

Leader seeks submissions

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

Sageglen to meet July 21

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its annual election meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, July 21, at the Sageglen Building located at 11610 Sageyork. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for ballot registration. Photo ID will be required to receive a ballot. To be voted on are two board member positions and one Architectural Control Committee position.

Guest speaker will be attorney Blair Farine from Daughtry & Farine. Light refreshments will be served. All homeowners in the Sageglen community are encouraged to attend the meeting or return their mail-in proxy ballot. For additional information, visit sageglen.com or call 281-481-2160.

Knights to hold blood drive

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

Sagemeadow to meet July 17

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

Kirkwood to meet July 28

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 28, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Coffee with the Constable

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

Freeway Manor to meet

Freeway Manor Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at Bible Way Church, 10120 Hartsook. Residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley and Gulfway Terrace are encouraged to attend.

Lakes of Golfcrest to meet

Lake of Golfcrest will hold its quarterly HOA meeting virtually at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 17. To take part in the meeting, visit teams.microsoft.com using Meeting ID: 227 653 262 558 8 and Passcode: Rn7Sd7SZ.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

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

Hughes/Sabo closures set

At least one southbound lane on Hughes/Sabo will be closed continuously at Beltway 8 until further notice.

Westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads may also be intermittently closed at Hughes/Sabo until further notice.

The closure is associated with an ongoing Houston Public Works project to replace a force water main at the intersection.

Juveniles arrested with gun at Sagemeadow Park

Police: 3 boys suspected of robbery the previous day

It was an active week in the South Belt community with children gaining access to firearms. (See related story on this page.)

Investigators from multiple local law enforcement agencies have launched an investigation after a group of three juveniles were found with a weapon at Sagemeadow Park Wednesday, July 9, saying the youth(s) may have been involved in previous crimes in the area.

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, patrol deputies were dispatched to the park located in the 11200 block of Sageyork after neighbors reported seeing the boys waving a pistol in the air.

Upon their arrival, deputies quickly located the youths and found the boys to be in possession of a Glock handgun. Investigators said the handgun had been modified with "switch" style device making the firearm fully automatic.

The three boys were subsequently detained by deputies for possessing the illegal firearm.

While in custody, one of the boys allegedly assaulted multiple deputies, as information about the incident was being gathered during the booking.

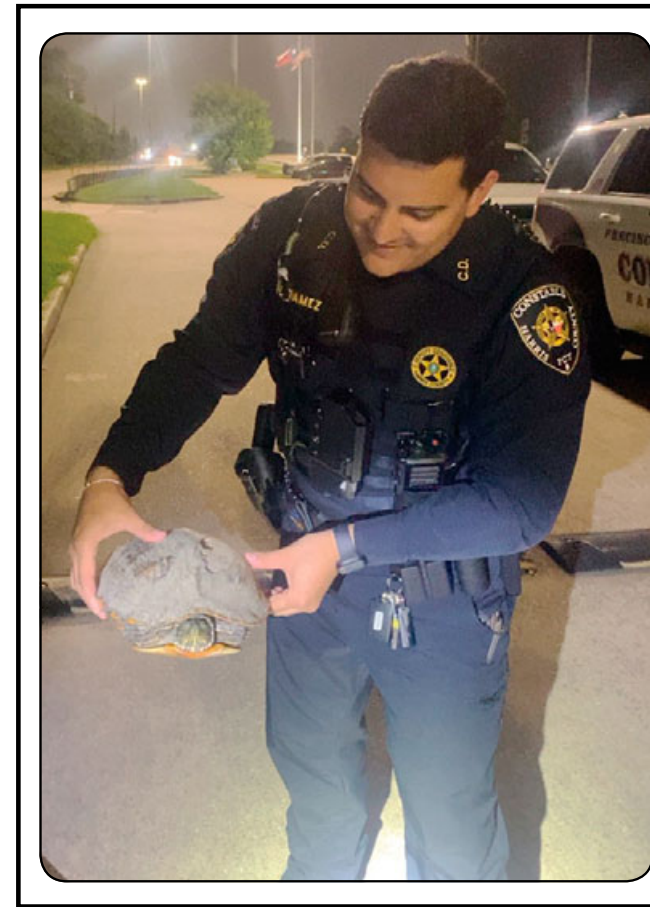
During the course of Precinct 2's investigation, it was discovered that the boy(s) may have been involved in a robbery the previous day that

was already being investigated by the Houston Police Department.

At press time, one male juvenile suspect was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon, one was charged with assault on a public servant and the one was released with no charges for the

time being.

Precinct 2 officials stressed to the *Leader* that more charges may follow, as the case is an ongoing investigation and that the juvenile(s) may be involved in various other crimes in the South Belt area.



Deputy saves turtle on beltway

In a week packed full of violent crime and gun violence, the *Leader* takes a look at some of the more lighthearted activities of local law enforcement officers. Deputy Tamez from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office is shown to the left on the Fourth of July as he rescued a turtle from the service road of Beltway 8.

2nd suspect charged in May murder

1 suspect already in custody; 2nd suspect remains at large

A second suspect has been charged in a murder that took place this past May outside an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

Javeon Washington, 18, was charged with capital murder in the 209th State District Court. At press time, he had not been arrested and remained at large.

Tyrell Robinson, 21, was already in custody for his role in the killing, being charged with murder in the 174th State District Court shortly after the fatal shooting.

The pair are accused of killing Jermon Williams, 20.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting call at The Redford apartment complex at the above address around 2:35 a.m. and found a male suffering from gunshot wounds in the parking lot area. Paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene.

Neighbors reported hearing gunshots before

finding the male unresponsive.

Further investigation identified Robinson as a suspect in this incident. He was subsequently arrested and charged for his role in the crime.

Additional investigation led to the identification of Washington as a suspect in this case and on July 9, he was charged with capital murder.

Anyone with information on this shooting or on Washington's whereabouts is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Once dubbed by police as a "hot spot for violent crime," this marked the first known fatal shooting to take place at The Redford in nearly two years.

The last known murder to occur at the area apartment complex took place July 3, 2023.

In that incident, police say a physical altercation in the parking lot escalated into gunfire. No immediate arrests were made.

In 2022 alone, there were at least 13 shootings at the complex, five of which were fatal.

The following is a list of incidents that took place at The Redford in just 2022:

- Oct. 6: Unknown male body found burned inside apartment.
- Oct. 3: Unknown male body found badly decomposed, wrapped in blankets inside apartment.
- Sept. 21: Juan Juarez, 38, fatally shot inside apartment; unnamed male, 34, also shot but survived. Justin Thomas, 31, was charged with capital murder.

Continued on Page 4

Riverstone Ranch replaces sidewalks

Ongoing construction includes HOA, Harris County, CBCMUD

A construction project to replace damaged sidewalks in the Riverstone Ranch is currently underway, with work expected to continue for several weeks.

The endeavor is a joint partnership between the Riverstone Ranch, the Clear Brook City MUD and Harris County Precinct 2.

In addition to replacing damaged sidewalk panels, plans for the project also call for lowering manholes and making repairs to the drainage outlets.

According to officials, the project will be broken into two phases.

Work on the first phase began in late June and will continue into next month, officials said. (See map of the first phase of construction on Page 2.)

The second phase of the project is currently

being studied, according to Clear Brook City MUD officials. Work on the second phase is expected to begin later this summer and continue for approximately 30 more days.

The work is in addition to a similar project currently underway on Blackhawk.

In that undertaking, crews are making sidewalk improvements along Blackhawk from Scarsdale to Beltway 8.

All damaged sidewalk panels are to be replaced and the sidewalk is to be extended from 4 to 6 feet wide for the entire length of the project.

Overseen by Harris County Precinct 2, the \$2.7 million project is expected to cause intermittent road closures along Blackhawk in the coming weeks.

Drivers are urged to use caution.

Boy, 12, killed in gun accident

Child playing with sibling when weapon accidentally discharged

A 12-year-old boy was killed around 5 p.m. Sunday, July 13, in an accidental shooting at his home in the 11100 block of Sageheather Drive.

At press time, the juvenile's identity had not been publicly released.

According to investigators with the Houston Police Department, patrol officers responded to a shooting call at the above address and found the boy unresponsive. He had suffered a gunshot wound, and paramedics from the Houston Fire Department pronounced him dead at the scene.

Investigators learned the male and his sibling were playing inside the residence when a firearm was found. The weapon accidentally discharged, striking the boy and killing him.

At press time, no charges had been filed against the boy's parents and the case remained under investigation.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact investigators with the Houston Police Department Homicide Division at 713-308-3600.

HPD seeks airport carjacking suspect

Suspect stole vehicle from Hobby terminal; car found in Louisiana

The Houston Police Department's Robbery Division has released surveillance footage from a carjacking that took place at Hobby Airport back in early June 1 in hopes of identifying the suspect.

According to investigators, the suspect – who may have fled to Louisiana – caused the injury of two individuals during the robbery.

Investigators said the incident began around 3 a.m. Sunday, June 1, when a man was dropping off his daughter at the Hobby Airport terminal located in the 7800 block of Airport Boulevard. The man said that after getting his daughter's luggage out of the car and as he was getting back into his vehicle, he was approached by an unknown male, who suddenly punched him in the face while attempting to get into the driver's seat of his vehicle.

As the victim was trying to keep the suspect from getting into his vehicle, an elderly male witnessed the event and approached the suspect attempting to help. The suspect then punched the elderly male in the face, causing him to fall to the ground while hitting his head on the concrete.

The suspect then got into the first victim's 2023 white Hyundai Palisade and fled the location. The stolen vehicle was located three days later, abandoned, in Jennings, La.

A Houston Police Robbery detective conducted a follow-up investigation and was able to establish Tristan T. Griffin as the possible suspect in the robbery (carjacking). Griffin, 28, was then identified by the victims and a warrant for robbery causing bodily injury and a warrant for causing injury to an elderly person were filed on June 4.

As of July 9, the suspect had not been located and still had active warrants for his arrest.

Anyone with information on Griffin's whereabouts or on this case in general is asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston directly. Information leading to the charging and/or arrest of any felony suspects may result in a cash payment up to \$5,000. To be considered for a cash payment, tipsters must contact Crime Stoppers directly by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitting an online tip at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app.



Robbery suspect Tristan Griffin

Sidewalk repairs underway



A construction project to make sidewalk improvements in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision is currently underway and expected to take several weeks to complete. A joint project between the Riverstone Ranch HOA, the Clear Brook City MUD and Harris County Precinct 2, the project will also lower manholes and repair damaged drainage outlets. See related map on Page 2.

Photo by David Flickinger

Precinct 2 says goodbye to K9 unit Evo



A longtime K9 from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office named Evo died Tuesday, July 8, after a battle with cancer. The dog served with the Precinct 8 department from 2015 until his retirement in 2021 alongside his handlers Detective James Wingfield and later Deputy Brinkley. Brinkley's family adopted Evo upon his retirement. Evo was instrumental in several large scale narcotics operations in Precinct 8.



Bay Area Genealogy meets July 25

The Bay Area Genealogical Society general online meeting is set for 7 p.m. Friday, July 25, with guest speaker Thomas MacEntee presenting "After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research." Has one ever considered what will happen to one's years of genealogy research once one is gone? Learn how to ensure that one's hard work carries on. Through a combination of planning, common sense and new technologies, the society will review how to create an action plan for preserving one's genealogy research.

Thomas MacEntee is a baby boomer guy with a love of punk rock music and art history who somehow "fell" into the technology industry almost 40 years ago, then left a lucrative IT career to pursue his love of family history and genealogy. Technology and historical research are opposites, but "tech people" like Thomas are needed to guide today's genealogists through the maze of options so they can deploy the best apps and devices to break down research brick walls. MacEntee: author, educator, advocate, entrepreneur and that "genealogy guy" who helps one accomplish their family history goals.

Details are posted on the Bay Area Genealogical Society website for this online meeting. Check out the other topics and links offered by BAGS at www.TxBayAreaGen.org. For more information, email newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, July 17, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Thursday, July 17, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.

Thursday, July 17, 4 – 5 p.m. Bring your family to storytime. Registration required.

Monday, July 21, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required.

Monday, July 21, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Tuesday, July 22, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Tuesday, July 22, 4 – 5 p.m. Board games at the library. Registration required.

Wednesday, July 23, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL get lit summer 2025.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

- Thursday, July 17, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
- Thursday, July 17, 4 – 5 p.m. Minecraft creeper craft.
- Friday, July 18, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.
- Friday, July 18, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Lego club.
- Saturday, July 19, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Embroidery class.
- Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
- Monday, July 21, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.
- Monday, July 21, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Cricut orientation.
- Tuesday, July 22, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies "n" books.
- Tuesday, July 22, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Kids 3D print design class.
- Wednesday, July 23, 10 – 11 a.m. Senior coloring club.
- Wednesday, July 23, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
 - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
 - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
 - Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
 - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

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

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

David Flickinger, owner

Death

Forrest Rice Jr.



Forrest Rice Jr. was born Feb. 8, 1945, to Clotile Teresa and Forest Rice Sr. in Abbeville, La. He was

baptized Catholic at a very young age. When he was six, the family moved to Alvin. He attended school in Alvin and Dickinson. At the age of 18, he moved to La Marque. Later, he moved to Houston, where he lived all his adult life. In 2011, Forrest gave his life over to the Lord after attending New Faith Church in Houston. The sun set on Forrest on July 4, 2025.

The service honoring Forrest's life will be held at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, Houston, TX 77089, at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 19, with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the *Leader* style.

Deputies clear encampment



On Monday, July 7, Precinct 8 deputies were dispatched to the 12500 block of the Gulf Freeway where a homeless male was refusing to leave the property. After giving deputies a false name, the male was properly identified and determined to have an open warrant from the Harris County Sheriff's Office for evading. During his arrest, 33-year-old Eric Gilmore (inset) was also found to be in possession of a syringe containing heroin. He was subsequently taken into custody.

New Scarsdale McDonald's to open soon



A new McDonald's is currently being constructed in the 10800 block of Scarsdale near Beamer (between Dunkin Donuts and Auto Zone), tentatively set to open Aug. 12. Owned by former Pasadena ISD board member Marielle Quijano (serving from 2009-2020) and her mother

Nelly Quijano, the new restaurant will not replace the existing McDonald's on Astoria at the Gulf Freeway service road (also owned by the Quijano family), which will remain open. This will mark the 31st McDonald's franchise for the Quijano Organization.



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Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.	

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



New 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.

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www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair



Frazier Elementary

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT



\$50 per team (No singles)

Saturday Aug. 2, 2025 9AM-2PM

LOCATION:
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH PASADENA
6901 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Tx 77505

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

Funds will be used toward our SPARK park which will enhance our school and community. This includes new playground equipment, a 1/4 mile track, upgrades to our gazebo and more!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM BELOW



SCAN ME

ZELLE PAYMENT TO:
PTOROBERTFRAZIER@GMAIL.COM

Write "Pickleball" in the note/message

Email iromero@pasadenaisd.org or csilas@pasadenaisd.org with questions

KBP presents “Mary Poppins JR.”

One is invited to Kids' Backporch Productions' July production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's "Mary Poppins JR." on Friday, July 25, at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 26, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 27, at 2 p.m. The Kids' Backporch Productions' cast includes 48 students (ages 6-17) led by director Lisa Maxwell and choreographer Jade Williamson. This is KBP's 100th production. For more information on purchasing tickets, visit kidsbackporch.ticketleap.com.

All of London is shouting from the rooftops about this exciting stage adaptation of the classic tale of Mary Poppins. Join the Banks family as they encounter adventure after fun-filled adventure with their curious new nanny, Mary Poppins. Adapted especially for young performers, this musical includes favorite Sherman brothers' songs such as "A Spoonful of Sugar," "Feed the Birds," and "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," as well as new songs by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. With colorful characters and an irresistible score, Mary Poppins JR. is sure to be a crowd-pleaser for all ages.

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International [add language in billing rider here for exact verbiage]. For more information about licensing Mary Poppins JR. or other Disney shows, visit www.DisneyMusicals.com.



Shown are "Mary Poppins JR." double cast, left to right, Ariana Lim as Bert (red cast), Raley Perez as Jane Banks (red cast), Presley Fatter as Michael Banks (red cast) and Victoria Powell as Mary Poppins (both casts). Not pictured from blue cast is Adrian Estala as Bert, Piper Fatter as Jane Banks and Nolan Eubanks as Michael Banks.

NASA Aglow Lighthouse meets July 26

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

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

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

St. Luke, St. Helen teens travel to Steubenville conference ATL



Nineteen youth from St. Luke the Evangelist and St. Helen traveled by bus to Atlanta, Ga., to attend the Steubenville Conference held July 11-13. Joining more than 1,800 teens, they had fun, built new friendships and grew in prayer and faith. The ministry thanks the communities of both parishes for their continued support and prayers. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Gabriel Lopez, Mitchell Bonvillian (St. Helen Catholic Church Faith Formation coordinator), Sandra Guarnizo (chaperone), Katie Marchand, JoEllen Baker (chaperone), (middle row) Dominick Toyama, Kelvin Lopez, Aleaya Calvillo, Kayli Rodriguez, Maria Cuellar, Jasmine Cabrera, Bianca Montenegro, Emely Lopez, Jocelyn Schoeffler, Josie Alvarez (St. Luke the Evangelist director of Youth Faith Formation), (back row) Michael Pascarella (chaperone), Luis Hernandez, Benjamin Guajardo, Dylan Mohwinkel, Jonathan Martinez, Joseph Oviedo, MiKai Bourque, Daniel Pascarella, Jacob Guarjardo and Simon Guarjardo (chaperone).

Local volunteers help Central Texas flood victims



The local drive to collect donations for the victims of the recent floods in Central Texas was a huge success, with volunteers collecting six trailers full of items donated from members of the South Belt community. Originally scheduled to end Tuesday, July 8, the drive was extended through Friday, July 11. The local drive was done in coordination with Disaster USA and Mattress Mack (Gallery Furniture). Led locally, by Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour (left), other partners included Knights of Columbus Council 9201, Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 2292, the Greater Houston Veterans Rotary Club, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office and the *Leader*. Shown above with Barbour at The Gardens volunteering in the drive are Mike Work (Knights of Columbus) and Linda Webster. See related photos on Page 4.

Your Ticket to the Stars!



Become a member today for the opportunity to meet NASA astronaut José Hernández!

Support Space City's incredible space legacy by joining our Member Crew and enjoy extraordinary perks like our exclusive members-only weekend featuring NASA astronaut José Hernández including opportunities for book signings, live Q&As, book readings, photo ops, and more!

Tickets are limited and expected to go fast. Use promo code **BELT25** when purchasing a membership and receive **25% OFF** all José Hernández events! Don't miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable experience.



From humble beginnings as a migrant farm worker, his journey to become an engineer and astronaut is a powerful testament to perseverance, sacrifice and the strength of community.

Visit spacecenter.org/touchthestars to purchase your new membership and access José Hernández event tickets!

1601 E NASA Parkway | Houston, TX 77058 | +1 281-244-2105 (M-F, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) | spacecenter.org/membership

San Jacinto College students thrive in school’s biotechnology program

Located on college’s South campus, San Jacinto’s biotechnology program provides workforce training for jobs of future

Students in San Jacinto College’s biotechnology program are paving a way forward in multiple fields upon graduation.

Anchored at San Jacinto’s South campus at the school’s state-of-the-art Science and Allied Health Building, San Jacinto’s biotechnology program prepares students for the local workforce, as Houston is a leading metropolitan area for the industry.

As Houston’s biotechnology sector grows, so does the need for trained technicians.

The term biotechnology may sound complex, but San Jacinto College offers students a new way to look at biology, providing hands-on training for careers in biomanufacturing and lab environments – no advanced science background required.

Biotechnology is the use of biological systems and

living organisms to develop useful products including those that improve human health, with applications ranging from medications like Ozempic to advanced treatments such as chimeric antigen receptor or CAR T-cell therapy. The college program places an emphasis on practical techniques rather than a focus on theory, preparing students to work behind the scenes in sterile, highly regulated environments.

“It’s amazing that we can use cells to grow proteins of interest for patients who need it,” said Kevin Rodriguez, biotechnology instructor at the South campus. “This is where patients battling a disease like cancer can have their own immune cells reprogrammed to fight the disease in a targeted fashion, unlike chemotherapy, which is known to have a lot of side effects.”

It’s all about how to use what is known about the natural world and apply these concepts to helping people.

Turning science into treatment

Biomufacturing technicians play a crucial role in producing vaccines, cell therapies, and other biologic treatments used in modern medicine.

Technicians help manufacture personalized therapies without direct patient contact, making this field ideal for those who want to make a meaningful impact without working in traditional clinical roles.

“The people who do the best are those who truly feel a calling to help someone, whether it’s cancer, vaccines, or immunocompromised patients, among other things,” Rodriguez said. “A lot of our students are realizing a career in science is actually more attainable than

they thought. You don’t have to be proficient in science. We can help with that. We teach in a way that makes it easy to understand.”

Supply and demand

“The Texas Medical Center makes Houston a huge draw for this field,” Rodriguez said. “Most companies that manufacture these types of drugs or products want to come to Houston to be close to the thousands of patients who travel to the medical center every day from around the world.”

Biomufacturing facilities located nearby can reduce wait times significantly for patients who need time-sensitive treatments. When therapies like cell or gene treatments are made locally, they don’t need to be shipped long distances in specialized containers via air or ground. Local production also reduces the chances of delays, storage

temperature fluctuations, or logistical issues during transport.

The work environment is comparable to that of a surgical technician, requiring sterile or secured cleanroom areas with multiple layers of protection that are required to safeguard against microbes.

Start fresh or build on existing knowledge

San Jac’s biotechnology program accommodates various levels of learners. Beginners and those who are pursuing or already have higher degrees in biotechnology can obtain hands-on experience outside of academic studies, maximizing workplace readiness.

To learn more about degrees and certificates in San Jacinto College’s biotechnology program, visit sanjac.edu/programs/areas-of-study/stem/biomanufacturing-tech.



San Jacinto College’s biotechnology program provides students with the newest equipment for hands on training.

Pct. 2 constable’s office contributes toward Central Texas flood drive



Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia’s office took part in the local drive to help those affected by the recent floods in the Texas Hill Country. Precinct 2 volunteers are shown at The Gardens above dropping off a trailer full of supplies. Other groups taking part in the local drive included groups



from St. Luke the Evangelist church and the Greater Houston Veterans Rotary Club. The deadly floods struck Central Texas unexpectedly during the early hours of Friday, July 4, killing at least 132 people. At press time, nearly 100 more people still remained missing. See related photo on Page 3.

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

Sagamont residents were receiving checks from the liquidation of Sagamont Maintenance Committee assets which were payable to “homeowners.” This was confusing renters and could have caused legal problems.

The nude body of an unidentified female murder victim was found floating in the sandpit directly behind Beverly Hills Park.

Vandalism was becoming a major problem in the Sagemeadow and Kirkwood South parks.

A South Belt area female was abducted from Alameda Mall and raped by a man wielding a gun.

40 years ago (1985)

A prekindergarten program for qualified 4-year-olds was to begin the following September at Atkinson Elementary.

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Junior All-Stars won the Houston Metro Championship and advanced to the National Junior Olympic Tournament in Las Cruces, N.M.

The PISD elementary gifted and talented program expanded to include Atkinson and Meador. This resulted in all six South Belt area schools having the program.

W.B. “Bill” Smith, Beverly Hills’ first and at that time only principal, announced his upcoming retirement.

South Belt Security Alliance failed in its attempt to get a gag injunction against Southeast Security, but a Harris County judge issued a warning to both sides to stay clear of one another.

35 Years ago (1990)

South Belt MUD customers were preparing to convert to surface water by the end of the year. The change would bring higher water bills since the city owned the water.

Dr. Richard Cook, who had worked with and written about incineration for the U.S. government and other agencies, was the featured speaker at a South Belt area citizens’ meeting.

Dr. Ron McLeod began

his job as superintendent of the Clear Creek Independent School District.

Development of Ellington Field took another step with the addition of passenger service offered by Continental Express.

Pasadena ISD board members hoped to save \$500,000 in annual maintenance by hiring an outside firm to manage the department.

In order to meet rising demands for personnel, PISD board members agreed to hire approximately 250 new people, which would include 100 new teaching positions.

30 years ago (1995)

A leech was used to find an artery in the hand of 2 1/2 year old Joshua Makuaole after he lost two fingers on one hand. The tot had stuck his hand into a running lawnmower and had to have reconstructive surgery.

The Clear Creek Independent

School District board unanimously agreed to hire John E. Wilson to replace outgoing superintendent Ronald McLeod.

The Christopher Edward Williams Memorial Leadership Scholarship fund was set up at the Texas Commerce Bank on Beltway 8.

Local constable deputies arrested three teens for allegedly burglarizing vacant homes in Southbend.

25 years ago (2000)

Jacob Pearlsall, 19, died of injuries from a motorcycle accident.

Justice Eric Andell of the 1st Court of Appeals visited the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon.

David and Cissy Chollett adopted two Ukrainian babies, Garrett and Sidnee.

20 years ago (2005)

CCISD trustees moved to delay legal action against

the city of League City in an attempt to resolve issues concerning the district’s fourth high school.

The long-awaited connection between Scarsdale and Yost roads was a step closer with the letting of the contract for the Harris County portion. The \$6.19 million contract for the paved roadway and the bridge over Clear Creek dividing Harris County and Pearland was awarded to Infrastructure Services, Inc. It was expected to take 365 days to meet with the Pearland side.

PISD was studying options to replace Superintendent Dr. Rick Schneider after he announced his retirement effective December, 2005.

The scope of applicants was limited to PISD employees. Kirk Lewis, assistant superintendent under Schneider, was eventually hired as superintendent.

Former Dobie student Gerald Green was drafted by the Boston Celtics basketball team. Green, a Wood Meadow resident, was the 18th pick in the draft.

15 years ago (2010)

Several businesses in the 12000 block of Beamer Road were vandalized. Houston police responded to at least five separate calls where property had been damaged. The vandals reportedly smashed a pair of glass doors to gain entry to the Sagemont Animal Hospital. A company truck at the Universal Lube and Oil had its windows smashed out. Police responded to an alarm call next door at Solutions Pest Pet Pool, but did not file a report, as there was no visible damage. The vandals smashed the front window out of the Cajun Craven restaurant. The vandals also damaged the Ultimate Nail Spa. The

Trinity Pentecostal Church and Allstate Insurance suffered damage. In all but one of the instances, nothing was taken from the businesses.

10 years ago (2015)

Kelly Buckman, wife of the late Steve Buckman, was sworn in to fill the remainder of her husband’s term on the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District’s board of directors. Steve Buckman died June 20 after a long illness. Kelly Buckman will serve until the term expires in May 2016, at which time state law requires her to run for the position again.

5 years ago (2020)

With the number of COVID-19 numbers still continuing to climb, local officials altered their positions on reopening area schools in the fall. As for Pasadena ISD, the school district pushed back in-person instruction until the second week of Sep-

tember. Clear Creek ISD approved a modification to the 2020-2021 academic calendar to provide a gradual transition of students back into schools.

San Jacinto College moved its spring commencement online. The ceremony was originally postponed from May to August due to COVID-19, before being switched to take place virtually.

1 year ago (2024)

The South Belt community continued to recover from Hurricane Beryl, with several residents still facing power outages. Workers began what would be a months-long debris collection.



Map of Riverstone Ranch repairs. See story on Page 1.

New charges filed in May murder

Continued from Page 1

ital murder. A second individual known only as “Atlanta” or “ATL” was also wanted for questioning.

– Aug. 20: Dennis Leon Sharp, 27, fatally shot inside apartment. (Latise Lonyea Lenoir, 29, was charged with murder in the crime.)

– July 28: Jabari Taylor, 41, fatally stabbed inside apartment. (Jeanette Staton, 43, named a person of interest but not charged in the incident.)

– March 16: Rufus Banks fatally shot inside apartment.

– Feb. 8: Alexis Cantu, 21, 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 in this crime.)

– Jan. 28: Lee Mayfield fatally shot inside an apartment. (Eddrel Antonio Brown, 28, was charged with murder.)

– Jan. 8, victims, James

an apartment but survived.

– Last 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.

– Feb. 8: Alexis Cantu, 21, 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 in this crime.)

– 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, located on the opposite side of the Gulf 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.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

CONGRATULATIONS, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY GRADS!

More than 3,710 Baylor University students were named to Wichita State University Dean’s Academic Honor Roll for the 2025 spring semester. To be included on the dean’s honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Recognized student from the South Belt area is **Vzoi Bamshi**.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 17 through July 23.

Atkinson Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout July 18 to **Jennifer Vann**.

Burnett Elementary

Send a birthday greeting July 18 to **Lourdes Munoz**. Blow out the birthday candles July 19 for **Sandra Trojan**.

Bush Elementary

Nina Maldonado celebrates a birthday July 17.

Genoa Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song July 22 to

Lisa Hernandez.

Meador Elementary

Blow out the candles July 21 for **Vianney Trevino**.

Moore Elementary

Krishelle Rangel enjoys a birthday July 17.

Stuchbery Elementary

Sing a birthday shoutout July 17 to **Orietta Tejada** July 17. Break out the birthday cake and ice cream July 22 for **Ella Escalona** and **Jose Hernandez**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Give a birthday shoutout July 17 to **Lucila Elizondo**. Send a birthday greeting July 18 to **Krystal Smith**. Light the birthday candles July 19 for **Kenesha Carter**. Enjoying a birthday July 21 is **Yara Quintanilla**.

Dobie High

Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Ernestina Martinez** July 17. Remember to wish **Erica Trevino** a happy birthday July 18. Cheers for a birthday celebration July 20 for **Abbey Sallee**. A double-fun day is planned July 22 for **Kevin Erickson** and **Norma Garces**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, July 17: **Christina Trevino, Crystal Ybarra, Corey Cephus, Myra Rowe, Marsa Outland Brister, Vicki Sorensen, Jenelle Lee, Kimberly Sommerfelt and Mary Jason Rowe**; Friday, July 18: **Maddie Patterson, Keith Milam, Luis Revilla, Diann Fernandez, Cathy Todd, Steve Garza, Misha Lesley-Burkins, Kathy Haigler and Michelle Malveau**; Saturday, July 19: **Fred Alvarez, Terrell Session, Gary Hilliard and Anne Tyson**; Sunday, July 20: **Junior Lynn, Curtis Eads, Mary Johnson and Chris Cole**; Monday, July 21: **Natalie Sweet, Denise McMurrough, Vanessa Veltman and Danielle Clay**; Tuesday, July 22: **Judith Kemle**; and Wednesday, July 23: **Mario Salazar, Angeles Gomez, Melinda Evans and Amanda Karsten**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations, and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week’s publication. For birthdays, type “OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays” in the subject line.



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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD football plans freshman camp

The Dobie High School varsity football staff has announced plans for the annual Longhorn incoming freshman Head Start Camp, which will be held July 28-30, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each day on the main campus. Any Class of 2029 incoming freshman planning to participate in the football program is invited to take part in the voluntary preseason camp, which is a great way to get an early look at the football operation while getting accustomed to preseason football workout on the field.

BHI sets athletic preseason details

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

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

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

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

SBGSA opens fall ball registration through Aug. 1

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

JFD grad Jackson to host FB camp

The single-day Blake Jackson Football Camp returns to Dobie High School July 26 as the former Longhorn varsity football standout will host youths ages 7 to 14 for a morning of football instruction from 9 a.m. to noon on the main campus. The fee to attend the camp is \$50 per participant. A former Sagemont Cowboys player, Jackson, was first a star player at Beverly Hills Intermediate and then a Dobie High School graduate, is currently a United Football League receiver with the St Louis Blackhawks. A three-year starter at quarterback for the Longhorns, Jackson helped lead the program to a district championship in 2010 before graduating in 2011. He went on to star at Mary Hardin-Baylor, also at quarterback, before transitioning to receiver professionally. To register for the camp, visit www.sportsprepusa.org. Preregistration will also be held the day of the camp beginning at 8 a.m.

Longhorns attend Pearland Rotary Club kickoff



The Dobie varsity football program was well-represented at the annual Pearland Rotary Club pigskin luncheon to preview the upcoming 2025 high school season as, from left, varsity head football coach Danny Fitzmorris, offensive lineman Leudy Matos, linebacker Julius Sanchez and defensive coordinator Cohen Landry represented the locals. The pre-

season kicks off Aug. 11 with the start of workouts as the Longhorns ultimately prepare for the regular season opener that comes Aug. 29 against Clear Brook at Clear Creek ISD's Veterans Stadium in League City. Dobie was 6-5 a season ago and will now integrate several newcomers on both sides of the ball heading into 2025.

Dobie volleyball offers camps

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

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

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

Players ages 14 through 18 may attend the Longhorns July 28-30 camp, to be held at Dobie main at \$60 per participant.

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

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

JFD volleyball tryouts Aug. 1-2

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

See JFD's varsity schedule on Page 6.

Campbell's has District 24-6A FB big four repeating

A quick review of the past half dozen seasons within the District 24-6A varsity football race shows why the editorial staff at *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine likely could have simply opted for a copy and paste routine between the 2024 and 2025 seasons.

For those previous six seasons or more, it has been a case of the haves versus the have nots at the top of 24-6A as Dickinson, Clear Springs and Clear Falls have annually battled for supremacy within the league and have had little trouble locking up postseason berths.

Clear Lake and Clear Brook qualified for the

postseason in 2018, and since then it's been Dickinson, Clear Springs and Clear Falls in any order along with an occasional appearance from Brazoswood or one of the other CCISD programs.

The degree of difficulty within the league was increased with perennial playoff qualifier Deer Park's arrival into the 24-6A mix prior to the 2024 season courtesy of the University Interscholastic League's biannual realignment, further adding to the premise of the haves versus the have nots.

Just as *Dave Campbell's* predicted a season ago, it was Dickinson, Springs, Deer Park and Falls ad-

vancing to the postseason with little resistance.

Newcomer Deer Park ran off six consecutive district wins and had a late-season chance to capture the outright league

championship prior to a loss to Dickinson.

In the end, Dickinson, Deer Park and Clear Springs delivered a three-way claim to the league title, each with 6-1 records.

Clear Falls finished a distant fourth at 4-3.

The quartet then struggled in the first round of the postseason, going a combined 0-4 against the 23-6A foursome of North

Shore, Atascocita, Summer Creek and Kingwood. For 2025, there is realistically little proof to expect much difference.

With returning co-24-6A Most Valuable Player

Dickinson Gators (7-4 overall in 2024, including 6-1 for three-way share of 24-6A crown. Lost a 50-45 barn burner to Atascocita in the bidistrict playoff round.)

Clear Springs Chargers ((7-4 overall in 2024, including 6-1 for three-way share of 24-6A crown. Lost a 36-35 double overtime game to Kingwood in the bidistrict playoff round.)

Clear Falls Knights (6-5 overall in 2024, including 4-3 in league play for fourth place and a Division II playoff berth. Lost a 66-7 decision to Summer Creek in the bidistrict playoff round.)

Deer Park Deer (8-3 overall in 2024, including 6-1 in league play for a three-way share of the 24-6A title. Lost a 56-13 decision to North Shore in the Division 1 bidistrict playoff round.)

Clear Lake Falcons (3-7 in 2024, including 2-5 in league play under previous head coach Donald Lawrence. Jason Ward is now in charge of the Falcons' operation heading into the 2025 season.)

Clear Creek Wildcats (3-7 overall in 2024, including 2-5 in league play.)

Brazoswood Buccaneers (2-8 overall in 2024, including a 2-5 run through the 24-6A ranks.)

Clear Brook Wolverines (1-9 overall in 2024, including 0-7 in 24-6A play.)

Adalee Garcia decides on McLennan VB



At left, Dobie Class of 2025 graduate and volleyball standout Adalee Garcia will continue her education and playing career at McLennan Community College in Waco after signing with the Highlanders. Garcia was an All-District performer during her final season with the Longhorns and will now join a talented McLennan group within the National Junior College Athletic Association ranks.

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Malachi Gamble returning to lead the Gators after rushing for more than 1,500 yards and 23 scores a season ago to go along with a proven quarterback in Lorenzo Aguirre, Dickinson has every reason to believe it has what it takes to win the title outright.

From there, the *Campbell's* staffs has Clear Springs taking second place and a Division 2

Continued on Page 6

Dobie fall team tennis prepares for busy 2025

Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. has released the 2025 varsity fall team tennis schedule as the Longhorns will once again be one of the state's busiest programs from now through early October.

The Longhorns are attending voluntary practices from 6 to 8 p.m. both July 17 and July 24, and there will be a mandatory team practice session both July 28 and July 29, both from 5 to 8 p.m.

Dobie will also practice July 30 from 9 a.m. to noon before opening the regular season July 31 at San Marcos. Dobie will then play a total of 17 team tennis matches in the month of August, including matches against New Braunfels Canyon, Smithson Valley, Clear Falls, Katy, Baytown Sterling, Clear Creek, Atascocita, Friendswood, Clear Brook, Dickinson,

Magnolia, Nederland, Summer Creek, Clear Springs, Alief Hastings, Dawson and George Ranch.

An Aug. 26 date will feature the Longhorns opening District 22-6A action against the defending district champion Dawson Eagles at Dawson, beginning at 3 p.m. Much of the remainder of the 22-6A schedule will play out in September. Moreno has scheduled Oct. 4 as the date for a matchup against the Dobie exes at 9 a.m. at the Longhorn courts, and the postseason begins Oct. 6-10. See the full schedule on Page 6.

Moreno is set to begin his 27th season overall at Dobie. He has led a variety of high school programs in the Houston and surrounding areas for 44 years and is considered one of the state's top youth tennis ambassadors.

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Dave Campbell's Texas Football likes Gators atop District 24-6A mix

Continued from Page 5
playoff spot, with Division I playoff representative Deer Park third, followed by Clear Falls.

As was the case a season ago, there seems to be a big divide between those four programs and the other four that could not find their way to the playoffs.

This season, *Campbell's* has Clear Lake placing fifth, followed by Clear Creek, Brazoswood and then the Clear Brook Wolverines.

Dickinson Gators (7-4 overall in 2024, including 6-1 for three-way share of 24-6A crown. Lost a 50-45 barn burner to Atascocita in the bidistrict playoff round.)

With junior Malachi Gamble rushing for more than 1,500 yards and 23 touchdowns and fellow junior quarterback Lorenzo Aguirre passing for nearly 1,100 yards and 11 touchdowns, the Gators had plenty of offense at their disposal a season ago and just may have more of offensive firepower heading into the 2025 season.

Gamble wound up as the co-Most Valuable Player in the 24-6A ranks a season ago even after missing roughly six quarters of play but putting up monstrous numbers.

Aguirre shared time at quarterback last season but will head into the 2025 campaign as the full-time starter for head coach John Snelson.

Jamal Mason missed the final seven games of last season due to injury, but should be able to help Gamble form a solid 1-2 punch at running back as the Gators should be as formidable in the offensive backfield as anyone in the city.

Kaileb Peterson slots in as a terrific option at receiver, and tight end Braden Glover could very well be the next Gator in his position group to follow several others to the collegiate ranks.

The Gators return five starters on offense all together to go with six more on the defensive side of things.

That defense is led by lineman Chase Lewis, who was a first-team All-District pick a season ago with more than 50 tackles, including nine

tackles for loss.

Royce Bimage is just a sophomore, but the coaching staff believes he has all of the possibilities of becoming the next great defensive back for the Gators.

Dickinson will open the season at Katy and then will host C.E. King before traveling to take on Cy-Fair as part of a very ambitious nondistrict schedule to begin things.

There's also no getting around the fact that the Gators, should they qualify for the playoffs, will likely see either North Shore or Atascocita in the first round of the postseason.

Such is life in the 6A Division I bracket, but with plenty of Division I collegiate ability at their disposal, the Gators once again figure to be at or near the top of the 24-6A standings at season's end.

Deer Park Deer (8-3 overall in 2024, including 6-1 in league play for a three-way share of the 24-6A title. Lost a 56-13 decision to North Shore in the Division I bidistrict playoff round.)

The Deer will enter the 2025 season with a younger group on the sidelines following the graduation of 53 seniors from that squad that went 6-1 across the league in 2024.

There is no denying that the Deer will miss the presence of three-year starting quarterback Landon Kieslehorst, but veteran head coach Austin Flynn and his staff have spent the offseason developing a new school position group as the Deer look to push both Dickinson and Clear Springs at the top of the league standings.

Offensive lineman Manny Bustamante leads the way up front for the Deer and certainly appears to have a bright collegiate future in front of him.

Israel Lozano gives the Deer another big man up front, and Brody Bailey has all the capabilities to be able to lead the way along the defensive front. Michael Benavidez should also be a force along the defensive line for Deer Park. Braelon Aston-Jackson should be the key guy at receiver,

and Trace Yates is an option at running back.

How quickly the Deer can find definitive answers at the quarterback and running back spots as well as within the defensive secondary could very well go a long way toward determining the overall success of this program in 2025.

Clear Falls Knights (6-5 overall in 2024, including 4-3 in league play for fourth place and a Division II playoff berth. Lost a 66-7 decision to Summer Creek in the bidistrict playoff round.)

The Knights will feature what very well could be the top front seven in the district. Linebacker Preston Pitts is a sideline-to-sideline menace who collected 116 tackles a season ago, including 27 tackles for loss and nine quarterback sacks.

Linebackers Hunter Leahman and Joel Garza will join forces with Pitts to give Clear Falls one of the best trios at that position group citywide. Leahman had 112 tackles a season ago.

The Knights figured to enter the offseason with a vacancy at quarterback, but Galveston Ball transfer Kyden Barker is ready to take over under center after tossing 32 touchdown passes for the Tors in 2024.

Zachary Greer has already proven to be a big play receiver in the district after he registered 49 grabs for 803 yards and seven touchdowns, each a league high last season.

Cameron Kern was limited to three games in 2024 but is hopeful of a big campaign as he leads the running back room.

Clear Falls returns just four players on offense and 10 total, but the Knights figured to have enough overall talent to be able to secure a playoff berth for what would be a seventh straight season.

The focus for Brazoswood, Brook, Creek or Lake will be scoring a head-to-head victory over one of the playoff qualifiers from a season ago. Until that happens, there

will be no change among the hierarchy.

Dave Campbell's gives Clear Lake the nod as having the best opportunity to challenge the top contenders.

Clear Lake Falcons (3-7 and 2024, including 2-5 in league play under previous head coach Donald Lawrence. Jason Ward is now in charge of the falcons operation heading into the 2025 season.)

Ward comes over from Clear Falls, where he had been the offensive coordinator of a very successful operation under head coach Zach Head.

At Clear Lake, Ward and his staff will look to A'Zayveon Brantley at receiver after he had nearly 500 yards receiving and seven touchdown receptions a season ago.

The Falcons do return a total of 15 starters and have 30 overall returning lettermen who give Ward plenty of building blocks for the current season.

Darrian Promise is a defensive back with plenty of athletic ability in the

back of the defense, while Owen Pullig is the Falcons' premiere returner along the defensive front.

Nicholas Cox is another tremendous performer on the defensive line, and Cooper Jackson can help at wide receiver, defensive back or both. Ward also points to linebacker Omar Mastouri as someone who has the ability to contribute in a big way on the defensive side.

Ward and his staff went into the offseason with determinations to be made at quarterback and running back as far as starting roles. Having first-year performers at such key skill spots entering any 6A football season can be challenging.

Clear Creek Wildcats (3-7 overall in 2024, including 2-5 in league play.)

Veteran head coach Dwayne Lane's program advanced to the playoffs in 2023 but had difficulties bouncing back with much success a season ago.

For 2025, Lane and his staff have four starters returning on either side of the football and 32 overall returning lettermen.

Brazoswood Buccaneers (2-8 overall in 2024, including a 2-5 run through the 24-6A ranks.)

The Buccaneers experienced a bit of a rough ride during head coach Eric Luster's debut season in Clute, but the head coach and his staff have reason to believe that the Bucs will be much more competitive this season courtesy of a total of 13 returning starters across the board.

Leading the way for Brazoswood is quarterback Noah Phillips, who passed for 1,705 yards and 18 touchdown passes a season ago.

Phillips also has big-play receivers Brayton Burby and Gayland Strauther back in the lineup. Burby had 18 catches for 250 yards and four scores in 2024, and Strauther was even more impressive as he had 24 catches for 463 yards and four touchdowns.

The running back position is likely to be handled by Kieran Lunsford in addition to Julian Diaz. As is always the case in this district, the Bucs will focus their attention on

coming up with ways to slow down opposing offenses.

Safety Legend Luster is a key performer, as is Ralphie Garcia along with the defensive lineman Kameron Davis who is the team's top performer from the freshman level a season ago.

Luster was in the middle of a terrific season in 2024 but also missed four games due to injury. Getting him back on the defensive side of things could be a big lift for Brazoswood.

Overall enrollment numbers at Brazoswood are not terrific for a 6A program, meaning the Bucs will likely ask several players to compete on both sides of the football this season.

The school operates with an enrollment of just shy of 2,500 students, which is the fewest in the district.

Clear Brook Wolverines (1-9 overall in 2024, including 0-7 in 24-6A play.)

Jayden Dansby was far and away the Wolverines' top overall performer a season ago as he passed for 866 yards and eight touchdowns and also ran for 825 yards and 10 touchdowns.

And with Brook returning just seven overall starters, including two on the defensive side to go with only 19 returning lettermen under head coach Patrick Sanders, Clear Brook is likely to be leaning on the services of plenty of first-year performers heading into the 2025 season.

JaDarrell Brooks can play receiver or safety while Kenneth Christian is the team's top returning offensive lineman.

Elijah Rubins is another key performer at running back, and linebacker Montez Hadnot has proven the ability to make big plays for his team. The Wolverines are also expecting a lot from junior receiver/free safety Cullen Landry.

At Clear Brook High School enrollment continues to hover just above the cutoff for class 6A athletic competition and numbers within the football program have stabilized at a lower than hoped level in recent seasons.

But hope springs eternal

every season, and Sanders and his staff certainly believe that they will get tremendous effort across the roster as the Wolverines begin to build toward the successes of previous generations within the program.

Each of the frontrunners in the 24-6A field will again get a good feel of where they stand in the first week of the regular season as playoff contenders from across the region go head-to-head in each scenario.

It all starts with the Dickinson Gators traveling to Legacy Stadium in Katy to take on one of the state's premier programs over the past several decades, the Katy Tigers.

Katy scored late in the game a season ago and held on for a 41-37 victory at Dickinson to kick off the season. While the Gators went on to defeat Deer Park in the regular season finale and grab part of a three-way share of the district championship, Katy went on to finish 11-2 overall, playing in the Division I regional semifinals.

For 2025, Katy is again projected as the district champion out of 19-6A and returns a total of 13 starters, including eight on the defensive side of the football.

The Tigers have two big time weapons at running back in the form of Trey Hill and Aquaulis Jordan, while there will be a first time starter at quarterback.

The Tigers are absolutely loaded on the defensive side of the football, with secondary man Isaiah McMillian, the son of Dobie graduate Cydryce Carter McMillian, one of the stars of the unit.

Deer Park will no doubt walk into a hostile environment on opening night as they travel to take on the La Porte Bulldogs as former Dobie head coach and current La Porte leader Kevin Berneathy debut in their brand new digs.

La Porte is state-ranked entering the regular season after putting together a 10-4 march in 2024 that included a run to the regional final.

The Bulldogs feature seven returnees on offense and another seven

returnees on the defensive side as they look to take things a step or two further.

Sean Simon rushed for more than 1,600 yards and 21 touchdowns a season ago and is well on his way to being one of the most highly recruited running backs in the state.

Josh Wells, a sophomore, should step in at quarterback, and Peyton Smith is a proven target on the outside at receiver should the Bulldogs feel the need to throw the rock.

On defense, the Bulldogs are led by linebacker Ashton Ruffin, as well as defensive lineman Luke Mora and safety Blake Stout.

Clear Springs opened the 2024 season with a 38-19 loss to eventual District 21-6A champion Ridge Point, and Ridge Point is far and away again the choice to win the championship in their league with plenty of proven returning talent on both sides of the football.

The Panthers, who defeated Dobie in the first round of the playoffs a season ago and wound up 10-2 overall, return a total of 13 starters as they look to put together another tremendous season.

Ridge Point has as many as 15 players who are currently holding FBS college scholarship opportunities and very well could be one of the most explosive teams in the city on the offensive side of the football.

Another big matchup featuring a 24-6A heavyweight will include Clear Falls taking on Fort Bend Hightower.

Dave Campbell's selects Hightower as the runner-up behind Ridge Point in the 21-6A mix after the Hurricanes went 9-2 overall a season ago and reached the Division 2 postseason.

The Hurricanes will bring back just two players on defense but will welcome seven returnees on the offensive side as head coach Cornelius Anthony and his staff look for another big season.

With these four matchups, football fans across the Houston area will get an early look at just who might create the biggest waves come play off time in November.

Dave Campbell's Texas Football Preseason Defensive MVP Preston Pitts, Clear Falls, linebacker

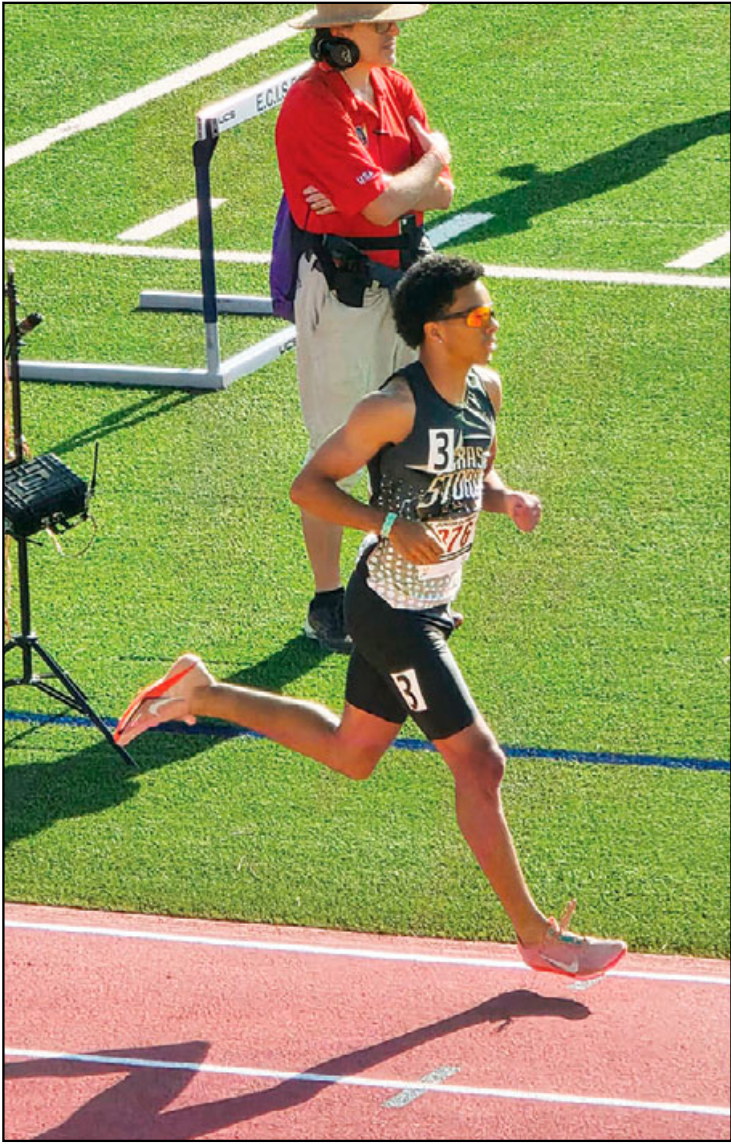
Preseason Offensive MVP

Malachi Gamble, Dickinson, running back

Projected Order of Finish

1. Dickinson (Div. I)
2. Clear Springs (Div. II)
3. Deer Park (Div. I)
4. Clear Falls (Div. II)
5. Clear Lake
6. Clear Creek
7. Brazoswood
8. Clear Brook

Villavicencio busy this summer



Dobie senior-to-be Johan Villavicencio will continue his busy summer on the AAU and USA track and field circuits as he and his teammates will depart July 20 for the USAF Nationals in Savannah, Ga. Villavicencio, a key returnee for the Longhorns' defending district championship cross-country program in 2025, hopes to finish his successful summer while competing in Savannah in the 800 and 1,500 distance events as well as the 4x4 and 4x8 relays in the boys' 17-18 division for the Texas Storm. Villavicencio and his teammates will then compete in the 4x8 at the Junior Olympics at Turner Stadium in Humble later this month.

Dobie High School 2025 Varsity Tennis Schedule

July 31	at San Marcos	6 p.m.
Aug. 1	at New Braunfels Canyon	8 a.m.
Aug. 1	at Smithson Valley	6 p.m.
Aug. 5	Clear Falls	3 p.m.
Aug. 6	at Katy	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 7	Baytown Sterling	3 p.m.
Aug. 8	Clear Creek	9 a.m.
Aug. 8	Atascocita	3 p.m.
Aug. 9	at Friendswood	4 p.m.
Aug. 12	at Clear Brook	3 p.m.
Aug. 15	at Dickinson	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 16	Magnolia	10 a.m.
Aug. 16	Nederland	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 19	at Summer Creek	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 22	Clear Springs	3 p.m.
Aug. 24	at Hastings	9 a.m.
Aug. 26	* at Pearland Dawson	3 p.m.
Aug. 29	at George Ranch	3 p.m.
Aug. 30	La Porte	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 3	*Pasadena Memorial	3 p.m.
Sept. 5-6	14th Annual Remembering Ike	TBA
Sept. 9	*at Shadow Creek	3 p.m.
Sept. 12	*Pearland	3 p.m.
Sept. 16	*at South Houston	3 p.m.
Sept. 19	Kingwood	3:15 p.m.
Sept. 23	*Sam Rayburn	3 p.m.
Sept. 26	*at Alvin	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	*Manvel	3 p.m.
Oct. 4	J. Frank Dobie Exes	9 a.m.
Oct. 6-10	Bidistrict playoffs	TBA
Oct. 13-14	Area playoffs	TBA
* District 22-6A matches		

Dobie High School 2025 Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 8	at Friendswood scrimmage	9 a.m.
Aug. 9	Angleton/North Shore scrimmage	9 a.m.
Aug. 11	Pasadena scrimmage	3 p.m.
Aug. 12	Baytown Sterling	6 p.m.
Aug. 15	at GC Memorial	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 19	Clear Creek	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 21-23	at Dickinson tournament	TBA
Aug. 22	*Manvel	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 26	*Dawson	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 28-30	Longhorn Labor Day Classic	9 a.m.
Aug. 29	Crosby	5 p.m.
Sept. 2	Clements	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	*at Pasadena Memorial	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 9	*Shadow Creek	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	*at Pearland	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	*at South Houston	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	*at Rayburn	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 23	*Alvin	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	*at Manvel	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	*Pasadena Memorial	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	*at Shadow Creek	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	*Pearland	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	*South Houston	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	*Rayburn	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	*at Alvin	6:30 p.m.
* District 22-6A matches		

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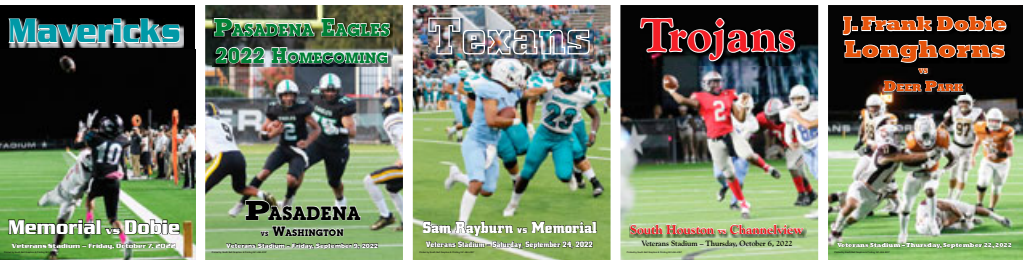
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 17
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832- 293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
FRIDAY, JULY 18
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m. **NA - Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, JULY 19
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
SUNDAY, JULY 20
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale

Bldv. Call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, JULY 21
5 p.m. - **New Directions Singles Social Group** is a singles group for those 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held in the community room at Maplewood Crossing, 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For further information, call Carol at 281-508-1663. See Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
TUESDAY, JULY 22
Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's

notice.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.
Noon Ballroom Dancing - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office (281-554-1180) for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
THURSDAY, JULY 24
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832- 293-9860.
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Once the star of the big stage, LSA alumna Curtis shines in photography role

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**

Peering through the lens of her camera, few could blame Loreal Curtis if she still imagines that it's herself out there starring on the big stage drawing the adoration of the crowd.

For many years now the owner of her professional photography business, Curtis is content with either creating lifetime memories for perhaps graduates and their families, newborns and their parents or brides and grooms.

A simple click to visit one of Curtis' social media sites also allows visitors the chance to see some of today's biggest and brightest musicians, singers and performers doing their thing on the stages of several of the Houston area's most popular music venues.

Her career has certainly included a role reversal of sorts for Curtis', who from 2008 through her graduation from Lutheran South Academy in 2011 was one of the state's premiere sprinters on the track and field scene.

Having attended LSA since her first-grade year, Curtis wasted no time in making a name for herself on the oval as a high school freshman in 2008 and remains one of the top-achieving performers in Texas Association of Private and Parochial

Schools history. From 2008 through 2011, Curtis captured state gold medals in the 200 and 400 events all four years, adding a state gold in the 100 as a senior in 2011.

In her final season in 2011, a scholarship to attend DePaul University already in hand, Curtis won the 200 at 25.97 and bettered her then-meet record in the 400, delivering a time of 56.46.

Her 100 gold came at 12.38, and she also claimed the silver medal in the triple jump.

Curtis' love of photography had already taken hold by the time she became a star with the Pioneers.

Even as she was once featured in the pages of *Sports Illustrated* as one of its "Faces in the Crowd" (2011) for her track and field successes, Curtis still found joy in promoting the successes and achievements of others through her lens.

Curtis said her love of photography began at an early age, and she actually did very well as a summer intern with the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* during high school, taking photos and writing short stories about some of her experiences along the way. "I've always had a pas-

sion for photography," Curtis said. "I've had a camera in my hand for a long time now, and I always accept the challenge to be better than I was the day before."

"It's a competitive world out there in the business as a professional."

"I have worked a job that I really love (as a retail merchandising supervisor) for about the last year to help pay the bills, but I still consider myself first and foremost a professional photographer looking for that next great image."

There are certainly those who would consider Curtis' career behind the camera as fun and adventurous.

It certainly is, but just like any other profession, it requires discipline, dedication and hard work in addition to a little bit of luck in order to be successful.

"I think the biggest thing that I took away from my track and field career that has helped me now is discipline," Curtis said.

"It's one thing to have an idea for a project, but

you constantly are sending out emails, trying to obtain review or photography passes, chasing down new and existing leads, or whatever it may be.

"At the venue itself, you always have to be mindful of the fact that maybe an entertainer will splash open a bottle of champagne on stage and your camera will get wet."

"Or maybe you're at an event where it starts raining, or it's so hot outside that your camera equipment doesn't like the temperature."

"It's truly a rewarding career. But there are a lot of things that you have to stay on top of. I feel like my discipline has carried me to this point in order to be able to follow through on a lot of different things and make things happen for myself."

Her day job doesn't allow as much time or the energy for Curtis to pursue photography roles at the same feverish pace as she has previously, but she is still very much in pursuit of her true passion.

"I will always enjoy capturing the achievements and lifetime mo-

ments of other folks through the lens of my camera," Curtis said.

"I still very much enjoy weddings and other events that help mark special moments in people's lives. It's always rewarding to be able to be part of the experience from the outside looking in."

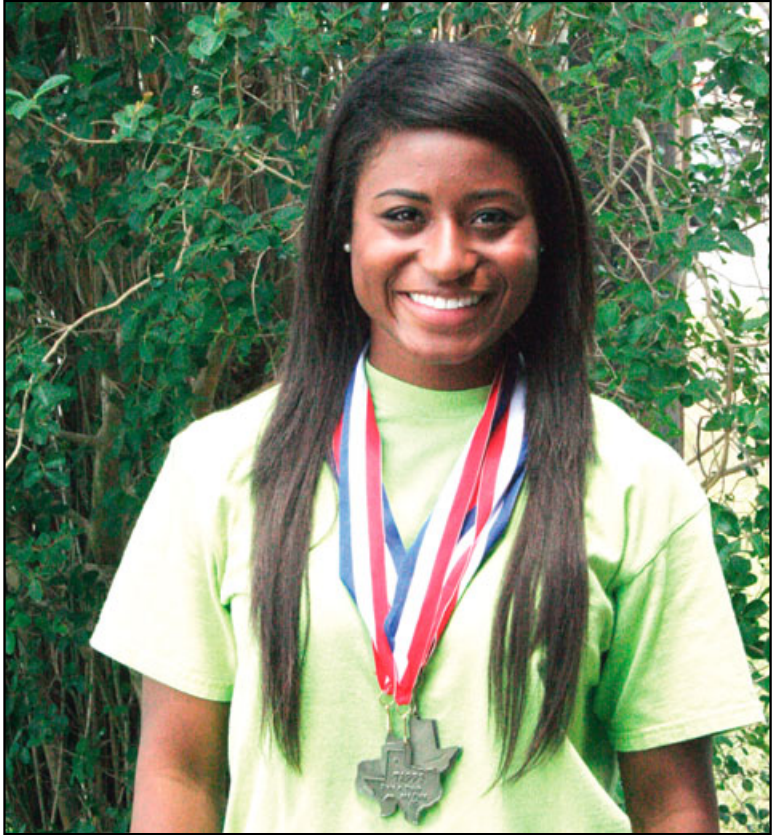
"I feel like I'm at my best when I'm at a concert venue. I love music first and foremost, but I also enjoy capturing the essence of an entertainer when they are out there performing. I would also love to get back into sports photography."

"My stage was once a track oval, and I was out there giving it my all to be as successful as I could be and to make my family, myself and my school as proud as possible."

"Really in a lot of ways I'm still trying to compete for the job opportunities out there. I take joy in seeing my images in print and being able to help some of today's top entertainers get their word out through my images. I can't imagine a time that I won't be interested in taking my next great photo."



From 2008 through 2011, Loreal Curtis captured state gold medals in the 200 and 400 events all four years, adding a state gold in the 100 as a senior in 2011. In 2011, Curtis won the 200 at 25.97 and bettered her then-meet record in the 400, delivering a time of 56.46.



Loreal Curtis' social media sites also allow visitors the chance to see some of today's biggest and brightest musicians, singers and performers doing their thing on the stages of several of the Houston area's most popular music venues.



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BAFL sets up 2025 schedule, including plans for Cowboys

Officials with the Bay Area Football League have announced the 2025 regular season schedule as preseason workouts are set to begin July 26.

The Sagemont Cowboys will once again represent the community within the league, which now features a total of 17 programs competing in the peewee, freshman, sophomore, junior and senior divisions.

Each program is also annually supported by cheer and drill squads.

The Cowboys will open the season Aug. 16, visiting the Pearland Texans. The second week of the season

has the Cowboys hosting the Texas City Stingrays Aug. 23.

Week three play has the Cowboys playing at the La Porte Texans Aug. 30, and the fourth week includes Sagemont hosting the League City 49ers Sept. 6.

The midway portion of the season arrives in week five as the Cowboys play at the Pasadena Panthers Sept. 13.

The Cowboys' bye week is Aug. 20, the Aug. 27 slate of games includes the Cowboys hosting the Hitchcock Red Raiders. Oct. 4 is homecoming week for the Cowboys' organization as the locals host the Magnolia

Park Sharks.

On Oct. 11, the Cowboys will play at the Dickinson Gators before hosting the Manvel Texans Oct. 18. The regular season concludes Oct. 25 as the Cowboys host the Pearland Patriots.

The Bay Area Football League announced that the 2025 opening day will kick off Aug. 16.

Additional important league dates include cheer competition Nov. 2, with the league's All-Star Game series and skill competition Nov. 15. The BAFL drill team competition except for Nov. 22, and Super Bowl 49 will be held Dec. 6 at Rice Stadium.

South Belt soccer club registers

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has opened registration for the fall 2025 season as registration continues and league officials plan practices.

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

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

The league will continue to seek volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team parents, particularly

for the under 4 through under 8 groups.

Visit www.southbelt.soccer.org and click on the registration fall 2025 tab to get started on registration details.

The regular season begins in August, and games will be contested primarily on weekends at El Franco Lee Park and other locations in the South Belt community.

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