

### 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.

### New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday monthly 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.

### 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.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

### 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. 17, there were 295 active cases in 77089, no change from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

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

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

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 519/Main Street in La Marque to Tiki Drive in Galveston daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

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.

### Knights to hold fish fries

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will hold a fish fry on Friday, 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.

### Kirkwood to meet Sept. 30

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30, at Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

### 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 Coffee with the Constable series. The next event will be Thursday, Sept. 19. For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Sagemont to meet Oct. 1

The Sagemont Civic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer. Directors from the Sagemont Maintenance Fund will be in attendance to address questions or concerns. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings is the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Freeway Manor to meet

Freeway Manor Civic Club (for residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley and Gulfway Terrace) will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, at One Movement Bible Church (formerly Bible Way Church), 10120 Hartsok St.

## TxDOT's Eliza Paul retires after 35 years

### Wife of state Rep. Dennis Paul to be honored Oct. 10 at UH alumni gala

By Andrew Alkire

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) lost one of its hardest working civil engineers when Eliza Paul, who oversaw a \$1.2 billion total reconstruction of the I-10 Katy Freeway, retired Aug. 30.

Paul, who had been with TxDOT since 1988, served as district engineer of the Houston District and was put in charge of six counties – Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller and Montgomery.

She was not only renowned for her strong work ethic, but also for her humility and generous nature. "No matter what she's doing, she always gives 110 percent," said Dawn McDonald, who has known Paul since 2015 and who serves as district director for Paul's husband, state Rep. Dennis Paul.

Her responsibilities at the department were immense: She was allocated between \$1.5 and \$2 billion dollars a year to oversee not only the Katy Freeway project, but also refurbishing a

section of I-45, which runs from downtown to Beltway 8.

"She did a great job," Dennis said of his wife. "She's a great mother and loving wife."

The couple met at the University of Houston, when both were engineering students in the 1980s. After a year-long courtship, they married in 1987 and have a daughter, Elizabeth, who recently received a master's degree in engineering from the University of Texas.

As to how they connected, each has a different answer.

"She couldn't resist my charm," Dennis said with a laugh.

However, it was his helpful nature that first drew the pair together. While in a lab on campus, Eliza encountered dead rats after the area

had been sprayed.

"I went out of the building looking for help to get rid of them, and the first person I saw was Dennis," said Eliza. "He helped me."

Like other immigrants who have become success stories, it was hard work that propelled Eliza from her native Hong Kong to London, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering at the University of London before getting a Master of Science in the same discipline at UH. The talent and dedication she demonstrated early in her career eventually led to her prestigious position as district engineer.

While her strong work ethic is one facet of her success story, she does not attribute that to her stellar career.

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### Pauls celebrate TxDOT retirement

Eliza Paul (right) retired from the Texas Department of Transportation Aug. 30, after serving more than 35 years as an engineer. At her post of district engineer of the Houston District, Paul oversaw projects in six counties, including Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller and Montgomery. Shown to the left with her husband state Rep. Dennis Paul, Eliza Paul will be recognized Oct. 10, when she receives the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from the University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering at the annual Cullen Gala.

## County promotes flu vaccinations

### Health department officials offer flu prevention tips

As residents wind down from the summer heat, it's important to remember that flu season is just around the corner.

Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to protect oneself and their loved ones from the flu. September and October are the perfect time to procure the medication as we transition into the fall/winter months. This is because it takes about two weeks for immunity to develop in one's body.

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) recommends getting a flu vaccine for everyone ages six months and older. This is especially important

for people at higher risk of serious flu complications, including young children, pregnant people, people with certain chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart and lung disease, and people 65 years and older.

Flu symptoms can include the following:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills.\*
- Cough.
- Sore throat.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.

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## Voter registration deadline nears

### Oct. 7 last day to register to vote in Nov. 5 election

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 5 general election is Monday, Oct. 7.

To vote in a Harris County election, one must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election date. To change one's name or address, a completed and signed application is also required.

The Harris County Voter Registration Department serves more than 2.5 million registered voters in the nation's third largest county. Voter registration materials are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese.

### Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for registration as a voter in this state, a person must meet the following criteria:

- Be 18 years of age or older.\*

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Not be partially/totally mentally incapacitated.
- Not be a convicted felon, or otherwise fully pardoned or discharged from parole/probation.
- Be a resident of the county in which application for registration is made.

\* To be eligible to apply for registration, a person must, on the date the registration application is submitted to the registrar, be at least 17 years and 10 months of age and satisfy the above requirements except for age.

### Confirm status

One may easily confirm their voter registration status by searching for it on the county's website ([www.hctax.net/Voter/SearchFL](http://www.hctax.net/Voter/SearchFL)) or the

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## Pair donate mural, promote paint

### Veterans mural to be done in new carbon-capture paint

By James Bolen

Art meets science when a pair of local women join forces to create an environmentally friendly mural that salutes the troops while promoting conservationism. To be unveiled Saturday, Sept. 21, at American Legion Post 654 in Spring Branch, "Heroes in Boots" is a piece of artwork done by area artist Natalia Victoria in partnership with local NASA scientist Tanya Rogers, inventor of a new carbon-capture paint aimed at combating climate change. Together, the pair are hoping a splash of color can revitalize the aging 75-year-old landmark.

The two women have selflessly donated their time and supplies to complete the massive 20-foot by 60-foot mural, which will adorn the entirety of the Post's front wall. Victoria said the mural is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete painting.

Loosely affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars' annual "Boots & Heroes" gala being held the

previous week at the nearby Spring Branch VFW lodge, "Heroes in Boots" is an homage to former U.S. presidents, who after serving their country in the military, went on to spearhead the nation's conservation efforts. From establishing national parks and monuments to passing meaningful legislation aimed at protecting the country's limited natural resources, the environmental actions taken by the presidents honored in the mural continue to shape the nation's path forward to this date.

The concept for the mural was conceived by Victoria, who said she was initially approached by Terry Chung from Post 654 about possibly doing a mural at the aging American Legion building to coincide with the VFW's upcoming "Boots & Heroes" event. While eager to support the worthwhile cause, such a project would require paint – a lot of paint.

Enter Rogers, who had independently approached Victoria about doing a mural to pro-

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## 2 Pct. 8 deputies injured during arrest

### Repeat offender involved in 10+ calls this past year

Two Precinct 8 deputies were injured the night of Thursday, Sept. 12, during the combative arrest of a repeat offender in the 2400 block of Bay Area Boulevard.

According to Precinct 8 officials, deputies responded to calls of a suspicious person at the CVS Pharmacy located at the above address at approximately 9 p.m. Upon arrival, Deputies learned from store employees that a known subject, 18-year-old Najji Ali, had been at this location harassing customers. Ali had previously been issued a criminal trespass warning for this location from previous incidents that occurred on Aug. 22 and Aug. 23.

Deputies were able to locate Ali in an adjacent parking lot and attempted to detain him. While



Najji Ali

attempting to apply handcuffs, Ali resisted the deputies' attempts and a struggle ensued. After several minutes, they were able to secure him with the assistance of two UHCL police officers and an additional Precinct 8 deputy who arrived on scene to assist. Ali attempted to "head butt" one deputy in his face and spat towards another. Ali continued to be combative after being placed in the patrol car by kicking the patrol car doors aggressively.

During the struggle, one of the deputies sustained a large abrasion and bruising to his right forearm. A second deputy sustained injuries to his left hand, wrist and knee. Additionally, this deputy was treated at a local emergency room for possible tissue damage to his left shoulder and a sprained right wrist. He is now recovering at home.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted two charges of assault on a public servant. He was booked into

Continued on Page 4

## Whitmire announces HPD pay raise

### Police cadets to get \$10K pay increase, other perks

Houston Mayor John Whitmire on Sunday, Sept. 9, reaffirmed his commitment to public safety and the Houston Police Department by announcing a \$10,000 raise for police cadets and additional incentives to recruit and retain new officers.

The mayor made the surprise announcement while visiting with members of Cadet Class No. 267, accompanied by Houston Police Chief J. Noe Diaz. The pay increase will have a far-reaching and significant impact on HPD's ability to recruit and retain additional police officers.

The following provisions take effect immediately:

- HPD cadets will get a base salary jump from \$42,000 to \$52,000.

- HPD cadets will receive a \$5,000 one-time incentive for completing the academy and TCOLE Certification.

- Total cadet compensation increases to \$57,000 in the first year.

Upon completion of the probationary period, the officer's salary will increase to \$62,574.

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## Fox to be inducted into SoHo hall

### Former science teacher 1 of 5 to be recognized

Patrick Fox will be posthumously recognized Sept. 20 as one of five inductees into South Houston High School's 2024 Hall of Honor.

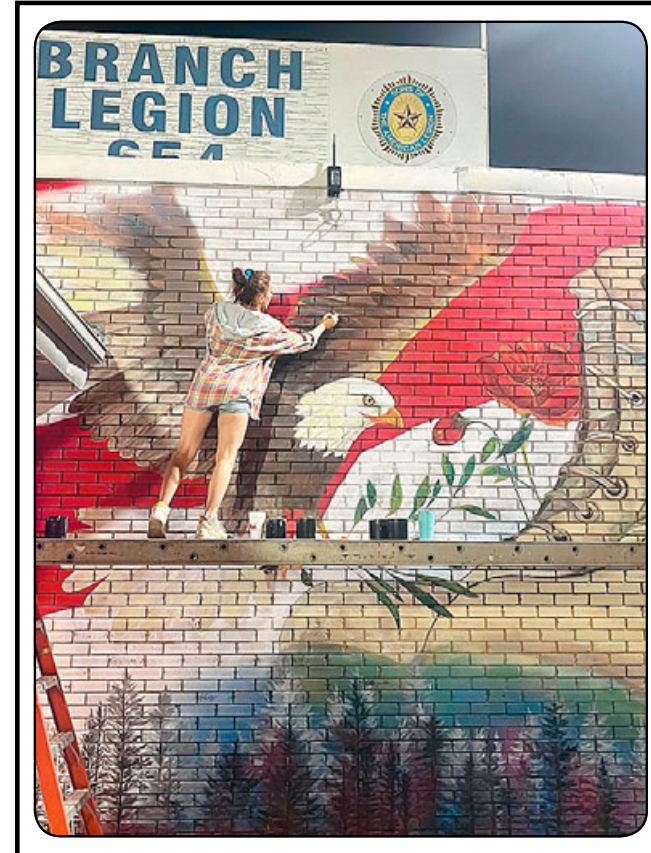
A former coach and science teacher at the area high school, Fox will be one of two former faculty members to be honored, joining fellow SoHo science teacher Amon Alford (chemistry, 1959-1968). Alumni being recognized include Michael Seale, Class of 1963; Brand Norman Griffin, Class of 1965; and Carla Thomas, Class of 1980.

The husband of local physician Dr. Mary

Campbell Fox, Patrick Fox spent nearly three decades with Pasadena ISD, most recently coaching/teaching from 2000-2022 at South Houston, where he specialized in chemistry, physics and astronomy. Prior to that, Fox taught at Sam Rayburn High School from 1994-2000. (A 1976 Dobbie graduate, Campbell Fox was inducted into Dobbie's Hall of Honor in 2013.)

Originally from Oklahoma City, Fox in 1977 graduated from Father Flanagan's Boys Town, where he excelled in sports, particularly football.

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## Victoria donates veterans mural

Local artist Natalia Victoria (left) has teamed up with local NASA scientist Tanya Rogers to promote conservationism by donating a mural to American Legion Post 654. Painted with a new carbon-capture paint invented by Rogers, the mural is an homage to former U.S. presidents, who after serving their country in the military, went on to spearhead the nation's conservation efforts. "Heroes in Boots" is to be unveiled Saturday, Sept. 21, at American Legion Post 654 in Spring Branch.

# In My Opinion

## Concern about Constitution challenge

Attached are 10 pages of violations and a breakdown of the subterfuge used by the taxing authorities to hide the crimes being committed which we are now doing what we can to expose this. On my website at [www.mockingbirdproperties.com/dcaid](http://www.mockingbirdproperties.com/dcaid) you will see several videos and a mountain of evidence.

In addition we intend to file suit against the individuals who have violated the laws and are also have criminal complaints ready to roll. We are in the process now of a Constitution challenge in court.

Don't drive yourself crazy with analysis as we have done the heavy lifting. JD McCleod from Keller Williams has also posted several videos that are from the standpoint of the Realtors. Travis has created a full series of videos at Real Estate Mindset on YouTube. One of Travis' videos features Jeremy Bagott who goes into great detail on how the appraisers are being forced to commit fraud. In addition, Travis Spencer is working diligently to complete a program to walk people through the protest process. It is generic enough to be applicable across the U.S. This course should be in every persons hands who is tired of being ripped off by the central appraisal districts. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL03dZB8Cn9QuemgK30wUL1qncSqfFXL>

The goal is to build an army of people who are capable of protesting who will know more than the central appraisal districts themselves.

There are several individuals in Harris who are familiar with the above. There are also people in Johnson County who have joined forces to hire an attorney on their behalf, so there is good activity. The approach is to give everybody the knowledge of what is happening, how to respond to the CADs, and then assuming that the CADs will continue to lie, then file suit against those individuals responsible. Clearly this is not just a Texas problem, it just so happens that we have the evidence that emanated from Texas.

Also attached is the Affordability Testing and this speaks volumes with regard to how bad the problem is in any given County. The formulas can be used in any taxing jurisdiction. The last two lines

show the extent of the overvaluation. Please feel free to share any of this information. Best Regards,

Mitchell Vexler, President G.P. Mockingbird Properties LLC

## Problems on Dixie Farm Road

Good morning, Ms. Marie. It's been awhile since I've connected with you. I trust you are well.

I'm writing concerning the MESS, which is Dixie Farm Rd, from Beamer to the Gulf Fwy.

I am a Pearland resident and have lived just off Dixie Farm Rd. in Pearland for nearly 25 years. I travel this road every day on my way to the office or into Houston. It is appalling that this section of the road has been ignored for so long. It is unsafe, with a constant barrage of potholes and concrete ditches lurking on both sides, with only a curb to keep you from running off the road.

This road becomes a racetrack in the mornings, with cars and large Pickup trucks rushing to the freeway...tailgating and speeding on a road not made for speed. This section of the road is located in Harris County, and I do not understand why our county commissioners have ignored this for so long. If there is a pothole, it will be patched over after weeks of ignoring it, and the patch will fail within a brief time frame.

This road is no man's land as it has been ignored seemingly forever. Dixie Farm Rd. must be redesigned entirely with proper sewers and a smooth road.

I hope we find the motivation in our county and county commissioner to get this done. It's way past time.

Thank you for listening.

Mike Carlen

Publisher's comment: Unfortunately, I believe it would be easier to get the county's help, but this is not a county road between Beamer and I-45, it is city. The county portion is from Beamer to Blackhawk. This has always made improvements harder, but we will inform the city council member, Carolyn Sjabazz. dre.vansshabazz@yahoo.com

Marie Flickinger, Publisher

## 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. 19, 3 - 4 p.m. Family story time.  
Thursday, Sept. 19, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lab - computer class.  
Thursday, Sept. 19, 5 - 6 p.m. English language learning at the library.  
Monday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lab - computer class.  
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 3 - 4 p.m. Kids craft Hispanic heritage month.  
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. 19, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.  
Thursday, Sept. 19, 2 - 4 p.m. Computer class beginner typing for adults and seniors.  
Friday, Sept. 20, 1 - 2 p.m. Genealogy.  
Monday, Sept. 23, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family time.  
Monday, Sept. 23, 11:15 a.m. - noon. Family story time.  
Monday, Sept. 23, 2 - 4 p.m. Pathway to citizenship.  
Monday, Sept. 23, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Cricut Orientation.  
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.  
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 5 - 6 p.m. Sensory friendly family movie night.  
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 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](http://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>.

## Lariaette of the Week, Sept. 7



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the week of Sept. 7 is junior Chloe Nguyen, a second-year line member.

## Lariaette of the Week, Sept. 13



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the week of Sept. 13 is sophomore Mya Cantu, a first-year line member.

## HPD gets pay raise

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"This is an investment in the men and women of our police department who put their lives on the line daily to keep our community safe," said Whitmire. "Each one of you has committed to public service."

"The pay increase is a start in the right direction to let men and women across this state, this nation, and this great city know that we want you to become a Houston police officer."

"I've been with police officers on the best days and on the worst days, but always, it's a dedicated group of individuals."

The mayor has attended several police cadet graduations, but it was the first time he addressed cadets during their training.

There are currently 46 cadets in class No. 267 who will graduate in March 2026.

The FY 2025 budget includes funding for six police cadet classes.

While speaking with the cadets, Whitmire encouraged them to help HPD recruit new officers and always to prioritize the community.

"I hope you recommend somebody else to join this fine organization because the better days are in front of us, and someday, I hope one of you will aspire to be a commander or a chief," said Whitmire.

"The model we want in Houston is law enforcement that protects the public, protects yourself, and your family. And I'll even go a step further. I've wanted to say this to a group of officers, certainly cadets. It's appropriate when you pull somebody over, I believe it's your duty to treat that person like a family member."

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## Clear Brook High School awarded



On Sept 14, the Clear Brook Speech and Debate team attended the annual tournament held at Clear Falls High School and took home a trifecta of a successful weekend - wins, state points and trophies. In Extemporaneous Speaking, team Vice President Emily Joseph and varsity member Kendrick Toennies won first place trophies in Domestic and Foreign divisions respectively. Following them was Elaina Joseph and Zaid Asad, who placed second and sixth in Foreign Extemp respectively, and Khang Ngo, who placed third in Domestic. In the Novice division, Clear Brook swept the top five positions, with Luke Wills taking first, Jackson Barnett placing second, Jaza Sheikh placing third, followed by Hammad Tariq in fourth and Schylar Langdon in fifth. Fellow varsity members Claire Mayfield and Eman Ahmed also achieved wins for the team, with the former placing second in Prose and the latter placing eighth in Original Oratory. Not to be outdone, the team's debate contingent also flexed their verbal muscle. The World Schools Debate team consisting of Tiffany Tran, Kendrick Toennies, Emily Joseph and Victoria Constanza bested every other team at the meet and faced off against Clear Springs High School where they were awarded a 3-0 decision by their judge panel. In addition, varsity member Anthony Van also fought hard to achieve a ninth place finish in Student Congress. These wins resulted in the team earning a total of more than 40 state points and propelling at least five team members half way to their Texas Forensic Association state qualification. Left to right, are Emily Joseph, Tiffany Tran, Victoria Constanza and Kendrick Toennies.

## Paul, Flickinger attend city event



State Rep. Dennis Paul is shown with newly elected Houston District E City Council Member Fred Flickinger at Houston Mayor John Whitmire's State of the City function the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 19. See next week's Leader for complete coverage of Whitmire's presentation. (See related story Page 1.) Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Fox to be inducted into SoHo hall

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basketball and track and field.

Fox earned several athletic achievements, including the Ike Mahoney Memorial Most Valuable Football Player award, Boys Town Outstanding Back Award and Boys Town Athlete of the Year (1977).



Patrick Fox

Following graduation, Fox joined the U.S. Army and served in Germany and later in Operation Desert Storm during the first Gulf War. Upon his discharge from the Army, he went on to complete his Bachelor of Science and master's degrees from the University of Houston.

Fox died unexpectedly during the 2022 Christmas break, leaving behind his wife and five children.

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as well as at a luncheon to be held at the SoHo campus earlier that afternoon. See full story in next week's Leader.

as well as at a luncheon to be held at the SoHo campus earlier that afternoon. See full story in next week's Leader.

## WATER DISTRICT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The **SAGEMEADOW U.D.** will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on **October 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.** at Sagemeadow Utility District Building, 10755 Hall Road, Houston, TX **77089**. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

**FOR the proposal:** Dean Baier, Seth Webb, Edward Figueroa, David Montgomery and Glenn Williams

**AGAINST the proposal:** None

**PRESENT and not voting:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.50000/\$100	\$.52000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.02000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		4.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 249,368	\$ 258,067
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 249,368	\$ 258,067
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,246.84	\$ 1,341.94
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 95.10 7.62%

### NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

**Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011**

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

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[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://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*
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.

## Pasadena Memorial announces homecoming candidates



Pasadena Memorial High School announced its homecoming court members. Shown, left to right are, (front row) Raquell Amaya, Zairah Longoria, Dayanara Granados, (back row) Charles Palacios, Angel Zuniga and Esteban Miranda. Pasadena Memorial will announce its King and Queen Thursday evening, Sept. 26, during the football game against Dawson High School.

## San Jac partners with Solugen

By Neesha Hosein

San Jacinto College has formed a new partnership with Solugen, a leader in industrial biomanufacturing, to deliver customized corporate training to enhance the skills and competencies of industrial biotechnical laboratory staff.

San Jac is the first institution in the region to offer such customized corporate training for industrial biotechnology companies, setting a new standard in biomanufacturing education.

"Solugen places a high priority on engaging community partners," said Dr. Christopher Wild, executive director of San Jac's Center for Biotechnology. "As a part of that effort, which aligned with the College engaging biotech companies, the relationship blossomed."

The training currently is offered to the Greater Houston region with plans to become a training destination for biopharma and industrial biotechnology companies in the Southeastern U.S.

### training program

The college hosted its first cohort of 10 Solugen trainees in May.

The weeklong "Foundations of Biotechnology" includes both theoretical and hands-on components, covering a range of critical topics from contamination control to pilot plant operations. The course is led by Dr. Nicole Bradley, who has more than 12 years of research experience and five years in biopharmaceuticals and quality control, and Kevin Rodriguez, a San Jac alumnus with a process development background and more than three years of biopharmaceutical manufacturing experience.

"Trainees learned everything from contamination control to pilot plant operations and everything in between," said Bradley, biotechnology program director and professor. "They learned how to limit and control contaminations as well as how to improve accuracy and reproducibility in their experiments and products."

The course includes both theoretical and hands-on training in various critical areas, including:

- Introduction to pilot plant operations (theory).
- Basic data analysis and analytical calculations (theory).
- Sterilization and decontamination (theory).
- How to use and calibrate a pH meter (theory/hands-on training).
- Pipette training and repeatability assessment (hands-on training).

"I think the training was incredibly enriching for both the trainees and the San Jac faculty," Bradley said. "It was a wonderful collaboration from start to finish, and there were some knowledge gaps that the senior-level trainees were able to fill in for us as well."

### Developing the partnership

San Jac and Solugen's partnership is a significant step toward addressing the workforce needs in the rapidly growing field of industrial biomanufacturing in Houston. This collaboration benefits not only the College and its students but also the broader community by opening new career paths in a field with increasing employment opportunities.

"San Jacinto has been a critical community partner for Solugen in Houston," said Dr. Konrad Miller, Solugen vice president of manufacturing science and technology. "As the workforce needs for the industrial biomanufacturing sector evolve, we have been working closely with faculty at the Center for Biotechnology to tailor curriculum. We're excited about the prospect of utilizing their new short-course offerings to cross-train our teams on industry best practices."

"Providing onboarding training for future hires is a goal," Wild said. "Additionally, through our partnership, continuing to engage Solugen on community events will be essential to building familiarity with families regarding careers in this sector."

With an exclusive partnership with the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training, San Jac is positioned to become a biomanufacturing training leader.

First cohort kicks off

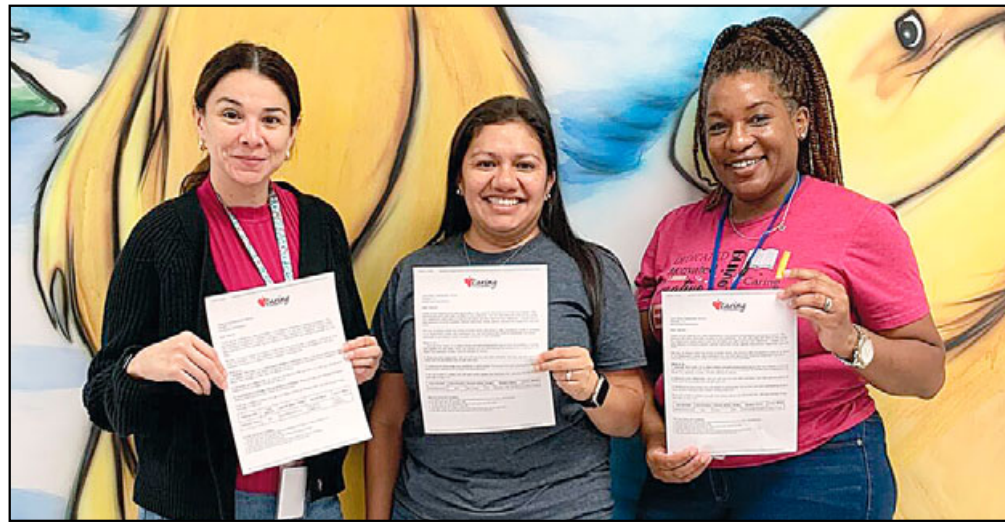
## Graham participates in 9/11 tribute



Lane Graham, grandson of Don and Rosa Graham of Sageglen, participated in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. Lane is shown at left wearing a lanyard and badge honoring New York Fire Department firefighter Leon Smith Jr. who died Sept. 11, 2001. Lane is shown with League City firefighter Jake Henson with whom he walked up 110 flights of steps at Veterans Memorial Stadium. At right, to realize the treacherous climb the fallen heroes of 9/11 made, Lane wore Henson's jacket while making his climb. Lane's parents are Amy and Esteban Graham, Clear Brook graduates and Clear Creek ISD educators.



Left to right, are Valentina Bilic, Solugen employee; Kevin Rodriguez, San Jac alumnus and biotechnology instructor; and Ronnikka Garrett, Solugen employee, as they confer in partnership to deliver industrial biotechnical training.



## Bush Elementary families gift teachers

Bush Bear families participated in the School Store fundraiser which resulted in teachers earning gift cards ranging from \$20 - \$500 for classroom supplies and needs. Left to right, are pre-K teachers Aide Buenrostro, Marlynn Beltran and Maralda Isaac.

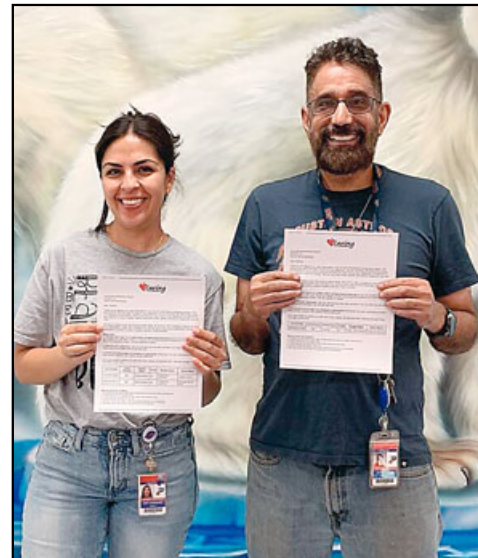
Photo by Nely Maicher



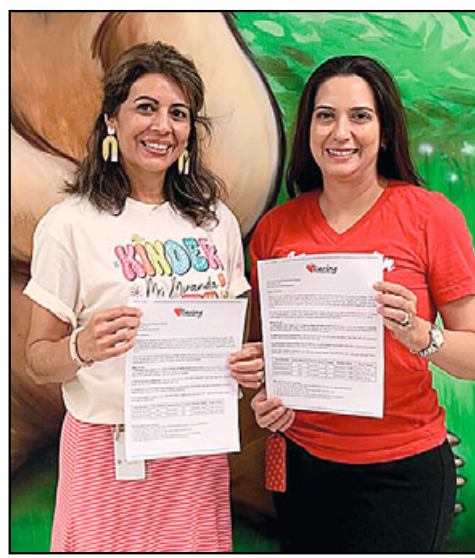
Shown with their gift cards from left to right, are first-grade teachers Gilberto Garza, Amber Torrez and Zory Lopez.



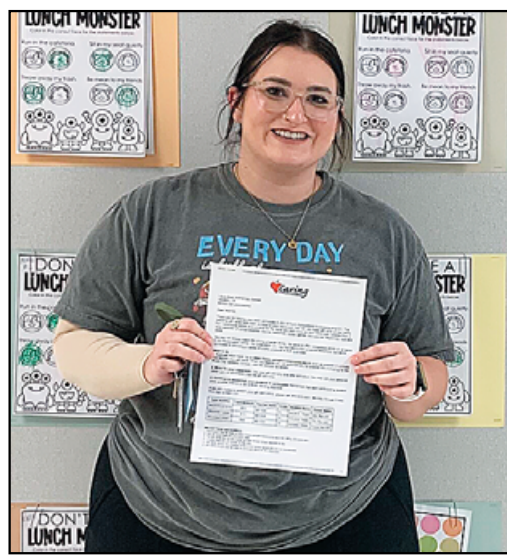
Second-grade teachers Yesenia Alberto, Brenda Avila and Guillermina Falcone received gift cards.



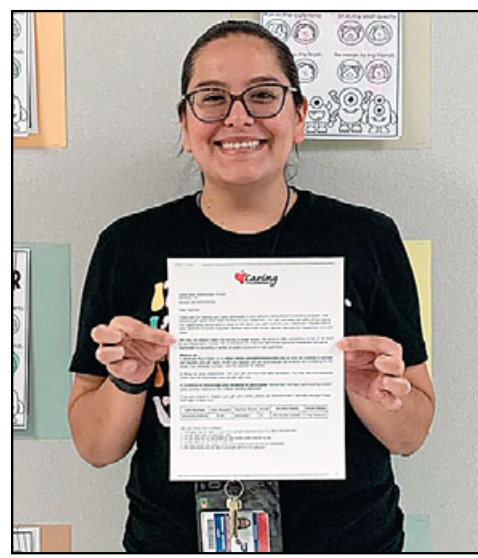
Left to right, third-grade teachers Diana Arredondo and Andrew Duron show off their gift cards.



Left to right, kindergarten teachers Ruth Miranda and Marcela Salinas are shown with their gift cards.



Academic and Behavior Learning Environment (ABE) teacher Ashley Meyer earned a gift card.



Deborah Vazquez, behavior support services (BSS) teacher was all smiles having received a gift card.

## Meador Mustang of the Month



Shown, left to right, are Gina De La Garza (ABLE 2 teacher) and Jennifer Chavez (principal). Gina was awarded for being the first Meador Mustang Teacher of the month for August. Gina works with all grade levels and has been an asset in the classroom for all teachers. She steps in when needed for all students, not just her students. De La Garza can always be found with a smile on her face and positive energy. When times have gotten tough, she never gives up and is always looking for solutions instead of focusing on the problem.

## Genoa honors Old Glory



Genoa Elementary morning and afternoon flag patrol gathered to honor "Old Glory" on the morning of Patriot Day. Left to right, are Capt. Savannah Espinoza and officers Daniel Espinoza, Julianna Aranda and Sophia Guevara.

Photo by Steven Sawyer

# Local women debut mural, promote environmentalism

Mural donated to American Legion Post 654 done with new carbon-capture paint

**Continued from Page 1**  
mote her new environmentally friendly paint startup company, the People's CO2. Rogers' project, however, would need to incorporate conservationism, Victoria said, prompting the artist to get creative in her approach when combining the visions of her two colleagues.

"It was a perfect fit," Victoria said of the arrangement.

With nearly 15 years of professional art experience, Victoria is no stranger to tackling large jobs. She has earned multiple artistic achievements over the last decade, such as being honored by former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner; being featured on Pepsi

Cola/LIFEWTR's website; having a mural listed in *365 Things to Do in Houston* magazine; and winning awards in more than a dozen local and state contests.

Also a performing artist and professional roller skater, Victoria made national headlines the summer of 2022 when she skated 1,100 miles from Houston to Chicago. A close friend of Victoria's, *Leader* staff member James "Bo" Bolen joined the skater on her epic journey, serving to both promote the event to local media outlets as she rolled through town and to provide safety for the skater by following her in a brightly lit, slow moving vehicle.

Sometimes known by

her alter ego Dorothy Duke, Victoria published a book last year chronicling the historic experience, titled "The World is in Your Hands" ([www.amazon.com/World-Your-Hands-Natalia-Victoria/dp/BOCH2BLRNL](http://www.amazon.com/World-Your-Hands-Natalia-Victoria/dp/BOCH2BLRNL)).

This will mark Victoria's first time working with Rogers on a project.

A Rice University graduate with a Ph.D. in chemical and biomolecular engineering, Rogers officially launched a Kickstarter campaign for the People's CO2 this past May ([www.kickstarter.com/projects/pco2/carbon-capture-paint-from-the-peoples-co2/rewards?ref=section-arts-projectcollec](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/pco2/carbon-capture-paint-from-the-peoples-co2/rewards?ref=section-arts-projectcollec)).

tion-17-staff-picks-cate-gory). The launch was met with great reception, as it is already now fully funded. At press time, the patent application for Rogers' carbon-capture paint was in the final stages of approval.

"This will be my third patent for CO2 capture, and I gotta say, inventing technology to help solve environmental challenges feels pretty good," Rogers said in a recent Facebook post.

Both Victoria and Rogers have deep family ties to the military. The mural is particularly sentimental to Rogers, as she recently lost her grandfather, a veteran responsible for much of her upbringing.

A signed print of the mural design recently fetched \$500 in auction at the VFW's annual *Boots & Heroes* gala, held Sept. 14.

— **What:** Unveiling of the "Heroes in Boots" mural honoring veterans/promoting conservation.

— **When:** Saturday, Sept. 21, from 7 to 9 p.m.

— **Where:** American Legion Post 654, 3105 Campbell Road in Spring Branch.

— **More information:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1289237335392451>.

For additional information on Natalia Victoria, visit [https://linktr.ee/envie\\_nataliavictoria](https://linktr.ee/envie_nataliavictoria).

For additional information on People's CO2, visit [www.thepeoplesco2.com](http://www.thepeoplesco2.com).

# Melillo student awarded



Melillo Middle School awarded Luke Burch as Student of the Month for September. Luke was selected for exemplifying the school motto by having a heart that cares, hands that serve and mind that thinks.

# Eliza Paul retires following 35 years

**Continued from Page 1**

"I define success as helping people," said Paul. "I want to serve others and help train the next generation."

One piece of advice she has for the new wave of engineers is simple.

"Always continue to learn," said Paul. "Never stop learning. Open your eyes. Treat others as you want to be treated. That will help you go a long way."

She is also an advocate for engineers to get involved in all

aspects of the field.

"Don't pick the projects everyone wants," said Paul. "Never pick and choose what you want to do."

Paul cited her own eagerness to learn about the maintenance side of engineering as an example.

Because she has been so devoted to her job over the course of 36 years, Paul will be awarded a Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from the Cullen College of Engineering at the Cullen gala event Oct. 10.

# Oct. 7 last day to register to vote

**Continued from Page 1**

Texas Secretary of State's website ([teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do](http://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do)). If one is currently living in Harris County but are registered to vote in another county, they must be registered to vote in Harris County at least 30 days prior to Election Day in order to vote in Harris County.

**Where to register**  
Registering to vote is fast and easy. Simply complete a Voter Registration Application and mail the signed application (at least 30 days before the election date) to the following address:  
Ann Harris Bennett  
Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar  
P.O. Box 3527  
Houston, Texas 77253-3527

**Where to obtain applications**  
Residents may obtain a Voter Registration Application the following ways:

- Visit any Harris County Tax Office location and submit one's completed, signed form from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.\*
- Download and print an application in English on the SOS site or download here, Spanish on the SOS site or download here, Vietnamese, or Chinese
- Request an application online from the Texas Secretary of State.
- Request, via email at [voters@tax.hctx.net](mailto:voters@tax.hctx.net), and the county will mail a paper application to them. Residents must provide a mailing address and phone number in their email.
- Call 713-274-VOTE (8683) to be assisted in English, Spanish, Vietnamese or Chinese.
- One can pickup an application at their local U.S. Postal office, library, high school, Texas Department of Public Safety site, Texas Health and Human Services Commission and other government offices.
- Voter registration applications may be dropped off at any of the nine Harris County Tax Office locations throughout the Greater Houston area.

# County health officials encourage flu vaccinations

Harris County health department offers flu prevention tips

**Continued from Page 1**

— Fatigue (feeling very tired)  
— Vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults).

\*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

In addition to getting a flu vaccine, follow these steps to help keep oneself and their loved ones from getting the flu or passing it on to others:

— Encourage sick family

members when coughing and sneezing to cover their noses and mouths, use a tissue, or use the inside bend of their arm. This helps keep germs from spreading to others.

— Encourage family members to wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

— Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Keep sick family members away from other household members to reduce the exposure.

— Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently touched, such as desks, doorknobs, computer keyboards, faucet handles, and phones.

— If someone or their child gets sick, contact their healthcare provider. If one is taking medicine to control fever such as acetaminophen, wait until the fever

is gone for 24 hours without using medicine before returning to school or work.

Also, HCPH provides various low-cost clinical services, including flu vaccinations, across Harris County. Eligibility to receive these services is based on household size and family income.

For additional information about which immunizations HCPH provides at our clinics, visit HCPH's Immunizations and Vaccina-

tions page at [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Divisions-Offices/Divisions/Community-Health-Wellness-Division/Health-Services/Immunizations-Vaccinations](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Divisions-Offices/Divisions/Community-Health-Wellness-Division/Health-Services/Immunizations-Vaccinations).

Community members interested in receiving their flu shot can visit the county's Flu Season page at [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/flu](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/flu) to find the nearest clinic or call the Patient Appointment Call Center at 832-927-7350 to schedule an appointment.

# CCISD ups drivers' pay

Clear Creek ISD increased the starting hourly rate for bus drivers from \$20.56 to \$22 per hour.

The district increased the minimum guaranteed work hours per day from 5.5 to 6.5. In addition to these hours, there are more opportunities for staff to earn extra hours driving mid-day and field trips.

"Investing in our drivers'

pay is investing in the safety and reliability of our transportation services," said Tammy Pickett, assistant director of Operations Transportation. "This investment not only reflects our appreciation for their hard work but also ensures we attract and retain the best talent in the industry. When we value our drivers, we ensure that every journey is made with dedication and care, reflecting our commitment to both their well-being and the well-being of our students," she added.

New drivers to CCISD currently holding a commercial driver's license (CDL) are eligible for a \$3,000 sign-on bonus. Those without a CDL can apply for a paid bus-driver-in-training position.

Those interested can learn more and apply at [ccisd.net/joinourteam](http://ccisd.net/joinourteam).

# Moore Elementary celebrates Grandparents Day

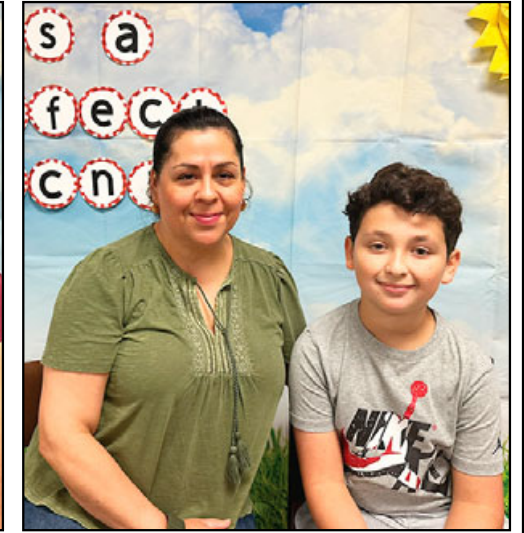
Moore Elementary School held their Grandparents' Day celebrations on Sept. 3-6. Grandparents attended a shared breakfast and took photos with their grandchildren.



Peyton Young (center) was joined by her grandparents Sarah Young (left) and Bruce Higginbotham.



John Ixcoy (left) celebrated with his grandmother Maria Avila.



Laura Aguyo (left) was welcomed by her grandson Ruben Aguyo.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1979)**

Approximately 250 residents, many of whom waded through hip-high flood water, attended the flood meeting at Stuchbery Elementary School.

Rainbow Valley residents expressed concern over two holding ponds, which were dug out by contractors for the Leon Davis Shopping Center under construction on Kingspoint Road.

**40 years ago (1984)**

The Houston Bureau of Air Quality Control and the city health department were investigating a 10-minute emission of a cloud of smoke from a plastics plant on Conklin.

A road connecting Pearl-and's Green Tee subdivision with the Gulf Freeway was being planned.

**35 Years ago (1989)**

Combining a dynamic personality with a vibrant message entwined with his musical talent, 1978 Dobie High School graduate Al Denson was sharing his Christianity with America's youth.

Sam Rayburn's Lady Texans' volleyball team put a quick end to Dobie High School's seven-game winning streak after coming back from a 12-6 first game deficit to win 16-14, 15-13.

**30 years ago (1994)**

A federal health study showed that Southbend residents had significantly higher incidences of respiratory problems, skin rashes, ulcers and other stomach diseases, nausea, anxiety, nervousness and depression than their counterparts in a Houston control group.

Three arrests in three local cases, ranging from armed robbery to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, were made possible because witnesses were not afraid to get involved.

**25 years ago (1999)**

Construction on the county improvement to Beamer Road was getting underway.

While the cities of Pasadena and Galveston and the Clear Lake area were having to ration water, the South Belt area was not.

**20 years ago (2004)**

The U.S. Senate approved \$3.2 billion for planning and design work to establish a joint reserve center at Ellington. This would accommodate the move of 2,300 Army, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve troops from the Old Spanish Trail location.

Approximately 350 students and teachers at Dobie who had contact with a 16-year-old male diagnosed with tuberculosis underwent testing to see if they had contracted the disease.

Two political action committees were established locally. One for and one against the proposed \$299.8 million PISD bond issue.

Rep. Tom DeLay was the guest speaker at a South Belt-Ellington Chamber of

Commerce luncheon.

A 15-year-old Dobie sophomore was life-flighted to Memorial Hermann Hospital after succumbing to heat during a track event.

The San Jacinto College board of regents voted unanimously to not increase the college's tax rate. The rate remained at \$0.13913 per \$100 of valuation.

**15 years ago (2009)**

Police responded to a verbal altercation between two parents at Beverly Hills Intermediate. One of the parents had a pocket knife; however, no one was injured. Contrary to televised news reports, no stabbing occurred, and no arrests were made.

South Belt resident Michael Raymond Crowley Jr. was one of two men killed in

a head-on collision on Highway 288 between Angleton and Rosharon. Crowley, 19, was returning home from Lake Jackson at roughly 2 a.m. when the vehicle he was driving was struck by a driver traveling south in the northbound lane of Highway 288.

The passenger of the second vehicle, Pearland resident James Paul Garcia Jr., 21, also died in the crash. The driver of the second vehicle, South Belt resident Zohab Burges, 23, was taken by helicopter to Memorial Hermann Medical Center in critical condition. No charges were immediately filed. Crowley had recently moved to Sagemont from Fayette, Mo., and was a student at San Jac College South.

In a surprising move, the city of Houston opened the

Monroe extension at Beltway 8. The half-mile extension connects the beltway to Fuqua. Construction of the new street cost \$4.64 million. The project was not scheduled to be complete until the end of the year.

**10 years ago (2014)**

Dobie High School was named one of the top 100 largest high schools in America. With a reported 3,452 students, Dobie ranked No. 88 on the list, which appeared in the Houston Chronicle. University Primitime used data from the National Center for Education Statistics to compile its list. In all, 14 Texas schools appeared on the list - 10 located in the Houston area.

**5 years ago (2019)**

The South Belt community was spared the brunt of Tropi-

cal Storm Imelda. Rains associated with the storm, however, caused street flooding and school closures. While some predictions called for the area to receive as much as 12 inches of rain, county officials said the actual amount was only about half that. The incident marked the first named storm to strike the Houston area since Harvey in August 2017.

Burnett Elementary received a library makeover from the stars of the hit HGTV show Property Brothers. The brothers, Drew and Jonathan Scott, unveiled Burnett's new and improved library during a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Sept. 12. The school was selected from 15,000 applicants, including 150 Texas schools, nationwide for the library renovation. Sponsored by Heart

of America, HarperCollins and Kohl's, the renovation included a collaborative learning theater, 700 new library books, a check-in area and a Lego wall. Each student also received two books each. The brothers selected Burnett Elementary for showing "heart" during Hurricane Harvey and creating a safe space for students and their families whose homes were underwater.

**1 year ago (2023)**

The South Belt area received some much-needed rainfall, with the rain gauge at the Beamer Ditch and Hughes Road recording nearly 3 inches of rain between Thursday, Sept. 14, and Saturday, Sept. 16, with the vast majority falling Saturday. Despite the rainfall, the city of Houston remained in Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency Plan, which limited residential water use.

# 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. 19 through Sept. 25.

**Atkinson Elementary**

Sing a melody of a happy birthday song to **Gustavo Cadena** Sept. 20.

**Burnett Elementary**

On Sept. 20, birthday wishes are sent to **Maricela Escamilla**. **Sonya Robledo** celebrates a birthday Sept. 23. The day for a birthday gift for **Dennisse Hildebrand** is Sept. 25.

**Bush Elementary**

The day for a birthday gift for **Vanessa Varner** is Sept. 22.

**Frazier Elementary**

Send a special birthday greeting Sept. 19 to **Norma Perez**. **Quynh Nguyen** marks a day of celebration Sept. 20.

**Genoa Elementary**

**Abigail Ortega** enjoys a birthday Sept. 22. Sept. 24 is the day for a party for **Elizabeth Tijerina** and **Diana Perales**.

**Hancock Elementary**

Marking a birthday Sept. 21 is **Efigenia**

**Gonzalez**.

**Meador Elementary**

The day for a party for **Celeste Skipper** is Sept. 23.

**Moore Elementary**

Sept. 20 is the day for a party for **Maria Acosta** and **Mats Holmqvist**.

**South Belt Elementary**

The day for a double-layer cake and ice cream for **Raquel Hersh** is Sept. 22.

**Stuchbery Elementary**

Sept. 21 is the day for a party for **Cindy Garcia**.

**Roberts Middle School**

**Erik Ramos** enjoys a birthday Sept. 23.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**

Light the birthday candles Sept. 25 for **Grant Pector**.

**Dobie High**

Light the birthday candles Sept. 20 for **Reginald Rice**. Share a slice of a double-layer cake Sept. 21 with **Jermaine Gasaway** and **Manuel Moreno**. Blow out the candles on a cake Sept. 22 for **Nicole Ramirez**. The day for a party for **Denice Smajistria** is Sept. 23. **Mabely Cervantes** enjoys a birthday Sept. 24.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**

Thursday, 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**; Friday, 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**; Saturday, Sept. 21: **John Neal**, **Laura Arispe**, **J. Cruz Aannette**, **Cesar D'Agostino**, **Kim Kapsiak**, **Jennifer Paling**, **Susan Silva** and **April Carson**; Sunday, Sept. 22: **Joe Garza**, **Larry Swann**, **Michael Rummel**, **Shawnie Moses** and **Gwen Ohman**; Monday, Sept. 23: **Marcus Anthony**, **Carla McKay**, **Cheney Tamez**, **Gloria Tran**, **Cynthia Rodriguez** and **Lauren Allen**; Tuesday, Sept. 24: **Paola Medel**, **Harold Barron**, **Lissa Stephens-Bell**, **Lindy Hoggard**, **Brenda Flewellen**, **Karl Wilkerson**, **Obed Valdez**, **Jason Rendon**, **Debra Kendrick**, **Kim Martinez** and **Angela Shaulis**; and Wednesday, Sept. 25: **Key Voh Patches**, **Jamie Olivares**, **Melonie Conaway**, **Ronell Ram** and **Kevin Sockwell**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**

Email birthday, anniversary, congratulations, etc., to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Read us 24/7  
Online at southbeltleader.com

## After loss to Dawson, bye week lets Longhorns reset

Seven turnovers proved to be too much to overcome for Dobie in the District 22-6A varsity football opener against Dawson Sept. 13 at The Nest in Pearland as the Eagles came away with a 51-36 win over the Longhorns.

As it is done for much of the season, Dobie's rush offense moved the football with relative ease.

Yet the Eagles built a 27-7 lead in the game and seemingly came away with a big turnover when needed to keep the Longhorns at bay.

Dobie's Cameron Mathews was again the most explosive performer on the field as he rushed

for 243 yards and three touchdowns in the game. But after finding relative success through the air in a Week 2 loss to Klein, Dobie's aerial attack had its issues against the Eagles.

Dobie, which has a bye week coming during Week 4 play across the state, fell to 1-2 overall this season, including the setback in the 22-6A opener.

The Longhorns will be the home team Sept. 27 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena as they host the Pasadena Memorial Mavericks in Dobie's annual homecoming game.

Mathews came into his senior season as the reign-

ing 22-6A Most Valuable Player and has been one of the program's all-time leading rushers after breaking onto the varsity scene during his freshman season.

With 632 yards rushing overall to go with nine touchdowns, Mathews has averaged better than 14 yards per tote. He's clearly been one of the most productive players in the Houston area thus far in 2024.

In fact, the Longhorns have collectively rushed for 1,127 yards and passed for another 425. At better than 515 yards per game, Dobie has delivered the most explosive offense in

the 22-6A ranks by a wide margin.

Dobie was counting on several of its skill position playmakers to come through. Each has. Aside from the terrific production from Mathews, senior Bryce Evans has rushed for 250 yards on 28 carries through three weeks.

Senior Tariq Riley has averaged more than 21 yards per reception on 11 grabs from his wideout spot and is simply a challenge to bring down in the open field.

But the Longhorns will need to tighten things up in other areas moving forward. The locals have had 11 turnovers in three

games, and Dawson came away with four interceptions in the district opener.

While Dobie is tops in the league in total offense, the team's defense has allowed more than 380 yards per game. With 11 turnovers and seven take-aways, the Longhorns are tied for last in the league in turnover ratio at (-4). Dawson leads the league with a (+9) margin.

With seven games remaining within league play, Dobie has several more chances coming to earn a big win. After a bit of a reset on the practice field during the bye week, it all starts anew Sept. 27 against Memorial.



Dobie's Cameron Mathews (2) came into his senior season as the reigning 22-6A Most Valuable Player and has been one of the program's all-time leading rushers after breaking onto the varsity scene during his freshman season. Photo by David Flickinger

## Volleyball programs hope postseason is in the cards as races intensify

The varsity volleyball season has hit the playoff push across the state, and later next month the post-season picture will come into full focus as the post-season begins.

As it stands currently, the Clear Brook and Dobie programs are looking to make up some ground in their respective districts, while Lutheran South will soon begin its push toward what it hopes is a third consecutive trip to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state tournament.

At 7-15 heading into a road match against South Houston Sept. 17 after

press time, Dobie perhaps did not hold the type of record that it had hoped for when the season began in early August, but there's still plenty of time for the Longhorns, currently 1-3 in league play, to climb back into contention.

The reality is that Pearland and Shadow Creek, both 5-0 at press time, look to very much be ready to occupy two of the four available playoff berths.

Dawson holds a first-round win over Dobie and could very well also be headed toward the post-season.

Pearland, Shadow Creek,

Manvel and Dawson have already won 20 or more regular season matches and certainly appear to be at the head of the class, but with 16 overall matches to be played, there are opportunities for programs like Dobie to make up ground with an eye toward the playoffs.

Senior Julie Aguirre has led Dobie for much of the season up front and has more than 100 kills to this point. Mia Campos has also chipped in up front to lend a hand in the attack.

Aguirre, Campos and Hope Ortiz all have well north of 100 digs each, while Alyssa Sanchez and Alysa Goree have handled the setting duties.

The District 24-6A race to the playoffs, which very well could wind up being one of the most

competitive of any within the Region III ranks, got underway Sept. 13. Clear Springs, which scored a 25-17, 25-7, 28-26 victory over Clear Brook, joined the group of opening night winners.

Dickinson also won at Clear Creek, while Clear Falls was swept by 24-6A newcomer Deer Park and Clear Lake defeated Brazoswood.

Despite the loss to the Chargers, Clear Brook celebrated senior Amber Salazar reaching 1,000 career digs.

Junior Audrey Sebring and senior Alisa York have led the attack up front for the Wolverines, who at 15-15 overall are in the midst of putting together their best record in several seasons.

Alyssa Diemert and

Josie Hines have shared setting duties for Clear Brook, and Salazar leads the way with nearly 350 digs.

As is the case in 22-6A, the 24-6A ranks would appear to be a very deep

## JFD runners excel at La Porte

Chris Lopez again led the way for the Dobie varsity boys' cross-country program at the La Porte Bulldogs Invitational Sept. 13 as he finished second overall at the 5,000-meter distance.

Lopez, a senior, clocked in at 16 minutes, 28.19 seconds to pace the locals. Teammate Jordan Roman, a freshman, was 12th in a time of 16:58.36.

Dobie's Johan Villavencio was next for the Longhorns as the junior

took 16th place with a time of 17:06.03. Next for the Longhorns was senior Carlos Salazar as his time of 18:17.55 was good for 61st place. Junior Diego Paz was Dobie's fifth qualifying scorer as his time of 18:37.68 placed him 81st.

Clear Falls was the team champion at the event, followed by Goose Creek Memorial, Ridge Point, Manvel and then Dobie.

In the 5,000-meter varsity girls' race, Dobie se-

nior Lauren Garza was fifth overall in a time of 19:36.49 to lead the way for her team.

At Lutheran South, the Pioneers were at 18-5 overall, with district set to begin Sept. 24 against Emery Weiner.

## JFD runners excel at La Porte

Aracely Alvarado, a sophomore, was 26th and she ran a solid time of 21:29.68. Junior Isaura Correa came up with a time of 22:10.11 for 37th place, and Mariah Medina's time of 23:32.32 was 65th best in the event. Senior Layla Martinez was the team's fifth and final official qualifier as she was 77th in a time of 22:54.39

## 22-6A newcomers claim varsity football opening wins

The prognosticators at *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine deserved to take a bow following Week 1 play within the District 22-6A ranks.

Prior to the season, *Campbell's* staffers predicted that Shadow Creek, Pearland, Dawson and Manvel would eventually emerge as the playoff representatives in the district once the postseason begins in November.

One week does not make a full season, of course, but those four teams delivered impressive victories to get things

started September 12-13 as the nine-week run to the postseason began.

Dawson, Pearland and Manvel all came up with at least 50 points on the scoreboard in their wins, while Shadow Creek scored 28 points in the first quarter en route to an easy victory over Alvin.

Class 6A newcomer Manvel made an impressive debut to open league play Sept. 13 at home against a Pasadena Memorial team that came into the game at 2-0.

Scoring 27 points in the first quarter and following

it up with 34 more in the second quarter, the Mavericks went on to defeat Memorial 75-21, improving to 2-1 overall and perhaps sending a message to the rest of the league.

Scoring 28 first-quarter points, Shadow Creek opened district play with an easy 42-17 victory over the Alvin Yellowjackets in a matchup of Alvin ISD programs at Freedom Field.

Shadow Creek improved to 2-1 overall this season but, most importantly, began 22-6A play with a victory. Alvin

slipped to 1-2 overall with the loss.

Pearland was another of the opening-night winners to post more than 50 points on the scoreboard, handing host Sam Rayburn a 59-0 loss at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Oilers improved to 2-1 overall with the impressive victory.

Dawson, as detailed elsewhere in the *Leader*, used a 51-36 win over Dobie Sept. 13 at The Nest in Pearland to get its league start off and running.

South Houston enjoyed an opening week bye in the schedule and will open its 22-6A schedule Sept. 20 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena against Sam Rayburn.

The Trojans lost a pair of nondistrict games to open their season and will be looking to get into the wind column for the first time in 2024.

Clearly, Sam Rayburn will be looking for a victory of its own to get back on track after the loss to Pearland.

With Dobie on a bye week this go-round, the Sept. 19-20 matchups will include Memorial kicking off the weekend by hosting Dawson Sept. 19 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m.

The other league matchups include Manvel

## JFD baseball hosts golf

The Dobie Diamond Club, the official booster club of the Dobie baseball program, has finalized plans for the Longhorns' annual fundraising golf tournament. The 2024 event is set to be held at the Pasadena Municipal Golf Course on Saturday, Nov. 16. Foursome teams are encouraged to enter at \$500 per team, while individual player registration will also be accepted at \$125 per player.

Tent sponsorships are available for \$250 each, and hole sponsors are \$125 each. Registration includes a light breakfast as well as lunch. Check-in is at 7 a.m., and the tournament will begin with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

Proceeds from the event will be utilized to cover a variety of costs associated within the baseball program throughout the school year. For more information, direct email to jfdobiediamondclub@gmail.com.

## Dobie baseball plans bingo

The Dobie baseball program's Dobie Diamond Club will present a Bingo Night Saturday, Oct. 5, as the evening will feature plenty of games, fun, food and prizes Doors open at 6 p.m., and the bingo will begin at 7 p.m. Players within the Longhorn baseball program are selling tickets, so those interested in attending are encouraged to make contact with a player.

The event will be held in the cafeteria at the Dobie main campus. For additional information, or to secure tickets at \$25 each for the evening's 10 games of bingo, direct email to obie jfdobiediamondclub@gmail.com.

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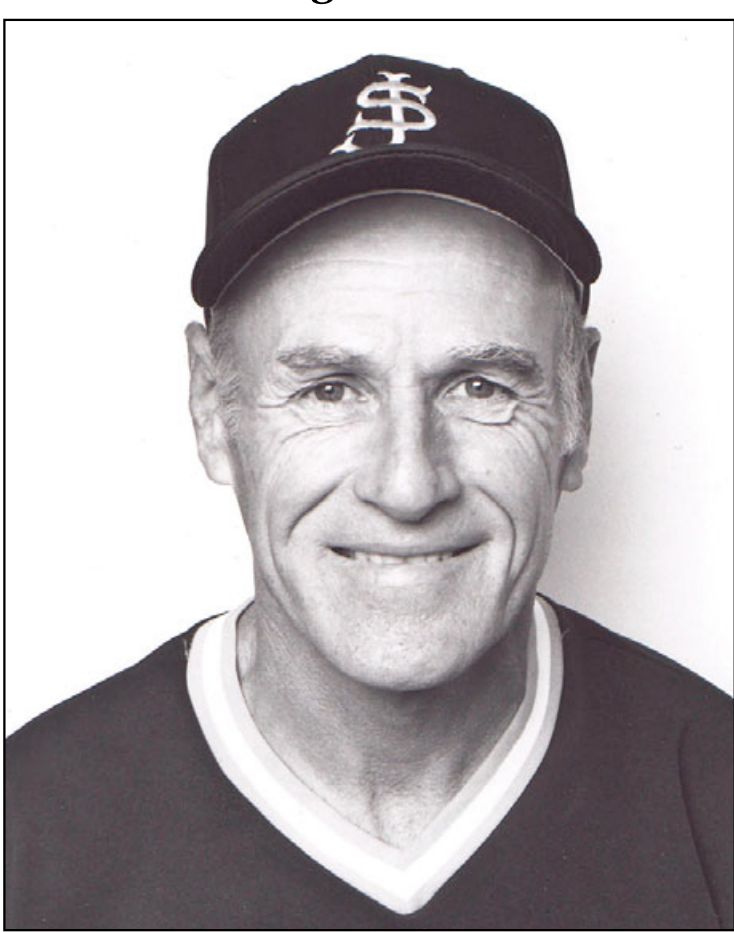
## Lexie lifts Lamar



Perhaps not surprisingly, Dobie class of 2024 graduate Lexie Gonzalez (3) was a Day 1 starter as a freshman with the Lamar University women's volleyball program and has excelled early on with the Cardinals. Lamar had won five of nine overall matches through Sept. 16, with Gonzalez delivering a team-high 276 assists in 27 sets played for her team. Gonzalez was named the Setter of the Year after she helped guide Dobie to a program all-time best 32 wins and a spot in the area Playoff round. A four-year varsity performer at Dobie, Gonzalez had more than 1,600 assists and more than 1,000 digs and kills as part of a brilliant career with the Longhorns.

Lamar University photo

## San Jac College honors Graham



Following the passing of former longtime San Jacinto College baseball coach Wayne Graham at the age of 88 earlier this month, the college's leadership released the following statement: "We lost a baseball legend in Wayne Graham. Coach Graham spent 11 years at San Jacinto College where he led the (then) Gators to a 675-113 (.857) record and five National Junior College Athletic Association national championships. Graham began coaching at San Jac in 1981 and turned the program into the national powerhouse it is today. We are incredibly grateful for the years that Coach Graham spent at San Jacinto College. Our hearts go out to his family, including his wife Tanya and his children, and the hundreds of former players and coaches who knew him and benefited from his incredible baseball knowledge." Graham left the San Jacinto College program following the 1991 season to become the head coach at Rice University, where he won nearly 1,200 more games over 27 seasons, leading the Owls to the 2003 College World Series championship in Omaha.

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# BAFL Weekly Standings

Peewee Division			
Team	W	L	T
Cowboys	5	0	0
Manvel Texans	4	0	0
Pear. Patriots	4	0	0
49ers	3	1	0
Red Raiders	3	2	0
Pear. Texans	3	2	0
Ang. Wildcats	3	2	0
S.E. Wildcats	3	2	0
Stingrays	2	1	0
Panthers	2	2	0
Eagles	2	3	0
Gators	1	2	0
La Porte Texans	1	3	0
Buccaneers	1	3	0
Raiders	0	4	0
Longhorns	0	5	0
Sharks	0	5	0

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

Sophomore Division			
Team	W	L	T
Angleton	5	0	0
Buccaneers	4	0	0
La Porte Texans	4	0	0
Cowboys	4	1	0
S.E. Wildcats	4	1	0
49ers	3	1	0
Pear. Patriots	3	1	0
Gators	1	2	0
Longhorns	1	1	0
Raiders	1	3	0
Red Raiders	2	2	0
Pear. Texans	1	2	0
Panthers	2	2	0
Longhorns	0	4	0
Eagles	0	5	0
Stingrays	0	4	0
Buccaneers	4	0	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
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 5**  
Cowboys' Peewee 28  
Longhorns 14

Cowboys' freshmen 42  
Longhorns 0

Cowboys' sophs 58  
Longhorns 0

Cowboys' juniors 28  
Longhorns 7

Cowboys' seniors 57  
Longhorns 0

**BAFL Week 7**  
Sat., Sept. 28

Cowboys' Peewee at Hitchcock, 8 a.m.

Cowboys' Freshmen at Hitchcock, 9 a.m.






Cowboys' Sophomores at Hitchcock, 11 a.m.

Cowboys' Juniors at Hitchcock, 1 p.m.

Cowboys' Seniors at Hitchcock, 3 p.m.

## South Belt football predictions

Clear Brook vs. Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs
Brazoswood at Clear Lake	Clear Lake	Clear Lake	Clear Lake	Clear Lake	Clear Lake
Deer Park at Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Deer Park	Clear Falls	Deer Park	Clear Falls
Manvel at Shadow Creek	Manvel	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek
Dawson at Pasadena Memorial	Dawson	Dawson	Dawson	Dawson	Dawson
Rayburn vs. South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	Rayburn	South Houston	South Houston
Dickinson at Clear Creek	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
Elkins vs. Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point
Fulshear at Burleson Centennial	Fulshear	Burleson	Fulshear	Fulshear	Fulshear
Anahuac at Lutheran South	LSA	LSA	Anahuac	LSA	Anahuac
Last Week's Results	7-3	6-4	7-3	7-3	8-2
Season record	19-11	18-12	23-7	19-11	24-6

 John Bechtle	 Emory Gadd	 Troy Leland	 Stephen Sutton	 Debbie Vaughn
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# Clemens gets College Baseball Hall of Fame nod

Famed former Major League Baseball and San Jacinto College pitcher Roger "Rocket" Clemens joins 11 other standouts who will be inducted as part of the 2024 class of the College Baseball Hall of Fame as announced by the College Baseball Foundation Sept. 6.

The class of inductees comprises seven players, three coaches and an umpire who have contributed to college baseball history at the NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA levels.

"From MLB All-Stars to College World Series legends, the 2024 College Baseball Hall of Fame class includes some of the most decorated players and coaches in the history of college baseball," said Craig Ramsey, chair of the College Baseball Foundation board of trustees.

"It is only fitting, as we

prepare for another exciting season of college baseball, that we take an opportunity to honor those who have contributed to the storied history of our extraordinary game."

A seven-time Cy Young Award winner, Clemens began his collegiate baseball journey at San Jacinto College in 1981. In his one year at the college, he recorded a 9-2 record as a starting pitcher before heading to the University of Texas.

Clemens was a two-time All-American with the Longhorns, racking up 25 victories, 20 career complete games, six shutouts and 241 strikeouts.

Clemens helped Texas to back-to-back Southwest Conference titles in 1982 and 1983. In 1982, Clemens paced the Texas pitching staff in shutouts (4), complete games (8),

innings pitched (108.2), and strikeouts (90).

In 1983, Clemens helped the Longhorns capture the NCAA College World Series National Championship, which was the program's fourth national crown while setting school single-season team records for team wins (66) and innings pitched (669.0).

Individually, Clemens earned NCAA Central Regional All-Tournament team honors in 1982 and 1983, SWC All-Tournament accolades in 1982 and Collegiate Baseball preseason All-America honors in 1983.

Clemens was a first-round draft pick (19th overall) of the Boston Red Sox in 1983. In his stellar 24-season MLB career, he played for the Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays, Houston Astros and New York

Yankees.

He was a 10-time MLB All-Star selection, American League MVP and MLB All-Star Game MVP. Clemens pitched in five World Series and was part of two World Series championship teams, both with the Yankees in 1999 and 2000.

Clemens earned 354 career wins and 4,672 strikeouts in his MLB career and was inducted into the Texas Athletics Hall of Honor in 1994, the Texas Sports and Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998, the Houston Sports Hall of Fame in 2022 and became the first Longhorn to have his jersey retired in 1993.

The CBHF's 17th induction class will be honored at the Night of Champions Feb. 13, 2025, in Overland Park, Kans., the home of the College Baseball Hall of Fame.



Roger Clemens began his collegiate baseball journey at San Jacinto College in 1981. In his one year at the college, he recorded a 9-2 record as a starting pitcher.

# 24-6A football chase includes usual contenders

The District 24-6A varsity football race begins Sept. 19 and continues Sept. 20, with the league having already seen a deep pool of talented programs ready to make a push toward the postseason.

As expected the pre-season frontrunners just may be rounding into form when it matters most, while some of those perhaps not as highly thought of programs could cause some surprising developments.

Defending 24-6A champion Dickinson was in danger of wrapping up its nondistrict slate winless at 0-3, but head coach John Snelson's team rallied over the final 18 minutes or so of regulation to steal a 34-31 victory over visiting Cy-Fair Sept. 13 at Sam Vitanza Stadium in Dickinson.

The Gators trailed 24-14 in the third quarter but got a 15-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Lorenzo Aguirre to receiver Jeremiah Scoby to cut the deficit to 6 points despite a failed conversion attempt.

Dickinson then used a pair of late turnovers created by its defense to score touchdowns that led to the victory.

Suddenly coming off of a big win and feeling good about themselves, the Gators will kick off 24-6A action on the road Sept. 19 as they take on Clear Creek, also off to a 1-2 start, at Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City.

The Wildcats advanced to the postseason in 2023 and actually reached the area playoff round in the Class 6A Division II ranks.

Clear Creek's subsequent heavy graduation losses, particularly on the offensive side of the football, were dealt with in the offseason, and the Wildcats began the current season with losses to Kingwood and Shadow Creek.

But like Dickinson, the Wildcats will likely en-

ter district play on a high note after defeating Channelview 26-25 in overtime Sept. 13 at Maddry Stadium in Channelview.

The Wildcats trailed Channelview for much of the action but got a 34-yard field goal from kicker Trey Hope with 34 seconds to play in regulation to tie things. The two teams entered overtime tied at 19-19 with alternating possessions starting 25 yards from the end zone.

Clear Creek quarterback Carlos Cantu hit receiver Jordan Greer with a 9-yard touchdown pass in the untimed overtime, and the extra point kick led to a 26-19 lead for the visitors.

Channelview responded with a 10-yard pass from quarterback Jason Wheelock to Jayden Juul, then opted to go for two points on the conversion attempt for the win. Channelview actually completed the conversion pass but the receiver was ruled out of bounds as Clear Creek escaped with the victory.

Clear Falls, which has earned a spot in the class 6A Division II playoff bracket five consecutive years, will also enter district play with plenty of confidence after defeating Cy-Falls 42-22 Sept. 12 at Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City.

The Knights were a bit shaky in an opening night loss in week one but have since won back-to-back games to nondistrict play and stand at 2-1.

Clear Falls actually trailed Cy-Falls 10-0 before cruising to the 20-point victory over the Golden Eagles.

Clear Falls quarterback Jacob Champagne was 15 of 30 for 276 yards through the air, with seven of his completions going to wideout Zach Greer for 114 yards.

Clear Falls hosts 24-6A newcomer Deer Park Sept. 19 at Challenger Stadium

in Webster in what very well could be the most competitive game of opening weekend in the league.

A perennial playoff qualifier for many years, the Deer certainly will increase the competition level within 24-6A.

A candidate for the Division I playoff bracket, the Deer no doubt intend on challenging the likes of Dickinson, Clear Springs and Clear Falls for not only playoff contention but the league championship itself.

Count the Deer as confident entering district play after edging Barbers Hill 50-48 in a back-and-forth double overtime thriller Sept. 13 in Deer Park.

Like Clear Falls, the Deer enter district play with two wins in three games despite having played an exceptionally-difficult nondistrict schedule.

The Chargers will open 24-6A action against a Clear Brook team that will also enter league play with optimism following a 43-20 victory over Goose Creek Memorial Sept. 13.

Clear Springs, which has every intention of battling for a postseason spot, will take on the Wolverines Sept. 20 at Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City.

Clear Brook opened the season with losses to Dobbie and Eisenhower but rebounded with the big win over GCM as a 21-0 third-quarter run was the difference.

Clear Lake and Brazoswood will meet in the big matchup Sept. 20 at Challenger Stadium in Webster to kick off the district race.

The Falcons and Bucs would appear to be on the outside looking in as the district race begins.

Clear Lake ended nondistrict play with a 48-28 victory over Kingwood Park and should have mo-

mentum on its side against Brazoswood, which stayed winless at 0-3 following a

41-37 loss to Seguin Sept. 13.

Candidates for the

Class 6A Division II play-off bracket, both Clear Lake and Brazoswood will look to get off to a solid start during the first week of district play.

**Clear Brook vs. Clear Springs**  
Sept. 20, 7 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial Stadium  
League City

**Deer Park at Clear Falls**  
Sept. 19, 6 p.m.  
Challenger Stadium

**Dickinson at Clear Creek**  
Sept. 19, 6 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial Stadium  
League City



Jayden Dansby (0) guided Clear Brook to a non-district win over Goose Creek Memorial as the Wolverines were able to take some momentum into their 24-6A opener against Clear Springs. The

Wolverines will look to break through into the Division II playoff bracket, a field that will likely include several top-notch contenders.

Photo by David Flickinger

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# CALENDAR

**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." 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.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.  
1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-

7285 prior to coming.  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.  
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**  
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.  
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@juno.com for details.  
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's Group**, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.  
**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.  
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**  
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.  
7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7900 Fuqua (inside Covenant of Faith United Methodist Church). Contact Cathy@chey

der@sbcglobal.net or call 713-332-6294 for details.

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.  
**Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.  
**Noon Ballroom Dancing** - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.  
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

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

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

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.

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# San Jacinto College softball nears fall ball slate with eye on 2025

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

The climb to get back to the JUCO Division I National Championships doesn't even begin until well into January 2025, but softball programs from across the country, including 2024 qualifier San Jacinto College, have already started preparing for what lies ahead.

The Ravens, essentially starting anew with 12 freshmen and a sophomore transfer among the 22 players on the fall roster, have been working out quite a few afternoons this time of year and will open the informal fall competition season Sept. 25 against club program Illusion.

The Ravens will begin the 2025 National Junior College Athletic Association season Jan. 31 2025.

The Ravens began off-season workouts with nine sophomore returnees as well as the lone sophomore transfer and the 13 freshman newcomers.

As for the sophomores, San Jacinto College head coach Kelly Saenz said there are four returning starters among the eight positions on the field. In all, the sophomores in-

clude utility players Emily Garcia and Madison Carr, infielders Angelina Morales, Emma Pierce, Peyton Watson and Larissa Ramos, and outfielder Ileana Melendez.

Carr, Melendez, Morales and Watson were in the starting lineup in San Jacinto College's final game of the 2024 season, a 3-2 loss at nationals to the same Galveston College program that it tied for first place within Region 14.

For 2025, Saenz and assistant coach/pitching coach Kelsey Walters also welcomed back pitchers Ashley Frischenmeyer and Ashleigh Heiderscheit.

Dobie Class of 2023 graduate Sandra Quiroz-Catalan is a sophomore transfer who has experience both in the circle and in the infield.

Heiderscheit and Carr combined for 44 appearances and 104 innings as freshmen, and Saenz and Walters have added arms for 2025.

Among the 13 incoming freshmen, pitchers Addison Opela of East Bernard High School, Kaelin Hicks of Crosby High School, Atascocita's Vanessa Valdez and possibly Quiroz-Catalan will add to what Saenz believes will eventually be a deeper staff overall.

While San Jacinto College did in fact reach the NJCAA Division I World

Series in 2024, the locals lost 1-0 and 3-2 games while there to complete a short stay with losses sandwiched around a win.

The 3-2 loss to Galveston also brought an end to the two-year stay of Ari Wright, arguably the greatest offensive player in program history.

Wright put together consecutive monster offensive seasons while being named the Region 14 Player of the Year in 2023 and 2024, but elsewhere consistent extra base power and run production was at times fleeting.

As a team, San Jacinto College had 100 doubles, 13 triples and home runs, ranking 43rd nationally. The Ravens' collective pitching staff earned run average of 4.67 was just 75th best nationally.

In some respects, that the Ravens did qualify for the national tournament might have been a bit surprising given the actual numbers.

Wright, now a junior at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, hit .476 with 15 homers, 73 runs driven in and 80 runs scored.

Generational perform-

ers like Wright are not replaceable overnight, but Saenz believes the 2025 squad will feature more overall doubles and extra-base hit ability. Saenz said her program worked on getting into a basic routine for the first couple of weeks, including familiarizing a practice schedule, working on cutoff throws and performing some baserunning, pitching and hitting drills.

"Overall, this is a very cohesive, tight-knit group that really seems to care about each other and play-

ing together as a team," Saenz said.

"Not that it's not always that way, but these ladies have fun out there on the field, but are also willing to do whatever is needed to make progress as a group. I really like this team so far. It's been a lot of fun to be out there

on the field with them."

The coaching staff will get a chance to see the players perform on the field together once the fall schedule begins later this month. Saenz and Walters have a pretty good idea of what the sophomores can do, and it will also be a great opportunity for the

incoming freshman class to make an impression.

"I really feel like we have quite a few more players with extra-base power, including the ability to hit doubles and drive in runs," Saenz said.

"We knew that we needed to improve our offensive production, and I

really feel like we've done that.

"Not only do we have several pitchers who we feel like can contribute, but we also feel like we're deeper as a pitching staff and have the ability to give ourselves some options. I'm looking forward to seeing how it plays out."



Madison Carr (12) started at third base as a freshman a season ago at San Jacinto College and will be one of the key returnees as the Ravens continue preseason workouts ahead of the 2025 season in January. San Jacinto College will start play within its fall schedule Sept. 25.



San Jacinto College head softball coach Kelly Saenz (center), pitching coach Kelsey Walters, welcomes Melendez (5) and seven other sophomores back as preseason work toward the 2025 campaign has begun.

## San Jacinto College Fall Softball Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Class	High School
25	Emily Garcia	UT	Soph.	North Shore
1	Angelina Morales	IF	Soph.	Deer Park
5	Iliana Melendez	OF	Soph.	Clear Lake
12	Madison Carr	UT	Soph.	Texas City
13	Ashlee Frischenmeyer	P	Soph.	Jersey Village
16	Emma Pierce	IF	Soph.	Dayton
21	Peyton Watson	IF	Soph.	Katy
26	Larissa Ramos	IF	Soph.	Dayton
23	Ashleigh Heiderscheit	UT	Soph.	Liberty Hill
33	Sandra Quiroz-Catalan	UT	Soph.	Dobie/Angelina
15	Addison Opela	P	Fr.	East Bernard
8	Alicia Briones	OF	Fr.	Paetow
11	Atiana Ramirez	C	Fr.	Jersey Village
4	Bree Winkelman	UT	Fr.	Needville
10	Danielle Reynoso	OF	Fr.	Klein Collins
22	Kaelin Hicks	P	Fr.	Crosby
18	Kamryn De Leon	IF	Fr.	Alvin
6	Kenadie Guthrie	UT	Fr.	Angelton
3	Madelyn Peres	OF	Fr.	London
2	Vanessa Valdez	P	Fr.	Atascocita
14	Yadira Ortiz	C	Fr.	Cy-Fair
7	Lilly McCafferty	UT	Fr.	Dickinson

## San Jacinto College Fall Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 25	Illusion (10 innings)	Home	6 p.m.
Sept. 28	Texas Strykers	Home	2/4 p.m.
Oct. 2	Texas Blaze (10 innings)	Home	6 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Praire Vniew A&M	Houston	TBA
Oct. 6	Univ. Houston Round Robin vs. TAMU-Corpus Christi vs. UH	Houston	10 a.m. 3 p.m.
Oct. 9	at UTSA San Antonio		6 p.m.
Oct. 12	Galveston vs. Texas A&M Inter. vs. Texas A&M Inter.	Home	1:30 p.m. 4 p.m.
Oct. 16	TSU (10 innings)	Home	4 p.m.
Oct. 19	Galveston vs. St. Thomas (10 innings) vs. St. Thomas (11 innings)	Home	noon 3 p.m.
Oct. 24	Hustlers (10 innings)	Home	6 p.m.
Oct. 26	Houston Christian Round Robin vs. Sam Houston State vs. HCU	Houston	12:30 p.m. 3 p.m.
Oct. 30	vs Lamar (10 innings)	Beaumont	6 p.m.

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