

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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2 backpack drives on Aug. 3

Church, Beta Eta give out backpacks

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

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

South Belt Chamber gives out backpacks

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

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

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

Hughes/Sabo closure set

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

Closures are associated with a city of Houston project to replace a force water main at the intersection.

Beltway 8 closures planned

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

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

Gulf Freeway closure set

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

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

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

Local COVID cases reported

Despite a countywide increase, the number of reported COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains roughly on par with the previous several weeks, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday July 30, there were 295 active cases in 77089, no change from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

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

Statistics are updated weekly and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulativedata.

Sagemont to meet Aug. 6

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

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

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

Coffee with the Constable

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

The next event will be Thursday, Aug. 1, with another event happening the following Thursday, Aug. 8.

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

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food for community people in need. The next event is Aug. 10. For information, call 281-484-4230.

Financial assistance available for some small businesses

Local residents, homeowners, business owners and nonprofits impacted by Hurricane Beryl may be eligible for assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration, according to Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, who hosted a series of town hall meetings this past week with SBA officials.

Low-interest federal disaster loans are now available to Texas businesses and residents as a result of President Joe Biden's major disaster declaration, U.S. Small Business Administration's Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman announced.

The declaration covers the Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Walker and Wharton counties as a result of Hurricane Beryl that occurred July 5-9.

"SBA's mission-driven team stands ready to help Texas' small businesses and residents impacted by Hurricane Beryl," said SBA Administrator Guzman. "We're committed to providing

federal disaster loans swiftly and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild."

Francisco Sánchez Jr. associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the Small Business Administration, also stated, "As a native Houstonian, I am deeply concerned for communities now facing two historic disasters within a matter of weeks. Hurricane Beryl was catastrophic and deadly. The U.S. Small Business Administration is still on the ground responding to the derecho and will send reinforcements in response to Beryl. I was on the ground just days after the storm and I can assure Texans that the Biden-Harris Administration will be with them every step of the way. SBA will work across local, state, federal, business, and nonprofit partners to make every possible resource available."

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other busi-

ness assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available to businesses regardless of any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, includ-

ing personal vehicles.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 3.25 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.688 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the first disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

To find a Disaster Recovery Center, visit www.sba.gov/article/2024/07/12/sba-stands-ready-assist-texas-businesses-residents-affected-hurricane-beryl or call the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955.

Garcia steps up arrests on DWIs

Deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Toll Road Division have continued to enforce DWI laws along Beltway 8, making at least three such arrests the past two weeks.

On July 12, Toll Road deputies with Garcia's office, while on active patrol on the South Sam

Houston Parkway East, observed a vehicle driving east on the parkway with an expired registration.

Deputies caught up to the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop in the 8600 block of South Sam Houston Parkway East.

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Demolition finally complete



On Tuesday, July 23, the Harris County Health Department began the demolition of a house located at 11426 Sagewillow. The home was left completely full of items. The chimney and other areas of the home were crumbling and windows were broken. There were many holes in the roof. The home was sliding off the foundation and was not stable or structurally sound. In 2017 the health department was made aware of the home's condition. HOA dues and property taxes have not been paid for several years. The home was scheduled to be demolished but was paused due to COVID-19. In 2021 the process had to start over completely. The house was then declared a public health nuisance to the community in October 2021. The community project has been underway for approximately five years. (See related photo on Page 3.)

Photo by Cecelia J Ganje

San Jac Early Childhood earns recognition

San Jacinto College's Early Childhood Education program has once again been recognized, earning an accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the leading organization for early childhood education.

This achievement marks the second time San Jacinto College's Early Childhood Education program has been reaccredited by the national association, highlighting the college's commitment to excellence.

NAEYC accreditation is pivotal as it emphasizes the program's quality and dedication to excellence. Additionally, it enhances credentials and employability in the field of early childhood education for students. The NAEYC accreditation is the highest benchmark of excellence for early childhood education programs.

"Accreditation is important to our college, our

faculty, and most importantly our students," said Dr. Gwendolyn Berry, department chair, child development, education and psychology.

The process of maintaining accreditation, spans approximately two years involving comprehensive self-assessment, continuous enhancements and extensive final reviews by NAEYC assessors.

The reaccreditation process involved department chairs and faculty from San Jacinto College's Central and North campuses, including Berry, professors Diana Rosaly, Stasi Stewart, Caresal Bolts, Rachel Bernal and Dr. Judith Maima-Skeele. Their combined efforts ensured that students received consistent key assessments across campuses.

San Jacinto College's Early Childhood Education program incorporates the latest research and best practices. It emphasizes experiential learning.

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Evading arrest, possession charged

A male suspect was arrested on multiple charges following a short foot chase with Precinct 8 deputies around 3:05 p.m. July 15 in the 4300 block of South Shaver near SH 3/Old Galveston Road.

Deputies with Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office responded to a disturbance call at the above address, where a man believed to be on drugs was inside a vacant apartment unit. As deputies approached the apart-



Antonio Proenza Perez

ment unit, they observed the suspect run through the apartment and jump out of an open window. Deputies pursued the suspect on foot and ultimately utilized their Taser to safely subdue him.

The suspect was identified as 38-year-old Antonio Proenza Perez. A check of Perez's information revealed an open warrant through Bexar County Sheriff's Office. Deputies conducted a search of Perez's belongings and located a BB gun, a crowbar and 10.5 grams of methamphetamine.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted additional charges for evading arrest/detention and possession of a controlled substance. Perez was transported to the Harris County Joint Processing Center, where his bonds were set at \$5,100 total.

County health identifies significant increase in West Nile

Harris County Public Health's (HCPH) Mosquito and Vector Control Division has identified a significant increase in West Nile virus (WNV), with 520 positive mosquito samples across 168 of its 268 operational areas.

In addition, seven human cases of WNV and two travel-related dengue cases have been reported to HCPH in unincorporated Harris County (outside the city of Houston).

HCPH urges residents to protect themselves and their loved ones against mosquito-borne illnesses.

A dashboard on the human case counts of mos-

quito-borne diseases reported in HCPH's jurisdiction of unincorporated Harris County (outside the city of Houston) this year will be available on the department's website. The dashboard will be updated weekly.

West Nile virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States. It is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus spreads when a mosquito bites an infected bird and then bites a person. Cases of West Nile virus usually occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and

continues through the fall. However, Harris County has experienced an earlier rise in mosquito populations due to the warmer spring season.

"Diseases transmitted by infected mosquitoes are a serious threat in our area," said HCPH Director Ericka Brown. "While most people infected by West Nile virus experience mild or no symptoms, some can become very sick. Protecting yourself and your loved ones is crucial, especially when mosquitoes are so prevalent this summer. If you or a loved one experiences any of the symptoms of West Nile after a mosquito bite, contact a health care provider immediately."

Some individuals who get sick from WNV may develop a fever, headache, body aches, nausea, rash and vomiting. In severe cases, WNV can lead to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal

cord). Older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of severe complications from WNV.

HCPH's Mosquito and Vector Control Division also tests mosquito samples for diseases other than WNV through its virology lab, such as dengue, chikungunya, St. Louis encephalitis and Zika. However, WNV is the most common mosquito-borne disease in Harris County every year.

"We are seeing more West Nile virus-positive mosquito pools this year than in previous years," said Maximea "Max" Vigilant, director of the Mosquito and Vector Control Division. "This is partly due to our implementation of a more sensitive testing method, qPCR, which allows us to test a larger number of mosquitoes, and hence detect any virus circulating in the populations."

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Mayor hosts free back-to-school fest Aug. 3

Mayor John Whitmire will host the 14th annual Mayor's Back to School Fest Saturday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Exhibit Halls A/B.

This will mark Whitmire's first time hosting the event since taking office earlier this year.

Presented by Shell, the yearly festival is a community-driven initiative aimed at supporting economically disadvantaged elementary school students and their families as they prepare to return to school.

Bridging gaps/empowering students

The Mayor's Back to School Fest is more than just a backpack giveaway. It's a holistic approach to equipping Houston-area students with the tools they need to succeed academically and stay healthy.

Highlights include the following key elements:

– Backpacks and school supplies: Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Shell USA, 25,000 backpacks filled with essential school supplies will be distributed to students. Corporations across the Houston community have also contributed to this effort.

– Health screenings: On-site health screenings are a crucial part of the fest. Families can access dental screenings, sealants, vision checks, routine immunizations, and even COVID vaccines. These services are vital for maintaining students' well-being.

– Community resources: Families attending the fest will have the opportunity to connect with various community agencies offering health services, social support and additional resources.

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City, county cleaning up after Beryl

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, both Harris County and the city of Houston are working to clear debris and ensure community safety.

Harris County

– No need to call for pickup: Residents in unincorporated areas of Harris County do not need to schedule debris pickup. The county's team will be collecting debris throughout the region.

– Reporting debris: If you have debris that needs attention or have questions, feel free to call the dedicated Disaster Recovery Call Center at 713-274-3880.

– Debris guidelines: Place vegetative debris (such as leaves and branches) in clear bags. Avoid using black trash bags, as they will not be picked up.

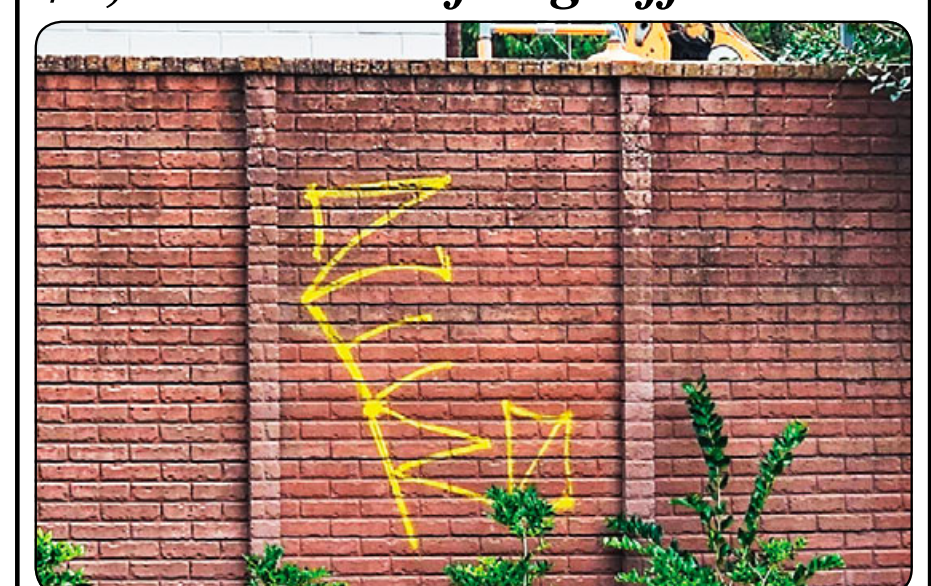
– Common reasons for leaving a flyer on your property include overhead obstructions, household hazardous waste (which is not collected), vehicles blocking access, debris too far from the curb, mixed debris needing separation and the prohibition of black trash bags.

– Helpful video: Harris County has created a video explaining the do's and don'ts of placing debris out for pickup. Learn where to place debris, what items are accepted, and how to avoid common mistakes. To view the video, visit youtu.be/zYtYf-gUtyU?si=9qZ2R0VBmPrCQSU.

– Projected impact: This year's natural disasters in the Houston area are expected to produce over 4.5 million cubic yards of storm debris. Before

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\$1,000 reward for graffiti artist



The concrete fence along Scarsdale at Sageking was vandalized the week of July 4. The Clear Brook City MUD is offering a \$1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the graffiti on district property. Anyone with information on this crime is urged to contact Precinct 2 Lt. Marco Leal at marco.leal@cn2.hctx.net or 281-481-9189.

In My Opinion

Ganje shares Texas Pride Disposal info

Texas Pride Disposal will begin to pick-up bundled and bagged yard debris only beginning the week of July 29, 2024. Bundles and bags should be placed curbside within 5 feet of the paved roadway by 6 a.m.

Drums, barrels, kitchen cans, plastic storage boxes, etc. are NOT considered allowable containers and will be disposed of if left curbside. Only yard specific trash cans will be considered allowable containers. In the event of an "Act of God", trash will be collected on the following scheduled collection day.

The weight limit for these bundles and bags is 40 pounds each. Trash cans over 40 gallons must have all trash bagged for removal.

Tree limbs MUST be bundled in 4-foot lengths and tied into small bundles that can be lifted and handled by a single person. All branches and tree limbs must be no larger than 4 in diameter, weigh no more than 40 pounds and be bundled or bagged.

Large limbs, tree trunks, etc. will be collected by Harris County. Crews are working in the south belt area, but we do not have a schedule of when they will service areas. You may call Harris County Engineers at 713-274-3880 for information.

Appliances, water heaters, mattresses, heavy or large volumes of yard waste and other household goods appropriate for disposal shall be placed within five feet of the curb for collection of the designated heavy trash days. Only 1 large household item per pick-up - e.g. one mattress, one appliance, etc.

A maximum of eight trash items will be accepted each respective heavy trash day. Monday/Thursday Pickup - Ashley Pointe, Amanda Glen, Blackhawk, Clear Brook Landing, College Place, Highland Meadow, Sageglen, Meadows of Clear Creek, Estates of Green Tee, Stillwater Cove, and Wood Meadow subdivisions.

Tuesday/Friday Pickup - Clear Brook Meadows and Riverstone Ranch subdivisions. Refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers or items that contain CFCs (Freon), by law, must have the gas and compressor removed by a licensed technician and be red-tagged prior to collection.

No fencing, landscape or construction business debris will be removed. Private contractors are responsible for removal of all debris associated with their work. (Fencing, drywall, concrete, etc.)

Hazardous waste is not accepted. Go to HCHHW.ORG (Harris County Hazardous Waste Material) to make an appointment. Phone is 281-560-6200 for any questions.

They are located at 6900 Hahl Rd., Houston, TX 77040.

Construction debris, cross ties, logs or stumps, soil or rocks, solvents, paint, petroleum products (oil), fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, batteries of any type, medical waste, cooking oil only.

The trash company will NOT take cooking/frying oil that is not solidified. To dispose of cooking/frying oil, purchase dry spill (oil absorbent), sawdust or kitty litter to solidify oil. Place in sealed container and set out for collection. The trash company will NOT take cooking/frying oil that is in liquid form.

Cooking Oil may also be dropped off at the Clear Lake City Water Authority Cooking Oil Recycling Station Facility; 17507 El Camino Real, Houston, Texas 77058 (Address is on El Camino Real, but you will turn down Beacon Street, oil recycling container is outside of the fenced area around the water tower.) Open to anyone living in the surrounding area.

Trash collection company will leave a tag explaining the reason for non-collected item(s); Residents wishing to discard of construction debris, landscaping debris, fencing, etc. from home repairs or from any outside source via curbside pick-up may call office at 281-484-1562 to receive a bid from the trash company.

Residents wishing to discard of construction debris, fencing, etc. from home repairs may take it to; GFL - Wait times may be extensive since the hurricane.

550 Old Genoa Red-Bluff Road, Houston, Texas 77034, 281-464-9797

Texas Pride Disposal has arranged special pricing for District residents; \$12.50 per Cubic Yard; \$40 Minimum Charge; \$40 Pull Off *All prices are subject to change.

The following rules must be followed to use GFL location:: No one under the age of 16 is allowed. NO Exceptions! Anyone entering must wear a High-Visibility Safety Vest and Hard Hat.

MUST have a paper copy of a CBC MUD statement to get rates posted on calendar and website. MUST provide valid picture ID with address matching statement. Kind regards,

Cecelia J Ganje
General Manager - Administration

Rosemary Carraway recognizes Muecke

Mr. Muecke was such a good representative for his community.

He worked hard for Freeway Manor flood issues for many years, also in our PIP organization, and contributed many articles to the Opinion column of our South Belt Leader throughout the years.

It was an honor to know such a good Houstonian. Well done!!

Rosemary Carraway

James "Jim" Allen Banks



James "Jim" Allen Banks made the transition into the next life to be with his Lord and savior on Feb. 25, 2024, after battling several serious illnesses.

James was born in Houston, on July 6, 1942, and is preceded in death by both of his parents, Allen Murph Banks of Newbern, Tenn. and Lillian Rosalie Kallus (Banks) of Nada, Texas.

James is survived by his lovely bride and childhood sweetheart of 60 years whom he married Sept. 28, 1963, Barbara Nell Smitherman Banks; sister Joyce Palmer; children Kimberly Banks Pajot, Kevin Banks; son-in-law Michael Pajot; grandchildren Nickolas Pajot and Courtney Terry Banks; and two great-granddaughters Carley and Kimber Terry.

James was a devout Catholic and longtime resident of Sagameadow and member of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church in UH. He retired from Clear Lake IBM Federal Systems Division in 1994 after having spent two years in Australia on an international assignment. He often said this was an adventure of a lifetime.

James enjoyed spending time with family and friends at his lake house in Lake Livingston where he loved to fish, boat, do woodworking and golf. He was known to make the best fried catfish dinner ever.

James was a professed Third Order Secular Franciscan, a follower of St. of Assisi, who tried his best to lead his life according to the Gospels.

James was also devoted to prison ministry and spent more

than 20 years ministering to the men in white mainly at the Polunsky unit in Livingston.

Marilyn (Holub) Goolsby



Marilyn (Holub) Goolsby went peacefully to her eternal home July 17, 2024, in Sugar Land. Despite the challenging circumstances of her life bound to a wheelchair after suffering a stroke, she squeezed the most she could out of the last nine of her 83 years, enjoying family, playing bingo, and entertaining the residents and staff at Optimum Personal Care.

She was born Sept. 29, 1940, in Taylor, to parents Thomas and Columbia (Vanvetterman) Holub. She was the baby of four daughters. After the death of her father when she was 8 years old, her mom moved the family to Pasadena, where Marilyn grew up. She graduated from Pasadena High School in 1959.

Marilyn graduated with her kinesiology degree from University of Houston in 1963. While at UH she made the dean's list, worked on campus, was active in the Alpha Chi Omega sorority and sweetheart to Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. She was a homecoming queen finalist and served in student government and other service organizations while also twirling batons as a majorette for the UH Cougar marching band.

After graduating, she taught fourth grade at Pearl Hall Elementary in Pasadena. After a brief courtship on the heels of a blind date at the U.S. Naval Academy ring dance, Marilyn married Richard Goolsby.

She spent the next 20 years serving as a Navy wife and stay-at-home mom to their two children, Rick and Lisa. Marilyn was always active within the military wife community; providing love and support to Navy wives as their husbands were often deployed overseas for long periods. Her packing skills were unmatched, moving every two to three years, from California to Rhode Island, to Maine, Spain, Virginia, Maine, and Virginia over 20 years. Marilyn fell in love with jewelry and the jewelry business, when in 1982 she began working for Today's Cargo, in Old Town Alexandria, Va.

After her divorce in 1984, Marilyn moved back home to the area of Houston. After relocating, she worked in sales at Whitehall Jewelers for several years before finding her vocational calling in hotel sales and event planning; working in that industry for eighteen years, split between the Sheraton Astro-dome and Conrad Hilton Hotel at University of Houston.

"Retiring" in 2006, Marilyn enjoyed bowling, gardening, painting, and crafts along with spending lots of time with her grandkids and family. Never one to sit still, in addition to those activities she loved, Marilyn combed garage sales and flea markets for merchandise she could restore to sell in her resale booth, in the Houston Heights, until suffering from a stroke in 2015 while in recovery for a routine surgery.

While Marilyn attended church throughout her early and married years, she became a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and was baptized in 2011 after plugging into a women's small group at Clear Creek Community Church. She stayed active in that church, serving as a greeter, until her stroke.

Marilyn's pride and joy was her family; raising two kids, six grandkids and five granddogs. She always had fun activities, gifts, and food around, and loved hosting family gatherings at her home. She leaves an indelible impression on the lives of all those who called her Mom, Grama G, sister, aunt and friend.

Marilyn is survived by her two children, Rick Goolsby (Julie) and Lisa Wetmore; and will

be fondly remembered by her grandchildren Ryan, Kyle, Garrett, Courtney, Haley and Melody Goolsby. She is also survived by her sister, Betty Duke, along with numerous nephews, nieces and grandnieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her son-in-law Matthew Wetmore, sisters Carol Bratcher and Tommie Hinski, brothers-in-law Thomas Bratcher and James Duke, nephew Don Bratcher, grandnephew Thomas Bratcher and her precious grandson Kolby John Goolsby.

The family wishes to thank Optimum Personal Care staff, Star of Hope Hospice, Debbie Perry and staff and Pastor Jack Thompson of Sugar Creek Baptist Church for their support, love and care. They also thank her dear friend Carolyn King for being Marilyn's faithful visitor and lunch buddy through these last nine years.

Marilyn was laid to rest at Forest Park Lawnside in a private burial. A Celebration of Life and lunch were held Monday, July 29, 2024, at Sugar Creek Baptist Church Chapel.

James Edward Muecke



James Edward Muecke passed into the presence of the Lord on the evening of July 27, 2024, at the age of 90 years. He was born Feb. 25, 1934, in Shiner to Harry and Sydonia (Effenberger) Muecke. After both his parents tragically died during his childhood, he was raised by his widowed aunt, Viola Schultz. He graduated from Shiner High School in 1952, then furthered his education at

Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) majoring in business and graduating in 1956. In September of that year, he married Virginia Granz, whom he had met at a dance in Shiner.

After his wedding he served in the USAF, stationed in an early radar outpost in northern Japan during the Cold War watching developments out of Vladivostok, then in the Soviet Union. He was later stationed in Formosa (Taiwan), Mt. Tamalpais, Calif and Mexico Beach, Fla.

The couple moved to the Houston area in the late 50s, settling in their present house in 1960. After seven years at Baker Oil Tools (Baker Hughes) in the capacity of material control, he found his long-term employment with Transcontinental Gas Pipeline (Transco, now part of the Williams Companies) in 1963 in the purchasing department, eventually working his way to becoming purchasing manager until his retirement in 1992.

After retirement, he worked other short-term jobs, and in 1994 he and son Brad were hired by Venture Products/SBS Manufacturing, producing gaskets for industrial clients, a position held until 2000 after his wife became seriously ill.

After Virginia's death in 2002, he became more and more heavily involved in numerous neighborhood and civic endeavors. Among them were flooding concerns along the Edgebrook corridor, park improvements, broken streetlights/signals, and other activities; receiving honors from the city of Houston and state of Texas for his efforts.

He was a unique and one-of-a-kind individual for sure. He loved to talk and he had stories for any and all situations. He never shied away from speaking up when he saw a need and if one agreed with him or not, one always knew where he stood. Many friends and neighbors would look to him for help with a myriad situations. James felt it to be the utmost importance and privilege to speak up to address any wrong and try to make it right.

He remained loyal to the military, and helped spearhead an effort along with fellow USAF Cold War veterans, to have increased recognition for their endeavors. In 2019 The effort resulted in a monument honoring the radar station veterans at the USAF museum in Dayton, Ohio. And despite increasing physical troubles, he attended the dedication in November 2019. He also proudly participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. in May/June 2019.

James was a founding member of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in 1962 and remained active in the parish's Men's Club until this past spring. Since 2000 he and Brad have attended St. Luke the Evangelist.

James remained loyal to his hometown of Shiner, visiting in kind, and attending the Catholic church picnics that happened twice every year, his last being the 2023 Labor Day picnic. He was so happy to celebrate his 90th Birthday in Shiner with extended family.

He also loved to help others with mechanical issues, especially lawnmowers.

James is preceded in death by his wife who died in March 2002 after a 45-year marriage, his parents, his aunt Viola and brother Melvin Muecke. He is survived by his two adopted children a daughter, Melissa Muecke Boehm and husband Dennis and son, Bradley Muecke; granddaughters Brenna Boehm Hoose and her husband Marcus, and Hayley Boehm; and great-grandchildren Asher James Hoose and Avery June Hoose.

Visitation will be held Monday, Aug. 5, at Peevey Funeral Home chapel, 12440 Beamer Road from 6-8 p.m. with vigil at 6:30 p.m. The funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 1 p.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road at 1 p.m. Reception will follow in the social hall. Burial will be in Shiner on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, consider donating in James' name to Honor Flight Houston, the St. Luke the Evangelist Capital Campaign, or the civic organization of your choice.

CITGO donates \$100,000 to Hurricane Beryl victims

In response to the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl, CITGO is donating \$100,000 to support local disaster relief efforts being conducted by the Houston Food Bank (HFB), Catholic Charities, and Team Rubicon. While this contribution will address the most urgent needs of food, shelter, and essential supplies, it will also provide long-term support to the affected areas in and around Houston.

On July 8, Hurricane Beryl swept through the city, causing widespread destruction and electricity loss to more than two million homes and businesses. Many communities are still grappling with power outages and other disruptions as rebuilding and restoration efforts continue.

"Our community took a direct hit from Beryl and affected millions of people, some of whom are still suffering weeks after the storm," said CITGO President and CEO Carlos Jordá.

"These three organizations are at the forefront of the recovery efforts, and together we are committed to helping our neighbors in their time of greatest need." The CITGO donation is broken down as follows:

\$50,000 to Houston Food Bank (HFB)
In the aftermath of Beryl, HFB's production output and distribution doubled to approximately 1.2 million pounds of food per day.

\$25,000 to Catholic Charities
Catholic Charities, in collaboration with Team CITGO volunteers, used the donation to support a drive-thru disaster distribution on July 20 at its headquarters. During this event, food, water, and cleaning supplies were distributed to individuals and families affected by the storm.

\$25,000 to Team Rubicon
Team Rubicon deployed disaster response volunteers or Greyshirts to the state on July 13 to provide Hurricane Beryl assistance.

The Greyshirts are serving in and around Houston, tarping roofs, conducting chainsaw operations to clear access to homes and critical infrastructure, bucking and limbing vegetative debris, and mucking out homes damaged by the hurricane.

For information on CITGO's commitment visit <https://www.citgo.com/responsibility>.

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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.

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/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Thursday, Aug. 1, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Family story time.

Thursday, Aug. 1, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lab - computer class.

Monday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lab - computer class.

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 4 - 5 p.m. Youth board games. Registration required.

Wednesday, Aug. 7, 6 - 7 p.m. Conversational living english lessons.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, Aug. 1, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Friday, Aug. 2, 1 - 2 p.m. Genealogy.

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.

- A pickup time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.

- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.

- 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 and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

Mayor hosts free back-to-school fest

Continued from Page 1

It's about addressing the broader needs of families beyond the classroom.

Free parking
Free parking will be available at Houston Astros Lot C (499 - 481 Saint Emanuel Street)

Sponsors
Shell, the title sponsor for 14 years, continues to play a pivotal role in making this event possible. Their commitment to education and community uplift shines through.

Additional sponsors include Calpine, University of Houston, Comcast, Texas Children's Health Plan, Legacy Community Health, DentaQuest, A-Max Auto Insurance, Ambetter from Superior Healthcare, YES Prep, Prairie View A&M University, Houston Community College, First Service Credit Union, Enterprise, McDonalds, Staples, Texas Children's Health Plan, Southwest Airlines, Jetco Delivery and Raising Cane's.

Whitmire emphasized

the continued need for assistance with basic school supplies and health screenings for Houston-area students. The Mayor's Back to School Fest Presented by Shell stands ready to fill those gaps and empower young learners.

To register a student for this year's houston.tx.gov/btsf/registermystudent.html.

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Houston, TX 77049

MARITIME CAMPUS
3700 Old Hwy. 146
La Porte, TX 77571

GEN PARK CAMPUS
13455 Lockwood Rd.
Houston, TX 77044

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sanjac.edu/online

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Centerpoint trims trees, ready for next storm



As the South Belt community recovers from the widespread power outages following Hurricane Beryl, crews from CenterPoint Energy are already trimming trees located near area power lines in preparation for the next possible storm. The power company faced harsh criticism from both residents and elected leaders alike for its storm preparation and recovery efforts, leaving thousands without electricity for more than a week after the storm. CenterPoint crews are shown Sunday, July 28, trimming trees along Hall Road.



Nuisance property leveled, finally



The people pictured above helped put a Sageglenn nuisance property down. Neighbors have been dealing with the property since 2018. Left to right, are Ryan Bailey, Nuisance Abatement supervisor, Harris County Public Health; Josh Mahana, Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement specialist, Harris County Public Health; Cecelia Ganje, general manager of administration CBC MUD; Susan Castillo, community liaison for Harris County Commissioner Precinct 2 Adrian Garcia; Brenda Chamblee, Sageglenn Community Association; Deputy Tommy Berry, liaison Harris County Precinct 2; and Lori Ewing, Sageglenn Community Association. (See related photo on Page 1.)

Master Gardens sets meetings

Green Thumb series hosted by Texas A&M agrilife extension has set meetings for August.

Growing Bulbs in Texas by Harris County Master Gardeners will be on Monday, Aug. 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and will teach one how to choose, plant and grow bulbs in a warm climate.

This free virtual lecture will be hosted by Houston Community College. Register in advance to receive link: hcc.idloom.events/gardening-series/register.

Genoa Friendship Garden- Open Garden Day will be on Monday, Aug. 19, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. One will get a free tour of Genoa Friendship Gardens and see a variety of planting exhibits and talk with Harris County Master Gardeners.

More information about this event can be found at hcmga.tamu.edu.

Growing Bulbs in Texas by Harris County Master Gardeners is set to meet Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 11 a.m. to noon.

This free virtual lecture and is hosted by Harris County Public Library via Facebook live and will teach one how to choose, plant and grow bulbs in a warm climate. No reservation required, facebook.com/harriscountypub/events.

Statewide in-person identity services offered

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) to offer statewide in-person identity (ID) verification for unemployment benefit claims. Unemployment claimants who were notified by TWC to verify their ID after July 1, 2024, now have the option to go to a participating USPS location to complete the ID verification.

As part of TWC's fraud prevention initiative, individuals who apply for unemployment benefits may be required to verify their ID. In cases of suspected identity fraud, this process helps TWC ensure imposters are not able to receive another person's unemployment benefits.

Individuals can verify their identity at participating USPS locations using a state driver's license, state ID card, U.S. Armed Forces or uniformed service ID card, or a U.S. Passport. Individuals will need to visit the Unemployment Benefits Identity Verification webpage and follow all instructions to indicate they will be verifying in person at a USPS location. Upon registering to use the USPS option and receiving an Enrollment Code, users are given a list of participating USPS office locations near them. Claimants must report to the participating USPS location within seven days of registering and show their documents to USPS staff, who will verify their identity. The USPS will automatically notify TWC after the ID verification is complete.

Texans may still verify their identity online through ID.me. Claimants who do not have access to a computer or smartphone may also use computer stations at one of the more than 170 local Workforce Solution offices around Texas or other community resources. For details on TWC and its services in coordination with its local workforce development boards network, call 800-628-5115 or visit <https://twc.texas.gov/>. Subscribe to email updates to receive notifications about TWC programs and services.

San Jac releases dates

Join San Jacinto College for in-person FAFSA/TASFA assistance events at the Central, North and South campuses on Aug. 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 4 to 6 p.m. Assistance is available in English and Spanish. To learn more, visit sanjac.edu/calendar. The fall term begins Monday, Aug. 19. Learn more at sanjac.edu/admissions/courses-registration. Join the Central Campus Gallery for an exhibit by Houston-based artist Celia Butler from Aug. 23 to Sept. 25. Visit facebook.com/SJCCArt to learn more.

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GLO monitors current storm systems

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D. announced that the Texas General Land Office is monitoring active Atlantic systems with a possibility of impacting Texas. "The Texas General Land Office stands ready to help Texans prepare for, and recover from, hurricanes and tropical storms," said Buckingham. "The GLO is monitoring the current storm systems in the Atlantic and will increase readiness procedures as needed in accordance with emergency preparedness plans."

"I urge all Texans to take the time now to prepare your evacuation kits and plan evacuation routes should the need arise." According to the National Hurricane Center, the eye of Hurricane Beryl made landfall on Carriacou Island at 11:10 a.m. AST, Monday, July 8. Data indicated that Beryl's sustained 150 mph winds. For future weather watches, warnings and advisories for Texas, visit <https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/tx.php?x=1>. The GLO encourages Texans to adhere to the following early warning preparedness tips: - Monitor storm systems in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. - Watch local news and follow the National Hurricane Center on Twitter or Facebook.

- Review one's disaster evacuation checklist and have "go bag" ready in case of evacuation. - Know one's available evacuation routes and review them with family. - Be sure to plan multiple routes and be ready for potential road closures. For additional safety tips related to storm surge, flooding, and other dangers, visit recovery.texas.gov/preparedness.

Facebook. - Review one's disaster evacuation checklist and have "go bag" ready in case of evacuation. - Know one's available evacuation routes and review them with family. - Be sure to plan multiple routes and be ready for potential road closures. For additional safety tips related to storm surge, flooding, and other dangers, visit recovery.texas.gov/preparedness.

Do not leave kids or pets in a

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for any amount of time! Cars can become an oven in just 10 minutes.

ALWAYS

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- Lock up

To report kids or pets in hot cars, **CALL 911**

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AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 is welcoming one to join them at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 8, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586. They meet in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

One is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

The speaker for this event will be Dianne Hanegan of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She will introduce the members of Bernardo de Galvez Society Color Guard who will demonstrate and explain the meaning of each fold of the American flag. Wear some red, white, and blue to help celebrate the patriotic program. The

Aug. 8 social will be an appreciation of the AARP veterans. If one is a veteran and a member of AARP chapter and has not signed up for the event and would like to participate, call Lynne Justis at 832-212-6517. AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, Aug. 27. They will tour the Edison Museum in Beaumont. Lunch will be at Crazy Cajun and on the way back will be making at stop at the 9/11 Memorial. One may register for this trip at the Aug. 8 meeting. One must be a member of the local chapter to participate in bus trips. If one is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8. per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show a current national membership to join any local chapter. AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, visit President Veronica Stanford, 409-256-1195, veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.com.

City, county cleaning up after Beryl does its damage

Continued from Page 1
The July 4 holiday, the city removed 1.7 million cubic yards of debris from the Derecho Storm.

City of Houston
- Contract approval: City council members recently approved an amended debris removal contract with four companies, allowing for expedited debris removal operations. The contracts, originally approved on May 29 for debris removal services following the damaging

derecho, could cost up to \$120 million.

- Debris collection progress map:
- Houstonians can track the progress of storm debris pickup using an interactive map.
- Visit bit.ly/HTXStorm to see areas where trucks are currently working.
- Yellow areas indicate neighborhoods where crews are collecting the first pass, green areas show completed first passes, and gray areas are queued for

collection.
- After the first pass, the City will begin a second round of debris collection.
- Estimated cleanup timeline: City officials estimate that debris cleanup will take six to eight weeks. However, the extended wait could lead to non-storm-related trash ending up in places it shouldn't, such as medians. Collection efforts will continue, however, until further notice.
- Neighborhood depositories: All six neighbor-

hood depositories are open for residents to drop off storm debris. Remember not to place debris from the sidewalk toward the property, as it won't be picked up.

The following is a list of neighborhood depositories:
- North Houston: 9003 N. Main, 77022.
- Northwest Houston: 24400 Sommermeier, 77041.
- Northeast: 5565 Kirkpatrick, 77028.
- Southeast: 2240 Cen-

tral Street, 77017.
- South: 5100 Sunbeam, 77033.
- Southwest: 10785 Southwest Freeway, 77074.
For additional information about the city's storm debris pickup and other services, visit houstontx.gov/solidwaste/beryl_strm2024.html or call 3-1-1, the city of Houston's Customer Service Helpline. Residents may also download the HTX Collects app on Google Play or the iOS Store to stay updated.

Remember When

45 years ago (1979)
Dobie High School senior Linda Richardson was named "All American Cheerleader" out of the 600 students who attended camp at Sam Houston State University.

Members of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call reporting rubber burning at a Sagemeadow home to find that there was no fire. The odor had come from two skunks in the front of the home.

40 years ago (1984)
The sixth annual Kick-a-Thon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association was held at the Astro Arena. The event was sponsored by the Dobie High School Lariatettes and Channel 39.

35 years ago (1989)
Heavy winds spurred by Hurricane Chantal, recorded at more than 70 mph at Hobby Airport, ripped away part of the metal roof of the Beamer Road Medical Building.

30 years ago (1994)
Sagemeadow Municipal Utility District voters overwhelmingly approved a \$6 million bond package to allow the district to purchase ownership in the city of Houston's water plant and expand the district.

25 years ago (1999)
Pasadena Independent School District board members approved teacher salary increases averaging 15.7 percent over the previous year's without increasing local taxes for the 1998-85 school year.

20 years ago (2004)
Students in the Pasadena Independent School District, as well as Clear Creek ISD, were set to return to school Aug. 16.

15 years ago (2009)
Former South Belt resident James Daigle was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army. Daigle, a 1983 Dobie graduate, was honored by having one of his Purple Hearts pinned on by former President George W. Bush at a ceremony in Dallas. He was awarded one Purple Heart for taking a bullet in his leg and the other for injury sustained while the vehicle he was in ran over an improvised explosive device (IED). He received the Bronze Star for his valor as a medic on many dangerous missions.

10 years ago (2014)
The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees accepted the recommendation of the School Naming Committee to name two middle schools after longtime board members Fred Roberts and Nelda Sullivan. The school named for Roberts would be located off Conklin Lane, while the campus named for Sullivan would be located in the Queens area. Roberts and Sullivan had both served on the PISD board for 21 years.

5 years ago (2019)
Thunderstorms brought strong winds to the South Belt area, causing extensive damage in the community. A wind advisory was put in place for the Houston area, as wind gusts reached up to 40 mph. Clear Creek ISD announced a significant compensation package for its nearly 5,000 employees. The package included a 4 percent to 9.49 percent pay raise for classroom teachers, counselors, librarians and nurses; competitive hourly rate for school bus drivers; an increase in the district's contribution to employee health care premiums; and an across-the-board 3.5 percent increase for all other employees.

1 year ago (2023)
A cyclist was killed in an accident involving an 18-wheeler around 4:25 p.m. Friday, July 28, near Fuqua and Sabo. Longtime resident Greg Maduzia, 56, died in the crash. According to Houston Police Department officials, the driver of a white Freightliner tractor-truck pulling a trailer was behind the Goodwill store at the above address and attempted to pull out of the parking lot onto Sabo. Maduzia was on a bicycle and traveling on Sabo when he attempted to cross in front of the 18-wheeler. The driver did not see Maduzia, continued to pull onto the street and struck the bicyclist. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded and pronounced Maduzia dead at the scene. The driver of the 18-wheeler, who remained at the scene, was determined not to be impaired and was questioned and released. No charges were immediately filed.

Over The Back Fence by Bella

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays August 1 through August 7.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Stacy Fontenot** Aug. 1.

Burnett Elementary
Send birthday greetings Aug. 5 to **Isabel Amaya** and **Daniel Kornelis**.

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

Stuchbery Elementary
Blow out the candles Aug. 5 for **Mirtha Arredondo**.

Moore Elementary
Patty Valdez celebrates a birthday Aug. 6.

South Belt Elementary
Jacquelyn Anderson is wished a happy birthday Aug. 5. Blow out the candles Aug. 7 for **Marisol Yanez**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Aug. 7 are sent to **Eida Delafuente**.

Melillo Middle School
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. Aug. 7 is the day for a party for **Laura Clarke** and **Audrey Medina**.

Roberts Middle School
Xiomara Cortez celebrates a birthday Aug. 1.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Sing a happy birthday song Aug. 2 to **Shasta Williams**. The day for birthday fun for **Arnold Agrella** is Aug. 3.

Thompson Intermediate
Remember to wish **Patricia Tabarez** and **Bob Boyes** a happy birthday Aug. 1. Send a birthday greeting Aug. 2 to **Meliza Evanson**.

Dobie High
Birthday greetings are sent to **Sherrie Kent** Aug. 3.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Aug. 1: **Gabriel Diaz, Andrew Burks, Denny Wranich Sr., Ryan Hanzelka, Jo Lyday** and **Scott Bishop**; Friday, Aug. 2: **Mayra Elizabeth, Patricia Lynn Krivik, Ana Acosta, Juanita Herrera, Terry Barclay** and **Donna Northrup**; Saturday, Aug. 3: **Angela James-Farrar, Joaquin Jimenez, Jennifer Pena-Zuniga** and **Gina Valdez**; Sunday, Aug. 4: **Beth Fawcett, Monica Salazar, Donna Taylor, Kristen Sorenson, Diana Polus, Kevin Baker, Michele Cutrer** and **Robin Wach**; Monday, Aug. 5: **Edna Peña, Wendy Phillips, Karen Owen, Lillie Alvarez, Deanna Goodlet** and **Shaun Stanton**; Tuesday, Aug. 6: **Renita Walker, David Perry, Kenneth Brown** and **Jeff Weber**; and Wednesday, Aug. 7: **Curtis Bradley, Claudia Castillo, Eric Jackson, Doug Mills** and **Vu Tuong**.

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

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PASADENA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Beverly Hills plans Community Day

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

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

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

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

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

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

A variety of concessions will be available during the event via cash-only purchase.



Demarcus Hodges and his teammates are inching closer and closer to the start of preseason football workouts for returning sophomores, juniors and seniors as they begin preparation for the start of the 2024 season. A returning junior, Hodges made a big splash as a sophomore a season ago and is expected to have another big year for the locals. The Dobie program is looking ahead to taking on the Clear Brook Wolverines in week one action later this month.

LSA's Collins picks SFA



Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball standout Aniston Collins has announced that she has verbally committed to continue her education and playing career at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. Collins, an incoming junior with the Pioneers, had nearly 800 assists as the team's primary setter in 2023 while leading LSA to the state tournament for the second straight season. The Pioneers advanced to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state championship match before losing, finishing the season with 41 overall wins. Heading into the 2024 season, Lutheran South is intent on trying to reach the state tournament again. One of the state's top-ranked setters, Collins can now focus on preparing for the upcoming season knowing that her collegiate future is secured. LSA opens the 2024 season Aug. 15-17 at the Pasadena Memorial Volleybash.

Cowboys practicing; kickoff is Aug. 17

With preseason practices underway, the Sagemont Cowboys of the Bay Area Football League are working toward the start of the regular season, which comes Saturday, Aug. 17.

The Cowboys are set to open 2024 with a visit to take on the Magnolia Park Sharks as part of a full day of action. The peewee division will start at 8 a.m., with the freshman then kicking off at 9 a.m.

Sophomore play follows at 11 a.m., with the juniors going head-to-head at 1 p.m. The senior division completes play with a 3 p.m. kickoff.

High school volleyball workouts start Aug. 5

The high school volleyball season is about to take center stage as workouts begin Aug. 5 in preparation for the 2024 regular season.

Most high schools across the Houston area, including Clear Brook and Dobie, will go through preseason training throughout the week prior to scrimmaging Aug. 9-10.

The high school regular season begins Aug. 13 as Dobie plays at Baytown Sterling and Clear Brook plays at St Agnes. Clear Brook is also scheduled to compete in the prestigious John Turner Classic in Pearland Aug. 15-17.

Dobie will truly get a fresh start as longtime head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will develop a varsity roster largely made up of first-year performers.

LSA adds Jones to coaching staff

Lutheran South Academy has announced that Anna Jones, a former standout softball player with the Pioneers, has been added to the staff as a middle school volleyball and softball coach. Jones was a key contributor to LSA's state championship softball team. That team also featured Shelby Smith, who will be a high school softball assistant coach with the Pioneers next spring.

PISD intermediate VB starts Sept. 3-4

Opening day is Aug. 28 on the Pasadena ISD intermediate volleyball scene as the Thompson Lions play at Queens, while the Beverly Hills Bears play at Parkview. The Pasadena ISD intermediate football season begins September 3-4, with Thompson taking on Queens and Beverly Hills going up against the Jackson Wildcats.

Football preseason begins Aug. 5

The high school football season will officially kick off Aug. 5 as the incoming freshman players may start workouts in preparation for the 2024 regular season.

Both Clear Brook and Dobie will then begin preseason workouts for returning sophomore junior and senior players Aug. 12.

For the third straight season the Wolverines and Longhorns we'll meet to open the regular season for 2024 as Dobie will host the Wolverines Aug. 28 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena for a 6:30 p.m. kickoff.

Clear Brook's Patrick Sanders begins his third season in charge of the Wolverines while Dobie is led by first-year head coach Danny Fitzmorris.

Dobie is looking to continue a string of playoff berths as Fitzmorris takes over the program. The Longhorns won the District 22-6A championship a season ago and went 8-3 overall.

Dobie Team Tennis 2024 Projected Boys' Singles Lineup

- 1) Diego Flores (Sr.)
- 2) Rigo Alanis (Sr.)
- 3) Nestor Garza (Sr.)
- 4) Pitou So (captain) (Sr.)
- 5) Nolan Tran (Sr.)
- 6) Tre Ramirez (co-captain) (Sr.)
- 7) Jordan De Robles (Jr.)
- 8) Jacob Kostikoglou (Sr.)
- 9) Vince Bui (Sr.)
- 10) Kevin Do (Jr.)
- 11) Eric Perez (Sr.)
- 12) Logan Pham (Fr.)
- 13) Jonathan Alexander (Sr.)
- 14) Trjah Smith (Soph.)

Projected Girls' Singles Lineup

- 1) Dulce Mejia (co-captain) (Jr.)
- 2) Chloe Estes (captain) (Jr.)
- 3) Vyvy Do (Sr.)
- 4) Angelina Vu (Soph.)
- 5) Tiffany Nguyen (Jr.)
- 6) Alena Morgan (Sr.)
- 7) Aranza Gonzalez (Jr.)
- 8) Marina Kostikoglou (Soph.)
- 9) Vivian Hang (Soph.)



Dobie tennis team captains (from left to right) Dulce Mejia, Chloe Estes, Tre Ramirez and Pitou So look over the itinerary for this week's opening-season team tennis dual matches at Ennis, Sherman and Lewisville high schools. The Longhorns then host Friendswood, Clear Falls and Katy Aug. 5-7 before playing a doubleheader Aug. 9 at home against Clear Creek and Richmond George Ranch.

JFD opens team tennis season with enthusiasm

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

A roster reload just in time for the University Interscholastic League's biannual realignment is not exactly the perfect scenario for the Dobie fall team tennis squad, but veteran head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. is confident things will come together as his program aims at a late-season playoff push in District 22-6A.

It all began July 31 for Dobie, which as part of a trip to Dallas opened the season against Ennis and will go against Sherman and Lewisville Aug. 1 before enjoying a trip to the local theme park.

A both busy and challenging August slate of matches next awaits the Longhorns. It all starts Aug. 5 as Dobie hosts Friendswood, then Clear Falls Aug. 6, followed by hosting Katy Aug. 7.

Dobie travels to Baytown Sterling Aug. 8, then hosts Clear Creek the morning of Aug. 9 before hosting George Ranch in the Battle of the Cattle in the afternoon. The neighborhood battle between the Longhorns and Clear Brook is set for Aug. 13 at Dobie, and the Longhorns also have home matches against Dickinson, Clear Lake, Alief Hastings, Summer Creek, Clear Springs and La Porte during the month.

Dobie will play at Magnolia Aug. 24, and will mix in its District 22-6A

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1
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, AUGUST 2
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.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
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, 5215 Preston Ave. Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - See Friday's notice.
12:30 - 3 p.m. **Ballroom Dancing** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Monday for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
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 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
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.
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 sehouston.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)** - 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.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice. **THURSDAY, JULY 11**
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. 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.
9:30 a.m. **NASA Aglow Community Light-house** - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.
11:30 a.m. **ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South American Business Women's Association - Meetings are held January - November on the second Thursday of the month at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland, TX 77584. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

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Garcia appointed to 2 NACo national leadership positions

National Association of Counties (NACo) President James Gore appointed Harris County, Texas Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia to a one-year term as chair of NACo's Justice and Public Safety Policy Steering Committee and as a vice chair of the NACo Immigration Reform Task Force.

Gore, a supervisor in Sonoma County, Calif., issued leadership appointments shortly after being sworn in as NACo's president on July 15, at the conclusion of NACo's annual conference, the nation's largest convening of county leaders.

"Public safety is county officials' most important responsibility," said Garcia. "I

am honored that President Gore entrusted me to chair the Justice and Safety Committee. As a 20+ year veteran of the Houston Police Department and former sheriff of Harris County I am ready to apply that experience and get to work on developing smart policy for counties to keep residents safe. We must also ensure that our criminal justice system operates fairly and equitably. I am excited to get to work!"

The Justice and Public Safety Policy Steering Committee is responsible for all matters about criminal justice and public safety systems, including criminal justice planning, law enforcement, courts,

corrections, homeland security, community crime prevention, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, emergency management, fire prevention and control, and civil disturbances.

For more information about NACo's Justice and Public Safety Committee visit www.naco.org/committee/justice-public-safety-policy-steering-committee

Active in NACo for several years, Garcia has previously served as a vice chair for NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee and Large Urban County Caucus, as well as a member of the Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus and International Economic Development Task Force. Garcia also served as a member of NACo's Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Given the central role of county governments in ensuring the health and safety of all members of local communities, county leaders are important stakeholders in discussions related to federal immigration policies. NACo's Immigration Reform Task Force provides a forum for county officials from across the nation to discuss the impact of federal immigration policy on local governments and communities, and to engage with federal decision makers on matters related to immigration. The Task Force

is also charged with advising NACo's ten policy steering committees on federal immigration issues.

"I am excited to have been appointed to be a vice chair of Immigration Reform Task Force. We will be working to develop real solutions for our system. We need common-sense pragmatism, without political rhetoric," said Garcia. "This bipartisan task force will put politics aside and focus on ways to improve our immigration system so that leaders in Washington can adopt our ideas into policy that works for stakeholders. I'm honored by President Gore's trust in me to work on this important task force."

For information about NACo's Immigration Reform Task Force visit www.naco.org/committee/immigration-reform-task-force.

NACo strengthens America's counties, including nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate for county government priorities in federal policymaking; promote exemplary county policies and practices; nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks; optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings; and enrich the public's understanding of county government.

Beltway 8 and Spencer crash blocks traffic



A little outside the South Belt area, an accident at Beltway 8 and Spencer caused havoc for those traveling nearby. Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia posted this picture which was credited to Harris County Toll Road Authority as traffic was blocked in both directions for a significant amount of time on the afternoon of Thursday, July 25.

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WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, August 30
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Sunday, Sept. 1
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County identifies West Nile disease

Continued from Page 1

Tip, toss, take action

As temperatures rise in Harris County, so do mosquito populations. HCPH wants residents to remember the three Ts when it comes to mosquito control in their area – Tip, Toss, Take Action!

Tip

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 can also breed 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 one's home.

Take action

There are also several ways to take action and reduce mosquito populations.

- Use insect repellent. When using mosquito repellent, keep these following points in mind:
 - Apply an EPA-registered repellent when outdoors.
 - Use as directed by the label instructions on the product.
 - Do not use insect repellents on babies younger than 2 months.
 - Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane diol (PMD) on children younger than 3 years of age.
 - 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 pesticide that kills mosquitoes in their early stages of development (larvae) before they become biting adults.
- They are sold in the form of liquid tablets, pellets, granules, and briquettes and are available in most hardware stores. Larvicides are safe to use for the environment.
- Follow the instructions for the larvicide product one is using.
- Make sure to completely turn off outdoor faucets to prevent leaks; fix any faucets that are constantly leaking.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows.

For additional mosquito prevention tips and resources, visit hcphtx.org/Prevent-TheBite.

CCISD approves 4% raise

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 2024-2025 compensation package for employees at the regular meeting on July 22, 2024.

This will result in a 3 percent raise for teachers and professional staff and a 4 percent raise for nonexempt staff. Those on a teacher salary schedule who reach a five-year tenure mark will see a total increase of 6.9-8 percent.

The board also approved an increase in stipends for various academic, fine arts and athletics positions and a \$11 monthly increase in the district's contribution for all health insurance plans.

The starting salary for teachers will now be \$62,500.

"People are always at the forefront of our purpose and our promise to the community," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Engle. "I am grateful to the board of trustees for their commitment and heartfelt recognition of our team's hard work and dedication to our mission."

These changes will go into effect on Sept. 1, 2024.

Garcia steps up DWI arrests

Continued from Page 1

During the course of the

Juan I. Avila

traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. The driver consented to Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, and it was determined that the driver was intoxicated.

The driver was arrested and booked into the Harris County Joint Processing Center for driving while intoxicated.

The driver was identified as 50-year-old Rafael A. Martinez.

On July 28, Toll Road

Rafael A. Martinez

deputies with Garcia's office, while on active patrol on the South Sam Houston Parkway East, observed a vehicle driving westbound at what appeared to be a high rate of speed. The driver failed to maintain a single lane and failed to signal a lane change.

Deputies caught up to the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop in the 4700 block of South Sam Houston Parkway East.

During the traffic stop, the driver displayed multiple signs of intoxication. The driver consented to Standard-

Tracy M. Oneal

ized Field Sobriety Tests, and it was determined that the driver was intoxicated.

The driver was arrested and booked into the Harris County Joint Processing Center for driving while intoxicated.

The driver was identified as 35-year-old Tracy M. Oneal.

Combating DWI offenses along Beltway 8 has been an ongoing effort for Garcia's office, with Precinct 2 Toll Road

deputies making at least 20 such arrests over the last two months.

SJC Early Childhood earns recognition

Continued from Page 1

critical thinking, and a deep understanding of child development, preparing students to become leaders in early childhood education.

The program focuses on preparing students to work with young children between the ages of 0 and 8,

with many classes offering lab hours at the on-campus Lab School, which is also NAEYC accredited.

Because of this accreditation, San Jacinto College's Early Childhood Education program serves as a leader in the region.

Program classes often fill quickly, demonstrating the high demand for quality early childhood education.

For additional information on San Jacinto College's Early Childhood Education program, visit publications.sanjac.edu/areas-study/education/early-childhood-bas.