to new head football coach Tom Gooden. Former South Belt resident and Dobie graduate Linda Koetter Bates, 41, was stabbed to death at her Angleton home.

**15 years ago (2008)** Houston Councilman Mike Sullivan hosted a town hall meeting to discuss the land use compatibility regulations affecting the Ellington Field area. The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee hosted a meeting on Monday, July 14, to discuss the school funding dilemma in the Pasadena Independent School District. Attending the meeting were PISD Superintendent Kirk Lewis and House District 144 candidates Ken

Legler and Joel Redmond. Grace Community Church announced its plan to erect two massive crosses along Interstate 45. To be located at the church's south campus near Dixie Farm Road and at the church's north campus near The Woodlands, the crosses would mark both the south and north entrances to the city, according to Grace's pastor, Steve Riggle. The two crosses, which could reach a height of 200 feet, would be among the largest in the world.

An investigation conducted by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services confirmed a local mother's complaint that her child had been left on a bus traveling to an area daycare center. The mother said she was notified of the incident when she picked up her daughter roughly 1.5 hours after the incident. **10 years ago (2013)** The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved capping enrollment to reduce overcrowding at several South Belt area campuses, including Dobie High School, Thompson Intermediate, Melillo Middle School, Laura Bush Elementary and Garfield Elementary. The enrollment cap would affect only new transfer requests. The enrollment caps would not affect students who live within the schools' set boundaries.

A hit-and-run accident took place Saturday, July 7, in the 9800 block of Fuqua between Blackhawk and Kingspoint, possibly killing an unborn child. According to police, the suspect was traveling east on the street in a tan Ford Expedition when he lost control of his vehicle and drove over the esplanade and into the westbound lanes of traffic. Police said the suspect driver crossed the path of a white Kia Sportage that struck the right passenger side of the Expedition, causing it to roll over. The driver of the Expedition, which had temporary paper license plates, reportedly exited the vehicle and fled on foot. The

driver of the Sportage – a 34-year-old female who was eight months pregnant – was transferred to Clear Lake Regional Hospital in critical condition. While there, the woman was forced to undergo an emergency C-section to deliver the child. A news report from ABC Channel 13 stated that the child died on Monday, July 9, but Houston police were unable to confirm this. A spokesman for HPD said the last update they had listed the child as also being in critical condition. The driver of the Expedition, described as an adult Hispanic male, was wanted on a felony charge of failing to stop and render aid. No immediate arrests were made. **1 year ago (2022)** Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Eric Williams announced his early resignation at a closed-session board meeting Monday, July 11. The hiring of Williams last year drew the heat of many conservative parents in the district, who accused the superintendent of indoctrinating students with "critical race theory" at his previous position in Virginia. Former Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Karen Engle served as interim superintendent in Williams' absence.

## Over The Back Fence by Natalie

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 13 through July 19.  
**Atkinson Elementary**  
Celebrating a birthday July 13 is **Regina Barnes**. Break out the party favors and balloons for **Claudia Trevino** July 15. Give a birthday shoutout July 18 to **Jenny Vann**.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles July 18 for **Lourdes Munoz**.  
**Genoa Elementary**  
Join in the birthday celebration July 13 for **Elizabeth Binnicker**. Sing a happy birthday song July 15 to **Kathryn Martinez**.  
**South Belt Elementary**  
Send a special birthday card July 13 to **Kellie Hodge**.  
**Meador Elementary**  
Cheers for a happy birthday on July 14 for **Corin Culpepper**.  
**Moore Elementary**  
The day for a double-fun birthday for **Ana**

**Herrera and Elizabeth Segovia** is July 14.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
**Loren Garcia** enjoys a birthday July 16.  
**Roberts Middle School**  
Light the birthday candles July 13 for **Aaron Donias** and **Britney Subinsky**. Give a happy birthday shoutout July 18 to **Krystal Herrera**. Light the birthday candles July 19 for a double celebration for **Mekali Ball** and **Sandra Palma**.  
**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Give a birthday shoutout July 17 to **Lucila Elizondo**. Send a birthday greeting July 18 to **Krystal Smith**.  
**Thompson Intermediate**  
Remember to wish **Susie Haas** a happy birthday July 13.  
**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.  
Thursday July 13: **Stephanie Pyle, Robin Read, Sandy Ward, Angela Wilkerson, Robin**

**Stone Collins and Tyler Pearson**, Friday, July 14: **Elaine Ann Monagas, Monay Noyobiz, Courtney Amelia Alba, Riva Saenz, Verónica Mier and Jeffrey Robert McGee**; Saturday, July 15: **Soyla Tovar, Irma Villanueva, Rachel Garza, Marlon Taylor, Teresa Reynolds Abel and Harley Rankins**; Sunday, July 16: **Jessika Paquinto, Mark Campbell, Kelly McBeth, Angie Roach, Clarissa Garza Andrus and Brad Janacek**; Monday, July 17: **Christina Trevino, Crystal Ybarra, Corey Cephus, Myra Rowe, Marsa Outland Brister, Vicki Sorensen, Jenelle Lee, Kimberly Sommerfelt and Mary Jason Rowe**; Tuesday, July 18: **Maddie Patterson, Keith Milam, Luis Revilla, Diann Fernandez, Cathy Todd, Steve Garza, Misha Lesley-Burkins, Kathy Haigler and Michelle Malveau**; and Wednesday, July 19: **Fred Alvarez, Terrell Session, Gary Hilliard and Anne Tyson**.  
**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email anniversary, vacation and information on other events to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for next week's issue.

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What goes  
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must come  
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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Dobie freshman football camp

The Dobie High School football staff will host its Incoming Freshman Football Camp July 25-27, from 8 to 10 a.m., at the Dobie9 campus as first-year Longhorn players, freshmen as of the 2023-2024 school year, will have a great opportunity to get an early look at the program. Players may scan the QR code at [www.dobiepride.com](http://www.dobiepride.com) in order to register.

## JFD VB plans July 31 tryouts

The Dobie High School 2023 volleyball season will officially get started July 31 as head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff host tryouts on the main campus. All athletes, including incoming freshmen through incoming seniors, are required to check in at 6:30 a.m. in preparation for 7 to 10 a.m. conditioning work.

Freshmen will then work on court from noon to 2 p.m., with all others on the court from 2 to 4 p.m. A current physical and Rank One paperwork completed are both required to participate. For additional information, direct email to Sexton at [dsexton@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:dsexton@pasadenaisd.org).

As for the 2023 regular season, the Longhorns will host Baytown Sterling Aug. 8, at Phillips Field House, with the varsity match set to start at 6 p.m.

Following the start of workouts July 31, Dobie will scrimmage Aug. 4 at Barbers Hill High School as Montgomery and Klein Oak will join in.

A day later, Aug. 5, Dobie will host Angleton and North Shore beginning at 9 a.m. Varsity competition will be held at the Dobie9 gym, with freshman and junior varsity play at Dobie main.

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

## Cowboys offer strength/cond.

In anticipation of the 2023 Bay Area Football League season, the Sagemont Cowboys will host a conditioning camp July 17-18 and July 20 at the program's game site at El Franco Lee Park, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each evening. Youths taking part in the drills should wear shorts, a T-shirt, proper football shoes and bring a personal water bottle.

## SBYSC has online registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is hosting fall registration now through July 15 at a discounted rate as league officials prepare for play, with practices set to get started in August.

Now through July 15, youths in the under-4 through under-8 age divisions will pay \$105; those in the under-9 and under-10 age divisions will pay \$125; those in the under-11 and under-12 age divisions will pay \$145 and the under-13 through under-19 divisions will pay \$165.

All registration fees include a uniform consisting of a team shirt, shorts and socks. Parents are required to provide shin guards, soccer cleats and soccer ball.

The league is seeking volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team parents, particularly for the U4-U8 age groups.

Fees may be paid by credit and debit cards only at [www.southbeltsoccer.org](http://www.southbeltsoccer.org).

## Clear Brook VB camps, tryouts

Clear Brook varsity volleyball head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff will host tryouts for the 2023 season as incoming freshmen through incoming seniors will vie for roster spots July 31 and Aug. 1.

The Wolverine coaching staff is also offering an optional youth camp that will run July 24-27 for students.

Incoming third- through fifth-grade students will be grouped together in session I and train from 8 to 10 a.m. each day, while the 8 to 10 a.m. time slot is also available to sixth- and seventh- and beginning eighth-grade students in session II.

Elite eighth-grade and all ninth-grade players will train from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. as part of session III. Cost of the camp is \$90 per student for sessions I and II, and \$100 per student for session III.

All participants should wear court shoes and proper workout attire and bring a set of knee pads and a personal water bottle.

These camps are designed to give each athlete an opportunity to refresh their volleyball skills and learn new skills and strategies, but to also see their future high school, meet the coaching staff and potential future teammates.

Staff will cover the fundamentals of volleyball, and introduce offensive, defensive, and serve-receive systems during Session I and Session II.

To register, visit [www.clearbrookvolleyball.org](http://www.clearbrookvolleyball.org). For more information, direct email to [mthomps1@ccisd.net](mailto:mthomps1@ccisd.net). Returning high school players may take advantage of current open gym workouts on Mondays and Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m.

## JFD FB boosters sends invite

The Dobie High School football booster club is putting together its weekly and game day contact list and is encouraging all incoming freshman and other program newcomers to join its email list.

To be a part of team updates, newcomers are encouraged to submit their contact information to [infodfboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:infodfboosterclub@gmail.com) to begin receiving important details.

# Fall sports eyeing official start dates

The schedule that is the high school athletic scene is at its most dormant at present, with the month of July annually representing the calm before the storm.

That'll all change in a matter of weeks, however, as preseason workouts for football, volleyball, cross-country, team tennis and even water polo at Clear Brook will step to the forefront.

The University Interscholastic League, the state's official governing body for athletics and other public school extracurricular activities, has set forth dates in which the various individual sports can begin preseason work-

outs.

For football programs that took part in spring practice - Clear Brook and Dobie included, the first allowable day for preseason workouts is Aug. 7.

From there, the first scrimmage date is Aug. 17 as the Dobie bunch will host La Porte at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

The regular season opens Aug. 31 as the Longhorns will take on Clear Brook Aug. 31 at Clear Creek ISD's Veterans Stadium in League City.

The Dobie High School 2023 volleyball season will officially get started July 31 as head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff host tryouts on the main

campus. All athletes, including incoming freshmen through incoming seniors, are required to check in at 6:30 a.m. in preparation for 7 to 10 a.m. conditioning work.

Freshmen will then work on court from noon to 2 p.m., with all others on the court from 2 to 4 p.m. A current physical and Rank One paperwork completed are both required to participate.

For additional information, direct email to Sexton at [dsexton@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:dsexton@pasadenaisd.org).

Baytown Sterling is the opponent as Dobie opens its 2023 volleyball regular season Aug. 8 at Phillips Field House.

The Longhorns won 20 overall matches a season ago and were third in the 22-6A standings before a bidistrict playoff loss to Atascocita.

Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. has set aside July 13 and July 20 as voluntary practice from 5 to 8 p.m. for returning varsity players, and mandatory practices begin July 24-27, also from 5 to 8 p.m. Dobie opens its fall season Aug. 3-5 in San Antonio.

# Woolley realizes dream Astros' role

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Standing on the playing field at Minute Maid Park during batting practice or sitting in the Crawford Boxes during a random sixth inning of a game, Zach Woolley admits to fighting the urge to pinch himself.

Relax, Mr. Woolley.

The experience is real, and has been earned through an albeit short yet dedicated and precise guidance of a career path.

Very fresh off of his graduation with a journalism degree from Arizona State University's prestigious Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication,

Woolley, a Class of 2020 Clear Brook High School graduate and varsity baseball player with the Wolverines, landed an apprenticeship with the Houston Astros' organization.

Whether he's on the playing field pre-game filming batting practice for a team promo on social media or filming in-game

action for other related media projects, Woolley knows he's exactly where he wants to be.

Most lifelong Astros' fans can only dream of being in Woolley's position. Yet while his new role may seem "cool" and "fun" to the casual outside observer, for Woolley it's more so the culmination of an action plan he set in motion while still in high school.

As a freshman at ASU, Woolley worked as a summer intern with the then Sugar Land Skeeters, now known as the Sugar Land Space Cowboys, the Astros' Class AAA minor league affiliate based at Constellation Field.

During his time at Ari-

Continued on Page 6



Zach Woolley, a Clear Brook High School graduate and former Wolverine baseball player, graduated from Arizona State University and shortly thereafter earned a bit of a dream role within the Houston Astros' organization with a content production apprenticeship.

# LSA football looks to improve

A 5-5 regular season's worth of regroup behind it, the Lutheran South Academy Pioneer varsity football program will look to make a substantial jump in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II District 4 ranks this season.

As Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine points out, the six-team District 4 alignment possesses two of Texas' top Division II private school programs, and breaking through will be a tall task for others.

Defending TAPPS Division II state champion Fort Bend Christian went 10-4 overall in 2022 en route to the crown, and the Eagles believe they have what it takes for a repeat.

Add to the mix a Second Baptist team that went three playoff rounds deep a season ago, and Lutheran South certainly has its work cut out for it.

But the Pioneers, a 31-6 loser to Austin Regents in the first round of the post-season in 2022, are intent on bettering a 5-5 overall regular season as head coach Don Justice and his staff welcome six starters

back on the defensive side.

The 2023 graduation class took with it much of the Pioneer offense, but three starters remain.

With quarterback Marcus Cantu returning for his second season and Wesley Willingham back at receiver, the Pioneers should be able to score points.

Mason Hoggart will also get touches in the backfield.

The strength of the Lutheran South defense is at linebacker as both Cole Noack and Matthew Furness return following 81-tackle seasons. Jack

Wade is also back at linebacker.

John David LeBlanc is in the athlete category for the Pioneers and should help in a variety of roles.

Jaxon Coan is a great option at tight end and along the defensive front, and Braedon Robinson is another two-way player at receiver and defensive back.

Zeke Ramirez and Kris St. Clair will fortify the defensive front, and David Streeter will get plenty of looks up front as well.

Jalen Bess is a receiver/defensive back combo player, as are Brycen Gilbert and Case Noack.

LSA will scrimmage twice before the regular season begins.

# Brian Brazil dies



Brian Brazil, a Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame member who starred across three sports at Sam Rayburn High School, has died following a year-long cancer battle. Brazil, who was class president at Rayburn in 1982-1983, was inducted into the Pasadena Independent School District Hall of Fame in 2016. A holder of eight varsity letters with the Texans and then a standout on the football field at Texas Christian University, Brazil was the head coach at Lewisville Hebron for more than 20 years and won a 4A Division II state championship in 2005. Brazil retired from public education in 2021 and last school year was the athletic director at Prestonwood Christian Academy of Schools. The longtime Hebron head coach was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor in 2022. As reported in the Leader's July 6 issue, Lewisville in April announced that Hebron's Hawk Stadium would be renamed Brian Brazil Stadium.

# SBGSA continues online registration

The South Belt Girls Softball Association began accepting online registration for the 2023 fall season July 1 as players will be able to join play at El Franco Lee Park at the league facility. Registration is \$75 per player across all age groups, and families can take care of the process at [www.southbeltsoftball.com](http://www.southbeltsoftball.com).

All games are planned for Saturdays, typically starting in October and running into November. Teams will play two games on those dates and may play at El Franco Lee Park or one of the league's COOP parks of South Houston, Pasadena, Deer Park,

Deepwater or LaPorte. There are no residency restrictions for the fall league. For more information, direct email to league officials at [southbeltgirlssoftball@live.com](mailto:southbeltgirlssoftball@live.com) or call 281-904-5109.

Those who wish to coach a team or volunteer in some capacity, may also email officials for requirements of the roles.

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<b>Lutheran South Academy 2023 Varsity Football Schedule</b>		
Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 11	at John Cooper scrimm.	7 p.m.
Aug. 17	St. Pius scrimm.	7 p.m.
Aug. 25	at Hou. Christian	7 p.m.
Sept. 1	at St. Michael's	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	at Cypress Christian	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	Concordia Tomball (H)	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	St. John	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	*Fort Bend Christian	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	*at Beaumont Kelly	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	*at Second Baptist	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	*Woodlands Christian	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	*at St. John XXIII	7 p.m.
(H) Homecoming		
* District 4 games		

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# Woolley enjoys Astros' apprenticeship

Continued from Page 5  
 zona State, Woolley was also a big part of the happenings at Blaze Radio, the ASU station that in 2022 was recognized as the Best Radio Station in the country by the Princeton Review.

Woolley had his own radio show while at Arizona State and essentially got involved with any and all that was media-related during his stay in Tempe.

Videography, still shots, audio, really any type of media or social media platform Woolley seems geared for, and he's now having the time of his life working with the Houston Astros.

"Of course, this is a dream come true," said Woolley, who was part of the 2020 Clear Brook varsity baseball program that saw its season come to an early close due to the pandemic.

"I had been heavily involved in the station at Clear Brook - CBTV, and did yearbook and newspaper projects. Being in media has been the plan all along," Woolley said.

"Once I worked in Sugar Land with the Skeeters, I knew this is definitely what I wanted to pursue for a career.

"I'm early in my career, of course, but I'm loving

every minute of this and trying to soak up as much knowledge as I can from all directions.

"Who wouldn't want to work for the world champions? I don't take this opportunity for granted. This is special to me, and I am always looking for ways to enhance things, to put a personal spin on things. It's a lot of fun to do this type of work, and I always aim to do my best."

# Hollan to Cincy Reds



Hunter Hollan, who starred at San Jacinto College for two seasons as a left-handed pitcher before spending the 2023 season at Arkansas, was chosen 74th overall by the Cincinnati Reds in the MLB draft July 10.

# LSA's Ledbetter to TLU

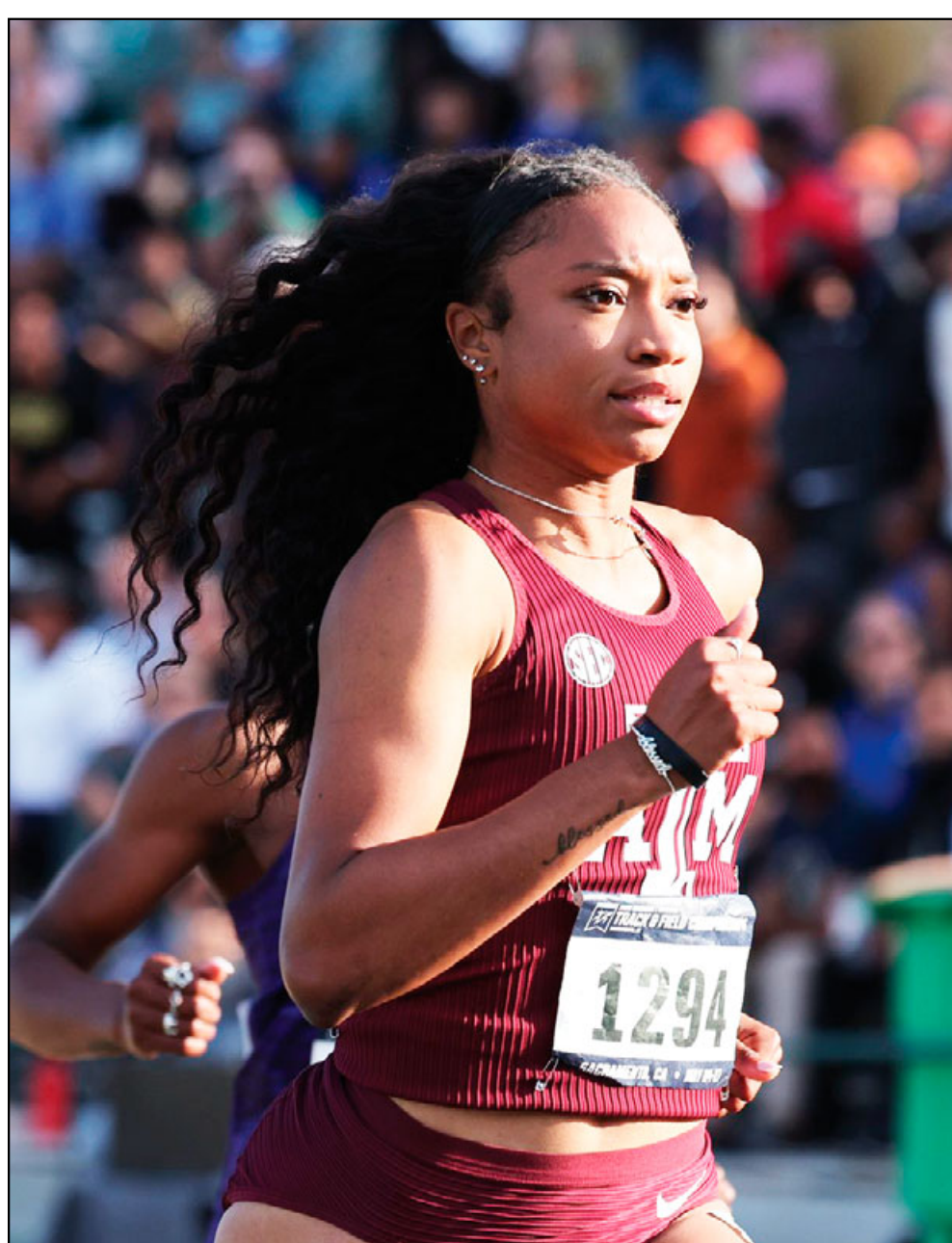


Caroline Ledbetter, a Class of 2024 senior at Lutheran South Academy, has announced via Twitter that she has verbally committed to continue her academic and playing career at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. As a junior last spring, Ledbetter was a second-team All-District pick for the Pioneers as she helped her team to the playoffs.

# Lutheran South Academy 2023 Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 8	Bay Area Christian	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 10-12	at Pasadena Memorial tourn.	TBA
Aug. 15	at St. Pius	6 p.m.
Aug. 17	Rosehill Christian	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 18	Pasadena Memorial	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 22	St. John's	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 24	Legacy School of Sciences	6 p.m.
Aug. 25-26	at Houston Private School Open	TBA
Aug. 31-Sept. 2	at POP North Texas invit.	TBA
Sept. 5	Beaumont Kelly	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	at St. John's XXIII	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 8-9	at FAST invit.	TBA
Sept. 12	at Woodlands Christian	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	Frassati Catholic	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Fort Bend Christian	6 p.m.
Sept. 21	Emery Weiner	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Second Baptist	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Beaumont Kelly	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	St. John's XXIII	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	Woodlands Christian	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Frassati Catholic	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	Fort Bend Christian	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Emery Weiner	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	Second Baptist	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Episcopal	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Rosehill Christian	5 p.m.

# A&M's Dickson medals twice at U20s



Texas A&M sprinter Camryn Dickson claimed a silver medal in the women's 100 at the USA Track and Field U-20 Championships July 8 in Eugene, Ore. A winner of two state medals while at Clear Brook, Dickson enjoyed a solid freshman indoor/outdoor season with the Aggies during the 2022-2023 academic year. At the U20s, the University

of Georgia's Kaila Jackson won the women's 100 at 11.15 seconds, with Dickson second at 11.30. Georgia Southern's Naj Watson went 11.42 for third place and a bronze medal. Dickson concluded her great performance at the University of Oregon by claiming a bronze medal in the 200, clocking in at 22.85.

# Berry to join NJCAA hoops all-stars



Clear Brook High School graduate Alyssa Berry (24), who gained All-American honors during her freshman season at Hill College in 2022-2023, has been invited to take part in the National Junior College Athletic Association's 15th Annual Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Weekend July 20-23 in Atlanta. Berry was among the nation's leaders in scoring and assists last season and has signed to transfer to Morehead University beginning in 2023-2024.

# JFD softball legend Williams on Texas Sports HoF ballot for 2024



Christa Williams Yates, who helped Dobie win state softball championships in 1993 and 1995 before winning Olympic gold medals with Team USA in 1996 and 2000, is up for nomination for the Class of 2024 within the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Newly named the varsity softball head coach at Kingwood High School, Yates is considered one of the all-time greats of the sport, tossing a no-hitter in the state championship game in 1995 for Dobie. Yates is a long-time varsity head coach in the Houston area, with previous stops at Manvel and Friendswood.

Texas Sports Hall of Fame  
 Class of 2024 Candidates for Induction  
 Visit [www.tshof.org](http://www.tshof.org) to join and vote

Randy Allen Football	Colt McCoy Football	Cito Gaston Baseball
Jose Altuve Baseball	Hal Mumme Football	Chris Gilbert Football
Tim Buchanan Football	Carla Overbeck Soccer	Roy Hofheinz Administration
Jamaal Charles Football	Arthur Rhodes Baseball	Barbara Jacket Track & Field
Phil Danaher Football	Jackie Sherrill Football	Charmayne James Rodeo
Todd Dodge Football	Leon Spencer Basketball	Fred Newhouse Track & Field
Juan Gonzalez Baseball	Matthew Stafford Football	Billy Nicks Football
Brittney Griner Basketball	Bubba Thornton Track & Field	Richard Ritchie Football
Jon Kay Football	Christa Williams Softball	Ira Terrell Basketball
Wes Kittley Track & Field	Jay Buhner Baseball	Wilson Whitley Football
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## CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, JULY 13**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 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., or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.  
9:30 a.m. **NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** - Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3. 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 meets at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd. Lunch is \$20 (cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. 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.  
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.

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.houstonalanon.org/.  
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.  
Jam-3:30/ Bands-6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Bluegrass Association** - bluegrass music show and jam session at Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave. Pickers may come early. For details, visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.  
**SUNDAY, JULY 16**  
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.  
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. 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.

**TUESDAY, JULY 18**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.  
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
2 p.m. **Local NARFE Meeting** - NARFE Chapter 941 meets at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Visitors welcome. Call 713-734-1461 or 281-464-9708.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. Call 832-722-9061.  
7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). Contact Cathy@houstonsscrappershadows.org or call 713-332-6294.  
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.  
7 p.m. **The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society** - Helen Hall Library, 100 W Walker St. For individuals interested in earth sciences.  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19**  
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. **Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real. Call 713-444-6744.  
10 a.m. **The Community Club** - meets at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Highway. Charitable organization of women helping the Salvation Army feed and care for others. Email Jmopry@yahoo.com.  
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park. Casual Ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.  
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
7 p.m. **NA** - See Sunday's notice.  
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

**FRIDAY, JULY 14**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hasca.com or https://nastuff.com/.  
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.  
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family and friends discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.  
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, JULY 15**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill."

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8-24  
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# Dobie netters have a blast on Galveston Island



Several members of the 2023-24 Dobie High School varsity tennis team traveled to Galveston to take on Team Galveston, players in the City of Galveston Parks and Recreation Department's summer tennis program, also coached by the Longhorns' head coach, Manuel Moreno Jr. Enjoying lunch afterwards at the Galveston Island Historic "Pleasure Pier" were, left to right, (front row) Amalia Reyes, Abigail Panza, Vyvy Do, Kayla Tran, Ryan Le, (back row) Hailey Maldonado, Leena Pham, Moreno, Nestor Garza, Rigoberto Alanis, Tre Ramirez, Titus Giang, Pitou So, Diego Flores and Nolan Tran. Also in attendance were Jordan De Robles, Hayden Do, Kevin Do, Chloe Estes, Valerie Huynh, Dulce Mejia, Tiffany Nguyen and Hallie Vu.

# Pleasants reels in accolades



Taylor Pleasants, currently training with the U.S. Women's National Team in preparation for the 2023 Japan All-Star Series held Aug. 4-7, has reeled in plenty of accolades this summer, both on and off the field. The Dobie High School graduate and current Louisiana State University softball star was one of 11 LSA softball student-athletes on the 2023 Spring SEC Academic Honor Roll announced by the Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey. A total of 1,454 student-athletes across the league were honored, representing the sports of baseball, golf, softball, tennis and track and field. The award is based on grades from the 2022 summer, 2022 fall and 2023 spring terms. Any student-athlete who participates in a Southeastern Conference championship sport or a student-athlete who participates in a sport listed on his/her institution's NCAA Sports Sponsorship form is eligible for nomination to the academic honor roll. The following criteria is used: A student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.00 or above for either the preceding academic year (two semesters or three quarters) or have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above at the nominating institution. If a student-athlete attends summer school, his/her grade point average during the summer academic term must be included in the calculation used to determine eligibility for the Academic Honor Roll. Student-athletes eligible for the honor roll include those receiving an athletics scholarship, recipients of an athletics award and nonscholarship student-athletes who have been on a varsity team for two seasons. Prior to being nominated, a student-athlete must have successfully completed 24 semester or 36 quarter hours of non-remedial academic credit toward a baccalaureate degree at the nominating institution. The student-athlete must have been a member of a varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment. In Japan, Team USA will compete against world-ranked No. 2 Japan in a three-game series held across three cities in Japan - Fukushima (Azuma Stadium - Tokyo Olympic Games softball venue), Iwakuni (Kizuma Stadium - host of WNT pre-Olympic training) and Yokohama (Yokohama Stadium - Tokyo Olympic Games softball venue).

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## Lajaunie tennis sets jamboree

The Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Tournament continues its 12th year celebration with the second of three doubles jamboree mixer events as organizers continue to raise funds for youth tennis and graduating senior class educational scholarships.

The remaining jamboree series events will be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, with as many as 60 players (30 doubles teams) competing during the Aug. 19 and Dec. 2 events.

Individual players who would like to register without a predetermined playing partner will be paired with another player prior to the start of the first of the three jamborees.

Players/teams earn points for performance during each jamboree segment. Players may register for play at DLTennisScholarships.com.

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## JFD netters open 2023 in San Antonio

The Dobie varsity tennis team will open its 2023 team tennis fall campaign with a trip to San Antonio Aug. 3-4.

The Longhorns will take on Cibolo Steele Aug. 3 at 3 p.m., and then face Schertz Clemens Aug. 4 at 8:30 a.m. Dobie rounds out play Aug. 4 at 4 p.m. against Smithson Valley.

Dobie will open the home portion of its schedule Aug. 8, going against Clear Brook at 2:30 p.m.

The Longhorns will open District 22-6A play Sept. 4 at Deer Park. See additional details on Page 5.