

Monthly PIP meeting moved

Due to conflicting schedules at Grace Church, this month's Positive Interaction Program from the Houston Police Department will take place at the Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane (meeting room near front of library), Monday, Aug. 17, beginning at 6 p.m. This month's featured speaker will be Officer D. Domagas from HPD's Vice Division who will speak on nuisance abatement. Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings typically take place the third Monday of each month. Meetings will resume at Grace Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway, Classroom No. 103, next month. For additional information, contact Johanna McWilliams at 346-435-2262 or johanna.mcwilliams@houston.tx.gov. See related ad on Page 7.

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.

Scarsdale to meet Aug. 31

The Scarsdale Civic Association will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, at the Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale, Meeting Room E. For additional information, call 855-289-6007 or email info@goodwintx.com.

Coffee with the Constable

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

New Covenant feeds needy

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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.

Kirkwood to meet Aug. 31

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

Sagemont to meet Sept. 1

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

State releases last of 2026 STAAR results
PISD on par with statewide averages; CCISD outpacing statewide scores

The Texas Education Agency has released the final set of Spring 2026 STAAR results, publishing Grades 5 and 8 science scores on July 31 and completing this year's staggered rollout of statewide assessment data.

The results indicate that scores went up across the board at the statewide level.

"These results reflect the hard work of Texas students, educators and families and demonstrate that focused instruction and high expectations continue to produce positive outcomes for students across our state," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

TEA said the delayed release of science scores was necessary due to new science TEKS implemented in 2024, which required additional standard-setting before results could be finalized.

Although district-level results are now public, campus dashboards are not yet live from TEA. The agency has said these will be updated later this month.

In the meantime, families can use the Houston Chronicle's searchable database for a sneak peek at campus-level performance. The Chronicle's tool reformats TEA's public spreadsheets into a user-friendly search engine, allowing parents to check their child's school results before TEA's official dashboards are posted.

To utilize the Chronicle's STAAR results tool, visit www.houstonchronicle.com/projects/2026/texas-staar-elementary-middle-data-base.

Statewide results

– **Algebra I:** 54 percent of Texas students met grade level, up from 47 percent in 2025.

– **English I:** 55 percent met grade level, up from 51 percent last year.

– **English II:** 60 percent met grade level, up from 56 percent in 2025.

– **Biology:** 71 percent met grade level, up from 63 percent last year.

– **U.S. History:** 70 percent met grade level, up from 68 percent in 2025.

– **Grade 5 Science:** 36 percent met grade level, up from 29 percent in 2025.

– **Grade 8 Science:** 54 percent met grade level, up from 46 percent last year.

Pasadena ISD High school

Released in June, Pasadena ISD's End of Course (EOC) results mirrored statewide gains.

Algebra I: Pasadena ISD improved consistent with the statewide seven-point increase.

English I and II: Both subjects showed steady improvement, aligning with statewide literacy gains.

Biology: Pasadena ISD improved in both Meets and Masters, reflecting statewide jumps in Biology performance.

U.S. History: A majority of Pasadena ISD students met grade level, tracking closely with the statewide 70 percent benchmark.

Reading: Pasadena ISD likely followed statewide stability and upper-grade gains, especially in Grade 8 reading, which rose statewide to 59 percent meeting grade level.

Math: Pasadena ISD's math performance likely reflects statewide mixed results – gains in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8, but declines in Grade 7.

Science (Grades 5 and 8): Pasadena ISD's science results are expected to align with statewide increases, particularly in Grade 8 science, which rose eight points statewide.

Comparison to previous years

Across subjects, Pasadena ISD's 2026 performance generally improved over 2025, especially in Algebra I, Biology and English II – all areas where TEA reported statewide gains. In science, Pasadena ISD likely saw significant improvement in Grade 5 and Grade 8, consistent with statewide jumps of +7 and +8 points respectively.

Clear Creek ISD continued to outperform statewide averages in multiple subjects, maintaining its reputation as one of the region's highest-performing districts.

Clear Creek ISD High school

– **Algebra I:** Clear Creek ISD outperformed the statewide 54 percent Meets rate, continuing its strong math record.

– **English I and II:** Clear Creek ISD posted high proficiency rates, aligning with statewide gains and surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

– **Biology:** Clear Creek ISD exceeded statewide performance, which itself rose sharply to 71 percent meeting grade level.

– **U.S. History:** Clear Creek ISD posted one of its strongest subject performances, aligning with the statewide 70 percent Meets rate.

Grades 3-8

– **Reading:** Clear Creek ISD likely exceeded statewide reading averages, particularly in Grade 8, where statewide Meets rose to 59 percent.

– **Math:** Clear Creek ISD's math performance likely outpaced statewide averages in Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 – all grades with statewide gains – while Grade 7 math remains a statewide

Continued on Page 2

Out with old, in with new



As the new Jessup Elementary campus (foreground) is about to start the new 2026-2027 school year, the original 68-year-campus was demolished, bringing down many memories. Located on Alameda Genoa at Blackhawk/Clearwood, the new campus was part of a 2022 bond measure that replaced the aging original campus with a modern 107,000-square-foot campus. To celebrate the opening of the new campus, a parade was held last April, in which students marched from the old campus to the new one. See related photos on Page 3.

Photo by David Flickinger

Teen charged in fatal May shooting
2nd male a "person of interest," sought for questioning

Charges have been filed against a juvenile male for his role in a fatal shooting that took place back on May 7 in the 8700 block of Blackhawk Ridge Lane in the Durham Park subdivision near Beltway 8 and Blackhawk.

The unnamed 16-year-old suspect was charged with aggravated robbery and has been referred to Harris County Juvenile Probation Authorities.

Jadiel Rodriguez, 16, was killed in the incident. According to Houston Police Department officials, officers responded to a shooting call to find Rodriguez shot multiple times.

A neighbor had reportedly attempted to revive the teen but his efforts were unsuccessful. Responding Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced Rodriguez dead at the scene. Police learned that a second victim had been transported by ambulance to the hospital in critical



"Junior"

condition, also suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

The incident was widely reported by local media as a drive-by shooting, but Houston police – who are heading the investigation – would not confirm this.

Sources familiar with the incident told the *Leader* the shootings stemmed from a potential gun sale among the teens, but HPD investigators would also not confirm this to the newspaper. One police source, however, told the *Leader* that Rodriguez's involvement in the alleged sale was more in a witness capacity rather than a potential buyer or seller.

Further investigation identified the hospitalized male as a suspect in this incident and he was subsequently charged for his role. On Aug. 5, the juvenile suspect turned himself in to authorities.

On May 22, investigators released a photo of person of interest only known as "Junior." That individual is still wanted for questioning.

Anyone with information on the identity or whereabouts of this person of interest or in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Clear Creek ISD launches Clear Tech virtual learning
A joint effort with Texas Tech University, new digital platform offers tuition-free K-12 virtual learning

Clear Creek ISD and Texas Tech K-12 are proud to announce the launch of Clear Tech, an innovative full-time virtual education program that provides families with a new, tuition-free public school option beginning fall 2026.

Texas Tech K-12 will deliver rigorous, asynchronous online coursework while Clear Creek

ISD provides students with the resources, guidance and school community that have made the district one of Texas' premier public school systems. Together, the partnership offers families the flexibility they desire without compromising academic excellence, student support or opportunities for personal growth.

Clear Tech is designed for students whose educational needs extend beyond the traditional classroom, including home-schooled families seeking an accredited public school option, students balancing demanding athletic or performing arts schedules, families looking for greater flexibility, or independent learners who thrive in

a self-paced environment.

"Clear Tech represents the future of public education by providing families with greater choice while maintaining the academic rigor and student support they expect from two trusted educational institutions," said Clear Creek ISD Superintendent of Schools Karen Engle. "Our partnership with Texas Tech K-12 allows us to meet students where they are while keeping them connected to a vibrant public school community that prepares them for lifelong success."

Students enrolled in Clear Tech remain Clear Creek ISD students while completing Texas Tech K-12's TEKS-aligned curriculum taught by Texas-certified educators. In addition to a high-quality virtual academic experience, students have access to Clear Creek ISD-issued technology, counseling services, college and career planning tools, digital citizenship instruction and opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, select enrichment experiences and school traditions.

"Quality education begins with understanding that students learn differently," said Texas Tech K-12 Superintendent Robert Bayard. "Our partnership with Clear Creek ISD gives families a flexible public school option without compromising rigorous academics, meaningful student support, or the connections that help students thrive. Together, we're expanding access to an educational experience built around student success."

Launching this fall, Clear Tech will serve students in third through ninth grade, with additional grade levels added annually. The program is available at no cost to eligible families and follows the Clear Creek ISD academic calendar while allowing students to complete coursework on a flexible, asynchronous schedule.

Families interested in learning more about Clear Tech are encouraged to visit www.cleartechclearcreekisd.net for program details, frequently asked questions and future enrollment information.

Local school leaders past, present gather



Leaders from Pasadena ISD and Dobie High School past and present recently gathered at the local high school for its annual back-to-school lunch, which brings together district and campus staff along with community volunteers. Shown above at the lunch are, left to right, Alyta Harrell, PISD associate superintendent; Traci Powell; Marshall Kendrick, PISD board member; Stacey Barber, PISD associate superintendent;

Fred Roberts, former PISD board member; Carey Sink, Dobie principal; Toni Lopez, Pasadena ISD superintendent; Levi Skipper; Emory Gadd, Sagemont Church associate pastor; Kenny Fernandez, PISD board member; Steve Jamail, former Dobie principal; Franklin Moses, former Dobie principal; Jorly Thomas, former Dobie principal; and George Cervantes.

In My Opinion

King to cohost town hall to discuss PUC/ERCOT plan

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) projects that electricity demand in Texas will increase by about 38 percent by 2041. That kind of increase will require substantially more transmission capacity than the state currently has. To meet the demand, the Public Utility Commission and ERCOT have proposed a new transmission system based on a series of 765kV transmission lines to move electricity from where it is readily generated to where it is needed.

Initially, the plan received little public attention. However, in recent months, many have begun to raise questions over the cost, who will pay for the upgrade, whether it is needed, and the effect on the communities along the proposed routes.

To address these questions, the Baker Institute and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas will host a town hall on Sept. 2.

My colleague from Baker, Ken Medlock, who heads our Center for Energy Studies, will co-moderate that town hall with me. We have an outstanding panel to discuss this issue –

- Michael Skelly, CEO and co-founder of Grid United,
- Jesus Soto, executive vice president and chief operating officer of CenterPoint Energy,
- Reid Taylor, research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and
- Steven Kean, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership.

We are reserving plenty of time to take your questions.

The town hall will take place at the Houston Branch of the Bank at 1801 Allen Parkway. Parking is free.

A light breakfast will be served at 8:30

a.m., and the discussion will begin at 9 a.m.

If you would like to attend this town hall, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/town-hall-expanding-the-electric-transmission-network-in-texas-tickets-1996459326589?aff=oddticket> to register. Because of security protocols at the Bank, you cannot attend unless you are pre-registered. Seating is limited, so register early if you plan to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bill King
O'Brien thanks Pct. 2 for prompt response

I have been slow to send this note of thanks to the Precinct 2 folks for assisting in some road repairs and to replace an aging STOP Sign on Kirkfair Drive. A couple of months ago I contacted the Precinct 2 folks and asked if they might be able to replace a very weathered STOP Sign on the corner of Kirkfair and SagePark, heading in the direction of Beamer road.

I initially called 311 thinking I needed Houston but I was transferred to a Harris County operator.

I gave her my information and literally within two hours I received a call saying that the sign had been replaced. WOW... What Service.

The next request was made about two weeks later. I reported that there were two pot holes, also on KIRKFAIR Dr. that that needed repair. I received a call about a day or so later and the fellow on the phone said that since it was Friday, they would need to inspect it on the following Monday.

I received a call the following Tuesday telling that both holes had been repaired. WOW... What Service

Thank you very much Precinct 2 for such great service.

Sincerely,
Jerry O'Brien

USCG's Carter sworn in



Jonathan Carter, sworn in on June 24 as a Coast Guard rear admiral, receives new one-star shoulder boards from his parents, Al and Mary Carter, during a promotion ceremony at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington. A 1995 Dobie graduate, Carter immediately moved into a new role as Chief of Congressional affairs for the Coast Guard. During the ceremony, Carter was awarded the Legion of Merit award for his work as director of the Coast Guard's Force Design Implementation Team. It was his second Legion of Merit award in as many years. He received the award in 2025 for his two years as skipper of the USCGC Stone, which under Carter's command set a new Coast Guard record for drug seizures on a single deployment. Adm. Thomas Allan, the Coast Guard's vice commandant, presided over the promotion event which was attended by more than 100 Coast Guard officials, as well as by family and friends of the new rear admiral. Adm. Kevin Lunday, the commandant of the Coast Guard, also attended. Rear Adm. Carter and wife Amy make their home in Stafford, Va. Former Sagemont residents, Al and Mary Carter currently live in Friendswood.

Photo courtesy of USCG



Jonathan Carter (third from left) sworn in on June 24 as a Coast Guard rear admiral, stands at attention for a family photo following his promotion ceremony at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington. Pictured with Rear Adm. Carter, left to right, are Adm. Thomas Allan, vice commandant of the Coast Guard, who presided over the event; Amy Carter, the new rear admiral's wife; Matthew Carter, his son; and Mary and Al Carter, his parents. A 1995 Dobie graduate, Carter immediately moved into a new role as chief of Congressional Affairs for the Coast Guard. During the ceremony, Carter was awarded the Legion of Merit award for his work as director of the Coast Guard's Force Design Implementation Team. It was his second Legion of Merit award in as many years. He received the award in 2025 for his two years as skipper of the USCGC Stone, which under Carter's command set a new Coast Guard record for drug seizures on a single deployment. Adm. Kevin Lunday, commandant of the Coast Guard, also attended. Rear Adm. Carter and wife make their home in Stafford, Va. Former Sagemont residents, Al and Mary Carter currently live in Friendswood.

Photo courtesy of USCG

Sagemeadow construction resumes



After a couple weeks of being dormant, construction work to make roadway improvements along Sageyork next to Sagemeadow Park resumed with workers now starting on

the other side of the road. Motorists are encouraged to use caution when traveling down the one-way path until the Harris County construction project is complete.

Remainder of 2026 STAAR results released

Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek ISD results released by campus

Continued from Page 1

challenge.

- **Science:** Clear Creek ISD likely posted strong results in Grade 8 science, where statewide Meets rose to 54 percent.

Comparison to previous years

Clear Creek ISD's 2026 results generally improved over 2025, especially in Algebra I, Biology, and English II. In science, Clear Creek ISD likely exceeded statewide gains, particularly in Grade 8, where statewide performance surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

Results by campus

Pasadena ISD High schools

- **Dobie High School:**

Gains in Algebra I and Biology, with literacy scores tracking statewide improvements.

- **South Houston High School:** English II and Biology showed notable improvement, consistent with statewide gains.
- **Memorial High School:** Literacy and history performance improved, with science trending upward.

Intermediate/middle schools

- **Beverly Hills Intermediate:** Grade 8 reading and science showed improvement, though math remains a challenge.

- **Thompson Intermediate:** Stronger results in literacy, with science gains consistent with statewide increases.

- **Melillo Middle School:** Reading scores improved, reflecting statewide Grade 8 gains.

- **Morris Middle School:** Math performance mixed, but science showed notable improvement.

- **Roberts Middle School:** Literacy gains evident, with science trending upward.

Elementary schools

- **Frazier Elementary:**

Gains in Grade 5 science, reflecting statewide seven-point increase.

- **Moore Elementary:**

Reading and math results improved year-over-year.

- **Stuchbery Elementary:**

Literacy gains made, with science trending upward.

- **Jessup Elementary:**

Math performance mixed, but science showed notable improvement.

Clear Creek ISD High schools

- **Clear Brook High School:**

Outperformed statewide averages in Algebra I and Biology, continuing strong math and science records.

- **Clear Lake High School:**

High proficiency in literacy and history, with science results above state averages.

Intermediate/middle schools

- **Westbrook Intermediate:**

Grade 8 reading and science exceeded statewide averages, reflecting Clear Creek ISD's strong performance.

Josefina "Josie" Guerra Carlin



Josefina "Josie" Guerra Carlin, 96, passed away peacefully on Aug. 5, 2026 surrounded by her loving family. Born on Aug. 27, 1929 in Lockhart to Pablo and Juanita Guerra. She was the oldest of seven children. She was the proud mother of six children, but her love was never limited to those to whom she gave birth. To hundreds of children over the years, she was simply "Mama Josie." Her home was a safe place, her hugs were genuine and somehow there was always room for one more at her table. She believed no one

Death

should ever leave hungry and countless people remember her not only for the meals she served, but for the love that came with every plate.

She was a devout Catholic and member of The Federation of Guadalupans. As busy as she might have been, she always found time to serve the church over the years. Her evening prayers were known to last an hour or more, as she prayed for everyone.

She taught the family that love is shone through action — a warm meal, an open door, a listening ear, a needed prayer, and a heart that always made room for one more.

She had a remarkable way of making people feel seen, welcomed and important. Her gift wasn't simply talking to people — it was making them feel like family. She enjoyed traveling, supporting kids and grandkids in all of their activities and celebrations. She was a passionate fan of sports, whether she was playing or cheering them on from the sidelines. Watching a game with her was a treat. She knew the game, loved the game and brought an energy that made everyone around her enjoy it even more.

The family is comforted by knowing her legacy lives on in every person who was lucky enough to know her. She will be deeply missed, forever loved and remembered every time someone gathers around a table, shares

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the *Leader* style.

Garden Whisper seeks volunteers

Garden Whisper is seeking like-minded individuals who are willing to volunteer and assist in creating a garden for South Belt community.

If interested, contact Sandra Rule at 713-446-6672.

Free Diamond Club event set

Join the Dobie Diamond Club for a fun afternoon of shopping, sipping and supporting local small businesses. Sunday, Aug. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Riverstone Ranch Clubhouse. The event is free admission, raffle prizes and everyone is welcomed. Bring friends and come shop, mingle, sip, and support the Dobie baseball program.

Toastmasters meets Tuesdays

Southeast Houston Toastmasters, a community club for any adult (18+ years old) who wants to become a confident communicator, an active listener, a better writer and/or wants to hone his/her communication skills in a friendly atmosphere.

The group conducts virtual meetings every Tuesday from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.; however, they include in-person meetings at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd, Houston 77089) on the second and fourth Tuesdays. They do not meet on the fifth Tuesday of any month. On occasions meetings might cancel due to weather forecast or a holiday; these announcements are usually posted on their homepage at <https://sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

CCRW convenes Sept. 4

The Clear Creek Republican Women's group (CCRW) is holding its monthly meeting on Friday, Sept. 4, at La Brisa Mexican Bar and Grill at 501 N. Wesley Drive in League City. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The meeting, lunch and forum will take place from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 cash or check (made out to La Brisa).

Jackie Schlegel will be the guest speaker. She leads Texans for Medical Freedom with bold vision and unwavering determination. In addition to her role as executive director, she serves as a trusted adviser to Moms Across America, supporting national efforts to restore health freedom, protect families, and demand transparency in public health policy. Her leadership and advocacy continue to inspire Texans from all walks of life to stand up for their rights and safeguard medical freedom for generations to come.

Register by Monday, Aug. 31, at <https://ClearCreekrw.org>.

Mount Olive Lutheran

10310 Scarsdale Blvd.

281-922-5673

Pastor Matthew Brackman

www.mountolivehouston.org

Services: 8:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Class: 10 a.m.



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	12:30 p.m. Misa en Español
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.
Parish Office: 281-481-6816
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care



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

South Belt-Ellington Leader
The Voice of Community-Minded People
11555 Beamer 281-481-5656
E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com
David Flickinger, owner

Gateway expansion increases traffic



With the start of the 2026-2027 school year, the Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone Campus, located on Riverstone Ranch Drive near Blackhawk – has expanded its courses from the K-5 offered during its inaugural year to now include K-8 teachings. With the added students, there is added traffic to the already congested stretch of road. This past week, a crew of six deputies from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office helped to direct traffic. Garcia provided the graphic to the left to show parents areas where parking is not allowed on Kirksage. County officials are currently studying traffic patterns in the area to see if a traffic signal on Blackhawk and Riverstone Ranch will help alleviate traffic at the intersection, which is normally worse during school drop-off and pickup hours.

Photos by David Flickinger

Old Jessup campus demolished



This past week, demolition began on the 68-year-old Jessup Elementary campus on Almeda Genoa at Blackhawk/Clearwood. Construction of a new campus (shown in bottom photo and in background of top photo) to replace the aging 1958 facility was approved by voters in 2022 as part of a bond referendum. Accord-

ing to Pasadena ISD officials, complete destruction of the original campus – named in honor of Charles D. Jessup – will take approximately six weeks to complete, at which time new sports fields and playgrounds will be installed. See related photo on Page 1.

Photos by David Flickinger

SFD sprays JFD band



After two weeks of hard work, long rehearsals and marching in the Texas heat, Southeast Fire Department recently stopped by to help Dobie High School band students cool off with a well-earned spray

down. Dobie band staff thanks local firefighters for making the day extra special and helping their students celebrate all of their dedication and effort.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

FALL LATE START CLASSES
BEGIN AUGUST 31.



SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
APPLY, REGISTER, AND
PAY AT [SANJAC.EDU](https://sanjac.edu)

An Equal Opportunity Institution
sanjac.edu/accreditation

Joneses take mom/son cruise vacation



Sarah Jones (left) and son Bradley Jones went on a mother and son cruise this summer departing from Galveston to Costa Maya, Honduras and Cozumel, Mexico. Sarah is a Dobie high school graduate and Bradley will be attending Dobie as a sophomore.



Thompson announces 2026-2027 leadership team



Thompson Intermediate School recently announced their leadership team for the 2026-2027 school year. Shown, left to right, are (front row) Kelli Mon-eyhun, seventh-grade assistant principal; Tanis Griffin, principal; Travis Teichelman, eighth-grade assistant principal; (back row) MaryBeth Nicol, librarian; Gina Teston, math campus coach; Prudencio Reyna, seventh-grade counselor; Leticia Sanchez, SEL counselor; Jill Butler, eighth-grade counselor; Denise Medina, RLA campus coach; and Ari-anna Ibarra, science and history campus coach.

Dobie Lariaettes take on the new school year



Pictured left to right, are the 2026-2027 Dobie High School Lariaettes (first row) social executive Xamira Zambrano, social executive Cristina De La Torre, Capt. Hailey Demart, Capt. Aliyah Rhodes, social media chair Laila Martin, social executive Mya Cantu, social executive Arlette Salazar, (second row) Zoe Goree, Kayli Rodriguez, line Sgt. Dayanna Najarro, Zoe Castelan, Chel-

sea Hua, Kareli Garza, Olivia Trevino, (third row) Sophia Galindo, Yanell Vasquez, Nicole Fonseca, Alitza Gonzalez, Jade Rodriguez, Brianna Bonilla, Chloe Maycott, Victoria Quiva, (fourth row) Sophia Talamantez, Alyssa Montero, Emma Gurrusquieta, Madalyn Parrish, Delilah Deleon, Ava Orellana, Camila Bruno, Adalyn Cantu and Dalila Chapa.

Grandfather donates \$100,000 toward CCISD books

Donation to benefit 10 Clear Creek ISD school libraries

Clear Creek Independent School District received a \$100,000 donation from longtime community member Greg Strickler on Aug. 5, 2026, to support library collections at intermediate schools across the district.

The gift grew from a simple moment between Strickler and his granddaughter, Olivia, a WAVE program student in CCISD. When Olivia was in sixth grade, she brought her grandfather a library book to read. As he made his way through the book, its condition caught his attention.

"The pages were literally falling out of the book," Strickler said.

Wanting to help, Strickler contacted the school librarian, received a list of books that needed replacing and purchased new copies. The following year, he worked directly with the librarian to provide funding that allowed the school to purchase books through its established system.

That experience led Strickler to consider the needs beyond a single campus.

"I thought that the other intermediate schools probably have similar needs," he said. Working with CCISD over the summer, Strickler developed a plan to provide \$100,000 for intermediate school libraries throughout the district and surprise librarians with the news as they returned for the new school year.

"I think reading is too important to leave to chance

and small budgets, and we all know reading early is critical," Strickler said. "I'm just trying to make my early investments pay off in meaningful ways."

Strickler's connection to Clear Creek ISD spans nearly five decades. A Clear Lake resident since 1978, he raised five children who attended CCISD schools from kindergarten through high school. Today, his family remains closely connected to the community, with his granddaughter continuing the family's CCISD story.

"Mr. Strickler's generosity is a powerful example of what it means to invest in the future of our students," said Dr. Karen Engle, superintendent of schools. "A well-loved book sparked an idea that will now put new books into the hands of students across our district. We are incredibly grateful that he saw a need and chose to turn it into an opportunity for thousands of children. That kind of generosity leaves an impact far beyond the library shelves."



Shown receiving the gift donation are, left to right, Suzy Ferrell, director of library media services; deputy superintendent Dr. Michael Houston; librarian Erin Logan, League City Intermediate; Tania Castillo, Brookside librarian; Darci Burroughs, Bayside librarian; Olivia Strickler, CCISD student/granddaughter; Katrina Zannie, Victory Lakes librarian; Rachel Wells, librarian Westbrook; Greg

Strickler; assistant superintendent Dr. Angela Stallings, superintendent Dr. Karen Engle, Vanessa Zambrana, Creekside librarian; Amy Graham, Clear Creek Intermediate librarian; Erin Irvine, Seabrook Intermediate librarian; Michelle Brookover, Clear Lake Intermediate librarian; Tiffany Mynatt, Space Center Intermediate librarian; and assistant superintendent Franklin Moses.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)

The board of regents of San Jacinto Junior College approved a record budget of \$12,540,354.12 for the 1976-77 school year.

A Kirkwood South resident disputed his taxes at the Sagemeadow equalization meeting. He was the only resident to appear before the board to disagree with the evaluation of his home.

45 years ago (1981)

A county survey revealed that Beamer Road from Kirkfair to Hall Road had the heaviest traffic (12,359 cars) of any South Belt road in a 24-hour period.

The congregation of Cokesbury United Methodist Church overwhelmingly approved issuing \$1.1 million in bonds to finance the purchase of land on Scarsdale Boulevard near Blackhawk Boulevard for a new church.

40 years ago (1986)

Dobie's People to People ambassador Becky Stockinger attended a dinner in which she had an opportunity to ask President Ronald Regan a question in front of national television cameras.

A capacitor, which was attached to an electrical pole and linked to a transformer, exploded in the backyard of a Sageglen home, scattering materials covered with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) over the area.

A fire of unknown origin started on Dixie Farm Road on the property of Vernon Young Jr. burning tires and other trash that had been continually dumped at the site.

35 years ago (1991)

David Sullivan was appointed principal of Weber Elementary School in a meeting of the Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees.

The Clear Creek Independent School District school board voted to institute a \$15 fee to bus any child within a two-mile radius of the school regardless of whether or not the route was dangerous.

30 years ago (1996)

Donald Roventini Jr., 16, died after collapsing following a workout for the Dobie sophomore football team.

Sagemont's Bill Robinson traveled to Chicago to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

25 years ago (2001)

At the Brio site, installation of a 1,700 linear foot wall which would be pounded into the ground to a depth of an average of 45 feet began. The wall would consist of 920 sheets of half inch thick steel which had to be manufactured in Germany because no firms in the United States made the product.

South Belt residents faced a considerable increase in property taxes. PISD's proposed tax rate increase was expected to be \$1.6649. CCISD was to meet to discuss the new tax rate.

20 years ago (2006)

Two months after the murder of Erik Garcia, Houston Police Department investigators were stumped and sought help from South Belt area residents.

Houston Police vice officers raided an alleged illegal gaming operation in the 12400 block of Scarsdale. Two employees were arrested and charged with possession of a gambling device. Class C citations were issued to 12 customers inside for gambling.

Tom DeLay announced he would withdraw from the congressional race after a ruling from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia stated that his name would remain on the ballot.

Local law enforcement officers responded to an attack on a jogger and an attempted home invasion.

Arrests were also made for possession of cocaine and driving while intoxicated, and Precinct 2 deputy constables assisted Harris County Sheriff's deputies executing a warrant on a robbery suspect.

CCISD received the Recognized rating from the Texas Education Agency.

15 years ago (2011)

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees named two new principals for the 2011-2012 school year — Wendy Wiseburn for Frazier Elementary and Scott Pollack for Milstead Middle School. Wiseburn replaced Rhonda Parmer, who resigned to take an assistant superintendent position in the Dickinson Independent School District, and Pollack replaced Shannon Trejo, who resigned to accept an

administration position with a Dallas-area school district.

10 years ago (2016)

The Pasadena Independent School District officially broke ground on the new Dobie Ninth Grade Campus Tuesday, Aug. 9. To be located at the corner of Fuqua and Monroe, the campus will alleviate overcrowding at the area high school. The campus is scheduled to open in August 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year.

5 years ago (2021)

South Belt community members scored a rare win against state bureaucracy when officials from the Texas General Land Office announced at a meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10, they had reversed course in constructing Hurricane Harvey replacement homes deemed substandard by many in the

area. The proposed construction of new houses in the South Belt area to replace those destroyed during Harvey in 2017 has been an ongoing controversy, as the GLO's initial plans called for rebuilding houses that bore little resemblance to their neighbors' existing homes. Such a move threatened the property value of the surrounding homes, civic leaders argued. New cessions by General Land Office included adding two-car garages and masonry to the current bare-bone home designs, provided a rudimentary survey of the neighboring community produces such things.

1 year ago (2025)

Charges were filed on two suspects this past week for their involvement in a fatal shooting that took place back in January at an apart-

ment complex near the Gulf Freeway and Clearwood/Edgebrook.

The suspects, Rodesha Smith, 17, and Clint Gillespie, 19, were both charged with capital murder in the 497th State District Court.

They are accused of killing Tony Maximus Delao, 18.

According to Houston Police Department officials, officers were dispatched to a shooting call around 2:20 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at a complex in the 9600 block of Intervale Street to find a male unresponsive in the driver's side of a vehicle in the parking lot. He had suffered at least one gunshot wound and paramedics pronounced him deceased at the scene.

According to homicide investigators, evidence indicated the shooting actually

occurred at another nearby apartment complex located in the 9800 block of Hollock Street. Investigators said it appeared the victim managed to drive to the Intervale address, where someone called 911.

Further investigation identified Smith and Gillespie as suspects in this case.

Smith, who was already

in custody on an unrelated charge and case, was subsequently charged with capital murder Tuesday, July 29.

The following day on Wednesday, July 30, officers with HPD Southeast Patrol Division's Crime Suppression Team arrested Gillespie and he was transported to the Harris County Jail without incident.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

JANNIE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday wishes are sent to former *Leader* staffer **Jannie Scarberry** who celebrates a birthday Aug. 13 from her family, friends and the *Leader* staff. She and her husband, **Robert**, are former longtime South Belt residents. The *Leader* staff is appreciative of the many years she devoted to the *Leader*.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays August 13 through August 19.

Burnett Elementary
Share in the birthday fun Aug. 17 with **Jennie Graham**. Send a happy birthday greeting to **Melisa Evans** Aug. 18.

Genoa Elementary
Give a birthday shoutout Aug. 17 to **Erika Gonzalez**.

Meador Elementary
Send a birthday greeting to **Jennifer Chavez** Aug. 15. Celebrating a birthday Aug. 17 is **Tracie Nair**. Blow out the candles Aug. 19 for **Klarissa Trevino**.

Moore Elementary
Jill Lacamu, Moore principal, is wished a happy birthday Aug. 13. Send a happy birth-

day greeting Aug. 18 to **Roxanne Carbajal**.

South Belt Elementary
Aug. 17 is the day for a fun celebration for **Taylor Strickland**.

Stuchbery Elementary
A double-fun day is planned Aug. 17 for **Laura Valenciano** and **Kara Thomas**. Celebrating a special birthday Aug. 19 is **Lorena Padilla**.

Melillo Middle School
Enjoying a special birthday Aug. 13 is **Debra Yocum**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 13 to **Carlos Guerrero**.

Thompson Intermediate
On Aug. 15, light the birthday candles for **Daniel Sawyer**. Happy birthday wishes are sent Aug. 17 to **James MacGregor**. Give a birthday shout out Aug. 18 to **Serenity Garcia**. Aug. 19 is the day for a party for **Ana Perez**.

Dobie High
Break out the balloons and party favors for **Raymond Quoyesser** on his birthday Aug. 13. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Aug. 16 are sent to **Lesley Sanchez**. The day for **Emma Hernandez** and **Jacquelyn**

Reyes to celebrate with ice cream and a double-layer birthday cake is Aug. 17.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Aug. 13: **Foster, Carlos Gomez, Shawna Merchant, Anthony Dittrich, Erica Sadler, Dinah Palmer and Bill Weatherford**; Friday, Aug. 14: **Roger Woest, Connie Alberti, Richard Golenko and Pete Ortiz**; Saturday, Aug. 15: **Janna Hipps and Hector Pombo**; Sunday, Aug. 16: **Nicole Love, Brandon Gray, Larry Bozka, Cynthia Weaver, Brandon Gray, Yvonne Molina and Irl Ellis**; Monday, Aug. 17: **Denise Motezuma, Linda Rodriguez, Michelle Brovey and Paulo Espinoza**, Tuesday, Aug. 18: **Marty Gomez, Cathy Shipley, Shametia Benson, Corina Lopez, Jo Anne Muse, Vita Bernal, Annette Barrientos and Chris Cook**; Wednesday, Aug. 19: **Robert Mireles, Nathan Nguyen, Pamela Walters, Jody Urschel-Oun, Shandy Lecourias, Pamela McDonald and Derrick Pyper**.

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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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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Cowboys kick off season

The Bay Area Football League will celebrate its 50th anniversary all season as the 2026 campaign begins Aug. 15 across the area.

The Sagemont Cowboys will open the regular season at Angleton,

taking on the Wildcats in a series of games at Old Wildcat Stadium, located at One Wildcat Drive in Angleton, 77515.

The league has expanded to 18 programs in the peewee through senior divisions for 2026.

In addition to Angleton and Sagemont, the league also includes the Bay Area Buccaneers, Brazosport Longhorns, Dickinson Gators, East End Eagles, Hitchcock Red Raiders, La Marque Chargers, La Porte Texans, League City 49ers, Magnolia Park Sharks, Manvel Texans, Pasadena Panthers, Pearland Hurricanes, Pearland Patriots, Pearland Texans, Santa Fe Braves and the Texas City Stingrays.

Game times for action during the 2026 season will include 8 a.m. for peewee, 9:30 a.m. for freshmen, 11:30 a.m. for sophomores, 1:30 p.m. for juniors and 3:30 p.m. for seniors.

Talented drill team, cheerleading and mascot groups will also proudly represent each program in the league during halftime at games, on the sidelines during the action and in between games.

Cowboys at Angleton Sat., Aug. 15

Game times:
Peewee, 8 a.m.;
Freshmen, 9:30 a.m.;
Sophomores, 11:30 a.m.;
Juniors, 1:30 p.m.;
Seniors, 3:30 p.m.



Longtime Sagemont Cowboys coach Tony Smith (left) entered the Bay Area Football League Hall of Fame last offseason for his decades of contributions to the league. Denny Wranich Jr., also a lifelong Cowboys contributor, was there to congratulate him. Both are excited about the start of the 2026 season, BAFL's 50th, beginning Aug. 15.

Dobie football hits ground running

From 4:47 to 6:02 p.m. That's precisely the time frame that the Dobie upperclassmen football practices were running the first week of action out on the field, and head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff believe it is that attention to detail that will ultimately lead to big things for the Longhorns as the 2026 football season approaches.

Fitzmorris, entering his third season as head coach of the Longhorns, began the preseason Aug. 10 with 52 guys slated for varsity football action. Over time, Fitzmorris said he expects that number to grow to more than 60 or so.

In addition, while the overall numbers from previous seasons are down, the Longhorns put 75 freshmen on the field as the next wave of talent got started a week earlier.

At the varsity level, Dobie ended the 2025 season with the knowledge that as many as 10 starters on the defensive side would need to be replaced. Dutifully

using the 18 spring practice sessions as well as 7-on-7 and other summer workouts, Fitzmorris said there is no concern on the defensive side.

Instead, the coach said that there are plenty of guys simply waiting to make a name for themselves when the lights come on Aug. 28 in the regular season opener at Veterans Stadium against a talented Clear Springs program.

"We have been structured and precise down to the minute during the offseason and carrying on until now, and we really believe it is that attention to detail and focus on the task at hand at that moment that is going to really benefit us moving forward," Fitzmorris said.

"We have been engaged in film study, walk-throughs, paperwork, fundraising...whatever it takes to be ready to go when the lights come on, we have taken care of it."

There is a certain optimism and hope in the

step that comes with the first day of practice in any sport, and Fitzmorris said that there was certainly plenty of excitement surrounding the start of the preseason.

Dobie will put the pads on at the varsity level Aug. 13, and there will be a scrimmage against La Porte at the freshman level Aug. 20, with the varsity level then in action Aug. 21.

Like Clear Springs will be in the season opener, La Porte is a bonafide playoff contender each and every season and will certainly put the Longhorns to the

test in the scrimmage.

"I want to see our guys match the level of physicality and intensity that I'm sure we will see from La Porte," Fitzmorris said. "We really believe that we can go out there and compete against anybody, and I know our guys are very excited to get out there and show what they can do."

"We as a coaching staff have a great belief in these guys, and we're just glad that the time has come to be able to get started and work toward the season. We all feel like it's going to be a great season for us."



Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris says that an attention to detail and structure will lead to great things as the Longhorns work toward the Aug. 28 regular season opener against Clear Springs.

BHI Community Day is Aug. 29

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff has also finalized the schedule for the Aug. 29 BHI Community Day that will begin at 9 a.m. on campus. The seventh-grade football program will scrimmage from 9 to 9:45 a.m., with the eighth-grade football program then scrimmaging from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. The BHI incoming seventh-grade volleyball program will scrimmage from 10:15 to 11 a.m., with the eighth-grade program then in action from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Throughout the morning, players and coaches will engage with community partners in the commons area and there will be carnival games in the smaller gymnasium on campus. There will be a community pep rally from noon to 12:30 p.m. to close out this special day.

Lions plan Red and White Day

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

Dobie volleyball visits PNG event



The Dobie volleyball program has been exceptionally busy preparing for the 2026 season that began after press time with the season opener at Baytown Sterling Aug. 11. Head coach Dawn Sexton began the season carrying 19 players at the varsity level while accommodating a dizzying schedule early on. The Longhorns will attend the Port Neches-Groves Volleybash Aug. 13-15. Shown above is senior outside hitter and defensive specialist Alyssa Espinoza.

Clear Brook, Lutheran South volleyball headed to Turner invite

The prestigious John Turner Classic, annually one of the largest opening weekend high school vol-

leyball tournaments in the nation, will play out Aug. 13 - 15 with Clear Brook as one of the host sites.

Lutheran South Academy, which advanced to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state tournament last season, will also take part in the event for the first time.

Other host sites will include the Absolute Volleyball Academy, and Dawson and Pearland high schools, Turner High School within Pearland ISD, as well as Pearland Junior High South.

Pool No. 1 includes Eagle Mountain, Long Creek, Austin Westlake and The Woodlands,

while pool No. 2 includes Bushland, Cedar Hill, Dripping Springs and Fulshear. Moving ahead to the third pool, Atascocita is joined by Episcopal, Kincaid and Rockwall. Huntsville, John Cooper, Randle and San Antonio Reagan makeup pool No. 4, while pool No. 5 includes Clear Lake, Lake Travis, Santa Fe and Wylie East. In the sixth pool, that foursome includes Bryan, Clear Springs Montgomery and New Braunfels. The seventh pool is made up

of Heath, San Antonio O'Connor, Spring and Summer Creek. Moving ahead to the eighth pool, that group includes Clemens, Harlan, Manvel and Stratford. Host Pearland heads up pool No. 9 along with Granbury, Pieper and Rouse. As for pool No. 10, that foursome includes Lake Highlands, Second Baptist, Shadow Creek and Waxahachie. Clear Brook is part of pool No. 11 along with Eaton, Floresville and Round Rock. The No. 12 pool, includes

Amarillo Clements, Flour Bluff and Klein Oak. North Forney is in pool No. 13 along with La Vernia, Lake Creek and Magnolia West. Barbers Hill, new to the district 18-6A alignment beginning this school year, is part of pool No. 14 along with San Antonio Brennan, George Ranch and Victoria West. Pool No. 15 is made up of Alamo Heights, Bellaire, Ridge Point and St. Johns. Lutheran South Academy is in pool No. 16 along with Decatur, Keller and

McKinney.

Lutheran South will go up against Decatur at Pearland Junior High South at 9 a.m. then play Keller, also at Pearland South, in a 12:45 match-up. The Pioneers will complete the opening day by going up against McKinney at 2 p.m.

Clear Brook is actually one of the opening day host sites and will take on Eaton at 10:15 a.m., then go against Round Rock at 11:30 a.m. The Wolverines are also slated to go up against Floresville at 2 p.m.

Aug. 13 Pool Play

Clear Brook hosts Eaton
10:15 a.m., Brook

Clear Brook hosts Round Rock
11:30 a.m., Brook

Clear Brook hosts Floresville
2 p.m., Brook

LSA vs. Decatur
9 a.m., PJH South

LSA vs. Keller
12:45 p.m., PJH South

LSA vs. McKinney
2 p.m., PJH South

Despite sluggish start, Dobie netters improve

A winless first week of the regular season hasn't dampened the spirit of the Dobie varsity team tennis squad as the team will continue early season action at home against Clear Brook Aug. 13.

As expected, the Longhorns have found the going to be exceptionally challenging through the first week of the regular season. A win here or a win there will certainly go a long way toward boosting the spirits of the group, but veteran head coach Manuel Moreno Jr., now in his 45th overall season of working with young tennis players, knows that this team still has plenty of season with which to show promise.

Early on this season, the boys' singles ladder has included Adrian Garza at number one, followed by team captain Brayden Rojas second, Andres Franco third, then Alejandro Garfias, Jesiah Avendano and Christian Garza. For the girls' singles ladder, team captain Marina Kostikoglou is at number one, followed by Minh Nguyen, team captain Vivian Hang, Michelle Medrano, Lila Collazos, Trieu Nguyen and Ana Rodriguez.

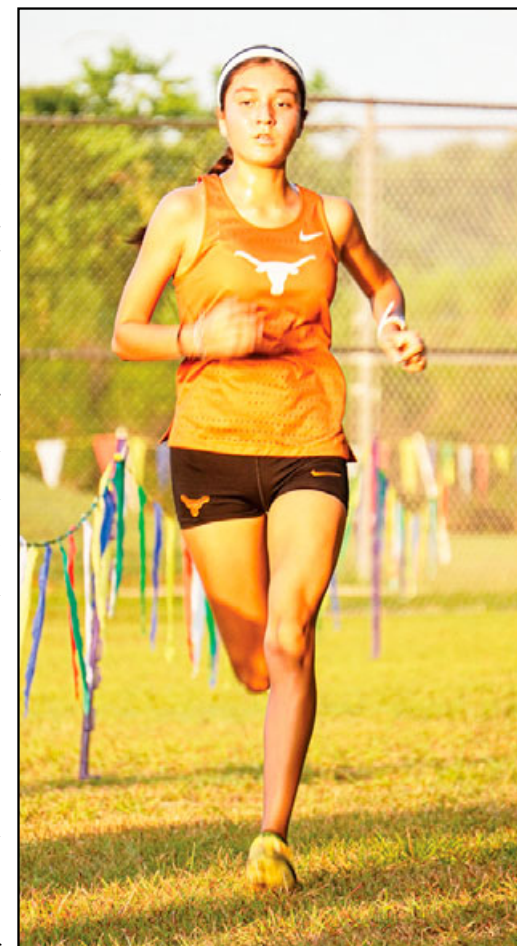
hard to help the kids understand that really they are playing better tennis than the results show, and that they are improving with each match out there on the court, but I do see the improvement and I do see the kids giving it their all and doing whatever they can to come up with wins," head coach Moreno said.

"We play a tough schedule. We always do. Going back to my days as a player at Galveston O'Connell, I have always believed that the best way for you to improve is to play against stop competition."

This is not the first time that the Longhorn varsity group has struggled out of the gate. Sometimes that is the cost of doing business in the 6A ranks within the Houston area as there are plenty of talented programs. But Moreno likes for his players to accept plenty of challenges during any season.

"We are asking a lot of our players to play and maybe tougher positions on the singles ladder then maybe they are used to, but we also have a lot of young players who are seeing varsity action for the first time. As always,

Continued on Page 6



Dobie senior Aracely Alvarado seemed to be in mid-season form as she coasted to a victory in the Longhorns' practice meet Aug. 6. Dobie begins the regular season Aug. 14 at Dawson.

ty races as junior Cruz Jasso was the boys overall champion, and senior Aracely Alvarado was first to the line in the girls' division.

As for the boys' team, defending district champion Jordan Roman was absent from the practice meet while winning a pair of medals at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior

Olympic Championships at Drake University but will be ready to go in the district opener.

With Jasso now back and healthy after winning the district championship two seasons ago, the JFD boys know they are solid at the top with Jasso and Roman. From there, sophomore Robert Pheister, Gevin Vega and others are ready to chip in.

Dobie captured the team district championship two seasons ago but then watched as Pearland



Cruz Jasso was the district champion two seasons ago as a freshman but then endured an injury-plagued sophomore campaign. Back healthy, Jasso figures to add to the Longhorns' talented roster this season.

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Roman duo shines at AAU Nationals



Julian Roman (left) put together a solid showing at AAU Nationals and will now start his eighth-grade school year at Miller Intermediate as the defending Pasadena ISD cross-country champion. His older brother, junior Jordan Roman, picked up a pair of medals at the AAU championships and will now join the Dobie cross-country program as the defending individual league champion.



Representing the Pearland Track Xpress summer program, Jordan Roman returned home from the Junior Olympics as a two-time All-American. Individually, Roman finished third with a new personal record of 9 minutes, 4.8 seconds in the 3,000.



The Pearland Track Xpress age 15-16 4x800 relay team, including, from left, Joaquin Gomez, Langston Bell, Jordan Roman and Timothy Jackson, finished seventh at Nationals for the time of

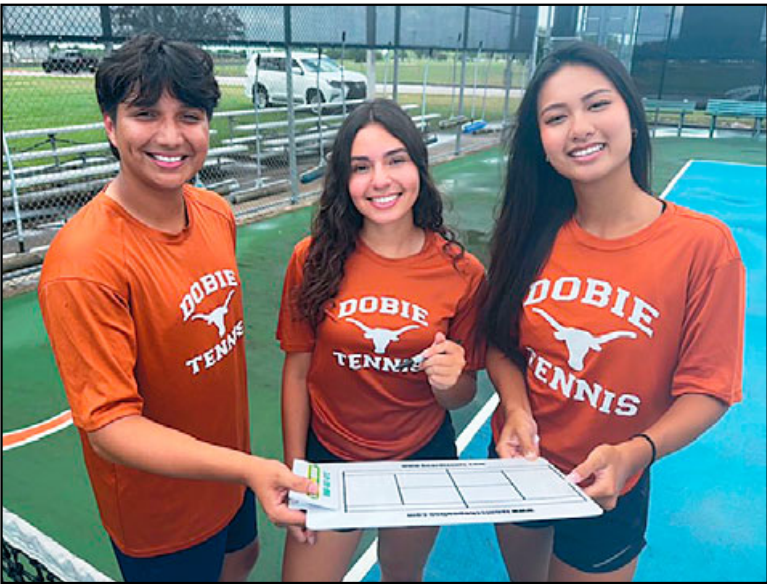
8 minutes, 34.37 seconds to capture All American status in the event. Roman also finished third in the 3,000 and was 13th at the 1,500 distance at 4:13.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
8th Grade Football Schedule
Sept. 1 Clear Creek
Sept. 8 at Parkview
Sept. 14 Queens
Sept. 21 Bondy
Sept. 29 at Southmore
Oct. 5 at San Jacinto
Oct. 19 Miller
Oct. 26 Thompson at Dobie
Nov. 2 PISD playoffs
(B) games start at 4:30 p.m.;
(A) games then follow

Thompson Intermediate
8th Grade Football Schedule
Sept. 2 Westbrook
Sept. 9 at South Houston
Sept. 15 at Parkview
Sept. 22 Queens
Sept. 30 Bondy
Oct. 6 Miller
Oct. 20 Southmore
Oct. 27 Bev. Hills at Dobie
Nov. 4 PISD playoffs
(B) games start at 4:30 p.m.;
(A) games then follow

Thompson Intermediate
7th Grade Football Schedule
Sept. 2 at Clear Creek
Sept. 9 Parkview
Sept. 15 at Queens
Sept. 22 at Bondy
Sept. 30 Southmore
Oct. 6 San Jacinto
Oct. 20 at Miller
Oct. 27 Thompson at Dobie
Nov. 4 PISD playoffs
(B) games start at 4:30 p.m.;
(A) games then follow

Thompson Intermediate
7th Grade Football Schedule
Sept. 1 at Westbrook
Sept. 8 South Houston
Sept. 14 Parkview
Sept. 21 at Queens
Sept. 29 at Bondy
Oct. 5 at Miller
Oct. 19 at Southmore
Oct. 26 Bev. Hills at Dobie
Nov. 2 PISD playoffs
(B) games start at 4:30 p.m.;
(A) games then follow



Dobie tennis team captains, left to right, Brayden Rojas, Marina Kostikoglou and Vivian Hang talk over strategy for Thursday's South Belt rivalry dual match with Clear Brook at the Longhorns' home courts, starting at 3 p.m.

Dobie netters press forward

Continued from Page 5
our goal is to be ready for the district season against Pearland later this month. I'm sure we will be in a much better position, especially with experience, when the matches become the most important.

"As I said earlier, we knew coming into the season that it was going to be tough each and every day out there. I'm very proud of the kids for keeping a great attitude and being willing to do whatever it takes to help out with the team. It's still very early in the season, and we all

know that a team victory will go a long way toward boosting everybody's confidence. We'll just have to see how things play out."

Looking ahead to the District 19-6A race, Dawson continues to be one of the top programs in the region and will be considered the favorite to once again capture top honors in the league. Pearland is also improving seemingly each season, and newcomer Brazoswood will now have to be dealt with.

Dobie continues to be the finest program in the Pasadena ISD ranks, but

being the top team in the school district isn't good enough for Moreno or his players.

"I have always said that I don't like to settle for anything less than first," Moreno said.

"I don't care who the opponent is, we are going to go out on the court and give it our all. Anything can happen in team tennis. The first one to 10 victories is going to come away with the overall team win, and I always want our kids to have the expectation that we are going to come away with a team win."

San Jacinto College athletes earn academic honors

Twenty-two San Jacinto College baseball and softball athletes earned National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIV All-Academic honors for the 2025-26 season, while eight Ravens softball players also received National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American Scholar Athlete recognition.

Student-athletes must earn at least a 3.25 GPA over 24 credit hours to qualify for the Region XIV All-Academic Team. The following Raven baseball players earned Region XIV All-Academic honors: Jackson Ambrose (Houston); Nathan Belle (Branson, Ontario, Canada); Hunter Crain (Scottsdale, Ariz.); Javier Garcia (McAllen); Jorge Garza (Baytown); Patrick Lewis (Manvel); Jack Marek (Liverpool); Parker Matthews (Humble); R.J. Olivares (Corpus Christi); Cody Palacios (Magnolia) and Andrew Ramos (Deer Park).

The softball honorees included: Adrian Cantu (Needville); Juliann Delome (Crosby); Arianays Garcia-Santana (Spring); Kenadie Guthrie (Angleton); Jenna Hashaw (League City); Breanna Norman (Baytown); Addison Opela (East Bernard); Zoie Powell (Deer Park); Jenna Sebesta (Freeport); Vanessa Valdez, (Humble) and Bree Winkelman, (Needville).

In addition, the following eight Ravens softball players earned NFCA All-American Scholar Athlete honors, recognizing excellence in the classroom and on the field. NFCA All-American Scholar Athletes included: Juliann Delome; Arianays Garcia-Santana; Kenadie Guthrie; Breanna Norman; Addison Opela; Zoie Powell; Jenna Sebesta and Vanessa Valdez.

This year, more than 13,000 student-athletes from 31 programs nationwide earned NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honors after achieving the highest GPA in their respective sport during the academic year.

The NJCAA All-Academic program also recognized these San Jac athletes: All-Academic First Team – 4.0 GPA -- Juliann Delome; Arianays Garcia-Santana; Breanna Norman and Zoie Powell. All-Academic Second Team – 3.80 to 3.99 GPA Jack Marek; All-Academic Third Team – 3.60 to 3.79 GPA-- Nathan Belle; Hunter Crain; Kenadie Guthrie; Parker Matthews; Addison Opela; Cody Palacios; Jenna Sebesta and Vanessa Valdez.

As outstanding as many of the players were in the classroom, the San Jacinto College also excelled on the field.

Head coach Kelly Saenz led her team to the NJCAA women's College world series at the conclusion of the 2026 season as the locals

advanced to the championship event for the third time in four seasons.

San Jacinto College was also a solid on the baseball

field with Marek contributing on the mound as the Ravens were able to come away victorious 33 times during the regular season.

SJC's Marek a winner in classroom

At right, San Jacinto College right-handed pitcher Jack Marek was exceptional on the mound as he helped the Ravens to a 33-19 overall finish during the 2026 National Junior College Athletic Association regular season. Marek was also huge as the Ravens wound up third overall in the Region 14 standings. Marek, an Alvin High School graduate, was also outstanding in the classroom as he earned Region 14 All-Academic team honors for achieving a great point average of at least 3.25 during the 2025-2026 school year. Marek was likewise a National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic second team honors with a grade point average of between 3.80 and 3.99. Several of his teammates also picked up postseason academic honors for their outstanding work in the classroom.



At left, San Jacinto College softball player Zoie Powell, who played a big part in helping the Ravens reach the national championship tournament out of Region 14 as the locals were outstanding on the playing field, was one of several of her teammates who also earned outstanding accolades in the classroom. A graduate of Deer Park High School, Powell was a Region 14 All-Academic Team member and achieved a grade point average of at least 3.25 for the 2025-2026 school year. She was one of eight softball players from SJC who earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American Scholar Athlete honors and was a first team NJCAA All-Academic first-team student with a grade point average of at least 4.0.

JFD runners ready to run

Continued from Page 5
are confident. Making it out of the region is something entirely different, but we certainly think that we have what it takes to go get the district championship again in advance to regional."

For the girls, Alvarado delivered a terrific season as a junior in 2025 and will lead the way for

the current group that should also find plenty of support from runners such as freshman Sophia Charles, junior Destiny Sidiropoulos and others.

The JFD girls may not have the overall depth this season to push for a team district title, but cross-country head coach Rowena Hickman always has her team ready to compete.



Sophomore Robert Pheister is among the runners expected to take a huge leap during his second season at the varsity level.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

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 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.
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, AUGUST 15
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** - See Friday's notice.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 17
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
5 p.m. **New Directions Singles Social Group** is a singles group for those 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held in the community room at Maplewood Crossing, 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will be a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For further information, call Carol at 281-508-1663. See Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.
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. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at 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.
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 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
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.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

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, AUGUST 20
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Clear Brook, Texas A&M star Dickson sprints professionally under On brand

Just that fast, Camryn Dickson's professional track and field sprinting career is out of the blocks courtesy of a third-place finish in the 200 at her debut event in New York. It was not a quick or easy process for a first-timer fresh out of college, but Dickson ultimately has joined the On



In her debut competition as a professional representing the On brand, Camryn Dickson finished third at the USA Track and Field Nationals at Ichan Stadium in New York. She will now take a break until later in the year when she will resume competition.

running shoes professional track and field roster and will soon begin training with team personnel as she will eventually go head-to-head with many of the top professionals from across the world and locations all over the world.

"I am very blessed and excited for this opportunity, and I am equally as excited to be joining the On brand as a representative."

Dickson said that following a foot injury during her career at Texas A&M, it was the On brand of running shoe that she trusted most both during and following her recovery.

As she planned the transition to the professional ranks, Dickson almost had to know that a future bond with On was simply in the cards.

Dickson certainly could have waited to get her professional career underway, but chose instead to run in New York, where she went again one of the top 200 runners in the US, Melissa Jefferson-Wooten.

"I was a little more nervous than usual, but I settled down by race time and was ready to go," Dickson said.

"I feel like things went pretty smoothly for my

professional debut. Yes, I was going up against one of the best Americans in the world, but it is also a place where I desire to be one day. At this level, I am going to be going against some of the very best sprinters in the world each time out, but it's something that I welcome and look forward to.

"Not everybody gets the opportunity to compete professionally in an arena like this where it is the best of the best, but I believe in myself. I will trust my training and my teammates, and go out there each and every week with the goal of coming away a winner."

For most of her life, Dickson has been a winner both in life and on the track. A longtime summer competitor with the South Belt Track Club, Dickson attended Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic national championship events just about every summer from a young age.

At her final summer event as a soon-to-be freshman at Clear Brook, Dickson in 2018 was third in the 200 at Nationals in a time of 25.01 seconds.

Even with all of the success Dickson delivered as a rising star, few could have predicted the

immense success that she had over a four-year span at Clear Brook. Dickson as a freshman reached the state championships in Austin. Everybody's 2020 season was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but Dickson bounced back both in 2021 and 2022 to reach the state championships in both seasons.

Joining the Texas A&M University women's program in College Station, Dickson simply improved each season despite competing against runners from some of the top programs in the exceptionally competitive Southeastern Conference on a weekly basis. She earlier this summer finished her standout career with the Aggies as one of the most decorated performers within the program during her stay, in particular twice reestablishing the program all-time record in the 200.

"I am very proud of what I was able to put together at A&M," Dickson said.

"I have always desired to be the best. I do not enjoy finishing second or third best, but in some weeks that's how it goes. Overall, I think I can be very proud of my overall career at Texas A&M. It was a lot of hard work,

determination and grit to be able to battle through some of the ups and downs associated with a four-year career, but overall it was that belief in myself and my trust and my coaching staff that allow me to do it achieve some pretty good things along the way."

Dickson is believed to be one of the if not the first former Clear Creek ISD student athlete to compete professionally on the oval. She graduated from A&M with a sociology degree, but putting her degree to use will have to wait for now as she has signed a multiyear agreement with the On track and field program and plans to dedicate 100 percent of her efforts to the sport moving forward.

"I am beyond thrilled for this opportunity, Dickson said. I feel like I am in the right spot with the On brand and look forward to representing it to the very best of my ability. I can't wait to see what the future holds professionally for me. I realize that I have a ton of work ahead of me, and I also realize that every young woman out there that I meet on a track will be trying to achieve some of the

things the same things. I'm excited to match my talents against some of the very best in the world. I can't wait to get started."

The South Belt Track Club folded its competitive tents several years ago, but there is little doubt that founder and longtime head coach Ivory Kimble and dozens of other assistant coaches over the years played a huge role in the competitive lives of hundreds of athletes who made their way in and out of the program over the years. There were plenty of success stories along the way.

SBTC regularly qualified a dozen or more athletes to compete at nationals each summer. Many have gone on to graduate both high school and college and are now exceptionally successful professionals in a variety of fields. The list no doubt goes on and on. Kimble and everyone associated with the club should take a bow for the success of the overall program as it represented the neighborhood for many years.

As for Dickson, few if any, could have predicted that she would one day become a professional

track and field star with a chance to enjoy both the national and worldwide success. Yet her father, Chancellor Dickson, says he had an inkling that his daughter could one day put herself in this type of position.

"Camryn is as competitive as any person that I have been around," her father said. She carries herself with grace and is professional in her dealings with people and has a terrific personality to go with it, but when she is out there on the track, she has one thing in mind. That is to dominate, to finish first, collect a medal and just generally do whatever it takes to be a successful as possible.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for her. There have been many people along the way who deserve credit for helping her get to this point, but at the end of the day it is Camryn who has stayed focused and determined to go out there and achieve her goals. It is never easy for anybody. Any training is long and difficult, but the rewards come to the end of the successful run. We are very excited to see what the future holds for Camryn."

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In the summer of 2018, while competing as a member of the Rising Stars Track Club based in Sagemont, 14-year-old Camryn Dickson won a bronze medal in the 200 at 25.01 seconds at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics.

2026 Clear Brook Cross-Country Schedule

Aug. 14-La Porte Invitational 8 a.m.

Aug. 21-Clear Creek Invitational 7:15 a.m.

Sept. 4-Alvin Invitational 8 a.m.

Sept. 11-Galveston Island Beach Run 8 a.m.

Sept. 17-Dobie Stampede 7 a.m.

Sept. 25-Maverick Stampede 7:30 a.m.

Oct. 1-Texas City Invitational 8 a.m.

Oct. 15-District 18-6A Meet 7 a.m

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