

CBCMUD holiday hours

Clear Brook City MUD offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, for Labor Day. Offices reopen Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

CBCMUD residents whose trash services fall on Monday will have regular trash pickup on Labor Day, Sept. 2. All trash should be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup date will be serviced Thursday, Sept. 5. Residents with Tuesday/Friday service are not affected.

Thompson to celebrate

Thompson Intermediate, 8750 Hughes Road, invites the South Belt community to take part in its Red and White Weekend, set to take place at the area school Saturday, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will feature games from the school's sports teams, as well as performances from both dance and cheer. Spirit items will be sold.

South Belt Partnership meets

The next South Belt Community Partnership meeting will be held at the Sageglen Community Center, 11610 Sageyork Dr. Thursday, Aug. 22 at 6:30 p.m. All member communities and any communities not already represented by the Partnership are highly encouraged to attend. Current and prospective stakeholders are also welcome. The meeting is open to the public. For more information visit <https://southbeltcp.org>.

Kirkwood to meet Aug. 26

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8.

Meetings are set for the last Monday of the month, rather than the last Thursday. For information, call president Ericka McCrutecheon at 281-989-9990.

Hughes/Sabo closure set

At least one southbound lane on Hughes/Sabo will be closed continuously at Beltway 8 until further notice. The closure is associated with a city of Houston project to replace a force water main at the intersection.

Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Greenshadow to SH 225 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until further notice. The closure is due to the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Local COVID cases reported

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

As of Tuesday, Aug. 20, there were 295 active cases in 77089, no change from the previous week.

To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

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

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

Knights to sell barbecue

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Aug. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost will be \$15 for a two-meat plate with brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad and drink; \$12 for chopped beef salad sandwich with chips and drink; and \$6 for sausage on a stick. Proceeds will benefit the church's capital campaign.

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.

State launches investigation into CenterPoint

Paxton investigation the latest into utility provider's Beryl response

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton this past week launched an investigation into CenterPoint Energy for potential violations of Texas law relating to its conduct during Hurricane Beryl.

"My office is aware of concerning allegations regarding CenterPoint and how its conduct affected readiness during Hurricane Beryl, a storm that left millions of Texans without power," Paxton said in a statement. "If the investigation uncovers unlawful activity, that activity will be met with the full force of the law."

According to the statement, Paxton's office is

aware of allegations that CenterPoint's conduct may have resulted in significant harm to Houston residents, including rate increases, outages and lengthy delays in restoring power during Beryl.

Paxton's office said the investigation will examine allegations of fraud, waste and improper use of taxpayer-provided funds.

The investigation comes fresh on the heels of Gov. Greg Abbott's recent announcement that the state's Public Utility Commission will also be conducting its own investigation into the utility provider, as are two separate state legislative

committees.

"An issue that we see in the ongoing response to Hurricane Beryl are life-based issues, not because of the hurricane itself but because of the lack of power supply," Abbott said at the time he ordered the PUC investigation. "The failure of power companies to provide power to their customers is unacceptable. CenterPoint has repeatedly failed to deliver power to its customers."

The governor demanded action from CenterPoint officials regarding the utility giant's preparedness for future storms.

"To help Texans in the Greater Houston area and to avoid a repeat of unacceptable power out-

ages, I will give CenterPoint until the end of the month to provide my office with specific actions to address power outages and reduce the possibility that power will be lost during a severe weather event. If CenterPoint fails to comply, I will issue an executive order to impose actions on the company that are geared to keep the power on."

Abbott demanded the following actions from CenterPoint officials:

– Identify how CenterPoint Energy will complete the elimination of all vegetation issues by Aug. 31, 2024.

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Tree causes damage, controversy



Community leaders are attempting to resolve a residential dispute, in which one Sagemont resident's tree (shown above left) has caused extensive ongoing damage to their neighbor's property, but the resident has reportedly refused to trim/remove the tree or provide financial assistance. The elderly homeowner next to the tree has had to address foundation issues on three separate occasions since 2011 and has also had sewage issues associated with the overgrown trees. Records indicate CenterPoint was scheduled to trim the tree in October 2023, as it was too close to power lines, but crews never showed, the elderly resident said.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Storm debris collection continues

Some areas yet to receive first collection pass

City and county crews continue to pick up storm debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. City of Houston officials said residents no longer need to contact 311 to report storm debris.

"You no longer need to contact 311 to report storm debris," a post on the city's Solid Waste Management website read. "Our crews are working hard to collect debris throughout the entire city. We appreciate your patience as we work to provide services to all neighborhoods."

Storm debris contractors will drive down every street and collect storm debris piles in all public rights of way, officials said.

While city crews have made great progress picking up debris from Beryl, the SWM page notes that some areas have yet to have received a first pass of collection.

Despite some spots having not received a first pass of collection, city officials announced Thursday, Aug. 15, that residents had a 10-day notice to prepare storm debris for a second pass.

According to SWMD officials, crews are expected to conclude their first pass of storm debris collections Saturday, Aug. 31.

In preparation for the next phase of debris collections, SWMD requests residents to place all remaining storm debris at the curbside no later than Sunday, Aug. 25. The department plans to begin its second pass Monday, Sept. 2.

SWMD urges residents to continue to separate storm debris from bulk waste, and demolition debris at the curb. Contaminated debris piles might delay collection until the next bulk waste

month. According to city officials, residents must ensure that tree trunks are 3 feet or less in diameter and 3 feet or less in length and tree branches are 6 feet or less in length. In addition, debris piles must be within 10 feet onto private property lines as crews cannot encroach beyond that limit.

The city recently launched a storm debris collection tracker. This tool enables residents to monitor the daily progress of debris collection efforts following the severe weather caused by Hurricane Beryl on July 8 and the May 16 derecho.

Residents can access the website at bit.ly/HTXStorm to see areas in which trucks are currently working. Users should use the search function that looks like a magnifying glass to find an address. Additional details are below:

- Yellow areas indicate neighborhoods where crews are currently collecting the first pass.
- Green areas indicate neighborhoods in which the first pass of storm debris collection is complete.
- Gray areas indicate neighborhoods in queue for collection that will be assigned as soon as crews are available.

The collection maps are updated nightly at 8 p.m.

According to the collection tracker, city crews are picking up roughly 50,000 cubic yards of debris per day. At press time, city crews had picked up nearly 44,000 loads containing approximately

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City promotes All-Plastics program

Program aimed at diverting plastics from landfills

The City of Houston continues to expand its All-Plastics program by now allowing area residents to drop off items at the Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center, 246 Loop Road, located near SH 3/Old Galveston Road and Brantley Road.

Additionally, residents will no longer have to separate the plastic items by type. The All-Plastics program will accept all numbered plastics, such as milk jugs, detergent bottles, and shampoo bottles, as well as non-numbered plastics, such as straws, takeout containers, dry cleaner bags, bubble wrap and foam trays.

For the full list of accepted materials, visit www.houstonwaste.org.

Conducted by the city's Solid Waste Management Department – in partnership with Cyclyx, ExxonMobil and LyondellBasell – the program is intended to divert plastic waste from landfills and increase plastic recycling rates.

"One of the Solid Waste Management Department's key goals is to be innovative in our approach to diverting waste from landfills," said

SWMD Director Mark Wilfalk. "With the expansion of the All-Plastics program, SWMD is continuing our mission to expand opportunities for Houston residents to increase recycling efforts, including traditionally hard-to-recycle plastics."

This latest expansion of the program follows a similar one this past April, in which five new expansion centers were opened. Those expansion centers included the following five sites:

- Northwest: 14400 Sommermeier.
 - Northeast: 5565 Kirkpatrick.
 - Southeast: 2240 Central St.
 - South: 5100 Sunbeam.
 - Southwest: 10785 Southwest Freeway.
- The expansion centers were all opened in addition to the city's three original All-Plastics drop-off sites. Those sites include the following locations:
- Kingwood: 3210 W. Lake Houston Parkway in Kingwood.
 - North Main: 9003 N. Main St.
 - Westpark: 5900 Westpark Drive.

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County proposes \$2.7B 2025 budget

Proposal includes tax hike; requires voter approval

Harris County officials on Thursday, Aug. 15, released its proposed 2025 budget, providing roughly \$2.7 billion for the fiscal year.

Released by the county's Office of Management and Budget, the proposed \$2.7 billion budget is up 11 percent from the previous year.

The proposal also calls for a new tax rate of 60 cents per hundred dollars of valued property – a 13-percent increase from FY 2024. If approved, the measure would be the county's first tax rate increase in six years.

The announcement comes as the county is facing a \$129 million budget deficit in the upcoming year, prompting officials to also make around \$21 million in budget cuts across the board, affecting all departments.

Approximately 60 percent of the proposed budget is allocated toward public safety, including the following funds:

- An increase of \$11.7 million for the Public Defenders Office.
- Continued funding of \$51.2 million for the outsourcing of prisoners from the Harris County Jail.

– Contributing \$1.5 million toward overtime pay to reduce the criminal court backlog.

– Increasing the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences budget by \$3.4 million.

The proposed budget calls for increasing the Harris County Sheriff's Office budget by \$26.4 million. The increase would be divided among the following three groups:

- Patrol and administration: \$301,200.
- Detention: \$307,000.
- Medical: \$107,600.

Commissioners Court is expected to resume its discussion about the proposed FY2025 budget at its meeting Aug. 27.

Harris County Office of Management and Budget Director Daniel Ramos is scheduled to address the budget at the Sept. 3 Commissioners Court meeting. Ramos also spoke on the

proposed budget at the Aug. 15 Commissioners Court meeting.

Commissioners are expected to vote on the budget on Sept. 10.

FY 2025 will begin Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30, 2025.

To read the entire 104-page proposal from the county, visit budget.harriscountytexas.gov/budget.aspx.

Flood Control tax increase

Also at the Aug. 15 Commissioners Court meeting – in a rare display of bipartisanship – all four commissioners voted unanimously to ask voters to approve a tax rate increase for the Harris County Flood Control District.

If approved by voters Nov. 5, the rate increase would provide the county with an additional \$100 million to invest annually in Flood Control infrastructure.

The county's proposal would increase the Flood Control tax rate to 4.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value, costing the average homeowner approximately \$60 per year. This is approximately a 60-percent increase from FY 2024.

Each year, Commissioners Court sets the tax rates for four different entities – county government, Flood Control, Hospital District and the Port of Houston. The Flood Control is the only measure to go before voters, per state law as it calls for an increase above a certain threshold.

County officials stressed the measure was necessary to maintain infrastructure that was recently funded by the historic \$2.5 billion bond in 2018 following Hurricane Harvey.

"We're doing \$5 billion worth of projects in the next four to five years," Ramos told Commissioners Court. "If we don't have the maintenance dollars to maintain those, they're going to fail."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia – who represents much of the South Belt community – reiterated this point by comparing the scene

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Not too late to enroll at San Jac

It's not too late to enroll at San Jacinto College. Even if one missed the official start of the fall term, San Jac has them covered with "Take 2" classes, which start on Sept. 3.

As one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation, San Jacinto College is dedicated to supporting students from their first day of class through graduation and beyond. The college offers affordable tuition, supportive advisors and a wide range of programs to ensure student success.

"San Jac understands that life doesn't just stop

for the start of a new school year," said Jose Valente, dean of enrollment services at San Jacinto College. "Sometimes life gets in the way and you miss the start of a term, so we offer classes starting at different times to meet the needs of our students."

With more than 200 degrees and certificates, San Jacinto College has something for everyone. Students interested in earning a credential to enhance their employment opportunities can choose from a variety of programs, including

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Ellington expands recycling



The City of Houston has expanded its All-Plastics program to now allow residents to drop off items at the Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center. Additionally, residents will no longer have to separate the plastic items being recycled into different types, as all plastics can now be placed in the same bag for disposal. Since December 2022, the program has collected roughly 400,000 pounds of plastic waste.

Dotson receives prestigious award

Universities Space Research Association (USRA) is thrilled to announce that Renée Dotson, publication manager at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, has been selected to receive the prestigious 2024 Harold Masursky Award by the American Astronomical Society's Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS).

This honor recognizes her longstanding exceptional service and dedication to the planetary science community.

Dotson attended J. Frank Dobie High School and graduated in 1979.

Her mother still lives in the Sageglenn subdivision.

The Harold Masursky Award, established by the DPS, is a distinguished ac-

colade that celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions to planetary science and exploration through various avenues – be it engineering, managerial, programmatic, editorial, or public service activities.

Named in memory of the renowned American geologist and astronomer Harold Masursky, this award is given annually or less frequently to those who go above and beyond their regular duties. Past recipients have included luminaries like Carl Sagan, further highlighting the significance of this recognition.

For more than two decades, Dotson has served as the production editor for the University of Arizona Press's Space Science Series.

Her leadership has been pivotal in bringing to completion the final product of 15 separate volumes of the series on a wide variety of topics.

These books have served as definitive and critical references for planetary scientists worldwide ranging from graduate students and post-docs to leading researchers exploring new frontiers in planetary science.

Beyond her editorial achievements, Dotson is an active contributor to the Lu-

nar and Planetary Institute's summer intern program and the highly regarded Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. Her impact is felt across the entire planetary science community, inspiring and guiding new generations of scientists.

Dr. Richard Binzel, professor of Planetary Science at MIT, reflects on her remarkable career: "For more than two decades, I've had the privilege of working closely with Renée as the general editor of the Space Science Series."

"Her professionalism and dedication in collaborating with over 40 volume editors and hundreds of authors are evident in the exceptional quality of her work. I am delighted to see Renée receive this well-deserved honor."

The Masursky Award, which includes a certificate and a monetary prize, will be presented on Oct. 10, 2024, during the 56th annual meeting of the AAS's Division of Planetary Sciences in Boise, Idaho.

USRA extends its congratulations to Renée.

For additional information, visit <https://dps.aas.org/news/aas-division-planetary-sciences-announces-2024-prize-winners>.

Elected officials share their words

Sen. Cornyn on kids safety bill

by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Sen. John Cornyn discussed the Senate passing two landmark child online protection bills he has cosponsored, the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act. Excerpts of Sen. Cornyn's remarks are below, and video can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAUG6aKJVg0.

"Every day, our children see content online about suicide, eating disorders, and drug use, and the statistics on teen suicide and mental health paint an alarming picture for the next generation," said Sen. Cornyn. "These bills strike the right balance between First Amendment rights and safety, and I'm proud the Senate has finally taken an important step to help keep America's children safe online."

Background:
The Kids Online Safety Act would provide kids and parents with the tools, safeguards, and transparency they need to protect against threats to children's health and wellbeing online by:

Requiring social media platforms to provide minors with options to protect their information, disable addictive product features, and opt out of personalized algorithmic recommendations;

Giving parents new tools to help support their children and providing them a dedicated channel to report any harm to kids to those platforms;

Creating a duty for online platforms to prevent and mitigate specific dangers to minors in their product designs, including suicide, eating disorders, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, and advertisements for certain illegal products;

Requiring large social media platforms to perform an annual independent audit that assesses the risks to minors and whether the platform is taking meaningful steps to prevent those harms;

And fostering research regarding harms to the online safety of minors by requiring the National Academies to study the impact of social media on youth.

The Kids Online Safety Act is cosponsored by more than 70 Senators and endorsed by more than 250 organizations and associations representing mental health experts, nurses, parents' groups, young people, consumer advocates, faith groups, tech experts, and other communities, including Common Sense Media, Ameri-

can Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Compass, Eating Disorders Coalition, Fairplay, Mental Health America, Microsoft, Nintendo of America, Digital Progress Institute, and hundreds of other national and state groups.

In 1998, Congress passed the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), which instituted basic privacy protections, including notice and parental consent requirements that protect users under 13 years old. While COPPA took major steps toward safeguarding children's personal information on the internet, the law is overdue for an update in light of major changes in the online landscape. The Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act would stop the data practices fueling today's youth mental health crisis by:

Prohibiting internet companies from collecting personal information from users who are 13 to 16 years old without their consent;

Banning targeted advertising to children and teens;

Revising COPPA's "actual knowledge" standard, covering platforms that are "reasonably likely to be used" by children and protecting users who are "reasonably likely to be" children or minors;

Creating an "Eraser Button" for parents and kids by requiring companies to permit users to eliminate personal information from a child or teen when technologically feasible;

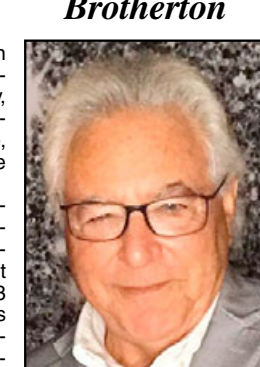
Establishing a "Digital Marketing Bill of Rights for Teens" that limits the collection of personal information of teens;

And establishing a Youth Marketing and Privacy Division at the Federal Trade Commission.

The Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act is cosponsored by more than 20 Senators and endorsed by #HalfTheStory, Academy for Eating Disorders, American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Online Safety, CEating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action, EDGE Consulting Partners, Enough Is Enough, Fairplay, IGGY Ventures, LookUpLive, Lynn's Warriors, Media Education Foundation, Mental Health America, National Association of School Nurses, Parents Who Fight, the National Parent Teacher Association, and others.

Deaths

Terry Brotherton



Terry Clovis Brotherton was born in Pasadena on Nov. 19, 1950, to Clovis and Jessie Brotherton. Terry's life journey ended Aug. 13, 2024, at 73 years. Terry was preceded in death by his parents, sister Pamela and nephew Chad Brotherton. Terry is survived by his wife, Kerri; son Derek; and Derek's mother, Karen Day; son Christian Garifalos and his wife, Shelia; daughter Jennifer Giddens and her husband, Albert; granddaughters Olivia Garifalos, Chloe Giddens and Finley Giddens; brother Larry Brotherton and his wife, Tammy; brother Charles Brotherton and his wife, Coleen; nieces Chelsea Brotherton, Haley Brotherton; nephews Chason Brotherton, Charlie Brotherton, Beau Brotherton, Cameron Brotherton, Cody Brotherton; and eight great-nieces and great-nephews.

Terry graduated from South Houston High School in 1969 and graduated from then-Southwest Texas State University in 1973 with a degree in business. He immediately went to work with his father at C.M. Brotherton Real Estate.

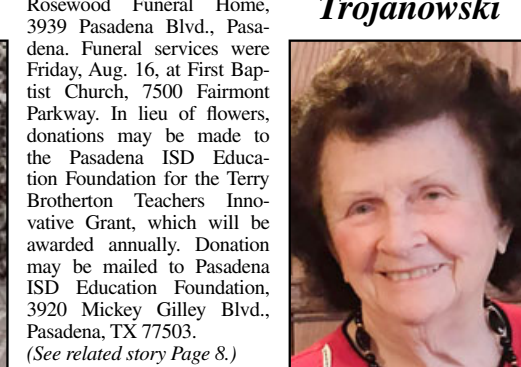
Terry had a passion and devotion to the city of Pasadena, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and the Pasadena Independent School District. Throughout his adult life, Terry served on various city committees and was instrumental in the PISD's Athletic Hall of Fame inductions and banquets.

He spoke at each induction ceremony and was on a first-name basis with local dignitaries and Pasadena and Houston area sports personalities. Terry was a founding member of the PISD Education Foundation and served with dedication and commitment for twenty-one years. Terry was awarded with The Pasadena ISD Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 2009. On one of his final days, a contingent from the Pasadena School District visited Terry at his home and presented him with "The Terry Brotherton Perpetual Mini Grant." This is a monumental achievement and an award that will be cherished by Terry's family.

Terry was a longtime member of the NAWCC, a Houston clock association and was president of the association at one time.

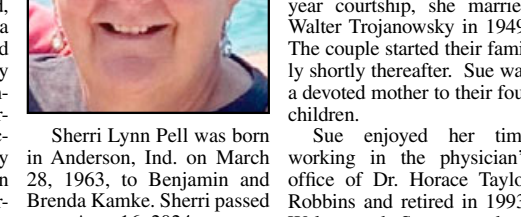
Terry's true passion was his ranch in Shiro. An invitation to the ranch was a joy for Terry to extend to friends and family over the years.

Sue Dowdy Trojanowski



Visitation for Terry was held Thursday, Aug. 15, at Rosewood Funeral Home, 3939 Pasadena Blvd., Pasadena. Funeral services were Friday, Aug. 16, at First Baptist Church, 7500 Fairmont Parkway. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation for the Terry Brotherton Teachers Innovative Grant, which will be awarded annually. Donation may be mailed to Pasadena ISD Education Foundation, 3920 Mickey Gilley Blvd., Pasadena, TX 77503. (See related story Page 8.)

Sherri Pell

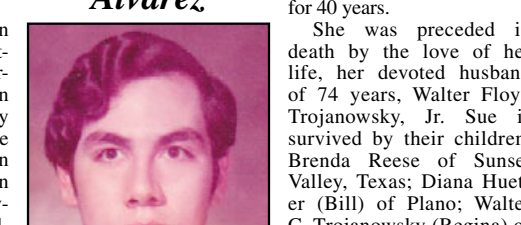


Sherri Lynn Pell was born in Anderson, Ind. on March 28, 1963, to Benjamin and Brenda Kamke. Sherri passed away Aug. 16, 2024.

Sherri had a career in medical transcription at Baylor College of Medicine, the lighthouse of Houston and Texas Children's Hospital.

Sherri had a passion for faith, family, the beach, Houston sports teams and Texas A&M. She is survived by her husband, Darryl Pell; son Kenneth Pell, daughter-in-law, Fabiola Pell; son Kevin Pell, daughter-in-law, Molly Pell; brother, Brian Kamke; granddaughter, Ivey Pell; numerous nieces and nephews; and two rescue dogs, Manny and Cowboy.

Robert A. Alvarez



Robert, age 69 of Houston, passed away Aug. 7, 2024. A native Houstonian and lifelong resident of the South Belt area and J. Frank Dobie graduate.

Robert enjoyed watching the Astros and Texans and attending games with his nephews. Robert is preceded in death by his mother and father, Frances and Al Alvarez.

He is survived by his sister, Debbie Harris (Kirk); brother John Alvarez (Michelle); and nephews Dominic and Nathan Alvarez of Virginia, Matthew Harris and Michael Harris.

Service will be held in the chapel of Integrity Funeral Home, 8601 Almeda Genoa Road, Houston, TX 77075 at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 30. In lieu of flowers, one may donate to the Alzheimer's Association.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church

Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar

11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukecatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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Vakil joins Houston Methodist CL

Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital announced the addition of Dr. Haris Vakil, primary care sports medicine physician, to its team this month. He joins the leading specialists at Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine at Clear Lake, bringing specialized care tailored to meet the diverse needs of patients in the Clear Lake area and surrounding communities.

Vakil's personal experience as a former student athlete fuels his dedication to managing orthopedic conditions and helping individuals lead active, healthy lives. "Having been on the receiving end of sports-related injuries, I understand the unique challenges faced by active individuals," Vakil said.

"My goal is to help patients overcome injuries, maintain an energetic lifestyle and stay abreast of the latest advancements in personalized care." Vakil's practice focuses on the medical care and non-operative orthopedic care of athletes and active people. His advanced treatment expertise includes musculoskeletal ultrasound, guided joint injections and platelet-rich plasma therapy.

His credentials include a fellowship in primary care

sports medicine, board certification in family medicine and a certificate of added qualification in sports medicine. He completed his medical education and family medicine residency at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he served as chief resident, and furthered his expertise with a primary care sports medicine fellowship at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.

His professional affiliations include the American Academy of Family Physi-

cians, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Association, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the Texas Medical Association.

Vakil is now seeing patients at 18123 Upper Bay Road, Medical Office Building 4, Ste. 200, Houston, TX 77058. To schedule an appointment or learn more, call Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine at Clear Lake at 713-363-9090 or visit houstonmethodist.org/doctor/haris-vakil.

County proposal includes tax hike; voter approval

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nario to purchasing a new car but never changing the oil.

"If you buy a car and never change the oil, then you wasted your money on the car," said Garcia. "Just like a vehicle, the tremendous investments we have made in flood control, like the \$2.5 billion in bond projects passed by the voters, require regular maintenance or they will stop working."

According to Garcia, under the current spending model, funds only allow county facilities to be rehabilitated/replaced every 270

years. Even if approved by voters, however, Garcia said the tax rate increase would still only provide funds to rehabilitate/replace each county facility every 67 years.

"It's nowhere near where we want to be but it will at least get the ball rolling," Garcia told the *Leader*, noting that more than 70 percent of county's existing facilities are operating on the last 20 years of their life cycle.

Garcia said residents contributing a little today will save a lot tomorrow. "We have made invest-

ments in the major projects to keep flooding at bay, but we only have enough maintenance funding to service these projects once every 270 years.

That's inexcusable," said Garcia. "If we don't do the work now to maintain those projects, our investments will be wasted."

For about \$60 per year for the average homeowner, we will make sure those channels and detention ponds we have recently built will continue to prevent flooding and save lives.

Spending a little bit more

today will save us billions of dollars in property damage in the future. We must make the investments needed now to make sure our children and their children's children stay protected from rising flood waters.

The work being done is taking Harris County out of the national headlines of the place that always floods. Let's keep the progress going."

Garcia praised the county's ongoing Flood Control efforts, saying they prevented thousands of homes from flooding during the recent Hurricane Beryl. "As we saw this summer, those investments are working," said Garcia. "In Hurricane Beryl, we had similar rainfall as we did in the Memorial Day floods in 2015. In 2015, more than 3,000 homes flooded. In Beryl, that number is less than 20."

Recent improvements in the South Belt community – including the South Belt Stormwater Detention Ba-

sin and the Beamer Ditch Project – have also proven effective, with no home in the area having known to experience flooding during Beryl, drastically unlike during previous storms.

Commissioners from both parties agreed the rate increase was necessary to provide the ongoing maintenance.

"I am very much looking forward to going to the voters so we can have the investment in deferred maintenance that we need," said Republican Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones. "I'm so proud that we're delivering new infrastructure, new protection, but we also need to be maintaining our current assets."

Republican Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey shared a similar sentiment.

"We've got 22 watersheds (and) more than 2,500 miles of infrastructure that we have to maintain," said Ramsey. "So I am very strongly in support of this."

Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

Bracewell Branch Library
Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Thursday, Aug. 22, 3 – 4 p.m. Family story time.
Thursday, Aug. 22, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab - computer help.
Thursday, Aug. 22, 5 – 6 p.m. Open lab - English language learning at the library.
Monday, Aug. 26, 11 a.m. – noon Open lab - computer help.
Tuesday, Aug. 27, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Children's museum of Houston: basic fun shop.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

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

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

The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Thursday, Aug. 22, 10 – 11 a.m. League of women voters of Houston election readiness.
Thursday, Aug. 22, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Thursday, Aug. 22, 2 – 4 p.m. Tech help. Registration required.
Monday, Aug. 26, 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Family time.
Monday, Aug. 26, 11:15 a.m. – noon. Family story time.
Monday, Aug. 26, 5 – 6 p.m. Little aviators drone flight school. Registration required.
Tuesday, Aug. 27, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Tuesday, Aug. 27, 1 – 2 p.m. Homeschool hangout.
Tuesday, Aug. 27, 5 – 6 p.m. Little aviators drone flight school. Registration required.
Wednesday, Aug. 28, 5 – 6 p.m. Little aviators drone flight school. Registration required.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"
– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.
– Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services
– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
– Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
– Read along and play with picture books on TurnleBooks.
Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

Free COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 9AM - 12PM

MOTU 12210 Truck Stop Valero Hwy 3
12210 Galveston Rd (Hwy 3), Houston

Open to area residents and businesses.

AMOCO Federal Credit Union, MOTU Stop, City of Houston District E, Constable Jerry Garcia, Precinct 2, and South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to offer HOAs, civic clubs, and residents the opportunity to drop off paper for shredding.

Dylan Horan honored



On Aug. 16, LTJG Dylan Wilson Horan, 26, longtime Sagehen resident earned the U.S. Navy's coveted "Wings of Gold" and a membership in a 100-year-old society dedicated to aeronautical excellence in the nation's defense. Horan earned the privilege to train for carrier strike aviation by his diligent work and exceptional performance in his primary flight training. He was named cream of the crop of student aviators and earned a spot in the elite group of tactical strike naval aviators. It's OK to refer to them as fighter pilots. The advanced training consisted of ground instruction, flight simulator and 105 flights in the T-45 Goshawk. He flew the T-45 to the very limits of its aerodynamic capabilities. He flew close formations, dropped air to ground bombs and performed air combat maneuvers (dog fighting). The final test that separates him from all other military pilots - arrested landings on an aircraft carrier. Horan and his wife Krista will be stationed at Lemoore NAS, Calif. He will be transitioning to F/A-18E/F at the Fleet Replacement Squadron VFA 122 Flying Eagles before heading to the fleet. His family and friends could not be any prouder of him and his accomplishments thus far and the other ones yet to come. Dylan will be featured on an upcoming docuseries on Nat Geo featuring the new generation of Naval Aviators.

Gold medals awarded to Melillo art students



Melillo Middle School students received gold medals for art work. Shown, left to right, are Jennifer Saucedo, principal; Gift Obah; Soraya Shah; Nathalia Blanc; Ethan Hernandez; Thu Nguyen; and Jan Tekell, Melillo art director. Melillo art students received gold medals for art work submitted to The Texas Art Education Association. Nguyen received two gold medals for her two separate entries, both pieces having received first-place distinctions.

Meador staff undergoes team building



Meador Elementary's staff participated in a back-to-school team building event at Dig World. Staff were able to try out heavy construction equipment and fun challenges to get them excited about building the foundation for success this 2024-2025 school year. Left to right, are Kevin Fox, assistant principal; Jennifer Chavez, principal; and Tara Merida, counselor.

Not too late to register for San Jac College

Continued from Page 1
ing computer information technology, electrical technology, HVAC, welding, process technology, maritime technology, nursing, respiratory therapy, sonography, surgical technology, eye care technology, construction management, agriculture and many more.

The college also now of-

fers three bachelor's degrees - a Bachelor of Applied Science in early childhood education, a Bachelor of Applied Technology in cybersecurity and a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

San Jacinto College also offers scholarships and financial aid to help students achieve their educational goals. Financial aid advisers are available to help students and families with the financial aid process, and scholarships through the San Jacinto College Foundation can be reviewed and applied for at sanjac.edu/foundation.

Those interested in enrolling in "Take 2" classes should visit sanjac.edu or call 281-998-6150 for more information.

About San Jacinto College
Surrounded by monu-

ments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, since 1961.

The college is one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The college is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five

campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and noncredit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce.

The college is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA+ by Standard & Poor's, and Aa2 by Moody's.

For more information about San Jacinto College, visit sanjac.edu.

City expands Ellington All-Plastics collection

Continued from Page 1
Since December 2022, the program has collected roughly 400,000 pounds of plastic waste.

Neighborhood Depository hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

For additional information on the city's All-Plastics program, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html.

Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center

The Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center recycles several other items in addition to plastics.

Founded in part by the city of Houston, Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, this unmanned site accepts a variety of the following items:

- Ad inserts, aerosol cans, aluminum cans, cardboard, catalogs, glass bottles and jars, magazines, newspapers, steel cans, telephone books and tin cans. (Packing materials and styrofoam are not accepted.)

Tree waste/junk waste or garbage are not accepted at this facility.

Residents should visit one of the SWMD's manned Neighborhood Depositories/Recycling centers to properly handle these materials or for curbside service, refer to one's Tree Waste/Junk

Waste collection schedule. Once a month, the Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center holds an electronics recycling drop-off event.

Electronic products are made from valuable resources and materials, including metals, plastics, and glass, all of which require energy to mine and manufacture. Donating or recycling consumer electronics conserves natural resources and avoids air and water pollution, as well as greenhouse gas emissions that are caused by manufacturing virgin materials.

On the second Saturday of each month residents - no businesses - are invited to recycle their unwanted televisions, computers, monitors, printers, hard drives and other electronic devices.

There is no cost to the resident to drop off their electronics for recycling.

The monthly collection events take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To get to the Ellington recycle site from the intersection of Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8, take I-45 south toward Galveston and turn left onto FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road; proceed to SH 3/Old Galveston Road and turn right; drive two blocks and turn left onto Brantly; go past a dock with signs to the right and turn left onto Loop Road/Broussard.

Girls in Aviation hosts free event

Girls in Aviation (GIA) Day at Lone Star Flight Museum celebrates 10 years spotlighting the opportunities for girls in both the STEM and aviation industries. GIA Day connects hundreds of young girls (and boys) in Greater Houston with inspiring women professionals to learn about the infinite career paths in STEM and aviation. Activities include aircraft tours, flight simulations, hands-on mechanics, and drone "STEMonstrations," as well as meteorology workshops and a career fair. This event will be held on Sept. 21.

This event is free to all girls and boys ages 8-17. Registration is required. Lunch for registered participants is included. Parents and siblings may attend at \$10 per person. Parents and siblings do not get lunch included.

Schedule of events

- 7:30 a.m. Arrival and check-in. - 8 a.m. Welcome and breakfast. - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Programs and activities. - 12:30 p.m. Luncheon and special panel. - 1:30 p.m. Conclusion of event. For more information or to register for this event, visit LoneStarFlight.org.



NEKANE
General Studies

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REGISTER FOR FALL TAKE 2 CLASSES
CLASSES START SEPT. 3

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Kevin Fox, assistant principal, maneuvered a Cat mini-excavator.



Kourtney Roopwah, pre-K teacher (left) and Adriana Medina, paraprofessional, used a Honda Pioneer to drive an obstacle course.



Holly Nelson, kindergarten teacher, drove a full-sized 236D3 skid steer loader around a track.

Thompson leadership team named



The Thompson Intermediate leadership team members have been named for the 2024-2025 school year. They are, left to right, (front row) Arianna Ibarra, science coach; MaryBeth Nicol, librarian; Tanis Griffin, principal; Prudencio Reyna, counselor; Kelli Moneyhun, assistant principal; Ca-Lishea Woods, intervention coach; (back row) Leticia Sanchez, SEL counselor; Christine Veltman, assistant principal; Denise Medina, RLA coach; Travis Teichelman, assistant principal; Gina Teston, math coach; Jill Butler, counselor; and Lauren Soto, history coach. Photo submitted

Thompson Intermediate hosts 7th-graders Lion Camp



Thompson Intermediate staff held Lion Camp where seventh-graders meet their teachers and ran a schedule for students to get to know the building. Left to right, are (first row) Travis Teichelman, Ca-lishea Woods, Arianna Ibarra, Christine Veltman, Tanis Griffin, Lauren Soto, Kelli Moneyhun, Gina Teston, Denise Medina, MaryBeth Nicol, Prudencio Reyna, (second row) Amanda Anderson, Kaylin Harlan, Bob Boyes, Christie Arsenis, Ruth Horton, Lisa Matay, Kasandra Tabarez, Selena Delafuente, Serenity Garcia, Valerie Bosquez, Cheryl Harvick, Lillian Mejia, Fallon Lynch, Jasmine Escobar, Maggie Allen, Nicole Horne-Sherman, (third row) Sarah Panetski, Cynthia Lozano, Tiffany Nelson, Jill Butler, Andrew Nelson, Shaurice Spellman, Esmeralda Garcia, Wendy Huxhold, Sara Hall, Stefanie Cantin, Melissa Prestridge, Tiona Samuels, (fourth row) Steven Reyes, Christopher Hayes, Daniela Uribe, Nikki Cannon, Jacob Arnold, Aaron Kutra, Thuy Nguyen, Lukus McCuiston, Daniel Sawyer, Rachel Heffernan, (fifth row) Kevin Paul, Manny Reyna, Heather Nielson, Kandace McMullin, Rebecca Eloh, Jazmin Tabarez, Angelina Herrera, VeAnn Richards, (sixth row) Jacoby Davis, James MacGregor, Peter Anderson, David Saenz, Tiffany SilverThorne, Kayla Matlock, Richard Robeson, (seventh row) Heidi Applegate, Meagan Larson, Melinda Harrison, Melinda Mathis, Cliff Neel, Maria Pena, Jennifer Perez, Lorissa Kearbey Julie Monarez, Jose Lozano and Preston Hall.

Storm debris collection efforts continue Residents to prepare for second collection pass

Continued from Page 1
2.1 million cubic yards of vegetative debris.

CenterPoint investigated

Continued from Page 1
Specify all actions CenterPoint Energy will take in the future that it failed to do during the preparation for and response to Hurricane Beryl that will reduce or eliminate power outages for your customers.
Ensure CenterPoint Energy has a sufficient number of prestaged workers to be able to immediately respond to any power outages that may occur for any tropical storm or hurricane that hits your service area.
Describe how CenterPoint Energy will retain or quickly restore power for at-risk Texans in hospitals, nursing homes and senior living facilities.
Describe how CenterPoint Energy's pole replacement process for Hurricane Beryl will be accelerated and will prioritize the deployment of new, highly resilient poles before the end of this hurricane season.
Specify CenterPoint Energy's plan to improve communication with its customers be-

Upon completion of the first pass of storm debris collection, SWM will begin a second pass.
The combined impact of this year's natural disasters in the Houston area is projected to produce more than 4.5 million cubic yards of storm debris - enough to fill NRG Stadium. Prior to the July 4 holiday, the city successfully removed more than 1.7 million cubic yards of debris generated by the derecho storm.
Over the next 60-90 days, the city will utilize all its available resources combined with supplemental disaster collection contractors to expedite the debris removal operations in neighborhoods throughout the city.
City Council recently approved an amended debris removal contract with four companies, allowing for expedited debris removal operations.
The contracts, originally approved on May 29 for debris removal services following the damaging derecho, could cost up to \$120 million.
Residents may also drop off storm debris at

Melillo cafeteria helps



Fifth-grade Mighty Melillo Mustangs cafeteria helps Brantley Ojeda (left) and Braylon Ortega were coached by Matthew Sanchez, fifth-grade assistant principal. Ojeda and Ortega continue to show their school spirit dedication.

National Institute for Bioprocessing has San Jac as exclusive provider

By Neesha Hosein
Houston has a reputation as a leader in gas, petrochemical, aerospace, health and medicine, and research and development and is now opening new doors to the burgeoning fields of biotechnology and biopharma.
San Jacinto College is an exclusive provider of National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training-licensed programs.
"Houston already has a number of biomanufacturing companies, and many will eventually relocate here, so the region is primed and ready for growth in this industry," said Dr. Christopher Wild, dean of health and natural sciences and executive director of biotechnology.
In spring 2024, the college launched a series of noncredit biomanufacturing classes at the South campus, providing corporate training and onboarding for new hires and existing workers in this industry.
"It's important to both meet the current workforce needs and train the anticipated future workforce," Wild said. "Regional biomanufacturing companies will be able to look to us to deliver this specialized training."
Training focus
Eventually, the college plans to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in biomanufacturing technician, a Level 1 certificate, and an advanced skills certificate.
This area of study will resonate with many, specifically biology majors.
For example, biomanufacturing technicians will participate in manufacturing human therapeutics that are generated from biological systems.
Graduates could pursue positions in cutting-edge medicine like vaccine manufacturing and cell and gene therapies.
Students will learn theoretical concepts to better understand the scope and purpose of the work, but focus will be on the technical study of manufacturing human therapeutics, as in the hands-on aspect. Although the program will cover a broad spectrum, it will not be math and science heavy.
Creating a robust training program empowers the college to attract future biomanufacturing companies to the Houston area, creating more job opportunities.
Preparing for the future
The College recently broke ground on the new Center for Biotechnology at the Generation Park campus.
This state-of-the-art facility, which is being built in collaboration with McCord Development Inc., will provide comprehensive, hands-on training with realistic good manufacturing practices simulated environments.
The hope is to be functional by 2025.
"This opens doors for Generation Park students and the community," said Destry Dokes, Generation Park campus provost. "It gives students the opportunity to explore this emerging field and learn the foundational elements of biomanufacturing and biopharma. It also helps current employees in that field who are looking to upscale."
San Jac also hosted a ribbon-cutting for the biomanufacturing training program at the South campus.
This program marks the initiation of the college's comprehensive biotechnology offerings, beginning with an onboarding certificate designed to equip new professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to seamlessly enter the field.
The biomanufacturing training program, a two-week hybrid initiative, integrates theoretical knowledge, practical hands-on experience, and exposure to industry practices. Furthermore, the program is customizable to meet the specific training needs of industry partners.
Future offerings will expand to cover all aspects of biomanufacturing, specialized instrumentation and equipment training, and advanced techniques, ensuring that San Jacinto College remains at the forefront of biotechnology education.
"As we unveil the biomanufacturing training program, we are taking a significant step toward meeting the growing demands of the biotechnology sector right now," Wild said. "This program is designed to provide a seamless entry into the field for new professionals, with a focus on practical experience and exposure to industry practices."

Remember When

45 years ago (1979)
An alert Sageglen resident recovered a pillowcase full of items stolen from his neighbor's home.
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to more than 28 fires and medical emergencies over the month.
40 years ago (1984)
Clear Creek Independent School District trustees adopted a \$59.56 million budget, which was 10.4 percent larger than the previous year's amended budget.
A Sagemont woman was charged with the shooting death of her husband, who she said abused her.
35 Years ago (1989)
The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees named Dr. Doris Fassino the district's new assistant superintendent of personnel, long-range planning and staff development.
A 21st-birthday celebration turned ugly when alleged gang members from outside the South Belt area started fighting with each other then attacked two area residents.
30 years ago (1994)
Clear Creek Independent School District students scored well above average in every level of the 1994 Texas Assessment of Academic Skills.
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 10th anniversary.
25 years ago (1999)
Johnson Space Center opened its doors to the public for its free annual open house.
Senior Girl Scout Kelley Pennington earned Girl Scouting's highest achievement, the Gold Award.
20 years ago (2004)
The South Belt area was shocked at the sudden and unexpected death of former San Jacinto College South president, Dr. Parker Williams. Neighbors across the street from her home noticed Williams unconscious in her

front yard. Williams, who was a regent for the San Jacinto College system, was only the second woman to serve as president of a Texas community college.
Lightning caused a fire in a residence on Kirkmead. The family was not at home at the time. Neighbors saw the flames and called the fire department. Houston firefighters and volunteers from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded.
A large rescue truck was purchased by Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's office for high-water rescues. The vehicle was bought through military surplus, and was able to drive through five feet of water.
An 18-year-old man was treated at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital for a wound from what he thought was a BB gun. The man placed the weapon, which was really a .380 handgun, under his chin and shot himself. The man survived the gunshot wound.
15 years ago (2009)
In a surprising move, the developer of the proposed low-income Dixie Gardens apartment complex withdrew his application for state assistance.
Traffic signals at the intersection of Beamer and Hughes roads had been the site of several accidents due to the limited visibility between the first and second traffic signals on the north and southbound lanes of Beamer.
The Leader vacation photo contest ended with Theresa Salazar and Devin Cobb each receiving four tickets to Schlitterbahn.
10 years ago (2014)
An armed robbery suspect was rushed to the hospital after being shot by a convenience store clerk in the 9400 block of Alameda Genoa at Rowlett. The incident took place when the suspect entered the Alameda Discount Food Store with his pistol drawn, demanding money. Fearing for his life, store clerk Kiran Giri, who had a concealed-handgun license, pulled his own weapon and shot the suspect in the neck. The unidentified suspect was taken to Ben Taub Hospital in serious condition. Police said a second man was waiting in a vehicle around the corner from the store, but he took off when the shot was fired.
The Pasadena Independent School District held a dedication celebration for the new Dennis L. Shippey Aquatic Center. Approved by voters in a 2011 bond election, the aquatic center, which would be utilized by the entire district, was named after Dobie High School's former swim coach. Shippey served as swimming and diving coach at Dobie from 1976 until his retirement in 2004. From 1988 until his retirement, he also served as aquatics coordinator for PISD. Shippey died in August 2011 at the age of 65.

5 years ago (2019)
South Belt students to returned to school, with both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD starting classes on Monday, Aug. 19. Lutheran South Academy students began school on Wednesday, Aug. 14, and San Jacinto College began classes on Monday, Aug. 26.
A lightning bolt sparked a fire at an apartment complex in the 10300 block of Alameda Genoa Road near the Gulf Freeway Wednesday, Aug. 14. In all, eight units were damaged, leaving 10 people homeless. One female resident was transported to the hospital for health problems associated with smoke inhalation. One firefighter was also treated on scene for possible heat exhaustion and dehydration, and transported to the hospital as a precaution. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to one side of the building. Damage was estimated at \$200,000.
1 year ago (2023)
Antonio "AJ" Armstrong Jr. was found guilty of capital murder in the 2016 killing of his parents, Antonio Armstrong Sr. and Dawn Whiteley Armstrong, a 1992 Dobie graduate. According to county officials, jurors in the third trial deliberated for approximately 10.5 hours - roughly half the time as the previous two hung-jury counterparts. Now 23, Armstrong was spared the death penalty because he was only 16 at the time of the murders. Automatically sentenced to life in prison, Armstrong will be eligible for parole in 40 years. Armstrong filed to appeal in the case. Throughout the trials, Armstrong maintained his innocence, suggesting an intruder or possibly an older sibling may have been responsible for the killings. The story made international news, as Antonio Armstrong Sr. was a former football star at Texas A&M University and briefly played in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins.

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

MARY ELLEN ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Mary Ellen Morgan Aug. 23 from her husband Larry, son Tommy, daughter Elizabeth Echols, son-in-law Tim Echols, grandson Justin Echols and the Leader staff.
JOYCE DITTRICH ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Joyce Dittich who enjoys a birthday Aug. 25, from family, friends and the Leader staff.
CODY CELEBRATES 25th BIRTHDAY
Cody Giles of Kirkwood South celebrates a birthday Aug. 27. His wife Liz and daughter Braelyn, along with the rest of the Giles and Griffin families wish him a wonderful birthday.
BIRTHDAY CHEERS FOR ASHLEY
Ashley Giles celebrates her birthday Aug. 27. Her husband Aaron and sons Jaxson and Jace; and the rest of the Giles and Griffin families wish her a wonderful birthday.
SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 22 through Aug. 28.
Atkinson Elementary
Rosa Quintana enjoys a birthday Aug. 25. Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 27 for a special birthday for Deyanira Quintero.
Burnett Elementary
Share a slice of birthday cake with Romona Dawson Aug. 22. Lisa Orr wished a happy birthday Aug. 28.

Bush Elementary
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 25 to Marie Marler.
Frazier Elementary
A double-layer birthday cake is in order Aug. 27 for Amanda Brewton and Veronica Huitron.
Genoa Elementary
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 Emery Hernandez. Blow out the candles Aug. 27 for Vanessa Castillo.
Meador Elementary
Remember to wish Heather Morales a happy birthday Aug. 22. Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 24 for Kim Cowan.
South Belt Elementary
Alyssa Wilson celebrates a birthday Aug. 22. Birthday greetings go out to Christina Herrera Aug. 27. Break out the party favors and cake and ice cream for Jason Watson Aug. 28.
Stuchbery Elementary
Send a greeting to Lauren Palos for an Aug. 22 birthday. Having a memorable birthday celebration Aug. 23 is Cristina Rodriguez.
Meilillo Middle School
Celebrating a birthday Aug. 22 is Maria Diaz.
Roberts Middle School
Enjoying a birthday Aug. 27 is Fred Leggin.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a birthday greeting Aug. 23 to Marlene Jimenez. Aug. 27 is the day for a fun celebra-

tion for Vanessa Castillo. Light the candles on a birthday cake Aug. 28 for Mackwell Hickerson.
Thompson Intermediate
Don't forget to wish Maria Banda a happy birthday Aug. 24. Break out the balloons and the birthday cake Aug. 28 for Melinda Mathis.
Dobie High
Monica Veloz celebrates a birthday Aug. 22. The day for cake and ice cream for Issac Goudeau is Aug. 26. Break out the birthday balloons and party favors Aug. 27 for Tracy Connell and Misael Rosales.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Aug. 22: Pat Gonzales, Monica Castro, Kassi Richardson, Herman Garcia, Chrystal Sulak, Janie Chapaand Bill Edwards; Friday, Aug. 23: Viv Castillo, Mary Miller, Jim Kunkel, Shelly Rivera, Mary Wesfahl and Patti Parker; Saturday, Aug. 24: Mike Justice, Sammye Mejia, Yessica Musquiz, Alyssa Keller and Amber Burda; Sunday, Aug. 25: Bubba Zapalac, Andrea Moorehead-Ford and Jesse Saenz; Monday, Aug. 26: Arlette Jarmon, Marci Chiovaro, Fred Manly, Stephanie Mayo and Rick LaMantina; Tuesday, Aug. 27: Jesse Garcia, and Jeff Jones; and Wednesday, Aug. 28: Tanya Keller and Yvonne Ramirez.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS!
Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

AARP Webster sets meetings
AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, Aug. 27. Members will tour the Edison Museum in Beaumont. Lunch will be at Crazy Cajun and on the way back the tour will include a stop at the 9/11 Memorial.
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 veronica_sfrd46@yahoo.com

Coffee with the Constable
Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 1802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series.
The next event will be Thursday, Aug. 22, with another event happening the following Thursday, Aug. 29. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

As 2024 season nears, JFD football outlook takes shape

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

There are still plenty of decisions to be finalized as the preseason winds down, yet with a week to go before the 2024 opener against Clear Brook in the varsity football opener for both programs, Dobie head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff are comfortable where the program stands.

Heading into the off-season, the assistant coaching staff knew that the two vital position groups that needed addressing would include up front along the offensive line and in the back of the defense in the secondary.

The program enjoyed a productive offseason and then answered some questions during organized spring practices. Then came a head coaching change, with Fitzmorris arriving on campus basically as last school year ended.

All of that in the past now. Everyone wearing the burnt orange and white, from the players and coaches to athletic training and other support staff, have worked in unison to get the 2024 team in the best possible position to be successful.

Fitzmorris says his varsity group, which he refers to as Team 56 in accordance with the number of all-time Dobie football seasons, is on schedule as the head-to-head scrimmage against a talented La

Season opens statewide

Dobie Longhorns host Clear Brook Wolverines

Thurs., Aug. 29

Veterans Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

Porte program comes Aug. 22 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

While the Dobie coaching staff has been very pleased with the competitiveness and performance of a lot of candidates at various positions, Fitzmorris says the scrimmage against La Porte remains a great opportunity for players to solidify roles.

Whether it be a starting gig among the first 22 or an all-important reserve spot, the coaches welcome players to seize opportunities.

"Overall, I feel like we are in great shape," Fitzmorris said. "The coaching staff has been terrific to work alongside. It's a great group of coaches."

"I really appreciate the hard work and dedication of both the coaches that were here when I showed up and then the five that we hired as first-time assistants."

"As for the players, they have really bought into what we're doing here at Dobie High School. I really feel like we have a chance to have something special here."

Dobie did enter the off-season with an opening at quarterback, the third such season requiring a first-year starter.

With two weeks to go prior to the start of the regular season, Fitzmorris said senior Will Joiner III has earned the role and is definitely the starter under center Aug. 29 against the Wolverines.

Whether it be a starting gig among the first 22 or an all-important reserve spot, the coaches welcome players to seize opportunities.

Defensively, linemen Aiden Sanchez and Hunter Stacey along with Michael Williams, Tyree Drumgo and Desmond Talib at linebacker are keys to the front seven. How the secondary meshes could be crucial.

While Fitzmorris wasn't hired as the Longhorns' head coach until May 28, it now must seem like it's been a very long time to wait for the start of the regular season.

Now, the time has come to finish off the preseason and get ready for the start of true game action.

"We want our guys to perform as if it's fourth-and-inches out there on the field," Fitzmorris

said. "All of us are excited about the start of the season, but we still have some things that we need to finalize. So far we have done a great job in preparation, and now it's all the matter of getting things across the proverbial goal line. There is no time to waste."

Texans' legend J.J. Watt visits Dobie main



Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris (left) and the school's football program gifted former Houston Texans' three-time Defensive Player of the Year J.J. Watt with his very own No. 99 JFD helmet Aug. 17 at Dobie main. Watt and his wife, former Houston Dash soccer standout Kealia Ohai, were in town in support of the Watt's House Youth Camp as dozens of local children took part in the event.

BHI Community Day

The Beverly Hills Intermediate athletic department is finalizing plans for its preseason activities involving the South Belt community.

The Bears' athletic department has shifted the date for the annual Beverly Hills Intermediate Community Day, which this year will be held Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The school's football and volleyball programs will both be involved with scrimmage action during the day as the community is invited to come out and see what the Bears have in store for the school year.

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

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

During the Community Day, Bears' fans will have a chance to purchase a variety of team apparel items, including spirit shirts, backpacks, bucket hats and more. Concessions will be available during the event via cash-only purchase.

Leader's pickers contest slated to kick off Aug. 29

The Leader is set to renew its annual South Belt high school football pickers contest beginning with the August 29th issue in conjunction with the start of the 2024 season statewide.

In the fun yet highly competitive contest, area Realtors Troy Leland and

Steven Sutton will match with with Leader sports editor John Bechtle as well as Emory Gadd, former longtime associate pastor at Sagemont Church as well as Debbie Vaughn, formerly of C&D Burger Shoppe.

Bechtle, Leland and

Continued on Page 6

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Horns to scrimmage LP

The Dobie football program hosts La Porte at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena Aug. 22 in a set of scrimmages as the respective teams prepare for the start of the regular season.

Former Dobie head coach Kevin Berneathy, who guided La Porte to a District 8-5A championship in 2023, will lead his Bulldogs into action against defending District 22-6A champion Dobie as the two programs go through game-simulated scenarios.

The varsity scrimmage, which will conclude things at 7 p.m., will include a variety of first eight-play-of-offensive drives by both teams and then six-play drives. A common two-quarter game with a regular clock running will be included as the two programs simulate the start of the regular season as normal as possible.

The freshman scrimmage will begin things at 4:30 p.m., with the junior varsity scrimmage following at 5:30 p.m.

PISD sets Veterans Stadium policies

Over the course of 11 weeks beginning Aug. 29, Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium will be the hot spot for some of the most exciting varsity football action featuring the five district high schools and their respective opponents.

Opening week begins Thursday, Aug. 29, as the Dobie Longhorns, defending champions of District 22-6A, host the Clear Brook Wolverines in a 6:30 p.m. start.

The weekend then features Pasadena Memorial hosting the Channelview Falcons Aug. 30 in a 7 p.m. start.

Pasadena, Rayburn and South Houston of Pasadena ISD will each begin the 2024 season as visitors.

South Houston heads

to Stallworth Stadium in Baytown Aug. 29 in a 7 p.m. game against the Baytown Lee Ganders.

Pasadena, now part of the state's 5A classification, will play Houston Austin Aug. 31 at Barnett Stadium, while Rayburn will take on Spring Woods at Tully Stadium Aug. 31.

Overall, Veterans Stadium will play host to 25 varsity football games over an 11-week span, including each Thursday as well as Saturday games later in the 2024 regular season.

Veterans Stadium also joins Auxiliary Stadium as weekly subsvarsity football locations, while select intermediate level games are played at both venues.

Venue visitors to Pas-

adena ISD athletic events are reminded that individual event tickets will be sold online only, usually a day or so in advance by visiting www.pasadenaisd.org/sportstickets.

Fans may also visit the district's website on Thursdays, Fridays and select Saturdays for the opportunity to view their favorite teams in varsity football action from Veterans Stadium in Pasadena via livestream.

Visit www.pasadenaisd.org to get started. The livestream option is free of charge for 2024.

Clear bag policy
Starting the 2024-2025 school year, Pasadena ISD will begin to enforce a clear bag policy at various venues across the

district, including the Veterans Memorial Stadium/Newcomb Field, Weldon 'Stoney' Phillips Field House, Auxiliary Stadium, Maguire Field, the Pasadena ISD Sports Complex and the Dennis L. Shippey Aquatic Center.

This new policy is focused on providing a safer environment for the public and, also, to significantly expedite entry at the various venues.

The district's clear bag policy will limit the type of bags that may be brought into venues.

Approved bags are to include - clear bags - Ziplocs, totes, backpacks (no size limitations but must be transparent; diaper bags (must be accompanied with a small child); nontransparent purses/bags - must not exceed 6"x9"x5" (purselets for medically-necessary items after proper inspection.

Prohibited items not allowed inside the venues will include coolers, briefcases, nonclear backpacks, duffel bags, cinch sacks and grocery bags.

Dobie volleyball stays busy



Dobie varsity volleyball player Alyssa Espinoza (1) serves during her team's five-set loss to Goose Creek Memorial Aug. 16 at Dobie main. The locals will next play in the Dickinson Invitational Aug. 22 and Aug. 24. See more volleyball on pages 6 and 8. Photo by Gloria Wallace

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Volleyballers open 2024 season

The Dobie varsity volleyball team is just two matches into the 2024 regular season, and head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff continue to tinker to find the long-term winning formula as the Aug. 27 District 22-6A opener at Dawson nears.

The Longhorns opened the season Aug. 13 with a four-set road win at Baytown Sterling. Three days later, Dobie went the distance with Goose Creek Memorial, with the visiting Patriots emerging victorious.

Sexton opened the season with 17 players on the varsity roster. In the early going, she turned to 10 players against the Rangers and 15 against Goose Creek Memorial. Dobie went up against Clear Creek Aug. 20 after press time, and will compete in the Dickinson Invitational Aug. 22 and Aug. 24.

As Sexton predicted prior to the season, quite a few first-year varsity level players are getting a solid

opportunity to contribute. The Longhorns' top-performing player from a season ago transferred elsewhere this season, and the Longhorns are essentially starting fresh after the graduation of 10 seniors a season ago.

"The girls are working hard out on the court, and their enthusiasm is terrific," Sexton said. "We will use the nondistrict part of the schedule to figure out the best combinations of players as we progress. The only way to figure out the best combinations is to play live matches."

Dobie defeated host Baytown Sterling Aug. 13 in four sets, with first-year players making solid contributions in all phases of the game.

Senior Juliana Aguirre led the way with 12 kills against Sterling, while junior Jordan Johnson had six kills. Senior Mia Campos and sophomore Alyssa Goree had five kills each. Goree also had nine service aces.

Aguirre added a team-high 17 digs, Campos had 16 and Hope Ortiz added 14 more. Sophomore setter Alysa Sanchez had 13 assists.

Against Goose Creek Memorial, Aguirre's 11 kills paced Dobie, while Campos had nine and Johnson delivered eight of her own. Goree had 20 assists and 18 digs, while Aguirre had 18 digs. Sanchez had 12 more assists.

Gator Classic
Dickinson will welcome 32 programs in all as the event will feature many of the top programs from the Region III ranks, including Alief Elsik, Alvin, Angleton, Baytown Lee, Baytown Sterling, Bellaire, Brazosport, Brazoswood, Clear Brook, Clear Falls, Clear Lake, Crosby, Dickinson, Dobie, Elkins, Richmond Foster, George Ranch, Goose Creek Memorial, Hightower, Houston Lamar, La Porte, Manvel, Needville, North Shore, Katy Paetow, Pasadena Memorial, Pearland, Santa Fe, Second Baptist, Shadow Creek, Stafford and Summer Creek.

In the best-of-three sets format, Dobie will face Hightower Aug. 22 at 11 a.m., then go against North Shore or Richmond Foster at 1 p.m. Trophy play resumes Aug. 24.

Sagemont Cowboys honor Matt Bergeron, family



The Sagemont Cowboys' organization honored former longtime player Matt Bergeron and his family during the Cowboys' preseason pep rally Aug. 16 at El Franco Lee Park. Those honoring Bergeron with a jersey presentation to his family included, left to right, Denny Wranich Jr. (Cowboys' athletic director), Josh Bergeron (brother), Amanda Aden (sister), Kay Bergeron (mother) and Denny Wranich Sr. (Cowboys' president). A Dobie graduate, Matt Bergeron died earlier this year.

Bay Area Football League Week 1 Results

Division	PW	FR.	SOPH.	JR.	SR.
Cowboys	54	38	54	0	30
Sharks	0	0	7	7	0

Week 2 Aug. 24 – Cowboys host S.E. Houston, El Franco Lee Park

22-6A Volleyball Opener

Dobie at Dawson

Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Area's top football programs go head-to-head to open 2024 season

Continued from Page 5
Gadd are longtime contest participants, while first Vaughn and then Sutton have joined the ranks in recent years.

The opening week of the pickers contest could very well be the most competitive of the entire 2024 regular season as there are several head-to-head matchups involving top-ranked football programs from across the Houston area.

It all starts with Dobie hosting Clear Brook on the opening night of the regular season, Aug. 29 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Longhorns opened both the 2022 and 2023 seasons with victories over the Wolverines and will be looking for another this time around as Dobie head coach Danny Fitzmorris makes his debut on the sideline for the locals.

The Longhorns used a spirited fourth-quarter comeback against Deer Park a season ago to ignite an eventual District 22-6A championship run and finished with eight total victories.

District 22-6A Most Valuable Player Cameron Mathews returns as one of the most dynamic running backs in the Houston area.

Head coach Patrick Sanders begins his third season at Clear Brook as the Wolverines will aim to make headway in a challenging 24-6A alignment. It all starts on opening night at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

First-week action also includes the decades-long rivalry pitting La Porte against Deer Park, with the Deer hosting the Bulldogs Aug. 30 at Abshire Stadium.

La Porte went 7-1 in league play last season to win a district championship in head coach Kevin Berneathy's second season with the Bulldogs, while Deer Park finished second to Dobie in the former 22-6A field.

Visiting La Porte is led by the running back duo of Tyresse Barnes and Ricky Sandolph, and the Bulldogs return 17 overall starters.

Berneathy's wing-T offense is led by Barnes, who rushed for more than 1,200 yards and 13 touchdowns to go along with nearly 1,100 yards and 23 touchdowns from Sandolph.

As for Deer Park, the Deer figure to be plenty competitive as they make the move to District 24-6A this season.

Head coach Austin Flynn's offense is not shy about putting the ball in the air, and quarterback Landon Kieselhorst is back to lead the way after pass-

ing for 1,650 yards and 17 touchdowns a season ago.

Regional powers Shadow Creek and Summer Creek will meet on opening night in Humble, delivering what could be one of the most thrilling games of week one action.

Shadow Creek was a three-way league champion in 23-6A a season ago and went 9-2 overall.

The Sharks are led by first-year head coach Tyrone Green, who has welcomed former Fort Bend Hightower quarterback Joseph Stewart in as the team's new starter.

Additionally, the Sharks have 17 returning starters overall as they will look to put together another big season.

Summer Creek, meanwhile, played in the 6A Division 2 state championship game a season ago, compiling 14 wins overall before a loss to Desoto.

Head coach Kenny Harrison has welcomed 12 starters back into the fold, led by quarterback Blake Thomas, who threw for nearly 2,500 yards and 27 touchdowns a season ago.

Returning seven starters on defense, the Bulldogs figured to be one of the top overall units in the state as disruptive end Chad Woodfork, defensive back Brandon Jones and tackle Josiah Pratt are just three of the team's key returnees.

Pearland hosts Fulshear in another marquee matchup highlighting the first week of pickers' choices as the Oilers, a tri-champion in the former 23-6A ranks, go up against a Fulshear program that has quickly become one of the state's best.

The Oilers are led by third-year head coach B.J. Gote and feature Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine's Preseason Defensive Player of the Year, Jaylin Stewart.

On offense, Pearland will feature Tate Chisholm at running back, who was a first team All-District performer a season ago.

Quarterback Jake Westmoreland will likely take over under center for the Oilers, and he will look to tight end Logan Johnson through the air in addition to junior speedster Jordan Hernandez, who was a standout at Thompson Intermediate before his move to Pearland.

Fulshear features running back Patrick Broadway, a sophomore who is already one of the top state-wide recruits in the 2027 class. Leading the Chargers to an 11-1 overall record a season ago, Broadway rushed for more than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The Chargers should

be outstanding defensively with eight starters in all returning. That group is led by defensive lineman Sheldon Rice and defensive back email idol.

Rice registered an incredible 22 sacks to go with 44 tackles for loss while Ed all had 41 tackles and five interceptions from his spot in the defensive backfield.

Bridgeland plays at Dawson in another week-one matchup that should provide high school football fans with plenty of excitement.

The Eagles, led by former Clear Brook head coach Mike Allison, was a 23-6A tri-champion a season ago and now joins Pearland and Shadow Creek along with Manvel and Dobie in 22-6A, which promises to be one of the most competitive districts around.

Allison's group started slow a season ago but ultimately won six consecutive district games en route to the bidistrict playoffs.

For 2024, the Eagles return just eight starters overall, including Chase Davis, who very well could be featured in all three phases of the game. Linebacker Jeremiah Treadaway is also a game changer who recorded 72 tackles in all last season.

Bridgeland went a perfect 7-0 in district play last season under first-year head coach Lonnie Madison, and the Bears return seven starters on defense as they look to win another championship, this time in District 16-6A.

The Bears are counting on Jett Lewis at quarterback along with receiver Ty Sexton, while the offensive line is led by Jonte Newman as well as Ryan fudge.

The big week one lineup of star-studded matchups continues as Ridge Point visits Clear Springs. Ridge Point is picked to win Within District 21-6A, according to *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine.

Quarterback Austin Carlisle, a University of Houston commit, is set to lead the Panthers, who went 9-3 overall a season ago. Carlisle passed for just over 3,000 yards and threw 34 touchdown passes as a junior.

The Panthers are equipped with receiver Dane Jones as Carlisle's top target.

Last season, Jones had 50 receptions for 825 yards and 13 touchdowns. Clear Falls will visit Hightower during opening-week play as two programs with big time postseason plans go head-to-head.

At Hightower, head

a push for a league title in District 24-6A.

Under veteran head coach Anthony Renfroe, the Chargers advanced to the area around a season ago, and return 10 starters in all.

Quarterback Julian Salazar is Campbell's preseason choice for offensive Most Valuable Player in 24-6A after throwing for more than 2,000 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2023.

The Chargers will also lean on a host of talented skill position guys on offense, while the defense is led by lineman zaquan 9 as well as Brody McGee and Kayden Ward.

Dickinson will host Katy in another huge non-district matchup to open the regular season at Sam Vitanza Stadium on the Dickinson High School campus.

The Gators, the defending champions of district 24-6A, have never been ones to shy away from competition.

A week-one matchup against fellow 6A power Katy is proof that Dickinson, led by long-time head coach John Snelson, is setting the bar high again in 2024.

Katy went 10-2 a season ago, reaching the 6A Division II area playoff round. Longtime head coach Gary Joseph welcomes back five starters on offense and just three on defense, but that doesn't mean the Tigers will expect anything less this season.

Katy linebacker Jeremiah Smith is the Tigers' leader on defense after making a total of 88 stops a season ago.

Offensively, the Tigers will lean on running back Tremaine Hill, who rushed for nearly 1,600 yards and scored 17 touchdowns in 2023.

As for the Gators, Snelson returns seven starters on defense but just two on the defensive side.

Offensive lineman Tyler Thomas might be the best player at his position in the 24-6A ranks, while the offense will also look for contributions from receiver Jeremiah Scoby and running back Jamal Mason.

On the defensive side, the Gators have Jason Mason and Cameron Jones at linebacker as they lead the way for an otherwise inexperienced group.

Suffice to say, the atmosphere at Vitanza Stadium will be highly-charged as two of the region's premier 6A powers clash.

Clear Falls will visit Hightower during opening-week play as two programs with big time postseason plans go head-to-head.

coach Cornelius Anthony returns nine starters overall from a program that went 12-2 a season ago while making a regional final appearance.

Over the past three seasons, the Hurricanes have produced an impressive 33-8 record and will look to continue their run of success in 2024.

Anthony watched as an incredibly successful senior class graduated following last season, but wide receiver/defensive back Kade Phillips returns as a two-way threat, while defensive back Michael Amay had seven interceptions a season ago and is considered one of the state's top players at his position.

Devyn Phillip had 13 quarterback sacks and 26 tackles for loss a season ago and is also a highly-recruited performer.

At Clear Falls, head coach Zach Head appears to have the Knights positioned for a run at the 24-6A championship.

A season ago, the Knights finished 7-5 overall and advanced to the Division 2 area playoff round. Dylan Proctor, listed as a two-way athlete for the Knights, is it do it all performer both in the run and pass game, while the Knights will go with Jacob Champagne at quarterback.

The offensive line is led by four-year starter Jacob Lockstein, and he just may contribute on the defensive side as well.

Linebacker Preston Pitts had more than 100 tackles, including 17 stops for loss, six quarterback sacks and a pair of interceptions as one of the top performing defenders in the area.

Channelview will visit Pasadena Memorial to open the season as a pair of former District 22-6A foes meet.

Channelview, a playoff participant a season ago, has made the move to District 23-6A and is now part of a very challenging cluster of programs within that district.

Veteran head coach Averion Hurts welcomes back 11 starters in all, including quarterback Jason Wheelock and receiver/cornerback Nehemiah Jordan.

Wheelock is the key to the offense after passing for nearly 1,500 yards and 12 touchdowns a season ago.

Receiver Joshua Wiggins very well could be in line for a larger contribution this time.

On defense, Hurts will lean on tackle Joshua Torres, a three-year starter, to lead the way up front, while the secondary is led

wood went just 3-7 a season ago but will look to improve this go-round as running back Marquez Davis and running back linebacker Cade Hoag should contribute on offense.

Davis rushed for more than 900 yards a scored nine touchdowns a season ago and is being counted on in a bigger role for the Mustangs this season.

Linebacker Sam Malone had a huge 2023 season with more than 100 tackles, five quarterback sacks and an interception.

Clear Creek advanced to the postseason under veteran head coach Dwayne Lane a season ago but just may find the task a little more challenging in 2024.

The Wildcats return a total of nine starters, with linebacker Wyatt Smith, lineman Keyshawn Jones and linebacker Luke Crowder leading the defense.

Offensively, receiver Javion Taylor will be joined by Hayden Ford, while Wyatt Patterson leads the offensive line.

Lane also expects big things from top sophomore J'Sean Parks, who could see action on both sides of the football.

BAFL Weekly Standings

<u>Peewee Division</u>			
Team	W	L	T
Cowboys	1	0	0
49ers	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Pear. Patriots	1	0	0
Pear. Texans	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Ang. Wildcats	0	1	0
Buccaneers	0	1	0
Raiders	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Sharks	0	1	0
Panthers	0	1	0
S.E. Wildcats	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	0	0

<u>Freshman Division</u>			
Team	W	L	T
Cowboys	1	0	0
49ers	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
S.E. Wildcats	1	0	0
Pear. Patriots	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	0	1	0
Red Raiders	0	1	0
Ang. Wildcats	0	1	0
Raiders	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Sharks	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	0	0

<u>Sophomore Division</u>			
Team	W	L	T
Cowboys	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
S.E. Wildcats	1	0	0
Ang. Wildcats	1	0	0
Longhorns	1	0	0
49ers	0	1	0
Eagles	0	1	0
Pear. Patriots	0	1	0
Red Raiders	0	1	0
Raiders	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	1	0	0
Sharks	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	0	0

<u>Junior Division</u>			
Team	W	L	T
Gators	1	0	0
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
Ang. Wildcats	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Pear. Patriots	1	0	0
Pear. Texans	1	0	0
Sharks	1	0	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Panthers	0	1	0
S.E. Wildcats	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
49ers	0	1	0
Red Raiders	0	1	0
Raiders	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	0	0

<u>Senior Division</u>			
Team	W	L	T
Gators	1	0	0
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Manvel Texans	1	0	0
Ang. Wildcats	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Pear. Patriots	1	0	0
Pear. Texans	1	0	0
Sharks	1	0	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Panthers	0	1	0
S.E. Wildcats	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
49ers	0	1	0
Red Raiders	0	1	0
Raiders	0	1	0
La Porte Texans	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	0	0

Week one games August 29-30

- Clear Brook at Dobie**
Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m.
Veterans Stadium
- La Porte at Deer Park**
Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
Abshire Stadium
- Shadow Creek at Summer Creek**
Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
Turner Stadium
- Channelview at Pasadena Memorial**
Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
Veterans Stadium
- Fulshear at Pearland**
Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m.
The Rig
- Bridgeland at Dawson**
Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
The Rig
- Ridge Point at Clear Springs**
Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
Challenger Stadium
- Clear Falls at Hightower**
Aug. 29, 6 p.m.
Hall Stadium
- Katy at Dickinson**
Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
Vitanza Stadium
- Kingwood at Clear Creek**
Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
CCISD Veterans Stadium

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, August 22

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

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

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

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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

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

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

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 Ballroom Dancing - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from 12:30 to 3:00 pm at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJ's. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

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

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

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. **Serenity Now AI-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

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.

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.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

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

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

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

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

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

9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

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

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

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at 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.

7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). Contact Cathy@cheyder@sbcglobal.net or call 713-332-6294 for details.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

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.

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AMERIGLIDE, 1-story electric stair lift. Maximum weight 350 lbs. and manufacture date 2015. \$250. Call 832-735-7220. 8-29

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MISCELLANEOUS

AMERIGLIDE, 1-story electric stair lift. Maximum weight 350 lbs. and manufacture date 2015. \$250. Call 832-735-7220. 8-29

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Dobie High School varsity volleyball program prepared as 2024 season is served up



The Dobie varsity volleyball lineup for the start of the 2024 season includes, left to right, Alyssa Goree (15), Alysa Sanchez (18), Mia Campos (9), Mia Hypolite (20), Kaylie Bui (14), Adalee Garcia (10), Kylar Joseph (4), Persephone Soria (8), Jordan Johnson (16), Jessica Moise (2), Aracely Torres (13), Alyssa Espinoza (1), Juliana Aguirre (12), Hope Ortiz (6), Andrea Garcia (5), Jocelyn Stringer (3) and Leslie Sarduy (19).

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Saturday, August 31 PENGUINS & PINOT: GRAND TASTING
Sunday, Sept. 1 BOURBON DINNER

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PISD contributor Brotherton dies

At right, Terry Brotherton was named the Pasadena ISD's Citizen of the Year in 2009 and later Citizen of the Year by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. He was an original inductee in South Houston High School's Hall of Honor. The Rotary Club of Pasadena honored him as a Paul Harris Fellow. In 2010, Kirk Lewis, then the superintendent of the Pasadena ISD, contacted Brotherton to get his opinion on establishing a Hall of Fame to honor the district's most accomplished athletes and coaches. Brotherton then led the drive to make the idea a reality. The first group of inductees was honored at an inaugural banquet in 2012. Two years later, then-Pasadena Mayor Johnny Isbell cut the ribbon on the Hall of Fame museum at Phillips Field House.

See Obituary, Page 2



By Al Carter
PISD Athletics H/F
Terry Brotherton, whose half-century commitment to community service and love for the traditions of his hometown school district helped to enrich all of Pasadena, died Aug. 13. He was 73. With a shock of silver hair and thick Texas drawl as calling cards, Brotherton lent his business skills to a myriad service ventures in the community, including the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation, of which he was a founding member, and the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame, which he helped establish in 2012.

He served as the first president of the Hall of Fame organizing committee and brought decades of knowledge and personal insight to the Hall of Fame's selection committee.

Brotherton provided valuable support for the establishment of the Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament, a Pasadena-based event that ranks among the largest pre-season high school tournaments in the country.

A 1969 graduate of South Houston High School, Brotherton earned his degree from then-Southwest Texas State in 1974 and quickly made his mark in the Pasadena business community as a real estate investor and banking board member. He served terms as president of several prominent

organizations, including the Education Foundation, the city of Pasadena's Second City Corporation, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Pasadena. As president of Second Century, Brotherton helped bring in more than \$6 million in sales tax revenue for economic development projects.

His involvement with the Education Foundation helped raise millions for teacher grants in the Pasadena ISD. He also served as an advisory director on the board of Texas Citizens Bank.

Brotherton was named the Pasadena ISD's Citizen of the Year in 2009 and later Citizen of the Year by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. He was an original inductee in South Houston High School's Hall of Honor. The Rotary Club of Pasadena honored

him as a Paul Harris Fellow.

In 2010, Kirk Lewis, then the superintendent of the Pasadena ISD, contacted Brotherton to get his opinion on establishing a Hall of Fame to honor the district's most accomplished athletes and coaches. Brotherton then led the drive to make the idea a reality.

The first group of inductees was honored at an inaugural banquet in 2012. Two years later, then-Pasadena Mayor Johnny Isbell cut the ribbon on the Hall of Fame museum at Phillips Field House.

The induction banquet is now held in early spring at the Pasadena Convention Center.

Brotherton is survived by his wife, the former Karen Morris, and son Derek. (See Brotherton's obituary on Page 2.)

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