

South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976



The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 50, No. 15

Leader seeks submissions

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* encourages local schools, groups and individuals to continue sending story ideas and photos they'd like to see included in the newspaper. Submissions have declined following the death of *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger in November. Contributions may be submitted to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Sageglen to meet May 19

Sageglen Community Association will hold a homeowner meeting Monday, May 19, at the Sageglen Community Building, 11610 Sageyork, beginning at 7 p.m. Sgt. Frank Ponce from the Precinct 2 constable's office and Sgt. Jimmy De Los Santos from the 7 Marines Honor Detail will serve as guest speakers at the event. All Sageglen residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 281-481-2160.

Additionally, any Sageglen resident interested in running for a position on the board or directors or the Architectural Control Committee should contact the Sageglen office at 281-481-2160 and let them know. Two positions on the board and one position on the ACC are up for election.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Grace to hold 5K run/walk

Grace Church will host its Run His Way 5K run/walk Saturday, May 17, at Clear Brook City Park, 11911 Blackhawk near Scarsdale, beginning at 8 a.m. The run will support Grace's summer youth camp. Cost is \$14.99 for youths (12 and under) and \$29.99 for adults (13+ years). The post-race celebration will feature food trucks and music. To register for the 5K run/walk, visit brushfire.com/gracechurch-houston-espanol/https-www.facebook.com-gracecepanolhouston/603329.

Sagemeadow meets May 15

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month. For meeting agenda, guest speaker or other additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

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 nightly 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.

Beltway closures planned

One outside lane of the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Beamer to Hughes Road/Sabo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays through Wednesday, Sept. 3.

One outside lane of the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Red Bluff in Pasadena continuously through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

One inside lane of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Greenshadow to Red Bluff in Pasadena continuously through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

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

Hughes/Sabo closures set

At least one southbound lane on Hughes/Sabo will be closed continuously at Beltway 8 until further notice. Westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads may also be intermittently closed at Hughes/Sabo until further notice. The closure is associated with an ongoing Houston Public Works project to replace a force water main at the intersection.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, May 10, 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.

Local school board election results tallied

PISD incumbents undefeated; San Jac contest heads to June 7 runoff

The local May 3 school board election results have been tabulated, with the vast majority of incumbents maintaining their positions.

In the Pasadena ISD election, all four incumbents handily won their respective races.

In the three-candidate race for the Position 1 seat, incumbent Paola Gonzalez defeated challengers Mary Davis and Maria Castillo. Gonzalez received 45 percent of the vote, while Davis received 36 percent and Castillo received 19 percent.

Position 2 incumbent Crystal Davila defeated challenger Tammie Nielsen, receiving 58 percent of the vote to her opponent's 42 percent.

In the Position 3 contest, incumbent Nelda Sullivan bested challenger Fina Govea, receiving

67 percent of the vote to Govea's 33 percent.

In the Position 4 contest, incumbent Casey Phelan easily defeated challenger Yen Rabe, receiving 67 percent of the vote to her 33 percent.

All positions are at large. Terms are four years each.

The Clear Creek ISD elections were split, with one incumbent winning and another being defeated.

District 1 incumbent Jessica Cejka handily defeated challenger Joe Macho, receiving 76 percent of the vote to her opponent's 24 percent.

In the Clear Creek ISD race for the At-Large Position B seat, incumbent Scott Bowen was defeated by challenger Rebecca Lilley. Lilley received 54 percent of the vote to Bowen's 46 per-

cent.

Terms are three years each.

In the San Jacinto College elections, one race was claimed by an incumbent, with the second contest now headed to a June runoff.

Position 4 incumbent Larry Wilson easily defeated challenger Oscar Del Toro, receiving 61 percent of the vote to his opponent's 39 percent.

In the crowded race to fill the Position 3 seat vacated by *Leader* co-founder Marie Flickinger shortly before her death last year, incumbent Sal-

vador Serrano Jr. – who had been appointed interim trustee – will face opponent Judy Harrison in a June 7 runoff.

According to the unofficial results posted by Harris County, Serrano received 41.4 percent of the vote (3,774 votes) to Harrison's 41.1 percent (3,752 votes). Challengers Mariel Jimenez and Frank Ortiz received 9 percent and 8 percent of the vote, respectively.

Terms are six years each. To view the complete May 3 election results, visit www.harrisvotes.org.

Thefts continue at local Target stores

Police: Thefts daily at Baybrook, Pearland Parkway stores

Thefts from local Target stores – some being very large scale in nature – continue to take place nearly daily at the Pearland Parkway and Baybrook Mall locations, according to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office.

"We have at least one per day from one of the stores, if not both of the stores," said Precinct 2 Sgt. Frank Ponce. "And sometimes, we receive multiple calls per day from them."

The most recent reported arrest took place at the Target located on Beltway 8 at Pearland Parkway/Monroe. According to Precinct 2 officials, three women were observed by Target Loss Prevention officers to be stuffing merchandise inside their purses before attempting to exit the store without paying. Karina Garza, Briana Pizana and Alyssa Fernandez were all charged with shoplifting.

Store officials estimated the value of the stolen merchandise from this latest arrest at approximately \$185 – a relatively small figure compared to some other recent thefts from the area stores.

On Monday, Feb. 17, Precinct 2 deputies responded to an incident at the Beltway 8 store, in which suspects Mya Johnson and Daniah King were arrested and charged with stealing around \$1,200 in merchandise.

Last November, Precinct 2 deputies arrested four suspects in two separate incidents over a two-day span, alleging they had stolen approximately \$7,000 worth of merchandise from two local Target retail stores (the Pearland Parkway store and the Baybrook store).

On Monday, Nov. 11, deputies arrested a husband-wife team at the Pearland Parkway location, accused of stealing nearly \$4,000 worth of merchandise from the store.

Identified as Derrick Blake and Adriana Williams, the pair were taken into custody and each charged with felony theft > \$2,500 < \$30,000.

The following day on Tuesday, Nov. 12, Precinct 2 deputies responded to a similar call at the Baybrook Target, where Kanika Williams and Cierra Collins were accused of stealing more than \$3,000 worth of merchandise (over the course of three visits to the store).

Both suspects were arrested on felony charges. Collins was charged with aggravated theft, while Williams was charged with aggravated theft and fleeing in a motor vehicle, after she attempted to evade arrest.

Dobie aids in annual cleanup



The third annual South Belt Cleanup, held Saturday, May 3, was a huge success, with hundreds of volunteers cleaning roughly 6.25-square miles of local roadways. Organized by Knights of Columbus Council 9201 and the Sagemont Civic Club, the cleanup attracted more than a dozen of additional partners and sponsors. Football players from Dobie and Beverly Hills Intermediate shown above taking part in the event are, left to right, Noel Rodriguez, Terrance Goldwire, David Agyemang, Dobie Coach Daniel Fitzmorris, Giovanni Gonzalez (BHI) and Lucas Cruz (BHI). See next week's *Leader* for additional photos.

TEA releases 2023 accountability ratings

Release delayed due to litigation; Pasadena ISD, CCISD both earn Bs

Following a 19-month delay, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) recently released its 2023 A-F accountability ratings for school districts and campuses across the state, with both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD earning a grade of B.

The results, from the 2022-2023 academic year, were delayed due to a lawsuit between the state and more than 100 school districts after changes to the accountability rating system by TEA. Last month, the state's 15th Court of Appeals overturned this injunction, which allowing the TEA to release the A-F grades for public and charter schools.

The TEA, however, remains prevented from sharing more recent school ratings from the 2023-24 school year due to a separate, ongoing lawsuit. School performance ratings from the 2024-25 school year are scheduled to be issued in August 2025.

"For far too long, families, educators and communities have been denied access to information about the performance of their schools, thanks to frivolous lawsuits paid for by tax dollars filed by those who disagreed with the statutory goal of raising career readiness expectations to help students," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. "Every Texas family deserves a clear view of school performance, and now those families finally have access to data they should have received two years ago. Transparency drives progress, and when that transparency is blocked, students pay the price."

A-F ratings were first issued for Texas public school systems in 2018, and the rating methodology had been largely unchanged since that time. For this set of ratings from the 2022-23 school year, the methods of calculating A-F scores were updated to more accurately reflect performance, as part of a previously communicated system refresh. To provide an apples-to-apples comparison between 2022 and 2023 A-F ratings, TEA also published "What If" overall scale scores and ratings for 2022 using the refreshed system. These ratings do not replace the final 2022 A-F ratings but are intended to provide a clear picture for school systems to support self-evaluation and improvement planning.

Across the state, the TEA's breakdown in grades is as follows:

- 40 percent of districts earned a B.
- 32 percent scored a C.
- 14 percent received a D.
- 3 percent received an F.

The A-F accountability system was established in 2017 by the 85th Texas Legislature through House Bill 22 to provide clear and consistent information on how schools are performing in three key areas: Student Achievement, School Progress and Closing the Gaps. Designed to drive continuous improvement, the A-F system helps ensure that all students, regardless of background, have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success after graduation. A-F ratings help educators and school systems celebrate successes and focus support where it is needed most.

Despite the system's intent for annual transparency, for the past five years, families have gone without a complete set of ratings. No ratings were issued for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and while ratings were released in 2022, the ratings were heavily impacted by pandemic-related learning disruptions and a state law that prevented D and F ratings from being issued that year. Legal challenges then delayed the release of ratings for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

"The release of 2023 ratings give families a much-needed and long-overdue opportunity to understand how their schools are serving students," a statement on the TEA website reads. "The ratings also give districts valuable insights to strengthen instruction, close achievement gaps and support continuous improvement."

To view the TEA's complete 2023 A-F ratings for school districts and campuses, visit TX-schools.gov.

Pasadena ISD

Pasadena ISD received an overall score of 81 (B) from the TEA.

The grades for Pasadena ISD's high schools are as follows:

- Dobie: B.
- South Houston: D.
- Memorial: B.
- Rayburn: C.
- Pasadena: B.
- Lewis Career and Technical: A.

Grades for other campuses located in the South Belt area are as follows (in alphabetical order):

- Atkinson Elementary: C.
- Beverly Hills Intermediate: B.
- Burnett Elementary: C.
- Frazier Elementary: B.
- Roberts Middle School: C.
- Garfield Elementary: C.
- Genoa Elementary: C.
- Jessup Elementary: C.
- Bush Elementary: B.
- Meador Elementary: C.
- Melillo Middle School: B.
- Moore Elementary: B.
- Morris Middle School: B.
- South Belt Elementary: B.

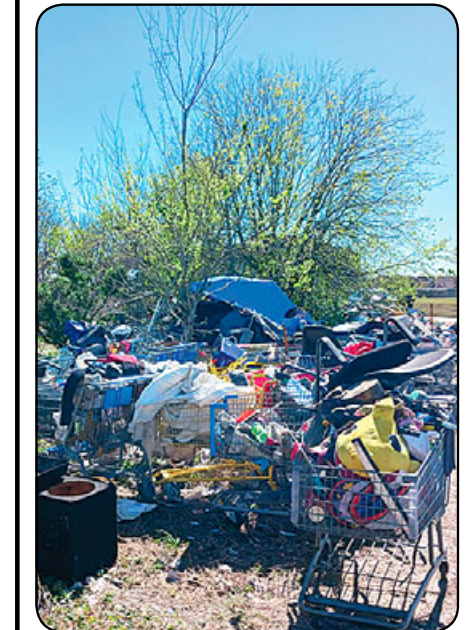
- Stuchbery Elementary: C.
- Thompson Intermediate: B.

Pasadena ISD released the following statement regarding the TEA's revised grading system:

"The Texas Education Agency released A-F accountability ratings based on performance data for the 2022-2023 school year, and we wanted parents and the community to understand that the quality of education at Pasadena ISD continues to improve. A huge shift in the Texas Education Agency's accountability ratings formula for 2023 can give the perception that districts

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Pct. 2 clears encampment



A homeless outreach team from Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office recently cleared an encampment in the 11200 block of the Gulf Freeway between Almeda Genoa and Clearwood. The cleanup was a joint effort with the Houston Police Department's Differential Response Team (DRT). Nearby Big Star Honda also helped facilitate the cleanup effort. Beyond the clearing of debris, Garcia said his office is focused on long-term solutions to improve the quality of life for the affected individuals.

Elected officials share their words

Cornyn urges to safeguard MAHA work from environmental activists

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) and others sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin calling for the use of sound science and risk-based analysis as the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission finalizes its work, particularly on crop protection tools and food-grade ingredients:

The lawmakers wrote: "We write to express our strong appreciation for your leadership and interest in working with each of you to ensure America has the healthiest people in the world. In recent decades, chronic illness rates have risen. This warrants our careful scrutiny to support better health outcomes. It is essential that policies supported by sound science and risk-based analyses are used to accomplish this goal."

"We have concerns that environmentalists are advancing harmful health, economic, or food security policies under the guise of human health. Despite insinuations to the contrary, regular testing by FDA and USDA finds that more than 99% of all pesticide residues meet extremely conservative limits established by EPA according to the best available science."

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and other signatories including Sens. Pete Ricketts (R-NE), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Steve Daines (R-MT), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Jim Justice (R-WV), Jim Risch (R-ID), Todd Young (R-IN), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Mike Rounds (R-SD) addressed the following:

"Dear Secretary Kennedy, Secretary Rollins, and Administrator Zeldin:

We write to express our strong appreciation for your leadership and interest in working with each of you to ensure America has the healthiest people in the world. In recent decades, chronic illness rates have risen. This warrants our careful scrutiny and to support better health outcomes. It is essential that policies supported by sound science and risk-based analyses are used to accomplish this goal."

We also urge you to safeguard the work of the Make America Healthy Again Commission (Commission) from activist groups promoting misguided

and sometimes even malicious policies masquerading as health solutions. The influence of these groups in the Commission would result in shoddy science; a less abundant, less affordable food supply; greater reliance on foreign adversaries for our food; diminished U.S. agricultural production and manufacturing; and, ultimately, poorer health outcomes.

President Trump recently stated environmental activists were holding the economic prosperity of our country hostage. We now have concerns that they are seeking to influence the work of the Commission to advance their agenda. For decades activist groups have tried to ban safe, well-regulated agricultural inputs by any means necessary. Without these products, yields and quality are negatively impacted by otherwise avoidable insects, fungus, weeds, and other pest pressures. This drives up food prices for American consumers and forces reliance of food imports.

The same groups have seized upon the Commission's work as an opportunity to misrepresent the science on common food and feed categories or ingredients, such as plant-based oils. These inputs are subject to a robust, risk-based regulatory system which focuses on protecting human health. Unfounded accusations harm the U.S. farmers who grow our food, upend food and feed supply chains, and significantly increase grocery food prices – all without public health benefit.

We have concerns that environmentalists are advancing harmful health, economic, or food security policies under the guise of human health. Despite insinuations to the contrary, regular testing by FDA and USDA finds that more than 99% of all pesticide residues meet extremely conservative limits established by EPA according to the best available science."

We applaud the Commission's desire to improve the health and well-being of Americans. We implore you to ensure policy decisions are grounded in sound science and risk-based analyses. With unity, we can protect American agricultural producers from environmental activists' attacks on proven-safe inputs critical to their profitability and long-term viability while promoting positive health outcomes."

In My Opinion

Harrison thanks supporters

Dear Friends and Supporters,
I am overwhelmed at the strong support you gave me in my bid to be your next San Jacinto Board Trustee in Position 3. Your encouragement and vote allowed me to make the Run-Off! I learned much during this campaign and I have met wonderful people supporting their candidates. These people care about their communities and want elected officials who will listen to their concerns and actively support their efforts to improve their communities.

To all the Candidates, thank you for having courage to run for an office! To those who were elected, we are counting on you to improve our communities. To those who were not elected, I encourage you to stay involved! Your community needs you!

Our work is not done yet. I am asking for your continued support in the Run-Off. Elect me as your next SJC Trustee, Position 3. Early Voting: May 27 - June 3. Election Day: June 7th.

With gratitude,
Judy Harrison

Elected officials share their words

Commissioner Ellis responds to Fifth Ward \$20M EPA grant suspension

The Trump administration's decision to suspend the \$20 million Environmental Protection Agency grant intended for Houston's Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens is a profound setback for communities that have long endured environmental injustices. This funding was earmarked for critical infrastructure improvements — solar-powered backup systems, retrofitting shelters for extreme weather, and thousands of trees to combat heat and flooding.

These neighborhoods, predominantly Black and Hispanic, have faced decades of industrial pollution, leading to elevated cancer rates and other health disparities. The loss of this grant not only halts urgently needed environmental action—it reinforces a legacy of neglect and disregard for the health, safety, and dignity of

working families.

This is yet another example of how the federal government undermines the determination and resilience of communities here in Harris County. Time and again, we've seen programs slashed — programs that families rely on for stability, and now, programs that would help undo the damage of environmental racism. These cuts don't just harm the climate, they perpetuate the deep social and class injustices that our communities have spent generations working to overcome. But even as the administration turns its back, Harris County will keep showing up. We will continue to lead, to stand with our neighbors, and to fight for the justice our communities deserve.

With gratitude,
Rodney Ellis
County Commissioner Pct. 1

Knights to host blood drive

The Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive on Sunday, May 18, 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.

7MHD searches for volunteers

The 7 Marines Honor Detail (7MHD) is a nonprofit organization of Marines who serve veterans of all branches in the United States military. The group provides casket guard, rifle salute, taps, folding of the flag, color guards, local parades, Houston National Cemetery functions, Honor Flight receptions, VA hospital events and more.

The group is seeking fellow Marines to join their team in providing final honors salutes for veterans' families. They outfit any Marine with a uniform and welcome both men and women, as well as associates who wish to help.

For more information about volunteering, call 832-329-7250 or 281-793-9811 and leave name and return number.

Edwin B. Smith Jr.



Dr. Edwin B. Smith Jr. was born on a farm near Gause in Central Texas Feb. 19, 1939, to Edwin B. and Zelma Smith. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1961 and stayed for a master's and a doctorate in philosophy which he received in 1967. Along the way he married Fran Smith (nee Nigliazzo) of Bryan, on March 31, 1963. While at A&M he was a member of the Aggie band. He is survived by his son Edwin B. Smith III, his wife Donna and son Sam; and daughter Holly, her husband Al Moffett and sons Al III and Nathan.

Smith served this country in the nation's space program, performing pioneering research on the effects of exposure to rocket propellants in the 1960s, designing diets for the Apollo astronauts in the 1970s, and performing more groundbreaking research into the effects of long-term space travel to pave the way for the Skylab missions. He started the first of a few companies, EFEH & Associates in 1979. He employed hundreds of people during the many years he operated EFEH and subsequent companies. Later he developed and manufactured formulations that helped people sleep better, heal burns more quickly and have better nutrition. Closer to his heart, he volunteered for a number of leadership roles in the Sagmont community. He coached Little League, was a

Deaths

Cubmaster, an Indian Guide Dad, and cheered on the Dobie band. More important, certainly to him, he cheered his grandson's accomplishments, attending baseball games, many band and robotics competition, award ceremonies and drumline performances.

Placing God first and always he ushered at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church and later St. Luke the Evangelist, never hesitating to fill in where needed there and in other volunteer organizations. Through these last few months when he was ill, he lost neither his sense of humor nor his faith in God, telling those who visited him that he would "see them again some day."

The family would like to give special thanks and recognition to the family of Armando Macias who took extra special care of their dad these last few months. They also wish to thank Peevey Funeral Home for their care during this difficult time.

Services were held, Friday, May 2, 2025, at Peevey Funeral Home.

Roy H. Fredrichsen Jr.



Roy H. Fredrichsen Jr., a longtime resident of the Sagmont area in Houston, passed away on May 3, 2025.

Born in Port Arthur on July 15, 1935, Roy grew up in the Golden Triangle area of Southeast Texas but spent many summers on his grandparents' farm in Neosho, Mo. and even working on the wheat harvests in his teens. In 1956 he joined the U.S. Air Force and later, served in the Reserves until 1962. Following that, he served in the Air National Guard at Houston's Ellington AFB until the mid 1970s. During that time, he was also part of the first photography division for NASA on-site at the Johnson Space Center.

In the mid 1950s he also earned a private pilot's license and flew the family's Cessna quite often throughout the early 1960s as time allowed. And while flying was his passion, film was his art. He worked for various local firms over the years in the Houston area, including as an editor and cameraman for CBS Houston local affiliate KHOU. Brown & Root, and later, General Cinema. He had a gift for most mechanical things and was an excellent technician for film, cars and other things around the house. Anything that needed repair, he could figure out a way to fix it better than before.

In October 1957, he married June Pierce, also from Port Arthur. They had a 67-year marriage, lasting until his death. He was a good family man, kind and gentle with the wisdom to let his two children learn and experience things. He never met a stranger and was always happy to strike up a conversation with like-minded souls.

Roy was also extremely creative throughout his life and became adept at an early age at building model airplanes. While in the Air Force, he competed in and won several model flying competitions during his service. Later, in the 1970s and 80s, he would share those building skills with young model enthusiasts in the Sagmont area. A notable accomplishment is that one of his largest model projects, a 6-foot-long working steamboat originally built for a private client, is currently on permanent display in the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri.

He will be missed by his children, David Leslie Fredrichsen and Lynne Fredrichsen Wham; son-in-law Chris Wham; grandchildren Catherine Andress and husband Taylor, Jon Fredrichsen and Jared Fredrichsen; great-grandchildren Cambrie and Garrett Andress; several cousins, many nieces and nephews on both sides of the family; and longtime friends.

The family will receive friends at Peevey Funeral Home, Thursday, May 8, from 1 to 2 p.m. A service will follow.

Interment was held privately at Houston National Cemetery.

Leader obituary policy

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

Appraisal protest deadline nears

May 15 last day to challenge county appraisals

The deadline for residents to protest their property market values established by the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) is Thursday, May 15, or 30 days after they receive their appraisal notice.

"It is your right to protest your property value if you do not think it is correct," said Harris County Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger. "Our two main responsibilities are to assess property at its full market value every year and to administer exemptions. We work diligently to accurately appraise properties fairly and equitably. It is also important for you to know it is your responsibility to apply for an exemption, which will exclude part of your property from taxation. Your property taxes fund our public education system and other community services, such as fire and police protection, roads, libraries and parks, among

others." Some property owners may have received their value notice after April 15 or may not have received their value notice yet. If that is the case, they will still have 30 days to file their protest. The revised deadline will be printed on the specific notice.

A protest form is included in the property value notice that HCAD mails to property owners. A Notice of Protest form may be downloaded from the district's website at www.head.org under the FORMS heading. It is easily found under "Popular Forms." The Notice of Protest is the last form on that list and is form number 50-132.

According to Altinger, the easiest way to file a protest is by creating an account in HCAD's Electronic Filing and Notice System. Access and instructions are found on the website under FORMS >

NOTICE OF PROTEST. The form also may be printed and brought to HCAD's office at 13013 Northwest Freeway before 5 p.m., or mailed to P.O. Box 922004, Houston, TX 77292-2004 but must be postmarked by May 15.

Homeowners who file their protest using iFile may also have an opportunity to settle their value online with HCAD's iSettle system. Questions concerning iSettle may be directed to isettle@head.org.

Property owners who have questions about protesting their market value may contact HCAD's information center at 713-957-7800 or by using the form on the district's website under ABOUT > CONTACT US > ACCOUNT QUESTIONS. Property owners might also receive answers to their questions by watching one of the videos posted on HCAD's website at www.head.org.

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, May 8, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.
Thursday, May 8, 4 – 5 p.m. Family Storytime. Registration required.
Thursday, May 8, 5 – 6 p.m. Weekly English language classes. Registration required.
Monday, May 12, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required.
Tuesday, May 13, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Board games at the library. Registration required.
Wednesday, May 14, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Living English lessons. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is 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, May 8, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. AAPI heritage month celebration.
Monday, May 12, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Book buddies. Registration required.
Monday, May 12, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Book buddies.
Tuesday, May 13, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Wednesday, May 14, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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.
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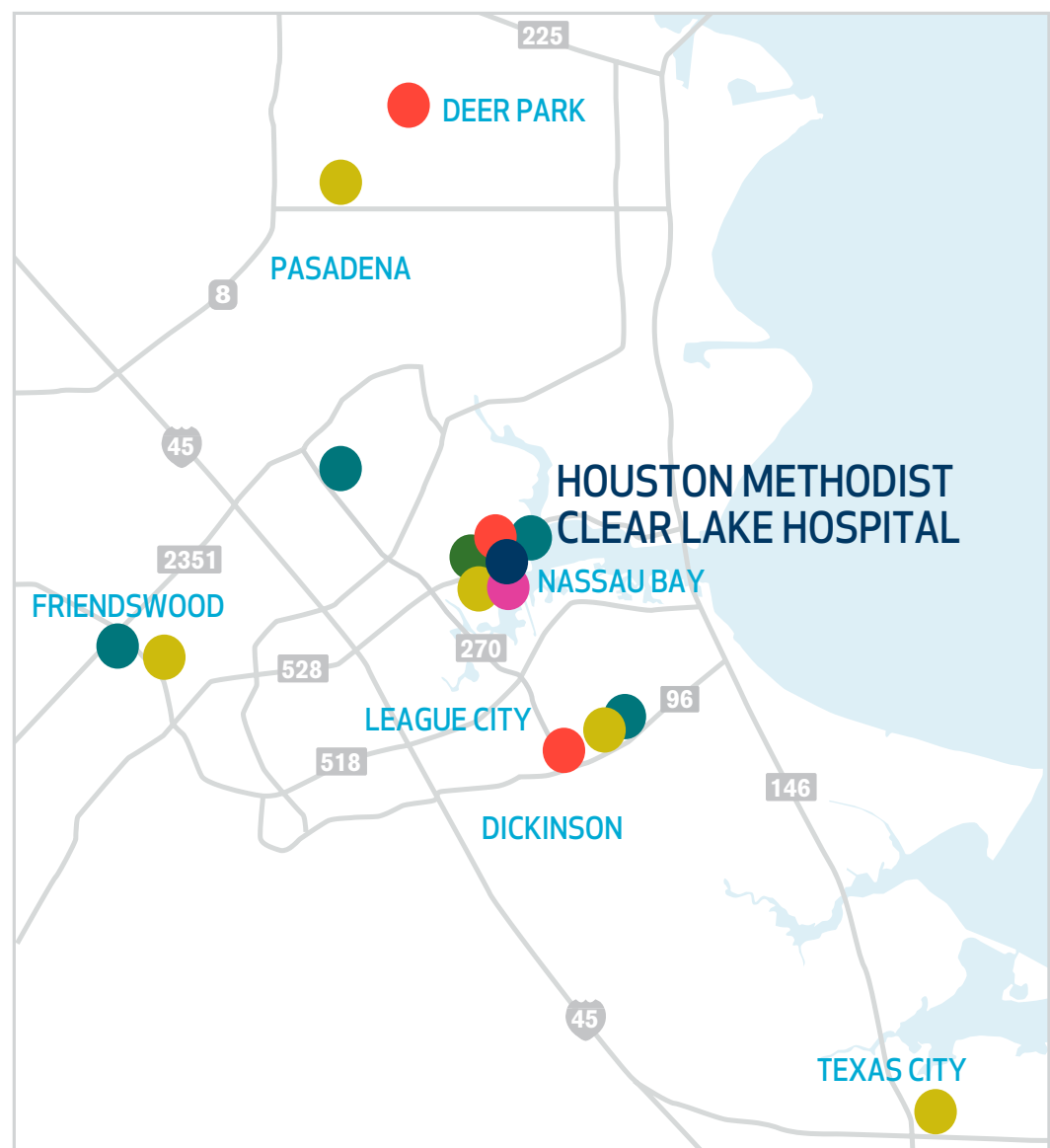


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Frazier Elementary hosts math bee competition



Frazier Elementary School recently hosted their math bee competition. The math bee tested computation skills and speed. This year's winner is Isaac Torres and runner-up is Aiden Munoz. Torres will compete in the district math bee later in May. Left to right, are (first row) special education teacher Christine Grazioli, intervention teacher Kalpana Mobley, campus math coach Angie Oquin, third-grade paraprofessional Felicia Olivares, (second row) Principal Kristina Ponce, Allison Guox, Alan Avitia, Elizabeth Umama, Aiden Munoz, Assistant Principal Isaac Romero, (third row) Caleb Martinez, Janya McGilray, Isaac Torres, Noah Pharms and Santiago Moreno.

South Belt names Super Steers of the Month



South Belt Elementary School has recognized the students pictured as Super Steers for the month of March. The students were chosen by their teachers based on their ability to display the character trait of the month: cooperation. Left to right, are (first row) Leticia Frazier, Ivy Nguyen, Samuelle Espinueva, Adelynn Mondragon, (second row) Mia Pesina, Mazzy Flowers, Joel Guevara, Taylor Mclean, Tori Pippins, Loreen Harmouch, Sienna Warren, Eko Maingot, Ace Teran, Gemma Wagner,

Arian Wilson, (third row) Samantha Reyna, Noah Garzon, Lewis Tulud, Liliana Cruz, Madisen Baskin, James Mathers, Belinda Franklin, Sally Tran, Sebastian Hernandez, Nahim Zaman, Odin Rasso, (fourth row) An Ryan Truong, Annett Arviso, Holley Truong, Royanne Montoya, Abby Peterson, Julian Arellano, Pete Silva, Abraham Hernandez, Adrian Alvarez, Niko Martinez and Yamileth Davila.

Photo by Lakitha Thomas

Meador students participate in math bee



Twenty-four third- and fourth-graders competed in Meador Elementary's campus math bee. They were scored on efficiency, accuracy, flexibility, and for using the appropriate strategy. Meador officials congratulated the winner, fourth-grader Aldo Seledon (front right) and runner-up, fourth-grader Diego Ceden (front left). Seledon represented Meador at the district math bee on May 6. Meador math bee participants included, left to right, (first row) Ceden, Seledon, (second row) third-grader Elsy Maldonado, third-grader Jamar Holmes, third-grader Michelle Ortega, third-grader Aiden Osorio, fourth-grader

Caleb Marceno, third-grader Vivienne Valladares, third-grader Herman Alvarez, (third row) third-grader Elias Gonzales, third-grader Givan Lopez, fourth-grader Karlie King-Taylor, fourth-grader David Mai, third-grader Joseph Santiago, third-grader Jaida Jackson, fourth-grader Isabelle De La Cruz, (fourth row) third-grader Nathaniel Haywood, fourth-grader Bryan Alfaro, fourth-grader Jaiden Jackson, fourth-grader Max Rivera, fourth-grader Evelyn Alanis, fourth-grader Katerin Castro, third-grader Serenity Williams and fourth-grader Adriana Cortez.

South Belt Elementary holds math bee



Third- and fourth-graders at South Belt Elementary participated in the school math bee. Left to right, are (front row) Thien Nguyen, Liam Gonzales, Royanne Montoya (math bee winner), Emmie Tran, Elijah Alvarez (math bee

runner-up), Jaxon Miller, (back row) math coach Melissa Felts, Pouyan Zabihpour Arabi, Lennox Moses, Jacob Lozolla, Alex Rodriguez, Mahmoud Harmouch, Chloe Kamgang and third-grade teacher Lauren Gonzalez.

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

Two Dobie students won first place at the University Interscholastic League track meet held at Austin. John Robinson ran the 1,600-meter in 4:08.4, and Gawain Guy ran the 800-meter in 1:50.8.

An open house and air show, Star Spangled Weekend, was held at Ellington field. This was the largest military forces exhibition in the nation.

Dobie's varsity baseball team won the 23-4A championship by defeating Deer Park in two games out of three in a series.

Lynn Carlson of Scarsdale ran his motorcycle into the side of a bull that was crossing Choate Road. Carlson was treated for severe abrasions and a possible fractured leg. The bull had to be destroyed.

40 years ago (1985)

Metro designed a questionnaire to survey the transportation needs of those in the area.

City Councilman Frank Mancuso instructed the director of public works to consider funding construction of a bridge on Sageglen Boulevard to connect Sagewood to Woodmeadow and Scarsdale.

Four interviewers talked with school officials at Pasadena ISD about their administrative personnel structure. Structure changes could be proposed after compiling and reviewing the data.

A public hearing on Green Tee's petition for de-annexation from Clear Creek ISD was in progress despite Clear Creek's efforts to disallow the petition in the Galveston County Commissioners Court.

35 years ago (1990)

Clear Creek Independent School District's Sixth-Grade Task Force Options Committee stated that if the Weber Elementary School was closed (due to the Brio site), then a replacement school for those students could have to be given first priority.

A number of South Belt area residents were looking into the increasing number of severe accidents along Dixie

Farm Road between Beamer and Interstate 45.

After several months of study, 151st District Judge Alice Trevathan denied granting a new trial in the Slaughter v. Monsanto case.

Angry Weber students' parents, backed by other Houston area citizens impacted by toxic waste, vented their frustration at Brio Task Force representatives during a limited seated public meeting.

Clear Creek ISD administrators kept adding portable buildings at Landolt Elementary to avoid a confrontation over moving students to Weber in Southbend located three blocks from a toxic waste dump.

Despite aggressive academic efforts by Pasadena ISD to improve standardized test scores, the overall average for Texas Education Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS), including several South Belt area schools, dropped significantly.

30 years ago (1995)

Fifth-graders at Frazier Elementary prepared a banner in support of the J. Frank Dobie Lady Longhorns who were headed to the state softball tournament in Austin.

Pasadena Independent School District's board approved a restructuring of the district's administrative organization.

The Thompson Academic Games team lost its bid for a third national championship.

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, was committed to Brio remediation and maintaining the Johnson Space Center and the approximately 40,000 jobs dependent on it.

25 years ago (2000)

Principals Jerry Speer and Frank Braden won Pasadena

assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS), including several South Belt area schools, dropped significantly.

A Pearlman election resulted in increased momentum for the Scarsdale-Yost Road project with Larry Marcott defeating Bill Berger, the strongest City Council opponent to the connection.

20 years ago (2005)

The fate of Ellington Field was in question due to the Base Realignment and Closure hearings that would soon commence. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was expected to announce bases slated for closure or downsizing. Rep. Tom DeLay was fighting to keep Ellington as it was.

After nearly a month of extensive searching, the family of Austin Childs decided it was time to hold a memorial service. The teen was missing, along with two other

South Belt area men, after they went fishing off Freeport.

The opening of Blackhawk to Dixie Farm Road was delayed because of last-minute details.

During a board meeting, Clear Creek Independent School District trustees changed Clear View Alternative School into a district charter school. After approval by the Texas Education Agency, the school would be eligible to receive \$450,000 in education grants for more faculty and student programs.

Three San Jacinto College regents returned to their positions: J.D. Bruce and Dr. Reude Wheeler defeated opponents. Ben Meador was unopposed.

15 years ago (2010)

The staff at Moore Elementary was honored with teachers being named both

the Pasadena Independent School District's Elementary Teacher of the Year and First-Year Teacher of the Year. Elizabeth Neubauer, the school's special education SUCCESS teacher, took home the honor of Elementary Teacher of the Year, while Leah Laredo, a fourth-grade teacher at the school, was awarded the First Year Teacher of the Year prize.

Stuchbery Elementary second-grade teacher Sharon Brantly celebrated her 40th year at the area school. She came to Stuchbery when the school was three years old and taught in the same classroom for her entire tenure. The teacher's co-workers surprised her by having a party in the school's library. The Pasadena Independent School District officially recognized Brantly at a banquet.

10 years ago (2015)

The May 9 school board election results were tallied, with longtime Pasadena Independent School District incumbents maintaining their positions. While challengers in the election campaigned on the need for fresh faces on the board, voters opted to re-elect Marshall Kendrick and Vickie Morgan, who had a combined 55 years of service. In the Position 6 race, Kendrick handily defeated challenger Lydia Velasquez. In the Position 7 contest, Morgan easily defeated challengers Erica Davis Rouse and Chuck Maricle. In the Position 5 election, challenger Kenny Fernandez narrowly defeated freshman board member Larry Savala, who had been appointed to the board the previous year to serve the remainder of Jerry Speer's unexpired term. Speer, who had served on the board for 14 years, was required to resign when his granddaughter took a position as a school nurse at Queens Intermediate, violating the school district's nepotism policies.

In the Clear Creek Independent School District election, Jay Cunningham filled the District 5 seat formerly held by longtime trustee Dee Scott, who stepped down after serving 10 years on the board. Cunningham easily defeated challenger Trent Martin, receiving 62 percent of the vote. Incumbents Page Rander (District 4) and Charles Pond (At-Large Position A) both maintained their positions, as they ran unopposed.

5 years ago (2020)

To boost morale among graduating seniors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dobie High School held a drive-thru parade at the area campus Wednesday, May 13, as students picked up their caps and gowns for graduation. Students/parents entered through the back parking lot, where they were greeted by staff holding signs and cheering them on, before proceeding to the front parking lot to claim their caps and gowns.

A robbery took place at an abandoned home in the 11400 block of Sagedowne.

Three young adults (two females and one male) were held at gunpoint by three men. The three victims were robbed of the personal belongings, along with their vehicle, which also contained a gun. The vacant house, which was easy to access through open windows, had reportedly long been a gathering site for youths and vagrants.

A family disturbance call Thursday, May 7, in the 11600 block of Sagelink led to multiple felony charges. Upon their arrival, Precinct 2 deputies were informed by the caller that her son had assaulted her daughter. The suspect possessed an AR-15 rifle and had reportedly threatened his sister with harm. The suspect fled the location prior to deputies' arrival and was located in the nearby area driving an unauthorized vehicle. During the vehicle stop, a loaded AR-15 rifle was subsequently apprehended and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

1 year ago (2024)

Results from the local May 4 elections were tabulated with incumbents winning all races, when applicable. In the Clear Brook City MUD election, incumbent Chris Clark narrowly defeated challenger Yen Rabe, beating her by only one vote. At the end of the count – which was observed by representatives from both candidates – Clark received 312 votes to Rabe's

311 votes. In the Sagemeadow MUD election, incumbents David Montgomery and Glenn Williams maintained their positions, defeating challengers Chuck Miracle and Rene Benavides. Montgomery received 58 votes; Williams received 60 votes; Miracle received 46 votes; and Benavides received 37 votes. In the Sagemeadow MUD contest, the two candidates who receive the most votes will assume the board positions, as the challengers do not run for a specific seat. In the Clear Creek ISD board election, District 4 incumbent Jeff Larson maintained his position, defeating challenger Albert Wittliff. Larson received 723 votes to Wittliff's 603 votes. In the contest to elect members to a newly created board to oversee the Harris County Appraisal District, longtime South Belt resident Ericka McCrutchon was successful in her bid for the At-Large Place 3 position, receiving roughly twice as many votes as her closest competitor in the five-candidate race. McCrutchon received 22,231 votes; J. Bill received 2,852 votes; Amy Lacy received 11,097 votes; Mark V. Golobey received 6,180 votes; and Pelumi Adeleke received 11,466 votes. In the race for the HCAD At-Large Place 1 seat, Kathy Blueford-Daniels was victorious, narrowly defeating opponent Bill R. Frazier. In the contest for the HCAD At-Large Place 2 position, Kyle Scott handily won, receiving approximately twice as many votes as his closest competitor in the five-candidate race.



Over The Back Fence by Nicole

OLIVE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Special birthday wishes are sent May 10, for a wonderful birthday to Olive Falkowski from her daughter Leslie Flickinger and husband Fred; granddaughter Kimberly Lipina and husband Matt; granddaughter Courtney Durham; great-grandchildren Abigail, Jackson and Penelope Durham and William Lipina; David Flickinger, David (Leader president) and wife Ellie Flickinger.

ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY, JOHN!

Wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent to South Belt Leader staff member John Bechtle May 11, from his family, friends and the Leader staff. He has been the sports editor of the Leader for many years and is greatly appreciated by his co-workers!

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays May 8 through May 14.

Atkinson Elementary

Kortnie Rieck enjoys a birthday May 12.

Burnett Elementary

Sonia Fonseca celebrates a birthday May 12. Send a humorous birthday card May 14 to Itzel Flores.

Bush Elementary

Send a birthday greeting May 12 to Andrew Duron. Yagaira Alaniz marks a

birthday May 13.

Frazier Elementary

Light the birthday candles May 8 for India Kemp. Remember to wish Isabel Tabarez a happy birthday May 9. Birthday wishes go out to Amanda Hooper and Jill Westfall May 13.

Genoa Elementary

Join the double-fun celebration May 14 with Lauren Davis and Tiffany Bennett, Genoa principal.

Meador Elementary

Send a birthday greeting May 9 to Leslie Perez. The day for Melanie Turcios and Jose Trevino to celebrate with ice cream and a double-layer birthday cake is May 13.

Moore Elementary

Break out the balloons and party favors for Yvonne Ixcoy May 9. May 10 is the day for a fun celebration for Nancy Avila. Blow out the candles May 14 on a special cake for Krystal Lam.

South Belt Elementary

Nikole Zurek marks a birthday May 8. Blow out the candles May 10 for Miranda Rodriguez.

Melillo Middle School

Light the candles for Kathleen Ingersoll May 12. Birthday greetings go out to Rebecca Castaneda May 13. May 14 is the day for a celebration for Tara Clark.

Thompson Intermediate

Diana Moreno celebrates a birthday May 10.

Dobie High

Light the candles May 9 for Jordan Evans. Give a birthday shoutout May 10 to Kelcey Davis. Send a humorous birthday card May 11 to Steven Mayo.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, May 8: Christopher Barber, Tiffany Robbins, Julie Kutra and Sara Muller; Friday, May 9: Tiana Jaime-Perez, Freedom Groebner, Ronny Carker and Bubba Barnett; Saturday, May 10: Becky Lopez, Kathy Vingoe and Angela Ojeda; Sunday, May 11: Tyson Dillard, Leslie Fair and George King; Monday, May 12: Jennifer Main, Raymond Massey, Jennifer Ashe and Sophie Harrison; Tuesday, May 13: Lexi Salinas, Norma Torres, Karen Kerr, Douglas Mikel and Faith Roberts; and Wednesday, May 14: Chris Escalera and Bianca Perez.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Longhorn baseball sweeps Ridge Point, will face Atascocita

Dobie is into the second round of the varsity baseball postseason for the third straight season following a 6-2, 9-4 series sweep of Ridge Point May 1-2 at Manvel High School.

III starred at the plate in both games for the Longhorns and senior Aiden Sanchez and freshman Jaylen Aguilar delivered

strong five-inning starting-pitching performances as Dobie advanced to the Division I area round. Dobie will now tangle

with Atascocita after the Eagles dispatched Clear Springs 10-0, 12-10 in another bidistrict series. Martinez and Angel

Molina both went 2 for 3 and scored three runs each at the top of the lineup to set the table again and again for the rest of the

lineup as the Longhorns closed out the series with a 9-4 victory over the Panthers in game two of a best-of-three series May 2.

In the series closer, Molina singled and stole second in the top of the first inning and eventually scored on a passed ball for a 1-0 Dobie lead after an inning.

In the top of the third, Martinez singled to left field and advanced to third on an error before scoring on Molina's RBI single. Jones then doubled home Molina for a 3-0 Longhorns' lead.



Dobie's Isiah Jones (11) slammed a two-run homer in the first inning as he helped lift the Longhorns to a 6-2 victory over Ridge Point in the opening game of the bidistrict playoffs.



Dobie senior left-handed starter Aiden Sanchez (7) threw five solid innings against Ridge Point to get the victory as the Longhorns advanced to the area playoff baseball round to meet Atascocita.

Later in the inning, Jones scored on a ground-out by Joiner as Dobie's lead was 4-0.

Leading 4-1, the Longhorns plated three more runs in the top of the fifth inning despite just one hit in the frame to lead 7-1. Joiner then had an RBI single as the Longhorns went on to close out the series.

Aguilar allowed just three hits and two earned runs across five innings against the Panthers, and Martinez twirled the final two innings for a 9-4 win that clinched the area round berth.

Martinez, a San Jacinto College signee, smashed a solo home run to announce the Longhorns' arrival to the postseason in the bottom of the first inning of

game one, Jones blasted a two-run shot and Joiner had a two-run single in the bottom of the second inning as the locals went on to win the first game 6-2.

That big four-run bottom of the first inning combined with a stellar five innings pitching performance from Aiden Sanchez was enough to lift the Longhorns to a 6-2 victory over the Panthers in the first game of the series May 1.

Martinez smacked a solo homer to lead off the inning with a bang and Jones added a two-run homer to go with a run-scoring single from Max Torres as the locals

got to Ridge Point starter Hayden Willey early. Joiner was 3 for 3 with a two-run single in the bottom of the second inning as the Longhorns opened the series with a 6-2 win over the Panthers.

Sanchez scattered four hits while issuing five walks and striking out five over five innings. Gio Ramirez closed out the victory with two shutout innings.

Once former district foes, the Longhorns and Atascocita will now meet with plenty on the line as the regional semifinal round awaits the winner. Dobie is ready for the challenge after sweeping Ridge Point.

D1 Area Baseball Round

Dobie vs. Atascocita
Game 1: May 9, 7 p.m.
Game 2: May 10, noon.
***Game 3: May 10,**
***(following game 2 if necessary)**
All games at Baytown Sterling High School

Clear Brook's Bolden is seventh in state discus, will join Lamar

Senior Tyler Grant of Conroe Grand Oaks entered the state track and field championships as

the man to beat in the 6A boys' discus event and followed through on his dream by winning the gold

medal May 3 at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin with a throw of 180 feet, 9 inches.

Adam Carter, another big name in the sport, was the silver medalist in the discus with his toss of 180-2, and Converse Judson's Josiah Green won

the bronze medal with a throw of 179-5 as the University Interscholastic League's all-classes, four-day state championship

finale played out on the campus of the University of Texas.



Clear Brook boys' track and field coach Kevin Drones (left) and state discus qualifier Darwin Bolden II share a moment during the state track and field championships May 3 in Austin. Bolden announced that he will attend Lamar University in Beaumont.

6A Boys' Discus State Finishers

Gold Tyler Grant, Sr., Conroe Grand Oaks, 180-9

Silver Adam Carter, Sr., Katy, 180-02

Bronze Josiah Green, Sr., Converse Judson, 179-5

4 Isiah Butler-Tanner, Sr., Killeen Shoemaker, 176-07

5 Chris Georgopoulos, Sr., College Park, 174-10

6 Caleb Jamison, Jr., Odessa Permian, 171-9

7 Darwin Bolden II, Sr., Clear Brook 166-8

8 Jeremiah Robinson, Sr., Del Valle, 165-7

9 Kaden Bram, Jr., Northwest Eaton, 168-00

Clear Springs downs Dobie softball

District 24-6A softball tri-champion Clear Springs has advanced to the Division 1 regional semifinals courtesy of an area around playoff sweep of Dobie.

The Chargers, 21-6 overall following the two wins over the Longhorns, got a second home run from freshman Mackenzie Thomas in as many nights while getting off to a 3-0 first inning start, then played sparkling defense at times to keep the

Longhorns at a distance in winning 8-3 May 1 at La Porte High School, therefore closing out the best-of-three series.

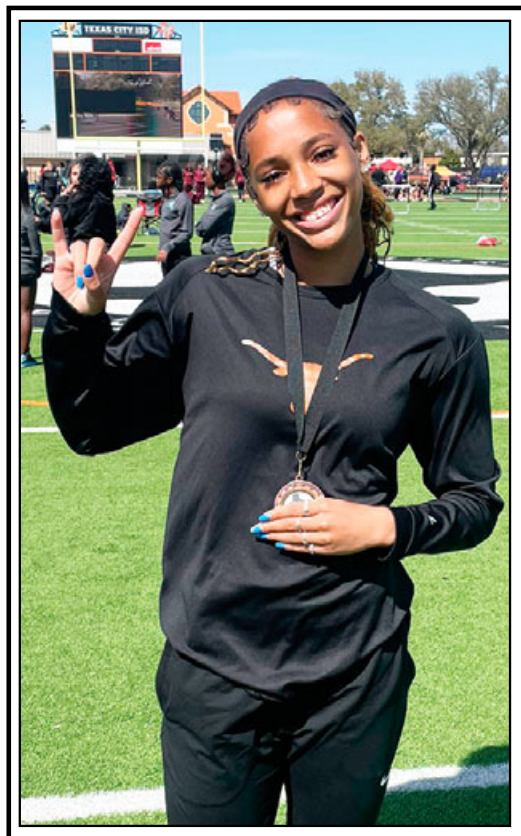
Dobie, which finished its season at 18-13 overall, scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the first inning after Clear Springs took its 3-0 but then trailed 4-1 and seemingly spent the majority of the evening one hit away from changing leadership in the game.

Clear Springs, which will now face Katy in the

Division 1 regional semifinals, beat out five infield hits as part of a 13-hit attack in the deciding game one evening after collecting 15 hits, including four home runs, during a 10-3 victory in the opening game.

In the series opener April 30, Dobie built a 3-0 lead heading into the bottom of the fourth inning before the Chargers erupted for a five-run burst to lead 5-3, stringing together five consecutive hits including a two-run homer from freshman Mackenzie Thomas.

Erianna Garcia smacked a solo homer and Eryn Polite delivered a two-run shot as Clear Springs extended their lead to 9-3 with four more runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.



JFD's Harris opts to join TSU track

At left, Dobie multievent standout and Class of 2025 senior Stacie Harris has announced via X that she plans to continue her education and track and field career at Texas Southern University in Houston. Harris is a four-year varsity performer for Dobie and has also excelled on the summer circuit with the Pearland Track Xpress. She has 100, 200 and 400 experience along with a pair of regional long jump qualifications while at Dobie and has also competed in the pentathlon with the Xpress.

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Dobie boys' basketball program to be led by former Elkins star Jones

Former Elkins High School star Branford Jones has been named Dobie's boys' basketball head coach, and Jones said he is committed to helping to guide the Longhorns' program back to prominence within a region and state he knows very well.

"It was only for a brief time, but I met with some of the players during the athletic period and am excited to get to know all of them and eventually get to work on the court," said Jones, who will finish out the 2025-2026 school year this month at Burleson Centennial High School.

"I'm very excited to have this opportunity with Dobie High School. I previously coached at Pasadena Memorial, so I understand the district and have a pretty good feeling about what the expectations are at Dobie High School," Jones said.

"Dobie is a place where I want to be and where I feel like we can have a lot of success both on and off the basketball floor.

"I'll do my very best to get caught up with all of the guys this summer, staying in tune with what's happening with the summer league circuit and just generally do whatever I can to help us be ready to go in August when the new school year starts."

Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris doubles as the school's athletic coordinator and has generally taken the lead role in the hiring of coaches since his own arrival last summer.

Fitzmorris first filled out his own assistant football coaching staff and also brought on board Dobie girls' basketball head coach Rachel Flores and JFD soccer head coaches Josh Kluka (boys') and Kyle Jurek.

Fitzmorris certainly has not shared specifics with the *Leader* in terms of everything that he looks for in a head coach, but as a Dobie graduate himself, Fitzmorris has frequently said that he wants leaders who are committed to Dobie for the long haul.

Since longtime varsity boys' basketball head coach Kevin Cross retired from the sport following the 2018-2019 season, Jones will be the program's third head coach.

While this is the first head coaching job for Jones, who has spent the previous four seasons as the top varsity boys' basketball assistant at Burleson Centennial, he says he plans to be a Longhorn for a long time.

If the Dobie players are looking for a guy who has been there and done that

and perhaps stood in the same shoes as they are now, Jones is their guy.

A three-year varsity letterman at Fort Bend Elkins High School and a Class of 2012 graduate, Jones averaged seven points per game as a sophomore in his varsity debut and then proceeded to average 15 points per game as a junior and then 20 as a senior, grabbing seven and a half rebounds per game and averaging more than three assists and two steals per outing.

Jones was considered one of the top guard prospects coming out of the Houston area and proceeded to sign with Long Beach State.

A leg injury one game deep into his freshman season forced Jones to miss the remainder of his campaign, but he bounced back in the 2013-2014 season to play in 32 total games with eight starts.

He led Long Beach State with a 37.3 3-point field goal percentage while averaging nearly six points per game.

A business management major, Jones said he didn't particularly consider coaching the sport coming out of college.

He landed a job with the Houston Rockets in their marketing department and wound up spending con-

siderable time working youth camps sponsored by the team. Before long, Jones said he had caught the coaching bug.

He was an assistant coach in Fort Bend ISD and also spent time at Pasadena Memorial High School. Jones has subsequently been at Burleson Centennial the previous four seasons as the top varsity boys' basketball assistant coach.

With his wife now continuing her medical career in the Houston area, Jones is ready to return to the Region III ranks with the Longhorns.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to join Dobie High School, and the first thing I want my guys to know is that I am committed to this thing for the long haul," Jones said.

"I want to be here for a long time, and I'm looking very much forward to getting started with the guys. I'm a defensive-minded guy, and there is no doubt that we are going to focus on defense and bring it to our opponents out there on the court.

"I feel like I coached in one of the toughest districts in the state with Mansfield Summit, Mansfield Timberview, Centennial and some other solid programs. I realize we are

now in a tough district here as well, but we will always be well prepared and ready to play."

Jones is committed to finishing the school year at Centennial, but he plans to spend as many 3-day weekends as possible in the South Belt area, focusing on getting to know the Dobie players, getting an eye on summer league action involving some of the players and just generally getting up to speed with his new program as much as possible leading into the start of next school year.



At right, Branford Jones, a 2012 Elkins High School graduate, was a three-year varsity boys' basketball standout with the Knights and went on to play collegiately at Long Beach State University. Jones is now Dobie's incoming varsity boys' basketball head coach for the Longhorns. Jones has spent the last four seasons as the varsity boys' basketball top assistant coach at Burleson Centennial, where the Spartans have regularly excelled in one of the top overall hoops districts in the state.

Brook's Bolden II takes seventh in Austin

Continued from Page 5

Having witnessed his son in competition up close and personal for many years, Darwin Bold Sr. said the difference at the regional track and field championships was that his son was able to stay calm, perform within his routine and block out all of the noise.

There was no doubt a strong group of competitors there at Webster, including Carter, who was looking to earn a state berth.

It was Bolden coming away with three personal record throws during the day to get the job done.

For Bolden, and truthfully many high school aged-athletes like himself, reaching the state championship meet was the grand culmination of many years spent dreaming of a moment such as this while competing on both the United States Track and Field and the Amateur Athletic Union summer track and field circuits as a youth.

Bolden said he began competing in youth sum-

mer track events around the age of seven, and it only took about a year for father and son to decide that throwing both the discus and a shot was the best way to go.

Interestingly enough, Bolden has been able to have such a great deal of success in both middle school and high school while simultaneously playing basketball.

With the basketball schedule intertwining with that of track and field so closely, Bolden has rarely been able to get an early jump-start with the weights during the track and field season.

Instead, Bolden has typically found himself playing catch-up and trying to round into form by the time a third or fourth regular season meet comes around.

While he has certainly excelled in the weights up to this point in previous seasons, Bolden was never able to reach regionals prior to his senior season.

He says he used that as motivation to make one last run at it in 2025.

"I'm so proud to have finally broken through, winning a regional medal and qualifying for state," Bolden said.

"You just have to stick to your routine, believe in yourself and go out there on meet day and do the best you can while staying within yourself.

"It's not really about the other competitors, but more so what you were able to do in your routine and trusting the process.

"I think I was able to do that this year maybe a little better than I have in previous years.

"Sometimes you just have to block out all the noise, not worry about any of the competition and just focus on you.

"I think I did a great job of that this year, and I am so proud to have been able to represent my school at the state meet."

Having coached with the Pearland Track Xpress for many years, Bolden Sr. has experienced college recruiting with other athletes in the past.

Still, track and field is an interesting sport and

there simply aren't as many opportunities available for the top athletes, specifically tied to tuition.

In other words, finding a full-ride scholarship in a sport such as track and field is not nearly always as easy as it might be for the revenue sports of collegiate football and basketball.

But coming up with a throw of more than 180 feet at the regional meet surely turned some heads as the Boldens said they fielded more collegiate interest in the days following his silver medal performance than they had it any other time.

Bolden is a terrific student, there certainly won't be any issues there, and he is looking forward to being a terrific teammate as part of what will be the Lamar University collegiate track and field program.

His collegiate competition future secure with the commitment to Lamar University in Beaumont, Bolden can now take a breath and prepare for high school graduation later this month.

CB grad Dickson wins 100

The Texas A&M track and field program hosted its annual Alumni Muster invite on May 3, in College Station as junior Camryn Dickson of Clear Brook (left) and teammate Jasmine Montgomery (right) went 1-2 in the women's 100, with Dickson winning at a season's best of 11.04 seconds and Montgomery second at 11.13, another season's best. The duo also delivered season's best times in the 200, with Montgomery winning at 22.17 and Dickson third at 22.39. Jizzale Davis, a freshman at UTRio Grande Valley and also a Clear Brook graduate (class of 2025), posted a time of 11.78 for 16th-best. A time of 24.18 also placed Davis 16th in the 200. Kennedy Wade of Clear Falls High School celebrated Senior Day with her family and was fifth (23.50) in the 200. Wade was also part of the Aggies' 4x400 relay win. Texas A&M is now preparing for the Southeastern Conference Championships on May 15-17, at the University of Kentucky.



Springs topples JFD

Continued from Page 5

The Longhorns finished this season with 18 total victories and will look to continue its run of consecutive playoff berth next spring with the majority of

the current lineup set to return.

Dobie reached the area round in the postseason for the first time since 2021.



Junior Lili Sepulveda (20) drove in 26 runs and scored 19 runs this season for Dobie and will return in 2026 as she looks to help guide the Longhorns to another strong season. Photo by Gloria Wallace

Dobie netters competing at Region IIIs



Dobie varsity tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (center) is flanked by Diego Flores (left) and Nestor Garza (right) after the Longhorn boys' doubles tennis duo received their medals for finishing second at the District 22-6A tournament. The locals began competition at the Region III tournament May 7, and the event continues through May 8. The *Leader* will have additional information next week.

LSA medals at state

The Lutheran South Academy varsity track and field squad came away with a pair of top-three medals as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools all classes state championships were held at Waco Midway High School's Matador Stadium.

A pair of Houston area programs went to the tape in the 4x100 relay, with Fort Bend Christian snagging the gold in a time of 42.14. Lutheran South was next in for the silver medal as Elijah Brown, Rhet Lavergne, John Leblanc and

800. Scott Farine combined for a time of 43.03.

Pioneer senior Alma Martin was a bronze medalist in the pole vault as she cleared 10-0, and junior teammate Lanie Ward was fifth at 9-6.

Senior 110 hurdler Shamon Madison was fourth in the event with a time of 15.86, and Madison took sixth place with a time of 42.40 at the 300 hurdle distance.

At 2:02.66, Lutheran South sophomore Jeremy Gaitan was fifth in the

Senior David Streeter closed out his terrific season in the discus at state as his personal record of 135-3 was sixth.

Chinere Anagbogu was in the mix in the girls' discus as her best toss of 103-8 was also sixth-best.

Aja Bradford joined LeBlanc, Lavergne and Farine for a time of 1:31.05 for fifth place in the 4x200 relay, and a time of 51.85 placed Pioneer junior Case Noack sixth in the 400 as he added to the Pioneers' efforts.

Dobie offers boys' and girls' hoops camp

Dobie varsity girls' basketball head coach Rachel Flores and her staff are now accepting registration for the 2025 Longhorn Youth Basketball Clinic June 23-25 at Dobie main as incoming first- through ninth-grade boys' and girls' students will be eligible to attend the fun-filled, three-day event at \$60 per participant. First- through fifth-grade students will attend the clinic from 8 to 10 a.m., while incoming sixth- through ninth-grade students will attend from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will receive instruction in all phases of the game of basketball, including shooting, passing, dribbling, rebounding, offensive and defensive team concepts and more. Visit DoBiEGBB on X, then scan the QR code to begin registration or direct email to Flores at RRodriguezFlores@PasadenaISD.org.

Dobie baseball to host Mantle tryouts May 14

The Dobie baseball coaching staff has set Mickey Mantle summer league baseball tryouts for May 14, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Dobie baseball field on the main campus. Incoming freshmen as of the 2025-2026 school year are invited to compete for a spot on a Longhorn team that will play a summer schedule against similar teams from across the area. Those trying out will be required to bring their own gear and water to drink, and be ready to compete.

Wolverines' Mantle tryouts are May 14

Clear Brook head baseball coach Gene Flores and his staff will host Mickey Mantle summer baseball league tryouts for incoming freshman players May 14, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Clear Brook baseball field. Those trying out must bring their own glove, bat, cleats and necessary catching gear to the tryout. Freshmen as of the 2025-2026 school year will compete in a summer schedule against similar programs from across the Houston area. Those competing for the Wolverines must reside in the Clear Brook attendance zone.

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Facility is Boat and Camper Storage, Inc. located at 9021 Almeda Genoa Rd. Houston, TX, 77075. Bidding will open (5/13/25 8 a.m.) and Conclude (5/20/25 10 a.m.)

Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:

Ricky Oatman: 2 vessels, 2 boat trailers and 1 outboard motor (all parts only).

Nicolle L. Lewis: boat and EZ loader trailer (parts only), mini 4-wheeler (parts only).

Justin C. King: Mercury Force outboard (parts only), 1992 Monark 17'0" (FMCL87LVC292) and trailer (parts only).

Randolph T. Turner: 1973 Cobia 19'0" (CBA91104M731), 1900 HOME trailer (TX34VBMS) and Evinrude 140HP (parts only).

Brian R. Beaupre: 1995 Arctico 9'3" (ARJ12589D595), 1995 Arctico 9'3" (ARJ12645D595) and 1997 Load BT (4L2FKS1XV2000033).

Santos J. Martinez Jr: Charger Boat (parts only), 1976 Evinrude 70HP (70573B) and Boat trailer (parts only)

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Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:

Bruce Foreman: 1995 Homemade 19'6" (TXZ72347J595) (TX-5424HN), 1995 Yamaha 25HP (C25MSHT) and trailer (parts only).

Jaime Garza: 2 motorcycles (parts only), car parts and engine blocks.

Ediberto Lara: 1991 Toyota 4 Runner SR5 (JT3VN39W3M0070683).

Selvin A. Velasquez: fridge, furniture, ladder and grill.

John R. Speich: 1972 Mako 17'0" (M172626), 1984 HOME BT (TX-78VPPR) and 1982 Evinrude 115HP (E115TLCSA).

Damaso E. Segura: 1986 FORD Thunderbird (1FABP4631GH148527).

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 8
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 9
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.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, MAY 10
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.
SUNDAY, MAY 11
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 77055. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, MAY 12
5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for details.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road, 77089. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, MAY 13
Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Drive. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
10 a.m. **CCART** - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
10:30 a.m. **Tri County Republican Women** - General meetings are held the second Tuesday, except June and July, Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$20. Exact cash or a check requested. To RSVP, visit www.tricountyrw.club/.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30-7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at sehouston.toastmastersclubs.org. In-person address, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn, at 832-722-9061 for information.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14
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 Schroeder and guest DJs. This weekly dance does not include lessons. Free lessons are taught by Jerry Sanford at the same location on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. While these opportunities are free and provided by volunteers, the park system requires participants to register and get an activity card for all park activities. For more information about the activity card, 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.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, MAY 15
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Dobie's FFA students, Junior members take part in HLSR



Dobie High School FFA students placed big in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo beef and scramble show, steer show and breeding beef show. FFA Junior members also participated and placed in the HLSR competition.

Shown at left is Nayeli Huynh who placed fourth in the steer show.

At right is Frazier Elementary fourth-grader Kacey Martinez who placed sixth in the breeding beef show.



Kaleb Jones placed eighth in the beef and scramble show and second in the junior breeding beef show.



At left, Stuchbery Elementary fourth-grader Sadie Jones (left) won an auction spot with her turkey. With Sadie are her father, Curt Jones (center) and Dobie agriculture adviser Robert McGill.

At right is, Abrianna Carbajal who placed seventh in the scramble show and fifth place in the breeding beef show.



Vianka Alanis placed 13th in the breeding beef show at the recent HLSR.





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(Limited Attractions)

Beats on the Beach

LIVE MUSIC & FIREWORKS

SATURDAY NIGHTS AT PALM BEACH
JUNE 14 - AUG 9, 5:30PM - 9:30PM



Coffee with the Constable



Every Thursday Sagemont Civic Club hosts Coffee with the Constable, giving community members the opportunity to interact with Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia and his officers. Shown above at a recent meeting are, left to right, (sitting) Robert Winograd, Gene Reddell, Rex Hemar, Christy Bristol, Angela Wilkerson, Byron Bunch, Rudolph Rocha, Gracie Rocha, Larry Burns, Sgt. Hector Vega, Cpl. Chiqweda Jones, (standing) Jimmy Breedlove, Kay Barbour, CW (Von) Von Bergen, Danny Koons and Judy Harrison.

CCART meets May 13

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its May meeting on Tuesday, May 13. The meeting will be held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway, in Seabrook. The featured speakers will be the superintendents from Clear Creek ISD and Dickinson ISD. They will be providing information about the status of their districts both as a review of the current academic year and a look ahead to 2025-2026.

The social gathering will start at 9:30 a.m. followed by the meeting at 10 a.m. One must RSVP for the luncheon. All Texas-retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

TEA releases accountability ratings

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are performing lower than the previous year which can be misleading. In fact, in many cases a school district or school may have improved in some or all academic areas but show a lower rating according to the new methodology. Pasadena ISD was a 'B' rated district in 2023. Districtwide we earned 105 performance distinction designations for that school year. School districts across the state challenged TEA's new rating method in the courts, thus causing a delay in the release of these ratings. Despite the delays, Pasadena ISD has continued to utilize its own systems to track and understand student performance. As we move forward, we will continue to utilize our methods to understand our students' STAAR scores, and make adjustments for improvement where necessary. Pasadena ISD will continue to follow our Portrait of a Graduate model meant to educate the whole child so students can become productive citizens and lifelong learners that are academically, socially, and emotionally prepared. As always, we are committed to advocate for our kids and utilize scores and ratings as a benchmark for improvement."

For additional information on Pasadena ISD's TEA accountability rating, visit txschools.gov/?view=district&id=101917&tab=overview&lng=en.

Clear Creek ISD
Clear Creek ISD received an overall score of 83 (B) from the TEA.

"Clear Creek ISD remains committed to providing each student with a world-class education in a safe learning environment," said Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Karen Engle. "CCISD was recently named the second-best place to teach in Houston and a top-performing school district by Educational Results Partnership, among other accolades. We will continue to strive for educational excellence within our schools while using data to guide our improvement efforts."

For 2023, Clear Creek ISD increased the total number of distinctions earned from 62 in 2022 to 76 total, which is an 18-percent increase. A distinction designation acknowledges districts and campuses for outstanding achievement based on the outcomes of several performance indicators. CCISD's overall accountability rating of 83 for the 2022-2023 school year is a one-point difference from the 2021-2022 school year under the new methodology and STAAR redesign.

According to TEA data, Clear Creek ISD had nearly 40,500 students enrolled during 2022-23. More than 37 percent of those students were economically disadvantaged; nearly 14 percent were in special education programs; and more than 13 percent were emergent bilingual students, TEA data shows.

The average attendance rate in 2022-23 was just 93 percent, and more than 21 percent of CCISD students were classified as "chronically absent," meaning they missed 10 percent or more of the 2022-23 school year.

No Clear Creek ISD campuses received a grade below C. Nine campuses earned an A; 27 schools earned a grade of B; and eight earned a C.

To view Clear Creek ISD's complete TEA accountability rating, visit txschools.gov/?view=district&id=084910&tab=overview&lng=en.

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