



South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 48, No. 29

Movies in the Park returns

Sage Meadow Park and Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office will host Movies in the Park Friday, Aug. 18, at Sage Meadow Park, 11219 Sageyork. Screening for "Lightyear" will begin at approximately sunset. Free popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy will be available while supplies last. For information, call 713-274-2222.

Alvarado hosts open house

State Sen. Carol Alvarado will host a District 6 open house Saturday, Aug. 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. at her district office located at 4450 Harrisburg Suite 436. To RSVP, call 713-926-6257.

Knights sell barbecue

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue fundraiser at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost will be \$15 for a two-meat plate with brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad and drink; \$10 for chopped beef sandwich with chips and drink; and \$6 for sausage-on-a-stick. Proceeds will benefit the church's capital campaign.

Kirkwood sets new dates

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meetings have now moved from the last Thursday of the month to the last Monday of the month. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes near Beltway 8. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair will have new food distribution dates in August. The church will have food distribution the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 2 p.m. The purpose of the pantry is to provide food to people in need in the community. For more information, call the church at 281-484-4230.

Sage Meadow HOA meets

Sage Meadow monthly HOA meeting will be held at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Thursday, Aug. 17, at 7:15 p.m. The guest speaker is Jeremy Ratcliffe from Harris County Flood Control. This and all meetings are open to the public. For meeting agenda or more information, visit, www.sagemeadow.org.

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 take place Thursday, Aug. 17. For additional information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, Aug. 15, there were 73 active cases in 77089, up three from the previous week. To date, 142 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 12 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 21 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 daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

Gulf Freeway closures set

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 in League City to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road in Dickinson/Texas City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 519/Main Street in La Marque to Sailfish Street in Hitchcock daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Sailfish Street in Hitchcock to Galveston Causeway Bridge in Tiki Island daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

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

Beltway closed for repairs

All westbound Beltway 8 main lanes near Gulf Freeway will be closed through Thursday, Aug. 31, to make emergency repairs, according to Texas Department of Transportation officials.

All westbound traffic will be forced to exit the main lanes at SH 3/Old Galveston and be diverted to the Beltway 8 frontage lanes.

The westbound entrance ramps will be closed at SH 3/Old Galveston, Crenshaw and Genoa Red Bluff. The westbound main lanes will reopen at Beamer.

Eastbound Beltway 8 main lanes and all connector ramps to the Gulf Freeway will remain open. TxDOT officials say the closures are necessary to make emergency repairs near the westbound Sabo exit, where the ground is sinking. The closures are expected to cause traffic delays.

Hidalgo takes leave of absence for depression

Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis to preside as interim judge

Harris County Judge Hidalgo on Aug. 7 announced that, based on the advice of her doctors, she will be on leave from the office for the next

New info charged as case goes to jury

In an unexpected twist Tuesday, Aug. 15, an attorney for Antonio "AJ" Armstrong Jr. filed a federal civil lawsuit during his client's third capital murder trial, claiming the accused had his civil rights violated by Houston police officers who planted blood evidence against him. The surprise move came as defense attorneys presented closing arguments to the jury. Armstrong is accused of killing his mother Dawn Whitley Armstrong, a 1992 Dobie graduate, in 2016, and her husband, Antonio Armstrong Sr. Now 23, the suspected shooter was only 16 at the time of the alleged crime.

Jurors were sequestered overnight Tuesday, as deliberations continued into Wednesday. The first two trials ended in hung juries. Armstrong faces life in prison if convicted. The story has made international news, as Antonio Armstrong Sr. was once a star football player at Texas A&M University and briefly played in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins.

Police investigate death of 9-year-old boy

Child found unresponsive, appeared malnourished

The Houston Police Department has launched an investigation into the death of a 9-year-old boy found unresponsive around 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14, at an apartment complex in the 11800 block of Algonquin near Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway.

Police were called to the Valencia Grove Apartments after neighbors heard the child's mother screaming inside her apartment. Officers arrived to find the unresponsive child lying on the floor. A neighbor was reportedly attempting to perform CPR on the boy. Paramedics assumed CPR efforts upon their arrival.

The child was transported to a nearby hos-

pital, where he was pronounced dead about an hour later.

The mother reportedly told officers the 9-year-old had cystic fibrosis and had recently experienced some medical issues. Investigators said, however, the child and his two siblings appeared to be malnourished. The two remaining children did not require medical attention though, police said.

Neighbors reportedly told investigators the children have been seen asking for food in the past. The mother's refrigerator was stocked with food, however, at the time of the incident.

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sonally and professionally to confront this issue swiftly, so I will be taking temporary leave from the office while I am receiving treatment. My medical care team and I are hopeful that I will be able to resume my normal schedule by early September. I remain passionate about Harris County and its people and look forward to returning at full strength.

"From the beginning of my tenure as county judge, I have stressed the importance of mental health services. Depression and other mental

health illnesses are part of the human condition, and mental health illnesses should be treated just like any other health condition. I feel so strongly that we should be open and forthright about mental health issues, which historically have been tarred with stigma that have prevented people from seeking the treatment they need.

"My experience has been difficult, but I am taking it as an opportunity to be open about my own struggle, my own challenges, and to encour-

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New Thompson campus opens



The new Thompson Intermediate campus opened its doors to area students this past week following approximately two years of construction. Located in the 8700 block of Hughes Road in Pearland, the \$39.5 million campus was approved by Pasadena ISD voters in 2017 as part of a \$135 million bond referendum. The former Thompson campus on Sageadown suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Harvey. Thompson parents are shown above touring the campus prior to the school's opening Monday, Aug. 14.

Deputies enforce school zones



As the new school year begins, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia has increased patrols in area school zones. The enforcement efforts are to promote school safety and security. Parents and local residents are urged to be vigilant and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.

City launches youth emergency program

The City of Houston and the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement recently launched a campaign to educate Houston youth about emergency preparedness. The campaign was designed in partnership with the office's youth leaders and includes a series of infographics, videos and presentations, that feature accessible and inclusive language and graphics designed by youth, for youth.

In 2021, Understanding Houston reported that "58 percent of Greater Houston residents live in a census tract with medium-high vulnerability to negative effects of disasters." Furthermore, the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement created a pilot survey for teens, ages 13-18, to better understand their level of emer-

gency preparedness. The survey responses also emphasized the need for emergency information targeted toward teens and increased access to emergency resources and contacts. The information collected also aided in the development of the campaign and creation of resources and tips about emergency and natural disaster topics including hurricane safety, how to prepare for a flood and recovery assistance resources.

"In the last eight years, the City of Houston has faced seven federally declared disasters. With storms coming at greater intensity and frequency, we must make sure our communities are resilient and that includes preparing the young people residing in our city," said Mayor Sylves-

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Mayor's final school drive a success

Mayor Sylvester Turner's 13th annual Back 2 School Fest was a huge success Saturday, Aug. 5, attracting more than 18,000 students and their families to the George R. Brown Convention Center.

This marked the second year the event has been back in person since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As we continue to navigate the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, my administration is focused on creating equity, especially when it comes to our children. Many Houston families are facing financial challenges and cannot afford basic school supplies," said Turner. "The Back to School Fest is about providing relief and ensuring that every child has the necessary tools they need for a successful start to the school year. We are also prioritizing their health by providing dental screenings, vision

screening, immunizations, COVID-19 vaccines, haircut vouchers and backpacks filled with school supplies. The only thing we want our youth focused on for the upcoming school year is learning."

More than 5,100 backpacks were distributed on-site. The remainder of the 25,000 backpacks were distributed to the community through local nonprofits, City Council offices and the interfaith community. The back-to-school fest also featured a wide range of health and social services and informational exhibits, including dental screenings and vision screenings. This comprehensive approach underscores the City's commitment to addressing the multifaceted needs of economically disadvantaged Houston-area elementary school students and their families.

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Man found fatally shot at Blackhawk Park

Contrary to rumors, death deemed homicide not suicide

Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man found about 7:05 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Blackhawk Park, located in the 9400 block of Blackhawk near Fuqua.

The identity of the victim, 29, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, officers were dispatched to a person-down call in a park at the above address after a passerby observed a male lying on the bleachers.

Officers arrived and observed the male had suffered multiple gunshot wounds.

Paramedics were called and pronounced the man dead at the scene. At press time, there were no known witnesses or suspect(s) in the shooting.

Contrary to online reports, the incident is not believed to be a suicide.

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

Burn ban issued in unincorporated areas

Harris, Fort Bend counties combat drought, wildfires

At the recommendation of the Harris County Fire Marshal, Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Aug. 8, approved a burn ban for all unincorporated portions of the county, effective immediately.

The burn ban prohibits outdoor burning except in an enclosure that contains all sparks and/or flames to prevent controlled fires from expanding. Outdoor burning activities authorized by TCEQ; approved ceremonial fires; non-commercial cooking such as backyard cookouts and barbecues are allowed; and welding and other "hot work" performed in accordance with coun-

ty fire code requirements.

The sale or use of fireworks is not affected by the burn ban. Residents are asked to exercise caution by removing combustible materials within 30 feet of any approved or permitted burning.

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) measures drought conditions based on the Keetch-Byram-Drought Index (KBDI) scale. KBDI conditions between 600 and 800 have the potential to lead to intense, prolonged wildfires. As of Aug. 8, Harris County's average KBDI was 681. Texas counties

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Broken pipes cause havoc



Broken water pipes forced the closure of the Olive Garden restaurant in the 12700 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua both Friday, Aug. 11, and Saturday, Aug. 12. Local officials said water service the surrounding communities was unaffected, as the damage was believed to have been isolated to just that one business.

In My Opinion

U.S. News honors area Memorial Hospitals

As the System shared earlier today, Memorial Hermann has once again earned recognition from U.S. News & World Report, with several of our hospitals and service lines named in its Best Hospital rankings for 2023-2024.

For this report, Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland were ranked jointly with Memorial Hermann Greater Heights, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center, and Memorial Hermann Southwest.

Please join me in celebrating Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland's recognition in this year's rankings:

- No. 6 best hospital in Texas.
- No. 4 best hospital in the Houston Metro area.
- Designated as High Performing in the following specialties: in Heart & Vascular; Gastroenterology & GI Surgery; Geriatrics; Neurology & Neurosurgery; Orthopedics; Pulmonology & Lung Surgery; and Urology.
- Designated as High Performing in the following procedures/conditions: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair; Heart Bypass Surgery; Congestive Heart Failure; Colon Cancer Surgery; COPD; Di-

abetes; Heart Attack; Kidney Failure; Knee Replacement; Pneumonia; and Stroke.

As you may know, the annual Best Hospitals rankings and ratings are intended to help patients and their doctors make informed decisions about where to receive high-quality care. U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 hospitals for the 2023-24 rankings, and only 12% of them earned a Best Hospitals ranking.

This recognition reflects our commitment to providing high-quality outcomes, as well as safe, caring, personalized and efficient care to our patients. From our provider, nursing and quality teams to our colleagues in EVS, FANS, pharmacy, lab, imaging and many others, this achievement is a result of your collaboration and our shared vision to create healthier communities – and it is certainly well deserved.

Congratulations to all those whose contributions made this recognition possible for our campuses. I am so proud to be on your team and am incredibly grateful for your hard work and dedication.

Noel J. Cárdenas
Senior Vice President and CEO
Memorial Hermann Southeast & Pearland Hospitals

Pham grateful for Gomez

Shining Star Thu Pham plans on attending the University of Houston after finishing high school at CTHS. Her time at Kirk Lewis included involvement in Robotics Summer Camp and Tournaments (where she was scout leader), the Pasadena Strawberry Festival and the National Honor Society.



Her chosen distinguished educator is Desiree Gomez, pharmacy teacher.

Pham says of her mentor, "I chose Mrs. Gomez as my distinguished educator because she is an amazing teacher who always helps her students and does everything to make sure her students succeed. I had Mrs. Gomez as a teacher during my sophomore, junior, and senior year and she has impacted my life through her kindness and generosity."

"As a teacher, she would provide her students with many resources and support to help learn the material and pass our PTCB exam. I will forever be grateful for having such a phenomenal teacher and everything she has done for me and all her students."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top Lewis Career & Technical High School students. The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running Top Shining Stars from South Houston, Pasadena Memorial and J. Frank Dobie High School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Nguyen admired Caldwell

Pasadena Memorial Shining Star Tan Nguyen praises PAP biology teacher Wendy Caldwell as his distinguished educator.

He says, "A superb teacher, model educator, and overall wonderful person, Mrs. Caldwell has greatly impacted my high school journey. She made biology seem fun and engaged her students from the first day of class. Many students

can agree that they looked forward to her class, and that says a lot. Even when times were tough, Mrs. Caldwell remained enthusiastic and in control. She wanted to see students succeed, which was especially prominent in her homeroom, where she would talk to everyone individually with an uplifting attitude. Thank you, Mrs. Caldwell, for everything you do for your students!"

Nguyen took on a variety of extracurriculars in his high school career, including involvement in XIX UIL junior high auditions, the Vietnamese Martyrs Church and National Honor Society. Nguyen also participated in PISD's summer robotics camp, Pasadena Memorial's musical program, acted as clarinet section leader in band and took part in ECHS student leadership committee. Following high school, he plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

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Kinsey empowered Cavazos

Shining Star Alexa Cavazos expresses that Tierika Kinsey, English teacher at Bondy Intermediate, "She has always been more than just a good teacher. Since the 7th grade Mrs. Kinsey has made an effort to

contribute to my education and well being.

"She has always found a way to check on me and somehow knows exactly when I need it. She was and is never afraid to be truthful with me. She taught me how to accept criticism and use it to enhance every aspect of my life. Mrs. Kinsey had faith in me before I had faith in myself. She enabled me to develop self confidence and the refusal to settle."

Cavazos plans to major in biochemistry, then attend medical school to become an oncologist. She was named vice president of the Class of 2023 and is social co-president of student council. She was also a member of the National Honor Society, HOSA, DECA, Mavs for Christ and was involved in Pasadena Memorial's golf events.

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Cantu impacted Fuentes

Shining Star Jacqueline Fuentes plans to become a family physician after high school. She emphasizes the effect distinguished educator Elsa Cantu, CTHS AP Spanish teacher, had on her schooling with

the statement, "Mrs. Cantu has emphasized the importance of education in an individual's life. She encourages us to aim high when setting our goals. She made her class feel like a family environment and always enlightened us with her incredible wisdom."

"Her passion for teaching and willingness to do better made me choose her as my Distinguished Educator. I am glad she was my teacher because it is undeniable that her character and identity impact whoever she comes across."

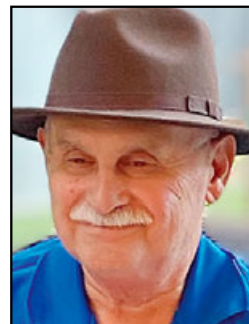
Fuentes was a member of HOSA, Brighter Bites, NHS, Tween Read, PTK, NTHS, Teen Court and was vice president for Name That Book.

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Deaths

Leopoldo D. Gomez Jr.



Leopoldo D. Gomez Jr., 79, of Houston, departed for heaven on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023. Leopoldo was affectionately known as Leo or Polo to his family and friends.

Polo, the fourth of eight children, was born on Oct. 30, 1943, in Hebronville, Texas, to Leopoldo D. Sr. and Leonor Gomez. After high school, he joined the U.S. Air Force, serving in the 831st Air Police Squadron at George Air Force Base in Victorville, Calif. Polo also served in Bien Hoa, Vietnam, as an MP. After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, he shared 53 years of marriage with Elda Gomez, the love of his life.

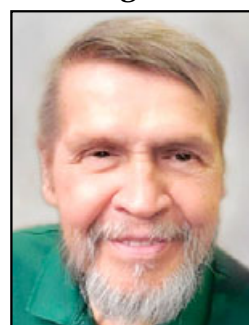
Polo is survived by his children Rene Gomez (Linda Perez), Ruby (Patricia) Gomez, and Raquel (Joe) Venusto; grandchildren Amanda (Brenda) Liguez, Noah Gomez, and Joshua Gomez; and great-grandchildren Juliet and Logan Liguez.

He is the self-published author of "Forty Years Later," the memoirs of his time in the military. He had a great affinity for good bourbon, fine cigars, vintage fountain pens, quality hats and western boots. He thoroughly enjoyed watching his grandsons play sports and above all else, he enjoyed spending quality time with his family and friends.

Polo has entered the kingdom of heaven and is now united with the love of his life.

A service was held and the family received friends to celebrate his life and share memories at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer, Aug. 15.

Jesse Longoria



Loving father, father-in-law, Baboo, brother, uncle and friend, Jesse Longoria, passed away on Monday, Aug. 8, 2023, at the age of 80. Jesse was born May 23, 1943, to Pedro and Frances Longoria in Nixon, Texas. He was the second of four children and grew up in Smiley, Texas. Jesse graduated from Smiley

Ellis' statement on judicial ruling

Below is Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis' statement on a state district judge's ruling to temporarily halt SB 1750 from becoming law:

"I applaud today's court ruling temporarily blocking SB 1750 from taking effect. The legislation targeting Harris County elections undermines the will of the people. We are on the front lines of a coordinated attack on our democracy because state leaders are afraid of Harris County voters' power and diversity. Two years ago, the state banned Harris County innovations like drive-thru and 24-hour voting that were embraced by voters. This year the state escalated its assault by passing legislation

High School, then attended Durham Electronics College.

Jesse was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Andrea; his parents; his in-laws, Guadalupe and Pedro Yruzegaz; brother, Pete Longoria (Lucy); and nephews, Mark Garza and Craig Orr. He is survived by his loyal dog, Eddie; three devoted daughters and loving sons-in-law, Amy Waltz (Brett), Tina Dvorak (Brent) and Jessica Sellers (Justin); grandchildren Isabella Waltz, Jacob Waltz, Julia Waltz, Mia Dvorak, Dylan Dvorak, Luke Dvorak, Andie Sellers, Barrett Sellers and Sam Sellers; sisters Matilda Reyes and Patsy Chavarria (Benny, deceased); sisters-in-law Lily Yruzegaz, Louisa Diaz (David, deceased), Josie Lazo (best friend, Mauro), Rufina Garza (Raul, deceased), Janie Cruz-Blackwood (Mark); brothers-in-law Cheo Yruzegaz (Pauline) and Pete Yruzegaz (Jackie); along with numerous adored nieces and nephews and close family friends.

Jesse was a veteran and a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. His experience in the Marines played a very important role in his life. He proudly displayed his Marine pride everywhere he went. Jesse served six years, receiving the National Defense Service Medal. He worked for Hughes Tool, John Hancock and Exxon Baytown Olefins Plant, where he retired after more than 20 years. After retirement, he was a realtor for many years.

He and Andrea moved to Sagemont in 1973 and were founding members of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. They lived and raised their daughters there for almost 30 years. Andrea and Jesse retired to Pearland where they lived near their children and grandchildren for more than 20 years. They were avid Astros fans and enjoyed attending games with family and friends, attending World Series games in 2017, 2019 and 2021.

Jesse was fiercely devoted to his church, his family and his Alcoholics Anonymous community. He served in numerous ministries, but cherished the Knights of Columbus, his Sunday morning men's group, Taco Tuesday, leading a weekly AA group and the men's ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology, Service) ministry.

In retirement, Jesse enjoyed playing golf, participating in church events and cooking for everyone. His specialty was breakfast tacos and Andrea's was the salsa. He and Andrea loved to travel, go to the movies and attend anything related to their nine grandchildren. To his grandchildren, Jesse was known as Baboo, named by his oldest granddaughter. He was incredibly proud of all of them and loved to share their stories.

Jesse was a friend to all, never meeting a stranger. He will be dearly missed.

A visitation with a rosary recital for Jesse was held Sunday, Aug. 13, at Forest Park East in Webster. A funeral Mass was held on Monday, Aug. 14, at St. Luke the Evangelist in Houston, followed by committal service at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster.

Barbara Davila Vasquez



Barbara Davila Vasquez, 83 years old, gracefully departed to heaven Aug. 9, 2023, at Magnolia Crossing in Houston, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on March 1, 1940, in Hargill, Texas to Juan and Anna Davila. She graduated from Edinburg High School in 1959, where she met the love of her life, Alfonso Vasquez. She married him Oct. 14, 1964. They moved to Houston, to establish a better life for their family.

She was a dedicated wife to her husband and nurturing mother to her daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren and great-grandchild. Barbara's compassion guided her as a stay-at-home mother, then in her 20+ years of service as a paraprofessional teacher for Pasadena ISD. She was very devoted to her community, as shown through her professional and volunteer work for Stuchbery, Meador and Garfield elementary schools, and as an ESL teacher and Bible studies leader at Sagemont Church. Barbara also served as team mom on her children's football, baseball and basketball teams. As a Christmas tradition, she performed the role of Mrs. Claus and read "The Night Before Christmas" at her grandchildren's elementary school. Barbara was committed to her grandchildren as she was to her children. She was cherished by all for her wisdom, kindness, glamor and beauty.

Barbara is preceded in death by her parents, Juan Davila and Anna Stafford; son, Arnold Vasquez; sisters, Alice Davila Rosa and Helen Davila Hernandez; and brothers, Johnny Davila and Daniel Davila. She is survived by her husband of 58 years; daughter, Elizabeth Ybarra and husband, Carlos Ybarra; son, Albert Vasquez; daughter-in-law, Stephanie Vasquez; sister, Anna Rosalez and husband, Johnny Rosalez; her eight beloved grandchildren, Dominique Vasquez, Kristy Ybarra and fiancé, Ryan Cooper, Alexa Vasquez, Joseph Ybarra, Victoria Vasquez, Krystal Ybarra, Alec Vasquez, and Nicholas Vasquez; great-grandchild, Devin Spears; several cousins, nieces, nephews, and other relatives; and dozens of adored friends. Barbara is dearly missed by all.

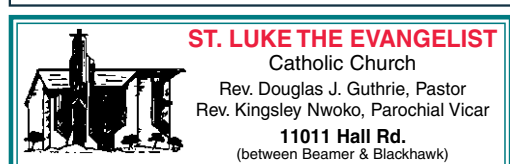
The funeral service will be held at Peevey Funeral Home, Thursday, Aug. 17, at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive.

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



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

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

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

Boy, 9, found dead

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investigators noted. At press time, the cause of the child's death was unknown and the case remained under investigation.

Child Protective Services was contacted by police and has been working with homicide investigators.

The mother remained free from any charges at press time while the investigation continued.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656
E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Santillan's guidance priceless to Houston



Shining Star Christina Houston credits Cristiana Santillan, South Houston ECHS counselor with her growth as a student, stating, "Mrs. Santillan has been influential in my life because she always saw the best in me and guided me to reaching my potential. She had been there for me if I ever needed her, and she helped me grow into a person that I could be proud of. I gained a sense of leadership and belonging thanks to Mrs. Santillan because of the constant comfort that she gave me. She made me feel like my own person who didn't have to be scared because I had a supporting hand, and I will forever be grateful."

During her time at South Houston High School, Houston was involved in chess club, acted as president of the National Honor Society, was a member of student council, and was orchestra vice president. She also spent time volunteering in Pasadena, both at local schools and at the Pasadena Animal Shelter.

Commenting on her future, Houston says, "My future plans after high school are to attend the University of Houston - Clear Lake to major in computer science and to one day obtain a job in the tech field."

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Hidalgo takes leave, Ellis in charge

Continued from Page 1

age others, who need help, to seek treatment. All of us know someone - a friend, a co-worker, or a family member - who suffers from depression. I encourage every person that is struggling with mental health challenges to look for support in your community, your loved ones and your doctor. If you need help finding support in Harris County, the Department of Public Health maintains a list of mental health resources that residents can find at: <https://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/Mental-Health-Resources>, or call 988. Remember prioritize your own health and that you are not alone.

"I will remain available in the event of an emergency, and

the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management remains fully engaged and prepared to respond to any potential incident or disaster during this time, and I will continue to remain available to staff. Since Commissioners Court rules indicate that the senior (longest standing) member of the court shall preside in my absence, Commissioner Rodney Ellis has graciously agreed to preside over Commissioners Court in my absence. Additionally, my chief of staff will continue to manage the day-to-day operations in my office.

"I am grateful for your understanding, as well as the support of my colleagues, friends and family. I hope to share more about my experience upon my return."

In a statement of support, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner also used the opportunity to encourage others with symptoms of depression to seek out help.

"As difficult as this may be, Judge Lina Hidalgo is not alone in facing this challenge," Turner's statement read. "A

2023 report showed that over 30 percent of adults meet the criteria for having depression and/or anxiety. Thankfully, she is in the care of doctors who recognize that this is treatable and is committed to getting better. All of us know someone who suffers from depression. The good news is that now

more than ever, resources are available for those who need help. My hope is that this experience can serve as a teachable moment and encourage others who need support to seek it. We cannot let stigma stand in the way of treatment. Our thoughts and prayers are with Judge Hidalgo."

Youth emergency program begins

Continued from Page 1

ter Turner. The City of Houston Youth Emergency Preparation Campaign was developed in collaboration with the City of Houston's Emergency Management, Ready Harris and the United Way. The Mayor's Office invites city and communi-

ty partners to support the emergency preparedness campaign by circulating infographics in schools, community centers, social media and after-school programs. Infographics can be found on its website at www.houstontx.gov/education/emergency-prep-youth.html. "A special thanks to the

Houston CFCI Youth Leaders who researched, gathered, and presented the emergency preparation information and will help disseminate the materials," said Office of Education and Youth Engagement Director Olivera Jankovska. "Youth participation is imperative as the City of Houston seeks to develop a more resilient and equitable city and are uniquely positioned to reach underserved communities such as opportunity youth, non-English speakers, immigrant, and low-income populations."

To get involved in local CFCI efforts, sign up for the CFCI Houston newsletter. To connect to the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement, contact Mayor's Office of Education Director Olivera Jankovska at moedu@houstontx.gov.

Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement

Public education is a human right, the great social equalizer, and a key to a prosperous community. Turner believes that each generation of children should be assured a better life and education.

Through collaboration, communication and coordination, the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement strives to ensure this goal for all families in Houston by promoting access to equitable education and opportunities.

Pector guided, empowered Garza



J. Frank Dobie's Shining Star Oscar Garza, shown with distinguished educator Dr. Grant Pector, Beverly Hills Intermediate life sciences teacher, was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, marching band and the chess club.

He plans attending the University of Texas for four years, barring admission into Rice University. After that he plans to attend med school and become an anesthesiologist.

On the impact Pector made on Garza and his schooling, Garza says, "Ever since 7th grade, he's shown me the possible results of staying committed to an activity and working hard no matter if I thought I've reached a ceiling. It didn't matter if we were in class, or chess, or pentathlon; he would guide me down the right path to push myself and reach new heights I never believed possible before. Even if my performance was quite disappointing on the day it mattered, he was there to support me and give me a push in the right direction. I aspire to be the type of man he is in the future."

The Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students who were honored along with their favorite mentor.

The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top J. Frank Dobie High School students.

The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running Shining Stars from South Houston, Pasadena Memorial and Kirk Lewis Technical high schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mayor's final school drive successful

Continued from Page 1

Primary sponsors included Shell, Houston First and the Houston Food Bank.

"We are especially thankful for our valued sponsors," said Turner. "Because of their generous support thousands of kids and their families will now have the necessary tools for a successful start to the school year. We're changing their future one child at a time."

Shell has been a partner in the event for more than a decade now.

"As the presenting sponsor of the 13th annual Mayor's Back to School Fest, Shell USA, Inc. has been working with the city for more than a decade on a variety of programs to help prepare our students for success," said Shell spokeswoman Christina Jones. "This is important to support our future talent pipeline but equally important to sustain and grow the

economic landscape of this community. We are grateful for this opportunity to partner with Mayor Turner. Together we are moving forward with students and our community."

Olivera Jankovska, director of the Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement, praised Turner for his efforts in what will be his last school drive before leaving office later this year.

"Mayor Sylvester Turner has been a champion of education and community development, consistently striving to improve the lives of Houston's residents. It is why we have dubbed him the "Education Mayor," said Jankovska. "The Mayor's Back to School Fest is just one of the many initiatives he has championed that reaffirms his commitment to education and supporting a bright future for students and families in the city of Houston."

The following is a list of

additional sponsors taking part in this year's event:

Texas Health and Human Services; University of Houston; Checkers; Comcast; Kelsey-Seybold Clinic; Legacy Community Health; My Connect; Texas Children's Health Plan; Verizon; YES Prep; DentaQuest; Justice for Children; Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages; Houston Community College; Prairie View A&M University; Metropia; 2024 College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee; First Service Credit Union; Inb Sina Foundation; Enterprise; Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers; Texas Barber College; Jetco Delivery; Staples; Southwest Airlines; Crimestoppers of Houston; National Kidney Foundation; Houston Astros; METRO; STS Brand; McDonald's Houston; Media Partners; CW39 Houston; Telemundo; KSBJ; and Vida Unida.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Pasadena Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 29, 2023 in 1515 Cherrybrook Pasadena Texas 77502. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.7982/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.3400/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	2.80 % increase
Debt Service	1.54 % increase
Total Expenditures	2.67 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$24,279,661,641	\$26,923,232,327
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$264,684,285	\$377,153,429
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$19,492,300,758	\$21,614,623,369
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$212,494,958	\$302,787,913

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$760,255,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.9953	\$0.3400	\$1.3353	\$5,205	\$5,963
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.7043	\$0.3097	\$1.0140	\$4,381	\$6,802
Proposed Rate	\$0.7982	\$0.3400	\$1.1382	\$5,199	\$7,470

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$200,788	\$222,932
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$139,721	\$91,639
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.3353	\$1.1382
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,865.69	\$1,043.04
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-822.65

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.1382. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.1382.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$168,958,750
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$35,203,194

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Garza grateful for Patterson's efforts

Shining Star Gael Garza plans to earn his bachelor's degree in computer science and attributes distinguished educator Carol Patterson, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School AVID teacher, with his acceptance into A&M's engineering program.



He says of Patterson's diligence, "Ms. Patterson is one of a kind. I had lost hope of applying to an engineering program. Deadlines were in less than a week and I needed a letter of recommendation. I felt that was there absolutely no chance that I would be able to get a letter in that period of time. Ms. Patterson asked how the process was going and as soon as I told her what had happened, she wrote one of the most moving letters of recommendation any student could have received. With Ms. Patterson's support, I was accepted into the engineering program at Texas A&M."

Garza was involved in Key Club, NHS, HOSA, student council, STEM Club, Safe School Ambassadors and was the vice president of Youth for Christ. He also spent time volunteering at his local parish, the Fire Prevention Festival, as well as various schools throughout Pasadena.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students who were honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top Lewis Career & Technical High School students. The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running Shining Stars from South Houston, Pasadena Memorial and J. Frank Dobie High School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Beckham assisted, motivated White

Jacob White, Dobbie Shining Star, plans to study creative writing while premed at the University of Chicago, and accredits distinguished educator Dereck Beckham with the motivation to do so.



White says this of the Dobbie English II teacher, "Mr. Beckham has been a great source of support and advice. He has always only been an email away and he has definitely shaped my path."

"His class is a major reason for why I decided to study creative writing, as I thoroughly enjoyed every second of it. He helped prepare me for college English and helped ensure my success for the future. I will always be thankful for all the help he has given me along the way."

White was also treasurer of San Jacinto South's Black Student Association and enjoys writing poems and novels.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students who were honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top J. Frank Dobie High School students. The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running Shining Stars from South Houston, Pasadena Memorial and Kirk Lewis Technical high schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

Local hospital welcomes endocrinologist



Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital is pleased to welcome endocrinologist Dr. Schola Nwachukwu, who is serving patients at 18123 Upper Bay Road, in medical office building 4, suite 400. Nwachukwu is a board-certified, fellowship-trained endocrinologist. Her expertise includes adrenal disorders, diabetes, hypoglycemia, lipid disorders, male hypogonadism, osteoporosis, parathyroid disorders, pituitary disorders and polycystic ovarian syndrome. "As an endocrinologist, I'm passionate about patient education," Nwachukwu said. "I believe that knowledge is empowering, and I strive to equip my patients with the information and resources necessary to actively participate in their own health management. By understanding their condition and available treatment options, they can make informed decisions and take control of their health." Nwachukwu attended medical school at the University of Ibadan, in Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria, and completed her internship in internal medicine at Nashville General Hospital. She completed her fellowship in endocrinology at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Nwachukwu or other endocrinologist, call Houston Methodist Endocrinology Associates - Clear Lake at 281-737-1171, or visit houstonmethodist.org/spg/endocrinology/clear-lake. U.S. News & World Report has named Houston Methodist Hospital the Best Hospital in Texas for 12 years in a row and recognized the hospital on the honor roll seven times. For more than 100 years, Methodist Clear Lake has provided patients with the best — and safest — clinical care, advanced technology and patient experience. That is Methodist's promise of leading medicine.

Woods encouraged Ngo

Distinguished scholar Brenda Ngo was involved in photography, the Interact Club, Crafter's Club, Gay Straight Alliance Club and HOSA.

She acted as administrative co-president, secretary and treasurer in student council, treasurer of the National Honor Society, historian of Club Nexus and speaker



for the Safe School Ambassador club.

Ngo selected Stephanie Woods, PMHS English I, AP language and composition teacher, to be her distinguished educator. She says of her influence, "From education to personal life, Ms. Woods has demonstrated endless attention and care for my issues and success over all four years of my high school career. The encouragement, kind words, and constant acknowledgment of my hard work from Ms. Woods allowed me to continue to push forward through the difficult times. She has created a space for not only myself, but for all students, to feel safe and to seek guidance when necessary. Ms. Woods has inspired me to step outside of my comfort zone and has given me the opportunity to fearlessly seek her aid at any time."

While her high school career included involvement in Gifted and Talented summer camps, donation drives for change, cards for cancer/cards for appreciation, as well as community service cleanup; Ngo has a busy future ahead of her.

She says, "After high school, I hope to attend MIT, USC, or UT Austin and become a pharmaceutical scientist to focus my education on medical research toward creating an affordable, and possibly, ingestible medicine for dementia, specifically Alzheimer's disease."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students who were honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top Pasadena Memorial High School students. The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District.

The Leader is also running Shining Stars from South Houston, CTHS and J. Frank Dobie High School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Ruberg supported an appreciative Pector



Distinguished Dobbie scholar Sydnee Pector, shown here with distinguished educator Tyler Ruberg, Dobbie choir teacher, says "I plan to attend university and major in engineering. With my engineering degree, I wish to attend law school and become a patent lawyer, combining both my passion for STEM and debating."

A former member of the Key Club and National Honor Society, Pector also held the positions of choir council member and debate novice liaison.

Speaking on her appreciation for Ruberg, she says, "Ruberg has been one of the most joyful educators throughout my career. I love his sarcasm and hilarious sense of humor, which I can relate to because I find it similar to mine."

"He has always been understanding of my busy schedule and has supported me throughout my journey with music and just growing as a student. He has largely influenced my passion for singing and I will be forever grateful for his contribution to my outlook on life and the emotions music brings me."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students who were honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top J. Frank Dobie High School students. The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running Shining Stars from South Houston, Pasadena Memorial and Kirk Lewis Technical high schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)

The Ellington Air Force Base-Pasadena Golf Course opened with ceremonies featuring U.S. Rep. Bob Gamman and Pasadena Mayor John Ray Harrison.

The local Dobbie-South Houston American Legion baseball team took two games against Bartlesville, Okla., and consequently won the Southern Regional championship. The team earned the right to represent not only the South Belt area, but the entire U.S. southern region in the National Championship in Yakima, Wash.

40 years ago (1983)

According to a South Belt Leader survey, two homes in Seardsdale experienced flooding associated with Hurricane Alicia, and flooding in Sagemont was limited to a reported eight homes out of the subdivision's 1,839 homes.

South Belt area insurance agents were besieged with calls from customers wishing to file claims on damage from Hurricane Alicia.

35 years ago (1988)

After two years in the planning stages, construction began on the South Belt area's new recreation facility, a park south of Blackhawk in Sageglen between Sageplum and Sagemark. The \$614,000 park project was completely financed by MUD 13. The district was financing the project without delving into its tax or operating funds.

South Belt Optomist Club member David Halbert found newspapers dating back to 1939 in a newspaper collection bin.

30 years ago (1993)

Following a rash of traffic accidents at the intersection of Beltway 8 at Beamer, state highway department project engineer Charles Gaskins ordered a study of the intersection. Several accidents reportedly occurred when drivers went straight from the left-turn-only lanes westbound on the beltway at Sabo and Beamer.

The South Belt Sports Association held a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the proposed youth sports complex on Hall Road-Blackhawk at South Bluff. County Commissioner El Franco Lee was

in attendance at the event.

1992 Dobbie graduate Emily King, daughter of Terry and Dixie King and sister of Thomas King, was selected as head dance captain for the world-famous Apache Belles drill team of Tyler Junior College. The former lieutenant colonel of the Lariatettes received a full-tuition scholarship and an additional \$500.

The Federal Aviation Administration named Ellington Field the southwest region's Airport of the Year. It was selected for having met and exceeded federal safety requirements for airports that serve passenger aircraft with more than 30 seats.

25 years ago (1998)

Clear Brook senior Brian Martin represented the United States in the world triathlon meet in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dobbie senior cheerleader Vicki Zweifel won first place in the UCA camp varsity jump-off. Dobbie senior Melody Zmarzy also made it into

the finals of the jump-off.

20 years ago (2003)

Candidates for mayor Michael Berry, Orlando Sanchez, Sylvester Turner and Bill White addressed topics of specific concern to residents of the South Belt. The forum was hosted by the Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club and was held at San Jacinto College South.

Technical problems associated with a new software system forced registration to be cancelled for two days at all three San Jac College campuses.

15 years ago (2008)

The Leader received complaints from several residents that the METRO Fuqua Park and Ride facility was seriously overcrowded. The service had become increasingly popular in recent months due to high gas prices.

In its first year of operation, Clear Creek Independent School District's Clear Horizons Early College High School earned an Exemplary

rating from the Texas Education Agency. Located at the San Jacinto College South campus, the school allowed eligible CCISD students to take high school and college courses simultaneously.

Houston police arrested one suspect and released the identity of a second in connection with the killing of Andrae Prentice Shelton, who was fatally shot outside the Sage Hollow apartment complex. Joe Everett Foster Jr., 28, was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon. A second suspect, former Dobbie student Frederick Douglas, 20, remained at large and was wanted on the same charge.

10 years ago (2013)

The J. Frank Dobie Lariatettes Drill Team announced its 2013-2014 offi-

cers. Elizabeth Montemayor was named captain, Emmi Kieu was named colonel, Karla Reyna and Marlene Martinez were each named lieutenant, Geraldine Navarette was named major, and Abby Pedroza was named lieutenant colonel.

5 years ago (2018)

Dobbie High School began its 50th year. To honor the occasion, an open house for alumni was held Saturday, Aug. 11, at both the original campus on Beamer and the new one on Blackhawk.

Longtime South Belt resident Candace Kitchen Adkin, 54, was found dead in her burned vehicle on Friday, Aug. 10, in South Houston. Terrance Washington, 27, was charged with aggravated kidnapping and tampering with evidence in the case. Adkin was last seen alive around 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 8, when she was abducted at her apartment complex in the 3600 block of South Shaver and forced into her 2009 Mercedes. Two days later, Adkin's car was discovered burning in the parking lot of a Food Town in the 3300 block of Shaver. Her body was in the back seat. Washington was spotted near the fire and arrested on an unrelated criminal mischief charge. During questioning by police, Washington reportedly admitted to abducting Adkin and setting fire to her vehicle, but he denied killing her. Adkin was a 1982 Dobbie graduate.

1 year ago (2022)

Deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit took part in a large drug bust that netted more than 134 pounds of methamphetamine.

The case began along the Gulf Freeway and took investigators to North Houston, where the recent raid took place.

A joint operation with the Texas City Police Department, the Precinct 2 Special Operations Unit was assisted by multiple other law enforcement agencies, including federal au-

thorities.

In addition to the methamphetamine, deputies recovered a little under 3 pounds of marijuana, one semiautomatic shotgun and three handguns.

Two suspects were arrested and charged with two counts of felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, as well as one count of unlawful carrying of a weapon. The identities of the two suspects were not released as it was an ongoing investigation.

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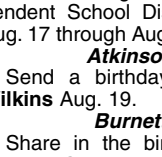
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Over The Back Fence by Natalie



MARY ELLEN ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Mary Ellen Morgan** Aug. 23 from her husband **Larry**, son **Tommy**, daughter **Elizabeth Echols**, son-in-law **Tim Echols**, grandson **Justin Echols** and the **Leader** staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 17 through Aug. 23.

Atkinson Elementary
Send a birthday greeting to **Adrienne Wilkins** Aug. 19.

Burnett Elementary
Share in the birthday fun Aug. 17 with **Jennie Graham**. Send a happy birthday greeting to **Melisa Evans** Aug. 18. Share a slice of birthday cake with **Romona Dawson** Aug. 22.

Bush Elementary
Light the birthday candles for **Laura Ramsahai** Aug. 17.

Genoa Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Aug. 22 is **Elena Pantoja**. Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 23 to **Steven Sawyer**.

Meador Elementary
Celebrating a birthday Aug. 17 is **Tracie**

Nair. Celebrating a birthday Aug. 21 is **Judith Kelly**. Remember to wish **Heather Morales** a happy birthday Aug. 22.

Moore Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 18 to **Roxanne Carbajal**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Celebrating a special birthday Aug. 20 is **Tracy Duron**. Send a greeting to **Lauren Palos** for an Aug. 22 birthday. Having a memorable birthday celebration Aug. 23 is **Cristina Rodriguez**.

Melillo Middle School
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 18 to **Valerie Espinosa**. Celebrating a birthday Aug. 22 is **Maria Diaz**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a birthday greeting Aug. 23 to **Ellen Murphy**.

Dobbie High
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Aug. 19 are sent to **Lorena Benavides Sanchez**. **Cindy Mutz** marks a birthday Aug. 21.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The **South Belt-Ellington Leader** sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF:

Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, Aug. 17: **Denise Motezuma, Linda Rodriguez, Michelle Brovey and Paulo Espinoza**, Friday, Aug. 18: **Marty Gomez, Cathy Shipley, Shametta Benson, Corina Lopez, Jo Anne Muse, Vita Bernal, Annette Barrientos and Chris Cook**; Saturday, Aug. 19: **Robert Mireles, Nathan Nguyen, Pamela Walters, Jody Urschel-Oun, Shandy Lecourias, Pamela McDonald and Derrick Pyppe**; Sunday, Aug. 20: **Rachel McClure, Claire Speck, Raymond Jackson and Todd Nathans**; Monday, Aug. 21: **John Linares, Kip Ledgerwood, Gabrielle Loya, Brandi Washer and Leticia Gonzalez**; Tuesday, Aug. 22: **Pat Gonzales, Monica Castro, Kassi Richardson, Herman Garcia, Chrystal Sulak, Janie Chapaand Bill Edwards**; and Wednesday, Aug. 23: **Viv Castillo, Mary Miller, Jim Kunkel, Shelly Rivera, Mary Wesfahl and Patti Parker**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Wins aplenty as local volleyball programs get 2023 season rolling

Dickinson Gator Invitational
Aug. 17 and Aug. 19
Aug. 17 Bracket Play
Brook vs. Houston Lamar, 8 a.m.
Dobie vs. La Porte, 11 a.m.
Aug. 18 Nondistrict Play
Dobie hosts Marshall, 5:30 p.m.
Brook hosts Friendswood, 5:30 p.m.

SBGSA hosts fall sign-up
 The South Belt Girls Softball Association is continuing online registration for its fall season at www.southbeltsoftball.com as players in the 6-under through 14-under divisions are welcome to play with no residency restrictions for the fall season.
 The fall ball registration will run through Aug. 20 and is \$75 for all players. Games will begin in September and will be played at the league's facility at El Franco Park as well as neighboring facilities within a 30-minute commute.
 For additional information about the season, including coaching and volunteer opportunities, direct email to southbeltgirlssoftball@live.com.

BHI community day is Aug. 26
 The Beverly Hills Intermediate athletic department will host a community day featuring the football and volleyball programs Aug. 26 on the school campus from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be food, games and fun for the entire family as the Bears celebrate the start of the fall season.

PISD, CCISD online tickets
 Local high school sports fans will again head online during the 2023-2024 school year to purchase tickets for their favorite teams and events. In continuing with the online access to which most school districts across the state now turn, PISD athletic officials will have weekly individual event tickets available at www.pasadenaisd.org/athletics.
 Cash is not accepted at districtwide events, with parents and other attendees instead purchasing tickets online. For the 2023 varsity football season at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Pasadena, adult tickets are \$7 each. Pasadena ISD athletic director Rupert Jaso said the district's Friday night varsity football games will again be streamed free of charge, also at www.pasadenaisd.org/athletics.
 Those looking to attend Clear Creek ISD events will also be required to buy tickets online via ccisd.net/athletics. For varsity football games at Challenger Stadium in Webster and Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City, presale ticket costs are \$7 each for adults and \$5 for students four years and older. Ages 3 and under get in free. Game day tickets are \$9 each.
 Visit www.ccisd.net/athletics and visit ticket information in order to purchase event tickets on a weekly basis.
 As for streaming availability, Clear Creek ISD is partnering with the for-pay site at NFHS Network.
 Both monthly and annual subscription rates are available at NFHSNetwork.com.

Week one of the varsity volleyball season went splendidly for local programs as Dobie scored a pair of nondistrict wins, Lutheran South claimed

a trophy and Clear Brook gained confidence with a solid showing at one of the state's premier events.
 A confident Dobie varsity volleyball team was

set to open play at the Dickinson ISD Gator Invitational Aug. 17, having scored a pair of wins in the season's first week.
 Avenging a straight-set

loss to Baytown Sterling in the 2022 season opener, Dobie this time around celebrated the start of the 2023 campaign with a sweep of the Rangers Aug. 8 at Phillips Field House.

Playing at the Pasadena Memorial Volleybush Aug. 10-12, the Pioneers won the runner-up trophy, taking five straight victories before a title match loss to Richmond Foster.

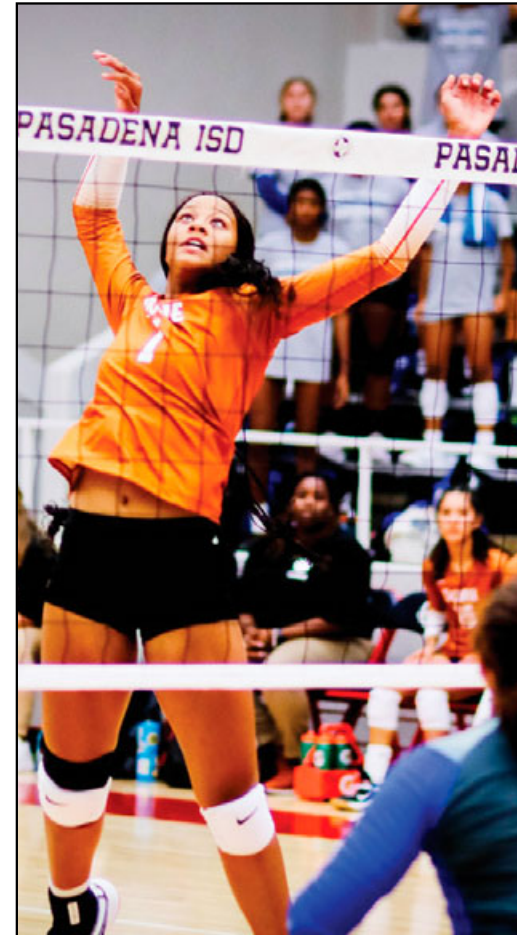


Fast forward to Aug. 11 at Goose Creek Memorial, and Dobie improved to 2-0 with a 25-22, 28-26, 19-25, 25-16 win.
 The Longhorns, who traveled to Crosby Aug. 15 after press time, will next face La Porte Aug. 17 at Dickinson.

The Pioneers, winners of six of seven to complete the first week of the season, took best-of-three pool play matches against Houston Lamar (25-5, 25-5), Baytown Lee (25-12, 25-7) and Clements (25-14, 25-22) on the first day.
 On trophy day, the LSA bunch bounced Galveston Ball and Humble, then fell 25-14, 27-25 to Foster in the final.

Dobie will host Fort Bend Marshall Aug. 18 at home, then return to Dickinson Aug. 19 for trophy-round action.
 Lutheran South, a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state semifinalist last season, also started the 2023 season with a string of wins.

With its 25-20, 25-21, 25-12 home win over Bay Area Christian Aug. 8, LSA won 11 straight sets to begin the season.
 As for Clear Brook, the



At left, Aly Frias (17), Dobie's third-year standout libero, had a team-high 17 digs and three service aces in the Longhorns' opening-night sweep of Baytown Sterling Aug. 8 at Phillips Field House. The Longhorns will play in the Gator Invitational Aug. 17 and Aug. 19, sandwiched around an Aug. 18 home match against Fort Bend Marshall.
 Photo by Donna Alsdorf

At right, making her varsity debut, Dobie freshman Amaya Langellier (1) had six kills on 12 attack tries as she contributed a solid effort to the locals' sweep over the Baytown Sterling Rangers Aug. 8 at Phillips Field House. She had six more kills as Dobie defeated Goose Creek Memorial in four sets on the road Aug. 11.
 Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dobie football to scrimmage against Berneathy's La Porte

The quick-paced high school football preseason continues as the Dobie Longhorns host the La Porte Bulldogs in scrimmage action Aug. 17 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena, with the start of the regular season then just eight days away.
 The Dobie faithful will have a chance to see what former Longhorn head

coach Kevin Berneathy has going at La Porte as he and his staff begin year two with the Bulldogs

who were in the hunt for a playoff spot until the final week in 2022 before falling a win short at 5-5

overall in District 8-5A Division I.
 A few scripted plays here and there will be the focus in the three phases of the game as the freshmen go at 4 p.m., followed by the junior varsity action at 5:30 p.m. and varsity play at 7 p.m.
 It represents a bit of a dress rehearsal for both programs prior to opening

night Aug. 25 as Dobie takes on Clear Brook at Veterans Memorial Stadium on the Clear Creek High School campus in League City.
 La Porte, currently witnessing the construction of a new Bulldog Stadium, will travel to Deer Park

Aug. 17 Football Scrimmage
Dobie hosts La Porte
Veterans Stadium, Pasadena
Freshmen 4 p.m.; Junior Varsity 5:30 p.m.;
Varsity 7 p.m.

Moreno praises tennis squad's steady progress

Maintaining a dominance of the other Pasadena ISD programs and challenging the reigning champion Deer Park Deer for the District 22-6A team tennis championship is the ultimate goal at Dobie.

bie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said. "The effort is there, and each and every one of these kids is working hard to see success."
 "We came into the season knowing that some kids were going to have to play in spots that they aren't accustomed to in terms of the competition."
 "Hailey Maldonado, our No. 1 girl, has the experience and had a good feel for what playing in

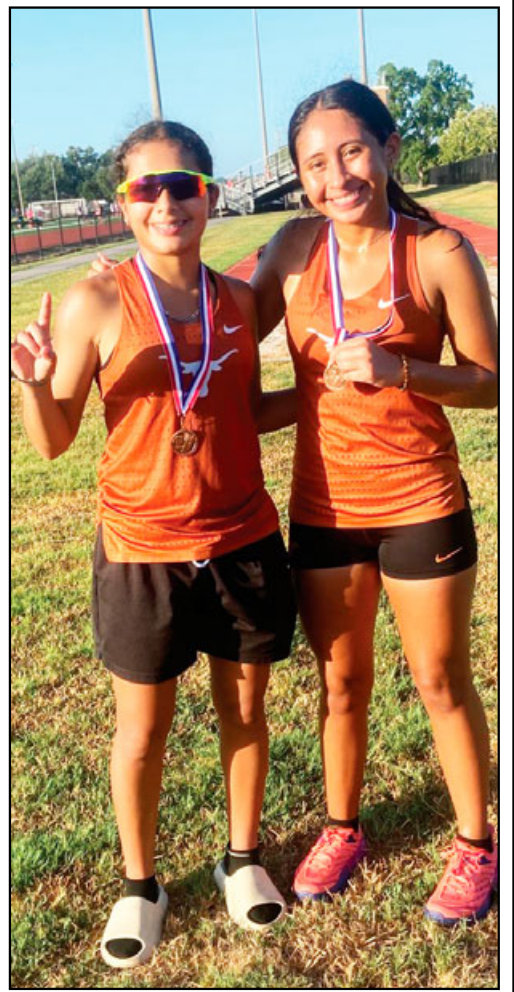
a top spot entails, but for some of these other players, it's been tough."
 Moreno makes no excuses, but injuries to two key girls' players have further thinned the talent pool for the time being. Now, the overall depth of what was already an inexperienced roster is being put to the test again and again.
 "This is a great group of kids, and I know they are going to celebrate when we do win that first one."

Next month will be a big one for Dobie as the majority of district play will come, with the Longhorns looking to again reach the postseason as no worse than a No. 2 seed behind heavy favorite Deer Park.
 Before that, though, Dobie will continue taking on some of the top teams in the region.
 "I know the kids are improving and getting the varsity experience they need as we move forward as a team, but I also know they would welcome a victory," Moreno said.
 "We have had some close matches, and winning a super tiebreaker here or there could turn the tide our way. We will just keep playing hard, and the wins will come."
 "I'm proud of the effort and the team work, and that they are so supportive of each other no matter the result. Hallie Vu has been a boost for us on the girls' side, and Rigo Alanis and Tre Ramirez have been solid at No. 3 doubles."

Dobie hosts Clear Falls
Aug. 17, 2:30 p.m., main campus
Dobie at Dickinson
Aug. 18, 3 p.m.

JFD duos open 2023 at Lake

At right, returning Dobie girls' cross-country standouts Kyla Lobo (left) and Valerie Salazar combined to finish sixth overall as Clear Lake hosted a four-mile relay event Aug. 11 to start the regular season for several top area programs. Senior Damian Rosas teamed with junior Christopher Lopez for fifth place in the varsity boys' division as runners covered two miles each, grouping their respective times. Dobie will be back in action Aug. 18 as the La Porte cross-country program hosts its annual invitational at Northwest Park in La Porte.



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Bay Area Football League Regular Season Standings (Through Aug. 12 Play)

Pee Wee Division

Team	W	L	T
Sagemont	1	0	0
Alvin	1	0	0
Angleton	1	0	0
Bay Area	1	0	0
Hitchcock	1	0	0
League City	1	0	0
Manvel	1	0	0
Magnolia	0	1	0
East End	0	1	0
Pear. Pats	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Brazosport	0	1	0
La Porte	0	1	0
SE Houston	0	1	0
Pasadena	0	0	0

Freshman Division

Sagemont	1	0	0
Alvin	1	0	0
Angleton	1	0	0
Bay Area	1	0	0
League City	1	0	0
La Porte	1	0	0
Manvel	1	0	0
Hitchcock	0	1	0
Magnolia	0	1	0
East End	0	1	0
Pear. Pats	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Brazosport	0	1	0
SE Houston	0	1	0
Pasadena	0	0	0

Sophomore Division

Alvin	1	0	0
Angleton	1	0	0
Bay Area	1	0	0
Hitchcock	1	0	0
Brazosport	1	0	0
Magnolia	1	0	0
SE Houston	1	0	0
League City	0	1	0
Manvel	0	1	0
Sagemont	0	1	0
East End	0	1	0
Pear. Pats	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
La Porte	0	1	0
Pasadena	0	0	0

Junior Division

Sagemont	1	0	0
Alvin	1	0	0
Angleton	1	0	0
Bay Area	1	0	0
Hitchcock	1	0	0
League City	1	0	0
Magnolia	1	0	0
Manvel	0	1	0
East End	0	1	0
Pear. Pats	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Brazosport	0	1	0
La Porte	0	1	0
SE Houston	0	1	0
Pasadena	0	0	0

Senior Division

Sagemont	1	0	0
League City	1	0	0
East End	1	0	0
Pear. Pats	1	0	0
Pear. Texans	1	0	0
La Porte	1	0	0
Manvel	0	1	0
Magnolia	0	1	0
SE Houston	0	1	0
Alvin	0	1	0
Angleton	0	1	0
Bay Area	0	1	0
Hitchcock	0	1	0
Brazosport	0	1	0
Pasadena	0	0	0

Pioneers make title match at PMHS Volleybash



The Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball team finished as runner-up at the Pasadena Memorial Volleybash Aug. 10-12, putting together five straight victories before losing to Foster in the championship match. LSA, a state semifinalist in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools a season ago, won six of seven matches overall during the season's first week. Members of the Pioneer team are, left to right, (front row) Remy Keller, Jamie Faseler, Taylor Crain, Kailee Scarborough, Anna Schepmann, (back row) Ha-leigh Pham, Keturah Wolfgramm, Kirra Musgrove, Makynna Robbins, Aniston Collins and Kenna Sambrano.

Longhorn football nears regular season start

Continued from Page 5
Aug. 25 to kick off its season.

As year two of the Diamond Stafford era proceeds, the head coach is excited about the possibilities for the Longhorns as things have been able to run much smoother from his debut season to now.

Stafford, who led the Longhorns to a 6A Division I playoff berth and a 4-7 overall finish in 2022,

said continuity within the program itself and the presence of plenty of veteran leadership on the field this season should provide a big lift.

"The familiarity in all aspects of the program is big," Stafford said.

"In the first year of a new coach and staff coming in, there are going to be growing pains and adjustments.

"Coaches getting a feel

for what players' strengths are, players getting to know new coaches.

"Those are all adjustments that for the most part we don't have this

year. For the most part, we can coach the kids, and they can let their abilities show in a system they know after being in it a second year."

Dobie football at Clear Brook

Fri., Aug. 25, 7 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Stadium

Dobie graduates begin college football workouts



A pair of Dobie High School football standouts and Class of 2023 graduates have started preseason workouts with their respective collegiate pro-



grams as Jalen Baldwin (left) is at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and Nigel Hill is at Prairie View A&M University in Houston.

Thompson Lions 2023 Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23	Campus scrimmages
Aug. 30	at Park View
Sept. 6	San Jacinto
Sept. 13	at Miller
Sept. 20	Beverly Hills at Dobie
Sept. 27	at Southmore
Oct. 4	Bondy
Oct. 11	at South Houston
Oct. 18	7B tourn. at San Jacinto
Oct. 18	8B tourn. at Bondy
Oct. 19	7A tourn. at South Houston
Oct. 19	8A tourn. at Queens

"B" matches 4:30 p.m.; "A" follows

Beverly Hills Bears 2023 Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 23	Campus scrimmages
Aug. 30	Jackson
Sept. 6	at South Houston
Sept. 13	Bondy
Sept. 20	Thompson at Dobie
Sept. 27	Miller
Oct. 4	at San Jacinto
Oct. 11	at Southmore
Oct. 18	7B tourn. at San Jacinto
Oct. 18	8B tourn. at Bondy
Oct. 19	7A tourn. at South Houston
Oct. 19	8A tourn. at Queens

"B" matches 4:30 p.m.; "A" follows



San Jacinto College softball head coach Kelly Saenz's (center) collegiate alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University, announced the former Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year as one of seven individuals, along with the 1971-1972 men's basketball team, as inductees into the 2023 EKU Hall of Fame class.

San Jac College softball's Saenz headed into EKU's hall of fame

By Amanda Fenwick
SJC VP/Marketing
San Jacinto College softball head coach Kelly Saenz can add another Hall of Fame induction to her resume.

Her alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University, announced the former Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year as one of seven individuals, along with the 1971-1972 men's basketball team, as inductees into the 2023 EKU Hall of Fame class.

"I am incredibly honored to be considered among a talented and distinguished class of Hall of Fame inductees," said Saenz, who just completed her 20th season as head softball coach at San Jacinto College.

"I love coaching. I have a passion for teaching and mentoring student-athletes. But to be recognized for my time on the field at an institution where I had so much fun and made so many memories is really an unbelievable feeling.

"I am thankful to the selection committee at Eastern Kentucky University for this honor and I look forward to attending the induction luncheon and activities."

Saenz played four seasons with EKU's softball program, earning conference player of the year honors in 1998.

She hit .321 in her career with 18 home runs and 99 RBI. As a sophomore, she batted .416 with 17 doubles and ranked 20th nationally with 12

home runs. "We are thrilled for coach Saenz to receive the news that she is going to be inducted into her alma mater's hall of fame," said Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives.

"Coach Saenz is an incredible asset to our athletics program here at San Jacinto College. She clearly has had an impact on our student-athletes on and off the field, and we are proud of everything she has accomplished during her playing and coaching careers."

During her 20 years at San Jac, Saenz has notched 731 wins. She has led her teams to six National Junior College Athletic Association Softball World Series appearances, with a program-best third place national finish in 2021, including three conference championships and five regional tournament championships. She has coached 98 all-conference and 86 all-region XIV players, and five NJCAA All-Americans.

The Ravens' head coach was the 2022 Region XIV Coach of the Year and twice had the NFCA regional coaching staff of the year.

She has also coached three regional and four conference pitchers of the year, and two regional and two conference players of the year.

Softball has dominated Saenz's youth and professional career. A Winnipeg

shortstop with a power bat, Saenz helped the Smitty's Midget girls' division team in 1995 and 1996 to two of three consecutive Canadian championships. For her contributions, she made the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame in 2014 and, along with former teammates, the Softball Canada Hall of Fame in 2015.

Saenz began her collegiate coaching career with Frank Phillips College's Lady Plainsmen in 2003.

She holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from Eastern Kentucky University and a master's degree in health, physical education and recreation from the University of South Dakota. She and her husband, Mike, live in the Houston area.

In addition to Saenz, the 2023 EKU Hall of Fame class includes David Bootcheck (men's basketball), Lori Duncan (volleyball), Bernadette Kok (volleyball and women's basketball), Lydia Kosgei (women's track and field and cross-country), Bruce Oldendick (men's golf), David Wilkins (football) and the 1971-72 men's basketball team.

The 2023 Eastern Kentucky University Hall of Fame induction luncheon will take place on Saturday, Sept. 23 at noon at the EKU Center for the Arts.

The inductees will be recognized during the Colonels' football game against Southeast Missouri State later that day.

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THURSDAY, AUG. 17
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland or online on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website or call 281-485-3634.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.
FRIDAY, AUG. 18
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets monthly at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - monthly dance at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3. All area singles invited to attend. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hasca.com or https://nastuff.com/.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices

available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, AUG. 19
7:30 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit https://www.houstonalananon.org/.
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 beforehand. Jam-3:30/ Bands-6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Bluegrass Association** - music show and jam session at Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave. Pickers may come early. Visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.
SUNDAY, AUG. 20
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285 or stop by.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, AUG. 21
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon, 713-472-0565 for tours.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons Call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian

Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
TUESDAY, AUG. 22
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Monday's notice.
9 a.m. **American Begonia Society** - Meets at Helen Hall Library, 300 W. Walker. Call 281-481-2458.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets in-person for a hybrid meeting at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. or call 832-722-9061.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

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Dobie varsity volleyball program has veteran leadership to show the way in 2023 as season opens



The Dobie varsity volleyball team, which will compete in the Dickinson ISD Gator Invitational Aug. 17 and Aug. 19, will be led by a lengthy cast of seniors and several newcomers alike. The 2023 squad includes, left to right, Leslie Sarduy (19), Alysa Sanchez (18), Matison Mitchell (3), Belle Perridon (9), Arianna Borrego (15), Adalee Garcia (10), Haley Precella (4), Ariana Garza (8), Amaya Langellier (1), Haley DeHoyos (13), Lexie Gonzalez (11), Julie Aguirre

(12), Naima LeBlanc (20), Hope Ortiz (6), Andrea Garcia (5), Alana Goree (2) and Aly Frias (17). With nine seniors back from a season ago, Dobie has one of the most experienced varsity rosters in the region, with DeHoyos, Frias, Garza, Gonzalez and logging significant playing time since the start of their sophomore seasons during the 2021-2022 school year.

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Dobie's Ariana Garza (8), back for her third varsity season, will lead her team into action at the Dickinson ISD Gator Invitational Aug. 17 and Aug. 19 as the locals begin play Aug. 17 against La Porte. *Photo by Donna Alsdorf*

Volleyball programs enjoy strong starts

Continued from Page 5
 Wolverines defeated St. Agnes on opening night Aug. 8, then took on a tough field at the Adidas John Turner Classic in Pearland.
 In pool play Aug. 10, the Wolverines fell to Dawson (25-19, 25-14) and Summer Creek (25-19, 25-18) but then ended the day with a win over Houston Christian (25-18, 25-14).
 On the final day of play, Clear Brook downed Spring 25-14, 25-10 and then concluded play with a 25-13, 25-20 loss to Sequin.
 Clear Brook joins Dobie and 30 other programs at the Gator Invitational in Dickinson.
 Dobie is in the Blue bracket for Aug. 17 along with Alief Elsik, Alvin, Barbers Hill, Brazoswood, La Porte, Morton Ranch, and Sweeney.
 The Longhorns will take on La Porte at 11 a.m., and will then go against either Brazoswood or Elsik at 1 p.m. The bracket finales are later in the day as each team will play three best-of-three matches.
 Clear Brook will face Houston Lamar in a first-round match at 8 a.m. in the White bracket, which also includes Baytown Lee, Channelview, Foster, Goose Creek Memorial, Pearland and Santa Fe.
 The Wolverines will then face either Channelview or Foster in a second-round match at 11 a.m. bronze, silver and gold bracket action. This will be Brook's second tournament early on.

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