

Holiday hours scheduled

South Belt-Ellington Leader
The *Leader* office will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in honor of Labor Day. The office will reopen at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Clear Brook City MUD
Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, and will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who receive Monday trash services will not have pickup Labor Day, Sept. 7. Trash services will resume Thursday, Sept. 10. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on day of pickup.

Monthly PIP meeting moved

Due to conflicting schedules at Grace Church, this month's Positive Interaction Program from the Houston Police Department will take place at the Lone Star Flight Museum, 11551 Aerospace Ave. at Ellington Airport, Tuesday, Sept. 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This marked the third consecutive month the functions have not taken place at their traditional meeting spot at Grace Church, but HPD officials maintained that they had not permanently moved. This month, the Clear Lake Division will host the citywide PIP. Featured speaker will be Detective Nathaniel Waldie of the Family Violence Division.

Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings typically take place the third Monday of each month. Meetings will resume at Grace Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway, Classroom No. 103, next month. For additional information, contact Johanna McWilliams at 346-435-2262 or johanna.mcwilliams@houstontx.gov.

MUD trash times may vary

Due to a major county construction project, trash collection times may vary in the coming weeks.

Residents should have trash curbside no later than 6 a.m. Monday and Thursday, as collection crews will be working in coordination with construction crews and may arrive earlier than before.

All Texas Pride Disposal trucks have cameras for verification. This will continue until the project's completion.

A project of Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, the massive undertaking will make street and traffic repairs to the majority of major roads in the Clear Brook City MUD.

Work has already begun in the Sagemeadow, Highland Meadow and Wood Meadow subdivisions. Work will soon begin in the Sageglen subdivision.

2026 Lariaettes set clinic

Join the Dobie Lariaettes at Dobie High School for their annual Lariaette dance clinic on Wednesday, Oct. 7. This fall clinic is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grades. For more information or registration for this event, visit <https://www.successfund.com/lariaettedanceclinic>.

City sets holiday pickup days

In observance of Labor Day, Houston Public Works' Solid Waste Management Division will adjust curbside collection services and close all Solid Waste Management facilities and administrative offices Monday, Sept. 7. On Tuesday, Sept. 8, Monday's garbage and recycling will be collected, and all Solid Waste Management facilities and administrative offices will reopen. On Wednesday, Sept. 9, Tuesday's garbage and recycling will be collected. On Thursday, Sept. 10, normal collection schedules resume. For more information or to confirm collection day, visit www.HoustonSolidWaste.org.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Spencer Highway to Greenshadow Drive continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Pasadena Boulevard to Fairmont Parkway continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

South Belt braces for Tropical Storm Edouard

Storm predicted to bring strong winds, heavy rainfall; local schools close

Tropical Storm Edouard was bearing down on the upper Texas-Louisiana coast at press time, prompting widespread precautions across the region and sending Southeast Houston into a day of closures, early dismissals and storm-prep routines as residents braced for whatever the system might bring.

Although the South Belt area was not in the direct landfall zone, officials urged caution as Edouard's outer bands pushed inland and forecasters warned of periods of heavy rain and the potential for localized flooding. Emergency crews were staged throughout Harris County,

and utility providers said they were prepared for scattered outages as conditions worsened.

CenterPoint Energy reported that crews had already restored service to about 1,000 customers by late Tuesday morning, with roughly 750 customers still without power. The utility said it had mobilized 2,700 frontline workers and contractors ahead of the storm.

"CenterPoint Energy is prepared to respond if the storm causes power outages across the Houston area," said CenterPoint Vice President Nathan Brownell. "Our team is fully focused on responding to the impacts of Tropical

Storm Edouard and restoring power safely and as quickly as possible."

Gov. Greg Abbott emphasized safety as the storm approached, reminding Texans to avoid flooded roadways and take warnings seriously. "Saving lives is the most important thing... It is essential that individuals prioritize their personal safety and stay away from rising water," Abbott said in a statewide briefing.

Schools shift schedules

In the South Belt community, school districts acted early Tuesday to keep families off the roads during the storm's expected peak. Pasadena ISD closed all campuses, citing concerns about afternoon travel and rapidly changing weather conditions. Clear Creek ISD announced early dismissal, noting that forecasts showed heavier rainfall arriving during normal transportation hours.

District officials said the decisions were made out of caution, aiming to give families time to

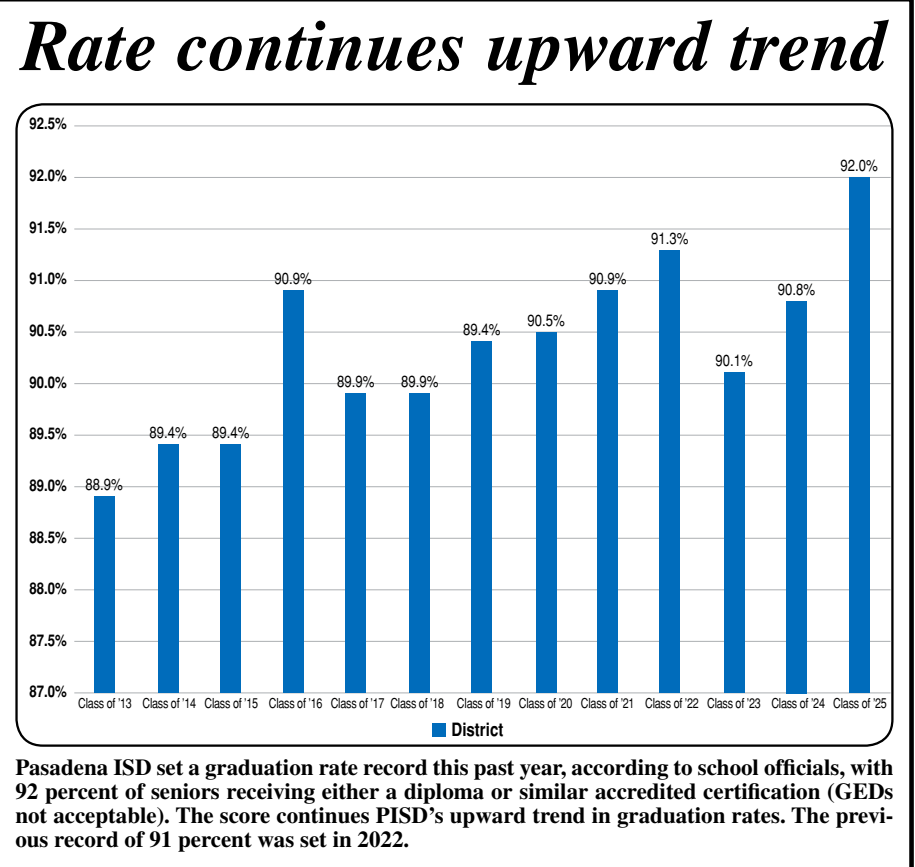
prepare and avoid potentially hazardous commutes.

Community prepares

Businesses across the area shortened hours, youth sports practices were canceled and several local organizations paused operations until conditions improved. Residents spent the morning securing outdoor items, checking drainage around their homes and monitoring weather updates.

While the full impact on the South Belt would not be known until after press time, officials stressed that even storms making landfall far from Houston can produce disruptive rainbands, street flooding, and brief power interruptions across the metro area.

As Edouard moved inland Tuesday evening, the community waited to see how the storm's remnants would affect the South Belt overnight and into Wednesday.



PISD achieves record 92 percent graduation rate

Score surpasses previous 2022 record of 91 percent; returns PISD to upward trend

Pasadena ISD is celebrating a major milestone this summer, reporting a record 92 percent graduation rate for the Class of 2025 – the highest in district history and a continuation of a long-term upward trend in student completion.

The new figure surpasses the district's previous high of 91.3 percent, set by the Class of 2022, and reflects steady improvement following statewide disruptions earlier in the decade.

"This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of our students, the tireless work of our staff and the support of our families," Superintendent Dr. Toni Lopez said in the district's announcement. "Reaching a record 92 percent graduation rate is a milestone worth celebrating, and we are proud of every graduate."

Contributing factors

The following factors helped contribute toward Pasadena ISD's sustained graduation gains:

- **Multiyear academic support systems:** Pasadena ISD has expanded intervention programs,

tutoring access and campus-level academic monitoring over the past several years. These efforts help keep students on track for credit completion and STAAR/EOC readiness.

- **College, career and technical pathways:** Pasadena ISD has broadened access to CTE programs, dual-credit courses and workforce-aligned certifications. State data consistently shows that students enrolled in coherent CTE sequences graduate at higher rates.
- **Attendance and engagement initiatives:** Districts that improve graduation rates often invest in attendance recovery, family engagement and early warning systems that identify students at risk of falling behind.

How rates are measured

Texas uses a four-year longitudinal graduation rate, meaning the percentage of students who enter ninth grade and graduate four years later. The Texas Education Agency tracks each cohort from freshman year through expected graduation, accounting for students who transfer in or out of the district.

The rate includes students who earn:

- A standard high school diploma
- A distinguished level of achievement diploma
- An endorsement-aligned diploma under

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Texas' Foundation High School Program

The calculation does not include GED recipients or students who continue high school beyond four years, though TEA also publishes five- and six-year extended graduation rates.

Context within the region

Continued on Page 2

Officials promote suicide awareness

September marks National Suicide Prevention Month

As September marks National Suicide Prevention Month, Houston joins communities across the country in raising awareness, promoting mental health resources and honoring lives lost to suicide.

With suicide remaining one of the leading causes of death in the United States, local organizations are stepping up efforts to support those in crisis and prevent future tragedies.

Nationally, more than 49,000 Americans died by suicide in 2025, according to the CDC – averaging one death every 11 minutes. In Texas, the suicide rate stood at 14.2 per 100,000 residents, with more than 4,200 deaths statewide.

Locally, the Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) reports that teens and young adults in Houston die by suicide at the highest rates compared to other age groups.

Community events

Multiple local events to promote suicide awareness and prevention are planned throughout the month of September, including the following:

- **Unite the Fight Festival:** Saturday, Sept. 26, Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway in Pearland. Hosted by the Houston Area Suicide Prevention Coalition, this free community event is now in its second year. It features an experiential walk, local resource booths, food trucks,

a kids zone and activities designed to foster connection and resilience.

- **Out of the Darkness Walk:** Saturday, Sept. 26, Town Green Park, 2099 Lake Robbins Drive in The Woodlands. Organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the walk brings together families, survivors, and advocates for a morning of remembrance and healing. As of late August, more than 800 participants and 133 teams had registered, raising nearly \$88,000 toward a \$250,000 goal.

Veterans

Veterans continue to be disproportionately affected. The VA's 2025 report estimates 17.6 veteran suicides per day, though independent studies suggest the number may be closer to 44 daily deaths, including overdoses and self-injury mortality.

In response, federal and local agencies have renewed their commitment to veteran-focused mental health initiatives.

The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program has been expanded through the HOPE for Heroes Act, allowing the VA to better collaborate with community organizations and improve outreach.

Local support

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD leads the charge locally, offering a 24-hour Men-

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Pct. 2 welcomes K9 Tyson



Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office recently welcomed its newest four-legged member of the force, K9 Tyson. A dual-purpose patrol and narcotics-detection canine, Tyson is specially trained to assist deputies in locating illegal contraband, conducting searches and apprehending suspects.

Photo courtesy of Precinct 2

In My Opinion

King projects county spending increases

Under the proposed budget laid out to Harris County Commissioners last week, spending in the County's General Fund will increase by \$327 million, just under a 12 % increase. It appears to me to be the largest budget increase in the County's history, both in absolute dollars and as a percentage.

For some context, the County's population grew a little less than 1% last year, and inflation was slightly under 3%. So, the proposed spending increase is three times last year's population and inflation growth.

The dramatic increase in spending is ubiquitous across nearly every county department. This spreadsheet shows the increase/decrease of each of the County's 81 departments. The budget for 33 departments rose by more than 10%, and for 11 departments by more than 20%. In only 8 departments did spending stay the same or decline. One of those was election operations because no state or federal elections are scheduled for 2027. The other significant decline, \$15 million in court-awarded attorneys' fees, is offset by a \$17 million increase in money appropriated for the public defender's office.

The County budgeting process is extremely complex and not particularly transparent. Looking only at the departmental level does not tell the full story. I have tried to break down what I think are the main drivers of the spending increase. As you will see in the following table, new General Fund spending is actually \$383 million. The budget office anticipates saving \$56 million from various initiatives, leaving the net increase at \$327 million.

Employee Healthcare – Higher costs for the County's healthcare plan for its employees and retirees are the largest single-line-item increase. The budget office expects the plan will cost taxpayers \$89 million more in the coming year.

The budget proposal clearly shows that Harris County offers a very generous healthcare plan to its employees compared to other local governmental entities. The budget office proposed very modest increases to the employees' share of the premium and deductibles to bring the plan more in line with other entities. Its proposed changes would have saved about \$9 million. The Commissioners' Court unanimously rejected that proposal.

Source: https://budget.harriscountytx.gov/doc/Budget/budgetbook/FY2027/FY27_Proposed_Budget_Volume_I_v2.pdf, p. 18.

Law Enforcement Raises & Positions – The County previously approved across-the-board raises for its law enforcement officers. Those increases will cost about \$45 million next year. The balance covers the cost of filling vacant law enforcement positions previously

authorized. Programs Previously Funded Outside the General Fund – The County operates many programs funded by sources other than property taxes and fees, often federal or state grants. These programs are accounted for in various special funds. The number of these programs expanded greatly with the historic pandemic funding from the federal government (ARPA). However, ARPA funds ran out this year, as did several other funding sources. Instead of winding down these programs, the proposed budget would continue them, transferring the cost to the General Fund and property taxpayers. Continuing those programs will add \$58 million to this year's tax bills.

Civilian Personnel Costs – Based on a study by an outside consultant, the County adopted a program that would increase the compensation of a large number of employees across the County. This was euphemistically referred to as the "pay equity" plan. In addition, last year the County implemented a hiring freeze because of budget concerns. The proposed budget would roll back most of the hiring freezes. The new cost of the "pay equity" plan and reversing the hiring freezes will cost an additional \$50 million next year.

Increased TIRZ Contributions – The proposed budget would increase the County's contributions to TIRZs by \$30 million next year. Don't get me started.

Most of the other increases are fairly routine. However, it is worth repeating that the budget relies on about \$56 million of various cuts and cost savings. I will not bore you with the details. Some of these savings will likely be realized, but others depend on the County's execution of initiatives, such as reducing the number of jail inmates outsourced to other jurisdictions. And, as we have already seen, Commissioners' Court rejected \$9 million of these savings related to the employee health insurance plan. So, there is a very real question as to whether the County can actually realize all \$56 million of the proposed savings.

In 2024, the budget office warned Commissioners' Court that it was routinely increasing spending faster than the County's revenue was growing and that if it did not change the trajectory, it would begin to face serious shortfalls. The Commissioners' Court failed to heed that warning and has since accelerated spending. The failure to exercise even a modicum of fiscal discipline has resulted in the County's shortfall this year. Unfortunately, taxpayers will pay the price for their lack of fiscal discipline.

Ironically, the only department in the County to actually reduce its budget was the budget office, which cut its budget by 2%. That, my friends, is walking the talk. If only the Commissioners' Court would follow its budget office's example.

Bill King

AARP Webster sets September meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 is welcoming one to join them at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 14045 Space Center Blvd. One is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

The program for this month will be a fire safety presentation by a member of the League City Fire Department.

AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, Sept. 22. They will tour Chappell Hill Lavender Farm in Brenham. The trip price is \$5, plus lunch. One may register for this trip at the Sept. 10 AARP meeting. One must be a member of Chapter 199 to participate in Chapter 199 bus trips.

If one is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact President Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or at veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.com.

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/> 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.

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library: Thursday, Sept. 3, 4 – 5 p.m. Family STEM adventure. Registration required. Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6 – 7 p.m. Craft lab: Get creative. 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.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. Hours are Monday, 10 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 more information. One can also visit social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library: Thursday, Sept. 3, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time. Friday, Sept. 4, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy. Friday, Sept. 4, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Lego club. Saturday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi. Monday, Sept. 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club (various levels). Monday, Sept. 7, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and books. Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

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 additional information, visit www.hcpl.net.

Pasadena ISD sets graduation record

New 92 percent graduation rate tops former 91 percent record

Continued from Page 1

Texas' statewide graduation rate typically falls between 89 percent and 90 percent, placing Pasadena ISD's Class of 2025 above the state average and among the stronger-performing large suburban districts in the Houston region.

Nearby Clear Creek ISD has consistently achieved a 98- to 99-percent graduation rate in recent years, making it

one of the strongest performing districts in the Houston region.

Looking ahead

With enrollment for the 2026-27 school year now open, Pasadena ISD says it will continue investing in programs that support student achievement, workforce readiness and college pathways.

District leaders framed the 92 percent milestone as both a celebration of the Class of

2025 and a benchmark for future cohorts.

"While we celebrate this achievement, we know there is still work to be done," said Lopez. "Our goal is to ensure every student has the support they need to one day walk across that stage and receive a diploma."

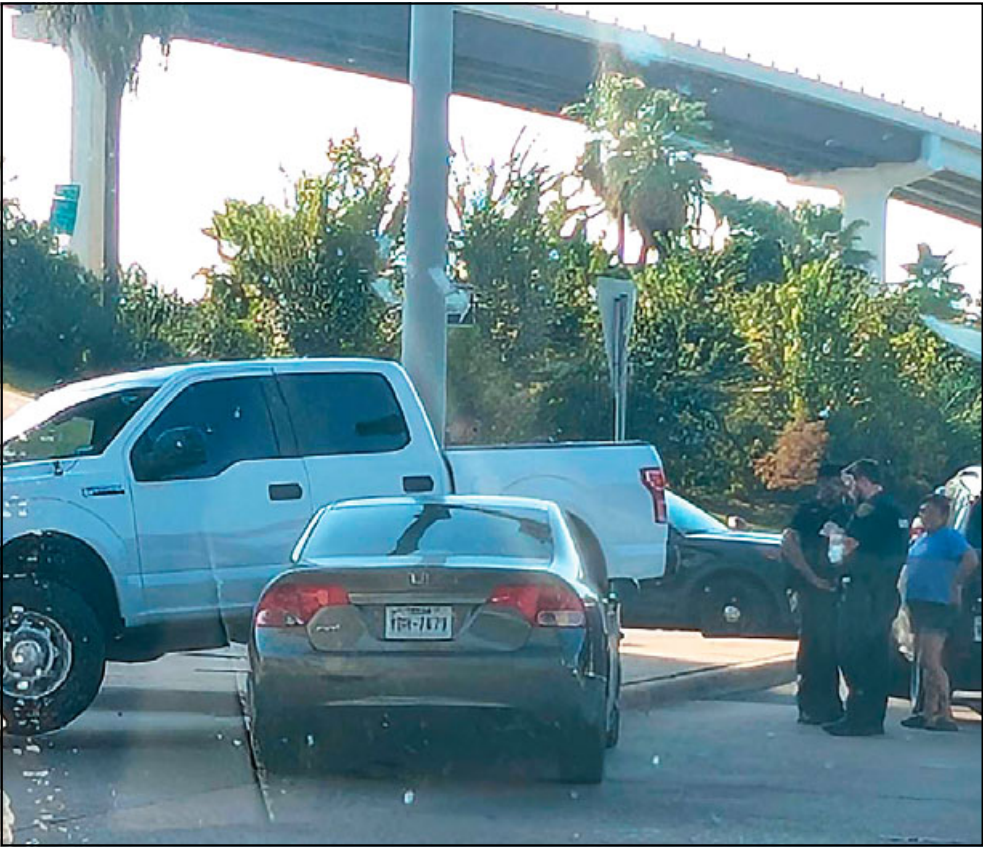
Campus-level data coming soon

While Pasadena ISD has announced its record 92

percent graduation rate districtwide, campus-specific figures for Dobie, Pasadena, Sam Rayburn, South Houston, Memorial and Lewis Career and Technical High Schools have not yet been released.

The Texas Education Agency typically publishes those breakdowns in its annual accountability reports and completion reports, which are scheduled for release later in the year.

Cars collide at Beltway 8, I-45



A car was stuck under a pickup truck following a two-car collision around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, on the northbound service road of the Gulf Freeway at Beltway 8. At press time, it was unknown what caused the crash or if anyone was cited at fault. No known injuries were reported. Photo by Natalie Abarca

More than 200 pounds of meth seized during raid

Joint task force led by DEA raids makeshift laboratory in Southeast Houston home

A major joint law enforcement operation has taken more than 200 pounds of methamphetamine off local streets after authorities discovered a makeshift drug conversion laboratory operating inside a quiet residential neighborhood in southeast Houston.

Due to the investigation's ongoing nature, the exact address of the bust had not

been made public at press time.

The raid, which was made public on Wednesday, Aug. 26, resulted in the arrest of two individuals found at the scene.

The multi-agency crackdown was spearheaded by federal agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Houston Division. Due to the high-

stakes nature of dismantling active chemical environments, the DEA was heavily supported by tactical and field units from the Houston Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) — Southeast Region and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Inside the lab

Video footage released by federal investigators via

the DEA Houston social media channels offered a stark look inside the residential home. Far from a standard living space, the interior had been entirely converted into a commercial-grade, clandestine chemical processing facility.

Rooms were littered with hazardous materials and drug manufacturing apparatus, including:

- Dozens of heavy-duty plastic industrial buckets and chemical pots
- Large coolers used to control chemical crystallization
- High-powered box fans set up near windows to ventilate toxic, highly explosive fumes
- Raw chemical precursors and finished product sitting out at various stages of crystallization

A conversion lab of this scale typically specializes in taking liquid methamphetamine — often smuggled across the border — and converting it back into a highly potent crystal form for street-level distribution. Because of the immense chemical hazards associat-

ed with methamphetamine labs, specialized hazardous materials crews were required to safely secure and neutralize the site. Federal officials confirmed that the location has since been rendered safe and no longer poses an immediate health threat to nearby residents.

Ongoing investigation

The identities of the two individuals taken into custody have not yet been released, and formal federal charges are currently pending. A DEA spokesperson stated that because this is an active, ongoing multijurisdictional investigation, no additional details regarding the exact street location of the home or the suspects can be disclosed at this time.



More than 200 pounds of methamphetamine was seized from a makeshift laboratory in a Southeast Houston home this past week during a multi-agency bust led by DEA Houston. Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, the exact address had not been released at press time. Photo courtesy of DEA

Guest editorial: State recognizes PISD

By Former Dobie Principal Jorly Thomas, PISD Communications

As families settle into the new school year, many parents are asking an important question: Is my child in a school that will help them succeed?

New state accountability ratings and national rankings provide a clear answer for families across the South Belt area. Students in Pasadena ISD have access to some of the highest-performing schools in the region, with campuses earning top ratings, prestigious state distinctions, and national recognition for academic excellence.

Pasadena ISD earned an overall accountability score of 84, with seven campuses receiving an A rating and 26 campuses earning a B rating. Among those top-performing campuses were three high schools that earned an A rating: Dobie High School, Pasadena Memorial High School, and Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School.

The ratings measure student achievement, academic growth, and college, career, and military readiness, giving families an important look at how well schools are preparing students for the

future.

Several South Belt campuses posted particularly strong results. Dobie High School earned a 93 accountability rating, one of the highest scores in Pasadena ISD. Other South Belt campuses also received strong ratings, including Atkinson Elementary (92), South Belt Elementary (90), Beverly Hills Intermediate (89), Moore Elementary (87), Melillo Middle School (87), Thompson Intermediate (86), Morris Middle School (86), Bush Elementary (85), Meador Elementary (85), Burnett Elementary (80), and Frazier Elementary (77).

Two South Belt campuses received additional recognition from the Texas Education Agency. Melillo Middle School and Moore Elementary earned all eligible TEA Distinction Designations, one of the state's highest forms of campus recognition. Distinctions are awarded only to schools that outperform comparable campuses across Texas in key areas such as student achievement, academic growth, and closing achievement gaps. Earning

every available distinction demonstrates consistent excellence across multiple measures and places these campuses among the top-performing schools in the state.

The strong performance comes as families face an increasing number of educational choices.

In the South Belt area, Elite College Prep Academy-Riverstone, operated by Houston Gateway Academy, earned an accountability score of 79. By comparison, Pasadena ISD's South Belt campuses earned scores ranging from 77 to 93, with several campuses receiving A ratings and additional state distinctions.

South Belt schools are also gaining recognition beyond state accountability measures.

Four Pasadena ISD high schools were recognized in the 2026-2027 U.S. News Best High Schools rankings and received a U.S. News Best High School Award Badge. Those campuses include Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School, Pasadena Memorial High School, Dobie High School, and Pasadena High School.

For Pasadena ISD, these accomplishments represent more than ratings and rankings. They reflect students showing up ready to learn, teachers going above and beyond, staff members committed to excellence, and families partnering with schools to help children succeed.

As another school year begins, these results give parents confidence that strong educational opportunities are available right here in the South Belt community. From elementary campuses to nationally recognized high schools, South Belt students are learning in schools focused on academic growth, student achievement, and preparing graduates for college, careers, and the workforce.

The scores and recognitions tell an important story: families do not have to look far to find high-quality schools. With A-rated high schools, campuses earning the state's highest distinctions, and national recognition for academic excellence, Pasadena ISD continues to be one of the strongest educational choices for South Belt families.

Luevanos promoted



Precinct 2 Deputy Arthur Luevanos (right) was promoted to corporal with the Toll Road Division. Shown above with Luevanos is Precinct 2 Assistant Chief Deputy Mike Kritztler.

Suicide awareness events scheduled

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tal Health Crisis Line at 713-970-7000 (Option 1) and deploying Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams to assist individuals in urgent need.

Other key resources include: the following options:

- Crisis Intervention of Houston/Harris County Hotline: 832-416-1177.
- LGBT Switchboard

Houston: 713-529-3211.

- Texas Youth Helpline: 855-311-1790.

- Veteran Suicide Prevention Office (VA Houston): call 713-794-7002 or visit HOUSPC@va.gov.

- National Lifeline: Call or text 988, or chat at 988lifeline.org.

- Spanish speakers: support is available at 1-888-628-9454.



Mount Olive Lutheran

10310 Scarsdale Blvd.
281-922-5673
Pastor Matthew Brackman
www.mountolivehouston.org

Services: 8:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class: 10 a.m.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Sunday	12:30 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 <i>All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.</i>	

New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care

Now Enrolling



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

281.481.2003
www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656
E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com
David Flickinger, owner

CDA hosts back-to-school shoe and sock drive for local schools



Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) Court Mother of Unity #2292 recently held its first back-to-school shoe and sock drive for Meador Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate through St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. The court collected more than 150 pairs of shoes, and more than 350 pairs of socks. Several of the members gathered to deliver six bins and bags of shoes and socks to the two schools. Pictured left to right, are (kneeling) BHI assistant principal Shelly Tillman, BHI principal Ashley Collier, (standing) BHI instructional coach Thelma Baeza, BHI crisis counselor Lupita Bates, CDA court regent Eileen Nicholas, CDA members Linda Wolf, Elizabeth Martinez, court financial secretary Jan Umphrey, CDA members Eloisa Gomez, Janis Wright, Faye Greaber-Guth, Kathleen Taylor, Diana De Los Santos and Herlinda Estrada. Court members Amber Estrada, Connie Kaiser-Griffin, Ginny Carrizal, Marisa Stevens and Kobe Estrada are not pictured.

South Belt resident Rule plants community garden



A team of volunteers organized by area resident Sandra Rule met for the first time Saturday, Aug. 29, to clean beds for the future Garden Whisper community garden, located at Servant-Savior Presbyterian Church on Hughes Road adjacent to Sagemont Church. Dobie FFA Sponsor Schuyler Morris (gray shirt) is shown above and below pitching in with a group of student volunteers. Those interested in participating in the community garden may contact Rule at 713-446-6672.

Photo by Sandra Rule

Traffic signal construction causes gas leak



Construction related to a new traffic signal on Blackhawk at Riverstone Ranch Drive caused a gas leak the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 28. A subject of debate for nearly a decade, the signal is aimed to reduce traffic congestion at the intersection, which has become noticeably worse since the recent expansion of nearby Gateway Academy charter school.

Photo by David Flickinger

HCSO arrests nearly 100 in Operation Heatwave

Operation targeted areas known for violent crime, auto theft, major offenses

The Harris County Sheriff's Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, recently concluded Operation Heatwave, a multi-agency crime reduction initiative involving local, state and federal law enforcement partners working together to target areas experiencing higher levels of violent crime, robberies, auto thefts and other offenses.

By the end of the operation, law enforcement partners had made 97 arrests, cleared 96 warrants, recovered

stolen vehicles valued at more than \$150,000 and recovered additional stolen property valued at more than \$41,000.

"We get a lot of arrests

and reports in these areas for violent crimes," said HCSO Lt. Dennis Wolford. "Our goal is to put resources where they're needed most and get these offenders off

the streets."

In one case, deputies located a suspect already known to investigators for auto theft activity in the Austin area. Deputies tracked the suspect to Houston and apprehended him during a traffic stop. The suspect also had an active felony theft warrant involving property valued between \$30,000 and \$150,000.

In another case, deputies located a reported stolen vehicle. When deputies attempted to make an arrest, the driver fled. Deputies eventually apprehended the suspect, who now faces felony charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and evading in a motor vehicle.

Deputies also apprehended a robbery suspect wanted across multiple jurisdictions. Investigators said the suspect was wanted in Harris County for aggravated robbery, in League City for felony theft, and in Galveston County for felony theft. The suspect was also connected to more than \$20,000 in electronic thefts from Walmart stores.

Operation Heatwave brought together HCSO personnel and partner agencies to share intelligence, manpower and resources while focusing enforcement efforts on individuals believed to be driving crime in targeted areas.

"When our agencies work together, we can share resources and manpower to focus on the people causing the most harm," said Gonzalez. "That partnership makes our communities safer."

The Harris County Sheriff's Office remains committed to using data-driven enforcement and strong partnerships with neighboring law enforcement agencies to identify offenders, recover stolen property and reduce crime throughout Harris County, officials said.



Cowgirls of the week



The Sagemont Cowboys recently announced the new Cowgirls of the week. Left to right, are Mini of the Week Olivia Grimaldi, Cheerleader of the Week Abigail LaSaint and Dancer of the Week Kayla Silva.

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Melillo begins a new school year

2026-2027 students take on first day of school



Delilah Dammel



Mario Salazar



Hunter Hessong

Pct. 8 makes drug arrest



On Aug. 21 at approximately 1 a.m., Precinct 8 K9 Deputy K. Peters conducted a traffic stop in the 1700 block of College on a Honda Civic for multiple violations. Peters made contact with the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle, identified as 45-year-old Margarita Balli-Olivera. During the stop, K9 Duke was deployed for an open-air sniff of the vehicle and alerted to the presence of narcotics. Peters conducted a probable-cause search of the vehicle and recovered crack cocaine. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted the felony charge of possession of a controlled substance against Balli-Olivera. Peters took her into custody and transported her to the Joint Processing Center for booking. No bond had been set at press time.

State of Pct. 2 meeting scheduled

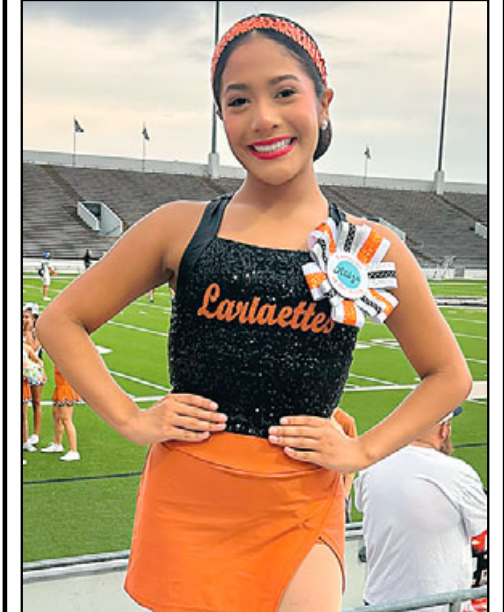
Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia will deliver his annual State of the Precinct address Thursday, Sept. 3, offering community members a firsthand look at the region's latest infrastructure updates and future development plans.

The high-profile luncheon will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pasadena Convention Center, located at 7902 Fairmont Parkway. Registration and networking will open early at 10:30 a.m.

Jointly hosted by five local business organizations – the Clear Lake Area, Deer Park, La Porte-Bayshore, Pasadena and South Belt-Ellington chambers of commerce – the event serves as a major forum for regional leaders, business owners and residents.

Garcia's address is expected to highlight critical updates on neighborhood safety initiatives, capital improvement projects, economic growth strategies and ongoing flood mitigation efforts across the precinct. Registration is required to secure a seat or table. Tickets can be purchased directly through any of the host chambers, including the South Belt-Ellington Chambers of Commerce's website at business.southbeltchamber.com/ap/Events/RegisterAnFAQ3WHVCDn.

Lariaette of the Week, Aug. 28



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the Week of Aug. 28 is junior Alitza Gonzalez, a first-year member.

PPL hosts free Hispanic Heritage Month celebration

Pasadena Public Library invites the community to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Viva la Biblioteca on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fairmont Library, 4330 Fairmont Parkway.

The free event will bring families and neighbors together for an afternoon of live music, dance, art, children's activities and community resources while celebrating Hispanic culture and traditions. Families may enter their names for a chance to win door prizes. The event is open to all ages, and no registration is required.

The day's performances will include Sam Rayburn High School Mariachi Los Tejanos, the Salsa Teen Team from Salsa y Bachata Pasadena and South Theatre from San Jacinto College. The event will also feature an art exhibition by local artist Victoria Armenta.

For more information, visit PasadenaLibrary.org or contact Jonathan Hua at jhua@pasadenatx.gov or 713-475-7008.

Toastmasters meets Tuesdays

Southeast Houston Toastmasters, a community club for any adult (18+ years old) who wants to become a confident communicator, an active listener, a better writer and/or wants to hone his/her communication skills in a friendly atmosphere.

The group conducts virtual meetings every Tuesday from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.; however, they include in-person meetings at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. They do not meet on the fifth Tuesday of any month. On occasion, meetings might cancel due to weather forecast or a holiday; these announcements are usually posted on their homepage at <http://sehouston.toastmasterclubs.org/>.

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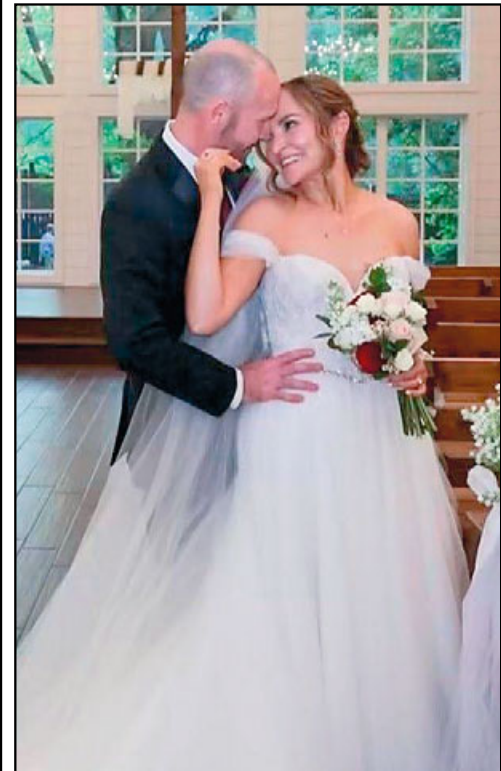
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Hollin, Woods exchange vows



Betty and George Hollin of Sagemont announce the marriage of their oldest daughter Lila Grace to Sean Woods. The ceremony was held at the Carriage House in Conroe on July 2. The bride is a Dobie Class of 2004 graduate and a Sam Houston State University Class of 2008 graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in TV/radio. She is the executive director of communication for Channelview ISD. The groom is from Houston. He graduated from Lamar High School in 2003 and earned his Bachelor of Science in economics at Texas Tech University in 2010. He is the senior recruiter for FTC Houston in Tomball. The family danced away the night throughout the reception. Sparkles lit the sky as the couple left the party for their honeymoon in Mali and Japan. The couple reside in Humble.

Dobie cheerleaders perform at opener



On Friday, Aug. 28, J. Frank Dobie High School cheerleaders performed at the football game against Clear Springs High School at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Pictured are, left to right, (front row) Natalie Elkins, Avery Mendiola, Kallie Troxlar, Social Officer Aubree Rodriguez, Captain Arianna Bermudez, Senior Spirit Officer Maylene Rodriguez, Vida Sosa (back row) Desy Meza, Arielle Martinez, Alyana Montes, Mikayla Gonzalez, Nyla Richardson, Gabrielle Franklin, Alyssa Rodriguez and Yaslyn Brown. Not pictured: Junior Spirit Officer and Pitt Section Leader (band) Bella Sherwood.

Photo by Kelvin Lopez

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)
Dr. C. Lee Meyer, superintendent of the Pasadena Independent School District, announced that Heidi, the drug sniffing dog, along with trainer Billy Smith would be used in surprise visits throughout the district's intermediate and high schools.

The Murphy family achieved highest honors in karate. Sharon joined husband Bill as a black belt holder. Their children, Debbie and Ricky, were awarded purple belts, the highest color awarded in the junior karate division.

Houston Fire Chief Joe Perino told the *South Belt Press* Sagemont would not lose its fire station. In fact, three different sites in the South Belt area were being considered for a new station, one of those located at Beamer and the beltway. The station on Sagemont being used as No. 70 was previously under the jurisdiction of the Southeast (formerly Sagemont) Volunteer Fire Department. The city took possession of it upon annexation of the Sagemont area.

Road crews from Harris County Precinct 1 finished blacktopping a 170-foot roadway extension of Blackhawk between Sagemeadow and Green Tee Terrace subdivisions. Precinct 1 officials were also investigating the possibility of completing the four-lane section of Beamer between Kirkwood and Sagemont.

45 years ago (1981)
PISD enrollment figures showed a growth of 234 students compared to the first week of school the previous year.

Figures released by Clear Creek Independent School District showed a districtwide enrollment of 18,806 students in the 19 district schools.

40 years ago (1986)
Construction on the Kirkwood MUD building began.

The PISD board of trustees met to issue an order implementing single-member districts.

Sharon Oakes became principal of Frazier Elementary.

35 years ago (1991)
Members of King of Kings Lutheran Church celebrated 25 years of service.

School enrollment in PISD schools grew by more than 1,100 students including a small population growth in South Belt area schools.

30 years ago (1996)
Original Sagemont resident Emma Norris was seen as Gen. Burns in the movie "E.L.M.-Entry Level Male."

An exit incentive program for San Jacinto College employees aged 55 and up with 15 years of district employment was approved by reg-

gents. Under the plan, those choosing to accept the incentive could get one year of contracted salary.

25 years ago (2001)
The PISD board of trustees approved the administration's proposed \$235.5 million budget.

The *Leader* asked Mayor Lee Brown's assistance in having the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers present a program to South Belt residents regarding the studies which have been conducted on Clear Creek. City officials immediately responded and agreed to make the official request.

20 years ago (2006)
South Belt area residents, notably Patricia Ochoa, Bill Corcoran and LeRoy Underwood, became more active in safeguarding and improving their communities.

On Tuesday, Aug. 29, Gov. Rick Perry ordered special elections to be held concurrently with the Nov. 7 general election for the congressional seat vacated by former Rep. Tom DeLay, who resigned and removed his name from the ballot.

Two weeks after the start of school in PISD, traffic on Blackhawk near the J. Frank Dobie entrance was still a major problem for motorists.

15 years ago (2011)
Galveston's Lone Star Flight Museum announced it would move to Ellington Airport.

Houston City Council recently approved a 40-year contract with the museum for use of 14 acres just on the inside of airport property at Aerospace Avenue and Hillard. The contract required the museum to make at least \$7.5 million in improvements. The flight museum had been at its current home at the Scholes International Airport in Galveston for 23 years. The decision to move the facility was prompted by heavy damage caused by Hurricane Ike.

Sagemont resident Kevin Stevens and his 9-year-old son Hunter landed a 7-foot-long blacktip shark while fishing off the coast of Galveston in a 12-foot kayak. The incident, captured on video by Hunter Stevens, catapulted the pair into instant global fame, with the two appearing on national and international news programs, such as "Good Morning America" and "Fox and Friends."

Former longtime Dobie High School swim coach Dennis Shippey died Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the age of 65. Shippey, who enjoyed more than 30 years as the Longhorns' head swimming coach, was also one of the nation's top competitive swimmers for much of his life before retiring from the sport in 2008. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2001 and retired from coaching shortly thereafter.

However, the illness could not keep Shippey out of the pool. In June, Shippey was inducted into the Texas Senior Games Hall of Fame.

10 years ago (2016)
The body of a dead man was found floating in a lake at an apartment complex located in the 10200 block of Windmill Lakes Thursday, Sept. 1. Gordon Scott Blocker, 42, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Blocker's body was discovered by a jogger, who then notified authorities. Blocker's death was ruled an accidental drowning.

5 years ago (2021)
Sagemont Church's original building on Hughes Road was leveled by a demolition crew Monday, Aug. 30, bringing nearly a half-century's worth of memories down in a mere few minutes. Originally known as Sagemont Baptist Church, the facility opened in 1966 as a mission of First Baptist Church in Pasadena. John D. Morgan was selected to serve as pastor of the new church. Morgan was the son of Dr. L.D. Morgan, who served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Pasadena for more than 33 years. The 11,000-square-foot building was constructed for only \$128,000. On Sunday, Oct. 30, 1966, the first service was held in the new Sagemont Baptist Church building, drawing 151 attendees. Of those 151 people, 40 joined the church that day, moving their memberships there from other area churches. That night, another 11 people joined.

1 year ago (2025)
The former Bracewell Library branch located in the Alameda Mall parking lot was leveled by demolition crews. The local city of Houston library branch was relocated to its current location on Kingspoint near Beltway 8 in 2009. The move was part of a broader effort by the Houston Public Library system to modernize facilities and expand access to underserved communities.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

KAREN ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Birthday greetings are sent to Karen Taylor Sept. 3 from friends and the staff at the *Leader*.

ELLIE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes are sent Saturday, Sept. 5, for a very special birthday to **Ellie Flickinger** from husband **David** (*Leader* president); mother **Kina Reyes**; daughter **Natalie** and husband **Jose Abarca**; grandchildren **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah**, **Eliana Abarca**, **Isabella** and husband **Sebastian Delgado** and daughter **Esme** and son **Emiliano**; father-in-law **David Flickinger**; family and friends; and staff at the *South Belt Leader*.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 3 through Sept. 9.

Atkinson Elementary
Send a humorous birthday card Sept. 9 to **Diane Davis**.

Bush Elementary
Remember to wish **Nadja Diaz-Rodriguez** a happy birthday Sept. 3. Send a birthday greeting Sept. 5 to **Lily Campos**. Sing a happy birthday song to **Patricia Woernley** Sept. 8. Sept. 9 is the day for a party for **Amber Torrez**.

Frazier Elementary
Light the candles on a cake Sept. 6 for **Jessica Vela**. **Paula Golden** enjoys a memorable birthday Sept. 8. Bring out the cake and ice cream on Sept. 9 for **Martha Lerma**.

Juana Huerta, **Amie Rodriguez** and **Michelle Villanueva**.

Genoa Elementary
Yolanda Aranda enjoys a special birthday Sept. 5. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Sept. 6 are sent to **Lucero Gonzalez**.

Hancock Elementary
Sept. 3 is the day for a birthday party for **Elizabeth Garza-Gomez**. **Nilda Chavez** enjoys a birthday Sept. 5.

Moore Elementary
Sept. 4 is the day for **Elainna Drumgoole** to enjoy cake and ice cream.

South Belt Elementary
Share a slice of birthday cake with **Anh Ton** Sept. 5.

Stuchbery Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Brandy Sears** Sept. 5. Send a humorous birthday card Sept. 6 to **Arianna Martinez**.

Melillo Middle School
Remember to wish **Julie Martinez** a happy birthday Sept. 5.

Thompson Intermediate
Christopher Hayes celebrates a birthday Aug. 8.

Dobie High
Sept. 6 is the day for a party for **Yvette Betancourt**. Light the candles on a cake Sept. 7 for **Ismael Garay**. The day for a double-layer cake for **Dianne Berreth** and **Alexis Gomez** is Sept. 8.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Sept. 3: **Steve Boney**, **Josie Parker**, **Veronica Hernandez**, **Keith Nelson**, **Ruth Fuller**, **Donald Musquiz**, **Tomas Shorts Jr.** and **Leslie Montemayor**; Friday, Sept. 4: **Ashlie Files**, **Lashanda Scott**, **John Laird**, **Nikki Spriggs**, **Angie Reynolds**, **Jerry O'Brien**, **Betty Thomas**, **Darin Peltier**, **Tommy Walko**, **Joe Scanlin** and **Denise Turnage**; Saturday, Sept. 5: **London Shelton**, **Stacy McNaughton** and **Cathy Tate**; Sunday, Sept. 6: **Coleen Terrell**, **Jennifer Navarro**, **Titus Purdy**, **Robert Evans**, **Jill Lambert**, **Debbie Bennett**, **Christina Gordon**, **Candi Beasley** and **John Evans**; Monday, Sept. 7: **Gerard Dougherty**, **Shaun Stevenson**, **Shelly Robinson**, **Perla Gonzales**, **Leann Stokes**, **Edna Salinas**, **Angie Hernandez** and **Yvette Rodriguez**; Tuesday, Sept. 8: **Scott Carpenter**, **Donna Fress**, **Blades Barber**, **Joy Witt**, **Susan Jackson**, **Deondre Corbin**, **Rick Coates**, **Mike Kickirillo** and **Carl Heinrich**; and Wednesday, Sept. 9: **Sonny Salazar**, **Carolyn Simon**, **Maria Aguilar**, **Jack Staudt**, **Martin Garcia** and **Sarah Joseph**.

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

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Longhorns win 3rd straight game on opening night, outlast Chargers 17-15

Overcoming most of the technical difficulties that are typically associated with the first game of any season, the Do-

bie varsity football program came away with its first-ever victory over Clear Springs, outlasting the Chargers 17-15 Aug.

28 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Overall, the Longhorns pushed their streak to three wins to start each of

the first three seasons of head coach Danny Fitzmorris' tenure with the Longhorns. Dobie will now go on the road to take

on Alief Taylor Sept. 4 at Crump Stadium. Alief Taylor is out to a 1-0 start of its own after overwhelming Westbury 39-0

on opening night.

"We had some issues that we had to overcome, both from a players' and coaches standpoint," Fitzmorris said. "Overall, we were very proud with the way our guys went out there and gave it everything they had."

"We had a bunch of guys out there playing varsity football for the first time, and what we saw were guys flying around, being aggressive and making plays. I couldn't be any prouder of the effort that we saw out there on the field."

Junior running back Adrian Taylor, expected to be the Longhorns go-to guy in the backfield, overcame an injury that took him off the field late in the second quarter and wound up rushing for 114 yards and a touchdown on 20 totes. Quarterback Oscar Hernandez and receiver Nolen Thomas connected frequently throughout the night, with Thomas ending the game with five receptions for 84 yards and a touchdown. Overall, Hernandez was 9 of 18 for 96 yards through the air.

On the other side of the ball, although the defen-

sive-minded Fitzmorris and his staff saw plenty of things that will need to be cleaned up heading into the Alief Taylor matchup, the Longhorns held the Chargers largely in check while building a late 17-7 lead.

Clear Springs did put together a late scoring drive that included a successful two-point conversion, none of which the Longhorns were pleased with in the end, but it was a victory nonetheless.

Dobie was celebrating Sagemont Night at Veterans Stadium as members

of the 1996 Longhorn varsity football team, which finished 8-2 30 years ago despite not making the playoffs, were honored.

Members of the Sagemont Cowboys' Bay Area Football League organization ran with the Longhorns out of the tunnel before the game. Combined with the Longhorns' big victory to end the evening, there was plenty to celebrate about being a South Belt resident.

"A victory on opening night like we were able to get is a big step and knowing that the players believe

in the system, that players and coaches are all working in the same direction and that we are in this together," Fitzmorris said.

"It also shows the guys that the hard work out in the heat and all of the work in the weight room pays off. To go out there on the field and defeat a talented program like Clear Springs shows that our program is in outstanding shape and there are big things ahead for us."

"There's no doubt we're going to have to step it up against Alief Taylor. They are big and physical and should present some size issues for us, but we're going to go over there and play a great football game with the mindset of coming away with a win."

Continued on Page 8



Dobie defensive end R.J. Robinson (15) forced a fumble against Clear Springs quarterback Jaxson Weger (14) and came away with the recovery as part of a tremendous performance that also included five quarterback hurries for Robinson.

Photo by David Flickinger



Longhorn receiver Nolen Thomas (13) beat Clear Springs defensive back Christopher Williams on the fade route for a 4-yard touchdown with just over 7 minutes to go in the first quarter of Dobie's eventual 17-15 victory over the Chargers.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

Dobie at Alief Taylor
Fri., Sept. 4, 7 p.m.
Crump Stadium

Dobie volleyball takes silver

The Dobie varsity volleyball program emerged from the third week of the regular season in terrific shape following a Silver division consolation championship at the Longhorns' own Labor Day Classic.

Riese Rackley was named to the All-Tournament team and picked up her 500th career assist while Aly Garza also eclipsed 500 career digs along the way.

Dobie, 13-12 overall and 1-1 within district play, has already captured more victories this season than the total of 12 overall from 2025. The Longhorns still have plenty of work to do within the 19-6A ranks, and were set to go up against a tough Shadow Creek program after press time.

Playing in its third and final regular season tournament, the Longhorns opened their Labor Day classic with victories over Almeta Crawford and Cypress Lakes in straight sets prior to a loss to Goose Creek Memorial.

Taking a break in the action to sweep past Crosby Aug. 28 at Crosby, the Longhorns returned to tournament action and dropped matches to Cypress Falls and Huffman Hargraves before defeating Galena Park and straight sets for the Silver division consolation honor.

Senior Alyssa Espinoza continues to be the team leader in kills with 165, and fellow senior Mahoganii Davis has contributed 122. Brianna Huesca and Neri-ah LeBlanc also have more than 100 kills to this point in the season. Garza leads the way with 284 digs, while Espinoza has 181 and Rackley has 130.

Playing exceptionally well at setter, Rackley is the team leader in assists with 214 to go with 165 from Al-

yssa Goree.

At Lutheran South, the Pioneers have also put together a solid start to their season. Head coach Geoff Stresman has watched the Pioneers jump out to an 11-7 start ahead of district

play.

Junior Megan Schwanbeck leads the way with 175 kills, while sophomore Carissa Honore has 154. Setter Addy Musgrove has 435 assists through the first 18 matches of the season.



Dobie junior setter Riese Rackley eclipsed the 500-assist mark for her career and earned All-Tournament accolades as she helped the Longhorns to a silver bracket consolation championship at the JFD Labor Day Classic.

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JFD tennis prepares for Ike Invitational tourney

The 16th annual Remembering Ike invitational tennis tournament is coming Sept. 11-12 as the Longhorns will join Clear Springs, Fort Bend Austin, Fort Bend Ridge Point, Dickinson, Friendswood, Galveston Ball and La Porte in a battle for the championship for 2026.

Opening day play at 2:30 p.m., Sept. 11 will feature Friendswood hosting Dickinson, Galveston Ball hosting Fort Bend Austin, JFD hosting Fort Bend Ridge Point and Clear Springs hosting La Porte.

From there, Sept. 12 action will be played at Dickinson, Dobie and the Strawberry Park Tennis Center.

Trophy-round action will then begin at 2 p.m. The championship match will be played at Friendswood, with the third-place match taking place at Clear Springs. The tournament will consist of eight-game pro sets, with regular scoring for both singles and doubles.

As for the Longhorns on the court, having a fairly inexperienced varsity roster combined with an overall lack of practice time due to Wet Bulb heat restrictions, the locals have had a difficult time coming up with victories.

To this point, JFD is

1-2 in district play following 10-8 and 17-2 losses to Pearland and Shadow Creek, respectively. The Longhorns' win in district play came via forfeit over the Sam Rayburn Texans.

With still a difficult match against regional power Dawson coming, Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said his team will realistically need wins in four of its final five team matchups in order to have a shot at the postseason.

From a lineup standpoint, the JFD girls have been carrying much of the load to this point. Marina Kostikoglou has been playing No. 1 girls' singles, and Moreno said Mia Nguyen has been playing terrific tennis at No. 2.

Lila Collazos and Vivi-

an Hang also played well, and Michelle Medrano and Trieu Nguyen have also excelled.

"The kids have just been playing their hearts out, and have improved every match," Moreno said. "Unfortunately, we have had an opportunity here or an opportunity there that we haven't been able to take advantage of. I really feel like we should have come away with a team win against Pearland, but there were some key points and, therefore, some key matches that we just couldn't put away."

CCISD volleyball will host 32 teams

A total of 32 of the Houston area's top varsity volleyball programs will take part in the 2026 Clear Creek ISD Labor Day Classic as action will take place on eight different courts on opening day as the event runs Sept. 3-5.

Clear Brook will host a pool play division that will include Atascocita, Katy Jordan and Langham Creek. The Wolverines will host Langham Creek, followed by Atascocita and Jordan going head-to-head at 1:15 p.m.

Clear Brook will take on Jordan at 2:30 p.m. followed by Atascocita and Langham Creek matching talents at 3:45 p.m.

The 5 p.m. match will include Jordan going against Langham Creek, with the Wolverines battling Atascocita to close out the day's action beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Also at Clear Brook, Tomball Memorial, Fort Bend Christian Academy, The Woodlands and Travis will vie in pool play.

On opening day September 3, pool play action at Clear Springs High School will include Cypress Ranch, Episcopal, Cinco Ranch and Sterling on one Court with Clear Springs, Spring, Katy Pae-tow and Klein playing on another court.

Pool play at Clear lake on one court will include Clear Lake, A&M Consolidated, Alief Taylor and Westside. On another court, Stratford, Oak Ridge, Ridge Point and Klein Collins will compete in a pool.

Action at Clear Creek Sept. 3 will include the Wildcats in action against Eisenhower, Katy and Jersey Village, while pool play at Clear Falls will include host Clear Falls as well as Houston Memorial, Cypress Fairbanks and Mayde Creek.

Bracket play for Sept. 4 and Sept. 5 will be released following the completion of pool play at ccisd.net/Athletics varsity volleyball tournament.



Sofia Charles, who clearly represents a terrific future for the Longhorn girls' program, clocked in at 20 minutes, 18.23 seconds for seventh place overall.

Photo by Kendrick Ramos



Dobie junior Jordan Roman came up with his best time of the season as the Longhorns were team champions at the Charlie Goehring Invitational. Dobie junior Cruz Jasso was the gold medalist at the 5,000-meter distance.

JFD boys victorious at Goehring invite

The Dobie cross-country program had its talents on full display Aug. 28 at the Charlie Goehring Invitational at Crenshaw Park, with the JFD varsity boys claiming top team accolades and the varsity girls placing second.

Individually, varsity boys' runners Cruz Jasso and Jordan Roman, both juniors, went 1-2 in the 5,000-meter boys' race, while sophomore Robert Pfeister was fourth to help carry the Longhorns to the championship.

Senior Aracely Alvarado and freshman Sophia Charles led the way for the Dobie girls in the varsity 5,000-meter event as they helped their team to a second place finish behind Fort Bend Travis.

Also of note, Dobie freshman Marley Manriquez was the overall gold medalist of the 3,200-meter subvarsity event.

Jasso easily made his way to the finish line first in the varsity boys' 5,000 meter event as he was in at 15 minutes, 43.14 seconds. Roman was next as he was second at 16:29.78.

Pfeister, who has certainly delivered on his promise as a second-year varsity performer, was fourth as he clocked in at 16:36.57. Also for Dobie, sophomore Jaden Moron was 19th as he finished at 17:32.23.

The Longhorns' fifth official qualifier was junior Jorge Rodriguez, as he was in at 17:44.00. Ruben Flores also ran exceptionally well for the Longhorns as his time of 17:49.00 placed him 30th overall.

The Dobie girls were looking to repeat as team champion, but settled for second place with a solid overall group run that pushed Fort Bend Travis to the edge and the final team standings.

Sophomore Hazel Vowell led Travis to the 5,000-meter varsity girls' team championship with a narrow win over the Longhorns, with Vowell claiming top overall medalist honors for the second consecutive season with a run of 18:58.36.

As a freshman in 2025, Vowell won the same race with a clocking of 19:18.50.

Alvarado continued her terrific season to this point as she was fifth overall to the finish line in a time of 19:39.75. Charles, who clearly represents a terrific future for the Longhorn girls' program, clocked in at 20:18.23 for seventh place overall.

Freshman Cecilia Bogany placed 27th as she came to the finish line in the time of 22:54.45.

Senior Maria Arredondo put together a time of 23:02.96 as she was 29th.

Dobie's fifth official finisher was junior Destiny Sidiropoulos as she finished at 23:32.71.

Also for Dobie, sophomore Esmeralda Martinez came up with a time of 23:47.28 as she was 44th overall.

In the final team standings, Fort Bend Travis finished with a low of 79 points, with the Longhorns second with 83 points.

Manriquez was the star of the 3,200-meter subvarsity run as the freshman clocked in at 14:15.18 to

capture top overall gold medalist accolades. Elsewhere, Dobie junior Andrea Arredondo finished at 16:00.14 for 18th place, followed by sophomore Ava Flores, whose time of 16:02.39 placed her 19th.

Longhorn junior Aliscia Garza-Becerra was 21st in a time of 16:05.48, and Alayna Rodriguez finished at 16:19.54 as the junior was 27th overall in the final team standings.

Dobie was the easy

team champion with a low of 78, followed by Galena Park with 101.

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BAFL Weekly Standings

Peewee Division			
Team	W	L	T
Hurricanes	3	0	0
Panthers	3	0	0
Red Raiders	3	0	0
Wildcats	3	0	0
Pearland Texans	2	0	1
Buccaneers	2	1	0
Chargers	2	1	0
Manvel Texans	2	1	0
49ers	1	2	0
Braves	1	2	0
Gators	1	2	0
Patriots	1	2	0
Sharks	1	2	0
Stingrays	1	2	0
Cowboy's	0	2	1
Eagles	0	3	0
Longhorns	0	3	0
La Porte Texans	0	3	0

Freshman Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	3	0	0
Hurricanes	3	0	0
Stingrays	3	0	0
Wildcats	3	0	0
Chargers	2	1	0
Panthers	2	1	0
Patriots	2	1	0
Red Raiders	2	1	0
Manvel Texans	2	1	0
Pearland Texans	2	1	0
Buccaneers	1	2	0
Gators	1	2	0
Sharks	1	2	0
Braves	0	3	0
Cowboys	0	3	0
Eagles	0	3	0
Longhorns	0	3	0
La Porte Texans	0	3	0

Sophomore Division			
Team	W	L	T
Hurricanes	3	0	0
Red Raiders	3	0	0
Wildcats	3	0	0
Panthers	2	0	1
Stingrays	2	0	1
49ers	2	1	0
Chargers	2	1	0
Gators	2	1	0
Manvel Texans	2	1	0
Pearland Texans	2	1	0
Buccaneers	1	2	0
Patriots	1	2	0
Sharks	1	2	0
Braves	0	3	0
Cowboys	0	3	0
Eagles	0	3	0
Longhorns	0	3	0
La Porte Texans	0	3	0

Junior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	3	0	0
Chargers	3	0	0
Cowboys	3	0	0
Stingrays	3	0	0
Manvel Texans	3	0	0
Gators	2	1	0
Panthers	2	1	0
Red Raiders	2	1	0
49ers	1	2	0
Hurricanes	1	2	0
Patriots	1	2	0
Sharks	1	2	0
Pearland Texans	1	2	0
Wildcats	1	2	0
Braves	0	3	0
Eagles	0	3	0
Longhorns	0	3	0
La Porte Texans	0	3	0

Senior Division			
Team	W	L	T
La Porte Texans	3	0	0
Pearland Texans	3	0	0
49ers	2	1	0
Buccaneers	2	1	0
Chargers	2	1	0
Gators	2	1	0
Hurricanes	2	1	0
Patriots	2	1	0
Sharks	2	1	0
Stingrays	2	1	0
Manvel Texans	2	1	0
Wildcats	2	1	0
Eagles	1	2	0
Braves	0	3	0
Cowboys	0	3	0
Longhorns	0	3	0
Panthers	0	3	0
Red Raiders	0	3	0

BAFL Week 3

Cowboys' PW 6
Hurricanes 28

Cowboys' Fr. 0
Hurricanes 42

Cowboys' Soph. 0
Hurricanes 55

Cowboys' Jrs. 21
Hurricanes 0

Cowboys' Srs. 6
Hurricanes 41

BAFL Week 4

Cowboys' Peewee
at Sharks, 8 a.m.

Cowboys' Freshmen
at Sharks, 9:30 a.m.

Cowboys' Sopho-
mores
at Sharks, 11:30
a.m.

Cowboys' Juniors
at Sharks, 1:30 p.m.

Cowboys' Seniors
at Sharks, 3:30 p.m.

South Belt football predictions				
				
	John Bechtle	Emory Gadd	Stephen Sutton	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie at Alief Taylor	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
La Porte at Deer Park	La Porte	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park
Katy at Dickinson	Katy	Katy	Katy	Katy
Clear Falls at Kingwood	Kingwood	Kingwood	Kingwood	Kingwood
Clear Brook at Friendswood	Friendswood	Clear Brook	Friendswood	Friendswood
Heights at Clear Springs	Heights	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs
Cibolo Steele at Atascocita	Cibolo Steele	Atascocita	Cibolo Steele	Cibolo Steele
Shadow Creek at Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek
Katy Paetow at Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland
Manvel at Iowa Colony	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel
Last Week's Results	7-3	6-4	5-5	6-4
Season record	7-3	6-4	5-5	6-4

TD Club honors
LSA's Castillo



The Houston Touchdown Club, which annually recognizes some of the top preseason and postseason performers during the high school football season, has honored Lutheran South Academy lineman Antonio Castillo as one of its preseason standouts. Joining Castillo (right) was LSA athletic director Jon Mueller.

South Houston claims She's Next trophy at Reliant



As the Leader reported last week, the South Houston She's Next flag football team, which qualified for the state tournament earlier this summer, competed during halftime of the Houston Texans preseason game earlier this month at Reliant Stadium. The Trojans came away with a victory in the brief 7-minute game and earned another trophy with a win over Houston Memorial. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Ashley Ruiz, Anyiah Capers, Julissa Sanchez, Sariah Albert, (back row) coach Christina Reyna, Chloe Wilkins, Mia Rosas, DeAizah Foster, Chloe Barnes, Danna Rodriguez, Denver Chretien and coach Torrence Stevens.

District 18-6A football programs experience tough week

It's just one week, but interested high school football observers from across the region had to cast a wary eye toward the newly formed District 18-6A alignment after the league posted a 3-5 overall record to begin the 2026 varsity football season.

Dickinson, which is the defending champion of the former 24-6A alignment that now includes all of the current 18-6A mix in addition to Barbers Hill, took on Ridge Point in a battle of 6A Division 1

postseason heavyweights in Dickinson, with Ridge Point emerging with a 29-26 victory.

Deer Park, another program looking to eventually make its way to the Division 1 postseason bracket, began its season with a thorough 35-0 victory over host Dawson at The Rig in Pearland.

Barbers Hill, the newcomer to the 18-6A field and competing at the 6A level for the first time, produced an easy 38-6 victory over Aldine Nimitz.

Outside of the wins for Brook over Madison, Deer Park and Barbers Hill, it was a tough week for the remainder of 18-6A, at least on opening weekend. Granted, Dickinson is bold enough each and every season to take on the best of the best in nondistrict competition. Losing a game to the likes of Ridge Point, which by the way, will certainly be a first-round postseason opponent of either Dobie, Pearland or Dawson, is nothing to be concerned about.

The Gators have the top returning quarterback in the district in the form of senior Lorenzo Aguirre, and will certainly be a force to be dealt with down the line.

As for the rest of the district, Clear Falls, Clear Lake, Clear Springs and Clear Creek of Clear Creek ISD all came up on the short end of opening week matchups.

At Pasadena ISD Veterans Stadium, Clear Springs wasn't able to mount much offense during a 17-15 loss to Dobie. A night earlier, Clear Creek did not score a touchdown while losing a 35-6 decision to Kingwood.

Clear Falls was easily handled by Pearland. Clear Lake, meanwhile, went head-to-head with Pasadena Memorial but fell short in the end.

Ridge Point 29, Dickinson 26 --In a battle between two of the Houston area's top 6A Division 1 program, Ridge Point came away with a 29-26

victory over the Gators after a late field goal try by the hosts went wide left.

Brock Bartee, who has committed to play collegiately at the University of Florida, threw four for 24 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Panthers to the victory.

Bartee connected with John Rangel on an 84-yard touchdown strike and also completed a 49-yard touchdown play to Caiden Lawrence as the Panthers led 14-12 after a quarter. In the third quarter, Dickinson rallied to take a 26-22 lead. Aguirre completed a 38-yard touchdown play to Ja' Marion Payne.

However, Ridge Point responded as Bartee went to Lawrence for a 34-yard touchdown that wound up being the difference in the game.

Overall, Ridge Point did a fairly good job of keeping the Dickinson offense in check. Payne ended with 129 yards receiving and Aguirre threw for 188 yards.

Continued on Page 8

Cowboys go against Hurricanes; visit Longhorns at Veterans



Dealen Guillory (30) of the Sagemont Cowboys tries to outrun a pair of Pearland Hurricane defenders during the Week 3 series of games between the Cowboys and the Hurricanes and Aug. 28 th at El Franco Lee Park.



Sagemont Cowboys' running back Abel Martinez (3) delivered several big runs for his team as the Pearland Hurricanes visited El Franco Lee Park Aug. 28 during Bay Area Football League action.

Photos by David Flickinger



Sagemont Cowboy youth football league participants Tommy Hill (6) and Mason Pantoja (90) joined some of their teammates in celebrating opening night at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena as the Dobie football program hosted Sagemont Night.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m., Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.
Noon **AA - Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office at 281-554-1180 for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Longhorn football controls Clear Springs en route to 17-15 victory

Continued from Page 5

Late in the opening quarter, the Longhorns began what would be a 64-yard march to the end zone.

Beginning a drive from their own 36-yard line, the Longhorns immediately faced a third down and 10 before Hernan-

dez hit Thomas over the middle for a pickup of 11 yards and a first down.

The first downplay ended the first quarter as the two teams changed in the field. Owen went up the middle for 10 yards and a first down, and Taylor followed with a 9-yard run down to the Clear

Springs 33.

Taylor and Owens split two carries as the Longhorns reached the 25, and Hernandez then hit Taylor for a short gain of four yards to the 21.

Facing a key third down again, Taylor escaped numerous tackles and made his way down

the right sideline before he was bumped out at the 6 for a 15-yard gain.

On first and goal from the 6, Taylor had a 2-yard game before Hernandez threw a beautiful fade pass into the left corner of the end zone, reeled in by Thomas as the Longhorns took a 6-0 lead. Nathanael

Campos converted the extra point try for a Longhorns' 7-0 lead with 7:29 remaining in the half.

The Longhorns forced a Charger punt with just over five minutes to go in the first half and took over at their own 35-yard line with 4:54 remaining.

Once again, Hernandez and Thomas connected on a 41-yard pass play as the Longhorns set up shop at the Clear Springs 24-yard line.

The drive stalled from there, however, and Campos booted a 39-yard field goal that led to a 10-0 advantage for the hosts heading into halftime.

Dobie's speed and athleticism was on display throughout the first half, and the unit held the Chargers scoreless deep into the third quarter before Springs quarterback Jaxson Weger found Parker Trampusch down the middle, and Trampusch outraced the Longhorn defense to the end zone for 42 yards and a touchdown, trimming the Longhorns edge to 10-7.

With just under 11 minutes to play, the Longhorns again put together a drive to extend their lead, with big plays coming time and again when the hosts needed it most. Taylor picked up 12 yards

on a third-down-and-nine play to get the Longhorns to midfield.

Facing a third down and eight, Hernandez rolled to his right and connected with Thomas down the right side for 14 yards and a first down.

Jermaine Gasaway ran for seven yards, and Taylor picked up a first down with a run down to the 19.

Gasaway had a five-yard run followed by Taylor going down to the 7-yard line on the toss play. With the clock down to just over five minutes to play, the Longhorns continued their march largely on the ground.

Taylor's 5-yard touchdown run with 3:52 to play gave the locals a 17-7 advantage. Clear Springs found the end zone late and converted the two-point play for the final margin of 17-15.

Hernandez and Thomas were exceptional through the air for the Longhorns and Taylor certainly earned his props as well.

The Longhorns' offensive front that included Miguel Johnson, Achilles Rostro, Alex Vouffo and Aaron Villareal along with Donovan Martinez also deserve plenty of credit for controlling things along the line of scrimmage.



The Longhorns' game captains for the season opener included, from left, Orlando Gomez II (6), Achilles Rostro (52), Oscar Hernandez (16) and Nolen

Thomas (13). Each player contributed heavily to the opening night win over Clear Springs.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Clear Springs got very little going through the air for much of the contest against the Longhorns as the JFD defense, including corner Quentin Taylor (25) excelled.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Dobie had considerable success getting to the quarterback as Harley Stewart (90) and Jordyn Thomas (11) provided strong play in the trenches. Overall,

the Longhorn defense held Clear Springs scoreless until deep into the third quarter.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Junior running back Tyler Owens (7) did some good things against the Chargers and should only get stronger as the season progresses. Owens is expected to carry a larger load against Alief Taylor.

All five Pasadena ISD football squads win openers

Pasadena vs. Sam Rayburn
Sept. 4, 7 p.m.
PISD Veterans

What a terrific week it was for the five Pasadena ISD varsity football programs as the district put together a collective 5-0 record on opening weekend Aug. 27-29.

The three PISD programs still residing in the 6A ranks all scored tremendous victories. Dobie was victorious for the third time in three seasons under the direction of head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff as the Longhorns built a 17-7 lead over Clear Springs and went on to defeat the Chargers 17-15 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

It was the first ever victory for JFD over Clear Springs in the series between the two programs and will no doubt lift the Longhorns into a second-week matchup at Alief Taylor Sept. 4 at Crump Stadium.

A night earlier, the Pasadena Memorial Mavericks opened the festivities at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena with a 44-31 victory over Clear Lake. Senior quarterback Logan Johnson had a big night for the Mavericks, who will now head into a second week matchup at Beaumont United Sept. 4.

Sam Rayburn, looking to put together another great year after a 4-6 run in 2025, got things off to a rousing start with a road win at Aldine courtesy of

a 50-0 rout over the Mustangs.

The Texans will now take on Pasadena in the oldest rivalry within the school district history as the two programs clash Sept. 4 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

On the subject of those

Pasadena Eagles, they were also victorious on opening night, easily getting past Northbrook by a 35-7 count. Clearly, the Eagles will also enter their matchup against the Texans with plenty of confidence and Week 2 action.

South Houston, coming off a winless campaign in 2025, scored its first victory under the guidance of head coach Lamont Mayberry.

At Sharpstown, the Trojans came away with a 41-27 victory and will now host North Forest Sept. 3 at Veterans Stadium.



Pasadena Memorial quarterback Landon Johnson (4) had one of the biggest nights anywhere across the city during open-week play as he led the Mavericks to a 44-31 victory over Clear Lake with 324 yards passing and four touchdowns to go with another 59 yards rushing.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Junior quarterback Oscar Hernandez (16) improved to 4-0 overall as the starter as he tossed a touchdown pass in the third quarter as part of the Longhorns' 17-15 opening night victory over Clear Springs at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

Newly-formed district 18-6A goes through tough first week

Continued from Page 6

Dickinson is employing quite a few first-time varsity performers early on and will need to get up to speed in a hurry as the Katy Tigers visit Sam Vintana Stadium Sept. 4 in Dickinson.

Visiting Deer Park got three touchdown passes from returning senior Haden Lafrenz and another touchdown off of a long punt return to cruise past Dawson, which had its share of issues on opening night.

Clear Brook delivered perhaps the thrill of the weekend for 18-6A as a 27-yard field goal at the final gun allowed

the Wolverines to escape with a 27-26 victory over visiting Madison at Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City.

The Wolverines trailed 20-10 in the fourth quarter before taking a lead, only to see the Marlins rebound for a 26-24 lead prior to the final-play heroics. Clear Brook will now take a 1-0 record into the second week of the season against a Friendswood team that was an easy winner over Texas City in the first week of action.

Clear Falls no doubt has plans for a big season down the line, but a 49-3 loss to Pearland during opening-weekend action

did not set a good tone. Pearland junior running back Royce Swan rushed for 151 yards and three touchdowns, and Kamryn Harris had an interception return for another touchdown as the Oilers, winners of 11 overall games a season ago, got their 2026 campaign off to a rousing start. Pearland registered three interceptions in the game and held Clear Falls to 178 total yards in the game.

The Knights will look to rebound as they take on Kingwood, a week-one winner over Clear Creek, Sept. 4 at Turner Stadium in Humble.

Clear Lake hosts Kingwood Park
Sept. 4, 7 p.m.
CCISD Veterans

Clear Springs hosts Houston Heights
Sept. 4, 7 p.m.
Challenger Columbia

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