

Holiday closures planned

South Belt-Ellington Leader
The *Leader* will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. The offices will reopen at 9 a.m. Monday, July 6.

Clear Brook City MUD
The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 2, and will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. The offices will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, July 6.

For convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the MUD building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who receive trash services on Friday will have normal pickup on July 3. All trash should be placed curbside no later than 6 a.m.

MUD trash times may vary

Due to a major county construction project, trash collection times may vary in the coming weeks. Residents should have trash curbside no later than 6 a.m. Monday and Thursday, as collection crews will be working in coordination with construction crews and may arrive earlier than before.

All Texas Pride Disposal trucks have cameras for verification. This will continue until the project's completion.

A project of Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, the massive undertaking will make street and traffic repairs to the majority of major roads in the Clear Brook City MUD.

Work has already begun in the Sagemeadow, Highland Meadow and Wood Meadow subdivisions. Work will soon begin in the Sageglen subdivision.

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.

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

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

Sagemont to meet July 7

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Spencer Highway to Greenshadow Drive continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Pasadena Boulevard to Fairmont Parkway continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

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

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, July 11, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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

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

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

Local roadway improvement projects underway

District D repairs set for Beamer, Alameda Genoa; Drivers should expect delays

South Belt commuters should be aware of two major roadway improvement projects currently underway, with one affecting a busy stretch of Beamer Road.

Houston's District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz announced the projects as part of the district's ongoing effort to improve street conditions, enhance safety and ease mobility for residents and commuters.

Beamer Road improvements
The Beamer Road project – the prominent of the two – will resurface the corridor between FM

1959/Dixie Farm Road and El Dorado Boulevard. Construction began Tuesday, June 23, and will take an estimated 25 working days, wrapping up around Monday, July 27.

The work consists of a mill-and-overlay, a process that removes the top layer of worn pavement and replaces it with a fresh surface designed to extend the roadway's lifespan and improve drivability.

Evans-Shabazz said the improvements reflect the city's commitment to maintaining safe, reliable infrastructure throughout District D. According to the announcement, the upgrades are intended to "enhance safety, mobility and the overall driving experience in our community."

Alameda Genoa improvements
A second mill-and-overlay project will follow just days later on Alameda Genoa Road, covering the segment between Forbes Road and SH 35/ Telephone Road. That work began Monday, June 29, with a similar 25-day construction window expected to carry the project through Friday, July 31.

Both projects will be carried out by SER Construction Partners. Residents are encouraged

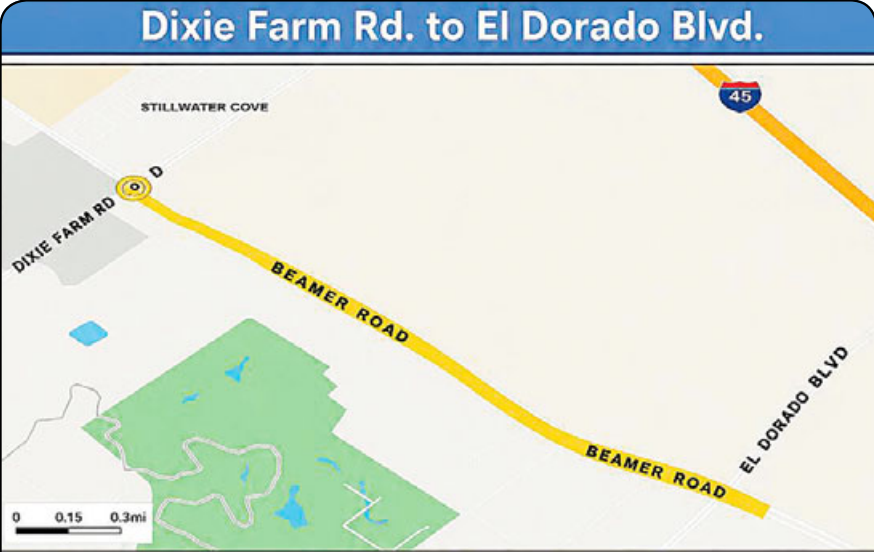
to plan for possible delays and exercise caution when traveling through active construction zones.

"These improvements are part of the ongoing effort to improve roadway conditions, increase accessibility and provide safer travel throughout District D," Evans-Shabazz said in the announcement, thanking residents for their patience as the work moves forward.

For questions related to either project, the district advises contacting project manager Adrian Carter at 713-829-0260.

Beamer repairs underway

Dixie Farm Rd. to El Dorado Blvd.



Project Scope:	Mill & Overlay
Location:	Beamer Rd. between Dixie Farm Rd. and El Dorado Blvd.
Construction Begins:	June 23, 2026
Estimated Duration:	25 working days; around July 27, 2026
Contractor:	SER Construction Partners, LLC

A city project to make road improvements along Beamer Road is currently underway, causing intermittent traffic delays. An effort of District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, the project will resurface the area thoroughfare from FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road to El Dorado Boulevard. A similar project is underway on Alameda Genoa near SH 35/Telephone Road. See related photo on Page 2

ACE Hardware changes ownership

USPS branch closes under new ownership

The USPS branch located inside Central Ace Hardware on Beamer has officially closed following a change in ownership of the long-standing neighborhood hardware store, ending a service many South Belt residents had relied on for years.

The postal branch, which opened in 2008, operated for nearly two decades as a convenient alternative to larger USPS branches in the

area. Its closure was confirmed after the store changed hands.

Central Ace Hardware has been a fixture in the South Belt community for decades. The Williams family operated the store for 37 years before selling it in 2016 to M&D Supply, a Beaumont-based company. Although the store's name was updated after the sale, many

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Parade to celebrate USA's 250th

Adrian Garcia, Emory Gadd to serve as grand marshals

With Independence Day just around the corner, the South Belt community is putting the finishing touches on preparations for its annual Fourth of July parade, now in its 36th year and carrying special significance as the nation celebrates America's 250th anniversary.

The parade will roll out Saturday, July 4 at 10 a.m., and organizers say they expect one of the largest turnouts in recent years.

Leading this year's procession will be Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Sagemont Church Associate Pastor Emory Gadd, who were selected as dual grand marshals for the milestone celebration.

For the second year in a row, the parade will follow the adjusted route introduced last year due to Beltway 8 construction – a change that

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Worker killed in Gulf Freeway accident

Man struck by company vehicle near Dixie Farm Road

A construction worker was killed late Sunday, June 28, after a co-worker accidentally backed a work truck into him during an overnight road project on the Gulf Freeway, according to the Houston Police Department.

The crash happened around 11 p.m. in the southbound lanes of the freeway, just before the Dixie Farm Road exit. Police said the victim, a

36-year-old man, was part of a crew performing scheduled overnight work when the truck – used as a protective vehicle in the work zone – reversed and struck him.

Investigators said the worker was wearing high-visibility gear and all required safety equipment. The driver, who is employed by the same

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Local health officials warn of warm weather

Heat-related illness up 300+ percent in Harris County, health officials warn

With the arrival of summer, warmer temperatures often mean more time spent outdoors – whether it's enjoying family gatherings, exercising or heading out on vacation. But as outdoor activities and travel plans ramp up, so do the risks associated with extreme heat. Harris County Public Health (HCPH) urges community members to take extra precautions to stay safe and prevent heat-related illnesses.

"The summer heat in Harris County can be dangerous, even deadly, if we're not careful," said Dr. Ericka Brown, director of HCPH's Community Health and Wellness Division. "It's important that community members protect themselves

and their loved ones by taking simple steps – like drinking water frequently, staying in air-conditioned buildings or shaded areas during peak heat hours, and applying sunscreen when outdoors. These small actions can make a big difference in preventing heat exhaustion or heat stroke."

According to recent data, Harris County experienced a 329-percent increase in heat-related illness between 2019 and 2023, with 80 confirmed deaths during that time. Many of these incidents occurred on days when temperatures exceeded 103 degrees F, a level deemed dangerous by the National Weather Service.

Vulnerable groups include infants and young

children, older adults, individuals with chronic medical conditions, pregnant individuals and outdoor workers.

Heat safety tips
HCPH recommends the following safety measures to prevent heat-related illnesses:

- **Stay hydrated:** Drink water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid caffeine, alcohol and sugary drinks that can contribute to dehydration.
- **Limit outdoor activities:** Try to plan activities during cooler parts of the day – early morning or evening hours.
- **Dress appropriately:** Wear lightweight,

loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing to stay cool.

- **Use sun protection:** Apply sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher at least 30 minutes before going outdoors. Reapply every two hours. Use hats and sunglasses for added protection.
- **Seek shade and air conditioning:** Spend time in air-conditioned spaces like libraries, malls or cooling centers. If outside, use umbrellas or tents to stay shaded.
- **Monitor for heat illness:** Watch for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, such as dizziness, rapid heartbeat, headache, nausea or confusion.

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PMHS student performs on Broadway

Rangel Guzman earns Tommy Tune, performs at Jimmys

Pasadena Memorial High School 2026 graduate Rangel Guzman capped off his senior year on one of the biggest stages available to a high school performer – the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, better known as the Jimmy Awards, held Monday, June 22, at the Minskoff Theatre on Broadway.

Guzman was one of fewer than 100 students nationwide selected to compete, earning his spot after being named a Tommy Tune Award Winner earlier this spring for his standout performance as Miss Trunchbull in "Matilda." His Tommy Tune win advanced him to the national level, where he spent a week in New York City rehearsing, receiving coaching from Broadway professionals, and preparing for the culminating performance on the Minskoff stage.

While Guzman did not place among the top finalists at the Jimmy Awards, his participation alone places him among the most accomplished high school musical-theatre performers in the country – a distinction earned by only a small number of students each year.

A breakout performance
Guzman's journey to Broadway began with his show-stopping turn as Miss Trunchbull, a role that earned him top honors in the Tommy Tune Awards, the Houston region's premier high school musical theatre program. Hosted by Theatre Under the Stars, the Tommy Tune Awards evaluate dozens of schools annually and recognize excellence in performance, design, direction and overall production.

Winning a Tommy Tune Award is considered one of the highest achievements for a high school performer in the Houston area – and it serves as the official pathway to the Jimmy Awards.

A week on Broadway
Jimmy Awards nominees participate in an intensive week of workshops, vocal coaching, choreography sessions, and rehearsals in New York City. The program culminates in a professionally produced ceremony where each nominee performs and a panel of industry experts selects two national winners: Best Performance by an Actor and Best Performance by an Actress.

Although Guzman did not take home a national title, he completed the full program – an achievement that reflects both his talent and the strength of Pasadena Memorial's theatre program.

Looking ahead: University of Michigan
Guzman now turns his attention to the next chapter of his training. He will attend the University of Michigan, one of the nation's most competitive musical theatre programs, to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theater.

"I'm going to the University of Michigan for my BFA in musical theater," said Guzman. "It's always been my dream school, and then, throughout the grueling college audition process, I ended up just landing right where I belonged."

Tommy Tune awards
Named for Houston native and Broadway legend Tommy Tune, this program honors excel-

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Guzman takes national stage



Former Pasadena Memorial High School music theater student Rangel Guzman recently got the once-in-a-lifetime chance to perform on Broadway, as he was competing in the prestigious Jimmy Awards in New York City. A 2026 graduate, Guzman got the opportunity after he previously earned a Tommy Tune award for his performance as Miss Trunchbull in "Matilda." Guzman is shown above in NYC in front of a massive digital billboard with his likeness. See related photo on Page 3.

Elected officials share their words

Letter from Fred Flickinger

Dear District E Residents,

Hurricane season is a reminder that preparation is one of the most important steps we can take to protect our families, our homes, and our community. Living along the Gulf Coast and in one of the nation's largest industrial regions means we face a variety of natural and man-made hazards throughout the year.

Recent Tropical Storm Arthur serves as an important reminder that tropical systems can develop and strengthen quickly, leaving little time to prepare once watches and warnings are issued. Although Arthur was a relatively short-lived storm, it brought heavy rainfall, flooding concerns, and rapidly changing conditions to portions of the Texas Gulf Coast, reinforcing the importance of being prepared before a storm is on our doorstep.

I encourage every household to develop an emergency plan before severe weather threatens our area. Talk with your family about how you will communicate if phone service is disrupted, where you will meet if you're separated, and who you can contact outside the region to relay important information. Having these conversations now can make all the difference during an emergency.

Residents who may need additional assistance evacuating during a disaster should register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR). This confidential registry allows emergency management officials to better identify residents who may require transportation or other life-sustaining assistance during an emergency.

Preparedness also means having the supplies you need to be self-sufficient after a storm. Every household should maintain an emergency kit with enough food, drinking water, medications, medical supplies, pet necessities, flashlights, batteries, and other essential items to last at least five to seven days.

Just as importantly, stay informed. Receiving timely and accurate information before, during, and after a storm can make all the difference. I encourage

you to bookmark these trusted resources and register for emergency alerts today.

Emergency Preparedness Resources

- Houston Office of Emergency Management: <https://houstonoem.org>
- National Weather Service Houston/Galveston: <https://weather.gov/hgx>
- Harris County Flood Warning System: <https://www.harriscountyfws.org/>
- **Official Social Media**
 - City of Houston Office of Emergency Management
 - X: @HoustonOEM
 - Facebook: <https://facebook.com/houstonoem>
 - Instagram: @HoustonOEM
 - Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.com/pages/houston-office-of-emergency-management>

The City of Houston also provides free emergency notifications through AlertHouston. Residents can receive alerts by text message, email, voice call, or through the mobile app for emergency incidents, severe weather, major traffic interruptions, missing persons, special events, and disaster recovery information

Register today: <https://www.AlertHouston.org>.

Finally, take time to get to know your neighbors. Throughout Hurricane Harvey and other emergencies, we saw firsthand that neighbors are often the first to lend a helping hand. Check on elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, and those living alone. A connected neighborhood is a more resilient neighborhood.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep District E prepared. By planning ahead today, we can ensure our families and our community are ready for whatever this hurricane season may bring.

Stay safe, stay prepared, and as always, my office is here to serve you.

Sincerely,
Fred Flickinger
Council Member District E

AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 invites one to join the meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook 77586. Members meet in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. Everyone is invited to come to the regular monthly meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month they have entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

Thursday, July 9, the program and social activity will be a patriotic theme in honor of the United States 250th anniversary.

AARP Chapter 199 also organizes bus day trips for Chapter 199 members to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next bus trip will be on Tuesday, July 21, to Holocaust Museum in Houston. The Holocaust Museum is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and educating the public on the dangers of prejudice. Trip price is \$19, plus lunch at Treebeards. Members may register and pay for this trip at the Thursday, July 9, monthly meeting. One must be a member of Chapter 199 to participate in bus trips.

If anyone is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show their current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact president Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.com.

Friends of PWBL seeks donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library would like to thank the South Belt community for their continuing support. The library is currently in need of new or gently used children's books, adult paperback novels (both fiction and nonfiction) and DVDs and CDs. Donations can be made during open hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., suite 501.

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/> 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.

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library:
Thursday, July 2, 1 – 5 p.m. K-5 reading tutoring: Get LIT.
Thursday, July 2, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Teen movie time. Registration required.
Monday, July 6, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Bring family to storytime. Registration required.
Monday, July 6, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL Get LIT 2026.
Tuesday, July 7, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL Get LIT 2026.
Tuesday, July 7, 4 – 5 p.m. Join family STEM. Registration required.
Wednesday, July 8, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL Get LIT 2026.
Wednesday, July 8, 6 – 7 p.m. Pajama storytime. Registration required.
Wednesday, July 8, 6 – 7 p.m. Coloring basics class. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. Hours are Monday, 10 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 more information. One can also visit social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library:
Thursday, July 2, 10:13 – 11 a.m. Dino storytime with special guest star.
Saturday, July 4, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
Monday, July 6, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Adult computer classes with Harris County universal services. Registration required.

Monday, July 6, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.
Monday, July 6, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.
Tuesday, July 7, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.
Tuesday, July 7, 10:15 a.m. – 1 p.m. Personas que corren con libros: Club de lectura en Espanol.

Tuesday, July 7, 4 – 5 p.m. Prehistoric shark craft.
Wednesday, July 8, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Adult dinosaur stencil tote bag craft.
Wednesday, July 8, 4 – 5 p.m. Prehistoric shark craft 2.
Wednesday, July 8, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

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 an HCPL card.

For additional information, visit www.hcpl.net.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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David Flickinger, owner

In My Opinion

Alvarez on 4th of July parade starting point

Hi, it is with great sadness that this year's 4th of July Parade is starting at Sagemont Church. I have participated in this Parade for years. It appears the organizers completely left out the other side of Sagemont. The whole area on the other side of the beltway is being bypassed. All the kids in that area will sadly not enjoy the parade this year. I ask that you please convey this to the organizers when they plan for the 2027 parade and go back to the original starting point?

Sincerely,
Rick Alvarez

King: Breaking down the SAVE America Act

With the midterm elections rapidly approaching and polls showing Republicans in serious trouble with voters, they have become frantic to pass the SAVE America Act. Twenty-five House members are now promising to vote no on everything until the Act is passed. Their panic is based on the entirely dubious belief that passing the Act would make some meaningful difference in the midterm results.

There are three principal provisions of the SAVE Act. First, it imposes a photo ID requirement to vote in any federal election. Second, it requires proof of citizenship for anyone to register to vote in a federal election. The Act also makes significant changes to mail-in voting procedures. Significantly, it imposes significant administrative and criminal penalties for violating its provisions.

Today, let's focus on the photo ID requirement.

It is important to note that the requirement for voters to present a photo ID when voting is very popular and widely supported across the political spectrum and by all demographic groups.

About half of Americans are already required to present a photo ID to vote. Fourteen states and D.C., home to about a third of all registered voters, have no ID requirement. These are mostly states where Democrats dominate elections. The rest have some requirements, but not necessarily a photo ID.

Opponents of the Act argue that the photo ID requirements are overly burdensome for certain groups that do not already have photo IDs. As a practical matter, this comes down to whether a person has a driver's license. The act provides several other alternatives, but it will be relatively rare for a person to have one of those and not have a driver's license.

According to this 2024 University of Maryland survey, about 21 million Americans do not have a non-expired driver's license, another 28 million have a driver's license that does not match their current name or address, and a little over 2 million have no ID at all. So, in total, about 50 million people might

have some problem meeting the photo ID requirement. What the study does not tell us is how many of these people are registered voters. About a quarter of all qualified voters in the U.S. (~62 million) are not registered voters.

My guess is that there is a large overlap between people who do not have a valid ID and those who are not registered to vote. So, how often this would come up is questionable. Nonetheless, there will inevitably be voters who show up with an expired driver's license or who have moved and not updated their address. Of course, there will also be women who will have changed their name due to a change in their marital status but the records have not been updated.

This is where the SAVE Act's rules governing provisional voting become important. Under the act, if a person shows up to vote without the required photo ID, they are not turned away. In fact, the act requires that the state provide the person with the option to cast a provisional ballot.

Provisional ballots are already widely used in elections across the country when there is some question about a person's right to vote in a particular election. Under the Act, those ballots will set aside and not counted in the initial tally. Only if the margin in a particular election is less than the number of provisional ballots will those ballots be opened and examined. In other words, if a candidate wins by more than the total number of provisional ballots, the votes on those ballots are irrelevant to the outcome. Which is almost always the case.

That reality, of course, begs the question of whether photo ID is a solution in search of a problem. I think largely it is. After working in Texas elections for nearly 50 years, I can tell you I have rarely seen anyone vote who should not be voting. That does not mean that it never happens – it does. But I can think of only a handful of very low turnout elections (like city council and school board) where I thought the outcome might have been affected by illegally cast ballots.

Regardless, many Americans have doubts about our elections. The same CBS poll found that 32% of Americans believe illegal voting and other irregularities are widespread. Whether it is true or not – and personally, I do not believe it is – the mere fact that a third of the country believes there is widespread fraud is a problem.

Requiring voter ID would alleviate some of those concerns. So, while implementing the photo ID requirements will be a hassle for some voters and election officials, I believe increasing confidence in our elections is worth it.

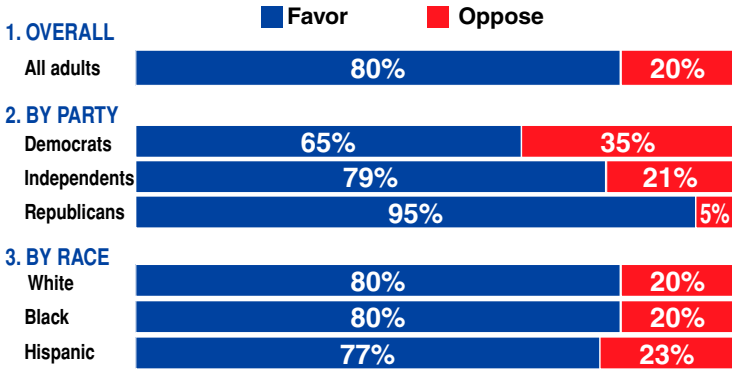
The SAVE Act's requirements around proving citizenship when registering, mail-in voting procedures and how states maintain the voter rolls are somewhat more problematic. More on that next time.

Bill King

Support for Requiring Photo ID to Vote

CBS News/YouGov poll, March 16-19, 2026

Do you favor or oppose requiring people to show valid photo identification before they are permitted to vote?



Annual July 4 parade nears

Event to celebrate USA's 250th anniversary

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marked the first detour in the event's lengthy history. The procession will begin at Sagemont Church on Hughes Road near Beltway 8, travel down Beamer, and conclude at San Jacinto College South on Beamer near Dixie Farm Road. Participants are asked to arrive an hour early for lineup, with check-in at 9 a.m. and judging at 9:30 a.m.

Organizers emphasize that the parade is open to everyone, including neighborhood groups, nonprofits,

schools, clubs, businesses and political candidates. Entry is free for community and nonprofit groups, while commercial and candidate entries require a \$50 fee.

Due to the length of the route, walking entries are not permitted, but floats, vehicles, trailers and other decorated entries are encouraged. Awards will be presented for the most patriotic and most original designs in both commercial and noncommercial categories.

Participants may toss candy and small trinkets from their vehicles, though water balloons, water guns, alcohol and glass containers are prohibited.

Entry forms may be obtained by scanning the QR code on Page 7 of this week's *Leader*, by visiting the *Leader* office at 11555 Beamer or by accessing the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce website at www.southbeltchamber.com/freedom-250-4th-of-july-parade.



Celebrating
250TH
BIRTHDAY
OF THE
UNITED STATES

RICHARD VEGA
FOR
HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 2

Paid For By Friends Of Richard Vega

Carol Louise Adam



Carol Louise Adam, 82, of Houston, passed away peacefully on June 7, 2026, leaving behind a lifetime of love, kindness and cherished memories.

Carol was born on April 11, 1944, in Rochester, N.Y., to Louis and Marjorie DeMarco. Raised in an Italian family, the traditions of food, family and togetherness remained an important part of her life. She spent her early years in Rochester, where she worked for a time at Eastman Kodak.

On Jan. 13, 1968, Carol married the love of her life,

Death

Donald Patrick Adam. In August 1977, they relocated with their family to the Pasadena area, where they built a home and created a lifetime of memories.

Though she made Texas her home, a part of Carol's heart always remained in New York. She dearly missed the snow and cooler weather and often joked that she never got used to the Texas heat.

Carol dedicated her life to her family as a loving wife, devoted mother and proud grandmother. She shared many wonderful years of marriage with Donald. Together they built a home centered on love, family and caring for others.

As the daughter of an Italian family, Carol's kitchen was the heart of her home. She took great pride in preparing meals from scratch, believing that some of life's best moments were shared around the dinner table. Christmas was especially dear to her. Each holiday season she eagerly baked countless homemade cookies for family and friends, creating traditions that will be lovingly remembered for generations.

Carol had a lifelong love

for Yorkshire terriers and always had a faithful companion by her side. She also enjoyed spending time watching World War II documentaries, fascinated by the history and stories of those who lived through that remarkable time.

Carol was preceded in death by her beloved husband and her parents.

She is survived by her son, Donald L. (Jennifer) Adam; her daughter, Tammy (David) Hoth; and her cherished grandchildren, Hunter Adam, Ashley Adam and Alyssa Hoth. She also leaves behind extended family members and dear friends whose lives were enriched by her warmth, generosity and unwavering love.

She will be remembered for her caring heart, quiet strength, wonderful home-cooked meals and the unconditional love she gave to her family.

A small memorial service will be held for immediate family to celebrate Carol's life and the memories she leaves behind.

Carol's greatest legacy was the family she loved so deeply. Her love and spirit will remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

Beamer repairs underway



A city road improvement project is currently underway on Beamer between Dixie Farm Road and El Dorado Boulevard. See related story and photo on Page 1.

Worker killed on Gulf Freeway

Man hit by co-worker's truck near Dixie Farm

Continued from Page 1

construction company, remained at the scene and cooperated with officers.

HPD's Vehicular Crimes Division is leading the investigation. As of Monday, no charges had been filed,

and authorities have not released the victim's name pending notification of his family.

The incident occurred during an active lane closure on one of the region's busiest freeway corridors.

Police have not said whether any mechanical issues, communication lapses or procedural errors may have contributed to the accident.

The investigation remained ongoing at press time.

Central ACE Hardware sold

USPS branch closed due to ownership change

Continued from Page 1

locals continued to refer to it as Central Ace, reflecting the strong community attachment to the original ownership.

The latest ownership transition marks another shift for the Beamer Road business.

The removal of the USPS unit has drawn disappointment from residents who used the in-store counter for mailing packages, purchasing stamps and other routine postal needs. With the closure, customers must now visit other area USPS locations farther from most local subdivisions.

The new store owner is Beamer Ace LLC which is owned and operated by the Amin family. The Amin family also has Ace locations at Telephone Road, League City and Missouri City.

County offers heat safety tips

Continued from Page 1

Move to a cooler place and get help immediately if symptoms occur.

– **Check on vulnerable neighbors:** Keep in touch with older adults or family members and neighbors who have chronic medical conditions. Make sure they have access to cool environments and water.

– **Protect pets:** Bring pets indoors when possible. If they must stay outside, provide ample shade and fresh water. Walk pets early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid burns from hot pavement and heat exhaustion.

– **Never leave children or pets in parked cars:** A

vehicle's interior can quickly become dangerously hot, even if windows are cracked open.

Staying alert and prepared can help prevent tragedy and keep our communities safe

all summer.

For more information on heat safety, cooling centers or additional resources, visit www.hcphtx.org and www.readyharris.org or follow @hcphtx on social media.



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Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
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.

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Cafecito con Jesús ministry begins a new summer session

The women of Cafecito con Jesús are excited to begin a new summer session filled with faith, fellowship and spiritual growth. As their Spanish-speaking women's ministry continues to flourish, they are grateful for the many ways God has blessed the group and strengthened the bonds of sisterhood among them.

This season marks a special milestone with the unveiling of the newly created Cafecito con Jesús logo, a beautiful representation of the ministry's identity and mission. The logo reflects its desire to gather around God's Word, encourage one another and grow together in Christ-centered community.

Adding to the joy of this new chapter, several members have generously shared their talents and creativity with the group. One member lovingly handcrafted decorative heart ornaments for each participant, personalizing every heart with that woman's favorite Bible verse. These treasured gifts serve as daily reminders of God's promises and his personal love for each of them.

Another talented member

created custom tote bags featuring the Cafecito con Jesús name, providing a practical and meaningful way for members to carry their Bibles, journals and study materials while proudly representing the ministry.

As the ministry begins the summer session, their vision remains clear: to cultivate a welcoming space where women can deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and encourage one another through every season of life.

Throughout the coming months, the ministry's focus will be centered on the following 4 fundamental pillars:

- Growth: Achieving a fulfilling life that reflects Christ. Strengthening faith through Bible study, prayer, worship, and the application of God's Word.
- Outreach: Connect with women who do not know Christ. Extending Christ's love beyond the group by serving and encouraging others in the church and community.
- Reflect: To be a safe, healthy refuge filled with unconditional love where every woman can reflect, renew her strength in God's presence, and grow in her spiritual journey while surrounded by encouragement, support, and Christian companionship.
- Accompaniment: To offer empathy, comfort and peace to those bearing the weight of struggles. Building authentic friendships rooted in Christian love, support and accountability.

Cafecito con Jesús continues to be more than a Bible study — it is a community of women committed to walking together in faith, sharing life's joys and challenges and pointing one another toward Christ.

As they embark on this new summer session, members pray that God will continue to guide them conversations, strengthen their friendships and use the ministry to be a light to others. They look forward with anticipation to all that God has planned for them in the months ahead. The gatherings take place every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Iglesia Sagement located at 11323 Hughes Road. For more information, call 281 652-3716.



Pictured, from left to right, are Cafecito con Jesús members (front row) Gladis Ascencio, Elena Baeza, Teresa Ruiz, Vilma Fernandez, Zenaida Torres, Maria Ramirez, Isis Medina, (back row) Liliana Pando, Esmeralda Paredes, Luz Martinez, Toni Villarreal, Alicia Molina, Carmen Villatoro, Sara Gutierrez, Maria de los Angeles Almanza, Clara Allen, Lilian Guerra and Belibeth Bonilla.

Photo submitted

Student performs on Broadway

Continued from Page 1

Nominees from regional programs across the country gather in New York for a week of training before performing on a Broadway stage. Many past participants have gone on to professional careers, including Broadway roles, national tours, and television work.

A rising star

Guzman's achievements — from his award-winning performance in "Matilda" to his appearance on Broadway — highlight both his individual dedication and the opportunities available to students in Pasadena ISD's fine arts programs.

As he transitions from high school to one of the nation's top musical-theatre conservatories, Guzman carries with him the experience of performing on Broadway before even beginning college — a rare accomplishment for any young artist.



Recent Memorial graduate Rangel Guzman recently visited New York, where he competed in the prestigious Jimmy Awards on Broadway. Guzman plans to attend the University of Michigan, where he will continue to study music theater. See related photo on Page 1.

Hometown Heroes Park hosts free ballroom dance

A free ballroom dance is held every Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level. The dance is casual dress, and the purpose is to have fun, get some mental and physical exercise and make friends. A variety of rhythms are provided by Neva and Bill Schroder, including foxtrot, waltz, rumba, cha-cha, tango, Viennese waltz, swing, West Coast swing and several popular Latin dances.

Several dancers have attended regularly since the dance began in 2012. Lasting friendship is a bonus of this weekly event. Walk-ins are welcome to share in the fun.

The ballroom has a large floating hardwood floor and natural light from many windows and a wall of mirrors.

While this regular dance is provided free by volunteers, there is a fee for age-dependent non-residents and non-senior residents. The fees are handled entirely by the front office at Hometown Heroes Park. Information is available by calling 281-554-1185.

Dobie FFA members compete in Deer Park Young Farmers Battleground Showdown



The Dobie FFA recently competed at Deer Park Young Farmers Battle Ground Showdown. Students represented Dobie FFA by showcasing the hard work and dedication they put into their livestock projects. Dobie FFA officials are proud of all the students who competed and represented their chapter at the Battle Ground Showdown. Addie Mata who won Lamb Show Grand Champion PeeWee is pictured above holding a Battle Ground Showdown banner.



FFA member Vianka Alanis is shown with her goat.



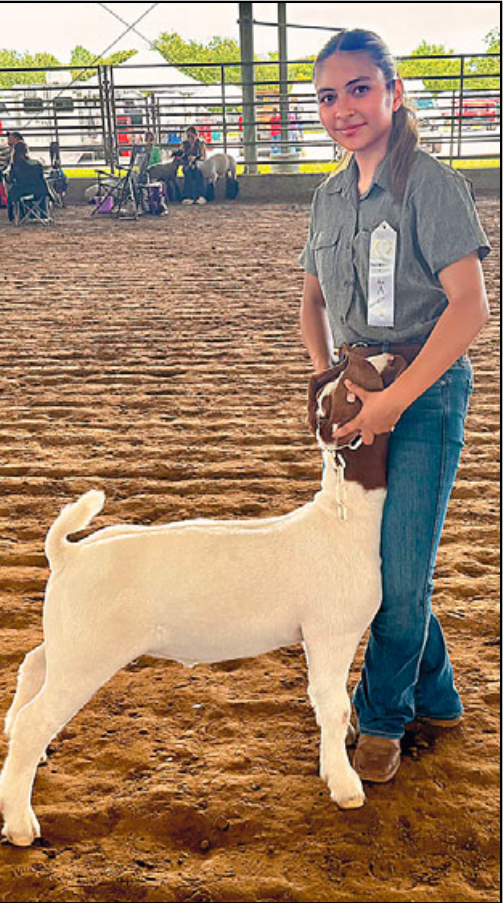
FFA member Sadie Jones who placed fourth in her class in the pig show is pictured guiding her pig.



FFA student Caleb Jones who placed second in his class in the steer show was prepared to compete.



Dobie FFA member Brianna Aleman who placed third in Ring A and first in Ring B in the steer show is pictured with her steer.



Dobie FFA member Jenna Molina who placed fourth in Ring A and third in Ring B in the goat show is showing her goat some love after earning a ribbon.



Dobie student Brianna Aleman is preparing her goat for competition.



Dobie FFA student Noah Garza is grooming his goat for judgment.



FFA student Jenna Molina who placed second in Ring A and first in Ring B in the steer show held her steer in place during the judging.

Eagle Scout Troop 388 member Herrera receives award for service project



Eagle Scout Troop 388 member and current Dobie High School student, Zaiden I Herrera recently completed his Passion Project for the Early College program. For Herrera's Eagle Scout service project, he constructed four elevated flower beds for the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Wellness Therapeutic Garden. During this project, Herrera has learned how to guide a team of scouts in providing service to those who have sacrificed so much for the nation. The skills and lessons learned as an Eagle Scout will be applicable in various aspects of his life — both during high school and in the future. Herrera will be presented his Eagle badge and medal at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor in August. Left to right, are Joey Herrera, assistant Scout Master Troop 388; Dede Albe, Troop 388 treasurer; Jerry McNeil, San Jacinto District advancement chair; Eagle Scout Zaiden I Herrera; Brenda Fryer, charter organization representative; and Steve Martino, committee chairman.



Pictured with Zaiden I Herrera (center) is mom Chrestina Herrera and dad Joey Herrera.



Pictured with the flower beds constructed by Eagle Scout Zaiden I Herrera (center) are, left to right, Carmichael Khan, Micheal E. DeBakey VA Medical Center social worker; Robert D. Gordon, rehabilitation care line and recreation therapist; Raul Mangualcolon, logistics and inventory manager specialist; Joey Herrera, supervisory program analyst-implant program; Dr. Erica J. Miller, nurse manager/NU6F and education service line; and Kathryn Kertzl, occupational therapist and rehabilitation care line.

Sagemont Church celebrates annual Independence Day

Sagemont Church's annual Patriotic Celebration went off without a hitch Sunday, June 28, attracting hundreds of area families. In addition to the fireworks display, a fleet of vintage aircraft — led by longtime church member Rick Carr — did a fly-over above the event.



Photo by Derrick Bready



Photo courtesy of Sagemont Church



Photo by Bill Brummett

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)
Barbara Taylor of Sagemont was named the Solo Grand Champion at the United States Twirling Association competition.

Scarsdale resident Tim Crawford scared off a prowler attempting to enter his home. The unidentified male took a swing at Crawford with a sharp object, cutting Crawford slightly on the stomach. The prowler then ran off.

45 years ago (1981)
Clear Creek Independent School District trustees adopted a new pay scale which gave district teachers and other district employees a 13.3 percent pay hike. The pay increase put CCISD beginning teachers with a bachelor's degree earning \$14,505 annually and beginning teachers with a master's degree earning \$15,275.

Brad Womack, Doug Pettit and Bert Wilms were elected from a seven-man field at the annual meeting of the Kirkmont II Homeowners' Association.

40 years ago (1986)
The City of Houston delayed approving a master plan for Ellington Field while it negotiated with a prospective new tenant whose presence would dramatically alter the airport's future.

Further investigation for single-member districts for Pasadena School District was approved at the regular board meeting. The board approved a study by Bracewell and Patterson law firm which would allow the district to be broken up into various districts, with each district having a representative.

35 years ago (1991)
Rita Garcia, Dobie High School senior, was crowned Miss South Belt.

An out-of-court settlement for \$19 million was reached by attorneys for Farm and Home Savings and attorneys for 214 children for medical expenses and education in a case involving the Brio Superfund toxic waste site.

30 years ago (1996)
The Texas Department of Transportation opened the Beltway 8/Mykawa overpass.

Kenneth Alan Martin Jr., 3, drowned in an above-ground pool.

25 years ago (2001)

The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees reduced the home-stead exemption for district residents by one half, to a 5 percent deduction.

Steven Dittrich, 12, a seventh-grade trombone player at Brookside Intermediate, came to the rescue of 14-year-old friend Chris Crumel of Freeport at the Sam Houston State University Band Camp. It was reported by Dittrich that he was swimming in the pool when he noticed Crumel was in a "cannonball" position at the bottom of the pool. He looked at him for a moment to see if he was kidding around and then swam down to the bottom of the pool and pulled him to the top. A camp counselor and Dittrich

pulled the drowning Crumel out of the pool and onto the safety deck. The lifeguards were summoned, and they administered CPR to Crumel.

20 years ago (2006)
At the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, South Belt resident John Heckler was honored for 50 years of service with the Knights of Columbus. The Rev. Stephen Horn officiated the Mass.

An increase in motor vehicle burglaries and other crimes prompted South Belt community leaders to pursue the hiring of another deputy for Constable Gary Freeman. Arrests for possession of cocaine and burglaries as well as other burglaries of businesses and vehicles

broken into at a church and a restaurant kept local law enforcement officers busy.

15 years ago (2011)
A South Belt man was arrested on multiple charges after driving for more than two miles with a partially dismembered hit-and-run victim in his passenger seat early Tuesday. According to police, James John Onak, 49, reportedly told the deputy that he knew he had hit something on the freeway but was not aware the victim was lying in the passenger seat. Investigators said Onak appeared to be highly intoxicated, and a mandatory blood draw was taken. Onak was charged with felony accident involving injury and a misdemeanor count of DWI.

Clear Creek Independent School District officials announced that the Clear Horizons Early College High School would remain open for the 2011-2012 school year. The announcement came after the district's general meeting, at which board members discussed money-saving recommendations proposed by the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee.

10 years ago (2016)
Longtime state Sen. Rodney Ellis handily won the Democratic nomination for Precinct 1 commissioner during a closed party election June 25, guaranteeing him the position the following November, as he was running unopposed. Ellis received 78 votes to interim Commissioner Gene Locke's 36.

Nelda Sullivan was named president of the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees. She had previously held the position of assistant secretary on the board. Originally elected to the PISD board in 1993, Sullivan formerly worked in the banking industry for 36 years.

5 years ago (2021)
Atkinson Principal Lena Ortiz recently retired after serving 45 years in education — 26 of which were spent at the local elementary campus. Ortiz was only the second principal in Atkinson's 51-year history, replacing Hollis Powell, who served 25 years in the position. Ortiz began her career in education as a first-grade teacher at Kruse

Elementary, a position she'd hold for seven years. She then taught first grade at Young Elementary for two years, before moving to Gardens Elementary, where she would teach fourth grade for another two years. Ortiz then served as assistant principal at Gardens Elementary for eight years, before assuming the role of principal at Atkinson.

South Belt resident Erica Salazar has been named Ortiz's replacement, assuming the position for the 2021-2022 school year. Salazar grew up in the South Belt area and attended all Pasadena schools which included Stuchbery Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School. Salazar is a 1995 Dobie graduate and while there she played on the softball team. Being the catcher her junior and senior years, Salazar was part of the 1993 and 1995 Dobie softball state championship teams. After graduating, Salazar received a scholarship for softball which took her to Texas A&M University — Kingsville, where she also played catcher on the softball team and pursued a degree in marketing. Salazar started her career in Houston ISD, where she taught at Sanchez Elementary for one year. She then moved to Kingsville, before returning back home to start a career in Pasadena ISD. Prior to assuming her current position at Sparks, Salazar worked two years at Atkinson Elementary, before transferring to Keller Middle School, where she served as assistant principal for three years.

Multiple new arrests were made involving two major South Belt crimes. An unnamed 16-year-old male was charged with capital murder in the fatal shooting of Elsa Mikeska, 62, that took place June 17 on Fuqua near Beamer. Ben Rivera, 27, and Dylan Walker, also 27, were both charged with evidence tampering regarding a human corpse in the killing of 5-year-old Samuel Olson. This brought the number of arrests in the case up to three, as Theresa Balboa, the girlfriend of Olson's father, was also charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse.

1 year ago (2025)
The former president of

the Sagemont-Beverly Hill Little League during its early days transitioning to the then-Choate Road (now Dixie Farm Road) ball park died June 19, three weeks shy of his 89th birthday.

It was fitting that Allen Munz volunteer for youth sports, seeing as he was the father of three sons. The oldest son, Kevin, graduated from Dobie in 1981. The other boys, Bled and Derek, attended South Belt schools before moving to Pasadena and graduating from South Houston High, where their mother, Betty, was a math teacher. All of them survive him, along with his beloved

six grandchildren. Even after they moved from Sagemont, the family remained active members of Sagemont Church.

Sporting a rare beard, Munz graces the front page of the first edition of the *South Belt Press* in 1979. (The Press was later renamed the *South Belt Ellington Leader*.)

Allen Munz was a graduate of Texas A & I University (now Texas A & M Kingsville) with an engineering degree. At the time he was president of the SBH Little League, it was the largest Little League program in the state.



Over The Back Fence by Nicole

ABIGAIL TURNS 14!
Best wishes for a happy birthday July 3 are sent to **Abigail Durham**, who turns 14 years old, from parents **Courtney and Chris Durham**, brother **Jackson** and baby sister **Penelope**; aunt **Kimberly** and husband **Matt Lipina**; grandparents **Fred and Leslie Flickinger**; great-grandmother **Olive Falkowski**; great-grandfather **John Fairchild**; great-grandfather **David Flickinger**; great-uncle **David Flickinger** (Leader president) and his wife **Ellie**.

NOAH CELEBRATES 11TH BIRTHDAY!
Best wishes for a great tenth birthday July 5 are sent to **Noah Abarca** from parents **Natalie and Jose Abarca**; brother **Kelvin Lopez**, sisters **Elizana and Isabella** and husband **Sebastian Delgado**; their child **Esme**; grandparents **David Flickinger** (Leader president) and wife **Ellie**; great-grandfather **David Flickinger**; and great-grandmother **Kina Reyes**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DWIGHT!
Birthday wishes are in order for former Houston City Council Member **Dwight Boykins**, who celebrates a birthday July 6, from his friends at the *South Belt Leader*.

BIRTHDAY CHEERS FOR CHERYL
Local author **Cheryl Bolen** of Green Tee, formerly of Sagemont, is wished a happy birthday July 8. Sending best wishes are her husband **John**; son **Bo Bolen**, Leader staff member; son **John Bolen** and his wife **Jodi**; and family and friends in the South Belt area.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 2 through July 8.

Atkinson Elementary
Send a birthday greeting July 6 to **Prachi Bhatt**.

Burnett Elementary
Send a happy birthday wish July 2 to **Amy Vasquez**. Give a birthday shoutout to July 3 to **Kasi Al-Ayoubi**. **Maura Rodriguez** celebrates a birthday July 6.

Bush Elementary
July 3 is a day of celebration for **Caroline DeLauro** for her birthday. Light the birthday candles July 4 for **Diana Arredondo**. Sing a happy birthday song to **Prachi Bhatt** July 6.

Frazier Elementary
Send a humorous birthday card July 4 to **Merander Elick**. Blow out the candles July 7 for **Patricia Perez**.

Genoa Elementary
Join in the birthday celebration July 2 for **Sugell Orocio**. **Alejandra Alcala** celebrates a birthday July 3. Sing a happy birthday song July 7 to **Debra Rice**.

Meador Elementary
Fireworks will fly on the July 4 birthday for **Derenda Dehoyos**.

Moore Elementary
Marking a birthday July 6 is **Olga Soto**. Light the candles July 7 for **Bryanna Ramirez**.

South Belt Elementary
Birthday wishes go out to **Audra Taylor** July 2. July 6 is the day for a fun celebration for **Briana Diaz**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles July 6 for **Cristel Hines**. Best wishes for a wonderful

birthday July 7 are sent to **Johnny Tsikis**. **Melillo Middle School**
Celebrating a birthday July 2 is **Stacy Anthony**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Mark Samuel enjoys a memorable birthday July 2. Send a happy birthday greeting July 3 to **William Agan**. Remember to wish **Cecillie Williams** a happy birthday July 5.

Thompson Intermediate
July 3 is the day for a cake for **Yadira Lozano**. Blow out the birthday candles July 5 for **Steven Reyes**. July 7 is the day for a fun celebration for **Lisa Matay**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, July 2: **Mary Collins, Brent Garza, Carrie Ramos, Nancy Pompa, Leslie Eaton, Paul Staton, Randy Weber, Eddie Shields, Darrel Black and Carolyn Benitez-Pineda**; Friday, July 3: **Nancy Smith, Frank Castillo, Bill Phenix and Benny Outland**; Saturday, July 4: **Detric Bowie, Tina Garrett, Bob Shaw, April Smith, Miles Thomas and Brent McCrary**; and Sunday, July 5: **Stacey Imboden, Jeanette Tickell, Chris Constance, Shannon Raymond Covington, Francisco Campos, Elindabeth Kolar, James Notias, John Colunga, Ashley Chapman and Stacey Buchanan**; Monday, July 6: **Teri Perkins, Cristel Anne, Lisa Shepherd, Bonnie Miller, Wally Barbier and Cristel Lasater**; Tuesday, July 7: **Christopher Poole, Beth Pope, Petrea Phenix, Sarah Wingo, Shawn Shockley, Gloria Martinez, Julie Valenti and Larry Bowden**; and Wednesday, July 8: **Sammy Shmiffessel, James Cook, Denise Patterson, Margie Remely, Zul-Tan Jackson, Erik Valdez, and Shannon Lawrence**.



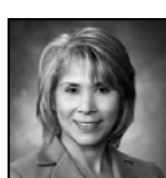
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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Romans headed to Junior Olympics



The Roman brothers, Julian (left) and Jordan Roman, have both qualified for the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic games beginning next month. Julian, who will be an eighth-grade student at Miller Intermediate this school year, will join Jordan, who will be a junior at Dobie High School, as the duo will compete in the 1,500 and 3,000 distance events in addition to the 4x800 relays along with their teammates from the Pearland Track Xpress program. At regionals, Julian Roman was second in the 3,000 at 10 minutes, 23 seconds and fourth at 4:52 at the 1,500 distance. The 4x800 relay squad qualified with a time of 10:17. As for Jordan Roman, he was the regional champion in the 3,000 at 9:34 and second in the 1,500 with a clocking of 4:16. His 4x800 relay squad also advanced with a time of 8:45. The AAU Junior Olympic games will be held Aug. 1-8 at Drake Stadium in Des Moines, Iowa.

Campbell's chooses 6A state champions

Yes, it is true that the high school football season does not begin at the varsity level for nearly two months. Yet the folks at *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* have wasted no time in predicting their choices as the big winners come postseason time in November into December.

North Shore is the defending Class 6A division 1 state champion, while DeSoto is the reigning state champion in the Division 2 bracket.

For 2026, *Campbell's* has Allen defeating Coppell in Region 1, with Waxahachie taking out

longtime Region 2 power Duncanville in the final. As for Region 3 in Division 1, North Shore will defeat Summercreek according to *Campbell's*, and the Region 4 battle will conclude with San Antonio Johnson defeating Lake Travis.

Campbell's says that the 2026 Class 6A Division 1 state championship will go to Waxahachie.

Campbell's has also outlined how things will play out in the 6A Division 2 bracket. As for Region 1, Southlake Carroll will defeat Denton Guyer, while North Crowley will take down Longview within

Region 2.

In the Houston area Region 3, C.E. King will defeat Atascocita, with Region 4 coming down to Austin Westlake defeating Dripping Springs. *Campbell's* has decided that C.E. King, featuring junior running back star Dillon Mitchell, will win the state championship.

Campbell's ranks the Class 6A state pole as such: Waxahachie, North Shore, C.E. King

North Crowley Summer Creek, Duncanville, Allen, Southlake Carroll, Denton Guyer, Dickinson, Atascocita, Coppell, San

Antonio Johnson, Katy, Ridge Point, Aledo, College Park, Longview, Lake Travis, Cibolo Steele, Cy-Ranch, Shadow Creek, Austin Westlake, Dripping Springs, Austin Vandegrift, Prosper, Pearland, Woodlands, San Antonio Brennan, San Antonio Harlan, Lewisville, Willis, North Forney, Odesa Permian Bridgeland, Cy-Falls, Klein Collins, Harker Heights, Manvel, Cy-Fair, Midland Lee, Hewitt Midway, Houston Lamar, Byron Nelson, Euless Trinity, Hutto, Rockwall Heath, Laredo United Tomball, then Rockwall.

ment, Shadow Creek has drawn *Campbell's* interest as the district champion. Pearland is lined up as second, followed by Manvel and Dawson.

The Longhorns are predicted to finish fifth,

one spot ahead of Brazoswood.

The seventh- through ninth-place finishers include Memorial, Alvin and Sam Rayburn.

The *Leader* will have much more information

provided by *Campbell's* in the coming weeks as the 2026 regular season nears.

Opening night is Aug. 28, with Dobie scheduled to host Clear Springs at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.



Dobie junior running back Adrian Taylor will figure largely into the Longhorns' plans on the offensive side of the football during the 2026 season. *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine has placed the Longhorns fifth within the new District 19-6A alignment. Shadow Creek is the preseason favorite to win the league championship, followed by defending district champion Pearland, Manvel and Dawson. The Longhorns kick off the regular season Aug. 28 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena against Clear Springs. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Brook volleyball sets scrimmages

High School volleyball workouts across the state will begin Aug. 1, and the Clear Brook volleyball program has released its scrimmage details leading up to the regular season opener. The Wolverines will scrimmage Aug. 7 at Pearland beginning at 9 a.m. A day later, Aug. 8, the Wolverines will scrimmage at Clear Falls, also at 9 a.m. Clear Brook will travel to St. Agnes to open the regular season Aug. 11, with the varsity match starting at 5:30 p.m.

JFD volleyball camps coming

Dobie varsity volleyball coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will offer a pair of summer camps designed to both help younger players develop their skills within the sport as well as prepare incoming high school aged players for the upcoming 2026 season. Students entering the first through eighth grades are invited to attend the Longhorns' developmental camp July 20-22 at Dobie main. Incoming first- through sixth-grade students will attend the camp from 9 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$50 per participant. Incoming seventh- and eighth-grade students will attend from noon to 2 p.m. also at a cost of \$50 per participant. Players ages 14 through 18 may attend the Longhorns July 28-30 camp, to be at Dobie main at \$60 per participant. Dawn Sexton and other experienced volleyball coaches will direct participants in skill development, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills as well as friendly match play. Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit the Dobie High School website-issued link. To register, visit the link at <https://forms.gle/LJWWDm4i6fPXud7> to register for either camp. For any questions, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

BHI plans Aug. 9 Community Day

Beverly Hills Intermediate will host its annual Community Day Aug. 9 as the football and the volleyball programs will scrimmage in front of Bear fans. There will also be performances by the cheer and dance teams as the school celebrates the start of the fall athletic season in conjunction with the start of school. There will be concessions available for purchase throughout the day, and Beverly Hills team merchandise but also be available.

ENROLL TODAY

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- ✓ Evening Karate Classes
- ✓ Self Defense Classes
- ✓ Teen Camp

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Hernandez remembers Cowboys' career as college looms

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Jordan Hernandez finished his high school career as one of the top all-time receivers on the football field at Pearland

High School, and there are plenty of South Belt friends and former neighbors who also remember his terrific youth career both with the Sagemont Cowboys and for a season



Jordan Hernandez played several seasons with the Sagemont Cowboys of the Bay Area Football League, where he dominated the competition with his speed.

with the Thompson Lions. Hernandez, a Class of 2026 Pearland High School graduate, will now be moving on to play football at Mary Hardin-Baylor University, an exceptionally talented program in the NCAA Division III ranks.

With his given skill set, Hernandez is banking on being able to make contributions early and often in his career with the Crusaders.

"We do have a new receivers coach that I will need to get acquainted with, but I absolutely love what Mary Hardin-Baylor has going on in terms of success on the football field," Hernandez said earlier this month.

"I truly believe I can step in at some point fairly soon in my career and be able to help the Cru win some football games. It's an exciting time in my life,

and I'm tremendously excited to be able to get started on the next chapter."

The Hernandez family and other relatives built a lasting legacy in the South Belt area for many years. Jordan's parents, Brittney and Daniel Hernandez, raised their daughter, Hailey Hernandez, a Class of 2022 Dobie High School graduate and varsity softball player, in the area before making a family decision to relocate to Pearland.

Jordan Hernandez was for many seasons a standout player with the Sagemont Cowboys' youth football organization and was a top performing athlete in football and track and field at Thompson Intermediate as a seventh grade student before the move to Pearland.

Earlier this summer, Hernandez was the recipient of the Mary Beth and

Tom Fitzmorris Memorial Scholarship. The Fitzmorises, parents of current Dobie head football coach Danny Fitzmorris, were lifelong supporters of the Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls organization.

Although Hernandez and his family relocated to Pearland to join the rival Pearland Oilers, Jordan was able to deliver in a big way both on the football and baseball fields over the past four seasons, thrilling many in the South Belt area.

The Oilers twice reached the state Final Four baseball tournament in Round Rock with Jordan on the roster. He wound up being a four-year varsity player for Pearland despite battling and then overcoming injury. Hernandez played his freshman season on the football field at the freshman level but then made the jump to the varsity level as a sophomore.

Coinciding with Hernandez's arrival at Pearland High School was also a joining of forces with his uncle and godfather, Bobby Beynaerts, a Dobie graduate who is the Oilers' varsity safeties coach.

"It definitely smoothed the transition from my time in Sagemont at Thompson and then moving over to Pearland to have somebody like my uncle on campus," Hernandez said.

"Just like anybody else, I was a new guy on campus and had to make new friends, coordinate with new teammates and that sort of thing, but I really feel like it was a smooth adjustment for me having him there."

Hernandez indeed had an outstanding baseball career with the Oilers courtesy of the two state championship tournament appearances as well as a second team All-District

nomination as a senior, but it was his performance on the football field that truly turned heads over the course of three full varsity seasons.

Hernandez is now among the Pearland career leaders in receptions with 132, touchdowns with 26 and total yards receiving with 2,273. He holds the single season record for receptions in a season with 63, and his 1,094 yards receiving and 15 touchdowns as a junior place him second all-time in program history.

"I by no means did it alone," Hernandez said. "We had outstanding football teams in each of my three seasons at the varsity level as well as terrific quarterbacks throwing me the football.

"It was a team effort. I overcame some drops during my first season and was really able to put things together as a junior with more than 1,000 yards receiving and 15

Continued on Page 8

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Jordan Hernandez starred for the Thompson Lions both on the football field and during the track and field season as a seventh-grade student. He set a district record in the 200 during the track and field season.

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LSA graduate Collins adds to SFA volleyball’s talented roster

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**
Quite simply, Aniston Collins is one of the all-time greats in Lutheran South Academy volleyball history and will now look

to make the same kind of difference as part of the Stephen F. Austin University program beginning later this summer in Nacogdoches. Lutheran South had



Aniston Collins had 2,470 total assists to go along with more than 850 digs and more than 675 kills during a splendid four-season varsity career with LSA.

claimed victories in just 26 overall matches over the previous two seasons when Collins and several other talented teammates arrived on scene in 2021-2022.

Over the last four seasons with Collins and several current or future college performers chipping in, the Pioneers twice reached the state Final Four while winning 131 total matches.

Collins, who began attending Lutheran South Academy during her eighth-grade school year, wound up with 2,470 total assists to go along with more than 850 digs and more than 675 kills during a splendid four-season varsity career with the Pioneers.

Having committed to Stephen F. Austin University and head coach Debbie Humphreys’ program more than a year ago, Collins next month will begin her career as a Lumberjay with many of the same expectations that she had at LSA.

Humphreys should be along for the ride with Collins as she in January signed a 3-year contract extension to continue leading the SFA program.

A season ago, the Ladyjays finished off a dominant 15-1 march to the Southland Conference Championship and closed out the regular season at

20-7. It was the 13th regular season conference championship for SFA.

In the Southland Conference Postseason tournament, the Ladyjays defeated UT-Rio Grande Valley to claim the postseason tournament championship in a 3-0 sweep.

SFA qualified for the NCAA National Championship Tournament, going against No. 6 Texas Christian University.

There, the Ladyjays saw their season come to a close with a loss to the Horned Frogs.

Humphreys and Stephen F. Austin clearly have a great thing going. Collins will enter the program as a setter but at 5-feet, 10 inches also believes she can contribute up front in a 5-1 set.

“I have been working on my blocking at the net, focusing on getting more power in my jump so that I can contribute when I am on the front row,” Collins said.

“Having versatility and being able to stay on the court in a variety of rotations is important to any program in today’s volleyball, so I just want to come in and learn as much as I can as quickly as I can, get up to speed with the college game, get into a routine with my teammates and on a roll for myself as quickly as possible.” Collins certainly has

had other suitors in the months since committing to Stephen F. Austin but stayed true to her commitment because she has faith in herself as well as the SFA program moving forward.

“SFA has already had plenty of success over the last several years, and I think any first-year or new player just wants to come in and fit in as a great teammate.

“I really don’t feel like it will be a huge adjustment. I’m looking forward to starting workouts,” Collins said.

Over the summer since her high school graduation, Collins has had time to reflect on what was an outstanding high school career with the Pioneers.

Head coach Geoff Stresman and his staff have put together one of the Houston area’s top programs at any level. Collins was a huge contributor and now looks ahead.

“The program at SFA has already had a bunch of success, and I am looking forward to joining the program and doing whatever I can to keep the positive momentum going,” Collins said.

“I chose SFA because I had a great feeling about the program, I really love the feeling of the university overall and just in general feel like it’s a great place for me to continue

my collegiate education and playing career.”

Collins plans to study speech pathology in college and looks forward to one day assisting school-aged children with their communication needs.

As for shifting from high school to college on the volleyball court, she sees plenty of similarities between the LSA and SFA programs.

“I think at LSA it was really a situation where we had a high level of expectations, held each other accountable and worked hard each and every day to get better,” Collins said.

“We were a closely-knit group who did a lot of things together, and I really believe the same sort of situation exists at SFA.”

As for what continues to drive Collins as she begins competition at the NCAA level, Collins said it is the love of the sport that feeds that drive. “Volleyball has always been an outlet for me,” Collins said.

“Whatever stresses or pressure I am feeling off the court, the competitive nature of volleyball and the ability to contribute together as a group toward success on the court is something that helps with those pressures.

“Volleyball is a very up and down, emotional sport from point to point, but

that is what I love about it.”

Stresman and the Pioneers will no doubt con-

tinue to enjoy plenty of success for 2026-2027 and beyond, but there is little doubt that as Collins and

some of her fellow Class of 2026 graduates move on, a remarkable era has been closed out.



Having committed to Stephen F. Austin University and head coach Debbie Humphreys’ program more than a year ago, Lutheran South graduate Aniston Collins next month will begin her career as a Lumberjay with many of the same expectations that she had at LSA.

Calone excited to begin collegiate basketball career with ETBU

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**
The East Texas Baptist University men’s basketball program may not yet realize just what a talent it has acquired in the form of Cruz Calone, but it shouldn’t take long for both parties to fall in love with the pairing as the Class of 2026 Clear Brook High School graduate begins his collegiate

basketball career in Marshall.

Calone, a 6-foot, 6-inch power forward with a 6-foot, 10-inch wingspan, contributed to plenty of victories on the court over his three varsity seasons with the Wolverines and now joins an East Texas Baptist program that is looking to take a big jump next season.

Being able to add a

presence like Calone, who was voted the Most Outstanding Male student during the school’s graduation ceremony in late May, will only add to what ETBU already has going on.

“I am very excited to be able to join the program at East Texas Baptist University, and as a freshman all I am going to do is go out on the court and work hard every day to show what I can do,” Calone said.

“I realize that there will be a transition to the college game, but I am willing to do whatever it takes to carve out a role for myself. I’ve never shied away from hard work and working on my skills to be able to improve on the basketball court.

“This will be a new challenge, but everybody comes in as a freshman at some point and needs to figure things out. Hopefully I can have a fairly smooth transition and be able to contribute right away.”

Calone had previously seriously entertained joining another NCAA Division III basketball program within the state, but a huge interest coming from the folks at East Texas Baptist University was enough to sway the big man.

The Tigers struggled a bit a season ago while putting together a 7-19 overall mark, which included a season ending 89-84 loss

to Mary Hardin Baylor in the semifinal round of the American Southwest Conference Championship Tournament.

Following the season, four Tiger players earned All-American Southwest Conference honors.

Also for the 2025-2026 school year, East Texas Baptist landed in the top tier of the NCAA Division III Learfield Directors Cup final standings, which recognizes both competitive and academic performance across all athletics for a given collegiate program.

Calone, who said he plans to study accounting at the collegiate level, wound up with a 4.42 weighted grade point average and by all accounts should have little trouble in the classroom.

While he is excited to begin this new journey at East Texas Baptist University, Calone admits he will miss being part of a Wolverines’ program that has been tremendously successful under the guidance of head coach Nathan Janak.

Calone joined the varsity level during his sophomore season and was part of a Clear Brook team a season ago that went 26-9 overall, reaching the post-

season and pushing Summer Creek to the limit in a 6A Division 2 first round playoff game before a 68-66 loss.

“We played together,

understood our respective roles and were able to put together a terrific final season that all of us can be proud of,” Calone said of his senior season as a

Wolverine.

“Speaking for myself, I truly believe that I gave everything I had and left it all out there on the court. There are always mo-

ments in games that you feel like you could have done this or that differently, but as long as the effort is there, that’s really all you can do.”



Cruz Calone, who plans to study accounting at the collegiate level, wound up with a 4.42 weighted grade point average and by all accounts should have little trouble in the classroom.

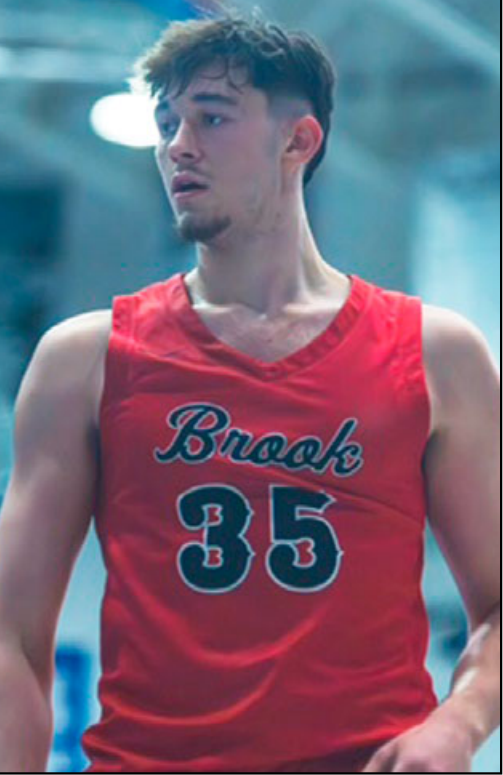
Calone has never shied away from putting in plenty of work in the weight room and should for sure be able to provide the Tigers with a solid inside presence come November. The incoming freshman realizes there will be an adjustment but is up to the challenge.

“My family and I actually spent three years in Columbia where I played soccer and thought I was going to pursue that sport when I was younger,” Calone said.

“Once I began to grow and get a feel for the game of basketball, I’ve always known that’s what I wanted to do for as long as I could possibly do it.

“I’m getting an opportunity to show what I can do at East Texas Baptist University, and that’s really all you can ask for. I’m ready to get started. I’m going to go in there, keep my head down and work hard.

“I want to learn as much as I can about the college game and get into a flow as soon as possible. I’ve been working hard in the weight room, so I feel strong and ready to go. The next chapter of my basketball career is about to begin, and I’m extremely excited for that.”



Cruz Calone joined the varsity level during his sophomore season and was part of a Clear Brook team a season ago that went 26-9 overall.



While Cruz Calone is excited to begin this new journey at East Texas Baptist University, Calone admits he will miss being part of a Wolverines’ program that has been tremendously successful under the guidance of head coach Nathan Janak.

SBGSA’s 8-under All-Stars take third

At right, the South Belt Girls Softball Association’s 8-and-under All-Star team finished third out of 43 teams at the Texas State Tournament, winning seven straight games to reach the semifinals before a pair of losses. Along the way, the girls scored 96 runs while allowing just 28. The team will now prepare for Pixie Nationals. Members of the team include, left to right, (front row) Aleyda Salazar, Kie-lyn Nguyen, Eternity Garza, Kaylanni Rangel, Giselle Rodriguez, Yasmin Vo, (middle row) Roxy Serna, Rosalie Rodriguez, Lianna Rangel, Elliana Vo, Ella Saenz, Ayla Cruz, (back row) coaches J.C. Rodriguez, Eseneth Salazar, Jared Cruz and Stephanie Cruz.



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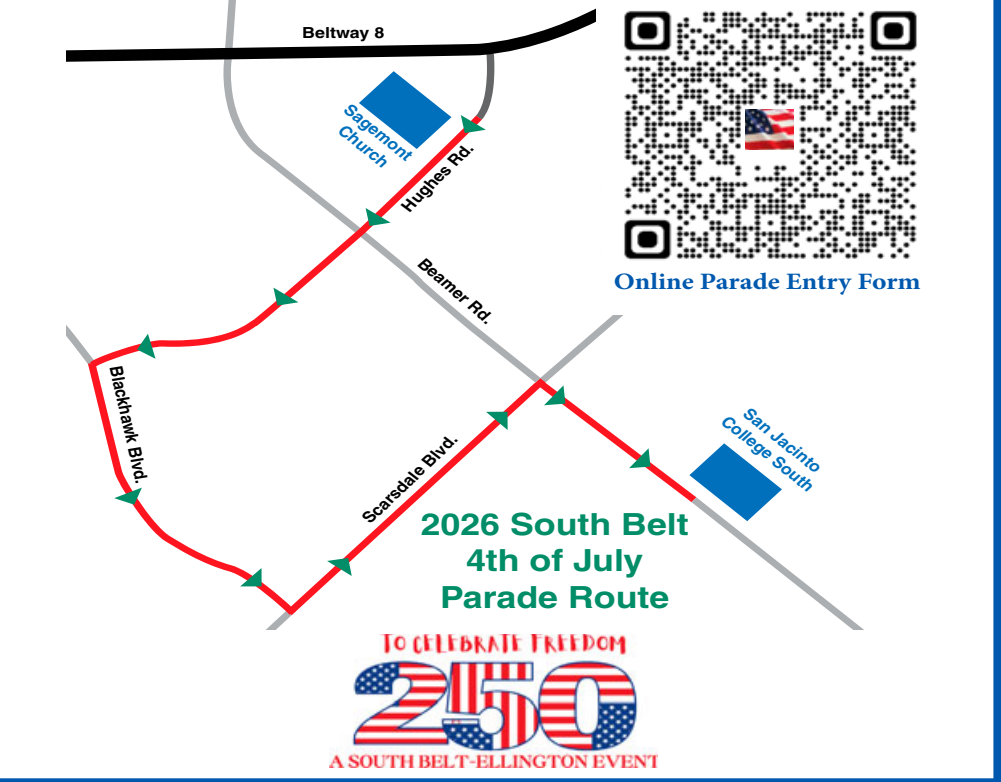
The parade will begin at Sagemont Church (11300 S. Sam Houston Pkwy. E.) Parking Lot K off Hughes Road at 10 a.m. The parade will end at San Jacinto College South Campus on Beamer. Lineup starts at 9 a.m. Judging for trophies will be at 9:30 a.m. Individuals, groups and businesses are encouraged to build floats, decorate vehicles and participate.

Entry fees MUST be paid by June 29th to participate in the parade. Adult supervision is mandatory! **Due to the length, NO WALKING ALLOWED IN THE PARADE.** For everyone's safety, **NO alcohol or glass containers, water balloons or water guns are allowed.** This is a celebration of the 250th Birthday of America! **Only United States of America, Texas and U.S. military flags are allowed.**

Candy, small trinkets, beads, etc. to toss from your float or vehicle to spectators is encouraged.

For more information, contact the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* at 281-481-5656.

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THURSDAY, JULY 2

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 3

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.

Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

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.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study,

Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.

8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, JULY 6

5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.

7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.

7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

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 **AA - Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.

Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 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 at 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.

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

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.

Hernandez heads to Mary Hardin-Baylor

Continued from Page 5

touchdowns. We also did some pretty good things together as a senior last year, so overall I am tremendously proud of both what I was able to do as well as what I contributed as a teammate.

"I could say the same thing about the baseball field," Hernandez said.

"Being able to go to state twice is something that I think will stay with me for the rest of my life. We didn't win a state title, but just being there and having the experience of being around some of the best teams and players in the state was a great experience."

Hernandez's sister, Hai-

ley Hernandez, recently graduated from the University of Houston-Clear Lake with a degree in physical therapy. Jordan, in large part due to some of the injuries he faced and overcame during his career, said he plans to follow a similar career path at Mary Hardin-Baylor, as he also plans to become a physical therapist.

"Whether it was always fun or not, I think I was able to gain a pretty good understanding of what it takes to bounce back from injuries and other setbacks in your athletic career," Hernandez said.

"I also gained a true appreciation for the work being done by physical therapists out there. When you are in recovery, it really becomes a team effort as you try to get back to where you were as an athlete or to become healthy again. Having experienced that from the injury side of things, I feel like it's a purpose of mine to be able to give back to other athletes in the future. In a way, it will also allow me to stay close to sports and athletics in general, and that's something that I'm excited about."

While Hernandez and his family are now Pearland residents, Hernandez has never lost touch

with friends and other supporters in the South Belt area. Denny Wranich Sr., president of the Sagemont Cowboys, told the *Leader* Hernandez and his family have been tremendous assets in the community for many years.

"The Hernandez family is tremendous," Wranich said. "Their family as a whole has always been willing to chip in and help out with team activities, and each and everyone of them have always been so gracious. As for Jordan, he's just a terrific young man. He's always there to greet you with a smile and a hug, ask you how you were doing and is just generally a terrific person to be around. He and his family represented the Cowboys with great honor, and we wish nothing but the best for Jordan as he begins his collegiate journey."

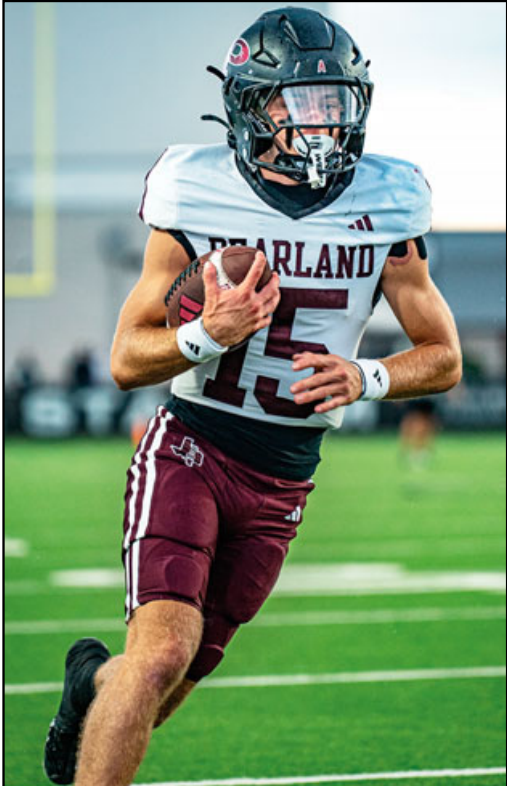
Hernandez himself said that while he is headed off to college, he will remember his time in both Sagemont and Pearland for the rest of his life.

"It's been a lot of fun all these years," Hernandez said. "All I've ever tried to do is be a great person and a great teammate. The results are what they are, and I think everybody wants to be successful both for

themselves and for their teams. At the same time, I certainly think that I have built so many relationships with people on and off the field that will last a lifetime.

"This part of my life has

closed for now, but I am very excited to get started in college and see where my career takes me. It all started in Sagemont with the cowboys, and that's something that my family and I are very proud of."



Jordan Hernandez ended his career at Pearland High School as one of the top receivers in program history and will now look to make a difference within the Mary Hardin-Baylor football program.



Jordan Hernandez began his football career as a youth with the Sagemont Cowboys of the Bay Area Football League before heading to Thompson Intermediate.

Addy chooses Georgia Tech



Lutheran South varsity volleyball star Addy Musgrove, a junior, has decided to continue her education and collegiate volleyball career at Georgia Tech after verbally committing to the Yellowjackets earlier this month. Musgrove has already registered nearly 700 career kills, more than 400 digs and nearly 650 assists in two seasons with the Pioneers. Musgrove and her teammates advanced to the state tournament a season ago and are once again set on returning later this fall. Musgrove's older sister, Kirra, is a sophomore at Texas A&M University, where she was part of the Aggies' national championship run a season ago. Kirra Musgrove also previously starred at Lutheran South Academy.

DeLeon headed to PVAM



Former San Jacinto College softball standout Kam DeLeon will continue her education and collegiate playing career at Prairie View A&M after signing to join the Panthers' program earlier this summer. DeLeon in 2026 helped San Jacinto College reach the national championship tournament after hitting .376 with 35 runs driven in, 70 total hits and playing outstanding defense.

Bears host summer open gym

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff has announced open weight room dates for the summer. Each of the sessions will be from 10 a.m. to noon, including July 14-16, July 21-22 and July 28-30.

Any students currently playing football or planning to play, may also attend the Dobie Head-Start football camp July 28-30. The on-campus, back-to-school camps for both volleyball and football will be held Aug. 4-6, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. each day.

Dobie strength/conditioning

The Dobie High School coaching staff has planned dates for the summer strength and conditioning program at the main campus.

These sessions will run from 8-10 a.m. daily, with sport-specific sessions to follow from 10-11 a.m. each day. The dates include July 6-9 and July 13-16.

Lions' strength/conditioning

The Thompson Intermediate coaching staff will host strength and conditioning sessions for both boys and girls throughout the summer. Each of the sessions will run from 9-11 a.m. each day. The dates include July 6-9 and July 13-16.

The Lions football camp will be held July 20-23, from 9-11 a.m. each day at a cost of \$40 per student. Additional information and or adjustments to the above information will be provided as needed. As required by the state, all students must have a current athletic physical on file and have had completed required Rank One paperwork.

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