

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 Sagemen 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.

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 convene Aug. 31

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 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 McCrutchon 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.

Clear Brook Meadows meets

Clear Brook Meadows HOA will hold a virtual board meeting Monday, Aug. 24, beginning at 6:30 p.m. To take part in the meeting, join at <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/296429266399848?p=JO43tUo6YqM6AGGxYf>. For meeting passcode or more information, contact the management company.

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.

2026 Lariaettes set clinic

Join the Dobie Lariaettes at Dobie High School for their annual Lariaette dance clinic on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

This fall clinic is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grades. For more information or registration for this event, visit <https://www.successfund.com/lariaettedanceclinic>.

FBI arrests 3 PISD students in Memorial plot

Incident marks latest in string of safety concerns at area high school

Federal investigators say three Pasadena ISD students have been arrested and charged with making a terroristic threat after the FBI Houston Field Office flagged an online post referencing Pasadena Memorial High School. The arrests, announced over the weekend, mark the latest in a series of safety scares at the campus.

According to Pasadena ISD, FBI Houston alerted district police shortly before the start of the school year about an online threat directed at Memorial. District police investigated and identified three students – enrolled at Pasadena Memorial High School and Sam Rayburn High

School – who were taken into custody.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office accepted charges of terroristic threat, a third-degree felony under Texas law. Because all three are juveniles, their names have not been released.

Pasadena ISD said in a statement: "Pasadena ISD takes all threats seriously. Our police department acts quickly on any reported threat and works closely with law enforcement partners to help ensure the safety of our students, staff, and campuses. Memorial and Sam Rayburn will take all necessary and appropriate

disciplinary action following the arrests."

The district also urged parents to talk with their children about the consequences of making threats online:

"What may seem like a joke can have significant legal and disciplinary consequences."

FBI Houston confirmed its involvement, noting that its Threat Mitigation Team worked quickly to investigate and coordinate with local law enforcement.

"Investigating hoax threats drains law enforcement resources and diverts us from responding to an actual crisis. Hoax threats can shut down school campuses, cause undue stress and fear amongst the public, and cost taxpayers a lot of money – not to mention ruin the future of those making the hoax threats as they'll now have a criminal record," the FBI said in a release.

Past incidents

This is not the first time Pasadena Memorial has faced such issues. In December 2025, two students were arrested and charged with con-

spiracy to commit capital murder after investigators uncovered text messages suggesting plans for a mass shooting at the campus. One of those suspects, 18-year-old Emilio Lopez, was later no-billed by a Harris County grand jury in June 2026, meaning the case did not proceed to trial.

Other incidents include:

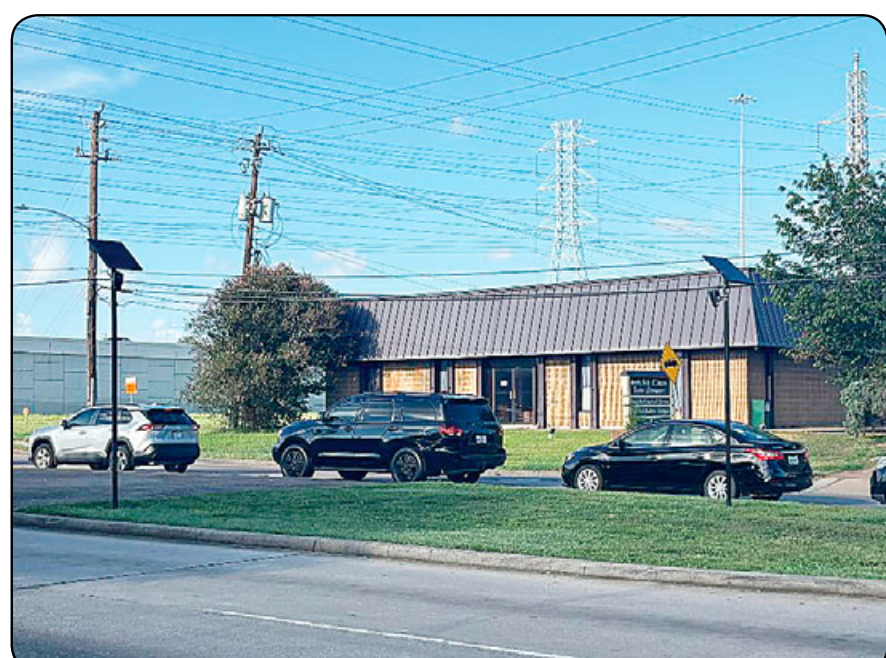
– Feb. 1, 2025: An 83-year-old man opened fire during a band event at Memorial, wounding one person before being tackled and subdued by parents and off-duty officers. He later died of a medical episode before sentencing.

– Feb. 28, 2025: A 19-year-old former student was accused of shooting two Memorial students during a fight across the street from campus. Both victims survived.

What comes next?

Pasadena ISD said it will pursue disciplinary action against the students involved and will show a video to all district students warning about the consequences of making threats. The FBI emphasized that even hoax threats will be treated as serious crimes.

Cameras stir controversy



A pair of Flock cameras in front of the *Leader's* office captures rear license plates as vehicles enter and leave the unincorporated areas of the community. Installed in 2022, the cameras are paid for by the local Municipal Utility Districts. The primary user of the data from local cameras is the Harris County Precinct 2 constable's office. The data is also accessible to other law enforcement agencies that subscribe to the Flock system such as Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's department.

Photo by James Bolen

Police seek Sabo shooting suspect

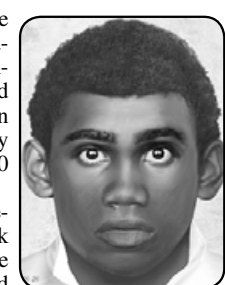
Man also fired at Pct. 2 deputy during car wash robbery

Houston police have released surveillance video and composite sketches of a suspect wanted for the shooting of a man about 12:20 p.m. July 17 in the block of 10890 Sabo Road near Fuqua.

The suspect is described as a young black male wearing a purple hooded sweatshirt and shorts. Two composite sketches were released and are shown here.

One male, 43, was transported to the hospital with a gunshot wound. A second male, a Harris County Precinct 2 Deputy Constable, was shot at several times but was not injured.

According to HPD investigators, the victim was at a car wash at the above address when he was approached by the suspect who pointed a pistol at the victim and demanded money. The complainant reached for his vehicle's door, to get his wallet, at



Composite sketch 1

which time the suspect shot him once in the stomach. The suspect then fled the scene on foot.

A nearby Harris County Precinct 2 deputy constable heard the gunshots and got into his vehicle and drove across the street to the location where he observed the suspect fleeing on foot. The deputy, in uniform and driving a vehicle with emergency lights activated, followed the suspect.

While the suspect fled he turned and shot at the deputy's vehicle, striking it more than once. The suspect then fled into an apartment complex where the deputy lost sight of him.

Anyone with information on the identity of the wanted suspect or in this case is urged to contact the HPD Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).



Composite sketch 2

South Belt joins nationwide Flock debate

Controversial license-plate-reading cameras an agenda item at MUD meeting

A series of new developments has intensified the local debate over Flock's automated license plate reader (ALPR) surveillance.

ALPR systems are camera networks that capture vehicle plates and related data for law enforcement use. They do not analyze faces or use biometric data.

The South Belt community – which contracts with Precinct 2 for its own Flock camera network – has joined the national debate, as the Clear Brook City MUD board was to hold an Aug. 19 meeting to revisit that agreement.

In recent days, Flock's CEO issued a public apology and announced new safeguards; three Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies were suspended for alleged misuse; HCSO rolled out its own accountability measures; and Democratic County Judge nominee Letitia Plummer released a sharply critical statement calling the county's system "a surveillance network with no rules."

Flock announces safeguards after misuse reports

Flock Safety CEO Garrett Langley apologized for recent misuse of the company's automated license plate reader system and announced new privacy, accountability and transparency safe-

guards. Among them is a newly released auditing tool designed to flag questionable searches and strengthen oversight.

As part of its new safeguards, Flock also introduced a public lookup tool that allows residents to see whether their vehicle has ever been searched in the system. The feature, accessible through the company's transparency portal, displays the date of any search, the agency that conducted it and whether the query was tied to a legitimate case code. Flock said the tool is intended to give residents "direct visibility" into how the technology is used.

For the latest on Flock's policies or to see if one's vehicle has ever been searched in the surveillance system's network, visit the Flock Transparency Portal at www.flocksafety.com.

HCSO suspends three deputies, launches reviews

The Harris County Sheriff's Office confirmed that three deputies were suspended after a *USA Today* reporter contacted the agency on Aug. 14 about potentially improper searches. HCSO launched administrative reviews and said any evidence of criminal wrongdoing would be forwarded to the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

HCSO manages 20 Flock networks totaling 480 cameras, most owned by municipal utility districts and neighborhood associations that designate the Sheriff's Office as system administrator. The agency reiterated that Flock cameras capture vehicles and license plates only, not faces or biometric data.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said the technology has been instrumental in major cases but must be tightly controlled:

"Since 2022, the Harris County Sheriff's Office has used Flock technology to protect our community," said Gonzalez. "The license plate readers have thwarted kidnapping attempts, led to the quick apprehension of armed robbery crews and helped recover countless stolen vehi-

cles. But as with any powerful new public safety tool, this technology is subject to abuse... Any deputy who abuses the public trust will be held fully accountable, both professionally and criminally."

HCSO has adopted the following measures:
– Use of Flock's new auditing tool
– Require deputies to enter a descriptive case code for every search

– Continue to log all access for accountability

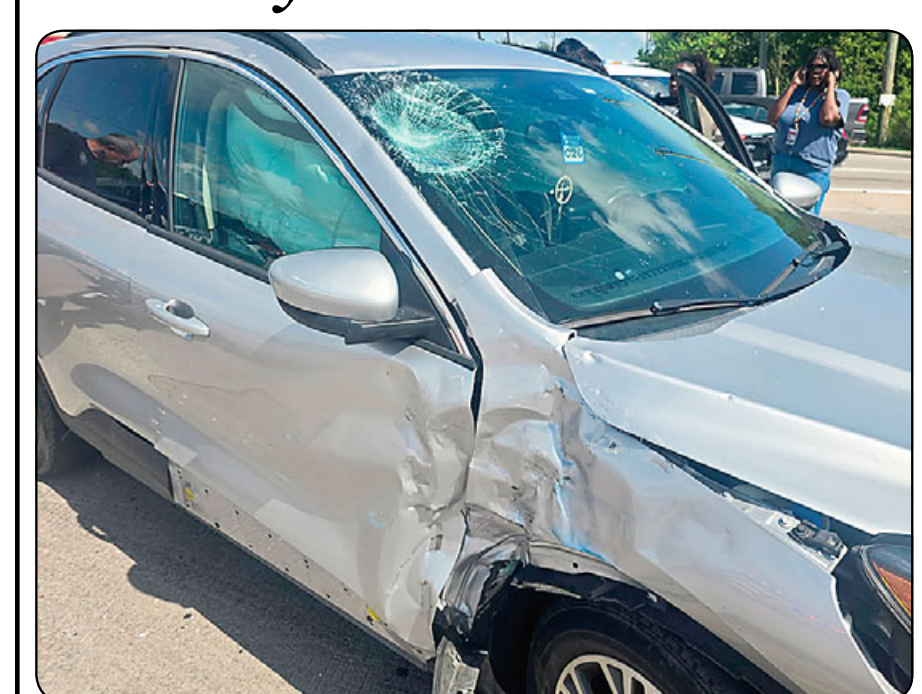
For more information on HCSO oversight and its latest Flock policies, visit hcsopolicy.com.

Plummer: "A Surveillance Network With No Rules"

Democratic county judge nominee Dr. Letitia Plummer said the county's system is "a surveillance network with no rules."

Continued on page 2

Motorcycle crashes into car



On the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 12, a motorcycle collided with a car at the intersection of Beamer and Dixie Farm Rd. The motorcyclist was unresponsive after the accident but was able to communicate with paramedics before being transported to Clear Lake Regional Medical Center. The driver of the car was transported to Memorial Hermann Southeast as a precaution.

Photo by Dean Baier

In My Opinion

Schoppa urges Big Bend preservation

Roads built are tearing up habitat to gain access to heavy equipment to erect road barriers. Very able and possibly build a wall in areas, walling off the Rio Grande River. Consider the fate of wildlife in the area with no access to water in this desert environment; all this despite promises that the park would not be isolated in this way.

The federal and state government broke their word.

This massive and expensive overreach by our government the guise of border protection is an ill-conserved solution looking for a problem.

Those who love this park knows this forbidding terrain across the border in the mountains and desert of northern Mexico, nature providing the barrier.

It is our duty to preserve this beautiful place; the ghostly Chisos Mountains, the jaw-dropping vistas of the Basin, the 1100 cliffs cut by the river at Santa Elena Canyon, the stunning sunsets through the window. God, leave it alone.

If you care, go online to "Keep Big Bend Wild", on their website Keepbigbendwild.org.

Dana Schoppa King outlines causes for low enrollment

Last year, HISD decided to close eight campuses and consolidate four others because of low enrollment. The most recent data shows it will need to close or consolidate many more.

HISD recently released its Campus Demographic Report for last year. You may recall that we analyzed last year's report at Baker in this report. In that report, we found that 51 campuses were enrolled at less than 50 percent of their permanent building capacity. We updated our report this week and found that the number of campuses enrolled at less than 50 percent had climbed to 63. Overall, the campus utilization rate fell to 74 percent.

Last year, HISD's official enrollment

dropped by about 8,000 students (176,731->168,812). However, because HISD enrollment increased in its off-campus programs, the enrollment on its campuses fell by about 10,000 students.

It is important to note that HISD has 45 campuses where enrollment exceeds the permanent building capacity. Over 41,000 students attend a campus that is over capacity. At about half of those campuses, the enrollment exceeds the capacity even when temporary buildings are included. At 14 campuses, the enrollment exceeds 120 percent of permanent capacity.

However, there has been some relief at these campuses. Last year, there were 60 campuses over permanent capacity and 22 over 120 percent. Unfortunately, it appears that the relief was only accomplished by falling enrollment at those campuses.

There are a number of fascinating maps included in our report that show where enrollment is low, which campuses lost the most enrollment last year, and where HISD's campuses are located with respect to the existing and the proposed flood maps.

HISD is in a perfect enrollment storm. Birth rates are falling. The exodus to the suburbs continues. International immigration has slowed to a trickle. Some immigrants have pulled their children out of school, fearing being swept up in ICE enforcement actions.

Perhaps most importantly, HISD faces stiff competition from alternatives. Our analysis suggests that over half of HISD's enrollment loss in recent years came from parents opting for charter schools. The popularity of home schooling continues to rise. Texas' new voucher program will add to the pressure. About 3,300 voucher recipients live within HISD's boundaries. We do not know precisely how many of those are currently enrolled in an HISD school, but my guess is that it will prove to be most of them.

Closing schools is a painful, unpopular process. It is a significant disruption in the lives of the families affected and is a blow to neighborhoods that are already struggling. But there is no reason

to expect these trends to reverse. A decade from now, HISD will almost certainly be a considerably smaller district than it is today. District leaders should begin planning for that reality now. Delaying closures and consolidations in the misplaced hope that enrollment will rebound will only waste resources that should be devoted to educating students and unnecessarily increase the burden on taxpayers.

It is time to bite the bullet.

Bill King Plummer supports surveillance rules

Dr. Letitia Plummer, Democratic nominee for Harris County Judge, released the following statement on the county's contract with Flock Safety:

"Harris County pays \$868,975 a year for a network that photographs law-abiding residents on their way to work, to church, and to their children's schools. The county cannot tell you who searches that database. It cannot tell you why. It cannot tell you where the data goes after it leaves Harris County.

Commissioners Court renewed this contract on May 28. Commissioners promised the public they would come back with amendments to protect privacy. It is August 13. There are no amendments. There is no use policy. There is no audit. There is a vendor, a contract, and a promise the county did not keep. Even more concerning, there are NO bright lines on who can and cannot own the data collected by the vendor.

I have been here before. In 2022 I was the only member of Houston City Council to vote against the ShotSpotter contract. I was told the technology would make Houston safer. I asked for the data instead of taking the sales pitch. When the data came back, it showed officers being pulled off 911 calls to chase alerts and no meaningful reduction in gun violence in the neighborhoods carrying the sensors. Asking that question was not anti-police. It was the job.

I am asking the same question now, and Harris County does not have an answer.

In Pasadena, a police officer resigned after he was accused of using this system to track a female officer. This happened. This is not a hypothetical. That is one department and one abuse that we happened to catch. The county has no way of knowing what it has not caught.

Effective policing and constitutional policing are the same thing. We do not have to shred our civil rights to enforce the law. Evidence collected without rules is evidence a defense attorney takes apart. A tool nobody trusts is a tool nobody cooperates with.

As County Judge I will not sign a surveillance contract without four things in writing: a published use policy that says exactly what justifies a search, an independent annual audit released to the public, a hard prohibition on sharing Harris County data with outside agencies for anything other than a named criminal investigation, and a strict retention limit.

The current contract has a 30 day termination clause. Harris County should use it as leverage. Sit down with the vendor, get the protections in writing, or walk away.

Orlando Sanchez has said nothing about any of this. He has not asked who is searching the database. He has not asked where the data goes. He has not asked what happens to a Harris County family when the answer is nobody knows. Greg Abbott's party built a state where surveillance expands and accountability disappears. I am not going to run Harris County that way.

We all want law, order and public safety. We also want freedom and civil liberties. As President Dwight D. Eisenhower once famously quipped: "If all that Americans want is security, they can go to prison. They'll have enough to eat, a bed and a roof over their heads. But if an American wants to preserve his dignity and his equality as a human being, he must not bow his neck to any dictatorial government."

Dr. Letitia Plummer
Democratic nominee for Harris County Judge
See related story on Page 1.

Marian Marie Musselman Wall



Marian Marie Musselman Wall passed away peacefully at her home in Houston on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at the age of 83 following a long illness. In her final days, she was surrounded by her loving family along with many friends. Marian was born Aug. 6, 1943, to David Edwin Sr. and Tavy Irene Musselman and grew up on the Musselman ranch near Victoria with five Musselman siblings. She graduated from Victoria High School in 1961 and started her studies in English and Spanish at the University of Texas in Austin where she met Milton (Butch) Wall.

She graduated from UT in 1965 and started her teaching career at Harlin-dale High School in San Antonio teaching Spanish from 1965 to 1967 while Milton was finishing his engineering program at UT. Milton and Marian were married in December 1966 in Austin at the University Lutheran Church and shared 59 1/2 years of marriage devoted to

Death

each other. Marian and Milton called a number of places home throughout their lives. Following Milton's graduation, they moved to Baltimore, Md. in 1967. There Marian taught high school Spanish and English. In 1969 they returned to Texas, first to Dallas then followed by a move to Austin in 1970 where their son Richard was born in March 1971. While in Austin, Marian taught high school Spanish and English at Manor High School. Seeking better employment, they moved to Harlingen in 1974 where their son Russell was born in 1975. A job transfer relocated them to Corpus Christi in 1977 where they lived for 2 1/2 years before they settled for 10 years in Wichita, Kan. In Wichita they were members of the Mt. Olivet Methodist Church with Marian leading the children's church. They then moved to Houston in 1989 following a job transfer where they lived until her passing.

While in Houston, Marian taught fourth-grade Sunday school for 10 years at Sagemont Baptist Church. Then they joined Crossroads Methodist Church, where Marian led programs in the United Methodist Women's club for eight years, and served as president and as vice president of UMW during those years. She also taught first- and second-grade Sunday school during those years. Her love of children was evident also in helping raise two nephews and three other children in her home child care service for four years. Marian

was also an accomplished artist as evident throughout her house from paintings she created. She also did well selling Avon in Wichita and Houston for 10 years receiving Best Sales award for her district in 2005.

Marian's Christian faith was always very important to her, as she was very impressed at a young age with her missionary grandmother Rose Lambert Musselman. She tried to live by the golden rule, to encourage others and to help affirm young people to be all they could become. Marian was always ready to help others in need. She gave love and compassion to all who were fortunate enough to have known her. A true example of serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Marian is preceded in death by her parents; her sisters-in-law Iris, Sammie and Janet Musselman; and her in-law Burnice Cowan. She is survived by her loving husband; her son Richard and son Russell Wall and his wife, Jullisa; along with grandchildren Garren and Natalie Wall. She is also survived by her brothers David, Clifford, Marlin and Stanley Musselman; sister Sylvia Cowan; and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

A time of visitation will be held at the Grace Funeral Home, 2401 Houston Highway in Victoria on Aug. 21 beginning at 5 p.m. Services will be held the following day beginning at 10 a.m. at the Memory Gardens Cemetery, 8919 U.S. Highway 87 North, Victoria, with the Rev. Paul Whiteley officiating.

Guinn recovering from accident



Capt. Zerick Guinn sustained serious injuries in a devastating motorcycle accident while in Canada. Guinn has been a South Belt resident and a constable with Precinct 2 for more than 20 years. In 2012 he narrowly lost in the Democratic primary when running for Precinct 2 constable. A "Standing with Zerick and His Family" fundraiser has been launched on GoFundMe to help Zerick and his loved ones as his family is facing mounting medical and travel expenses focusing on his recovery.

Riverstone charter school expands to K-8 Additional students brings additional traffic; new school a PISD alternative

Families in the South Belt community are beginning the 2026-27 school year with a significantly larger Houston Gateway Academy (HGA) presence than they had just one year ago.

Part of the HGA network of charter schools, the Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone Campus, which opened last August after years of delays, has now expanded from serving pre-K through fifth grade to offering pre-K through eighth grade, marking a major milestone for the charter network's long-planned growth in the area.

The expansion brings roughly 100 additional students to the campus on Riverstone Ranch Drive near Blackhawk, with enrollment jumping from 160 to 258, strengthening HGA's footprint in a community traditionally zoned to Pasadena ISD. It also introduces new middle-school programming, including advanced math pathways, expanded reading intervention, and college-readiness initiatives that mirror the network's academically lauded East End campuses.

Known for academics
Houston Gateway Academy has long been recognized

for its intensive instructional model. Research from Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes found that HGA students receive the equivalent of 210 extra days of math instruction and 87 extra days of reading instruction annually compared to traditional public schools. The network holds an A rating from the Texas Education Agency and earned a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School designation.

The Riverstone campus continues that model with bilingual and ESL programs, structured literacy, and a college-prep focus even at the elementary level. Enrollment remains tuition-free and open to all Texas residents.

Families seeking more detail on charter school structure can explore charter school basics or compare charter vs. traditional.

A difficult start
While the school's expansion is the headline this year, the Riverstone campus arrived only after a long and troubled construction timeline.

In 2018, the original contractor abandoned the project during a payment dispute, leaving the half-built

structure idle for years.

Neighborhood frustration grew as the site sat unfinished.

The situation worsened when former HGA superintendent Richard Garza was indicted and later pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$250,000 in school funds.

During the investigation, the Texas Education Agency froze HGA's expansion plans, including Riverstone. With Garza sentenced and restitution ordered, and with construction finally completed, the campus opened in August 2025—nearly seven years after initial plans were announced.

Those issues remain part of the school's history, but they are no longer the defining story. The Riverstone campus is now fully operational, expanding, and drawing interest from families seeking a high-performing alternative to traditional public schools.

Expansion brings traffic
The campus's growth has also intensified an already congested stretch of Riverstone Ranch Drive. On the first day of school this year, six deputies from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office were

deployed to manage traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up.

Garcia also issued a detailed parking advisory, reminding families that no parking, standing, or stopping is allowed on Kirtskage Drive, and urging parents to cross only at the designated intersection.

His message emphasized safety and patience:

"A few extra steps, a little patience, and following the posted signs can go a long way toward keeping everyone safe."

County engineers are currently studying whether a traffic signal at Blackhawk and Riverstone Ranch could ease

congestion at the intersection, which routinely backs up during peak school hours.

A growing option for South Belt families

With its expansion to eighth grade, Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone is now positioned as a full elementary-to-middle-school pathway for families seeking a rigorous, tuition-free charter option. The campus's second year marks a shift from overcoming delays to building momentum.

Future plans

While the 2026–27 expansion to eighth grade marks the campus's first major growth milestone, Houston Gateway Academy

officials have previously indicated that Riverstone is intended to become a full PK–12 pathway once construction phases and enrollment benchmarks are met. The network's long-term planning documents for the South Belt site describe a multi-stage rollout that includes the following measures:

- Middle school expansion (now completed)
- High school programming in a future phase, pending TEA approval and facility build-out
- Additional classroom wings and specialized instructional spaces
- A college-readiness

center modeled after HGA's East End high school campus

– Expanded bilingual/ESL and advanced math tracks to support upper-grade rigor

HGA has not released a target year for the high school launch, but administrators have previously stated that the Riverstone property was selected specifically because it could accommodate a full secondary program once demand and staffing align.

Enrollment remains open, and families can learn more through the school's website at www.hgaschools.org/apps/pages/riverstone-bid.

South Belt joins nationwide Flock debate Controversial license-plate-reading cameras an agenda item at MUD meeting

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Plummer issued a sharply worded statement criticizing Harris County's \$868,975-per-year contract with Flock Safety, arguing that Commissioners Court renewed the agreement in May without delivering promised privacy amendments. (See related letter on this page.)

"The county cannot tell you who searches that database," wrote Plummer. "It cannot tell you why. It cannot tell you where the data goes after it leaves Harris County. There is no use policy. There is no audit. There is a vendor, a contract and a promise the county did not keep."

Plummer cited past misuse cases – including a Pasadena officer accused of using ALPR data to track a female colleague – as evidence of the need for strict rules.

She said she would not sign a surveillance contract unless it contained the following elements:

- A published use policy defining what justifies a search
- An independent annual audit released publicly
- A hard prohibition on sharing county data with outside agencies except for named criminal investigations
- A strict retention limit

Plummer urged the county to use its 30-day termination clause to negotiate stronger protections.

Clear Brook City MUD to review Flock contract

While the countywide controversy has dominated headlines, the South Belt has its own Flock discussion underway. Clear Brook City MUD board member Yen Huynh Rabe requested that the district place the system on the Aug. 19 agenda, making the South Belt one of the first local entities to revisit its contract following the recent revelations.

A representative from

Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office – which patrols the South Belt under contract with the MUDs – was expected to present updated case data showing the benefits of the system and address questions about its safeguards.

South Belt's camera network: 42 active, 13 more coming

The South Belt's Flock system has expanded steadily since 2022:

- **Current cameras:** 42
- **Scheduled for installation:** 13
- **Contracted total:** 55
- **Annual cost per camera:** \$2,500

Initial deployment by district:

- **Clear Brook City MUD:** 21
- **Sage Meadow MUD:** 7
- **Kirkmont MUD:** 4

Precinct 2 officials credit the system with helping solve shootings, catalytic converter thefts, stolen-vehicle cases, felony evading incidents and even clearing a person accused of in hit and run incident.

Examples directly provided by Harris County Pct. 2

Aggravated assault suspect arrested (Few Days after Flock went live)

April 12, 2022, deputies responded to a residence for a drive by shooting. Deputies learned that the complaint and his juvenile family member were driving home at the intersection of Hughes and Blackhawk when an unknown suspect pulled up next to his vehicle, produced a firearm out, and fired three rounds into the rear of his vehicle while he attempted to drive away. The reason behind the shooting was unknown. Thankfully no one was struck, but the complainant was only able to provide a suspect vehicle description, but no license plate. The suspect was also described to deputies. An investigation was started and

within a few days' deputies were able to identify the suspect, solely through the use of FLOCK, which identified the vehicle involved. 3 days after the incident the suspect was located, taken into custody without incident, and charged with Felony Aggravated Assault.

FSRA – Suspect Cleared of Wrongdoing

April 14, 2026, deputies responded to a Failure to Stop and Render Aid call at the intersection of Dixie Farm Rd and Beamer. During the investigation the complaint was able to provide a photo of the possible suspect and suspect vehicle. The suspect was located and detained, but due to conflicting statements deputies further verified vehicle locations with FLOCK. With the assistance of FLOCK, the suspect was cleared as his vehicle was not found to be in the location of the crash at the time the complainant had said it was. With the FLOCK data, and additional information the potential suspect was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Felony aggregate theft arrest

April 3, 2023, deputies responded to a Theft Call at a local business located at 11600 Beamer. Upon arriving deputies discovered over \$900 in items had been stolen. The suspect was captured on surveillance, but no identity was known. A possible license plate and vehicle description was provided, which prompted the use of FLOCK. Through FLOCK deputies were able to positively identify the vehicle involved. With that information, the vehicle was entered into FLOCK HOT LIST. Several hours later this same vehicle alerted deputies that it was passing FLOCK Camera's on Scarsdale. Deputies quickly located the vehicle and performed a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle was positively identified as the

Theft suspect from earlier and was linked to numerous other thefts from the same business but at different locations. Suspect was arrested and charged with the Felony Thefts, as well as an open Warrant.

Criminal mischief and escape suspect arrested

November 9, 2024, deputies responded to a Criminal Mischief Call at the 10600 block of Kirkwren. Deputies discovered that an acquaintance had intentionally driven her vehicle through her garage door causing extensive damage. This incident was captured on surveillance cameras. The suspect then fled the scene. Even though the identity of the suspect was known, her whereabouts were not. With the assistance of FLOCK, deputies were able to quickly locate the suspect whom was still driving in the area. A traffic stop was conducted and the suspect was detained. While detained the suspect was able to climb through the cage of the patrol car while handcuffed and flee on foot. After a brief foot pursuit, the suspect was retaken into custody. Ultimately the suspect was arrested and charged with Criminal Mischief and Escape.

For additional information on Precinct 2 transparency, visit the Flock transparency portal for the agency at transparency.flocksafety.com/harris-county-const-tx-pct-2.

Transparency, data retention and access controls

According to the Flock transparency portal for Precinct 2, the agency does the following:

- Shares data with neighboring law enforcement partners
- Does not share data with federal immigration authorities (ICE)
- Retains data for 30 days before automatic deletion
- Uses the system only

for vehicle-related investigations, not facial recognition

National trend: oversight battles and "deFlocking" vandalism

Across the U.S., communities are debating ALPR oversight, passing retention-limit laws and holding public hearings. At the same time, vandalism targeting Flock cameras – a trend dubbed "deFlocking" – has surged, with incidents reported in Texas, Michigan, Minnesota and more than 20

other states.

What comes next?

The Flock contract with Precinct 2 is renewed annually. Any changes – expansion, reduction or new policy requirements – would require board action. With countywide scrutiny intensifying, the Aug. 19 South Belt meeting was expected to draw significant interest as residents weigh safety benefits against privacy concerns and the need for stronger safeguards.

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Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

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Dobie cheer teams bloom at welcome dinner



Dobie High School recently welcomed their 2026-2027 varsity and junior varsity cheer team by hosting a floral-themed dinner for the team members and their parents who also participated in the dinner event. Left to right, are varsity members (front row) Bella Sherwood, Arianna Bermudez, Maylene Rodriguez, Aubree Rodriguez, (middle row) head coach Jazmin Guerrero, Natalie Elkins, Mikayla Gonzalez, Alyana Montes, Vida Sosa, Gabriella Franklin, assistant coach Anaya Antoine, (back row) Deisy Meza, Yaszlyn Brown, Nyla Richardson, Kallie Troxlar and Avery Mendiola.



Pictured, are junior varsity members, left to right, (front row) head coach Jazmin Guerrero, Alicia Sypien, Aliyah Alvarez, Julissa Bonilla, Isabella Squier, assistant coach Anaya Antoine, (back row) Isabelle Chavez, Xara Oddo, Bella Hernandez and Jaselym Enriquez.

The Oddo family takes a summer vacation



To celebrate their oldest daughter's graduation from Dobie High School May 2026, the Oddo family traveled to Yellowstone National Park. The graduation trip also turned into a small family reunion. Pictured, left to right, are (kneeling) mom Moriah Oddo, (standing) dad and Dobie alumni Steven Oddo, 2026 Dobie graduate Thalia Oddo, little sister and current Dobie freshman Xara Oddo and little sister Amora Oddo.



Pictured, left to right, with Thalia and her immediate family are also extended family members uncle of the grad Solomon Nethers, grandma of the grad Gloria Nethers, Moriah Oddo, Amora Oddo, Thalia Oddo, aunt Amber Nethers, cousin Ezekiel Nethers, Xara Oddo and Steven Oddo.



Gamez family celebrates daughter's birthday

The Gamez family who has lived in the South Belt area for 20 years, traveled to New York City, Canada and Chicago as part of a two-week trip to celebrate their daughter Viviana's 15th birthday. Vivianna, a Dobie High school freshman, traveled with her sister Eliana, a 2025 Dobie ECHS graduate; family friend Jessenia Guevara, a 2021 Dobie graduate; and her parents, Vanessa and Edwin Gamez. They visited the NYC SUMMIT One Vanderbilt; Times Square; the Brooklyn Bridge; Toronto, Canada; the Chicago Riverwalk; and "The Bean" in Millennium Park in Chicago. Shown at left, standing in Times Square in New York City, left to right, are Vanessa Gamez, Edwin Gamez, Viviana Gamez and Jessenia Guevara.



Elina and Viviana Gamez are pictured standing in a park in Toronto, Canada.



Standing at the family's final destination, the Chicago Millenium Park, left to right, are Jessenia Guevara and Viviana, Vanessa, Elina and Edwin Gamez with their dogs Mocha and Koko.



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Thompson staff takes on the new school year



Thompson Intermediate School staff pictured, left to right, are (first row) Lukus McHuston, MaryBeth Evans, Gina Teston, Prudencio Reyna, Kelli Moneyhun, principal Tannis Griffin, Travis Teichelman, Leticia Sanchez, Denise Medina, Arianna Ibarra, Jill Butler, (second row) VeAnn Richards, Yadira Lozano, Nicole Horne-Sherman, Heather Nielson, Ana Perez Medina, Wendy Huxhold, Nicole Cannon, Angelina Herrera, Alexis Cantu, Ruth Horton, Lisa Matay, Carissa Cantu, Melinda Harrison, (third row) Bob Boyes, Katina Morris, Gloria Galvan, Melissa Cavasos, Melinda Mathisa, Sele-

na Delafuente, Tiffany Silverthorne, Rachel Heffernan, Kevin Paul, Esmeralda Garcia, Tiona Samuel, Eian Estes, Aaron Kutra, (fourth row) Patricia Tabarez, Rebecca Eloph, Stefanie Cantin, Kandace McMullin, Cheryl Harvick, Tiffany Nelson, Maggie Allen, Ashley Vercher, Sara Hall, Melissa Prestridge, Steven Reyes, Jacob Arnold, Daniel Sawyer, (fifth row) Preston Hall, MacGregor, Jordan Whiteside, Brett Olson, Meagan Wisniewski, Heidi Applegate, Kayla Matlock, Jazmine Tabarez, David Saenz, Cassandra Perry, Carlos Ibarra, Maria Pena, Chris Hayes and Doug Sawyer.

Dobie announces the 2026-2027 administrative team



Pictured, are Dobie High School administrative team members, left to right, (front row) Cicely Pinkston, Courtney Belcik, Amanda Hall, Andrea Morgan, Sarah DeWitte, Dena Puente, Traci Jacobs, Lisa Louper, Jennifer Haynes, Marcia Griffin, Olga Sanchez, (middle row) Adriana Robinson, Yvette Moreno, DeRonda

Pitre-Preston, Chad Kearby, Audra Lozano, Leah Walker, Kelcey Davis, Teresa Jack, Denise Smajstria, (back row) Louis Cannon, Ryan Peel, Hector Del Rio, Angi Watkins, Coleman Rink, Tonie Noise, Jason Clark, Gabriel Munoz, George Cervantes and Carey Sink, principal.

Rodriguezes spend summer in town



The Rodriguez family spent their summer visiting different places around Houston which included the Houston Zoo, the movies to watch "Moana," Strawberry Park for KSBJ radio station's Ice Cream Emergency day and Buc-ee's in Texas City. Pictured at the zoo, left to right, are (front row) Elias, (back row) Elmer, Cristina and Emily Rodriguez.



Elias is shown standing next to a Moana-themed setup at the movies.



Pictured is Emily at the theater posed next to the Moana photo op.



Elias and Emily are shown holding signs at the KSBJ Radio station Ice Cream Emergency day at Strawberry Park.



Emily and Elias are pictured with a Buc-ee's inflatable at the Texas City location.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to 92 calls during the first six months of the year and sought additional members to fill day- and night-time shifts.
Julia Garza of Kirkwood won a Tiffany & Co. bracelet through Crutchfield Carpet Co.
45 years ago (1981)
Across-the-board school lunch price increases were approved by trustees of the Pasadena Independent School District. Elementary school prices were raised from 95 cents to \$1, intermediate from \$1.05 to \$1.15, and high school from \$1.15 to \$1.25.
Dick Kabal of the Texas Highway Department told members of the South Belt Community Improvement Association that the contract for completion of the South Belt from Fairmont Parkway to Beamer Road could be awarded in the first or second quarter of 1982 if no major right-of-way acquisitions or utility problems arose.
40 years ago (1986)
Frank Braden, principal of Dobie High School, was promoted to the position of assistant superintendent for Pasadena Independent School District.
The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved the 1986-87 school year budget of \$98,734,416 at a special called meeting.
35 years ago (1991)
Members of Homes Environment and Lives in Peril discovered documents indicating a toxic waste pit was once located in the old United Sports Association prop-

erty and possibly in South-bend.
King of Glory Lutheran Church extended a letter of call to Cynthia Annette Vold Forde to serve as its new pastor.
30 years ago (1996)
The former Dan Boone Chevrolet on the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua was scheduled to be torn down to make room for AutoNation.
Five families chipped in approximately \$36 each to get a street light on Dumas Street in Gulf Palms.
25 years ago (2001)
Ninety-five residents of ZIP code 77089 had a total of \$32,333.45 in funds over-

paid to the state of Texas just waiting to be claimed.
The Pasadena Independent School District was one of only two districts with an enrollment of more than 30,000 to be named a recognized district for the fourth consecutive year, in a report released by the Texas Education Agency.
20 years ago (2006)
The ninth annual Evening of Cuisine, a fundraiser for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, was planned.
Precinct 2 deputy constables reported burglaries of two businesses as well as ar-

rests for family violence and evading.
Houston Police began investigating the shooting death of Larry Savala, 26, who was killed outside the Club Rumba on the Gulf Freeway service road at Kingspoint.
CCISD insurance premiums increased 300 percent to \$3.9 million. The district, however, gained \$2.7 million from Texas House Bill 1. In addition, the district planned to implement its Project Excel program during the 2006-2007 school year.
15 years ago (2011)
Due to persistent drought

conditions and decreasing water levels in Lake Houston, Mayor Annise Parker that the city was enacting its mandatory Stage 2 water conservation plan. The measure required residents to water lawns at night or early morning, and no more often than twice a week. To further conserve water, the mayor asked residents to refrain from washing their vehicles or filling swimming pools and to limit showers to five minutes, turn off water while brushing teeth and wash only full loads of clothes and dishes.
10 years ago (2016)
Jae Lee was named the

new principal of Burnett Elementary. Lee formerly served as assistant principal at South Belt Elementary. He replaced Cynthia Henderson, who had served as Burnett principal for 21 years.
5 years ago (2021)
Two additional juveniles were arrested in connection to the June 17 murder of Elsa Mikeska, 62, that took place in the 10500 block of Fuqua near Beamer. A 16-year-old believed to be the gunman was arrested in early July on charges of capital murder.
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced a mask mandate for all schools in the

county per CDC guidelines. The announcement was made as the number of COVID-19 cases continued to climb in the Houston area. The measure went squarely against Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order issued the previous May that prohibited local entities, including school districts, from requiring masks. Prior to Hidalgo's announcement, commissioners court had the county attorney file a lawsuit challenging Abbott's GA-38 executive order.
1 year ago (2025)
Following years of challenges and setbacks, the new Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone Campus finally opened its doors, with students beginning their 2025-2026 school year Monday, Aug. 11, just days ahead of their local ISD counterparts. Part of the Houston Gateway Academy (HGA) charter school network, the campus will focus on college-preparatory study and academic achievement. Located in Riverstone Ranch, the school's opening was delayed for several years due to construction issues and legal troubles.

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.

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. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. They do not meet on the fifth Tuesday of any month. On occasion 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>.

AARP Webster sets September meeting
AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 is welcoming one to join them at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 14045 Space Center Blvd. One is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.
The program will be a fire safety presentation by a member of the League City Fire Department.
AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, Sept. 22. They will tour Chappell Hill Lavender Fields in Brenham. Trip price is \$5, plus lunch. One may register for this trip at the Sept. 10 AARP meeting. One must be a member of our local chapter to participate in our bus trips.
If one is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact President Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or at veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.com.



Over The Back Fence by Nicole

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.

JOYCE DITTRICH ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Joyce Dittrich who enjoys a birthday Aug. 25, from family, friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 20 through Aug. 26.

Atkinson Elementary
Jessica Armenta enjoys a birthday Aug. 21. Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 26 for a special birthday for Jessica Perez.

Burnett Elementary
Share a slice of birthday cake with Romona Dawson Aug. 22.

Bush Elementary
Send a humorous birthday card Aug. 22 to Agatha Candappa. Sing a chorus of a birth-

day song Aug. 25 to Marie Marler.

Frazier Elementary
A birthday cake is in order Aug. 25 for Kyle Curd.

Genoa Elementary
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 20 to Parris Patrick. Enjoying a birthday Aug. 22 is Elena Rivera. Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 23 to Steven Sawyer. Aug. 24 is the day for a fun celebration for Angela Escamilla.

Hancock Elementary
Light the birthday candles for Xochithl Baez Aug. 20.

Stuchbery Elementary
Corey Klein celebrates a birthday Aug. 21.

Melillo Middle School
Celebrating a birthday Aug. 22 is Maria Diaz.

Thompson Intermediate
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 24 to Maria Banda.

Dobie High
Remember to wish Cindy Mutz a happy birthday Aug. 21. Monica Veloz celebrates a birthday Aug. 22. The day for cake and ice

cream for Issac Goudeau and Sofia Romero is Aug. 26.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Aug. 20: Rachel McClure, Claire Speck, Raymond Jackson and Todd Nathans; Friday, Aug. 21: John Linares, Kip Ledgerwood, Gabrielle Loya, Brandi Washer and Leticia Gonzalez; Saturday, Aug. 22: Pat Gonzales, Monica Castro, Kassi Richardson, Herman Garcia, Chrystal Sulak, Janie Chapa and Bill Edwards; Sunday, Aug. 23: Viv Castillo, Mary Miller, Jim Kunkel, Shelly Rivera, Mary Wesfahl and Patti Parker; Monday, Aug. 24: Mike Justice, Sammy Mejia, Yessica Musquiz, Alyssa Keller and Amber Burda; Tuesday, Aug. 25: Bubba Zapalac, Andrea Moorehead-Ford and Jesse Saenz; Wednesday, Aug. 26: Arlette Jarmon, Marci Chiovaro, Fred Manly, Stephanie Mayo and Rick LaMantina.

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

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Longhorns to scrimmage La Porte

As they have done for several seasons now, the Dobie and La Porte football programs will gather for what amounts to a dress rehearsal leading up to the start of the regular season as the respective groups prepare for what they hope will be a memorable finish to the 2026 campaign.

The junior varsity squads will scrimmage at Dobie main Aug. 20, while the varsity squads will hook up at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena Aug. 21. It will again feature and match up old friends. Former JFD head coach Kevin Berneathy, now for a sixth season running the head coach at La Porte, will bring his Bulldog program over for a series of a set number of play routines against the Longhorns.

La Porte, which captured a district championship a season ago prior to a stunning first round playoff loss, features Sean Simon at run-

ning back, with Simon already in the La Porte recordbooks as one of the all-time leading rushers in program history.

While Simon is sure to get his share of work against JFD, Berneathy and his staff certainly know what Simon can do and will limit his work heading into the regular season opener against a very tough Fort Bend Crawford program.

As for the Longhorns, Dobie head coach Danny Fitzmorris wants to get an early look at several first-time varsity starters on both sides of the football.

He told the *Leader* earlier this month that he wants his group to match the in-

tensity and physicality of the Bulldogs during the scrimmage. With as many as 10 new starters on the defensive side of the football aiming to make a name for themselves, Dobie will no doubt be excited to go up against a playoff-ready program such as La Porte.

As for the Aug. 28 regular season openers, the Longhorns will host regular playoff participant Clear Springs in a challenging matchup at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Clear Springs head coach Anthony Renfro has a particularly strong defense ready to open the season and is

Continued on page 6

Upcoming Scrimmage Action

JFD freshmen host La Porte
Aug. 20, TBA, main campus

JFD upperclassmen host La Porte
Aug. 21, 5 p.m., Veterans

Dobie, Lutheran South VB start strong

Both Dobie and Lutheran South Academy came away from opening weekend tournament play feeling great about their prospects for the 2026 season after outstanding showings at separate events.

Dobie traveled to Port Neches, ultimately winning six matches against a pair of losses to finish fifth overall as freshman hitter Neriah LeBlanc was an All-Tournament selection.

Meanwhile, Lutheran South, clearly looking to make another run to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state tournament later this season, overcame a tough start at the prestigious John Turner Classic in Pearland to finish 4-4 for 35th place overall.

Along the way, the Pioneers scored impressive victories over Barbers Hill and Atascocita.

Bouncing back quickly from an opening night straight-set loss to Baytown Sterling, the Dobie varsity group collected

six overall victories on the way to a fifth-place finish at the PNG Volleybash Aug. 13-15.

Taking down Hardin-Jefferson 26-24, 20-25, 15-12 in a fifth-place match, the Longhorns capped off a terrific three-day team building experience in Port Neches.

Following the Aug. 18 road game at Clear Creek after press time, the Longhorns will again test Baytown Sterling to open play at the Dickinson Invitational Aug. 20 before District 19-6A competition begins Aug. 21 with Dobie hosting Pearland.

The Longhorns matched up very well with Baytown Sterling in the season opener in Baytown Aug. 11, with the Rangers simply coming away with wins in each of the three tightly-contested sets. In the end, Baytown Sterling took a 26-24, 25-21, 25-23 victory.

Playing three matches to open pool play in Port Neches Aug. 13, Dobie

defeated Lumberton and Woodville in two sets but also dropped a three-set match to Hardin Jefferson. On the second day of action, the Longhorns got the best of Vidor and Nederland.

On the final day of the event, the Longhorns lost a tough three-set match to Anna but then defeated Little Cypress Mauriceville to advance to take on Hardin-Jefferson again. In that one, the locals prevailed in three tough sets to come away with some hardware.

The Dickinson ISD tournament is a large 32-program event featuring Alief Elsik, Angleton, Galveston Ball, Baytown Lee, Bellaire, Brazoswood, Clear Brook, Clear Falls, Clear Lake, Crosby, Dulles, Elkins, Foster, Friendswood, Galena Park, George Ranch, Goose Creek Memorial, Houston Lamar, La Porte, Longview, Manvel, Nederland, Needville, North Shore, Pasadena Memo-

rial, Santa Fe, Shadow Creek, St. John's and Baytown Sterling.

Lutheran South, coming off of a solid run to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state tournament in 2025, began its season with a straight set win over Victoria West but found the competition to be much stronger at the Pearland John Turner Classic Aug. 13-15.

While competitive in each match during pool play on the first day at Pearland Junior High South, the Pioneers fell in three sets to Decatur, with Decatur winning 25-23, 20-25, 25-7.

Going against Keller, Lutheran South was on the losing end of a 25-21, 25-14 match. In its third match of the day, Lutheran South went against McKinney, with McKinney coming away with a 25-25, 23-25, 27-25 victory.

After that challenging

Continued on Page 8



Dobie freshman Neriah LeBlanc was terrific during opening weekend play at the Port Neches Groves Volleybash as she helped guide the Longhorns to a fifth overall team finish while earning All-Tournament Team accolades.

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.

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Longhorn cross-country runners medal at Dawson

The Dobie varsity boys' and girls' cross-country teams open the regular season with a outstanding

showing at the Dawson 4K event Aug. 14 in Pearland, with the subvarsity teams also performing well in

other events.

Junior Cruz Jasso who made the way in the varsity boys 4,000 meter event,

placing fourth overall in a time of 13 minutes, 36.5 0 seconds. Cypress Woods' junior Landon Deas was

the overall winner in a time of 13:27.10, and Jasso, back at full strength this season for the Long-

horns, wasn't far behind. Also for the Longhorns, sophomore Robert Pheister placed seventh with a clocking of 13:54.50.

From there JFD senior Ruben Flores was in at 15:16:30 for 43rd place, and Jorge Rodriguez took 50th with the time of 15:28.90. Dobie's Wilfredo Chinchilla, a senior, was 60th as he put together a time of 15:53.00. The

and Esmeralda Martinez (20:45.10) and Maria Arredondo (20:50.30), went back-to-back in 62nd and 63rd place.

In the 3,000-meter sub-varsity event, Longhorn freshman Marley Manriquez led the way for Dobie as she was fifth in a time of 14:13.20. Freshman teammate Evelyn Arzate was 14th as she clocked in at 15:01.00.

JFD cross-country at Max Blansit Invitational Hometown Heroes Park League City, Aug. 21

Longhorns' Josue Rodriguez, a sophomore, was 76th as he clocked in at 16:15.30, and Gevin Vegas crossed the line in a time of 16:22.50 for 80th place.

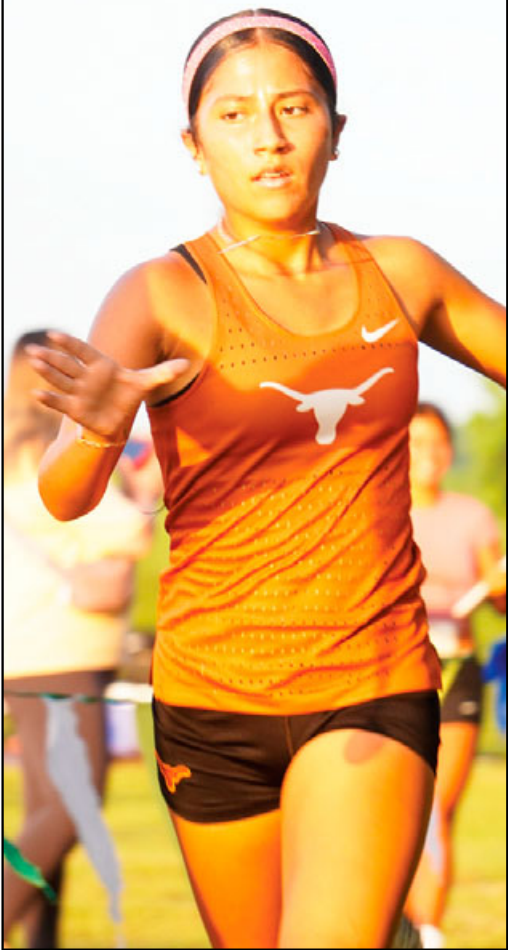
In the varsity girls 4,000 meter run, JFD senior Aracely Alvarado led the way as she was ninth with the time of 16:51.60. Sophomore Hazel Vidal of Travis was the winner in a time of 16:05.10.

Also for Dobie, freshman Sofia Charles clocked in at 17:38.80 for 16th place, and fellow freshman Cecilia Bogany was 41st as she finished at a time of 19:07.00. Junior Destiny Sidiropoulos was 51st with her time of 19:59.70.

Junior Alayna Rodriguez clocked in at 16:55.00 for 30th place, and freshman Kobee Rodriguez delivered a time of 17:13.20 for 45th place.

As for the JV boys' 3,000-meter event, the Longhorns' Josiah Wilkins placed sixth overall with the time of 11:59 30, and sophomore teammate Alejandro Diosando was 13th with a time of 12:09.40.

Through the practice run Aug. 14 and now the season opener at Dawson, the Longhorn cross-country program has accomplished so much in just a little bit of time. Alvarado has gained more than a few capable teammates at the varsity level on the girls' side of things, and the JFD boys have been very competitive out of the gate with Jordan Roman, last season's district champion, still to make his season debut.



At left, Dobie freshman Sofia Charles is off to a strong start in her varsity cross country career as she and some of her teammates represent both the present and future of the JFD girls' program. Charles starred at Thompson intermediate and has made the quick transition to the varsity level early this season for the Longhorns. At right, JFD senior Aracely Alvarado was a regional qualifier a season ago and it is out of the gate quickly this season and she looks to both finish her career at Dobie strong while also returning to regionals. There is a long way to go and this season with five more regular season meets, but at this point both Charles and Alvarado have given the longhorn girls' program exactly what it hoped for heading into 2026. The Longhorns will compete Aug. 21 at hometown heroes Park in League City.



Clear Brook athletes display running talents at La Porte

The Clear Brook varsity boys' cross-country program got their season rolling at the Bulldog Relays Aug. 14 at Northwest Park. Competing in the four-mile run, Wolverine senior Joel Gonzalez finished 12th overall at a time of 25 minutes, 49.19 seconds.

Also for the Wolverines, sophomore Izayah Derden placed 18th as he clocked in at 26:26 82.

Deer Park, a certain headliner for the District 18-6A championship when the time comes, captured the team championship with a low of 39, led

by Evan Hoffpauir, who was third at 24:01.32 as well as fourth place finisher Ethan Melendez at 24:08.42.

Sophomore Noah Harris of La Porte was the individual gold medalist as he finished at 23:38.97.

The future of the Wol-

verine girls' program was also on display in the 2-mile race as three freshmen placed within the top 14 in the event.

Carolina Wilson, a freshman from Shadow Creek, was the overall gold medalist with an outstanding run of 13:36.64.

Andrea Pando, a freshman from Clear Brook, placed second at 13:53.30, with teammate Janelsi Baltazar fifth after clocking in at 14:15.25.

At 14:50.54, Wolverine freshman Catherine Palacios placed 14th.

Also from Clear Brook,

senior Arianna Sacin was 28th in the mix with her time of 15:42.47.

Isabella Rios, the Pasadena ISD eighth-grade girls' cross-country champion a season ago, now represents Clear Lake and was 16th in a time of 14:57.83.

Wolverine future core solid at LP

At right, several of Clear Brook High School's freshman and sophomore runners, representing a solid future for the Wolverines' cross-country program, put together an impressive start to the 2026 season during a 2-mile run at La Porte Invitational held at Northwest Park. Clear Brook figures to only improve from here following a quick start in the opener. Members of the team are, left to right, Allison McGurn, Xiomara Vasquez, Arianna Sacin, Olivia Guillen, Catherine Palacios, Janelsi Baltazar, Andrea Pando and Emily Harrell.



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BAFL Weekly Standings

Peewee Division			
Team	W	L	T
Chargers	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Hurricanes	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Sharks	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
Pearland Texans	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
49ers	0	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Buccaneers	0	1	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Eagles	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Patriots	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0

Freshman Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	1	0	0
Chargers	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Hurricanes	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
Patriots	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Stingrays	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
Braves	0	1	0
Buccaneers	0	1	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Eagles	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Sharks	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0
Manvel Texans	0	1	0
Pearland Texans	0	1	0

Sophomore Division			
Team	W	L	T
Chargers	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Hurricanes	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Stingrays	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
Pearland Texans	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
49ers	0	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Buccaneers	0	1	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Eagles	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Patriots	0	1	0
Sharks	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0

Junior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Chargers	1	0	0
Cowboys	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Stingrays	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
Pearland Texans	1	0	0
49ers	0	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Eagles	0	1	0
Hurricanes	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Patriots	0	1	0
Sharks	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0
Wildcats	0	1	0

Senior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Chargers	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Sharks	1	0	0
La Porte Texans	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
Pearland Texans	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
49ers	0	1	0
Braves	0	1	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Hurricanes	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Panthers	0	1	0
Patriots	0	1	0
Red Raiders	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	1	0

BAFL Week 1 Scores

Angleton seniors 25, Cowboys 18
Cowboys’ juniors 56, Angleton 0
Angleton sophomores 58, Cowboys 0
Angleton freshmen 53, Cowboys 7
Angleton peewee 33 , Cowboys 0
Week 2 Action Aug. 22
Cowboys host Pearland Texans
El Franco Lee Park
Denny Wranich Sr. Field

Longhorn football to scrimmage La Porte

Continued from page 5
very experienced across the offensive front. At the very least, the Longhorns will certainly be tested in the trenches in the opener. La Porte, meanwhile, is looking to make a deep postseason run after last season’s unceremonious early exit. Berneathy has never been shy about taking on tough opponents, and the Bulldogs will find one as they host

Crawford, which played at the regional final level a season ago and is loaded with more than a few players who just may go on to play collegiately in the future.
For both the Longhorns and Bulldogs, the scrimmage at Veterans Stadium will provide an opening week-feel as both programs will mimic their routines to a T heading into the regular season.

JFD subvarsity football to take on Clear Springs

The Dobie subversity football programs will officially kick off their respective seasons Aug. 27, taking on the Clear Springs Chargers a day ahead of the varsity season.
At the junior varsity level, the Longhorns will travel to Clear Springs High School for a pair of games.
The junior varsity

White team for the Longhorns will be in action at 4:30 p.m., followed by the junior varsity Orange game at 6 p.m. Dobie will host Clear Springs at the freshman level. The JFD freshman White game is scheduled to kick off at 4 p.m., followed by the freshman Orange game at 6 p.m., both on the turfed game field on the main campus.

High school football opening week to feature many terrific matchups

The South Belt Ellington Leader’s annual football pickers contest will resume for 2026 in the Aug. 27 issue, and the respective contestants will have plenty of exciting opening week matchups to ponder.
The following is a look at some of those outstanding head-to-head battles.
Clear Falls hosts Pearland
Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Challenger Stadium
Yet another matchup featuring varsity football teams that certainly plan to reach the postseason come November, 6A Division 2 challenger Clear Falls will host Pearland, which is coming off an 11-1 overall run in 2025.
Clear Falls will be looking to advance to the postseason for an eighth consecutive season as Zach Head leads the Knights into action this season.
Heading into the off-season, Clear Falls was aimed to return five starters on the offensive side of the football, with five more returning on the defensive end of the field.
The Knights will be employing a first-year varsity quarterback but have wide receiver Graysonn Sneed and Chace Rieman returning on the outside at receiver. Anderson Smith went into the off-season as the favorite to start at quarterback.
Up front on the offensive line, the Knights will lean on Andrew Masten as well as Hunter Brierty.
Defensively, Clear Falls will once again be solid in the front seven with linebackers Briggs Worthington and Tristan Gaviria leading the way. Gaviria is coming off a 2025 season that included 120 tackles, with 14 stops for loss.
Worthington had 116 total tackles and added 13 tackles for loss and six quarterback sacks. Clear Falls is excited to see what Jayden Rivas can do on both sides of the football.
Pearland will also have a first-time player at quarterback this season as head coach B.J. Gotte and his staff run it back with the defense that is led by University of Miami commit DeMarco Jenkins.
The Oilers have plenty of experience returning on

both sides of the ball with 14 total starters back.
Royce Swan is the top returning running back in the district in terms of production from a season ago, and his brother, Roy Swan anchors the offensive front.
Kam Harris is another big name at linebacker, and Ed Smith will be another tough guy to deal with up front on the defensive line along with Jenkins.
While Shadow Creek is projected to be the front-runner to unseat the Oilers for the league championship and 19-6A this season, the Oilers certainly believe they have what it takes for a repeat.
A banner season could certainly get started with the win over a very good Clear Falls team on opening night.

Renfro is on his second stay with the Chargers and has developed a program that has high expectations each season. Season 2026 will be no different even as the staff spent the majority of the spring and summer off-season restocking the program that has just 20 overall returnees, including seven total starters.
Much like the Longhorns will be doing in the opener, the Chargers will be taking a look at plenty of players in the skill department.
However, Clear Springs should have a big advantage in the trenches with the return of Connor Walter and Kayden Sullivan along with Mariano Aguirre.
Chase Williams should get a big look in the offensive backfield along with Darrien Moore as well as receivers Brayden Mondrey and Parker Tramosch. Leading into the preseason, the Chargers are also expected to lean on quarterback Jaxon Weger.
Clear Springs has never lost to the Longhorns in a handful of games between the two programs over the years. Either way this season opener goes, both programs will certainly get an early look at just where they stand in the grand scheme of things moving forward.

How far are the Bulldogs ultimately go in the postseason may depend on how the young defense develops. Sophomore cornerback Jim Gonzalez is a playmaker on the ball, and safety Anthony Bellow is also a key performer.
Jacob Berneathy, the nephew of head coach Kevin Berneathy, is also an exceptionally talented performer on the defensive front.
Fort Bend Crawford will provide La Porte with plenty of competition in the season opener at Bulldog Stadium in La Porte.
Crawford returns seven starters on offense but will need to rebuild a little bit on defense with just three players back after the Chargers finished 12-2 overall a season ago that included a run to the 4A Division 1 regional championship game.
Making the jump to 5A, the Chargers will look to receiver Alvin Mosley for big contributions this season in District 11-5A Division 2 as Mosley is Dave Campbell’s Texas Football magazine’s preseason pick for Offensive Most Valuable Player.

Shadow Creek enters the season as the favorite to win District 19-6A according to Dave Campbell’s Texas Football magazine, and the Sharks now simply have to prove the preseason hype is correct.
The Sharks a season ago produced a 8-4 overall record and reached the second round of the Division 2 postseason bracket. Receiver Jaylen Addai is the son of former NFL stand-out Joseph Addai, while sophomore BJ LaFell is also the son of NFL player Brandon LaFell.
Head coach Tyron Green also will have talented defensive lineman Xavier Muhammad up front after he transferred from South Houston.
Quarterback Braylen Fisher leads the attack, and running back Derrick Polk will get plenty of carries after rushing for 925 yards and nine touchdowns a season ago.
Defensively, the Chargers have Khaidyn Hopson back up front after he registered 73 overall stops for his defensive end spot, including 21 tackles for loss and four quarterback sacks. Linebacker Camron Alakija is also a dynamic performer at linebacker, having registered 122 total tackles on his way to Defensive Most Valuable Player honors in his district in 2025.

This opening weekend matchup may not get its proper buildup, but it truly represents a stellar matchup of a pair of programs that have huge expectations this season. Clearly, the Chargers will be looking to get out of the gate

with a statement when against the Bulldogs.
Both La Porte and Crawford are projected as district champions, so this opening week matchup should be dazzling for the fans in the stands.
Shadow Creek hosts Summer Creek
Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Freedom Field
A test-the-waters game plays out on opening weekend at Freedom Field in Alvin ISD as the Shadow Creek Sharks host defending 6A Division 2 State Finalist Summer Creek in what should be a huge game for both programs.
The Sharks and Bulldogs are both stocked with players who will soon play on Saturdays at the college level, making this one an exciting view for fans.
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La Porte hosts Fort Bend Crawford
Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Bulldog Stadium
La Porte put together a 9-1 regular season in 2025 but then allowed 28 points in the fourth quarter of a very difficult first-round playoff loss in the first round of the postseason.
La Porte has a long history of standout running backs, but Sean Simon is sure to go down as perhaps the best ever as he enters his fourth and final varsity season having rushed for 2,205 yards and 25 scores as a junior.
Junior receiver Peyton Smith is also coming off of a huge season after he had 824 yards receiving and 11 scores. Quarterback Josh Wells is the full-time starter for 2026 as the Bulldogs will aim to be more diverse on the offensive side of things. Ryker Reynolds is also counted on for a huge season at tight end.

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Dobie cross-country impresses at Dawson Invitational



The Dobie boys’ cross-country team put together a terrific all-around performance at the Dawson Invitational to open the season Aug. 14. Members of the varsity group that finished sixth overall included, left to right, Gevan Vega, Cruz Jasso, Angel

Montiel, Josue Rodriguez, Ruben Flores, Jorge Rodriguez, Robert Pheister and Wilfredo Chinchilla. Jasso was the Longhorns’ top finisher individually as he finished fourth with Pheister not far behind.



The Longhorns delivered in a big way during the season opener at Dawson on both the long and short cross-country courses to bring home medals. The medal winners included, left to right, (front

row) freshman Mia Bautista 15th, freshman Marley Manriquez (third JV girls’ race), senior Aracely Alvarado, (back row) Cruz Jasso, Robert Pheister, Alejandro Diosando and Josiah Wilkens.

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CALENDAR

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 Hollan at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
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/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at Cross Roads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
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.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
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 -

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
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, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 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 24
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group. See Friday's notice.
6 p.m. Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.
10 a.m. Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Thursday's notice.
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group. See Friday's notice.
Noon Ballroom Dancing - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office (281-554-1180) for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
7 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA - See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
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 Hollan at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



The Dobie varsity volleyball team put together a series of terrific match performances during the Port Neches Groves Volleybash Aug. 13-15, ultimately placing fifth. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Alyssa Goree, Madeline Medina, Jaila Bandy, Alyssa Espinoza, Aly Garza, Liliana Salazar,

Allison Walker, Kaylee Robles, coach Dawn Sexton (back row) coach Dawn Morrison, coach Ashley Moore, Mahoganii Davis, Eniko Sanchez, Neriah Leb-lanc, Brianna Huesca, Miah Martinez, Riese Rackley, Kayla Derobles, Maddison Campos and coach Tiffany Bowyer.

Longhorn volleyball places fifth at Port Neches Volleybash

Continued from page 5
opening day, however, the Pioneers reversed their fortunes in a big way over the final two days to ultimately finish 35th overall, going 4-4 and winning 11 of 17 overall sets.

Head coach Geoff Stresman's group earned victories over The Wood-lands and Spring while losing a tight three-set match to Seguin.

Lutheran South came up with an exceptionally impressive 25-12, 25-19 victory over Barbers Hill and then defeated Atascocita 25-20, 25-18.

Austin Westlake walked away as the overall champion at the John Turner Classic, producing an 8-1 overall record after taking out Eagle Mountain in the final. Eagle Mountain also went 8-1 overall to finish second. Lake Creek was third, followed by Clear Springs, which finished fourth.

In the grand scheme of things, both the Dobie and Lutheran South programs had to come away from opening weekend tournament action with plenty of positivity and optimism moving forward. Lutheran South has competed on some of the biggest stages available at the private school level, and has cer-

tainly shown with a solid appearance at the John Turner invitational that it can compete with anybody. Dobie, which will open district play against Pearlman in short order, also exited the Port Neches Groves event with confidence moving forward.

Head coach Dawn Sexton has 19 players on the varsity roster, and so many of those players have already made tremendous contributions to the overall result on the court. LeBlanc, certainly a big part of the future at Dobie, has already proven in just a few matches that she can be special.

Dawson returns seven starters on both sides of the football as one of the most experienced teams in the District 19-6A ranks. Some of those standout players include gifted players in the trenches on both sides of the football, including four offensive linemen, and of the seven starters in the front, seven of the defensive unit. Leaders of the group include Carter Caesar, Tyler Henry, Arthur Powell and Javier Torres.

Calvin Wesley is likely to step in as quarterback and get help from athlete Corey Brown. Defensive-linebacker Caden Exum is coming off a season in which he registered 58 total tackles, including eight tackles for loss and three quarterback sacks. Nathan Talom had nine tackles for loss and an interception a season ago, and Ashton Bibbs is the leader of the secondary.

Deer Park has six starters returning on each side of the football, including defensive lineman Michael Benavidez, who drew the preseason honor as *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine's Defensive Player of the Year. Linebacker Derek Woytek is also a big-time performer along with tackle Eddie Lopez and defensive back Charles McCaskill.

Offensively, the Deer should be at an early advantage with the return of quarterback Haden Lafrenz as well as receiver Aandon Schroeder and running back Trace Yates. Receiver John Arthur-French can also help out on the outside.

Deer Park is projected to challenge defending league champion Dickinson in the revamped 18-6A alignment that will also feature newcomer Barbers Hill. Meanwhile, Dawson will have to do battle with the likes of Shadow Creek, Pearlman and Manvel eventually in league play.

Opening night results should provide both of these programs with an early look at just where they stand moving forward.

Deer Park is projected to challenge defending league champion Dickinson in the revamped 18-6A alignment that will also feature newcomer Barbers Hill. Meanwhile, Dawson will have to do battle with the likes of Shadow Creek, Pearlman and Manvel eventually in league play.

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Houston area's elite footballers on display as 2026 season opens

Continued from page 6
made the first round of the playoffs.

Head coach Kyle Coats has taken over a program that appears to be reloaded with six starters on offense and nine on the defensive side.

That defense is led by defensive lineman Jason Johnson as well as secondary man Tavon Bolden. Trenton Blaylock is a big play performer in the defensive backfield as well, and David Dotson Jr. is capable of making big plays along with linemen Andre Jones, Landon Glaze and others.

Offensively, the Eagles will likely have a first-time starter at quarterback, who very well could be sophomore Ayden Perkins. Brian Manuel Jr. is a big-time receiver on the outside, and the offensive line boasts the talents of Yule Everline, Isaiah Smith and others. Playing on the road at Katy, there is little doubt that the Eagles will be stoked in an effort to make a tremendous first impression under the guidance of the new coaching staff.

Houston Lamar is a regular participant in the postseason and will look to get off to a hot start against a great Manvel team. It's a great matchup for both programs early on.

Wide receiver, Carter St. Junious is a big name on the outside. Offensive linemen Drake Jones and Thomas Johnson lead the way up front.

There is plenty of talent on the defensive side to help James as linebacker Sam weary is one of the best in town, and alignment Brayson Robinson will be joined by Amir Bowers and Kevin Tatum.

The Mavericks collected eight overall wins the season ago, and the team feels like it has plenty of talent to make another run.

Samuel Weary had a hundred overall tackles the season ago and is a big-time playmaker in the middle of the defense. The Mavericks are also excited to see what sophomore Ronald Carr can contribute in the backfield, and the season opener is the best time to see what he can do.

Houston Lamar hosts Manvel

Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m.

Butler Stadium

The Lamar Texans produced an 8-4 overall record the season to go in reaching the Division 1 area round, capturing a district title along the way. Despite returning just nine overall starters this season, the Texans are again favored to win the league championship in the newly numbered district 20-6a alignment.

Quarterback Jayden Robins is a true dual-threat weapon for the Texans, and running back Kaze Bryant also appears to be in line for a big season. The addition of sophomore running back Canyon Simeon will certainly help the offense, and the teams top receiver is Ja'Carlston Landor.

Robins threw for 16 touchdowns a season ago and rushed for two more, and Bryant also had more than 500 yards rushing. On the defensive side linebacker Jaxon Richmond is a top player for the Texans, and defensive lineman Eleon Curry is another guy who can produce big time numbers.

Head coach Michael Lindsey believes the Texans have what it takes to make another deep run this season, and it all starts with the opener against Manville.

The Manvel Mavericks were 8-4 overall a season ago and reached the division 2 area playoff round under the direction of veteran head coach Kirk Martin. Things will look a little bit different for the Mavericks this season as there will be a first-year quarterback under center, with Brayden Tuiasasopo ready to assume the role fulltime. Elsewhere, five returnees will be on the offensive side of the football, with six more on the defensive side, including University of Texas commit Karnell "Greedy" James.

While the Mavericks have had to fill some vacancies in the offseason, there is plenty of talent returning in the offensive backfield. Talented running backs Kenneth Malone Hayes will get plenty of touches along with Xaiden Brown.

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