



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Email: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

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

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### 2 Backpack drives on Aug. 3

**Church, Beta Eta give out backpacks**

Faith Missionary Baptist Church and Beta Eta, Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma of Texas, are having a Back to School Backpack Bonanza Drive-Thru on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

They will be giving out starter kit backpacks with school supplies, while supplies last. The event will be held at Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 9850 Mango.

**South Belt Chamber gives out backpacks**

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Backpack Bonanza.

Atul Jain, owner of MOTU Stop, gifted the chamber 1,000 backpacks which will be distributed to students who attend Burnett, Frazier and Stuchbery campuses on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 9 a.m. at Crossroad United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

Students will receive the backpack with basic school supplies due to the generosity of chamber members – AMOCO Federal Credit Union, Burleigh Chiropractic, Community Health Network, Cornerstone Learning Academy, KR Koncaba Interests, Memorial Hermann's Partners in Caring, Mornings Kolaches and Shell Federal Credit Union.

**HC gives air conditioners**

Seniors, people with disabilities and caregivers of disabled children in Harris County can apply for a free portable air conditioner unit from the Houston Health Department.

Approximately 200 units are available by calling the Harris County Agency on Aging, at 832-393-4301. Recipients will receive information and assistance with the installation of the units.

Only people who have never received an air conditioner unit through the department are eligible. People 60 and older are considered seniors and eligible to apply.

**Hughes/Sabo closure set**

At least one southbound lane of Hughes/Sabo will be closed continuously at Beltway 8 until further notice. Closures are associated with a city of Houston project to replace a force water main at the intersection.

**Beltway 8 closure planned**

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Greenshadow to SH 225 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until further notice.

The closure is due to the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

**Knights to sell barbecue**

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost will be \$15 for a two-meat plate with brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad and drink; \$12 for chopped beef salad sandwich with chips and drink; and \$6 for sausage on a stick.

Proceeds will benefit the church's capital campaign.

**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.

Closures are associated with ongoing construction to widen the freeway.

**Local COVID cases reported**

The number of reported COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains roughly on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials. As of July 16, there were 295 active cases in 77089, no change from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

Statistics are updated weekly and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data](https://covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data).

**Kirkwood meeting July 29**

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 29, at the Sagemont Community Center, located at 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8.

Meetings typically take place the last Monday of each month.

For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

**Sagemont to meet Aug. 6**

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road.

All Sagemont residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of the month.

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

## Hurricane trash collection from Beryl well underway

By Andrew Alkire

Stinking, rotting, household garbage left on the curb created an uproar among residents in the Clearbrook Meadows and Riverstone Ranch neighborhoods in the South Belt after Texas Pride, the waste disposal company responsible for garbage pick-up, failed to remove the garbage for over a week. Initially, only 10 percent of the residents had garbage removed from their curbs,

prompting them to voice their displeasure with the company at the Clearbrook City Administration meeting last Wednesday.

According to owner Kevin Atkinson, "Excess volume and debris collected caused for more trips and longer waits at landfills." The waiting time was up to three hours, creating an unbearable situation for residents, as discarded food items in bags sat in searing heat – which only intensified

the odor. Garbage services drew to a halt on July 9 and didn't resume until July 17.

"It smelled worse than a landfill; it was horrible," said Cecelia Ganje, General Manager of Administration at Clearbrook City, which oversees the area. "One resident told me she had maggots in her garbage and they had eaten through the plastic and were in her yard," she said. "That's why they were upset." Summer Keys, a resident

of the Riverstone Ranch neighborhood whose garbage was not picked up for a week and a half, sought answers for the lack of garbage removal and went to talk to representatives from Texas Pride in person. She spoke with two people at their office and was told by one of the representatives that the company was running behind and that they were trying to get everyone's garbage picked up.

What frustrated Keys was other neighborhoods were getting their garbage picked up for a second and third time, while her Riverstone Ranch Street was ignored. Curiously, after her in-person complaint, only her garbage was targeted for pickup, while other neighbors were bypassed. In Keys' opinion, being behind due to Hurricane Beryl was not the problem. "I just think it's a lack of organization, poor planning and poor management," she said. Keys also had food that was overrun by maggots. It had been sitting on the curb for a week. "The whole neighborhood stunk," she said.

Atkinson responded to the complaints by saying, "We apologize for the delays and appreciate the understanding while our team worked tirelessly to get caught up." Ganje, in a statement released July 23, lauded the effort by the Texas Pride team for their hard work in the wake of the hurricane. "Recovery from a named storm is always difficult. With limited landfills in Harris County, Texas Pride Disposal crews have worked very long and hard hours in their attempt to collect food waste from area residents. Trucks are running on their regularly scheduled collection days."

### Mayor addresses BAHEP Aug. 1

The long-awaited and highly anticipated rescheduled Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership general membership meeting featuring Houston Mayor John Whitmire will be held on Aug. 1 at the Lonestar Museum at Ellington Field. All members who previously registered for this meeting, are asked to register again to ensure a smooth registration process. The social begins at 4 p.m. The mayor's presentation begins at 4:30.

### Special thanks to Adrian Garcia and Harris County



Starting last Sunday, Harris County, through the efforts of local County Commissioner Adrian Garcia and the other commissioners, began collection of tree waste through the county part of the community. Homeowners are urged to expect only vegetation (tree) waste to be picked up. Other items such as fences may be collected at a later date. (See photo and info on Page 3.) Photo by Marie Flickinger

## HCAD sets storm property damage exemption

The Harris Central Appraisal District is reminding property owners who have experienced physical damage to their property during Hurricane Beryl to apply for a temporary disaster exemption.

"This has been a very active year for natural disasters so far," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. "We have had flooding and the derecho in May and Hurricane Beryl in July that may have caused physical damage to many properties in the area. I want to remind property owners that a disaster exemption is available to help owners reduce their 2024 property taxes.

"State law lets the individual owner apply for the temporary disaster exemption for physical damage to improvements (structures) on their property, and to business personal property used for the production of income," he continued. "While damage to a house or other structure

from a falling tree is eligible for exemption under this particular law, damage that occurred only to trees or shrubbery caused by the disaster is not eligible."

The Texas Tax Code allows a qualified property that is at least 15 percent damaged by a disaster in a governor-declared disaster area to receive a temporary exemption of a portion of the appraised value of the property. Qualified property includes real property such as homes and buildings, certain manufactured homes and tangible personal property used for the production of income for a business.

The property owner must apply for the temporary exemption no later than 105 days after the governor declares a disaster area. Acting Governor Dan Patrick declared the county a disaster area on July 6 for Hurricane Beryl, so the temporary disaster exemption application must be

filed no later than Monday, Oct. 21. Forms can be found online at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org).

## Houston to use debris tracker

The City of Houston Department of Solid Waste Management (SWM) announces the release of a Storm Debris Collection progress tracker.

This tool enables residents to monitor the daily progress of debris collection efforts following the severe weather caused by Hurricane Beryl on July 8 and the May 16 Derecho.

Houstonians can access the webpage at [bit.ly/HTXStorm](http://bit.ly/HTXStorm) to see areas in which trucks are currently working. Users should use the search function that looks like a magnifying glass to find an address.

**Additional details**

Yellow areas indicate neighborhoods where crews are currently collecting the first pass.

Green areas indicate neighborhoods in which the first pass of storm debris collection is complete.

## Houston reduces art costs by \$10 million annually

James Bolen and Charles Blain contributed to this story

Houston City Council voted Wednesday, July 17, to significantly reduce the city's art budget, as many critics question wondering if it's the best use of public funds amid the city's tight financial situation.

Council members were to consider reapproving the Houston Arts Alliance as the vendor for a \$25 million two-year contract, with the option of three one-year extensions, for the management and conservation of the city of Houston's art collection.

In a charge led by newly elected District E City Council Member Fred Flickinger, city officials renegotiated the HAA contract, reducing it by \$10 million.

Under the new agreement, the city will now pay HAA \$15 million over two years.

Beyond the exorbitant price tag, critics also object to the source of the funding and have cove concerns regarding HAA's practices.

The city's Civic Art Ordinance requires 1.75 percent of the total budgeted cost for Capital Improvement Projects to be spent on acquiring or conserving civic art. Because of the requirement, the city has amassed a large art collection over the years, with the number of individual works exceeding 800, and the most recent valuation, which is years old, valued the collection at more than \$20 million.

The HAA is a nonprofit that partners with the city to "implement the city of Houston's vision, values, and goals for its arts grant-making and civic arts investments."

They contract with the city, as in this instance, and their work is overseen by the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.

Some believe locking the city into a \$25 million, potentially five-year, contract is not in the city's best interest due to the concerns over the city's financial stability and HAA's track record in the past.

Flickinger has drawn attention to the overall issue of requiring 1.75 percent of capital improvement budgets to be spent on art, and he has also taken issue with the contract with HAA given that they were unable to provide

more details to his office when he met with them, telling him they didn't have an inventory of the art they managed.

"Even though we said this is money to buy art, they did basically whatever they wanted to do," said Flickinger.

According to Community Impact newspaper, the city of Houston's annual Civic Art Report states that by the end of 2023, nearly \$8 million was spent on the civic art program, funding the following:

- Initiate 22 new civic art projects.
- Continue work on 36 ongoing projects from previous years.
- Complete 15 projects.

The fiscal year 2022-23 budget was part of the city's last contract with the HAA, which was a five-year, \$18 million contract. The new \$25 million contract is an approximately 30 percent increase from previous years, officials said.

The Community Impact article further stated the \$25 million budget is funded from city department construction funds, including public health, general improvement, parks, solid waste, water and sewer.

Following the recent destruction of Hurricane Beryl, many residents wonder if the money earmarked for art could be better spent elsewhere.

Numerous residents voiced their concerns at City Hall Tuesday, July 16, during public discussion on the matter.

"Basics first," resident Tracy Shannon said at the hearing, according to FOX 26 news. "No more spending on arts until everybody has trash pickup and sewage hookups that is a resident of Houston."

Other residents, however, feel the city needs a robust art budget to beautify the city and set it apart from other metropolitan areas, attracting visitors.

"I skated across the country, seeing all kinds of towns both big and small, and no other city had a thriving art scene like Houston," said local muralist Natalia Victoria – also a professional roller skater who made

Continued on page 2



## Noah hooks 5-foot shark

Noah St. Ange, reeled in his first shark while vacationing in South Padre Island, on Thursday, July 11. The shark was a 5-foot blacktip. Noah will be a seventh grader at Thompson Intermediate this August. Noah (left), age 11, is shown here with Cesar Garza, lead deckhand, at Captain Murphy's Isla Tours. Noah enjoys fishing, baseball and playing bass drum. Noah's mother is Stacy Davis and his father is Alex St. Ange.

# In My Opinion

## Chamber promoting school backpacks

Good morning! We are excited to partner with MOTU Stop and Crossroads Church for our first-ever Backpack Bonanza. We have been given 1,000 backpacks from Atul Jain, MOTU Stop's owner and one of Gold Level investors at the chamber. The backpacks are cute. But as you can see, we would like to increase the content. In speaking with one of the principals, Mr. Jae Lee, Burnett Elementary, I asked him for an essential list of supplies. We have compiled that list, along with current pricing at Walmart and Sam's Club.

**Backpack Bonanza**  
Anita and I are reaching out to the board to see if you would be interested in helping us fill the backpack. AMOCO has stepped forward and is donating \$500 toward this endeavor. We would be thrilled with any amount or your willingness to purchase items. We prefer to buy it to assess the equity across the backpacks. Please go to the spreadsheet and indicate your selection so we can manage the donations. If you plan to participate, we would like to have a decision by, July 26th. If you donate dollars, let us know if you want Anita to invoice you (we prefer that).

So that you know, the larger hand sanitizer and Kleenex boxes are intended for classroom use and not for individual use. We will add logos to the flyer (see attached 1st version without contributors) and publicize this in various ways. We'd like to thank you in advance for considering this opportunity. We are excited about a way to serve our community and students at Burnett, Frazier, and Stuchbery elementary schools!  
Sincerely, **Lisa Holbrook**  
South Belt-Ellington Chamber

## King: A Future with Fewer Children

As my regular readers know, I have been calling your attention to the dramatic decline in the fertility rate across the world, for some time now. A recent report from the United Nations has pegged the current worldwide rate at 2.25. That is just barely above the 2.1 rate, which is considered the "replacement rate," i.e., the rate which is necessary to sustain a stable population level. The UN now expects the world population to top out at 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s and then begin a long-term, gradual decline.

However, some countries have fallen well below the replacement rate and their populations have already begun to decline. The UN report estimates that countries with about 25% of the world's population are already in decline.

I recently travelled to Italy and Greece and saw firsthand what this future looks like. During my time there, the paucity of children was not only noticeable; it was almost eerie.

Today there are about 1.9 million Greeks under the age of 20, making up about 19% of the total population. In 1990, there were 2.8 million Greeks under the age of 20 making up 28% of the population. The number of school age children has dropped from 2.2 million in 1990 to 1.5 million today. In Italy, the numbers are proportionally much the same. The number of school age children there dropping from 10.9 million in 1990 to 7.8 million today.

The decline was evident as I traveled in these two countries. Particularly poignant were the number of shuttered schools. Several of our guides had gone to school to become teachers or professors but were unable to find a job when they completed their education. Most of our guides were in their 20s or 30s. Only two had a single child and the others expressed doubts about whether they ever would. Based on the current trends, there will only be about 750,000 school aged children in Greece at the end of the century. The low birth rates have already

caused both countries to start losing population. Greece is down about 5% from its peak in 2003 and Italy about 4% since its peak in 2010. The effect will be even more dramatic in the future. At the current rate, both countries will lose about a third of their population by the end of century.

## Tribute to Sheila Jackson Lee

Attribute the following statement to Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association President Patrick M. "Marty" Lantton.

"The passing of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is a great loss for our community. She was a steadfast advocate for labor, Houston firefighters, and their families. Her tireless efforts and indomitable spirit made her a voice for the voiceless and a defender of the marginalized. She fought relentlessly for the rights and well-being of the people she represented, always putting the needs of the 'little person' at the forefront of her agenda.

"Congresswoman Jackson Lee's bravery in her battle with cancer was a testament to her strength and resilience. We will feel her absence deeply, but her legacy of compassion and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

"On behalf of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, I extend heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew her. Her remarkable life of service touched us all." Contacts:

**Brian Wilcox**  
HPFFA Communications Director

## Noster thanks Centerpoint

Thank you to Centerpoint and all out of state Lineman who are helping to restore power. They are first responders, just like Nurses, Doctors, Policemen, and Fireman. It is disturbing to hear that Lineman have been physically attacked and held at gunpoint. During the COVID crisis, did we physically attack Nurses and Doctors? No! So, why are we being so inhumane to those who are simply trying to help us? Check yourself people: I see many houses and yards with storm debris not cleaned up, blocking the sidewalks and streets, and even clogging up street drains, leading to future flooding. How dare you complain about the lineman when you can't even clean up your own yard or even help your own neighbor. Next time you see Lineman working, wave Hello, say Thank You, treat them like a human being, and be grateful that they are here to help us. If we keep treating these lineman with aggressive negativity, the next time we have a storm and need help, no one will be around.

As a community, we have to show our appreciation, thankfulness, honor and respect the service that these lineman are providing. Remember, they volunteered to come help us, to work in this hot and humid Texas heat, away from their own families.

Restoring power is a very complex situation, and if not handled correctly, it will result in houses catching on fire which we've seen. The politics of why the system failed, why it's taking so long to restore power, and the thousand other questions will just have to wait.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee asked Congress to investigate Centerpoint, and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick stated Centerpoint employees have one job: restore power.

Working together, as a community, we will get through this. This was only a Category 1 Hurricane. We have definitely been through worse Hurricanes, COVID, and other disasters. Be nice, we are all human beings.

Thank you **Kay Noster**  
**Publisher's note:** Thank you, Kay – enjoyed your letter.

## FFA looking for hay

J. Frank Dobie High School's FFA Booster Club is seeking donations of hay. For more information, call Samantha Hernandez at 832-652-7579.

## Local library events set

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

Thursday, July 25, 3 – 4 p.m. Family story time.  
Thursday, July 25, 3 – 4 p.m. Open Lab – computer class.  
Monday, July 29, 11 a.m. – noon. Open Lab – computer class.  
Tuesday, July 30, 2 – 3 p.m. Painting party with splash kids art.  
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

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

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:  
Thursday, July 25, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.  
Thursday, July 25, 2 – 4 p.m. Tech help.  
Thursday, July 25, 2 – 3 p.m. Little aviators: drone flight school.  
Friday, July 26, 2 – 3 p.m. Little aviators: drone flight school.  
Tuesday, July 30, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.  
Tuesday, July 30, 1 – 2 p.m. Homeschool hangout.  
Tuesday, July 30, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Drop in help for college financial aid 2024-2025.  
**Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"**  
– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.  
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.  
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.  
– Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.  
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.  
Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

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

# Elected officials share their words

## Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia praises Lee's dedication

"Words cannot fully express the impact of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

The word 'tireless' gets thrown around in politics, but there's no one I've ever met with that kind of work ethic who could compare Congresswoman Jackson Lee.

Her work didn't only benefit the Hous-

## Former Mayor Sylvester Turner on passing of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

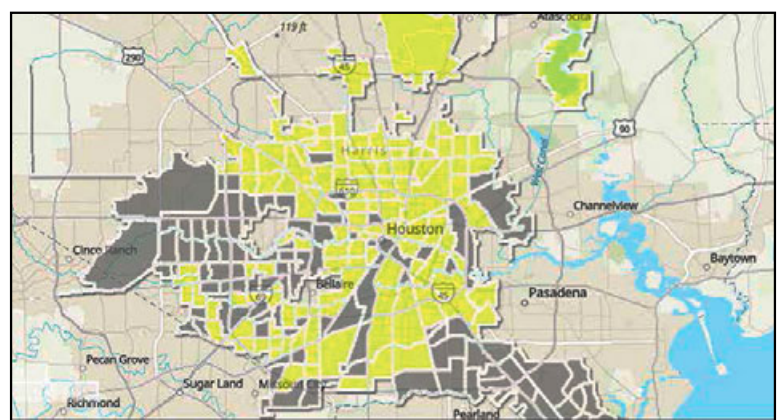
I am deeply saddened by the death of my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. From City Hall to the Halls of Congress, Sheila Jackson Lee has served her constituents well. She has written and passed key legislation and has stood on the floor of the United States House of Representatives speaking passionately for the interests of her district and the country she loved. She has worked with and advised Presidents of our great country, met with global leaders, and has been embraced by world renowned artists. But her work on the ground, in some of the poorest and under-resourced communities; the channeling of billions of federal dollars back to her district; her presence at someone's bedside, giving words of comfort to families who lost loved ones; her appearances at places of worship and events

showcasing the global diversity of our City; and her uncanny ability to be everywhere, working every day for those who needed a champion, made her truly exceptional.

When she was elected to the United States House of Representatives she stood in the shadow of Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland and Craig Washington. Without question, she rose to the occasion and served with great distinction. Even if you disagreed with her politics, you had to respect her work ethic. We can honestly say Sheila Jackson Lee left it all on the field. Rest in peace my sister. Thank you for all you gave us. And, thank you to her family for sharing her with us. We will not forget her sacrifice or yours. Sheila – to God be the glory for the good you have done. It was truly a job well done!

**Sylvester Turner**

# City of Houston to use storm debris tracker



The City of Houston Department of Solid Waste Management (SWM) announces the release of a Storm Debris Collection progress tracker. This tool enables residents to monitor the daily progress of debris collection efforts following the severe weather caused by Hurricane Beryl on July 8 and the May 16 Derecho.

Residents DO NOT need to report storm debris collection to Houston 311. Houston Solid Waste and its contractors will be driving every street (even neighborhoods that receive private trash collection) to ensure all storm debris is collected.

Houstonians can access the storm debris collection progress tracker, to see areas where trucks are currently working. Users should use the search function that looks like a magnifying glass to find an address. Additional details below:

Yellow areas indicate neighborhoods where crews are currently collecting the first pass. Green areas indicate neighborhoods where the first pass of storm debris collection is complete.

Gray areas indicate neighborhoods in the queue for collection that will be assigned as soon as crews are available.

Upon completion of the first pass of storm debris collection, SWM will begin a second pass.

## Houston reduces art budget

**Continued from page 1**  
Many local artists who have worked on past city projects have gone on to international fame, such as Nicky Davis and Gonzo Mario E. Figueroa Jr. (also known as Gonzo247) – who painted massive murals at both George Bush Intercontinental and Hobby airports – both of whom paint in a style that is uniquely their own and immediately identifiable. This marked the third time the item appeared before Council, with the previous two efforts being referred it back to the mayor's office for additional information and reconsideration.

Back in February, shortly after being elected, Mayor John Whitmire told the *Leader* he planned to continue his predecessor Sylvester Turner's tradition of supporting the city's arts but he intended to do so in a way that's fiscally sound and responsible.

"Arts are important," said Whitmire. "It brings a quality of life to many Houstonians, but there's a finite amount of money, and we need to spend it wisely."

Flickinger agrees. "We must prioritize our spending on needs versus wants," Flickinger said.

## San Jac College focuses on cybersecurity

The San Jacinto College Bachelor of Applied Technology with an emphasis in cybersecurity program has been granted full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). This accreditation marks a significant milestone for San Jacinto College, reaffirming its dedication to delivering exceptional education and preparing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. SACSCOC's rigorous evaluation process has recognized the program's adherence to the highest standards of academic excellence, ensuring that students receive a top-tier education.

"We appreciate SACSCOC recognizing our commitment to providing quality education and meeting the evolving needs of our students and industry partners," said Dr. Laurel Williamson, deputy chancellor and president of

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*Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners*

## Thomas William Johnson



Thomas William Johnson IV (Little T), 61, died peacefully on July 15, 2024.

His Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, July 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Crossroads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd.

The viewing begins at 11 a.m. with the funeral services immediately following.

Thomas was born on Dec. 19, 1962, in Mexia. He was the first of four children born to Thomas and Ida Johnson. His college-educated parents moved to Houston shortly after his birth to improve life opportunities for Thomas and his three future siblings. Thomas was a lifelong community resident having lived in Sagemeadow for more than 50 years. He was educated in the Pasadena Independent School District. While in high school, he excelled in drama and ROTC receiving numerous competition awards in both areas.

After high school, Thomas attended San Jacinto College and Prairie View A&M University. He later pursued worldwide opportunities by proudly serving in the U.S. Army. While in the armed forces, he traveled to many countries including South Korea where he lived for several years. Once he returned to the States, he later studied culinary arts. As a top rated chef, he used his culinary skills to provide meals for hardworking men and women who worked in the dangerous offshore oil and gas drilling industry. For his final career, he chose to work in the security protective services industry in various management positions. He was highly skilled and well thought of by both employers and employees. Thomas gave his life to Christ at an early age. He was a loving son, brother, husband, father, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend. A natural motivator and encourager, he loved people from all walks of life and backgrounds.

Thomas was a positive, kind, and generous person who will be deeply missed. He is preceded in death by his father, Thomas William Johnson III. He is survived by his mother; his current wife, Stephanie Johnson; his children Thomas William Johnson V, Robert Jefferson Johnson, Sharon Shance Hunter, Tara Isaac and Lordan Warnell; his first wife, Kris Warnell; his siblings Tonia Johnson, Timothy Johnson and Traci Johnson Davis and her husband Donovan Davis; his

# Deaths

four grandchildren; and numerous other caring relatives and friends.

The family wishes to thank the medical teams at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and Kindred Hospital of Clear Lake for unwavering dedication and commitment to Thomas' care.

## Paula Gail Box



Paula Gail Box was welcomed home by her Lord and Savior after she passed away peacefully on July 15, 2024. Paula is preceded in death by her husband, Russell Box; and her brother, Douglas Fonville.

She is survived by her parents, Jerry M. and Barbara Jean Fonville; her sister, Vickie Fonville; her brother, David Fonville (Dennis Elsbury); her daughter, Laura McGee (Raymond McGee); her son, Joshua Box (Theresa Box); her son Jason Box (Katlyn Box); eight loving grandchildren, Kyrallynn McGee, Krystabelle McGee, Raymond Jr. McGee, Russell McGee, Kaydence McGee, Henley Box, Isla Box and Lennon Box; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Paula was whimsical, light-hearted, and was discerning to always lift the spirits of others and not bring them down. She was very intentional about giving more than she took. She was selfless, caring, and she genuinely loved others out of obedience, whether stranger, friend or foe. She navigated the many adversities in her life with immense grace and a steadfast trust in the Lord. Her faith in God was unwavering and her witness of his love to others was bold and continuous. Paula's presence of character will be sorely missed, but there's confidence that her legacy of hope and compassion will bloom for generations.

Paula's service will be at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, Friday, July 26, at 11 a.m. with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow at Forest Park East Cemetery in League City.

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



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

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[www.newcovenantchristianchurchouston.com](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchouston.com)  
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Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar  
11011 Hall Rd.  
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://www.stlukesatholic.com)

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

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

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

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# KC BBQ



Knights of Columbus

Council 9201

**Saturday, July 27**      **Sunday, July 28**  
**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**      **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Drive-Thru**

St. Luke the Evangelist  
 11011 Hall Rd., Houston, TX 77089

**\$15 • 2-Meat plate with beans, potato salad & soft drink**  
**\$12 • BBQ Sandwich, chips & soft drink**  
**\$6 • Sausage on a stick**

Proceeds benefit the capital campaign

## Sunday fire destroys area garage



Sunday, July 21, in the early afternoon a fire broke out in the garage of a home at Sagecountry and Sageaspen. Responding to the fire were Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, Pearland Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Houston. Two vehicles were parked outside the garage. One was damaged, the other appeared to have escaped damage. The back portion of the house was also damaged. Shown in photo, left to right, are Kenny Benfer, Colton Haynes and the Cody Monteau. Photo by Colleen Lamb

# Important school dates, information

### Pasadena ISD

As the summer winds down, Pasadena Independent School District is excited to welcome their students and parents back for the upcoming school year.

Take a moment to view the Pasadena ISD Back to School 2024-2025 webpage for the most up to date information regarding dress code, school supplies, Skyward Family Access, enrollment, lunch, district calendar and more.

### Key dates to remember

Teachers and staff Return: Aug. 1, 2024  
 Freshmen orientation: Aug. 12, 2024  
 First day for all students: Aug. 13, 2024  
 Start and dismissal Times:  
 High school: 7:15 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.  
 (Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.)  
 Elementary: 7:45 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.  
 (Early dismissal at 12:05 p.m.)  
 Intermediate: 8:10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 (Early dismissal at 12:30 p.m.)  
 Middle School: 8:40 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 (Early dismissal at 1 p.m.)  
 Full Day pre-K: 7:45 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.  
 (Early Dismissal at 12:05 p.m.)  
 CTHS pre-K: 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Student enrollment

New Student Enrollment 2024-2025  
 If one's child is new to Pasadena ISD or they have moved within the Pasadena ISD boundaries and need to register their student at a different Pasadena ISD campus, complete the on-line registration process.

The online registration process can be completed on a smartphone, computer or tablet.  
 If one does not have access to a computer or tablet, one will be available at the campus.

As a reminder, parents are unable to use the Skyward app on their smartphone to complete any online forms.

Parents must use an internet web browser page to access forms in their family account.

### Prekindergarten

To enroll in prekindergarten, one's child must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, and meet eligibility requirement. Visit [https://www.pasadenaisd.org/8851\\_4](https://www.pasadenaisd.org/8851_4) to see the prekindergarten registration page for more details.

### Kindergarten

To enroll in Kindergarten a child must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2024.

### Document needed to complete online registration

Current utility bill (water, gas, electric, landline phone or cable bill)

Later one will have to provide the following documents to the campus, if the child is new to Pasadena ISD.

Current lease, rental agreement, deed, mortgage payment booklet.

Student's current immunization records.

Student's birth certificate (original or certified copy) is required for prekindergarten, kindergarten, all students new to Pasadena ISD that are under 11 years of age, and students who have never been enrolled in a Texas public school

### Clear Creek ISD

#### Key dates to remember

Transition Day (PK, K, 6th and 9th): Aug. 13  
 First day for all other grades: Aug. 14  
 First semester: Aug. 14 - Dec. 20  
 Second semester: Jan. 7 - May 22  
 Student early release: Dec. 20, March 14, May 22  
 Teacher inservice/ student holiday: Aug. 5-9, Sept. 23-24, Oct. 11 and 14 Nov. 5, Jan. 6, Feb. 17-18, March 24, May 23  
 Student/teacher holidays: Labor Day: September 2, Thanksgiving November 25-29, Winter Break December 23 - January 3, MLK Jr. Day January 20 Spring Break March 17-21, Good Friday April 18, Memorial Day May 26  
 Bad weather days: In the event that bad weather make-up days are needed, February 18 and March 24.

### Pre-K

The application window for tuition-based pre-k has closed for the 2024-2025 school year, with the exception of the following campuses with limited availability: Greene Elementary, Hall Elementary, Stewart Elementary and Ward Elementary.

### Kindergarten

To qualify for kindergarten, students must be five years of age on or before Sept. 1 and live within the district's boundaries. To enroll visit [ccisd.net](http://ccisd.net).

## Coffee with Constable Jerry Garcia

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

The next event will be Thursday, July 25, with another event happening the following Thursday, Aug. 1.

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

## Take San Jacinto College degree to the next level

By Courtney Morris  
 "Transfer ... is that some kind of payment sent to your bank?"

Crystal Ramirez Moreno, San Jacinto College transfer pathway coordinator, understands students' confusion. The transfer process can seem puzzling, especially if one doesn't even understand the term. So she's used to explaining what transferring means and how to navigate the process.

At San Jac, one not only gets a high quality education, but also cuts one's tuition costs by thousands as one completes an associate-two-year degree, the first half of a bachelor's degree. If one is starting at San Jac or considering coming here, Moreno shares what one needs to know about transferring college credits or associate degree toward a higher degree at a university.

Q: Is there more than one way to transfer from San Jac to a university?

A: There are multiple ways. One can earn a full associate degree here, start to finish. Or with "reverse articulation," one can transfer to a university and take

remaining classes there to complete an associate degree and send that information back to San Jac to finalize one's degree.

There's also "dual enrollment." If one has only a few classes left to finish an associate degree, one can enroll early at a university while finishing the program at San Jac.

Q: How can San Jac help one transfer?

A: One will have a program adviser assigned to based on one's chosen program of study. This adviser can help answer questions about different majors, classes, career paths, and even university transfer options. As one gets to know the adviser, one will become more aware of drop deadlines, registration timelines, and even available scholarships or internships. The adviser can also help learn about universities with strong programs in one's major or unique experiences like study abroad or summer camps. The adviser is an advocate to have on one's side.

Q: What's one of the biggest challenges students face?

A: Decision fatigue. With a wide array of options and many institutions having one's major, one can have trouble deciding where to transfer. One also has to look at finances and figure out how one will get to the new school. Students are often paralyzed about deciding. But remember, one's decision isn't permanent. One can change later if needed.

Q: If one could give one tip, what would it be?

A: Start early. Students often think, "Once I complete my degree, then I can look at transferring."

But even the first semester — when classes aren't as challenging — is a good time to start the conversation with the program adviser, do campus tours, and attend transfer fairs. In one's

third and fourth semesters, homework and exams are harder to plan around.

Q: How can I get ready for a university?

A: Once one decides on a university, one will work with the program adviser to map out courses needed for that major at that school — and the right classes that will meet San Jac's requirements to earn an associate degree. Take a university campus tour or virtual visit with the admissions office to get a feel for what the school is like and connect with the academic department.

Finally, have conversations with the support structure at home and San Jac — family, friends, and professors. Make sure one is setting oneself up for the rigor of university.

Q: Anything else I should know?

A: San Jac is here to support — whether one needs mental health counseling or groceries through San Jac Marketplace. But from one school to the next, one will have support to reach goals. One's university will also help with things like counseling and food.

SIDEBAR: Does one know?

If pursuing nursing, education, or cybersecurity, one may not need to transfer to another school. San Jac now offers three affordable bachelor's degree programs one can enter after completing related associate degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in nursing.
- Bachelor of Applied Science in education with early childhood education emphasis (spring 2024).
- Bachelor of Applied Technology in information technology with cybersecurity emphasis (starting fall 2024).
- Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

(See related story on Page 4.)

### By Neesha Hoseni

Houston has a reputation as a leader in gas, petrochemical, aerospace, health and medicine, and research and development and is now opening new doors to the burgeoning fields of biotechnology and biopharma.

San Jacinto College is an exclusive provider of National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training-licensed programs.

"Houston already has a number of biomanufacturing companies, and many will eventually relocate here, so the region is primed and ready for growth in this industry," said Dr. Christopher Wild, dean of health and natural sciences and executive director of biotechnology.

In spring 2024, the college launched a series of noncredit biomanufacturing classes at the South campus, providing corporate training and onboarding for new hires and existing workers in this industry.

"It's important to both meet the current workforce needs and train the anticipated future workforce," Wild said. "Regional biomanufacturing companies will be able to look to us to deliver this specialized training."

### Training focus

Eventually, the college plans to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in biomanufacturing technician, a Level 1 certificate, and an advanced skills certificate. This area of study will resonate with many, specifically biology majors.

For example, biomanufacturing technicians will participate in manufacturing human therapeutics that are generated from biological systems.

Graduates could pursue positions in cutting-edge medicine like vaccine manufacturing and cell and gene therapies.

Students will learn theoretical concepts to better understand the scope and purpose of the work, but focus will be on the technical study of manufacturing human therapeutics, as in the hands-on aspect.

Although the program will cover a broad spectrum, it will not be math and science heavy.

Creating a robust training program empowers the college to attract future biomanufacturing companies to the Houston area, creating more job opportunities.

Preparing for the future  
 The college recently broke ground on the new

Center for Biotechnology at the Generation Park Campus. This state-of-the-art facility, which is being built in collaboration with McCord Development Inc., will provide comprehensive, hands-on training with realistic good manufacturing practices simulated environments. The hope is to be functional by 2025.

"This opens doors for Generation Park students and the community," said Destry Dokes, Generation Park Campus provost. "It gives students the opportunity to explore this emerging field and learn the foundational elements of biomanufacturing and biopharma. It also helps current employees in that field who are looking to upscale."

San Jac also hosted a ribbon-cutting for the biomanufacturing training program at the South campus. This program marks the initiation of the college's comprehensive biotechnology offerings, beginning with an onboarding certificate designed to equip new professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to seamlessly enter the field.

The biomanufacturing training program, a two-week hybrid initiative, integrates theoretical knowl-

edge, practical hands-on experience, and exposure to industry practices. Furthermore, the program is customizable to meet the specific training needs of industry partners. Future offerings will expand to cover all aspects of biomanufacturing, specialized instrumentation and equipment training, and advanced techniques, ensuring that San Jacinto College remains at the forefront of biotechnological education.

"As we unveil the biomanufacturing training program, we are taking a significant step toward meeting the growing demands of the biotechnology sector right now," Wild said. "This program is designed to provide a seamless entry into the field for new professionals, with a focus on practical experience and exposure to industry practices."

To learn more about biomanufacturing training, scan the QR code.



## ST. LUKE FOOD FEST

Presented by

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Rescheduled for Thursday | October 3, 2024

Come and sample great food from local eateries and enjoy DJ music and fellowship!

5pm-7:30pm

KC Hall in Pearland

2320 Hatfield Rd | Pearland, TX 77581

\$25 presale \$30 at the door  
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For ticket & more information visit [www.stlukesatholic.com](http://www.stlukesatholic.com)

under Our Parish/Upcoming Events



ADRIAN GARCIA  
 COMMISSIONER



# STORM DEBRIS DROP-OFF

## ENTREGA DE ESCOMBROS DE TORMENTA

MONDAY TO SUNDAY | LUNES A DOMINGO | 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

### IMPORTANT

- You are responsible for unloading debris at the drop-off location.
- Present your driver's license or another photo ID and a utility bill as proof of residency

### IMPORTANTE

- Usted es responsable de descargar los escombros en el lugar de entrega.
- Presente su licencia de conducir u otra identificación con foto y una factura de servicios públicos como comprobante de residencia.



Jim and JoAnn Fonteno Family Park-  
 14350 Wallisville Rd,  
 Houston, TX 77049

Doss Park-  
 Doss Park Rd,  
 Houston, TX 77038

# "Anastasia: The Musical" by KBP



The Kids' Backporch Productions is performing "Anastasia: The Musical," on Friday, July 26, from 7 to 9 p.m., Saturday, July 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, July 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. The Kids' Backporch Productions' cast includes 41 students (ages 7-16) led by Jade Williamson, director and choreographer; Lisa Maxwell, music director; and Evie Richeson, intern director. This is KBP's 96th production and tickets may be purchased at kidsbackporch.ticketleap.com. Pictured, left to right, are members of the cast Delaney Cline, Anastasia; Andrew Lim, Gleb; and Zachery Moore, Dmitry.



Above, left to right, are Victoria Powell, Lily; Morgan Barker, Luda; and Adrian "A.J" Estala, Count Leopold.

# San Jac College, Solugen partner on biotech training

San Jacinto College has formed a new partnership with Solugen, a leader in industrial biomanufacturing, to deliver customized corporate training aimed at enhancing the skills and competencies of industrial biotechnological laboratory staff.

San Jacinto College is the first institution in the region to offer such customized corporate training for industrial biotechnology companies, setting a new standard in biomanufacturing education.

"Solugen places a high priority on engaging community partners," said Dr. Christopher Wild, executive director of the San Jacinto college Center for Biotechnology.

"As a part of that effort, which aligned with the college engaging biotech companies, the relationship blossomed."

The training currently is offered to the greater Houston region with plans to become a training destination for biopharma and industrial biotechnology companies in the southeastern United States.

**First cohort kicks off training program**

The college hosted its first cohort of 10 trainees from Solugen in May.

The week-long "Foundations of Biotechnology" includes both theoretical and hands-on components, covering a range of critical topics from contamination control to pilot plant operations.

The course is led by Dr. Nicole Bradley, who has more than 12 years of research experience and five years in biopharmaceuticals and quality control; and Kevin Rodriguez, a San Jacinto alumnus with a background in process development and more than three years of experience in biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

"Trainees learned everything from contamination control to pilot plant operations and everything in between," said Bradley, biotechnology program director and professor. "They learned how to limit and control contaminations as well as how to improve accuracy and reproducibility in their experiments and products."

The course includes both theoretical and hands-on training in various critical areas, including:

- Introduction to pilot plant operations (theory).
- Basic data analysis and analytical calculations (theory).
- Sterilization and decontamination (theory).
- How to use and calibrate a pH meter (theory/hands-on training).
- Pipette training and repeatability assessment (hands-on training).

"I think the training was incredibly enriching for both the trainees and the San Jac faculty," Bradley said.

"It was a wonderful collaboration from start to finish, and there were some knowledge gaps that the senior level trainees were able to fill in for us as well as us to them."

**Developing the partnership**

The partnership between Solugen and San Jacinto College is a significant step toward addressing the workforce needs in the rapidly growing field of industrial biomanufacturing in Houston.

This collaboration not only benefits the college and its students but also the broader community by opening new career paths in a rapidly growing field with increasing employment opportunities.

"San Jacinto has been a critical community partner for Solugen in Houston," said Dr. Konrad Miller, vice president of Manufacturing Science and Technology at Solugen.

"As the workforce needs for the industrial biomanufacturing sector evolve, we have been working closely with faculty at the Center for Biotechnology to tailor curriculum. We're excited about the prospect of utilizing their new short-course offerings to cross-train our teams on industry best practices."

"Providing onboarding training for future hires is a goal," Wild said. "Additionally, through our partnership, continuing to engage Solugen on community events will be essential to building familiarity with families regarding careers

in this sector."

This partnership benefits both the college and the community by opening new career paths in an emerging field that continues to show rapid growth and employment opportunities.

With an exclusive partnership with the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training, San Jacinto Community College is positioned to become a leader in biomanufacturing training.



## Over The Back Fence by Natalie

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOSE!**

Greetings for a happy birthday July 25 are sent to **Jose Abarca** from his wife **Natalie**; children **Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Eliana Abarca** and **Isabella Delgado** and husband **Sebastian**; mother-in-law **Ellie Flickinger** and her husband **David Flickinger** (*Leader* president); grandparents **Marie** and **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 (Heath) Irvine** from Rebecca's father **Richard Heath**, 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 25 through July 31.

**Genoa Elementary**  
**Keyla Ortiz** celebrates a birthday July 28. Join in the birthday celebration July 28 for **Lisette Kearns**.

**Hancock Elementary**  
Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Victor Aguilar** July 27.

**Meador Elementary**  
Marking a birthday July 25 is **Maria Gonzalez**.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Bring out a triple cake and ice cream July 26 to

**Hortencia Armenta, Marie Goree and Sara Simmons.** The day to send a birthday greeting to **Lakita Thomas** is July 28.

**Melillo Middle School**  
The day for birthday fun for **Ana Castulo** is Aug. 3. Sing a happy birthday song July 30 to **Yvette Castillo**.

**Roberts Middle School**  
Light the birthday candles July 27 for **Fred Leggin** and **Lyndsi Price**.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
**Curtis Tucker** enjoys a birthday July 26.  
**Thompson Intermediate**  
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Wayne Sanders** July 31.

**Dobie High**  
Birthday greetings are sent to **Rowena Hickman** July 25.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**

Thursday, July 25: **Kelly Jones, Stephanie Gutierrez, Cherie Cundiff, Mario Rodriguez** and **Brodie Riner Jr.**; Friday, July 26: **Kenneth Sublett, Magda Adams, Debra Patterson, Kendrick Woods, Jenny Batson, Terrie Nichols, Kenny Fernandez, Eric Madsen, Gina D'Orazio** and **Elizabeth Bazar**; Saturday, July 27: **Lydia Garcia, Joanne Mata** and **Sean Kean**; Sunday, July 28: **Ariana Mena, Alyssa Chambers, Tori Mask, Dana Milburn** and **Sandy Nelson**; Monday, July 29: **Codie Salyer, Linda Brisbay, Gina Trevino, Donielle Taverner, Albert Perez** and **Tiffany Barras**; Tuesday, July 30: **Donald Rogers, Anne Hyma, Danielle Mendoza, Christine Elliott** and **Randy Kelley**; and Wednesday, July 31: **Robert Gentry, David Freeman, Felix Garcia, Jim Waltz** and **Ashley Glover**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**

Email anniversary, vacation and information on other events to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1979)**  
The South Belt area was recovering from the worst storm to hit the area since it was developed.

**Clear Creek Independent School District** high school students helped in the 11-week task of unpacking, counting and delivering the 59,746 textbooks the district ordered for the school year.

The Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist postponed its community open house due to the flooding that had recently occurred in the area.

**40 years ago (1984)**  
Two youths were in a truck that went out of control and careened into a Sageglen home. No one was injured in the accident.

Members of the National Federation for Decency picketed the 7-11 store on Hughes Road. The protesters claimed the chain of stores was the leading retailer in pornographic magazines.

**35 years ago (1989)**  
Gaining momentum against a proposed annexation of Sage-meadow Municipal Utility District by Houston, residents and community leaders expressed no desire to fall under the auspices of a city weak on providing standard services.

Sheet flow runoff generated by four days of rain as Tropical Storm Allison hoppedscotched across the Gulf Coast sent water flowing across the Brio toxic waste site into the streets and yards of Southbend, although Environmental Protection Agency records said water would run away from the subdivision.

**30 years ago (1994)**  
Clear Creek Independent School District trustees adopted a \$116.8 million budget for the 1994-1995 school year.

The San Jacinto College District board of regents approved a budget for 1994-1995 which reflected less than a 2 percent increase over the previous year's budget.

**25 years ago (1999)**  
Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital staff members gave free immunizations at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce health and trade fair.

Dr. John Wilson, superintendent of the Clear Creek Independent School District, was one of six asked by Gov. George W. Bush to apply for the position of education commissioner to replace Commissioner Mike Moses.

**20 years ago (2004)**  
The \$339.86 million bond election was postponed at Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees meeting. The board also postponed two bond related issues — the approval of the future facilities plan and the approval of a resolution regarding a tax levy in connection with the issuance of the bonds.

Vickie Morgan, board president, stated she preferred to have all seven board members at the meeting to approve the calling of the election.

**15 years ago (2009)**  
The Chase Bank in the 11200 block of Beltway 8 near 45 was robbed. The FBI named former Dobie student **Matheos "Matt" Pitikas** as the lone suspect. According to police, Pitikas arrived at the bank around 1:30 p.m. without a vehicle. He approached two tellers, brandished a handgun and demanded money. Pitikas then fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash and reportedly cut through the backyard of a Sagehollow home that backed up to the bank.

Frazier Elementary assistant principal **Sandra Jobe** was named the new principal of Kruse Elementary. She replaced longtime principal **Rosie Prusz**, who was named the Pasadena Independent School District's associate superintendent for leadership and instructional support. Jobe has 20 years experience in education — 12 as a teacher and eight as an assistant principal.

San Jacinto College ranked 40th in the nation as an associate degree producer, according to a 2009 Community College Week magazine report of the top 100 degree and certificate producing two-year institutions. The college also ranked 39th in awarding degrees to minority students and 44th on granting two-year certificates.

Beverly Hills Intermediate assistant principal **Toni Lopez** was named the new principal of Thompson Intermediate. Lopez replaced **Angela Stallings**, who was the new principal of Memorial High School.

A group of concerned South Belt residents and community leaders formed a coalition in hopes of persuading county and federal officials to construct a major retention pond in the area to alleviate local flooding. The decision to form such an alliance came just days after a meeting where representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the earliest improvements could be made to Clear Creek would be 13 to 15 years. The Corps had been studying the Clear Creek Project since 1962 at the cost of \$35 million. Corps officials at the July meeting further said any future work on Clear Creek would likely require a new congressional authorization and additional funding, due to its change in scope over the last 47 years.

**10 years ago (2014)**  
A bizarre robbery led to a shooting in the Woodmeadow subdivision. Precinct 2 deputies responded to a call on Seawood near Davenwood, where the homeowner reported being kidnapped and robbed at gunpoint by two men. The two suspects allegedly forced the homeowner into their vehicle and drove him to an unknown residence to talk to a third individual. After talking to the third man, the suspects returned to the man's home and demanded he give them a large amount of money that was hidden inside a vehicle at his residence. They also demanded he give them a Rolex watch he was wearing. At some point, the homeowner was able to wrestle the gun away from one of the suspects and fired the weapon. At this time, the second suspect re-

turned fire, as the two fled the scene — one on foot and one in the vehicle. Deputies said one of the suspects was likely struck by a bullet, as there was a large amount of blood at the scene. No immediate arrests were made.

**5 years ago (2019)**  
Win Weber was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustee **Chris Reed**, following his death the previous month. A former longtime Clear Creek ISD board of trustee himself, Weber was a personal friend of Reed's. Reed was elected to the District 2 seat in May 2017 following Weber's retirement from the board. A criminal defense lawyer by profession, Weber will serve in this position through May 2020, when the District 2 spot is up for election.

A warrant was filed on a former board member of the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League for allegedly stealing from the organization. **Paul Rodriguez** was charged with credit card abuse, a state jail felony. According to investigators, Rodriguez had recently resigned from the board but had continued to use the group's credit card use for personal expenses. Rodriguez avoided arrest by proactively posting a no-arrest bond, allowing to remain out on bond while awaiting trial. A similar incident took place the previous year with the former president of the Dobie High School baseball booster club. In that case, **Christopher Anthon Escalera**, 44, was charged with felony forgery and misdemeanor theft.

**1 year ago (2023)**  
Murder charges were filed against **George Dennis Western**, 29, in the July 3 shooting of **Erick Romero**, 30, at The Redford apartment complex in the 1200 block of Redford.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Dobie VB plans H.S. camp

With an eye toward the start of preseason high school workouts, Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host incoming freshmen through returning seniors July 29-31 at Dobie main.

The returning sophomores, juniors and seniors will train from 9 a.m. to noon each day, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m. For additional information, direct email to Sexton at dsenton@pasadenaisd.org.

The Dobie volleyball program will open the 2024 regular season Aug. 13 at Baytown Sterling.

## Brook summer volleyball camp

Clear Brook High School volleyball head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff will host the 2024 Wolverine Youth Volleyball Camp July 29 through Aug. 1. Session I is open to incoming third- through fifth-grade students and will run from 8 to 10 a.m. each day.

Session II is reserved for sixth- through eighth-grade students and will also run from 8 to 10 a.m. each day, while session III will include all incoming ninth-grade students in addition to elite level eighth-grade players.

This session will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day.

Sessions I and II are \$90 per camp participant, while session III is \$100 per participant.

Walk-up registration fees increase by \$10 accordingly.

The Clear Brook youth camp will focus on the fundamentals of volleyball including serving, hitting, blocking, defense, team play and more. For more information, direct email to Thompson at mthomp1@ccisd.net.

The Clear Brook volleyball program will then play in scrimmages Aug. 9 and 10 before opening the regular season Aug. 13 at St. Agnes. The Wolverines will also play in the John Turner Classic Aug. 15-17.

## Flores to lead Dobie girls' basketball program



Rachel Flores has been hired as the new varsity girls' basketball head coach at Dobie High School following the resignation of Jasmine Hartman. Flores, a Houston Austin High School graduate, spent the previous three seasons at Jersey Village High School.

Jasmine Hartman, who delivered an extremely successful six-year run as Dobie's varsity girls' basketball head coach, announced via social media July 18 that she has resigned her role with the Longhorns.

Hartman later told the *Leader* she will become the varsity girls' basketball head coach at Fort Bend Austin High School, where she will also be a campus co-athletic coordinator.

In a subsequent move, Dobie has hired Rachel Flores to become its next leader of the girls' basketball program. Flores comes to Dobie after a three-year stay at Jersey Village High School, where she was a girls' basketball assistant coach and also coached within the school's softball program.

Hartman led the Dobie girls' program to more than 100 overall wins over her six seasons, reaching the postseason six times, winning back-to-back district championships and twice reaching the area playoff round.

Last season, Hartman oversaw a bit of a rebuilding project at Dobie that saw the varsity group finish with a 13-19 overall record. The Longhorns were

7-5 in district 22-6A play to grab the No. 3 playoff seed before a bidistrict loss to C.E. King.

In her social media post on X, the site formerly known as Twitter, Hartman expressed her gratitude for having had the opportunity to lead the Dobie program the previous six seasons.

In part, the post stated, "The past six years of Dobie has been an incredible journey, marked by over 100 wins, two bidistrict titles, back-to-back district titles, consecutive playoff appearances and many Academic All-State/All-District student athlete achievements. These accomplishments reflect our collective dedication and hard work."

Hartman thanked the school's administration and staff, and added, "The memories, the victories, the challenges and relationships that have been built are treasures I will carry with me forever."

"Thank you for an unforgettable six years. Here's to the continued success of J. Frank Dobie High School."

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 season, Flores will lead the Longhorns into a revamped 22-6A

Continued on Page 6

## Dobie football captains warm to new leadership

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

A once uncertain locker room stabilized with a popular new head coaching hire, several key players within the Dobie football program say there are plenty of things to be excited about as Aug. 12, the

opening day of preseason workouts, inches closer.

The *Leader* caught up with co team captains Cameron Mathews and Markel Terry to gauge the pulse of the Longhorns' football program since head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff have

spent the summer meshing with players, discussing expectations and more since Fitzmorris' official hire May 28.

The overall take? It's all good, and it's time to get to work Aug. 12.

Mathews' exceptional performance on the field

is certainly important, and as he most experienced varsity player in the entire athletics field house, the star running back's overall leadership within the program is unquestioned.

With a touch more than 2,800 yards rushing to go with 31 total touchdowns over his sophomore and junior seasons, Mathews was the District 22-6A Most Valuable Player a season ago as he helped guide Dobie to the league title.

Heading into the 2024 season, Mathews' continued production and leadership within the program remains essential as Dobie looks to keep the wins coming in 2024.

Mathews admitted to being taken aback when former head coach Demond Stafford elected to move on to the same role at Northbrook.

While the senior understands that coaches often seek other opportunities, he and many of his teammates were a bit surprised by the move.

"We were 8-3 last season and won a district championship," Mathews said.

"I think we all figured things were going to continue to roll on this season and we were going to pursue another title.

"It didn't work out that way, and there were certainly a few weeks in there where we didn't know what to expect."

An expedited search for a new head coach resulted with Fitzmorris being hired May 28.

While Fitzmorris is



Count Markel Terry (75) as one of many Dobie football players excited about the head coaching change within the program. A two-time team captain, Terry is coming off an All-District season.

## JFD team tennis squad plans busy first month

Once again, Manuel Moreno Jr.'s bunch will be one of the state's busiest during the fall team tennis portion of the schedule, particularly during the month of August.

In the opening, beginning Aug. 5, the Dobie varsity team tennis squad will play 15 head-to-head team tennis matches, including action in five straight days to open the 2024 season.

It all starts Aug. 5 as Dobie hosts Friendswood, then Clear Falls Aug. 6, followed by hosting Katy Aug. 7.

Dobie travels to Baytown Sterling Aug. 8, then hosts Clear Creek the morning of Aug. 9 before hosting George Ranch in the Battle of the Cattle in the afternoon.

The annual neighbor-

hood battle between the Longhorns and Clear Brook will be played Aug. 13 at Dobie, and Dobie also has home matches against Dickinson, Clear Lake, Alief Hastings, Summer Creek, Clear Springs and La Porte during the month of August.

Dobie will play at Magnolia Aug. 24, and will mix in its District 22-6A team tennis opener against Region III power Dawson August 27.

Moreno, now in his 43rd season overall in high school tennis, has spent 26 of those years at Dobie.

Moreno has always believed the best way for his team to improve during a given season is to play plenty of tennis.

A mere look at the Au-

Continued on Page 6

## Preseason begins

## Sagemont Cowboys to kick off July 27

It's full steam ahead for the Sagemont Cowboys youth football organization as preseason workouts will begin July 27 at Denny Wranich Sr. Field at El Franco Lee Park.

Cowboys Athletic Director Denny Wranich Jr. said the program is in terrific shape as the 2024 regular season arrives within the Bay Area Football League.

The organization will host its annual pep rally August 16.

The Cowboys will travel to take on the Magnolia Park Sharks, with a full slate of games beginning with the Peeewe division at 8 a.m.

The freshman game follow at 9 a.m., while sophomore play is at 11 a.m. Junior play follows at 1 p.m. and senior action concludes the day at 3 p.m.

"I think we are in great shape and ready to go as an organization,"

Wranich said. "Everybody is excited to get started. We are proud of the organization we have put together."

"Last year, we broke through with a Super Bowl championship at the Peeewe level, and two of our teams won 7-on-7 championships in the offseason."

"A lot of former Cowboys are members of our coaching staff, so they are able to teach the way that we do things as an organization."

"We are disciplined, and we require accountability. We feel like it's a privilege to be part of our organization, and we appreciate the support of the parents as well as all of our coaches and other folks who give of their time to the organization. On the football side of things, I know we are excited to get started. It's always fun to kick off a new season. There's only one opening day."

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# Barnes among area's AAU JO track qualifiers

Patty Barnes is among a significant number of South Belt area youth track and field athletes headed to the Amateur Athletic Union's 2024 Junior Olympic Games later this month at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, N. C. Barnes, a junior-to-be at

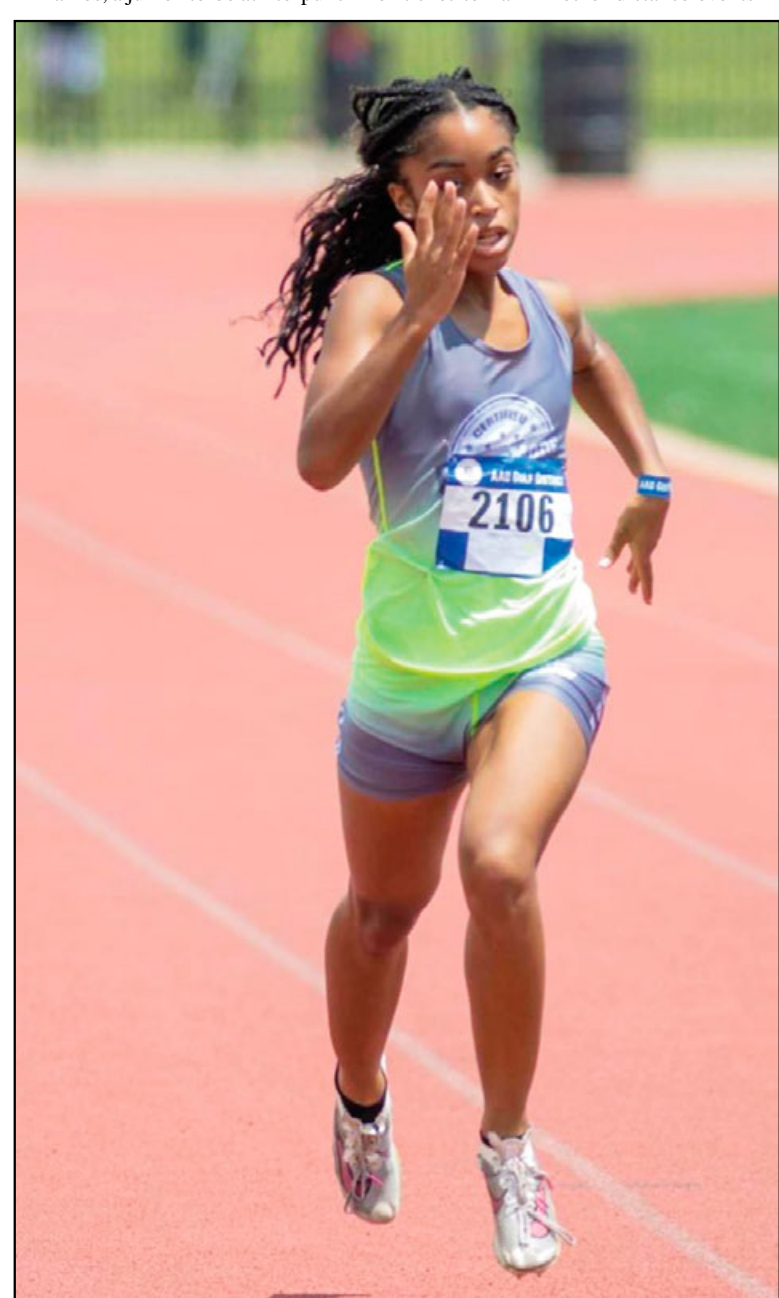
Clear Brook High School, qualified for the JOs by placing second in the 800 at the Region 17 championships in June. In that girls' age 15-16 800 final, Barnes, who competes for the Beastmode summer track program, finished at 2 minutes, 26.57 seconds to punch her ticket to na-

tionals. "I am very proud to have reached nationals," Barnes said. "It shows that my hard work pays off, and that I have the chance to go out and do well using my abilities and my trust in God." Barnes has competed in other distance events in

the past, but for now has settled at 800. As for nationals, she merely wants to put her best effort out there on the track, and let the results speak for themselves. As for the 800 meter-for-meter plan, Barnes says she aims to stay comfortable in her stride and place on the track in the first 400 meters, before making a final push over the second half of the race. "Usually with about 300 meters to go, I'm looking to start to make a move," Barnes said. "In the final 150 meters or so, it's time to really get going and aim at the finish line."

Now midway through her high school career with the Wolverines, Barnes is confident the best is yet to come for her on the track. Academically, Barnes is already an exceptionally accomplished student, and

has plenty of time to decide what she would like to pursue collegiately. As for track and field, Barnes plans to continue to push herself to the best of her abilities. "I do the best I can, and put my trust in God," Barnes said. "So far, I've been very happy with some of the things I've been able to accomplish. I'm looking forward to seeing what I can do. "When school starts, we'll get started in the off-season program, which includes weight room work and other activities focused on getting stronger and working on the little things to perfect my race preparation and performance. "It's a lot of fun, but at the same time it's important to put in the hard work so you can see the results that you want."



Patty Barnes, a junior-to-be at Clear Brook High School, qualified for the JOs by placing second in the 800 at the Region 17 championships in June.

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## Dobie plans freshman FB

The Dobie High School football coaching staff will host its annual Head Start incoming freshman football camp July 29-31, on the main campus. Incoming freshman football players who will be attending Dobie are invited to attend from 8 to 10 a.m. each day. Longhorn head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff will lead the camp,

which will include an introduction to the school's football program and day-to-day expectations. The camp is voluntary and is free of charge, giving incoming freshman players an opportunity to get an early look at the Dobie program prior to the start of freshman on-field workouts Aug. 5. The sophomores, juniors and seniors start Aug. 12.

## SBYSC continues fall sign-up

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has begun registration for the 2024 fall season and is currently offering early registration prices through July 14 at [www.southbeltsoccer.org](http://www.southbeltsoccer.org). Regular registration will run through Aug. 16 as the league continues to prepare for the season. Registration is accepted via credit or debit card only. Practices will begin in August, and teams will typically train two days a week in the early evenings. Games will begin in September after the Labor Day holiday, and continue through November. The registration fee includes a team jersey top, shorts and socks. Parents will provide shin guards, soccer cleats and a soccer ball. Registration age groups, fees and more information is available by visiting [www.southbeltsoccer.org](http://www.southbeltsoccer.org).

At right, Audrey Volper has two more seasons remaining with the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team, and figures to be a key building block as new head coach Rachel Flores takes over the program. Volper is a returning All-District performer, and brings both ball-handling skills and an ability to score off the dribble for the Longhorns. Flores, hired July 15, told the *Leader* she has met with the coaching staff as well as the returning players with-in the program and is excited to get started as soon as possible. In 2023, the Dobie squad secured the No. 3 playoff seed from District 22-6A before losing to C.E. King in the opening round of the playoffs.



## Flores hired to lead JFD girls' basketball

Continued from Page 5 alignment that includes regional power Pearland in addition to Dawson, Shadow Creek, Manvel and others. Flores says a three-year stay on Jersey Village head coach Patricia Lewandowski's staff has positioned her well for her first opportunity to be a head coach at the varsity level. Flores was the Falcons' junior varsity girls basketball head coach and Lewandowski's top assistant the past three seasons, and now has the opportunity to shape the Dobie program in her vision. "I'm very excited," Flores said. "I'm both proud and humbled to have this opportunity, and I'm going to do everything

I can to help my players be successful both on and off the court." As a young student athlete herself, Flores said she played just about every sport available at the junior high level, but always seemingly gravitated toward basketball. Flores attended Houston Lamar, then graduated from Houston Austin high School in 2010. She was perfectly happy at Jersey Village, but when the Dobie job opened this summer, Flores threw her name into the mix. Hired July 15, Flores has met with both her assistant coaches at Dobie as well as many of the players. While both head coach and players will have plenty of catching up to do in

seemingly a short period of time, Flores is excited to get started. "I think first and foremost, our program will be recognized and discipline and a commitment to each other," Flores said. "I really believe it's important to help these ladies develop as student athletes but also as well-rounded people. It's important to do a great job in the classroom, and also represent the basketball program well. "I'm looking forward to working with everyone involved in the program, and I really believe we can do some great things on the court."

Continued from Page 5 But Moreno has never been one to concede anything, and is certain to have his group ready to play each time out. Later in the 2024 regular season, Dobie will play a nondistrict match against Atascocita Oct. 4 and will host the annual Longhorn Exes matches Oct. 5 prior to the playoffs.

## JFD netters start

# 2024 Pasadena ISD/District 22-6A Varsity Football Schedule Announced

Dobie	Memorial	Rayburn	South Houston	Alvin	Dawson	Manvel	Pearland	Shadow Creek
Thurs., Aug. 29 Clear Brook Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Aug. 30 Channelview Veterans, 7 p.m.	Sat., Aug. 31 at Spring Woods Tulley, 6 p.m.	Thurs., Aug. 29 at Baytown Lee Stallworth, 7 p.m.	Fri., Aug. 30 Bastrop Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Aug. 30 Bridgeland The Rig, 6:30 p.m.	Thurs., Aug. 29 Ball Freedom, 6:30 p.m.	Thurs., Aug. 29 Fulshear The Rig, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Aug. 30 at Summer Creek Turner, 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 6 at Klein Klein Mem., 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 6 at Porter Ran. Reed 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 6 Pasadena Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Sept. 5 Bellaire Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Thurs., Sept. 5 at Dulles Hall, 7 p.m.	Sat., Sept. 7 at Elkins Hall, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 6 at Barbers Hill BHHS, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 6 Hou. Memorial The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 6 Clear Creek Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13 *at Dawson The Rig, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Sept. 12 *at Manvel Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 13 *Pearland Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 20 *Rayburn Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 13 *Shadow Creek Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 13 *Dobie The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 12 *Memorial Freedom, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 13 *at Rayburn Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 13 *at Alvin Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27 (HC) *Memorial Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Sept. 19 *Dawson Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 20 *at S. Houston Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 27 *S. Houston Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 20 *at Pearland The Rig, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Sept. 19 *at Memorial Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 20 *at Shadow Creek Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 20 *Alvin The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 20 *Manvel Veterans, 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4 *at Shadow Creek Freedom, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 27 *Dobie Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 3 *Alvin Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 3 *at Rayburn Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 27 *S. Houston Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 27 *Shadow Creek The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 27 *Pearland Freedom, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 27 *at Manvel Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Sept. 27 *at Dawson The Rig, 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11 *Pearland Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 11 *Shadow Creek Veterans, 2 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 11 *at Manvel Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 11 *at Dawson The Rig, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 3 *at Rayburn Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 4 *at Pearland The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 4 *at S. Houston Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 4 *Dawson The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 4 *Dobie Veterans, 7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 18 *at S. Houston Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 18 *at Pearland The Rig, 7 p.m.	Sat., Oct. 19 *Dawson Veterans, 2 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 18 *Dobie Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 18 *Manvel Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 11 *S. Houston The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 11 *Rayburn Freedom, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 11 *at Dobie Veterans, 7 p.m.	Sat., Oct. 12 *at Memorial Veterans, 2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25 *Rayburn Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 24 *S. Houston Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 25 *at Dobie Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 24 *at Memorial Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 25 *at Dawson The Rig, 7 p.m.	Sat., Oct. 19 *at Rayburn Veterans, 2 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 18 *Alvin Freedom, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 18 *Memorial The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 25 *Pearland The Rig, 7 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 1 *at Alvin Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 1 *at Rayburn Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 1 *Memorial Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 31 *at Alvin Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 1 *Dobie Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 25 *Alvin The Rig, 7 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 1 *Dawson Freedom, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 25 *at Shadow Creek Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 31 *at S. Houston Veterans, 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 7 *Manvel Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 8 *Alvin Veterans, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Nov. 7 *at Shadow Creek Alvin ISD, 6:30 p.m.	Thurs., Nov. 7 *at Pearland The Rig, 6:30 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 8 *at Memorial Veterans, 7 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 1 *at Manvel Alvin ISD, 7 p.m.	Thurs., Nov. 7 *at Dobie Veterans, 6:30 p.m.	Thurs., Nov. 7 *S. Houston The Rig, 6:30 p.m.	Thurs., Nov. 7 *Rayburn Veterans, 6:30 p.m.

\*22-6A games (HC) Homecoming

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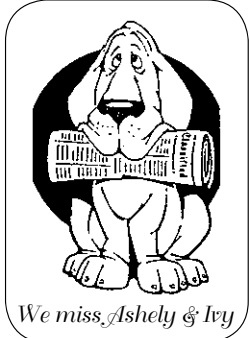
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# Dobie football players buying in as coaching leadership sets tone

Continued from Page 5

others. "He texted me the first day, and I didn't get back with him," Mathews said. "We connected at 7-on-7, and he looked me in the face and was up front with me with his expectations for our team. He is real with what he talks about, and I appreciate that."

"Coach Fitzmorris says it's not about him, but instead it's about the success of the program. I'm all for that. The statistics are nice, and I certainly understand what's expected of me. But, at the same time, winning is what's important to me. I certainly believe that coach Fitz-

morris is ready and willing to do whatever it takes to put us in the best position to pick up victories on Friday nights. I can tell you this about coach Fitzmorris - he wants us to be as successful as possible both as men off the field as well as on it.

"As players, all you really want is to know the coaches are there for you and have your back. I certainly feel that way with coach Fitzmorris, and I'm looking forward to the start of workouts and getting ready to win football games."

To that point, Mathews is keenly aware that the Longhorns have not won a

playoff game since 2004. Granted, Dobie has been matched with multi-state championship winner North Shore in the first round of the playoffs most seasons since 2005.

That will no longer be the case at least for the 2024 and 2025 thanks to the University Interscholastic League's biannual realignment as the 22-6A qualifiers will match up with the Fort Bend ISD group out of the new 21-6A.

With Mathews entering his final season, he would love nothing more than to lead his team deep into the postseason.

"At the end of my career

here at Dobie, I just want to be known as a dawg. I want people to remember that I did everything both

on and off the field that I could to help this program be successful," Mathews said.

"Like I said earlier, nothing is more important to me than us chasing another district champi-

onship and possibly going deep into the playoffs. The individual statistics are nice, but I want to win. I feel like we have a great chance to do that this season, and coach Fitzmorris and the staff are big reasons why."

As for Terry, he admits that he was sorry to see Stafford move on. When Terry reached the varsity level in 2022 following a dominant freshman season, Stafford was in his first season with the Longhorns.

As a sophomore, Terry wasn't thrilled with unsteady playing time at the varsity level but said Stafford was always there to assure the player that his time would indeed come.

Terry said he and Stafford developed a close relationship both on and off the field.

As was the case with Mathews, Terry says he knew Stafford had his back. To see Stafford leave was tough, but Terry took it in stride.

"It's always difficult when a new coach comes in, particularly prior to your senior year," Terry

said. "But all you want is a coach or group of coaches who are going to be there for you."

"Right now, I can tell you that I love having coach Fitzmorris running the show for us. The guy has been out there working hard everyday trying to make sure that he does everything possible to help us be successful."

"From what I have seen, we should be able to move forward and have a lot of success this season. I'm looking forward to getting started Aug. 12. I think we have a chance to have a great season."

Now a returning first team All-District offensive lineman, Terry, a two-year co-captain, enters the 2024 season as the unquestioned leader up front along the offensive line.

While on paper the Longhorns have had to fill some vacancies along the line following graduation, Terry believes there are players within the program who are ready to step in and make a difference rather quickly.

"For me, especially as a two-time team captain, I

feel like I'm a tone-setter," Terry said.

"It's my job to go out there and lead by example. Usually in a football game, I try to go out there on the first play and put a defensive lineman on his back."

"It's about going out there and showing leadership, and doing whatever it takes to help the team be successful."

"Yes, we did have a coaching change, and there was some initial uncertainty about the whole deal, but I think everybody feels good about where we are as a program."

"Now, it's all about us going out there and getting the job done."

"I know coach Fitzmorris and his staff will do everything possible to help us win out there on the field. It's up to us to follow through on our end."

"Coach Fitzmorris talks every day about how successful he wants us to be out there on the field, but also off the field. It's been great to play for him so far, and we can't wait to get going next month as we get on the field."



At right, Tarik Riley (6) averaged more than 34 yards per reception a season ago, with 15 catches for 516 yards and seven touchdowns. Heading into his senior season, Riley is the type of big-play threat on the outside that should allow Dobie's offense to deliver plenty of versatility. The revamped coaching staff with the Longhorns is no doubt excited about the possibilities Riley presents.

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One of the more dynamic offensive players in the entire Houston area, Cameron Mathews heads into his senior season pleased with the coaching changes at Dobie and is looking forward to a big 2024 season.

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**SJC's Stivey to Emporia State**

At right, former San Jacinto college pitcher Maddux Stivey will continue his education and baseball career at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kan. Stivey made 11 appearances with the Ravens in 2024, going 2-0 with a 4.95 earned run average over 20 innings of work. He struck out 17. Stivey helped the Ravens to a 41-21 record in 2024, with the team reaching the Region 14 championship series before a loss to Blinn.

**Beverly Hills plans Community Day**

August 13 is the first official day of classes within Pasadena ISD, and the Beverly Hills Intermediate athletic department is already planning preseason events involving the South Belt community.

The Bears' athletic department is finalizing details for the annual Beverly Hills Intermediate Community Day, which this year will be held August 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The school's football and volleyball programs will both be involved with scrimmage action during the day as the community is invited to come out and see what the Bears have in store for the school year.

On the field, the Bears' seventh-grade teams will scrimmage from 9 to 9:45 a.m., followed by eighth-grade scrimmage action from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

As for the Bears' volleyball teams, the seventh-grade groups will scrimmage from 10 to 10:45 a.m., followed by the eighth-grade action from noon to 12:45 p.m.

During the Community Day, Beverly Hills Bears fans will have a chance to purchase a variety of team apparel items, including spirit shirts, backpacks, bucket hats and more.

Concessions will be available during the event via cash-only purchase.

**Football camp**

The Beverly Hills Intermediate football coaching staff has set plans for its back-to-school camp, running July 31 through Aug. 2, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. each day.

The second week of the camp will be held August 5-7, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. each day.

The state requires that all extracurricular activity participants have their annual athletics physical on file with school officials prior to being allowed to participate.