

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.

Sageglen to hold election

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its annual election meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, July 20, at the Sageglen Building located at 11610 Sageyork. Homeowners will be voting on one board member and one Architectural Control committee member. All absentee ballots/proxy must be submitted to the office no later than 4 p.m. Monday, July 20. Homeowners must show ID to vote at the meeting. Guest speaker will be Javier Frutos, community liaison from Harris County Precinct 2. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Coffee with the Constable

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/Calder/ Brittainy 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.

Knights hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, July 19, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, located at 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Donors must bring identification. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/geo.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

Ellington eRecycling set

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

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

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

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

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.

Grand jury clears PMHS student in alleged plot
Student alleged to plot school shooting; grand jury returns no bill

A Harris County grand jury has declined to indict Emilio Lopez, an 18-year-old senior at Pasadena Memorial High School who was accused last year of conspiring with a younger classmate to carry out a mass shooting on campus. The decision, returned May 26, dismisses the felony charge of conspiracy to commit capital murder that had placed the student under intense scrutiny for months.

Court records show jurors issued a no bill, meaning they reviewed the evidence presented by prosecutors but found it insufficient to support an indictment. The panel also asked that Lopez be discharged from custody, and a judge signed the release order the same day.

Background
The investigation began in November 2025 after Pasadena ISD police received information about a possible terroristic threat involving two students at Pasadena Memorial High School. Lopez, then a senior, was identified as a suspect af-

ter officers obtained Instagram photos showing him holding a pump-action shotgun and a handgun – firearms investigators said matched weapons referenced in alleged discussions about an attack.

Police also said a parent reported screenshots of messages in which Lopez and a 10th-grade student allegedly talked about guns, ammunition and acting "strategically." Both students were arrested, and the Harris County District Attorney's Juvenile Office accepted charges of conspiracy to commit capital murder.

Arguments
Lopez's attorney, Chauntelle Wood White, argued that investigators failed to establish the legal elements required for a conspiracy charge. She said prosecutors did not show evidence of a "true agreement and an overt act" – two components typically needed to prove that a person not only discussed a crime but took steps toward carrying it out.

"The police did everything they should do when a situation like this arises," White said, noting that officers acted appropriately given the seriousness of the allegations.

Still, the grand jury ultimately concluded the evidence did not meet the threshold for indictment.

Grand jury proceedings are secret, but the outcome indicates jurors were not convinced that Lopez's alleged messages and social media posts demonstrated intent or concrete action toward committing a mass shooting. The Harris County District Attorney's Office said prosecutors could present the case again if new or stronger evidence emerges.

The juvenile co-defendant's case remains pending.

Aftermath

Lopez had been free on bond while the case moved forward and was ordered to stay away from the school. Court filings show authorities seized multiple firearms and ammunition from him during the investigation. After the dismissal, White asked District Judge Stacy Allen Barrow to order the weapons returned. Barrow denied the request on June 16.

Pasadena ISD officials did not respond to requests for comment, and it remains unclear whether Lopez will be allowed to return to Pasadena Memorial High School. School districts often make administrative decisions independent of criminal proceedings, and no publicly available information indicates whether Lopez's enrollment status has changed or will change.

South Belters celebrate July 4



Scores of area residents took to the streets Saturday, July 4, to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary, as the annual South Belt Independence Day Parade rolled through the community from Sagemont Church to San Jacinto College South. Representatives from the local college shown above taking part in the event are, left to right, Luis Rauda, Andrew Elizalde, Ali O'Neill, Roseana Elizalde, Selene Verhofstad, TeenaMarie Wilson, Eli O'Neill, Lynda DelosSantos and not seen is Jasmin O'Neill. See related photos on Page 3.

July 4 parade rolls through community

Hundreds of community members braved the high temperatures this Independence Day to enjoy the 36th annual South Belt Fourth of July parade. The event held a special significance for many this year, as it celebrated the USA's 250th anniversary.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Sagemont Church Associate Pastor Emory Gadd booth served as grand marshals of the parade.

Numerous residents, businesses, schools, organizations, elected officials and political candidates took part in the yearly event, which began at Sagemont Church on Hughes Road and traveled down Beamer to San Jacinto College South.

Precinct 2 deputies volunteered their services to provide traffic control for the parade. Some residents expressed disappointment to the *Leader* that the parade did not return to its original route after being detoured last year due to traffic.

Precinct 2 officials, however, said the old route – which crossed Beltway 8 from Hughes to Sabo – posed a larger safety issue and required more manpower to properly control traffic.

Many participants decorated their vehicles and floats. The following is a list of winners in their respective categories:

- Most Patriotic: Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia
- Best South Belt Spirit: Dobie High School FFA
- Most Original: Duckorama
- Judges' Choice: Armenta's Childhood Early Development

This year marked the inaugural of the People's Choice category, which had yet to be determined at press time.

Event organizers said voting in the contest would remain open through Friday, July 10. Follow the *Leader's* Facebook page to see the winner once it's announced.

To vote in the People's Choice category, or to see photos from the event including all vehicles/floats, visit docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQ0m_d9XF1gA-PP7RqBgACcM5TXJdiEwvs1XArSy18I6Y3Zg/viewform.

See related photos on Page 3.

South Belt joins Flag Check 250 effort

Program exchanges old flags for new ones in honor of USA's 250th

The South Belt community is joining a growing nationwide movement in honor of America's 250th birthday in 2026, with a local flag-retirement and charity effort led by Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour.

The initiative, called Flag Check 250 – 250 Flags for 250 Years, encourages residents to inspect their American flags and turn in any that are faded, torn, frayed, or weather-worn. The goal: collect and respectfully retire 250 U.S. flags in honor of the nation's semiquincentennial.

National effort
Across the country, civic groups, veterans' organizations, Scout troops and municipalities have begun planning flag-retirement ceremonies and patriotic service projects tied to the America250 commemoration — the official national observance of the United States' 250th anniversary.

The South Belt Flag Check 250 drive is one of many community-level efforts contributing to the broader national effort. Barbour is coordinating the South Belt effort, organizing collection sites and offering free flag pickup for residents

who cannot travel. Pickup is available by appointment at 713-419-3545.

Program benefits Leader toy drive
Residents who donate \$20 or more to the annual South Belt Christmas toy drive will receive a new American flag as a thank-you gift. Additional donations of any amount support local children and families during the holiday season.

How it works
– Check existing flag for fading or damage
– Bring it to a collection site
– Donate to the Toy Drive
– Receive a replacement flag
– Scouts conduct a respectful retirement ceremony, following U.S. Flag Code guidelines.

Drop-off sites
Old flags may be dropped off at the following local sites:
– The *South Belt Ellington Leader*, 11555 Beamer Road
– Clear Brook City MUD: 11911 Blackhawk Boulevard
– Shaw Real Estate: 11101 Resource Parkway
See related ad on Page 7.

HPD seeks Edgebrook robbery suspect

Man robs store at gunpoint near Old Galveston Road

Houston police are seeking the public's help in identifying a suspect wanted in an aggravated robbery that took place this past May at a convenience store on East Edgebrook Drive near SH 3/ Old Galveston Road.

According to Houston Police Department officials, an unknown male entered the store around 11:50 p.m. Monday, May 18, wearing a long sleeve shirt over his face, producing a firearm. The suspect pointed the firearm at the clerk, jumped over the counter and demanded the mon-

ey from the register. The suspect took the money from the worker and ran out of the store heading west toward a nearby apartment complex.

The suspect is described as a black male between 18 and 25 years old, with a skinny build and puffy hair.

Anyone with information on this incident is urged to contact the Houston Police Department's Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).



Surveillance footage of suspect

Hit-and-run driver strikes deputy

Driver crashes, flees on foot, found in nearby trash bin

A Precinct 2 deputy was involved in a hit-and-run crash early Sunday, July 5, at the intersection of Beamer and Hughes.

According to Precinct 2 officials, the night shift deputy was stopped at the intersection when the driver of a Lexus crashed into the back of the patrol car, then fled the scene without stopping to exchange information.

When the deputy activated his emergency



Kaleb Mitchell

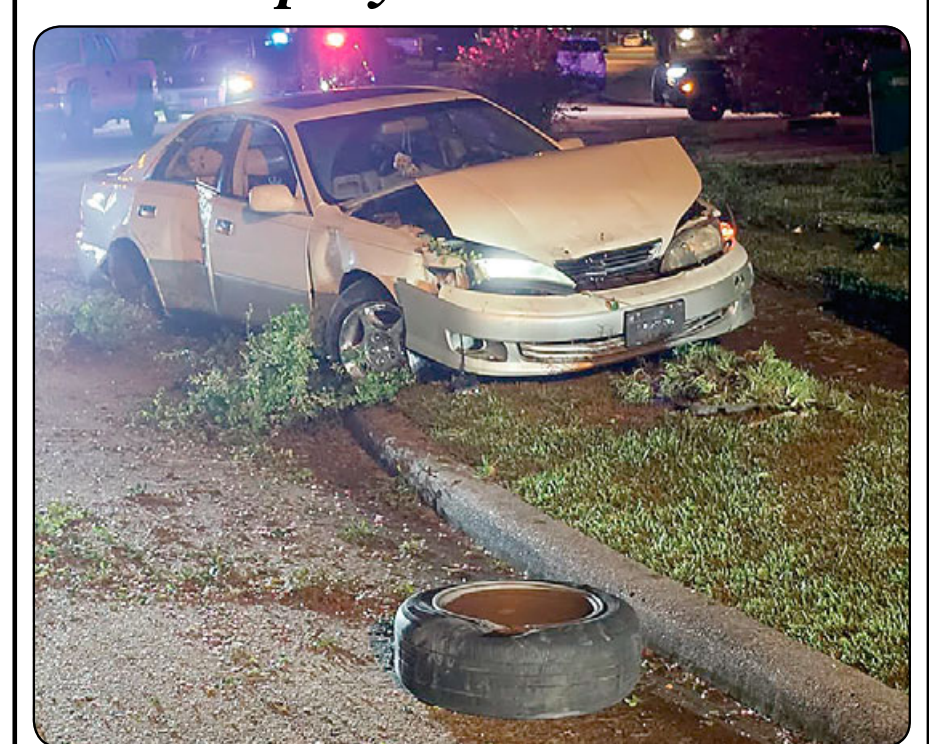
equipment and attempted to make a traffic stop, the Lexus driver turned off his exterior lights and sped up, making evasive moves in an attempt to lose the deputy. The chase came to a stop when the driver lost control of his vehicle and crashed into multiple trees.

The suspect then fled on foot into a nearby residential neighborhood, where he attempted to hide in various places. When deputies finally caught up to the driver, he was found hiding in a trash bin.

Kaleb Mitchell was subsequently arrested and transported the Harris County jail on felony charges of evading arrest in a motor vehicle.

The deputy walked away from the crash without any injuries.

Pct. 2 deputy involved in crash



A hit-and-run driver rear-ended a Precinct 2 deputy's patrol vehicle early Sunday, July 5, as he was stopped at the intersection of Hughes Road and Beamer. When the driver failed to stop at the scene, a vehicle pursuit ensued that ended when the suspect lost control of his vehicle and struck multiple trees. He then got out of his car and fled on foot. Deputies found the driver, Kaleb Mitchell, hidden in a trash bin and arrested him on felony charges of evading arrest in a motor vehicle.

In My Opinion

King: My 4th of July

I spent my Fourth of July in New York City — hanging out in Times Square during the celebration there, attending a Yankees game, and watching fireworks with 500 of my closest friends on a cruise boat on the Hudson River.

Over the course of the day, here is what I saw and heard.

I saw Americans of every conceivable race, creed, and color joyously celebrating the birth of our country two and a half centuries ago. I saw Indian American parents explaining the significance of the day to their children. I saw a crowd at Yankee Stadium mesmerized by United States Army Staff Sergeant Madison Baldwin's rendition of our national anthem, giving her a thunderous round of applause when she finished. No celebrity performance. Just a woman from Fort Payne, Alabama, choosing to serve her country and bringing the house down at Yankee Stadium.

I heard spontaneous outbreaks of crowds chanting "USA, USA, USA" throughout the day — often in totally unexpected moments. I heard my fellow cruise passengers spontaneously singing "Happy Birthday" to America and the national anthem during the fireworks, drowning out the disco music blaring over the ship's PA system. I heard a Black man standing beside me on the ship marveling at the fireworks display, repeating over and over, "No place but America."

I saw people embracing, weeping, laughing, and dancing — filled with joy and pride to be Americans.

Let me tell you what I did not see or hear.

I did not see anyone wearing a MAGA cap. I did not see anyone wearing a Democratic-socialist T-shirt. In fact, I did not see any clothing with political messages at all.

I did not see any Black Lives Matter

banners, rainbow flags, or American flags flown upside down. I did not hear anyone arguing politics or ranting about how bad the other side was. In the moment, there were no sides.

Since 1948, the American National Election Studies have been surveying Americans about politics, elections, ideology, and public opinion. Those surveys do not show a country neatly divided into two hostile camps on every issue. To the contrary, they consistently show a large moderate middle. Almost always, the American people's views are more complicated than the partisan caricatures we see on cable news and social media.

A recent University of Maryland project found something similar, identifying hundreds of policy positions that draw majority support from both Democrats and Republicans. The truth is that there is more consensus in this country than our politics usually allows us to see, especially given how large and diverse we are.

The truth is also that the current cast of craven political leaders, who value partisan loyalty and pandering to primary voters in their parties over the best interests of the country, do not represent the fundamental goodness and common sense of the American people. Neither do the social media loudmouths or the journalists who have dishonored that noble profession by hyping partisan narratives for clickbait and notoriety. It is little wonder that the American people hold both groups in such low regard.

A Union Civil War general named Carl Schurz once noted that the American people are slow to anger, but when they do, watch out. Futurist and geopolitical commentator George Friedman has predicted that America is headed for a political reckoning sometime around the end of this decade. It cannot come soon enough.

Bill King

Gerald Jay Saccane Sr.



Gerald Jay Saccane Sr., lovingly known as Gerry, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer and pneumonia. He was 89 years old, born on Nov. 25, 1936, to Guido (Doc) and Della Saccane in Frontenac, Kan. Gerry spent his life working hard, loving his family and serving God. He was preceded in death by his father; mother; brother Guy Saccane; niece Ann Marie Saccane; and wife Carol Saccane.

Gerry is survived by his son Gerald Jay Saccane Jr.; daughter-in-law Litza Saccane; grandson Jeremy Swift; granddaughter-in-law Jessica Swift; his beloved great-grandchildren Caden, Camo, Derek and Bella Swift; and his only remaining niece Jeri Lynn Caperton, daughter of Guy Saccane. All will miss him and will cherish the memories they shared with him.

Gerry found his great joy serving in his church and sharing Jesus. He joined Sagemont Church in the late 1960s where he found a group of lifelong friends, his area of service and most importantly Jesus as his Savior. He was a longtime teacher in what would become the children's ministry and later in life with senior members of the church. During the early 1970s he became a deacon of the church and one of only three-ever trustees of the church. He was a member and leader of more than 30 foreign mission trips all over the world during his retirement. He also had many hobbies which included taking his son hunting, fishing, camping and playing golf. He made two holes-in-one during his many golf sessions.

A hardworking man throughout his life, Gerry took great pride in his work in the aerospace industry in which he spent 39 years. His many experiences and achievements in this industry included sitting mission control for the Gemini launches while working for McDonnell Douglas. With Link Flight Simulation, he built simulators for all the Apollo missions, Sky Lab space station, the Space Shuttle, and many DOD simulators. Most notably including F-16, B-52, AHIT Apache Helo and the CV-22 Osprey Helo. Finally, he ended his career running a million-dollars-a-day new business department propos-

ing and bringing in all the new contracts for Link.

His presence will be greatly missed, but his memory will live in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. His example of living as a Godly man and loving his family will be a hard example to replace.

A visitation and memorial took place at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road. Interment was held privately at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Mary Ellen "Putsie" Monroe



Mary Ellen "Putsie" Monroe, 84, peacefully entered into eternal life on June 29, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on Sept. 5, 1941, in Baton Rouge, La., to William Elmon Monroe and Marie Becnel Monroe, Mary spent her life caring for others because she loved God. Whether she was comfort-

ing a patient, praying for a friend, sewing a baptismal gown, or delivering homemade cookies to someone who needed a smile, she found joy in serving others.

Mary's heart for service began as a Candy Stripper at Baton Rouge General Hospital and grew into a lifelong nursing career that included caring for children, educating patients, and leading Humana Clear Lake's nationally recognized Senior Friends program. Retirement simply gave her more time to serve. She volunteered at St. Luke's Health-Brazosport Hospital, helped at local schools and churches, and faithfully prayed the rosary each morning for family, friends, and anyone in need of prayer.

She was happiest when she was doing something for someone else. Through her cooking, baking, sewing, and quiet acts of kindness, Mary made people feel loved, valued, and remembered.

Mary is survived by her daughters, Dianne Gott Thompson (Scott) and Karen Gott and their father, Charles J. Gott; her cherished granddaughter, Sloane Thompson; her brother, William Charles "Bill" Monroe; her sister, Angelina "Angie" Monroe Mire; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and dear friends.

Mary loved God by loving His people, and that love will continue to live on in all those whose lives she touched.

Piper Shawn Walker



Piper Shawn Walker, known to all as Shawn, passed away on June 28, 2026, in Pearland, after a brief illness from cancer. He was 68 years old. In his final days, Shawn was surrounded by many friends and family members, and loved ones were by his side when he entered the presence of his Lord and Savior.

Shawn was born on July 12, 1957, in Baytown to Sandra and Richard Walker, and spent his childhood in Texarkana. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in management from Baylor University, where he met the love of his life, Barbara Lynne Humphrey Walker. They were married on Aug. 11, 1984, and shared 41 years of marriage rooted in faith, family, and devotion. He later earned his Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

Shawn built a long and respected career in global business, supply chain, sourcing, contract management and category management. In 1992, Shawn and Barbara made the Greater Houston area their home, eventually settling in Pearland. He spent 11 years in the South Belt area and was a proud member of the Pearland Police Auxiliary. Those who knew Shawn will remember his generosity, loyalty, storytelling, faith and deep love for his family and friends. Tall, larger-than-life, strong-willed and protective, he took pride in being the kind of man others could count on. He loved gathering people together, especially around holidays, when cooking and grilling became one of the ways he showed love.

Shawn is survived by his wife; his daughter, Chelsea Elise Walker Hardy; his cherished grandchildren, Piper Lynn Hardy, Paxton James Hardy, Pierson Evan Hardy, and their father, Timothy Andrew Hardy; his son, Gordon Stewart Walker; his brother, Byrom Landes Walker and wife Sherry Lynn Vandiver Walker; his sister, Jo Shannon Walker Hines and husband Ronald Keith Hines; his mother-in-law, Carolyn Essary Humphrey; his sister-in-law Laura Beth Humphrey Donathan; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 18, 2026, at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive.

For six decades, MVC has protected Harris County using science-based strategies and a commitment to public health. This National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, HCPH thanks its dedicated team—and reminds everyone that mosquito control starts at home.

in response to a St. Louis encephalitis virus outbreak.

— 1985: MVC became the first mosquito control agency in the U.S. to establish its own virology lab.

— 2002: MVC detected the first West Nile virus in Harris County.

— 2013: MVC expanded testing to include dengue and chikungunya viruses.

— 2016: MVC increased vector surveillance throughout the county.

— 2024: MVC upgraded its virology testing to qPCR, improving how viruses are detected in mosquito samples.

For additional mosquito-prevention tips, visit www.hcphtx.org/MC.

MVC milestones

Since 1965, HCPH's Mosquito and Vector Control Division has led the way in mosquito surveillance and disease prevention in Harris County. The following is a list of some of the division's key milestones:

— 1965: MVC was formed

er.pdf.

City swimming pool hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

All pools are closed for cleaning on Monday (except on Labor Day Sept. 7, when pool hours will be 1 to 5 p.m.).

For the latest updates on the city's swimming pool openings, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html.



ing love.

She had a remarkable gift for making people feel seen, valued and appreciated exactly as they were. She embraced others with an open heart, believing that everyone deserved dignity, respect and belonging. Her life reflected the simple but powerful teaching that guided her faith: "Love one another" was not merely something she quoted, it was how she lived each day.

She found joy in the small moments, giggling at one of her many quick-witted jokes, sneaking any dog she met extra treats, enjoying an afternoon at the beach, watching a game with her family and listening to music. From Motown and Elvis Presley to Prince and The Rolling Stones, she instilled a love for music in her children and grandchildren.

She also treasured her friendships and believed that life's greatest gifts were the people with whom one shares life. Above all else, she loved her family. Her children, grandchildren and extended family were the pride and joy of her life. She delighted in their accomplishments, supported them through challenges and cherished every opportunity to spend time together. Her laughter, encouragement and unconditional love will continue to guide them for years to come.

Though she will be deeply missed, those who knew and loved her find comfort in knowing that her legacy lives on through the impact she made in the lives around her. Her family invites all who knew her to honor her memory by sharing kindness freely, celebrating life's joys often and loving others without conditions, just as she did.

Visitation was held on Monday, July 6, 2026, at Peevey Funeral & Cremation, 12440 Beamer Road. A private graveside service will follow later in the week.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name can be made to: Milby High School Alumni & Friends Foundation, Inc., <https://www.milbyalumni.org/general-8>; Houston Food Bank, <https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/ways-to-give/give-funds/>; or BARC Animal Shelter, https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/donate_landingpage.html.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." — John 13:34.

Leader

obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge.

They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

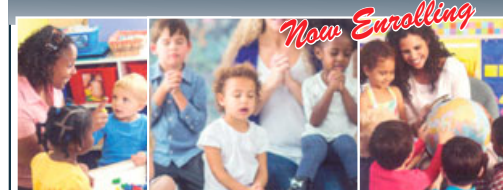
Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



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

281.481.2003

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

Harris County offers mosquito-prevention tips Residents urged to remember 3 T's – Tip, Toss, Take Action!

In honor of National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, which took place this past week, Harris County Public Health reminds residents how important mosquito control is for protecting public health.

Mosquitoes may be small, but the diseases they spread can be serious. HCPH's Mosquito and Vector Control (MVC) Division works year-round to monitor and reduce mosquito populations across Harris County, helping prevent the spread of viruses like West Nile, dengue, St. Louis encephalitis, chikungunya, Zika and Eastern Equine encephalitis.

According to county officials, the state's first confirmed case of West Nile in Texas in 2026 was discovered late last month in a Harris County resident.

HCPH uses a combination of surveillance, laboratory testing and mosquito treatment to identify areas of concern and take appropriate action. In 2024 alone, the MVC team found 680 mosquito samples to have tested positive for West Nile virus. The department uses quantitative real-time qPCR testing technology to detect viruses more accurately and faster than ever before, leading to quicker responses.

The 3 T's
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 overflowing 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-methane-di-ol on children 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

Beverly Hills Park pool remains closed Closure due to national lifeguard shortage; city seeking help

With local students now well into their second month of summer vacation, the city of Houston has yet to open the swimming pool at Beverly Hills Park, citing a national lifeguard shortage.

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

This marks the fourth consecutive year the city has faced

such staffing issues. (The city's swimming pools were completely closed the summers of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

At press time, it remained unclear if the Beverly Hills pool would open this year or not. Houston Parks and Recreation Department officials merely said that additional swimming pools will open as more lifeguards become available.

The city is currently seeking lifeguards for the 2026 season. In hopes of attracting potential lifeguards, the city has lowered its minimum age requirement from 16 to 15 years old. While all lifeguards must be strong swimmers, previous lifeguard experience is not necessary.

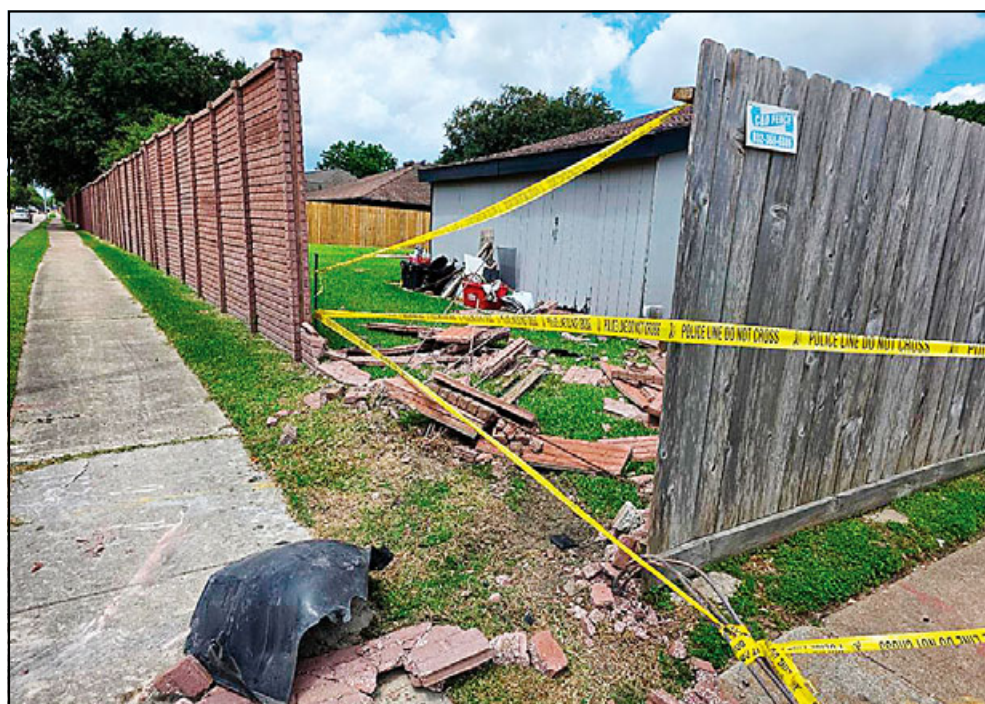
For more information on becoming a city lifeguard, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2026/2026LifeguardFlyer.pdf.

City swimming pool hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

All pools are closed for cleaning on Monday (except on Labor Day Sept. 7, when pool hours will be 1 to 5 p.m.).

For the latest updates on the city's swimming pool openings, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html.

3-car crash damages Scarsdale wall



A three-vehicle accident on Scarsdale at Sagemeadow recently sent two people to the hospital with possible injuries and caused extensive damage to the barrier wall. According to Precinct 2 officials, the accident was caused by the driver of a Ford Edge SUV who reportedly ran the stop sign on Sagemeadow at Scarsdale. That driver suffered no injuries and was cited for failing to

yield the right-of-way. The other two drivers involved in the crash — one in a Honda Civic and one in a Mercedes Benz GL — both suffered possible injuries and were transported to nearby Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital for treatment. The Clear Brook City MUD barrier wall that runs along Scarsdale was struck during the accident and took on significant structural damage.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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David Flickinger, owner

South Belt community members celebrate Fourth of July



Co-Grand Marshal Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia was escorted by Chris Clark (driver) and Javier Frutos, Harris County Precinct 2 liaison.



Co-Grand Marshal Emory Gadd led the parade and welcomed the crowds. Emory is a former student ministry pastor and associate pastor of Sagemont Church. He retired after 53 years.



The parade was kicked off by Eli and Meredith Bates, worship leaders at CrossRoads United Methodist Church, singing the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful.



Texas state Sen. for District 6 Carol Alvarado and Clear Brook City MUD General Manager of Administration Cecelia Ganje endured the heat to celebrate at the South Belt's July 4 parade.



Pictured with Angela Busby are, left to right, Precinct 2 personnel Chief Mike Kritzler, Constable Jerry Garcia, Lt. Arnold Magana, Lt. Jessie Rodriguez and Sgt. Mike Calvillo.



Pictured, left to right, are (front) Gretchen Roach, interior designer; Bill Roach, executive director, Wings Over Houston; (back) Lisa McVey as Lady Liberty, Empower Fin. Insurance; and Mark McVey as Uncle Sam, Loan Originator - Gold Star Mortgage.



Dean and Barb Baier of Sagemeadow displayed their 1931 Model A Roadster for the first time in South Belt's 2026 July 4 parade.



Representing South Belt-Ellington Leader are Priscilla Melendez and Noah and Elliana Abarca. Noah and Elliana are grandchildren of David Flickinger, owner of the Leader.



Sagemont Cowboys pictured are, Peewee head coach Alexis Assed, Kaleb Sherman, Ja'Tez Gardner, Adrian Gutierrez, Kobe Merriweather, Isabelle Gutierrez, team mom Christina Gardner, coach Ja'Tez (Tez) Gardner, Phoenix Martinez and Victoria Martinez.



The Heitmann family distributed candy and ducks from their truck nicknamed Duckoma. Pictured, left to right, are Lisa Holbrook; South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce President, Kristi Konkaba; South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, Fred Heitmann; Raquel Forero, Forero Realty Group; and Judy Harrison, parade chair.



Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia and wife Olga Garcia greeted Jim Towey, parade judge.



Participating in this year's Fourth of July parade were the Dobie High School cheerleaders. Shown, left to right, are (front row) Jase-lynn Enriquez, Isabella Squier, Julissa Bonilla, Aliyah Alvarez, Bella Hernandez, Alicia Syplen, Myrion Davis, (middle row) Deisy Meza, Natalie Elkins, Vida Sosa, Arianna Bermudez, Maylene Rodriguez, Aubree Rodriguez, Alyssa Rodriguez, Yazslyn Brown, Marion Davis, (back row) Kallie Troxlar, Alyana Montes, Arielle Martinez, Gabriela Franklin, Avery Mendiola, Isabelle Chavez and Mikayla Gonzalez. Not pictured are Nyla Richardson and Xara Oddo.



Pictured with Uncle Sam (Mark McVey) are local residents Isabella Vega, Joanna Vega and Richard Vega (Republican candidate for Harris County Commissioner Pct. 2).

Truck catches fire near I-45, Beltway 8



An industrial vehicle caught fire around 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, near the intersection of Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway, causing minor traffic delays. Houston firefighters are shown above extinguishing the blaze.

Photo by David Flickinger

LG3 propels historic League City Little League win



Lane Warren Graham (front row, left), pitcher and shortstop for League City All-Stars 11-and-under team, was joined by his family to celebrate his team's right to advance to the state playoff tournament July 11 in Pearland. Lane, who wears No. 3 and called "LG3," was the winning pitcher as he tossed 5 2/3 innings, giving up only one earned run and catching a pop-up at short for the final out in the 6-2 victory. The win

makes his team the first-ever League City Little League team to advance to state. With LG3 are (front row) Braxton Graham, cousin; (back row) Don and Rosa Graham, grandparents; Esteban and Amy Graham, parents; Lane Howell, grandfather; Kali and David Graham, aunt and uncle; and Blakely Graham, cousin. Don Graham formerly coached Esteban and David in Sagemont Beverly Hills Little League All-Stars.

South Belt-Ellington Chamber hosts its inaugural A Night of Mahjong

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce recently hosted its inaugural A Night of Mahjong event at the Foundation for Hope Village in Friendswood.

Presented by Houston Methodist, the event offered attendees an immersive Mahjong experience that blended community

engagement and spirited competition.

Attendees were greeted by a lively atmosphere, enjoying dinner, networking opportunities and shopping prior to game play.

As the evening commenced, participants were welcomed and briefed on the evening's schedule, with accommodations made for

both novice and experienced players. Before game play began, Dr. Modupe Adeyefa of Houston Methodist delivered an informative address on breast health awareness, underscoring the hospital's commitment to community wellbeing.

The evening concluded with an awards presentation recognizing outstanding per-

formances.

Awards were presented to top players in beginner, intermediate, and expert divisions, as well as to tables recognized for teamwork and strategy. Creativity was highlighted in the Best Decorated Table competition, and one guest took home the grand prize of a Mahjong set and mat.



Pictured are participants of the intermediate level table who accumulated the highest score, from left to right, Beth Turner, Robin Bigham, Justine Powell and Teresa Teaster.



Pictured, left to right, are Debbie W. Brown, Debbie Dorris, Jenny Crites and Cyndy Butcher (district director for state Rep. Dr. Greg Bonnen).

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)
Due to the area's location being so near to the "wide open" country, cattle began grazing just a short distance away, leaving evidence in front yards, around first base and the concession stand at the baseball field.

In spite of the floodings in the area and predictions of more to come, most Houstonians didn't carry the government subsidized flood insurance.

45 years ago (1981)
Sagelegen resident Tracy Davis was part of the team which set the world's record for parasailing.

Kingsgarden, a new duplex subdivision, was to be built off Kingspoint Road.

40 years ago (1986)
Harris and Galveston counties signed an agreement to share in an \$80 million flood control project that was 18 years in the making.

Fuqua became a major thoroughfare for the city.

35 years ago (1991)
The Brio Task Force awarded the Brio Superfund remediation design contract to a company known as one of the worst Environmental Protection Agency regulation violators. Chemical waste management's EN-RAC division was to proceed with the design contract for remediation of the site including incineration.

Ellington Field received \$5 million federal award which was to be used to increase the airport's capacity, in turn relieving the air traffic at Hobby Airport.

30 years ago (1996)
Construction began on fire station #93 to be built near Sycamore Valley at 975 FM1959.

Robert Duncan, Nick Helton and Jimmy Wright, all 17, were charged with aggravated assault with reckless bodily injury and possession of a prohibitive weapon for allegedly injuring two Pearland teens with a bottle bomb.

25 years ago (2001)

Harris County officials planned to go door to door to check for repairs being done without permits. Without a permit for repairs, flooded homes could have faced a lawsuit or fines.

Donna Benfiglio, 32, a pioneer transplant patient of Dr. Michael DeBakey, died. Benfiglio was the first American to receive the DeBakey Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) and live to receive a heart transplant.

20 years ago (2006)
The annual South Belt Fourth of July parade was spared a deluge of rain by about 45 minutes. Although coming close, the parade had never been rained out since it began in 1988.

Officials from Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's office made South Belters aware of a robbery at a local gas station and separate incidents where several checks had been stolen from residential mailboxes.

Harris County Republican precinct chairs met June 29 to advance the process of selecting a replacement for Tom DeLay's vacated congressional position on the November ballot.

The 18-year wait for a connection between Scarsdale Boulevard and Yost Road was hoped to be over by the end of the year.

15 years ago (2011)
Three South Belt teens were charged with capital murder following the fatal shooting of a League City man. Stephen Roman-Garza, Andrew Robles and Erick Valdez, all 18, were charged in the killing of Daniel Lee Clark, 23, in League City. Robles was a Dobie student at the time of the shooting, and Roman-Garza was a former Dobie student.

According to League City police, Clark was trying to prevent his truck from being stolen from his driveway around 2:15 a.m. when shots were fired. Police responded to find Clark with multiple gunshot wounds. Neighbors tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

10 years ago (2016)
Recent Dobie graduate Cedric Washington made nationwide headlines after saving an elderly man from a house fire in the 4700 block of Teton Monday, June 27. Washington, 19, spotted the blaze while driving to visit his grandmother. The 75-year-old man's wife did not survive the fire. Washington was transported to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation.

Longtime Sagemont resident Kay Barbour was selected to serve as the new executive director for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Barbour replaced outgoing executive director Sherry Trainer, who stepped down from the position to care for her sick daughter. Former Chamber Executive Director Sally Mitchell had been filling in for Trainer in recent months as an interim director.

5 years ago (2021)
Theresa Balboa, the woman charged with hiding the body of her boyfriend's 5-year-old son Samuel Olson, was charged with capital murder in the boy's death. Balboa had initially been charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse.

1 year ago (2025)
Two teams of Melillo Middle School students were recognized in a statewide

STEM competition aimed at improving space exploration.

Melillo's Space Explorers and Galaxy Explorers teams each earned Best in Show designations at the Texas Space Grant Consortium's Spring 2025 Build the Moon Challenge.

With NASA going back to the moon, crews will need infrastructure to support astronauts during their long-duration missions. In the Build the Moon Challenge, young researchers are tasked with creating their own concrete mixtures to build and develop future lunar habitats using lunar regolith simulant.

The lunar surface is covered with a fine-grained rocky material called regolith. Scientists can use this material to help build the infrastructure needed for future missions. This process is called In Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU).

Led by their coach Nicole Ram, a previous Texas Space Grant Consortium program participant, the Space Explorers and Galaxy Explorers created a landing pad, a brick wall and lunar habitat designs with their lunar simulant concrete mixtures.

"They love being a part of the Artemis generation," said Ram, who serves as a math teacher at Melillo. "What competition are we going to compete in next year?"

Open to students in middle school or junior high (grades sixth through ninth), winning teams may be eligible to receive grant funding through the TSGC's Build the Moon Challenge.

Part of the University of Texas Institute for Geophysics, the Texas Space Grant Consortium is proud to support programs like Build the Moon to help engage, educate and inspire the next generation of students.

One unidentified Melillo team member told TSGC officials it was hoped the Build the Moon Challenge could serve as a launchpad to a career in the space field later in life.

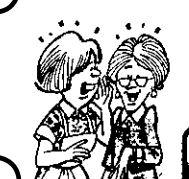
"I would love to work for NASA one day," said the student. "And being exposed to NASA's projects at a young age is allowing me to gain some type of experience for my future career."



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Over The Back Fence by Nicole

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 9 through July 15.

Atkinson Elementary
Light the birthday candles July 12 for **Laura Donan**. Celebrating a birthday July 13 is **Regina Barnes**. Send a birthday greeting July 14 to **Chelsea Hickman**. Break out the party favors and balloons for **Velma Medina** and **Claudia Trevino** July 15.

Frazier Elementary
July 14 is the day for a fun celebration for **Lillie Fraide** and **Veronica Cantu**.

Genoa Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song July 15 to **Kathryn Martinez**.

Hancock Elementary
Give a birthday shoutout July 12 to **Raquel Garza**. Blow out the birthday candles July 13 for **Iliana Quezada**.

Meador Elementary
Cheers for a happy birthday on July 15 for **Janeth Reyes**.

Moore Elementary
The day for a double-fun birthday for **Ana Herrera** and **Elizabeth Taylor-Segovia** is July 14.

South Belt Elementary
Light the birthday candles July 13 for **Eric Dockery**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday July 12 are sent to **Clarissa Ridge**. Birthday greetings go out to **Ngan Nguyen** July 13. **Jade Kuhn** celebrates a birthday July 15.

Melillo Middle School
Remember to wish **Karen Sanchez** a happy birthday July 11.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
July 9 is the day for a fun celebration for **Jillian Holderfield**.

Thompson Intermediate
Send a happy birthday wish July 9 to **Julie Monarez**.

Dobie High
Blow out the candles July 10 for **Daniel Giedraitis**. **Paul Wall** celebrates a birthday July 11. Send a happy birthday wish July 13 to **Joshua Kluka**. Best wishes for a special birthday July 14 are sent to **Audra Lozano**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, July 9: **Patsy Jimenez, Raquel Rodriguez, Traci Feil, Carolyn Garza** and **Shevlyn Spafford**; Friday, July 10: **Tannia Leal, Sharon Blackston, Juanjose Armenta-Aguirre** and **Jimbo Shimmfessel**; Saturday, July 11: **Andy Cross, Anne Allen, Kolleen Bingham** and **Jasmine Mendez**; Sunday, July 12: **Sharron Moore, Mary Renfro Heldman, Emma Rodriguez** and **Pam McEntire Ellis**; Monday July 13: **Stephanie Pyle, Robin Read, Sandy Ward, Angela Wilkerson, Robin Stone Collins** and **Tyler Pearson**; Tuesday, July 14: **Elaine Ann Monagas, Monay Noyobiz, Courtney Amelia Alba, Riva Saenz, Veronica Mier** and **Jeffrey Robert McGee**; and Wednesday, July 15: **Soyla Tovar, Irma Villanueva, Rachel Garza, Marlon Taylor, Teresa Reynolds** and **Harley Rankins**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Send an email with details on events to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Volleyball season served up Aug. 1



At left, senior Allison Walker is among the key returnees for the Dobie varsity volleyball team as the Longhorns prepare for the start of the 2026 regular season. Preseason workouts begin Aug. 1, and the Longhorns will scrimmage at Friendswood Aug. 7 along with Summer Creek and Dawson beginning at 9 a.m. Dobie will then host Angleton, North Shore and Houston Lamar for a scrimmage Aug. 8 at Dobie main, also beginning at 9 a.m. The Longhorns will have one final scrimmage against Pasadena Aug. 10, at 3 p.m. The regular season begins Aug. 11 as Dobie travels to Baytown Sterling to take on the Rangers at 6 p.m. for the varsity match.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

JFD football planning for success in 2026 season



At left, Dobie senior quarterback Jalen Miles will certainly get plenty of opportunities to chip in on the offensive side of the football for the Longhorns during the 2026 season as the locals look to make a big push in the newly formed District 19-6A standings. As a junior a season ago, Miles completed 34 of 75 passing attempts for just over 500 yards and four touchdowns. The Longhorns will begin preseason workouts Aug. 10, and the regular season will open Aug. 28 as the locals host Clear Springs at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Coming off a 5-5 overall season in 2025, Team 58 will be aiming to claim a first-ever victory over the Chargers to open play in 2026 as varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff begin their third overall season in charge of the program.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Brook volleyball sets scrimmages

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

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

JFD volleyball camps coming

Dobie varsity volleyball coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will offer a pair of summer camps designed to both help younger players develop their skills within the sport as well as prepare incoming high school-aged players for the upcoming 2026 season.

Students entering the first through eighth grades are invited to attend the Longhorns' developmental camp July 20-22 at Dobie main. Incoming first- through sixth-grade students will attend the camp from 9 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$50 per participant. Incoming seventh- and eighth-grade students will attend from noon to 2 p.m. also at a cost of \$50 per participant.

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

Sexton and other experienced volleyball coaches will direct participants in skill development, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills as well as friendly match play. Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m.

Visit the Dobie High School volleyball website at https://dobie.pasadenaisd.org/49529_2 for a link to register for either camp. For any questions, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

The regular season begins Aug. 11 as Dobie travels to Baytown Sterling to take on the Rangers at 6 p.m. for the varsity match.

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Pasadena ISD's two original high schools, Pasadena and South Houston, have now both made the switch to the class 5A ranks beginning with the 2026-2027 school year as the respective athletic programs should see increased opportunities for playoff contention.

However, the Eagles and Trojans will certainly find the going as tough as ever in the District 11-5A Division I mix.

Richmond Randle running back Landen Williams-Callis, widely

Dave Campbell's Texas Football

Preseason Defensive MVP

Kasen Jammer, Angleton

Preseason Offensive MVP

Landen Williams-Callis, Richmond Randle

District 11-5A Division I Projected Order of Finish

1. **Richmond Randle**
2. **Iowa Colony**
3. **Angleton**
4. **Katy Freeman**
5. **Friendswood**
6. **Victoria East**
7. **South Houston**
8. **Fort Bend Dulles**
9. **Pasadena**

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.

SBYSC continues fall 2026 registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has opened registration for the fall 2026 season as early registration will allow players to save \$20 on registration fees through July 15. 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. The league will continue to seek volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team parents, particularly for the under 4 through under 8 groups. Visit www.southbeltsoccer.org and click on the registration fall 2026 tab to get started on registration details. The regular season begins in August.

and reached the regional finals.

Angleton, which at 9-2 a season ago also excelled at the 5A level, will be

tough to handle as well.

Then there is Katy Freeman, which has high expectations while entering his first-ever varsity

season after an 8-2 debut in 2025.

Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine has selected Richmond Ran-

dle as the 11-5A Division II district champion, followed by Iowa Colony, then Angleton and Katy Freeman.

The district appears to be top heavy with the aforementioned quartet leading the way according to the Campbell's folks, followed by Friendswood, Victoria East, South Houston, Fort Bend Dulles and then Pasadena.

Richmond Randle (15-1 overall in 2025; 7-0 in league play)

Williams-Callis is the main attraction anywhere he goes in the state, but the Lions have plenty of talent on a roster that will include seven starters returning on both sides of the football injuring the 2026 season.

The Lions, who won a state championship in 2024, have gone 31-1 over the past two seasons. Williams-Callis rushed for 3,502 yards and 60 touchdowns a season ago.

Receiver Kamar Chavez-Brown is another game breaker who caught more than 1,100 yards worth of receptions and scored nine touchdowns a season ago.

Quarterback Brady Batcher won't be asked to do much in the offense even though his continued development may very well determine whether the Lions can return to Dallas for the state championship.

Tackle Cameron Hypolite is the leader of the defense, which also includes Caleb George, A'mari Harris, Patrick Oliver, Kyron Cooley and others.

Simply put, while there are other talented teams in the new alignment, Randle is likely the team to beat anywhere in the 5A ranks.

Iowa Colony (12-2 overall in 2025; 6-1 in league play)

The Pioneers represent Alvin ISD and are coming off a deep run in the post-



South Houston will get plenty of versatility from La'Kee Baker (4) as he leads the Trojans into the 2026 regular season. The Trojans will have plenty of competition within the new District 11-5A Division 1 ranks.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Pasadena varsity football standout Martellis Mosley (1) is capable of contributing at a variety of spots on the football field for the Eagles and will no doubt play a huge role during the upcoming season as the Eagles aim to bounce back from a 1-9 overall run of things a season ago. Within the District 11-5A Division I mix, the Eagles will be facing a tough ledger of opponents.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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Dave Campbell's Texas Football predicts District 11-5A Division I

Continued from Page 5

On the defensive side of things, defensive back Kalen Simmons is exceptionally talented, as is linebacker Jordan Lockhart, Henry Fisher and defensive back Dylan Thomas are top performers.

The Pioneers can also look to defensive lineman Charles Egbo, linebacker Awston Amboree and defensive back Nelson Farr. **Angleton Wildcats (9-2 overall in 2025; 6-1 in league play)**

The Wildcats have put together two very impressive seasons back to back, despite injuries late in the season in 2025 limiting what could have been another deep playoff push.

Head coach Jason Brittain and his staff return just four starters on offense and five more on the defensive side, but the Wildcats are still wildly talented.

Athlete Kasen Jammer, the latest in a long line of talented performers in Angleton coming from the Jammer family, will lead the Wildcats on and off the field. Linebacker Landon Miles is also very talented along with cornerback Jordan Hasker.

The team's top sophomore is linebacker John David Brittain, the son of the head coach. Angleton will primarily use Jammer, an All-State cornerback on the defensive side, and Jammer is also one of the most explosive kickoff return men in the state.

Running back Wyatt Neyland is also capable of huge things following a season of nearly 850 yards and 11 rushing touchdowns. Miles had 72 tackles, five quarterback sacks and three interceptions a season ago and is a very talented linebacker.

Katy Freeman Golden Eagles (8-2 overall in 2025 at the junior varsity level)

The ever-expanding Katy area has undoubtedly delivered another up-and-coming program as the

Golden Eagles will look to make a run at the playoffs in their debut season.

Head coach Eric Robinson has a deep roster from which to choose as obviously 11 starters on both sides of the football will be eligible to return.

Athlete C.J. Beaty is considered to be a future star, as is running back/defensive back Christian Tillman in addition to athlete Jeremiah Cooper, linebacker Salofi Alexius, defensive back Xander Lopez, linebacker Khalil Thomas, defensive end Cordell Siolo and defensive end Dezman Ray.

The offensive line is led by Lavon Abrahamyan as well as Le'Darian Johnson and others.

While it did come against a subvarsity schedule, Beaty rushed for nearly 1,200 yards and 16 touchdowns and passed for another nine touchdowns.

Cooper stepped in as the leader in the backfield following an injury to Tillman and produced more than 700 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2025. Alexius is the defensive leader.

While it may be difficult for the rest of the district to unseat the projected top four playoff programs, Friendswood is picked to be the next in line as third-year head coach Jordan Johnson, a Friendswood graduate, leads his Mustangs back from a 6-5 overall season in 2025.

Friendswood Mustangs (6-5 overall in 2025; 4-3 in league play)

Quarterback Josh Brister returns to lead the Mustangs' offense that also features talented running backs Tripp Bateman and Charlie Moore to go with receiver A.J. Parker and Jackson Owens.

The Mustangs return six starters on each side of the football entering the season and will count on defensive back Austin Cain, linebacker Grant

Martin, defensive lineman Alan Ford and linebacker Judson Stephens as program leaders.

Brister a season ago threw for 1,855 yards and 24 touchdowns while Bateman rushed for more than 800 yards and nine touchdowns.

Victoria East Titans (1-9 overall in 2025; 1-6 in league play)

Despite a rough go of things in 2025, Victoria East is looking to make a big push this season.

Proven playmakers for the Titans include running back Christian Franco as well as receiver Tyrence Stafford, tight end Alexander Johnston and tight end/linebacker Kolby Taylor. Offensive lineman Zalerion Jones is a leader up front, as is Noah Gon-

zalez.

Head coach Brad Smithy and his staff will return seven players on offense and another three on defense. Defensive back Travis Zimmer is a top playmaker on that side of the ball, as is lineman Brenham Tumlinson and others.

South Houston Trojans (0-10 overall in 2025; 0-8 in league play)

Head coach Lamont Mayberry certainly wished for better results during his debut with the Trojans in 2025 as the program could not generate a victory.

However, the Trojans are now making the move to Class 5A and will look to perform much better.

Senior Xavier Muhammad is one of four defen-

sive starters returning, and he is one of the top recruits in the state.

The Trojans will also return as many as 10 sophomores who saw action at the varsity level in 2025.

Other talented performers who very well could help out the Trojans this season include receiver/defensive back La'Kee Baker, offensive lineman Nicholas Majano, defensive lineman Jeremiah Micheaux, offensive lineman/defensive lineman Augustine Valles, receiver/defensive back Makih Coward and quarterback James Henry. Kicker/punter William Cruz is also very good at what he does.

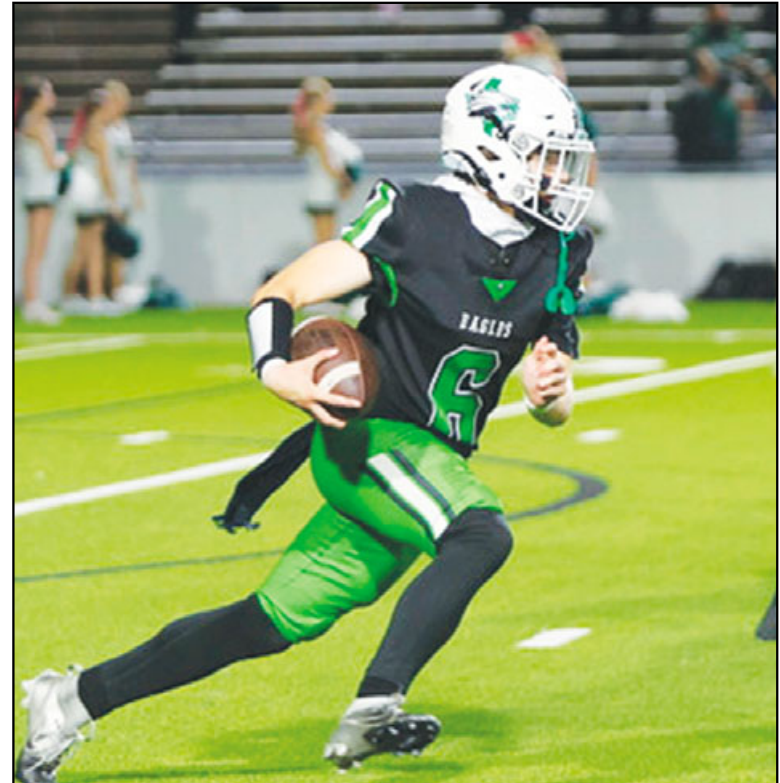
Fort Bend Dulles Vikings (0-10 overall in 2025; 0-7 in league play)



South Houston senior Xavier Muhammad is one of four defensive starters returning, and is one of the top recruits in the state. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Pasadena quarterback Shaun Aguirre (4) came through with plenty of positive results during his debut varsity season in 2025 and will no doubt be more effective in his second season coming soon.



The Pasadena Eagles' varsity football program can get contributions from Landon Tumlinson at a variety of spots on the football field during the 2026 season as the group is intent on causing issues for other teams within District 11-5A. Photos by Donna Alsdorf

SBGSA's 8-Under All-Star team second at nationals

At right, the South Belt Girls Softball Association 8-under All-Stars brought home a piece of beautiful hardware for the mantle after finishing second overall at the Pixie division National Invitational Tournament to cap an outstanding summer of action on the field.

Below, the South Belt Girls Softball Association's 8-and-under All-Stars finished second at the Pixie National Invitational Tournament at Lake Jackson late last month. The locals went undefeated on day one, lost a tight one-run game, then redeemed themselves as they made their way to the championship round. In a winner-take-all finale, SBGSA again fell by a single run to finish as the runner-up. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Yasmin Vo, Giselle Rodriguez, Keilyn Nguyen, Eternity Garza, Kaylanni Rangel, Aleyda Salazar, (middle row) Ayla Cruz, Lianna Rangel, Rosalie Rodriguez, Ella Saenz, Ellianna Vo, Roxanne Serna, (back row) coaches Stephanie Cruz, J.C. Rodriguez, Eseneth Salazar and Jared Cruz.



Sagemont Cowgirls stand out at UCA Cheer Camp



The Sagemont Cowgirl cheerleaders are already off to a terrific start prior to the upcoming 2026 season on the football field as the group collected several honors during a top-notch performance at the UCA Cheer camp last month. The Cowgirls won first place in Camp Cheer, collected a Spirit Award and won a Top Banana Award for supreme energy. The Cowgirls also were awarded a UCA Traditions Award for em-

bodifying the heart of teen spirit, positivity and a supportive demeanor. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Laila Jackson, Lyanna Lopez, Maya Solis, Mariah Mosqueda, Layla Alvarez, Arielle Fuentes, Nevaeh Taylor, Lexi Tovas, (back row) Aubree Deal, Josefina Caño, Armauni Townsend, Mia Morales, Julianna Muñoz, Abigail LaSaint, Ava Hernandez and Jaida Jackson.

Four outstanding cheerleading members from the Sagemont Cowgirls won UCA All-American Cheerleader honors during the annual UCA cheer camp last month. The honorees included, left to right, Capt. Mia Morales, Lt. Col. Leila Alvarez, Capt. Abigail LaSaint and social coordinator Julianna Munoz.



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 9

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, JULY 11

7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 12

8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican**

Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.

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

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

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

MONDAY, JULY 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY, JULY 14

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

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

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

Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.

Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from noon to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.

6 p.m./7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

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

7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 16

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.

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Lutheran South Academy makes jump to TAPPS Division 1 District 2 competition

In making the jump to Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division 1 competition, Lutheran South Academy will begin the 2026-2027 school year with a vastly different slate of opponents.

It will all begin on the varsity football field, where the Pioneers are now part of Division 1 District 2 and will go up against the likes of St. Thomas, Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio Antonian Prep, St. Pius X, San Antonio Central Catholic and Austin St. Michael's.

With newcomers surrounding them, the Pioneers will need to adjust on the fly. Yet at the same time, Lutheran South's competition will have to deal with a football program that made a deep postseason run in 2025 and expects more of the same this time around under head coach Corby Meekins.

The Pioneers will return seven starters on offense and just four on defense, but still expect great things from the talented roster.

Returning All-District offensive lineman Antonio Castillo will anchor things up front, and quarterback Reid Jeffrey will call the plays after stepping in due to injury last year and playing exceptionally well.

Running back Cortez Taylor could very well be in line for a huge season, and tight end Luke Mazur wound up being an All-State performer last season and should be a huge mismatch for opposing defenses this season.

Rhet Lavergne is one of the top kickers in the state regardless of level or classification after making eight field goals and converting 57 of 60 extra point attempts in 2025.

Defensively, the Pioneers will definitely need to fill in some vacancies, but linebacker Jack Sloan is a proven commodity, and defensive back Max Saldana will return after making a slew of big plays a season ago.

Other players the Pioneers can count on include Josh Pippillion at receiver and defensive back, linebacker Titus Brooks, offensive/defensive lineman Bradley Whitehead, offensive lineman Reed Rives, tight end defensive lineman Parker Pfeiffer, receiver Brayden Arceneaux, receiver/defensive back Ethan Saucedo and offensive linemen Max Mendoza and Isaia Castillo.

As for the entirety of TAPPS Division 1-District 2, there will be a wait-and-see approach as many of the new district competitors will be seeing each other for the first time.

Houston St. Thomas Eagles (8-3 overall in 2025; 6-0 in league play)

The Eagles could very well be among the front runners as head coach Raymond Davis returns six starters on offense as well as seven across the defense.

Quarterback Pierce Jacobson and running back Myles Stewart give the Eagles a pair of trusted offensive skill performers who will be operating behind a massive

offensive line led by Connor Edmondson, R.J. Hastings, Tate Erb, Duncan Dybesland and Dominic D'Ambra.

Tight end Ben Creech will also provide challenges for opposing defenses, and sophomore quarterback Da'Metris Guy-Pittman is ready to show what he can do, perhaps in the role of do-it-all athlete on the offensive side.

Defensively, Logan Debosc heads up a talented secondary, and defensive linemen Khairan McQueen and Rylan Kimpson lead up front along with Logan Bogar.

The Eagles were a perfect 6-0 in league play a season ago on the way to an 8-3 overall finish. Davis, who has led the St. Thomas program for 10 years now, has three standout offensive lineman up front.

Jacobson threw for 1,750 yards and 17 touchdowns a season ago and also rushed before another 11 scores. Debosc was an All-State performer in the secondary.

Concordia Lutheran Crusaders (8-4 overall in 2025; 4-2 in league play)

The Crusaders went 8-4 last season and will return seven starters on offense to go with four on the defensive side.

Jaxon Coleman is a threat on the offensive side when he gets the ball in his hands, and quarterback Ryan Neidigk also returns along with receivers Carter Holder and Reed Dominy.

The offensive line is anchored by Nate Schoenfelt. Defensively, the Crusaders

expect a lot from lineman Reid Kelley as well as linebacker Matt Gloria. Coleman a season ago caught 12 touchdown passes and had more than 1,000 yards receiving while returning five kicks or punts for touchdowns. Defensively, Coleman came away with seven interceptions.

Neidigk had 22 touchdown passes and eight rushing touchdowns as the Crusaders used a diversified offense to strike opposing defenses and will look to do the same this season with Coleman returning.

The Crusaders will largely rely on several first-year varsity performers, particularly on the defensive side yet expect to deliver a big season.

San Antonio Antonian Prep Apaches (7-3 overall in 2025; 3-3 in league play)

Antonian Prep went two rounds deep into the postseason last year on the way to a 7-5 overall finish.

Quarterback Rogan Parson is one of the top players in the state on offense as he passed for more than 2,800 yards and 36 touchdowns to go with nearly 700 yards rushing and 17 more touchdowns.

The focus for the Apaches and first-year head coach Blaine Peterson may be whether or not there is enough on the offensive side to support Parson. Ryder Stover is the best of a pretty solid receiving crew, and running back Maylin Hall will get plenty of action.

Defensively, the Apache-

es will be led by defensive back Jeremiah Miller and Hall as well as linebacker Ayden Galvan and newcomers at linebacker like Lincoln Decker, and Logan Rexius.

St. Pius X Panthers (5-6 overall in 2025; 2-4 in league play)

St. Pius X will be looking to bounce back from a losing 2025 campaign as there will be plenty of veteran leadership on this team.

The Panthers return seven starters on offense and nine more on defense. Quarterback Kobe Miles is back in the fold after passing for 2,500 yards and 36 touchdowns. Athlete Amir Parks-Brooks is a do-it-all performer, and tight end Evan Johnson should be able to contribute either up front in the run game or in the passing game.

On the defensive side of things, the Panthers will be led by linebacker Marcos Solais Jr. as well as Andrew Kirklin and defensive backs Christian Rene and Kendall Jones.

San Antonio Central Catholic Buttons (6-5 overall in 2025; 3-3 in league play)

The Buttons will have a rebuilt offensive line heading into the 2026 season led by Baltazar Rodriguez.

Antonio Guevarra is a top playmaker on the outside at receiver and quarterback Tristan Soto also returns along with receiver Jayson Sapp. Soto threw for 1,450 yards and 12 touchdowns, with Guevarra catching eight

of those scores.

The Buttons are anxious to see what Sapp can deliver on the field as he is viewed as a future star. On the defensive side, secondary man Matthew Hernandez leads the way after he registered 52 stops overall a season ago. Linebacker Haydin Gill is another key asset along with up and coming lineman Noah Reynoso.

Austin St. Michael's Warriors (5-6 overall in 2025; 3-3 in league play)

Head coach Bob Rosenstiel and his staff return six players on each side of the football heading into the season, with quarterback Nico Anderson having thrown for 2,700 yards and 29 touchdowns while also rushing for nine more touchdowns. The Warriors will have plenty of competition in this district, but Anderson will give the team plenty of hope with his dual threat capabilities.

There is little doubt that Lutheran South Academy plans to make a run at the league championship in the newly created district. A Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools power for many seasons in a variety of sports, the Pioneers will be focused on proving that the step up in class will have no ill effects on success. Entering the 2026 regular season on the football field, St. Thomas owns a state ranking according to *Dave Campbell's Texas Football*, but the Pioneers plan to give the Eagles plenty of competition.

Lutheran South Varsity Football

Aug. 21	KIPP Sunnyside	7 p.m.
Aug. 28	Houston Christian	7 p.m.
Sept. 4	at Hardin (Hornet Stadium)	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	*at St. John (Skip Lee Stadium)	7 p.m.
Sept. 18	*at St. Michael's (Crusader Stadium)	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	*Central Catholic	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	*at St. Thomas (Granger Stadium)	7 p.m.
Oct. 16	*St. Pius X	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	*at Concordia (Schroeder Stadium)	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	*Antonian	7 p.m.

*District games

All home games at Teichman Field

Lutheran South Cross-Country

Aug. 29	at Cooper Dragon Invitational Burroughs Park
Sept. 5	at Kardia Christian Invitational
Sept. 19	Lutheran South Invitational Challenger 7 Memorial Park
Sept. 26	at Second Baptist Invitational
Oct. 3	at First Baptist Invitational
Oct. 10	at Maverick Ramble Spring Creek Park
Oct. 17	District Championships
Oct. 26	at TAPPS State Championships

Lutheran South Varsity Volleyball

Aug. 13-15	at Pearland John Turner Classic
Aug. 18	at St. John's
Aug. 20	at Second Baptist
Aug. 21-22	at Houston Open tournament
Aug. 25	at Woodlands Christian
Aug. 27	Fort Bend Christian
Sept. 1	Houston Christian
Sept. 3	at St. John XXIII
Sept. 5	Cypress Christian
Sept. 8	Incarinate Word
Sept. 10	at St. Agnes
Sept. 11-12	at FAST tournament TBA
Sept. 15	Episcopal
Sept. 17	Village School
Sept. 22	St. Pius
Sept. 24	at Concordia Lutheran
Sept. 29	St. John XXIII
Oct. 1	at Incarnate Word
Oct. 6	St. Agnes
Oct. 8	Fort Bend Christian
Oct. 13	at Village School
Oct. 15	at St. Pius X
Oct. 20	Concordia Lutheran

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