

MUD trash times may vary

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

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

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

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

Beverly Hills to meet Aug. 7

Beverly Hills Civic Club will host a meeting Friday, Aug. 7, at the Beverly Hills Park community center, located at 10201 Kingspoint, from 10 to 11 a.m. All Beverly Hills residents are welcome to attend.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

New Covenant feeds needy

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

MUD offers dumping reward

Clear Brook City MUD is offering a \$1,000 reward for information on who disposed of a dead dog at Clear Brook City Park the morning of Monday, July 20. According to MUD officials, the body of a large dog was placed in a trash bag and left behind the gazebo at the park. Harris County Animal Services was called to humanely dispose of the canine. Anyone with information is urged to contact Precinct 2 Capt. Marco Leal at 713-855-6154.

Sagemont to meet Aug. 4

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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

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

Authorities respond to 2 bomb scares in 4 days

Both incidents determined by investigators to be false alarms

Emergency crews responded to two separate explosives scares this past week, with one incident garnering national attention. Both scares were ultimately deemed false alarms by authorities.

A child pornography investigation led to a bomb squad being called Thursday, July 23, when police found a suspected explosive device while executing a warrant in the 500 block of Gilpin Street, making national headlines.

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen's office, detectives were executing an internet crimes against children search warrant at the home near Edgemoor Drive when they spotted what looked like a pipe bomb wrapped in foil, electrical tape and screws, with a wick attached. Deputies immediately evacuated the residence and called in the Harris County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad, which safely removed the item.

Later that afternoon, officials clarified the device was tightly wound fireworks packed together, not a functional explosive.

Rosen emphasized that investigators acted out of caution.

"When you have a situation where somebody that's occupying the house has situational awareness of our moving throughout the house and what looked like a bomb device, it kind of gave us a lot of trepidation," Rosen said.

Two adults were detained at the scene. One allegedly admitted to making the device.

Authorities also reported finding cameras throughout the home, with a voice coming

through the system telling deputies to leave while they were inside.

By evening, officials announced that Justin Hogue, 36, was charged with three felony counts of possession of child pornography after investigators said they recovered more than 500 images and videos. No charges have yet been filed in connection with the fireworks device, though Rosen noted that additional charges could be considered at the local or federal level.

The bomb squad confirmed there was no ongoing threat to the community. The investigation into both the child pornography case and the improvised device remained active at press time.

Just four days later on the night of Monday, July 27, a street in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision was closed by deputies from Harris County

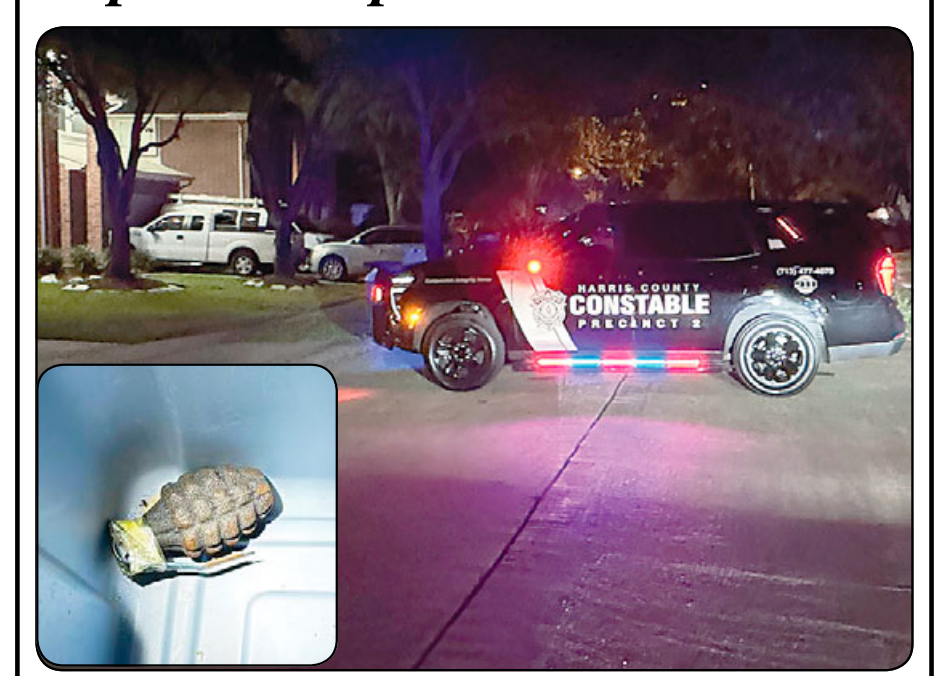
Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office after the department received a report from a resident about a possible live grenade.

According to Precinct 2 officials, the resident discovered a grenade mixed in with some boxes he received as part of a recent Facebook Marketplace purchase.

Precinct 2 deputies responded to the call in the 11400 block of Sugarbush Ridge Lane and immediately set up a perimeter and contacted the Harris County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad. Upon the Bomb Squad's arrival, they were able to check the grenade and confirm that it was not an active grenade and posed no risk of going off.

The scene was released and no other incidents occurred. No injuries or damage were reported.

Deputies respond to bomb scare



Precinct 2 deputies are shown above Monday July 27, setting a road block on Sugarbush Ridge Lane in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision after a resident reported finding a grenade mixed in with a recent Facebook Marketplace purchase. A bomb squad was called to the scene and said the grenade was not live and posed no threat. The incident was just one of two local bomb scares in just four days.

Photo by David Flickinger

Beverly Hills pool finally opens for season

With summer almost over, city blames delay on lifeguard shortage

With summer coming to a close and students gearing up to return to school, the city of Houston finally opened the swimming pool at Beverly Hills Park this past week.

City officials blamed the delayed opening on a national lifeguard shortage.

The pools at the city's Sagemont and Wilson Memorial parks each opened the first week of June after shorter delays.

This marks the fourth consecutive year the city has faced such staffing issue, with the Beverly Hills pool not opening at all last summer. (The city's swimming pools were completely closed the summers of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

Houston Parks and Recreation Department officials said additional swimming pools will open as more lifeguards become available.

Man dies in Gulf Freeway accident

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that took place around 5:05 a.m. Sunday, July 26, in the 13700 block of the Gulf Freeway near Scarsdale.

The identity of the deceased male, 20, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, a white Chevrolet 1500 pickup truck was traveling at a high rate of speed on the north-

bound service road at the above address when the driver failed to maintain a single lane, struck the guardrail and then a light pole before coming to a stop.

Responding Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced the male driver dead at the scene.

There were no other persons or vehicles involved in this crash.

At press time, the investigation was ongoing.

Harris County begins 2027 budget process

Process taking place as new report projects \$130M budget shortfall

Harris County officials are bracing for a challenging budget season as a new report highlights a projected deficit of nearly \$130 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

The shortfall could grow to more than \$200 million in the next few years, and potentially \$300 million if costs continue to rise.

Financial challenges

Bill King, a fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute and frequent *Leader* contributor, analyzed the county's finances and noted that while Harris County is "in relatively good financial shape," it must trim spending to align with expected revenues. With 80 percent of county revenue tied to property taxes, options for generating new income are limited. "If you just keep raising taxes all of the time, people get tired of

that," King said.

County Budget Director Daniel Ramos acknowledged the fiscal pressures, citing rising costs, the expiration of federal pandemic aid, reductions in grant funding, and unfunded state mandates. In a statement, Ramos emphasized that Harris County has adopted balanced budgets in recent years and is preparing to present another balanced proposal.

Public input
Residents can take part in shaping the county's spending priorities. The following is a list of opportunities for public input:

– **Precinct 1 budget forum:** Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis will host a budget forum Thursday, July 23, at Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 1422 Ledwicke St., beginning at

10 a.m. Focus areas include equity in services, flood mitigation, and public health. Residents may attend in person or submit comments online.

– **Precinct 2 town hall:** Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia will host a budget town hall Thursday, Aug. 6, San Jacinto College North, beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include public safety funding, infrastructure, and workforce development. Garcia also held a budget town hall July 21 in the Aldine area. At press time, no meetings had been announced for the immediate South

Belt area.

– **Commissioners Court meetings:** Open to the public, with opportunities to register to speak or submit written comments. Commissioners Court meetings are held at 10 a.m. each Tuesday at the Harris County Administration Building, located downtown at 1001 Preston Street.

Timeline

The following is a timeline of key events:

– **July 15–16:** Departmental budget hearings before Commissioners Court. County agencies

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CCISD's Turner excels in health care

As Tulane professor/surgeon, former Brook student tackles cancer

Dr. Jacquelyn Turner, a former South Belt resident and graduate of CCISD's Clear Brook High School, has been recognized as a regional leader in surgical education and public health advocacy for her ongoing work at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

Currently serving as Tulane's vice chair of surgical education, the former Greater Houston resident now oversees the training curriculum for the university's residency and fellowship surgical programs.

Academic/professional timeline

Turner began her medical career in Houston, graduating from the McGovern Medical School at UT Health Houston in 2005. Following her medical degree, she relocated to Chicago to pursue advanced specialized training in colon and rectal surgery.

She completed her postgraduate residency and fellowship programs through Cook County Hospital and the University of Illinois Chicago. After completing her specialization, Turner joined the faculty at Tulane University in New Orleans, rising through the academic ranks to her current

executive leadership position.

Today, she is recognized for advancing robotic surgery, emerging technologies, and quality-improvement initiatives in colorectal care.

"We're always working to develop less invasive treatments," said Turner. "Techniques such as robotic surgery and immunotherapy have expanded significantly in the last decade and are helping us better treat certain colorectal cancers."

Turner's clinical work and community outreach have earned her consecutive regional "Top Doctor" designations from Castle Connolly.

Public health/legislative advocacy

In addition to her academic responsibilities, Turner has directed regional initiatives focused on reducing colorectal cancer mortality rates across Louisiana. Her work includes organizing localized screening campaigns at community centers and regional hospitals.

Her efforts have also extended into state health care policy. Working alongside the Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana (CAGLA), Turner has advocated at the state capitol for legislative reforms aimed at expanding insurance mandates to cover early colorectal cancer screenings for high-risk populations.

"With my practice, I can touch hundreds of patients," said Turner. "Through advocacy, we can help thousands."

Turner advancing medicine



Clear Brook High School graduate Dr. Jacquelyn Turner (right) is blazing trails in the field of colorectal cancer, as she now works as a surgeon and serves as a professor at Tulane University School of Medicine. Also an advocate in cancer prevention, Turner is recognized as a pioneer in new technologies used to combat colorectal cancer, such as robotic surgery.

In My Opinion

King compares city employee costs

One of our young researchers at Baker went through the City of Houston budget and divided each department's total personnel cost by the number of employees to see what the average cost to taxpayers runs. Frankly, we were a bit surprised by the size of the number. So, we decided to look at the other large cities in Texas to see how they compared. What we found was that the average cost for municipal employees in Texas is over \$100,000 annually and, in many cases, well over that threshold.

You can read the full report at <https://www.bakerinstitute.org/research/comparing-personnel-compensation-across-texas-largest-cities>.

Before going over these numbers, I want to make sure that you understand these are not salary figures. These numbers represent the total cost to the cities to employ an individual. This includes costs such as health insurance, pension costs, and payroll taxes. Because most of these employees are still covered by high-cost defined-benefit pension plans, the contributions to those plans make up a substantial portion of the cost.

The average cost of a municipal employee ranged from a high in Austin of \$142,000 to a low of \$112,000 in Dallas. Houston was roughly in the middle of the pack at 132,000.

Public safety employees (police and fire) cost quite a bit more. Police department employees cost between a high of \$198,000 in Houston and a low of \$140,000 in San Antonio. Fire departments ranged from a high in San Antonio of \$180,000 to a low in Austin of \$144,000. Some of the variation is due to different pension plans and the

timing of contract negotiations. Two things struck me about these numbers. First, there has been a general belief that municipal employees are underpaid compared to the private sector. I think these numbers call that narrative into question. According to BLS statistics, the average weekly wages for the counties in which these cities are located are about \$1,700. With standard benefits, that would equate to a personnel cost of about \$115,000. That may not be an entirely fair comparison because the average worker in a city might have lower skills, education, and experience than the average municipal employee. Nonetheless, it is hard to imagine that municipal employees are significantly underpaid compared to their neighbors.

The data also raises the question of how these averages are spread across the departments' hierarchy. We know, for example, that a starting police officer at HPD earns \$81,000. Even with a generous benefit add-on, the cost does not come anywhere near the \$198,000 average.

I suspect this means that the mean cost is skewed significantly higher than the median. If most rank-and-file workers cost far less than \$198,000, a relatively small group of highly compensated senior staff, along with heavy overtime and tenure-based pay steps, is dragging the average up. That strongly points to a top-heavy structure — an observation consistent with the Ernst & Young efficiency study conducted by the City of Houston.

This is a metric we will continue to follow and expand to other governmental entities. It will be particularly important to track how these averages change over time.

Stay tuned.
Bill King

Clear Lake woman shot to death Teen shooter arrested following extensive search

A mother was shot and killed inside a Clear Lake-area apartment Tuesday afternoon after a gunman on a bicycle fired multiple rounds into the unit, according to Houston police.

The suspect — described by investigators as a 17- or 18-year-old male — was arrested hours later following a search that involved ground officers, K-9 units, and an HPD helicopter.

Officers were dispatched around 2 p.m. to the apartment complex on El Dorado Boulevard near the Gulf Freeway after reports of gunfire. When they arrived, they found an adult woman who had been struck at least once while inside her apartment. She was transported

to a hospital, where she later died.

Police said the victim was inside the residence with her two teenage sons when the shooter approached the apartment on a bicycle and fired several shots into the unit. Investigators believe the attack was targeted.

According to investigators, at least one round may have been fired through a window near the top of an interior staircase, where the woman was believed to be standing.

After the shooting, officers learned the suspect lived nearby. They spotted her at a residence, but he ran, and officers briefly lost sight of him.

HPD's helicopter crew

used heat-detection equipment to scan the area and located an unusually warm trash can in the backyard of a home. Officers evacuated the residents and approached with K-9 units.

The suspect attempted to flee again, jumping a fence, but was quickly surrounded and taken into custody. Police said he was not armed at the time of his arrest. His name had not been released at press time.

No additional details about the victim have been publicly released.

The investigation remains ongoing, and police have not announced charges or provided further information about a possible motive.

Faith Missionary Baptist Church to host tote drive-thru

Faith Missionary Baptist Church and Beta Eta, Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma of Texas, will host a back-to-school tote distribution drive-thru from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 1.

The event will provide starter kit totes that are filled with school supplies and disposable personal care kits while supplies last.

The drive-thru will be held at 9850 Mango, Houston, TX 77075.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library:

Thursday, July 30, 2 – 3 p.m. Comedic clown show. Registration required.
Saturday, Aug. 1, 2 – 4 p.m. Saturdays at HPL. Registration required.
Monday, Aug. 3, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Bring family to storytime. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. Hours are Monday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for more information. One can also visit social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library:

Thursday, July 30, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Friday, July 31, 1 – 3 p.m. Diamond painting club (18+). Registration required for new members.

Saturday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
Saturday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Primer aniversario de personas que corren con libros.
Saturday, Aug. 1, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Korean language music class. Registration required.
Monday, Aug. 3, 1 – 2 p.m. ESL classes (various levels).
Monday, Aug. 3, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 10:15 – 1 p.m. Personas que corren con libros: Club de lectura en Español.

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

Online services

– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.

– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
– Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
– Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card.

For additional information, visit www.hcpl.net.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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David Flickinger, owner

Southeast VFD prepares for hurricane season Firefighters train, proactively inspect department's rescue fleet

As the annual Atlantic hurricane season continues throughout our region, the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) is taking proactive steps to ensure peak readiness for severe weather events and storm-related emergencies.

Under the leadership of newly appointed Fire Chief Kevin Reilly, the department has launched comprehensive equipment inspections and specialized operator familiarization training across its fleet.

To protect the community during major storms, SVFD personnel are conducting thorough maintenance checks on the department's inflatable rescue boats, ensuring watercraft are fully operational for flood rescues. Additionally, crews are undergoing hands-on training with the department's heavy rescue vehicles to ensure swift, efficient deployment during high-water incidents, and storm recovery operations.

"Our top priority is the

safety of our residents," said Reilly. "By inspecting our watercraft and sharpening our skills on our primary rescue trucks now, our team will be ready to respond immediately and effectively when severe weather hits."

The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department encourages all residents to prepare their personal emergency kits, clear gutters and drain paths around their properties and monitor local weather advisories as hurricane season progresses.



Loading an inflatable rescue boat into a truck above are, left to right, firefighter Andrew Blue, fire Capt. Robert Shanahan and firefighter Michael Poole.



Shown above at SVFD's Rescue Base on Hughes Road are, left to right, firefighter John Bass, volunteer Michelle Mooney, fire Capt. Robert Shanahan and firefighter Andrew Blue.

Photos by Kevin Reilly



SVFD firefighter John Bass sits in the department's 2.5-ton high water rescue vehicle.

Harris County begins 2027 budget process Process begins as county faces projected \$130M shortfall

Continued from Page 1
present their requests and priorities.

– **July 23:** Precinct 1 Community Budget Forum
– **Aug. 6:** Precinct 2 Budget Town Hall

– **Aug. 17:** Budget Director Daniel Ramos presents the proposed FY 2027 budget to Commissioners Court.

– **Sept. 2026:** Commissioners Court votes on the final budget and tax rates.

Residents are also encouraged to utilize the county's "Balancing Act" tool on the budget portal website to see how shifting funds impacts services.

Transparency through live-streaming

County Judge Lina Hidalgo has emphasized transparency during this year's budget hearings by live-streaming departmental presentations on her official Facebook page. Each day of hearings, residents can tune in to watch county agencies present their

requests and priorities for FY 2027.

The streams allow the public to see firsthand how departments justify their spending needs and how Commissioners Court members respond. Hidalgo noted that making these sessions accessible online is part of a broader push to ensure residents understand the challenges of balancing the county's budget amid a looming deficit.

Residents can follow the hearings live or view archived videos afterward, giving them a direct window into the decision-making process before the proposed budget is presented in August.

The hearings can be accessed by visiting www.facebook.com/HarrisCoJudge.

What's next?

King suggested the county may need to cut positions, eliminate programs, or improve efficiency — possibly through technology like

AI. He also urged officials to make the county's online budget portal more user-friendly to help residents understand how funds are spent.

As the budget process unfolds, residents can expect debates over spending priorities, service levels and long-term financial sustainability. The outcome will shape how Harris County manages essential services while confronting its looming deficit.

For additional information on Harris County's 2027 budget process, visit the online portal at budget.harriscountytexas.gov/budget.aspx.

City of Houston

The county's budget process comes fresh on the heels of a recent announcement from Houston Mayor John Whitmire that the city's 2027 budget is now complete and has been approved by City Council.

Houston City Council voted 15-1, with one coun-

cilmember absent, to approve Mayor John Whitmire's Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The \$7.5 billion budget strengthens the city's financial future and protects public safety without raising taxes or deferring infrastructure obligations.

These changes align Houston with national best practices, reflect the real cost of delivering services, and help ensure long-term fiscal stability.

"We have a lot of work to do, but today is a proud moment," said Whitmire. "Houston is stronger today because of this budget and the leadership exhibited around the horseshoe (City Council) and many city departments, but I can't say enough about the community. We had over 90 briefings in every corner of the city, received letters of support from over 90 groups, and the council vote speaks for itself. The budget lays the

foundation for the City of Houston to be on a sound financial footing in the future. Certainly, it is not the final solution, but this budget addresses our basic services, finances, public safety, drainage, and solid waste (trash/recycling collection) without raising taxes."

Budget plan

The recently passed 2027 budget plan does the following:

– Designates the Solid Waste Municipal Department as a Municipal Utility and moves it into the combined utility system under Houston Public Works.

– Implements a \$5 per month administrative user fee to align with the actual cost of service and to support long-term fleet, staff, and reliability (Customers will notice the fee beginning with the August water bill)

Right-of-way rental fee
The Right-of-way rental fee does the following:

– Implements a fee on water and wastewater utilities for use of public right-of-way, similar to a franchise fee.

– The ROW fee benefits help preserve public safety, libraries, parks, municipal courts, and multi-service centers.

The changes move the city closer to a structurally balanced budget that does the

following:

– Supports transformational public works and consent decrees

– Reduces pressure for layoffs and service cuts

– Both are standard practices in major cities, align costs with service and support a structural budget balance

"Houston is headed in the right direction, and we'll build on this," said Whitmire. "We'll continue to collaborate with all levels of government. There's no question that, as we move forward with the growth we're experiencing, we've got to strengthen partnerships with the state and federal governments. And, I certainly want to thank our county leaders."

Budget priorities

Budget priorities/key investments include the following:

– All services preserved

– No layoffs

– \$12M in efficiency savings achieved without service reductions

– Five police and 11 fire cadet classes

– \$31M added to the drainage fund from the general fund

– The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2026

To view details on the city's 2027 budget, visit

www.houstontx.gov/budget-proposal.

Office of Teneshia Hudspeth

Harris County Clerk

Back-to-School Birth Certificate Event

Saturday, August 1, 2026

9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

at Harris County Court Annexes

• South Belt

- Baytown
- Clear Lake
- North Shepherd
- Chimney Rock
- Cypresswood
- Pasadena
- Clay Road
- Humble
- Wallisville

\$23 PER BIRTH CERTIFICATE

To get a certified copy of a birth certificate:

- The person must have been born in Texas.
- You must be the person named on the certificate, a legal representative or immediate family member.
- Have a valid photo ID, such as driver's license, federal or state ID card, military ID, U. S. passport, and/or supporting documents.

for more information visit
CCLERK.HCTX.NET





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Catholic Church
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Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
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www.stlukescatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE	
Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Sunday	12:30 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	
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.	

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care



Now Enrolling

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

 **281.481.2003**
www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

Whitmire appoints Kevin Schulz as HFD EMS physician director

Schulz replaces outgoing David Persse, who retired after serving city nearly 30 years

Houston Mayor John Whitmire has appointed Dr. Kevin Schulz as the new EMS physician director of the Houston Fire Department.

Schulz brings more than 25 years of emergency medical service (EMS) experience and more than a decade of service to the city of Houston.

Schulz succeeds Dr. David Persse, who retired earlier this year after nearly three decades serving Houston. Schulz has served as an assistant medical director with the Houston Fire Department since 2012, helping shape the department's nationally recognized EMS system. He now assumes its top physician leadership role.

"Dr. Kevin Schulz knows Houston because he has dedicated part of his career to serving our community. He has valuable expertise in multiple medical fields and



Dr. Kevin Schulz

an unwavering dedication that is key in his new position," said Whitmire. "Dr. Schulz brings the experience and vision needed to continue strengthening our emergency medical service."

As EMS physician director, Schulz oversees the medical aspects of one of the nation's busiest EMS systems, providing medical oversight for clinical protocols, quality improvement, continuing education, and patient care delivered by Houston Fire Department paramedics and EMTs.

"Dr. Schulz has dedicated his career to advancing emergency medical care and improving outcomes for the people of Houston," Fire Chief Thomas Muñoz said. "He understands our city, he understands our firefighters and paramedics, and he has helped shape our EMS system for more than a decade. I have complete confidence in

his leadership as we continue building one of the nation's premier emergency medical services systems."

Schulz began his career over two decades ago as a volunteer EMT in New Jersey and Pennsylvania before earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Villanova University and a medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine. He completed his emergency medicine residency at Morristown Medical Center before moving to Houston to complete an EMS fellowship at UTHealth Houston.

Since joining the Houston Fire Department, Schulz has advanced the department's EMS system and helped lead the medical response to major events including Hurricane Harvey, Super Bowl LI, the NCAA Final Four, and the FIFA World Cup. He has also served as a tactical physician with the Houston Police Department's Tactical Operations Division (SWAT) since 2013.

"I'm honored to serve the city of Houston and the Houston Fire Department in this role. I'm also grateful to Mayor Whitmire and Chief Muñoz for their confidence in me and for the opportunity to build on the outstanding work that's already been done," said Schulz. "Our paramedics and EMTs provide exceptional care every day, and I look forward to working alongside them as we continue advancing our EMS system and delivering the highest level of care to the people of Houston."

In addition to his responsibilities with the city of Houston, Schulz serves as associate clinical professor and EMS fellowship director in the Department of Emergency Medicine at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston, where he is also co-

chief of the Section of Disaster and Prehospital Medicine. Schulz serves as chair of the National Association of EMS Physicians Council of EMS Fellowship Directors and is a past president of the Texas Chapter of the organization. He also serves on the board of directors of the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council.

Board certified in emergency medicine and emergency medical services, Schulz is a Fellow of both the Academy of Emergency Medical Services and the American College of Emergency Physicians. He has authored or co-authored more than 40 publications and abstracts related to prehospital and event medicine.

Flock cameras lead to arrest

Fleeing suspect faces multiple felony charges

A recent Flock alert near SH 35/Telephone Road and Alameda Genoa for a stolen license plate led to multiple felony charges by Precinct 2 deputies.

Upon locating the vehicle in question, deputies attempted to make a traffic stop on the vehicle, but the driver fled, leading law enforcement on a short half-mile pursuit before the suspect crashed into an iron gate as he attempted to enter a trailer park.

The driver then tried to flee on foot, prompting a second short pursuit. After a brief foot pursuit, the suspect was apprehended.

Upon investigation, the driver was found to be in possession of cocaine and had five open warrants out of the Harris County Precinct 4 constable's office.

The suspect, identified as Mathew Simons, was arrested for felony evading in a motor vehicle, possession of a controlled substance, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and the outstanding warrants.

No patrol vehicles were damaged, and no officers were injured during the incident.

The incident takes place fresh on the heels of multiple reports of vandalism nationwide against the controversial license-plate reading cameras.

Despite the Flock program's successes, privacy advocates such as the American Civil Liberties Union contend the cameras go too far and often disproportionately target minorities.

Congregation Shaar HaShalom to host garage sale

Congregation Shaar HaShalom and its Sisterhood will have the synagogue's annual indoor garage/rummage sale on Sunday August 2, between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. The sale will have household and kitchen items, clothes, books, toys, jewelry, traveling and loads of surprise treasures at remarkable, bargain prices.

Proceeds from this sale provide the funds to support the synagogue's activities such as its school, adult education and its Sisterhood's activities.

The Congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Rea, Houston, TX 77062. For more information, visit www.shaarhashalom.org, call the office at (281) 488-5861 or email cs@shaarhashalom.org.

Hometown Heroes Park hosts free ballroom dance

A free ballroom dance is held every Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level.

The dance is casual dress, and the purpose is to have fun, get some mental and physical exercise and make friends. A variety of rhythms are provided by Neva and Bill Schroder, including foxtrot, waltz, rumba, cha-cha, tango, Viennese waltz, swing, West Coast swing and several popular Latin dances.

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

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

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

Pct. 2 makes promotions



Precinct 2 recently held a ceremony to celebrate the promotions of Eddie Cano (left) who was promoted from school sergeant to school lieutenant and Andrew Trevino who was promoted from patrol corporal to school sergeant. Photo not available for Stephanie Barajas who was promoted from school deputy to school corporal.

Dobie cheer teams receive awards at UCA cheer camp

Dobie High School along with several other Pasadena ISD high schools; namely South Houston, Pasadena and Sam Rayburn, all competed at the Universal Cheerleaders Association cheer camp. Dobie won the coveted all-around Spirit Award. The Dobie JV team won

the excellence ribbons for both sideline routine and cheer, and the superior ribbon for camp dance. The Dobie varsity team won the excellence ribbon for camp dance and the superior ribbon for both sideline routine and cheer.



Left to right, are Dobie varsity cheer team members (front row) social officer Aubree Rodriguez, senior spirit officer Maylene Rodriguez, Capt. Arianna Bermudez, junior spirit officer Bella Sherwood, (middle row) Gabriella Franklin, Alyssa Rodriguez, Mikayla Gonzalez, Alyana Montes, Natalie Elkins, (back row) Nyla Richardson, Deisy Meza, Arielle Martinez, Kallie Troxlar, Avery Mendiola, Vida Sosa and Yaszlyn Brown.



Left to right, are Dobie junior varsity cheer team members (front row) Jaselym Enriquez, Isabella Squier, Isabella Chavez, Myrion Davis, Alicia Sypien, (back row) Bella Hernandez, Aliyah Alvarez, Julissa Bonilla and Xara Oddo.



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Confirmed 2026 cases of West Nile Virus reported in city, county

Residents urged to remember the 3 Ts of mosquito prevention – Tip, Toss, Take Action!

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) and the Houston Health Department (HHD) have confirmed cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in humans for the year 2026 within their jurisdictions. The HHD has confirmed three human cases, while HCPH has reported that an older adult male in northern Harris County tested positive for WNV.

“The recent confirmation of human cases of WNV in our community highlights the need to be vigilant against mosquito-borne

diseases, which can have serious long-term health effects,” said Dr. Ericka Brown, director of the Community Health and Wellness Division. “Our Mosquito and Vector Control program effectively identifies mosquitoes that test positive for WNV and conducts spraying in affected areas to reduce the risk of disease transmission. However, it is essential for community members to collaborate with us to Tip, Toss, and Take Action to protect themselves and their loved ones.”

This sentiment was shared by Brown’s counterpart at the city’s health department. “Our partners at HCPH do a fantastic job of mosquito control, but we all need to be proactive about protecting ourselves and our loved ones from mosquito bites, especially when there is a known risk of vector-borne disease from mosquitoes,” said Dr. Theresa Tran, director of the Houston Health Department. “The cases of WNV serve as a serious reminder that mosquito bites can be dangerous, particularly for individuals

who are at high risk, such as older adults and those with chronic health conditions.”

In 2025, there were 10 human cases of WNV illness reported in Harris County (excluding the city of Houston), and no WNV-related deaths. While the city of Houston reported one WNV human case and no deaths.

Operated by the Mosquito and Vector Control Division, the HCPH mosquito surveillance program is essential for detecting WNV in our community and for guiding efforts to protect our community members.

The three Ts
While HCPH works year-round to control mosquitoes, the community plays a vital role, especially during warmer months. As temperatures rise, so do mosquito populations. HCPH wants residents to remember the three Ts to mosquito control – Tip, Toss, Take Action.

Tip
Heavy rains during the summer months in the Houston region can create a “perfect storm” for mosquitoes to breed. Follow these simple tips to prevent mosquito breeding sites around your home, especially right after a weather event:

- Tip or empty standing water from pet bowls, flowerpots, tires, buckets and other containers.
- If one has a birdbath, change its water every three to five days.
- Toss**
Mosquitoes are also able to breed in small spots where stagnant water might be hidden from the human eye. Practice the following tips to reduce mosquito breeding in those covered spots:
- Toss out debris, trash and other unwanted items around your home.
- Clean out clogged drain gutters.
- Keep outdoor trash bins closed and avoid overfilling them.
- Do not sweep lawn clippings, leaves or litter into storm drains as this will prevent water from flowing, creating ideal mosquito-breeding sites.
- Minimize opportunities for standing water to accumulate by emptying stagnant water from flower pots, buckets, tires or any other water-collecting objects.

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

- When using mosquito repellent, keep these points in mind:
- Use as directed by the label instructions on the product.
- Do not use insect repellents on babies younger than 2 months of age.
- Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children who are younger than 3 years of age.
- Apply an EPA-registered repellent on yourself and your loved ones when outdoors.
- When possible, wear long sleeves, pants, and socks.
- Treat standing water with larvicides in areas where water cannot be covered, emptied, or removed and will not be used for drinking. Larvicides are a type of pesticide that is applied to kill mosquitoes in their early stages of development (larvae) before they become biting adults. They are sold in forms of liquid, tablets, pellets, granules and briquettes and available in most hardware stores. Larvicides are safe to use for the environment. Follow the instructions of the particular larvicide product you are using.
- Make sure to completely turn off outdoor faucets to prevent leaks; fix any faucets that are constantly leaking.
- Keep all doors and windows equipped with tight-fitting screens.

For additional mosquito-prevention tips, visit the HCPH website at www.hcph.org/MC.

Dobie launches FFA campaign
The Dobie FFA Booster Club will launch its 2026-2027 Fill the Fence campaign in support of the Dobie High School FFA Chapter. Members invite local businesses, organizations, foundations, families and community partners to join in making a lasting impact on the lives of students.

This sponsorship campaign provides an opportunity to support agricultural education while gaining community recognition. Sponsorships will be displayed on the fence surrounding the Dobie Agriculture Barn, prominently facing the heavily traveled Blackhawk Boulevard, providing year-round visibility to thousands of community members.

Dobie FFA is home to outstanding students who represent the school at the district, area, state and national levels. FFA members are dedicated to developing leadership skills, expanding their agricultural knowledge and preparing for successful futures through hands-on learning and competition.

With the support of sponsors, the students are able to:

- Attend leadership conferences, camps and conventions
- Compete in career and leadership development events
- Participate in livestock exhibitions and agricultural mechanics competitions
- Develop classroom, technical and life skills that prepare them for college, careers and leadership opportunities

Every contribution directly supports the many educational and competitive opportunities offered through the Dobie FFA Chapter. Sponsors’ investments help ensure that students continue to learn, grow and achieve excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

The Dobie FFA appreciates the generosity and commitment to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders. If one is interested in participating or wanting more information, contact dobiehsffaboosterclub@gmail.com.

Disclosure: The Dobie FFA Booster Club is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization EIN: (47-4905509). Gifts to the Dobie HS FFA Booster Club are tax deductible.

CaFEcito con Jesús celebrates conclusion of summer session



The women of CaFEcito con Jesús recently celebrated the conclusion of their summer session, marking a season filled with faith, fellowship and spiritual growth. Members wore their new ministry T-shirts as a symbol of unity and the bond of sisterhood that continues to strengthen within their Spanish-speaking ministry group. During this session, the group gathered to study the Book of Psalms, reflecting on God’s faithfulness, his comfort during difficult times and the many ways his word encourages, strengthens and guides them on their journey of faith. Beyond Bible study, CaFEcito con Jesús continues to be a place where women can connect, pray, encourage one another and build meaningful, Christ-centered relationships. As

this season draws to a close, the group thanks God for the moments shared, the lessons learned and the friendships that have been strengthened. The women look forward to their fall session beginning in late August, ready to grow together and continue walking in faith as a community united in Christ. Left to right, are (sitting) Lilian Guerra, Karla Cortes, Clara Allen, Teresa Ruiz, Maria Ramirez, Zenaida Torres, Marina Lopez, (standing) Gladys Ascencio, Josie Aguirre, Karen Guzman, Toni Villarreal, Zintia Villarreal, Alicia Molina, Imelda Olivo, Belibeth Bonilla, Liliana Pando, Maria de Los Angeles Almanza, Carmen Villatoro, Vilma Fernandez, Isabel Antón, Sara Gutierrez, Esmeralda Paredes and Luz Martinez.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department officially moved into its new quarters, Station #1, located in Scarsdale.

The San Jacinto College board of regents approved proposed plans for the building of a campus on their new college site located near Beamer and Choate Road.

45 years ago (1981)
Harris County Sheriff’s deputies and Houston police confiscated \$70,000 in stolen merchandise, including a truck and boat. Stolen property included televisions, stereos, clothing and video equipment.

San Jacinto College regents met in an open hearing and voted to raise the district’s tax rate by at least 3 percent.

40 years ago (1986)
A tank trailer containing residual amounts of anhydrous ammonia sank into the pavement of a vacant Safeway store at Hughes and South Belt and released traces of gases into the atmosphere.

Three 10th-grade Dobie students, who were caught trying to steal a car, were charged with burglary of a motor vehicle, were sent to Galveston Juvenile Detention Center for a week, went before a judge and were released into parental custody. The juveniles were connected with at least seven automobile burglaries in the Pearland area.

35 years ago (1991)
Sageglen parents of Weber students were able to have their students transferred by placing a phone call.

Mercantile Trust Co. and the Brio Task Force were being sued by the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League and Girls Softball Association for a loss of the use of the United Sports Association fields and the time in building the ballpark.

30 years ago (1996)
Ayrshire and Griggs corporations reportedly sold a portion of their 135 acres at the beltway-tollway and Gulf Freeway to AMC.

David Graham and Michael Phillips, both 11, were given \$200 each after finding and turning in a bag containing \$1,900, passports and credit cards belonging to an Australian tourist who had

left it at the Sageglen pool.

25 years ago (2001)
SBHLL 14-year-old All-Stars reached the finals in Waco before falling to Gregory-Portland 4-3.

The City of Houston hosted a buy-out meeting for residents in the 100-year flood plain.

20 years ago (2006)
A police chase which lasted nearly two hours passed through the South Belt area four times. The chase ended when suspect Kenneth Wayne Pool crashed into a ditch between Fairmont and Spencer in Pasadena.

PISD insurance premiums skyrocketed, reportedly due to the high cost of property damage in the 2005 hurricane season.

South Belt TAKS scores were above both district and state averages. PISD overall was still below the state average.

15 years ago (2011)

Following the passing of the state budget, the Pasadena Independent School District rehired roughly 50 teachers who were originally laid off due to funding concerns.

Working with projected cuts of \$21 million per year over the next two years, the school district had initially laid off 340 employees, including 180 instructors. For the South Belt community, this meant the loss of 16 area teachers. Of these 16, three were rehired throughout the school district.

After serving seven distinguished years as principal at Frazier Elementary, Rhonda Parmer stepped down to further pursue her career goals. Under Parmer’s leadership, Frazier was rated “Exemplary” by the Texas Education Agency for the previous five consecutive years. In 2010, Parmer was named PISD’s Region 4 Principal of the Year and the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association’s National Distinguished Principal.

A fatal traffic accident occurred during the early morning hours leaving one dead and another hospitalized when a silver Chevrolet Trailblazer crashed in the 11300 block of the Gulf Freeway northbound feeder road at Hartsook, south of Edgebrook. The driver,

Adam Joseph Garcia, 30, of Pasadena, was pronounced dead at the scene, while a female passenger, 33, was transported by Life Flight to Memorial Hermann Hospital in stable condition. Witnesses at the scene reported seeing the victim driving erratically. He was observed to be speeding, tailgating other drivers and weaving through traffic. The driver lost control of the vehicle, slid onto a sidewalk and struck a utility pole.

10 years ago (2016)

Construction began on the Harris County project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction from Beamer to Highway 288. The project was divided into two phases: from Beamer to Wayside and from Wayside to Highway 288. The contract for the first phase of construction was for \$96 million, while the contract for the second phase was \$77 million. The project was an addition to a similar endeavor that will widen the beltway to four lanes east of the Gulf Freeway to Highway 225. That project also called for replacing the existing Beltway 8 Ship Channel toll

bridge with a new four-lane structure.

5 years ago (2021)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 27, the Pasadena ISD board of trustees approved construction of the school district’s new administration building, despite vocal opposition. The measure passed 6-1, with newly elected board member Crystal Dávila casting the lone dissenting vote. The design and development phase of the project was approved the previous January. The \$26.5 million construction contract was awarded to Sterling Structures. To be located on Mickey Gilley Boulevard near Fairmont Parkway, the new facility would replace the school district’s current headquarters on Cherrybrook Lane. Board members said the measure was necessary because the existing administration building was aging and suffering from a number of infrastructure problems, including electrical, plumbing and roofing issues. Pasadena ISD officials said the construction would not require a new bond proposal and the necessary funds have

already been allocated from within its coffers. Former Pasadena High School teacher and twice-defeated Pasadena ISD board candidate Yen Rabe led a campaign, however, suggesting the funds could be better spent by making improvements to the school district’s older campuses and merely making renovations to the current administration building.

1 year ago (2025)

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

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

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

Both officers immediately returned fire, hitting the sus-

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

The suspect, identified as Bobby Jose Alvarado, 36, was charged with two counts of aggravated assault of a peace officer in the 487th State District Court.

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

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

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

“These are the types of scenes our officers come

across on a daily basis,” said Rodriguez. “It is always unexpected what they are going to come across. This was a very quick scene and they had to respond quickly to respond to the suspect firing at them. Our prayers and thoughts are with the sergeant that is recovering in the hospital right now. We know that these guys work hard out here day in and day out to protect the citizens of Houston on a daily

basis. We hope for a speedy recovery from our sergeant and we wish him well.”

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

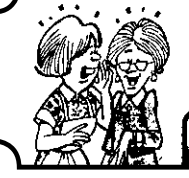
This marked the second officer-involved shooting in just two days.



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Over The Back Fence by Nicole

THOMAS TURNS 21!
Thomas Rodriguez who celebrates his 21st birthday Aug. 1 is wished a happy birthday by his dad **Moses Rodriguez** and stepmom **Josselyn Alvarez**; siblings **Nicole** and **Vincent Rodriguez** and **Sean-Paul Muniz**.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 30 through Aug. 5.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Stacy Fontenot** Aug. 1. Light the birthday candles Aug. 5 for **Sagrario Cazares Vazquez**.

Burnett Elementary
Send a humorous birthday card Aug. 4 to **Kathleen Hinski**. Send birthday greetings Aug. 5 to **Maria Amaya** and **Clarissa Castillo**.

Frazier Elementary
Karen Aguilar celebrates a birthday July 30. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Shannon Davis** Aug. 2. Sing a happy birthday song to **Luisa Lewis** Aug. 5.

Hancock Elementary
Send a birthday greeting Aug. 5 to **Mirtha Arredondo** and **Blanca Mena**.

Meador Elementary

Anaseli Juarez celebrates a birthday July 31. Send a happy birthday wish Aug. 1 to **Angel Rodriguez**. Aug. 2 is the day for a fun celebration for **Jessica Garcia-Ramos**.

South Belt Elementary
Send a humorous birthday card Aug. 4 to **Katelyn Smith**. **Jacquelyn Anderson** is wished a happy birthday Aug. 5.

Melillo Middle School
Sing a happy birthday song July 30 to **Yvette Castillo**. The day to send a birthday greeting to **Norberta Mercado** is Aug. 2. Remember to wish **Joann Canales** a happy birthday Aug. 3. **Melissa Torres** celebrates a birthday Aug. 4.

Thompson Intermediate
Enjoy a triple-layer birthday cake with **Patricia Tabarez**, **Bob Boyes** and **Thuy Nguyen** on Aug. 1.

Dobie High
Send a happy birthday wish July 30 to **Angela Badon**. Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Bo Li** July 31. Birthday greetings are sent to **Franco Velez** Aug. 1. Blow out the candles Aug. 2 for **Maria Mathews**. The day for **Sherrie Kent**, **Alicia Lawson** and **Leah Walker** to celebrate with ice cream and a triple-layer birthday cake is Aug. 3.

Send a humorous birthday card Aug. 5 to **Samantha Balderaz**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, July 30: **Donald Rogers**, **Anne Hyma**, **Danielle Mendoza** and **Christine Elliott**; Friday, July 31: **Robert Gentry**, **David Freeman**, **Felix Garcia**, **Jim Waltz** and **Ashley Glover**; Saturday, Aug. 1: **Gabriel Diaz**, **Andrew Burks**, **Denny Wranich Sr.**, **Ryan Hanzelka**, **Jo Lyday** and **Scott Bishop**; Sunday, Aug. 2: **Mayra Elizabeth**, **Patricia Lynn Krivik**, **Ana Acosta**, **Juanita Herrera**, **Terry Barclay** and **Donna Northrup**; Monday, Aug. 3: **Angela James-Farrar**, **Joaquin Jimenez**, **Jennifer Pena-Zuniga** and **Gina Valdez**; Tuesday, Aug. 4: **Beth Fawcett**, **Monica Salazar**, **Donna Taylor**, **Kristen Sorenson**, **Diana Polus**, **Kevin Baker**, **Michele Cutrer** and **Robin Wach**; Wednesday, Aug. 5: **Edna Peña**, **Wendy Phillips**, **Karen Owen**, **Lillie Alvarez**, **Deanna Goodlett** and **Shaun Stanton**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email anniversary, vacation and information on other events to mynews@southbelt-leader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for next week’s issue.



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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie volleyball hosts tryouts

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host tryouts for all incoming freshmen through senior players Aug. 1 and Aug. 3, both inside the gymnasium at Dobie main. On Saturday, Aug. 1, all players will work out from 6 to 9 a.m., with sophomores, juniors and seniors then training from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Freshmen will work out separately from 1 to 3 p.m.

On Monday, Aug. 3, all players will work out from 6 to 8 a.m., with the 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. session involving sophomores, juniors and seniors. Freshmen will then be involved in a separate session from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Dobie teams will then be posted at 6 p.m.

All players looking to try out must have a PISD physical on file within the Rank One system, and all necessary forms at www.rankone.com must be completed prior to any on-court training. There are no exceptions. Dobie will begin the regular season Aug. 11 at Baytown Sterling.

BHI plans Aug. 9 Community Day

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

Brook volleyball sets scrimmages

High School volleyball workouts across the state will begin Aug. 1, and the Clear Brook volleyball program has released its scrimmage details leading up to the regular season opener.

The Wolverines will scrimmage Aug. 7 at Pearland beginning at 9 a.m. A day later, Aug. 8, the Wolverines will scrimmage at Clear Falls, also at 9 a.m. Clear Brook will travel to St. Agnes to open the regular season Aug. 11, with the varsity match starting at 5:30 p.m.

Cowboys set important dates

With the regular season quickly approaching, the Sagemont Cowboys have announced several key upcoming events. The annual Scrimmage Jamboree is Aug. 8, and the program-wide pep rally is Aug. 14. The first day of the regular season comes Aug. 15.

SBYSC continues fall 2026 registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has continued registration for the fall 2026 season. Registration fees include \$130 per player for the under-4 through under-8 age groups, \$150 per player for the under-9 and under-10 age groups, \$170 per player for the under-11 and under-12 age groups and \$190 per player for the under-13 through under-20 age groups. The league will provide uniform items such as shirt, shorts and socks, while parents are required to provide shin guards, soccer cleats and a soccer ball. Visit www.southbeltsoccer.org and click on the registration fall 2026 tab to get started on registration details.

Dickson makes professional debut

Clear Brook High School graduate and former Texas A&M women's track and field star Camryn Dickson made her a professional debut at the Toyota USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships July 23-26 in New York, placing third in the 200 amidst an exceptionally talented field. Melissa Jefferson-Wooden ran a season best 21.69 seconds in the event to capture the gold medal, with Cambrea Sturgis next for the silver medal in a time of 22.22. Dickson was in at 22.58 for the bronze medal and will now take advantage of a break in the schedule until October.

Thompson plans Red and White Day

The Thompson Intermediate athletic department is making plans for the 2026 Red and White Day coming Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon on campus as the public is invited to enjoy a morning of fun-filled activities surrounding the volleyball and football programs. The volleyball teams will scrimmage inside in front of fans while the football teams will do the same outdoors as there will be food trucks and plenty of entertainment for visitors. Team merchandise and refreshments will also be available for purchase throughout the morning.

High school volleyball preseason starts Aug. 1

The 2026 high school volleyball season will be served up across the state beginning Aug. 1 as hundreds of programs across Texas begin the quest to the postseason.

For now, the focus will be getting players assigned to the various playing levels on campus and continuing to drill and team scrimmage leading up to scrimmages that will primarily take place in the three days leading up to the Aug. 11 regular season

openers.

Dobie is coming off a 16-16 overall run of things a season ago under the guidance of head coach Dawn Sexton. For this season, there is a mix of both seniors and otherwise returnees who will combine forces with several first-time varsity newcomers.

Sexton said she has a deep roster, one in which as many as 10 or so players could see rotation time, particularly early in the season.

Senior captain Alyssa Espinoza is the team's top returning hitter and will be counted on to deliver plenty of offense. The setter position is also deep as Junior Riese Rackley returns along with seniors Alyssa Goree and Leah Hernandez, a transfer from Sam Rayburn High School.

The Longhorns will also have plenty of experience returning to the back row as help will come from Allison Walker, Madeline

Medina and others. The program is also excited to see exactly what talents freshman Neriah LeBlanc will add as she debuts at the varsity level.

Looking ahead to the District 19-6A race, the Longhorns will match talents against four programs that have garnered preseason attention from "VYPE" magazine as ranked programs from the Houston area. Those programs include Dawson, Shadow Creek, Manvel

and Pearland. Dobie delivered a 7-9 record within district play a season ago and will be looking to improve upon that mark when the time comes.

Over at Clear Brook, veteran head coach Meredith Thompson is preparing her troops for what will be a challenging run through the new District 18-6A alignment. For now, Thompson and her crew will begin workouts and also take part in a trio of scrimmages prior to the 2026 regular season opener Aug. 11 at home against St. Agnes.

When district play does

arrive, the Wolverines will go up against a talented field that includes Clear Springs and 6A newcomer Barbers Hill in addition to Deer Park.

At the private school level, the folks at "VYPE" are also high on the expectations of Lutheran South Academy.

Head coach Geoff Stresman and his team will also begin workouts Aug. 1 in anticipation of another big season on the court. Junior Addi Musgrove is a Georgia Tech commit who is expected to again be one of the top overall performers in the state this season.

Football preseason starts Aug. 10



At left, Dobie defensive standout Orlando Gomez II will no doubt be a key performer for the Longhorns during the 2026 season as the locals aim to bounce back from a 5-5 season a year ago. Preseason workouts will begin on the main campus Aug. 10, and the Longhorns' varsity level will scrimmage against La Porte Aug. 21 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Longhorns will begin the regular season Aug. 28 against the Clear Springs Chargers, also at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena, beginning at 7 p.m. Dobie has had a very productive summer in advance of preseason workouts and his exceptionally optimistic heading into the preseason portion of training as head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff begin their third season in charge of the program.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Dobie senior captain Alyssa Espinoza (1) will lead her teammates into preseason workouts Aug. 1 as the sprint to the start of the 2026 high school volleyball season begins across the state. The Longhorns will participate in three separate scrimmage dates leading up to the season opener Aug. 11, at Baytown Sterling as the locals look to get off to a strong start against the Rangers. JFD will also compete in the Port Neches Groves Invitational Aug. 13-15. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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Walker ready for hoops shot at Bethany College

Clear Brook Class of 2026 graduate Jace Walker was not unlike any of his senior teammates as he was merely looking for an opportunity to continue playing basketball at the collegiate level.

Walker, like two of his former Wolverine teammates Cruz Calone and Abdiel Jimenez, has received that opportunity as he has joined the men's basketball program at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan.

Walker told the *Leader* several weeks ago by phone that he spent much

of the summer working on shooting drills and much more as he worked daily to study his game and improve in areas where he felt were in the most need.

"We have just been getting shots up all summer and trying to stay in a routine out on the court, Walker said. "I'm looking forward to having the chance to compete for a role in the Bethany College program. I just want to do whatever I can do to earn a spot in the rotation as quickly as I can.

"I know there are areas of my game that I still

need to develop so that I can compete at a high level, the college level. But I have every confidence that I have what it takes to be able to compete with guys at the next level."

Walker did a very nice job of competing over the course of three varsity seasons with the Wolverines at Clear Brook. The group fell short of its own expectations leading up to last season but put it all together to earn a playoff berth in 2025-2026.

In the first round of the postseason, the Wolverines pushed a very talented

Summer Creek program to the brink before dropping a 2-point decision to the Bulldogs. As competitive as the game was, the Wolverines did everything they could to put themselves in position to steal the win, but Summer Creek was able to hold on and persevere for the day.

The loss is something that Walker still thinks about as he prepares to move to the college level. "As a point guard, I always feel like it's my job to handle the ball, minimize turnovers and put my teammates in the best

possible position to succeed. I still feel like there are plays that I could have made within that game against Summer Creek that would have made a difference in the end. We just came up a little bit short, but it's a learning experience that some of us will be able to carry and hopefully use that experience to allow for a better outcome next time."

Walker is joining a Bethany College team that has had plenty of success while competing as a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

program. In today's college basketball arena, rosters change from season to season.

Walker simply wants to go in and work hard, find himself a steady role within the program, and do his part to help the team pick up victories during the 2026-2027 season that will be here sooner than later.

Off the court, Walker said he will study business with the idea of becoming an entrepreneur in the future. For now, he wants to settle in, both academically and on the court, at Bethany College and start

what will be a new chapter for himself.

At some point, Walker understands that the weather will turn much cooler in Kansas than is typical for weather in the Houston area, but said he is ready to make any adjustments necessary.

"I've already been told that it can get very, very cold there," Walker said. "I'm sure that is something that will also take some getting used to, but overall I'm just very excited to have this opportunity and to be able to continue playing basketball at the collegiate level.

"I feel like I did a lot of great things at Clear Brook and left it all out there on the court. From here, I just want to continue to grow both as a person off the court that is a player on the court and let the results take care of themselves."



Jace Walker is joining a Bethany College team that has had plenty of success while competing as a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program. The Swedes were 7-20 last season.



Off the court, Jace Walker said he will study business with the idea of becoming an entrepreneur in the future. For now, he wants to settle in, both academically and on the court, at Bethany College and start what will be a new chapter for himself.

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Son of Dobie graduates is drafted, signed by Dodgers’ organization

**By John Bechtle
Sports Editor**

It’s understandable that Heather and Craig Thompson are still trying to process what has transpired for their family over the past several weeks.

The Dobie graduates who met in high school, Heather a Class of 1997 graduate who was a year behind her future husband Craig, who received his diploma a in 1996, watched earlier this month as their

son, Kyeler Thompson, a 21-year-old junior out of Texas Tech University, was a ninth-round draft choice of the current World Series Champions Los Angeles Dodgers.

It has been a whirlwind, no doubt, but Kyeler has since put pen to paper on his professional contract and has joined the Dodgers’ farm system in Arizona.

He will remain in Arizona through the end of the 2026 regular season and will at some point during the offseason be assigned to one of the Dodgers’ minor league organizations.

There are plenty of high school and college baseball players who have the lifelong dream of playing professional baseball.

Very, very few of those players subsequently receive the opportunity to play after high school or college, even fewer professionally.

While Kyeler is still far from reaching Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine, he has his foot in the door after putting together a solid college career primarily as a center fielder.

Thompson solidified his professional potential with a big 2026 season at Texas Tech. He started 51 games, hitting a career-best .358 with 76 hits and 15 doubles.

While he is not a big power guy, Thompson hit three homers and drove in 25 runs. He had the speed to swipe 26 bases in 32 attempts, ending his two-year stay in Lubbock with 55 career steals. He scored 55 runs.

Thompson wasn’t nearly as productive in 48 starts as a sophomore during a 2024 season, hitting just .257 with seven doubles, but was a perfect 29 for 29 on stolen base attempts.

While Kyeler has now begun his journey within professional baseball, he is just one academic year away from graduation while pursuing university studies and has promised his parents that he will complete his degree requirements.

“To be honest, I really don’t think my wife and I have had a chance to wrap our heads around this whole process,” said Craig Thompson recently while speaking with the *Leader* by phone from near his home in Santa Fe.

“We had a realistic expectation that this could happen, and we had a general feeling that Kyeler could be drafted anywhere from say the fifth through 10th round, but to see it actually happen is something that is truly special both for our son and our family.

“You are excited and nervous at the same time. From the moment his name was called, it was a hectic few days. For him to have this opportunity is truly special. Obviously, we are very excited to see what he can make of this opportunity.”

Kyeler Thompson has authored a story that is not unlike many a young player. His father remembers his son taking a liking to the game of baseball at a very young age.

Kyeler competed at the Little League level primarily in La Porte, where his family resided at the time. Kyeler then played high school baseball at Santa Fe.

Kyeler lost his freshman season to COVID as high school play was suspended, but was set to play at the junior varsity level his first season, Greg Thompson said.

The young player proceeded to play three varsity seasons and picked up

a lot of pretty big accolades. Still, he just wasn’t receiving very much attention in terms of college opportunities.

Lo and behold, an assistant coach from Galveston College had seen him play in an American Legion tournament in North Carolina. He started his college career at Galveston, and had a pretty good year there.

“Kyeler was all set to go back to Galveston for the 2025 season, and Texas Tech reached out to him it seems like just a couple of weeks before the start of school. He wasn’t even accepted to Texas Tech academically yet, and still we had agreed to go there and play baseball,” Greg Thompson said with a laugh.

Even as Kyeler began his career with the Red Raiders, his parents still were not really thinking about the possibility of their son becoming a professional baseball player.

Still, during his sophomore year there was plenty of attention from some scouts who didn’t realize that Kyeler wasn’t draft eligible yet as NCAA Division 1 players are required to complete three seasons prior to being eligible for the MLB draft.

By the time Kyeler began his junior season, the family had hired an adviser and was turning the corner on the idea of their son possibly receiving the opportunity to one day play professionally.

“Kyeler really deserves a lot of the credit because he has gone out there and made himself into a tremendous defensive performer, and at the same time he can handle the bat at the plate,” Greg Thompson said.

“He’s put in all the hard work the entire way, and even when he wasn’t re-

ceiving a lot of attention, Kyeler kept his head down and kept working. He obviously has some talent, or else he wouldn’t be in this position.

“It’s really still amazing to us as a family that all of this has come together as it has, but we are tremendously excited about what the future good old for our son.

“I think we understand a little bit about what it all entails and how long the road could still be in terms of playing Major League Baseball, but all he has ever wanted is an opportunity.”

Craig Thompson said there was never really any doubt as to what his son would do regardless of what round he was drafted

in. “He told me that he was going to sign if he got drafted regardless of what round it was in,” his father said. As it turns out, Kyeler was drafted by the defending world champion Los Angeles Dodgers. As I said earlier, we are thrilled for our son.

“We realize there are so many young players who

covet the chance to have an opportunity to play professionally. Now, we just have to wait and see how things work out from here. Kyeler has done a fantastic job of taking advantage of opportunities that have come his way to this point. We are confident he will make the most of his opportunities and abilities.”



Kyeler Thompson solidified his professional potential with a big 2026 season at Texas Tech. He started 51 games, hitting a career-best .358 with 76 hits and 15 doubles. While he is not a big power guy, Thompson hit three homers and drove in 25 runs. He had the speed to swipe 26 bases in 32 attempts, ending his two-year stay in Lubbock with 55 career steals. He scored 55 runs. *Texas Tech University photo*



Dobie graduates Craig (Class of 1996) and Heather Thompson (Class of 1997) join their son, Los Angeles Dodgers’ draft choice Kyeler Thompson. Having signed with the Dodgers, Kyeler is in Arizona work-

ing out at the organization’s spring training facility. Kyeler competed at the Little League level primarily in La Porte, where his family resided at the time. Kyeler then played high school baseball at Santa Fe.

South Belt-rooted Ferraro family celebrates Caden joining Cards

The excitement of Major League Baseball’s annual draft reached the South Belt area this month when Caden Ferraro, grandson of longtime residents Janet and Bruce Ferraro, was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the third round of the 2026 MLB Draft.

Caden, 21, was chosen with the 86th overall pick on July 11, 2026, realizing a goal he has pursued since he first began playing baseball.

Although Caden grew up in nearby Pearland, his family’s roots in the

South Belt community run deep. His father, Andrew, grew up in the area, attended Dobie High School and played in the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League.

Grandparents Janet and Bruce, their other two children, Todd and Lisa (Ferraro) Pearce – and numerous extended aunts, uncles and cousins – also attended Dobie and have spent many years in the South Belt community.

Caden Ferraro began building his baseball résumé at Pearland High School under head coach

David Rogers.

Rogers has basically had a one-of-a-kind life and baseball.

A minor league baseball umpire for more than 25 years who officiated games at some of the biggest NCAA conferences in the nation, Rogers stepped away from that role to become an assistant baseball coach at both Alvin and Manvel high schools before becoming a head coach at Clear Lake High School for a short time.

He has now led Pearland to a pair of state tournament berths in his

seven seasons.

“I certainly believe David Rogers deserved a lot of credit. Let’s face it, the Pearland program was already in terrific shape before coach Rogers came along,” Andrew Ferraro said.

“But he has helped take it to another level in my opinion. He’s just a great baseball guy to be around, the guys love him and will do whatever he asks of them to help both themselves and the program. Certainly, David Rogers deserves his portion of credit for Caden getting to

this point in his career.

Caden earned All-District honors in each of his three varsity seasons, was named district Most Valuable Player as a junior in 2022 and helped lead the Oilers to the Texas Class 6A state championship game during his senior season.

Baseball also has become a family activity. Caden’s sister, Ellie, will be a senior at Pearland High School for 2026-2027, where she assists the baseball program with pitch tracking and video analysis.

His younger brother, Brady, will enter Pearland High School this fall as a freshman and is expected to compete in baseball, football and track and field.

Following his standout career at Pearland under Rogers, Caden continued his career at Blinn College in Brenham, one of the nation’s top junior college baseball programs.

As a freshman in 2024, he helped the Buccaneers win the NJCAA Division I national championship in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Caden earned All-Tournament Team honors after tying the tournament record with six home runs.

During two seasons under head coach Dusty Hart, he hit 36 home runs, led the team in RBIs both years and helped Blinn return to the Junior College World Series before transferring to Texas Tech.

At Texas Tech, Caden quickly became one of the Red Raiders’ leading offensive players under head coach Tim Tadlock. He batted .374 with eight home runs, recorded an OPS above 1.000 and earned Second Team All-Big 12 honors.

Caden was named Big 12 Newcomer of the Week

during the season. He also hit two home runs against Abilene Christian, homered in both games of a doubleheader against Cincinnati and reached base in 13 consecutive plate appearances, tying a Big 12 record.

“As a family, I don’t think you can ever be prouder of one of your children then when they achieve a lifelong dream and whatever it may be,” Andrew Ferraro said.

“Yes, Caden is blessed with terrific and eye coordination, but his work ethic and desire to both learn and develop his skills on the baseball field are unmatched. Over the years, whatever type of advan-

tage Caden was able to get on the diamond, he was willing to put in the work with drill after drill after drill and do whatever it takes to improve in his craft.

“He has signed with the Cardinals, which no doubt is a tremendous accomplishment, but he also has the dream of actuality playing at Busch Stadium for the Cardinals at the big league level.

“Again, to achieve that he will have to overcome adversity along the way I’m sure and find a way. What that said, I truly believe Caden will give it everything he has to make that part of his dream come true.”



Caden Ferraro, 21, was chosen with the 86th overall pick on July 11, 2026, realizing a goal he has pursued since he first began playing baseball. *Texas Tech University photo*



At Texas Tech, Caden Ferraro quickly became one of the Red Raiders’ leading offensive players under head coach Tim Tadlock. He batted .374 with eight home runs, recorded an OPS above 1.000 and earned Second Team All-Big 12 honors. Ferraro was named Big 12 Newcomer of the Week during the season. He also hit two home runs against Abilene Christian, homered in both games of a doubleheader against Cincinnati and reached base in 13 consecutive plate appearances, tying a Big 12 record. *Texas Tech University photo*



Caden Ferraro signed with the Cardinals on July 16 in Jupiter, Fla., and reported to the organization’s player development complex. He is expected to receive his first minor league assignment as he begins working his way through the Cardinals’ farm system.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 30
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 31
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 - 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.
Noon **AA - Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office 281-554-1180 for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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COLLECTION DATES
7/25 & 7/26 • 8/1 & 8/2

LOCATION
St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Rd., Education Bldg. & church entrance

QUESTIONS?
Contact Eileen @ eileen.nicholas.cda@gmail.com

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Thank you for helping us support our community!

Wranich Sr. plans conclusion of Cowboys' presidency after lengthy run

Cathy and Denny Sr. Denny Jr. There are dozens and dozens of long-time volunteers who have given of their time and energy over the decades to help the the Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls be the proudest of the proud within the Bay Area Football League.



Denny Wranich Sr. and his wife, Cathy, were for decades fixtures within the Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls youth sports organization. Cathy died in 2017, but her husband has helped to continue her legacy to this day.

Yet it was Cathy prior to her death in 2017 and her husband, Denny Sr., and their son, Denny Jr. who have placed the Wranich name brightest on the marquee of all-time program legends with the Cowboys.

The Wranichs began their journey as youth sports parents way back in the 80s while watching Denny Jr. compete within the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League.

Denny Sr. recalls seeing an umpire hand his son a business card on the base paths. Wondering just what that gesture was about, the dad would come to find out that said umpire had given his son an invitation to compete in youth football.

It wasn't long before Denny Jr.'s run with the Cowboys would begin. Along the way, Cathy and her husband would remain heavily involved as volunteers.

Cathy became so popular around the concession stand at El Franco Lee Park that there was a sign within the stand announcing the location as Miss Cathy's Kitchen.

Meanwhile, Denny Sr. slowly ascended the ranks within the organization from assistant coach to head coach, and has been president of the Cowboys for more years than he can remember now.

Yet everything must come to an end, and Denny Sr., who has long since had the football field at El Franco Lee Park named in his honor, has decided to take a step back from his role with the Cowboys.

The elder Wranich will remain with the organization as treasurer. Meanwhile, his son is expected to resign his role as athletic director of the Bay Area Football League in favor of becoming his father's successor.

"I just think it's time to take a step back and let some of the younger folks handle it from here," Denny Sr. said.

"We got this thing going a long time ago first with Little League and then with football, and the years pass without you really realizing how long it has been.

"I think it's just a situation where we wanted to stay involved with the activities of our children and those in the area. It becomes a year-round activity and in a lot of cases, then you just never really realized how long it has been.

"I'm very proud of what we've been able to do as a family within the Cowboys' family. I think I've been around now for about 40 years, so it's time to let somebody else handle it."

Denny Sr. built a long-time professional career as an auto mechanic in the major automobile industry. Despite the long days in the shop, he would leave work and head straight to the practice field for many years.

There were at least four months of Saturdays that both he and his wife would dedicate to the BAFL season. As president of the organization, there are also monthly board meetings, plenty of registration sessions, drill team competitions, cheer competitions and banquets to attend.

Realistically, when one is involved as the president of any organization, the breaks are few and far between.

Now 69 years of age and roughly four years into retirement, Denny Sr. will transition into a role that allows more time moving forward.

"I think we have a pretty good program in place with the Cowboys, so I really don't think there will be much change involved no matter who takes over," Denny Sr. said.

"It has taken years to get into a pretty good routine on an annual basis. There are so many things that need to be handled during a calendar year,

some things that a lot of people wouldn't realize, but I think we have developed a pretty good plan. I would expect things to run pretty smoothly moving forward,

"I was already staying home when the Cowboys are on the road. When you were on the road, there is a whole lot of sitting in your chair for hours along the sidelines, and I'm just not cut out for that much anymore. It has been a terrific run, and I am sure that I will miss some of it, but it's time to step aside."

Dobie head football coach Danny Fitzmorris, is himself a former Sagemont Cowboys player. His parents, the late Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris, were also for many years long time supporters and contributors to the Cowboys' program.

He understands what is involved for a family to have such a lengthy run.

"I think Denny Sr. has a terrific legacy to be proud of," Fitzmorris said. "He is responsible for the success of decades of young boys and girls having the chance to compete in a successful program with the Cowboys and Cowgirls. He should be very proud of both what he has done and what his family has meant to the Sagemont Cowboys.

"He certainly deserves to be able to step aside and enjoy what the future holds. Congratulations to him.

"The Wranich family has meant as much to youth football in this area as anybody, and they deserve every bit of credit that comes their way."



It took nearly two decades to receive the proper permits to open the concession stand at El Franco Lee Park, but Denny Wranich Sr. was there to celebrate the opening of Miss Cathy's Kitchen at the Cowboys' game field site.

Listen ... A Texas Road Trip is Calling

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... the Rainforest heard you need a break.

... an afternoon of fun calls from the Lazy River.

... and there is a beach chair with your name on it.

Wake Up Steps Away from Every Adventure

Gonzalez set at Lamar VB

Lamar University will begin its collegiate volleyball season Aug. 15 with a home scrimmage against Houston Christian before opening the regular season on the road against Texas State Aug 22. The Cardinals, featuring Dobie graduate Alexis Gonzalez at center, will be looking to continue the upward movement within the program over the past couple of seasons. Lamar will be in the Houston area taking on the Houston Cougars Sept. 8 at Fertitta Center. Gonzalez has had a terrific two seasons at Lamar with more than 1,800 career assists. She ranked third within the Southland Conference in 2025 in assists and service aces. Lamar finished at 17-15 overall a season ago and fell to the University of Incarnate Word in the first round of the Southland Conference tournament.

Tickets & Hotel Packages:
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