



South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, August 3, 2023 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 48, No. 27

Garcia provides backpacks

Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will host a back-to-school backpack giveaway Sunday, Aug. 6, at the county annex, 10851 Scarsdale at Beamer from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or until supplies last.

Faith school supply drive set

Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 9850 Mango, and Beta Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma will host a school supply drive thru Saturday, Aug. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Starter kit backpacks with school supplies will be distributed until supplies run out.

JFD 40-year reunion

The JFD Class of 1983 will hold a 40 year reunion Sept. 15-17. Contact jfdclassof1983@gmail.com if not on the Facebook reunion page.

City to collect heavy trash

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Aug. 10 (second Thursday). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Aug. 11 (second Friday). August is for junk waste but tree waste will also be accepted. Pickups may be delayed. For information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair will have new food distribution dates in August. The church will have food distribution the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 2 p.m. This month, the church will also distribute school supplies the second Saturday (Aug. 12). The purpose of the pantry is to provide food to people in need in the community. For more information, contact the church at 281-484-4230.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event will take place Thursday, Aug. 3. For additional information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains on par with the previous week, according to Harris County health officials. As of Tuesday, Aug. 1, there were 68 active cases in 77089, up five 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, up one 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.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

Beltway closed for repairs

Eastbound lanes of Beltway 8 will be closed from Blackhawk to the Gulf Freeway from 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, through 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 7, and again from 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11, through 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14. Detour signs will be in place but drivers may wish to seek another route. All westbound Beltway 8 main lanes near Gulf Freeway will be closed through Thursday, Aug. 31, to make emergency repairs, according to Texas Department of Transportation officials. All westbound traffic will be forced to exit the main lanes at SH 3/Old Galveston and be diverted to the Beltway 8 frontage lanes. The westbound entrance ramps will be closed at SH 3/Old Galveston, Crenshaw and Genoa Red Bluff. The westbound main lanes will reopen at Beamer. Eastbound Beltway 8 main lanes and all connector ramps to the Gulf Freeway will remain open. TxDOT officials say the closures are necessary to make emergency repairs near the westbound Sabo exit, where the ground is sinking. The closures are expected to cause traffic delays.

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 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.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will be Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment. Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines and cameras. The collection events take place the second Saturday monthly. For additional information, visit www.houstonwaste.org or call 311.

City releases update on 3-year climate plan

Turner touts success of city initiatives before parting office

The City of Houston released a combined update detailing the impressive progress made on major initiatives of both Resilient Houston and the Climate Action Plan after three years of implementation. "Earth Day HTX 2023 marked three years of laser-focused cooperation between all city departments and our dedicated community partners to push forth initiatives for a cleaner, greener Houston and I'm proud to say that we are exceeding expectations mapped out in these two plans," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "We track 30 measurable goals and are transparent with where we are on each one of them. We are on track to meet or exceed almost every goal and even though this is my last year in

office, the wheels are in motion for future administrations to continue building on this success."

Resilient Houston and the Climate Action Plan helped cement the foundation for Turner's vision of making Houston a more resilient and sustainable city. Built on existing efforts, the plans focus on challenges like preparing Houstonians for uncertainty, ensuring neighborhood safety and the equitable distribution of resources, planning for the energy transition, optimizing urban infrastructure, and other vital components. The plans outline specific actions for the city, partners, and communities to come together to solve these challenges, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable populations.

"The details and specifics outlined in each goal associated with these plans help make them trackable and achievable," said Chief Resilience and Sustainability Officer Priya Zachariah. "The key to continued success is making sure we share and publicize our progress so everyone involved knows what still needs to be done and so we can stay accountable to our promises to the community."

The following are some of the major milestones:

- Greenhouse gas emissions inventory (2020) showed a 10 percent reduction from the 2014 baseline.
- The city was awarded an A rating from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) once again in 2022.
- The city achieved its Gold designation as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).
- More than 214,134 trees were planted by the

city and other entities in 2022. This brings the total to more than 1.4 million trees planted since 2019, out 4.6 million by 2030 - or more than 31 percent of the goal.

- In addition, the city has launched a Tree Equity platform aimed at not only collecting information from tree plantings by major partners, nonprofit agencies, and communities but also educating entities on where to plant trees by providing heat map information, as well as existing disparities in total canopy cover.

- In 2022, the Houston City Council approved the Nature Preserve Ordinance - an ordinance designed to protect 7,423 acres of natural habitat in City of Houston parks.

- Sixteen green stormwater infrastructure projects were completed in 2022, marking a total of 86 projects completed within the first three years, or 86 percent of the goal completion.

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St. Luke's raises funds

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church recently held a fund-raising event for its future-campus campaign. Vendors included Ava's Bistro; Bravos; Central Texas Style BBQ; Dan's Pizza; Domino's (Scarsdale); Juicy Juice Cafe; La Forchetta Italian Grill; La Monarca Michoacana; Las Haciendas; Ninfa's; TJ Filiphino Cuisine; Tecas TexMex and Steaks; Texas Grill 49; Texas Roadhouse (Pasadena); The Box Bakery & Kitchen; Torchy's Tacos (Pearland); Crafts by Linda; Divine Mercy Jewelry Sales; Leslie's Sweet Boutique; Mary Kay; Mister Sparky; Princess House; V & K Store; and The Gardens. The Rev. Douglas Guthrie, pastor at St. Luke's, is shown to the left at the event with church member Terry King who was at the event with his wife Dixie.

Cyclist killed in 18-wheeler crash

A cyclist was killed in an accident involving an 18-wheeler around 4:25 p.m. Friday, July 28, near Fuqua and Sabo.

Longtime resident Greg Maduzia, 56, died in the crash.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the driver of a white Freightliner tractor-truck pulling a trailer was behind the Goodwill store at the above address and attempted to pull out of the parking lot onto Sabo. Maduzia was on a bicycle and traveling

on Sabo when he attempted to cross in front of the 18-wheeler. The driver did not see Maduzia, continued to pull onto the street and struck the bicyclist.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded and pronounced Maduzia dead at the scene. The driver of the 18-wheeler, who remained at the scene, was determined not to be impaired and was questioned and released.

The investigation was continuing at press time.

Pct. 2 continues Edgebrook patrols

Deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office have continued their criminal patrols along the Gulf Freeway in the weeks following the recent sweeps to eradicate homeless encampments on the stretch of road.

On Tuesday, July 25, at approximately 5 p.m., Evening Shift patrol deputies observed a male loitering underneath an overpass near the intersection of Alameda Genoa Road and the Gulf Freeway.

The individual was identified by department-issued mobile automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS), in which the individual was identified and found to have a failure to appear warrant and felony illegal dumping warrant out of Montgomery County.

The individual was arrested and taken into custody and transported to Harris County Jail.

On Wednesday, July 26, at approximately 6:45

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Clear Creek ISD to hold public meeting

Bond proposals, tax election on agenda

Clear Creek Independent School District will host a public meeting Thursday, Aug. 3, to receive community input on a tax-rate election and three different bond proposals. The community meeting

will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Clear Creek High School, 2305 E. Main Street in League City.

CCISD is proposing a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election, or a VATRE. This is an election required by the state that asks voters to consider approving a modified tax rate to increase revenue for student programs, maximize CCISD's maintenance and operations funding, and teacher and staff salaries.

Additionally, Clear Creek ISD is proposing three separate bond measures to replace aging facilities in the school district.

Bond Option No. 1 is for \$248 million and would require a zero-cent increase on the I&S tax rate.

Bond Option No. 2 is for \$394 million and would require a 2.9-cent increase on the I&S tax rate per \$100 valuation.

Bond Option No. 3 is for \$614 million and would require a 7.2-cent increase on the I&S Tax Rate per \$100 valuation.

Residents unable to attend the public meeting may still submit their input by completing the Community Input Survey at electioncentral.squarespace.com/community-input. For additional information on Clear Creek's tax-rate election and bond proposals, visit electioncentral.squarespace.com.

City holds school drive

Mayor Sylvester Turner's 13th annual Mayor's Back to School Fest will take place Saturday, Aug. 5, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Presented by Shell, the annual festival is designed to help economically disadvantaged Houston-area elementary school students and their families as they prepare to return to school.

"Back to school is an exciting time for children of all ages," said Turner. "They should focus on reading, writing, arithmetic and making good grades. We do not want students and their families to worry about basic classroom supplies. This event is intended to provide assistance for families who may need it. I thank our sponsors for stepping up to the plate to help. Due to their generosity, thousands of kids will have the tools they need for a successful start to the

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3rd Armstrong murder trial begins

Then-teen accused of killing former resident

A third capital murder trial began Monday, Aug. 31, for Antonio "AJ" Armstrong Jr., accused of killing his mother, 1992 Dobie graduate Dawn Whitely Armstrong, and her husband, Antonio Armstrong, at the family's Bellaire-area home in 2016.

The first two trials ended in a hung jury.

"Two people were murdered in the night, each shot in the head as they slept in their own bed," a statement from the Harris County District Attorney's Office read. "We will continue our fight for justice and we look forward to presenting all the evidence to jurors."

Now 23, A.J. Armstrong was only 16 at the time of the alleged capital murder but is being tried as an adult.

Throughout the ordeal, Armstrong has maintain his innocence, insisting a masked intruder

was responsible for the killings.

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. Pillows were placed on each of the victim's heads, presumably to muffle the sound of the gunshots.

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.

The story has made international news, as Antonio Armstrong was once a star football player at Texas A&M University and briefly played in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins.

Officials: cyclospora infections on rise

Infections caused by consuming contaminated food

Harris County Public Health, the Houston Health Department and Fort Bend County Health and Human Services have received reports of an increased number of cyclospora infections within their jurisdictions and urge people to use caution this summer while cooking and spending time outdoors.

Cyclospora is a non-life-threatening gastrointestinal illness caused by an intestinal parasite. This parasite causes an intestinal infection called cyclosporiasis. People can become infected by consuming contaminated food or water.

In Texas, increased cases of cyclosporiasis tend to occur seasonally between the months of April and August and symptoms tend to appear between two to 14 days. Cases have been associated with the consumption of - but not limited to - fresh produce, including fresh cilantro, raspberries, basil, snow peas and mesclun lettuce.

Most individuals recover with no significant health effect; however, those who are immunocompromised, infants, or elderly, may be more affected and potentially require hospitalization

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New K9 joins Pct. 8 force

Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office recently welcomed K9 Samus as its newest member to the force. Samus was gifted to the department by Janelle Green of South Carolina through the charitable foundation of her father (Wayne G. Basler) and the K9s4Cops nonprofit foundation. Deputy Jared Humphrey (left) will be Samus' handler. The pair recently began what will be many weeks of training.

In My Opinion

King on Chinese obsessions

It is hard for us to grasp the timescale of Chinese history and culture. Their history and language can be traced back nearly 5,000 years. The Chinese collective psyche is dominated by three obsessions, each of which is borne in the country's history. Without understanding these, it is impossible to understand why China acts the way it does.

Fear of Anarchy

In his book, *The Better Angels of our Nature*, Steven Pinker examines the incidence of violence throughout human history. He includes a table based on the work of historian Matthew White, which lists the most deadly conflagrations in history, adjusted for the world's population at the time of the event. Five on the list are Chinese civil wars, of which I had only heard of one before reading the book.

Number one on the list is the An Lushan Rebellion in the 8th century, in which 36 million Chinese are estimated to have died. In percentage terms, that would be the equivalent of over 400 million people dying in a single year today, eight times the number that died in World War II. By comparison, the American Civil War, as horrible as it was, does not even come close to making the list.

In addition, there have been scores of other rebellions and uprisings throughout Chinese history. In fact, the last sixty or so years of relative domestic tranquility in China is almost unprecedented.

The predominant belief system in China is Confucianism, which emphasizes order, respect for authority, and community harmony. It is easy to see how China's violent history would lead to such a belief system and why an autocratic form of government would be more acceptable to the Chinese people than it is to us. Ingrained in the fundamental Chinese psyche is a greater willingness than in Western countries to put the perceived good of society ahead of the good of the individual. The willingness of the Chinese population to endure their government's absurd response to COVID is a classic illustration of the difference.

Fear of Invasion

At nearly 14,000 miles, China has the longest border in the world with contiguous countries. And throughout history they have been invaded countless times from almost every direction. Anyone who doubts the Chinese historical obsession with being invaded need look no further than the existence of the Great Wall, the most extensive engineering project mankind has ever undertaken. By the way, the second deadliest war on the Pinker/White list is the Mongolian invasion of China in the 13th century (278 million fatalities adjusted for today's population).

Of course, the Chinese do not have to go nearly as far back in history as the Great Wall to have their fear of invasion reinforced. In the lead-up to and during WWII, the Chinese were subjected to a horrendous invasion and dystopian occupation by the Japanese. During this conflict, the Japanese carried out numerous war crimes. Some estimates put the number of Chinese killed at as many as 30 million and describe the period as the Asian Holocaust. Only the Soviet Union's fatalities during WWII were greater.

The Century of Humiliation

For almost all of its 5,000 years, China has been one of, if not the most powerful, advanced, and affluent countries in the world. Its accomplishments easily matched or eclipsed those of any Western empire. Americans do not appreciate this reality because our education is so focused on Western history. However, China did not embrace the Industrial Revolution as the West did, which resulted in it falling far behind Western powers, especially with respect to military technology.

In the mid-19th century, there was a thriving trade relationship between Great Britain and China. A crucial part of that relationship

involved British merchants importing and selling opium to the Chinese people. The Qing Dynasty, which had ruled China since the mid-17th century, came to realize the terrible toll the widespread use of opium was having on its people and in 1839 moved to outlaw its importation or use.

The British responded by waging war on China, now known as the First Opium War. Because of Britain's militarily superior ships and equipment, it easily defeated the Chinese and in 1842 imposed a treaty with China which allowed the continuation of the importation of opium, required China to pay reparations, and ceded Hong Kong to the British. To this day, the Chinese refer to the treaty as the "Unequal Treaty." Many of the terms of this treaty were replicated in a treaty between the U.S. and China in 1844 and American merchants participated in the opium trade, although not nearly to the extent of the British.

However, relations quickly broke down and the British again invaded China in 1857, in what is now known as the Second Opium War. Again, the British, this time with the help of France and Russia, quickly prevailed, ultimately sacking the summer palace of the Qing. Even more ignominious treaties followed this war, in which China was virtually carved up between the great Western powers and Russia. China was forced to cede 600,000 square miles of territory to Russia along their border.

These wars left the Qing dynasty so weakened that it was overthrown in 1912. In the chaos that followed, China became an easy target for the Japanese invasion.

Conclusions

I think there are several things we need to understand about these obsessions.

First, they are valid. If America had been subjected to a similar history, we would have similar scars on our national psyche. As a country that has not suffered an invasion since the War of 1812 or a civil war for over 150 years, we cannot even imagine how we would respond to their circumstances.

Second, we are not going to change Chinese minds about these obsessions. We are not going to persuade them that their concerns are not valid or that they should move on and "get over it." We are not going to coerce them into changing their views with economic or military pressure. In fact, those approaches will likely have the opposite effect.

Third, the current Chinese leadership is acutely aware of these national obsessions and plays on them to maintain its control. By amping up the anti-Chinese rhetoric, American politicians play directly into the hands of the Chinese leadership to exploit the fears of the Chinese people and tighten their control. This is one of those situations where they should take Teddy Roosevelt's advice to speak softly and carry a big stick. But that is not likely to happen because so many of our leaders today are more concerned with their social media following than the long term interests of our country.

None of this is to suggest that we should not pursue our own national interest or compete and push back when China threatens our interests. We should. But in my experience, it is always useful to understand why an adversary is acting the way are. This will sometimes lead to accommodations that can serve the interests and concerns of both sides. But even if that is not possible, it provides a strategic and tactical advantage.

Given the vast cultural and value differences between China and the U.S., finding livable accommodations will be difficult. And certainly, we should never excuse or tolerate China's abusive conduct based on their history. But the reality is that China is not going away, and a war between the U.S. and China would be the greatest calamity of human history – for both sides and the world. We are going to have to find a way to live on this planet together. That begins with both sides better understanding each other.

Bill King

Elected officials share their words

Ellis' writes on plan to remove libraries

"I am outraged by the actions of the state-appointed HISD superintendent to eliminate school libraries and turn them into what are functionally detention centers. School libraries and librarians are a cornerstone of a thriving educational environment.

"Removing libraries takes the state's censorship efforts and attacks on communities of color to a new level. These actions – along with their efforts

to ban books, end diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, target trans youth, and remove college professors – smacks of oppressive tendencies reminiscent of dark times in history that we must not repeat.

We will push back against these efforts at the local level, and continue to advocate upholding the values of democracy, uplifting diversity and empowering our youth to become informed, active citizens of the world."

Rodney Ellis, Commissioner

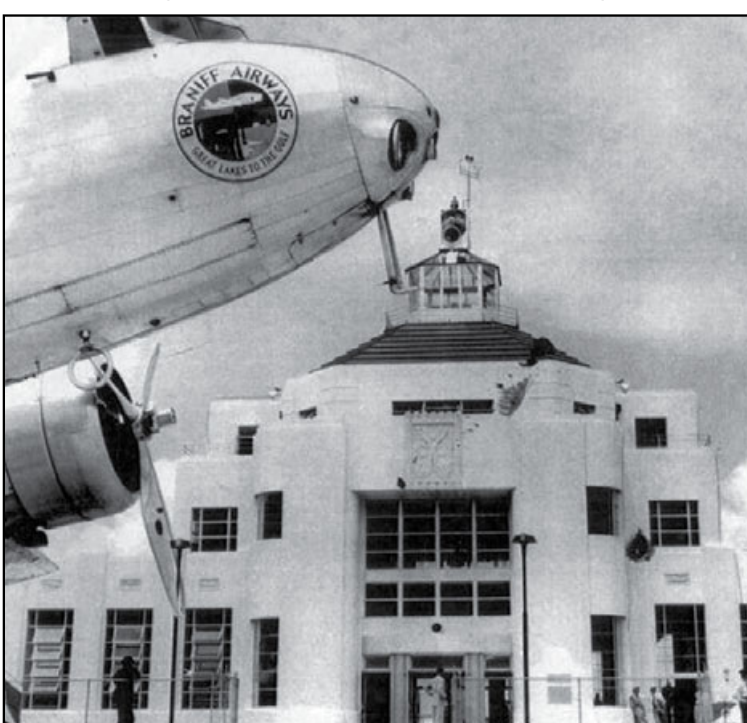
Coffee with the Constable



Every Thursday Sagemont Civic Club hosts Coffee with the Constable, giving community members the opportunity to interact with them. Shown are, left to right, Linda Webster, Sagemeadow; Bill Schliemann, Freeway Manor; Juana Rodriguez, Freeway Manor; Breck Staude, Bridge Gate; Morris Malveaux, Sagemont; Jennifer Sullivan, Riverstone Ranch; Sgt. Hector Vega, Pct. 2; Jerry Garcia, Constable Pct. 2; Jimmy Breedlove, Meadows of Clear Creek; Jeff Turnipseed, Sagemont and Colleen Offenhausser, Sagemeadow.

Photo by Kay Barbour

Hobby celebrates 96 years



This black and white photograph, taken in 1928, a year after the landing field opened, details the airport's rural beginnings in a southeastern corner of the city.

William P. Hobby Airport, which began as a landing field in 1927, has helped to expand Houston's global reach and has supported the city's growth.

Ninety-six years ago this month, Hobby Airport began as a landing field in a 600-acre pasture.

Here's a look back at the history of Hobby Airport.

1927
The City of Houston purchased the facility and expanded it to 1,240 acres.

1940
The wooden terminal building was replaced with a permanent structure built in Art Deco.

The airport was briefly named Howard Hughes Airport before its name changed to the Houston Municipal Airport. The airport was served only by Braniff Airways and Eastern Airlines.

During World War II it was a training site for the Women's Flying Training Detachment. By the end of the war the airport had paved runways and city-built hangars and installed a lighting system and four more airlines had begun service.

1948
International flights began when Braniff included Houston on routes from Dallas to Central and South America.

1950
Pan American Airlines began direct service from Houston to Mexico City.

1954
The city renamed the airport Houston International Airport.

1957
KLM Dutch Airlines began direct flights between Houston and Amsterdam.

The 1950s saw many additions and improvements made in keeping with the airport's international status, including expansion of the old terminal, construction of a new modern terminal, lengthened and strengthened runways capable of handling the new turbojet aircraft, addition of several new hangars, and installation of a high-intensity lighting system.

As flight demand grew, so did the airport, and by the mid-1960s facility expansion included an additional terminal.

1967
The facility was renamed in honor of longtime Houston civ-

ic leader and Texas Governor William P. Hobby.

When George Bush International Airport opened in June 1969, Hobby Airport briefly shifted focus to general aviation service, but commercial flights returned to the facility in 1971. Steady growth and expansion began again.

1998
Houston Airports began a long-term capital improvement project that extensively renovated and expanded the terminal at Hobby Airport.

Three existing concourses were demolished and replaced with a single, 25-gate Central Concourse capable of accommodating larger commercial aircraft.

2004
Rather than demolish the original 1940 Art Deco terminal building, which sat largely unused since the 1970s, the structure was renovated and reopened as the 1940 Air Terminal Museum.

2015
International air service returned to Hobby Airport.

2022
Hobby Airport is rated as the first 5-Star airport in North America by Skytrax and is voted Best Regional Airport in North America at the World Airport Awards.

The above article, along with more photos, is available for online viewing at <https://fly2houston.com/newsroom/articles/celebrating-96-years-william-p-hobby-airport>.

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.

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care

New Enrolling

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

Edith Ruth Nelin Tucker Marcott



Edith Ruth Nelin Tucker Marcott, 83, a resident of Webster, passed away peacefully July 21, 2023. She was born in Brownwood, on July 3, 1940, to Cecil R. Nelin and Phoebe Graham Nelin.

Ruth always put her family first and enjoyed hosting family gatherings that grew from ten or 12 to 34 over the years. Her favorite time was when the group stood in a circle, held hands and prayed for each other and the meal. She was dedicated to her three sons and their families, and lovingly welcomed additional family members as marriages added to the circle. She was the matriarch and caregiver.

Ruth graduated from Brady High in 1958. She continued her education as one of the very first instructors certified to teach the LaMaze method of childbirth. Leveraging that training, she entered Alvin Community College, earning her Licensed Vocational Nurse degree. She attended the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where she earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing. She furthered her education by earning a master's degree at Texas Woman's University and a doctorate at Texas A&M University.

Ruth had an incredible career as a nurse and nurse educator where she had a positive impact on the many students she taught, as well as her colleagues. She started her professional nursing career as a labor and delivery nurse before becoming an associate professor at the UTMB School of Nursing (SON). She later assumed the role of associate dean of Student Affairs and Admissions at the UTMB SON. Ruth also served on the faculty senate.

Upon retirement, Ruth served as associate professor emeritus and as president of the UTMB School of Nursing Board. Ruth was inducted into UTMB School of Nursing Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 2000 as well as the Alvin Community College Hall of Fame. Ruth was a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Ruth enjoyed many activities and was a longtime member of Webster Presbyterian Church where she served as an elder, Sunday school teacher and member of the Wednesday Morning Break book study group. Ruth had a love of nature and gardening. Her backyard was a frequent gathering place for family and friends. She was an avid quilter and enjoyed her friends in the Lakeview Quilting Guild. She never lost contact with her former colleagues, and she organized and organized UTSON for the retirees from the UTMB

Deaths

School Of Nursing. Ruth and Larry were also very active in their community, working with the Pearlton City Council for several years as well as the V8 Car Club.

She is preceded in death by her son, Mike Tucker, who had owned South Belt's USA Karate; her parents; and her grandchild, Lacy Marcott.

Ruth leaves behind her husband of 26 years, Larry Marcott; sons Doug Tucker and wife Sherry, Greg Tucker and wife Elizabeth, Troy Marcott and wife Valerie and Rande Marcott; daughter-in-law Monica Tucker; grandchildren Catherine Laws and husband Matt, Kristina Brown and husband David, Audrey Atherton and husband Zach, Rachel Tucker, Gabriel Vargas, Emilio Vargas, Chris Vargas and wife Nina and Courtney Allen; great-grandchildren Lexi and Cali Laws, Brooke, Taylor, Nicole and Jonathan Brown and Ethan Vargas; sister Elizabeth Nelin Moyer and husband Pat; nephew Daniel Moyer and wife Kim and niece Phoebe Moyer.

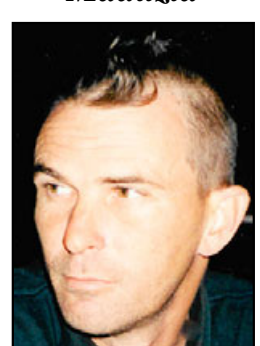
There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5, at Webster Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to The University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing, Development Office, 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77555-0148; "In Memory of Dr. Ruth Marcott." Gifts may be made online at: <https://development.utmb.edu/give/> or Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway, Webster Texas 77598, www.websterpresby.org.

Gregory John Maduzia was born in Houston, on Dec. 18, 1966, and passed away on July 28, 2023. Greg, the youngest of Johnny and Jackie Maduzia's children, was welcomed to the family by his older sister and brother.

Greg enjoyed camping, hunting, and fishing with his family, spending countless weekends at Lake Somerville or in the piney woods of East Texas. Growing up in the neighborhood, he attended Atkinson Elementary, Beverly Hills Intermediate, and J. Frank Dobie High School where he developed many lifelong friendships. An avid reader with an encyclopedic knowledge of music and almost any other subject, he possessed a wicked sense of humor. Always creative, he put his carpentry skills to good use, even building his own chess set just because he loved the game. Quick with a smile, he enjoyed life, playing guitar for the beauty of it, riding his bike for the freedom of it, and living life in the moment.

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He is survived by his son, Austin Maduzia (Olivia), of Boulder, Colorado, his parents, Johnny and Jackie Maduzia, of Houston, his sister, Brenda Maduzia (Mark), of Houston, his brother and sister-in-law, David Maduzia and Heather Bailey, of Austin, and his nephews Kye Maduzia (Ayla), of Longmont, Colorado, and Bailey Shelton (Lynn) of Austin.

Guy David Hollaway



Guy David Hollaway, 58, passed away Friday, July 14, 2023, from complications of heart disease.

Guy was born Jan 3, 1965, to Bill and Shirley Hollaway in Austin.

Shortly after he was born, the family moved to Houston. He grew up in the South Belt area, graduating from J. Frank Dobie High School in 1983.

Guy loved being outdoors. He was a joyous person who loved to joke and laugh. It was always fun to be around him.

He was an avid fisherman from an early age.

He enjoyed hunting, camping, and spending time in the Gulf. He and his wife worked all over the United States managing Yogi Bear Resorts and Great Escapes RV Resorts. His final job was at the Great Escapes Austin Oaks, Cedar Creek, Texas. Guy married Tabatha Kirkland Aug. 18, 2006. He is preceded in death by his father.

He is survived by his wife, son Billie James Hollaway; mother; brother Joseph Hollaway; sister Lori Williams; nieces Sarah Dolan, Katie Williams, Danica and Dacota Hollaway and Myla and Rylan Dolan; nephews Christopher Williams and Cole Hollaway; aunt Nina Guinn; cousins Mark, Rhonda and Robby Guinn, Deanna Trumble, Johnathan and Jason Wensorski; uncle Dalvin and aunt Shirley Hollaway; aunt Karen Wensorski; and extended family on the West Coast.

A Celebration of Life was held at Pecan Grove Plantation in Bastrop, July 18, with many friends, relatives and co-workers attending.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a charitable donation be made to the American Heart Association or a charity of one's choice in his name.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the Leader style.

Leader checks social media

By Natalie Abarca
A member of *South Belt/Sagemont Crime Alert* Facebook group posted a photo of an individual who broke into their neighbor's vehicle Tuesday, Aug. 1 around 4:19 a.m. near Kirkway Drive. The member states the individual also got into another truck across the street and as-

sumes the individual kept checking all other vehicles up and down the street. The member is asking neighbors if they caught the license plate of what looks like a white Honda Civic. Any information would help and will be given to the police.

A member *People of Sagemont Today!* Facebook group shared that the Lady

Oilers are asking the community to come out and support their neighborhood girls softball team in a car wash fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. It will be held at Texas Grill 49, 12075 Beamer St. The prices are \$10 for cars, \$15 for trucks/SUV. Presale tickets are available by messaging through Facebook.

Edgebrook patrols continue

Continued from Page 1
p.m., Evening Shift patrol deputies observed a male loitering underneath an overpass near the intersec-

found to have a criminal mischief warrant out of Harris County.

Perez was also charged with failing to identify as a fugitive as he initially gave a fake name and date of birth. Perez was taken into custody and transported to Harris County Jail.

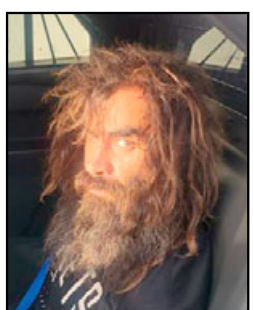
The recent criminal patrols come in response to numerous complaints from area residents about crime and suspicious activity in the area.

"This area in which they were observed has been a high crime area that is known for various amounts of criminal activity," a post on Garcia's Facebook page read. "Citizens have expressed concern in this particular area due to suspicious activity and panhandling."

The criminal patrols fol-

low previous humanitarian efforts to get homeless off the street in the affected areas.

This past month, Precinct



Jonathan Perez

2 officials, assisted by multiple nonprofit groups, deconstructed several homeless encampments along the Gulf Freeway, helping dozens of individuals get on the path to permanent housing.

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 Kingsport. 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. 3, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
Thursday, Aug. 3, 4 - 5 p.m. Family storytime. Registration required.
Monday, Aug. 7, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
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.

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. 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. 3, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.
Thursday, Aug. 3, 10 - 11:30 a.m. ESL Conversation club.
Thursday, Aug. 3, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Friday, Aug. 4, 4 - 5 p.m. After school adventure.
Monday, Aug. 7, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family story time.
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Magic: The gathering.
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. D&D.
Wednesday, Aug. 9, 11 a.m. - noon. Tech time.

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 TumbleBooks.
- 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>.

St. Ange earns Mustang award



Noah St. Ange was presented with the fifth grade Mustang award at Dr. Dixie Melillo Middle School during the band Spring concert in May. He plays percussion and is looking forward to his second year of band. Noah enjoys baseball, swimming, traveling, bass fishing in Texas and Florida and deep sea fishing off the coast of California. He's a member of St. Thomas More Church in Houston.

Thomas looks after Humphrey



Ryan Humphrey, pictured here with distinguished educator Yanni Thomas, AVID 4 teacher at Dobie's ECHS South, is a member of the Key Club and plans on attending UT Austin to obtain a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science.

Speaking on the importance of Thomas' attentiveness, Humphrey says, "Ms. Thomas has always been a teacher that I could rely on. Even though I was in her AVID class with twenty other students, it never felt like it. She was there to help me with my college applications anytime I had trouble or started to feel overwhelmed.

"She made sure to pay attention to each and every student individually. She is extremely personable and kind, and she brought a smile to my face no matter what type of day I was having. Being in her class has helped me grow so much more as a person. I am forever grateful to be a student of hers."

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The Shining Stars represent the 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.

Morales impacts Alaniz's education



Distinguished scholar Marcelino Alaniz plans to study mechanical engineering following his time at Pasadena Memorial, hoping to work in the aerospace industry.

Shining Star Alaniz is a counselor in PISD's robotics camp and holds the position as committeeman on the Central Early College High School Student Leadership. He plays roles in various extracurricular programs such as a scholar in MIT Introduction to Technology, Engineering and Sciences; a research technician in NASA High School Aerospace; an electrical lead in the First Robotics Competition Team 231; and a delegate for the American Legion Texas Boys State.

Alaniz chose as his distinguished educator Armando Morales. Morales teaches AP Physics I, University Physics I-II and Calculus I-III at Central ECHS.

"I chose Mr. Morales as my distinguished educator because he has allowed me to become my best self in both my personal and academic life. Mr. Morales has taught me so much about physics and mathematics, but he has also taught me about myself and who I am. Mr. Morales has given me access to new opportunities to pursue my interests and inspires me to stay curious about the world around me. I am forever grateful for Mr. Armando Morales and the impact he has had on me these past few years," states Alaniz.

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Ryan moves Benestante to action



CTHS Shining Star Alexis Benestante attributes her academic motivation to distinguished educator Dr. Melissa Ryan, Kirk Lewis criminal justice teacher.

She says, "Dr. Ryan changed my perspective on everything. She made me realize who I could be and what I could achieve. I never thought I could be an honors student, I never thought I could be a leader for anything. She encouraged me, and for once in my life, I thought I could be something more than slacking student I had always been. One thing she told me that will stick with me for the rest of my life is: You are strong, but even strong people need help. I would not be the person I am today without her."

Like her fellow Shining Stars, Benestante stays busy participating in community service, as well as a variety of extracurricular activities.

Her community service ventures include the National Honor Society, the Houston Food Bank, Teen Court, Criminal Justice Club and Student Election Worker.

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Wellborn motivates and inspires Rahman

Disintinguished scholar Adrita Rahman recognizes the positive influence distinguished educator Ashley Wellborn had on her education, saying, "Five years ago during science fair, I was approached by

the intimidating science coordinator from PMHS. With a stacked-up project, I meekly presented my work. Instead of rejection, I was acquainted with my best fair judge and one of my biggest supporters. Every day for the last four years, Mrs. Wellborn motivated me in ways no one ever has, having faith in me when I didn't have faith in myself. She has and will always be a source of inspiration in my life. I cannot wait to look back on my time with her in the future with all the knowledge and support she provided during my high school years."

During her time at Pasadena Memorial High School, Rahman stayed busy, acting as president of the Interact Club, Student Council VP, Choir secretary and student representative of both the Superintendent Student Advisory and Hello Program Student Ambassador. She contributed community service participation in the NHS, American Legion Auxiliary, Environmental Youth Council, RYLA and Vanguard.

Rahman was also involved in organizations such as the United Nations Association of the U.S.A., Texas Bluebonnet Girls State, Scientific Research and Design, Congressional Debate, BIPOC Neuro, Chamber Honors Choie and Regional TMEA Choir.

Regarding her future, Rahman plans to take her knowledge and skills to UT Austin, and aspires to be a policymaker and UNAUSA affiliate.

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Duong advises, assists Amparado



Xander Heli Amparado, another of Dobie's Shining Stars, tells of a time when distinguished educator Tam Duong, orchestra teacher, helped him overcome an obstacle.

"It was the morning after a terrible playing test during my freshman year, and I was replaying it in frustration. 'You shouldn't just play that measure over and over, you know. Focus on the mistake and fix it.' It was the first time the director had come up to me to teach me directly. It fixed that error, but I could not have known how much it would help me. Ms. Tam's advice applies to more than just orchestra. It has applied to everything from calculus to chemistry. Ms. Tam is a teacher who I will always remember. VP!"

Amparado is president of the National Honor Society, a member of HOSA and the Key Club Orchestra Officers, where he acts as orchestra parliamentarian.

Speaking about what lies ahead, Amparado says, "My future plans include attending college with a biochemistry major. Afterward, I plan to continue my education through medical school to eventually become a doctor."

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City of Houston gives back-to-school gear

Continued from Page 1

school year." A similar message was shared by Vice Mayor Pro-Tem Castex Tatum.

"Ensuring our students have the necessary supplies at the start of each school year is critical to their success," said Tatum. "No student should have to start school without proper supplies and health-care. The Back 2 School Fest is not only meeting the needs of families but a fun start to a new school year."

In addition to distributing 25,000 backpacks with school supplies, the event will feature on-site health screenings to include: dental screenings and sealants, vision screenings, routine immunizations and COVID-19 vaccines. The event also connects families to a wide range of health and social services

offered by community agencies. With one in four Texas children living in poverty, the Mayor's Back to School Fest presented by Shell is focused on changing the future, one child at a time.

"The Mayor's Back to School Festival is a tradition that marks the start of the school year and more importantly supports thousands of students and their families," said Shell President Gretchen Watkins. "Preparing Houston students for the future is the responsibility of our community and Shell is honored to be part of this effort to keep the next generation moving forward."

Registration is recommended for participation in the fest. To register or for more information, visit www.houstontx.gov/btsf/register

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- Look in your back seat
- Lock up

To report kids or pets in hot cars, **CALL 911**

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARRIS COUNTY, TX



KIM OGG

HARRISCOUNTYDA.COM

City of Houston releases update on 3-year climate plan

Continued from Page 1
 - Twenty miles of high-comfort bike lanes were built in 2022, bringing the total number of bikeway miles to 406 out of a goal of 500 miles - or 81 percent completion.
 - In April 2022, the City of Houston adopted a Municipal Building Decarbonization and Benchmarking policy.
 - And the Houston Airport System (HAS) started engaging in the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA). In March 2023, HAS published a policy statement letter to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, gathered information to establish its carbon footprint at each of the city's three airports in pursuit of Level 1 accreditation, and has already begun documentation for Level 2 accreditation.
 - In 2022, the city kicked off the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) project in partnership with Resilient Cities Network (RCN), identifying two communities with extreme heat and flood impacts and completing the data collection under Phase 1 of the project.
 - The latest data (2021) shows that annual local solar generation in Houston increased to 148,030 MWh. Demand for solar permits is growing exponentially - the number of permits had already doubled from the end of 2019 to the end of 2021

and grew another 66 percent in 2022. The city's efforts to increase solar investments are supporting this trend: the city launched a group-buying campaign with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) - growing participation from under 300 to over 1,600 registrants in 2022. Larger projects such as the Sunnyside Landfill Solar Farm and future additional solar arrays at city facilities such as the airports and facilities designated as Resilience Hubs will also add significant local solar generating capacity.
 - The 2022-2023 purchases of Electric Vehicles (EVs) will more than triple the number of EVs in the municipal fleet. The city now operates 333 hybrid electric vehicles and 88 battery electric vehicles. Within a year, the city is expecting delivery of another 107 battery electric vehicles and 41 hybrid electric vehicles.
 - Three additional neighborhood resilience plans were completed in 2022 (Independence Heights, East Houston, and Edgemoor Area).
 - In September 2022, the city signed an MOU with the Houston Community College to train 500,000 Houstonians in Resilience.
 - Greentown Labs has 75 Houston-based Energy 2.0 member companies today and has supported 98 since opening, way over the initial target of 50 2.0 companies by 2025.
 - The Houston Recycling Collaboration already start-

ed collecting "all plastics," including plastics such as Styrofoam, plastic bags and films which are not currently accepted in curbside recycling at pilot dropoff locations and is also helping the Houston Independent School District (HISD) roll out recycling programs at its campuses.
 - In terms of national and international leadership in climate action, Turner led a delegation to Mexico City to launch the RCN initiative Women in Resilience in November 2022.
 - In September 2022, the City of Houston hosted Queen Maxima of the Netherlands and signed a Letter of Intent with the City of Rotterdam to collaborate on community and energy resilience.
 While the three-year combined report provides detailed information on Houston's progress toward our Resilient Houston and Climate Action Plan goals and targets, a web interface is also available to provide a visual overview of progress toward the main targets. The Resilience and Recovery Tracker is available on Rice University's website through a partnership with Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research.
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability
 The Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability is responsible for implementing Resilient Houston and the

Houston Climate Action Plan (CAP). Together, these documents provide a clear framework to foster the growth of a Houston that is both a healthy place to live, as well as an equitable, inclusive, and affordable city that leads in climate mitigation and adaptation and offers a transformative economy that builds forward. To learn more about the CAP or Resilient Houston, visit www.greenhoustontx.gov.

Cyclospora on the rise

Continued from Page 1
 for treatment.
 Cyclospora infects the small intestine (bowel) and usually causes watery diarrhea, with frequent, sometimes explosive, bowel movements.
 Other common symptoms include loss of appetite, weight loss, stomach cramps/pain, bloating, increased gas, nausea and fatigue.
 Vomiting, body aches, headache, fever, and other flu-like symptoms may be noted.
 Some people who are infected with cyclospora do not have any symptoms. If not treated, the illness may last from a few days to a month or longer. Symptoms may seem to go away and then return one or more times (relapse).
 It's common to feel very tired. It is important to note that the disease cannot be transmitted through direct person-to-person contact.
 The health departments are investigating the cases and would like to remind

Guevara inspires Hernandez to succeed



Shining Star Fernando Hernandez of J. Frank Dobie High School plans to pursue chemical engineering at the University of Houston. For his distinguished scholar he chose Ana Guevara, chemistry teacher at South Houston High School. He explains his choice below.
 "I chose Ms. Guevara because she has crucially influenced my educational pathway and has mentored me in the biology/chemistry-related courses I took since my sophomore year. From helping me with schoolwork to planning for college, Ms. Guevara has always been there to guide me to success, and I am forever grateful for everything she has done for me. She continues to consistently impact who I am and what I aspire to be outside of high school; therefore, no other teacher is fit to be my Distinguished Educator except her."
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Crews encourages new career paths for Cantu



Christian Cantu, vice president of the Criminal Justice Club and member of Teen-CERT, Junior Citizens Police Academy and Skills USA was recently named one of CTHS' Shining Stars. Explaining his future plans, Cantu relates, "After high school, I plan to attend college for biomedical engineering. I hope to achieve, at the minimum, my master's and go into a design-based job for medical equipment and technology."
 Chosen as his distinguished educator is CTHS AP biology teacher Casey Crews. Cantu says of the help Crews has given him throughout his high school career, "When I first attended CTHS, I had my mind set on a career path in the courtroom, and my reading and writing scores reflected that when compared to math and science. Mr. Crews (as well as my other math and science instructors here) have given me a better, more detailed understanding of different concepts in math and science subjects, not blanket memorization over a topic; as I started to improve, I found the classes more intriguing by the end of my sophomore year I had decided that I wanted to pursue biomedical engineering."
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Stewart helps stabilize Camacho

Distinguished scholar Isaac Camacho chose as his distinguished educator SoHo English teacher Brienne Stewart, about whom he says, "The reason why I have chosen Ms. Stewart is that she helped me during one of the most chaotic points of my life. Since we had just come back from lockdown I had a hard time readjusting to the classes I had. Although, every morning I passed by Ms. Stewart's class and conversed with her and some of my friends and that little moment every day helped brighten up my spirit and helped me get through the day."
 Camacho is a member of the National

Honor Society and plays baseball for South Houston High School. Following his high school career, he plans to obtain his PTA certification at San Jacinto Community College.
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Duff rides success



By Corey Reyes
 Riding the success of his hit country single *Wrecked*, former South Belt resident Rodell Duff is currently on a national tour performing music.
 Originally from Trinidad, Duff moved to Houston at the age of 3. Now 32, music has always been a part of Duff's life, with him singing and playing drums in church and performing in the choir at both Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School, where he graduated in 2009.
 Duff said his high school choir teacher Wendy Sharpless had a huge impact on him, inspiring him to become a professional musician.
 Premiering in 2021, Duff's top single *Wrecked* now has more than five million listens on Spotify, with more than 110,000 overall monthly listens and serving as the cover of numerous playlists.
 Duff said his songwriting stems from true life stories and heartache. He said he tries to avoid trends and just write songs that are true to himself.
 Duff has performed throughout Houston and Nashville and lists among his favorite performances playing at the 93Q The Bull Tent at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the Country Music Awards.
 Duff said his main goals are to win a Grammy/Country Music Award and perform at the Star Stage at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
 Duff will be performing the following dates:
 - Aug. 18: Detroit
 - Aug. 19: Indianapolis, Ind.

Remember When

45 years ago (1978)
 The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees was asked to approve the \$53.6 million school budget at the board meeting.
David Koetter, son of Karl and Nancy Koetter of Sagemont, was to attend Sam Houston State College on a baseball scholarship.
40 years ago (1983)
 A newborn infant found in the dumpster behind B&L Florist was in good condition and in the custody of Harris County Child Welfare officials.
 The U.S. Justice Department threatened legal action against Pasadena Independent School District, determining that the district had discriminated against blacks in hiring teachers, secretaries and clerks.
35 years ago (1988)
 The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department was looking for a new home for its unmanned station after being told by the Scarsdale Civic Association that the department's presence was no longer welcome in that subdivision.
 The body of a 30-year-old Houston man was recovered by a Houston Police diving team after he drowned in Windmill Lake about four hours earlier.
30 years ago (1993)
 Sagemont's Leah Johnson, 16, was set to represent the Bay Area in the Miss Texas World pageant in Galveston. She previously held several beauty titles.
 South Belt resident Brian George, 21, was found guilty of capital murder in the death of Carrie Renee Stovall, 27. Stovall was stabbed five times during an attempted burglary.
 Wedgewood Elementary School, located at 4000 Friendswood Link Road in Friendswood, opened its doors. South Belt elementary students who resided in Sageglen and Southbend were scheduled to attend the new school.

man won the gold medal at the Junior Olympics in the young men's 800-meter dash.
Brian Scheffer received the "Promising Young Writers Award for Eighth-grade Students" presented by the National Council of Teachers of English.
20 years ago (2003)
 Documents at a South Belt area flood meeting revealed that developers of the Gulf Pointe complex at Beltway 8 established the flood water detention required by the city, contrary to previous reports.
 Two employees of Fire Safety were in the new Dobie High School campus testing the fire alarms. One of the workers kicked a volleyball up to the roof, where it struck a sprinkler. The impact caused the sprinkler to rupture. The resulting torrent of water flooded the scoreboard and the gym floor.
15 years ago (2008)
 Tropical Storm Edouard threatened the Houston

area, but fortunately never reached hurricane status. While the South Belt area was spared the brunt of the storm, local officials and residents accordingly prepared for the worst. All nonessential Harris County and City of Houston employees were told to stay at home. Many area schools, courthouses and hospitals were also closed as a precaution.
 A man was killed in the 12200 block of the Gulf Freeway when he lost control of his motorcycle. Sidney Marvin McKenzie III of League City was traveling north on the freeway on a red Yamaha motorcycle when he hit a curb. According to police, he then struck a light pole and was thrown from the bike onto the concrete. The impact of the crash caused the light pole to fall. McKenzie was pronounced dead at the scene.
 The Texas Education Agency released its 2007-2008 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills re-

sults. Overall, the Pasadena Independent School District received an academically acceptable rating from the organization. South Belt campuses earning exemplary ratings were Atkinson, Frazier and Moore elementary schools. Receiving recognized ratings were Genoa, Jessup, Meador, Stuchbery, Burnett and Laura Bush elementary schools. Dobie High School, Morris Fifth Grade Center, Beverly Hills and Thompson intermediate schools received academically acceptable ratings.
 The Clear Creek Independent School District received a recognized rating for the 11th time out of 12 years.
10 years ago (2013)
 Houston firefighters responded to a three-alarm fire Sunday afternoon at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. The fire occurred in a mechanical room on the second floor of a professional building in the 11900 block of Astoria around 4:30 p.m. Authorities said the second floor of the building suffered heavy smoke and fire damage. The first floor suffered water damage, while the third and fourth floors incurred minimal smoke damage. No injuries were reported, as hospital staff and patients are not allowed in the mechanical room.
5 years ago (2018)
 The body of a man was found Monday, July 30, next to the METRO Fuqua Park & Ride, located in the 11700 block of Sabo. Houston Fire Department Station 70 responded to the incident after being notified by an alert resident. Paramedics said the man, who may have been homeless, appeared to have been dead for two to three days of natural causes. The identity of the man was not immediately known.
 Former J. Frank Dobie Band Director Bill Brawn was inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Association 2018 Hall of Fame on Saturday, July 28, at a ceremony in San Antonio. The event

Over The Back Fence by Natalie



SCHOOL DAZE
 The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 3 through Aug. 9.
Atkinson Elementary
 Sing a happy birthday song to **Dee Davis** Aug. 9.
Burnett Elementary
 Send birthday greetings Aug. 5 to **Isabel Amaya** and **Daniel Kornelis**. **Guadalupe Trevino** celebrates a birthday Aug. 8.
Genoa Elementary
Emily Delano celebrates a birthday Aug. 4.
Moore Elementary
Patty Valdez celebrates a birthday Aug. 6. Break out the balloons and party favors for **Gisela Villagarcia** and **Rosie Brown** Aug. 7.
South Belt Elementary
Jacquelyn Anderson is wished a happy birthday Aug. 5.

Stuchbery Elementary
 Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Aug. 7 are sent to **Elida Delafuente**. Send birthday greetings to **Jessica Reed** on Aug. 8.
Melillo Middle School
Melissa Torres celebrates a birthday Aug. 4. Remember to wish **Audrey Medina** a happy birthday Aug. 7.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
 The South Belt-Ellington Leader sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.
 Thursday, Aug. 3: **Angela James-Farrar**, **Joaquin Jimenez**, **Jennifer Pena-Zuniga** and **Gina Valdez**; Friday, Aug. 4: **Beth Fawcett**, **Monica Salazar**, **Donna Taylor**, **Kristen Sorenson**, **Diana Polus**, **Kevin Baker**, **Michele Cutrer** and **Robin Wach**;

Saturday, Aug. 5: **Edna Peña**, **Wendy Phillips**, **Karen Owen**, **Lillie Alvarez**, **Deanna Goodlet** and **Shaun Stanton**; Sunday, Aug. 6: **Renita Walker**, **David Perry**, **Kenneth Brown** and **Jeff Weber**; Monday, Aug. 7: **Curtis Bradley**, **Claudia Castillo**, **Eric Jackson**, **Doug Mills** and **Vu Tuong**; Tuesday, Aug. 8: **Kathy Jones**, **Brad Fuller**, **Jesse Lopez**, **Toshana Kitchen**, **Christopher Herrera**, **James Xavier Garcia**, **Shawn Arguello**, **David Elliot**, **Heather DeRousse**, **Jarod Hunt**, **Rebekah Peterson**, **Jami Cadena** and **Verda Carr**; and Wednesday, Aug. 9: **Sam Farias**, **Dennis Spencer**, **Robert Coy** and **Jill Kasselman**.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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11/04

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

SBGSA hosts fall sign-up

The South Belt Girls Softball Association is continuing online registration for its fall season at www.southbeltsoftball.com as players in the 6-under through 14-under divisions are welcome to play with no residency restrictions for the fall season.

The fall ball registration will run through Aug. 20 and is \$75 for all players. Games will begin in September and will be played at the league's facility at El Franco Park as well as neighboring facilities within a 30-minute commute.

For additional information about the season, including coaching and volunteer opportunities, direct email to southbeltgirlssoftball@live.com.

SBYSC has online registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is hosting fall registration now through August 15 at regular registration rates as league officials prepare for play, with practices set to get started in August.

Youths in the under-4 through under-8 age divisions will pay \$125; those in the under-9 and under-10 age divisions will pay \$145; those in the under-11 and under-12 age divisions will pay \$165 and the under-13 through under-19 divisions will pay \$185.

All registration fees include a uniform consisting of a team shirt, shorts and socks. Parents are required to provide shin guards, soccer cleats and soccer ball.

The league is seeking volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team parents, particularly for the U4-U8 age groups. Fees may be paid by credit and debit cards only at www.southbeltsoccer.org.

Thompson FB equipment pickup

The Thompson Intermediate football staff has set dates for incoming seventh- and eighth-grade players to pick up their equipment prior to the start of pre-season workouts.

Athletes are required to first have a completed and up-to-date physical on file with the school and have their Rank One online forms completed. Athletes must also have their required shots updated.

The equipment pickup dates are Aug. 4 and Aug. 11, both from 1 to 3 p.m. on campus.

The Lions are eligible to begin pre-season workouts the first day of school, which is Aug. 14.

Beverly Hills athletics news

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff will host a Back To School football camp for incoming seventh- and eighth-grade players Aug. 7-9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. each day. Cost of the camp is \$50 per student. The Bears' football equipment pickup dates are Aug. 10 (3:30 to 4:15 p.m.) and Aug. 11 (3:30 to 4:30 p.m.) on campus.

Beverly Hills' first football practice is Aug. 14, the first official day of school, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Athletes are required to first have a completed and up-to-date physical on file with the school and have their Rank One online forms completed.

Dickson heads to Pan Ams

Following a silver- and bronze-medal winning effort at the USA Track and Field U-20 Championships in Eugene, Ore., Clear Brook High School Class of 2022 graduate and current Texas A&M University freshman Camryn Dickson has been invited to participate in the Pan American U-20 Championships Aug. 4-6, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Dickson will compete in the 100 and be among the USA athletes in the 4x100 relay pool. During her freshman season at Texas A&M, Dickson ran the 100 and 200 individually and also participated in the 4x100 relay with teammates as several athletes advanced to nationals.

Volleyball's opening night arrives Aug. 8

The jerseys of nine seniors hung in the locker room in the days leading up to the start of pre-season workouts as, suffice to say, the Dobie varsity volleyball team will draw upon plenty of veteran experience entering the 2023 season.



Head coach Dawn Sexton had to envision this day coming as four sophomores, Aly Frias, Ariana Garza, Lexi Gonzalez and Haley DeHoyos played in more than 90 sets each during the 2021 campaign.

As juniors, the group continued to excel, with Gonzalez eclipsing 1,000 career assists on her way to 22-6A Offensive Player of the Year honors.

DeHoyos starred up front for Dobie, earning 22-6A Blocker of the Year accolades. Frias is now a two-time All-District first-team honoree, and Garza is poised for what could be a breakout senior season.

At Clear Brook, the Wolverines are trying to get back to the playoffs for the first time since the 2019 district championship season.

Competing in one of the region's most talent-rich District 24-6A alignments, the Wolverines have won just four league matches in the ensuing three seasons but return All-District first-team player Maci Miller, who had 200 kills as a junior. Amber Salazar, who started as a freshman, is back after recording more than 225 digs in her first season.

Having dropped its 2022 opener to Baytown Sterling in straight sets at Baytown, the Longhorns will look to turn the tables Aug. 8 as they host the Rangers at Phillips Field House in Pasadena.

Clear Brook, which also fell in straight sets at St. Agnes in the 2022 opener, will host the Tigers Aug. 8.

Following opening night, Clear Brook will once again compete in the prestigious John Turner Classic, while the Longhorns will play at Goose



Haley DeHoyos (13) will again be big for the Longhorns on the front row as the reigning Blocker of the Year in the 22-6A ranks returns for her final season after compiling more than 75 total blocks and 143 kills as a junior.

Opening Night Volleyball

Dobie hosts
Baytown Sterling
 Aug. 8, 6 p.m.
Phillips Field House, Pasadena

Clear Brook hosts
St. Agnes
 Aug. 8, 5:30 p.m.

At left, Dobie's Ariana Garza (8) is one of four sophomores who return for a third and final season as Dobie looks to make a push in District 22-6A in 2023. At right is defensive specialist Aly Frias (17), another third-year starter. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Districts offer online-only ticket buying options

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 that most school districts across the state now turn to, 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.

Team tennis opens Aug. 3 at Dobie H.S.

A trip to the local amusement park may be the highlight of the weekend when it's all said and done, but the Dobie team tennis squad will find plenty of excitement on the court during a season-opening excursion to San Antonio Aug. 3-4.

Dobie, with head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. beginning his 25th season, will take on Cibolo Steele, Schertz Clemens and Smithson Valley in best-of-19 team tennis matches to get the 2023 fall season started before returning home to host Clear Brook

Aug. 8.

It's all part of a dizzying first month of the season for the Longhorns, who have 15 head-to-head dates slated for August.

For Moreno, he believes the best way to prepare for the District 22-6A race featuring a Sept. 5 opener at Deer Park is to play plenty of tennis.

"I know we have a lengthy schedule the first month, and I know it's hot, but I also feel like playing against good, solid competition is how you get better," Moreno said.

"All three of those programs we are going to see in San Antonio are top programs. We also play Clear Brook and three of

the other Clear Creek ISD programs.

"Our kids are going to be asked to step up and play in some spots maybe they aren't familiar with, but it'll help us prepare for the district race."

The Dobie girls will feature a senior-dominated singles ladder, with each of the top six players all entering their final seasons.

Dobie netters host
Clear Brook
 Aug. 8, 1 p.m., Dobie main



Dobie's captains for the fall team tennis season are, left to right, Hailey Maldonado, Pitou So and Leena Pham as the three seniors lead the Longhorns into action Aug. 3-4 in San Antonio. The Longhorns will host Clear Brook Aug. 8 on the main campus beginning at 1 p.m.

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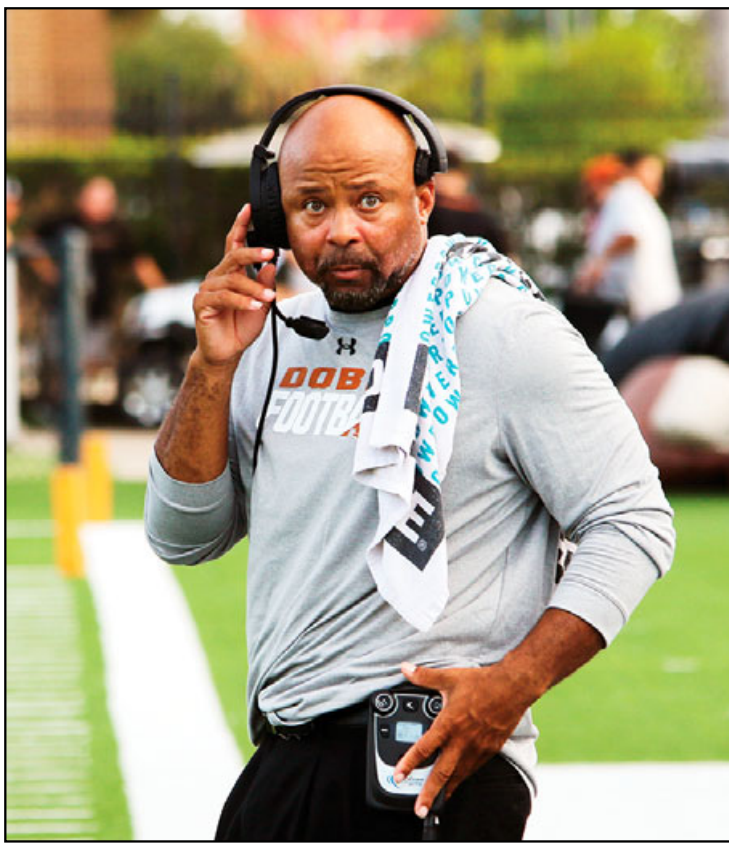
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Stafford leads Dobie football into '23



Dobie varsity football coach Demond Stafford and his staff welcomed incoming freshmen for the start of preseason workouts July 31, and the rest of the program gets started Aug. 7 on the main campus. Stafford is in his second season at the helm of the Dobie program as the locals prep for a home scrimmage against La Porte Aug. 17 before taking on Clear Brook to open the regular season Aug. 25 at Veterans Stadium in League City.

Chapman joins Incarnate Word football



Former Clear Brook High School football standout Caleb Chapman has joined the University of Incarnate Word football program in San Antonio as a graduate student following previous stops at Texas A&M and Oregon. The Cardinals open the 2023 season at Texas-El Paso Sept. 2.

Sagemont Cowboys, Cowgirls excited as BAFL season nears

The Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls are inching closer and closer to the start of the 2023 Bay Area Football League regular season.

The organization, one of the charter members of BAFL, will take on the Brazosport Longhorns Aug. 12 at Freeport Middle School.

The pee wee action starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by senior play at 9 a.m., junior action at 11 a.m., sophomore play at 1 p.m. and freshman play at 3 p.m.

The Cowboys and Cowgirls have completed two weeks of preseason preparation and are ready for the real games to arrive.

"The kids are very excited to get out there and go against somebody with a different colored jersey and name on the front of it," Cowboys' athletic director Denny Wranich Jr. said.

"We have a little over 140 kids all together, and we are ready for a great season. Realistically, this is the first year we get a chance to go to work out

there with fewer pandemic concerns, and I know we are all looking forward to the first scrimmage and then the opener Aug. 12."

The Cowboys will host the League City 49ers in a scrimmage Aug. 5, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at El Franco Lee Park's Denny Wranich Sr. Field.

Along with the Cowboys, BAFL includes the

Alvin Raiders, Angleton Wildcats, Bay Area Buccaneers, Brazosport Longhorns, East End Eagles, Hitchcock Red Raiders, La Porte Texans, League City 49ers, Magnolia Park Sharks, Manvel Texans, Pasadena Panthers, Pearland Patriots, Pearland Texans and Southeast Houston Wildcats.

Sagemont Cowboys host League City 49ers Aug. 5, 8:30 to 10 a.m. El Franco Lee Park

BAFL Opening Day Sagemont Cowboys at Brazosport Longhorns Aug. 12, Freeport Middle School

BHI community day is Aug. 26

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

Kirchman enjoying retirement after 42-year run with Lions' athletics

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Bill Kirchman is getting used to the retirement idea, even if it takes a little bit of getting used to this time of year.

For nearly all of his adult life, he has spent time in July and August working youth sports camps at Thompson Intermediate. Not this year.

As Lions' head football coach Doug Sawyer and his staff just days ago

instructed players in the skills of all things football, be it passing, tackling, blocking or receiving, Kirchman sat comfortably at home, beating the oppressive heat while lounging within the air-conditioned walls of his home.

Likewise, as Thompson Intermediate administration welcomes faculty and staff to the new campus in preparation for the first day of school Aug. 14, Kirchman will remain at

home with his wife, Rhonda.

It's a big adjustment for anyone entering retirement after decades spent on the daily, weekly and annual grinds that become careers. Rhonda felt it herself when she retired just a couple of years ago from the financial industry.

What persists are the memories of a stay in one place that spanned parts of five decades and included working relationships with

hundreds of colleagues.

Kirchman arrived on the Thompson campus prior to the 1981-1982 school year, when the Lions' athletic staff on the boys' side of things included head coach Oakley Davidson, Mike Garrison, Bill Willis and the newcomer, Kirchman.

Davidson, the Lions' longtime leader on the football field, helped open the school in the early 1970s and stayed the re-

mainder of his career prior to retirement.

Garrison and Willis eventually continued their respective careers at Dobie for a time, with Garrison elevated to upper administration duties during the later years of his career.

Over the years, there were many others. John Fowler succeeded Davidson as the Lions' head of athletics, and Sawyer then replaced a retiring Fowler.

Through it all, Kirchman was a stable, count-on-me type of staff member, 42 years in all.

No matter the sport, Kirchman was able to lend his coaching acumen. Until finally, it was time.

"Rhonda and I had discussed (retirement) several times, and once she left her career two years ago, it became more of a focus for me," Kirchman said.

"I had things set up the way I liked it at Thomp-

son, worked for great people, had my office set up one way.

"With the move to the new campus, I knew it was the perfect time to let someone else have the opportunity. I've had my run. It's been a great one for me. Plenty of memories, and now I'm retired."

As for his 42-year stay one campus, Kirchman is proud of that as well. A creature of habit, perhaps, but he also had a true love of what he was doing year after year.

"I considered moving to the high school level at times, and had some opportunities, but I think after about 15 years, I made the decision to stay at Thompson," Kirchman said.

"For me, it's always been about people, those you work with and the relationships you build. Of course, the faces change quite a bit over 42 years, but I always enjoyed the continuity, I enjoyed representing Thompson Intermediate, and working with the athletes has always been a tremendous part of it."

A Sam Rayburn High School graduate, Kirchman remembers it being a natural fit to apply within Pasadena ISD.

This author, who also

attended Thompson, recalls a coach named Tommy Baker leaving after 1980-1981, with Kirchman then arriving prior to the 1981-1982 school year.

Thompson had opened its doors as the school district's ninth intermediate less than a decade earlier in the fall of 1972.

While welcoming more than 1,000 students in all and including sixth-through eighth-grade students, the campus was still in its original build when Kirchman arrived.

There was just one gymnasium in those days. Sixth-grade students were enrolled in physical education classes, while seventh- and eighth-grade students could choose football, basketball and track and field for girls.

Kirchman clearly loved teaching kids the basics of those sports and then proudly watching the progress of many as student-athletes at Dobie.

After all, Kirchman was part of the maturation process for tens of thousands of student-athletes.

He won't be credited with 700 career victories as some of his peers at the high school and colle-

giate levels have, but there is little doubt that Kirchman will be forever linked to the PSD's winningest middle school program at Thompson.

Perhaps there are few who know that Kirchman also oversaw a small bowling program at Thompson, with the players knocking pins down at Armadilla II lanes.

He was also head of the Lions' tennis program that frequently shared the courts with the Bears at Beverly Hills Intermediate.

"We had a small tournament at Christmas time with the kids and some of the faculty to conclude the bowling season," Kirchman said.

"And I always enjoyed working with Ronnie Thomas, who heads up the tennis program at Beverly Hills. He attended Thompson as a student, so it's always been a lot of fun.

"Of course, football is the sport that a lot of people associate us with in terms of success, but I've done a lot of different things over the years and enjoyed it all.

"I've been blessed, but again I say that it's about working with great people and building and having working relationships over the years and decades."



Doug Sawyer (left), one of many athletic staff members with whom Bill Kirchman worked over a Thompson career that spanned parts of five decades, bestowed Kirchman with a T-shirt commemorating his retirement.



Bill Kirchman (left) saw many familiar faces at his retirement celebration, including current Thompson Intermediate principal Tanis Griffin (center) and Terry Haley, a former Pasadena ISD assistant athletic director.



Bill Kirchman (left) and his wife, Rhonda, married for 40 years, are now enjoying retirement together after lengthy careers.



Generations of Thompson Lion coaching staff members joined for a team photo during Bill Kirchman's retirement celebration in May. From left, current Lions' head coach Doug Sawyer chatted with former longtime head coach John Fowler, Kirchman and current staff member Daniel Sawyer.

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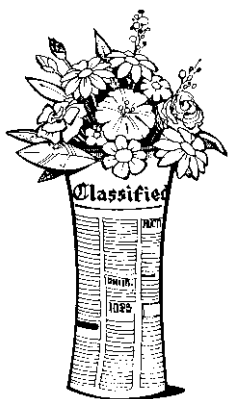
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill," at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online 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, AUGUST 4
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
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.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding service, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
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, AUGUST 5
7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalanon.org/.
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 beforehand.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - worships at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, 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 Almeda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, AUGUST 7
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - 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. Volunteers teach dance lessons with a different rhythm each month. Call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. New Directions - Age 55 and older meet for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 646-489-4367.
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 for details.
7 p.m. AA - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg. in room 4, at 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, AUGUST 8
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10:00 a.m. CCART - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50.
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Monday's notice.
9 a.m. Tri County Republican Women - General meetings held at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Exact cash or a check requested for lunch (\$15). To RSVP, visit www.tricountyw.com or call 832-250-8901.
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 - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd (SB Chamber of Commerce) for a hybrid meeting. Visit sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org or call 832-722-9061.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
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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State's high school volleyball season to begin Aug. 8

Continued from Page 5 Brook will play in the Creek Memorial Aug. Dickinson Invitational 11. Both Dobie and Clear Aug. 17 and Aug. 19.

At right, Dobie's Belle Perridon (9) was a District 22-6A all-league second-team selection as she put together a terrific junior season that included 137 kills and 24 total blocks. For 2023, Perridon is expected to have a big year hitting.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf

John Turner Classic Aug. 10-12

Brook vs. Manvel, 10 a.m.
Brook vs. Summer Creek, 11:30 a.m.
Brook vs. Houston Christian, 2:30 p.m.
See more details at advancedeventsystems.com

Dobie 2023 Varsity Volleyball Roster

No.	Player	Position	Grade
1	Amaya Langellier	MH/RS	Fr.
2	Alana Goree	DS	Sr.
3	Mattison Mitchell	MH/RS	Sr.
4	Haley Precella	MH/RS	Sr.
6	Hope Ortiz	DS	Jr.
8	Ariana Garza	MH/RS	Sr.
9	Belle Perridon	RS/OH	Sr.
11	Lexie Gonzalez	S/OH	Sr. (C)
12	Julie Aguirre	OH/RS	Sr.
13	Haley DeHoyos	MH/RS	Sr.
15	Adrianna Borrego	S	Sr.
20	Naima LeBlanc	OH/RS	Sr.
(C) Team Captain			



Dobie's Serna to play at Globe Life



Dobie High School varsity baseball standout Omar Serna (26) has been selected to play in the Baseball Factory All-America Game Aug. 13, at Globe Life Field, home of the Texas Rangers in Arlington. The game will be aired live on ESPN. Serna, who is set to begin his junior year in 2023-2024, was a driving force of the Longhorns' District 22-6A championship run last season and has verbally committed to play at Louisiana State University which in June captured the NCAA national championship in Omaha, Neb.

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MLB teams pick SJC players	Program	Players Pick Past 10 Years
San Jacinto College ranks second nationally among junior college baseball programs that have had their players selected in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. The Ravens had one current player chosen in 2023 and saw two former players, Sabin Ceballos of Oregon and Hunter Hollan of Arkansas, chosen. Both third-round picks, Ceballos signed a pro contract with the Atlanta Braves, while Hollan signed with the Cincinnati Reds. For 2023, San Jacinto College's Cale Lansville was chosen by the San Francisco Giants in the 14th round and subsequently agreed to a \$150,000 signing bonus. Ceballos signed for \$597,500 with the Braves while Hollan's agreement with the Reds also included a bonus of \$597,500. Both Ceballos and Hollan helped San Jacinto College reach the JUCO World Series in 2022.	Chipola	38
	San Jacinto	37
	Central Arizona	26
	Miami Dade	20
	Walters State	19
	Southern Nevada	18
	State College of Fla.	18
	McLennan	17
	Florida Southwest	14
	Crowley	12
	Polk State	11
	Iowa Western	11
	Seminole	10
	Wabash Valley	10
	W.Oklahoma State	10
	Palm Beach State	10
	Gulf Coast	10
	Crowder	9
	Indian River	9
	Riverside	9

Lajaunie event seeks players

The Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Tournament continues its 12th year celebration with the second of three doubles jamboree mixer events as organizers continue to raise funds for youth tennis scholarships.

With the sponsorship efforts underway for 2024, various sponsorship levels remain available to individuals or businesses at DLTennisScholarships.com, where the "Be A Sponsor" tab may then be selected.

The scholarship fund is named in honor of Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and lifelong tennis enthusiast who died in 2011 after a lengthy cancer battle.

The remaining jamboree series events will be held at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, with as many as 60 players (30 doubles teams) competing during the Aug. 19 and Dec. 2 events.

Individual players who would like to register without a predetermined playing partner will be paired with another player prior to the start of the first of the three jamborees.

Players/teams earn points for performance during each jamboree segment.

Players may register for play at DLTennisScholarships.com.

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