

Pickleball tourney planned

St. Luke Catholic Church's Youth Ministry will host a pickleball tournament Sept. 7, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the tennis courts located at Kirkwood South Park adjacent to the church grounds. Teams are two people. Cost is \$5 per person. See related ad on Page 2.

HPD's PIP set for Sept. 17

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria in the CES classroom on the first floor of the main building. Guest speaker to be announced.

Begun in 1983, HPD's PIP involves police and community members working together for safer neighborhoods. PIP meetings typically take place the third Tuesday of each month. For additional information, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 832-395-1776 or Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org.

Hughes/Sabo closure set

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

Beltway 8 closure planned

At least one northbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 will be closed from Greenshadow to SH 225 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until further notice.

The closure is due to the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 311.

Kirkmont I HOA meets Sept. 11

Kirkmont HOA will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Kirkmont MUD Building, 10102 Blackhawk. Homeowners and residents are urged to attend. HOA rules are being enforced. Any work to home must submit ACC form before any work is begun. Questions/concerns, attend meeting. The South Belt Leader will be in error.

Knights to host blood drive

The Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive on Sunday, Sept. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall. Blood is needed every day for medical needs due to health and injuries. All are urged to donate. All are welcome. For more information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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.

Telephone closure planned

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on SH 35/Telephone Road will be closed from Airport Boulevard to Bellfort Avenue daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (excluding Sundays) until further notice.

Knights to hold fish fries

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will hold a series of Friday fish fry events, with events set for Sept. 6, Sept. 13 and Sept. 27. The events will take place at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Dinners will include fried fish, fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, corn on the cob and iced tea for \$15. Dine-in and take-out will be available.

State audit calls for November election oversight

Audit identifies multiple issues with 2021-2022 Harris County elections

A state audit into Harris County's 2021-2022 election cycle identified multiple problems, prompting officials to recommend an enhanced state presence at the county's upcoming November elections.

Conducted by the Secretary of State's office, the Harris County audit was one of four to be done by the state at Gov. Greg Abbott's request. In 2021, Abbott signed Senate Bill 1 into law, calling for the randomized election auditing of four Texas counties, two of which must have a population of 300,000 or more. Cameron, Gua-

dalupe and Eastland counties were also audited. Harris County was the only one of the four in need of additional state oversight, according to the audits.

"Texas' audit process provides accountability and insight into how elections are conducted on a county level to ensure the integrity of our elections," Secretary of State Jane Nelson said in a statement. "Although Harris County has since made changes to its election administration, the findings highlighted in this audit and the prior audit show that an enhanced presence by the

secretary's office is necessary for the November 2024 election. The Secretary of State will assign state inspectors to Harris County to perform checks on election records, including tapes and chain-of-custody, and will observe the handling and counting of ballots and electronic media during the November 2024 election period." Nelson continued. "Additionally, staff from the secretary's Elections Division will be present to assist Harris County for the duration of the election period from early voting to Election Day and through tabulation."

The Secretary of State's audit listed the following key findings for Harris County:

- In defiance of state law, Harris County failed to estimate and issue the required amount of ballot paper resulting in interruptions in voting in at least 19 polling locations in the November 2022 Election.

- Harris County failed to properly train its election workers to operate new voting equipment, resulting in widespread voting equipment failures in multiple elections.

- Harris County did not follow state law establishing proper voter roll maintenance activities. Harris County failed to keep an accurate list of registered voters in their county records, which has since been addressed and corrected.

- In numerous elections, required paperwork from polling locations was incomplete and failed to meet the requirements outlined in law.

After a series of voting-related scandals in Harris County, the state Legislature last year passed Senate Bill 1750, dissolving Harris County Election Administrator's Office. SB 1750 handed over voting oversight to the Harris County Clerk's Office.

Continued on Page 3



Salazar tours mysterious dump site

Confusion remains about the controversial dumping of dirt at a construction site off Dixie Farm Road near Blackhawk. County leaders have failed to answer questions from the Leader as to why dumping would be allowed at a site adjacent to two new detention ponds. Additionally, two other surrounding properties have been involved in litigation involving dumping. Local business owner and former judicial candidate Oscar Salazar is shown left touring the site with Leader staff.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Library promotes preparedness

Registration campaign giving away generator prize

Hurricane season is underway and the Houston Public Library is here to help residents stay powered up during a storm.

This year, the Houston Public Library is excited to launch its Library Card Sign-Up Campaign with a special focus on hurricane preparedness. By signing up for a MYLink library card, not only does one gain access to a wealth of resources, but they also have the chance to win a generator, if chosen the first-place winner.

The second-place winner will receive a port-

able power station, and the third-place winner will take home a power bank.

With the peak of hurricane season on Sept. 10, as noted by the National Hurricane Center, it's crucial to stay prepared. Most hurricane activity occurs between mid-August and mid-October, making now the perfect time to sign up for one's MYLink card and enter the giveaway.

Why sign up?

A MYLink library card offers one free access

Continued on Page 3

National Night Out set for Oct. 1

Annual law enforcement event now in its 40th year

The 40th annual National Night Out is set to take place Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Begun in 1984, NNO is a nationwide program to foster better relationships between local police departments and the communities they serve.

"NNO is a chance to bring neighborhoods together with the men and women who protect them," said Houston Police Officer Emilio Reyes. "The safety of our communities depends on both law enforcement and the citizens they serve, and NNO events can enhance that cooperation. Preventing and solving crime is a community effort. NNO is an excellent program that helps the department build relationships with citizens and create safer neighborhoods."

More than 17,000 communities, representing all 50 states, took part in last year's campaign, attracting roughly 38 million participants.

The event formerly took place in August, but organizers have since changed the NNO's Texas date to give residents an opportunity to enjoy cooler weather.

Along with the traditional display of porch lights and front porch vigils, NNO will be cele-

brated by neighborhoods and communities with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, parades, flashlight walks, contests, youth programs and visits from local police.

County officials and local homeowner groups and civic clubs traditionally hold NNO events in the South Belt community, but no specific events were known at press time.

The Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Harris County Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 constable offices will all be participating in various functions.

South Belt residents within the city limits who are planning a block party and wanting to have a police officer visit should contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 281-642-3484 or Richardo.Buitron@Houstonpolice.org.

Most residents outside of the city limits having parties should contact Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office at 713-477-2766.

The sooner law enforcement agencies are aware of an NNO event, the better chance an officer can attend.

Pct. 2 deputy involved in accident

Other driver in crash arrested, charged with DWI

A driver was arrested on DWI charges Sunday, Aug. 25, after allegedly rear-ending an off-duty Precinct 2 deputy in the 7100 block of Telephone Road near Airport Boulevard.

The deputy, who serves with the Precinct 2 Toll Road Division, was on his way home from work in his person-



Ivan Gutierrez

al vehicle when the accident occurred.

According to Precinct 2 officials, the deputy was sitting at a red light when he was rear-ended by a driver in a pickup truck.

During this incident, it was revealed the at-fault driver had recently left an after-hours bar and was showing signs of intoxication.

The male driver, identified as Ivan Bautista Gutierrez, was detained and transported to the Harris County Jail where he was charged with driving while intoxicated.

The deputy did not sustain any injuries in the crash.

Deadline for FEMA assistance nears

Residents affected by Beryl have until Sept. 9 to apply

Residents affected by Hurricane Beryl have until Sept. 9 to apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

Texas homeowners and renters in 15 counties who had uninsured damage or losses caused by Beryl may be eligible for FEMA disaster assistance.

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs. Financial assistance is available to eligible homeowners and renters in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Walker and Wharton counties.

Texans who applied for FEMA assistance after the April 26-June 5 storms and flooding, and

who had additional damage or losses from Hurricane Beryl, can make a separate application for Hurricane Beryl assistance.

Benefits available

Serious needs assistance: A one-time \$750 payment per household to help pay for essential items, including water, food, first aid, prescriptions, infant formula, breastfeeding supplies, diapers, consumable medical supplies, durable medical equipment, personal hygiene items and fuel for transportation.

Displacement assistance: Money to help with immediate housing needs if one cannot return to their home because of the disaster. The money can be used to stay in a hotel, with family and friends or for other options while one looks for temporary housing.

Continued on Page 3

Man exposes himself at restaurant

2nd such local arrest in less than 3 months

A man was arrested on charges of indecent exposure Tuesday, Aug. 27, after he allegedly exposed himself to several customers at a Mexican restaurant in the 10900 block of Fuqua at Sabo.

According to Precinct 2 officials, deputies were dispatched to the restaurant after a male reportedly refused to leave the establishment. Upon their arrival, deputies were advised that the male had exposed himself to multiple customers, prompting them to leave the restaurant.

Deputies discovered the shirtless suspect - identified as 37-year-old Leonard Davis - behind a table with his hands in his pants. He was subsequently arrested and charged with indecent exposure and transported to Harris County Jail without incident.

This marked the second time in less than three months that such an arrest has taken place in the South Belt area.

On Wednesday June 5, a male suspect was arrested for indecency after allegedly exposing



Leonard Davis

himself at the Parker Williams Library Branch in the 10800 block of Scarsdale at Beamer.

In that incident, Evening Shift patrol deputies were dispatched to the area library just after 4 p.m. following reports that a man appearing to be homeless had exposed himself to library staff and visitors.

The suspect had reportedly fled the scene prior to the arrival of deputies, officials said.

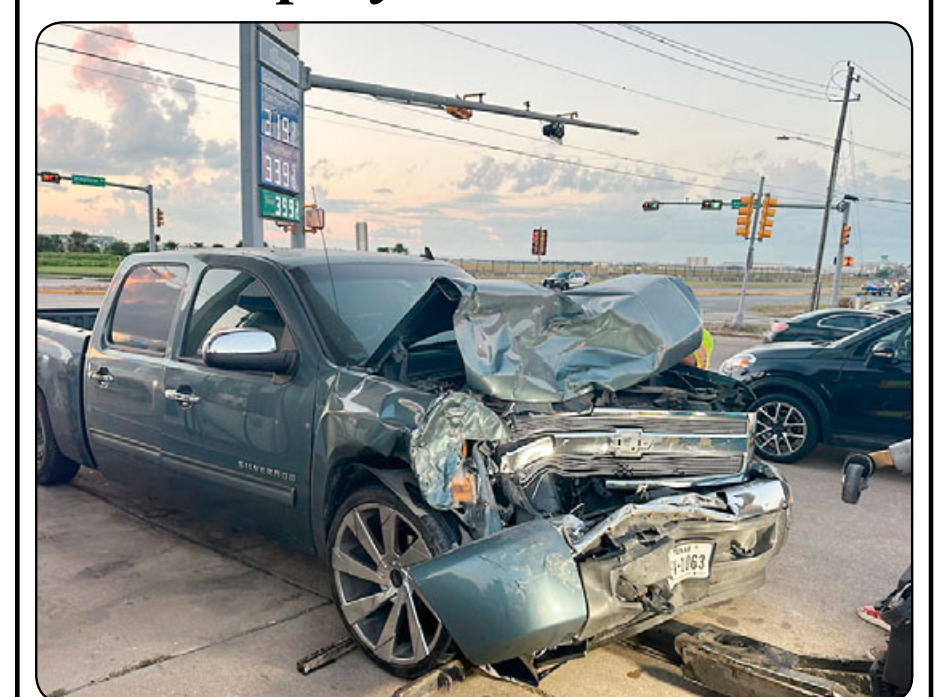
Deputies were able to get a description and identity of the suspect fairly quickly and advised other responding units of this information. Additional deputies were able to locate the suspect a short time later and detain him after a brief struggle.

Once detained, the Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted, and misdemeanor charges of indecent exposure were accepted on 32-year-old Charles Jenkins.

Following that arrest, Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office took to social media to ensure the safety of area residents.

"Constable Garcia wants his residents to know that his deputies will continue to respond quickly to their calls and do everything in their power to take these types of people off the streets," a post on the constable's Facebook page read. "Please stay safe and God bless."

Pct. 2 deputy involved in crash



A Precinct 2 deputy was involved in an off-duty crash early Sunday, Aug. 25, in the 7100 block of Telephone Road near Airport Boulevard. According to Precinct 2 officials, the deputy was sitting at a red light when he was rear-ended by another driver, who police said was drunk. The other driver was subsequently arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated. The deputy was uninjured in the accident.

In My Opinion

Peterson writes on CenterPoint

Here we go again. Nearly 85% of us lost power. Lives were lost; personal property was lost. We all knew Beryl was coming, except of course, CenterPointless. Or perhaps they were more concerned with protecting their profits than strengthening their power grid. Instead of improvements, CenterPointless cut costs.

It's the same hue and cry from politicians. We heard it three years ago with Winter storm Uri. Six months ago, when the largest wildfire reported was caused by downed poles and electrical lines. Investigations are called. Abbott, Patrick, and Paxton exhibit their fake outrage while maintaining their cosy relationships with CenterPoint from whom they receive large campaign contributions and invitations to the company's retreat, Trinity Bay.

In the end, nothing will change. Except us. We will buy the generators, pay electricians to connect them to our homes. We will buy portable air-conditioners and pay for damage caused by downed electrical poles. We will pay because our insurance deductibles are so high, it won't cover the first \$15,000 in damages. Maybe CenterPointless should be paying us, since they failed to harden the

electrical infrastructure.

But they won't. Because the politicians have their backs. And they know they can sell us on "Texans Individual Hardiness". They know they can divert our attention away from their negligence by claiming Texans are tough and bounce back. They will convince us to accept the cost of cleanup, because they will whisper, it is in your neighborhood. No one will ensure CenterPointless is accountable to harden and maintain the electrical infrastructure that caused this mess. And in our Texas resiliency, yes, we are resilient, and our desire to have our lives back to normal, we will accept another \$10 charge a month, for decades to come.

Enough! It's time we Texans push back. We pay for a product; we deserve a quality product. We deserve politicians who will stand for us, not for greedy corporations.

Study the voting records. In Houston, you will probably find your incumbent politician voted against you, your family, and our community on every bill created to favor corporate profit over people. Now, we are barreling toward a future where politicians will let corporations turn our great state into a cesspool of failed utilities, damaged properties and infrastructure, and contaminated water and air. But we can stop this insanity. It's time for a change. Let's do it. **Doug Peterson**

Abbott announces 10-year road plan for Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott recently announced a record \$148 billion in total investment for Texas' transportation infrastructure. This investment includes the unanimous adoption of the more than \$104 billion 10-year transportation plan by the Texas Department of Transportation to improve safety, congestion and connectivity, and preserve roadways for Texas drivers. It includes more than \$43 billion for development and maintenance. This is a \$5.6 billion increase in total investment from the previous year. "Strengthening our roadways and transportation infrastructure is critical for Texas to remain the Best State for Business in the nation," said Abbott. "With the adoption of this record-breaking \$148 billion transportation investment,

Texas will continue to meet the needs of Texans in rural, urban, and metropolitan communities while also improving roadway congestion and safety. People come to Texas because we provide the freedom and opportunity they can't find anywhere else, and that's why we're investing in the future of Texas roads. Projects like this will ensure products and people can move quickly to keep the Texas economy booming. Together, we are building a bigger, better Texas for years to come."

"With a booming population and economy, TxDOT is meeting the moment with a record investment in our state roadway system to ensure Texas remains the preferred destination for families and businesses," said Texas Transportation Commission Chair-

man J. Bruce Bugg Jr. "Thanks to the vision of Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Legislature, this historic transportation investment focusing on safety and congestion relief will help meet the needs of Texans for years to come."

"This investment impacts communities across the state, with projects that can help save lives and improve connectivity," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "TxDOT has a record amount of active construction projects this year, and this will help continue that work of moving people and goods safely and efficiently in our rural, urban and metropolitan areas."

Many of the projects in the 2025 Unified Transportation Program are segments identi-

fied on Texas' 100 Most Congested Roadways list. Texas Clear Lanes congestion-relief projects will see an increase in funding of \$1.9 billion, supporting the \$75.8 billion total investment for completed, under-construction, and planned nontolled projects since 2015. It includes a \$17.3 billion investment in safety and \$1.7 billion in funding for rural corridors and key roadways in economic hubs. A full breakdown is available online.

The adoption of the 2025 UTP comes after an extensive public-involvement process to allow all Texans to voice their opinions on the projects in their communities. Public comments, collected via a public hearing and online, phone, email, and other formats were considered before the Texas Transportation Commission approved the UTP.

The UTP is a planning document that authorizes highway projects for development and construction. In addition to highways, the UTP includes investments in public transportation, maritime, aviation, and rail. Projects are selected based on how effective they are in addressing areas such as pavement condition, safety, capacity and rural connectivity. More information on the UTP projects is available at <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/utp.html>.

Lariaette of the Week, Aug. 29



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the week of Aug. 29 is sophomore Kayli Rodriguez, a first-year line member.

Hobby parking garage goes cashless

Houston Airports is advancing its mission to deliver a seamless travel experience with the rollout of its latest cashless parking system at William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). As part of a phased approach, the Red and Blue Garages are transitioning to a fully cashless system, which will be complete in early September.

The new system utilizes License Plate Recognition technology, which expedites entry and exit for vehicles with parking reservations. Additionally, Near-Field Communication capabilities enable contactless payment through digital wallets such as Apple Pay and Google Pay, further streamlining the payment process.

The technology supports some efficient options for customers: A customer can make reservations online, at least 12 hours before heading to the airport. The vehicle's license plate number - included in the reservation details - will be read by the LPR technology, creating a seamless experience when entering and exiting the garage.

Upon entering a Houston Airports parking facility, customers without a parking reservation can tap or insert a credit card and use the same credit card to exit or take a parking ticket from the kiosk. The ticket is linked to the vehicle's license plate number. When exiting the garage, the system will read the license plate number and prompt the customer to pay by credit card.

Customers can use credit cards to enter the parking facility. When they exit, they must pay with the same credit card.

Houston Airports strongly encourages customers to reserve parking online. Doing so guarantees a parking spot in the facility, often saves the

customer money, and offers a seamless experience entering and exiting the garage with no credit card or ticket required.

Cashless pay kiosks will be located at Hobby Airport Red and Blue Garages.

"At Houston Airports, our mission is to connect people, cultures and economies of the world to Houston. We do that through our strategic priorities of making our passengers happy while building platforms for future success," said Walt Gray, Director of Parking and Ground Transportation for Houston Air-

ports. "Implementing a cashless parking system aligns perfectly with our mission by providing a more efficient, secure, and convenient travel experience for our passengers."

The cashless parking system rollout will be implemented in phases across all Hobby Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) parking facilities. The initial phase updated seven customer lanes at ecoPark 2 at Bush Airport to accept cashless payments in June 2024. By September, Hobby Airport's entrances and 10

Garage exit lanes will operate a fully cashless system. The phased project will continue, with all parking facilities transitioned to cashless payment by the end of May 2025.

As Houston Airports continues this rollout across all its facilities, passengers can expect quicker transactions, reduced congestion, and a more sustainable operation. The shift to cashless parking reflects the commitment of Houston Airports to innovation and improving passenger satisfaction at every step of the journey.

Elected officials share their words

Abbott touts Texas values, condemns Harris' radical policies

Gov. Greg Abbott touted the values that make Texas the best state in nation and condemned Vice President Kamala Harris' radical policies during his keynote address at the Galveston County Republican Party's Lincoln Reagan Dinner in Dickinson. "One thing that we know about Texas is the endless opportunity every Texan has in our great state," said Abbott. "We believe in the mighty oil and gas industry that creates hundreds of thousands of jobs and secures our energy independence in the United States. We believe in law and order. Some Democratic cities, like Minneapolis, defunded their police. "We passed a law in Tex-

as that defunds any city that defunds their police. Kamala Harris believes in the opposite. She stands against the oil and gas industry, believes in defunding the police, and is in favor of rewriting Title IX so men who identify as women can compete in women's sports. Kamala Harris' radical woke policies are hostile to Texas values, and those policies will destroy the economic miracle that we have in our great state. We must outwork our opponents. If we do, we will win on November 5th. Together, we will keep Texas the land of opportunity and restore America's greatness for decades to come." Abbott slammed Harris'

dangerous open border policies, mentioning her support for sanctuary cities and decriminalizing illegal immigration. The governor also highlighted Texas' recent court victory in the floating marine barriers case, noting that President Joe Biden and Harris have fought back against the state's efforts to secure the southern border. Additionally, Abbott touted Texas' historic border security mission, pointing to the miles of border barriers the state has built and the thousands of Texas National Guard soldiers and Department of Public Safety troopers deployed along the border to stop illegal crossings into the state.

Local COVID cases reported

Despite a countywide increase, the number of reported COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community remains roughly on par with the previous several weeks, according to Harris County health officials.

As of Tuesday, Aug. 6, there were 295 active cases in 77089, no change from the previous week. To date, 134 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. In ZIP code 77075, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, there have been 84 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034, there were six active cases, no change from the previous week. To date, 92 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. Statistics are updated weekly and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulativedata](https://www.harriscountyhub.org/pages/cumulativedata).

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. 5, 3 - 4 p.m. Family story time.
Thursday, Sept. 5, 3 - 4 p.m. Open Lab - computer class.
Thursday, Sept. 5, 5 - 6 p.m. English language learning at the library.
Monday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m. - noon. Open Lab - computer class.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 5, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Friday, Sept. 6, 1 - 2 p.m. Genealogy.
Monday, Sept. 9, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Family time.
Monday, Sept. 9, 11:15 a.m. - noon Family story time.
Tuesday, Sept. 10, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 4:30 - 7 p.m. College and career information session.

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>.

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Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
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(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukecatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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.newcovenantchristianchurchouston.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

Clear Brook High School cheerleaders perform at game



On Thursday, Aug. 29, Clear Brook High School cheerleaders performed at the football game against J. Frank Dobie High School at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Pictured are, left to right, (first row) Ayleen Fruto, Sofia Gonzales, Bella Durgan (social coordinator), Aubrei Vega (captain), Ja'vana Turner, Rhiannon Zepeda, (second row) Alia Peoples, Macy Cooper, Jordyn Scott, Pressley Saifi (co-captain), Bella Podesta, Caitlyn Caesar, Bailey Schilling, Kenzley Block (social coordinator) and Violet Mittendorf. Photo by Kelvin Lopez.

ST. LUKE LIFE TEEN

PICKLEBALL

Fundraiser Tournament
Benefitting Life Teen Youth

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 4 - 8 PM

REGISTER EARLY - SPACE IS LIMITED

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST / KIRKWOOD SOUTH PARK
11011 HALL RD, HOUSTON, TX 77089

\$5.00 PER PLAYER
TEAMS = 2 PLAYERS

Join us for some fun, fellowship, and friendly competition at our first St. Luke Life Teen Pickleball Tournament!

Players of all skill levels are welcome for an exciting series of matches.

Enjoy great company, and don't miss our delicious concession stand offering tasty treats and refreshing drinks.

All proceeds will go to help funding future retreats for our Life Teen youth!

ST. LUKE YOUTH

AGE GROUPS:
7-10 YEARS
11-15 YEARS
16 AND UP

TO REGISTER
SCAN QR CODE



Crawford receives state leadership award

Teri Crawford has been recognized by the Texas Association of Community Colleges with its highest leadership award, the Carl M. "Cheesie" Nelson Administrative Leadership Award, recognizing her commitment to San Jacinto College, Texas' 50 community colleges and their students.

Crawford is the vice chancellor for external relations at San Jacinto college, a position she has held for nearly a decade. In this role she leads the College's efforts in government relations, fundraising, marketing and communications.

"I was honored to nominate Teri for the Carl M. 'Cheesie' Nelson Administrative Leadership Award and to recognize her commitment to the students and employees of San Jacinto College," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto college chancellor. "Teri is an outstanding performer, contributor and leader. She is always looking at the impact that legislation has not only on San Jacinto College, but all Texas community colleges. She has been an incredible resource for the Texas Association of Community Colleges and is very deserving of this award."

During the 88th Legislative session, Crawford played a significant role in advancing the work of the Community College Finance Commission and the ultimate passage of House Bill 8 (HB8). She was active in attending meetings and hearings, providing guidance to many legisla-

tors across the state about the impact of the legislation, and served as a resource for many Texas community colleges throughout the process. She also assisted in helping maintain the alignment and unanimity of the community colleges during the session.

Crawford's responsibilities include the college's federal relationships. She regularly traveled to Washington D.C. and was instrumental in getting legislation approved to support a Center of Excellence recognition for the San Jacinto

College maritime program and funding to support maritime, veterans and aerospace programs. She is regularly asked by Texas Gulf Coast community college presidents to assist in scheduling legislative visits and has been active with the American Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award," noted Crawford, who plans to retire at the end of this month. "The success of our San Jacinto

College students and employees is and has always been a priority for me. Having started my higher education with a community college scholarship, it has been incredibly rewarding to give back and work alongside so many individuals who have the same passion for advancing the community college mission. I thank Dr. Hellyer for nominating me, and the Texas Association of Community Colleges, for the recognition."

Locally, Crawford works closely with key economic

development organizations, ensuring that San Jacinto College and Texas community college priorities and legislative agendas align to ensure the best possible outcomes for the region's workforce. Their collaboration and support were key in helping to make HB8 a reality in Texas.

Crawford began her career in higher education at Texas A&M University at Galveston where she spent seven years in the areas of development, alumni relations, communications and event planning.

She was fortunate to travel around the world with the Maritime Cadets while promoting the university and managing international protocols.

Crawford holds an Associate of Science in business administration from Arapahoe Community College, a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte, and an MBA from Liberty University. She is married and has two stepdaughters.

State calls for election oversight

Continued from Page 1

Harris County Clerk Tennesha Hudspeth released a statement, maintaining all of the previous problems associated with the Election Administrator's Office have been addressed.

"We will continue to ensure that the concerns that plagued the now-defunct Elections Administrator's Office are not revisited," Hudspeth said in the statement. "We will continue to work diligently to maintain the

public's trust in the electoral process and work with the Secretary of State's office."

The audit announcement came fresh on the heels of the release of a criminal investigation conducted by Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg and the Texas Rangers into the county's 2022 general election. The investigation found no evidence of intentional election interference after numerous Harris County polling locations ran out of paper in the

2022 elections. Rather, the findings determined the official tasked with allocating the paper ballots had neglected to do so and had committed time card theft by saying he had done so. The county employee was subsequently charged criminally.

To read the complete 108-page audit into Harris County's 2021-2022 elections, visit www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/fad/forms/harris-county-comprehensive-report.pdf.

Library promotes preparedness

Continued from Page 1

to an array of resources, including the following:

- Thousands of books, e-books, audiobooks, and digital magazines and newspapers.
- Online databases, research tools and e-learning platforms.
- Educational and cultural events for all ages.
- State-of-the-art TECH-Link technology centers equipped with virtual reality headsets, 3D printers, embroidery machines, laser

- History Research Centers where one can trace and discover local African American history, family history, Houston and Texas and Hispanic history.

- **How to participate**
- **Sign up:** Visit any Houston Public Library to sign up as a new library cardholder.
- **Enter the giveaway:** Follow the Houston Public Library on Facebook or Instagram, share a post holding one's new library card, and

cutters, engravers and more.

- tag us using #MYLink. Visit houstonslibrary.org/contest for complete contest details.
- **Stay Prepared:** Use one's new library card to access vital resources that can help one and their family stay informed and ready for any thing this hurricane season.

The Houston Public Library Foundation is the advocate and fundraising champion of the library system. Prizes for this contest have been generously sponsored by Houston Public Library's Foundation.

FEMA assistance deadline nears

Continued from Page 1

What's needed to apply?

- A current phone number where one can be contacted.
- One's address at the time of the disaster and the address where they are now staying.

- One's Social Security number.
- A general list of damage and losses.
- Banking information if one chooses direct deposit.
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name.

For additional information on applying for FEMA assistance, visit disasterassistance.gov or call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Central time.

Affected residents may also visit a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center.

The following Harris County recovery centers are

open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday:

- Acres Homes Multi-Service Center, 6719 W. Montgomery Road.
- Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center, 6402 Market St.
- Felix L. Baldree Building, 13828 Corpus Christi St.
- Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway in Pasadena.
- Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane.
- Spring Spirit, 8526 Pitner Road.

To see a complete list of FEMA disaster recovery centers, visit fema.gov/drc.

Teri Crawford honored at retirement



The elected officials all presented Teri Crawford with proclamations from their respective areas at her San Jacinto College retirement party. Pictured, left to right, are Brenda Hellyer; Jeff Wagner, Pasadena mayor; Crawford; Ed Thompson, state representative; Mary Ann Perez, state representative; and Sylvia Garcia, congresswoman.

2024 J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes



Shown are the J. Frank Dobie 2024 Lariaettes. They are, left to right, (first row) MiaBella Sudario Garza (executive), Galilea De La Garza (executive), Angel Rhodes (lieutenant), Lilli Ramirez (lieutenant colonel), Kaitlyn Resendez (colonel), Lizette Gonzalez (lieutenant), Isabella Hernandez (head executive), Kiana McCombs (major), Brianna Puga (executive), (second row) Mia Lozano (line sergeant), Emily Grimaldo, Jenny Gallardo, Brianna Garza, Paris Cervantes, Megan Vu, DaniElla Gonzales, Lizbeth Serrano, (third row) Chloe Nguyen, JaLynn Alix, Ava Hernandez, Sureal Alcorta, Aileen Rivera, Mia Tovar, Suheyale Belman, Kaitlyn Baines, Piper Battarbee, Esbeidy Fonseca, (fourth row) Laila Martin, Dayanna Najarro-Reyes, Mya Cantu, Artette Salazar, Kareli Garza, Kayli Rodriguez and Angie Munoz.

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KIM OGG

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Fueling job growth: San Jac College to offer training for biomanufacturing boom

By Neesha Hosein
Houston has a reputation as a leader in gas, petrochemical, aerospace, health and medicine, and research and development and is now opening new doors to the burgeoning fields of biotechnology and biopharma.
San Jacinto College is an exclusive provider of National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training-licensed programs.
"Houston already has a number of biomanufacturing companies, and many will eventually relocate here, so the region is primed and ready for growth in this industry," said Dr. Christopher Wild, dean of health and natural sciences and executive director of biotechnology.
In spring 2024, the college launched a series of noncredit biomanufacturing classes at the South campus, providing corporate training and onboarding for new hires and existing workers in this industry.
"It's important to both meet the current workforce

needs and train the anticipated future workforce," Wild said. "Regional biomanufacturing companies will be able to look to us to deliver this specialized training."
Training focus
Eventually, the College plans to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in biomanufacturing technician, a Level 1 certificate, and an advanced skills certificate. This area of study will resonate with many, specifically biology majors. For example, biomanufacturing technicians will participate in manufacturing human therapeutics that are generated from biological systems. Graduates could pursue positions in cutting-edge medicine like vaccine manufacturing and cell and gene therapies.
Students will learn theoretical concepts to better understand the scope and purpose of the work, but focus will be on the technical study of manufacturing human therapeutics, as in the hands-on aspect. Although the program will cover a broad spec-

trum, it will not be math and science heavy.
Creating a robust training program empowers the college to attract future biomanufacturing companies to the Houston area, creating more job opportunities.
Preparing for the future
The college recently broke ground on the new Center for Biotechnology at the Generation Park campus. This state-of-the-art facility, which is being built in collaboration with McCord Development Inc., will provide comprehensive, hands-on training with realistic good manufacturing practices simulated environments. The hope is to be functional by 2025.
"This opens doors for Generation Park students and the community," said Destry Dokes, Generation Park campus provost. "It gives students the opportunity to explore this emerging field and learn the foundational elements of biomanufacturing and biopharma. It also helps current employees in that field who are looking to upscale."

San Jac also hosted a ribbon-cutting for the biomanufacturing training program at the South campus. This program marks the initiation of the college's comprehensive biotechnology offerings, beginning with an onboarding certificate designed to equip new professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to seamlessly enter the field.
The biomanufacturing training program, a two-week hybrid initiative, integrates theoretical knowledge, practical hands-on experience and exposure to industry practices. Furthermore, the program is customizable to meet the specific training needs of industry partners. Future offerings will expand to cover all aspects of biomanufacturing, specialized instrumentation and equipment training, and advanced techniques, ensuring that San Jacinto College remains at the forefront of biotechnological education.
"As we unveil the biomanufacturing training program, we are taking a significant step toward meeting the growing demands of the biotechnology sector right now," Wild said. "This program is designed to provide a seamless entry into the field for new professionals, with a focus on practical experience and exposure to industry practices."

Meador Elementary celebrates first day of school



Meador Elementary staff was treated with snacks and goodies during the first week of school in appreciation of their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work. The staff members are always thankful to community partners for their support. Pictured, left to right, are Eric Riojas, paraprofessional; Lauryn Riojas, dyslexia teacher; and Amanda Fronk, first-grade teacher getting their snacks from the snack cart.



Pictured are fourth-grade teachers Leslie Perez (left) and Amanda Johns enjoying their cookies donated by Macabaugh's Cafe.



Campus instructional coaches Derenda DeHoyos (left) and Connie Daumas chose Italian Ice treats donated by CTC church.



Campus administrators left to right Kevin Fox, assistant principal; Tara Merida, counselor; and Jennifer Chavez, principal dipped and topped ice cream for staff members.



Left to right are Anaseli Juarez, third-grade teacher; Klarissa Trevino, third-grade teacher; Kacie Hedge third-grade teacher; and Melisa Hinojosa, second-grade teacher with their cookies donated by a Meador parent.

CBHS speech and debate awarded



Clear Brook High School speech and debate attended their first tournament of the season, the Foster/Summer Creek Swing, at Foster High School the weekend of Aug. 23. Pictured, left to right, are (front row) Surabhi Kashyap, Emily Joseph, Elaina Joseph, (back row) Khang Ngo, Gregory Stuart, Victoria Costanza, Alaina Van and Kendrick Toennies. In the first half of the swing, team President Stuart placed fourth in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, earning him three state points, as well as placing fourth in Impromptu Speaking. In the latter half of the swing, Stuart secured a second place trophy in Impromptu Speaking as well as placing sixth in Domestic Extemp Speaking, adding another state point to his total. Additional successes were achieved by semifinalists Kashyap and Ngo in Domestic Extemp Speaking, and Toennies in Foreign Extemp Speaking. Next, the team will travel to Clear Falls for their annual tournament in September.

New Covenant feeds needy

New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk, distributes food the second and fourth Saturday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies run out. The purpose is to provide food for community people in need.
The next event is Sept. 14. For information, call 281-484-4230.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series.
The next event will be Thursday, Sept. 5, with another event happening the following Thursday, Sept. 12.
For more information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

AARP Webster sets meetings

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 is hosting a meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook. The meeting is in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. One is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies, and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meetings start at 10 a.m. Each month a meeting is held with entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors and is followed by a social activity.
On Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Bay Area Community Center the speaker will be a representative from the AARP Houston Chapter who will address downsizing and decluttering. The social event will be an indoor picnic. The cost is \$8 per person for a Raising Cane's three-piece chicken finger dinner with Texas toast and their special dipping sauce, a drink, chips and dessert. If one has not previously signed up for this lunch, call Lynne Justis at 832-212-5417 to be assured of a meal on Sept. 12.
A bus trip will be held Wednesday, Oct. 23, with a tour of Eternal Ghandhi Museum Houston and lunch at Dixie Deli. One must be a member of the local chapter to participate in bus trips. Registration for this trip will be at the Sept. 12 meeting.
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.

Remember When

45 years ago (1979)
South Belt residents and county officials who were investigating why the area had been experiencing flooding set a town meeting to discuss the problem.
Marcia Boyd, 5, was one of seven finalists in the Disney disco contest sponsored by Almeda Mall and radio station KRLY. There were 115 area youth entered in the contest.
40 years ago (1984)
Movie tickets were to be awarded to Pasadena Independent School District students with perfect attendance for the month.
The South Belt area went along with the city of Houston in approving a \$595 million capital improvement package.
Official approval of forming a South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce was given at an executive board meeting, and officers were elected.
35 years ago (1989)
Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire backed off plans of acquiring the unincorporated areas of South Belt.
With a unanimous vote by Harris County Commissioners Court, the South Belt community's dream of a courthouse and county library cleared another hurdle with the acceptance of the lease agreement.
30 years ago (1994)
Chris Clark succeeded Ralph Aulds Jr. as president of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Clark preceded Aulds as chamber president as well.
Thompson Intermediate School cheerleader Audi Resendez was crowned Teen Miss in the Pasadena Rodeo Pageant. Beverly Hills Intermediate School cheerleader Amanda Bergeron was first runner-up.
25 years ago (1999)
Lisa T. Nguyen, a graduate of Clear Brook High School, won the title of Ms. Houston and would be competing in Orlando, Fla., for the national title.
A 31-year-old man died as

a result of an accident on Dixie Farm Road near the Gulf Freeway. He reportedly fell between 85 and 90 feet from a transmitter tower, which was under construction.
20 years ago (2004)
A 16-year-old male Dobie student was diagnosed with tuberculosis. As a result, the residents approached Councilmember Addie Wiseman to have the street closed. Fire and police authorities were contacted and approved the closure.
Susan Blalock was named principal of the new Morris Fifth Grade Center, the second such campus at PISD. The campus was created as the result of Dobie High School getting a new facility and Beverly Hills Intermediate moving into the previous Dobie campus

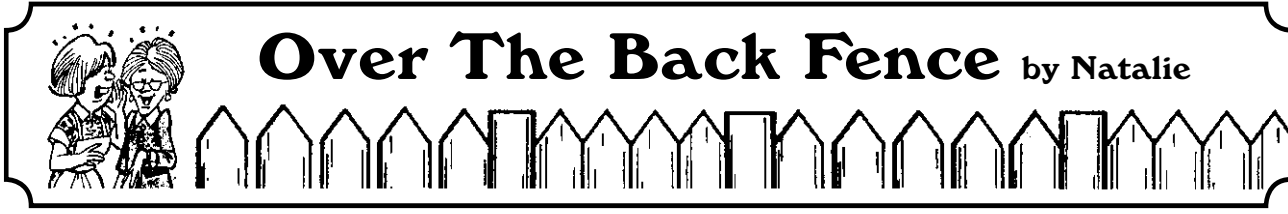
Elementary, was chosen as San Jacinto College regent to replace Dr. Parker Williams who had unexpectedly died.
Kirkwood residents succeeded in getting Kirkglan Street closed at Beltway 8. After numerous incidents of speeding cars and crashes into lawns, the residents approached Councilmember Addie Wiseman to have the street closed. Fire and police authorities were contacted and approved the closure.
Susan Blalock was named principal of the new Morris Fifth Grade Center, the second such campus at PISD. The campus was created as the result of Dobie High School getting a new facility and Beverly Hills Intermediate moving into the previous Dobie campus

after renovation.
Harris County Sheriff's deputies were investigating a reported aggravated robbery at the Jimmy Chang's game room on Scarsdale. Witnesses said two men with stockings over their faces forced their way into the room and broke into several of the eight-liner machines. The gameroom itself was later the subject of a raid by Harris County Vice officers who removed gaming machines and cash.
15 years ago (2009)
Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan held a town hall meeting. Issues discussed at the meeting included the new Bracewell Library, the new Sagemont community center, low-income housing, recycling, NASA funding and road construction on South

Shaver, Hughes Road and Monroe.
The 147th Reconnaissance Wing of the Texas Air National Guard named U.S. Air Force Col. Kenneth Wisian as its new interim commander. Wisian previously served as the commander of the 136th Operations and Airlift group out of Carswell Field, Fort Worth.
Houston police reported that four male suspects kicked in the door of a residence in the 11300 block of Sagevale and identified themselves as police officers. Dressed in all-black tactical gear, the suspects tied up the home's residents as they rummaged the house. One of the victims managed to break free and call 911. The suspects fled as the police arrived. One

of the suspects fired a single gunshot at police, but no one was struck. The suspects left behind an older model Ford Crown Victoria with police lights and a siren mounted on top.
10 years ago (2014)
The state Supreme Court, composed entirely of nine Republican justices, said it would not hear the case of Judge George Risner against the Harris County Republican Party, despite a last-minute appeal from the defendants.
5 years ago (2019)
San Jacinto College opened its new Center for Petrochemical, Energy and Technology. Located on the college's central campus, the new facility will provide workforce training for the area's growing petrochem-

ical industry. With 151,000 square feet of instructional space, the center is the largest petrochemical training facility in the Gulf Coast region. The \$60 million facility was funded by the college's \$425 million 2015 bond referendum.
1 year ago (2023)
Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 12:45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, in the 9000 block of North Jewel Bend near Fuqua and Blackhawk. According to Houston Fire Department officials, the fire was unintentional in nature, stemming from an outdoor grill. The fire caused an estimated \$60,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save approximately \$252,000 in property. No injuries were reported. Firefighters from stations 52, 23, 70, 36, 61 and 29 responded to this incident.



ELLIE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes are sent Thursday, 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** and **Elliana Abarca**, **Isabella** and husband **Sebastian Delgado**; mother- and father-in-law **Marie** and **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. 5 through Sept. 11.
Burnett Elementary
Esmeralda Paredes is sent a birthday greeting Sept. 5.
Frazier Elementary
Light the candles on a cake Sept. 6 for **Jessica Vela**, **Paula Golden** and **Betsy Herrera** enjoy a memorable birthday Sept. 8. Bring out the cake and ice cream on Sept. 9 for **Martha Lerma**, **Juana Huerta** and **Amie Rodriguez**.
Genoa Elementary
Yolanda Aranda enjoys a special birthday Sept. 5. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Sept. 6 to **Lucero Gonzalez**.
Hancock Elementary
Nilda Chavez enjoys a birthday Sept. 5.

Meador Elementary
The day for a party for **Lauren Riojas** is Sept. 8.
Moore Elementary
Sept. 10 is the day for **Maria Molina** to enjoy cake and ice cream.
South Belt Elementary
Share a slice of birthday cake with **Anh Ton** Sept. 5.
Melillo Middle School
Remember to wish **Evelyn Lopez** a happy birthday Sept. 7.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
Break out the balloons and the birthday cake Sept. 10 for **America Mendoza**. Blow out the birthday candles for **Jennifer Ciurca** Sept. 11.
Thompson Intermediate
Birthday greetings go out to **Fallon Lynch** Sept. 5. Share a slice of birthday cake with **Ca-Lishea Woods** Sept. 7. **Christopher** celebrates a birthday Sept. 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. Celebrating a special birthday Sept. 10 is **Mildred Mathews**. Break out the birthday balloons and party favors Sept. 11 for **Shenitra Glosson** and

Larochelle Traylor.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Sept. 5: **London Shelton**, **Stacy McNaughton** and **Cathy Tate**; Friday, Sept. 6: **Coleen Terrell**, **Jennifer Navarro**, **Titus Purdy**, **Robert Evans**, **Jill Lambert**, **Debbie Bennett**, **Christina Gordon**, **Candi Beasley** and **John Evans**; Saturday, Sept. 7: **Gerard Dougherty**, **Shaun Stevenson**, **Shelly Robinson**, **Perla Gonzales**, **Leann Stokes**, **Edna Salinas**, **Angie Hernandez** and **Yvette Rodriguez**; Sunday, Sept. 8: **Scott Carpenter**, **Donna Fress**, **Blades Barber**, **Joy Witt**, **Susan Jackson**, **Deondre Corbin**, **Rick Coates**, **Mike Kickirillo** and **Carl Heinrich**; Monday, Sept. 9: **Sonny Salazar**, **Carolyn Simon**, **Maria Aguilar**, **Jack Staudt**, **Martin Garcia** and **Sarah Joseph**; Tuesday, Sept. 10: **Shellie Ortiz**, **Veronica Adame**, **Robert Resendez**, **Emily Auffarber**, **Suzy Krienitz**, **Diane Hall**, **Christy Cobb** and **Charles Monty**; and Wednesday, Sept. 11: **Kyle Patterson**, **Amber Edwards**, **Sherrie Hosek-Vandament**, **Phillip Ford** and **Dan Sciba**.
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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Explosive plays define Longhorns' 53-28 win over Wolverines

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Getting a pair of explosive plays for touchdowns barely a half minute into the game, Team 56, otherwise known as the Dobie varsity football squad, went on to defeat the Clear Brook Wolverines 53-28 in the 2024 regular season opener for both programs Aug. 29 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Dobie tennis hosting Remembering Ike 14

The Dobie High School team tennis program will present its 14th annual Remembering Ike Invitational as 16 schools from across the region will compete Sept. 6-7 at several locations.

Toner places seventh; leads Pioneer runners

Junior Reid Toner led the way for the Lutheran South Academy varsity boys' cross-country program at the Cooper Drag-on Invitational at Burroughs Park in Tomball, capturing seventh place overall in the Division I Elite two-mile race, posting a time of 9 minutes, 54.68 seconds.

horns. Following the ensuing kickoff to the Wolverines, linebacker Michael Williams returned a fumble 15 yards for a touchdown on Clear Brook's first offensive snap of the season for a 12-0 lead just 32 seconds into the game.

It was a memorable start for Danny Fitzmorris in his head coaching debut with Dobie, and also quickly showed just how quickly these Longhorns can change the scoreboard.

Remembering Ike 14

Atascocita, host Dobie, Clear Creek, Clear Falls, Clear Springs, Dickinson, Fort Bend Austin, Friendswood, Galveston Ball, George Ranch, La Porte, Nederland, Pearland, Ridge Point, Texas City and Willis.

Remembering Ike 14

The Burnt Orange division includes George Ranch at Clear Creek, Atascocita at Clear Springs, Dobie at Friendswood and Nederland at Clear Falls.

after the first 32 seconds, I thought this stuff (being a head coach) was pretty easy," Fitzmorris joked.

"The guys made some big plays early on to get us out of the gate quickly. It's always great to make some big plays early to get some momentum going."

Clear Brook, which has now dropped three straight in the series against the Longhorns, showed how they can score in a hurry,

too. In the third quarter after trailing 40-7 at half-time, the Wolverines out-scored Dobie 21-7.

Clear Brook starting quarterback Jayden Dansby, whose fumble led to that quick defensive score for the Longhorns in the opening minute, brought his team back from that early 12-0 deficit with a 70-yard touchdown run at the 10:25 mark of the first quarter.

But just like that, the Longhorns struck on their first offensive play of the season as star tailback Cameron Mathews burst his way through the middle of the Wolverine defense

for a 75-yard touchdown dash as the scoreboard lit up yet again.

Following the conversion kick from Martin Ramos, the Longhorns led 19-7 at 10:13 of the first quarter.

A holding call with just over five minutes to go in the opening quarter negated what would have been a 49-yard scoring run for Clear Brook's Ja'Darrell Brooks.

Instead, the Wolverines punted and the Longhorns proceeded to go on an 80-yard scoring march, capped by junior De'Marcus Hodges' 6-yard touchdown run with 12 seconds to go in the first quarter.

After 12 minutes of big plays on both sides, the Longhorns found themselves up 26-7 heading into the second quarter.

Mathews weaved his way through the Wolverine defense en route to a 31-yard touchdown run as he lifted the Longhorns to a 33-7 lead early in the second quarter.

The scoreboard remained the same until Mathews, the 22-6A Most Valuable Player a season ago, went 90 yards with just over a minute to go to score his third touchdown of the half and lift the Longhorns to a 40-7 lead at the break.

Mathews played in the first half and did not return after the intermission. The senior went for 223 yards on just eight totes.

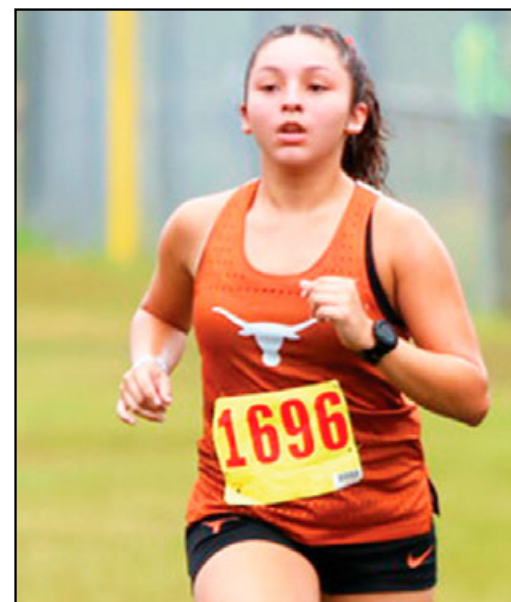
Fitzmorris praised both Mathews' tremendous ability and leadership as a team co-captain after the opener.

"Cameron Mathews is a tremendous football player, and we are very happy to have him leading our program," Fitzmorris said.

The pace of play was a bit slower in the final 24 minutes.

Dansby threw a touchdown pass to Jerick Ervin in the second half for the Wolverines, with Dansby completing 10 of 20 passes for 204 yards. Jayden Price had four catches for 113 yards and a score.

Continued on Page 6



Previously a Pasadena ISD record holder at both the seventh- and eighth-grade levels while at Beverly Hills Intermediate, Dobie freshman Cruz Jasso has already shown that he can compete very well at the varsity level. His second-place finish at the Goehring Invitational Aug. 30 helped lead the Longhorns to the team championship.

Lauren Garza collected plenty of medals during a 2023 season in which she became the first Dobie girls' runner in many years to qualify for the state cross-country meet, and she was impressive at the Goehring Invitational Aug. 30, finishing second overall.

JFD runners excel at Goehring invite

Dobie freshman Cruz Jasso emphatically announced his arrival on the varsity division cross-country scene Aug. 30, finishing second overall while leading the Longhorns to the team championship at South Houston High School's annual Charlie Goehring Invitational.

Crenshaw Park in Pasadena, very often the home of Pasadena ISD intermediate division cross-country races, Jasso completed the Goehring 5,000-meter course at 16 minutes, 25.40 seconds for the individual silver medal.

qualifying finishers with in the top eight places and the other two in the top 18, Dobie walked away with its first team championship in several years.

In the varsity girls' 5,000-meter event, Dobie star Lauren Garza was second overall in a time of 19:26.83 as she paced the Longhorns to a fourth-place team finish.

CCISD's Crawford is a hall of famer



Pamela Crawford, the former longtime varsity girls' basketball head coach at both Clear Brook and Clear Springs high schools, will be inducted into the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame as part of its Class of 2025. For more about Crawford and her achievements as part of a brilliant 37-year career, see Page 8.

BHI Community Day

The Beverly Hills Intermediate athletic department is finalizing plans for its preseason activities involving the South Belt community.

The Bears' athletic department has shifted the date for the annual Beverly Hills Intermediate Community Day, which this year will be held Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The school's football and volleyball programs will both be involved with scrimmage action during the day as the community is invited to come out and see what the Bears have in store for the school year.

On the field, the Bears' seventh-grade teams will scrimmage from 9 to 9:45 a.m., followed by eighth-grade scrimmage action from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

As for the Bears' volleyball teams, the seventh-grade groups will scrimmage from 10 to 10:45 a.m., followed by the eighth-grade action from noon to 12:45 p.m.

During the Community Day, Bears' fans will have a chance to purchase a variety of team apparel items, including spirit shirts, backpacks, bucket hats and more. Concessions will be available during the event via cash-only purchase.

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Chris Lopez, the veteran of the Dobie crew and a regional meet contender, was seventh overall at 16 minutes, 49.72 seconds.








Freshman Jordan Roman has been impressive as to begin his high school career, placing ninth overall at the Goehring event in a time of 16 minutes, 58.92 seconds.

Dobie boys' cross-country wins

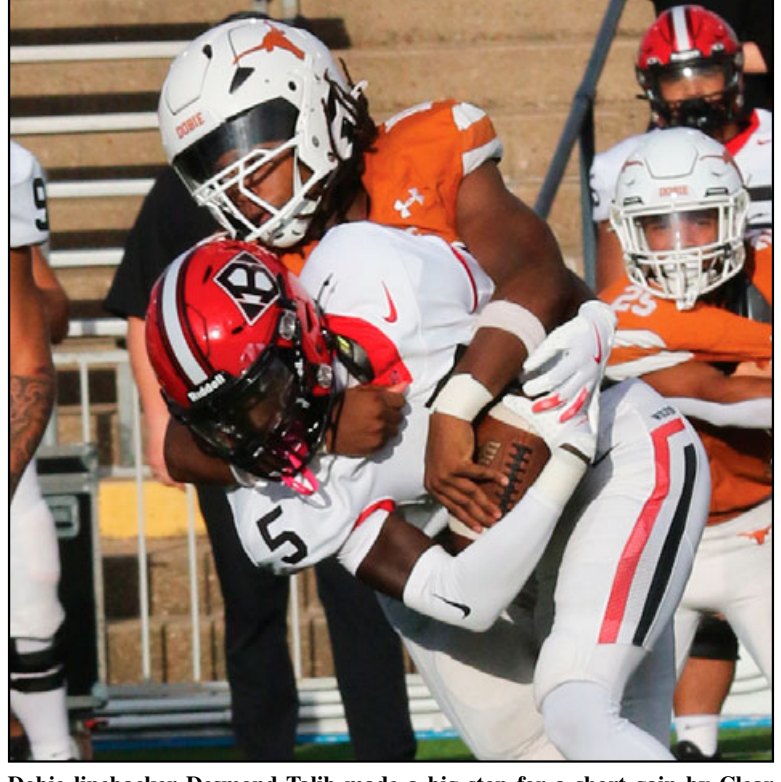
Continued from Page 5
 Jasso, who set Pasadena ISD records at both the seventh and eighth grade levels while a student at Beverly Hills Intermediate, has already shown that he has what it takes to do great things at the high school level.
 Chris Lopez, the veteran of the Dobie crew and a standout in his own right, was seventh overall at 16:49.72.
 Freshman Jordan Roman has been impressive as well to begin his high school career, placing ninth overall at the Goehring event in a time of 16:58.92.
 The Longhorns' other qualifiers included junior Johan Villavicencio, 14th at 17:41.07, and senior Carlos Salazar, who was 20th overall at 17:53.65.
Lauren G. rolls
 Time will tell what Lauren Garza does for an encore during her final season after reaching state in 2023, but she is also out of the gate quickly after a terrific run at Crenshaw Park.
 Behind Garza, Dobie's Leyla Martinez, also a senior, was 17th overall in a time of 22:14.38.
 A time of 23:54.10 placed Longhorn junior Isaura Correa 38th, and senior Mariah Medina earned 46th place for a time of 24:09.61.
 Dobie's fifth official qualifier was freshman Destiny Sidiropoulos, who was 56th in a time of 24:47.

South Belt football predictions

	 John Bechtle	 Emory Gadd	 Troy Leland	 Stephen Sutton	 Debbie Vaughn
Dobie at Klein	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Atascocita at Katy	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita
LaPorte at Kingwood	La Porte	Kingwood	Kingwood	La Porte	Kingwood
Dickinson at CE King	Dickinson	Dickinson	CE King	Dickinson	Dickinson
Clear Brook at Aldine Eisenhower	Clear Brook	Eisenhower	Eisenhower	Eisenhower	Eisenhower
George Ranch at Clear Falls	Clear Falls	George Ranch	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls
Deer Park at The Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands
Pasadena vs Sam Rayburn	Rayburn	Rayburn	Pasadena	Rayburn	Pasadena
North Shore at Crowley	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore
Lutheran South at Hyde Park Baptist	Hyde Park Baptist	Hyde Park Baptist	Lutheran South	Lutheran South	Lutheran South
Last Week's Results	7-3	6-4	8-2	5-5	9-1
Season record	7-3	6-4	8-2	5-5	9-1

Big first half carries Longhorns past Clear Brook

Continued from Page 5
 Hodges scored his second touchdown of the game on a 39-yard scamper as Dobie led 46-21. Hodges had 116 yards rushing on 12 carries in the game.
 Later in the game, Dansby went eight yards for a Wolverine touchdown with just over 5 minutes to play.
 Dobie connected for a touchdown through the air with 37 seconds to play as quarterback Will Joiner III found receiver James Spivey just inside the end zone for a 20-yard score. The Longhorns rushed for 432 yards in the game.
 There will be things to clean up for the Longhorns heading into week two at Klein and beyond. Dobie allowed 205 yards rushing and 210 more through the air.
 As is usually the case to open any season, there were ups and downs in the conversion game, and the Longhorns probably would have liked to have performed better as it relates to run defense.
 Still, the final score shows that the Longhorns truly have the ability to put together something special.
 "Demarcus Hodges also had some big runs for us," Fitzmorris said. "We did an outstanding job in the run game, but we can always do a better job. It was a great start for our group, and we look forward to building upon that next week against a very good Klein team."
 "Defensively, it's about maintaining gap integrity. We had some guys trying to help other guys with their jobs, which left us out of position on some plays."
 "But we also have to give Clear Brook credit. They did a great job of running the football and coming back. They outscored us in the third quarter and really made a game of it. I thought Clear Brook had the best group that I've seen from them in three seasons. We certainly wish them the best moving forward."
Debut complete
 A Dobie graduate and standout defensive player in the late 90s with the Longhorns, Fitzmorris is the first Dobie alum in program history to return as head coach. His parents, Mary Beth and Tom Fitzmorris are both deceased but were on his mind as Fitzmorris returned to the sideline at Veterans Stadium.
 "I thought about my mother during the game," Fitzmorris said. "It was actually her birthday (Aug. 29). I know her and my dad would have loved to have been there watching us compete out there on the field in my first game as head coach."
 "All of the credit goes to the kids and my great staff that we put together. It was great to get out of the gate with a win, and we know we can do so much more."
 "We're looking forward to getting after it against Klein and just getting better every day."



Dobie linebacker Desmond Talib made a big stop for a short gain by Clear Brook's Ja'Darrell Brooks (5) in the first half of the Longhorns' season-opening win Aug. 29 at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium, but the Wolverines otherwise had plenty of success in the ground game.
 Photos by David Flickinger



The Longhorns' Demarcus Hodges (21) had a 6-yard scoring run in the first half in an eventual 53-28 win over Clear Brook, including corners Thurston Roberson (7) and Jaiden Nation (10). Hodges rushed for more than 100 yards in the victory.

Sagemont Cowboys' organization celebrates former players during varsity football opening weekend



Dobie senior defensive lineman Hunter Stacey, (left), is shown with his brother, Luke Stacy, following the Longhorns' big victory over Clear Brook Aug. 29 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Stacy brothers are both former long-time members of the Sagemont Cowboys youth football organization. The Cowboys celebrated the appearance of many of their former players at the game. Dobie's football program is now led by first-year head coach Danny Fitzmorris, a former Cowboy player himself.



Members of the Sagemont Cowboys' program were in attendance to support former longtime Cowboys' player Danny Fitzmorris (third from left) as he debuted as Dobie's varsity football head coach Aug. 29 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Longhorns got out to a fast start and went on to defeat Clear Brook 53-28, and the Fitzmorris family, including Fitzmorris' wife, Jessica; daughter, Ella; and son, Thomas celebrated after the game.



Former Cowboys' standouts Bobby Beynaerts (left) and his nephew, Jordan Hernandez, met postgame after their Pearland Oilers' varsity football team lost a tough one to Fulshear Aug. 30 at The Rig. Beynaerts, now the Oilers' defensive coordinator, is a Dobie graduate. Hernandez starred at Thompson Intermediate in both football and track and field and is now a junior at Pearland, where he has also been a member of two state-qualifying baseball programs with the Oilers.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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.

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

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

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

Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.

Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - A ballroom dance group welcomes visitors every Wednesday to enjoy free dancing from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to enjoy dancing to a selection of CD music provided by DJ Neva Schroder and guest DJ's. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, one may ask at the front desk or call 281-554-1180.

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

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

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 25

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.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners**. See Thursday's noon notice.

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

5 p.m. **New Directions Singles** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.

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Crawford named to Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame class

The Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame announced Aug. 14 that it will grow by eight with the addition of the Class of 2025.

The incoming group of inductees is comprised of four coaches and four standout players who are being recognized for their achievements on the court and their overall influence on the game of basketball in the Lone Star State.

The new members will be inducted at a banquet

May 10, 2025, at the Hilton San Antonio Airport Hotel during the annual Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Clinic.

The coaching inductees are Tommy Aldridge, former longtime Clear Brook and Clear Springs varsity girls' basketball head coach Pamela Crawford, Stan Leech and Danny Nix. The players include Krista Gerlich, Greg Kite, Darryn Shearmire and LaQuan Stallworth.

"Excellence is the best

word to describe the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025," said TABC Executive Director Johnnie B. "Hawk" Carter.

"These eight men and women have left a lasting legacy on the high school hardwood with their victories, records and honors.

"They have also been a great off-the-court ambassadors for basketball both within and outside the state of Texas."

The *Leader* caught up

with Crawford, who has remained within Clear Creek ISD as a substitute instructor, about her career and Hall of Fame induction.

Before she played such a key role in the development of generations of young student athletes both on and off the court, Crawford herself was a star basketball player at the legendary Deridder High School in Deridder, La., where she attended from 1975-1976 through

1978-1979.

As a freshman at Deridder, Crawford was part of the school's 1976 girls' state championship basketball squad and went on to become a district Most Valuable Player by her senior season.

Collegiately, Crawford played at Stephen F. Austin University under the guidance of Sue Gunter, who coached with the 1980 Team USA women's Olympic basketball squad. Crawford also played at Louisiana Tech University, where the team made the NCAA Final Four in Los Angeles in 1984.

Yet even as she graduated college, Crawford didn't really know what she wanted to do professionally. She says she caught the coaching bug after she helped with some summer camps, and at that point felt like she could make a difference.

After a stop at Nacogdoches High School to begin her career, Crawford was a junior varsity coach at Crosby High School and then eventually led the Cougars to the state tournament in 1996 as head coach.

A friend told Crawford about the opening at Clear Brook High School, a job she admits she never thought she would get, and the rest is history.

In total, Crawford coached for 37 years and put together an exceptionally impressive resume.

The wins and losses over the years perhaps blend into the fabric in time, but there's little doubt that Crawford positively affected the lives of generations of players both on and off the court throughout her career.

"When I was younger, I never considered the impression that I was making in other people's lives, but it's easier to look at things when it's all said and done and realize that maybe you did some good things," Crawford said.

"Brooke McCarty, one of my former players at Clear Springs, recently received an award here in town.

"In her acceptance speech, she used one of the important quotes that I always used with the players.

"It was a pretty special moment to realize the difference that you've made with your players. You don't always see it at the time, but players come back and tell you or they show you through their experiences that you did something good in their life. That's something to certainly be proud of."

Crawford spoke of the tough decision she had to make when it came time to leave Clear Brook for the opportunity to start from scratch at Clear Springs.

She said that she was concerned about leaving players behind, then quickly realized that players in reality always leave from year to year.

She proceeded to have an incredible run with the Chargers at Clear Springs, and finally realized two seasons ago that it was time to transition.

"37 years is a long time," Crawford said. "I realized that I wasn't able to give 110 percent anymore, and that if I couldn't do that, it was time to let somebody else take over."

The awards season has since begun in Crawford's life. "Still, she was surprised to get the call from the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

"What a tremendous honor," Crawford said. "I guess when you're doing it, you don't really realize what you were able to do in your profession. Yet upon retirement, you have the chance to stand back and look at some of the things you've done.

"I still give credit to all of the players, the coaches, the wonderful administrators that I worked for and the support that I always had from year to year.

"It was a great run, and it's truly nice to be recognized within your profession. I'm very thankful

to the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame committee, and I look forward to joining such a special group of legends. It's something to be proud of."

The Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 includes:

Coach Tommy Aldridge – Tommy Aldridge coached at Longview High School for 32 years and Union Grove High School for three. As a head coach, he won 977 games while losing only 213.

At Longview, Aldridge won 25 district championships, made 16 regional tournament appearances and reached three State Tournaments.

His 1984 team finished 39-0 and won the state championship.

During his career, he won 30 games or more 19 times. His record at Union Grove was 69-33.

In his 35 years as a varsity head coach, Aldridge never had a losing record and only failed twice to

make the state playoffs while at Longview.

Coach Pamela Crawford – Pamela Crawford amassed a 711-268 record during her career as a head coach, with stints at Crosby, Clear Brook and Clear Springs high schools.

She made two state tournament appearances in 1996 with Crosby and in 2013 with Clear Springs. Crawford was named Coach of the Year in 1996 at Crosby and in 2001 at Clear Brook, and she received Coach of the Year honors at Clear Springs in 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021.

Crawford also received numerous other coaching awards from the Houston area and coached in the TABC and Texas Girls Coaches Association All-Star games.

Krista Gerlich, player – Krista Gerlich was a three-time All-State basketball player while attending Sudan and Spear-

man high schools. She won a state championship in basketball in 1987, and helped Spearman win a state championship in cross-country in 1988.

She was also a four-year All-State runner and medaled at the 1989 State Track Meet in the 1,600 meter run.

Gerlich went on to play basketball for Texas Tech and helped guide her team to the 1993 NCAA championship.

Many of her records still stand at Texas Tech, where her jersey was retired in 1993. She is currently the head coach of the Lady Raiders.

Greg Kite, player – Greg Kite played at Houston Madison High School, garnering All-State, a Parade Magazine All-American and a McDonalds All-American honors.

At Madison, he led his team to the state semifinals. Collegiately, Kite attended Brigham Young University, where he be-

came an All-Conference player and an Academic All-American, helping BYU reach the NCAA tournament Elite Eight.

He then went on to the NBA, when the Boston Celtics made him the 21st pick in the first round. He was a member of Boston's 1984 and 1986 NBA championship teams.

Kite played with six other teams during his 11-year NBA career and now works in wealth management and financial services.

Coach Stan Leech – Stan Leech, a Brownfield native and Tarleton State University graduate, coached for 34 years with stops in Yorktown, Boerne and Boerne Champion high schools.

His teams won 833 games, 12 district championships and made 27 playoff appearances, including two state tournament berths in 1990 and 2008. Leech was also selected to the UIL Top 100 Coaches list.

Leech served as TABC Camp of Champs director, and is currently in his 25th year as the Boerne ISD director of athletics.

Coach Danny Nix – Danny Nix graduated from Burkburnett High School in 1973 and returned to his alma mater in 1978 to coach. Nix coached at Burkburnett for 43 years, with 40 of those years as the head coach and 26 years as the athletic director.

He compiled a record of 866-406 while collecting 49 postseason wins. Nix won 19 district championships, had 11 second-place district finishes, made 11 regional semifinals and was the 4A state runner-up in 2008 and 2011.

Nix was selected as the 2011 NFHS Texas HS Coach of the Year, named to the UIL top 100 Coaches list, ranks 34th nationally in all-time national wins at one high school and has the third-most wins at one high school in UIL.

Darryn Shearmire, player – Darryn Shearmire played for Archer City High School from 1979-1982, where he helped lead Archer City to three straight undefeated district titles and two state tournament appearances.

He had a combined high school record of 116-23 and scored 2,600 points. Shearmire was the leading scorer in high school in 1982 with a 37 points per game – at a time in which there was no three-point line.

Shearmire was an All-State player in 1981 and 1982, and an All-Tournament selection in 1981.

He went on to play college basketball at Abilene Christian before enjoying a 39-year career as a basketball coach on the prep and collegiate levels.

He is currently the head coach of the girls' basketball team at Bridgeport High School.

LaQuan Stallworth, player – LaQuan Stallworth played at Silsbee High School from 1991 to 1995. She was the district Newcomer of the Year in 1991 and was named all district and the district Most Valuable Player all four years.

She made two State Tournament appearances in 1994 and 1995 and was an All-State Player all four years and an All-Tournament player for two.

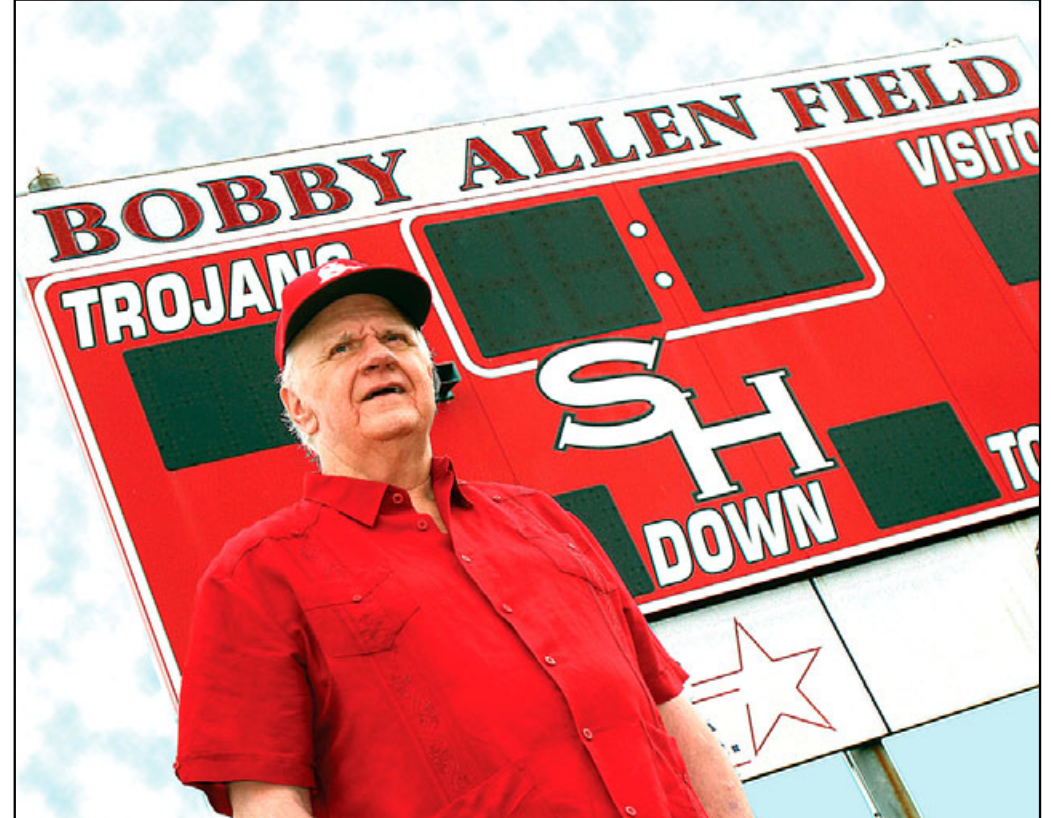
Stallworth was named the Texas Female Player of the Year in 1995. She scored more than 3,000 points and is on Silsbee's Wall of Fame.

Stallworth's high school jersey was retired in 1995.

She played collegiately at Louisiana Tech, where she received many honors and awards, while helping the Lady Techsters reach two Final Fours and make an Elite Eight appearance.

She played internationally and for the Houston Comets.

For more information about the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame Banquet or the TABC Clinic, visit www.tabcops.org or call 281-313-8222.



Bobby Allen was an original South Houston Hall of Honor inductee in 2011. He is also a member of the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame and the Texas Tech Athletics Hall of Fame. The South Houston High School Alumni Association will soon honor Allen as the recipient of the 2024 David M. Ainsworth Alumni Spirit Award.



Trojan great Allen gets Ainsworth award

By Al Carter

Sixty years ago, Bobby Allen stood on the sideline with his South Houston High School teammates wondering if anyone standing near him even knew his name. Allen may have had a point about his name. But he did have a number.

On his football jersey – No. 21.

And it changed his life.

A sudden call to replace an injured player led to a Cinderella finish for Allen's senior season, a scholarship opportunity to play college football at Texas Tech and a level of personal motivation that led to a successful business career.

Through it all, Allen never forgot where it started. And he's never been reluctant to give something back.

"If it will help South Houston High School," Allen says, "I'm glad to do it."

Recognizing his generosity to the school over the years, the South Houston High School Alumni Association is pleased to honor Allen as the recipient of the 2024 David M. Ainsworth Alumni Spirit Award.

The award is presented annually to a South Houston alumnus who has made significant contributions to the goals of the Alumni Association.

Allen, a 1965 South Houston graduate and the school's first all-state football player, has provided funding for a variety of programs and initiatives over the years, including the football team.

Of special interest to Trojan alumni, Allen provided the funding necessary to establish the Hall of History – the South Houston campus museum – which opened in 2016.

A display in the museum

honors Allen for his support of the project.

"It's safe to say that without Bobby Allen, we wouldn't have a campus museum," said Al Carter, a member of the Alumni Association board.

Allen will be honored during a campus ceremony at homecoming on Sept. 20. All alumni and interested guests are invited to participate in the school's open house activities that day.

The school will open to visitors at 9 a.m. The museum will be open throughout the day with tours scheduled of both the museum and the school.

Three other alumni and two former faculty members will be inducted into the school's Hall of Honor during a luncheon ceremony in the Reinartz Center on campus.

Allen was an original Hall of Honor inductee in 2011. He is also a member of the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame and the Texas Tech Athletics Hall of Fame.

Allen played subsvarsity football at South Houston until his senior season in 1964. His status was such that his name wasn't even included among the Trojan starters in the football program.

Then, early in the season, the Trojans' starting halfback went out with an injury. Harry Morgan, South Houston's coach, scanned the bench in search of a replacement.

He spotted a jersey that matched the position (No. 21) and waved the occupant – Bobby Allen – into the game.

Allen promptly ran onto the field — and straight into the lexicon of state football

fans.

He rushed for 1,084 yards on only 170 carries that season — finishing only 55 yards behind Spring Branch rushing star Chris Gilbert, who went on to earn All-America fame at Texas.

Following the season, Allen was named a first-team all-state player, the first in South Houston history.

Recruited by nearly four dozen schools, he signed with Tech. Switched to wide receiver, Allen led the Red Raiders in receiving in 1968. After graduation, he developed a wide array of business interests, most notably in the production of concrete construction materials.

"For me, football was the start of where reality kicked in," Allen says.

"It taught me to do what I was supposed to be doing in my life. It gave me the opportunity to look at the whole picture of things and to take the right direction. My direction now has been to help younger people wherever I could."

His contributions to South Houston over the years amount to tens of thousands of dollars.

Former players still recall his motivational speeches almost as a part of the school's football tradition. The main practice field at the school is named in his honor.

The Ainsworth Award is named after its first recipient, David Ainsworth, a member of the Class of 1968 who helped build and strengthen social media connections for his class and other South Houston alumni until he succumbed to cancer in 2013.



A star high school player at Deridder High School in Louisiana, Pamela Crawford went on to enjoy a 37-year head coaching career, as she spent the majority of those years at Clear Brook and Clear Springs high schools as the varsity girls' basketball head coach. With more than 700 career victories, Crawford has earned induction into the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame. She will be inducted as part of the class of 2025 next May.



Pamela Crawford dedicated her professional life to education and basketball, leading wildly successful programs at Clear Brook and Clear Springs as part of a career that delivered more than 700 wins.

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