

CBCMUD sets holiday hours

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 2, and will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. The offices will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, July 6. For convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the MUD building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents who receive trash services on Friday will have normal pickup on July 3. All trash should be placed curbside no later than 6 a.m.

MUD trash times may vary

Due to a major county construction project, trash collection times may vary in the coming weeks. Residents should have trash curbside no later than 6 a.m. Monday and Thursday, as collection crews will be working in coordination with construction crews and may arrive earlier than before.

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

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

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

Kirkwood South to meet

The Kirkwood South HOA will hold a board meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, at the El Franco Lee Park community center, 9500 Hall Road near Beltway 8.

Court to hold games event

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 2292 will host its annual Games Party Saturday, June 27, at the St. Luke the Evangelist Social Hall, 11011 Hall Road, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This year's event will celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

To purchase \$15 tickets to the event – which includes games, lunch, a drink and dessert – contact Ella Gauthier at 281-788-8692.

All proceeds will go toward the court's charitable projects. See related ad on Page 2.

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.

Kirkwood to meet June 29

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 29, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

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 Lay in League City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

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

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

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.

Sagemont to meet July 7

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

South Belt to celebrate Independence Day

July 4 parade, Sagemont Church event to celebrate America's 250th anniversary

The South Belt area is preparing for its 36th annual Fourth of July parade, scheduled for Saturday, July 4, with the procession kicking off at 10 a.m.

This year's festivities will highlight America's 250th anniversary, adding extra significance to the long-running community tradition.

Grand marshals

Two grand marshals will lead the celebration: Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Sagemont Church Associate Pastor Emory Gadd.

Parade route

Organizers confirmed that the parade will follow the same adjusted route introduced last year due to Beltway 8 construction – the first major route change in the event's 35-year history. (See map below.)

Starting point: Sagemont Church on Hughes Road

Route: Travels down Beamer
Finish line: San Jacinto College South
Participants should plan to arrive one hour early for lineup.

Entry information

All community members are invited to join the parade, whether representing a business, nonprofit, school, club or neighborhood group.

– Nonprofit and community groups: Free entry
– Commercial or political candidates: \$50 entry fee

While optional, participants are encouraged to decorate vehicles, trailers, and floats. Awards will be given for the most patriotic and most original entries in both commercial and noncommercial divisions.

Tossing candy, small trinkets, beads, etc. from vehicles is encouraged. The use water balloons and water guns, however, is prohibited, as are alcohol and glass containers.

Because of the parade's length, walking entries are not allowed.

Entry forms can be obtained by scanning the QR code on Page 3, visiting the *Leader* office at 11555 Beamer or visiting the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce website at www.southbeltchamber.com/freedom-250-4th-of-july-parade.

– Check-in: 9 a.m.
– Judging: 9:30 a.m.
– Parade start: 10 a.m.

For more details, see ad on Page 3 or visit chamber's website.

Sagemont Church Patriotic Celebration

Residents looking for fireworks ahead of the holiday can attend Sagemont Church's annual

Patriotic Celebration Sunday, June 28, from 5 to 9 p.m. This event will also honor America's 250th anniversary.

The celebration is free and open to the public. Highlights include the following:

- Live music
- Food trucks
- Inflatables attractions

A fireworks show after dark. Food trucks and inflatables open at 5:30 p.m., the main program begins at 7 p.m., and fireworks are expected around 9 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, as seating will not be provided.

For more information, visit www.sagemontchurch.org/event-details/3372.

Portables removed from schools



As part of a new initiative, Pasadena ISD is removing all portable buildings that are not being currently utilized. District officials cited costs and safety as the driving forces behind the decision. Many of the buildings are no longer used for classes due to decreased enrollment. The measure is expected to save PISD around \$1 million a year districtwide. In the immediate South Belt area, the buildings are being removed from Bush Elementary and Atkinson Elementary (shown above). See related photo on Page 4.

Photo by David Flickinger

Beverly Hills pool remains closed

Closure due to lifeguard shortage; city seeking lifeguards

With local students now entering their second month of summer vacation, the city of Houston has yet to open the swimming pool at Beverly Hills Park, citing a national lifeguard shortage.

The pools at the city's Sagemont and Wilson Memorial parks each opened during the first of two phases of openings. (Sagemont opened a week late.)

Phase II openings were rolled out last week, but the Beverly Hills pool wasn't on the list of facilities to open.

This marks the fourth consecutive year the city has faced such staffing issues. (The city's swimming pools were completely closed the summers of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19

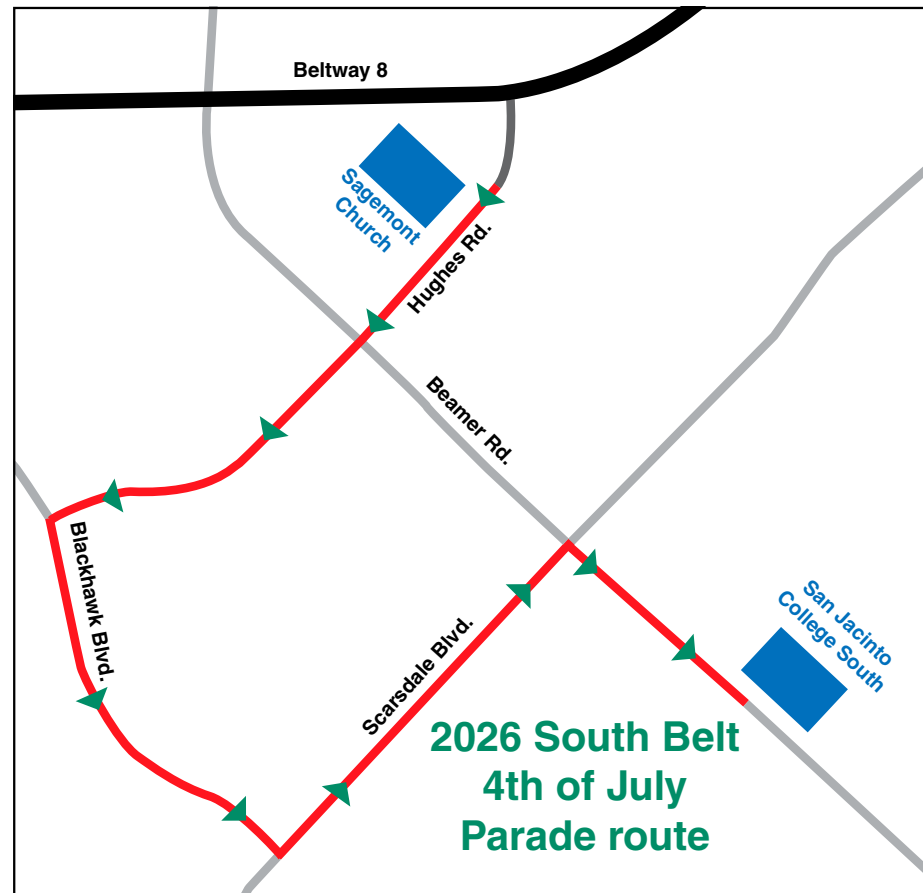
pandemic.)

At press time, it remained unclear if the Beverly Hills pool would open this year or not. Houston Parks and Recreation Department officials merely said that additional swimming pools will open as more lifeguards become available.

A list of open swimming pools is routinely updated at www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html.

City pool hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. All pools are closed for cleaning on Monday (except on Labor Day Sept. 7).

The city is currently seeking potential lifeguards. **Continue on Page 2**



Fireworks rules, regulations cause confusion

Despite increase in sales, items remain prohibited in city limits, MUDs

Independence Day is around the corner, and many South Belt residents are understandably confused as to the current regulations involving the sale and possession of fireworks.

Fireworks have long been forbidden within the Houston city limits, and both Clear Brook City and Sagemeadow MUDs have entered into strategic partnership agreements with the city, prohibiting the items.

Despite the partnerships, however, many South Belt residents may have noticed fireworks stands popping up in new locations where they traditionally haven't before, such as Beltway 8 and Blackhawk near Bracewell Library.

According to former Clear Brook City MUD Manager Chris Clark, this is because the district has grown since the strategic partnership agreement was drafted more than 20 years ago.

Clark acknowledged, however, he was uncertain of the district's exact boundaries, noting a precise map would have to be obtained from the fire marshal or fire department.

To illustrate how confusing the MUD boundaries are, the *Leader* routinely receives inquiries from fireworks dealers asking for clarification.

While it was once illegal to even transport fireworks through the city, state law now allows the practice, provided the items are kept in a nonpassenger area of the vehicle, such as a trunk or hatchback.

One must be at least 16 years old to purchase fireworks, and parents/guardians may be fined for the illegal use of fireworks by their children even if they are unaware of the offense. Fines range from \$500 to \$2,000 for each individual item.

While it is legal to sell/use fireworks in the unincorporated parts of Harris County, some restrictions still remain in place.

According to Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, it is illegal to shoot fireworks in the following locations:

- In or near a motor vehicle.
- Within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids/compressed gases are stored/dispensed.
- Within 100 feet of a place where fireworks are stored or sold.
- Within 600 feet of a church, hospital or asylum.
- Within 600 feet of a licensed daycare.

Window A/C unit sparks 7-alarm fire

Shed catches fire in Gulf Palms subdivision

A window air conditioning unit sparked a seven-alarm fire around 6 p.m. Saturday, June 13, in the 12100 block of Dumas Street in the Gulf Palms subdivision near Fuqua and SH 3/Old Galveston Road.

According to Houston Fire Department officials, firefighters arrived on scene to find a shed on fire near a one-story house. They made an attack on the fire and controlled it within about 10 minutes.

CenterPoint was requested to secure the utilities.

HFD officials determined the fire originated from a window air conditioning unit/power cord and was accidental in nature, due to failure of equipment.

No injuries were reported.

In all, 43 personnel were dispatched to this incident, including crews from stations 23, 29, 52, 61, 70, 71 and 93.

– Within 600 feet of a public or private school, without written consent from the organization.

While the sale of fireworks in Harris County has traditionally been limited to only July 4 and **Continued on Page 2**

Hughes manhole causes concern



A manhole in the 11300 block of Hughes Road near Sageglen has become problematic in recent months, as it reportedly comes dislodged during heavy rains, posing a safety hazard to area residents and their vehicles. The problem was particularly bad this past week when the area suffered extensive rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Arthur. Representatives from District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz's have reached out to Public Works for assistance in the matter. See related photo on Page 2.

In My Opinion

King: Social security trustees' annual report

Each year around this time, the Social Security Trustees issue a report on the system's financial condition. The latest report projects that the system's "trust fund" will be exhausted in 2032. The trust fund is an unfortunate misnomer because it creates the impression that all the funds workers' pay into the system go into an account that will ultimately pay their benefits when they retire, much like a traditional pension plan or 401(k).

However, that was never the basis of the Social Security system. It was never a retirement savings program like a pension or a 401(k). Rather, Social Security was designed from the outset to be a transfer of income from those working to those who were retired. The money you paid into Social Security did not go toward establishing an account for you; it went to pay for the benefits for your parents and grandparents. We know this is true because Social Security began paying its first monthly benefits in 1940, just three years after payroll taxes were first collected in 1937. Obviously, those initial beneficiaries had not contributed enough to the system to cover their benefits.

Nonetheless, the system worked because, for most of its existence, far more people were working and paying into it than were collecting benefits. Indeed, for 69 of the system's 88 years, the payroll taxes collected exceeded the benefits paid out. That excess accumulated and was invested in U.S. bonds. This is the "trust fund" so frequently referred to. In

the Trustees' report, these funds are referred to as reserves.

The reserves hit an all-time high of \$2.8 trillion in 2020. However, since then, the system has been paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes. As of the latest report, the reserves are down to \$2.3 trillion. According to the latest projections in the Trustees' report, that amount will go to zero in 2032. (A schedule of the system's income and benefit payments since its inception is available at Appendix VI(A) of the report.)

However, the system will still be collecting payroll taxes, just not enough to pay the currently scheduled benefits. Under current law, benefits would have to be reduced to match incoming revenue. The Trustees' report estimates that after the reserves are depleted, incoming payroll taxes will cover only about 78% of the benefits currently scheduled.

The projection also shows that conditions will gradually worsen unless something is done to equalize the system's income and benefit payments. Without any adjustments, the payments will continue to decline, with the system only paying 62% of the current benefits by 2100.

The financial straits the system faces are driven by demographic factors — primarily falling birth rates and seniors living longer. And contrary to the social media "experts," a decline in immigration also puts pressure on the system. My colleague at the Baker Institute, John Diamond, has written an excellent, detailed analysis of the system's current financial condition if you want a deeper dive into the numbers.

Bill King

Elected officials share their words

June newsletter for District D, Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, council member

Dear District D Family,
The summer swing is officially in full effect throughout our District of Destination, and there is no shortage of activity taking place across our city and community.

Over the past several weeks, Houston has welcomed the world as two FIFA World Cup matches have already been played in our city, bringing visitors from across the globe and showcasing Houston on an international stage. The energy, excitement, and cultural exchange that accompany events of this magnitude are truly special, and we are proud of the role District D continues to play in helping Houston shine.

While these celebrations bring tremendous opportunities, they also serve as a reminder that safety must remain a priority. As large crowds continue to gather throughout the city during the World Cup and throughout the summer months, I encourage all residents to remain vigilant, aware of their surroundings, and mindful of one another. Recent incidents, including the disturbance that occurred during the downtown "teen takeover," remind us that public safety requires the collective effort of residents, families, community organizations, and law enforcement. We do not want a social media trend to end in tragedy.

June is also a time of reflection, celebration, and remembrance as communities across District D and Houston commemorate Juneteenth. From neigh-

borhood gatherings and cultural events to educational programs and celebrations honoring our shared history, Juneteenth serves as a powerful reminder of resilience, progress, and the ongoing pursuit of freedom and opportunity for all. I encourage residents to support and participate in the many events taking place throughout our community.

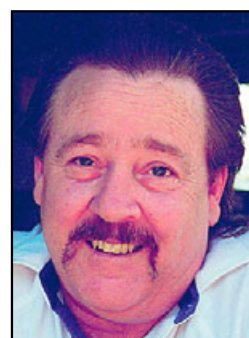
As our young people enjoy their well-deserved summer break, I am also pleased to see the abundance of youth programs being offered throughout Houston. From educational enrichment opportunities and recreational activities to workforce development programs and summer camps, these initiatives provide safe, engaging, and meaningful opportunities for our youth to learn, grow, and build lasting connections. I encourage parents and guardians to take advantage of the many resources available through the City of Houston and our community partners.

Whether you are attending a World Cup match, celebrating Juneteenth with family and friends, participating in a community event, or enrolling a child in a summer program, I hope you enjoy all that this season has to offer while continuing to look out for one another.

Thank you for helping make District D the District of Destination.

In Service,
Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz
Council member, District D

Richard Lee Bland



Bland, age 76, of Houston, passed away peacefully on June 19, 2026. He was an only child born to Cora and Earl Bland on Aug. 3, 1949, in Miami, Okla.

Richie lived in Houston since the age of 5. He graduated from Milby High School. He lived in the South Belt area for more than 45 years.

He worked at Spectrum Corp (a scoreboard and marquee business) for 40+ years, holding many titles and positions.

For more than 30 years he played league and tournament fastpitch softball, participated in several bowling leagues in Pasadena, bowled in local state and national tournaments and took annual "family" snow skiing trips.

Known to make one laugh and smile, he made friendships wherever he went. Richie was known to be witty, dependable, trustworthy

and loving. Visitation will be held Wednesday, June 24, 2026, from 6 until 8 p.m. at Peevey Funeral Home. His Celebration of Life will also be held at Peevey Funeral Home, Thursday, June 25, at 1 p.m.

The burial will be private for family and close friends.

While his family and friends mourn his passing, they find comfort in knowing he is now at peace. His memory will forever remain a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Death

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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.

District D joins in Flickinger's environmental legacy honor

This month, District D joins the Houston community in celebrating Marie Flickinger following her recent recognition for a lifetime of environmental leadership and advocacy. Throughout the years, Marie had been a passionate champion for conservation, sustainability, and environmental education, helping shape a stronger and more environmentally conscious future for Houston and the surrounding region.

Recently honored through the Brio Repository for her commitment to environmental stewardship and preservation, Marie's work helped shape conversations around

sustainability, conservation, and responsible development throughout the Houston region. Her passion for protecting natural resources and educating future generations made her a respected voice among environmental advocates and community leaders alike.

For District D, Marie Flickinger's legacy extends far beyond environmental advocacy. She had long been a friend of the district and a steadfast supporter of initiatives that improve quality of life for residents. Through her leadership, collaboration, and commitment to service, she helped strengthen the connection between environmental responsibility and community well-being.

Her recognition serves as a reminder that meaningful change often begins with individuals who dedicate them-

selves to causes greater than themselves.

Marie's tireless efforts have helped preserve important environmental resources while inspiring others to become engaged stewards of the communities they call home.

District D celebrates Marie Flickinger on this well-deserved honor and thanks her for the countless contributions she made throughout the years. Her legacy of service, advocacy, and environmental leadership will continue to benefit the Houston area and inspire future generations for years to come.

For more information on "Brio Repository Honors Flickinger's Environmental Legacy," visit <https://www.sanjac.edu/about/news/2026/brio-repository-honors-flickingers-environmental-legacy>.

Coroner's office seeks next of kin

Marie Quintanilla found on Airport last month



Maria Quintanilla

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences is seeking the public's assistance in notifying the next of kin in a recent death.

Maria Elsa Quintanilla was found on Tuesday, May 19 in the 7800 block of Airport Boulevard.

Paramedics transported Quintanilla to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Quintanilla is described as a white female with gray/partially gray hair.

Anyone with information on how to reach her next of kin is urged to contact the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at 832-927-5000 and refer to case ML26-1766.

For additional information on Quintanilla's case, visit www.namug.gov/UnclaimedPersons/Case#/159130.

Fireworks regulations cause confusion

Products have long been illegal in city limits, local MUDs

Continued from Page 1
New Year's Eve, in October 2024, Commissioners Court unanimously approved sales from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1 in honor of the Diwali holiday season. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is a religious holiday celebrated by more than 1 billion people worldwide including Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.

The Commissioners

Court vote followed the passage of a bill by the state Legislature in 2023 that permitted counties to allow Diwali fireworks sales, should they choose to do so. Harris County was the first major county in the state to approve the measure.

Local subdivisions located within the city of Houston include Sagement, Sagement Park, Kirkwood, Genoa, Beverly Hills, Rain-

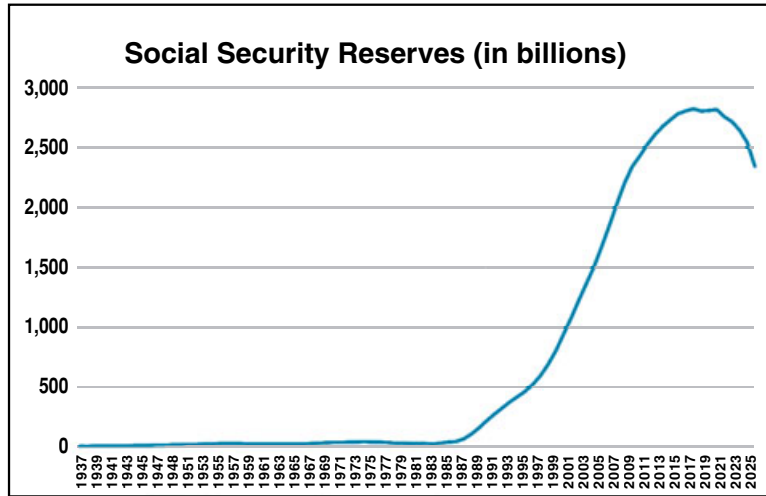
bow Valley, Eastridge Terrace, Sycamore Valley, Scarsdale and King's Place.

Subdivisions not located within Houston city limits and under Harris County's control include Clear Brook Meadows, College Place, Riverstone Ranch, Woodmeadow I and II, Highland Meadow, Ashley Pointe, Blackhawk, Meadows of Clear Creek, Sagemeadow, Estates of Green Tee, Sage-

glen, Kirkmont and Kirkwood South.

The Bella Vita, Villa D'Este and Villa Verde subdivisions are located within the city of Pearland, which also prohibits fireworks.

To view a complete list of 2024 fireworks regulations from the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office, visit www.hcfmo.net/portals/15/Documents/Commonfireworkviolations.pdf.



Beverly Hills pool remains closed

Continued from Page 1
guards. All lifeguards must be 16 years of age or older. While all lifeguards must be strong swimmers, previous lifeguard experience is not necessary.

For more information on becoming a city lifeguard, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2026/2026LifeGuardFlyer.pdf.

Despite the national lifeguard shortage, all communi-

ty swimming pools located in the South Belt area are open and operating on normal hours. For a complete listing of local swimming pool hours, see the May 21 edition of the *Leader*.

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://houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2026/2026LifeGuardFlyer.pdf> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library:

- Thursday, June 25, 1 – 5 p.m. K-5 reading tutoring: GET LIT.
- Saturday, June 27, 1:30 – 4 p.m. America's 250: Red, white, and blue celebration. Registration required.
- Saturday, June 27, 2 – 4 p.m. Saturdays at HPL. Registration required.
- Monday, June 29, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Bring family to storytime. Registration required.
- Monday, June 29, 1 – 5 p.m. K-5 reading tutoring: GET LIT.
- Tuesday, June 30, 1 – 5 p.m. K-5 reading tutoring: GET LIT.
- Wednesday, July 1, 1 – 5 p.m. K-5 reading tutoring: GET LIT.
- Wednesday, July 1, 2 – 3 p.m. Music encounters. Registration required.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. Hours are Monday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for more information. One can also visit social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library:

- Thursday, June 25, 10 – 11 a.m. T-rex tea time ages 0-4 Registration required.
- Thursday, June 25, 11 a.m. – noon. Mommy circle by Post-baby bliss.
- Friday, June 26, 1 – 3 p.m. Diamond Painting club (18+). Registration required for new members.
- Friday, June 26, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.
- Friday, June 26, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Kids chess club (age 6-17).
- Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
- Saturday, June 27, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Landscape embroidery class. Registration required for new members.
- Saturday, June 27, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Korean language music class. Registration required.
- Monday, June 29, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Adult computer classes with Harris County universal services. Registration required.
- Monday, June 29, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.
- Monday, June 29, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.
- Tuesday, June 30, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.
- Tuesday, June 30, 4 – 5 p.m. Dino egg-xcavation. Registration required.
- Wednesday, July 1, 3 – 4 p.m. America 250 live revolutionary war performer.
- Wednesday, July 1, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
 - Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
 - Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
 - Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
 - Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
 - Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
 - Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.
- Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card.
- For additional information, visit www.hcpl.net.

Hughes manhole diverts traffic



On June 17 and June 20, constables from Jerry Garcia's Pct. 2 office placed traffic cones and barriers around an uncovered manhole to help drivers avoid vehicle damage. Pressure from rain water infiltrating the sewage system caused the cover to be forced off. The manhole is located on Hughes between Sagement Church and Stuchbery Elementary School. See related photo on Page 1.

Celebrating 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES

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Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

New Covenant Christian Church
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Catholic Daughters of the Americas #2292

GAMES PARTY

CELEBRATING AMERICA+250 SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

\$15

Includes: Games, Lunch, Drinks & Dessert

To Purchase Tickets Contact:
Ella Gauthier - 281-788-8692

Saturday, June 27th
10:30am - 2:30pm

St. Luke the Evangelist Social Hall
11011 Hall Rd., Houston, TX 77089

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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David Flickinger, owner

Pasadena Memorial High School announces final six-weeks honor roll

Officials of Pasadena Memorial High School have announced the sixth six-weeks honor roll for the 2025-2026 school year.

Ninth grade
Giovanni Alexander Aboytes, Maximiliano Acosta, Zoe Atzin Acosta, Stephany Agüero, Giselle Marie Aguirre, Azaria Siri Grace Alanis, Lesly Alvarado, Alexia Adamy Alvarez Galaviz, Carmen Kamila Amador, Josephine Amezcua, Andrews Antonio, Karina Carmen Arce, Nicholas Aaron Argueta, Kayla Avilez and Waylon Christopher Barker.

Journey Michael Barrett, Maliyah Kiara Becker, Xavier Alexander Benavidez, Camila Benitez, Jose Antonio Bermudez, Ethan Zachary Berotte, Haylie Vi Breen, Sophia Arleen Bueno, Joshua Vuong Quoc Bui, Nhat Hao Bui, Laila Jayne Cabrera, Nathan Campos, Bryan Ashton Cantu, Kevin Tuan Cao and Camila Sofia Carcamo.

Aurora Laine Madelyn Castillo, Terriana Trine-ice Caston, Adriana Lave-

ra-Rose Cerda, Isabella Kristin Chandler Baide, Ailene Azul Chavez, Mayra Kristel Chavez-Zapata, Evan Joseph Christ, Dataavian Markeice Claiborne, Selena Claiborne, Rebecca Alysa Cordova, Adaly Coronado Garza and Kimberly Yarely Cortes.

Brandon Josue Cortez, Kyle Andrew Crawford, Iker Alessandr Cruz, MJ Cruz, Sofia Paola Cruz, Luis Deleon, Cat Tuong Ngoc Doan, Phuong Nghi Duong, Bryan Duran, Juan Jose Duran, Marcela Eguia Fernandez, Hadi Monzer Elsayed, Sophia Mylene Eonne, Gerardo Escamilla and David Nahun Estrada Sabat.

Daniela Felix Gutierrez, Benjamin Adonys Flores, Briana Guadalupe Flores-Arteaga, Jackson Miles French, Ariana Garcia Cabral, Ingrid Marian Garcia Mayorga, Bryanna Angelic Garcia, Elijah Nicolas Garcia, Giselle Garcia, Kimberly Marie Garcia, Natalie Victoria Sandoval Garcia, Aijah Marie Garza and Leilani Ariana Garza.

Leonel Garza, Alyssa Gonzalez, Coraline Bela

Gonzalez, Valeria Dairam Gonzalez, Valerie Gonzalez, Khloe Nickeshia Green, Khyleigh Amil Green, Naomie Malaika Green, Juan Pablo Grimaldo, Santiago Gutierrez-Pena, Jessie Ha, Serenity Jane Hamill, Jacek Christopher Harris, Aiden Elijah Heredia and Alexander Hernandez.

Nevaeh Marie Hernandez, Sebastian Ian Hernandez, Javier Adrian Herrera, Jayla Marie Howsley, William Reagan Hutcherson, Mathias Alejandro Ibarra Blanco, Santiago Jaimas, Jaelyn Nevaeh Jimenez, Oscar Ivan Jimenez, Tiffany Njambi Kamau, Khoi Ngoc Le, Michael Leal, Alex Christopher Lechuga and Timothy Foster Lloyd.

Alison Lopez, Catalina Alexia Lopez, Christopher Michael Lopez, Imelda Lucerito Lopez, Matthew Mitchell Lott, Kyren Scarlett Lozoya, Eden Cecily Lucas, Mellanie Marti Lucio, Ryan Luke Luna, Lebron Omar 'Maddox' Jorge Oswaldo Martinez Rosales, Melissa Elizabeth Martinez Rosales, Camila Giselle Martinez and

Isabella Martinez.

Leila Isel Martinez, Leslie Kayleen Martinez, Lydia Susanne Martinez, Derek J. Mata, Dileixi Maza Hernandez, Kaylin Elizabeth McFarland, Alexia Liliana Medina, Latifah Massade Meite, Fernando Jose Melendez Dominguez, Gabriela Anabel Mendoza Burgos, Jose Joel Mendoza, Mia Estrella Mendoza and Leilah Menendez.

Mia Jenise Miramontes, Diego Monarez, Paulina Montemayor Santamaria, Antonio Montemayor, Amy Nicole Montoya, Iker Fernando Montoya, Alejandra Sofia Morales Suarez, Jonathan Jafet Morales, Aurora Maria Moreno, Suzanna Evelyn Moreno, Kimberly Marie Morfin, Alex Scott Morrison and Angela Monceratt Morua Ramirez.

Elias Ray Mottu-Yanez, Khalil Liam Mushtaq, Benny Niemi Negrón Paredes, Emily Ngo, Averi Doan Nguyen, Camryn Yen Nhi Nguyen, Dylan Dat Nguyen, Kayla Doan Nguyen, Tran Minh Thanh Nguyen, Tuong Vy Nguyen, Vincent Long Nguyen, Vy Tuong Nguyen, Levi Patrick O'Brien and Jordan Jay Olivares.

Beija Kammilla Orellana, Sebastian Marvin Ouellette, Kayley Janiece Owens, Khloe Yureli Pantoja, Jaelyn Sariyah Paz, Abigail Perez, Jonathan Alexis Perez, Lizette Perez, Azul Valeria Pineda, Bryan J. Prudencio, Sherlee Paola Quinteros Rodriguez, Daniel Santiago Quinteros, Ava Ruth Mercado Rabago and Juan Esteban Ramos Alzate.

Alfonso Resendez, Samuel Victor Reyes, Angelie Yuliana Reyes-Avila, Maximo Horacio Rios, Nathaniel Isaias Rios, Sheryn Rivas, Jayleen Andrea Rocha, Diana Isabel Rodriguez, Jacquelyn Rodriguez, Lyzander Maximus Rodriguez, Audrey Jade Rojas, Abigail Nireyda Roman, Sarah Rosa and Nathaly Gisela Rosales Alfaro.

Freddie Osvaldo Rosales, Harolyne Arianna Rosario Jacobo, Andrea Abigail Rubio Gutierrez, Christian Abel Ruiz, Yameli Rutiga, Daniella Sofia Saavedra, Francis Imtiaz Saber, Jesse Y. Saenz, Leslie Sahagun, Christiano Oscar Salas, Grace Saldana,

Nataly Salinas, Gabriella Alexis San Miguel, Andrea Carolina Sanchez and Rogelio Sanchez.

Leonardo Sergio Santamaria, Noah Raylan Santellanes, Ricardo Santiesteban Ross, Aaniyah Ja'Nai London Searcy, Alfonso Serrano, Liam Ryder Shipp, Briana Manuela Shipwash, Justice Jason Lamar Simpson, Matthew John Slattery, Logan Christopher Smith, Leon Solano, Jessica Abigail Solis, Lilia Soriano and Adeline Soto.

Nathaniel Brandon Soto, Laila Amani Spivey, Kendra Ann Stancil, Aubrey Ella Stephens, Nathaniel Dean Summers, Nathalie Guadalupe Tamayo, Charles Anthony Taplin, Leah Gabrielle Torres, Jessica Nguyen Tran, Kristen Thanh Tran, Joaquin Ethan Trejo, Aleysa Trevino, Christian Uriel Trevino and Jose Rene Trevino.

Joseph Barrett Tsend, Jeremiah Valadez, Renata Valdez Gonzalez, Elise Julianne Vara, Giselle Izabella Vargas Maiz, Kelvin Varughese, Alexa Scarlett Vazquez Gallegos, Jazmin Vega, Santiago Fabian Vega, Alina Shai Villegas, Emmalee Sophia Wagner Murrillo, Corhi Xanere Washington and Allison Ivett Yanez.

10th grade
Edosa Christan Agghimien, Fernanda Aguirre, Abdul Aziz Feras Al Riyadi, Santiago Aleman, Jaidia Marie Allen, Emiliano Alvarez, Kevin Arana, Liliana Armenta, Valerie Michelle Aviles, Aliah Aaide Avitia, Anessah Hussein Azam, Dasha Nicole Balderas, Giarlesi Esther Beas Rodriguez, Audrey Jade Bell and Julieth Beatriz Bermudez Castillo.

Korbin Braffett, Deshawn Ray Branch, Sandy Bravo, Catalina Isabella Bujanda, Ambrianna Honesty Bustos, Giuliana Raquel Cadena, Darryl Dwayne Campbell, Yerial Cante, Sergio Alejandro Cantu Gomez, Sloan Raelynn Cantu, Makayla Vy Cao, Jaydenn Paul-Dwayne Carter, Adelaida Evelyn Castillo and Diego Armando Castillo.

Miranda Castruita, Azul Valeria Chavez Mata, Anahi Vanessa Chavez, Melanie Isabel Chavez, Kathya Contreras, Michael Logan Contreras, Aaliyah Danielle Coronado, Isaac Cortez, Heylin Yamileth Cruz, Kimberly Diana Cruz, Karla Cuevas, Elaina Tincy Daniel, Brian Nguyen Dao, Paulina Davila and Everardo De La Cruz.

Santos Lopez, Imsaal Kashif Dean, Carmen Alejandra Del Angel, Vianca Delao, Kha Nhi Duong, Anthony Duran-Zecena, Zaria Gillian Edgar, Helio Elizondo, Gloria Abigail Escamilla, Camille Isabella Escobar, Ismahia Espinal Lara, Aaron Estrada Romero, Ayleen Nayeli Estrada Sabat, Adali Zulema Estrella and Sarai Fernandez.

Arianna Margarita Flores, Yannah Doris Flores, Yelitza Junnueth Flores, Hajile Ehcapa Naidni Foster, Cameron Michael Franck, Ryan Mark De La Pena Galang, Cesia Jurid Galeano, Francisco Uzziel Gallegos, Jonathan Alexander Gallegos, Mayreli Garcia Adame and Aidan Anthony Sandoval Garcia.

Geovanny Jared Garcia, Noah Nathan Garcia, Evan Alejandro Garza, Natalia Alicia Garza, Leon Gomez, Natalia Sarahi Gomez, Nailea Valeria Gonzalez, Angel Gabriel Granados, Shaylie Natalia Guardado, Jesse Gianni Gudino, Angel Gabriel Guerra, Devland Allen Guillery, Ian Edward Gumkowski and Julieta Gutierrez Ballesteros.

Felix Gutierrez, Caiden Presley Hanks, Giselle Hernandez Garcia, Alonso Maximiliano Hernandez, Daniel Esteban Hernandez, Lexi Rae Hernandez, Sara Imtiaz, Brandon Lee Ingersoll, Brandon Jasso, Keren Esther Jimenez Fino, Aleah Alexis Jimenez, Daniel Alexander Kauffman, Andrew Josue Landaverde and Jonathan James Larue.

Ludvic William Lay, Linh Thuy Le, Henry Leal, Madison Elizabeth Lee, Eva Yurin Licona, Damian Lopez, Hector Alejandro Lopez, Izabel Jenavieve Lopez, Liann Marie Lopez, Nicholas Anthony Lopez, Freddy Alexander Lopez-Delcid, Elias Alexander Lozano, Lily Marlen Luna Rodriguez, Damian Xavier Luna and Kim Thien Luu.

Aiden Tri Duc Ly, Veina Ma, Valentina Macedo, Benjamin Jordan Macias, Connor Daniel Maldonado, Aiden Martinez, Ariyanna Yamileth Martinez, Giselle Martinez, Kayla Michelle Martinez, Lawrence Adrian Martinez, Samuel Martinez, Shianne Isabella Matlock,

Gerardo Emiliano Maza Hernandez and Mateo Mazorra Pineda.

Kacey Danielle Meier, Celeste Valentina Mendez, Victoria Mendoza Luna, Fernando Mendoza, Mathias William Middleton, Lidia Magdalena Miralada Rivera, Abigail Lexi Molinar, David Morales, Martha Itzel Morales, Sophia Lorayne Morales, Aliver Jesus Moreno, Samuel Achilles Moreno and Ana Yely Mosqueda Ponce.

Karen Mosqueda Ponce, Dylan Bryce Motal, Brianna Ruby Munguia, Abigail Rose Munoz, Jessica Arlene Navarro, Bella T. Nguyen, Dang Duong Nguyen, David Huy Nguyen, Jenny Ha Nguyen, Sabrena Nha Nguyen, Martin Alejandro Nuncio, Sofia Olivares, Manuel Esteban Olivares, Matias Santiago Olivo and Leah Ortiz.

Isabella Michelle Pecina, Aidan Pena, Ana Maria Perez Perez, Andrea Aracely Perez, Byron Jair Perez, Jebraiska Isabella Perez, Tran Nguyen Bao Pham, Jonathan Lu Phann, Laura Esthela Pina Buendia, Karla Pineda Garfias, Angelina Andreeh Pino, Liliana Elizabeth Pizana, Paulette Shasaday Ramirez Briceño and Axel Ramirez.

Madeline Marie Ramirez, Mario Luis Ramos Ramos, Aniyah Madison Resendez, Daniel Jacob Revilla, Gisel Rios, Kamila Anaid Rios, Isabella Carly Rivera, Vanessa Rose Rivera, Abdullah Rizwan, Alexa Ann Robles, Jordan Renee Robles, Abigail Rodriguez, Christian Javier Rodriguez and Emberlyn Leanna Rodriguez.

Jacob Andrew Rodriguez, Jimena Maris Rodriguez, Rick Ramirez Rodriguez, Abril Esmeralda Romero Morales, Joshua Roberto Rosales Alfaro, Sarah Lynn Saenz, Steven Obdulio Salgado, Abigail Camila Sanchez, Ethan Paul Sanchez, Emily Alesi Santacruz, Ethan Alexander Santiago, Katherine Sarabia Gomez and Rubi Saucedo.

Lanessah Sunday Sebastine, Emiliano Serrano Reyes, Jamari Bridarriso Smith, Josephine Rose Solis, Adrian Jesus Soria, Camilla Soto-Azcona, Eleno Suarez, Qurratulayn Fatima Suleman, Ruby Tamez, Adrian Dominic Torres, Layla Isabell Torres, Michael Torres, Duc Long Tran and Emma Yen Tran.

Freddy Trejo, Caleb John Turner, Yaretti Jacqueline Valdivia, Nguyen Kim Van, Rianzu Viet Van, Alexander Vazquez, Carlos Damian Vega, Luka Toni Vilchis, Cristopher Abelino Villanueva, Xiomara Alexia Yanez Castillo, Audrey Megan Zamudio, Monserrat Isabella Zapien and Esteban Samir Zelaya.

11th grade
Nadia Alyssa Abraham, Eric Eliseo Acosta, Retal Adi, Gissel Andrea Aguilar, Mohammad Feras Al Reyabi, Charlotte Elyse Allen, Daymian Alvarado, Kaylin Allyson Alvarez, Carlos Leo Araoz, Aysel Ala Ibrahim Asfour, Ileanna Danielle Atrian, Javier Avilez, Tucker Owen Barker, Alyssa Marcelle Barnes and Asiel Basurto.

Parker Jamison Bell, Florencio Alejandro Belmonte, Valeria Benavidez, Muriel Berheide Bueyets, Yogesh Bhandari, Alexis Kasimira Roxine Blankenship, Arnulfo James Boule, Angela Fernanda Buenrostro, Shaylee Brisa Calvo, Emily Campa, Alina Marie Campos, Giselle Campasano Rodriguez, Erika Daniela Cantu and Mia Berenice Capps.

Emery Arianna Cardenas, Ari Gonzalo Cardiel, Gabrielle Luz Castilleja, Aristote Limon Castillo, Sofia Ines Castillo, Yvett Anabel Castillo, Sebastian Cepeda, Bryan Chapa, Edgar Omar Chapa, Elisabeth A. Chapa, Amanda Cisneros, Jayden Javier Cisneros, Alexa Valentina Coreas and Carlos Alberto Coronado.

Joshua Noel Cortinas, Scotty Wayne Cowan, Guadalupe Celia Cuenca, Camilla Cuevas Hervert, Micah James Derosse Daley, Alexis Lorraine Daly, Vida Kaelyne Delcid, Sebastian Jose Diaz Diaz, Alan Eduardo Diaz, Carla Belen Diosdado, Nicole Diosdado and Liz Gabriela Dominguez Rodriguez.

Isabela Donjuan, Emma Elaine Drey, Nathaly Emilia Egas Soto, Alexandria Carmel Elisando, Jasiel Escamilla, Victor Manuel Escamilla, Melissa Dayana Escobar, Alesi Joleigh Estrada, Reina Joleigh Estrada, Beverly Gissell Flores, Isaac Benjamin Flores, Jaydn Albert Flores and Pedro Angel Garcia Caballero.

Gabriel Alexander Garcia, Giselle Garcia, Jayden

Celeste Garcia, Jayden James Garcia, Mya Jordan Garcia, Sofia Sarahy Garcia, Isaac Marcus Garza, Izrael Esau Garza, John Anthony Garza, Victoria Julisa Garza, Yamileth Garza, Logan Hunter Gerber, Fabiola Giselle Gomez, Louis Michael Gomez, Alexa Rose Gonzalez and Anamaria Gonzalez.

Hayden Christopher Gonzalez, Judith Monserrat Gonzalez, Sara Luisa Gonzalez, Alana Denise Green, Kara Grace Gregory, Angela Guadarrama, Priscilla Esmeralda Guevara, Crystal Guzman, Isaijah Javier Guzman, Rogelio Izak Guzman, Luke Aaron Harris, Grace Gloria Hernandez, Grace Li-ana Hernandez and Issac Gerardo Hernandez.

Jose Luis Hernandez, Valeria Hernandez, Vincent Luis Herrera, Manuel Elihu Huerta, Areli Cassandra Ibarra, Javier Aaron Ibarra, Isabel Maria Izaguirre, Terilyn Alexandria James, Naidyn Bella Jamil, Jason Steve Jimenez-Rodriguez, La'Nyia Mychelle Jones, Jilary Yurizza Julian, Beau Champ Kanary and Mayely Elizabeth Landaverde Diaz.

Jose Arnaldo Lopez, Savannah Leigh Lott, Marcelo Lozano Alfaro, Sebastian Lugo, Nevaeh Esther Lujan, Scarlett Yattana Luque, Desiree Angelina Mares, Abigail Savannah Martinez, Alfonso Joaquin Martinez, Isabella Ann Martinez, Jose Alfredo Martinez, Adam Mata, Alessandra Isela Mata and Jixia Narescho Matute Cardona.

Sofia Mazorra Pineda, Kylie Rianne McCoy, Michael Tyler McFarland, Annakaren Melchor, Lynden Elijah Melo, Genesis Angelina Mendoza, Michael Daniel Mendoza, Ja'Kaylah Arianna Denise Milton, Abraham Jose Molina, Nadia Lidia Mondragon, Ramiro Monroy, Alejandro Montemayor, Fatima Montero and Sadoc Morales.

Ava Miley Moreno, Brynn Alison Morrison, Lyla Alexandra Morua, Jaylene Mosqueda, Kamillah Ivonne Munoz, Karissa Itzel Munoz, Luis Arnoldo Munoz, Andrew Khang Nguyen, Nam Hoang Nguyen, Ngoc Han Nguyen, Vivian Nha Nguyen, Andrea Nunez, Ruby Cristina Olivares and Juliana Isela Olivio.

Aldo Isai Ortiz Garcia, Sodana Oun, Layla Melody Palacios, Geirys Paniagua Caridad, Andrew Rex Pasos, Andrew Perez Reyna, Alvaro Perez, Geniveve Perez, Emily Guadalupe Pinedo, Marelly Angely Pinon, Gabriella Ines Pinto, Amanda Izabel Portillo, Cruz Andrew Prado, Dominic Aaron Quinn and Joanna Angelica Ramirez.

Melanie Guadalupe Ramirez, Aurimarie Ramos Ramos, Mary Carmen Ramos Ramos, Janielys Marie Ramos Rodriguez, Juan Miguel Ramos, Itzel Rangel, Jeremy Edward Rangel, Brandon Isaijah Rios, Mariana Rodriguez Gonzales, Amaya Elise Rodriguez, Andrew Rodriguez, Genesis Daniela Rodriguez and Jaylie Karlize Rodriguez.

Kevin Rodriguez, Nelson A. Rodriguez, Yamileth Nayeli Rodriguez, David Emanuel Romero, Elizabeth Sky Russell, Marcelo Daniel Salazar, Angel Antonio Sanchez, Santiago Sanchez, Tylene Anthony Santiago, Mariela Guadalupe Santibanez Rodriguez, Magalie Esmeralda Serna, Caden Maddox Shelton and Serenity Kierra Shephard.

Janiyah Veasna Simpson, Jonathan Cesar Solis, Yanelly Alexandra Suarez, Carlos David Tavora Martinez, Sydney Han Tavu, Cedric Abel Torres, Quang Phat Tran, Angel Adean Trevino, Conrad Bradley Tsend, Guadalupe Uriosteque, Noahmiah Zhen Urrabazo, Alejandro Urrutia, America Noraly Valdez and Oscar Gael Vasquez.

April Vazquez, Jose Manuel Vazquez, Alexander Yael Vega, Daniel Enrique Vigil, Marelly Anahi Villarreal, Chelcy Madelyn Villatoro, Nayla Denise Watson, Aaliyah Nevaeh Whitaker, Jordyne Rose White, Josiah James Williams, Marilyn Anai Zamora and Priscilla Itzel Zelaya.

12th grade
Isabella Abrego Soriano, Aiden Michael Adams, Amanda Aguilar, Estrella Alaniz, Rocco Channing Allen-Smith, Gwendalynn Fay Alvarado, Jose Felipe Alvarado, Jose Felipe Alvarado, Aracely Andrade, Jair Alexander Araujo, Camila Arguello, Edgar Arredondo, Gabriel Jose Arredondo, Manuel Arredondo and Jewels Artega.

Alexandra Guadalupe Avalos, Valentina Avila,

Hometown Heroes Park hosts free ballroom dance

A free ballroom dance is held every Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level. The dance is casual dress, and the purpose is to have fun, get some mental and physical exercise and make friends. A variety of rhythms are provided by Neva and Bill Schroder, including foxtrot, waltz, rumba, cha-cha, tango, Viennese waltz, swing, West Coast swing and several popular Latin dances.

Several dancers have attended regularly since the dance began in 2012. Lasting friendship is a bonus of this weekly event. Walk-ins are welcome to share in the fun.

The ballroom has a large floating hardwood floor and natural light from many windows and a wall of mirrors.

While this regular dance is provided free by volunteers, there is a fee for age-dependent non-residents and non-senior residents. The fees are handled entirely by the front office at Hometown Heroes Park. Information is available by calling 281-554-1185.

AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 invites one to join at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook 77586. They meet in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. Everyone is invited to come to the regular monthly meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies, and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month they have entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

On Thursday, July 9, the program and social activity will be a patriotic theme in honor of the United States 250th anniversary.

AARP Chapter also organizes day trips for our AARP Chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next bus trip will be on Tuesday, July 21, to Holocaust Museum in Houston. The Holocaust Museum is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and educating the public on the dangers of prejudice. Trip price is \$19, plus lunch at Treebeards. Members may register and pay for this trip at the Thursday, July 9, monthly meeting. One must be a member of our Chapter 199 to participate in bus trips.

If anyone is interested in joining our 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 president Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or veronica_stfrd46@yahoo.com.

South Belt July 4th Parade

The parade will begin at Sagemont Church (11300 S. Sam Houston Pkwy. E.) Parking Lot K off Hughes Road at 10 a.m. The parade will end at San Jacinto College South Campus on Beamer. Lineup starts at 9 a.m. Judging for trophies will be at 9:30 a.m. Individuals, groups and businesses are encouraged to build floats, decorate vehicles and participate.

Entry fees MUST be paid by June 29th to participate in the parade. Adult supervision is mandatory! Due to the length, NO WALKING ALLOWED IN THE PARADE. For everyone's safety, NO alcohol or glass containers, water balloons or water guns are allowed. This is a celebration of the 250th Birthday of America! **Only United States of America, Texas and U.S. military flags are allowed.**

Candy, small trinkets, beads, etc. to toss from your float or vehicle to spectators is encouraged.

For more information, contact the *South Belt-Ellington Leader* at 281-481-5656.

Please scan the QR code for online entry form.

2026 South Belt 4th of July Parade Route

TO CELEBRATE FREEDOM
250
A SOUTH BELT-ELLINGTON EVENT

Online Parade Entry Form

Sebastian Jimenez, Logan Andrew Johnson, Cadie Nevaeh Jones, Elena Biani Juarez, Prithish Mangesh Kurade, Austin Max Larso, Rayne Lea-Anne Larson, Ellen Jackelyn Licona, Maria Fernanda Lopez Hernandez, Dalilah Lopez, Elizabeth Lozano, Katalina Lozoya, Dania Zoe Luna, Jonathan David Luna and Ace Anh-Thuan Ly.

Angel Renee Macias, Natalia Macias, Alexis Madrid, Arelly Duran Maldonado, Daniel Esau Mancia Mendoza, Alejandro Diarmando Mar, Israel Darius Margenau, David Martinez Prestegui, Angel Gabriel Martinez, Carlos Nicholas Martinez, Jaylin Martinez, Marcos Gregorio Martinez and Osbaldo Salvador Martinez.

Samuel Sebastian Martinez, Vanessa Martinez, Damhailey Medel, Michelle Mendoza, Leilaine Me-

Deputy sworn in



Karthik Vadegora (right) is shown above being sworn in by Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia as the department's newest deputy.

South Houston High School names sixth six-weeks honor roll

Officials of South Houston High School have announced the sixth six-weeks honor roll for the 2025-2026 school year.

Ninth grade
Alejandro Almaguer, Dany Fernando Almendarez, Christopher Dewayne Anderson, Catarino Javier Anguiano, Diego Saul Aragon, Melodee Justyne Aranda, Duke Chimdi Armstrong-Ekezie, Geovanny Arroyo, Edgar Gabriel Avila, Maylin Barragan, Ingrid Carolina Barron Ramirez, Lilly Star Bartley and Danna Yamileth Cabello.

Alyssa Nicole Cantu, Melaya Aviana Castillo, Xavier Alfredo Cervantes, Nhi Juliana Quynh Chau, Gerardo Adrian Corona, Amelia Anevay Coronado, Julian Cruz, Destiny Marie Daniels, Ander De La Rosa, Parth Manish Deva, Angela Diaz,

Carlos Daniel Dodier, Abel Joshua Dominguez, Emily Escobar and Michael Angelo Escobedo.

Kimberly Flores, Mitchell Flores, Yamila Anali Flores, Brianyerin Joharlis Galindo Mejia, Juan Eduardo Garcia Lopez, Balian Cristiano Garcia, Donovan Danger Garcia, Elena Garcia, Jacob Andres Garcia, Keeily Garcia, Yailin Garza Santos, Camila Garza, Rolando Gil Garza, Natalie Julia Godinez and Enrique Gomez Camero.

Ilena Jeanette Gonzalez, Eyden Gael Grimaldo, Allison Maribel Guerra, Irvin Jaden Guerrero, Mya Destiny Guillen, Ricky Jordan Gutierrez, Rudy Wesley Guzman Barahona, Yolanda Jaretzky Hernandez Venegas, Angel Hernandez, Brandon Hernandez, Larry Hernandez, Shayla Hernandez, Vanessa

Hernandez and Jammie Uyen Hoang.

Stephanie Maddilyn Howard, Jose Guadalupe Ibarra Perales, Karlos Angel Juarez, Allison Valeria Lagos Alvarado, Rigoberto Linares Cruz, Dayra Lynn Luna, Eliel Alexis Machado, Cristina Aglae Martinez Hernandez, Genesis Rubi Martinez, Gyselle Angelli Martinez, Javier Alexander Martinez and Nadia Nellys Martinez.

Rosalinda Matos Pacheco, Christopher Ernest Medellin, Soraya Nayeli Mendez, Esmeralda Guadalupe Mendoza Hernandez, Leonardo Daniel Mendoza, Fares Rosendo Morales, Luis Enrique Munoz-Martinez, Jacob James Newton, Oscar Alexander Nunez Cabrera, Alexia Hernandez Olan and Katherine Gissella Osorio Perez.

Mia Andrea Padron, Yuli-

anna Perez, Martin Zhi Phu, Ana Isabel Pineda-Lechado, Valerie Marie Porras, Mirage Erica Quintania, Juan Manuel Ramirez, Jimena Lizbeth Ramon, Arlene Zuleth Reynaga, Jose Rene Rivas Ventura, Julian Rocha-Oviedo, Diego Gael Rodriguez Rodriguez and Arabella Rose Rodriguez.

Dante Valentin Rodriguez, Christian Lee Salazar, Ailani Danelly Sanchez, Edgar Ivan Santoyo Escoto, Angel Santiago Nicholas Sem Villatoro, Aileen Johana Serna, Grace Stoutingburg, Mirza Nelly Adriana Tiul Gualna, Jerry Angel Toledo, Valeria Guadalupe Toledo, Citally Toro, Carolina Tovar and Vivian Gabriela Trejo.

Kennya Jadzia Tristan, Brianna Concepcion Valencia, Andrea Yariana Varela, Joseph Alexander Vazquez,

Alejandro Villafranco, Miguel Angel Villegas, Evan Angel Yepez and Gisselle Zavala.

10th grade
Denali Aneylin Aguilar, Adam Eloy Aguirre, Leonardo Felipe Alvarez, Joshua Arredondo Garcia, Bruce Avila, Genesis Baez, Corey Maurice Barnes, Jesus Carlos Barrera-Armenta, Ashley Bernal, Harmony Giselle Blakely, Zaykawon Deon Bonner, Samantha Briagas, Kayla Ann Briscoe and Cinyah Shyanne Brown.

Nicole Bustamante, Andrew Isaiab Caballero, Eduardo Calderon, Arturo Carrillo, Kevin Alexander Chaires, Hailey Marlyee Chavero, Adriana Marlene Chavez, D'andre Malik Coleman, Christian Adiel Contreras Zavalija, Priscilla Janette Corona, Joseph Cortez, Ma'kayla

Averi Davis, Matthew De La Vina and Jose Fernando Escobar Escobar.

Moises Escobar, Adriana Yaquelin Espericueta, Mercedes Da'Starr Evans, Jose Andres Flores, Jaylin Franco, Kamila Franco, Valeria Eleyv Franco, Isabella Gaeta, Anette Ximena Galeana Ramirez, Aaron Guillermo Garcia, Jazlyn Skye Garcia, Karime Garcia, Marioantonio Garcia, Ashley Victoria Garcia-Carranza and Yarexy Garcia Santos.

Lorenzo Garza, Julian Gonzalez, Julio Xavier Guerrero, Nevaeh Alyssa Gutierrez, Desiree Lee Hamblin, James Patrick Henry, Michelle Hernandez, Natalia Nevaeh Herrera, Karen Infante Guzman, Allison Rubi Juarez, Sariah Aubre Juarez, Julissa Leah Jurado, Navithu Nethmin Karunaratne and Catherine An-vui' Le.

Ivan Claudio Lemus, Analay Lira, Juan Alberto Lopez, Alexandra Loyola, Jayden Madrigal, Isabella Marquez, Alisson Michell Martinez Vasquez, Damian Ernesto Martinez, Neyra Alisse Martinez, Diego Mendez, Pablo Enrique Meraz, Yeison Sleider Merchan Zepa, Cloey Janae Miller, Saoirse Reina Molina and Alexa Montemayor.

Keyla Oneyda Montes, Thania Abigail Morales, Darius Isaiab Muhammad, Anna T. Nguyen, Nicholas Bao-Tristan Nguyen, Kiara Leann Nieto, Jasmin Sofia Nunez Xiloj, Elisha Abigail Olivares, Bryant Alexis Ortiz, Irene Luz Ortuno, Haylee Brianna Owens, Caroline Yvette Padilla, Karina Pardo, Nayely Ariana Pena and Rene Omar Pena.

Jacqueline Penaloza, Aaron Josue Perez, Isabel Perez, Arnez Raydeon Perry, Britney Perry, Oscar Angel Peterson, Thomas Felipe Pino Garcia, Irvin Pleitez, Gabriella Savannah Pritchett, Dairaly Pruneda, Zachary Baldeemar Ramirez, Christopher Gael Rangel, Elias Josue Realejo Morataya, Journey Angel Riggs and Itzel Rodriguez Castillo.

Maria Guadalupe Rodriguez Zuniga, Augusto Nahim Rodriguez, Brytzia Rodriguez, Joahan Alexander Rodriguez, Natalie Rodriguez, Samantha Rodriguez, Yarexy Garcia Santos, Lorezo Garza, Julian Gonzalez, Julio Xavier Guerrero, Nevaeh Alyssa Gutierrez, Desiree Lee Hamblin, James Patrick Henry, Michelle Hernandez, Natalia Nevaeh Herrera, Karen Infante Guzman, Allison Rubi Juarez, Sariah Aubre Juarez, Julissa Leah Jurado, Navithu Nethmin Karunaratne and Catherine An-vui' Le.

Roel Rolando Alanis, Allison Alarcon Martinez, Alexis Michelle Allen, Ariana Alvarado, Emanuel Elizandero Amaya-Urias, Marelina Andrade, Gabriella Ngozi Anowey, Jocelyn Lynette Arevalo, Yeison Joel Argueta Carranza, Kobe Arredondo, Delilah Sannise Bailey, Oliver Barragan and Sergio Jeronimo Barreto Ramirez.

Jackelin Beltran Gonzalez, Josue Enrique Benavidez, Christian Jesus Cacique Luna, Elizabeth Campuzano, Alexa Cantu, Jazzele Nevaeh Cardona, Natalie Angelynn Castillo, Allison Marieth Castro Bonilla, Natalie Giselle Chapa, Diana Guadalupe Chavez Casillas, Damian Angel Chavez, Jonathan Chavez and Leah Chavez.

Marlen Milagros Colmenero, Daniela Sarai Coreas Rivas, Adamaris Cruz, Ivan Cruz, William Julian Cruz, Dayana Monique Davis, Jaisel Jhoany Deras Salinas, Kevin David Diaz Viveros, Evanie Ruby Diaz, Samantha Elias, Abigail Aniah Escobar, Reynaldo Espinoza, Natalie Victoria Flores, Makayla Danielle Flowers and De Aiziah Nicole Foster.

Azaliya Elizabeth Garcez, Wendy Garcia, Aliyah Nevaeh Garza, Rafael Garza, Lourdes Samantha Gonzalez Huerta, Alyssa Nicole Gonzalez Rodriguez, Karen Haydee Gonzalez, Melissa

Kristal Anahi Delacruz, Samuel Jacob Deleon, Miguel Angel Diaz, Henesis Elena Duarte Luna, Angela Laide-my Duarte, Hannah Avon El-dreth, Nicole Escobar, Christopher Kal-El Flood, Diego Alejandro Franco Morales and Maria Guadalupe Fraustoto.

Anthony Dario Funez, Alejandro Galindo, Angela Nicole Galindo, Fatyma Julysa Garcia Figueroa, Angel Adrian Garcia, Litzy Garcia, Jaslynn Lineth Garza, Mia Janelle Garza, Chloe Anese Gillespie, Maite Gomez George Jesus Gonzalez Aguilera, Lestat Diamond Gonzalez, Raul Ivan Gonzalez and Brianna Gisel Grimaldo.

Sumayah Alime Guadalupe, Nahomi Sherlyn Guerrero Mendoza, Ainez Angelin Guinilla Quiala, Saleste Faith Hernandez, Dayanis Araceli Hinojosa, Laura Hinojosa, Anne Precieuse Hounmetin, Anne Tresor Hounmetin, Roman Huerta, Janette Hurtado, Mariela Angelica Ico Ojom, Anthony Bryan Jaime Fraga and Mayra Jaime Jaime.

Teyana La'Nay Jenkins, Marcus Anthony Kern, Angelina Labrada Idrobo, Luis Guillermo Labrador Lucena, Jennifer Landeros, Eliana Michelle Landeta Novas, Averie Renae Lasalle, Axel Javier Lopez Carbalaj, Jennifer Lopez, Jesus Lopez, Anahi Lule, Aeris R'Nae Lyons, Helen Marisol Maraditza Munoz and Yair Martinez.

Amanda Marie Medina, Rubi Esmeralda Mejia Aguilar, Maximo Christopher Mendoza, Kinereth Grissel Meraz Zelaya, Beatriz Victoria Meza, Abel Montemayor, Damanjaley Morales, Isai Emanuel Morales, Juan Jesus Morales, Guillermo Edmilson Moran Flores, Abril Moreno, Sonia Gabriela Murcia Reyes and Desiree Michelle Murillo.

Aleeya Nicole Murphy, Melany Dayrin Nolasco, Divanny Alexandra Orellana, Jordy Santiago Orellana, Ria T. Pandya, Andrea Veronica Patino, Alexa Paulin, Jayden Alexander Pena, Vladimir Perdomo Rodriguez, Zion Kayvionne Isaish Perkins, Alexa Paola Pineda, Michel Azucena Prado Cabrera and Maretzi Yamilet Ramirez.

Reggie Habib Rangel Quinones, Yulisa Reyes Orantes Yasmine Reyes, Brianna Nicole Rivera, Brianna Giselle Rodriguez, Valerie Rodriguez, Alexia Giselle Romero, Melani Romero, Yessica Lizbeth Romero, Yamilette Salinas, Sheryl Fernanda Sanchez Ortiz, Alexandra Santiago, Gabriel Serrato and Andrea Nicole Silva.

Grace Elizabeth Sonnier, Edgar Moises Sorto Sorto, Jhonatan Elias Sorto Sorto, Lae'Liana Nichole Spaulding, Kayla Marie Suarez, Sarah Suarez, Filiberto Isaias Tamayo, Hayden Tinh Tran, Valery Trevino, David Jonathan Trujillo, Kaylin Upton, Vanessa Vargas, Isabel Celeste Vasquez and Xander Ray Vasquez.

Amairani Herrejon Vega, Annethe Valleria Zacarias Trevizo, Emely Melisa Zarate, Armando Zavala, Estrela Zavala and Luis Fernando Zelaya Reyes.

PISD portable buildings come down



Crews are shown above leveling the portable buildings outside Atkinson Elementary Tuesday, June 23, as part of a districtwide Pasadena ISD initiative to remove all of such structures that are not currently being utilized at area campuses. According to district officials, the buildings are not as necessary as they once were due to lower enrollment. Even when the buildings are not in use, they still cost the district hundreds of thousands of dollars each year just in upkeep/maintenance, PISD officials said. Locally, portable buildings are being removed from both Bush Elementary and Atkinson. See related photo on Page 1.

Photo by David Flickinger

Remember When

50 years ago (1966)
City Councilman Frank Mancuso acknowledged that an additional exit from the area was needed after a flood that stranded Sagemont, Sagemeadow, Sagemont Park and Scarsdale residents in their subdivisions.

Two savings and loan companies in the Alameda Mall area were hit by a pair of robbers who robbed three S&L establishments in three weeks.

45 years ago (1981)
U.S. Rep. Ron Paul protested the proposal to use Ellington Air Force Base as a detention center for illegal Haitian and Cuban aliens at a meeting at Teague Elementary.

Southeast Volunteer firemen Brian Bennett and Steve Lombardi rescued a silver toy poodle from the Beamer Road ditch.

40 years ago (1986)
Sagamont Baptist Church held a ceremony celebrating its 20th anniversary. The church began with 16 people on June 1, 1966. In 1988, the word Baptist was removed from the church's name so that anyone looking for a church would feel welcome.

Woodmeadow resident Charles Wilson was charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault after he allegedly shot his wife then turned the gun on himself.

35 years ago (1991)
Lightning hit a residence in the 11100 block of Sagecountryside.

South Belt's local justice of the peace, Judge Howard Wayland, took up the responsibility for educating the state's justices of the peace as vice chairman of the education committee.

30 years ago (1996)
Holly McCoy was crowned Miss South Belt.

Metro reduced its fare on the 247 Fuqua and 244 Monroe Park and Rides to just \$1 during July.

25 years ago (2001)
South Belt area community leaders were approached by Houston city officials to become a Super Neighborhood.

Jerry Speer, Jim Hulme and Steve Jamail attended the groundbreaking for the new Dobie campus on Blackhawk.

20 years ago (2006)
Five Dobie High School students were awarded scholarships from the Austin Jay Childs Memorial Fund.

Dobie High School band director Ken Wright resigned after 19 years to start a new

position as the fine arts director of Channelview ISD.

15 years ago (2011)
Houston Mayor Annise Parker announced the city would make adjustments to the controversial new monthly drainage fees, significantly lowering payments for area residents. The measure reduced the amount of impervious surface used to calculate the fee for each property by 1,000 square feet. This change lowered the median residential drainage utility charge from approximately \$8.25 per month to between \$5 and \$6 per month.

A security guard shot one of three suspects who tried to hold up an armored car outside the Bank of America on the Gulf Freeway near Alameda Mall. Shots were reportedly exchanged between the Loomis armored car officer and the suspects, with one of the suspects being struck. The guard was not injured. Police later found one of the suspects, Malcolm Jamail Austin, 25, at a nearby apartment complex. He was charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon. The other two suspects, including the one who was shot, were not apprehended.

A woman's burning body was found in a vacant lot at 9500 Scranton near Easthaven. Employees at a business on the Gulf Freeway noticed the blaze and called 911. Houston firefighters responded to put out the flames and discovered a body. Authorities said it appeared that someone poured a flammable liquid on the body before setting it ablaze. The victim, 24-year-old Sherrell Nicole Baldwin of Huntsville, was later determined to be seven months pregnant. Autopsy results revealed she also suffered various types of trauma. Investigators believe Baldwin was killed elsewhere and then dumped in the field before her body was set on fire. Police say Baldwin had come to Houston the day before to meet a friend and look for work. No arrests were made in the case.

10 years ago (2016)
Clear Creek Independent School District's Clear Horizons Early College High School, located on the San Jacinto College South Campus, was recognized by the nonprofit advocacy group Children at Risk as being one of the top-10 high schools in the Greater Houston area. In all, 1,331 public schools were evaluated - 171 of which were

high schools. CCISD's Clear Lake High School was also ranked in the top 10.

5 years ago (2021)
A woman was fatally shot early Thursday, June 17, outside a gym in the 10500 block of Fuqua near Beamer. Elsa Mikeska, 62, was pronounced dead at the scene. Houston police responded to the incident at the Life Fit Gym shortly before 5 a.m. According to police, the woman was arriving at the gym for her morning workout when a white SUV pulled into the parking lot next to her. When the victim got out of her car to walk into the gym, two male suspects exited the SUV and approached her. Police said words were exchanged before the woman ran toward the gym. At this time, a suspect fired a shot to the woman's back. The victim attempted to make it inside the gym but collapsed. Other gym members attempted to revive the woman, but it was too late. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The suspects got back into the SUV and exited the parking lot. Police said the suspects may have been trying to carjack the woman after a similar incident was reported just earlier about two miles away in the 10100

block of Frehill Street near the intersection of Fuqua and SH 3/Old Galveston Road. Police said the description of the suspects and their vehicle was the same in both crimes. Police believed there were three total suspects, traveling in a 2000 to 2007 year model white Chevrolet Suburban. No immediate arrests are made, despite heavy citywide media coverage.

A body was found around 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 19, in the 11800 block Teaneck Drive, which was confirmed to be that of missing tattoo artist Julian Issac. While police first said they were "pretty certain" it was Isaac based on his clothing, at press time Tuesday, they officially confirmed his ID. According to police, detectives originally responded to a possible kidnapping call in the 11700 block of Teaneck Drive on June 15. During their investigation, they canvassed the area for three days and were able to recover video surveillance of a male - reported as missing - walking in the area by himself. After careful review of the case, no suspicion of a murder or a kidnapping was evident. The case was transferred to the Missing Persons Unit for a follow-up

investigation that began Friday, June 18. On Saturday afternoon, the body of an individual was found in the backyard of a residence at the above address. HPD Missing Persons investigators were in the neighborhood when the discovery was made. Volunteers from Texas EquuSearch also assisted in the search for Isaac, with staging taking place at Burnett Elementary. Police said there was no immediate signs of foul play, such as bullet casings or blood. Prior to his death, Isaac, 29, reportedly called his mother and told her he was being chased and that someone was going to kill him. Isaac worked as a tattoo artist at red Eye Gallery Tattoo Studio near downtown, and his disappearance had been widely covered by local media. An autopsy was to be conducted to confirm the person's identity and cause of death.

A man was arrested Friday, June 11, for allegedly killing his 15-year-old sister at an apartment complex in the 12600 block of South Green Drive near Alameda Genoa Road. Jaylen George, 20, is charged with capital murder. According to police, officers were dispatched to a shooting call at the above address

around 12:40 a.m. and located the victim outside an apartment unit. Paramedics pronounced her dead at the scene due to a gunshot wound. The victim was reportedly a habitual runaway, and her brother had tracked her down at the apartment complex and was attempting to bring her home when the shooting took place. The female had allegedly been missing for several days. Further investigation led police to George's whereabouts, and he was arrested later that Friday without incident. At the time of his arrest, George was found to have three open felony warrants. He was held without bond.

1 year ago (2025)
Melillo Middle School was one of only four schools in the Greater Houston area to be selected as a "School That Inspires" by Good Reason Houston. As part of the honor, the area campus received a \$2,500 check, being received by Melillo staff members Jeseca Adamek (sixth-grade reading teacher) and Debbie Bass (sixth-grade science teacher). Also recognized was Melillo fifth-grade teacher Tyler Oakes, who was presented a \$500 check by the nonprofit group.

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Over The Back Fence by Nicole

BLAKELY TURNS 5, BRAXTON TURNS 8
Blakely Drew Graham who will celebrate her fifth birthday June 25 and Braxton Donald Graham who will celebrate his eighth birthday June 30 are wished happy birthdays by their grandparents Don and Rosa Graham of Sageglen. Blakely and Braxton's parents are Clear Brook graduates David and Kali Graham. **POMPAS ENJOY 52ND ANNIVERSARY**
Nancy and Roger Pompa celebrate 52 years of marriage June 30. Best wishes are sent from friends to the special couple as they enjoy this anniversary.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 25 through July 1.

Atkinson Elementary
Blow out the candles June 25 for **Jeanette Guerrero**. Marking a memorable birthday June 27 is **Tulu Sarkar**.

Burnett Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Nancy Fehst** June 26. Blow out the candles July 1 for **Cindy Gil**.

Bush Elementary
June 29 is the day for a party for **Margaret Mayes** and **Deborah Vazquez**. Birth-

day greetings are sent to **Marite Portales** July 1.

Frazier Elementary
Enjoying a birthday June 25 is **Emily Nguyen**.

Genoa Elementary
Birthday greetings go out to **Carolyn McMahan** June 28.

Meador Elementary
June 26 is the day for a fun celebration for **Victoria Pantoja**.

South Belt Elementary
Light the birthday candles on a cake for **Jannette Gonzalez** June 28. **Amberlynn Olmeda** celebrates a birthday June 29.

Stuchbery Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Samantha Barboza** June 25.

Melillo Middle School
The day for cake and ice cream for **Kristin Konzelman** is June 28.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
The day for a birthday celebration for **Joseph Peterson** is June 29. The day for a party for **Vanessa Schultz** is June 30. Join in the birthday fun July 1 for **Melissa Garcia**.

Thompson Intermediate
Sing a birthday song to **Stefanie Cantin** June 27.

Dobie High
Blow out the candles June 26 for **Ana Valencia**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, June 25: **Keith Lawler, Michelle Pewthers, Caryn Cybulski, Vicki Cox, Keith Lawler, Rebecca Parchmont and Michelle Pewthers**; Friday, June 26: **Phil Sandlin, Telena Bence, Suzy Matthews, Maricela Juarez and Laura Arnold**; Saturday, June 27: **Lorie Medina, Zel Bell, Ruth Clay, Ynot Guillory, Danielle LeBlanc Judge and Robyn Bryant**; Sunday, June 28: **Jan Edwards Barker, Daren Williams, Kim York Hillis and Carla Pronio**; Monday, June 29: **Kristi Rogers, Terri Nicholson, Cheryl Raymond and Judy Lannou Thiele**; Tuesday, June 30: **Susan Jenins-Cowan, Marlene Varela, Sonya Hernandez and BJ Parmelee**; and Wednesday, July 1: **Siobhan Strambler, Barbara Porbandt, Tina Ramirez and Piper Sais**.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Smith picks Wichita State softball



Addi Smith, a Class of 2026 Lutheran South Academy graduate, will join the Wichita State University softball program, where she expects to be able to jump right in and add her talent to an already successful Shockers' program. See more about Smith on Page 6.

Sports slow to a crawl in July before busy August

July is just a few days away, which means the high school sports scene across the state will largely lie dormant until the big start of things coming Aug. 1 as the 2026-2027 school year will then be off and running.

As the *Leader* has already reported this summer, the Dobie cross-country program has already started conditioning runs in preparation for the start of the school year, with head coaches Mo Hickman and Stephen Cross welcoming both first-year and returning runners each Monday through Thursday beginning at the athletics field house on the main campus each morning. For additional information, see the box on this page located at right.



Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. also told the *Leader* that pre-season voluntary practices will begin in July, with official dates soon to come.

At the volleyball court, Longhorn varsity head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host a pair of youth camps as a great way for both younger players and returning high school players to get into form for the 2026-2027 season, which at the high school level will begin Aug. 1.

Athletic practices at the intermediate level cannot begin until the first day of classes. At Beverly Hills, the staff will host football equipment pickup Aug. 7 from 2 to 3 p.m. The first day of practice will be Aug. 14, from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

On the volleyball court, the coaching staff will host a back-to-school camp Aug. 4-6, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. each day. There will

also be a football camp on the same days and times as players will have an opportunity to get set for the regular season. Additionally for volleyball players, tryouts and practices are eligible to begin Aug. 14.

Also in August, the Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff has established Aug. 29 as Beverly Hills Intermediate Community Day as parents and other supporters of the Bears will be able to come out to the campus and enjoy a full morning and early afternoon of football and volleyball scrimmages, performances by the cheer and dance teams and much more.

Junior Riese Rackley will return on the varsity volleyball court for Dobie after a stellar first season at the varsity level as a sophomore. The Longhorns will open the regular season Aug. 9. Dobie will now be part of District 19-6A.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

JFD cross-country training runs

The Dobie cross-country coaching staff will host a summer training camp for incoming freshmen through seniors as of the 2026-2027 school year for several weeks this month and in July. The sessions will be held each morning from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Athletes will meet at the Dobie main campus field house each morning for training sessions June 29-July 2, July 6-July 9, July 13-July 16, July 20-23 and July 27-30. The Longhorns' cross-country program is riding a huge wave of success in recent years and is always looking to add additional talent to the teams. Those participating in the training sessions must have a current physical on file as well as required Rank One paperwork completed.

JFD football hosts Bergeron Camp

The Dobie football coaching staff will host a free one-day Matt Bergeron football camp for students entering kindergarten through the eighth grade as of the 2026-2027 school year June 26 on the main campus from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Students will receive instruction in all phases of the game and be able to hone their skills for the upcoming 2026 season. The camp is open to both boys and girls. Coaches within the Sagmont Cowboys organization will also lend a hand in the camp. The QR code to register for the camp is located on the Sagmont Cowboys and Cowgirls Facebook page, reference June 8.

Terrell keeping hoops dreams alive with jump to La.-Monroe

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Following one season at the junior college level, former Clear Brook High School varsity girls' basketball standout Chardel Terrell is taking her game to the NCAA Division one level.

hawks already have a solid team in place. I just want to go in, work hard, continue to be a great teammate and do my very best to help the program be successful on top of what they were able to do this last season."

As the Fort Worth native helped the Aggies capture its second consecutive Region 2 regular season title. McNeil averaged 12.6 points, seven rebounds and shot nearly 47 percent overall from the field as the Murray State team closed the regular season at 26-7.

Off the court, Terrell will continue studies toward a business degree. She still very much has plans to continue her thriving nail business.

been doing the nails of my teammates as that is really all I have time for," Terrell said. "I don't have time for anything else as far as that goes, but I definitely want to continue with the

nail business in mind. It's something I have a passion for, and I feel pretty good that I can continue to grow my business."

"Of course I still remember my time at Clear Brook," Terrell said. "We came in and were able to have a lot of success. Coach Loydrake was a big part of that. Several of us have now gone on to play in college. There is no doubt that things are different at the college level."

The Louisiana-Monroe women's basketball program took a big leap during the 2025-2026 season, and is now making plans to continue its recent successes. With that in mind, Louisiana-Monroe has added Terrell, who has three seasons of collegiate eligibility remaining, to the mix.

A year ago at this time, Terrell began her collegiate basketball career at Murray State College, a two-year program located in Tishomingo, Okla. Playing time was hit or miss for Terrell early in the season, she said, which proved to be a bit of a learning experience after such a terrific run with the Wolverines in high school.

Murray State College was ultimately edged out in the regional tournament by second-seeded Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College by a 54-43 count as Terrell had seven points in her final game with the Lady Aggies.

"Right now, I've just been doing the nails of my teammates as that is really all I have time for," Terrell said. "I don't have time for anything else as far as that goes, but I definitely want to continue with the

Despite returning no players from the previous season, last year's team wound up breaking into the top ten in 11 different single-season record categories.

With Louisiana Monroe clearly on the upswing, Terrell - a smooth-shooting, left-handed wing - is excited to add her talents to the roster.

"I have learned about college basketball and what it takes to be successful on a daily basis within a program," Terrell said. "I feel like I have a quick first step, and the ability to beat players off the dribble or have success with an improving shot."

"I am definitely improving my game on both ends of the floor, and have no doubt that my skills can translate to this level. We all understand that it is a team game, and the War-

However, Terrell continued to work hard and made adjustments within her game both in presence and performance, which led to more minutes on the floor.

"I really thought about going back to Murray State for a second season," Terrell said.

"They have a terrific program in place, and I really began to feel more comfortable out on the floor once I adjusted to the college game and figured out what works for me better than other things."

"But at the same time, Louisiana Monroe really wanted me to come participate in the program. All you ever want to do is feel wanted as a player and as a person, and I certainly get that feeling heading to Louisiana Monroe."

During her tremendous career at Clear Brook, Terrell was part of three exceptionally successful Wolverine programs, including a pair of 12-0 district championship squads. Clear Brook also set a single-season record for victories while Terrell was in the mix. She was joined by Rezia Castillo as well as Kamryn McLaurin, both of whom are also playing basketball in college.

"I still believe that my best basketball is ahead of me, and I'm just very excited to start the next chapter in my career."

BAFL to kick off season August 15

The Bay Area Football League will kick off its regular season Aug. 15 as the Sagmont Cowboys travel to Angleton to take on the Wildcats in opening day action.

The regular season will run 11 consecutive Saturdays, set to include a bye week for each program, with the regular season coming to a close Oct. 24.

The league for 2026 will include the Angleton Wildcats, Bay Area Buccaneers, Brazosport Longhorns, Dickinson Gators, East End Eagles, Hitchcock Red Raiders, La Marque Chargers, La Porte Texans, League City 49ers, Magnolia Park Sharks, Manvel Texans, Pasadena Panthers, Pearland Hurricanes, Pearland Patriots, Pearland Texans, Santa Fe Braves, the Cowboys and the Texas City Sting-

The league has established July 25 as the first practice date. The annual BAFL cheer competition will be held Nov. 1, and quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the postseason will be held Nov. 7 and Nov. 15.

Sagmont Cowboys 2026 Schedule

- Aug. 15 at Angleton Wildcats
- Aug. 22 Pearland Texans
- Aug. 29 Pearland Hurricanes
- Sept. 5 at Magnolia Park Sharks
- Sept. 12 La Marque Chargers
- Sept. 19 bye week
- Sept. 26 at Hitchcock Red Raiders
- Oct. 3 East End Eagles
- Oct. 10 at Bay Area Buccaneers
- Oct. 17 Pasadena Panthers
- Oct. 24 at Pearland Patriots

Romans reach regionals



The Roman brothers, Julian Roman (left) and Jordan Roman, will represent Pearland Track Xpress at the AAA regional track and field championships June 26-28 after putting together terrific qualifying times at the district championships. Julian, who will be an eighth-grade student at Miller Intermediate for 2026-2027, completed the 800 at 2 minutes, 23 seconds and also posted a time of 4:51 in the 1,500. His third regional qualification came in the 3,000 as he delivered a time of 10:44. Jordan, who will be a junior at Dobie this school year, posted personal records in each of the events with an 800 time of 2:03, a 1,500 time of 4:14 and a 3,000 time of 9:24.

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22-6A top rusher Hodges takes his talents to San Bernadino football

Da'Marcus Hodges is a true competitor covering every example of the definition. The former Sagemont Cowboy – turned Thompson Lion – turned three-year varsity football performer at Dobie High School, highlighted a terrific debut sea-

son in 2023 with a long touchdown run in the first round of the postseason against Texas state powerhouse North Shore. As a junior, Hodges overcame a significant foot injury in the season opener against Clear Brook, missing only the next game and

responded with nearly 700 yards rushing while sharing time in the offensive backfield with two others. As a senior, Hodges cemented what has been a more than 2,600-yard, 35-touchdown career with a league-high 1,380 yards and 17 total touchdowns.

“My mindset on the football field is that it is me against you, one on one or me against a defensive group, and more times than not I am going to come out with the advantage,” Hodges said. “I have always looked forward to stepping up to a challenge and proving that I can get the job done on the field. I think I’ve done it every step of the way. I love competition. It is what drives me to be successful in athletics.”

Head coach James Griffin led the Wolverines to a 7-3 record a season ago, eventually taking the program to a bowl game for the first time since 2019. The Wolverines went on to fall to Antelope Valley in the Western State Bowl. Antelope Valley and also defeated San Bernardino Valley 33-28 in the regular season opener.

“I am a long way from home, and I understand that everyone within the program is looking for an opportunity to show what he can do on game day,” Hodges said. “I also understand that basically I am a guy from Texas that not a lot of people know about out here in California. All I can do is go out every day on the football field and show out. That is all I have ever really tried to do.

“A lot of programs are looking for this sized guy in terms of height or this sized guy in terms of weight, but all I know is that I’m a football player and I truly believe that I

have shown that I can play this game at a high level. “You can be assured that when they call my number, I will be ready to make an impression on the coaching staff. “San Bernardino Valley has taken a chance on me and has given me an opportunity to both continue my education and play the game that I love, so I’m ready to go out there and show them that they made a good decision to bring me in.” All Hodges has ever really wanted in his football career is an opportunity. Judging by the numbers that he was able to produce during a three-year varsity run with the Dobie varsity football program, Hodges has more than proven that he can be a difference maker on the field. With star running back Cameron Mathews capturing much of the attention in 2023, Hodges as a sophomore, nonetheless, produced 695 yards and nine touchdowns. In 2024, with Mathews, who is now the Longhorns’ all-time leading rusher with just over 5,000 yards, still garnering much of the attention, Hodges persevered from the opening-week foot injury to rushed for 549 yards and 11 touchdowns. Leading into the 2025 season, Longhorn varsity football head coach Danny



Rushing for 1,380 yards and scoring 17 total touchdowns, Dobie Class of 2026 graduate Da'Marcus Hodges was the 22-6A Offensive Player of the Year during the 2025 season and will now begin his collegiate career at San Bernardino Community College in California. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



At left, Dobie senior Da'Marcus Hodges primarily utilized the track and field season to stay in shape for his football endeavors and managed to turn in a terrific spring with the Longhorns in the long jump, triple jump and relays. At the 22-6A championships, Hodges qualified for both the long jump and triple jump in the 21-6A/22-6A area championships as he was second in the long jump at 22 feet and fourth in the triple jump at a distance of 43-11. Hodges also was frequently a contributing member to several of the Longhorns' successful relay foursomes during the season. He is now in California preparing for the upcoming football season at San Bernardino Community College.

Lutheran South's Smith finds right fit with Wichita State softball

Competitive fire. Constant leadership. A first one in the building and last one to leave mentality, as well as gifted athletic ability.

With Lutheran South Academy Class of 2026 graduate Addi Smith headed to Wichita State University to play women's softball, the Shockers certainly appear to be adding a tremendous piece to their overall winning puzzle moving forward.

“She’s been out here helping out with our camp, and I know she’s been very busy playing softball. Addi just loves being in the middle of everything, and she is going to do very well at Wichita State.

“I really feel like it is a great place for me. I am looking forward to making the move to Kansas and starting the next chapter of my life. I made the decision at around the age of 12 that I wanted to play softball collegiately.

“This is a great opportunity for me to come in and play with teammates who are all focused in the same direction on the same goal. I think I’ll fit in great.” Smith knew that this would be her final competitive season of soccer as she played her 2026 season with the Pioneers, and what a season it was.

Smith was exceptional on the defensive end of the field as she collected first team All-District and first team All-State accolades. She exits the program that’s one of the top performers in Lutheran South Academy history. “I have just always enjoyed the competitive nature of soccer, being out there and competing as a team but also going against players one-on-one who are looking to advance the ball toward the goal,” Smith said. “I am going to miss soccer, but I feel I’ve given everything to the game that I can, and I am certainly proud of a lot of the

accomplishments that I was able to put out there. “Earning All-State in my final season or something that I’ll be able to remember for a long time, so I am very happy with my soccer chapter of my life as I move on to play softball.” Smith plans to study sports management at Wichita State and eventually can envision a job and perhaps in administration of a team or otherwise in sports somewhere. “Like a lot of athletes, I really enjoy being around team sports and being part of a group effort,” Smith said. “Sports management should be perfect for me if everything works out, I will be able to stay close to athletics in some form.”

Smith earned Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools academic All-State as well as competitive All-State honors in both soccer and softball during her senior year. She was first a huge contributor on the soccer field and then put together a terrific final season for the Pioneers on the softball field. Now, she will prepare for the move to Kansas next month as she joins Wichita State.

While the Shockers were upset by East Carolina in the conference tournament and thus fell short of their overall expectations in 2026, Bredbenner and her staff will welcome the return of much of the production from the current season in 2027, as well as the addition of some premier incoming freshmen including Smith.

Smith said that around the age of 12 she had to decide which sport to pursue. She chose softball, and began attending Lutheran South Academy in her eighth-grade season. Now having been a four-year varsity player at LSA, she has contributed everything possible at the high school level and is ready to make the jump to the college game.

“I know our program will miss her very much, and we certainly wish her the very best as she moves on to the next chapter of her life.” Smith said that around the age of 12 she had to decide which sport to pursue. She chose softball, and began attending Lutheran South Academy in her eighth-grade season. Now having been a four-year varsity player at LSA, she has contributed everything possible at the high school level and is ready to make the jump to the college game.

“I really believe Wichita State is a great program that has already established itself as a big winner,” Smith said. “I just want to go in and do my part to help win games. I met some of my teammates on my visit and I love the coaching staff, so I’m just excited to get started.”

Wichita State lost its first two games of the regular season but then proceeded to go 35-15 the rest of the way, including a 21-6 run in the American Conference.

Head coach James Griffin led the Shockers to a 7-3 record a season ago, eventually taking the program to a bowl game for the first time since 2019. The Shockers went on to fall to Antelope Valley in the Western State Bowl. Antelope Valley and also defeated San Bernardino Valley 33-28 in the regular season opener.

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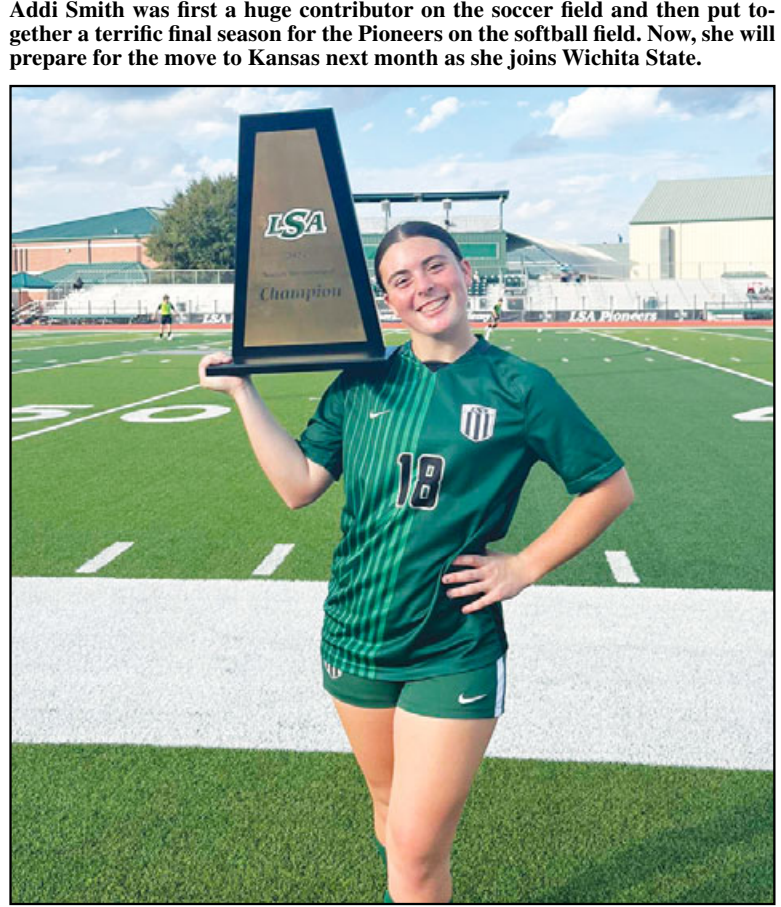
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Addi Smith earned Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools academic All-State as well as competitive All-State honors in both soccer and softball during her senior year.



Addi Smith was exceptional on the defensive end of the soccer field as she collected first team All-District and first team All-State accolades. She exits the program as one of the top performers in Lutheran South Academy history.

JFD volleyball camps coming

Dobie varsity volleyball coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will offer a pair of summer camps designed to both help younger players develop their skills within the sport as well as prepare incoming high school aged players for the upcoming 2026 season. Students entering the first through eighth grades are invited to attend the Longhorns’ developmental camp July 20-22 at Dobie main. Incoming first- through sixth-grade students will attend the camp from 9 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$50 per participant. Incoming seventh-and eighth-grade students will attend from noon to 2 p.m. also at a cost of \$50 per participant. Players ages 14 through 18 may attend the Longhorns July 28-30 camp, to be at Dobie main at \$60 per participant. Dawn Sexton and other experienced volleyball coaches will direct participants in skill development, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills as well as friendly match play. Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit the Dobie High School website-issued link. To register, visit the link at <https://forms.gle/LJWWD4i6foPXud7> to register for either camp. For any questions, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

Bears host summer open gym

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff has announced open weight room dates for the summer. Each of the sessions will be from 10 a.m. to noon, including July 14-16, July 21-22 and July 28-30.

Any students currently playing football or planning to play, may also attend the Dobie Head-Start football camp July 28-30. The on-campus, back-to-school camps for both volleyball and football will be held Aug. 4-6, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. each day.

Dobie strength/conditioning

The Dobie High School coaching staff has planned dates for the summer strength and conditioning program at the main campus.

These sessions will run from 8-10 a.m. daily, with sport-specific sessions to follow from 10-11 a.m. each day. The dates include July 6-9 and July 13-16.

Lions’ strength/conditioning

The Thompson Intermediate coaching staff will host strength and conditioning sessions for both boys and girls throughout the summer. Each of the sessions will run from 9-11 a.m. each day. The dates include July 6-9 and July 13-16.

The Lions football camp will be held July 20-23, from 9-11 a.m. each day at a cost of \$40 per student. Additional information and or adjustments to the above information will be provided as needed. As required by the state, all students must have a current athletic physical on file and have had completed required Rank One paperwork.

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Your donation helps support local children and families while honoring Old Glory.
 Additional donations are always appreciated and directly benefit the South Belt Toy Drive.

★ FLAG COLLECTION LOCATIONS ★

The South Belt-Ellington Leader 11555 Beamer Rd. Houston, TX 77089	Clear Brook City MUD 1911 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089	Shaw Real Estate 3272 E. Broadway St. Pearland, TX 77581
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★ HOW IT WORKS ★

- CHECK YOUR FLAG** Is it faded, torn, frayed or weathered?
- BRING IT TO A COLLECTION SITE**
- MAKE A DONATION OF \$20 OR MORE** to the South Belt Toy Drive
- RECEIVE A NEW AMERICAN FLAG**
- YOUR RETIRED FLAG WILL BE HONORED THROUGH A SCOUT-LED RETIREMENT CEREMONY**

★ FREE SOUTH BELT FLAG PICKUP! ★
 CAN'T MAKE IT TO A COLLECTION SITE?
 ★ Call or Text ★
713-419-3545
 ★ KAY BARBOUR ★
 Complimentary flag pickup available throughout the South Belt community.

OUR GOAL
250 FLAGS
 FOR 250 YEARS

HELP US COLLECT AND RESPECTFULLY RETIRE 250 AMERICAN FLAGS IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY!

★ EVERY RETIRED FLAG HONORS OUR NATION'S HISTORY. ★ EVERY DONATION HELPS LOCAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

★ FLAG CHECK 250 ★
 RETIRE WITH HONOR. REPLACE WITH PRIDE.

Benefiting the **SOUTH BELT TOY DRIVE**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.

9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." 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. 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.

7 p.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>.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now AI-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 - 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

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** - See Friday's notice.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

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, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.

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

8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

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

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.

7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

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

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

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

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

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

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

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Estes, Mejia look back on friendship, playing careers with Dobie tennis

Dobie Class of 2026 graduates Chloe Estes and Dulce Mejia were two of 20 seniors within the Houston area to receive collegiate academic scholarships from the Houston Tennis Association.

The honor served as a fitting way to recognize the standout careers of a couple two-year team co-captains who epitomized what it is to be Longhorn tennis players.

Estes is still finalizing her plans for the 2026-2027 academic school year and is considering an offer from Beville State Community College in Jasper, Ala.

Regardless of where she moves on next, Estes said she plans to major in communication with a minor in graphic design.

One day, sooner now than later, Estes hopes to enjoy a career designing specialized logos for businesses and companies through her graphic design skills.

As for Mejia, her collegiate future will begin at the University of Houston. There, she plans to major in global hospitality, with plans to ultimately become a chef.

It's been more than several weeks now since either Estes or Mejia took part in daily conditioning runs beginning at the Longhorn

tennis facility and continuing toward Blackhawk Boulevard and then back before tennis practice.

There have been no challenge matches taking place on a weekly basis, and the recent senior graduates haven't heard Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. mouthing words of encouragement in their direction from just off court one at the main campus facility.

Probably what Estes and Mejia miss the most is standing side by side on the doubles court, where they have been for much of the previous three seasons while playing as the program's top girls' combination during the team tennis season.

Both players developed exceptionally well during their respective careers with the Longhorns after having relatively basic beginnings to their experiences on the court.

Estes and Mejia both were forced to give up their seventh-grade years as the country was mired in a lockdown due to the pandemic.

Once things went back to somewhat of a normal pattern the following year, Estes at Beverly Hills Intermediate joined coach Ronnie Thomas' tennis program that he has conducted on the four courts at the school that used to be the old Dobie High School location.

"It wasn't a very long season, but that is where I learned the basics of the game and grew to really enjoy playing tennis," Estes said.

"When I got to Dobie, I played my first year on the freshman team and placed third district with a differ-

ent playing partner.

"I moved to the varsity level as a sophomore but was still several rungs down singles' ladder as we had an experienced girls' roster returning. But that is when I began to play doubles with Dulce, and I really think we had a pretty good run.

"We developed a pretty good chemistry out there and knew pretty much what one or the other was going to do on the court. At the same time, I generally played No. 1 or 2 singles during my last two years. Dulce also played at No. 1 or 2 for most of the time, and I would say that we put together tennis careers that we can be proud of."

Mejia echoed the responses of Estes in large part. Mejia played intermediate tennis, such as it is, at Thomas Intermediate. The Lions do not have courts on campus but instead have utilized the courts at a nearby recreation facility across the street.

"I knew how to hold a racket when I got two Dobie but that was about it," Mejia said. I knew that I enjoyed being out there on the court, but I really had to work hard in the beginning to develop my skills,

"I give a lot of the credit to coach Moreno. We always work hard on the

court and do a lot of drills. We take a lot of swings out there on the court, and get in plenty of practice against one another. That's really the best way to develop your game is to get out there and play.

"Chloe and I were both two-year team co-captains, and I am very proud of that, as we have shown leadership to the other players. We really have a pretty good family atmosphere and we support one another.

"It was a great experience to not only play tennis for four years but to also be part of a great group of players from year to year. A lot of us collected experiences that we will be able to carry with us for the rest of our lives. That is what I will truly remember.

"We had some great victories out there on the court and some disappointing moments, but the overwhelming feeling is that we stuck together as a group and supported one another each and every day. Those are the things that I will remember about my career at Dobie."

Both players say they will remember the frequent team building trips and experiences that they had as Longhorns. Moreno typically begins each team tennis season with a road trip

that includes plenty of tennis but also perhaps a stop at a theme park or a memorable day trip of some sort.

There is also the annual trip to U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships, where the professionals come to play each year. The Longhorns often-times get a chance to meet some of the pros along the way.

Most importantly, it's a chance for the team to gather as a group and enjoy some time away from the court.

While Estes does plan to entertain tennis play at the college level, Mejia will focus on her studies at the University of Houston.

"I really do love to cook," Mejia said. "I want to further my talents and really give myself a chance to become a chef. It's a passion of mine. It will be a fast-paced profession, and one that I really believe I will enjoy. That is the plan for now, and I will always look back on my experiences at Dobie both in the classroom and out on the court as both fun and

challenging at the same time. I really think that my experiences on the court as a member of the tennis program will give me some of the team based experience that I will need in my career moving forward."

Estes would love to play college tennis but knows that eventually she will go pro in something else. With her passion for graphic design, she intends to follow that career path as far as it can take her into the ever-changing business world.



Chloe Estes (left) and Dulce Mejia formed an incredibly successful girls' doubles career for three seasons with the varsity team tennis squad at Dobie and were co-captains for two seasons.

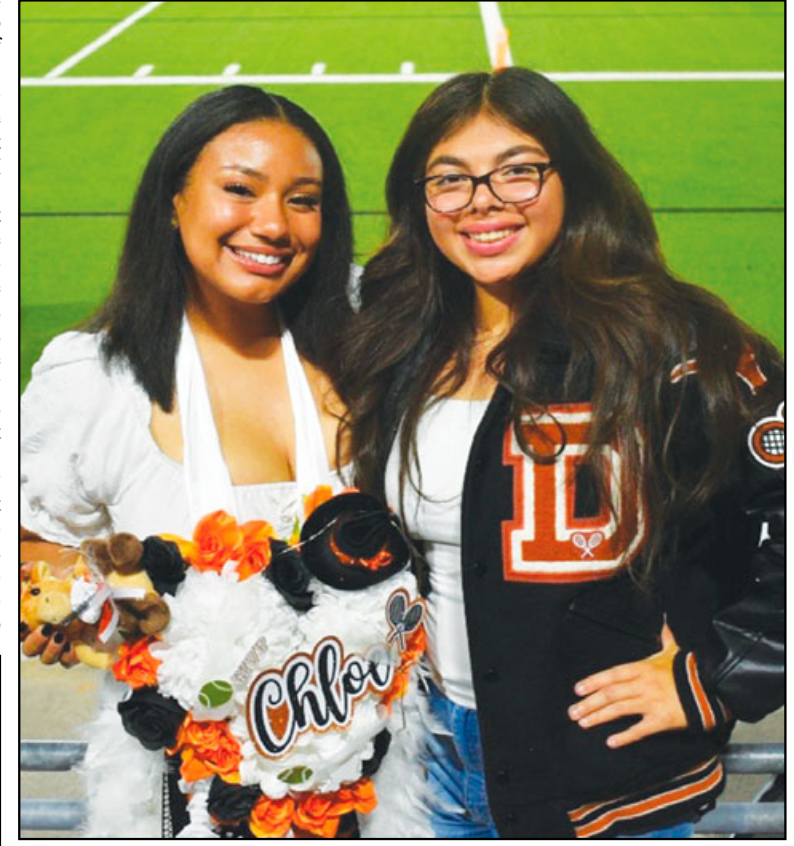
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Spending plenty of time together, including on homecoming night earlier this season, Chloe Estes (left) and Dulce Mejia formed a friendship that extended well beyond the tennis courts at Dobie High School. Both earlier this month were recipients of academic scholarships courtesy of the Houston Tennis Association.

Listen ... A Texas Road Trip is Calling

... Can you hear Marley the penguin saying hello?

... the Rainforest heard you need a break.

... an afternoon of fun calls from the Lazy River.

... and there is a beach chair with your name on it.

Wake Up Steps Away from Every Adventure

Harrison punctuates UT career



University of Texas graduate student left-handed pitcher Luke Harrison, a 2021 Lutheran South Academy graduate, punctuated the conclusion of his collegiate career with the Longhorns by fanning 11 Georgia Bulldog hitters over 5 2/3 innings in his final of 79 career appearances with the Longhorns. While the Longhorns eventually lost to Georgia in the game to fall out of contention at the 2026 men's College World Series, Harrison, who won a state championship at Lutheran South, finished strong. For his career with Texas, Harrison went 12-5 overall with a 3.83 earned run average. He started 33 games over four seasons and finished with 200 career innings pitched while striking out 214. Harrison has earned his undergraduate degree and is currently pursuing his master's degree in sports management. Harrison also figures to draw interest from multiple MLB teams during the 2026 amateur draft later this summer.

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