

CBCMUD sets holiday hours

Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for Labor Day. The offices reopens Sept. 5 at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money orders may be left in the drive-thru drop box on the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box. CBCMUD residents whose trash services fall on Monday will have regular trash pickup Labor Day, Sept. 4. All trash should be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. Residents missing this pickup date will be serviced Thursday, Sept. 7. Residents with Tuesday/Friday service will not be affected.

Sagamont to meet Sept. 5

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Kirkwood sets new dates

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

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, will distribute food the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 2 p.m. The purpose of the pantry is to provide food to community people in need. For information, call 281-484-4230.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event is Thursday, Aug. 24. For information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Local COVID cases reported

Despite county-wide trends, the number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains on par with the previous week, according to county health officials. (See related story on this page.)

As of Tuesday, Aug. 15, there were 74 active cases in 77089, up one from the previous week. To date, 142 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 12 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 21 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

One northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road in Dickinson/Texas City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 30.

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

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

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

Beltway closed for repairs

All westbound Beltway 8 main lanes near Gulf Freeway will be closed through Thursday, Aug. 31, to make emergency repairs, according to Texas Department of Transportation officials. All westbound traffic will be forced to exit the main lanes at SH 3/Old Galveston and be diverted to the Beltway 8 frontage lanes. The westbound entrance ramps will be closed at SH 3/Old Galveston, Crenshaw and Genoa Red Bluff. The westbound main lanes will reopen at Beamer. Eastbound Beltway 8 main lanes and all connector ramps to the Gulf Freeway will remain open. TxDOT officials say the closures are necessary to make emergency repairs near the Sabo exit, where the ground is sinking. The closures are expected to cause traffic delays.

CrossRoads supports parents

CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale, will have a free "Parents' Day Out" for parents of children with disabilities between 4-10 years of age. Invited are children with ranges of intellectual and physical disabilities, including but not limited to autism, Down Syndrome, muscular dystrophy, etc. There will be trained volunteers working with children, a brand new sensory room for their use and a loving and caring environment while parents and caretakers have some time for respite. For information, call or text 832-247-3145 (English and non-English speakers). The event will be the last Saturday of each month, the next one being Aug. 26.

Armstrong found guilty of capital murder

Sentenced to life in prison, Armstrong appeals 3rd jury's decision

Antonio "AJ" Armstrong Jr. is appealing his recent capital murder conviction for the 2016 killing of his parents, Antonio Armstrong Sr. and Dawn Whitely Armstrong, a 1992 Dobie graduate.

The conviction came on Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg's third attempt to prosecute Armstrong, as his first two trials ended in hung juries.

"In trying to speak for those who no longer had a voice to defend themselves or say what happened, our job was to find justice for them," Ogg said in a press conference. "Antonio Sr. and Dawn Armstrong died because they were trying to be good parents because they wanted their children to do right – not to lie, to work to be law-abiding, contributing adults."

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.

Armstrong has hired a public defender to represent him during his appeal, as he has reportedly depleted his defense funds.

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.

The couple was found shot in their Bellaire-area home early Friday, July 29.

According to police, the teen suspect called 911 around 1:40 a.m. while hiding in the closet to report there was an intruder inside the family's home.

Investigators were suspicious of the boy's story, however, as there were no signs of forced entry, and the home's alarm system was still armed.

Both victims were shot in the head with a .22-caliber pistol that belonged to Antonio Armstrong Sr. Pillows were placed on each of the

victim's heads, presumably to muffle the sound of the gunshots. The murder weapon was found in the home's kitchen along with an anonymous note.

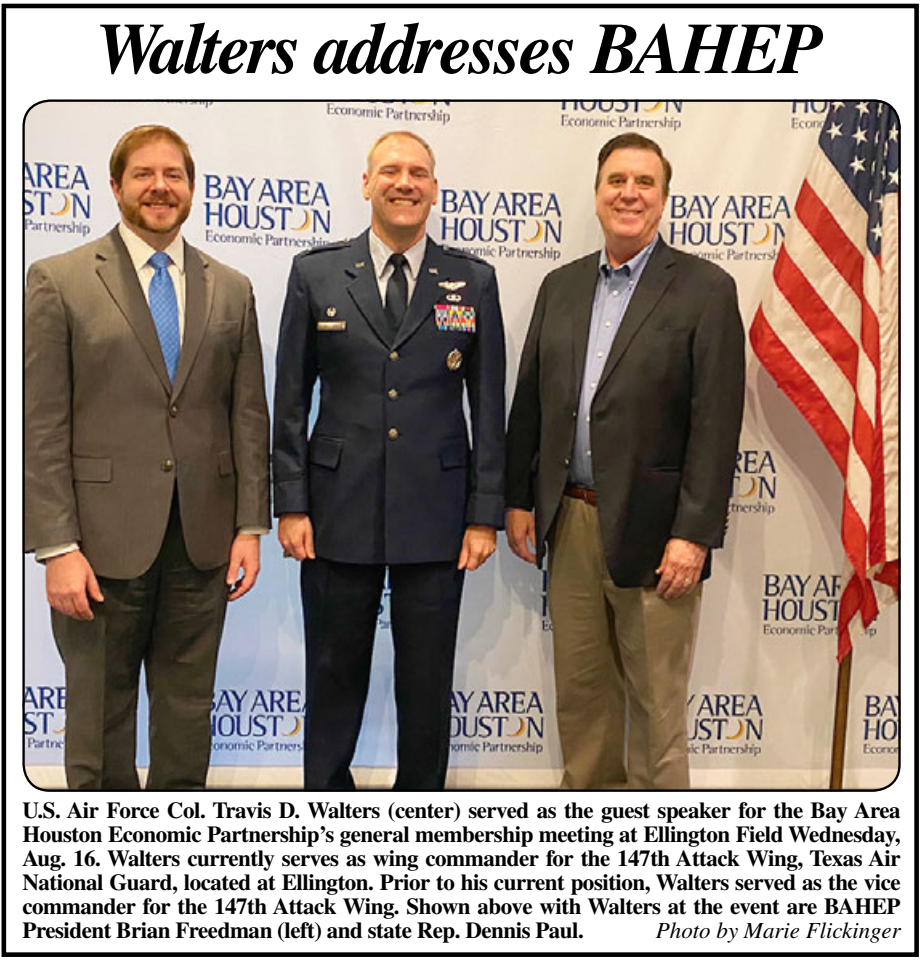
The suspect's 12-year-old sister was also home at the time and reportedly slept through the incident.

The teen's mother was pronounced dead at the scene, while the boy's father was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he later died.

Throughout the trials, Armstrong maintained his innocence, his defense team suggesting an older sibling may have been responsible for the killings.

As the third trial was concluding, Armstrong unexpectedly filed a federal civil lawsuit against the City of Houston, claiming police officers violated his civil rights by planting blood evidence against him.

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.



U.S. Air Force Col. Travis D. Walters (center) served as the guest speaker for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's general membership meeting at Ellington Field Wednesday, Aug. 16. Walters currently serves as wing commander for the 147th Attack Wing, Texas Air National Guard, located at Ellington. Prior to his current position, Walters served as the vice commander for the 147th Attack Wing. Shown above with Walters at the event are BAHEP President Brian Freedman (left) and state Rep. Dennis Paul. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Freeway Manor Park ribbon-cutting held

Renovations part of public/private partnership

A ribbon-cutting was held Saturday, Aug. 19, to celebrate the reopening of Freeway Manor Park, located at 2241 Bronson near Edgebrook and Theta.

Attended by local officials, community leaders and residents, the event marked an important milestone in the development and enhancement of the area park. The park had been undergoing renovations since February.

Improvements at Freeway Manor Park include resurfacing the parking lot, repairing the walking trail, replacing park benches, updating the baseball field, updating the picnic areas, repurposing the existing tennis court to a soccer mini-pitch, and improving park lighting.

The renovations were part of a public/private partnership.

City Council approved two agreements between the City of Houston and Houston Parks Board that underscored the commitment to this public/private partnership by appropriating almost \$6.2 million from the City of Houston's

Parks and Recreation Dedication Fund and General Fund for this work to begin on the first 11 parks of the 50/50 Park Partners initiative.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the continuous operation and upkeep of the parks, examining and approving plans, and delivering the public funding commitment. Houston Parks Board is serving as the project manager and overseeing the private fundraising for the 50/50 Park Partners initiative in coordination with Greater Houston Partnership.

Community activist Jim Muecke, who serves as a liaison between the Freeway Manor subdivision and city officials, urges residents to keep the new park clean.

"These upgrades are much needed and those using the park will have the enjoyment of these upgrades," said Muecke. "Please be reminded this is our park, so when using, please dispose of your trash in the containers and not on the ground. Obey all posted signs."

Suspect wanted in fatal July shooting

Charges have been filed against a suspect wanted in the fatal shooting of one man and the wounding of four others that took place around 4:30 a.m. Sunday, July 23, at an after-hours lounge located in a strip center at College and the Gulf Freeway.



Roger Valdes

The suspect, Roger Valdes, 21, was charged with murder and four counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the 248th State District Court. At press time, he was not in custody and remained at large.

Valdes is accused in the fatal shooting of Israel Gonzalez, 22.

The four other male victims range in age from 20 to 28. All were treated and released from area hospitals.

According to Houston Police Department officials, officers were dispatched to a shooting call outside an after-hours bar at the above address and found multiple persons with gunshot wounds. Paramedics transported three victims to area hospitals. One male was later pronounced deceased.

A fourth victim was transported in a private vehicle to a hospital. A fifth victim, with a gunshot wound to the foot, refused medical attention at the scene.

Further investigation identified Valdes as the suspect in this case. He was charged for his role in the shooting on Monday, Aug. 14.

The strip center where the shooting took place has been a hot spot for violent crime in recent

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Crenshaw construction nears completion

Construction on Crenshaw Road from South Shaver to Allen Genoa is currently underway and is expected to be complete later this month, according to Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin.

Workers will be milling and overlaying approximately 4,300 linear feet, including base and subgrade repair, according to Houston Public Works officials.

Crews will also install 500 linear feet of new 6-foot-wide sidewalk between the driveways of YES Prep School. This project includes pavement markings, ditch

regarding and the reconstruction of nine driveways.

The endeavor is a joint project with Precinct 2 and is being managed by Harris County. Construction was expected to take approximately 30 days, weather permitting.

The project is designed to preserve and prolong the life of the road base and provide for a smoother riding surface.

County sees uptick in COVID-19 cases

Health officials promote continued vaccine use

COVID-19 may no longer be a national health emergency, but it remains a prevalent threat in Greater-Houston communities.

In light of the recent uptick of COVID-19 cases this summer, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) reminds people to stay up to date with the COVID-19 vaccines and to test for the virus as needed.

Despite the recent uptick, the number of active cases in the South Belt community remains

approximately on par with the previous several weeks. See sidebar entry on this page for the latest statistics from county health officials.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the EG.5 Omicron subvariant currently makes up the largest proportion of new COVID-19 infections across the country.

According to the CDC's most recent reporting period ending Aug. 5, EG.5 accounted for 17.3

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Supreme Court denies county request to delay state law killing elections office

The Texas Supreme Court on Tuesday denied Harris County's request for an emergency order to delay a new state that abolishes the county's elections administrators office from going into effect before the upcoming November election. (See related statement from Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis on Page 2.)

The action will ensure the county's Nov. 7 general election will be overseen by Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth and Harris County Tax Assessor Collector Ann Harris Bennett, rather than the Harris County Elections Administrator's Office.

A ruling the previous week from a district judge in Travis County prevented Senate Bill 1750, legislation passed last May to abolishing the county's elections office, from going into effect on Sept. 1. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, however, filed an appeal just hours later that stayed the ruling, prompting Harris County to request for an emergency order from the Texas Supreme Court that would have delayed the state law from taking effect, allowing county's elections administrator's office to remain in control of the November election.

According to state officials, the legislation was passed after multiple problems were experienced in recent county elections under the administrator's oversight.

"SB 1750 was signed into law this year after Harris County experienced multiple problems administering its elections, an issue that puts the integrity of Texas elections at risk and can undermine public trust in the political system by endangering the critical guarantee that every vote

will be fairly counted," Paxton said in a statement. "The law eliminates the elections administrator position in Harris County – an appointed position – and returns those powers to the tax assessor-collector and the County Clerk, which are elected positions."

Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee said the legislation is unconstitutional, as it specifically sets local law, which the state is prohibited from doing.

"The Texas Constitution says you cannot pass laws that only apply to local government. You can't pass what's called a local law. The legislators have to pass laws that are applicable to the entire state," said Menefee. "Senate Bill 1750 violates the Texas Constitution because it abolishes the elections administrator's office in only Harris County and will never apply to another county."

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has also voiced his opposition to SB 1750.

"Senate Bill 1750 was written to only target Harris County," said Turner. "Rather than working to make sure that elections run smoothly, leaders in Austin have focused on divisive restrictions that have no basis in fact. Recent court proceedings here in Harris County have denied the submission of exhibits into evidence because of their false conclusions. The Legislature used those same documents to support the passage of these election restrictions. We must base the rules we have for elections on provable facts and increased access. Striking down Senate Bill 1750 – passed based on evidence deemed inadmissible in court – is a good first step."

Deputies investigate human trafficking

Juveniles suspected of prostitution on Gulf Freeway

Four underage minors suspected of soliciting prostitution were removed from the streets Monday, Aug. 14, as part of an operation conducted by Precinct 2 deputies.

Precinct 2 Night Shift deputies were investigating complaints of prostitution within the Gulf

Freeway corridor when they encountered the four juveniles allegedly soliciting prostitution.

The teens were pulled from the streets and released to the proper authorities.

At press time, the investigation was ongoing for potential human trafficking.

Civic groups to host candidate forum

A group of local homeowner groups led by the Sagemont Civic Club will host a candidate forum for all individuals vying for a position in the upcoming City of Houston general election on Nov. 7.

The event will take place Tuesday, Sept. 5, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes, with a meet-and-greet beginning at 6 p.m. and the forum beginning at 6:30 p.m. promptly.

According to organizers, the goal of this event is to provide residents the opportunity to meet all candidates so each can make an informed decision when early voting begins Oct. 23.

Because of the potential for a large number of candidates participating, a fast-paced format will be established in the following format:

– Each candidate will be allowed equal time to

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City seeks emergency preparedness input

The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management is seeking input on the preparedness of Houston residents.

The survey, which is available online, is designed to help OEM understand the community's knowledge of the resources available, as well as the sentiment on how prepared they feel at the

personal, community and city levels. The survey comes as OEM is making updates to the city's comprehensive and hazard-specific emergency plans.

"For these plans to best reflect Houston, we need to hear from members of the whole com-

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In My Opinion

Memorial Hermann earns recognition

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

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

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

- No. 6 best hospital in Texas
- No. 4 best hospital in the Houston Metro area

Designated as High Performing in the following specialties: in Heart & Vascular; Gastroenterology & GI Surgery; Geriatrics; Neurology & Neurosurgery; Orthopedics; Pulmonology & Lung Surgery; and Urology.

Designated as High Performing in the following procedures/conditions: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair; Heart Bypass Surgery; Congestive Heart Failure; Colon Cancer Surgery; COPD; Diabetes; Heart Attack; Kidney Failure; Knee Replacement; Pneumonia; and Stroke.

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

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

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

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

Muecke educates on Crenshaw activity

Mr. Varshney, Public Works Dept. Houston Thank you for your email reply. Now let me introduce myself. I have lived in Freeway Manor 63 years, saw hurricanes, floods, rebuild #1 and #2 of Edgebrook and Shaver Street rebuild. I am a former President of the Freeway Manor civic club and don't take this wrong but carry the title of Mayor of Edgebrook as I am very involved. Not only the subdivision and areas around that

could affect us, as Crenshaw. This is why I am involved with Crenshaw Road. Several church members travel the road and express their concern on the deep ditches.

17 years ago I had a great working relationship with Mr Menendez with HPW engineering. We talked by phone, email and community meetings. He was most helpful. I told him at a community meeting we had a major issue with Crenshaw Road, narrow and deep ditches. He pulled up his log and told me it would be 17 years for any work and now it is 17 years. Our discussion it was about the narrow road and the deep unsafe deep ditches. He said the rework would put concrete pipes in the ditch and make the road wider and safer. Now look what we got, just a smooth road. Several years ago I traveled Crenshaw late evening, trash containers along the way and in traffic. I had an oncoming pickup, to miss the container he came so close to me he knocked off my driver side mirror. At the Clear Lake PIP meeting I was telling people about how dangerous Crenshaw was. The Sgt. spoke up, the one with the deep ditches. Just come and ask people traveling Crenshaw, each one will say the ditches. When Mayor Pro Tem Martin put out the notice of the rebuild I saw \$825,000 and one month. I said hell no way the ditches. The report did say to do ditch regrading. Why not do this, place concrete pipes in place, cover and make the road safer and wider.

Now you tell me after a 17 year wait this is all that was planned. Mr. Menendez told me the ditches would be taken care of so someone, somehow, somewhere changed this. We pay our tax dollars, waited 17 years to find out we were not getting what was promised, just a nice smooth over laid road with deep ditches. I have never heard of anyone getting killed, but I bet a number ended up in the ditch. I attend all of Mayor or Pro Tem Martin District E meetings and speak up. We spoke a number of times on attendee's concern of traveling this road. I told them what I knew and no one ever from HPW disputed. Mayor Turner was at several of these meetings, he liked my pecans. Now the fun part of my email, I was notified by HPW investigation, after they used my name to put this in 311, that the water flow in the ditch was up to code. Not once was water flow/drainage mentioned, just was a narrow road and deep ditches which could kill someone. With this said and for the driving community I think HPW needs to revisit this road, see the nearby large school with many turn ins and out. Put pipes in the ditch and make the road wider and safer. I have asked Mayor Pro Tem Martin to see how this can be put back to be done correctly. Thank you.

FLASH-----FACEBOOK
KIRKWOOD AT WESTHEIMER
Road and Drainage District
N-100029.0002 High dollars estimated.
This is interesting, a richer area gets this big project. How long did they have to wait? We here poor got about \$825,000.00 after 17 years of paying taxes.

A concerned citizen
James E. Muecke

PISD students prepare to learn

Pasadena ISD students across various schools were eager to return after the summer break, as evidenced by the photos featured in this edition of the Leader from the first week of the 2023-2024 school year.

Shown at right, Meador Elementary kindergartner Emma Gama shows her readiness to learn with her scholarly fashion choices. See related photos on page 4.

Below are Moore Elementary students and siblings. The Licon sisters, left to right, Victoria, Isabella, Valentina and Camila, stand hand in hand to face the new school year.



Vazquez carried Clark's lessons with her

Distinguished scholar Alexandra Vazquez used her time at South Houston High School to be a member of the National Honor Society and to compete in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Competition between 2019-2020.



Regarding her plans for the future, she intended to work during the summer months following her May 24 graduation before attending the University of Texas at Austin this upcoming fall. Chosen as her distinguished educator is V.W. Miller Intermediate social studies teacher Charlene Clark.

Remarking on her decision to choose Clark, Vazquez says, "Ms. Clark had the most significant impact on my education because she was passionate about making our class learn about U.S. history. She made me realize learning new material could be fun and that it was not boring all the time. I carried this newfound passion for learning throughout high school, which helped me not be so negative in learning new material and therefore be successful in my classes."

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

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

Texas A&M AgriLife releases fall calendar

The Harris County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services recently released their calendar for September and October 2023.

September
The first Tuesday, Sept. 5, will feature a free Master Gardener Lecture Series by Harris County Master Gardeners. This lecture will take place 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/lecture-series/>.

The Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Workshop: Buffalo Bayou Watershed by the Texas Riparian Association with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service & Houston Community College will take place the following day. This event will be held Wednesday, Sept. 6, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 22910 Colonial Pkwy, Katy, TX 77449. To register in advance or to find out more information, visit texasriparian.org.

A portion of the Green Thumb Gardening Lecture Series titled, "Growing Roses in Texas" by Harris County Master Gardeners with Harris County Community College is set for Monday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This is a free virtual lecture. To register in advance and find out more, visit hcmga.tamu.edu/community-learning-workshops.

The free Growing With Plants and Nature Youth Activity by Harris County Master Gardeners is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location is the Towne Lake Farmers Market, 9955 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress, TX 77433.

A free, open garden day at the Genoa Friendship Garden is set for Monday, Sept. 18, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Visitors are invited to tour a variety of

planting exhibits and to meet with Harris County Master Gardeners. Plants will be available for sale in the greenhouse. The location is Genoa Friendship Gardens, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Houston, TX 77034.

Another segment of the Green Thumb Gardening Lecture Series titled, "Growing Roses in Texas" by Harris County Master Gardeners with Harris County Public Library will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. This is a free virtual lecture and no reservation is required. Watch on Facebook at facebook.com/harriscountypublib.

A fall plant sale by the Harris County Master Gardeners (Westside) will be Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is encouraged to join at Bear Creek Park, 3000

Bear Creek Dr., Houston, TX 77084. For more information, visit facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners.

October
The first Tuesday, Oct. 3, will feature a Master Gardener Lecture Series by Harris County Master Gardeners. This free lecture will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055. Visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/lecture-series/> for more information.

Harris County Master Gardeners with Harris County Community College will host another portion of the Green Thumb Gardening Lecture Series with the theme "Trees and Tree Care," on Monday, Oct. 9, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Potential attendees can register for this free virtual lecture in advance to receive the link by visiting hcmga.tamu.edu/

Murder suspect arrested

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the shooting of a female found 5:05 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14, in the 1100 block of Allen Genoa Road.

The suspect, Latrenton Dealvarez Washington, 36, was charged with murder in the 337th State District Court. The identity of the deceased female, 35, was pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a person-down call in the parking lot of a business at the above address and found the female unresponsive and slumped over in the passenger seat of a blue Toyota Corolla. She had been shot multiple times.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the

call and pronounced the female dead at the scene.

A preliminary investigation and evidence from the scene identified the vehicle used in the crime and Washington as the suspect in the case. Officers from the HPD South Central Patrol Division located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Washington was arrested without further incident.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and Washington was subsequently charged for his role in the incident.



Crenshaw construction continues



Construction continues along Crenshaw Road between South Shaver and Allen Genoa, with crews expected to complete repair work later this month, according to Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin. In all, workers are to repair approximately 4,300 linear feet. See related story on Page 1.

Potter helped Mendoza realize potential

Shining Star Daisy Mendoza plans to pursue a career in nursing following her time at South Houston High School. Her high school career was spent in HOSA, the National Honor Society, the National

Technical Honor Society, as senior class president and as the woodwind and uniform captain in band.

Chosen as her distinguished educator was SoHo PreAP English teacher Kevin Potter, about whom Mendoza states, "I chose Mr. Potter as my most influential educator because if it weren't for him I wouldn't have gotten the courage to take AP courses. When I first met Mr. Potter, I was taking on level English 1. My teacher, at the time, read an essay I wrote in class and showed Mr. Potter. He then asked me to be in his Pre-AP class.

"Ever since that day, he's been supporting me throughout my journey in AP courses, especially AP English Language and AP English Literature. Without his help, I wouldn't have been as successful."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top South Houston High School students.

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

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



Waste Management to run Labor Day

There will be no interruption to the collection service on the Labor Day holiday, Monday, Sept. 4, 2023. Residents can expect garbage, tree waste and recycling to be collected on their regular schedule. However, residents should note that all drop-off facilities and administrative offices will be closed during this time.

There will be no interruption in collection services on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. All solid waste facilities re-open, including all drop-off facilities and administrative offices.

For more information about SWMD and services, visit www.houstonwaste.org. "LIKE" Solid

Waste Management Department on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/houstonwaste>. Download the app HTX Collects on Google Play or iOS Store to never miss an update again.

Trash, or call 311, the City of Houston's Customer Service Helpline. Download the app HTX Collects on Google Play or iOS Store to never miss an update again.

New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care
Now Enrolling
There will be no interruption in collection services on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. All solid waste facilities re-open, including all drop-off facilities and administrative offices.

For more information about SWMD and services, visit www.houstonwaste.org. "LIKE" Solid

New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.
281.481.2003
www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

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

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

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

Elected officials share their words

Ellis releases statement on Supreme Court decision

Below is Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis' statement on the Texas Supreme Court ruling overturning a lower court's decision to temporarily ban the state from enacting SB 1750: (See related story on Page 1.)

"Democracy in Harris County and the State of Texas took another blow today with the Texas Supreme Court ruling that allows the Legislature to target Harris County and ex-

ercise unprecedented control over our elections. Whether it's banning drive-thru voting in 2021 or abolishing the Harris County election administrator's office, we are on the front lines of a coordinated attack from state leaders who are intent on subverting our elections because they fear our diverse and powerful electorate.

"This year, the state escalated its assault by passing Harris County-targeted legislation

that effectively seizes control of our elections and disregards voters and dedicated election workers as collateral damage. I am disappointed that the Texas Supreme Court silently allowed this injustice to go forward today. Despite this setback, Harris County voters can trust that we're doing everything in our power to protect their right to vote in fair and free elections this November and beyond."

CCART schedules September meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its first meeting of 2023-2024 on Tuesday, Sept. 12. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The program will be the Texas Senior Medical Patrol — Medicare Fraud. Additionally, there will be flu shots available, and there will be a book sale benefiting the Children's Book Project. The group will begin gathering at 9:30 a.m. for coffee. Following the meeting there will be a salad luncheon. Members are asked to bring a salad, sandwiches or dessert. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

HCSO successful in rescues

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and the Harris County Sheriff's Office completed a three-day operation aimed at locating and recovering at-risk runaway youth.

From Aug. 10-12, the collaborative efforts of the Missing Persons Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, Child Abuse Unit and Crime Reduction Units culminated in a rescue operation resulting in the successful location of 31 youths.

The goal of this operation was to locate and rescue runaway youths ages 12-17 who were susceptible to human trafficking and to ensure the safe return of the youth to

their parents or guardians in time for the upcoming school year.

Highly trained search teams comprised of uniformed deputies, Human Trafficking and Child Abuse investigators, were strategically deployed throughout Harris County.

On Friday, Aug. 11, Erika Salazar, 42, was arrested for harboring a runaway child. In another case, through follow-up investigations, deputies were led to a young female located in the state of Louisiana who may be a potential victim of human trafficking.

The HCSO will continue to collaborate with law enforcement agencies and in Louisiana to ensure the safety and welfare of this young individual.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez expressed his gratitude to all the units involved, as well as the dedication and tireless efforts of the deputies and investigators. "Our mission to protect our youth and ensure their safety remains a top priority.

"This operation demonstrates our commitment to serve and protect our community's most vulnerable especially as they face potential risks and challenges."

South Belt Steers back in school

South Belt Elementary students started back for the 2023-2024 school year on Aug. 14. Shown smiling for the camera is Jannette Gonzalez and her fourth-grade class. Shown, left to right, are (front row) Luke Sanchez, Logan Maycott, (middle row) Jax DeSoto, Brain Vargas, Jaxon Miller, Theo Franklin, Penelope Castellanos, Haven Orsua, Emma Torres, Camila Aguirre, (back row) Hailee Walker, Kennedy Watson, Jose Tenorio, Emma Hernandez, Melanie Charles, Gonzalez, Nevaeh Thomas, Andres Bonilla, Jonathan Ochoa and Spencer Payne.



Castro helps Sanchez out of her shell

Distinguished scholar Ingrid Sanchez speaks on her plans for the future following her high school career, saying, "I had the opportunity to progress in my education through the Early College High School Program, allowing me to advance directly to a four-year university. I plan on attending the University of Houston - Clear Lake to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science. With this degree, I hope to become employed by tech giants like Google or Apple or provide my experience and expertise to local businesses."

During her time as a SoHo student, Sanchez was involved in the National Honor Society and was the librarian and uniform manager for the SHHS choir.

Chosen as her distinguished educator was Queens Intermediate Algebra I teacher Adrian Castro. Sanchez remarks about his influence, "I chose Coach Castro as my distinguished educator because he is a supportive and thoughtful teacher who encouraged me to grow and strive for success. In eighth grade, I was reserved and not comfortable in my skin. However, he saw potential in my skills and work, motivating me to step out of my comfort zone and keep working hard. I took his encouragement to heart as I left my shell, became more social, and worked diligently throughout high school. I am proud to have accomplished this, and I owe it all to Coach Castro and his support."



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

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

Your Year of Adventure!

girl scouts of san jacinto

What's it like being a Girl Scout?

It's late-night laughter on an overnight trip with your besties. It's teaming up with your troop to help your town. It's starting your own business and learning how to make your dreams come true.

Now is your chance to join the fun! As a Girl Scout, you'll discover hidden talents, take fun trips, and—most importantly—find the space to be truly, totally yourself.

Now's the perfect time to start your Girl Scout journey. Get ready to make amazing memories with forever friends today!

How can you get involved?

Membership dues are just \$25 annually, and financial aid is available. You can start a new troop for your girl and her friends or join an existing troop.

This year is a new opportunity to forge your own path and discover amazing things about yourself. Don't miss your chance to grow, learn, and laugh with new friends by your side!



Scan QR Code to Join Girl Scouts!

Be a Girl Scout.

County sees uptick in COVID cases

Continued from Page 1

percent of COVID-19 cases nationwide, more than any other variant. The percentage total is a sharp increase from 1.1 percent of cases reported on May 27.

"Although the national emergency response to COVID-19 has officially ended, the SARS-CoV-2 virus still remains a threat to our community, and new variants can emerge at any time," said HCPH Local Health Authority Ericka Brown, MD, MBA, FACHE.

"We recommend that all people and their loved ones stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines. Our health department provides the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine series and boosters for free to all eligible age groups.

People can register online or call to schedule an appointment. People who have health insurance may contact their health care provider or pharmacy to get the latest COVID-19 booster. According to the CDC, everyone 6 years and older should get one updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they've received any original COVID-19 vaccines.

Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the latest information on staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines for all age groups.

The symptoms associated with the EG.5 subvariant are consistent with most COVID-19 symptoms, ranging from mild to severe. Older adults and people with underlying medical conditions, like heart or lung disease, are at a higher risk of getting severe symptoms.

According to the CDC's most recent data through July 29, the percentage of weekly hospitalizations in Harris County per 100,000 people due to COVID-19 has increased more than state and national rates. Harris County observed a 14.6 percent increase in COVID-19 hospital admissions from the previous week. Hospitalizations have increased by 12.5 percent nationally from the previous week; in Texas, they increased by 11 percent.

To schedule a free COVID-19 vaccine appointment with HCPH, visit vaccinac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787. If one has COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, they can take the test for free by visiting covcheck.hctx.net or calling 832-927-7575.

Thomas helps Talabi along path to success

After spending more than 400 volunteer hours at an emergency medical care service center in South Houston, acting as treasurer to the National Honor Society and as student government representative to the philosophy club, playing JV volleyball, co-founding the ECHS student committee and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa - Shining Star Olufunmilayo Talabi's days at South Houston High School have ended, but she has no intention of sowing down.



Talabi says of her future, "I plan to pursue a B.S. in psychology at the University of Texas at Austin while participating in their Liberal Arts Honor Program. Afterward, I also plan to earn an M.D. at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center to become a psychiatrist."

SJC South AVID 4 teacher Yanni Thomas was selected as her distinguished educator. Talabi says of her mentor, "I chose Ms. Thomas as my distinguished educator because she is a fantastic teacher.

"She has been incredibly influential in my academic success by showing me the necessary steps I had to take to apply for college.

"Likewise, she has written most of my recommendation letters, which has allowed me to apply for multiple scholarships. Her classes were the highlight of my day, so I wanted to honor her for all the help she has given me this year."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top South Houston High School students.

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

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

Hensley guided, inspired Ramirez

Distinguished scholar Janeth Ramirez spent her days at South Houston High School involved in SJC's STEM club, the National Honor Society, was the head librarian and secretary for both orchestra and student council, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and volunteered at the South Houston Branch Library.

Chosen as her distinguished educator was SHHS orchestra teacher Justin Hensley. Commenting on Hensley's impact on her life, Ramirez says, "I chose Mr. Hensley as my most influential educator

because he has helped me advance in my musical career. Before he became the new director for the Trojan Orchestra at South Houston High School, I had lost my passion for playing the double bass due to COVID-19.

"However, once school began, he taught me how to master the skills that a musician requires, which aided me in earning a spot in the Region 19 Symphony Orchestra.

"He has educated me over important life lessons, which has contributed to my success as a musician and as a person. Most importantly, he assisted me in gaining my passion for music once again. Hence, I am honored to have him represent who I have become."

Now that her time at South Houston High School has finished, Ramirez plans to "attend the University of Houston-Main Campus in order to receive a bachelor's in chemical and bio-molecular engineering and graduate with a minor in music."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top South Houston High School students.

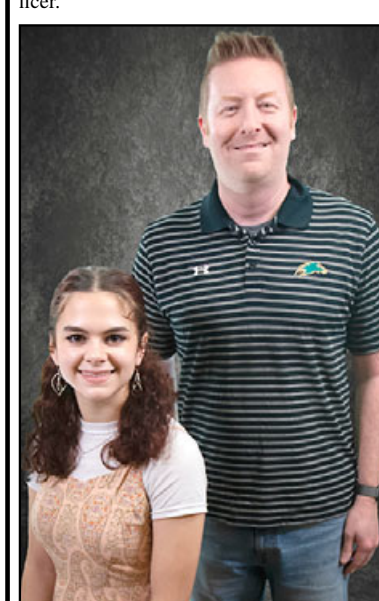
The information and photos were submitted by the Pasadena Independent School District.

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Hentz pushed French to excellence

Maggi French, Shining Star, was a member of the National Honor Society, show choir, track and field and cross-country. She acted as community service chair of student council and choir head social officer.



She plans to attend Texas State University and major in forensic anthropology.

Decided upon as her distinguished educator is Christopher Hentz, Pasadena Memorial AP U.S. history teacher.

French says of Hentz, "Mr. Hentz has made such an important impact on my life and success as a student. He pushed me to always give 100 percent on everything I did and made sure to make all of his students feel welcome. I was so lucky to start out my day in his class because his energy was always so positive. Mr. Hentz truly cares about all of his students and makes a connection with all of them. The support that he provides and passion he has truly helped me thrive in school. He is the reason my love for history grew so much more. I will never forget the influence Mr. Hentz has impacted my life, so thank you!"

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top Pasadena Memorial High School students.

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Suspect wanted in fatal July shooting

Continued from Page 1

months, with multiple shootings being reported. There are at least two bars in the strip center that are alleged to sell alcohol after hours. HPD teams have conducted multiple raids on the establishments in the weeks subsequent to the fatal shooting.

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

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Candidate forum Sept. 5

Continued from Page 1

address the audience. Each will introduce themselves and tell why he/she is the best candidate for his/her position.

Each candidate will receive a YES and a NO card. Issues and concerns will be presented to the panel. Each candidate will vote on how, if presented with the issue during their term of office, they would vote.

Candidates will be dismissed to their area where the attendees can speak with each candidate individually.

As of press time, there are 18 candidates vying for the position of Mayor; five candidates for council member District D; for council member at large positions 1 thru 5: At-Large 1 has six candidates; At-Large 2 has six candidates; At-Large 3 has nine candidates; At-Large 4 has four candidates and At-Large 5 has three candidates. The controller position has five candidates.

The public (including candidates) may submit issues in advance for consideration to sagemontcc@gmail.com. Questions will not be provided in advance of the event.

RSVP by calling or texting Sagemont Civic Club president Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

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City seeks emergency input with survey

Continued from Page 1

munity," said Thomas Muñoz, deputy director for the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Public Safety and emergency management coordinator for Houston OEM. "People are a critical source of knowledge when it comes to experiencing a disaster, and that's what we're hoping to capture with this survey, as it informs the update to our emergency plans."

The survey period began on July 25, and will continue through Aug. 25.

Residents may take the Severe Weather and Recovery Readiness Survey at houstonoem.org.

The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management is the chief coordinating agency for disaster response in the nation's fourth-largest city.

OEM provides emergency response coordination and communication assistance to city agencies, and serves as liaison to regional, state and federal agencies during times of emergency.

In addition, OEM engages with the local community to promote emergency preparedness through a variety of initiatives. For additional information, visit houstonoem.org.

houstonoem.org.

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Ellis motivated Herrera to action

Pasadena Memorial Shining Star Cyleigh Herrera praises distinguished educator Victoria Ellis for helping her choose a career path. Ellis teaches AP world history, history through films and advanced women's study at PMHS.

Herrera says, "Without the teachings from Mrs. Victoria Ellis, my career choice would be undecided. Sitting in her AP world history classroom, Mrs. Ellis lectured about everything from the knights and lords of the Middle Ages to the Industrial Revolution. All this had me completely captivated, and

I was hooked. History became more than just an old dusty textbook sitting on a shelf, but a breathing relic that must be cherished and learned for the betterment of our future. I knew, in the middle of that classroom, I would be a historian. And I have no one to thank but Mrs. Ellis."

Herrera is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Bluebonnet Girl's State as well as the French horn section leader in the marching band and wind symphony.

Following her high school career, Herrera remarks about her future, "I will be attending Texas A&M University in College Station majoring in history with an emphasis in archaeology and anthropology.

"With this, I plan to study abroad in Europe and once I graduate, become a museum curator in Europe. I will then hope to come back to College Station and work as a professor at my alma mater."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top Pasadena Memorial High School students.

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

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



Ladies Auxiliary donates school supplies to Moore Elementary



The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 490 donated school supplies to Moore Elementary students and staff. Shown alongside Lourdes Guenard (librarian) are students holding their new supplies, left to right, Makala Rowdy, Trey Fonseca, Gianni Coppens, Lukas Fritsch, Sofia Arzate and Jayda Wilson.

Chandler brought joy to Montemayor

Distinguished scholar Alonda Montemayor was a member of the National Honor Society, science club and music club. She also spent time volunteering in Teen Court and NHS events. She plans on

attending the University of Houston. Shining Star Montemayor appreciates the joy distinguished educator David Chandler, AP physics and AP environmental science teacher, brought to her academics.

She says, "I had Mr. Chandler for two drastically different courses, and I always found his lectures entertaining.

"I always looked forward to attending his class and never had any trouble reaching out to him when I had questions about assignments or even my daily life. He inspired me to go out of my way to do my best and work hard on my work.

"He is an amazing teacher, and I will always remember the time I spent in his class and his kindness toward me and other students."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top Lewis Career & Technical High School students.

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

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



Lopez's passion motivated Gonzalez

Sonia Lopez, SoHo Shining Star, plans on obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, after which she hopes to become a criminal investigator.

During her high school career she was a member of NHS and participated in Sunday School Catechism.

She chose South Houston biology teacher Jaqueline Gonzalez as her distinguished educator.

"Lopez comments that Gonzalez's love for her work impacted her education greatly, saying, "The most fascinating thing is when someone is speaking about something, and you can just tell they have such a passion for it. You can visualize their love for the topic, and it is even strong enough to make you feel that same love.

"That is the way it felt like to be Mrs. Gonzalez's student. Every class was a wonderful experience, and I was hooked from the start.

"She somehow made me look forward to a first period class, and I will forever thank her for showing me what it feels like to be motivated to learn."

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The Shining Stars represent the Class of 2023 Top South Houston High School students.

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Meador excitedly starts new year

Meador Elementary's administration team is ready for the "rise of the students" this school year. Shown, left to right, are Kevin Fox, assistant principal; Jennifer Chavez, principal; and Tara Merida, counselor.



Fox receives a good morning hug from first-grader Josiah Anthony.



Kindergarteners Jesus Erazo (left) and Amerys Lucio loved the first day of school.

Deleon influenced Tran's view of education

Vincent Tran, Dobie Shining Star, was a member of the orchestra, Key Club and National Honor Society. He plans to begin a career as an investment banker after college.

Describing why Gilbert Deleon, Dobie calculus teacher, was chosen as his distinguished educator, Tran remarks how influential Deleon was.

"Mr. Deleon served as a trailblazer for me throughout my senior year of high school. Mr. Deleon not only taught me calculus, but he taught me the value of hard work and dedication at a time when I am one step closer to becoming an independent person in control of my life after high school.

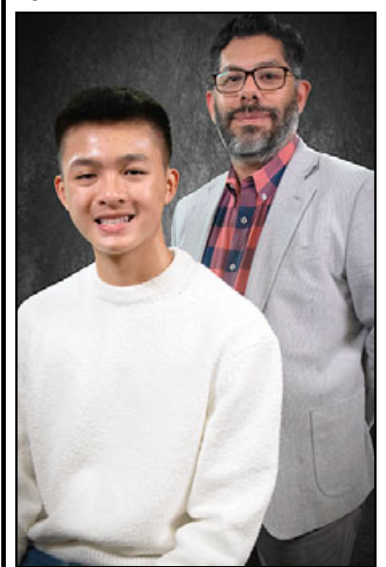
"From our lunchtime conversations to our small talks during class, there was never a time when I did not learn something from Mr. Deleon when he spoke. Thank you for making calculus interesting and for everything else you do."

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

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

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

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



Thompson's Red and White Weekend set for Aug. 26

Thompson Intermediate invites the public to come and see their football and volleyball teams scrimmage for their annual Red and White Weekend.

Food, drink and spirit items will be available to attendees. Performances by the band, cheer and dance teams are also scheduled for the event.

The book fair will be open for those interested as well.

Red and White Weekend will take place at Thompson Intermediate, 8750 Hughes Road., Saturday, Aug. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)

Two students from Sonja Isham Dance Studio received high honors. Marla Lewis, the daughter of Betty and Ed Lewis, won the talent division statewide in the Miss Cinderella Pageant and advanced to represent Texas in several preliminary pageants as a guest artist. Marla has been accepted at the School for Visual and Performing Arts. Tangela Walker, who won the title of Little Miss Black Texas, advanced to the national pageant scheduled for Sept. 6 at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York.

40 years ago (1983)

While the vast number of insurance claims being filed due to Hurricane Alicia slowed somewhat, the workloads for roofing contractors and adjusters rose.

Insurance for student athletes in the Pasadena Independent School District rose to \$4.10 for the 1983-84 school year.

35 years ago (1988)

Employees in the Pasadena Independent School District had larger paychecks, costing the district an additional \$4.6 million and bringing the 1988-89 budget to \$103.7 million.

Due to the success of the South Belt Optimist Club's CHICKEN Club at Frazier Elementary, the Optimists and PISD officials agreed to increase the number of schools participating.

30 years ago (1993)

Ralph Aulds Jr. of Aulds & Garner Tele-Com Service was elected president of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

Fifteen-year-old Francisco Rivas was fatally shot in southwest Houston. He attended Beverly Hills Intermediate School the previous school year. The youth was shot in the head after he left a movie theater with friends after a verbal confrontation with another group of teens at the theater.

goods in a home in the 11500 block of Southchard. Eight Asian males ranging in age from 14 to 32 who resided at the house were taken into custody.

Dobie starting quarterback John Scheschuk missed at least the first four games of the season after he suffered a broken arm during a scrimmage against Klein Forest. He incurred the break when he hit his right forearm (not his throwing arm) against an opponent's helmet. Junior Zack Clark, the previous year's junior varsity quarterback, replaced Scheschuk.

25 years ago (1998)

South Belt resident Steve Geissen authored a book titled "Willie and the World Wide Web."

Newly appointed Small-Business Administrator and South Belt resident Ruben Guerrero spoke to the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

20 years ago (2003)

1976 Dobie graduate Dr. Mary Campbell-Fox became the first female chief of staff at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital.

Chris Connealy, a Dobie graduate, announced his retirement from the position of fire chief of the Houston Fire Department.

15 years ago (2008)

The Kirkmont Municipal Utility District building was struck by lightning, destroying all of its electrical contents. Linda Arnone, Kirkmont MUD office manager, was sitting at her desk just a few feet from where the lightning came through her computer after traveling from the roof, where it struck a vent. Heat from the bolt burned a hole in the carpet where it grounded.

City of Houston Councilman Mike Sullivan spoke at

the Houston Police Department's monthly Positive Interaction Program meeting.

Sullivan told those in attendance of the city's plan to construct a new Bracewell branch to the City of Houston Public Library System at the intersection of Kingspoint and Blackhawk. He also addressed the problem of overcrowding at the METRO Fuqua Park & Ride. Sullivan also spoke on the issue of airport land use and proposed an initiative to spend \$211 million on drainage improvement projects in the area. He said the work would be funded through ad valorem taxes and would

appear as an agenda item at an upcoming City Council meeting.

10 years ago (2013)

South Belt students returned to school, and Dobie set a new attendance record, with its enrollment topping 4,000 students for the first time in the school's history.

After serving eight terms as state representative for Texas House District 129, Rep. John E. Davis, a Republican, announced he would not seek re-election in 2014. A roofing contractor by profession, Davis was first elected to represent HD-129, which included

much of the South Belt area, in 1998.

5 years ago (2018)

The City of Houston recognized longtime South Belt resident James Muecke at City Hall on Aug. 21 by naming the day in his honor for his years of community service.

Off-duty Precinct 2 Deputy Andrew Mitchell heroically came to the aid of a female robbery victim the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 18, near the Chase bank at Scarsdale and Beamer. The incident began as the victim was leaving the bank with an envelope full of cash. As the woman was walking toward the nearby Hong Kong Food Market, a man with a hoodie covering his face pushed her down to the ground and stole the envelope. Having witnessed the ordeal, Mitchell identified himself as a police officer and attempted to apprehend the suspect. The thief ignored Mitchell's demands and tried to flee on foot toward the Food Town across the street. Mitchell gave chase and was able to catch the suspect on one of the green esplanades on Scarsdale. Desmond Henry, 22, was arrested and charged with theft from a person, evading on foot and possession of a controlled substance. The female victim suffered minor cuts and scratches.

1 year ago (2022)

Houston police arrested a third suspect charged in the fatal shooting of a man the previous June in the 12900 block of Nyack near Algoquin. The suspect, Javier Raul Contreras, 20, was charged with two counts of aggravated assaults with a deadly weapon. Two other suspects, Johnathan Rashon Carter, 18, and Damon W. Steber, 18, were previously arrested and charged with capital murder and aggravated assault in the incident. All three suspects are accused for their roles in the killing of Jorge Jaimes, 18, and the wounding of Julian Becerra, 18. Becerra sustained a gunshot wound to the leg.



DITTRICH ENJOY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Joyce Dittich who enjoys a birthday Aug. 25 and to her husband Milton Dittich who celebrates a birthday Aug. 30, from family, friends and the Leader staff.

CODY CELEBRATES 24th 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.

JAXSON TURNS 5!

Special birthday wishes for Jaxson Giles who turns five years old Aug. 30 from his parents Aaron and Ashley Giles, grandparents Jim and Tracy Giles, great-grandmother Bobby Griffin and the rest of the Giles and Griffin families wish him a wonderful birthday.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 24 through Aug. 30.

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

Lisa Orr is 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. Send a birthday greeting Aug. 29 to Kalpana Mobley.

Meador Elementary

Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 24 for Kim Cowan.

Moore Elementary

Remember to wish Lakennia Cole a happy birthday Aug. 30.

South Belt Elementary

Break out the party favors and cake and ice cream for Jason Watson Aug. 28. The day for birthday fun for Courtney Moran is Aug. 31.

Stuchbery Elementary

Blow out the candles on a birthday cake Aug. 30 for Dyan Richter.

Roberts Middle School

Celebrating a birthday Aug. 27 is Fred Leggin.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Light the candles on a birthday cake Aug. 28 for Mackwell Hickerson.

Thompson Intermediate

Break out the balloons and the birthday cake Aug. 28 for Melinda Mathis.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie to face Wolverines in 2023 football start



Dobie's Juan Huerta, set to open 2023 as the Longhorns' starter at quarterback, hands the ball off to running back Cameron Mathews during the team's scrimmage against La Porte Aug. 17 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Longhorns visit Clear Brook to start the regular season Aug. 25 at Clear Creek ISD's Veterans Stadium in League City.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Among the zero week openers to kick off the high school football season, Dobie and Clear Brook Wolverines will play the second of a two-year home and home series, this one coming Aug. 25 as the Wolverines host the Longhorns at Veterans Stadium in League City. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

The Longhorns held on for a 13-6 win in Pasadena in the 2022 opener and eventually delivered a 4-7 overall finish, while the Wolverines found victories hard to come by during a 1-9 run.

With both programs now more comfortable under the direction of second-year head coaches, Demond Stafford at Dobie and Patrick Sanders at Clear Brook, better overall results are expected as the season progresses.

At Dobie, the Longhorns are excited about the dual-threat options at the running back spot as junior Cameron Mathews returns after rushing for more than 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns as a sophomore.

While the running back room lost at least two key seniors following the 2022 season, sophomore DeMarcus Hodges is ready to do his part as he makes his varsity debut.

The Longhorns will also employ a new starter at quarterback as senior Juan Huerta is ready for his opportunity.

The Wolverines could feature a first-time starter at quarterback, with 2022 starter Jesse Shelton in a three-way battle with Steven Craft and Kingston Cramer, while the team will go with the backfield duo of Cedric Barnes and Jayden Dansby.

Where the Longhorns may hold an edge is on the defensive side of things as six starters return, includ-

ing secondary members Dempsey Spears and ends C.J. Richard and Derrick Kelley, linebacker Rodrick Drumgo and Aidan Sanchez.



Dobie defensive lineman Alberto Ortiz (90) flashed strength inside in the Longhorns' scrimmage against La Porte and is intent on having a big year.

2023 Football Opener
Clear Brook hosts Dobie
 Veterans Stadium, League City
 Aug. 25, 7 p.m. kickoff

BHI community day is Aug. 26

The Beverly Hills Intermediate volleyball and football programs will host the Bears' Community Day Aug. 26 as fans will get an early look at the teams in scrimmage action. The Bears' volleyball program will display seventh-grade play at 9:30 a.m., while eighth-grade play is at 10:30 a.m.

Football's eighth-grade play is at 9:30 a.m. with seventh-grade play at 10:30 a.m.

A variety of refreshments and food items will be available for cash purchase only as funds raised will go toward items needed within the athletic programs.

The Pasadena ISD intermediate volleyball season begins Aug. 30 as the Bears host Jackson, while opening week of the football season pits the Bears against South Houston Sept. 5-6.

PISD, CCISD online tickets

Local high school sports fans will again head online during the 2023-2024 school year to purchase tickets for their favorite teams and events. In continuing with the online access to which most school districts across the state now turn, PISD athletic officials will have weekly individual event tickets available at www.pasadenaisd.org/athletics.

Cash is not accepted at districtwide events, with parents and other attendees instead purchasing tickets online. For the 2023 varsity football season at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Pasadena, adult tickets are \$7 each.

Pasadena ISD athletic director Rupert Jaso said the district's Friday night varsity football games will again be streamed free of charge, also at www.pasadenaisd.org/athletics.

Those looking to attend Clear Creek ISD events will also be required to buy tickets online via ccisd.net/athletics. For varsity football games at Challenger Stadium in Webster and Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City, presale ticket costs are \$7 each for adults and \$5 for students four years and older. Ages 3 and under get in free. Game day tickets are \$9 each.

Visit www.ccisd.net/athletics and visit ticket information in order to purchase event tickets on a weekly basis.

As for streaming availability, Clear Creek ISD is partnering with the for-pay site at NFHS Network.

Both monthly and annual subscription rates are available at NFHSnetwork.com.



Dobie junior Leslie Sarduy digs a ball during the Longhorns' 25-13, 25-10, 25-5 win over Fort Bend Marshall Aug. 18 at Dobie, part of a 7-3 overall start for the locals. See more volleyball news on Page 8.



Junior hitter Adalee Garcia (10) contributed to Dobie's nondistrict win over Fort Bend Marshall Aug. 11 as the Longhorns downed the Buffs as part of a 7-3 start through the first two weeks of the season. Photos by Gloria Wallace



Longhorn X-C progresses at LP

Largely a new cast of players, yes, but similar standout results for the Dobie varsity girls' cross-country team, which took second as a team behind host and champion La Porte at the Bulldog Relays Aug. 18.

At an hour, 22 minutes, 47 seconds, La Porte edged Dobie's total of 1:24:02. Danna Ramirez was the overall champion with her clocking of 26:20.0, and Dobie's Valerie Salazar was second overall at 26:49.8.

A time of 27:18.3 placed Dobie's Arecey Alvarado fifth, and a time of 29:53.0 had the Long-

horns' Leyla Martinez 20th. At 31:28.9, Jasmine Mooney was 24th.

Julian Andrade and Manuel Garza went 1-2 overall in the varsity boys' four-mile relay to lead the Deer to the team win, with the Longhorns' Christopher Lopez pacing the locals to third place.

Lopez, sixth overall, clocked in at 21:46.1, while Francisco Dunn was ninth in a time of 22:33.1. Conner Torres of Dobie placed 17th at 23:55.8.

In the freshman boys' division, athletes covered two miles each as Dobie's DeShaun Singleton finished at 13:10.3 for eighth place, with teammate Matthew Dunn ninth in a time of 13:31.7.

The junior varsity girls' two-miler featured Dobie's squad fourth behind champion La Porte, Manvel and Deer Park.

Ashley Hernandez was fifth overall at 15:10.1, with Roslyn Barber seventh at 15:22.3. At 17:32.8, Dobie's Serina Martinez was 23rd overall.

The junior varsity boys' relay was a four-miler,

with the Longhorns' Carter Wright eighth in a time of 26:36.6. Max Delgado placed 10th at 26:48.7, with Caden Wright 11th at 26:51.8. Santino Perez was at 27:23.1 for 14th.

At left, Christopher Lopez of Dobie continued his early-season success as his sixth-place run at the Bulldog Relays in La Porte helped the Longhorns to third place overall in the varsity boys division. On the girls' side of things, Dobie's Valerie Salazar paced the locals to second place at La Porte.

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Bay Area Football League Regular Season Standings (Through Aug. 19 Play) Pee Wee Division

Team	W	L	T
Sagemont	2	0	0
Angleton	2	0	0
Bay Area	2	0	0
Hitchcock	2	0	0
Manvel	2	0	0
Pasadena	1	0	0
Alvin	1	1	0
League City	1	1	0
Pear. Pats	1	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Magnolia	0	2	0
East End	0	2	0
Brazosport	0	2	0
La Porte	0	2	0
SE Houston	0	2	0

Freshman Division

Sagemont	2	0	0
Angleton	2	0	0
Bay Area	2	0	0
League City	2	0	0
La Porte	2	0	0
Manvel	2	0	0
Alvin	1	1	0
Hitchcock	1	1	0
Pasadena	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Magnolia	0	2	0
East End	0	2	0
Pear. Pats	0	2	0
Brazosport	0	2	0
SE Houston	0	2	0

Sophomore Division

Alvin	2	0	0
Angleton	2	0	0
Bay Area	2	0	0
Hitchcock	2	0	0
SE Houston	2	0	0
Brazosport	1	1	0
Magnolia	1	1	0
League City	1	1	0
La Porte	1	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Pasadena	0	1	0
Manvel	0	2	0
Sagemont	0	2	0
East End	0	2	0
Pear. Pats	0	2	0

Junior Division

Sagemont	2	0	0
Angleton	2	0	0
Bay Area	2	0	0
Hitchcock	2	0	0
League City	2	0	0
Alvin	1	1	0
Magnolia	1	1	0
La Porte	1	1	0
SE Houston	1	1	0
Pasadena	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Manvel	0	1	0
East End	0	1	0
Pear. Pats	0	1	0
Brazosport	0	1	0

Senior Division

Sagemont	2	0	0
League City	2	0	0
East End	2	0	0
Manvel	2	0	0
Pear. Texans	1	0	0
Pasadena	1	0	0
La Porte	1	1	0
Pear. Pats	1	1	0
Magnolia	1	1	0
Hitchcock	1	1	0
SE Houston	0	1	0
Alvin	0	1	0
Angleton	0	1	0
Bay Area	0	1	0
Brazosport	0	1	0

Leader's 2023 pickers contest starts

The Leader's annual high school pickers contest begins this week in accordance with the start of the season as area realtors Troy Leland and Stephen Sutton are joined by former C&D Burger restaurateur Debbie Vaughn, long-time Sagemont Church associate pastor Emory Gadd and Leader sports editor John Bechtle in a fun-filled, season-long battle to uncover the luckiest of choosers.

The weekly contest will continue until both Clear Brook and Dobie have seen their seasons, playoffs included, come to an end. Vaughn enters the season as the defending champion, having put together an impressive 100-20 mark, with Leland second at 96-24.

South Belt football predictions

	John Bechtle	Emory Gadd	Troy Leland	Stephen Sutton	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie at Clear Brook	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Shadow Creek at Manvel	Manvel	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek
Atascocita at Dickinson	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita
Humble at Channelview	Channelview	Humble	Humble	Channelview	Channelview
Clear Falls at Pearland	Clear Falls	Pearland	Clear Falls	Pearland	Clear Falls
Clear Springs at Katy	Katy	Katy	Katy	Katy	Katy
La Porte at Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park
Baytown Lee at South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	Baytown Lee	Baytown Lee
North Shore at The Woodlands	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore
Crosby at C.E. King	CEK	CEK	CEK	CEK	CEK
Last Week's Results	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Season record	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

Clear Brook, Lutheran South cross-country programs out of the gate quickly

The Lutheran South Academy cross-country program got its season off and running with an appearance at the Frito Friday Night Lights event in Sealy as twins Matthew and Marcus Gaitan were

competitors covering four kilometers, or just under two miles. Friendswood's Zade

Kayyali was the overall winner of the Elite boys' race, with Marcus Gaitan taking second place at 12 minutes, 36 seconds.

The three-person Clear Brook varsity boys' team continued week two competition at the Clear Falls Invitational Aug. 18 at Hometown Heroes Park in League City, with Joseph Trevino covering the 4,000-meter course in a time of 13:24.77 for 13th place. Tristan Ecord was across the finish line at 15:13.56, with teammate Ruben Herrera in at 15:55.67.

Beverly Hills Bears 7A Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 5	at South Houston
Sept. 11	Jackson
Sept. 18	Miller
Sept. 25	Thompson
Oct. 2	Bondy
Oct. 10	Southmore
Oct. 16	at San Jacinto

All game times are 5 p.m.

Beverly Hills Bears 8A Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 31	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 6	at South Houston
Sept. 12	Jackson
Sept. 19	Miller
Sept. 26	Thompson
Oct. 3	Bondy
Oct. 11	Southmore
Oct. 17	at San Jacinto

All game times are 5 p.m.

Beverly Hills Bears 7B Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 5	South Houston
Sept. 11	at Jackson
Sept. 18	at Miller
Sept. 25	at Thompson
Oct. 2	at Bondy
Oct. 10	at Southmore
Oct. 16	San Jacinto

All game times are 5 p.m.

Beverly Hills Bears 8B Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 31	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 6	South Houston
Sept. 12	at Jackson
Sept. 19	at Miller
Sept. 26	at Thompson
Oct. 3	at Bondy
Oct. 11	at Southmore
Oct. 17	San Jacinto

All game times are 5 p.m.

Thompson Lions 7A Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 5	San Jacinto
Sept. 11	Park View
Sept. 18	at Southmore
Sept. 25	Beverly Hills
Oct. 2	Miller
Oct. 10	at South Houston
Oct. 16	at Bondy

All game times are 5 p.m.

Thompson Lions 8A Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 31	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 6	San Jacinto
Sept. 12	Park View
Sept. 19	at Southmore
Sept. 26	Beverly Hills
Oct. 3	Miller
Oct. 11	at South Houston
Oct. 17	at Bondy

All game times are 5 p.m.

Thompson Lions 7B Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 5	at San Jacinto
Sept. 11	at Park View
Sept. 18	Southmore
Sept. 25	at Beverly Hills
Oct. 2	at Miller
Oct. 10	South Houston
Oct. 16	Bondy

All game times are 5 p.m.

Thompson Lions 8B Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 31	Campus scrimmages
Sept. 6	at San Jacinto
Sept. 12	at Park View
Sept. 19	Southmore
Sept. 26	at Beverly Hills
Oct. 3	at Miller
Oct. 11	South Houston
Oct. 17	Bondy

All game times are 5 p.m.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUG. 24

7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.

FRIDAY, AUG. 25

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

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

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

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

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

11:30 a.m. **Food Drive** - New Covenant Christian Church hosts food drive at 10603 Blackhawk Blvd, Houston. Call 281-484-4230.

Noon **Bay Area Genealogical Society** - meets in-person at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org. Show and tell and potluck luncheon.

2-4 p.m. **Parent's-Day Out** - CrossRoads United Methodist Church invites children with intellectual and physical disabilities for a fun-filled afternoon of activities.

8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285 or stop by.

2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.

8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

NOON BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - meets in-person at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org. Show and tell and potluck luncheon.

2-4 p.m. **Parent's-Day Out** - CrossRoads United Methodist Church invites children with intellectual and physical disabilities for a fun-filled afternoon of activities.

8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285 or stop by.

2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-944-9186.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.

8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, AUG. 28

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon 713-472-0565 for tours.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and

improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923.

7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at the Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, AUG. 29

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

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

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

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets virtually at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. Visit the website or call 832-722-9061.

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30

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

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Neva and Bill Schroder offer casual ballroom dancing. Call 281-554-1180.

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

7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **AA** - See Friday's notice.

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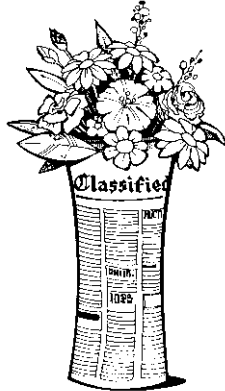
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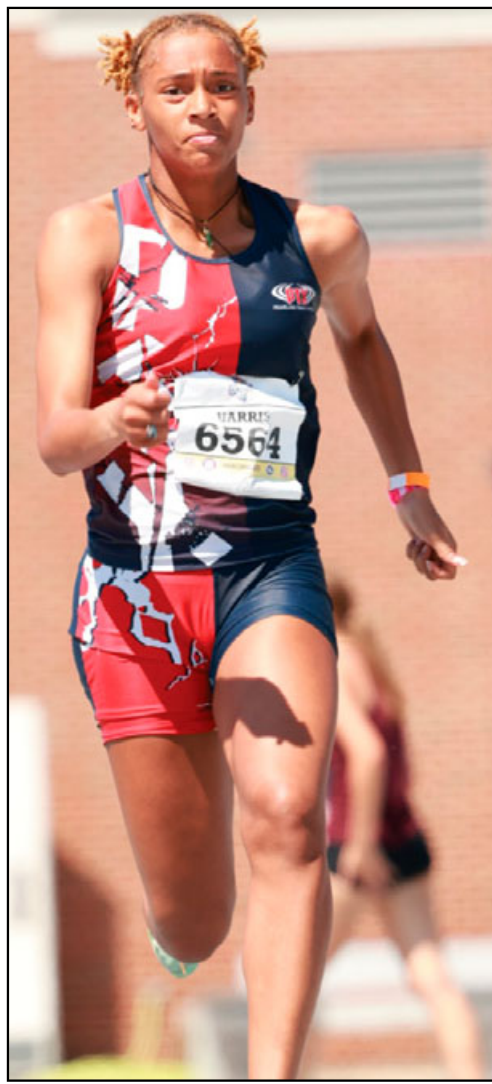
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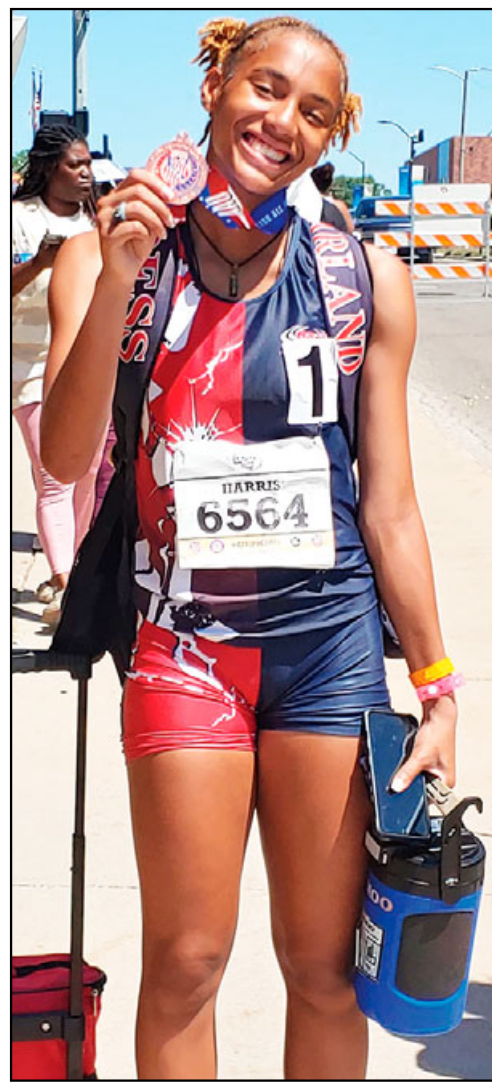
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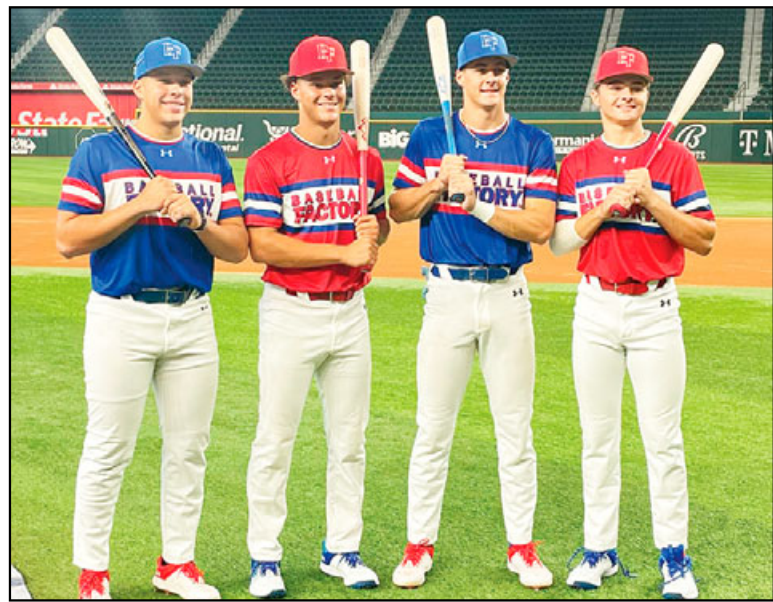
Dobie's Harris excels, medals at AAU Junior Olympics



Dobie High School junior Stacie Harris again excelled on the summer track and field scene, qualifying for the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games July 28 through Aug. 5 on the Drake University campus in Des Moines, Iowa. Harris was part of the contingent from the Pearland Track Xpress. Harris, already a two-year varsity performer and District 22-6A long jump and 200 champion for Dobie, was fourth in the age 15-16 girls' heptathlon with 3,915 points and was a relay member in the 4x800 relay for an eighth-place finish. She also competed in the 400 hurdles and long jump at nationals. "I did pretty well throughout this season, so I'm happy," Harris said. "There are events in the HEP I'm strong in that I need to get even stronger in so I can earn more points. I didn't do as well in the 400 hurdles and long jump as I'd like, but I'll get it back. I'm really excited about next year."



Dobie's Serna takes part in home run derby



At left, Dobie High School star baseball player Omar Serna (far left) was part of the Baseball Factory Home Run Derby Aug. 11 at Globe Life Field in Arlington as select players from around the country slugged away. From left, Serna competed with Theo Gillen, Konnor Griffin of Jackson Prep in Florence, Miss. and Carter Johnson. Serna, a Louisiana State University commit, has started his junior year at Dobie High School. The players then were part of the BF All-American Game.

Volleyball programs deliver victories

So far, so good for the Dobie and Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball programs, while Clear Brook has shown improvement while taking on a tough schedule through the opening two weeks of the regular season. Scoring seven wins in 10 matches over the first two weeks of the high school volleyball season, Dobie got out of the gate in strong fashion. The Longhorns won three nondistrict matches early on and then went 2-1

prior to trophy round play at the Gator Invitational in Dickinson, reaching the gold bracket Aug. 19 prior to losses to Pearland and Foster. In the opener at Dickinson, the Longhorns topped Santa Fe 25-23, 25-15 as Ariana Garza had seven kills to go with six from Naima Leblanc. The locals gave a very good Barbers Hill a great run before losing 25-23, 25-21. Rebounding quickly from there, Dobie downed Brazoswood 27-25, 25-17 as freshman Amaya Langelier had seven kills for the winners. Dobie hosted Fort Bend Marshall Aug. 18 in a one-on-one nondistrict match-up, easily getting past the Buffs 25-13, 25-10, 25-5 as head coach Dawn Sexton was able to substitute freely. Langelier had eight kills, with Haley Precella delivering seven more and Matison Mitchell notching four of her own. Back at Dickinson Aug. 19 for the gold bracket semifinals, Dobie fell 25-14, 25-16 to a Pearland team that is now 13-4 overall. In the third-place match, Dobie lost 25-21, 25-16 to Foster, with Barbers Hill improving to 14-4 overall with a gold bracket championship win over Pearland. Gonzalez, the 22-6A Offensive Player of the Year a season ago, leads Dobie with 61 kills and 123 assists, while the 2022 Blocker of the Year, Haley DeHoyos, has 50 kills. Dobie will next play in the Battle of the Brazos Invitational, hosted by George Ranch High School Aug. 24-26. Senior libero Aly Frias has done a terrific job in her role with 125 digs. Continuing a strong start, to the season that included 10 wins in 11 overall matches as of press time Aug. 22, the Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball team felt good after two weeks. The Pioneers' 28-26, 25-17, 25-13 win over Pasadena Memorial Aug. 18 included 12 kills from junior Kirra Musgrove and seven from Haleigh Pham, also a junior. Sophomore Aniston Collins had 17 assists from her setter's spot, and Musgrove added 14. Clear Brook has been one of the busier programs early on, having played 17 total matches with six wins mixed in. At the same Dickinson ISD Gator Invitational, the Wolverines defeated Houston Lamar 25-20, 25-16 in an early Aug. 17 matchup and then lost 25-17, 25-11 to Foster. The locals then pushed La Porte to three games before falling 25-19, 24-26, 21-25. Like Dobie, Clear Brook played a head-to-head nondistrict match Aug. 18, losing in three games to Kingwood as the Mustangs prevailed 25-8, 25-16, 25-8. Back at Dickinson, Clear Brook downed Baytown Sterling 25-15, 25-16 and then lost to 24-6A rival Clear Lake in a 25-22, 25-23 outcome. The Wolverines went up against Jersey Village Aug. 22 after press time and will host Cy-Falls Aug. 25. Clear Brook will also face North Shore at home Aug. 29 before preparing to compete in the Clear Creek ISD Invitational, set for Aug. 31 and Sept. 2.

Battle of the Brazos Invite Aug. 24-26, at George Ranch

Aug. 24 Pool Play
Dobie vs. Foster, 8 a.m.
Dobie vs. Cy-Springs, 1 p.m.
Aug. 25 Pool Play
Dobie vs. Fort Bend Bush, 8 a.m.
Dobie at Alvin Yellowjackets
Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m.



Dobie's Lexie Gonzalez (left) and Aly Frias were All-Tournament selections as they guided the Longhorns to a gold bracket appearance at the Gator Invitational in Dickinson. The locals also scored a head-to-head win over Fort Bend Marshall to go 7-3 over the first two weeks of the season.



Senior Arianna Borego (15), a team captain, saw extensive action against Fort Bend Marshall Aug. 18 and helped the locals to a sweep.

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