

Sagemeadow seeks vendors

Sagemeadow is seeking local vendors with handmade/homemade items for its second annual fall festival, set to take place Nov. 4 at Sagemeadow Park. Local businesses are also welcome. If interested, email events@sagemeadow.org.

Knights hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, Sept. 17, at St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments preferred but not necessary. Donors must bring identification. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Val Comeaux, 713-582-5358 or visit www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/geo.

Kirkwood to meet Sept. 25

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are now scheduled for the last Monday of the month, rather than the last Thursday. For more information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

Sageglen to meet Sept. 18

Sageglen Community Association will hold a homeowner meeting Monday, Sept. 18, at the Sageglen Community Building, 11610 Sageyork, beginning at 7 p.m. All Sageglen residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 281-481-2160.

Heavy trash pickup dates set

City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Sept. 15 (second Friday of the month). September is for tree waste only. Pickups may be delayed. For more information, visit www.houstonx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Sagemeadow meets Sept. 21

Sagemeadow subdivision's monthly HOA meeting will be held at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Road Thursday, Sept. 21, at 7:15 p.m. The guest speakers, Judge Jo Ann Delgado and Attorney Charles Daughtry, will provide a review of new laws passed by the Texas Legislature. This and all meetings are open to the public. For the meeting agenda or any information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, will distribute food the second and fourth Saturday monthly from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose of the pantry is to provide food to community people in need. For more information, call 281-484-4230.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. The next event is Sept. 14. For information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Local COVID cases reported

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community increased in ZIP code 77089 this past week but remained stagnant in the area's remaining two ZIP codes, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 12, there were 121 active cases in 77089, up 19 from the previous week. To date, 142 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 13 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 22 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

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

Civic groups host city candidate forum

Candidates for mayor, city council state position on current issues

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

More than 30 candidates for mayor, city controller and city council member attended the lively function held at The Gardens. While all local candidates were invited to take part in the event, some notable ones were absent, including leading mayoral candidates state Sen. John Whitmire and U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

The city's crime problem seemed to be at the forefront of the evening, with more than half of the candidates saying it was their highest priority.

City Controller candidate Dave Martin, current term-limited District D city council member, emphasized his previous profession as an accountant, while candidates Chris Hollis, former Harris County clerk, and Orlando Sanchez, former Harris County treasurer and former Houston city council member, touted their public service.

At least three candidates on stage had ties to the South Belt community.

District E city council candidate Fred Flickinger said if elected, his priorities would include crime, infrastructure and finances. Dobie graduate and son of *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger and Clear Brook City MUD board member David Flickinger, Flickinger said his business background would elevate him over his competitor Humble ISD board president Martina Lemond Dixon. The cousin of former Dobie football star Trevor Cobb, Dixon listed infrastructure and flooding among her priorities if elected.

Longtime South Belt resident and Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon, currently running for the city's At-Large Position 3 seat, discarded her original notes that stated she, like many other candidates on stage, wanted to address the city's infrastructure, crime and finances. McCutcheon instead told those in attendance the election boiled down to philosophy and what type of leadership residents wanted.

The night was not without its twists and turns. At one point of the evening, At-Large Position 3 candidate Ethan Michelle Ganz stormed out of the building in protest after deeming one question about transgender use of bathrooms "hate speech."

"Trans women are real women!" screamed Ganz, who the campaign's website describes as a "trans nonbinary activist and community organizer."

In a moment of levity, mayoral candidate David Lowy – who showed up fashionably late in a leop-

ard-print jacket and sunglasses – sang his 60-second introduction to the tune of the Star Spangled Banner," pitching himself as the fun candidate.

The fast-paced structure of the crowded forum did not allow for debate, but rather a series of yes or no questions for the candidates, which were submitted online by residents.

The Sagemont Civic Club is expected to post the candidates' responses on its Facebook page in the coming days. The *Leader* will reprint the answers once they are posted.

Sagemont finally gets some rainfall

The South Belt community received some much-needed rainfall Wednesday, Sept. 6, following weeks of drought conditions.

According to the Harris County Flood Control District, the rain gauge at the Beamer Ditch and Hughes Road, 0.68 inches of rain fell in the Sagemont area over a 24-hour period, with most falling in just a couple hours.

Despite the rainfall, the City of Houston remains in Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency Plan, which limits residents water use. Residents serviced by local utility districts are not affected by the water restrictions.



Mayor Sylvester Turner (left) and District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin recently attended the Ensemble Theater's 47th annual Black-Tie Gala. Turner was presented the prestigious Legacy of Leadership Award at the event for his efforts in elevating the arts during the last eight years. Both Turner and Martin are term limited this year.

City drought plan remains active

Stage 2 of plan still in place despite recent rains

Despite recently receiving a small amount of some much-needed rainfall, the City of Houston remained under Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency Plan at press time.

The city's Drought Contingency Plan calls for Stage 2 mandatory water conservation measures when the significant drop in annual rainfall and higher-than-normal daily temperatures lead to continued stress on the water system. Houston Public Works has recommended the implementation of a Stage 2 designation of the Drought Contingency Plan for the entire city, including systems that are supplied by groundwater only.

During Stage 2, outdoor water use will be restricted except for the following time periods:

– Between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. with the following schedule:

– Sundays and Thursdays for single-family residential customers with even-numbered street addresses.

– Saturdays and Wednesdays for single-family residential customers with odd-numbered street addresses.

– Tuesdays and Fridays for all other customers.

Any water customer who violates these watering times will be issued a written warning for a first-time violation. Any subsequent violations are subject to a fine up to \$2,000 for each occurrence of the offense (Section 54.001 of the Texas

Local Government Code).

Residents are also encouraged to do the following to prevent loss of water:

– Check and repair water leaks, including dripping faucets and running toilets.

– Check sprinkler heads to make sure water is not spraying into the street or directly into a storm drain and/or gutters. Typically, more than 5 minutes of sprinkler use creates runoff into the street.

– Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full.

– Take shorter showers.

Additional water conservation tips can be found at www.houstonpublicworks.org/waterconservation.

Despite receiving their water from the same source as the city, South Belt residents serviced by local municipal utility districts are unaffected by the drought plan.

According to Clear Brook City MUD board member Chris Clark, the local districts are able to avoid the stricter regulations because their infrastructure is newer and better maintained. Additionally, the MUD's smaller size allows crews to respond to water line breaks more quickly than their city counterparts.

Find more details about the City of Houston's Drought Contingency Plan at www.houstonpublicworks.org/water-conservation-plan.

County spreads obesity awareness

September is Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

Childhood obesity continues to be a severe problem in the United States, putting children and adolescents at risk for poor health.

In observance of National Childhood Obesity Awareness in September, Harris County Public Health reminds families to follow healthy eating habits and to be physically active to avoid long-

term chronic diseases.

Childhood obesity is defined as having a body mass index (BMI) at or above the 95th percentile for children of the same age and sex. Obesity increases the risk for long-term health conditions, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and more.

Continued on Page 3

Homeless encampment fire leads to arrest

Suspect may be responsible for at least 5 similar fires

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.

According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, deputies responded to the blaze around 1:15 a.m. to find a homeless individual returning to the fire to retrieve some items.

Precinct 2 deputies tried to contain the fire until firefighters arrived on the scene. Once emergency crews from the Houston Fire Department arrived on the scene and was able to contain the blaze, deputies detained and identified the homeless male and discovered he had open warrants

with the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies contacted the Harris County District Attorney's Office to see if arson charges could be filed. The subject was transported to The Harris County Joint Processing center where he was booked into custody for his warrant.

Additional charges for arson are pending further investigation.

Investigators said the suspect may be responsible for at least five other similar fires in the area.

The city was notified of the encampment hidden behind the sound barrier wall, and a work order was put in for the trash to be removed.

Annual airshow set for Oct. 14-15

The Wings Over Houston Airshow (WOHA), one of Houston's largest annual events, will return to Ellington Airport October 14-15.

Celebrating its 39th consecutive year, the event will include headline performances by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. Discount tickets are available now at www.wingsoverhouston.com.

"We're thrilled to welcome the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds back to the Wings Over Houston Airshow after their fan-favorite performance in 2021,"

said Bill Roach, executive director of WOHA.

"This year's show will be action-packed with highly anticipated performances as well as displays of vintage aircraft, opportunities for guests to give to local businesses and the community, and interactive areas for children and adults. We hope to build on last year's record-setting attendance by hosting another unforgettable event for the community."

Led this year by a Houston native, the U.S. Continued on Page 3

Clear Creek ISD to hold bond meeting

Sept. 20 public meeting seeks community input

Clear Creek ISD will host a public meeting Wednesday, Sept. 20, to receive community input on the district's upcoming Nov. 7 tax-rate election and three different bond proposals.

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

Tax-rate election

Clear Creek ISD is proposing a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election, or a VATRE. This is an election required by the state that asks voters to consider approving a modified tax rate to in-

crease revenue for student programs, maximize CCISD's maintenance and operations funding, as well as teacher and staff salaries.

Clear Creek ISD is seeking community feedback on the VATRE proposal, which would allow the district to increase local and state revenue by \$17.5 million to pay for inflationary costs associated with running a school district while not increasing the Maintenance and Operations tax rate.

Under current law, the State requires public school districts to lower their tax rate when local Continued on Page 3

Firefighters respond to house fire

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 12:45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, in the 9000 block of North Jewel Bend near Fuqua and Blackhawk.

According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find smoke coming from a one-story house. They checked the house and found fire in the attic.

There was extensive damage and charring to the attic, however, a broken water pipe helped to keep the fire from spreading and contained it.

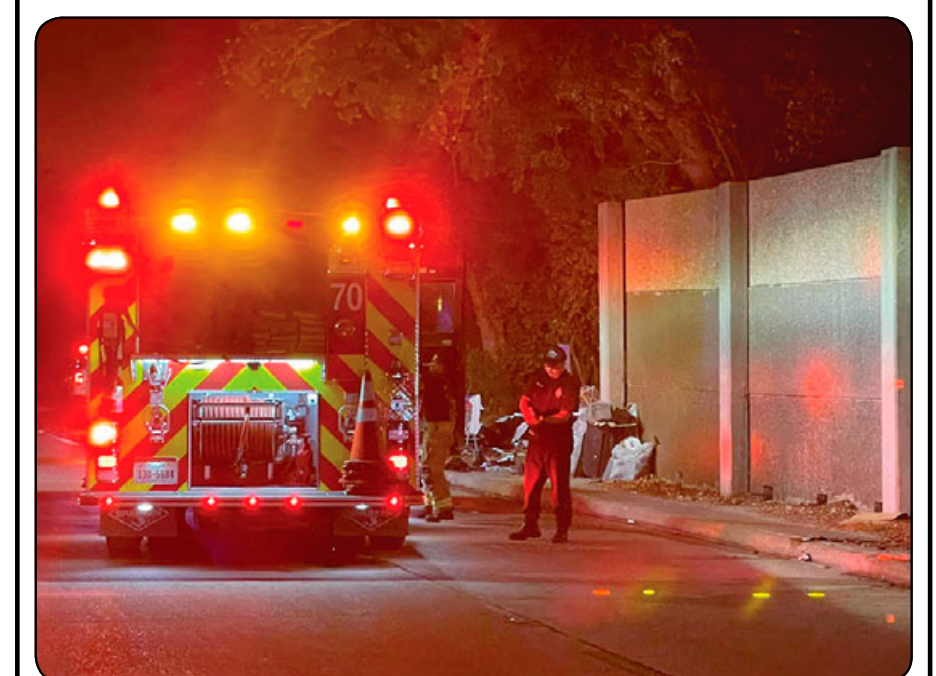
Crews extinguished the hot spots and shut off the utilities. The resident had been cooking on the patio when grease spilled causing a fire and spread.

The fire caused an estimated \$60,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save approximately \$252,000 in property.

The fire was determined to be unintentional in nature.

No injuries were reported. Firefighters from stations 52, 23, 70, 36, 61 and 29 responded to this incident.

Fire set behind sound barrier



A homeless individual was arrested around 1:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, in connection to a fire started at a homeless encampment behind a sound barrier wall along Beltway 8 near Sabo. The man was arrested on open warrant charges, while an arson investigation continues. Investigators said the suspect may be responsible for at least five similar fires in the South Belt community. Fires at such encampments have been a longstanding problem in the South Belt community.

In My Opinion

Jones promotes RFID wallets

My daughter bought a Visa gift card at Kroger for one of her co-workers who was moving on to a better job. When the co-worker tried to redeem the card, the balance was zero because some hacker/thief with a card reader accessed the information off the card as she was checking it out.

According to the Visa representative, Visa does not reimburse the amount stolen nor does Kroger.

Be careful when shopping; Christmas is fast approaching, and also per Visa, the thieves/hackers are gearing up. Buy an RFID wallet or card sleeve to protect your cards and be very aware and wary of people standing too close to you and/or lingering at check out.

Sandra Jones

King discusses Metro ride costs

I think most people understand that taxpayers hugely subsidize those who ride transit. But with the collapse of ridership since the pandemic and Metro's burgeoning expenses, the subsidy has reached an unprecedented level.

In FY2021-2022, Metro's total expenses were \$1.34 billion. However, that included \$194 million that was rebated to cities in the Metro service area for street repairs and improvements. Of course, the lion's share of those rebates goes to the City of Houston. Metro's net expenses after these rebates were \$941 million. During that year, Metro had just over 60 million riders. Therefore, the cost per ride was about \$15.66.

Metro's fare revenue for the year was just under \$39 million. That works out to an average fare of about \$64. So, on average, riders are paying a little over 4% of the cost of their transportation.

That ratio will likely improve somewhat over the next several years, assuming that Metro's ridership will ultimately recover to

its pre-pandemic level. But immediately before COVID, Metro still only recovered about 9% of its costs at the fare box (\$.85 fare v \$9.60 cost).

It appears that Metro's subsidy is higher than most other U.S. transit agencies. According to data from the American Public Transit Association, fares made up about 20% of operating costs nationwide immediately before the pandemic. The APTA data is fairly summary, so it is hard to tell whether this is a precise apples-to-apples comparison. It may also be the case that very large transit systems, like NYC, skew this number. But it seems likely that Metro is, at least, a laggard in recovering its costs from fares among the nation's transit agencies.

But the bottom line is that we need to understand that we are devoting huge amounts of tax revenue to subsidizing transit. Transit advocates counter that we also subsidize road construction with general tax revenues, which is true. But most studies have estimated that fuel taxes and tolls pay about half of the costs of highway and street construction. So, the transit subsidy is much higher in percentage terms and only benefits the roughly 1% of Americans who use transit.

I think we need to begin to ask ourselves whether these massive transit subsidies are the optimum use of our tax dollars. For example, the City of Houston is giving up about \$700 million of potential sales tax each year to Metro. That is enough money to solve every financial challenge the City is facing and have money left over. We could fund the pensions, hire more police officers, fix the streets, settle with the fire fighters and redo decrepit water lines and meters . . . all the of things Houstonians have repeatedly said in surveys they would like to see the City do.

I am not suggesting this is an "either-or" question or that we should just shut transit down altogether. But I think it is time to carefully consider how much of our tax dollars we want to devote to a transportation mode in decline and, at least in Houston, mostly serves an area where population growth has largely stalled.

Bill King

SJC receives ACCT Equity Award

The Association of Community College Trustees has awarded the San Jacinto College board of trustees with the ACCT Western Region Equity Award.

"ACCT's member colleges and the individuals who serve them work tirelessly, often with little recognition," said ACCT President and CEO Jee Hang Lee. "We are proud to shine a spotlight on some of the nation's best public servants and professionals through our regional awards program."

According to the ACCT website, to be eligible for the award, the board must have demonstrated evidence of leadership in setting policies that promote and enhance opportunities for institutional diversity, inclusion and equity for women, persons of color, LGBTQs or members of any other underrepresented or underserved population that has occurred within the last five years regarding the following:

- Increases in access by underrepresented or underserved populations and increases in completion of the educational objectives (attainment of a degree, certificate, credential, transfer or gainful employment) of those populations.
- Increases in the institution's workforce and leadership positions by underrepresented or underserved populations.
- Success of the institution's community engagement or outreach efforts in attracting and maintaining the interests of underrepresented or underserved populations regarding the institution.

"The San Jacinto College board of trustees is deeply committed to access, equity and the success of all of our students," said Marie Flickinger, San Jacinto College board of trustees chair. "Our college mission, our college values, and our college strategic plan each reflect our commitment to ensuring that any student who attends San Jacinto College has the financial means to do so and the resources they need in order to reach their full potential."

The college has grown its equity efforts through its work on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council. The redesign of this council, using an intraorganizational collective impact model, resulted in exponential increases in equity work across all departments. More than 120 employees are directly engaged with the council and all employees are involved with DEI work.

"This council's approach to equity work has built momentum around the importance of diversity and inclusivity by providing leadership and guidance in expanding the college community's understanding of the importance of equity work and how it touches each individual personally," added Flickinger.

Through the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, the college is improving access in areas with low college-going rates. The San Jacinto College board of trustees has been actively engaged in fundraising for and promoting the scholarship, while also monitoring student success data and speaking with community leaders about the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship impact. To date, more than 3,600 students have taken advantage of the Promise Scholarship, putting them on a pathway to a debt-free certificate or associate degree. An additional 3,219 students will begin their Promise journey this fall.

From 2017-2022, Hispanic enrollment at the college increased by more than five percent while black/African-American enrollment has remained stable. Also during this period, the number of degrees awarded rose by eight percent, and university transfers

will be to help develop the plan with broad citizen input.

The college will fund, implement, and/or support these initiatives through the annual federal allocation for Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, all of which are funding sources from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The plan will explain the long-term goals and objectives for improving the quality of life for financially challenged residents and specific steps to making improvements throughout the next five years.

The meeting schedule is:

- Thursday, Sept. 21 - 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., Hockley Community Center (28515 Old Washington Road, Hockley).
- Thursday, Sept. 28 - Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (Link: bit.ly/ConPlanMeeting, Meeting ID: 285 800 412 407, Passcode: XgEITK).
- Thursday, Oct. 5 - 4:30-7:30 p.m. Barbara Jordan Community Center (6400 Winfield Road.

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fers after earning 15 credits increased by nine percent. The college has been ranked 10th overall by "The Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine" for awarding associate degrees and two of the college's programs received the 2020-2021 Excellence and Equity in Community College STEM awards.

San Jacinto College is an active participant in many community events, including parades, chambers, economic development groups and organizations that benefit the local community or represent specific populations. In addition, the college is committed to bringing quality, educational, on-campus programs to its community to audiences of all ages. These include summer camps, theater programs, athletics, financial and wellness programs for seniors, STEM and educational events, as well as career fairs in partnership with organizations such as the Texas Workforce Commission.

"Events such as Mind Trekkers, a STEM carnival for area youth and their families, brings individuals to campus who may not otherwise have an opportunity to come to San Jacinto College," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "Not only are these young students experiencing a college campus, some for the first time, but they are also able to have fun with science and learn about possible careers."

ACCT's Regional Awards recognize the tremendous contributions made by trustees, equity programs, chief executive officers, faculty members, and professional board staff. Colleges recognized at the regional level will be acknowledged and one award recipient will be announced during the Annual ACCT Awards Gala on Wednesday, Oct. 11, as part of the 2023 ACCT Leadership Congress.

John Bert Williams



John Bert Williams was born in the Heights Hospital in Houston, on Nov. 16, 1938, to Bernice (Dinklage) Jackson and John Williams Sr. He attended Immanuel Lutheran School in Houston and then Lutheran High, where he met his beloved wife Valeria (Freels). They were both voted "Most Athletic" and were homecoming king and queen in their senior year, 1956. John attended Valparaiso University on a football scholarship, earning a degree in electrical engineering.

John and Val were married in Houston at Trinity Lutheran downtown on Dec. 20, 1959. They moved to the Washington, D.C. area for a time where John worked for Goddard while completing his master's degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University. They returned to live in Houston in 1965, where John worked at NASA until his retirement in 1995. They had four children: Janet, Phillip, Christopher and Gregory. John was always extremely involved in the community of Sagemont, coaching his children in baseball and basketball, serving as president of the Sagemont/Beverly Hills Little League, and attending every school and community activity in which his children were involved. He and Val became members of Hope Lutheran in Friendswood, also in 1965, and he was a devoted and generous member. He loved to sing and participated in choir, taught Sunday School classes (many of his students, now grown, learned details of the life of Martin Luther thanks to his teaching), served as president of the congregation, and was a staunch supporter of the pastors and their staff through the years.

John was ever a lifelong learner and his interests were many and varied. Looking

Deaths

Elena Puente Macias



around his office at home, one could see evidence of a keen mind and a sincere desire to learn by his collection books on theology next to books in German, books of German and Spanish grammar, "National Geographic," alongside some fiction and nonfiction books, nestled between shelves of music CDs (from baroque to classical, rock and jazz) and many, many maps. John was an expert at planning trips for his entire family, including unforgettable summer trips across the entire country and Mexico when his children were young, to once in a lifetime trips that included his own children and their families to Ireland, Hawaii, and always, always Big Bend National Park. He was fascinated by history and the genealogy of family, which led him to research and write chapters on his family history and that of his wife's as well.

He made contact with family and friends in Germany, which sparked friendship and frequent travel between Germany and the U.S. Those written genealogies remain a treasure for his children and their families, as well as for extended family members.

The many photographs of children and grandchildren seen throughout the house, in his office, and printed from the computer, show a father and grandfather who was completely devoted to them. His fierce support of his children extended to his grandchildren as well. The death of his son Christopher, in 1995, was a source of profound grief, yet his deep pride in Chris continued, as with all his children.

John was hospitalized on two different occasions through the summer, but his family is ever thankful that he went home and died peacefully in his sleep the morning of Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023. John was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Graham Jackson and Grover Williams, and son Christopher Williams. Those who remain to mourn and yet celebrate his life include his wife of 63 years; his children and their families, Janet Williams Ludwig (husband David, children Benjamin and Christopher), Phillip Williams (wife Mary, children Christopher and Elizabeth), Gregory Williams (wife Tamara, child Jack); his brother William Jackson; extended family; and many friends in the community whom he also esteemed as family.

John's family misses him very much and are extremely thankful for the love and support family and friends have showered upon him, and all of them today and through the years and for being part of his family and his community.

Juan "JD" Molina

A visitation for JD Molina, 49, will be held Monday, Sept. 18, 2023, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home, 6900 Lawndale St., Houston, TX 77023. The funeral service will occur Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 10 to 11 a.m. with a committal service to follow at 11 a.m. at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home & Forest Park Lawndale.

See next week's Leader for obituary.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the Leader style.

Elected officials share their words

U.S. Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement regarding the Biden administration's new regulations to prohibit oil and gas production in Alaska.

"Joe Biden's war on domestic energy is absurd," said Babin. "He has prohibited oil production and drilling on millions of acres of oil-rich U.S. land while countries like Russia and Saudi Arabia - who seek to disrupt our economy and take advantage when America shows weakness - are deliberately cutting their energy output to hurt us."

"To make matters worse, the president has reduced our Strategic Petroleum Reserve - oil that is supposed to be preserved for national crises - to its lowest level in 40 years. Biden's new move is beyond foolish and will continue the surge of gasoline prices, further burdening Amer-

ican families already struggling to afford groceries and pay bills under his failed economy.

"Our so-called Commander in Chief has essentially made us powerless against Russian and Saudi production cuts - the consequences of which will be costly to all. If you're wondering how this makes sense, it doesn't. This president is intentionally risking our national security and forcing you to pay more at the pump because he and his cronies hate oil and gas. It is as simple as that."

For more context, click <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/manchin-torcbiden-banning-oil-drilling-across-millions-acres-assault-economy> and <https://www.britbart.com/clips/2023/09/06/fbns-enery-analyst-flynn-we-cant-do-anything-about-saudi-russian-oil-cuts-because-spr-is-drained/>.

Sagemont Park to meet Sept. 21

The Sagemont Park Community Improvement for the meeting include the Association will hold their homeowner's meeting on Thursday, Sept. 21, at the Gardens Event Centre, 12001 Beamer, from 6:30 to

8 p.m. Items on the agenda for the meeting include the election of officers (board of directors) for the upcoming year (2023-2024), proposed deed restriction changes, deed restriction

violations and community improvement issues and actions. All are invited to attend this meeting, which is open for all Sagemont Park homeowners and residents.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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. 14, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
Thursday, Sept. 14, 4 - 5 p.m. Family storytime.
Monday, Sept. 18, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Thursday, Sept. 14, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.
Thursday, Sept. 14, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Monday, Sept. 18, 6 - 7 p.m. Family story time.
Monday, Sept. 18, 6 - 7 p.m. Conversation club.
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies' n' books.
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1 - 2 p.m. Pre Interview practice.
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1 - 2 p.m. D&D.
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 11:15 - 12:15 p.m. Family Place: Child workshop. Registration required.
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Laser cutter orientation. Registration required.
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6 - 7 p.m. Adult craft: Bad art night.

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 TurntableBooks.

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>.

Community invited to county meeting

Harris County Community Services Department will hold three public meetings throughout the county gathering community feedback to develop the department's five-year consolidated plan.

The Consolidated Plan represents the county's vision for improving the quality of life in the county's low-to-moderate-income areas, identifying needs and resources for affordable housing, homeless services, and community and economic development, and establishing a strategic plan to meet those needs.

The purpose of these meet-

ings will be to help develop the plan with broad citizen input.

The county will fund, implement, and/or support these initiatives through the annual federal allocation for Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, all of which are funding sources from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The plan will explain the long-term goals and objectives for improving the quality of life for financially chal-

SJC, Bezos open tuition-free preschool

Recently, San Jacinto College celebrated the opening of Bezos Academy - North Shore, a tuition-free, Montessori-inspired preschool on the College's North Campus. More than 40 elected officials, community members, and teachers and staff from San Jacinto College and Bezos Academy gathered for the ribbon-cutting at the preschool.

"San Jacinto College is honored to partner with Bezos Academy to bring quality, no-cost education to San Jacinto College students and our community," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "Programs such

as this instill important learning in children from a young age, including traits that will serve them well through their educational journey. Bezos Academy provides a critical resource for many of our students and working parents who we know count on reliable preschool so that they can focus on completing their education."

Bezos Academy Houston - North Shore features four classrooms, with capacity for 80 students. The preschool offers year-round programming, five days a week for children between the ages of three and five. The preschool's Montessori-inspired approach is

designed to meet every child where they are, and to help them learn and grow at their own pace. Bezos Academy covers operating expenses for the preschool at no cost to eligible families, providing everything the children need during the day including meals and educational materials.

"Offering free preschool on a college campus can unlock opportunities for students, staff, and families throughout a community," said Mike George, President of Bezos Academy. "Thank you to San Jacinto College for sharing our vision and helping us support East Harris County's students of all ages."

Dokes named San Jac provost

Dr. Destry Dokes has been named provost of the San Jacinto College Generation Park Campus, effective Sept. 1, 2023.



Dr. Destry Dokes

He has been serving as the executive director of the campus since 2020.

"Dr. Dokes has been an integral part of the vision of our Generation Park Campus," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor.

"We anticipate that growth at the Generation Park Campus will continue with additional dual credit enrollment, the development and expansion of the entrepreneurship program, and continued community partnerships in the Lake Houston region. Dr. Dokes is instrumental in continuing the growth of San Jacinto College in this area."

With more than 20 years of leadership experience in the medical and higher education administration sectors, and a doctorate degree in business administration from Walden University, Dokes has shown his ability to hold organizational leadership roles.

He serves as board chair, YMCA Lake Houston; board member, Partnership Lake Houston; and past president for Summer Creek Rotary Club. Additionally, Dokes has been instrumental in developing several partnerships such as Humble ISD, Service Wire Co., and East Harris County Empower-

ment Council.

Dokes and his team have continued to develop campus enrollment as a result of developing strong community partnerships. "I am excited about the development of the Center for Entrepreneurship because we will be able to offer financial, digital literacy, marketing, and other courses to help support entrepreneurs and small business owners," said Dokes.

"Listening to the school districts, community, and industry partners will help us further shape our learning and training model."

Prior to coming to San Jacinto College in 2020, Dokes

R.A.D. training offered by Pct. 2

Harris County Precinct 2 is offering a self-defense R.A.D. training course Sept. 18-21.

This course, for women 12 years of age and up, is "an exceptional opportunity to enhance their personal safety," says Susana Castillo of Adrian Garcia's office.

Precinct 2, in collaboration with Self Defense for Women by Women, proudly presents R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) Training, an intensive self-defense program designed exclusively for females.

As personal safety re-

mains a priority, Precinct 2 has teamed up with SDWW to bring an immersive training experience at no cost.

This program is aimed to equip participants with the practical skills and knowledge to confidently handle various situations.

Visit this link for detailed information on answers to frequently asked questions or to register for the course: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJEKjxcw3TPsBBoJSU_kiKXz-dYsM0ok_viuWgAIArkd26FQ/viewform

Early registration is ad-

vised as limited spots are available and full attendance every day is essential for the successful completion of the training.

Regarding the course, Castillo remarked, "Let's collectively take a step toward enhanced safety and empowerment."

"We're looking forward to welcoming you to the R.A.D. training."

For further information or inquiries, reach out to The Risk Management Team by emailing pct2safetydepartment@pct2.hctx.net.

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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Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

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

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

Emory Gadd named South Houston High's Spirit Award recipient

Paul Revere saw lantern lights in the church steeple. Lord Nelson spotted French sails on the horizon. The Rev. Emory Gadd encountered a pink Victory Bell that wouldn't ring.

It was his call to arms as an ever-faithful Trojan from South Houston High School.

For services above and beyond the call of duty, Gadd has been named the recipient of the 2023 David M. Ainsworth Alumni Spirit Award, presented annually by the South Houston High Alumni Association during the school's fall homecoming celebration.

The award recognizes a South Houston graduate who has made significant contributions to alumni-related activities. Gadd, a 1965 grad, has served the South Belt and South Houston communities for most of the past half-century in his roles as associate pastor and director of community involvement for Sagemont Church.

His alma mater, he admits, became more of a distant memory — until 2007.

Gadd was invited back to campus by then-Principal Steve Fullen to address incoming freshmen. It was then that he noticed something shocking in the school's Spirit Courtyard.

The Trojans' cherished Victory Bell had turned pink! "What's with this?" Gadd asked Fullen.

The principal explained that over the 45 years since the bell was installed, the Texas sun had bleached the original fire-engine red paint. The bell's frame and base had turned pink. But it was worse than that, Fullen said. The bell didn't ring. Exuberant football players, Fullen explained, had cracked it while sounding out the good news following a victory.

"Well, we couldn't have a clunker for a bell," Gadd said. "We needed a new one. And I told Fullen, 'I'm gonna get you a new one!'"

The principal located an identical replacement from a used bell dealer. And Gadd organized a "Save the Bell" project for the Class of 1965. The fundraiser collected most of the \$3,500 needed to buy it. A generous check from classmate Bobby Allen put them over the top.

The bell was installed — on top of the original bell — in time for the school's 50th anniversary weekend. The celebration coincided with the Trojans' homecoming game, which provided a fitting conclusion to the festivities. South Houston beat Dobie to clinch a spot in the state playoffs.

"And they rang that bell on Monday morning," Gadd recalls with a smile. Although Gadd's Longhorns played the victim that weekend, the bell saga proved illuminating for Gadd as a Trojan.

"I knew then there was a reason I needed to be there," he said. The bond was restored. Already an eager volunteer for his class reunions, Gadd became a committed participant in the activities of the Alumni Association, which launched in 2012. It could easily be said that Gadd would give his alma mater the shirt off his back.

Or make that "shirts." Classmates recall the time Gadd was in the stands for a South Houston football game all decked out in his Trojan polo. Just before kickoff, he excused himself, found a secluded spot at the bottom of a ramp and stripped to the waist. He reached into a bag, grabbed his Dobie shirt and slipped it on.

He was needed on the Dobie sideline to handle the stats chart.

The ubiquitous reverend seems to be needed everywhere. And he is just as widely praised.

Gadd belongs to the halls of honor at both schools: at South Houston as an alum, and at Dobie as a community volunteer. He was named the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year in 1993 and the Pasadena ISD's Distinguish Citizen in 2005. Houston Baptist University (now Houston Christian University) named him a Distinguished Alumnus in 2012.

He has served on a variety of boards and panels for both the Pasadena ISD and San Jacinto College. Gadd and his wife Susan, a 1968 South Houston grad, have been married 53 years.

Gadd credits two former South Houston principals for contributions to major chapters in his life.

The late James Barber, South Houston's principal from 1981 to 1991, was an assistant principal at Dobie in the late 1970s when a newly minted theology graduate approached him about helping with counseling issues on campus.

"Emory, we need all the help we can get," Barber told him. Gadd eventually became chaplain for the Dobie

football team. Fullen, South Houston's principal from 2007 to 2016, was in many ways like Barber, Gadd says.

"They were both wonderful with people," Gadd says. "When Fullen arrived at South Houston, that door just swung wide open — especially when it came to that bell!"



Longtime South Belt resident Emory Gadd was presented South Houston High School's Spirit Award. A 1965 South Houston graduate, Gadd serves as associate pastor at Sagemont Church. Gadd and six new inductees selected for the South Houston Hall of Honor will be recognized during the high school's homecoming festivities Friday, Oct. 13. A pregame ceremony for Gadd and the inductees will be held at 6:30 p.m. before the homecoming game kickoff against Rayburn.

Beverly Hills Intermediate students begin new year



April Roark, seventh-grade RLA teacher (left), keeps her students engaged as she instructs them. Shown, left to right, are Roark, Hailey Martinez, Nevaeh Mata-Williams, Estrella Triminio, Vanessa Udoh, Elijah Thurman, Saleen Talavera, Alexis Ruiz, Andrew Amezcua, Antonio Flores, Anthony Risco Martinez, Esmeralda Martinez and Sophia Serafine.

Harris County spreading obesity awareness

Continued from Page 1

breathing problems like asthma and sleep apnea, and bone and joint problems, to name a few. It can also impact a child's self-esteem,

mental health and social development.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the prevalence of childhood obesity in the U.S. from 2017 to 2020 was 19.7 percent, affecting about 14.7 million children and adolescents.

Childhood obesity was also more common among specific ethnic and racial populations, including Hispanics (26.2 percent) and non-Hispanic blacks (24.8 percent), having higher obesity prevalence than non-Hispanic whites (16.6 percent).

CCISD hosts Sept. 20 meeting

Continued from Page 1

property values increase, essentially limiting the general revenue school districts are allowed to keep or receive to 2019 levels.

While local property owners have seen increases in their property values, the school district does not financially benefit from it on the Maintenance and Operations tax rate due to what is known as tax rate compression.

ate School*
- Clear Lake Intermediate School*
- Seabrook Intermediate School*
- Instructional and security technology**
- Athletic and fine arts improvements
- Vision 2030 intermediate school facility modifications*

Video games, or use smartphones or tablets. Instead, encourage children and teens to find fun physical activities with friends and family or independently.

Annual airshow set for Oct. 14-15

Continued from Page 1

Air Force Thunderbirds will perform enhanced maneuvers in their crowd-favorite demonstrations.

"I am proud to bring the 135 finest members of the USAF home to Houston, showcasing the pride, precision, power, and professionalism required to earn our title of America's Air Force," said Lt. Col. Justin Elliott, Thunderbird 1, commander/leader.

Make physical activity part of your family's daily routine by taking walks, riding a bike or playing active games together. Create safe places to play.

Other special elements of this year's airshow include the "Military Might!" drive-in style show on Friday, Oct. 13, as well as the return of Guitars N' Cars, a car show featuring classic vehicles

CCISD seeks \$30 million for safety, security

The 2023 Clear Creek ISD Bond proposal calls for \$30 million in life safety and security upgrades, including improvements to surveillance cameras and emergency alert systems.

"Our primary responsibility is to ensure our students and staff are safe, both emotionally and physically at all of our campuses," said Paul Miller, assistant superintendent of support services.

One of the most visible changes is the addition of 16 school liaison officers stationed across the district, including three at each high school and two at each intermediate school which also support their elementary feeder schools every day.

Reduce screen time. Limit the time children and teens watch television, play

and a classic guitar auction hosted and sponsored by Fuller's Guitars to benefit U.S. VETS - Houston. Additional performers and attractions will be announced over the coming weeks. To learn more about ticket options, display air-travel, event accommodations, sponsorship, or volunteer opportunities, visit www.wingsoverhouston.com

UHCL unveils upgraded welcome center

University of Houston-Clear Lake marked the grand opening of its new Welcome Center Aug. 31, with university administrators, faculty, staff and students in attendance to celebrate.

The freshly upgraded UHCL Welcome Center is the home of the office of admissions and is located on the first floor of the student services and classroom building.

Its aim is to be the central hub for prospective students during an in-person visit, and for current students seeking information about everything UH-Clear Lake has to offer during an in-person visit — all in one place.

University of Houston - Clear Lake mascot Hunter the Hawk (left) high-fives UHCL President Richard Walker in celebration of inaugurating the new welcome center.

The center's state-of-the-art presentation room is now equipped to host recruiting events, high school student groups and more.

"We are so pleased to welcome tours and families to our campus," said UHCL President Richard Walker. "Meeting prospective students here in our new, expanded Welcome Center has been part of our vision for a long time. It's critical to start talking to students very early about the possibilities of their college education, and all that it entails."

He said that bringing more groups onto campus was a very exciting prospect. "We invested in creating a space that was intentionally designed to meet the needs of our prospective students and their families. At UHCL, students come first," Walker said.

"We understand the importance of providing a unique and memorable experience — from the time they step foot on the campus as a prospective student all the way through their entire educational experience."



University of Houston - Clear Lake mascot Hunter the Hawk (left) high-fives UHCL President Richard Walker in celebration of inaugurating the new welcome center.

Beverly Hills Bears practice gesture drawing

Students participating in art classes at Beverly Hills Intermediate have started the year refining their gesture drawing techniques, which involves capturing the essential feeling or movement of a subject in sometimes exaggerated poses. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Genesis Pavon, Zaria Johnson, (back row) Sophia Villarreal, Lizbeth Hinojosa, Isabella Garcia and Monica Luna.

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City responds to eyesore



An abandoned house on Sageheather in the Sagemont subdivision was demolished Sept. 6 after approximately 15-20 years of complaints from community groups who saw the property as an eyesore and safety hazard. The demolition was accomplished through the efforts of the Sagemont Civic Club, District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz and the South Belt Leader. A similar demolition will also be done at 11023 Sageburrow where a burnt out house has stood for more than two years. These photos were taken 23 hours a part. Photos by Marie Flickinger



Clear Brook debate team starts year victoriously

Clear Brook High School's speech and debate team attended their first tournament of the new competition year when they headed out to the Woodlands College Park High School on Sept. 1. Taking only three students to this first outing, Brook junior and Extemporaneous Speaking Captain Greg Stuart captured the first place win in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking. This feat ended in Stuart taking home the first place trophy as well as eight Texas Forensic Association state points. He only needs two more in order to attend the annual state meet, held in Houston this year. The team will head out to Clear Falls High School on the Sept. 15, coinciding with Clear Brook High School's homecoming. Wolverine Greg Stuart took home a first place trophy.



5 years ago (1978)
The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees approved the construction of three schools in the district, including one for the Sagebend subdivision. Construction on the Sagemont Village Shopping Center was indefinitely halted, and prospective tenants were released from their agreements.

40 years ago (1983)
J. Frank Dobie announced its National Merit Semifinalists in the Merit Scholarship competition. They were Joey Talghader, Brian Davis, Duane Quesinberry, Chrita Erickson and Danetta Hawley. Dobie freshman Phil Sandlin's fryer rabbits were awarded Grand Champion honors at the Pasadena Livestock Show.

35 years ago (1988)
South Belt area residents were bracing for the wrath of Hurricane Gilbert. Two separate fires on Sage-willow had Harris County fire arson investigators questioning a possible connection between the fires.

30 years ago (1993)
Melissa McIntyre, the daughter of James and Patricia McIntyre of Sageglen, was crowned 1993 Clear Brook High School homecoming queen. The grade point average for high schools in the Pasadena Independent School District was changed from a 4.0 to a 5.0 system. Diane Peake was elected the first president of the Wedgewood Elementary School PTA. Formed almost two years before to strengthen communications between the Pasadena school district and its constituents, the Grass Roots committee was dissolved. Chairman Malcolm Rundell said the committee could reorganize in the event it were needed, but that many of the committee's concerns had been rectified. He commended Superintendent Rick Schneider on the outstanding job he had done during his first year of piloting

the district.

25 years ago (1998)
South Belt resident and Air Force reservist Dr. B.J. Garner reported to Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. He and several other doctors worked 12-hour shifts to help render medical assistance to unfortunate blast victims of Kenya and Tanzania. Tien Tran of White Plains Street in Scarsdale was arrested for the drive-by murder of Dung Ha. Tran was with a group of youths that opened fire on Ha's vehicle.

20 years ago (2003)
Longtime South Belt resident Billy Arlen, 59, pleaded guilty to sexually molesting a child and was given a six-month sentence and 10 years probation. John Bechtel returned for

his second stint as sports editor for the Leader.

15 years ago (2008)
The South Belt area was hit hard as Hurricane Ike made landfall as a Category 2 storm with sustained winds up to 110 mph. The storm's strong winds caused widespread damage and massive power outages throughout the area. A shortage of gasoline and ice added to the frustration for many. Surprisingly, the South Belt community was spared from heavy flooding. Most of the discarded, wet carpet that lined area streets was from wind-damaged roofs rather than flood water. The storm delayed the publishing of the South Belt-Ellington Leader for two days. The edition was put together at the Leader office without electricity being

restored. The staff worked using generators. Members from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department were responsible for delivering a baby boy during the height of the storm. The baby, Santiago Alan Morales, son of Heliodoro and Norma Morales, was delivered en route to St. Joseph's Hospital by volunteer medic Michael Vasquez, assisted by volunteers Chris Fonseca, Mark Ueding, Brad Fuller and Tom Golightly.

10 years ago (2013)
Lutheran South Academy purchased 22 acres of land needed for a major expansion. The \$2.4 million property, located slightly north of Dixie Farm Road and adjacent to the existing school campus, was expected to take about five years to complete and cost

around \$16 million. Dobie High School named its 2013 homecoming king and queen at the Longhorns' football game against the Clear Falls Knights. Jesse Cedeno was named king, and Amber Nguyen was named queen. The Knights were victorious in the competition, beating the Longhorns 24-0.

5 years ago (2018)
Dobie High School celebrated its 50th anniversary Thursday, Sept. 13, by holding a ceremony at the area campus on Blackhawk. Each of the high school's four surviving principals gave a speech at the event, commemorating the occasion. Dobie's first principal, Allen M. Sory (1968-1979), died the previous March at the age of 96.

1 year ago (2022)
Sagemont Church Lead Pas-

tor Matt Carter announced Sunday, Sept. 11, he was stepping down from the position due to health-related issues. Carter assumed the role in June 2020, replacing Sagemont founding pastor Dr. John Morgan, who had served in the position for 53 years. Prior to his time at Sagemont, Carter was the founding pastor of Austin Stone Community Church, which began in 2002. During his tenure, the church grew from a core team of 15 people to more than 8,000 weekly attendees spread over six campuses and with a budget in excess of \$24 million. Carter and his family will remain members of Sagemont Church, as he ministers as vice president of Church Planting and Church Mobilization at the North American Mission board.

Over The Back Fence by Natalie

LORETTA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Special birthday wishes are sent Sept. 16 to local businesswoman **Loretta Williams Gurnell** from family, friends and the staff of the South Belt Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 14 through Sept. 20.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a melody of a happy birthday song to **Angi Fox** Sept. 20.

Bush Elementary
Blow out the candles on a birthday cake for **Jeannene Gazaw** Sept. 14. The day for a birthday gift for **Enrique Macias** is Sept. 18.

Frazier Elementary
Wendy Wiseburn, Frazier principal, celebrates a special birthday Sept. 14. Light the birthday candles for **Olga Uresti** Sept. 16. Send a special birthday greeting Sept. 19 to **Norma Perez**. Celebrate with party favors and treats Sept. 11 for **Quynh Nguyen**.

Genoa Elementary
Light the birthday candles Sept. 15 for **Amy Shaw-Chilson**.

Meador Elementary
Maria Rutherford is sent a special birth-

day greeting Sept. 14. **Aracely Jasso** celebrates a birthday Sept. 16. Blow out the birthday candles Sept. 17 for **Amy Clowers**.

Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday gift for **Adelita Moreno** is Sept. 15.

South Belt Elementary
Break out the balloons and birthday cake Sept. 14 for **Kelly Douglas**.

Roberts Middle School
The day for a double-layer birthday cake is Sept. 17 for **Maryann Albert** and **Jose Robleto**.

Dobie High
Blow out the birthday candles for a four-star celebration Sept. 14 for **Ginger Emshoff**, **Cedric Mack**, **Rodney Pannell** and **Dana Stockton**. Send birthday wishes Sept. 17 to **Alfred Valdez**. Light the birthday candles Sept. 19 for **Erica Ba**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Sept. 14: **Michele Guerrero**, **Eric Brown**, **Elaine Baker**, **Jacob Lacadou**, **Julie Lakota**, **Tom Golightly**, **Michael York**, **Dolph Larson**, **Kristi Okwuonu** and **Mark Husband**; Friday, Sept. 15: **Dawnella Woods**, **Jackie Williams**, **Patricia Jones**, **Crystal McGoldrich**, **Kristi Ortiz**, **David Young**, **Shawn Black** and **Michelle Poole**;

Saturday, Sept. 16: **Peter Hoth**, **Kairy Barkley**, **Jorge Sanchez**, **Mark Wilson**, **Brandy Rogers**, **Claude Van Court**, **Angela Starr**, **Anna Aranova** and **Melissa Norman**; Sunday, Sept. 17: **Michael Nevills**, **Fauna Santos**, **Alice Mireles**, **Xavier Sustaita**, **Jose Ochoa**, **Reggie Godbolt**, **Sandy Muse**, **Dean Konrad**, **Letty Lopez**, **Tracy Dukes**, **Sandra Sankey** and **Tara Johnston**; Monday, Sept. 18: **Carey Holder**, **Cathy Cox**, **Anthony Virgadamo**, **Leslie Cockerham**; Tuesday, Sept. 19: **Tasha Ford**, **Diane Martinez**, **Carlos Melcher**, **Stacy Mayberry**, **Elyse Totten**, **Jo Ann Minchew**, **Porsche Lancelin**, **Roe Moreno**, **Rita Hernandez**, **David Bergeron**, **Gracie Bires**, **Michelle Griffin**, **Marisa Hartley**, **LaToya Oliver** and **Brittany Swanson**; and Wednesday, Sept. 20: **Bren Duh**, **Freddy Silva**, **Rebeca Sanchez**, **Doris Zacks**, **Nancy Naquin**, **Peggy Bennett**, **Keith Mercado**, **Sandra Buchman**, **Manuel Guerrero**, **Ricky Aquino**, **Dawn Sharpe** and **Catherine Windsor**.

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

Genoa appreciates substitute teachers



"Genoa Elementary loves their subs," said Genoa principal **Tiffany Bennett**. In accordance with National Substitute Appreciation Week, "Genoa Elementary wants to express our gratitude to our amazing subs," explained Bennett. Shown, clockwise from top, are substitute teachers **Yuliana Garcia**, **Dominga Traslavina** and **Nyla Franco**.

Webster AARP sets Sept. meet
AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 will hold their meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway. Everyone is invited to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts. The program and social will be presented by **Stephanie Fitzgerald** with the Alzheimer's Association.

AARP Chapter 199 also organizes day trips for members exclusively by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next bus trip will be Wednesday, Sept. 27, which involves lunch at Topwater Grill in San Leon and then a tour of Raillean Distillers in San Leon. There is a 20-person minimum for this tour which includes a souvenir shot glass and tasting. Cost of the trip will be \$13/person plus lunch (exact change or check requested). Members may register and pay for the trip at the Sept. 14 meeting. If the 20-person minimum is not reached, the day trip will be canceled.

For those interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person and proof of membership of national AARP. For information, contact **Lynne Justis** at 832-212-5417, aarpchapter199@yahoo.com.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Garza, Lobo push JFD girls at Magnolia

The Dobie varsity girls' cross-country program continues to build momentum toward next month's District 22-6A Championships, with the group making an appearance at Magnolia High School's 5,000-meter Run the Dog Pound Invitational Sept. 9.

While the graduation of several top runners from three straight league champion teams has left the Longhorns with less overall depth than in previous seasons, top returnees like junior Lauren Garza and senior Kyla Lobo continue to lead the way.

At Magnolia, Houston Memorial freshman Sophie Peterson won top overall medalist honors as she covered the course in 19 minutes, 14 seconds.

Garza, who has consistently led the way for the Longhorns this season, was in at 19:48 for sixth place as she broke the 20-minute mark for the third straight week.

Lobo, who has also put together her best season in 2023, placed 14th overall in a time of 21:10, with teammate Valerie Salazar 31st-best at 22:48. Also, Dobie's Aracely Alvarado, a freshman elevated to the varsity level mid-season, posted a time of 23:10 for 37th best.

Dobie's Jasmine Mooney, a senior, finished at 24:18, while juniors Mariah Medina (24:23) and Daisa Ram (24:25) also competed along with Madison Puente (25:20).



Junior Lauren Garza bested the 20-minute mark at the 5,000-meter distance for the third straight week as she led the Dobie varsity girls' cross-country team at the Magnolia Run the Dog Pound Invitational. Her time of 19 minutes, 48 seconds was sixth-best.



Kyla Lobo was 14th overall at Magnolia as the senior continued to push toward the District 22-6A Cross-Country Championships, set for Oct. 12. Lobo has been a big contributor during the program's run of three straight league crowns.

Longhorns seek quick bounce back against Houston Lamar

The Dobie varsity football program will look to quickly turn the page following a 49-7 loss to Dickinson Sept. 8 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena as the Longhorns will now focus their attention to an undefeated Houston Lamar squad. In 2022, the Texans controlled the action against the Longhorns in a

35-7 victory. Now 2-1 this season, the Longhorns will be looking to avenge that 2022 loss to the Texans as the two programs go head-to-head Sept. 14 in a 7 p.m. kickoff back at Veterans Stadium. Lamar, currently 3-0, is coming off a 28-7 win over Clear Falls.

Dobie was well in the hunt against Dickinson before a 28-point third quarter turned the game and earned the Gators an eighth straight win over the Longhorns dating back to 1981.

Junior running back Cameron Mathews, who scored the Longhorns' lone touchdown against the Gators, has now rushed for 481 yards and five scores through three games. Sophomore Demarcus Hodges has also rushed for 205 yards and a pair of scores.



Dobie junior running back Cameron Mathews (2) left the Dickinson defense behind as he scored his fifth touchdown of the season, but the Gators used a 28-point third quarter to highlight a 49-7 win over the Longhorns Sept. 8 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Now 2-1 this season, the Longhorns will host unbeaten Houston Lamar Sept. 14 back at Veterans Stadium. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. Photo by Kelvin Lopez

The Longhorns will look to play a cleaner game against the Texans after miscues in the third quarter allowed Dickinson to score four touchdowns to break the game open.

Deer to the top team spot. As for Lopez, his time of 17:03.96 kept his run of success going, and teammate Johan Villavicencio was 18th overall with his time of 17:57.37.

Brook's Trevino 16th at Region III preview

Many of the region's top cross-country runners in all classifications gathered at the Sam Houston State University Region III Preview Sept. 9 at Kate Ross Barr Park in Huntsville as Clear Creek High School junior Chris Creedon emerged as a force, winning the 5A/6A 5,000-meter varsity boys' race in a time of 15:43.92.

Clear Brook senior Joseph Trevino, who will go head-to-head with Creedon at the District 24-6A Championships later this month, was 16th overall in a time of 16:20.32. Trevino's teammate Ruben Garcia finished at 21:41.67.

JFD boys third at DP

Junior Chris Lopez turned in his second straight fifth-place finish, leading the Dobie varsity boys' cross-country program to third place as a team at the Deer Park Invitational Sept. 8.

Deer Park's Julian Andrade was the top overall medalist as he won the 5,000-meter event at 16 minutes, 08.01 seconds. At 18:14.15, Dobie senior Damian Rosas took 26th place, and a time of 18:39.83 placed Conner Torres 36th. A time of 18:40.64 had Dobie's Jose Munoz 37th overall, the team's final official scoring qualifier.

FB Austin, Clear Springs win Ike Invitational

Fort Bend Austin and Clear Springs emerged as the championship trophy winners as the rain-soaked 13th annual Remembering Ike Invitational tennis tournament played out Sept. 8-9.

Fort Bend Austin won the White Division following a 15-4 victory over runner-up Willis in the title match, while Clear Springs took down Shadow Creek 10-5 to reign as

champion of the Burnt Orange Division. The Ike event was born in remembrance of Hurricane Ike, which caused so much damage to the state's coastal regions, including Galveston, in 2011.

Host Dobie, which is looking toward the remainder of the District 22-6A race following an 18-1 loss to defending champion Deer Park Sept. 5, defeated Katy Taylor by

default to place seventh in the Burnt Orange Division. The Longhorns, looking to extend a decades-long run of wins against Pasadena ISD programs in league play, returned to 22-6A action against Pasadena Sept. 12 after press time.

As for the Ike event, third place in the Burnt Orange Division went to a Friendswood squad that defeated Ridge Point,

while Nederland handled Galveston Ball for third place in the White Division.

Dobie opened the event with a loss to eventual Burnt Orange runner-up Shadow Creek and also fell early Sept. 9 to George Ranch.

Gaitans pace Pioneers at LSA cross-country

The Lutheran South Academy cross-country program hosted its Pioneer Invitational Sept. 9 in Webster as the locals put together a great showing. Seniors Matthew Gaitan and Mar-

cus Gaitan pushed one another as usual in the 5,000-meter varsity boys' race and, together with younger brother's fifth-place finish, helped propel the Pioneers to the team championship as well.

At 16 minutes, 25.69 seconds, Matthew Gaitan won top overall medalist honors, while twin brother Marcus Gaitan placed

second in a time of 16:33.69. Freshman Jeremy Gaitan was fifth with his time of 16:45.30, and a time of 18:20.36 landed Lutheran South sophomore Reid Toner 18th overall. Sam Hergenrader, another Pioneer sophomore, was 21st overall in a time of 18:32.20 as those five times helped the locals to the team trophy Houston Homes-

chool was second. Lutheran South senior Lydia Ward led the varsity girls in the 3,200-meter event as her time of 13:28.05 was 10th best.

From there, a time of 14:11.54 had the Pioneers' Elisabeth Hergenrader 19th, while teammate Jemma Riekert's clocking of 15:01.72 was 26th. Elli Stoeckel was in at

15:12.71 for 28th-best, and Lanie Ward posted a time of 15:14.90 for 29th place.

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Is it Zuber or Slam champ?



Dobie Class of 2010 graduate and varsity tennis player Martin Zuber posed with his celebrity look-alike, Novak Djokovic in the form of a wall poster at the U.S. Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. as Zuber and several other former Longhorn players met up with Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. during the U.S. Open. Djokovic went on to win the men's singles crown with a win in the final Sept. 10.

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Clear Brook's Carter runs wild



The Clear Brook varsity football team fell behind early and went on to lose to host Pasadena Memorial 40-13 Sept. 7 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Yet while the Wolverines slipped to 1-2 overall, running back Jaiden Carter (11) had a career night as his 93-yard run was the team's longest play from scrimmage this season. Carter has now rushed for 220 yards in 2023, with his team now set to host Deer Park Sept. 15.

Photo by Kelvin Lopez

Remembering Ike Invitational Tennis Results

Burnt Orange Division

White Division

- 1st-place – Clear Springs 10, Alvin Shadow Creek 5.
 - 3rd-place – Friendswood 12, Fort Bend Ridge Point 7.
 - 5th-place – Richmond George Ranch 11, Pearland 8.
 - 7th-place – Pasadena Dobie 19, Katy Taylor 0 (default).
- 1st-place – Fort Bend Austin 15, Willis 4.
 - 3rd-place – Nederland 11, Ball High 6.
 - 5th-place – Dickinson 13, Copperas Cove 6.
 - 7th-place – Baytown Lee 12, Texas City 7.

Area volleyball programs league play

Dobie

The Dobie varsity volleyball team will look to continue its forward push after a 22-6A opening loss to Deer Park as the locals

take on the Pasadena Memorial Mavericks Sept. 15, at 5:30 p.m.

Dobie, which entered play against Pasadena Sept. 12 after press time at

home at 21-6 overall, fell in straight sets, 25-19, 25-18, 25-12 Sept. 8 at Deer Park as senior Tatum Busch had a match-high 16 kills. For Dobie, freshman

Amaya Langellier had nine kills.

Dobie senior hitter Lexie Gonzalez had six kills against the Deer as the defensive focus shifted to slowing the reigning 22-6A Offensive Player of the Year.

But Gonzalez still leads her team with 183 kills and 365 assists through 27 matches. She also has 243 digs. Langellier is second team-wide with 150 kills.

Senior Aly Frias leads the team with 314 digs, and seniors Belle Perridon (172) and Naima LeBlanc (177) have also played well on the defensive side of things.

Senior Arriana Borrego has chipped in with 206 assists. Yet another senior, Haley DeHoyos, has 118 kills and 27 blocks.

Clear Brook

The Clear Brook varsity volleyball team will host Clear Lake Sept. 15, intent on staying close in the 24-6A race.

Since winning the league title in 2020, the program's first at the 6A level, the Wolverines have not returned to the post-season.

While head coach Meredith Thompson's group has gone 13-16 overall, a Sept. 8 four-set loss to Clear Falls meant an 0-1 start in the district.

Falls, Clear Creek and Clear Springs are all enjoying lengthy postseason stretches, meaning Lake, Brazoswood, Brook and Dickinson usually must battle each other for a solo playoff berth.

LSA now at 26-5

Lutheran South Academy, a state semifinalist a season ago, seems poised for another deep run in 2023.

Head coach Geoff Stresman's group is 25-6 overall, including two easy league wins. All that seems left at this point is to let the season play out.

Collegiate signees Taylor Crain and Kirra Musgrove highlight the roster, and the Pioneers are talented all over the court.

Musgrove entered play Sept. 12 after press time with 359 kills, with three others, Kenna Sambrano, Remy Keller and Haleigh Pham, contributing more than 100.

Crain leads the way with nearly 350 digs, while four other Pioneers, including Musgrove (167), Aniston Collins (127), Jamie Faseler (122) and Kaylee Scarborough (136) have all excelled.

South Belt football predictions



John Bechtle



Emory Gadd



Troy Leland



Stephen Sutton



Debbie Vaughn

Houston Lamar at Dobie	Lamar	Dobie	Lamar	Dobie	Lamar
Chavez at Sam Rayburn	Sam Rayburn	Rayburn	Rayburn	Sam Rayburn	Chavez
Clear Lake at Channelview	Clear Lake	Channelview	Lake	Clear Lake	Clear Lake
Deer Park at Clear Brook	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park
Pasadena Memorial at Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Pasadena Memorial	Clear Creek
Westside at South Houston	Westside	South Houston	South Houston	Westside	South Houston
Clear Springs at Huntsville	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs
Klein Oak at Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
Baytown Lee at La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	Lee	La Porte	La Porte
Port Arthur Memorial at Porter	P. A. Memorial	P. A. Memorial	P. A. Memorial	P. A. Memorial	P. A. Memorial
Last Week's Results	10-0	6-4	7-3	5-5	8-2
Season record	23-7	21-9	23-7	21-9	23-7

San Jac college softball ready to start fall season

Coming off a 42-win season last spring, Region 14 power San Jacinto College will begin its fall softball schedule next month

as longtime head coach Kelly Saenz and top assistant Kelsey Walters look to sharpen the team's outlook heading into 2024.

In the wide scope of things, 13 true sophomores and another sophomore trans-

fer will join 10 freshman newcomers, with plenty of opportunities in play for standouts to land a key role.

Among the returnees, senior shortstop Arriana Wright is the one player who figures to expand her

growing legacy. En route to Region 14 Player of the Year and National Junior College Athletic Association All-American honors, Wright hit .521 with 19 doubles, 17 home runs and 71 runs batted in as she delivered one of the best offensive seasons in program history.

Chloe Foster hit .375, Maggie Evans was at .349 and Izzy Farmer was at

.374, but Saenz and her staff will be looking for additional overall lineup punch as the fall season unfolds.

Walters, a former star pitcher at San Jacinto College, has Kristina Nash and Destiney Yoder back on a staff that lacks overall experience, so there will be openings to fill in the circle. While the lineup is sure to be fortified with sopho-

more returnees, Saenz is always looking to add more production.

As for the pitching staff, a new look is almost a sure thing as San Jacinto College looks to maintain its lofty status within the Region 14 ranks. Today's game requires year-round commitment. While it's only September, the 2024 regular season is within sight.



San Jacinto College head softball coach Kelly Saenz, with more than 700 career wins, will begin her 21st overall season with the Ravens as the fall schedule unfolds next month.

SJC Softball 2023 Fall Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 27	Blaze 18-U KTX	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	at St. Edwards	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	Texas Southern (2)	¹ 2:00 & ² 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	UH/SHSU at UH	TBA
Oct. 8	at Spring College Classic	TBA
Oct. 10	Edmonton 18-U	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 11	Illusions-Plocheck	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	at HCU/PVAMU	TBA
Oct. 18	at Nicholls State (2)	¹ 4:00 & ² 6:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	St. Thomas	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 27	at UH-Victoria (2)	¹ 1:00 & ² 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	Texas College (2)	¹ 1:00 & ² 3:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	Texas Strykers	6:30 p.m.

San Jacinto College Softball Fall Roster

Player	Class	Position	High School
Kiren Diaz	Soph.	OF	Pasadena Memorial
Kristina Nash	Soph.	P	Woodville
Maggie Evans	Soph.	IF	Elkins
Chloe Perez	Soph.	OF	Clear Springs
Arriana Wright	Soph.	UT	College Park
Chloe Foster	Soph.	OF	Alvin
Destiney Yoder	Soph.	P	Barbers Hill
Haleigh McDonald	Soph.	UT	Magnolia West
Mia McLeer	Soph.	C	Atascocita
Izzy Farmer	Soph.	IF	Alvin
Kylie Hernandez	Soph.	IF	Bryan
Emily Garcia	Soph.	IF	North Shore
Maci Beam	Soph.	OF	Liberty
Gigi Carrion	Soph.	P	Woodland Christian (CA)
Angelina Morales	Fr.	IF	Deer Park
Iliana Melendez	Fr.	IF	Clear Lake
Vivien Thames	Fr.	C	Port Neches Groves
Madison Carr	Fr.	UT	Texas City
Ashlee Frischenmeyer	Fr.	P	Jersey Village
Clarissa Ramirez	Fr.	UT	Dobie
Emma Pierce	Fr.	IF	Dayton
Peyton Watson	Fr.	IF	Katy
Larissa Ramos	Fr.	IF	Dayton
Ashleigh Heiderscheid	Fr.	UT	Liberty Hill



Senior co-Captain Naima LeBlanc (right) has come up big on the outside for the Longhorns as the locals are in the midst of their best season in quite some time from a win-loss standpoint.



Freshman setter Alyssa Sanchez (18) is just one of many players on a deep Dobie roster of talent that will carry plenty of momentum into the District 22-6A race the remainder of the regular season.

Photos by Gloria Wallace

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEP. 14
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St. or on Zoom. See Pearland Chamber of Commerce website or call 281-485-3634.
9:30 a.m. NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. 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 at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd. Lunch is \$20 cash or check. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
6:30 p.m. Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets at VFW Post 7109 Pearland, 4202 W Walnut St. Email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARTX.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - free discussion about Judaism and religion at Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real. Contact socialaction@shaarhashalom.org.

FRIDAY, SEP. 15
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
1-3 p.m. Parker Williams Genealogy Group - meets at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. Email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net.
3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Bay Area Singles Club - monthly dance at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3. All area singles invited to attend. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.
7 p.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and on Zoom online. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.

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

SATURDAY, SEP. 16
7:30 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787 or visit https://www.houstonalanon.org/.
1 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 beforehand. Jam-3:30/ Bands-6:30 p.m. Bay Area Bluegrass Association - bluegrass music show and jam session at Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave. Visit http://www.bayareabluegrass.org.
SUNDAY, SEP. 17
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285 or stop by.
2 p.m. Grief Support Group - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, SEP. 18
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for tours.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. Hometown Heroes Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. New Directions Singles - Age 55 and older meets for potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. Scramble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com.
7 p.m. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 chapter meets at Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. AA - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg., room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

TUESDAY, SEP. 19
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum - See Monday's notice.
11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
Noon AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Southeast Houston Toastmasters - Club #05324194 meets virtually at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. Visit the website or call 832-722-9061.
7 p.m. Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club - meets at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). Contact Cathy@cheyder@sbcglobal.net or call 346-970-3507.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. The Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society - For those interested in earth sciences. League City Library, 100 W Walker St. Visit https://www.clgms.org.

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 20
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. Carmelites - a nondenominational group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real. Call 713-444-6744.
10 a.m. The Community Club - meets at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Highway. Charitable organization of women. Email Jmopry@yahoo.com.
Noon AA - See Thursday noon notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.
7 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. NA - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. AA - See Friday's notice.

LEADER READERS

25 words: Personal: \$8 for 1 week/ \$21 for 3 weeks;
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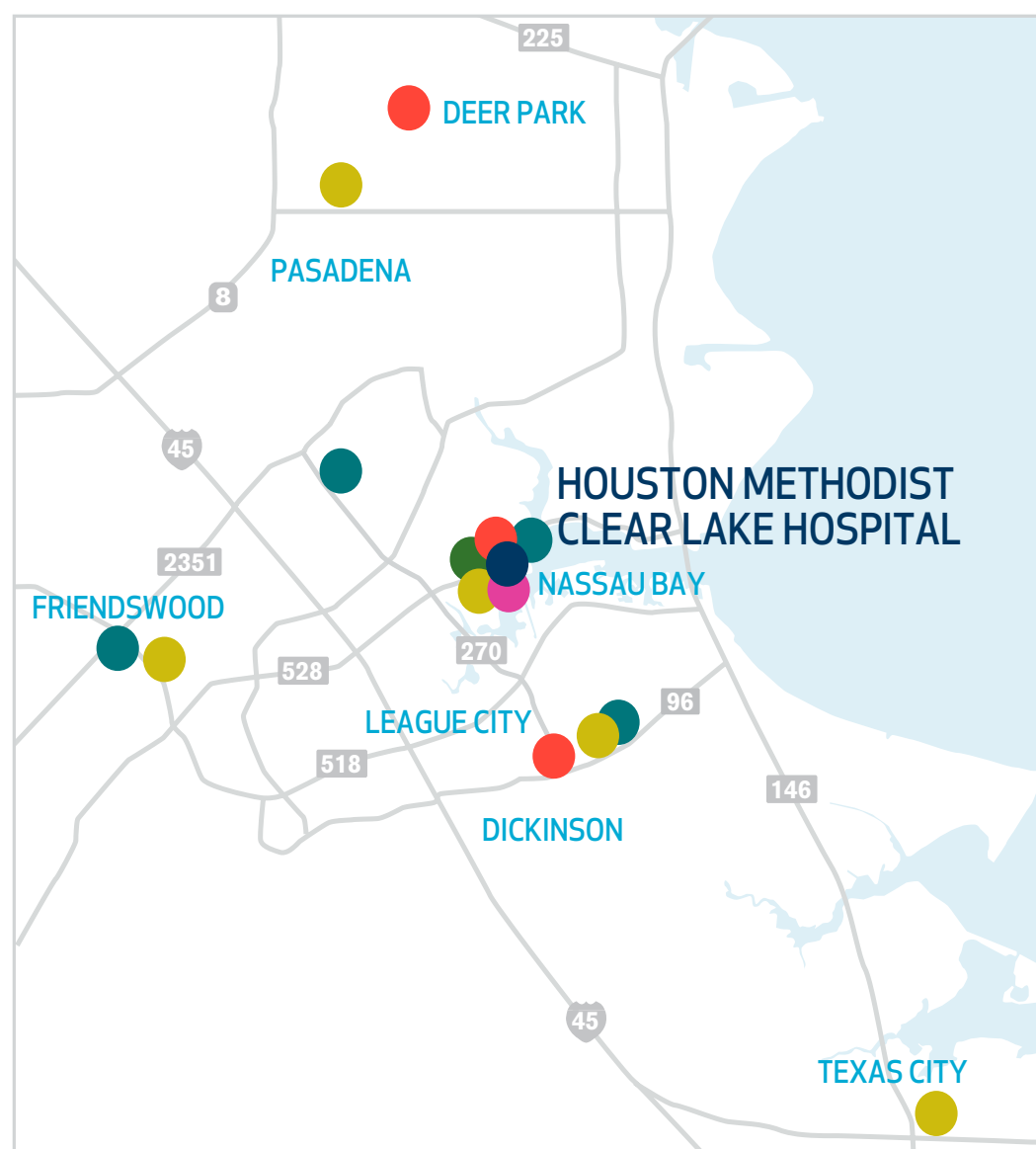
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