

Leader seeks submissions

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

Kirkwood to meet July 28

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

Coffee with the Constable

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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.

New Covenant feeds needy

Each month, New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have food distribution events the first and third Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies last. The purpose of the events is to provide food to people in need. For additional information, contact the church at 281-484-4230.

Freeway Manor to meet

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

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

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

Hughes/Sabo closures set

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

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

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

Sagemont to meet Aug. 5

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, 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.

Knights to sell barbecue

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue fundraiser at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost will be \$12 for a pulled-pork sandwich, cole slaw, chips and soft drink; and \$6 for sausage-on-a-stick. Proceeds will benefit the church's capital campaign.

Pasadena ISD votes to increase teacher pay

Starting salary now \$65K+; teachers with 5+ years to get \$5K hike

The Pasadena ISD board of trustees recently approved pay raises for teachers and other staff, increasing the starting teacher salary to \$65,205.

This decision aims to improve recruitment and retention efforts within the district.

Details

Teachers with 0-2 years experience will receive a \$1,500 pay increase.

Educators who have been on the job for 3-4

years will receive a \$2,500 raise.

Teachers with 5+ years experience will receive a \$5,000 pay increase.

Other staff will receive a 2 percent midpoint raise.

While the exact impact on the district budget for these raises was not immediately available, a similar increase in 2021 cost Pasadena ISD approximately \$10 million.

Comparison to previous years

This raise represents a notable increase compared to previous years. In 2018-2019, the starting teacher salary was \$53,140, increasing to \$57,619 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Comparison to other Texas cities

The new starting salary of \$65,205 puts Pasadena ISD ahead of the state average teacher salary, which was reported at \$58,887 in 2024. The pay rate, however, falls slightly below some

of the highest-paying districts in the state, such as Deer Park ISD (\$70,300) and Dallas ISD (\$70,217).

Potential benefits

The district hopes this pay increase will help attract and retain high-quality educators, particularly in a competitive educational landscape. This could lead to a stronger workforce and ultimately benefit the students of Pasadena ISD, school officials said.

Blackhawk repairs continue



Construction continues on a Harris County Precinct 2 project make extensive street and sidewalk repairs on Blackhawk from Scarsdale to Beltway 8. According to county officials, all concrete street panels deemed defective will be replaced along the area thoroughfare, and all sidewalks will be extended from 4 to 6 feet wide. (Some areas currently without a sidewalk will have a new 6-foot sidewalk installed.) See related photo on Page 2.

Photo by James Bolen

Fleeing chase suspect killed by police

Suspect allegedly fired at officers during multiagency pursuit

A multiple-agency pursuit that led police along the Gulf Freeway from Bellfort to Galveston Island the morning of Wednesday, July 16, ended in the death of the fleeing suspect, who investigators said was firing shots at officers.

The chase involved law enforcement officers from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Galveston Police Department and the Galveston County Sheriff's Office.

At a joint press conference, investigators said the incident began around 10:10 a.m. when a Pre-

cinct 2 deputy spotted a stolen vehicle near Bellfort and Broadway (in Houston) and attempted to conduct a traffic stop, but the driver refused to stop.

The pursuit traveled south down the Gulf Freeway at a high rate of speed, while the deputy called for backup.

Investigators said that during the pursuit, the suspect fired multiple shots at officers.

The chase came to a stop on Broadway (in Galveston) near 54th Street.

As the armed suspect was exiting the vehicle, he was met with deadly force by law enforcement.

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Former Pct. 8 judge, civic leader dies

A longtime justice of the peace, Molly Maness Smith dies at 68

Former longtime Precinct 8 Justice of the Peace Molly Essary Maness Smith died Tuesday, July 8, at the age of 68.

Born in Houston on Jan. 18, 1957, Smith was the fourth daughter of Dawson and Mary Essary, a family deeply rooted in Galena Park's history. A proud graduate of Galena Park High School, she went on to attend San Jacinto College, where she joined the San-Jans drill team and earned a scholarship to Texas A&M University, later completing her degree at University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Smith continued to have a close relationship with San Jacinto College throughout her career.

Her journey into public service began with Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jim Fonteno's office, but it was in 1988 that Smith made her mark, winning a grassroots campaign to become justice of the peace for Harris County Precinct 8. Her victory – by just 100 votes out of

70,000 – was the beginning of a 20-year tenure that would touch thousands of lives.

Smith was known for her compassionate approach to juvenile justice, pioneering efforts in truancy prevention and youth outreach. She balanced the law with humor and heart, often saying her courtroom was a place for second chances.

Her work extended beyond the bench, serving on numerous local boards, including the Pasadena and Deer Park chambers of commerce, Rotary Club, YMCA, Bridge Over Troubled Waters and Camp H-Town, among others.

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Molly Maness Smith

BellaVita Belles collect JFD donations

Residents donate supplies, clothes to local high school students

The women's group, the Belles, of the BellaVita over-55 community, are partnering this month with Dobie High School to collect donations for students.

Dobie Assistant Principal Laurie Calderaro presented the group with a list of needs. She explained that Dobie is a Title I school. To qualify for Title I, a school must be 40 percent from low-income families.

School-related needs include glue sticks, Scotch laminate sheets, dry eraser markers, all colors of Sharpies, paper towels, Kleenex, Clorox wipes and white construction paper.

Also, they are collecting gray or black fleece hoodies of all sizes, but extra large sizes are in high demand – even those going up to triple x. In addition, they will be collecting men's crew socks.

A box has been placed in the BellaVita clubhouse to collect donations.

Each month, the Belles adopt a different charity. Last month, it helped the Three Little Pities animal rescue group.

That drive was spearheaded by former Dobie teacher Nancy Walker. This month the BellaVita Belles are also holding a silent auction to benefit the Dress for Success charity in conjunction with their annual Ladies' Night In event.

Last year's auction raised more than \$2,000 in cash for Dress for Success, a program to assist needy women reentering the workforce. They also collected handbags, scarfs and pantyhose.

At Easter, BellaVita residents put together gifts of candy-stuffed eggs and Easter-centric books for kindergartners at Burnett Elementary. See related photo on Page 3.

HPD sergeant shot near Hobby Airport

Suspect also shot during exchange; both recovering in hospital

A Houston Police Department sergeant is recovering after being shot during a late-night exchange of gunfire near Hobby Airport Thursday, July 17.

According to HPD officials, Sgt. Paul George, a 27-year veteran of the force assigned to the Southeast Patrol Division, was responding to a call about a suspicious person with a weapon around 11:35 p.m. near Alameda Genoa and Mykawa Road.

When George and fellow HPD sergeant, K. Burch, arrived at the scene, a male suspect immediately opened fire, striking George in the leg.

Both officers immediately returned fire, hitting the suspect.

Emergency aid was administered on site, and both George and the suspect were transported to a local hospital in stable condition.

The suspect, identified as Bobby Jose Alvara-

do, 36, has since been charged with two counts of aggravated assault of a peace officer in the 487th State District Court.

Mayor John Whitmire issued a statement the following morning, expressing gratitude that George's injuries were non-life-threatening.

"This incident reminds us of the daily dangers our officers face in service to our city," said Whitmire. "Their courage and dedication do not go unnoticed."

This message was reinforced by HPD Assistant Chief Adrian Rodriguez, who wished George a speedy recovery.

"These are the types of scenes our officers come across on a daily basis," said Rodriguez. "It is always unexpected what they are going to come across. This was a very quick scene and they had to respond quickly to respond to the

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Local educator Caryl Wilson dies at 75

Wilson served as 2nd Clear Brook principal, 1st black in CCISD

Former Clear Brook Principal Dr. Caryl L. Wilson died in Pearland July 11 at the age of 75.

Wilson served as principal of the area high school from 1997 until her retirement in 2008. She made history as Clear Creek ISD's first African-American principal. She was the second principal to serve at the campus, succeeding the school's founding principal who served from its opening in 1992 until 1997.

Clear Brook excelled during Wilson's 11-year tenure, and under her leadership, the high school earned a "Recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency – a prestigious a distinction that reflected her unwavering commitment to student achievement and staff development.

Known for her deep compassion, Wilson championed programs that supported underserved students and fostered a culture of inclusivity. Her tenure was marked by a steady rise in graduation rates, expanded AP course offerings and a renewed emphasis on teacher mentorship.

A lifelong learner, Wilson had a rich and varied educational background.

A 1967 graduate of Fidelity Manor High School Galena Park, Wilson was a member of the choir, Spanish club, student council, art club, future teachers group, honor society, drama club and Pantherette drill team. She served as senior class president and was named Ms. Fidelity at the campus in 1967.

Following graduation, Wilson earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Spelman College in Atlanta in 1971. She majored in Spanish and mi-

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Dr. Caryl Wilson

Plummer resigns to seek judge position

Several potential candidates eyeball Plummer's current Council seat

Houston City Council Member Letitia Plummer has officially entered the race for Harris County Judge in the 2026 election, triggering a wave of political movement across the region.

Plummer, who has represented At-Large Position 4 since 2020, announced her candidacy Tuesday, July 8, at Brock Park in northeast Houston, a location chosen to highlight her campaign's focus on flood control and infrastructure resilience.

At press time, it remained unclear if current

Harris County judge, Democrat Lina Hidalgo, would seek re-election. Hidalgo said at a recent press conference she will make her final decision in the coming weeks.

A trailblazing career

A native Houstonian, Plummer is a practicing dentist and the first Muslim woman elected to Houston City Council. She holds degrees from Spelman College and Baylor College of Dentistry.

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Grahams' grandson meets Astros



Rosa and Don Graham of Sageglen were delighted to watch their grandson, 10-year-old Lane Graham, participate in Kids Take the Field at the Astros' July 13 game. Astros outfielder Taylor Trammell is shown signing Lane's shirt in the outfield at Daikin Park before the first pitch. Rosa Graham is a long-time staff member of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

Leader looks back at local Beltway 8 construction



As part of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* 50th anniversary, the newspaper looks back at the construction of the local tollway from which the publication takes its name. After being delayed more than a decade, work on the local stretch of the beltway finally took place in the mid-90s. Construction of the entire 89-mile tollway, however, would not be complete until 2011. A young Eliza Paul, of the Texas Department of Transportation, is pictured below with the construction. Recently retired, Paul is the wife of state Rep. Dennis Paul, who currently represents much of the South Belt community. See additional photos commemorating the *Leader's* 50th anniversary in future editions, as the newspaper will continue to publish them throughout the remainder of the year.



Former Brook Principal Caryl Wilson dies

Wilson was 1st African American principal in Clear Creek ISD

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nored in secondary education.

In 1971, Wilson gave birth to her first daughter Jonetta Nicole, before giving birth again in 1977 to her second daughter Kristi Michelle.

In 1987, she received her master's in education degree from the University of Houston.

In 1994, Wilson was accepted into Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass., studying at the Harvard Principals Academy.

In 1996, Wilson earned a Doctor of Philosophy in education from La Salle University in Louisiana, graduating summa cum laude.

Prior to becoming principal at Clear Brook, Wilson served as assistant principal for Curriculum and Instruction in Galena Park ISD, a position she held from 1987-1990.

From 1993-1996, Wilson served as principal of La Marque High School, also making history as Texas City ISD's first African-American principal – and first female principal.

From 1994 to 2001, Wilson served as district chair of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1994-2001), overseeing accreditation for multiple districts including Clear Creek ISD.

From 1997 to 2000, Wilson worked as an adjunct professor at University of Houston–Clear Lake.

In 2000, Wilson married husband Robert Roger Wilson.

A funeral service for Wilson was held Friday, July 18, at Hope Church in Pearland. See related obituary on this page..

Fleeing chase suspect killed by police

Suspect allegedly opened fire on police during 30-minute pursuit

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ment. At press time, it was unclear which agency(s) had fired the fatal shot.

Authorities stressed that the investigation remains active and that further details, including the suspect's identity and motive, will be released pending autopsy results and next-of-kin notification. The Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's office is leading the investigation, with assistance from the Galveston Police Department.

"At this time, we are unable to publicly discuss any details of the event while the investigation is pending," Kayla Allen, first assistant for the Galveston County District Attorney's Office, said at Wednesday's media briefing.

Broadway was closed down in Galveston between 51st and 56th streets for several hours as investigators processed the scene.

The pursuit lasted about 30 minutes, investigators said.

No law enforcement officers were injured during the chase.

The incident has sparked renewed discussions about the risks involved in high-speed pursuits and the protocols surrounding use of force. Law enforcement officials stated that more details would be released following a full review of body camera footage and forensic evidence.

This was a developing story at press time.



SJC launches training program to support space-based pharmaceutical recovery

San Jacinto College is expanding its leadership in workforce training through a new partnership with Intuitive Machines to develop a biopharmaceutical material handling program, which prepares technicians to safely manage pharmaceuticals returned from space. This initiative will support Intuitive Machines' Earth Reentry Program; building on its partnership with America's first commercial space biotech company, Rhodium Scientific, and marks a major step toward building a commercial pipeline for space-based medication development.

Designed from the ground up, the curriculum will be developed by San Jacinto College in collaboration with Intuitive Machines and other industry partners to align with the unique regulatory and technical demands. The training will be built to NIBRT (National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training) standards, with the College being the only NIBRT-certified institution in the southern U.S.

"With our NIBRT-certified programming, hands-on biotechnology training facilities, and presence at the Houston Spaceport, San Jacinto College is uniquely positioned to lead the development of the workforce needed for space-enabled biomanufacturing," said Dr. Christopher Wild, assistant vice chancellor and vice president of Biotechnology.

This initiative builds on San Jac's robust biotechnology program, which includes a biomanufacturing technology associate degree and certificates. As the program expands, the College will open a new Center for Biotechnology at Generation Park this summer, a first-of-its-kind NIBRT training center to meet growing demand for bioprocessing professionals across Texas and beyond.

"San Jacinto College understands what it takes to prepare a workforce for next-generation industries," said Justin Kugler, senior director of Business Development at Intuitive Machines. "As we develop a precision Earth return vehicle to deliver space-manufactured materials, San Jacinto College is training the technicians who will help ensure those scientific payloads—developed by companies like Rhodium Scientific—are safely received and transferred for use. We believe their role is essential to making orbital manufacturing commercially viable, connecting what's made in space to what's needed on Earth."

This partnership continues a long-standing relationship with Intuitive Machines, dating back to 2019, and complements a Texas Space Commission-funded project to develop a full-scale ground prototype return vehicle. Approximately 80 students have completed the College's composite manufacturing technician course and approximately 25 percent of those have gone on to work at Intuitive Machines.

Fomer Judge Molly Maness Smith dies

A 20-year Pct. 8 justice of the peace, Smith leaves lasting legacy

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After retiring from the bench in 2008, Smith found a new calling as a funeral director, offering comfort and care to families during their most difficult moments.

An extensive traveler, Smith was baptized in the River Jordan and visited all seven continents.

A funeral service will be held for Smith Saturday, July 26, at First Baptist Church in Pasadena, with visitation the evening before at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons in Houston.

The family encourages donations to the San Jacinto College Foundation in honor of Smith.

See related obituary on this page.

Houston public libraries to host back-to-school giveaways

As the city comes alive with the buzz of Back-to-School, Houston Public Library (HPL) is celebrating throughout the month of August. On Saturday, Aug. 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., HPL libraries across the city are reconnecting with families, educators and students.

Libraries will offer fun activities, giveaways and hands-on demonstrations of HPL's most popular tools. Staff will be available to answer questions and help visitors discover resources tailored to their specific educational goals. Families are encouraged to find Back-to-School events near them and register before attending. Visit <https://calendar.houstonlibrary.org/calendar/events?&t=d&q=Back-to-School&c=d=15272&cal=15272&inc=0> for locations.

Back-to-School with HPL is a one-stop opportunity to explore tools that go beyond books. Attendees will learn about:

- MYLink Library Cards – free and easy access to all of HPL's digital and physical collections.
- Brainfuse – live tutoring and homework help available online seven days a week.
- Libby – instant access to thousands of e-books and e-audiobooks.
- Mango Languages – fun and easy language learning for over 70 world languages.
- TECHLink – creative tech spaces for everything from music production to 3D printing.
- LEARNINGLink – an innovative initiative designed to bridge the gap between education and access to vital resources. Students and teachers can access library services for free with just a school ID number.
- Library of Things – borrow more than books, including musical instruments, games, and more.

To help families prepare, HPL has created a Back-to-School Resource Guide, available now at houstonlibrary.org/back-to-school. The guide includes links to digital tools, recommended reading lists, and tips for using the library throughout the year.

"Whether your child is entering kindergarten, navigating middle school, preparing for high school, or embarking on their college journey, Houston Public Library offers creative and impactful back-to-school resources to guide their success throughout the academic year and beyond," said Sandy Gaw, library director. "Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are eager to sign families up for MyLink Cards and highlight the library's wide array of free services."

Join and step into the new school year with confidence, curiosity and one's library card in hand.

HPD sergeant shot

Suspect also shot during exchange

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The case is currently under investigation by HPD's Special Investigations Unit, the Internal Affairs Division and the Harris County District Attorney's Office, as is standard protocol for officer-involved shootings.

This marked the second officer-involved shooting in just two days. See related story on Page 1.

Belles donate to drive



BellaVita resident Gerry Bartlett deposits hoodies she bought for Dobie High School students in the box at the BellaVita clubhouse. Another donor left a case of paper towels. The drive continues through the month of July. See related story on Page 1.

Photo by Cheryl Bolen



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Knights of Columbus
Council 9201

St. Lukes the Evangelist Catholic Church



Saturday
 July 26, 2025
 10am - 4pm

Sunday
 July 27, 2025
 10am - 3pm

Choice of:
 Pulled Pork Sandwich with
 Chips and Choice of Drink \$12
 or
 Sausage on a Stick \$6





Frazier Elementary

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

\$50 per team
 (No singles)

Saturday
Aug. 2, 2025
9AM-2PM

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

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

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

REGISTER YOUR TEAM BELOW



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Write "Pickleball" in the note/message

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

Dobie FFA students participate in Stars & Stripes Prospect Show; Small-Town Showdown



Dobie High School FFA students recently participated in the Stars & Stripes Prospect Show that was held on Saturday, July 5, in La Porte. Pictured students are, left to right, Isaac Martinez, Elijah Cisneros, Jeremiah Griffin, Vianka Alanis and Jenna Molina.



Dobie High School FFA students participated in the Small-Town Showdown Prospect Show Friday, July 11, in Rosenberg. Shown are, left to right, Isaac Martinez Class 7- placed fifth out of six), Elijah Cisneros (Class 7- placed sixth out of six), Jenna Molina (Class 8- placed second out of four), Vianka Alanis (Class 4 - placed second out of nine competitors) and Jeremiah Griffin Class 7- placed fourth out of six. Alanis and Molina went to Grand Drive. Griffin and Alanis pulled for a separate competition for Grand Drive Showmanship award.



Pictured with her animal is Vianka Alanis who represented Dobie and placed third in her class in the Stars & Stripes Prospect Show in La Porte.



Shown is Dobie FFA student Naylely Huynh who won first in her class and fourth overall in Small-Town Showdown in Rosenberg.



Dobie High School FFA student, Keyli Vanhouten-Guerrero recently participated in Rosenberg's Small-Town Showdown placing fifth in her class.

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)
The Pasadena Independent School District's districtwide property reappraisal, which began in the spring, was complete, and all property owners had been notified of whopping increases in the value of their property. The largest increases in appraisal were had been identified as that of a Houston woman.
A female murder victim found in the sandpit behind Beverly Hills in mid-July had been identified as that of a Houston woman.
A tornado was sighted in the South Belt area during heavy rains, but it was reported that it did not touch down or cause any damage.
A 20-cent across-the-board increase in PSD lunch prices was approved by trustees during a recent board meeting. Effective for the 1980-1981 school year, lunch prices were set at 95¢ for elementary, \$1.05 for intermediate, and \$1.15 for high school students.
40 years ago (1985)
Arthur Hardy, registrar at San Jacinto College South, retired after more than 20 years with the college in teaching and administrative roles. Joining the San Jacinto system in 1963, two years after the college originated, Hardy taught business courses such as bookkeeping, data processing and accounting. He became the South campus registrar in 1982.
Directors of the Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association told a quarterly gathering of the membership they were waiting to get responses from a recent questionnaire before decisions could be made. The most significant question on the questionnaire was on raising the annual maintenance fee from the then-\$10 a year to \$30 a year.
An 18-year-old male drowned in a swimming pool accident at Windmill Lakes.
The Clear Creek Independent School District board reaffirmed its policy of assigning students 20 days in the Alternative Learning Center for possessing or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any injurious substance while at a school function. At that time, the

state recommended a sentence of 10 days for first offenders, but CCISD opted to continue with the 20-day sentence rather than have it appear the district was becoming more lenient with offenders.
35 years ago (1990)
Harris County Sheriff's Department detectives continued to investigate the murder of South Belt resident Carrie Renea Stovall, 27, who was stabbed to death in her home on Camphorwood in early July.
In order to meet rising demands for personnel, Pasadena ISD board members agreed to hire approximately 250 new employees and create 100 new teaching positions.
Development of Ellington Field took another step forward with the addition of passenger shuttle service.

Continental Express transferred its shuttle service from William P. Hobby Airport to Ellington to accommodate the majority of customers using the service.
South Belt area municipal utility districts were notified they would have to convert to surface water by the end of the year, so residents would expect an increase in their bill because Houston owned the water. Once the conversion took place, homeowners would receive increases in excess of \$14 per month.
30 years ago (1995)
Neighbors were encouraged to participate in National Night Out Tuesday, July 25, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Dobie Parking stickers were scheduled to be sold for \$20 the first week in August in the school's activity center. Application forms,

which required a parent's signature, were made available in the main office of the school.
25 years ago (2000)
City of Houston officials urged a voluntary reduction in water consumption due to drought conditions.
Jason Wilson, a 16-year-old Dobie junior, was found dead in his Scarsdale home.
Clint Eastwood, James Garner, Tommy Lee Jones, Donald Sutherland and Marcia Gay Harden attended AMC Gulf Pointe's screening of Space Cowboys.
20 years ago (2005)
Concerned that the opening of the district's fourth high school was in jeopardy, CCISD trustees voted to sue League City. The decision to sue was made after League City voted against honoring the permit previously approved by the city's planning

and zoning commission.
While off duty, South Belt resident Heidi Ruiz, who was also a Houston Police officer, recognized a man wanted on suspicion of kidnapping and sexual assault. Ruiz worked in the sex crimes division of HPD and recognized the man after she had seen surveillance photos of him. She called the information in, and the suspect was arrested.
Deputies from Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's office were busy investigating a pipe bomb explosion in Highland Meadow and a home invasion in Kirkwood South.
Two 17-year-old men, one a Beverly Hills resident, were arrested for four armed robberies within two hours. The two men used a pump .410 shotgun to rob gas stations in the South Belt, Clear

Lake and Pearland areas.
15 years ago (2010)
The Clear Creek Independent School District achieved the state's highest rating of Exemplary. CCISD was the second largest school district in the state to reach this level since Texas implemented the accountability system. Of the district's 41 campuses, 32 schools were Exemplary, eight schools were Recognized, and one campus was Academically Acceptable. All CCISD high schools and elementary schools were rated Exemplary or Recognized.
10 years ago (2015)
A man died July 24 after being shot inside a local strip club. The incident happened at the Lounge Plaza Men's Club in the 12300 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua. Witnesses re-

ported that the victim and the suspect had an altercation earlier in the evening. The suspect later returned with a pistol and shot the victim multiple times in the chest and leg. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital, where he later died.
5 years ago (2020)
Longtime South Belt resident Chuck Tylka retired as chief of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department after serving 45+ years with the organization, 12 as chief. Tylka was replaced with longtime SVFD member David Cino.
While not an original member of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, Tylka ranked third in seniority at the time of his retirement, behind only founding members Ed Baker and Jerry Terrell.
An active member of the South Belt community, Tylka also served on the boards of the Clear Brook City MUD and Sageglen HOA, where he continued to serve. Tylka would also continue his work with the annual South Belt Spectacular

Cook-off, of which he was a primary organizer.
1 year ago (2024)
Charges were filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a man that took place around 12:25 a.m. Sunday, July 28, outside the Fiesta grocery store in the 1100 block of Edgemoor near the Gulf Freeway. The suspect, Julian Giovanni Vazquez, 24, was charged with murder in the 209th State District Court. The identity of the victim, 38, was not immediately made available. According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a request for assistance from Houston Fire Department emergency personnel at a parking lot at the above address. Paramedics found an unresponsive man in the front passenger seat of a vehicle. He had suffered a gunshot wound and was pronounced dead at the scene. A male, identified as Vazquez, was detained at the scene. Vazquez told investigators he was with the victim and admitted to his role in the shooting. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted, and Vazquez was subsequently charged.

cers responded to a request for assistance from Houston Fire Department emergency personnel at a parking lot at the above address. Paramedics found an unresponsive man in the front passenger seat of a vehicle. He had suffered a gunshot wound and was pronounced dead at the scene. A male, identified as Vazquez, was detained at the scene. Vazquez told investigators he was with the victim and admitted to his role in the shooting. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted, and Vazquez was subsequently charged.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOSE!
Greetings for a happy birthday July 25 are sent to **Jose Abarca** from his wife **Natalie**; children **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah** and **Elliana Abarca** and **Isabella Delgado** and husband **Sebastian**; granddaughter **Esme Delgado**; mother-in-law **Ellie Flickinger** and her husband **David Flickinger** (Leader president); grandparent **David Flickinger**; and friends and staff at the **Leader**.
KENNY MARKS A BIRTHDAY
Break out the balloons and party favors for **Kenny Fernandez** who celebrates a birthday July 26. He is active in the community as a local businessman, president/CEO at North American Shipping Agencies and chairman of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber.
IRVINES ENJOY ANNIVERSARY!
Wishes for a happy anniversary July 26 are sent to **Steven** and **Rebecca (Heeth) Irvine** from Rebecca's father **Richard Heeth**, a longtime Kirkwood resident.
TORI CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Special birthday wishes are sent July 28 to former South Belt resident and Dobie High School graduate **Tori Mask** from friends and the **Leader** staff. She currently posts a blog about the history of the South Belt area on <http://southbelthouston.blogspot.com/>.
SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 24 through July 30.
Burnett Elementary
Happy birthday wishes are sent to

Elizabeth Jimenez July 25.
Bush Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Rubi Contreras** July 25.
Genoa Elementary
Keyla Ortiz celebrates a birthday July 26. Send a nice birthday greeting July 27 to **Alexa Chavez**. Join in the birthday celebration July 28 for **Lisette Kearns**.
Hancock Elementary
On July 24, birthday wishes are sent to **Claudia Perez**. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Victor Aguilar** July 27.
South Belt Elementary
Bring out a triple cake and ice cream July 26 to **Hortencia Armenta**, **Marie Goree** and **Sara Simmons**. Marking a birthday July 27 is **Selena Saldana**. The day to send a birthday greeting to **Lakita Thomas** is July 28.
Stuchbery Elementary
Light the birthday candles July 26 for **Veronica Silva**. Send a happy birthday wish July 28 to **Linda Bravo**. Best wishes for a special birthday July 29 are sent to **Susan Brady**.
Melillo Middle School
Sing a happy birthday song July 30 to **Yvette Castillo**.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
Curtis Tucker enjoys a birthday July 26.
Thompson Intermediate
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Richard Roberson** July 27. Blow out the candles July 28 for **Angelina Herrera**.
Dobie High
Break out the balloons and party favors

for the July 24 birthday celebration of **Cam Luong**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Rowena Hickman** July 25. The day for birthday fun for **Lyndsi Price** is July 27. Light the candles July 29 for **Monique Smalls**. Send a happy birthday wish July 30 to **Angela Badon**.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, July 24: **Richard Schreier**, **Montoya Wiltturner**, **Connie Alberti**, **Richard Golenko** and **Pete Ortiz**; Friday, July 25: **Kelly Jones**, **Stephanie Gutierrez**, **Cherie Cundiff**, **Mario Rodriguez** and **Brodie Riner Jr.**; Saturday July 26: **Kenneth Sublett**, **Magda Adams**, **Debra Patterson**, **Kendrick Woods**, **Jenny Batson**, **Terrie Nichols**, **Kenny Fernandez**, **Eric Madsen**, **Gina D'Orazio** and **Elizabeth Bazan**; Sunday, July 27: **Lydia Garcia**, **Joanne Mata** and **Sean Kean**; Monday, July 28: **Ariana Mena**, **Alyssa Chambers**, **Tori Mask**, **Dana Milburn** and **Sandy Nelson**; Tuesday, July 29: **Codie Salyer**, **Linda Brisbay**, **Gina Trevino**, **Danielle Taverner**, **Albert Perez** and **Tiffany Barras**; and Wednesday, July 30: **Donald Rogers**, **Anne Hyma**, **Danielle Mendoza** and **Christine Elliott**.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations, and graduations to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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11/04

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie VB to blend experience with talented newcomers in '25

Several key returnees will join forces with a talented group of newcomers as the Dobie varsity volleyball program expects to showcase much-improved results for the upcoming 2025 season.

A rebuild of a 2024 run of things resulted in a 12-22 overall record for veteran head coach Dawn Sexton's program, which included a 6-10 march through the 22-6A ranks for fifth place.

Pearland, the 2024 league champion, produced 40 overall victories a season ago and seems primed for another solid push this season.

With the other three playoff participants, Shadow Creek, Dawson and Manvel also returning from seasons of 30 or more overall victories, Dobie and the other programs within the league will have to make a major push to close the divide, but Sexton is excited about the potential of the 2025 group.

"A year ago at this time, we were faced with a ton of inexperience at the varsity level after graduating

10 seniors the season before," Sexton recalled.

"We were back to varsity volleyball 101 in a lot of ways given the lack of experience, but we made the best of it and I really feel like we played at an improved level as the season progressed.

"You have to embrace the overall strength of the district and do the best you can to push through. The Houston area is loaded with talented programs, and that's not going to change.

"As for us, we are in a much better competitive position heading into the season. I'm excited about the potential of this group, and I'm ready to see what

we can put together."

Three players who led the way a season ago with more than 100 kills each have graduated, but seniors Jessica Moise, Jordan Johnson, Kylar Joseph and junior Alyssa Espinosa all had 70 or more kills in 2024 and should be able to continue very strong play up front in a hurry.

Sexton also lists junior Mahoganii Davis as a newcomer who very well could deliver an immediate boost along the front row.

Sophomore Riese Rackley appears primed to step in at setter for the Longhorns, and junior Alyssa Goree played the

Continued on Page 8

Volleyball first week

**JFD hosts
Baytown Sterling
Aug. 12, 6 p.m.
JFD at
G.C. Memorial
Aug. 15, 6 p.m.**



Senior Jessica Moise (2) is a proven hitter on the right side for the Longhorns and is primed for her best season in 2025 as the locals look to improve within the 22-6A mix.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

Dobie VB plans returnee camp

Dobie varsity volleyball coach Dawn Sexton and her staff are excited to serve up a summer camp aimed at helping incoming freshmen as well as returnees within the volleyball program get a jump start on the upcoming 2025 season.

Players ages 14 through 18 are encouraged to attend the Longhorns' July 28-30 camp, to be held at Dobie main at \$60 per participant. Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m.

Visit the Dobie High School website issued link at <https://square.link/u/5GddvXYw> to register.

JFD volleyball tryouts Aug. 1-2

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

SBYSC still accepting players

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

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

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

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

Campbell's outlines District 22-6A football chase

All of the fun begins Aug. 11 as public high school programs from across the state kick off preseason football workouts ahead of opening weekend, which arrives Aug. 28-30.

Prior to things getting underway, *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* annual magazine has considered both results from the 2024 season as well as forecasts from more than 1,500 statewide programs to preview how the respective district ranks will play out.

Campbell's peer into the District 22-6A mix has defending league champion Shadow Creek and runner-up Pearland again going head-to-head Oct. 24 at The Rig in Pearland for the championship.

The Sharks used a 41-27 victory a season ago over

the Oilers en route to a perfect 8-0 run through 22-6A for the league crown, with the Oilers eventually finishing second at 7-1.

Manvel, Dobie and Dawson wound up in a three-way tie for third place at 5-3, with the Eagles Dawson being bumped out of the postseason via tiebreaker.

For 2025, *Campbell's* has flip-flopped Pearland and Shadow Creek in the first two spots, with Manvel third and Dawson fourth. For the second straight season in this alignment, Dobie has been placed in the fifth spot.

South Houston, Pasadena Memorial, Alvin and Sam Rayburn will then look to battle for bragging rights in the bottom half of the standings, according to

Campbell's.

If the predictions hold true, Pearland and Dawson would head to the 6A Division I playoff bracket, with Shadow Creek and Manvel representing the league in the Division 2 postseason bracket.

Individually, *Campbell's* has selected explosive Shadow Creek wide receiver Chris Stewart as the preseason Offensive Most Valuable Player, while dis-

ruptive Pearland pass rusher Jaylen Stewart has picked up preseason Defensive Most Valuable Player honors.

Chris Stewart, who has committed to play colle-

giately at the University of Texas, is coming off of a junior season in which he has 60 catches for more than 900 yards and an amazing 15 touchdowns.

As for Jaylen Stewart,

he had 13 tackles for loss, including 10 quarterback sacks. Stewart had originally committed to Oklahoma State, but announced via his X site June 15 that he now plans to attend Illinois.

So *Campbell's* has the Longhorns on the outside looking in for the second straight year, yet head coach Danny Fitzmorris' program will look to prove the doubters wrong.

For those wondering, Manvel will host Dobie Nov. 7 to close out the regular season in a matchup that is sure to have post season implications. See Page 6 for a further breakdown of the expectations of each of the nine varsity football programs in District 22-6A.

Continued on Page 6



Da'Marcus Hodges, at right, was the Newcomer of the Year in District 22-6A as a sophomore in 2023 and got off to a fast start a season ago with a big game against Clear Brook and others but wound up having his season cut short due to injury. Now in his final season, Hodges is poised to have his opportunity to be the featured running back for the Longhorns as they look to secure another postseason berth. Below, Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff have had the benefit of a full offseason to reload the roster in an effort to keep up the pace in a 22-6A field that will once again be extremely tough to navigate. After defeating Manvel in the regular season finale in 2024 to reach the postseason, the Longhorns reasonably understand that it very well could come down to the rematch against the Mavericks this season to determine playoff positioning.

Photos by Gloria Wallace

JFD FB plans freshman camp

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

BHI sets athletic details

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

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

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

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

SBGSA has fall ball registration

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

JFD grad Jackson hosts FB camp

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

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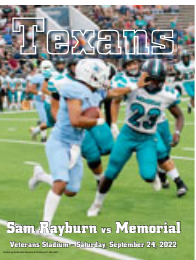
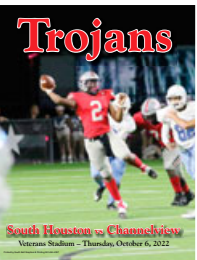
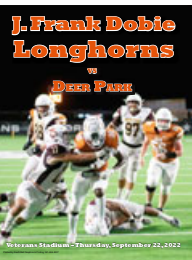
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 24
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – “Breakfast With Bill,” Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** – Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832- 293-9860.
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 25
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** – “Breakfast With Bill.” See Thursday’s notice.
7 p.m. **NA – Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now AI-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** – meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, JULY 26
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** – “Breakfast With Bill.” See Thursday’s notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – See Thursday’s notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
SUNDAY, JULY 27
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, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** – meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, JULY 28
5 p.m. **New Directions** – Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** – Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – St. Luke’s Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) – Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – See Friday’s notice.
TUESDAY, JULY 29
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** – “Breakfast With Bill.” See Thursday’s notice.
Noon **AA – Imperfect Nooners**. 1:30 – 3 p.m. 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** – at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** – Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.

com for details.
7 p.m. **AA – St. Luke’s 12 Step Recovery** open meeting in the education Bldg in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** – #0683 chapter meets at the Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA – Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
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 **Ballroom Dancing** – at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
7 p.m. **St. Paul’s Anglican Church** – See Sunday’s notice.
7 p.m. **NA – Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** – meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
THURSDAY, JULY 31
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.

Dave Campbell's Texas Football has Longhorns on outside looking in

Continued from Page 6
but then was defeated handily by Summer Creek. The Mavericks made the playoffs a season ago and will look to quarterback Cam Renfro to guide an offense that will also include top receiver Antoine Wilder as well as running back Kenneth Malone-Hayes.

Running backs Xaiden Brown, Acee Johnson and Eric Mosley will also get looks as the Mavericks hope to be a step or two stronger on the offensive side this season. Drake Jones and Emile White will lead the way along the offensive line for the Mavericks.

Defensively, Manvel is led by Karnell James in the secondary as well as by Ju'Von Smith. Dallas George will look to chip in along the defensive front along with Amir Bowers. The Mavericks will have to overcome the fact that they have just six returnees entering the preseason.

Renfro passed for more than 1,700 yards and 21 touchdowns, and also rushed for another nine touchdowns as he returns as one of the most explosive run-pass signal callers in the district along with Memorial's Logan Johnson.

Dawson Eagles (6-4

overall in 2024, including 5-3 in league play, defeated Dobie head-to-head but was subsequently eliminated via tiebreaker on the final day of the regular season after the Longhorns downed Manvel by more than 17 points)

The Eagles return just four players on offense and another four on defense but should be able to get things done through the air with the outstanding receiver core of Josiah McFarland and Corey Brown.

Quarterback Luke Brown figures to take over under center for the Eagles, and running back Evan DeLucia figures to get quite a few carries as well.

The offensive line is led by Carter Caesar, and the Eagles also figure to have a secret weapon in kicker Noah Abela.

Defensively, McFarland and Brown can both play in the defensive secondary, and linebacker Bryson Flynn is also a playmaker. Dylan Wiltturner is solid in the defensive secondary, and linebacker James Higgins is also looking for his opportunity to contribute on that side of the football.

Brown had 60 catches for 760 yards and four touchdowns a season ago, and McFarland was an outstanding playmaker as well. Wiltturner had 34

tackles in 2024 and will have to step up in a big way to lead the Eagles on the defensive side.

Dobie Longhorns (The Longhorns went 6-5 overall in 2024, including a 5-3 run through league play that included a victory over Manvel in a thrilling season finale that resulted in a playoff berth in head coach Danny Fitzmorris' first season. The locals then lost a 49-16 Division 1 playoff game to Ridge Point)

The offseason goals included replacing most of the offensive production from 2024 as well as deciding on yet another first year starter at quarterback.

The Longhorns, designated as Team 57 by Fitzmorris to signify the number of seasons that Dobie has played varsity football, return five players on the offensive side of things and six more on defense.

Senior Da'Marcus Hodges is the former Newcomer of the Year from his sophomore season in 2023 and was off to a strong start as a junior at running back before injuries slowed him a bit.

Heading into 2025, Hodges will be the Longhorns' go-to guy in the backfield as he will get plenty of opportunities. Adrian Taylor and Ke'lijah Jackson are among the

options in the backfield to spell Hodges.

Senior Titus Randle very well could be the Longhorns' fourth starting quarterback in four seasons. The Longhorns also expect big things from receiver Marcus Jones, who has earned rave reviews as an All-District performer in the return game and now figures to have a much bigger role offensively as a playmaker.

Dobie is counting on its experienced offensive line to come through in a big way, with returnees including Camron Robertson, Achilles Rostro, Leudy Matos and Alonzo Chapman.

Defensively, Dobie will have a new look as far as the pass rush and overall defensive front looks, but all-league performer Desmond Talib is making the move to safety, and James Fortune looks to step in at linebacker and make plays immediately for the Longhorns along with fellow linebacker Julius Sanchez.

Linemen along the defensive front expected to contribute include Nathan Zavala, Cedric Gillespie and Dario Rodriguez, while Rashaud Howard and Clayton Washington are also among those ready to contribute in a hurry.

Dobie very well knows

the playoff path will include a positive result at Manvel in the season finale, but the locals plan to take care of business before then.

South Houston Trojans (3-7 overall in 2024, including 3-5 in district play)

The Trojans are now under the direction of former defensive coordinator Lamont Mayberry after Patrick Longstreet, the program's head coach the previous six seasons, took over as athletic director within Pasadena ISD.

The Trojans will return seven players on defense and another six on offense as they look to make a move up the standings in 2025. Leading the way is junior tight end/defensive lineman Xavier Muhammad, also a standout basketball player who is drawing Division 1 interest on the gridiron.

Quarterback La'Kee Baker is also back for his second season under center after producing more than 1,500 yards and 18 total touchdowns through the air and on the ground in 2024.

Receiver/defensive back Tyren Brewster is another playmaker along with Dion Johnson, an athletic player for the Trojans who can handle a variety of roles. Jadon Buckner is a capa-

ble running back/defensive back, and Jacobi Mayberry can also help out a receiver or in the defensive backfield.

South Houston will have the benefit of continuity on its side with Mayberry in charge, and the team could put pressure on several programs within the district.

Memorial Mavericks (Produced a 3-7 overall record in 2024, including one win in eight tries in league play)

Colton Freeman, Memorial's defensive coordinator previously, has been named interim head coach for the 2025 season as the Mavericks look to improve upon a season in 2024 that delivered just the one district win.

Junior Logan Johnson is a proven dual threat quarterback who passed for 1,240 yards and 12 touchdowns a season ago to go with 1,288 yards rushing and five more touchdowns.

Finding the right combination of players to supplement Johnson's talent was one of the off-season goals for the Mavericks. Arturo Aguilera is an option in the offensive backfield along with Landon Johnson.

The Mavericks believe they have plenty of options at receiver as Joseph Castillo, Jayden Arispe, DeShawn Branch, Delton

Branch and Alex Flores can all make plays.

Aguilera was Memorial's top tackler a season ago with 88 total stops, including 10 for loss at line-backer, and Roy Powell is a solid tackler in the middle as well as he had 46 stops in 2024.

In this district, being able to slow down the offenses of some of the proven playoff contenders will be the big focus for any of the teams aiming at the postseason this go-around.

Alvin Yellowjackets (3-7 overall in 2024, including 2-8 in 22-6A play)

The Yellowjackets have gone through the majority of the offseason with first-year head coach Matt Bass in charge as he looks to get Alvin in a position to win more games within the district after being the defensive coordinator at Shadow Creek. Bass is an Alvin High School graduate and will look to lead the Yellowjackets to their first postseason berth in 20 years. Alvin figures to be strong up front as Jacob Baez will team with Jacobi Small and Ethan McCormick to give the Yellowjackets three solid performers along the offensive front

Alvin will run the flex bone offense and will utilize running backs Keegan

Moore as well as Turtle Orozco. Tight end Brayden Wright will also help out up front, and receiver Hayden Perkins is capable of making plays on the outside.

Alvin's defense will be led by Jaren Casas, who had 45 tackles a season ago as well as fellow linebacker Will Mauerhan. Free safety Kash Powledge is also a guy who should be able to make plays in the secondary.

There's no doubt that Alvin will have a tough hill to climb in this district, but having Bass in charge should help the Yellowjackets improve fairly quickly.

Sam Rayburn Texans (2-8 overall in 2024, including 0-8 in league play)

The Texans have had a hard time collecting victories in recent seasons, but veteran head coach Sergio Gonzalez and his staff regularly deliver a very competitive group on the gridiron to represent the school.

The Texans will have plenty of experience at their disposal with a total of 19 returning starters, including 10 on offense. Malachi Rivas is back at quarterback, and Javier Estrada and Daniel Saucedo are ready to help in the run game.

H'Rei Jones has big-time playmaking ability on either side of the football, and offensive lineman Darrell Randall leads the way up front.

As is the case in almost every one of the eight districts that are part of the Region 3 field in the 6A classification, there are some programs that have stood the test of time over the decades and continue to show success. 2025 will be no different.

When realignment was announced prior to last season, programs within Pasadena ISD, including Dobie, understood well what the road ahead entailed. The Longhorns fought from behind for much of the season but then came away with one of the biggest victories in program history to reach the postseason.

Dobie for sure has been the class of the Pasadena ISD ranks for many seasons now, and the Longhorns will once again look to display their skill on the field against not only the other three Pasadena ISD programs but also Alvin in positioning themselves to reach the postseason again. As for the other Pasadena ISD programs and Alvin, it will take a monumental effort to reach the postseason, but anything is possible.



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Senior Kylar Joseph (4) is an athletic two-sport athlete who expects to be able to lend more to the Longhorns' attack up front as she very well could be in line for increased opportunities during the 2025 season. Photo by Gloria Wallace

Volleyball preseason comes Aug. 1

Continued from Page 5
spot well in 2024.

First-time varsity starters will lead the way along the back row, as Sexton mentioned junior Allison Walker and sophomore Ally Garza as well as senior Ava Herrera among the players expected to chip in.

Most importantly, Sexton said the chemistry with this particular group is excellent. Everyone is pushing in the same direction and wants what is best for the team.

Perhaps more so than ever, the "good vibe" feel for a team in any sport can be a hit or miss proposition, but Sexton has witnessed an entire offseason of outstanding team building, including successful runs in the spring and summer league seasons.

The entire state will now benefit from a longer preseason of preparation courtesy of the University Interscholastic League. For the previous decade or more, high school volleyball programs had a maximum seven workout/scrimmage days at their disposal prior to the start of the regular season.

Now, the preseason will begin Aug. 1, with the regular season opening for most programs, Dobie included, on August 12.

In short, Dobie will now have the benefit of nine days of workouts leading into the 2025 opener at home against Baytown Sterling.

Dobie will be one of four programs scrimmaging at all levels, with Dawson and Summer Creek as well as host Friendswood, Aug. 8. A day later, Dobie will host Angleton, Houston Lamar and North Shore.

The Longhorns will also host Pasadena Aug. 11 for a series of scrimmages just ahead of the start of the regular season. After hosting Baytown Sterling Aug. 12, Dobie will visit Goose Creek Memorial Aug. 15.

The Dobie freshman program will close out the first week of the regular season by hosting the annual Barry Harris Invitational Aug. 16, honoring Harris, the former longtime Dobie educator who supported generations of Dobie athletes prior to his death in 2018.

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