

Active COVID cases increase

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community continues to grow, with increases being reported in all three local ZIP codes for a third consecutive week.

As of Tuesday, June 14, there had been 12,970 confirmed cases in 77089. Of those, 280 remain active, up 69 from the previous week. To date, 132 from the ZIP code have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 134 deaths the previous week.)

In ZIP code 77075, there had been 10,018 confirmed cases. Of those, 685 remain active, up 64 from the previous week. To date, there have been 80 deaths in the ZIP code, up three from the previous week.

In 77034 (total population: 40,532), there had been 8,842 confirmed cases. Of those, 135 remained active, up 26 from the previous week. To date, 90 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

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

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

JFD cheerleaders wash cars

Dobie Cheer will hold a car wash Saturday, June 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at Snowie's Shaved Ice, 10902 Scarsdale at Beamer in the Food Town parking lot. Cost is \$5.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one southbound frontage road lane and at least one northbound frontage road lane will be closed on the Gulf Freeway from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Sept. 30.

At least one southbound main lane and frontage road lane and at least one northbound main lane and frontage road lane will be closed on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Dec. 31.

Both the northbound entrance and southbound entrance ramps from FM 518 in League City will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the entrance ramps from SH 96.

The northbound exit ramp to FM 517 in Dickinson will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the northbound exit ramp to Holland/Hughes.

Two outside southbound lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Texas City Railroad to SH 6/SH 146 in La Marque nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Jan. 8.

The northbound entrance ramps from both FM 519/Main Street and FM 1765/Texas Avenue in La Marque will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the next available northbound entrance ramp.

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

Island Breeze begins work

Island Breeze Car Wash Scarsdale, 11210 Scarsdale, will be temporarily closed through June 23 for renovations. During this time, hand-wash services will still be provided for full-service packages. Customers with monthly memberships (Fast Pass) will be prorated for the time closed. Regular service will resume June 24.

Properly destroy flags

Residents wishing to properly destroy a flag may take them to RE/MAX 5 Star Realty, 4802 E. Sam Houston Parkway S, Suite 150; the Leader office, 11555 Beamer; and The Gardens, 12001 Beamer. All collected flags will be destroyed during a private American Legion ceremony. For more information, to register as a collection site or to request a flag be picked up, contact Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545 or KBarbour@KBarbourRealtor.com.

Kirkwood to meet June 30

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

CCISD holds retiree job fair

Clear Creek ISD will hold a pair of retiree job fairs Thursday, June 16, at the Education Support Center, located at 2425 E. Main St. in League City, with meetings taking place from 9 to 10 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m. For additional information, visit www.ccisd.net.

Register for PISD pre-K

Registration is currently open for Pasadena ISD's pre-K program. All participating students must live within the Pasadena ISD boundaries and be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2022. For more information, or to see if students meet additional eligibility requirements, visit www1.pasadenaisd.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=80772&pageId=37542593.

San Jacinto College named 2023 Aspen finalist

Third consecutive cycle college receives prestigious honor

On Tuesday, June 7, the Aspen Institute named San Jacinto College one of the 10 finalists for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence – the nation's signature recognition of community colleges that are achieving high and equitable outcomes for students.

This honor follows the college's recognition as an Aspen Prize Finalist with Distinction in 2021, Aspen Prize Finalist in 2019, and Aspen Prize Rising Star in 2017. The only other college in the country to be a finalist all four cycles was Broward College in Florida.

The 10 finalists represent the amazing potential of the more than 1,100 community colleges across the country as engines of prosperity and social mobility. San Jacinto College has distinguished itself in innovative instructional and student support strategies; and leads the nation in Hispanic student degrees, the use of data collection and analysis, and workforce and economic development.

"It is truly an honor to again be recognized by

the Aspen Institute as a top 10 finalist for the Aspen Prize," said San Jacinto College Chancellor, Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "These past two years have been unlike any we have ever seen in education, and I am proud of the hard work and dedication of our faculty, our staff, and our administration. They never lost sight of our goal to support students from entry to completion of credentials. The goals for our graduates are that they earn family-sustaining wages in careers or transfer to a university with no loss of credits. This recognition speaks to the commitment of everyone at San Jacinto College to ensure our students have every opportunity to complete their education goals."

San Jacinto college was recognized by the Aspen Institute for its support of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Within one week, the college moved to altered operations, shifting most courses to an online format with all employees working remotely. The college was uniquely positioned to move quickly to a fully remote opera-

tion because of work on instructional continuity and recovery due to hurricanes Ike and Harvey. Lock boxes were placed at strategic locations so students could drop off documents. Capacity for counseling was increased as students juggled the school / work / life balance. Laptops were distributed to students who had significant needs for them and Wi-Fi hotspots were created in College parking lots for those who did not have access at home. The food markets, a collaboration with the Houston Food Bank, increased their production and provided a drive-thru option for students. Faculty and staff were provided with professional development to help them as well.

"We leaned in to our prior experience in this area to move our entire catalog of classes online when the pandemic hit," said Dr. Laurel Williamson, San Jacinto College deputy chancellor and college president. "It was a complete team effort from every faculty and staff member to ensure a seamless transition from in-person to online courses so that students could complete the se-

mester on time."

The Aspen Institute also recognized San Jacinto College for its work around diversity, equity and inclusion.

"There have been several events in our country that prompted a need for us to take a deeper examination of our current practices, attitudes, and actions," added Hellyer. "As a result, we revised our college values and annual priorities, while adding additional staff to focus on faculty and staff development, hiring processes, and engaging external stakeholders in our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. This has become a true commitment for San Jacinto College."

Collegewide discussions around equity began in late October 2020 and continue today. Guest speakers and lecturers have joined San Jacinto College in these discussions, equity chats were held with all college employees, and a Chautauqua Lecture Series was initiated to provide in-depth information and responses to ques-

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Heat sets park ground on fire



Extreme heat caused the recently placed mulch to catch fire at the Ashley Pointe park Monday, June 13. Firefighters from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department are shown above containing the small fire. The City of Houston recently activated its public health heat emergency plan that provides resources for those who need to take refuge from heat, which was expected to exceed temperatures of 100 degrees.



City offers tips to beat the heat

In response to a hot weather warning from the National Weather Service, the Houston Health Department encourages residents to stay safe.

People are encouraged to take extra precautions to protect themselves from heat-related illness and death. High-risk groups such as adults age 55 and older, children under the age of 4, and people with chronic illness or are either overweight or on certain medications should stay inside air-conditioned buildings between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., the hottest part of the day.

The department recommends people protect themselves and their families from potentially deadly heat-related illness. It recommends people:

- Increase water consumption. Drink lots of liquids even before getting thirsty, but avoid beverages with caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar because these can result in the loss of body fluid.
- Conduct outdoor work or exercise in the early morning or evening when temperatures are not as high. Outdoor workers should drink plenty of water or electrolyte replacement beverages and take frequent breaks in the shade or in an air-

ditioned facility. People unaccustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment need to start slowly and gradually increase heat exposure over several weeks.

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing that permits the evaporation of perspiration.
- Do not leave infants, children, senior citizens, or pets unattended in a parked vehicle, even if the windows are cracked open. Check to make sure everyone is out of the car and don't overlook children who may have fallen asleep.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to help prevent sunburn as well as heat-related illness. Apply sunscreen, which protects from the sun's harmful rays and reduces the risk of sunburn.
- Seek accommodations in air-conditioned facilities during the heat of the day if the house is not air-conditioned: a relative's home, multi-service centers, malls, movie theaters, libraries, etc.
- Take frequent cool baths or showers if your home is not air-conditioned.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include weakness, dizziness, excessive sweating, cool or moist skin, nausea or vomiting, muscle cramps, and a

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Man charged in January murder

Murder charges have been filed against a suspect accused of fatally shooting a man this past January at an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

Eddrel Antonio Brown, 28, is charged with murder in the 230th State District Court. He is accused in the Jan. 28 killing of Lee Mayfield, 30.

According to police, officers responded to a report of a person down at an apartment complex at the above address. Upon arrival, officers found signs of forced entry to an apartment and the victim's body inside. He had multiple gunshot wounds and appeared to be in the early stages of decomposition.

Further investigation identified Brown as the suspect in this case. Members of Clear Lake and

Southeast Divisions' Crime Suppression Teams arrested Brown on Wednesday, June 1, without incident.

Shootings have become commonplace at The Redford Apartments in recent months, with Houston police declaring the complex a hot spot for violent crime.

Past incidents include the following:

- March 16: Rufus Banks fatally shot inside apartment.
- Feb. 8: Alexis Cantu, 21, fatally shot at the complex. (Parys Burks-Henderson, 18, was charged with murder in the crime.)
- Feb. 6: unnamed male, 21, shot outside the complex but survived. (Parys Burks-Henderson was charged with attempted capital murder in this crime.)

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July 4 parade, fireworks canceled

Both the annual South Belt Fourth of July parade and the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show have again been canceled this year out of safety concerns.

Both events were canceled due to permitting issues associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This marks the third consecutive year the local events were called off.

Prior to the pandemic, the South Belt Fourth of July parade had only been canceled once in the event's 33-year history, as the 2018 parade

was scrubbed due to heavy rain and flooding.

The yearly South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show is funded by the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, held each spring – also at El Franco Lee Park. Like the parade and fireworks show, the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off has also been canceled the past three years due to issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizers of all three local events told the Leader they plan to resume the annual festivities next year.

Woman killed in Beamer car crash

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that took place around 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, in the 13900 block of Beamer near Dixie farm Road.

At press time, the identity of the deceased female, 58, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the female was driving a red Kia Soul northbound at the above address when she apparently had a medical episode, lost control of the vehicle, drove over the grassy median and into

southbound lanes of traffic.

The Kia then struck a blue Chevrolet Trailblazer traveling south on Beamer.

Paramedics transported the female to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Medical staff stated she likely suffered a heart attack prior to the crash.

A passenger in the Kia and the driver of the Chevrolet were transported to the hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation was continuing, at press time.

County addresses gun violence

In the wake of the recent shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde that killed 19 students and two staff members, Harris County Commissioners Court recently passed a resolution designating June as Gun Violence Awareness Month. (See related story on Page 2.)

The number of mass shootings across the country continues to grow. More than 110 Americans are killed with guns, and more than 200 are shot and wounded every day. In barely five months since the start of this year, the Uvalde shooting marked the 212th mass shooting.

"We cannot talk about addressing violent crime and mass shootings without talking about the role that guns play in fueling it," Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said. "We know that when it comes to saving lives in Harris County, preventing easy access to weapons of war and keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous peo-

ple is just one part of the solution. Beyond the historic levels of funding, we've already allocated for public safety, we must also continue to invest in public health and other smart solutions that prevent gun violence from happening in the first place."

Hidalgo asked for the public's assistance in keeping the peace.

"June is Gun Violence Awareness Month and Harris County Public Health, along with Harris County leadership, encourages residents to join us in peaceful unity to curb gun violence and promote safety in our communities," Hidalgo said.

Friday, June 3, was deemed Gun Violence Awareness Day. Harris County Public Health encouraged residents to wear an article of orange clothing or accessory – such as a shirt, scarf, hat

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Light hangs at beltway, Beamer



A traffic light at the intersection of Beltway 8 and Beamer was presumably snagged by a passing-by vehicle the afternoon of Tuesday, June 14, causing it to hang above the road for much of the day. There were no known accidents because of the issue at the crossing – already one of the most dangerous in the state.

In My Opinion

Koncaba urges support of kids

Good Afternoon Friends of Kidz Harbor.

It's that time of year again for the 5th Annual Kidz Harbor Splash into Summer Bash! Texan Bank soon to be Home Bank hosts this event each year as a fun day for the children, but also to raise money for school clothes, shoes and supplies for the upcoming school year.

Do you want to help? If so, we are in need of the following:

- Monetary donations for back to school clothing, shoes and school supplies.
- Supplies for the Summer Bash: gently used or new stuffed animals, small toys,

swim goggles, and pool toys.

As you may already know, Kidz Harbor is a group foster home in Liverpool, Texas. At any given time, there could be 60+ foster children residing there. They have an emergency shelter and a long term care home for those children that have had their parental rights terminated and they are tired of moving from foster home to foster home and want a permanent home. One of my favorite things about Kidz Harbor is that they specialize in taking in sibling groups so that families can stay together. The staff is amazing and I have seen these children truly blossom under their care.

Thank you for being a friend and supporter of Kidz Harbor!

Kristi Koncaba
President & COO

County Commissioner Ellis seeks gun resolution

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis on Tuesday will ask Commissioners Court to approve a resolution calling for the state Legislature to hold a special session to address gun violence and school safety in the wake of the Uvalde massacre.

"For the last three weeks," Ellis said, "we have mourned the loss of children and teachers in Uvalde, along with senseless gun deaths in Tulsa and across the country, including at least three people in Harris County."

"These deaths are preventable. But instead of creating responsible gun safety measures, Texas has loosened our

gun laws. After the tragic mass shooting in El Paso, the Legislature legalized unlicensed open and concealed carry handguns."

Ellis' resolution calls on the Texas governor, Senate and House of Representatives to act on behalf of the people they are obligated to serve and protect to pass common-sense gun laws that would prevent gun violence and the needless loss of life in the Lone Star state.

"... We are experiencing a crisis of gun violence in Texas and across the country," the resolution reads. "From mass shootings to homicides to suicides to accidental deaths,

gun violence is claiming lives every day. It is getting worse. Every day, firearm-related incidents kill more than 110 people in the United States and injure more than 200 others."

Fewer people die from gun violence in states where elected officials "have acted with moral courage to pass gun safety laws," the resolution states.

States with the highest gun death rates have weak gun laws that "protect special interests instead of lives."

"... For decades, the powerful gun lobby has blocked gun safety laws and research at the state and federal lev-

els while advancing reckless laws that allow for ghost guns, permitless carry, and the irresponsible proliferation of guns throughout our communities," it says.

The resolution calls upon representatives in Congress to work with the Biden administration in enacting effective gun safety legislation to protect all Americans, including a renewal of the assault weapons ban, background checks for all gun sales, new standards for gun storage and safety, implementation of red flag laws that allow for the temporary removal of guns from people who pose an imminent danger to themselves or others, and removal of the liability shield that protects gun manufacturers from lawsuits over the harm their weapons cause.

In addition, the resolution states, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the "Protecting Our Kids Act" that would raise the age for buying semiautomatic weapons from 18 to 21; establish new federal offenses for gun trafficking and selling large-capacity magazines; and create tax incentives for purchasing safe storage devices.

"If this law had been in effect in 1999, at least 20 gunmen might not have been able to purchase large-capacity magazines and destroy countless lives," the resolution says.

Said Ellis, "Responsible gun owners and the vast majority of Americans agree: it's time to enact meaningful gun legislation. Lives are on the line. I hope my colleagues

will join me in supporting this resolution calling on our state legislators to convene and pass laws to make our communities safer." (See related story Page 1.)

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club Exemption Certificate Permit by Edward H. White II, Post No. 521, dba, Edward H. White II, Post No. 521, The American Legion Department, to be located at 2221 Preston Avenue, Pasadena, Harris, Texas, 77503. Officer of said corporation is Danny King, Adjutant and Finance Officer.

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LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

*Also Available on Facebook Live

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.

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Pct. 2 deputies bust grow house



Following a lengthy investigation based on a tip, deputies with Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit recently raided a suspected marijuana grow house in the 10300 block of Sagewillow. Deputies said it appeared the grow house was in the process of being moved at the time of the bust but several pieces of evidence were left behind, including 2 pounds of bagged marijuana. Jimmy Tran, 37, was charged with felony possession of marijuana. More arrests are expected.

Business Review

Burleigh begins weight program

Locally owned Burleigh Chiropractic, LLC announced that it has added the Doctor Supervised ChiroThin Weight Loss Program™ to their office.

When asked what made Burleigh Chiropractic, LLC decide to begin offering weight loss, Dr. Barry Burleigh said, "The number of people in the United States that are overweight or obese has reached near epidemic proportions. Every day I have the opportunity to treat patients who are suffering with health conditions that can be associated with being overweight. In fact, studies have shown that nearly 80 percent health conditions can be either directly or indirectly related to weight issues. I have decided to take a stand and help the people of South Belt-Ellington regain control of their weight and as a result, their health."

When asked why he thought weight issues have become such a problem, Burleigh said, "People have forgotten how to eat in a way that promotes health and being at their optimal weight and the two go hand-in-hand. In fact, that is what

made me decide to go with ChiroThin. It teaches people how and what to eat in the real world. There are no shakes, no eating meals out of a box, no crazy exercise programs, and all of the food is purchased at the grocery store."

Burleigh went on to say that many people, when following the ChiroThin program, lose 20-35 pounds in just 6 weeks and they are

given the tools to help them make the weight loss more permanent.

For questions or to learn more about the Doctor Supervised ChiroThin Weight Loss Program™ or Burleigh Chiropractic, LLC, visit Burleigh Chiropractic, LLC, 1170 Beamer Road, Houston TX 77089; call 281-481-1623; or visit www.BurleighChiro.com or Doc@BurleighChiro.com.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of Neighbor's app posted a video that captured three suspects that were caught stealing catalytic converters Saturday, June 11, around 2:30 a.m. on Gulfpalms Street.

The member states that their neighbor called the police and the suspects were followed and caught with a total of six catalytic converters and two handguns.

A member of People of

Sagemont Facebook group shared a post of a 2014 GMC Sierra that was stolen Saturday, June 11.

The incident occurred near Beltway 8 and Pearlland Parkway/Monroe Road. The truck is silver and lifted on 24s with mud tires, has "aces" sticker on back window and a shield on the right side.

It also has a Houston Astros emblem on the left side of tailgate and license plates KMT8643.

AARP Chapter 199 to hold meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes one to join them at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 14, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586. The chapter meets in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway.

Everyone is invited to attend the meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. Entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors is provided at each monthly meeting.

Thursday, July 14, the program will be about Angel Flight, which is a nonprofit organization that provides free air transportation for people who need to travel for medical and humanitarian purposes.

They arrange travel through a network of more than 1,000 volunteer pilots who use their own planes to fly thousands of charitable flights throughout Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Every year, Angel Flight pilots make it possible for people to access life-saving medical care that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

The presenter, Scott Hum-

phries, has been flying for 30 years. He earned his private pilot's license in 1992 and later added a commercial pilot certificate and instrument and multiengine ratings. He holds an FAA Advanced Ground Instructor Certificate. He is the local Wing Leader for Angel Flight and also owner of Humphries Aviation. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. after the Chapter business meeting ends.

The July 14 social after the program ends will be bingo hosted by Brookdale Clear Lake. There is no charge for the bingo event, but one will need to have preregistered at the June 9 meeting.

AARP Chapter 199 also organizes day trips for AARP Chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next trip is being planned at this time.

If anyone 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 their current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact Lynne Justis at 832-212-5417 or aarpchapter199@yahoo.com

St. Luke sets festival

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church is hosting a fall festival and parish raffle from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 12. The festival will be held at 11011 Hall Road, in the rear parking lot. Additional parking will be provided at Dobie High, 10220 Black-

hawk Blvd.

A shuttle from Dobie's lot to the festival will be available. Admission is free and open to the public. Included in the festival's schedule are crafts, food, DJ music and activities for children.

Heat tips from the city

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fast and weak pulse. People experiencing these symptoms should lower their body temperature by getting to a cooler place, drinking water, taking a cool shower or bath and resting.

A throbbing headache, red, hot, and dry skin (no longer sweating), extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees), nausea or vomiting, confusion, loss of conscious-

ness, and a rapid, strong pulse are signs of heatstroke. If these symptoms occur, call 911 immediately and try to lower the person's body temperature until help arrives.

People may seek air-conditioning in city multiservice centers, libraries, and recreation centers during normal business hours.

To find the nearest location, or for more information, call 311.

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South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Pasadena ISD crowns winners of May chess competition

Third-grade top finishers



Fourth-grade top finishers



Pasadena ISD recently held its eleventh annual May chess competition, encompassing 265 students from 41 different campuses. Pictured are the respective grade winners. See following issues of the *Leader* for more chess winners.

Shown at left, left to right, are third-graders Aspyr Saldana, Genoa; Daniel Garcia, Mathtys; Isaa Zayid, Fairmont; Scarlett Vega, Genoa; Alexis Vega, Genoa; Milo Galvan, Genoa; Justin Jimenez, Genoa; and Leyi Zhou, Fairmont.

Shown at right, left to right, are fifth-graders Simon Nguyen, Melillo; Santiago Vega, Roberts; Kyle Healy, Sablatura; Cadence Barrera, Deepwater; Robert Pheister, Melillo; Adrian Gloria, Roberts; Nehemiah Gonzalez, Deepwater; and Abhinav Nair, Sablatura.

Shown at left, left to right, are fourth-graders Alexander Andrade, Mathtys; Giovanni Amador, Mathtys; Suri Nguyen, Genoa; Abner Morales, Genoa; Zane Andrade, Atkinson; Tyler Nguyen, Frazier; Adam Bowman, Frazier; Daniel Garcia, Mathtys; and Giovanni Aceves, Garfield.

Shown at right, left to right, are sixth-graders Roger Cui, Sablatura; Damian Chavez, Morris; Martin Peng, Morris; Lucas Nguyen, Morris; Daniel Xi, Sablatura; Khai Nguyen, Morris; Justin Guerrero, Deer Park Jr. High; and Andrew Guzman, Melillo.

Fifth-grade top finishers



Sixth grade top finishers



Fred Roberts Middle School awards ceremony held

Fred Roberts Middle School recently held their awards ceremony, recognizing several students' academic achievements. Administration officials also named their newest assistant principal Karen Pena.

The students received Certificate of Achievement awards for exemplified performance in different academic areas.

Also, two students received the Fred Roberts award. To be a recipient of this award, student leadership and character were considered and then voted upon by the whole school.

Shown at right are, left to right (front row), Damien Sanchez; Lyndsi Price (assistant principal); Marcos Hernandez; Deviland Guillory; Antony West; Mateo Hernandez; (back row) Fred Roberts; Aiden Pena and principal Lali Guerrero.



Price (center) presented achievement awards to Than Tran (left) and Van Tran.



Shown above honoring new assistant principal Karen Pena (center) are, Fred Roberts; Lyndsi Price; Pena; Lali Guerrero; Erin McBride (ELAR left to right, DeRonda Preston (counselor); Britney Subinsky (counselor); coach); Ashlie Haas (science coach); and LaShondra Evans (math coach).



Sixth-grader Nhi Nguyen accepts her Fred Roberts award from Roberts for her strong character and leadership.



Marlon Lopez accepts his Fred Roberts award from Roberts.



Shown above are Fred Roberts Middle School students with their certificates showing they are academic achievement winners, left to right, (front row) Jade Nguyen; Yaretti Valdivia; Ryan Galang; Jesiah Avendano and (back row) Brandon Ingersoll.



Shown above are, left to right, Price; Roberts; achievement awardee Anderson Aviles Chacon and Guerrero.

County addresses gun violence

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are proactively committed to ending violence through our violence prevention programs that assist vulnerable residents, and building safer, healthier, and stronger communities."

"HCPH stands alongside others across the nation in solidarity and in remembrance of those lives lost to gun violence," HCPH Executive Director Barbie L. Robinson said. "We recognize gun violence is a public health problem that impacts those affected both mentally and physically. We

are proactively committed to ending violence through our violence prevention programs that assist vulnerable residents, and building safer, healthier, and stronger communities."

In 2021, HCPH's Community Health and Violence Prevention Services Division was established to provide interventions designed to address the root causes of pressing public safety challenges, such as violence,

through a public health approach. CHVPS is working with local partner agencies and organizations to identify areas where violence is most prevalent, address nonviolent incidents that can be resolved peacefully and provide resources to victims of violence.

During the month of June, HCPH will hold events in specific locations throughout

Harris County to raise awareness about gun violence.

HCPH encourages residents needing support to reach out to the Houston Crisis Hotline at 832-416-1177 or SAMHSA's Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990. (The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

San Jacinto College named Aspen finalist 4th time in a row

Continued from Page 1
 tions that came up in the equity chats. A deep dive into college data has occurred to identify achievement gaps among cohorts of students. These have all led to a focus on instructional and student support strategies that address the challenges students face and set them up for success.

Another point that the Aspen Institute attributed to San Jacinto College's top 10 finalist recognition is its commitment to making higher education accessible to all students. In May 2021, San Jacinto College received the largest gift in school history – a \$30 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and her husband, Dan Jewett. "This gift was transfor-

mational for San Jacinto College and our community," said Hellyer.

The donation came during the pandemic, a time when many families were struggling due to illness, job loss, and other challenges. San Jacinto College used a portion of the donated funds to create the 21 Forward Scholarship, providing every 2021 high school graduate in the college's taxing district an opportunity to attend college for up to three years debt-free. The remainder of the funds are being used to establish the Student Success Endowment to fund Promise Scholarships.

Three years ago San Jacinto College launched Promise @ San Jac in conjunction with three high schools in the Pasadena In-

dependent School District. With the Scott donation, the College is able to expand the Promise Scholarship to every high school senior that lives in the taxing district regardless of income or high school GPA.

"With the pandemic revving its gears, I had financial concerns about my college experience because no one knew what would happen next," said Promise Scholar Cynthia Jennings. "That's when the Promise @ San Jac scholarship was introduced to me. It was a sense of stability in an ever-changing world." Cynthia went on to be accepted into the San Jacinto College nursing program, and she has made the dean's list in each semester. She is now actively involved in Phi

Theta Kappa Mu Omicron where she went from secretary to her current position as vice president.

"The success of our students truly is at the heart of everything we do here at San Jacinto College," added Hellyer. "I look forward to continuing to work with the Aspen Institute to showcase the critical work that is happening here."

Next steps in the Aspen Prize selection include multiday site visits to each of the 10 finalists to gather insights about effective practices, a review by a distinguished jury to select the Aspen Prize winner, and a late Spring 2023 announcement of the Aspen Prize winner.

"We're grateful to all the experts who have helped

Aspen identify these impressive colleges," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "We can't wait to dive in to learn more about how they have achieved these measurable student outcomes so we can share what we learn with the field."

The 10 Aspen Prize finalists represent the impressive diversity of community colleges across the nation. No matter their size or location, excellent community colleges, like San Jacinto College, are defined by their focus on outcomes and how they develop the talents of their students in ways that strengthen their regional economies and communities.

The Aspen Prize selection

process began in October 2021, when the Aspen Institute worked with an expert data panel to craft a formula to assess student outcomes at nearly 1,000 community colleges in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer, and equity. Based on those data, in total, 150 top community colleges were invited to apply; 109 applications were received. A selection committee of 16 higher education experts reviewed applications, including extensive data and narratives on student success strategies. From the 25 highest ranking colleges, announced as semi-finalists in April, the committee met in May to choose the 10 Aspen Prize finalists.

The following is a list of the remaining 2023 Aspen Prize finalists:

- Amarillo College, Texas.
- Broward College, Fla.
- Hostos Community College, N.Y.
- Imperial Valley College, Calif.
- Kingsborough Community College, N.Y.
- Moorpark College, Calif.
- Northwest Iowa Community College, Iowa.
- San Jacinto College, Texas.
- South Puget Sound Community College, Wash.
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Wis.

To view a message from Hellyer on San Jacinto College being named a 2023 Aspen finalist, visit www.sanjac.edu/news/aspen-institute-names-san-jacinto-college-finalist-2023-aspen-prize.

St. Luke's awards scholarship winners



The Guadalupanas from St. Luke's Catholic Church awarded three scholarships at a graduation breakfast Saturday May 14. Above, left to right, are committee presenter Jose Estrada, Noah Merrill, Vincent Tran, Trang Hoang and committee presenter Adele Roby.

Photo submitted by Jose Estrada

CCISD students partner with AYES

This summer, five Clear Creek ISD students will begin paid internship programs at several local car dealerships and retailers.

Automotive Youth Education Systems (AYES) forges partnerships between dealerships, automotive retailers and local high schools with high-quality automotive programs.

Below are the students who signed AYES internship agreements:

- Titus Miller, Clear Creek High School, The Shop Off Road.
- Ricky Lloyd, Clear

Creek High School, McRee Ford Quick Lane.

- Bryan Garcia, Clear Springs High School, Norman Frede Chevrolet.
- Kelvin Villatoro, Clear Springs High School, McRee Ford.
- Cameron Hebert, Clear Springs High School, Valvoline Auto Service.

AYES partners with CCISD's Career and Technical Education (CTE) department to provide students in the Automotive Technology program a glimpse into day-to-day operations in an automotive facility, while shad-

owing an experienced lead mentor and learning alongside industry professionals.

"The Automotive Technology CTE program helps students discover their passion and develop their skills to enter a highly trained workforce almost immediately after leaving CCISD," said JT Buford, CTE Program Manager. "We are grateful for the support and long-term partnerships in place with AYES and our automotive industry partners that provide valuable real-world experiences for our students," he said.

Additionally, CCISD congratulates the five graduating seniors who celebrated the completion of the AYES program with successful internships at automotive repair facilities in the area.

Below are the students who completed the internship program and are set to graduate this month:

- Nicholas Johnson, Clear Brook High School, Norman Frede Chevrolet.
- Sam Greer, Clear Springs High School, Discount Tire Friendswood.
- Zachary Brunner, Clear Springs High School, Preferred Home Services.

- Nathan Deschner, Clear Springs High School, McRee Ford.

- Muhammed Kunjumoideen, Clear Springs High School, The Shop Off Road, League City.

"The knowledge that CCISD Automotive Technology instructor, Michael Hedger, imparts on students is second to none," said Buford. "He positions his students to succeed in any shop bay as well as in their automotive postsecondary education."



The CCISD students along with their respective dealership representatives shown above are, left to right, (front row) Titus Miller, Ricky Lloyd, Bryan Garcia, Kelvin Villatoro, Cameron Hebert, (back row) Michael Matthijetz, Brant Koepke, JJ Ashmus, Tim Allen and Tyrone Turner.

Waugh celebrates 50th birthday



Friends and family of Stacey Waugh recently gathered to celebrate the longtime South Belt resident's 50th birthday. The daughter of community activist and former Sagemont Civic Club Vice President Sandy Robb, Waugh is also active in the South Belt community and is an integral part of the Leader's annual Christmas program, in which she tirelessly volunteers, supports financially by collecting aluminum cans and promotes by designing/distributing flyers. Waugh attended Stuchbery, Thompson and Dobie, before taking courses at San Jacinto College and College of the Mainland.

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)
 City Councilman Frank Mancuso addressed the Beverly Hills Civic Club about improvements forthcoming to the Beverly Hills Park.

Christopher Pace received the Jesse H. Jones Scholarship from Houston Endowment, Inc. He also received a grant to attend Rice University.

40 years ago (1982)
 The developer of the Southpoint complex at Fuqua announced plans to construct Fuqua through the Gulf Freeway to within 400 feet of Old Galveston Road. The city would eventually complete the project which connected Fuqua to Old Galveston Road.

James Michael Webb, 26, died when his pickup truck collided with two tractor trailers that were parked at the dead end of Fuqua at Blackhawk.

35 years ago (1987)
 Pasadena ISD trustees approved commencement of the fifth and final phase of the renovation of Strawberry Mall, a 99,000-square-foot building. Five trustees voted in favor of the additional \$475,000 expenditure.

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church celebrated its 25th anniversary.

30 years ago (1992)
 Workmen removed the walls of the United Savings Building on Scarsdale Boulevard. Kim Heys, construction manager for Bell-Mann Corp., said that they were making way for a covered drive-through to the United Savings Office.

Southbend residents who were waiting for their day in court found that their attorneys had reached a \$39 million out-of-court settlement with Monsanto in what would have been the first Brio-related court case to consider health problems.

25 years ago (1997)
 A 17-year-old Clear Brook High School student was charged with possession of a weapon in a school zone at Clear Lake High, where he attended summer school.

Local constable deputies were seeking the person responsible for vandalizing more than 15 cars. Most of

the vehicles' windows were shattered by a suspected pellet gun, with most cases reported in the Sageglen subdivision.

20 years ago (2002)
 Dobie graduate Nathan Mitchell signed a professional baseball contract with the Chicago Cubs.

More than 200 participants turned out for the San Jacinto College Foundation's Evening of Monopoly to help raise \$34,000 for student scholarships.

15 years ago (2007)
 The new Harris County Tax Office opened at Scarsdale and Beamer.

Jerry Michael Cook, the Pasadena Independent School District bus driver charged with manslaughter in the death of 9-year-old Frazier student Ruth Young, was acquitted.

Dobie assistant principal

Steve Fullen was appointed the new principal of South Houston High School. He had served as assistant principal for four years. Fullen replaced outgoing Deborah Aubin who was retiring.

Drainage improvement construction began on Edgebrook. This was due, in part, to the actions of Free-way Manor resident James Muecke who had been working with local government officials since July 2005.

Marie Flickinger, publisher of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*, was elected chairman of the San Jacinto College Board of Regents. This was the first time a woman was elected to the position.

10 years ago (2012)
 A would-be bank robber gave a fake bomb to a teller at the Chase Bank in the 10990 block of Scarsdale Friday,

June 15, in what appeared to be a botched robbery attempt. According to police, a man wearing a costume went to a drive-thru window at roughly 2:45 p.m. and gave the teller a money bag that contained what appeared to be a pipe bomb. When the teller opened the bag, then she saw a remote control in the suspect's hand, as he reportedly told her to hurry up. Frightened, the teller pushed the bank's panic button and walked away from the money bag. As she did so, the suspect fled the scene. A bomb squad from the Harris County Sheriff's Office was called to the scene to detonate the bomb but realized the device was a hoax. The bank and nearby stores were evacuated, and much of Scarsdale was blocked until around 6 p.m., causing significant traffic delays. No

arrests were made.

Barbara Legler, wife of the late state Rep. Ken Legler, announced Friday, June 15, that she would run in the special election for state House District 144 to fill the remainder of her husband's term. The election was to be held simultaneously with the general election on November 6.

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Parish celebrated its 50th anniversary Saturday, June 23, with a special Mass. Guests from the archdiocese and many past pastors, priests and deacons who had served at St. Frances Cabrini were in attendance.

5 years ago (2017)
 The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved Jose Hernandez to serve as principal of Stuchbery Elementary. He replaced outgoing

Stuchbery Principal Carolyn Waller, who resigned after serving 35 years in the education field. Hernandez had served the school district for 13 years. He began his career as a bilingual science teacher at Schneider Middle School from 2004 to 2006. He continued to teach bilingual and special education classes at Keller Middle School until 2008. In 2010, Hernandez took on the role of assistant principal at Jensen Elementary. Hernandez earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas-Pan American (now the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) in biology and a master's degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in educational management. He earned his educational certifications in bilingual studies and administrative leadership. He

officially started his new position in August.

1 year ago (2021)
 Philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett were revealed to have been the secret donors responsible for donating \$30 million to San Jacinto College, allowing the area school to provide free tuition to all graduating students in its taxing district. The donation was the largest private gift in the college's history. Scott is the former wife of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. Scott made the announcement Tuesday, June 15, in a blog post, donating more than \$2.7 billion to 286 organizations throughout the country. In her post she says, "Higher education is a proven pathway to opportunity, so we looked for two- and four-year institutions successfully educating students who come from communities that have been chronically underserved."

Murder charges ...

Continued from Page 1
 - Jan. 28: Lee Mayfield fatally shot inside an apartment.

- Jan. 8, victims, James Sipes, 41, and Kelvin Menefee, 57, shot inside an apartment but survived.

- Jan. 5: Marilyn Lee Lambert, 70, and Marcus Ray Hawkins, 51, shot inside an apartment but survived.

- Last September 2021, three victims – two males and one female – were all shot in the same night at the complex. All were transported to the hospital in stable condition.

The Cabo San Lucas Apartments, located on the opposite side of the Gulf Freeway at Edgebrook, has also become a hot spot for shootings, with at least six taking place in late 2021, including two fatal shootings in two days in October.

Anyone with information on any of these cases is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

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Over The Back Fence by Kenna

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHUCK!
 Birthday greetings are sent June 17 to longtime South Belt resident and businessman **Chuck Maricle** who serves as the district chief of staff for the U.S. Coast Guard's 8th Coastal Region. He is a veteran U.S. Army engineer and is active in several local chambers of commerce.

SANDY ENJOYS 83RD BIRTHDAY
 Longtime South Belt resident **Sandy Robb**, who is active with her daughter **Stacy Waugh** in the Leader Christmas program and many community events, celebrates her 83rd birthday June 18. Birthday wishes are sent to Sandy from her daughter who says, "You are forever young!"

DAVID TURNS 19
David Garcia is celebrating his 19th birthday on June 18. Happy Birthday wishes are sent from **Sandy Robb** and **Stacy Waugh**.

ISABELLA CELEBRATES 17TH!
 Best wishes for a happy 17th birthday June 20 are sent to **Isabella Abarca** from her dad **Jose Abarca** and **Natalie Abarca**; siblings **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah** and **Elliana Abarca**; grandpa **David Flickinger** (Leader president) and **Mimo Abarca**; grandpa **Donnie Mock** and **Ana Christina Mock**; and great-grandparents **David** and **Marie Flickinger**.

BIRTHDAY WISHES SENT TO EMORY
 Best wishes are sent June 21 to the Rev. **Emory Gadd**, associate pastor and longtime youth counselor who is active in many areas

at Sagemont Church, from friends and the Leader staff. He is also active in community organizations, sports and various events.

NATALIE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
 Wishes for a happy birthday are sent June 21 to **Natalie Abarca** from husband **Jose Abarca**; children **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah**, **Elliana** and **Isabella Abarca**; her mother **Ellie** and husband **David Flickinger**; grandparents **Marie** and **David Flickinger**; and friends at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 16 through June 22.

Frazier Elementary
 Enjoying a birthday June 17 is **Emily Siscoe**. The day for a double-layer cake for **Candace Kliesing** and **Katie Posey** is June 19. Marking a special birthday June 20 is **Dolores Medrano**.

Genoa Elementary
 Join in the fun birthday celebration June 20 for **Angel Perez**.

Moore Elementary
 The day for a party for **Shelly Blair** is June 16. Send a happy birthday greeting June 17 to **Amairani Sigala**. Celebrate the birthday of **Betis Molina** June 22 with cake and ice cream.

South Belt Elementary
Jamie Lagor enjoys a special birthday June 18.

Stuchbery Elementary
 Remember to wish **Lauren Nalepa** a happy birthday June 22.

Melillo Middle School
 Remember to send a birthday greeting June 16 to **Lauren Sanchez**.

Roberts Middle School
 June 21 is the day for a birthday party for **Elizabeth Arrambide**.

Thompson Intermediate
MaryBeth Nicol and **Meagan Mancuso** celebrate birthdays June 16. **Silvia Saucedo** enjoys a birthday June 20.

Dobie High
 Send birthday greetings June 17 to **John Kneisler**. On June 18, light the candles for a birthday cake for **Lachee Payne**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
 Thursday, June 16: **Arturo Ayala**, **Melissa Farr** and **Caitlin Caughlin**; Friday, June 17: **Patrick Thomas**, **Steven Bryant**, **Rick Bailey**, **Christine Thomas**, **Michelle Miller** and **Stephanie Hartman**; Monday, June 20: **Lawrence Henry**, **Scarlette Benzkofer**, **Courtney Patel**, **Paul Sharpless**, **Aperture Prod** and **Laura Longoria-Ortiz**; Tuesday, June 21: **Becky Benner**, **Monica Webster**, **Lynee Fehler**, **Kyle McMullen**, **Natalie Garza**, **Priscilla Villa** and **Celina Clark**; Wednesday, June 22: **Erin Ortiz**, **Rob Kemp**, **Bonnie Lamb**, **Anna Jeffries** and **Jennifer Nestle**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 Send an email with details on events to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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P02640 11/04

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Road to Omaha includes Calhoun, Harrison

The 2022 NCAA Division I College World Series will have plenty of local flavor as the championship gets under way beginning June 17, ending with a best-of-three championship series June 25-27 on ESPN.

Clear Brook's Aaron Calhoun and Lutheran South's Luke Harrison, both 2021 high school graduates and current col-

lege freshmen, are having the time of their lives on the baseball diamond.

Calhoun and his Oklahoma Sooners teammates are in Omaha, Neb., for the NCAA College World Series, as is Harrison and his Texas Longhorn teammates.

Oklahoma, now 42-22 overall out of the Big 12, won the Blacksburg Regional over host Virginia

Tech by winning the decisive third game June 12 by an 11-2 count.

Texas, headed back to the World Series in back-to-back seasons and appearing in the classic for the 37th time overall, came back from the brink of elimination against East Carolina in the Greenville Regional, moving on with an easy 11-1 win in the deciding third game.

East Carolina won the series opener 13-7 as Harrison faced three batters, striking out one and walking another.

In the middle game, East Carolina led 7-2 in the bottom of the seventh inning before the Longhorns plated five runs

to tie the game and then walked it off, 9-8, in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Harrison also appeared in the middle game, allowing two hits and an earned run in relief.

As for the Sooners, Tanner Tredaway smacked a pair of home runs among five in the game for Oklahoma, and Cade Horton gave the Sooners six solid innings as the starting pitcher as No. 4 seed Virginia Tech fell.

Calhoun has been used sparingly for a good deal of his freshman season but got into the Super Regional series in the middle game with Virginia Tech leading big.

Striking out one and

allowing one hit, Calhoun covered the top of the eighth inning in scoreless fashion for the Sooners.

Now it's on to the College World Series for Oklahoma. The Sooners will open play against Texas A&M, while the

Longhorns are set to face Notre Dame.

In the other side of the bracket, which begins June 18, Stanford is set to take on Arkansas in a PAC-12 vs. SEC showdown, while Auburn returns for the second time

in three seasons and will go against Ole Miss. Stanford at 47-16 is the top national seed remaining in the tournament as road teams won six of the eight Super Regional series to stay on the road to Omaha for the series.



College World Series
Omaha, Neb. June 17-27
Oklahoma vs. Texas A&M
 June 17, 2 p.m. (ESPN)

Texas vs. Notre Dame
 June 17, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Championship Series
Game 1: June 25, 7 p.m.
Game 2: June 26, 3 p.m.
Game 3: June 27, 7 p.m. (if needed)

At right, Clear Brook High School graduate Aaron Calhoun and his Oklahoma Sooners teammates have advanced to the 2022 NCAA College World Series after winning three postseason tournaments.

Kemo says South Florida



Kemo Millender, one of the top scorers in the history of the Clear Brook High School varsity boys' basketball program, has announced via Twitter that he will continue his education and playing career at the University of South Florida beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year. South Florida is in the American Athletic Conference.

Andy Tolbert Photo

Towels III leaves Brook; Lewisville Hebron next

John Towels III has left his position as Clear Brook's varsity football head coach, opting this summer to accept the same role at Lewisville Hebron.

Just like that, Towels' brief two-year stay with the Wolverines is done.

Over his two seasons, Towels was 7-12 with Brook at the varsity level as the program's playoff drought extended to four seasons.

Since current Dawson head coach Mike Allison led the Wolverines to an 8-5 mark and an appearance in the 6A Division II regional quarterfinals in 2016, the program has gone 17-32 over the ensuing five years.

Clear Brook opens

the 2022 regular season against Dobie, with the varsity game coming Friday, Aug. 26 at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium.

Demond Stafford will make his Dobie debut as head coach in the opener, and now the Wolverines will be under new leadership.

In the current hierarchy of 24-6A, Dickinson and Clear Springs have for years occupied the two Division I playoff seeds, and Clear Falls has emerged as a Region III threat in Division II.

For the 2022 season, the Wolverines will vie with Brazoswood, Clear Creek, Clear Lake and Falls for either of the league's Division II playoff slots.

Dobie grad McDonald-Kelley to Michigan State

Bringing Women's College World Series experience to East Lansing, Sharonda McDonald-Kelley has been named head softball coach at Michigan State. Vice President and Director of Athletics Alan Haller made the announcement on June 10.

"I'm excited to welcome Sharonda McDonald-Kelley to our Spartan family," Haller said.

"She's experienced great success as both a coach and a student-athlete, and has a plan to help Spartan softball achieve similar results.

"She is a teacher of the game, with a proven track record of skill development, helping student-athletes maximize their potential as she did during her record-breaking college career.

"Sharonda has a wealth of experience at several successful major Division I programs. And with her demonstrated success of back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances as head coach at Campbell, she's proven she has the ability to successfully implement her approach in a short period of time."

McDonald-Kelley guided the Campbell program to a 101-81 record over the last four seasons, winning Big South tournament titles with the Camels in 2021 and 2022.

McDonald-Kelley's teams went 50-19 in Big South play and advanced to NCAA Regionals in each of the last two seasons, marking two of the five times a Campbell team has reached the NCAA Tournament since 1986.

In 2021, McDonald-Kelley was named Big South Coach of the Year after her team won both the Big South regular season and tournament titles.

"I want to thank God for this incredible opportunity," McDonald-Kelley said. "I would also like to thank Vice President and Director of Athletics Alan Haller for the opportunity to lead the Michigan State softball program."

"The vision for the softball program and the investment into that vision was clear to me from the beginning. I could feel the pride ingrained in the culture of Michigan State athletics and know I will have the

full support of the administration. Core values and family are very important to me. My family and I are excited to embrace the Spartan culture and become part of the community."

McDonald-Kelley steps into the head coaching role following the retirement of longtime Michigan State head coach Jacquie Joseph, who guided the team for 29 seasons.

"I have a lot of respect for Jacquie Joseph, for the foundation she's built at Michigan State and for the ambassador she's been for softball, the Big Ten and the Michigan State program," McDonald-Kelley said.

"I am looking forward to building upon the foundation she laid and will continue to push the program forward. I am truly honored and excited for this opportunity.

"We can build something really special here and I fully expect this team to be competing for conference championships. I am ready to get to work and put a great product on the field."

In four seasons at the helm of the Campbell program, McDonald-Kelley coached 15 All-Big South honorees, including seven on the All-Big South First Team, six on the All-Big South Second Team and two honorable mentions.

In 2021, outfielder Destini England earned Big South Player of the Year and Third Team All-Southeast Region honors under McDonald-Kelley's watch.

Campbell placed eight players on the All-Big South Tournament team during McDonald-Kelley's tenure, including back-to-back tournament MVPs in 2021 and 2022.

Prior to Campbell, McDonald-Kelley spent the first 10 years of her coaching career as an assistant coach at Ohio State, Florida, Texas Tech, LSU, Ohio and Texas Southern.

McDonald-Kelley also served as head coach of the Chicago Bandits in the National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) League in 2017.

During her lone season at Ohio State in 2018, McDonald-Kelley helped the Top 25-ranked Buckeyes to a 36-16 record along with a trip to NCAA Regionals. Ohio State's 36 wins were the most for the program since 2010.

McDonald-Kelley was a four-time All-Big 12 selection as a player at Texas A&M from 2004-2007, capping off her intercollegiate career with Texas A&M's first trip to the Women's College World Series in 20 years.

A terror on the basepaths, McDonald-Kelley is the Aggie career record holder with 153 stolen bases, while ranking second all-time in hits (249) and runs scored (195).

McDonald-Kelley is the Texas A&M single-season record holder for runs (60) and her 73 consecutive stolen bases during her time in College Station tied an NCAA record. With 48

steals in 2005, McDonald-Kelley led the NCAA and earned the Golden Shoe Award.

She compiled a .338 batting average.

Continued on Page 8

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Dobie Class of 2003 graduate and former Lady Longhorn softball star Sharonda McDonald-Kelley has been named the head softball coach at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. A star player at Texas A&M University and then professionally, McDonald-Kelley has for quite some time been one of the fast risers in the NCAA coaching ranks.

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★Friendswood - Beautiful 5,250 sq ft home with game room, media room, elevator and more on almost 2 acres with pool, RV storage, barn! #MYR

★NEW! Pearland! - Gorgeous 4-2-2 with 5,000 sq ft formal dining, den with FP, updated! #SUN

★NEW! League City - Gated Community - Gorgeous 2-2-5-2 with study, remodeled bathrooms, deck, whole house generator! #MON

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San Jac softball's Tyson earns NJCAA All-American second-team accolade



San Jacinto College freshman softball player Taniece Tyson used a terrific all-around freshman season to land National Junior College Athletic Association All-American second-team honors following the 2022 season. Starting all 57 games for the Coyotes, Tyson hit .414 and smacked a team-high 15 home runs



while adding 10 doubles. The utility player also had 52 runs batted in, which was second on the team. A Red Oak High School Class of 2019 graduate, Tyson originally signed with McNeese University before eventually transferring to San Jacinto College. For 2023, Tyson is eligible to return to the Coyotes as one of the region's top offensive threats. See more SJC softball on Page 8. San Jacinto College photos

JFD volleyball youth camps

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host the 2022 Lady Longhorns' youth camp July 19-21 before welcoming incoming high school players for a preseason camp July 25-27. The Lady Longhorn youth camp July 19-21 will include students entering the third through sixth grades as of the 2022-2023 school year. That session runs from 9 to 11 a.m. daily, while students entering the seventh and eighth grades will attend from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Students must register no later than July 1 to guarantee a camp T-shirt. Dobie's incoming high school player preseason camp July 25-27 will host incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For additional information or to request registration, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org. The Lady Longhorns will open the 2022 regular season Aug. 9 at Baytown Sterling, taking on the Rangers at 4 p.m. (freshmen), 5 p.m. (junior varsity) and 6 p.m. (varsity).

Southbelt L.L. summer play

The Southbelt Little League is accepting registration through June 16 for its summer league baseball season. The league is currently offering introductory T-ball, T-ball, coach pitch, minor and major division play, with a waiting list for the junior/senior leagues. Regular registration is \$100 per player in addition to a \$50 raffle fundraiser fee. The late registration, which runs June 17 through June 23, is \$125 per player in addition to a \$50 raffle fundraiser fee. Practices will begin the week of June 20, with games beginning the week of June 27. Weather permitting, each team in the various divisions will take part in a 10-game season, with the season slated to end Aug. 5. Games will typically be played on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Southbelt Little League facility at El Franco Lee Park. Register at southbeltll.org.

Lady Longhorns' star headed to Georgetown



Victoria Rivera (22) highlighted her standout varsity girls' basketball career with the Lady Longhorns by being named the Most Valuable Player of the district. Rivera, who will leave for Georgetown University later this month, guided Dobie to 22-6A crowns in both 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Photo by Gloria Wallace

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Two-time District 22-6A varsity girls' basketball Most Valuable Player Victoria Rivera has done everything possible in terms of both individual and team success at the prep level. And now the Dobie High School combo guard and Class of 2022 graduate just may feel like she's literally starting over later this month as she leaves the Lone Star state in favor of Washington, D.C., home of the Georgetown Hoyas women's basketball program. Rivera's extensive collegiate recruiting search found her settling on head coach James Howard's Big East Conference program for several reasons, said Rivera. "The university itself is a good fit for me because of their outstanding business school, and I may also decide on the medical field, which Georgetown is also well known for its program. "But I first also felt a great fit with the basketball program and how they see me joining in with them.

I feel like I've shown the abilities of a combo guard in terms of being able to shoot the basketball, but to be a solid ball handler. "I'm excited to get there, get started within the program and see what I can do to help the Hoyas get better every day." There is no debate that national power UConn controls supremacy within the Big East, with head coach Geno Auriemma's program having already won 11 national titles over Auriemma's 37 years with the Huskies. Those facts aside, Rivera certainly believes she can greatly benefit a Georgetown program that was 10-19 overall in 2021-2022, including 4-15 in Big East play. The Hoyas were beaten in the Big East Conference postseason tournament by none other than UConn. "In a lot of ways I guess it is a fresh start for me, including moving pretty far away from home," Rivera said with a chuckle. "But I'm ready for this next chapter, the next challenge in the game. I feel like I'm prepared for the journey."

And if Rivera is able to replicate anything close to the career she put together at Dobie, she'll be just fine within the Big East at Georgetown. Joining head coach Jasmine Hartman's program as a sophomore at the varsity level, Rivera was an all district player in 2019-2020 just prior to the pandemic taking hold of things. Over the next two seasons, few players across the entire Region III ranks were more productive as she led the way to consecutive 22-6A crowns for Dobie despite missing a good bit of nondistrict play with an ankle injury. Through it all, Rivera said she gives some credit to her three older brothers for her success. Those older brothers include Gerardo (26), Jose (23) and 22-year-old Carlos. Years of being used to tough competition in a variety of game settings, Rivera learned toughness and durability at an early age. "I owe my brothers a big thanks," she said. "I might not be in this position without them."



Victoria Rivera is headed to Georgetown University to play women's basketball after her storied career with the Lady Longhorns included consecutive Most Valuable Player awards and two league titles for the Dobie team.

CCISD Athletics Hall of Honor announces 2022 class recipients

The Clear Creek ISD Athletic Hall of Honor board of directors is proud to announce the 2022 class of inductees into the hall. This will be the seventh group of CCISD alumni inducted into the Athletic Hall of Honor since its inception. The following coaches and athletes were chosen through an extensive nomination and selection process for bringing distinction, honor and excellence to themselves, their alma maters and community. The Athletic Hall of Honor was established six years ago and each year encompasses a specific era, folding in CCISD high schools as they were created. To qualify for induction in 2022, the nominees must have been a graduate of Webster, Clear Creek or Clear Brook high schools between the years of 1948 and 1997. "The Athletic Hall of Honor is grateful to the selection committee for their time and diligence in evaluating the nomina-

School, 1984 (volleyball, golf)
Ellie Gibson, Clear Lake High School, 1985 (golf)
Shad Smith, Clear Creek High School, 1985 (baseball, football, basketball)
Richard R. Barnwell*, Clear Lake High School, 1986 (baseball)
Scott Sheldon, Clear Lake High School, 1987 (baseball)
Scott A. Jones, Clear Lake High School, 1993 (swimming)
Team Honorees
Clear Creek Boys Football, 1964 (season record 9-1)
Clear Lake Boys Swimming, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 (UIL 5A State Champions)
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Founded in 2016, the Clear Creek ISD Athletic Hall of Honor is as a 501(c)3 and is led by an independent board of directors. For more information on the CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor, visit the website at www.ccisd.net/hall-of-honor.

tion packages that were received," said CCISD Athletic Hall of Honor President Dede McPherson. "Along with CCISD leadership, sponsors and the community, we look forward to recognizing the inductee class of 2022 in the fall." These outstanding alumni will be inducted at a ceremony on Saturday, September 17, at CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium.

Coach Honorees
Lanny Landtroop*, Clear Creek High School, 1966-1972; Clear Lake High School, 1972-1986 (swimming)
Janis Balsamo, Clear Lake High School, 1979-2004 (golf)
Student Athlete Honorees
Charles "Chuck" Treka Jr.*, Clear Creek High School, 1958 (basketball, baseball, football)
Margaret Spence McGraw, Clear Lake High School, 1983 (volleyball, basketball)
Kristina Predmore Godina, Clear Lake High

South Belt-based Arsenal U-15 soccer has regional goal, national aspirations

After more than three years together, countless tournament wins, and two state championship titles, what more could a powerful South Belt-based age-15-under girls' soccer team want? A national title. Coach Ruben Estrada leads Arsenal, a South Belt Youth Soccer Club team. His dedication and meticulous attention to training has given these young women the confidence, skills and discipline to take on some of the greatest teams in Texas. The team

is comprised primarily of Pasadena ISD students and residents of the South Belt community. Their undefeated season earned them a spot at the South Texas Presidents Cup (part of the U.S. Youth National Soccer Presidents Cup) in early May. They finished first, advancing them to the regional U.S. Youth Soccer Southern Presidents Cup in Dallas, Texas in late June. If victorious, Arsenal will represent Texas in July in the U.S. Youth Soccer National Cup.



The South Belt-based Arsenal 15-under girls' soccer program is again the South Texas champion and is looking to excel at the regional level moving forward. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Anai Muniz, Michelle Santana, Jolie Trejo, Desiree Grimaldo, Rebecca Santana, Kamilah Estrada, Ashley Serrano, (back row) Priscilla Martinez, Jeylin Espinal, Amy Romero, Julieth Vargas, Marlen Garza, Giselle Saucedo, Citlali Duran, Emily Santacruz and coach Ruben Estrada. Not pictured are Ashley Dominguez and Isabel Hernandez.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.

10 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.

6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.

9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.

11 a.m. **AI-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787.

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

3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - meets at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Bring snacks to share. Call 281-470-2750.

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. Call 281-479-7285.

2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets Sunday at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.

8 p.m. **AA** - Meeting. See Friday's notice.

- #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational building, room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.

7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

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

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

1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets the first and third Fridays monthly at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale, 1-3 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net for details.

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - 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.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group of NA, open, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now AI-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, JUNE 20

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

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Volunteers Jerry and Edith Sanford teach lessons Mondays with a different dance rhythm each month. Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Toastmasters** - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Mondays (in person) at https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com. Visit the website or call 281-467-1880.

7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

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

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

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

2 p.m. **The National Active and Retired Federal Employees** - meets at 9500 Hall Rd. Call 713-734-1461.

7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets at 7900 Fuqua. Call 713-332-6294.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

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

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

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - 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.

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

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **AA** - Meeting. See Friday's Notice.

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Dobie grad hits Big 12

Brooks makes Fiesta Bowl champs his choice; offensive lineman joins Oklahoma State U.

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

The Oklahoma State University football program is riding as high as ever during the Mike Gundy era, coming off a 12-2 season that ended with a Fiesta Bowl victory over Notre Dame.

Now, Dobie Class of 2020 graduate and transfer portal player Jason Brooks has headed to Stillwater to see what all the fuss is about.

Brooks, a three-year varsity starter and two-time 22-6A all-league selection with Dobie, originally signed with Vanderbilt University and played in a handful of games with the Commodores over two seasons. With collegiate student-athletes allowed a "do over" as per the 2020-

2021 season due to the pandemic, Brooks will have three seasons of eligibility remaining with the Cowboys.

"Very excited to be in Stillwater with OSU," Brooks said. "The entire package, from my new teammates, the coaches, facilities, just everything about the Oklahoma State program, I'm ready."

"I'm very excited to be joining what has proven to be one of the top programs in the country."

"The ultimate goal around there is to get to the Bowl Championship, and everybody is on board with what the goal is and are willing to put in the work to get it done. As a player, that's what you want to be a part of."

Brooks, who plans to continue his studies in the

field of business at OSU, said he received just one scholarship offer from a Power 5 program out of high school.

The Vanderbilt program has struggled in recent seasons as part of the Southeastern Conference.

While grateful for the opportunity at Vanderbilt, Brooks simply desired a change. Now, he has a chance to play his way into a prominent role with the Cowboys.

"As a player, you have to look out for yourself and put yourself in a position to be as successful as possible," Brooks said.

"You're going to hear a lot of the same messages in the recruiting game. It's up to you as a player to sort it all out and find the best spot for you."

Once he decided to

transfer, Brooks identified Houston, Michigan State and Oklahoma State as his big three, with OSU ultimately being his choice.

While he has played on both sides of the offensive line, Brooks said his likely destination is on the right side at guard or possibly tackle.

Brooks will need to play a bit of catch-up this summer into preseason training after missing out on spring workouts with the Cowboys, yet he's undeterred.

"I'm here to earn my spot as quickly as possible," Brooks said. "I realize this is the big time, but this is what you aim for as a player."

"The opportunity is in front of me, and it's up to me to maximize that opportunity."

Coyote softballers sign NLI's



Abbie Forrester, fresh off helping the San Jacinto College softball program to back-to-back appearances at the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I National Championship, will continue her education and playing career at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.



Daryn Grams came up big for the San Jacinto College softball team in 2022, going 10-3 with a 1.28 earned run average in the circle. She will now continue her education and playing career at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

McDonald-Kelley to lead Spartans

Continued from Page 5
ting average throughout her four-year collegiate career.

Following her career at Texas A&M, McDonald-Kelley played professionally for seven years, spending time with the Philadelphia Force, the Akron Racers and the USSA Pride of the NPF League.

McDonald-Kelley played for Fiorini Softball Club of the Italian Profes-

sional League in 2009.

A three-time All-NPF selection during her professional career, McDonald-Kelley garnered the prestigious Diamond Spikes Award in 2012 after hitting .303 with 13 stolen bases for the Racers.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in kinesiology from Texas A&M in 2008. McDonald-Kelley is married to Mike Kelley and the couple has one daughter, Kyler.

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At right, Class of 2020 Dobie High School graduate Jason Brooks has joined Big 12 football power Oklahoma State, joining the Cowboys via the transfer portal earlier this spring. Out of high school, Brooks signed with Vanderbilt University and spent two years with the Commodores. Now with Oklahoma State, Brooks will likely vie for playing time on the right side of the offensive line and will have three years of eligibility remaining. Oklahoma State is coming off a 12-2 season in 2021 that culminated with the Pokes knocking off the Notre Dame Fighting Irish in the Fiesta Bowl. On the academic front, Brooks said he will continue his studies in the business field as the 2022-2023 school year approaches. OSU opens the 2022 season Sept. 1.



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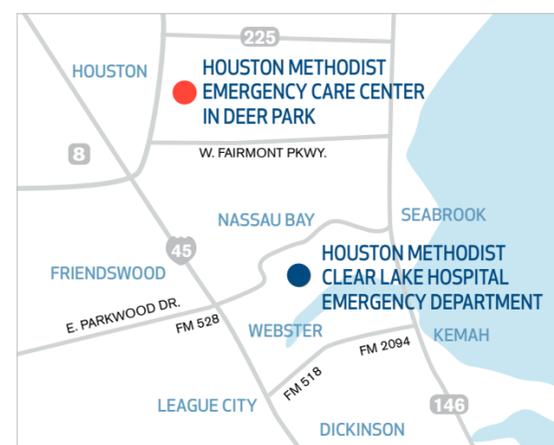
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