

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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The Voice of Community-Minded People

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Sagemont to meet Oct. 3

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend.

The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month.

For additional information, call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Sagemeadow seeks vendors

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

If interested, email events@sagemeadow.org.

New Covenant feeds needy

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

Coffee with the Constable

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

The next event will be Thursday, Sept. 28.

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

Local COVID cases reported

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

As of Tuesday, Sept. 26, there were 137 active cases in 77089, up six from the previous week. To date, 142 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 13 active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 23 active cases, up one from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County.

To view an interactive map, visit covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumula-tive-data.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Spencer Highway continuously through 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31. No detour will be needed but drivers should expect delays.

Sagemont meets

The Sagemont Civic Club will not meet on Oct. 3.

Residents are encouraged to go outside and meet their neighbors or attend the National Night Out event at the Harris County Annex at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.

County approves 2024 budget amid Hidalgo's absence

\$2.4B plan includes 5th consecutive tax rate decrease

Harris County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Sept. 19, approved Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

The court also approved a property tax rate decrease for the fifth consecutive year.

Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, who is currently serving as county judge in Lina Hidalgo's absence, praised the new budget.

"This budget builds a future in which communities are safer, healthier, and better protected from flooding and climate change," Ellis said in a statement. "It represents a set of investments in a more just legal system, expanded access to health care, housing, and jobs, and the advancement of fair and free elections. With the resources at our disposal, we are proud of the progress we are making and the life-changing investments we have made today. This progress was made despite Austin politicians slashing vital services by restricting our ability to fund county government adequately. State laws and political games

by some members of Commissioners Court have cost residents nearly \$2 billion in resources over the past five years. These numbers translate into real and immediate effects on every Harris County resident, particularly those who have borne the brunt of inequity and underinvestment for decades. While this budget is a step in the right direction, significant unmet needs and challenges persist. We remain committed to budget priorities that expand access to opportunity, advance justice, and make our communities stronger and safer."

Precinct Two Commissioner Adrian Garcia also praised the plan — dubbed Building a Better Tomorrow by county officials.

"What we've accomplished by Building a Better Tomorrow reflects why Harris County will continue to be a place where people want to live so they can thrive," Garcia said in a statement. "Public safety remains a top priority, making up more than half of our budget. I'm also proud

that for the 5th straight year, we have lowered the property tax rate, while not sacrificing our ability to rebuild our aging infrastructure, create a workforce for jobs today and into the future, and combat the climate crisis with clean energy. Meanwhile, we are lowering costs by reducing the price of tolls and by shoring up the supply chain with expanded capacity at Port of Houston. This budget proves we are working hard for the hardworking families of Harris County."

Commissioners Court also approved an overall tax rate of 53.03 cents per \$100 of assessed value — slightly down from 53.06 cents last year. This marked the fifth consecutive year the court has reduced the property tax rate.

Despite the rate reduction, however, most homeowners can still expect to pay more in property taxes, as home appraisals have gone up throughout the county.

Hidalgo absence

The recent budget approval comes on the heels of an announcement that Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo was extending her mental health leave.

According to county officials, Hidalgo was discharged Saturday, Sept. 16, on the advice of her medical care team, to transition from residential care to outpatient care.

The judge is expected to return to her usual schedule Monday, Oct. 2.

Officials said Hidalgo continues to remain in communication with key county staff and available to discharge her duties as county judge. Additionally, the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has been notified of this update and remains fully engaged and prepared to respond to any potential incident or disaster, as well as request Hidalgo's presence if necessary.

The following is a statement from Hidalgo:

"Thank you to my colleagues, family, and the Harris County community for the outpouring of support that I received after I announced I was seeking inpatient mental health treatment for depression. I have been deeply touched by all the messages that I have received, not only from Harris County residents but from across the country. So many people wrote to me to share their own struggles with mental health and their support for my decision to be public about my journey. I am encouraged that so many in our community agree that treatment for mental illness should be normalized just as seeking treatment any illness is accepted and expected."

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Whitmire visits South Belt



State Sen. John Whitmire (right), a current front-runner in the Houston 2023 mayoral election, recently visited the South Belt area to meet with community leaders at a function held at the home of Leader publisher Marie Flickinger and husband, David. Clear Brook City MUD board members shown above with the senator are, left to right, Chuck Tylka, Chris Clark and Jim Towey. See related story on Page 2. Photo by Ahmed Sharma

Cause of boy's death remains unknown

Found 6 weeks ago, 9-year-old appeared malnourished

Approximately six weeks after a 9-year-old boy died unexpectedly after being found unresponsive at an apartment complex in the 11800 block of Algonquin near Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway, his cause of death remains unknown.

According to Houston Police department officials, officers were called to the Valencia Grove Apartments around 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14, after neighbors heard the child's mother screaming inside her apartment. Officers arrived to find Aden Freeman lying on the floor unresponsive.

A neighbor was reportedly attempting to perform CPR on the boy. Paramedics assumed CPR efforts upon their arrival.

The child was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead about an

hour later.

Freeman's mother reportedly told officers her son had cystic fibrosis and had recently experienced some medical issues.

Investigators said, however, the child and his two siblings appeared to be malnourished. The two remaining children did not require medical attention though, police said.

Neighbors reportedly told investigators the children had been seen asking for food in the past. The mother's refrigerator was stocked with food, however, at the time of the incident, investigators noted.

Child Protective Services was contacted by police and have been working with homicide investigators.

The mother remained free from any charges at press time while the investigation continued.

Clear Creek ISD bond vote approaches

Clear Creek ISD continues to host a series of public meetings aimed at educating local residents about the school district's approaching Nov. 7 bond elections and tax-rate election.

Upcoming meetings include the following:

— Tuesday, Oct. 3: Clear Falls High School, 4380 Village Way in League City, at 6 p.m.

— Thursday, Oct. 5: Clear Lake High School, 2929 Bay Area Blvd., at 6 p.m.

— Thursday, Oct. 12: Clear Springs High School, 501 Palomino Lane, in League City, at 6 p.m.

Clear Creek ISD is proposing three separate bond measures to address the school district's

aging infrastructure, outdated technology and athletics and fine arts equipment.

Bond Proposal No. 1: \$248 million

According to Clear Creek ISD officials, this proposal would include a zero-cent increase on the district's I&S tax rate.

This bond package would focus on student safety and priority repairs.

Bond Proposal No. 2: \$394 million

According to Clear Creek ISD officials, this proposal would include a 2.9-cent increase on the district's I&S tax rate per \$100 valuation.

This bond package would address the follow-

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Firefighters respond to local house fire

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 9:50 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, in the 300 block of Cobbleton Drive in the Sycamore Valley subdivision near Dixie Farm Road and the Gulf Freeway.

According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find heavy fire and smoke coming from the garage area of a house and made an offensive attack.

The utilities were secured, and firefighters accounted for the safety of the residents.

Despite having a difficult time entering the attic area, where the fire had spread, firefight-

ers were able to gain access and extinguish the blaze.

HFD Arson investigators determined the electrical fire was unintentional. Once Arson investigators concluded their on-scene investigation, firefighters conducted salvage and overhaul.

The fire caused an estimated \$70,000 in damage. No injuries were reported.

The homeowner was advised to leave the power and gas off until it could be inspected and repaired.

In all, 49 personnel responded to this incident, including crews from stations 93, 23, 70, 71, 52, 61, 72, 94, 37, 24, Rescue 42 and Rehab 17.

Copper stolen from local church

Kirkwood South Christian Church, located at the corner of Kirkfair and Beamer, was burglarized of its copper wiring twice in just two weeks.

According to church officials, the first burglary took place Friday, Sept. 8, with the building's power on. While the crook took only around \$50 worth of copper wiring, it cost approximately \$10,000 to repair all of the damage.

The church's insurance covered the repairs but it came with a high deductible, officials said.

Before the church could even have Center-Point turn on the replacement system, the thief struck again, taking the newly installed copper

wiring. The burglary again cost roughly \$10,000 to repair. The second theft was treated as a separate incident by the insurance company, requiring the church to pay a second high deductible.

Police believe the same suspect(s) is responsible for both thefts and that they have at least some electrical knowledge. Investigators told church officials the copper thefts are common in the area, with multiple other churches also being targeted. Anyone with information on these thefts is urged to contact the Houston Police Department's Burglary Theft Division at 713-308-0900 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

County: Flu season approaching

As the city winds 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 get it before heading into winter.

This is because it takes about two weeks for immunity to develop in your body. Harris County Public Health recommends getting a flu vaccine for everyone six months of age 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.
- 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, residents should follow these steps to avoid spreading the disease to others:

- Encourage sick family members to cover their nose and mouth when they cough and sneeze, using a tissue or inside bent 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 one gets sick, they should immediately contact their health care provider. If taking medicine such as acetaminophen to control fever, one must wait until the fever is gone for 24 hours without using medicine before returning to school or work.

To find the nearest location for a flu vaccine and/or COVID-19 updated booster, call 832-927-7575. For additional information, visit hcphx.org.

JFD names homecoming court



Dobie recently named its 2023 homecoming court. Female court members shown above are, left to right, (front row) Shaira Balanta, Isabel Segovia and Isis Anderson. Male court members shown above are, left to right, (back row) Ethan Nguyen, Santos Magana and Daniel Campero. The 2023 king and queen were to be named Thursday, Sept. 28, as the Longhorns take on the Pasadena Eagles.

In My Opinion

King promotes Day of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not a word that we hear very often on social media. The Forgiveness Project on Twitter has 8,700 followers, while all manner of hate groups garner followers in the millions. According to Google's Ngram tracker, the word "revenge" was used ten times as frequently in books in 2019 as "forgiveness."

Every great faith tradition teaches that forgiveness is central to our humanity. Jesus, in his pattern prayer, reminds us that we will be forgiven as we forgive others (Matthew 6:12). The Quran teaches that "The retribution for an evil act is an evil one like it, but whoever pardons and makes reconciliation - his reward is from Allah" (Quran 42:40) and forgiveness is one of the six cardinal virtues in the Hindu Dharma.

The Jewish faith sets aside today as a special day to seek and grant forgiveness. It is called Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Forgiveness is not just a moral virtue that benefits the person forgiven, it heals the forgiver. During his eulogy at George Bush's funeral, former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson said, "Hate corrodes the container in which it is carried."

NASA Aglow announces October meeting

NASA Aglow Lighthouse has set their October meeting for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14 at Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy 3, in Webster.

President Lorene Kelling says of the upcoming meeting, "Keith Miller will be ministering... Keith has been experiencing a fresh, powerful anointing in his meetings this year. Those in attendance have been blessed to witness a greater dimension of The Lord's Presence, His Power, as Keith flows prophetically with a fresh Word. Keith is an author and his book is entitled The Seven Fold Spirit of God where you can access the untapped dimensions of the Holy Spirit. We invite you to join us and experience this overflow of anointing for yourself. Come, bring a friend and be a part of the Presence of The Lord as we seek to encounter God in a powerful and meaningful way."

22nd annual Bites of the Bay Epiucran scheduled

Locals are encouraged to mark their calendars for the evening of Nov. 12, where they will be able to sample food and beverages from more than 20 local restaurants, award their favorite restaurant with the vote for best food of the evening and participate in a raffle and silent auction with more than 70 prizes. In addition, a local celebrity (to be announced) will also make an appearance.

Tickets can be purchased online for \$20 at www.CongregationShaarHashalom.org starting Oct. 1, or tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25. This will be held at the Bay Area Community Center, in Clear Lake Park, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook across the street from the lake. Sponsoring this event is Congregation Shaar Hashalom, the Conservative Synagogue serving the Bay Area for almost 60 years. The proceeds from this festive evening will benefit continuing educational classes for both children and adults.

"Humpday Dance" open to the public

The "Humpday Dance" is a free ballroom dance every Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, in League City. Neva and Bill Schroder, volunteers, welcome all ages from teens through retirees to dance on this beautiful, floating hardwood floor.

This activity does not include dance lessons. Free lessons taught by Jerry Sanford are provided on Mondays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at this location. Both activities welcome couples and singles.

This well-established casual dance includes the basic ballroom rhythms of foxtrot, waltz, cha cha, rumba, swing, tango and many other rhythms participants enjoy. Beginners and advanced dancers share this time and space.

Everyone is encouraged to dance freely without criticism as to their style or dance ability as this dance is for fun, fellowship and physical activity. The scheduled time of this dance allows dancers to avoid night driving and hours of heavy traffic. It is suggested that attendees dress comfortably and wear a smile.

Hangar Bash upcoming at Lone Star Museum

The 6th annual Hangar Bash Gone Country, presented by the Saint Arnold Brewing Company, will take place Saturday, Sept. 30, from 5 - 10 p.m. According to those at the Lone Star Flight Museum, the evening will feature "live music from Hard Luck Revival, amazing BBQ, craft beer, whiskey tastings and other flavorful finds throughout our hangars." Lone Star went on to state, "Funds raised from this Hangar Bash support awesome aviation experiences, field trips, visitor fun, affordable community events and lots more."

For more information, buy tickets or learn how to become a sponsor, visit, https://lonestarflight.org/hangarbash2023/?mc_cid=d828e5b302&mc_eid=bd0a309810.

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. 28, 3 - 4 p.m. Open lab - computer class. Registration required.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 4 - 5 p.m. Family storytime. Registration required.

Visit https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events for more library events.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, Sept. 28, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Conversation club.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 4 - 6 p.m. APA citation workshop.

Monday, Oct. 2, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family story time.

Monday, Oct. 2, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Book buddies.

Monday, Oct. 2, 6 - 7 p.m. Conversation club.

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1 - 2 p.m. Pre Interview practice.

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. D&D.

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 11:15 - 12:15 p.m. Family Place: Child workshop. Registration required.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.

- A pickup time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are Monday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library for details.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.

- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.

- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.

- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.

- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card for a HCPL card. For details, visit https://www.hcpl.net.

And we should never forget that sometimes we also need to forgive ourselves. I have always been a big fan of Tim McGraw. About ten years ago, he recorded a song about forgiving ourselves entitled One of These Days.

I hope that you will take a few minutes today to enjoy his song and consider joining our Jewish brothers and sisters in forgiving those who have wronged you and forgiving yourself for the times you have fallen short of what you expected for yourself. I think you might be surprised at the peace you will feel from doing so.

Bill King

Muecke on rising electric bills

To all, Received my Reliant electric bill and super high so investigated. The electric bill was somewhat lower but the Center Point delivery bill was up over \$35.00. Since May 2023 the Center Point delivery charge has gone up \$66.66 for me. That is using existing electric lines and poles for years.

What is this world coming to? You may want to check your bill and compare to past months.

Jim Muecke

South Belt to host Gold Star Event

The South Belt Chamber of Commerce recently issued this invitation to the community:

"Join us on Thursday, Nov. 9, beginning at 11:30 a.m. for the inaugural Gold Star Family Recognition and Honor Luncheon hosted by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce at the Lone Star Flight Museum, 11551 Aerospace Avenue at Ellington. Registration opens at 11 a.m.

This luncheon is dedicated to Gold Star Families - those

who have lost loved ones while serving in the armed forces - and will pay tribute to their ultimate sacrifice in ensuring our country's freedom.

"The featured keynote speaker is the Honorable Mike Foreman, Friendswood Mayor, Former Astronaut and Retired Naval Aviator. Loren Westfield, Houston USO Executive Director, will also speak at the event. Senior Vice President and Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital and

Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospitals CEO Noel Cardenas and Former Colonel of the U.S. Army will serve as emcee.

"Ticket sales are available online at https://fbg.gov/mvkb for \$50 per person, with a minimum purchase of two tickets. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, email the chamber at info@southbeltchamber.com or call 281-481-5516. Seating is limited, so submit your reservation today."

County OKs 2024 budget

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After my time in a fantastic inpatient facility, I am feeling a lot better. I am looking forward to being discharged this Saturday, September 16, 2023, starting outpatient care, and re-acclimating to life outside a mental health facility. My initial treatment plan had me returning to my regular schedule in September, but my discharge date was moved back, which moves back the re-acclimatization period. The way my doctors explained re-acclimatization to me is that you would not go from heart surgery straight to running a marathon, in the same way that they do not want me to go straight back to my usual schedule.

I am feeling great and looking forward to returning on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023. Thanks to the incredible medical team that has cared for me over the

past several weeks, I feel so much stronger than I have ever been. "I continue to maintain lines of communication with my staff and the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management remains fully prepared to respond to any potential incident, as well as request my presence if necessary.

I am grateful for your continued support. I look forward to sharing more about my experience, and most of all, I am eager to return to the community and the job that I love."

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner signaled his support for Hidalgo, releasing the following statement: "Sometimes, the act of simply asking for help can be the hardest part along the road of healing. I applauded Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo when she spoke openly about her need for treatment for depression, and I look forward to welcoming her back in October when she returns to her duties.

Overwhelmingly, I've seen supportive statements for her announcement from across

the political spectrum. Given the wide swath of Houston families who have dealt with health issues - including mine - having leaders be open and honest about health needs has been a great example. Asking for help isn't a weakness, and it shows great strength and self-awareness.

Regrettably, some have chosen this medical issue as a reason to continue their political games. To those who have chosen that route and those who have chosen to publish and amplify that gamesmanship, you have shown us who you are. Mental health is a serious issue that demands your respect. I stand with Judge Hidalgo and hope those who have sought to gain from her illness reflect on what that says about them.

Leaders understand that public statements on issues echo widely in the public - especially in stigmatizing matters like getting access to mental health treatment.

Listen to the sound of your own voice and decide if you are leading, on simply throwing stones."

Elected officials share their words

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin releases September 2023 newsletter

Dear District E residents,

We have hit the start of the school year running and are already gearing up for National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3. Since its founding in 1984, National Night Out has served as a national crime-prevention initiative aimed at furthering police-community partnerships, fostering neighborhood camaraderie, and deterring criminal activity. Each year my staff and I enjoy visiting as many neighborhoods as possible across the district, interacting with the community. I encourage you all to take the opportunity to participate in these events by reaching out to your local community or homeowner's association, to make sure we have your event on our radar please visit this link.

With public safety being a priority heading into fall, I wanted to share how my Council District Service Fund is being utilized this fiscal year. At the beginning of each fiscal year, July, I submit projects for approval to the Mayor's Office and City Legal Department. These projects are based on the District E Case Work, which is derived from phone calls and emails from District E residents. Council District Service Funds are provided to each District Council Member through the City's General Fund and separated in two buckets. One bucket is for infrastructure related projects used in District E mostly for panel replacements while the other is utilized for more diverse district needs like supporting police overtime. This fiscal year my allotment of funding was reduced by half to allow the incoming District E Council Member an opportunity fund additional priorities their first six months in office, which will conclude Fiscal Year 2024 in June of next year.

Bettencourt on Paxton's acquittal

Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) makes the following comments after the Texas Senate voted to acquit Texas Attorney General Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr. of 16 articles of Impeachment sent by the Texas House of Representatives.

"Impeachment is the penultimate act of how to resolve political discourse in American Democracy and in Texas, per our State Constitution. It is important that any such impeachment begins with the foundation of evidence that the jurors, the Texas Senate, can use to make a decision beyond a reasonable doubt to remove any elected official after a vote of the public in an election," Bettencourt stated.

"Due to the fact that the Texas House of Representatives sent the Texas Senate impeachment articles in the last week of the regular session to the Senate on very short notice, my estimation is the members of the Senate alone have spent over 700 days of members' time developing rules, preparing

for trial, listening to evidence, and casting our votes. Unlike Federal impeachments where the U.S. House of Representatives takes evidence from witnesses under oath and allows cross-examination, the Texas House avoided this key step. I agree with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick that the Texas Constitution should be amended to avoid this from happening in the future," He added. "This is the reason why I voted against all pre-trial motions." He remarked.

"By a minimum of 16 votes on 16 articles, Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr. is returned the Attorney General's Office, the job the voters of the great State of Texas elected him to. I want to commend all my fellow members of the Texas Senate, our presiding officer, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, all our staffs, and participants. The Texas Senate's long summer of dedicated service to the citizens of Texas now comes to a close, and may God bless Texas!" concluded Bettencourt.

Bay Area Chorus starts new season

Bay Area Chorus kicked off its 59th season on Monday night, Aug. 21, and released the following press release.

"Our first rehearsal, as seen below, had 135 singers in attendance, with 34 of those being new singers to BAC. We are thrilled to have so many new voices in the Chorus and are working hard in preparation for our upcoming concerts under the direction of our new Artistic Director, Barry Talley. We are looking forward to a great season.

Introducing BAC's Director of Development
"We are proud to announce Bay Area Chorus' new Director of Development, Jessica Peterson. When we met Jessica, we

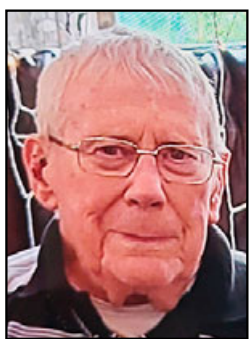
felt she would be the perfect fit for this position because she believes music heals, enriches, and uplifts people. Jessica has an impressive background in supporting non-profit organizations in the area and we believe that she will be a great asset to BAC. We look forward to you meeting Jessica at our upcoming concerts.

Advertise Your Business with BAC
"Need help promoting your business? Advertising with BAC is a great way to do just that. Our program ad sales are currently open. New this year, we are also offering the option of digital ads to be included on our website and emails, like this one. BAC reaches 2,500+ people each year through

our concerts and email communications. Pricing, order form, and additional information can be found here on our website. Ads and payment are due October 9th so sign up to get your organization's name out there today. For any questions and to submit your ad form, email BAC.ads@yahoo.com.

Reserve Your Tickets
"The Bay Area Chorus of Greater Houston, invites you to our 2023-2024 season, A New Day of Song. See our full concert schedule below and mark your calendars accordingly. Tickets are now on sale through the BAC box office for both season tickets and individual tickets for all concerts. We look forward to seeing you in the audience soon."

Gerison Kent Schultz



Gerison Kent Schultz, 91, beloved husband and father passed away Sept. 1,

Death

2023.
Born May 17, 1932, in Green Lake County, Wis., Kent was an Army veteran. As an electronics engineering graduate of the University of Wisconsin, his profession took him halfway around the world. He married Donna "D.J."

Beale on Nov. 3, 1956. They had three children, Larry Schultz, Fred Schultz and Wendy Hunkapiller and five grandchildren. Kent lived 36 years in the Sagemont area, where his children graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School. He lived the last 12 years in the San Antonio area.

Kent served his commu-

nity with a fun and light-hearted attitude.

He was active in his church, singing in the choir and belonging to the Men's Club. Even in his later years, Kent was making people laugh with his engaging personality and his love of people.

Kent's memorial service will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1129 Pat Booker Road, Universal City, TX 78148 on Friday, Sept. 29, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Christ the King Church for the food pantry in Gerison's name.

John Whitmire endorsed by combined law enforcement

John Whitmire announced Tuesday the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) has endorsed him in his campaign for mayor of the City of Houston, one of many law enforcement organizations who are supporting Whitmire.

"Because of your commitment to law enforcement and your public position regarding issues that will impact the rank-and-file officers of the state, the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, or CLEAT, has endorsed your candidacy for Mayor of the City of Houston," said CLEAT Executive Director Charley Wilkison. "Your dedication to protecting the public and history of representing the brave and cou-

rageous men and women of Texas law enforcement has guided our proud endorsement of your campaign."

Whitmire, the longtime chair of the Criminal Justice Committee in the Texas Senate, has received numerous endorsements from law enforcement agencies and elected officials, including: the Houston Police Officers Association, the Afro-American Police Officers League, the Organization of Spanish-Speaking Officers, the Houston Retired Police Officers Association, the Harris County Deputies' Organization, the Texas Municipal Police Association, Harris County Constables Sherman Eagleton and Silvia Trevino and former Houston Police chiefs Charles A. McClelland and

Lee Brown (also a former mayor).

Whitmire has represented Senate District 15 in the Texas Senate for the past 40 years, after serving 10 years in the Texas House.

He believes Houston is a great city, where its diverse population comes together to tackle tough issues. Whitmire wants to see the city reach its full potential by taking on the tough issues facing our city.

Those issues include public safety, illegal dumping, homelessness, flooding and drainage, street and water system repair and neighborhood traffic safety.

He also wants to boost the morale of police and firefighters and let them know that Houston has their backs.

Lions set Walk for Sight

The Pasadena Lions Club invites all PISD students, staff, families and locals to join in their Walk for Sight, set for Oct. 28 at 8 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Stadium. Those participating are encouraged to arrive early, check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Elementary students and their families check in on the home side, while middle and high students and their families check in on the visitors side of the stadium. This fundraising event supports PISD health services such as nurse memberships and eyeglass vouchers, See to Succeed Transportation, vision screeners, Excellence in Wellness Award support, PE/Health Memberships/ fees and PE/Wellness equipment. To register for the Walk for Sight and to donate, visit https://secure.qgiv.com/event/walkfor_sight2023/ or text WFS2023 to 50155.

CCART schedules October meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its October meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. There will be a short business meeting including information about encouraging fellow teachers, active and retired, friends and neighbors to get out and vote this November.

A constitutional amendment authorizing the first cost of living increase since 2013 for retired teachers will be on the ballot. Early voting begins Oct. 23. There will also be a book sale benefiting the Children's Book Project prior to the meeting. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

CCISD bond vote approaches

Continued from Page 1

ing:

- Student safety and priority repairs.
- School renovations of aging schools (40+ years old): Armand Bayou Elementary and Greene Elementary.
- Instructional and security technology.
- Athletics and fine arts improvements.

Bond Proposal No. 3: \$614 Million

According to Clear Creek ISD officials, this proposal would include a 7.2-cent increase on the district's I&S Tax Rate per \$100 valuation.

This bond proposal would address the following:

- Student safety and priority repairs.
- School renovations of aging schools (40+years old): Armand Bayou Elementary, Greene Elementary, Clear Creek Intermediate, Clear Lake Intermediate and Seabrook Intermediate.
- Instructional and security technology.
- Athletics and fine arts improvements.

CCISD is proposing a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election, or a VATRE.

This is an election required by the state that asks voters to consider approving a modified tax rate to increase revenue for student programs, maximize CCISD's maintenance and operations funding, plus teacher and staff salaries.

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

Under current law, the state requires public school districts to lower their tax rate when local property values increase, essentially limiting the general revenue school districts are allowed to keep or receive to 2019 levels.

While local property owners have seen increases in property values, the school dis-

trict does not financially benefit from it on the Maintenance and Operations tax rate due to what is known as tax rate compression.

For information on proposals and tax-rate, see electioncentral.squarespace.com.

Time to clean out your garage and closets!
Durham Park Community Garage Sale
Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Rain or Shine
PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE SIDEWALK WITH YOUR ITEMS
POR FAVOR NO BLOQUEE LA ACERA CON SUS ARTICULOS

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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

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South Belt hosts Book Breakfast



South Belt Elementary hosted a Book Breakfast for fourth-grade students and parents. Families enjoyed breakfast while learning about ways to make reading enjoyable and fun. Shown eating breakfast together are Sean Rodriguez (left) and mom Kristen Phillips.



Above, Ismail Nolley (left) and mother Tami Sornson ate breakfast together. Below, Enzo Tabora (center) enjoyed Book Breakfast with Dennis Tabora (left) and Crystal Santos.

Photos by Anh Ton



Martinez wins scholarship

Foresters Financial, a fraternal life insurer, which advertises that it is boldly redefining the life insurance industry through innovation, purpose and wellness, announced Ivan Martinez of Houston is the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship, and is eligible to reapply each year for up to four years.

In the spirit of Foresters' mission to help those who help others, the Foresters Competitive Scholarship is awarded annually to 300 students in the U.S. and Canada.

The scholarships are granted to those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their contributions toward charitable activities within their communities and have consistently excelled academically.

The scholarships can be awarded for up to four years for students pursuing undergraduate study at accredited two- or four-year colleges/universities or vocational/technical schools.

Ivan has chosen to attend Stephen F. Austin State University in the fall. He earned his scholarship due to academic achievement and importantly, time spent volunteering with Volunteers of America, Foresters Financial, BARC Animal Shelter, Kids Meals and Ronald McDonald House of Charities.

Foresters Financial Interim President and CEO René Zanin

said, "We are proud to recognize Ivan for his contributions to his local community and for exemplifying the core principles and values engrained in the Foresters culture. On behalf of

Foresters, I'd like to thank and congratulate Ivan on his accomplishments and am pleased to award him with this scholarship; we wish him every success as he pursues his studies."

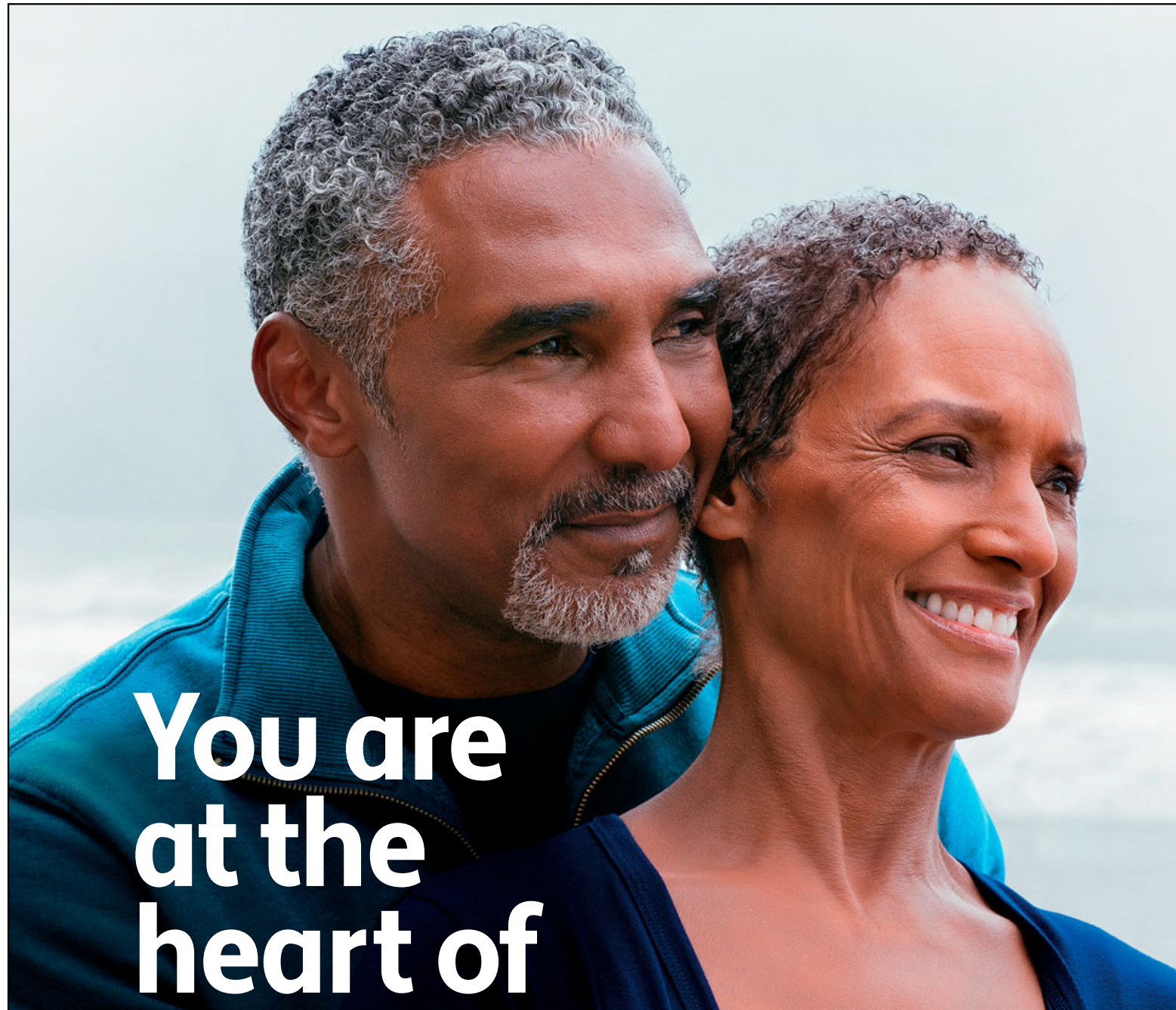


Ivan Martinez will attend SFA University.

Thompson celebrates teacher of the month



Thompson Intermediate recently recognized the Teacher of the month for August 2023. Shown above is Principal Tanis Griffin (left) with Teacher of the Month Princess Eloh, seventh-grade science teacher and coach.



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Wolverine debate takes homecoming win

Clear Brook High School's speech and debate team attended their latest tournament of the season at Clear Falls High School on Sept. 15-16. It proved to be a balancing act, as it occurred on the same weekend as Brook's annual homecoming.

The team's first victory was the crowning of the 2023 homecoming king Gabriel Torres, also the team's president. Gabriel likewise found success at Clear Falls by placing in the final round of Foreign Extemporaneous speaking and earning his first

state point.

His fellow extemporaneous speakers also found success, namely Ariella Cali and Emily Joseph who placed second and fifth respectively in the Domestic division. This earned them six and two points respectively toward their state goals. The novice division of this category saw three new team members place - Ethan Jacob (third), Zaid Asad (fourth) and Jonathan Kunjumon (sixth).

Fellow varsity members rounded out the meet by

earning an additional cumulative total of eight points toward state goals - Isabelle Wills, fourth place and two points in Original Oratory; Misbah Aziz, third place and three points in Informative Speaking; Stephen Wiggins, fifth place and one point in Informative Speaking and Ayla Goodin, fourth place and two points in Program of Oral Interpretation.

Additional successes were achieved by semi-finalists, Yumna Kalajo, Elaina Joseph, and Kendrick Toenies.



Shown are Clear Brook High School debaters, left to right, (front row) Emily Joseph, Jonathan Kunjumon, (back row) Ethan Jacob, Zaid Asad, Isabelle Wills and Gabriel Torres.

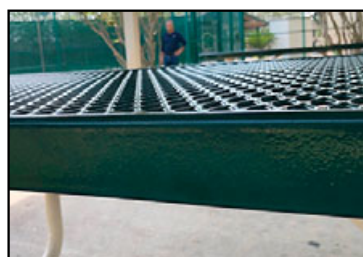
Lees celebrate 60th anniversary



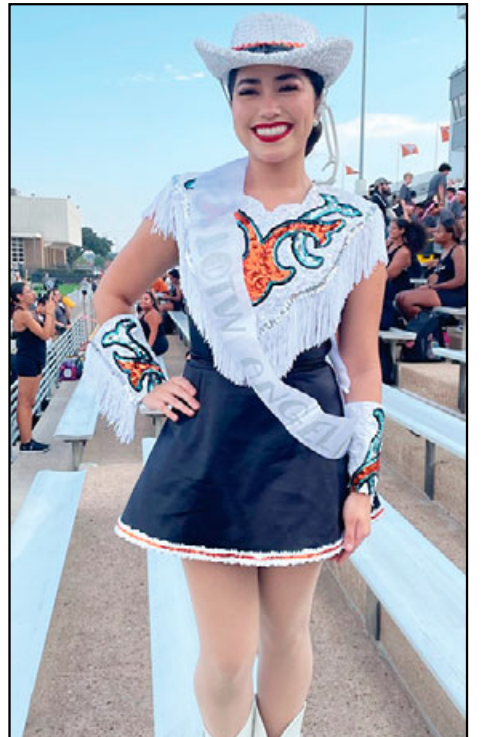
Henry and Sandra Lee celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 1 with family and friends at Carraba's restaurant on Kirby. They have lived in the South Belt area for 50 years. Their children, Chris and Brad Lee and Jana Brzezinski all attended J. Frank Dobie High School. Henry and Sandra feel they are blessed with eight grandchildren and are expecting a great-grandchild.

Cardozo cleans up community

Recently 9 year-old Michael Cardozo (right) of the South Belt community cleaned up the graffiti in the park at Sageglen - all on his own initiative. Brenda Chamblee of the Sageglen Community Association, an associate of Cardozo, commented that he desires to keep the community looking nice. The community thanks him for his initiative in maintaining the South Belt area clean. Below are before (left) and after photos showing the results of Cardozo's efforts.

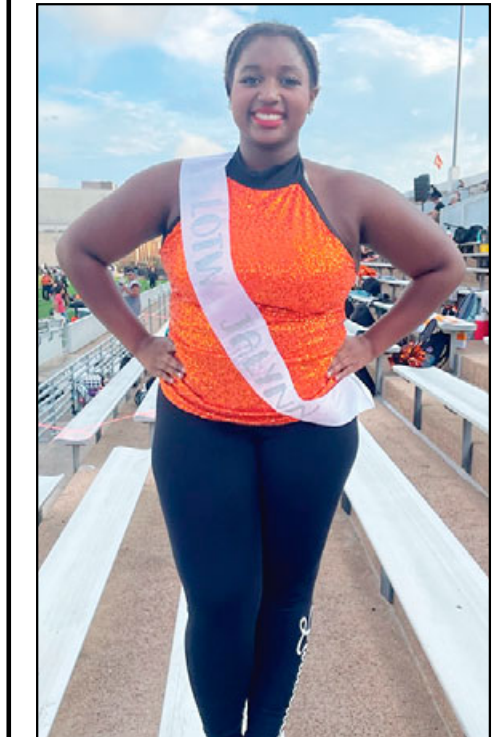


Lariaette of the Week, Sept. 8



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the Week of Sept. 8 is senior Angelina Rapalo, a third-year line member.

Lariaette of the Week, Sept. 14



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the Week of Sept. 14 is sophomore Jalyyn Alix, a first-year line member.

5 years ago (1978)
At least nine homes were burglarized in the Sagemont subdivision in a daytime burglary spree.
40 years ago (1983)
The 147th Fighter Interceptor Group from Ellington Air Force Base won the worldwide fighter weapon meet at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.
35 years ago (1988)
A 24-year-old South Belt woman emerged from a brief hostage encounter following a robbery at the Stop-N-Go located at 9880 Alameda Genoa near Windmill Lakes.
30 years ago (1993)
A substantial release of toxins occurred at the Brio site Aug. 25. J.J. Goldman of the Brio Site Task Force notified the Leader that 35 PPM of cancer-causing vinyl chloride and 15 PPM methylene chloride were released, possibly due to heavy equipment near Pit H/V. (OSHA standard for exposure to vinyl chloride is 5 PPM in a 15-minute period.) H/V was located approximately halfway between Dixie Farm Road and the Southbend property line.
25 years ago (1998)
School enrollment reached an all-time high in the Pasadena Independent School District at 41,453 students. The enrollment was an increase of 527 students over the 1997-98 school year.
20 years ago (2003)
Dobie High students dominated the annual Pasadena livestock auction as they took 42 of 70 auction spots and brought in \$87,821 of the \$145,941 raised at the auction. The students, under the direction of Dobie ag teacher Jon Rascoe, raised more money at auction than the other schools combined.
15 years ago (2008)
A full-service U.S. Postal Service branch office opened at Central Ace Hardware, 11676 Beamer. Unlike other postal and shipping vendors

in the area, the new facility charges actual U.S. Postal Service rates, as it is licensed by the federal government and works on a commission basis. The facility is the second such post office in the 77089 ZIP code area. The first is located within the student center at San Jacinto College South.
Rep. Nick Lampson, who represents the South Belt area, voted against the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout plan Monday, Sept. 29.
He was joined by seven other Texas Democrats and 15 Republicans. Voting in favor of the bailout were five Texas Democrats and four Republicans.
Deputy Marcus Anderson from the Harris County

Precinct 2 Constable's office was involved in a traffic accident Thursday, Sept. 25, at Hughes Road and Beltway 8 while responding to a weapons disturbance call. Fortunately, no one was injured.
A suspected drunk driver drove through Richard Pinkston's home in the 11100 block of Sagedowne. Pinkston was in his backyard with friends when he heard the vehicle crash through his den, study and garage. No one was injured.
10 years ago (2013)
Houston Mayor Annise Parker joined representatives from Southwest Airlines for a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, Sept. 30, celebrating the beginning of construction on a new \$156 mil-

lion international terminal at William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). Once completed, the five-gate facility will accommodate regional international flights for Southwest Airlines, with service reaching destinations in the Caribbean, Mexico and the northern cities of South America.
5 years ago (2018)
Deputies with the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office executed warrants on two illegal gambling operations in the South Belt community, seizing more than \$30,000 in cash. The first raid took place at a convenience store located in the 10800 block of Hughes Road, where deputies seized more than \$5,500 in U.S. currency and an electronic

gaming machine, as well as multiple electronic gaming machine hard drives. The second warrant was executed at a convenience store located in the 12300 block of Scarsdale, where approximately \$28,600 was seized, as well as a gaming machine and numerous hard drives.
A man's car was stolen at gunpoint from his own garage in the 11100 block of Sagehill on Thursday, Sept. 20, around 7:50 p.m. According to Houston police, the victim was working on his car, a silver 2005 Mercedes Benz C-Class, when an unknown male approached him and produced a pistol, demanding the vehicle. No immediate arrests were made.
1 year ago (2022)

Three suspects were arrested early Wednesday, Sept. 21, after allegedly burglarizing two jewelry stores inside Almeda Mall.
Precinct 8 deputies office were actively patrolling the mall parking lot around 3:20 a.m. when a burglary-in-progress call was dispatched inside the mall. With the assistance of Houston police, Precinct 8 deputies were able to arrest the three suspects, two of whom made efforts to flee. Suspects included Telvin Leavean McMillion, 28; Jubbar Ballee Boothe, 39; and Cameron Zonell, 27. Stolen merchandise totaled more than \$500,000 in value, according to police.

Remember When



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LAURA
Birthday wishes are sent to former Leader staff member **Laura Benavides Scallan** Oct. 1 from the Leader staff.
SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 28 through Oct. 4.
Atkinson Elementary
Send a birthday greeting to **Gabriela Rodriguez** Sept. 29.
Burnett Elementary
Join in a happy birthday chorus Sept. 28 to **Bernice Barraza**. **Van Caroselli** enjoys a birthday Oct. 2.
Frazier Elementary
Light the candles on a double-layer cake Sept. 30 for **Katrina Mitchell** and **Valley Richardson**. Break out the balloons and cake Oct. 2 for **Liz Taylor**. Send a special birthday greeting Oct. 3 to **Chris Baldauf**. The day for a birthday gift for **Rose Rodriguez** is Oct. 4.
Genoa Elementary
Light the candles for a birthday celebration for **Charlie Crissman** Oct. 4. Give a birthday shoutout Oct. 1 to **Lisa Grissinger**. Break out the balloons and party favors Oct. 3 for **Lidia Lucero** and **Amanda Callaway**. Oct. 4 is a day of celebration for **Erika Monrroy** for her birthday.
Meador Elementary
Share a birthday cake Sept. 29 with **Lucila Solis**. Send warm wishes for a nice birthday to **Nora Gonzalez** Oct. 4.
Moore Elementary
The day for a special birthday cake for **Jennifer Dowell** is Oct. 2. Remember to wish **Lourdes Guenard** a happy birthday Oct. 4.
Melillo Middle School
Send a humorous birthday card to **Megan Medina** Sept. 28. Blow out the birthday candles for **Kellie Bishop** and **Heather Kaboutari** Oct. 1. **Shannon Martinez** enjoys a birthday Oct. 2. Send a birthday greeting to **Travis Rianne-Destiny** Oct. 3. Light the candles Oct. 4 for **Tyler Oakes**.
Roberts Middle School
Join in the birthday fun Sept. 29 with **Clarissa Ledezma** and **Crystal Lilly**. Remember to wish **Steven Brown** a happy birthday Sept. 30. The day for cake and ice cream for **Tucker Haas** is Oct. 1.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
The day to wish **Stacey Kennedy** a happy birthday is Sept. 30.
Thompson Intermediate
Send a birthday greeting Oct. 1 to **Karissa Guerrero**. **Cathy Broussard** enjoys a birthday Oct. 2. Give a shoutout Oct. 3 to **Mikel (Jacob) Arnold**.
Dobie High
Aaron Mathews celebrates a birthday Sept. 28. Three cheers for a wonderful birthday Sept. 30 for **Tiffany Bowyer**, **Kevin Cross** and **Stephen Cross**. Light the candles on a birthday cake Oct. 1 for **Miguel Torres**. Happy birthday wishes are sent Oct. 2 to **Rayanne Sinski**.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Sept. 28: **Megan Medina**, **Esmerelda Rodriguez**, **Anna Benavidez**, **Tam Vo** and **Christina Guth**; Friday, Sept. 29: **Antonio Morua**, **Marian Adams**, **Adriana Sepulveda**, **Ken Rodrick** and **Gwen Lopez**; Saturday, Sept. 30: **Jason Cook** and **Myra Janacek**; Sunday, Oct. 1: **Amy Malone**, **Jeffrey Restrepo**, **Wendy Sattiewhite**, **Linda Garsler**, **Cindy Que**, **Cyndee Davila**, **Dena Roessler**, **Yvonne Mintz** and **Rebekka Barker**; Monday, Oct. 2: **Racquel Rojas**, **Tomeka Anderson**, **Diana Holbrook**, **Paula Smith** and **Lori Pytka**; Tuesday, Oct. 3: **Amanda Gonzales**, **Thomas Chapa**, **Roberto Trevino** and **Yvonne Moorer**; and Wednesday, Oct. 4: **Malcomb Chambers**, **Audry Williamson** and **Michelle Almaguer-Saenz**.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

"Dine Out to Donate" soon

The Clear Creek Education Foundation is excited to celebrate the 10th annual "Dine Out to Donate" on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023. The process is simple - citizens enjoy a meal at a participating restaurant, and in return the restaurant will donate a portion of the proceeds to CCEF to benefit the students and teachers of the Clear Creek Independent School District.
All of the proceeds will support CCEF's many programs including educational grants, The Leader in Me program; Robotics, Coding and Computational Thinking (RCC); National Board Teacher Certification and Clear Horizons Early College High School.
"Since we began Dine Out to Donate 10 years ago, it has provided the CCISD community a fun and supportive way to provide for our hard-working teachers classroom needs.
"Our faculty, administrators, families, and students dine out in their favorite restaurant for a day of camaraderie, good food - thanks to our precious restaurant partners," said Mickey Wooten, CCEF board director and chairman of Dine Out to Donate.
This event brings fun competition district-wide between all CCISD schools. The top three elementary, intermediate and high schools with the highest percentage of participation based on student population will each win a monetary award: 1st - \$750, 2nd - \$250. Overall, the top school wins the "Top Dog Trophy" which comes with very special bragging rights. A big thank you to our sponsors: Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott, LLP and The Spot.
"CCEF is fortunate to have these partnerships that support education in our community. These VIP partners collaborate with CCEF to bring the very best education possible to our students," said Deborah Laine, CCEF executive director. For more information, visit www.ClearCreekEducationFoundation.org.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The CLEAR BROOK CITY M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on **October 18, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at 11911 Blackhawk Boulevard, 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 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: Jim Bishop, James Towey, Chris Clark, and David Flickinger
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Chuck Tylka

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	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.54000/\$100	\$.51000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-\$0.03000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-5.55%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 274,670	\$ 303,076
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 54,934	\$ 60,615
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 219,736	\$ 242,461
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,186.57	\$ 1,236.55
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 49.98 4.21%

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

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie hosts Stampede cross-country event

Dobie junior Lauren Garza will no doubt have great expectations at next month's District 22-6A Cross-Country Championships after leading the varsity girls' squad for much of this season.

Garza, a big contributor to Dobie's 2021 and 2022 league championship teams, was fifth at the Dobie-hosted Longhorn Stampede Sept. 21, finishing fifth over the 5,000-meter course at 19 minutes, 40.80 seconds.

Senior Kyla Lobo, last year's 22-6A runner-up finisher, was 29th-best on her home turf, clocking in at 22:39.40.

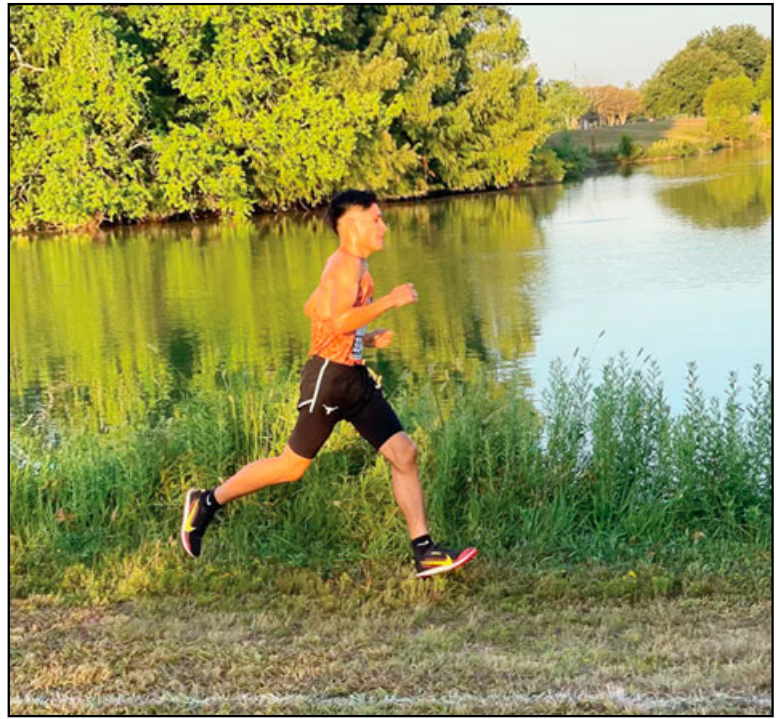
The Katy girls, led by top overall medalist Destinee Davis and runner-up Victoria Guerrero, easily won the Division I varsity 5,000-meter event. The Tigers had each of their five qualifying runners get into the top 14.

Junior Christopher Lopez was 17th-best at 16:56.30 to lead the Dobie varsity boys' in the Division I 5,000-meter event.

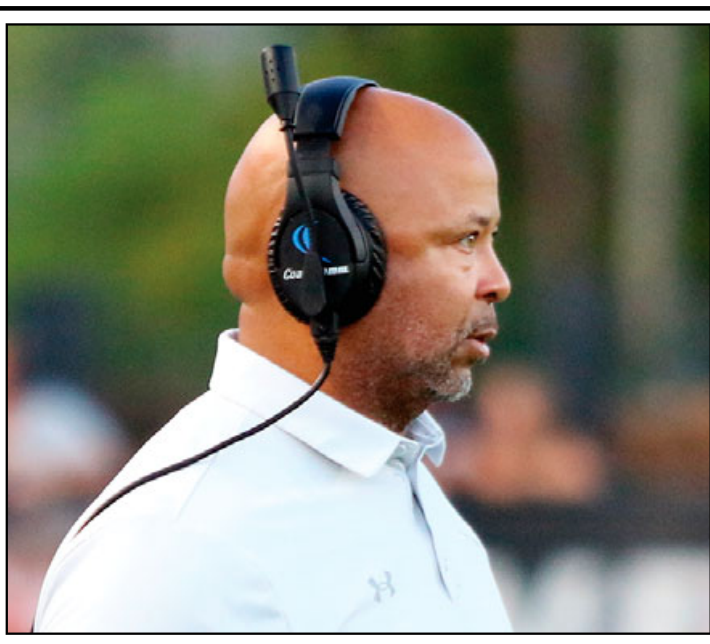
Deer Park, the clear frontrunner for the 22-6A crown come October, easily won the team crown at the stampede, with Dobie fifth.

At 17:23.20, Longhorn senior Francisco Dunn placed 35th, and a time of 17:34.40 was good enough to place fellow senior Damian Rosas 47th.

Sophomore Johan Villavicencio was in at 17:44.30 for 53rd overall, and a time of 17:50.80 had senior Jose Munoz in for the 59th spot. In the freshman boys' two-miler, Dobie's Wilfredo Chinchilla was 20th-best with his clocking of 12:18.20.



Dobie junior Christopher Lopez has kept his solid season on the go as next month's 22-6A championships approach. As has been the case for much of this season, Lopez was his team's top finisher at the Longhorn Stampede.



At left, Dobie varsity football head coach Demond Stafford watched as his Longhorns trailed host Deer Park 28-7 at halftime and 35-24 entering the fourth quarter yet scored the game winner with 36 seconds to play, stunning the previously unbeaten Deer 38-35 Sept. 22. At 3-2 overall, the Longhorns will host Pasadena Sept. 28 as part of the school's homecoming festivities at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

All-time comeback as JFD football shocks Deer Park

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

In what will go down as the greatest come-from-behind win in program history, the Dobie varsity football team has thrust itself smack dab in the middle of the 22-6A league title chase following a stunning 38-35 victory over host Deer Park Sept. 2 at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park.

Outscored 130-14 over the previous 10 quarters of football and trailing the Deer 28-7 at halftime, the Longhorns put together one of their most important second halves ever, getting a one-yard touchdown plunge and subsequent 2-point conversion run from senior quarterback Juan Huerta with 36 seconds remaining

to cap the victory. Getting a pair of long touchdown passes, one from Huerta and another from receiver Ethan Nguyen to Tariq Riley in the second half, the Longhorns still found themselves trailing 35-30 in the closing minutes before Huerta found the end one in the final minute.

Team captain C.J. Richard set the table with his leaping interception of a third-down pass at the Doobie 42-yard line with 5 minutes, 29 seconds to play.

Still, the Longhorns had to overcome consecutive holding calls on the final game-winning drive, getting fourth-down conversion runs twice from star Cameron Mathews.

A 9-yard run from Demarcus Hodges gave Dobie a first-and-goal from the Deer 8-yard line as the clock ticked inside two minutes, and Mathews rumbled to the one-yard line before Huerta's keeper gave the Longhorns a 36-35 lead. Huerta's conversion run provided the final points of Dobie's comeback win.

The facts are the facts. Over the history of the two schools, Dobie and Deer Park call one another their biggest in-district rivals. With the exception of a 2020 win at Deer Park that ultimately led to Dobie's first district title in 10 seasons, the Deer have by and large controlled the series.

Deer Park entered the

22-6A opener having dominated its way to a 4-0 start in nondistrict action and, quite frankly, likely had its eye on a perfect 10-0 regular season run. That is no more.

The way things started, there was little reason to believe the Deer would falter. Deer Park's Terry Thompson opened the scoring with a one-yard run at the 8:35 mark of the first quarter, and quarterback Landon Keiselhorst found Hayden Smith for 66 yards and a touchdown as the Deer quickly led 14-0 with 4:50 remaining in the opening quarter.

Huerta scored Dobie's lone points of the first half on an 18-yard keeper with 2:26 left in the first quarter, but two more Deer touchdowns had the home crowd happy at 28-7 entering half-time.

Continued on Page 6

Dobie, Dickinson wins set early tone in football races

The tone was certainly set during the first week of both the District 22-6A and District 24-6A varsity football races, but there is plenty more ahead as Sept. 28-30 games carry plenty of importance.

Dobie in 22-6A and Dickinson of 24-6A were the big winners of week one. The Longhorns, quite simply, scored one of the biggest come-from-behind wins in program history

with a 38-35 stunner Sept. 22 at Deer Park. Trailing 28-7 at halftime and 35-24 entering the fourth quarter, Dobie rallied down the stretch, getting the game-winner on a one-yard dive from senior quarterback Juan Huerta with 36 ticks remaining in the game.

At the very least, the Longhorns have grabbed dibs on the eventual top playoff seed in the Division

I playoff bracket. The Longhorns will celebrate by hosting homecoming festivities Sept. 28 against the Pasadena Eagles at 7 p.m.

The Eagles were 63-14 losers to South Houston in the opening week of league play.

In District 24-6A, perhaps it was Dickinson that made the biggest statement as the Gators ran past Clear Springs 35-14 on the strength of a pair of kickoff

return touchdowns from Rodney Bimage. Like Dobie, the Gators now have the early edge in securing the top Division I playoff seed with the win over the Chargers.

Elsewhere in week one play in 22-6A, the Memorial Mavericks got a 65-15 win over the Sam Rayburn Texans as Mavs' place-kicker Emily Chavez got in on the fun with a 27-yard field goal and a pair of conversion kicks.

In 24-6A, the Clear Creek Wildcats traveled to Clute and downed the Brazoswood Bucs 28-21 as quarterback Bryson Drake scored the eventual game-winner. Meanwhile, Clear Falls shut out Clear Brook 55-0.

Second-week action will provide a bit more clarity. In addition to Dobie hosting Pasadena for homecoming, Memorial and South Houston square off Sept. 29 at Veterans Stadium in

Pasadena in what could be the most competitive game of the week. Defending 22-6A champion Channelview returns from an opening-week bye to take on Sam Rayburn.

In 24-6A, Brazoswood will visit Clear Brook; the oldest rivalry in the Clear Creek ISD ranks plays out with Clear Creek facing Clear Lake, and Clear Falls meets Clear Springs in a game with huge postseason implications.

Garza earns 500th career kill

Senior Ariana Garza registered her 500th career kill as the Dobie varsity volleyball team won its fourth straight league match, tightening its grip on the No. 2 spot in the 22-6A standings along the way with a sweep

at Sam Rayburn Sept. 22. Garza, a four-year varsity performer, was the star of the night as the Longhorns also tied their single-season best of 25 overall wins during head coach Dawn Sexton's tenure.

Garza's career milestone is just one of several that have set apart this era of Dobie volleyball under Sexton's guidance. Lexie Gonzalez will almost assuredly reach 1,500 career assists and 1,000 ca-

reer kills prior to the end of the 2023-2024 campaign, and the four-year letter-winner also has more than 1,000 digs for her career.

Aly Frias, a three-year starter and already a two-time first team All-District performer, has more than 1,200 career digs from her libero spot.



Senior Ariana Garza (8) came up with her 500th career kill during the first half of league play and will aim to help the locals keep the wins coming down the stretch. At left is Dobie's Lexi Gonzalez (11). Dobie, currently second in the 22-6A standings, will host first-place Deer Park Oct. 3 in a 5:30 p.m. varsity match against Deer Park. Photo by Gloria Wallace

Pioneers dominant The Woodlands meet

With the district championship meet coming in mid-October, the Lutheran South Academy cross-country program is setting the tone for what could be a special final stretch run.

The Pioneers were dominant at The Woodlands Christian Academy-hosted event Sept. 23, with the varsity boys' team cruising to the team crown as brothers Marcus, Matthew and Jeremy Gaitan went 1-2-3, with sophomore teammate Reid Toner sixth.

LSA's five qualifiers delivered a low of 29 points based on placements, easily ahead of second-place Providence Classical.

Marcus Gaitan, on quite a run during his senior season, was the top overall medalist in the 5,000-meter event as he edged his twin, Matthew Gaitan, who was second.

Marcus Gaitan won at 16 minutes, 16.97 seconds, and Matthew Gaitan's runner-up time was 16:22.95. Freshman Jeremy Gaitan, certainly part of the next wave of runners for the Pioneers, was third for his

best placing of the season at 17:04.86.

In finishing off the team win, the Pioneers saw Toner grab sixth place overall with his clocking of 17:14.64, and the team's fifth official scorer was Jeremy's twin, freshman Josh Gaitan, in at 18:47.17 for 19th place.

Sophomore Sam Hergrader was 28th for the Pioneers, clocking in at 19:41.42, with freshman Nicholas Pena 31st with his time of 19:53.33.

In the varsity girls' 3,200-meter event, Tyler Grace was the team champion, with Lutheran South fourth.

A time of 13:47.64 was the Pioneers' best as senior Lydia Ward was 14th. From there, a time of 14:33.99 placed sophomore Elisabeth Hergrader 24th overall. Sophomore Lanie Ward was 30th-best in a time of 14:58.02, and a time of 15:03.99 had Jemma Rieckart, another sophomore, taking 32nd place. The Pioneers' Megan Davis, a junior, was 34th to round out her team's official scoring at 15:17.10.

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Dobie football boosters host BBQ event

The Dobie football booster club is selling tickets for its annual barbecue fundraiser to be held Sat., Oct. 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the main campus near the athletics field house. The \$10 plates will include a pulled pork sandwich, chips, cookie and canned drink as organizers raise funds for annual expenses within the football program, including scholarship funds, equipment purchases and more.

For additional information on the fundraiser, call booster club president Roxanne Tellez at 832-641-1593. Pre-event ticket purchases are strongly encouraged so as to account for a reasonable expectation of pulled pork sandwiches.

Clear Falls blanks Wolverines in 24-6A opener

The Clear Falls Knights cruised to an easy 55-0 victory over the Clear Brook Wolverines Sept. 22, dropping the Wolverines to 1-4 overall midway through the 2023 regular season.

The Knights, a Division II playoff bracket representative in 2022, got 179 yards passing from quarterback Landon Vessel, while receiver Kyle Hoffpaupair had four grabs for 95 yards.

The Knights, who improved to 2-3 overall with the win ahead of a key matchup versus Clear Springs Sept. 29, held the Wolverines to fewer than 100 yards of total offense.

Lutheran South Academy football slips to 1-4

St. John's put together a big offensive night on the varsity football field Sept. 22, defeating Lutheran South 58-21 as the Pioneers dropped to 1-4 midway through the season.

Pioneer quarterback John LeBlanc passed for 224 yards and a touchdown as he completed 14 of 40 throws, with receiver Braelon Robinson reeling in seven passes for 135 yards in the game. LeBlanc also rushed for a team-high 74 yards and a score.

The Pioneers will next take on Fort Bend Christian Oct. 6 to begin district play. The Eagles will also enter play at 1-4 overall.

LSA VB loses another to FBCA






Fort Bend Christian Academy, a state volleyball finalist a season ago before a championship match loss to Liberty Christian, dealt Lutheran South a fourth straight setback dating back to last season, downing the Pioneers in the first half of league play.

FBCA scored a 25-23, 25-14, 25-19 win Sept. 19 in a state semifinal rematch from a season ago. Despite the loss, the Pioneers were 28-7 overall heading into Sept. 26 play after press time.

Kirra Musgrove leads the Pioneers with 409 kills and 358 assists, while Aniston Collins has 497 assists.

Despite the loss, Lutheran South is 27-7 overall this season, including 5-1 in district play.

South Belt football predictions

				
John Bechtle	Emory Gadd	Troy Leland	Stephen Sutton	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie vs. Pasadena	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Pasadena Memorial vs South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	Memorial	Memorial
Brazoswood at Clear Brook	Brazoswood	Brazoswood	Brook	Brazoswood
Noth Shore at C. E. King	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore
Channelview at Rayburn	Channelview	Channelview	Channelview	Channelview
Clear Creek vs. Clear Lake	Clear Lake	Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Clear Lake
Clear Falls vs. Clear Springs	Clear Falls	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Falls
Kingwood Park vs. La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	La Porte
Port Neches Groves at Texas City	PNG	PNG	Texas City	PNG
Friendswood at Magnolia	Friendswood	Magnolia	Friendswood	Magnolia
Last Week's Results	4-6	7-3	6-4	5-5
Season record	36-14	36-14	38-12	33-17

Dobie netters on cusp of No. 2 seed

A Sept. 26 match after press time against Sam Rayburn, all but a formality, the Dobie varsity tennis team will finish off a late-season run of success that will land the locals the No. 2 seed in next month's bidistrict playoff round.

The key win of the league season came as Dobie took down Memorial 17-2 in a head-to-head battle Sept. 16, sweeping the doubles to take a 7-0

lead and not looking back.

In those doubles matches, the JFD boys got a win at No. 1 with Nestor Garza joining Ryan Le for a 6-2, 6-3 straight-setter; Diego Flores and Nolan Tran delivered a quick 6-0, 6-2 victory at No. 2, and the No. 3 boys' doubles match had the Longhorns' Rigo Alaniz and Pitou So claiming a 6-0, 6-1 win.

The Dobie girls were equally as impressive against Memorial as Leslie Figueroa and Hailey Maldonado were 6-1, 6-0 winners at No. 1; Leena Pham and Kayla Tran won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2, and the No. 3 girls' doubles team of Abby Panza and Hallie Vu won 6-0, 6-2.

In the mixed doubles, Dobie's pairing of Amalia Reyes and Tre Ramirez won via default.

Now with a bit of a break prior to the start of the postseason, Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. can enjoy his 25th anniversary celebration Oct. 7 as the Longhorns host their annual Exes Matches at the Longhorn courts on the main cam-

pus beginning at 9 a.m. as dozens of Moreno's former players are expected to attend.

Martin Zuber, a Class of 2010 Dobie graduate and team tennis captain during his final season, will not be in attendance Oct. 7 but says he will be thinking of the program throughout the weekend as the festivities play out.

When it comes to Moreno's program outline

over 25 years, perhaps Zuber's tale typifies those of many players who played in the program both before and after him.

Zuber attended intermediate school at Thompson and hadn't been exposed to much formal instruction or lessons until he attended one of Moreno's summer youth programs.

Following that experience, Zuber in fact joined the Dobie tennis program

as a freshman in 2006 and then played at the junior varsity level as a sophomore a year later.

By his senior season in 2009-2010, Zuber rose to the No. 1 boys' singles spot and played mixed doubles with senior Jisha Jose, one of his best friends to this day, during the spring season.

Through it all, Zuber said he simply soaked up Moreno's words of guid-

ance. He enjoyed the family-like feeling among his teammates, and when Zuber was honored as a team captain as a senior, he both relished the opportunity but also understood the importance of the role.

"Sometimes being a team captain can mean just having the title, but coach Moreno outlined real expectations for us as leaders," said Zuber, now

Continued on page 8



2010's Zuber climbed to top spot

Martin Zuber only began playing tennis the summer between his eighth- and ninth-grade years yet ascended to No. 1 boys' singles as a senior in 2009-2010. His story mirrors that of many previous and current Dobie High School players under head coach Manuel Moreno Jr.'s guidance.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The KIRKMONT MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on October 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at 10102 Blackhawk Blvd., Houston, Texas 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: Michael J. Grizzaffi, Lonnie L. Piquiet, Deborah Carroll, Jean Ann Williams, and Carlos Lopez
- 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)	\$ 0.493/\$100	\$ 0.478/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ - 0.0150/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-3.0426%
Average appraised value	\$ 184,052	\$ 202,153
General homestead exemptions available (Excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 184,052	\$ 202,153
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 907.38	\$ 966.29
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 58.91	6.4923%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, 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.

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Dobie comeback

Continued from Page 5

Huerta and Riley sparked Dobie on the first offensive play of the second half, with Huerta finding Riley down the right sideline for 71 yards and a touchdown.

But Deer Park responded, getting a two-yard scoring run from tailback Isaiah Gregoire to extend the Deer lead to 35-14.

Senior Daniel Campero delivered a 37-yard field goal with 2:11 remaining in the third quarter, but Dobie trailed 35-17 entering the final 12 minutes.

As they did to open the second half, the Longhorns struck a big blow to open the fourth as Nguyen took a lateral toss from Huerta and launched an 85-yard scoring pass to Riley.

Mathews' 3-yard touchdown run with 8:15 to play cut the Dobie deficit to 35-30, but the Longhorns failed on the subsequent 2-point try.

The Deer still had the lead, but Keiselhorst's third-down pass deep down the middle was snagged by Richard, setting up what would become the win-stealing drive.

In today's state of affairs, Dobie and Deer Park annually vie for seeding in the Class 6A Division I playoff bracket. For now and moving forward, Dobie has a big edge.

And while the outcome still leads to a first-round playoff game against state powers North Shore or Atascocita, the Longhorns are in control of their own destiny.

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 2023 on October 11, 2023, 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	\$.50000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 225,949	\$ 248,755
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 225,949	\$ 248,755
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,129.74	\$ 1,243.77
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 114.03	10.09%

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 board of directors proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of rehabilitation of aging infrastructure.

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.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," at 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at either Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See Chamber of Commerce calendar or call 281-485-3634.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Genealogical Society** - meets online in a virtual webinar format or at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Virtual attendees need to register for each webinar session. Visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services, Judaism classes, film series and lunch with the Rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
2-4 p.m. **Parent's-Day Out** - CrossRoads United Methodist Church invites children with intellectual and physical disabilities for a fun-filled afternoon of activities.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship and Bible study programs at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy. Call 713-944-9186.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.
8 p.m. **AA** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for tours of exhibits.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Volunteers teach dance lessons. Call 281-554-1180.
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. Call 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com.
7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting in the Education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 chapter meets at the Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call 832-858-4617 or 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10:00 a.m. **CCART** - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for tours of exhibits.
10:30 a.m. **Tri County Republican Women** - General meetings are held at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr. Exact cash or a check requested for lunch (\$15). To RSVP visit www.tricountyrw.club/ or call 832-250-8901.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - Club #05324194 meets virtually at seohouston.toastmastersclubs.org. Visit the website or call 832-722-9061 for information.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4
7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, Call 713-444-6744.
9:30 a.m. **Young at Heart Senior Club** - Meets at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call 832-298-9480 for details.
Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway. Casual ballroom dancing offered. Call 281-554-1180.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday and Bible study programs at 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). Call 281-479-7285.
7 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **NA** - See Friday's notice.

LEADER READERS

25 words: Personal: \$8 for 1 week/ \$21 for 3 weeks;
Business: \$10 for 1 week/ \$27 for 3 weeks

AUTO
1996 DODGE PICKUP for sale. White pickup very nice, also comes with nice tool box. Call 281-464-3603. 9-28

HOUSE CLEANING
RESIDENTIAL HOUSE CLEANING. Reliable, trustworthy and dependable with very reasonable rates. South Belt, Clear Lake and Webster. Contact Lisa 832-830-9331. 9-28

CHILD CARE
CHILD CARE IN MY HOME. Mon. - Sat., 5 a.m. - 6 p.m. Over 20 years experience, references available. CPR and First-Aid certified for all ages. Call Denise 281-416-3808 and leave a message. 10-12

MISCELLANEOUS
NEW CRAFTSMAN RIDING lawn mower. Only used twice, husband had a stroke and can't mow anymore. Paid \$1200 for it, asking \$700. Very nice! Call 281-464-3603. 9-28

RUBEN'S PAINTING.
Interior & exterior painting, Sheetrock repair, wood fences, pressure washing. Free estimates. Call 346-577-3347. 12-28

CARPENTER/ HANDY-MAN. Light electrical, plumbing & painting, replace/repair. No Job Too Small. 281-948-8887. 12-28

PRESSURE WASHING! Free Estimates. Call Scott and Sons at 979-235-0645. House, driveways, sidewalks, boats, R.V.s, etc. Time for cleaning. Free Estimates! 10-5

HELP WANTED

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Advertise in the Leader

Brook, Dobie excited to start

Girls' basketball practices begin across state

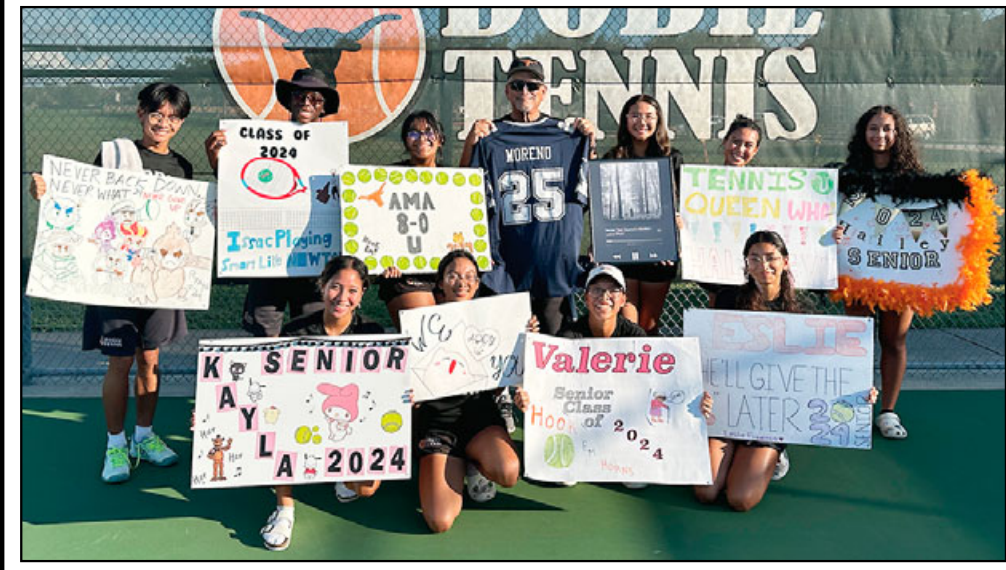
The University Interscholastic League has marked Oct. 18 as the first day of high school girls' basketball workouts, with the Dobie program scrimmaging Oct. 28 at Atascocita and Oct. 31 at Cypress Creek. State-wide, the regular season comes Nov. 3. Dobie head coach Jasmine Hartman will lead her varsity group in the season opener Nov. 7, at home against Clear Lake at 7 p.m. The Longhorns will also play in the 20th anniversary edition of the McDonald's Texas Invitational, which comes Nov. 16-18.

Following the graduation of several three-year starters over the past two seasons, Dobie will feature a good number of first-year players as Hartman and the Longhorns will eventually look to take down 22-6A champion Deer Park in league play.

At Clear Brook, the two-time District 24-6A champion Wolverines welcome back a group looking to make a run at the Region III title. Junior Rezia Castillo, already a two-time Most Valuable Player in the 24-6A ranks, is joined by Defensive Player of the Year Kamryn McLaurin as well as first-team All-District honorees Chardel Terrell and Morgan Williamson.

This preseason, Clear Brook will scrimmage at Alief Hastings Oct. 28 and at Bridgeland Oct. 30. To open the regular season, Nov. 4, Clear Brook goes against Shadow Creek at Delmar Field House.

JFD senior class celebrates



Dobie High School Tennis held its Senior Night on Sept. 22 at the District 22-6A home dual match between the Longhorns and South Houston. Dobie won 19-0, improving to 4-1 in district play. Along with it being Senior Night, the players also presented their head coach of 25 years, Manuel Moreno Jr. (back center), a Dallas Cowboys jersey with the No. 25, celebrating his birthday on Sept. 21 along with his silver anniversary as Dobie High School's longest-tenured head coach of any sport (tying him with legendary boys' track coach David Chaullett) as well as the school's winningest tennis coach. Left to right are: (front row) Kayla Tran, Abby Panza, Valerie Huynh, Leslie Figueroa, (back row) Ryan Le, Isaac Reynolds, Amalia Reyes, Moreno, Leena Pham, Hallie Vu and Hailey Maldonado.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY R.I.D. #1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on **October 17, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at 1301 McKinney, Suite 5100, Houston, Texas 77010.** 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: David Flickinger, Mike Daugherty and John Bechtle, Jr.
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)	\$.26000/\$100	\$.24000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ -0.02000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.69%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 270,333	\$ 297,792
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 270,333	\$ 297,792
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 702.86	\$ 714.70
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$ 11.84
and percentage of increase (+/-)		1.68%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON 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 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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

Zuber's path on JFD courts mirrors players past, present

Continued from page 6

an officer in the United States Navy. "We had meetings with Coach, were part of the planning process for team events. It represented an important time for me in my development as a young man. I owe a lot to coach Moreno for the role he played in not only my life but those of my teammates. It was a lot more than just hitting solid tennis shots."

Zuber recalled the experience surrounding his decision to join the Navy and the role Moreno played in that.

"I had a deadline for a signed form to get turned in, and my dad called Moreno to pretty much implore him to nudge me along the way," said Zuber, who today is in charge of 155 soldiers. "It was both the greatest and most important decision of my life to enlist in the Navy. Some of that credit belongs to coach Moreno."

Stationed in Washington, D.C., currently, Zuber has traveled the world as part of his career, living in Italy for a couple of years. He, Jose, Nirali Desai and several other 2010 Dobie graduates have remained tight over the

years. Earlier this month, Moreno and his daughter, Kelsey, met up with Zuber, Jose and Desai at the U.S. Open in New York.

"Coach Moreno deserves this career celebration for all that he has meant to so many of us and what he has done to guide us toward our development as young adults," Zuber said. "I'd love to be there. Maybe next time. I hope everyone has a great day."

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BBB

Garza collects 500 kills



Ariana Garza notched her 500th career kill as the Dobie varsity volleyball team swept past Sam Rayburn Sept. 22, getting to 25 overall wins for the season. Garza is a four-year varsity performer for Dobie.

PROUDLY CELEBRATING

NND 40
 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023

POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FREEMAN MANOR CIVIC CLUB

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023

OCTOBER 3, 2023 6PM - 8PM

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Texas Renaissance Festival

October 7th through November 26th
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