

Sage Meadow HOA to meet

Sage Meadow subdivision's August HOA meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road.

This and all meetings are open to the public. For more information, visit, www.sagemeadow.org.

Church holds school event

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk Blvd., will hold a school event Saturday, Sept. 13. Stop by the church and pick up food, school supplies, gun safety locks and information about college.

Blood drive set for Sept. 13

Christian's Legacy, along with the M.D. Anderson Blood Bank, will host a blood drive Monday, Sept. 23, at Moore Elementary, 8880 Southbluff Blvd., from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Photo ID required. Appreciation item and refreshments provided for donors. For more information, contact Tyler Reyna at TRReyna@MDAnderson.org or 713-792-7777.

HPD's PIP set for Sept. 17

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Memorial Hermann Southeast, in the CES classroom, first floor of main building. Guest speaker to be announced. Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings are usually the third Tuesday of each month. For information, call HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776.

Sageglen meets Sept. 16

The Sageglen Community Association will hold a HOA meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16, at 11610 Sageyork. All Sageglen homeowners are invited to attend. Guest speaker will be Beth Borck, director of Development at Hope Village. Light refreshments will be served.

Hughes/Sabo closure set

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

Beltway 8 closure planned

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

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston's monthly electronic recycling will take place Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport 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, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras. For additional information, visit www.houston-solid.com or call 311.

COVID cases reported

The number of COVID-19 cases reported in the South Belt community is roughly on par with the previous several weeks, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 10, there were 295 active cases in 77089, no change from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

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

Knights to host blood drive

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, Sept. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. All are urged to donate. All are welcome. For information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/Calder/Brittany Bay in League City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Deats Road in Dickinson to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access in Texas City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until further notice.

Knights to hold fish fries

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will hold Friday fish fry events Sept. 13 and Sept. 27 at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, from 4 to 7 p.m. Dinners will include fried fish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea for \$15. Dine-in and take-out will be available.

Paxton warns county against registration push

State says county voter outreach program illegal, invites voter fraud

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton this past week threatened Harris County with a lawsuit if it moved forward with plans to mail out voter registration forms to residents as part of a proposed voter outreach program.

"Judge Hidalgo and Harris County Commissioners: I write today concerning proposals you have recently considered to spend hundreds of

thousands of taxpayer dollars to mail unsolicited voter registration applications to an untold number of Harris County residents regardless of whether those residents have requested such an application or are even eligible to vote. At best, this proposal is ill-advised because it potentially confuses residents of Harris County about whether they are eligible to vote. At worst, it may induce the commission of a crime by encouraging individuals who are ineligible to vote to provide false information on the form. Either way, it is illegal, and if you move forward with this proposal, I will use all available legal means to stop you," a letter from Paxton to local county officials read. "Your proposal is particularly troubling this election cycle. In any year, there are numerous individuals within Texas who are not eligible to register to vote - for example, because they have been finally convicted of a felony. This year that concern is magnified because as you are aware, the Biden-Harris administration's open border policies have saddled Texas and the entire

country—with a wave of illegal immigration that has resulted in ballooning non-citizen populations across our State. It is more important than ever that we maintain the integrity of our voter rolls and ensure only eligible voters decide our elections. Your proposal does the opposite by indiscriminately inviting county residents to register to vote regardless of their eligibility. I urge you to abandon this course of action. If you do not, I will see you in court."

Precinct 3 County Commissioner Tom Ramsey praised Paxton's warning. "We have experienced many problems in past elections, and it's essential we restore the public's trust and confidence in how we conduct elections going forward," Ramsey said in a statement, "I strongly recommend that we adhere strictly to the attorney general's advice."

Precinct 1 County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, who represents much of the South Belt community, said it's a moot point, as the item was recently pulled

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Ditch improvements continue



Work continues on the Harris County project to make drainage improvements to the Beamer Ditch. Construction was to be broken into three phases. Phase 1 runs from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 runs from Scarsdale to Astoria; and Phase 3 runs from Astoria to near Dixie Farm Road. Now in its final phase, work is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Photo by James Bolen

Flickinger to host town hall meetings

Series of 3 meetings to launch in Kingwood Sept. 19

Newly elected Houston District E City Council Member Fred Flickinger will host a series of town hall meetings across the district, beginning Thursday, Sept. 19, with a meeting in Kingwood at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive (main room), beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Fred Flickinger

A pair of meetings closer to the South Belt area will take place next month, with one scheduled for the Edgebrook community and one scheduled for the Clear Lake community. Those dates are as follows:

- **Edgebrook:** 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22, at OneMovement Bible Church, located at 10120 Hartsook Street.
- **Clear Lake:** 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24, at Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

(BAHEP), located at 1150 Gemini St. The meetings will mark Flickinger's first since taking office earlier this year and the first time to have three separate meetings in the notoriously divided district, which includes both Kingwood and Clear Lake.

The town hall meetings will feature presentations from the following representatives:

- Houston Public Works.
- Solid Waste Management Department.
- Houston Police Department.
- Houston Fire Department.
- TIRZ 10/Lake Houston Redevelopment Authority (Kingwood).
- CenterPoint Energy.

Son of *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger and Clear Brook City MUD board member David Flickinger, Fred Flickinger replaced term-limited District E City Council Member Dave Martin, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for city controller after leaving office.

For additional information, contact the District E office at 832-393-3008 or via email at districte@houston.tx.gov.

County releases air pollution report

Annual report shows air worse in minority areas

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) has released its latest annual report on air pollution and its significant impact on community health.

Air pollution, caused by the release of harmful gases, particles, and liquid aerosols into the atmosphere, poses severe health risks to humans and other living organisms. Prolonged exposure to air pollution can lead to respiratory issues and chronic diseases. According to the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), Harris County ranks the highest in Texas for pollution sources and associated health risks.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifies six "criteria pollutants" due to their common occurrence and harmful effects on health: particulate matter (PM), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), lead, and sulfur dioxide. Harris County exhibits

the highest levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and the most EPA violations for air, soil, and water pollution in Texas. The county also has elevated levels of ozone and PM2.5, exceeding safe limits for human health. Additionally, ethylene oxide, a volatile organic compound (VOC) with severe health effects, is a significant pollutant from chemical manufacturing facilities in Harris County.

This report's air pollution information is based on data from existing air monitoring locations, with acknowledged gaps where monitoring stations are absent. HCPH is actively working to enhance air quality coverage by integrating satellite data with current monitoring efforts.

Air pollution exposure can increase the risk of developing chronic diseases and exacerbate

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Pasadena rodeo celebrates 75 years

Annual event to kick off Sept. 14 with cookoff

Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year, with events scheduled to take place from Friday, Sept. 13, through Sunday, Sept. 29, at the Pasadena Convention Center and Municipal Fairgrounds, located at 7902 Fairmont Parkway in Pasadena.

The annual event kicked off with a parade Saturday, Sept. 7, to be followed with a barbecue cookoff opening weekend Friday, Sept. 13, and Saturday, Sept. 14. The event will run from 5 to midnight Friday and from noon to midnight Saturday, Sept. 14. Attendees are encouraged to stop by the Chuck Wagon booth for free barbecue, music and cold drinks.

This year's event will once again also feature a Jr. Chili Cookoff. The junior contest will be divided into the following three categories:

- Division 1: Elementary (students from first grade to fifth grade).
 - Division 2: Intermediate (students from sixth grade to eighth grade).
 - Division 3: Senior (students from ninth grade to 12th grade).
- Entry fee is \$50 per team (no more than four members per team).

There will also be an archery competition Saturday, Sept. 14, for youths 14 and up. (All entries

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Chamber to hold shredding event

Community-wide Sept. 14 event to feature food, music

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will host a free shredding event Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. until noon, or until the 10,000-pound truck is full. The event will take place at the new MOTU Stop truck stop at 12210 SH 3/Old Galveston Road near Ellington Airport.

Document shredding is helpful at preventing identity theft, which has become one of the costliest crimes in the country in recent years.

In addition to safely disposing of documents, the shredding event will feature lively music and a wide variety of treats, including fresh bagels,

cheesecake, empanadas and barbecue.

The event will coincide with the City of Houston Solid Waste Department's monthly electronics recycling event, held across the street at 246 Loop Road. Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials out of landfills and the environment. (See related sidebar entry on this page.) The shredding event is generously sponsored by Motu Stop, AMOCO Federal Credit Union, City of Houston District E, Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia and multiple area civic groups and HOAs. (See related ad on Page 2.)

Cyclist killed in hit-and-run crash

Houston police searching for unknown driver

A bicyclist was killed in a hit-and-run accident around 10:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, in the 15900 block of the Gulf freeway service road near FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road.

The identity of the dead male was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the male was on a bicycle and traveling north on the service road near the above address when he was struck by a vehicle of unknown make or model also traveling north on the ser-

vice road.

The vehicle did not stop to provide assistance and fled in an unknown direction.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced the male dead at the scene.

A witness stated the suspect vehicle may be a Jeep Wrangler.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4065 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Traffic stop leads to multiple charges

Driver in stolen car, wanted for earlier theft

A traffic stop led to multiple criminal charges Saturday, Aug. 31, in the 9200 block of the Gulf Freeway near College/Airport Boulevard.



Bethel Frank

According to Precinct 2 officials, deputies made the initial traffic stop because the vehicle had a license plate that did not match the description of the vehicle.

It was revealed that the vehicle was stolen

from a parking lot days before. Deputies contacted the registered owner who did not allow the male driver to operate the vehicle.

While identifying the male, deputies learned the male driver was a suspect in a theft two days prior. The male, identified as Bethel Frank, was still wearing the same clothing he was wearing during the theft incident.

In that incident, Frank was suspected of stealing \$2,300 worth of Dyson vacuum cleaners.

Frank was charged for his role in driving a stolen vehicle and for theft. A heavy-eyed Frank was subsequently booked into the Harris County Jail without incident.



Garcia rides in rodeo parade

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (shown left) took part in the annual Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade Saturday, Sept. 7, kicking off the event's 75th anniversary. Events are scheduled to continue through Sunday, Sept. 29, with the yearly cookoff taking place Friday, Sept. 13, and Saturday, Sept. 14. To alleviate traffic, a shuttle bus service will run from the fairgrounds to San Jacinto College Central, where parking will be available.

In My Opinion

September is suicide prevention month

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For many, the subject of suicide is considered taboo and surrounded by stigma. They believe the mere mention of suicide around friends and family can cause suicidal thoughts for them. This is simply untrue.

World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th. One of the ways to reduce the stigma around mental health and suicide is by talking about suicide and suicidal ideation, which can spur meaningful conversations about mental health and potentially save lives.

Did you know that suicide is the 3rd overall cause of death for young people ages 10-24 in the United States? However, suicide is also one of the leading causes of preventable death.

Many of those considering suicide will give some sign of their intentions, either verbally or behaviorally. By knowing the warning signs and knowing how to help, you could save a life.

Join the conversation about suicide awareness and prevention and reach out to those who have been personally affected by suicide, raise awareness, and connect those struggling with suicidal ideation to professional counselors and treatment services that can help them.

If you know someone you love is struggling with depression or thinking about suicide, get help now. The 988 Suicide & Life-line is a free resource, available 24 hours a day, for anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. There are trained counselors and mental health professionals available around the clock to assist anyone facing a mental health crisis.

The Jason Foundation (JFI) is another available resource. Although September is the dedicated month for suicide prevention and awareness, JFI works toward suicide prevention all year long. JFI is dedicated to the awareness and prevention of youth suicide through educational programs that equip youth, parents, educators, and the community with the tools and resources to identify and assist at-risk youth. Visit The Jason Foundation's website to learn more about youth suicide, the warning signs, and how you can help make a difference. JFI has never charged a school, community, or individual for the use of its programs or resources. <http://www.jasonfoundation.com>

Scott Knight
Senior Division Director
The Jason Foundation

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Sept. 12, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Family storytime.
Thursday, Sept. 12, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lab - computer class.
Thursday, Sept. 12, 5 - 6 p.m. English language learning at the library.
Monday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lab - computer class.
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 4 - 5 p.m. Board games.
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 6 - 7 p.m. Conversational living English lessons.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Thursday, Sept. 12, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Thursday, Sept. 12, 2 - 4 p.m. Tech help.
Monday, Sept. 16, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family time.
Monday, Sept. 16, 11:15 a.m. - noon Family story time.
Monday, Sept. 16, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Monday, Sept. 16, 2 - 4 p.m. Pathway to citizenship.
Monday, Sept. 16, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Laser cutter orientation.
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 5 - 6 p.m. Kids duct tape craft.
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 6 - 8 p.m. Pathway to citizenship.

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>.

Elected officials share their words

Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, District D

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we transition into the new school year, I want to extend a heartfelt "Welcome Back" to all our students, educators, and families. As a former educator myself, I know firsthand the challenges and triumphs that accompany this exciting time. Education is the cornerstone of our community, and I am committed to ensuring that our students have the resources and support they need to succeed.

To our students: I encourage you to approach this school year with determination and enthusiasm. You have the power to achieve great things, and I am confident that with hard work and dedication, this year will be a stepping stone to even greater opportunities. Remember, your education is not just a journey; it's the foundation upon which you will build your future.

Reflecting on our recent Back to School events, I am filled with pride and gratitude. Our partnership with Career and Recovery Resources allowed us to provide backpacks and school supplies to many of our District D students, ensuring they start the year prepared. These events are not just

about giving supplies; they are about showing our youth that their community stands behind them. Community cleanups continue to serve as a source of pride and fellowship in our district. The recent cleanup at Riverside Park was a tremendous success, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. I look forward to seeing this same spirit of community involvement as we prepare for our upcoming cleanup in Sunnyside. Together, we can make our neighborhoods cleaner, safer, and more beautiful.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome our new Houston Fire and Police Chiefs. Their leadership and commitment to our city are essential as we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents. Let's come together to make them feel at home in District D, as we look forward to their efforts in tightening up our city and fostering a secure environment for all.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our community. Let's make this school year one of growth, progress, and unity.

With sincere gratitude and determination,
Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

Speaker Dade Phelan writes

Speaker Dade Phelan issued the following statement honoring the achievements of Texas' workforce and highlighting the Texas House's ongoing efforts to preserve the "Texas Miracle."

"Texas' workforce is the backbone of our state's thriving economy, embodying the resilience, skills and work ethic that have continuously driven Texas to the forefront of job growth and economic prosperity," said Phelan.

"As we celebrated the contributions of hardworking Texans this Labor Day, I reflected on what it takes to bring the 'Texas Miracle' to life every day, which includes supporting our workers with policies that expand access to rewarding careers and attract businesses to invest in the Lone Star State."

The Texas House has worked diligently to advance these goals, passing laws in recent legislative sessions to:

Support Education and Workforce Development:
Restructure community college funding, increasing support for rural colleges and expanding access to certificates, licenses and degrees that lead to job opportunities.

Freeze tuition for two years to make higher education more affordable.

Align workforce training programs with industry needs and devote more resources to community colleges to provide training for jobs in high demand.

Expand career and technical education programs in high schools, preparing students for immediate employment in high-demand fields.
Launch a program to help college students gain

critical IT skills and secure jobs in state agencies.

Remove barriers for students to earn certifications for good-paying trade jobs, addressing workforce shortages.

Ease licensing requirements for military members and their families to practice in their fields, as championed by the Texas Senate.

Provide Economic and Industry Support:

Provide funding to produce more graduates with advanced degrees, which prepares them for high-paying jobs in industries like semiconductors and energy and reduces the need to hire out-of-state workers. Make historic investments in the semiconductor and space exploration industries, creating high-paying jobs in research, engineering and manufacturing.

Establish a new economic development program to attract large employers and jobs to Texas.

Provide grants to employers who implement registered apprenticeship programs, helping to fill shortages and develop skilled workers in key industries.

Improve access to broadband in rural and underserved areas, essential for remote work and learning opportunities.

Provide franchise tax relief for small businesses, allowing them to reinvest money and hire more workers.

Taken together, these legislative initiatives have contributed to a skilled work-

force and economy that continue to attract new or expanded business investments in the State of Texas, including major companies like Chevron, SpaceX, Apple, Tesla, X and Charles Schwab announcing headquarter relocations or campus expansions this year. For these efforts, earlier this year, Governor Greg Abbott accepted the 12th consecutive Governor's Cup on behalf of the State of Texas—an award given by Site Selection Magazine to the top state for attracting new or expanded businesses.

For the Legislature, Labor Day's passage marks an unofficial turning point in the year—a time when lawmakers intensify preparations for the upcoming session by refining priorities, drafting bills and preparing to file legislation starting in November.

To that end, Phelan added, "My personal priorities will include finding new ways to grow jobs and keep Texans prosperous, whether through targeted investments in workforce development programs or bringing back jobs that have been lost to other countries—all while ensuring government remains as small and fiscally responsible as possible. The Texas House is proud of its support for Texas workers and businesses, and as we move forward, we will honor them by continuing to pass legislation that promotes prosperity and keeps Texas' economy the envy of the nation."

Rodeo celebrates 75 years

Continued from Page 1 must be/have been in a certified archery program to compete.)

Shuttle Buses will run to and from San Jacinto College and the Rodeo Fairgrounds Friday, Sept. 13, and Saturday, Sept. 14, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Drivers will be instructed where to park upon arriving to San Jacinto College.

There should not be any vehicles or golf carts in the bus lane at any time.

Cookoff tickets are \$15 each. Children 10 and under are free.

For additional information on the annual Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo Cookoff or to purchase tickets, visit www.pasadenarodeo.com/p/bbq.

The actual rodeo, done in partnership with the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association), will begin the following weekend

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out.

The purpose is to provide food for community people in need.

The next event is Sept. 28. For information, call 281-484-4230.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series.

The next event will be Thursday, Sept. 12, with another event happening the following Thursday, Sept. 19.

For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

John Richard Van Gilder



John Richard Van Gilder, AKA Johnny, 80, of Houston, passed away quietly, July 20, 2024, surrounded by family and loved ones after a courageous battle with cancer.

John was born on July 30, 1943, in Little Rock, Ark., to Col. Robert Ellis Van Gilder and Genevieve Hutter. John was a proud Army brat who traveled the globe with his family. He was the oldest of six children. As the oldest, with his dad frequently away from the family on assignments, he was the father figure. All his siblings looked up to him.

Wherever he went he made friends. From a tiny army encampment in Taiwan to a U.S. Army base in Ger-

Death

many and ending up in Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, with many stops in between, John was loved dearly by everyone he met. His kindness transcended cultures and eroded boundaries.

John was a tinkerer. He was known to tear things apart just to see if he could repair them and make them better. This included several of his father's cars which he finely tuned into racing machines. He would race them on the straights, usually destroying transmissions or blowing timing belts unbeknownst to his dad, that is until the trophies started showing up on John's dresser.

He met and married Alice Cone at Fort Sam Houston. They moved to Chicago for work and then as soon as they could, returned to Texas, moving to Houston in the early 1960s. In late 1962 Johnny and Alice moved to Sagemont.

He worked for various companies repairing machines and managing people for several years. In 1971 his son Richard was born, and then in 1974 his daughter Susie was born. In the late 70s John and Alice mutually parted ways but remained close friends.

John met and then married Gloria Goatcher in 1979. John welcomed Gloria's son

Jack into the family with open arms. In 1985 John and Gloria opened Records Etc. later known as Records Inc. and maintained this business for more than 25 years. Over the years they welcomed many employees who quickly became like family and remain so to this day.

John was known to be the life of the party. He loved golfing while being terrible at it, repairing things, offering sage advice, going on cruises and dancing. For several years he and Gloria were members of a dance club, jittersbugging and be-jopping to tunes from a five-piece Benny Goodman-like orchestra into the wee hours of Saturday mornings. John loved life. But most of all he loved his family, friends, employees and caregivers more than life itself. He was known to be a kind man. Whoever coined the phrase "He would give you the shirt off his back," was surely talking about John "Johnny" Van Gilder.

John was preceded in death by his children Richard E. Van Gilder, Susie Campbell, Jack Terry; and his granddaughters Abbie Ortiz, and Audrey Van Gilder. He is also survived by his sisters and brothers Barbara Boone, Karen MacDonald, Kathy Landwehr, Derek Van Gilder and Kurt Van Gilder.

One month left to apply for FEMA

Texas who sustained losses from Hurricane Beryl have one month remaining to apply for federal assistance. The deadline is Oct. 10, 2024. (See related story on Page 3.)

Since the disaster declaration in July, FEMA has helped nearly 673,700 Texas households with \$704.7 million in financial assistance. FEMA specialists have been working in 22 counties helping people apply for assistance.

FEMA crews have visited 174,203 homes and 9,285 public locations. More than 45,000 residents have visited the 42 Disaster Recovery Centers located within the state. More than 26,100 families have stayed in hotels temporarily at the expense of the State and FEMA because they could not return to their homes.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$247.8 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, private nonprofit organizations, and businesses affected by Beryl.

Homeowners and renters in Austin, Bowie, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Orange, Polk,

San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties with uninsured losses from Hurricane Beryl may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

Texas has several options for how to apply for FEMA assistance. Homeowners and renters can:

- Go online to Disaster Assistance.gov.

- Download the FEMA app for mobile devices.

- Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages. If one uses a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA one's number for that service.

- Visit a disaster recovery center. To find the center location go to fema.gov/drc. Disaster recovery centers operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Saturday, and are closed Sunday.

To view an accessible video about how to apply visit: Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube.

Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at SBA.gov/disaster or by calling 800-659-2955. SBA representatives are avail-

able to provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants at the disaster recovery centers throughout the affected area. Business recovery centers are operating at University of Houston Downtown Marilyn Davies, College of Business, Trini Mendenhall Community Center in Houston and East Montgomery County Improvement District in Montgomery County.

For more information, visit fema.gov/disaster/4798. Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at x.com/FEMAREgion6 and on Facebook at facebook.com/femaregion6.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

FEMA Civil Rights Office works to ensure assistance is distributed equitably, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Any disaster survivor or member of the public may contact the Civil Rights Office if they feel that they are the victim of discrimination. FEMA's Civil Rights Office can be contacted toll-free at 833-285-7448. Multilingual operators are available upon request. For Spanish, press 2.

County releases pollution report

Continued from Page 1 existing conditions. Chronic disease prevalence data was used to compare the number of people with chronic diseases among different communities, while chronic disease death rates highlighted the severity of these outcomes. Data was analyzed across demographics, including sex, race and ethnicity.

Areas with increased air pollution and high minority populations in Harris County

The highest concentrations of harmful air pollutants, based on air monitoring locations, were found predominantly in areas with higher black and Hispanic populations:

- North Wayside, Settegast (77028, Precinct 1), Independence Heights (77022, Precincts 1 and 2) and Galena Park (77547, Precinct 2), which exhibit the following trends:

- Highest levels of air pollution and chronic disease prevalence.

- Higher chronic disease prevalence compared to the county average.

- Predominantly racial and ethnic minority popula-

tions, with high social vulnerability according to the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) improving public health in Harris County by preventing excess exposure to pollution is a critical opportunity.

HCPH, with the support of Harris County Pollution Control Services (HCPCS), is committed to addressing air pollution activities.

HCPH has launched the Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) to measure pollution levels affecting public and environmental health, identify harmful emission sources, inform the public and officials on clean air priorities, and support environmental regulatory activities. Improving the health of all county residents requires ongoing disease surveillance, community engagement and public health interventions.

For additional information, visit hcphtx.org.

Sagemeadow sets date for fall festival

The Sagemeadow third annual fall festival date is now set for Nov. 2. The festival will be held at Sagemeadow Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All interested in being a vendor should send an email to events@sagemeadow.org. The festival is seeking a DJ, festival sponsors, and vendors who can provide family-friendly activities.

There is no cost to attend the festival and all are invited. For more information, visit <https://sagemeadow.org>.

New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

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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.

Free COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 9AM - 12PM

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

Open to area residents and businesses.

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

BSN program takes nursing career to next level



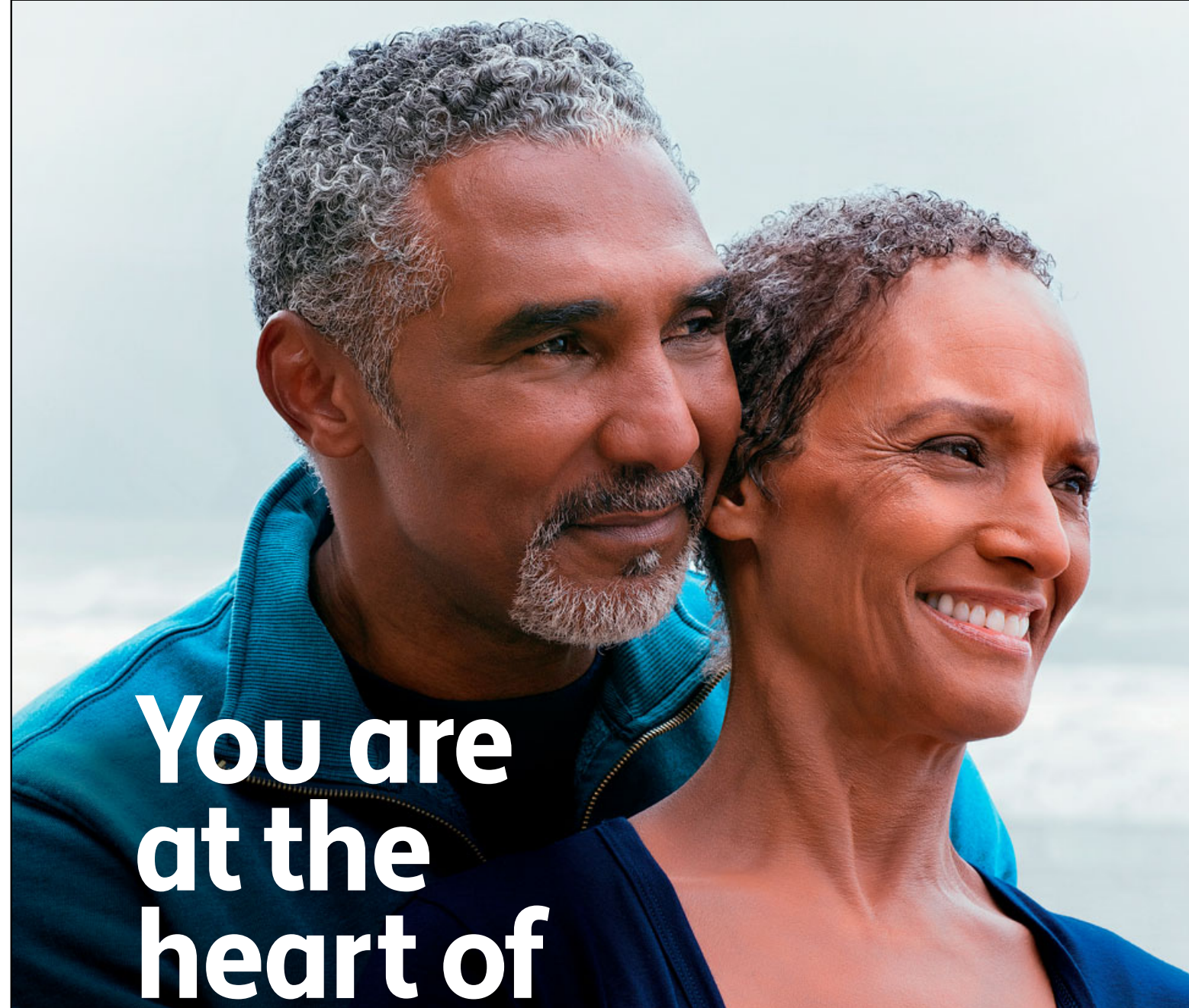
San Jacinto College Bachelor of Science Nursing fall 2023 graduates are, left to right, Ashely Javois, Markeisha Matthews, Victoria Reyna, Natalie Ruiz and Jasmyn Salas. The BSN program was launched in fall 2020. Photo by Courtney Morris

**By Dr. Ardette Creeks and Dr. Carliss Ramos
San Jacinto College**
In fall 2020, San Jacinto College launched its hybrid Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-to-BSN) program with one faculty member. Much has changed since then.
Not only were health care workers toiling on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, but more than half of San Jac's first BSN students were in nurse residencies after completing associate degrees.
Today, San Jac's BSN program is 100 percent online. Of its 65 graduates, 21 percent have landed more advanced nursing roles, and 8 percent are pursuing master's programs.
The BSN program answers the needs of both industry and working registered nurses.
Top health care organizations advocate for entry-level nurses to hold BSN degrees, and many health care institutions prefer BSN-prepared nurses for leadership and for specialized, and research roles.

Meanwhile, most new nurses start with an associate degree or nursing diploma so they can earn a paycheck before continuing their education.
San Jac helps fill the nursing shortage while offering affordability and flexibility through multiple entry points into the nursing field — up to the BSN degree.
Thanks to the BSN program, working RNs can maintain their income while getting solid leadership training to advance their careers.
Why choose San Jac's BSN program?
Students enjoy smaller class sizes, an easier application process, and a lower cost than a university — while learning from a nationally accredited program and college with a six-decade history of nursing success.
Who are San Jac's BSN graduates?
San Jac's BSN students work everywhere — from acute hospital settings, rehabilitation centers, drug/alcohol dependency clinics, and dialysis centers to school districts. Most seek either new management roles or higher pay and career advancement under their current employers.

After completing her associate degree in nursing and working as a clinical inpatient nurse for seven years, Kelli Sartin became a nurse educator in San Jac's vocational nursing program. Then, to advance her leadership skills, she enrolled in a university BSN program.
When Sartin took a break to care for her terminally ill mother, she learned she couldn't pick up where she'd left off at the university. Instead, she ended up in San Jac's BSN program — learning where she worked. Since earning her BSN in fall 2023, she encourages her own nursing students to enroll in the program.
"If I can do it, so can you," Sartin tells her students.
In 2021, Kiri Rohne enrolled in the BSN program after completing San Jac's certified nurse aide, vocational nurse, and LVN-to-RN transition nursing programs.
Once living out of her car, Rohne now works as a board-certified cardiovascular nurse at HCA Health Care Clear Lake Heart Hospital.
No longer does she worry about a steady paycheck or a reliable roof.
"I'm proud of my story and how hard I fought to get

here," Rohne said. "When people ask me where I graduated, I'm proud to say San Jacinto College."
Why should one apply?
San Jac's 100 percent online BSN program allows students to learn from where they are. The learner-centric BSN program follows an eight-week course model, which builds on previous education and experience. Professors include Dr. Ardette Creeks, DNP, RN, and Dr. Carliss Ramos, DNP, RN.
The three-semester, 31-credit-hour program focuses on these concepts:
- Community health nursing.
- Nursing research.
- Public and global health policy.
- Informatics.
- Leadership.
Now serving its seventh cohort, the program admits students every fall and spring. Thanks to a generous endowment from the Katha and Clifton Black family, every accepted BSN student will receive a one-time scholarship.
For additional information, contact RN-to-BSN department chair Dr. Veronica Jammer at veronica.jammer@sjcd.edu or sanjacbsn@sjcd.edu.



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Paxton threatens to sue county

Continued from Page 1
from the Commissioners Court agenda and to be further studied and that time limitations between now and the November elections will likely prohibit the issue from being revisited this election cycle.
"It is abundantly clear that the attorney general's motivation is pure voter intimidation," Ellis said in a statement. "I will not give extremists in Austin the benefit of dismissing their false claims as imaginary violations or even political delusions prompted by their presidential candidate."

Paxton's letter is the latest installment in what appears to be an ongoing battle between the state and Harris County. Just last week, Paxton threatened the county with another lawsuit if it moved forward with its Uplift 2.0 program, aimed at combating income inequality.
Opponents of the county's voter outreach program contend it opens up the doors to illegal voting, particularly by undocumented immigrants.
Those who support the county's voter registration push believe Paxton and other Republican officials in Austin are specifically targeting counties with large His-

panic populations.
A similar letter was sent from Paxton to Bexar County, which includes San Antonio. When the letter was ignored, Paxton followed through on his threat and recently filed a lawsuit against the county.
The lawsuit comes fresh on the heels of a state raid on the private residences of several Hispanic leaders throughout Texas, including members of LULAC. One of the raided LULAC members was an 87-year-old grandmother.
At press time, no charges had been filed in association with the state raids.

Speech, debate president awarded



While Clear Brook's speech and debate team was preparing for the many back-to-back meets, team President Greg Stuart attended The Woodlands College Park tournament where he tried to better his already four state points in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking which he picked up at Foster High School. Placing second and third in his first two rounds of Domestic Extemp, he fell just shy of being in the final round but he did fight for a place in Impromptu Speaking at the tournament. After placing first and second in prelims and semifinals respectively, he came out in first place overall at the tournament.

SBA loan applications open

FEMA partners with other agencies to help meet the needs of disaster survivors. The U.S. Small Business Administration offers low-interest disaster loans in a declared major disaster area. (See related story on Page 2.)
As a matter of fact, 80 percent of SBA loans are approved homeowners and renters. Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses and residents impacted by Hurricane Berly.
Residents and businesses in Austin, Bowie, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties are eligible to apply.
SBA is the largest source of funds to help private property owners pay for disaster losses not covered by insurance or other programs.
The program may cover deductibles and increased cost of compliance. Survivors should not wait for an

insurance settlement before submitting an SBA loan application.
Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the first disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.
Homeowners may be eligible for a disaster loan up to \$500,000 for primary residence repairs or rebuilding. SBA may also be able to help homeowners and renters with up to \$100,000 to replace important personal property, including automobiles damaged or destroyed in the disaster.
Applicants may apply online and can find additional disaster assistance information at SBA.gov/disaster.
The deadline to apply for assistance for property damage is Oct. 10, 2024. The deadline to apply for economic injury is April 14, 2025. If one's application is approved, one is not obligated to accept an SBA loan.
SBA representatives are

also available to provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants at FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers. Disaster Recovery Centers operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. To find a center location nearby, go to fema.gov/drc.
All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology.
Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, dial 711 to access telecommunications relay services. There is no cost to apply for an SBA disaster loan.
For more information about Texas disaster recovery, visit: fema.gov/disaster/4798.
Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at x.com/FEMARegion6 and Facebook at facebook.com/FEMARegion6/.

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South Belt Elementary first day of school surprise



Coleen Wilkinson had her second-grade class pose for a first day of school picture when Izaiah Rivas lost a tooth. Left to right, (front row) Izaiah Rivas, Cj Herrera, Matilda Sok, Bryce Garcia, James Mathers, (middle row) Luke Termont, Dylan Ayala, Alaina Navarrete, Elieana Mireles, Eli Sutton, Anthony Doan, (back row) Tatum Toomer, Matthew Machado, Rayyan Jafri, Maya Villarreal, Cesar Campos and Camila Tamez.

South Belt Elementary Super Steers

South Belt Elementary announces Super Steers for the month of August. Left to right, are (first row) Isabella Acosta, Aaliyah Morgan, Clint Flores, Aiden Segovia, Alaia Graciano, (second row) Eliana Mora, Idalia Gutierrez, Khloe Grimaldo, Alivia Bhakta, Ruby Manriquez, Sofia Flores, Alfonso Vega, Alexandra Vega, Zoe Burch, Mila Montes, Damian Ortiz, (third row) Melanie Arreola, Josiah Babalola, Alaina Navarrete, Sophia Bravo, Mackenzie Amaro, Ayyah Rios, Irene Gurung, Odalys Bedolla, Carlos Rivera, Amari Wright, (fourth row) Isidro Garcia, Sophia Sepulveda, Mia Tristan, Bethany Dean, Lorelei Cabrera, Alexandra Flores, Mavis Trevino, Andrea Herrera and Noor Harmouch. Not pictured are Jariyah Adams and Lilah Loya.



Dobie soccer team visits Moore students



J. Frank Dobie High School soccer head coach Josh Kluka and the soccer team visited Moore Elementary. They arrived with five soccer balls signed by team members. One student from each grade was selected for their outstanding performance in August and was gifted a signed soccer ball. Pictured in the top left are, left to right, Milah Sanchez, first grade; Aliyah Taylor, third grade; Ryan Tran, fourth grade; Oakley Person, kindergarten; Thiago Cruz, second grade; and former Moore student and now Dobie soccer player Jexreel Rames.



Thiago Cruz (left) and Dobie soccer coach Josh Kluka

Jessup hosts fundraiser



Jessup Elementary held a back-to-school fundraiser at Chuck E. Cheese on Aug. 30. Twenty percent of all sales that evening were donated back to the school library helping fund books and resources for students. Families and staff enjoyed games, pizza, and entertainment while contributing to the cause. The community attended and supported while participating with family and friends. Pictured is Marie Garcia, Jessup attendance clerk.



Aliyah Taylor (left) Dobie soccer coach Josh Kluka



Milah Sanchez (left) and Dobie soccer coach Josh Kluka



Oakley Person (left) and Dobie soccer coach Josh Kluka



Ryan Tran (left) and Dobie soccer coach Josh Kluka

Remember When

45 years ago (1979)

Klein's Jewelry store at the Alameda Square was robbed of as much as \$1 million in diamonds and gold as eight customers and six employees watched.

The Texas Education Agency denied Pasadena Independent School District's request for \$40,000 to initiate a program for the gifted and talented students, but the district planned to go ahead with a smaller, modified program with local funds.

40 years ago (1984)

Residents of the tiny subdivision of Sagemont Park purchased a secondhand car and hired an unarmed man, who is not a peace officer, to patrol the 10 blocks of the subdivision. This approach reduced the incidence of crime in the neighborhood by 33 percent.

35 years ago (1989)

An apparent South Belt resident and another suspect were arrested following a high-speed chase from League City to the South Belt area.

Someone killed one of Do-

bie High School Future Farmers of America's show chickens and then released several of the other animals.

30 years ago (1994)

Dobie High School student Kelli Bennett raised the grand champion lamb in the 1994 rodeo competition.

A robbery at the Bank of America at Alameda Mall

resulted in a police-suspect shootout that sent one bank customer and one suspect to the hospital.

25 years ago (1999)

The Texas Education Agency reversed an earlier decision on appeal and declared Pasadena Independent School District a Texas Recognized District for the second consecutive year.

Thieves deposited a \$5,000 check, forged from the Harris County Hospital

bank account.

20 years ago (2004)

A major decrease in the number of students projected to attend PISD schools caused administration officials to question why. Thompson Intermediate, which was predicted to increase by 100 students, saw student increase in only a single digit.

A resident on Chickwood Street in Highland Meadow

was shot in the left hand after two men wearing ski masks reportedly entered his home through the garage.

Dobie grad Lance Botkin

appeared as a contestant on The Price Is Right television show. He won a big screen television and played Plinko on stage with Bob Barker.

The South Belt Dolphins

football team held a fundraiser to replace sports equipment that had been lost when a storage trailer was stolen.

15 years ago (2009)

Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan hosted a hard-hat tour of the new Bracwell Library at 9002 Kingspoint near Blackhawk.

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital CEO

George Gaston was named one of 12 nationwide Up & Comers by Modern Healthcare magazine. The Up & Comers recognition program included individuals 40 years old or younger who had made their mark in health care and were likely to play a key role in shaping the industry's future.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry

spoke at a luncheon jointly sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington, Pasadena and

Deer Park chambers of commerce.

An office fire at PapaGayos on Scarsdale at Beamer spread to the restaurant's kitchen, then to the adjacent Scotty's Pub. The cause of the suspicious fire was under investigation. During the blaze, an independent cameraman working for KHOU was briefly detained after pulling a handgun on a pair of bar regulars, who were later arrested for being intoxicated. The incident marked the second time in less than a month that an area bar was damaged by fire, as Beamer's Place suffered extensive smoke damage after a nearby nail salon caught fire.

1 year ago (2023)

A fire at a homeless encampment located behind a sound barrier wall along Beltway 8 near Sabo led to an arrest early Saturday, Sept. 9. A homeless individual returning to the fire to grab some belongings was detained and found to have open warrants. Additional charges for arson were pending further investigation. Investigators said the suspect may have been responsible for at least five other similar fires in the area.

5 years ago (2019)

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1 year ago (2023)

A fire at a homeless encampment located behind a sound barrier wall along Beltway 8 near Sabo led to an arrest early Saturday, Sept. 9. A homeless individual returning to the fire to grab some belongings was detained and found to have open warrants. Additional charges for arson were pending further investigation. Investigators said the suspect may have been responsible for at least five other similar fires in the area.

5 years ago (2019)

A man was shot during a robbery Monday, Sept. 9, in the 10500 block of Thornlea. The victim, Hugo Parra, 18, was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening wounds. According to witnesses, three suspects fled the scene following the shooting. No immediate arrests were made.

10 years ago (2014)

Hermann Southeast Hospital CEO George Gaston was named one of 12 nationwide Up & Comers by Modern Healthcare magazine. The Up & Comers recognition program included individuals 40 years old or younger who had made their mark in health care and were likely to play a key role in shaping the industry's future.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie football opens 22-6A play against Dawson

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

The varsity football postseason doesn't begin until mid-November, yet the Dobie and Dawson programs certainly may feel as though the playoffs begin Sept. 13 as the Longhorns travel to The Rig in Pearland to meet the Eagles in a 7 p.m. kickoff.

The revamped District 22-6A alignment has served to deliver a play-off-like atmosphere each week, with four defending league champions and another playoff qualifier, the 2-0 Memorial Mavericks, battling it out for one of four precious postseason berths.

Dobie, coming off a 47-27 defeat to the Klein Bearcats Sept. 6 at Klein Memorial ISD Stadium, was the league champion in 22-6A a season ago and has every intention of keeping the good times rolling.

Dawson, which shared the District 23-6A title with both Pearland and Shadow Creek in 2023, has stumbled out of the gate with losses in each of its two nondistrict games but has never lost to the Longhorns.

The two programs have not met since the 2017 season.

The Longhorns will no doubt feature the three-player combination of Cameron Mathews, De'Marcus Hodges and Bryce Evans and the run

game. Despite the loss to Klein, Dobie also stepped up things through the air

as senior quarterback Will Joiner III and receiver Tariq Riley combined for a huge night.

The Dobie offense delivered more than 500 total yards against Klein but could not overcome four turnovers, including a pair of errant punt snaps and another ball snapped past Joiner's head as he tried to direct the motion man.

Mathews rushed for 127 yards and three touchdowns. He has six rushing scores through two weeks.

The passing game simply was not there in Week 1, but now quarterback Will Joiner III has 295 yards passing and two touchdowns, both to Tariq Riley.

As for Riley, he now has a league-best nine catches for 161 yards, including an 84-yard catch and dash for a touchdown.

Given that Dawson's biggest issue through the first two weeks of the season has been stopping opposing offenses, the Longhorns have to feel very good about their chances heading into the all-important league opener.

"I hate to call it a play-off game, but we all understand what's at stake Friday night," Dobie head coach Danny Fitzmorris said.

"We understand that it's

22-6A Football Kicks Off

Dobie Longhorns (1-1) at Dawson Eagles (0-2)

**The Rig, 7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 13**

going to be difficult to win in this district on a lot of nights, so anytime you go out there against the program like Dawson, you really aim to be at your best and put your best foot forward.

"We know it's a big game for us just like it's a big game for them. We're not going to shy away from anybody."

Playing a clean game against the Eagles in all phases will be key.

For Fitzmorris, it's all about fixing a third quarter issue that has been a problem in both of his team's games this season to this point.

The Longhorns led Clear Brook 40-7 at halftime in the season opener, only to see the Wolverines put up 21 third-quarter points to narrow the deficit.

Dobie responded well

enough to be able to win against Clear Brook, but giving up 26 third-quarter points to Klein was simply too much to overcome.

Fitzmorris accepted the responsibility, saying that he has to do a better job of coaching as the focus has to be eliminating the mistakes. But coaches take responsibility even when it's the players who are out there on the field.

"We had two snaps go over the punter's head, and we had a motion issue on another play where the ball was past the quarterback's ear for another turnover," Fitzmorris said.

"Some of the same issues that we've had out on the practice field with lack of execution showed up on the game field on Friday night, and that's simply not good enough for us to be able to come up with

Continued on Page 6



Senior running back Bryce Evans came through in a big way for the Longhorns in Week 2 against Klein even as the Longhorns fell 47-27. Evans and his teammates will now travel to The Rig in Pearland Sept. 13 to take on Dawson in the 22-6A opener for both programs.

Pioneers stay unbeaten with 41-22 road win at HP

Lutheran South Academy is off to a 2-0 start on the varsity football field

following a 41-22 victory over Austin Hyde Park Sept. 6 as first-year head

coach Corby Meekins and his program have to be exceptionally pleased with

the early returns on what was a solid start to the 2024 season.

Junior Braeden Robinson had seven grabs for 128 yards and two touchdowns, and also had an interception on defense as the Pioneers picked up the win on the road.

Lutheran South built a big 21-0 lead after one quarter and it extended its edge to 357 at halftime in route to the easy victory.

Pioneer senior quarterback John LeBlanc was 14 of 20 through the air for 232 yards and four touchdowns. Lutheran South also produced 179 yards on the ground, led by Scott Farine, who had 74 yards on 14 totes.

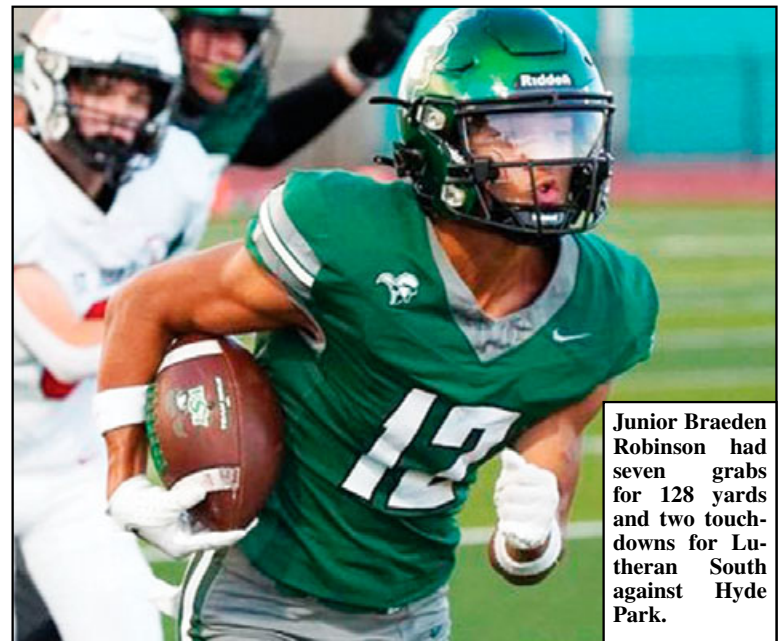
Robinson was the true difference maker through the air with his 128 yards receiving and the two touchdowns. Robinson's interception resulted in

a 27-yard return for his team.

Sophomore Josh Pippilion ran for one score and caught another from LeBlanc.

David Streeter also had an interception for the Pioneers, while Chris Green had a quarterback sack.

The Pioneers will look to stay undefeated as they host John Cooper Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. Cooper stands at 0-2.



Junior Braeden Robinson had seven grabs for 128 yards and two touchdowns for Lutheran South against Hyde Park.

Dobie volleyball firing to keep pace in 22-6A standings

With a 25-22, 17-25, 25-23, 25-22 victory over Memorial Sept. 6, the Dobie varsity volleyball program evened its league record at 1-1 early on in the race to the postseason.

Pearland and Shadow Creek have both posted better than 20 overall

victories and have begun league play at 3-0.

Given that Dawson, currently in third place at 2-1, already owns a victory

over Dobie, it's important for the locals to stay close in the race.

Dobie improved to 7-13 overall with the road win

at Memorial prior and sat fifth in the standings. The Longhorns played at Shadow Creek Sept. 10 after press time and will

host Pearland Sept. 13. Dobie will play another big match Sept. 17 at South Houston.

JFD hosts Pearland
Sept. 13, 5:30 p.m.
DHS main

JFD at S.Houston
Sept. 17, 5:30 p.m.



Dobie's Andrea Garcia (5) celebrates with teammates Jessica Moise (2) and Adalee Garcia (10) after the Longhorns scored a point against Pflugerville earlier this season.



Dobie junior cross-country runner Johan Villavicencio came up with an early-season personal best of 17 minutes, 32 seconds for 44th place as the Longhorns were fourth as a team at La Porte.

JFD cross-country fourth at La Porte

Senior Chris Lopez guided his team to the finish line at the La Porte Dog Pound Invitational cross-country meet at Northwest Park as the Longhorns continued what has been an outstanding start to the season with a fourth-place finish as a group.

Lopez, the Longhorns' top returning performer from a season ago, was 10th overall at La Porte with a time of 16:26.

Dobie freshman Cruz Jasso came up with a time of 16:39 for 16th place overall in the individual standings.

Another standout freshman, Jordan Roman, was 30th overall with his time of 17:09, while junior Johan Villavicencio came up with an early-season personal best of 17:32 for 44th place.

Dobie's fifth official qualifier was Carlos Salazar, whose clocking of 17:52 was good for 58th place.

Both Diego Paz and Conner Torres have also run well for the Longhorns this season. At La Porte, Paz was in at 18:58 for 85th place, while Torres' time of 19:00 had him 86th overall.

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Sophomore Alyssa Goree (15) has excelled at setter for Dobie to this point in the season and will continue to look to contribute as the district race plays out.

Photos by Gloria Wallace

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BAFL Weekly Standings

Peewee Division

Team	W	L	T
Cowboys	4	0	0
Pear. Patriots	3	0	0
Manvel Texans	3	0	0
Stingrays	2	0	0
Red Raiders	3	1	0
49ers	2	1	0
Eagles	2	2	0
Pear. Texans	2	2	0
Ang. Wildcats	2	2	0
S.E. Wildcats	2	2	0
Gators	1	1	0
La Porte Texans	1	2	0
Panthers	1	2	0
Buccaneers	1	3	0
Raiders	0	3	0
Longhorns	0	4	0
Sharks	0	4	0

Freshman Division

Team	W	L	T
49ers	3	0	0
Panthers	3	0	0
Pear. Patriots	3	0	0
Cowboys	3	1	0
Buccaneers	3	1	0
Red Raiders	3	1	0
Manvel Texans	2	1	0
Eagles	2	2	0
Sharks	2	2	0
Gators	1	1	0
Stingrays	1	1	0
Pear. Texans	1	2	0
S.E. Wildcats	1	3	0
La Porte Texans	1	3	0
Longhorns	1	3	0
Raiders	0	3	0
Ang. Wildcats	0	4	0

Sophomore Division

Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	4	0	0
Ang. Wildcats	4	0	0
La Porte Texans	3	0	0
Cowboys	3	1	0
S.E. Wildcats	3	1	0
49ers	2	1	0
Pear. Patriots	2	1	0
Gators	1	1	0
Manvel Texans	1	1	0
Longhorns	1	1	0
Raiders	1	2	0
Pear. Texans	1	2	0
Panthers	1	2	0
Sharks	0	4	0
Longhorns	0	4	0
Eagles	0	2	0
Stingrays	0	4	0

Junior Division

Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	4	0	0
Eagles	4	0	0
Pear. Texans	3	1	0
Pear. Texans	3	1	0
S.E. Wildcats	3	1	0
Red Raiders	3	1	0
La Porte Texans	2	1	0
Pear. Patriots	2	1	0
Gators	1	1	0
Sharks	1	3	0
Stingrays	0	2	0
Manvel Texans	1	1	0
49ers	1	1	0
Raiders	0	3	0
Cowboys	0	3	0
Panthers	0	3	0
Longhorns	0	4	0

Senior Division

Team	W	L	T
Red Raiders	4	0	0
Cowboys	3	0	0
Manvel Texans	3	0	0
Pear. Texans	3	1	0
Sharks	3	1	0
49ers	2	0	0
Stingrays	2	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Ang. Wildcats	1	1	0
Eagles	1	1	0
Longhorns	2	2	0
La Porte Texans	1	2	0
Panthers	1	2	0
Raiders	0	3	0
Buccaneers	0	3	0
Pear. Patriots	0	3	0
S.E. Wildcats	0	4	0

BAFL Week 4

Cowboys' Peewee 44	Eagles 7
Cowboys' Fr. 45	Eagles 0
Cowboys' Soph. 63	Eagles 0
Cowboys' Jrs. 6	Eagles 21
Cowboys' Srs. 46	Eagles 0
BAFL Week 4	
Cowboys' Peewee	host Longhorns, 8 a.m.
Cowboys' Freshmen	host Longhorns, 9 a.m.
Cowboys' Sophomores	host Longhorns, 11 a.m.
Cowboys' Juniors	host Longhorns, 1 p.m.
Cowboys' Seniors	host Longhorns, 3 p.m.

South Belt football predictions

	John Bechtle	Emory Gadd	Troy Leland	Stephen Sutton	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie at Dawson	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dawson
Goose Creek Memorial at Clear Brook	GCM	Clear Brook	Clear Brook	GCM	GCM
Pasadena Memorial at Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel
Ridge Point at Bridgeland	Bridgeland	Bridgeland	Ridge Point	Bridgeland	Ridge Point
Atascocita at Austin Westlake	Atascocita	Westlake	Westlake	Westlake	Atascocita
C.E. King at Spring Dekaney	CEK	CEK	CEK	CEK	CEK
Barbers Hill at Deer Park	Deer Park	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill
Cy-Fair at Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
La Porte at Port Neches Groves	PNG	PNG	PNG	PNG	PNG
Galveston Ball at Friendswood	Ball	Ball	Ball	Ball	Ball
Last Week's Results	5-5	6-4	8-2	7-3	7-3
Season record	12-8	12-8	16-4	12-8	16-4

Sagemont Cowboys honor 2024 court during homecoming

At right, the Sagemont Cowboys celebrated their annual homecoming Sept. 7 at Denny Wranich Sr. Field at El Franco Lee Park against the East End Eagles. The Cowboys' homecoming court included, left to right, Princess Lexi Tovas, co-Queen Durriyah Hill, King Chance Slaughter, co-Queen Alanah Felton and Prince Erick Montes.



Week 5, Sept. 14 Cowboys host Brazosport

Longhorns to see different look in revamped 22-6A field

When the Longhorns enter District 22 6A play against the realigned field for 2024, the locals might feel as though they have relocated to another city. That's because the slate of opponents includes two programs that Dobie has never gone against, while the Longhorns will also reacquire themselves with the Alvin Yellowjackets, Dawson Eagles and Pearland Oilers after significant pauses in the respective series. It all begins Friday, the 13th (Sept. 13), as the Longhorns travel to The Rig in Pearland to meet Dawson in a 7 p.m. kickoff. On top of all else, the outcome figures to go a long way toward the eventual playoff picture. Dobie last faced Dawson in nondistrict play in consecutive seasons seven years ago, including 2016 and 2017. The Eagles were victorious by a 35-10 score in 2016, then came away with a 38-0 win a season later. Mike Allison, who once upon a time headed the Clear Brook program, is in his seventh season with the Eagles and has delivered an overall record of 46-23 over the previous six. The Eagles, tri-champions of 23-6A last season, have gone 6-4 in each of the last two regular seasons. Dawson has lost in the bidistrict playoff round the past two seasons, including a 27-14 defeat versus Clear Creek a season ago. To open the 2024 season, the Eagles took a decent thumping, falling 52-24 to Bridgeland. The Eagles experienced heavy graduation losses after last season, with just eight starters returning to the mix for 2024. Allison is looking to use Chase Davis in all three phases of the game

this season after Davis spent the majority of his junior campaign on the defensive side of things. Elsewhere, Dawson will lean on linebacker Jerimiah Treadway on defense, along with linebacker Tregan Williams. Rodney Bonham is a big play receiver, and Dawson will be looking to get solid production from a first-year quarterback. The Longhorns' homecoming game comes two weeks later following a bye as the locals host longtime rival Pasadena Memorial Aug. 27 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The clash between the two programs has been one-sided in recent years, with Dobie boasting six straight wins. The Mavericks last defeated Dobie 38-13 in 2017. In fact, over the five-year span from 2018 through 2022, the Longhorns were victorious in 20 consecutive games against Pasadena ISD programs before a 2022 loss to South Houston. Memorial head coach Jamie Crocker and his staff welcome eight starters back on the offensive side of the football, including Lorenzo Delgado, who rushed for nearly 1,100 yards and 17 touchdowns a season ago. Delgado got off to a tremendous start to his 2024 season, rushing for 104 yards and three touchdowns as the Mavericks opened their year with a 43-42 victory over Channelview. Logan Johnson also is back at quarterback after throwing for 1,307 yards and nine touchdowns in 2023. Like Delgado, Johnson also started the current season with a bang, passing for 284 yards and three touchdowns in the win over the Falcons. Defensively, the Mav-

ericks return five starters, including defensive back German Woodard and linebacker D'vaughn Roberts. The Longhorns will face another tough challenge Oct. 4 as they play at Shadow Creek at Alvin ISD's Freedom Field in another game that should hold massive postseason implications. Dobie and Shadow Creek will be meeting for the first time ever. The Sharks are only in their seventh year of varsity football but own a Class 5A state title. A season ago, Shadow Creek finished in a three-way tie for the 23-6A crown along with Dawson and Pearland. Shadow Creek endured a shutout loss to Shadow Creek to open the 2024 regular season but then bounced back in week two to easily defeat Clear Creek 34-7. For what it's worth, *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine picked the Sharks to capture first place in the revamped 22-6A ranks. The fun continues Oct. 11 as the Longhorns host Pearland at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Like Dobie, Pearland has started the 2024 season at 1-1, losing to Fullshear on opening night in a tight ball game before shutting out Houston Lamar Sept. 6 by a 27-0 count. The schedule figures to ease some over the ensuing three weeks for the Longhorns as they take on South Houston, Sam Rayburn and Alvin. The Trojans have started the season with a pair of losses while the Texans have started at 2-0. The Longhorns host Manvel Nov. 6 in a game that very well could decide a playoff berth for either team.



Dobie defensive backs Preston Driver (30) and Taboris Henry (23) will be ready to contribute as the Longhorns face Dawson Sept. 13 at The Rig in Pearland. Photo by Gloria Wallace

Dobie football reconnects with Dawson

Continued from Page 5 victories. "I dislike losing as much as I like winning, so that was a tough one. The credit goes to Klein because they are a great football program, but we have to play four quarters of football. That's our problem right now. "For whatever reason, coming out of halftime we just haven't been good enough. That's something that we have to fix during the week. We had one of our best practices of the

season (Sept. 10), so I feel good about going into Friday night against Dawson." When things go smoothly for the Longhorns, they are hard to slow down. Dobie has averaged 492 yards of offense through two games. Limiting the turnovers and other mistakes and slowing down some big plays on defense will help, too. "When we execute the way we are capable of doing, we know what we can

air, we have the quarterback (Will Joiner III) back there as well as guys like Tariq Riley on the outside. "Being able to put points on the board quickly is something that's very nice to do, but we also know that in some football games is not going to come that easy. "We'll just keep working at it. If we can get things cleaned up overall, we should be in good shape. It all starts at The Rig Sept. 13.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

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

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

9:30 a.m. **NASA Aglow Community Light-house** - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.

11:30 a.m. **ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South - Meetings are held January - November on the second Thursday of the month at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland, TX 77584. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

See Thursday's notice.

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

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

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.

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

12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

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

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

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). No meeting in December. Contact Cathy@cheyder@sbcglobal.net or call 346-970-3507 for details.

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
1:30-3 p.m. **Ballroom Dancing** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

5 p.m. - **New Directions Singles Social Group** is a singles group for those 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held in the community room at Maplewood Crossing, 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will be a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For further information, call Carol at 281-508-1663. See their Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday-Friday.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

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

Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

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

Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Mondays - Fridays.

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. **Ballroom Dancing** - See Monday's notice.

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

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

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

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

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill."

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22-6A, 24-6A varsity football programs show mixed results early on

There's no reason to judge the success or failure of a given sports season based on the results of, in this case, two weeks of the high school football season.

There's no doubt that opening weekend was tough on seven of the eight programs within District 24-6A.

Some of those programs rebounded in Week 2 play, while others are still searching for that elusive first win.

Struggles in 24-6A
League newcomer Deer Park was the lone winner in 24-6A on opening weekend, handing the La Porte Bulldogs a 25-22 defeat at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park.

The Deer had to be feeling great heading into the second week of play, yet were dispatched rather handily, 52-14, at The Woodlands Sept. 6.

Many South Belt area fans witnessed Dobie's impressive 53-28 victory

over the Clear Brook Wolverines in a matchup of 22-6A versus 24-6A.

The Wolverines showed some fight with a 21-7 edge in the third quarter while getting within 47-28 late, but then seemingly lost its grip following a 30-0 loss Sept. 6 to Aldine Eisenhower.

Defending 24-6A champion Dickinson hosted one of the state's most successful programs over the past several decades in the form of the Katy

Tigers, with Katy emerging with a 41-37 victory at Sam Vitanza Stadium in Dickinson to open the season.

Katy used an 11-play, 67-yard march late in the fourth quarter to edge the Gators as Tigers' star running back Tremayne Hill plunged into the end zone from a yard out at the 1:40 mark of the final quarter.

The Gators battled until the end, getting to the Tigers' 5-yard line in the closing seconds before

three straight incompletions allowed the visitors to escape with the victory.

Both Lorenzo Aguirre and Joshua Arthur enjoyed big nights through the air while sharing the quarterback duties for Dickinson.

Kaileb Peterson had four grabs for 149 yards, and teammate Jeremiah Scoby added six catches for 87 yards as head coach John Snelson's team had plenty of success in the passing game.

Playing C.E. King Sept. 6 at Sheldon ISD Stadium in Week 2 play, the Gators again found the going tough as the Panthers emerged with a 28-14 victory.

The Gators actually led 14-7 in the third quarter before the Panthers produced three unanswered touchdowns to take the victory.

Snelson acknowledged after the game that his team simply made too many mistakes down the stretch to be able to come away with a win against a team the caliber of C.E. King.

Jamal Mason had a 6-yard scoring run early on for the Gators, and Arthur found Scoby on a bubble screen for 36 yards as the Gators took a 14-7 lead in the first half.

However, the Panthers were able to rush for nearly 200 yards in the second half, leading to the three unanswered touchdowns and sending the Gators to a winless start through two weeks.

In a matchup of playoff representatives from a season ago, Fort Bend Hightower edged the Clear Falls Knights 19-14.

With several starters experiencing their first action under the Friday Night Lights, Clear Falls head coach Zach Head watched as his team fell behind against Hightower and simply could not recover.

On the road at Fort Bend ISD's Hall Stadium, Clear Falls came up empty on three early possessions, each beginning in Hightower territory and found itself trailing 12-0 in the fourth quarter before Knights' quarterback Jacob Champagne found Dylan Proctor for a 64-yard touchdown with eight minutes to play.

The two teams traded scoring drives late in the game, with Hightower going up 19-7 before the Knights responded. Clear Falls marched to Hightower 41-yard line before a desperation heave fell incomplete to end the game. Fast forward to week two, however, and the Knights were easy 49-14 winners over George Ranch.

Cameron Kern had an early 10-yard touchdown run, and Champagne found Proctor for 46 yards and another touchdown as Clear Falls led 14-0 early on against George Ranch on senior night for the locals.

Cayden Hitstake added a 99-yard kickoff return score for the Knights, and Kern and Proctor had second-half touchdown runs as Clear Falls cruised to the victory.

Thus after a first week hiccup against Hightower, the Knights proved against George Ranch that they plan to be very much a part of the playoff group within 24-6A.

Ridge Point cruised past Clear Springs 38-20 in another matchup of two playoff powers.

In a matchup of 6A area round postseason qualifiers from a season ago, the Ridge Point Panthers built a 21-0 lead over Clear Springs to defeat the Chargers Aug. 30 at Challenger Stadium in Webster as University of Houston quarterback commit Austin Carlisle and his offense enjoyed a big night.

A week after losing to a very good Ridge Point program, Clear Springs held Heights to 110 total yards during a 19-13 victory at Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City.

Auston Ware had two interceptions and Caden Ward and Conner Padden also intercepted passes as

the Chargers even their record at 1-1 with a dominant defensive performance.

Senior quarterback Julian Salazar ran for two touchdowns, and the Chargers also recorded a pair of safeties to make up for an otherwise sluggish offense.

Clear Creek, which graduated bevy of key seniors from last year's playoff team, was blanked 29-0 by the Kingwood Mustangs, and the Wildcats didn't find things any easier in the second week, losing 34-7 to Shadow Creek at Freedom Field in Alvin.

The Wildcats could not find the scoreboard Aug. 29 against Kingwood as first-time starters debuted at several skill positions.

Kingwood got two scoring passes from Holland Hargrave, while running back Marquez Davis rushed for two more in the win over Clear Creek. The host Wildcats produced just 95 total yards of offense.

Clear Lake found itself on the wrong side of a 24-10 decision against Angleton, furthering the struggles within 24-6A on opening night.

Brazoswood also fell to

Santa Fe 37-20 as the 24-6A alignment wound up a 1-7 opening weekend.

Santa Fe did not allow Brazoswood to cross midfield after halftime, eventually breaking a 20-20 third-quarter tie with 17 unanswered points to win going away.

The Bucs struggled during second-week play as well as Angleton delivered a 52-14 decision, leaving Brazoswood winless through two weeks.

With the race to the playoffs beginning in Week 3 in 22-6A, the jury may still be out on just which four programs will surge toward the top.

Dobie gave first-year head coach Danny Fitzmorris a victory in his debut with his alma mater, but the locals then lost 47-27 to Klein in Week 2 to even their record at 1-1 heading into a huge league opener at Dawson.

Manvel allowed a kickoff return for a touchdown to Galveston Ball's Jonah Williams and struggled throughout the game on special teams to give the Tors in an eventual 54-26 loss on the island.

Williams, a University of Texas commit, accounted for five Ball touchdowns. Manvel then fell

21-13 to Barbers Hill in Week 2.

Sam Rayburn blanked Pasadena 28-0 Sept. 6 to stay unbeaten at 2-0, and the Texans were victorious over Spring Woods while getting touchdowns on offense and defense to open the season.

Pasadena Memorial defeated Channelview in an offensive slugfest featuring former district foes at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Mavs, who joined Rayburn at 2-0, then got a thrilling 29-28 win over Porter.

Shadow Creek opened the 2024 season as the presumptive favorite to win the 22-6A crown but could never gain traction in a 42-0 loss to 2023 6A Division II state finalist Summer Creek in Humble.

Shadow Creek then got the 34-7 win over Clear Creek to even its record at 1-1.

Pearland hosted Ful-shear in a matchup of playoff qualifiers from a season ago, falling 19-12, and Bridgeland crushed Dawson 52-14 as the Eagles endured a sluggish start to their season.

The Oilers came back in the second week, taking down Houston Memorial

27-0 to even their mark at 1-1.

Dobie, which led Clear Brook early on 19-7 with the help of an opening kickoff return for a touchdown and early scoop and score for another touchdown, led the way in District 22-6A with a 53-28 win over the Wolverines.

South Houston, looking to begin a new era after the graduation of four-year starting quarterback Kam Webb, led 10-7 at halftime against Baytown Lee but fell 14-10.

David Guzman had a 27-yard field goal for the Trojans at 3:27 of the second quarter, and teammate Robert McKinney returned an interception 45 yards for a touchdown in the final minute as the Trojans led at the break.

Lee's Josiah Joseph threw two touchdowns passes to Elijah Brown for the Ganders. Alvin fell 41-6 at home against Bastrop.

South Houston then lost 31-14 to Bellaire in Week 2, falling to 0-2.

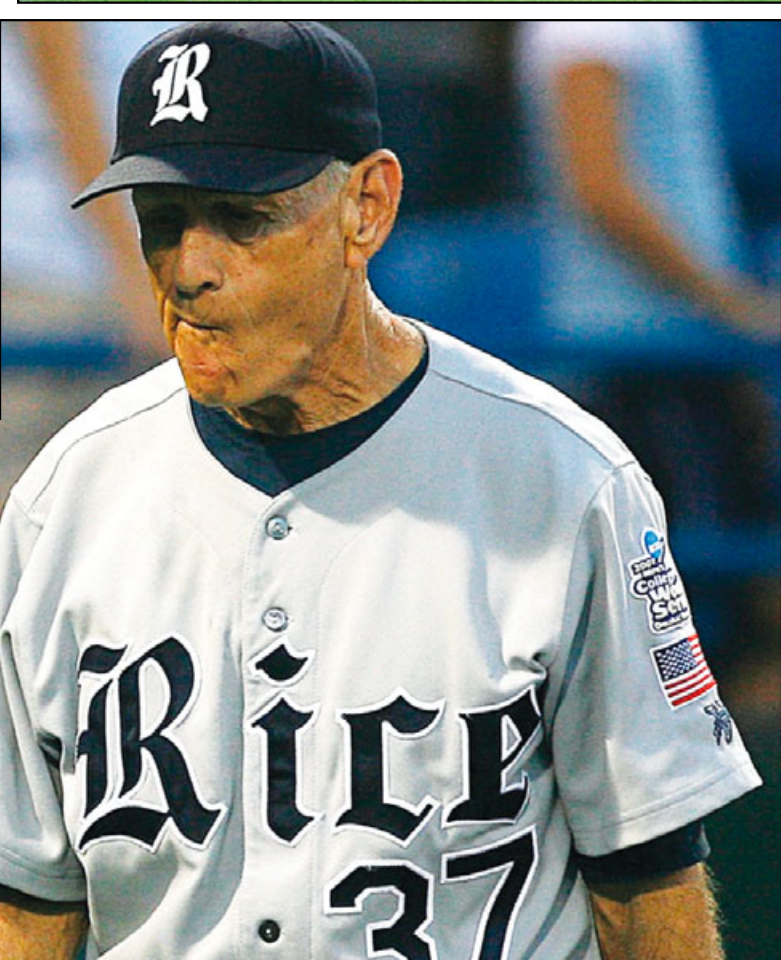
Of note to Pasadena ISD football fans, the Pasadena Eagles began their foray within the Class 5A ranks by crushing Houston Austin 56-0 before the shutout loss to Rayburn.

At right, Clear Brook senior receiver Jayden Price (4) had four catches for 140 yards in Week 1 against Dobie. His touchdown covered 53 yards as he got past Rashaud Howard (27) and the Dobie defense. Price and his Wolverine teammates then fell 27-0 to Eisenhower on Sept. 6 and will head into Week 3 action against Goose Creek Memorial looking for a win prior to the start of district play.
Photo by David Flickinger

Clear Brook hosts G.C. Memorial Sept. 13, 7 p.m. Challenger



Wayne Graham won five national titles and 675 games while at San Jacinto College and then won another 1,173 career games at Rice University over 27 seasons before he retired. The Owls won the NCAA Division I College World Series crown in 2003 in Omaha with Graham in charge. He guided the Owls to seven World Series appearances in all.



Graham, baseball coaching legend, dies

Wayne Graham, a true legend among all-time great collegiate baseball head coaches who guided the San Jacinto College and Rice University programs to national prominence, died Sept. 4 at the age of 88.

The headlines about Graham's success with the Owls along with plenty of photos of the legendary coach in a Rice University jersey rightfully poured out when word of his death hit the news feeds.

Even the first line of Graham's Wikipedia page states that Wayne Leon Graham was an American head coach of the Rice Owls' baseball program in Houston, Texas.

Graham no doubt oversaw a golden era in Rice baseball history, winning a national championship with the Owls in 2003.

The Owls also made seven trips to Omaha during Graham's stay as the head coach revitalized the program that had previously experienced just seven winning seasons in 78 years prior to his arrival.

But Graham's history clearly points to the fact that he landed with the Owls prior to the 1992 season based on having built what was then the country's top junior college program at San Jacinto College.

It was at San Jacinto College that Graham won five national championships as the head coach, turning the then Gators into the most prominent program in the nation during his stay.

San Jacinto College won national championships within the national Junior College Athletic Association Division I ranks in 1985, 1986, 1987 and twice more in 1989 and 1990.

Along the way, the Gators made seven straight appearances in the national championship game from the 1984 through 1990 seasons.

In his 11 seasons at San Jacinto, Graham posted a 675-113 record and earned five NJCAA National Coach of the Year awards.

While in charge at San Jacinto College, Graham recruited and coached Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte among the many standout players who either advanced to the Division I collegiate ranks or who signed to play professional baseball.

Clemens pitched at the University of Texas before being drafted by the Boston Red Sox. Pettitte, a Deer Park High School graduate, was drafted out of high school by the New York Yankees but pitched his freshman season at San Jacinto College in 1991 before signing with the Yankees.

Dozens of other players under Graham's guidance would go on to at least reach the various minor league organizations of Major League Baseball teams.

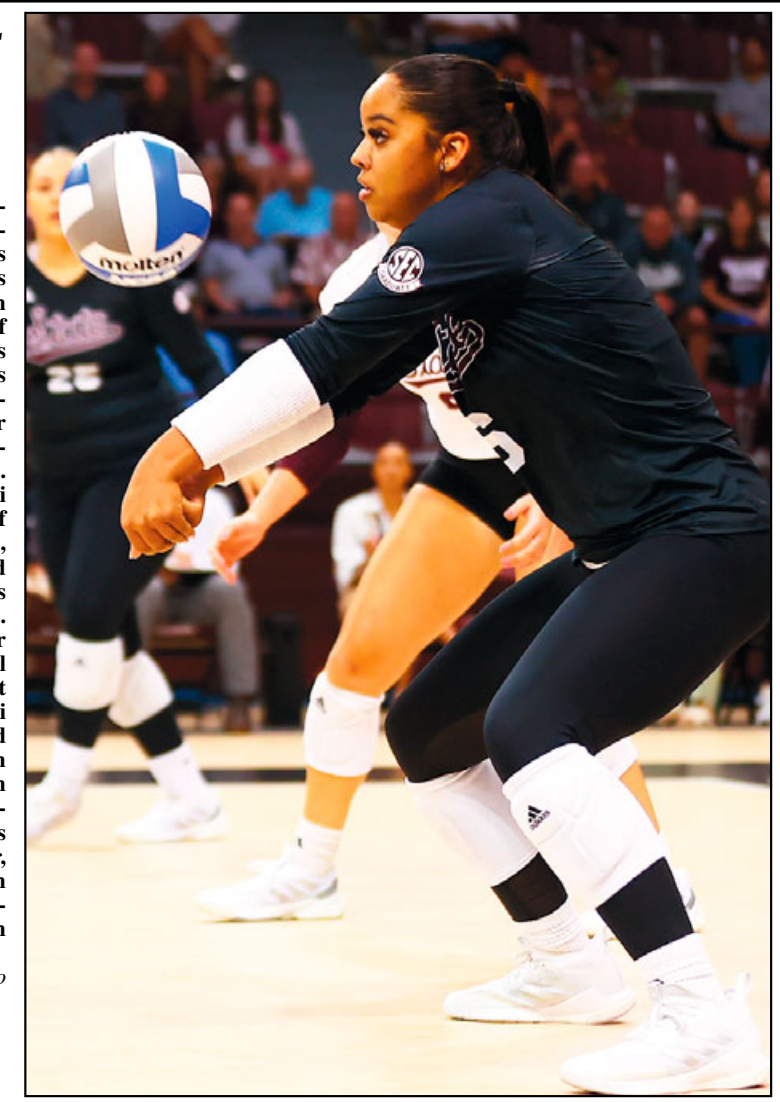
Graham, a graduate of Reagan High School in Houston, enjoyed a great deal of success in the game as a player. He played two seasons at the University of Texas and was signed by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1957.

Parts of 11 seasons in pro baseball yielded a couple of brief stints at the MLB level, and Graham went on to earn first a bachelor's and then a master's degree before settling in to coaching.

Following nine seasons at Scarborough High School and another at Spring Branch High School, Graham was named head coach at San Jacinto College prior to the 1981 season. What a career he had.

Newsome is fitting in with MSU

At right, Kailin Newsome led Mississippi State with 59 kills through the team's first four matches on opening weekend of the NCAA women's volleyball season as she got off to a solid start during her graduate senior season with the Bulldogs. Although Mississippi State dropped three of four matches overall, Newsome recorded double-doubles of kills and digs in each match. Newsome, a Clear Brook High School graduate, is in her first season with Mississippi State after she joined the transfer portal in the offseason. Newsome, clear Brook's all-time kills leader, previously enjoyed an award-collecting career at Southeastern Louisiana University.
MSU athletics photo



Onozie, Dobie graduate, stands out at Albany State

Natalie Onozie, a 2022 Dobie graduate and former District 22-6A Most Valuable Player, was named a Pre-season Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference first-team selection ahead of the start of the 2024 women's volleyball season with Albany State University. Onozie finished her four-year Dobie career with 1,297 assists, 852 digs, 463 kills and nearly 200 service aces in addition to being honored as an All-State Academic Team member. She was a second-team All Conference choice in 2023 with the Golden Rams while registering nearly 300 assists. During opening-weekend action, Onozie had 70 assists and 28 digs over four total matches as Albany State went 2-2. The Golden Rams return to action Sept. 13 at home against Talladega College. Onozie was also a track and field performer at Dobie, where her siblings, Valerie and Michael, were also standout athletes.



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