

Kirkwood to meet June 30

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road.

Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month.

For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

Active COVID cases increase

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

As of Tuesday, June 28, there had been 13,169 confirmed cases in 77089. Of those, 371 remain active, up 160 from the previous week. To date, 133 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there had been 10,236 confirmed cases. Of those, 236 remain active, down 385 from the previous week. To date, there have been 77 deaths in the ZIP code, no increase from the previous week.

In 77034 (total population: 40,532), there had been 8,974 confirmed cases. Of those, 211 remain active, up 102 from the previous week. To date, 5 residents from ZIP code 77034 died from the disease last week.

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

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Island Breeze begins work

Island Breeze Car Wash Scarsdale, 11210 Scarsdale, will open Friday, July 1 after temporarily closing for renovations.

During this time, hand-wash services will still be provided for full-service packages. Customers with monthly memberships (Fast Pass) will be prorated for the time closed.

Properly destroy flags

Residents wishing to properly destroy a flag may take them to RE/MAX 5 Star Realty, 4802 E. Sam Houston Parkway S, Suite 150; the Leader office, 11555 Beamer; and The Gardens, 12001 Beamer.

All collected flags will be destroyed during a private American Legion ceremony. For more information, to register as a collection site or to request a flag be picked up, contact Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545 or KBarbour@KBarbourRealtor.com.

Pachyderms event July 14

The Galveston Island Pachyderms presents a dynamic motivational speaker, Scott Presler, honored by CPAC to speak Thursday, July 14 at the San Luis Hotel.

This event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The entrance fee is \$25 and includes lunch. Send either RSVPs or questions to homefree9990@yahoo.com.

St. Luke announces festival

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church is hosting a fall festival and parish raffle from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 12.

The festival will be held at 11011 Hall Rd, Houston, TX 77089, in the rear parking lot. Additional parking will be provided at Dobie High School, 10220 Blackhawk Blvd, Houston, TX 77089.

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

Sagemont Church celebrates Fourth of July 4

Annual South Belt fireworks display, parade postponed till next year

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and traditional regulations regarding the sale of fireworks, South Belt residents will have limited options this year when celebrating the Fourth of July.

Sagemont Church

Sagemont Church had its annual Fourth of July celebration Sunday, June 26, on its church grounds by the giant cross.

The event featured a carnival with inflatables, a great selection of food trucks and a concert by the Purple Hells bluegrass duo. Festivities concluded with a massive fireworks display.

South Belt July 4 parade, fireworks

Both the annual South Belt Fourth of July parade and the annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show have again been canceled this year due to permitting issues associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This marks the third consecutive year the local events were called off.

Prior to the pandemic, the South Belt Fourth of July parade had only been canceled once in the event's 33-year history, as the 2018 parade was scrubbed due to heavy rain and flooding during the time of the parade.

The yearly South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show is funded by the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, held each spring – also at El Franco Lee Park.

Like the parade and fireworks show, the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off has also been canceled the past three years due to Harris County issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

"We're coming back bigger and better," said

event organizer and Leader publisher Marie Flickinger.

Fireworks regulations

Many South Belt residents are understandably confused as to the current regulations involving

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Walgreens robbed; thieves caught

Five black males were arrested at their apartments located on Scott Street after holding up the Walgreens drug store on Blackhawk and Beltway 8 Thursday, June 23.

The group had apparently also held up the Walgreens store on Fuqua before hitting the one on Blackhawk.

They were driving a gold/yellow vehicle which they had confiscated earlier. Police took part in a vehicle chase which ended at 4200 Barbary near Scott Street.

One suspect was found in an abandoned apartment unit, and three others were found in another apartment unit.

Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office was

also involved in the incident. The arrests were made by Houston Police officers. The robbers were reportedly occupying multiple apartments in the complex located near Scott Street.

An investigation into the group that robbed the Fuqua and Blackhawk locations has possibly linked the suspects to the Thursday, April 21 robbery of the Walgreens at Scarsdale and Beamer. In the Scarsdale robbery the suspects fled with approximately \$5,000.

At press time Wednesday morning, one juvenile and four adults were still being detained as police were checking into the possibly related robberies. Check future Leaders for more information.

Ditch contractor abandons Beamer

The contractor hired to make drainage improvements to Beamer Ditch has abandoned the project, according to officials with the Harris County Flood Control District.

"We recognize that the overall progress for the Mud Gully (Beamer ditch) project has been slower than anticipated," a statement from the Harris County Flood Control District read.

"Construction of the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements project is being actively monitored and followed by the Flood Control District, which includes contract notification requirements to confirm the contractor's intentions. As of June 17, 2022, we have declared that the contractor has abandoned the project, and a performance bond claim has been issued to the surety company. We are working with the surety company to determine what the next steps will be to move the project forward, which also extends to cleaning up debris from the site. Additionally, as this project is part of the Clear Creek Feder-

al Project i.e. a partnership project with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, it adds another layer of complexity to construction requirements and deadlines. The Flood Control district is working to get the job done as quickly as possible."

Complete Concrete was awarded the low-bid contract to complete the work. Harris County is required by law to accept the lowest offer.

Begun in January 2021, the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements Project was originally scheduled to be complete by fall 2022, but county officials said the endeavor was only 30 percent complete at the time of the unexplained pause in construction last month.

A joint project between Harris County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the project was funded in part by a bond package approved by voters in 2018.

A component of the Clear Creek Federal Project, the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Im-

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Body of male found in ditch



Wednesday, June 22, a Harris County Flood Control employee found a body of an adult male in the Beamer Road ditch close to the east bank, just south of the Scarsdale and Beamer intersection. Recovery of the body took approximately four hours and involved multiple agencies.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Dead man found in Beamer ditch

Multiple groups of emergency workers and police joined forces in the recovery of a body of a dead man who was found in the Beamer Road ditch just south of the Scarsdale and Beamer intersection on Wednesday, June 22 around 9 a.m.

Work on the ditch has been abandoned by the contractor for approximately the past month. (See related story this page.)

Those involved included the Houston Police Department, Constable Jerry Garcia and officers,

the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department and HPD Homicide.

The cause of death had not been announced at press time. Recovery of the body was aided by a turn in the current. The body had suffered damage having been in the ditch for a while in the hot weather and with varmints in the ditch.

The body reportedly had a wristband possibly from a medical facility. More information will be available in future issues of the South Belt Leader.

City, county launch heat program

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Reliant officially launched the 2022 Beat the Heat Program.

For the 16th consecutive year, Reliant's Beat the Heat Program will help area residents stay cool and manage their electricity use during the hot summer months. Reliant's \$70,000 donation to the program will allow the Houston Health Department's Area Agency on Aging to continue to offer portable air conditioners to qualifying individuals. "The hot weather every summer takes a toll on our most vulnerable Houstonians," said Turner. "This gives them a chance to keep their homes cool and manage the potential for high electricity bills. I thank Reliant for making sure that Houstonians are equipped with the right tools to beat this summer's heat and avoid any heat-related illnesses or complications."

The City of Houston is encouraging older adults, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable individuals/families who do not have means to cool their homes to call the Houston Health Department's Area Agency on Aging at 832-393-4301 and apply for the program. Due to the pandemic, the City of Houston, will open its cooling centers only in the event of heat emergencies. Proper social distancing and sanitation measures will be in place in the cooling centers. To be notified when emergency cooling centers open, register for AlertHouston notifications, one may call 311, or visit the Office of Emergency Management's website for updates and locations.

For more information, visit www.reliant.com/en/about/community/beat-the-heat.jsp#:~:text=Houston%20Health%20Department,393%2D4301%20to%20earn%20more.

HPD resumes in-person PIP meetings

The Houston Police Department has resumed its monthly in-person Positive Interaction Program meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month in the main building of Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria Blvd., CES Classroom. Face masks are optional. The in-person functions were placed on hold temporarily due to hospital's altered visitor's rules during times of heightened COVID infections.

For more information on how to participate in the meetings, email HPD Officer Richard Buitron at richard.buitron@houstonpolice.org or call 832-395-1776.

PIP history

The Houston Police Department has had a Community Service Division since the 1970s. When a group of citizens requested a presentation on a crime prevention topic, they would send one of their officers to the group and advise them what they could do to keep from becoming crime victims again. This is proactive policing. In 1982, out of the patrol division came the idea that citizens also need to know more about their police department before a crime occurred

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HPD arrest suspect in April '21 shooting

Houston police have arrested a suspect charged in the fatal shooting of a man that took place this past April in the 13800 block of the Gulf Freeway near Beltway 8.

The suspect, Alexander Ray Gonzales, 21, was charged with murder for his role in the death of Zeferino Baeza, 30.

According to police, patrol officers responded to a crash on April 2 at the above address and found Baeza unresponsive in the driver's seat of



Alexander Ray Gonzales

Alligator found in South Belt



A 3 1/2-foot alligator was found in a drainage ditch behind the Sagemeadow subdivision by Animal Control Services Tuesday as the alligator was crossing through the backyard of a local resident. Animal Control Services stated the gator meant no harm and was more than likely looking to find a new territory. The alligator was peacefully relocated to the ditch near the subdivisions of Sagemeadow, Riverstone Ranch and Lakes at Golfcrest.

Photo by Dean Baier

Pair charged in fatality of Jorge Jaimes

Charges have been filed against two suspects arrested in the fatal shooting of one man and wounding of another at 12931 Nyack Drive about 9:55 p.m. on June 15. They are accused for their roles in the killing of Jorge Jaimes, 18. The other victim, Julian Becerra, 18, sustained a gunshot wound to the leg.



Johnathan Carter

The suspects, Johnathan Rashon Carter, 18, and Damon W. Steber, 20, are charged with capital murder in the 232nd and 263rd State District Courts, respectively. The other victim, Julian Becerra, 18, sustained a gunshot wound to the leg.

HPD Homicide Division Detective M. Perez, J. Nguyen and W. Huff re-

ported HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting call in a parking lot at the above address.

They were advised that Jaimes and Becerra were meeting with two males. While they were talking, another male approached and all three males pulled guns on the victims, attempting to rob them. Jaimes was shot when he tried to drive away. Becerra returned fire and struck one of the suspects.

Houston Fire Department paramedics transported Jaimes to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake where he was pronounced deceased.

Further investigation identified Carter as the suspect who was shot. He was driven by private vehicle to HCA Houston Healthcare Pearland where he was then transported to Memorial Hermann - Texas Medical Center. Carter was charged and booked into jail on June 20.

The investigation identified Steber as a second suspect. He was arrested on June 24 and charged in the case.

Detectives have learned of a possible identity of a third suspect, 21. The investigation into his whereabouts and possible role in the incident is continuing.

Anyone with information on the third suspect is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Hit, run kills male pedestrian June 19

A pedestrian was killed in a hit-and-run crash that occurred about 1:45 a.m. Sunday, June 19, in the 13100 block of SH 3/Old Galveston Road near Fuqua.

The identity of the victim, 22, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to Houston Police Department officials, the male was walking in the roadway at

the above address and was struck by a sedan of unknown make or model. The driver did not stop to provide medical assistance and fled the scene.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by Houston Fire Department paramedics.

Anyone with information in this case or on the identity of the wanted driver is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4072 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Symphony hosts free concerts

The Houston Symphony announced the 2022 Truist Summer Symphony Nights at Miller Outdoor Theatre, in Hermann Park Friday, July 1, at 8:30 p.m. German conductor Christian Reif makes his Houston debut opening the season leading the orchestra in Dvořák's Symphony No. 7, as well as Copland's Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo, and Errollyn Wallen's Mighty River.

Saturday, July 2, at 8:30 p.m., Lina González-Grados and Gabriel Martínez make their debuts as conductor and cellist respectively in Schumann's Cello Concerto.

Stravinsky's Firebird is the highlight of the July 8 8:30 p.m. concert led by Christopher Rountree. Houston Symphony Assistant Conductor and holder of the Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation Chair Yue Bao leads the 2022 Houston Symphony finale at Miller Outdoor Theatre July 9 at 8:30 p.m. The program comprises Felix Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony No. 4, Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel's Overture in C major, and Prokofiev's Classical Symphony.

Admission is free to all the Truist Summer Symphony Nights concerts at Miller Outdoor Theatre, but tickets are required for covered seating area. These are available online at www.milleroutdoortheatre.com/get-tickets beginning at 10 a.m., one day prior to the performance date until noon on the day of the performance.

There are a limited number of tickets at the box office an hour before the performance. No tickets required for the hill.

In My Opinion

Muecke writes to Sen. Alvarado

I saw on TV where you are asking the Governor to call a special session to address the violence, we are seeing in America today. No, right now there is just too much grief, raw emotions, Monday morning quarter backing. What happened in Uvalde was just so horrible, 19 young 10 years old killed so needlessly. Then two teachers. The parents/family now walk past this bedroom, the bed is empty never again will they see their child there sleeping. These children had so much to live for, their future taken from them.

Currently a 3 member panel is investigating the police response. What we have seen and heard, this was a major failure for sure. We need to let this panel complete their investigation before we start to address the violence. Two things, the NRA and the weapons used. The NRA is made up of many law abiding citizens that believe in gun safety, have programs to teach how to handle a weapon, clean, shoot and store correctly. Yes, they are also loud for a reason, we have members of congress and some other groups that want to do away with the 2nd amendment. Our founding fathers felt so strong that after the 1st amendment for freedom of speech, they stated the right to bear arms was our right, as it should be. For personnel safety, a police may be one minute or hours away. May I remind you of Adolph Hitler, once in power he took the guns, then the voice and then millions of lives. The weapon is not our problem, it is the condition of our society.

What made the Greatest Generation that won two major wars in just 4 years. A family, a mother and father that loved, guided and yes disciplined their children. Talk to we older, the belt was not only used to hold up dads pants but to let you know you did wrong. First, at school and again when you got home. None died from this, but they well learned to say Thank you, Yes mam or No sir. Dr. Spock and Madalyn O'Hair took prayer out of our schools and said do not whip your kids, it will make them bad. Well way back then we had one prison in Huntsville, now have 9 prisons and all full. Read recently where Texas has 100,000 prisoners.

To get things back in order we need to bring back family where a father is in the home. It has been reported that 40% of babies are born to single women. No father, just a man that came down the street. Next our schools. This is for learning, not being scared to attend or being so locked up they can't go to a bathroom. Put the Superintendent, the Principal and the teacher in charge. Some one that misbehaves gets punished, verbal, a good spanking where others see this or suspension. I don't like suspension as they need to be in school learning. My days were, James shut up, sit down or bend over. That worked well for me. Also, each class morning we had a prayer and said the Pledge of Allegiance with our hand over our heart. That needs to be brought back big time with the American Flag in each classroom. No kneeling like some so called sports people do.

Now lets just wait until the next session for the state government. Sit down and look at all angles, carefully study all issues, use good common sense to establish the right rules/laws to allow honest citizens to buy and keep the weapon of choice, then punishment of miss use and make our schools a disciplined learning center. Right now it is all about raising the age from 18 to 21. Just how much smarter, better reasoning/thinking is a 21 over a 18 year old. 18 year olds now enter the military and learn all about weapons. Will that now go to 21? It will be 21 to 100 that can go out and kill.

Now the ownership of a weapon. I agree this has to be studied about who can purchase, own, where from and so forth. This 18 year old worked at Wendy's, understand used a debit card to purchase a \$2100.00 weapon and then ammo. Remember most of these incidents are by a criminal, a gang member, a mis fit, a pissed off individual or one that has mental issues. This is what needs to be carefully addressed and laws put into place. Sorry for this to be long but I came from the good old days and it pains me greatly to see our society in such bad shape today. The killing of innocent children or anyone young or old, just should not be happening.

Forget the weapon for now and concentrate on the main issue and that is FAMILY AND DISCIPLINE. Thank you.

James E. Muecke
713-946-1616

Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m. Outdoors (weather permitting) storytime for all ages.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events>.

Book drop

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

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonlibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Thursday, June 30, 10:30 a.m. The Basics Houston.

Thursday, June 30, 4 p.m. Family Night Unplugged.

Parker Williams Library

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

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

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
 - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
 - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
 - Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
 - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Hours are: Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
 - Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
 - Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
 - Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
 - Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
 - Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
 - Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.
- Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.
- Thursday, June 30, 2 p.m. Parker Williams Book Club. This month's book club selection is "They Called Us Enemy" by George Takei. Contact the branch to reserve your copy today. Meetings are in-person and virtual. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information or to request an online invitation.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Oliver W. Smith



Oliver Wesley Smith, a long-time resident of the Sagemont area, passed away peacefully June 21, 2022. "PeeWee," as he was known to his family, was born in Marquez, Texas Dec. 16, 1922, to Charles and Delcie Mae Smith. The family moved to Houston when he was 9 years old. He attended Milby High School through the 11th grade.

At the age of 17, he began working for Houston Light-

ing & Power. In September 1942, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, fighting in the Pacific arena during World War II. He was seriously wounded during the liberation invasion of Guam in 1944. After healing from his wounds, for which he received the Purple Heart, he was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, April 4, 1945. In 1945, he rejoined HL&P and he married his sweetheart, Mildred "Mickey" Magee; they had one daughter, Sandra. Oliver and Mickey had more than 50 wonderful years together before her passing in 1996.

In December 1998, he married Phyllis Arsenault LaLonde and embraced her large family as his own. Together they enjoyed traveling, playing bridge and especially being involved with numerous Marine Corps Association activities.

Oliver loved God and God loved him. He enjoyed serving others through various ministries at his church, spending time with family and friends, woodworking, fishing, gar-

dening and playing his harmonica. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings; his wife, Mickey; and their daughter, Sandy. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; and her children Jeanne Holkamp, and Tom LaLonde, the Rev. Wally LaLonde, Mark LaLonde, John LaLonde, Steve LaLonde and Jimmy LaLonde and their spouses; 21 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and his son-in-law, Stan Sosinski.

Services for Oliver were held at Forest Park – Lawndale, 6900 Lawndale St., Houston, TX 77023. Visitation was on Wednesday, June 29, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a rosary recited at 7 p.m. The funeral service will be Thursday, June 30 at 10 a.m. with burial immediately following.

In lieu of the usual remembrances, the family suggests donations be made in his honor to First United Methodist Church – Pearland, 2314 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland, TX 77581, www.fumcpearland.org, or a charity of one's choice.

Deaths

ship and made many lifelong friends.

His number one heart's desire was to win as many souls for Christ as he could. Summers were always about taking kids to summer church camp at Pine Springs and Bogg Springs. He always made sure every kid was able to attend and never left anyone behind. Church functions were a highlight, and he believed in having fellowships at least once a month. Whether it was eating, VBS, fall festivals, or playing volleyball in the field, you could always count on him to be right in the middle of it.

More than anything, Bobby loved his family. From his children to great-grandchildren, they were his focus in everything he did. Family was his joy, from New Braunfels vacations and sporting events, to birthday celebrations and holidays (especially Christmas).

Bobby was an avid supporter of his Houston Astros and Dallas Cowboys. He loved hunting and fishing outings with his best friend, Darrell Streeter. The outdoors was where he always preferred to be.

Bobby is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Gail Bryant; sister Elevern Curl; daughter Tammy and son-in-law, Robby Hudson; son Bobby Jr. and wife Michelle Bryant; daughter Julie and son-in-law, Russell Knight; grandchildren Kristin and husband Jason Enoch, Anna-Marie Bryant, Garrett and wife Vanessa Hudson, Brad and wife Sara Hudson, Wesley Knight, Josh Williams, Mallory and husband Philipp Winston, Nicole Bryant and Shelby Bryant; great-grandkids Angela Rivera, Jason Enochs, Jordan Enochs, Kyle Enochs, Arinzo Bryan, Braxton Arnette, Addilyn Hudson, Halle Hudson and Dani Hudson, niece Margaret Adkins; nephew Mark Curl, and numerous other family members; and last, but not least, his favorite four-legged baby, Heidi.

He was preceded in death by his parents and Edna Bryant; sisters Beatrice Bryant, Evergene Curl; brother Benny Livingston; brother-in-law; James Curl and grandsons Caleb and Joshua Bryant.

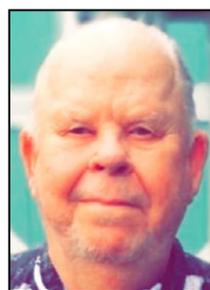
The funeral service was held Tuesday, June 28, at Alvin Missionary Baptist Church. Interment followed at Forest Park East Cemetery.

James Edward "Pete" Kelso, age 88, died June 12, 2022 in Houston. Pete was born in Bellville to Thomas Jefferson and Alice Kelso. Pete served in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955. Later, he was a produce manager, supervisor and buyer for several different grocery chains in Houston.

Pete was a wonderful husband, father and friend. He was a kind and caring man who loved his Western movies. He was a dedicated grandfather to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He loved serving the Lord at Faith Baptist Church. He was very involved with the brotherhood and their mission. Pete had many hobbies including golfing, gardening (He sure loved his rose bushes!), playing games and cards with family, watching western movies and sports. He will be missed tremendously by all who knew him but as he always said "I'm not gone but I will see you again one day in heaven."

Pete was preceded in death by his parents, brothers TJ Kelso, Lee Otis Kelso, Geneva Hahn, Earline Paulk, great-grandson Wyatt James David Hewitt and several nieces and nephews. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Margaret Kelso, son James P Kelso and 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other family members.

James Edward "Pete" Kelso



Lillian Leatrice Gafford, 83, resident of Pearland, stepped onto the streets of heaven Saturday, June 25, 2022. She was a follower of Jesus Christ and was acknowledged by so many as a distinctive influence in their finding Christ or deepening their Christian walk. Just as she loved deeply, she was deeply loved and was a cherished friend to everyone who crossed her path.

Lillian taught women in Bible study and she walked with many needing a listening and encouraging ear. In the process, she found many who would be lifelong friends. Lillian also influenced many people through years of service in the Discovery class for newcomers at Sagemont Church and was a faithful member of the Soul Support Bible Study class.

Lillian carried many titles, but the ones she held most closely were those of daughter, "aunt sis," wife, mom and "meemaw." Lillian was born to Herman and Tilda Schmid June 20, 1939.

She was married to the love of her life, Warren, for just short of 66 years, and together they perfected the term "best friend" as each of them found their greatest joy in each other's presence. She was a wonderful, sacrificial and loving mom to their daughter, Duane (Gafford) McClendon and her husband Mac; son David Gafford and his wife Pat; and son Dennis Gafford and his wife Michi. Warren, Lillian, Duane, David and Dennis are also Gen 1 of "The Tuna Bunch." She claimed many as her own "kids," but none more so than Randy and Paula Barnett and their family.

Lillian is also survived by her brother-in-law Lee Clark; sister-in-law Ida Pittman (and Gary); and cousins Gail and Mary Gafford, who provided exceptional support and assistance during Lillian's extended illness.

Affectionately called "meemaw," Lillian was grandmother and great-grandmother to Marcus and his wife Chrystal Gafford; and great-grandmother to Makayla Bacot, Alani, Amberlyn and Coralee Gafford. Mistry and her husband Kevin Neimeyer and great-grandmother to Ryder and Stella Neimeyer; Thomas and his wife Jenn Gafford and great-grandmother to Ensley and Emersyn Gafford; Natalie and her husband Tim Atwood and great-grandmother to Kylie and Audrey Atwood; Zach and Tanya McClendon; Britney McClendon and great-grandmother to Ava and Aiden McClendon; Jessica and her husband Chris Winstead; Jaime and Andrew Sflak and great-grandmother to Carson; Keaton, Camden and Annelise Sflak; Nikki and her husband Andrew Thompson and great-grandmother to Laney and Levi Thompson; Jenna and her husband Jonathan Hips and great-grandmother to Nolan, Faye and Ellis Hips; and Josh and his wife Abbey Barnett and great grandmother to Olivia, Zoe and James Barnett.

Lillian is also survived by many amazing cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws and so many special friends it is impossible to name them all.

Lillian was preceded in death by granddaughter Mandy and daughter-in-law Phyllis Gafford; her parents Herman and Tilda Schmidt, and brothers Jerod, Alton, Ralph and Herman, Jr. Schmidt; as well as Warren's parents, Floyd and Ila Gafford, and sisters.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations be made to the NVision project at Sagemont Church or MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The family will receive friends at Peevey Funeral Home, Thursday, June 30, from 6 until 8 p.m.

The memorial service will be held at Sagemont Church, Friday, July 1, at 11 a.m. Interment will be held privately.

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Aremi Polio Sánchez



Aremi Polio Sánchez de Cuidad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico was born May 19, 1981.

Aremi was a beloved mother, wife, sister, daughter and friend.

She was a woman of strong faith and many talents. Aremi was a very caring and creative soul. She was a member of Believe Fitness where she thrived, inspired and amazed many by her hard work and dedication.

Aremi is survived by her husband Juan José Polio and her daughter Lena Grace Polio. She will be missed by all greatly but never forgotten.

Beamer ditch abandoned

Continued from Page 1

provements Project – also known as the Beamer Ditch Project – involves widening the channel and installing a concrete lining.

All storm sewer system components will also be replaced.

The project is broken down into three phases. Phase 1 runs from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 runs from Scarsdale to Astoria; and Phase 3 runs from Astoria to Beamer near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin.

Complete Concrete completed the first phase of construction, which culminated

with the reopening of the Scarsdale bridge. Work, however, was abandoned shortly after, before advancing to the third stage of construction.

County officials warned that progress moving forward will be slow.

"Just to be clear, this will not be a quick fix with the surety company," said HCFCD spokesman Herman L. Sanders. "It will take time to resolve in order to get construction moving again as we would all like."

For additional information and updates on the Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvements Project, visit www.hcfcd.org/Mud-Gully.

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City OKs incentive pay for firefighters

Houston Fire Department (HFD) recruit classes 2022-Alpha and 2022-Charlie are the first to qualify for additional pay under a new incentive pay program intended to attract precertified recruits. Under the newly implemented incentive program, recruits that hold an active Fire and EMT certification at the time of hire, will receive \$2,500 for an

active FF/EMT certification or \$3,000 for an active FF/Paramedic certification. With support of Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña implemented the recruit incentive pay program on March 7, 2022. The incentive program aims to make HFD more competitive in recruitment.

HFD is actively recruiting qualified individuals to fill more than 300 cadet positions per year. The City of Houston offers great benefits and training opportunities are provided to help advance your career. If interested in joining a team of dedicated professionals, please visit the website below for all HFD recruiting information:

Firefighters respond to Sageriver

On June 21, Houston firefighters arrived on scene at within four minutes of the 4:15 p.m. call to find light smoke coming from the attic of a 2-story house at 11100 Sageriver. The fire caused approximately \$20,000 in damages.

They found no smoke inside and upon investigating both floors and the attic, found smoke coming from an outlet behind the breaker box.

Crews pulled the sheetrock and extinguished a small fire with no extension found. The resident had issues with their breaker box and the wiring appeared to be problematic. A fan was used to clear for smoke and the power company was notified.

The residents were advised to have a certified electrician fix and repair the issues prior to turning the power back on.

The American Red Cross was requested to assist the family. Firefighters from stations 70, 93, 36, 71, 52 and 61 responded to this incident.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group shared a video and a photo of a male individual that caused an altercation with a lady. He was being argued with the lady and then punched her. A bystander intervened and then the lady's son also fought the male. The male individual ran out bleeding. The incident occurred Saturday, June 25, at the H-E-B on Blackhawk Road.

Another member of same Facebook group shared that nonprofit Infinite Hands Initiative is having a School Supply and Mini Health Care

Leader checks out social media

Drive Saturday, July 9, at the Sagemont Community Center located at 11507 Hughes Road from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for elementary school students that attend Burnett, Frazier, Moore and Stuchbery. This post has been shared on other social media pages.

A member from the Neighbors app posted that their home was broken into but the only thing taken was their refrigerator. The member also stated that their friend's refrigerator was also taken. The incident happened Friday, June 24, in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision near Sugarbush Ridge Lane.

Elected officials share their words

Evans-Shabazz warns on heat

Greetings District D Friends & Neighbors, Summer is here and it brings more people, outdoor activities and occasions to enjoy and celebrate some of the great wonders of our city. I encourage you to stay hydrated and check with neighbors and friends to make sure they are okay, as we experience record high temperatures. Please check out what is happening in District D and the upcoming events. As always, please contact my office with any questions or concerns. At your Service,

Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, Ed.D.
Council Member
Houston City Council District D
districtd@houstontx.gov

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

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

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

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

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

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

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care
New Enrolling

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

281.481.2003

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

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2

South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce awards June students of the month

Beverly Hills Intermediate



Shown above presenting Jillian (Alex) Mikulski (center) with her award, left to right, are Denise Burleigh, Rebecca Lilley, Barry Burleigh, Jennifer Teichelman, Stacey Barber and Alyta Harrell.

Jillian (Alex) Mikulski

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce congratulated Jillian Mikulski for her work as an outstanding student. BHI personnel said the following as to why she was chosen as an outstanding student. "Alex is a wonderful student. She played on the volleyball and basketball teams, and she brings that sportsmanship and grit into the classroom each day. Alex is always willing to help other students in the class and volunteers to model and explain her work when we are learning about a new topic. She brings so much positivity into the classroom that it has helped other students gain confidence in their math skills. Alex's teachers say that having her in the class has been a joy; she always tries her personal best. She is 100 percent BHI Bear material!"

Genoa Elementary



Roger Hempstead
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce awarded Roger Hempstead for his work as an outstanding student. Below are comments from Genoa explaining why he was chosen for this award. "Roger is very helpful to everyone he meets. He helps clean up the classroom and lunch tables even when he isn't asked. Roger tries hard in reading and math and is an all-around outstanding student!"
Shown at left, presenting Roger Hempstead (center) with his award, left to right, are Rebecca Lilley, Tiffany Bennett, Denise Burleigh and Barry Burleigh.

Jessup Elementary



Alanna Lopez Novas
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce congratulated Alanna on her hard work as an outstanding student. Below are Jessup's staffs comments explaining why she was chosen for this award. "Alanna has a great head on her shoulders. She stays true to herself and consistently makes good choices. In her modest, unassuming way, she has shown that she is a diligent worker, and she sets a quiet example of perseverance. Her kind heart shines through every time she encourages others or looks for ways to help around the classroom. Although she always does these things without expecting praise in return, it is an honor to recognize her for efforts and for all she contributes to our class."

Shown left presenting Alanna Lopez Novas (center) with her award, left to right, are Bilalah Turner, Eboni Alix, Jennifer Chavez, Ryan Pavone, Noble Alix, Daniel Hoppie and Derek Duckett.

Dobie High School



Destiny Stewart
The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce congratulated Destiny for her hard work as an outstanding student. Dobie staff chose her as an outstanding student for the following reasons mentioned. "Hard work, perseverance and dedication. Destiny has worked extremely hard to overcome COVID lockdowns, loss of credit and online school. Despite the odds against her, Destiny has recovered her credits, will graduate on time and has maintained mostly A's and B's for this semester."
Shown at left presenting Destiny Stewart (center) with her award are Steve Long (left) and Jorly Thomas.

Morris Middle School



Susan Plata Garcia
These comments expressed below by Morris staff members are reasons why Susan was chosen for Outstanding Student of the Month. "Susan is always offering her best with her work. She is always willing to help other students with directions, links, spelling and more. She goes above and beyond as a peer mentor and always asks if there is anything more she can do to help teachers or students. She strives to be friends with anyone and everyone who needs a friend. Even last year, when she was a virtual student, she reached out to students who said they didn't have any friends. She greets all of her teachers and adults on campus with a smile on her face. She is an excellent student, and we are so lucky to have her."
Shown at left are Susan Plata Garcia (left) and Allison Lewallen.

Thompson Intermediate



Blessing Akinloye
Below are Thompson teachers' expressions describing why Blessing was chosen as Outstanding Student of the Month. "Blessing is one of those students who teachers love to have in class. She is mindful of others, very bright, and just an overall joy to have in class. She is a well rounded student athlete. She maintained straight A's all year while participating in volleyball, basketball, track and field, and robotics. She is always respectful and willing to work hard everyday. Blessing is a great example for other students!"
Shown at left are Tanis Griffin (left) and Blessing Akinloye.

Sam Houston announces President's Honor Roll list

The students listed on the President's Honor Roll at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, are undergraduates who have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours. The university recognized the following students for earning the honor for the spring 2022 semester:
- Payton Barkman, Houston.
- Skyler Blanco, Houston.
- Brandi Ford, Houston.
- Bianca Lucio, Houston.
- Marissa Maxwell, Houston.
- Marcos Rodriguez, Houston.
- Tori Williams, Houston.

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- Houston Methodist Emergency Care Center
- Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital Emergency Room

HOUSTON
Methodist
CLEAR LAKE HOSPITAL



DAR good citizen awards presented to PISD seniors



Jane Long Chapter DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) presented one senior from each graduating class with a DAR pin, a certificate and a wallet card. Each high school selects one special student who represents the qualities of good character: dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. This year Jane Long co-chairmen Sharon Boeger, a longtime Sageglan resident and former Dobie High School teacher and Susan Hazelwood made the presentations at the senior award programs at each school.

Shown left, from Pasadena High School, is Devany Balbuena, daughter of Citlali and Dwany Balbuena, with Boeger. Devany was Jane Long Chapter's Essay Scholarship winner. She will be attending the University of Texas at Austin. She plans to major in mechanical engineering and attend law school to become a patent attorney.

From Sam Rayburn High School, not pictured, Amy Velazquez, daughter of Dulce Olmedo and Humberto Velazquez received the DAR Awards. She plans to become a dentist. From South Houston High School, not pictured, Jocelynn Mata, daughter of Nelda and Jose Mata also received the DAR awards. She plans to earn a master's degree in forensic science.



From Lewis CTHS, Daniela Reyna (second from left), daughter of Gloria and Rogelio Reyna, is pictured with, left to right, Dr. Christina Flores (counselor), Boeger and Steven Fleming (principal). Daniela plans to attend San Jacinto College and then transfer to a four-year university where she will major in psychology.



From Pasadena Memorial High School, Grace Gallagher (center) is pictured with, left to right, Boeger, Gina Gallagher (mother), Corey Gallagher (father)

and Hazelwood. She will be attending the University of Texas at Austin where she will major in architectural engineering.



From Dobie High School, Haley Salinas (second from left), daughter of Eunice and Emmanuel Salinas, is pictured with, left to right, her sister Elizabeth (former Dobie graduate), Boeger and her mother Eunice Salinas. Haley will be attending the University of Houston where she plans to attain a degree in business and entrepreneurship.

In-person meetings resume at PIP

Continued from Page 1
in their neighborhood. From this idea came the concept of the Positive Interaction Program, or PIP.

A police agency can be very confusing to most citizens. The Positive Interaction Program holds monthly PIP meetings featuring speakers from different divisions (Burglary and Theft, Homicide, K-9, Helicopters, etc.) explaining how their division operates. This is done so citizens will know what to expect, should they ever need the police. The department was not sure how citizens would react to coming to a police station once a month for a presentation on a different division. So, the Positive Interaction Program was started as a pilot project in only one police station to begin with. The program has proven to be an overwhelming success, with 30 PIP groups now holding monthly meetings. The Clear Lake Division, which encompasses the South Belt community, holds its meetings the third Tuesday of the month.

To see a complete list of PIP meetings, visit www.houstontx.gov/police/pip/divisional.htm.
Chief's Citywide PIP
There is also a monthly Chief's Citywide PIP meeting held downtown at 1602 State Street the second Tuesday of each month.

The meetings will feature a presentation from a different police division or law enforcement agency each month. One may hear what a judge, district attorney, state prison warden or a county boot camp director has to say about what they are doing to fight crime.
Residents will get a chance to meet the officers who patrol their neighborhood and get to know them on a first-name basis. One can even hear from the captain of their substation.
Each month a different person is chosen to ride with a police officer on an actual tour of duty. At the next month's meeting, attendees will get to hear from the "citizen-rookie" about his or her experience.
Crime statistics are given out at the end of each monthly meeting. There are several categories of crimes listed, each including the date, time, block address and type of location where the crime occurred. The crime statistics are also available on the Internet.
After each formal meeting, a second, informal meeting is held (usually with refreshments). PIP attendees

will have an opportunity to talk to other citizens who attended the meeting and may find they have a lot in common and even exchange ideas on how to help solve neighborhood problems.
Lots of other things happen at PIP meetings: citizens give crime tips, members may collect food for the hungry in their community or raise money for scholarships, the PIP group may honor an officer for outstanding work in the area, and being invited to a meeting with the chief is not uncommon. One must be a member of a division PIP group to be eligible to attend the Citywide PIP meeting.
An interpreter and captioning are provided.
The Chief's Citywide PIP meeting is streamed live with sign language interpretation on HPD's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/houstonpolice. Real-time captions are available at: www.streamtext.net/player?event=CitywidePIP.

For more information, contact Citywide PIP Coordinator, Officer James Sobota, at 713-308-9079 or James.Sobota@houstonpolice.org.
PIP growth
Since the pilot program of PIP in 1983 at one substation, it has grown considerably. There are now 30 PIP groups that meet every month throughout the city. Not all are civic association PIPs. There are now apartment, business, school and even a deaf and hard of hearing PIP groups. Some PIP groups meet during lunch, some at night, and one even has a breakfast meeting. All have the same purpose: to learn more about their police department.

Statement of purpose
The education of the citizens of Houston on how their police department functions is essential to the PIP program. Once a citizen understands how the police department does its job, that citizen can better relay to the police department their neighborhood needs.
The free flow of information and ideas gives both a better understanding of each other's needs and expectations. This fosters trust and friendship between citizens and the police department that serves them. Cooperation between the Houston Police Department and the citizens is imperative in the reduction of crime and enhancing the overall quality of life in their neighborhoods.

For additional information on HPD's Positive Interaction Program, visit www.houstontx.gov/police/pip.

Nominations now accepted for CCISD Citizen of the Year Award

Nominations are now being accepted for annual awards for the 2022 Citizen of the Year. George B. Carlisle Distinguished Service, Distinguished Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD) Alumni, Valor Award and Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award. Recipients are selected by the Clear Creek Education Foundation.
The Citizen of the Year

Award is given each year to honor an outstanding community member for their support of CCISD programs and activities. The nominee must have demonstrated a commitment to Clear Creek ISD through volunteer efforts; contributed significantly in ways that have benefited the entirety of CCISD; maintained a reputation across the Clear Creek ISD community as an individual with high standards and dedication to excellence in public education and voluntarily served the district and its students and patrons over an extended period of time.
The George B. Carlisle Distinguished Service Award is the highest award the foundation gives to a community member. The nominee must have made exceptional contributions that have benefited

the Clear Creek Independent School District; is widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education; exemplifies public service, and has served the district, the students, and patrons over an extended period of time.
The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a CCISD graduate who has excelled in his or her chosen profession and has made a significant contribution to his/her community.
The Valor Award is awarded to an individual, living or deceased, that through their actions has demonstrated unselfish dedication to protect others; and has sacrificed for the well-being of others. The nominee must have made exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek

Independent School District; is widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education; and has served the district, the students, and families for a lengthy period of time. This award can be awarded posthumously.
The Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award, created in 2013, is the award the Clear Creek Education Foundation awards to a small business or franchise in recognition of its owner's exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek Independent School District. Nominees should be widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education and should have served the district, the students, and families for a lengthy amount of time.

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)
After a heavy rain, three trucks from the Custom Ready Mix Company (a concrete mixing company) got stuck in the mud while delivering a load of cement to Scarsdale Park. When the foreman was asked about the incident he admitted, "This happens after every big rain."
Artificial turf was formally accepted by the Pasadena Independent School Board. This allowed all high school varsity games to be played at Memorial Stadium instead of Auxiliary Stadium.
40 years ago (1982)
Plans were under way for a three-story medical/professional building on Scarsdale Boulevard between the Gulf Freeway and Beamer Road.
Four San Jacinto College South faculty members were appointed to department chairmanships at a special meeting of the board of regents. Chairmen appointed were John Bolen, fine arts/communications; Dr. Sandra Quinn, government and economics; Arthur Hardy, business administration; and Dennis Barrios-Bosworth, health and physical education.
City of Houston officials reported that documents necessary to turn the Sagemont Recreation Club over to the city had been prepared. The next step was for the club to call a general membership meeting to vote on the action.

25 years ago (1997)
A Community Profile section was published for the first time in the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*. Afterward the profile became a yearly feature, but is now discontinued. It included information on local activities, civic, youth and senior groups, churches, voting information, regular and heavy trash dates, and numbers to call for various information.
Plans were underway for the 10th annual July 4th parade.
20 years ago (2002)
Harris Construction began working on a subdivision, Fuqua Landing, in the 18-acre lot at the corner of King-spoint and Fuqua.
Daniel Joseph Lawnczak, 49, of the 12000 block of Wessex in the Scarsdale subdivision was released from

the hospital and transferred to jail for allegedly beating an officer.
15 years ago (2007)
Clear Creek Independent School District Superintendent Sandra Mossman was selected the 2007 Region IV Superintendent of the Year, making her eligible to vie for State Superintendent of the Year. The Region IV Education Service Center comprised 54 school districts and seven counties in the greater Gulf Coast area and served more than 1 million students.
Gov. Rick Perry line-item vetoed nearly \$154 million out of the 2008-2009 annual budget that the Legislature had earmarked for health insurance for community college employees. For San Jacinto College, it was an unexpected \$6.6 million blow.
10 years ago (2012)

The Wells Fargo Bank located at 11102 Scarsdale was robbed. The FBI dubbed the suspect the "Abe Lincoln Bandit" because of his distinctive beard. According to police, the man entered the bank at approximately 11:35 a.m. and handed the teller a threatening note demanding money. He then allegedly lifted his shirt to display a pistol stuck in his waistband. The man fled the bank on foot after getting a small amount of cash - less than \$100, authorities said. No one was injured. No arrests were made.
A drug warrant was served in the 10100 block of Sage-gate. The incident drew the attention of several area residents due to the large number of law enforcement officers involved. Participating personnel included agents from the Drug Enforcement Ad-

ministration, deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office and officers from the Pearland Police Department. According to DEA spokeswoman Lisa Webb Johnson, suspect Kih Van Vo was arrested for his alleged involvement in a marijuana-growing operation at another location. The Sage-gate home, which belonged to Vo's grandmother, was his last known address. Vo was wanted on unspecified federal charges. Local law enforcement agencies were merely at the location in a supportive role. A vehicle registered to Vo was also confiscated from the house.
5 years ago (2017)
Rachel Epperson was crowned Miss Teen United States at the national United America Pageant held in San Antonio. Unlike other tradi-

tional beauty contests, United America pageants focus on educational achievement and community service. An incoming junior at Friendswood High School, where she is a member of the National Honor Society, Epperson has selflessly completed more than 400 hours of volunteer work. Epperson is the daughter of local State Farm Agent Thuy Epperson, who is also an organizer of the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.
1 year ago (2021)
Atkinson Principal Lena Ortiz retired after serving 45 years in education - 26 of which were spent at the local elementary campus. Ortiz was only the second principal in Atkinson's 51-year history, replacing Hollis Powell, who served 25 years in the position. Ortiz began her career

in education as a first-grade teacher at Kruse Elementary, a position she'd hold for seven years. She then taught first grade at Young Elementary for two years, before moving to Gardens Elementary, where she would teach fourth grade for another two years. Ortiz then served as assistant principal at Gardens Elementary for eight years, before assuming the role of principal at Atkinson.
South Belt resident Erica Salazar has been named Ortiz's replacement, assuming the position for the 2021-2022 school year. Salazar grew up in the South Belt area and attended all Pasadena schools which included Stuchbery Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School. Salazar is a 1995 Dobie graduate and while there she played on the softball team. Being the catcher her junior and senior years, Salazar was part of the 1993 and 1995 Dobie softball state championship teams. After graduating, Salazar received a scholarship for softball which took her to Texas A&M University - Kingsville, where she also played catcher on the softball team and pursued a degree in marketing. Salazar started her career in Houston ISD, where she taught at Sanchez Elementary for one year. She then moved to Kingsville, before returning back home to start a career in Pasadena ISD. Prior to assuming her current position at Sparks, Salazar worked two years at Atkinson Elementary, before transferring to Keller Middle School, where she served as assistant principal for three years.
Multiple new arrests were made involving two major South Belt crimes. An unnamed 16-year-old male was charged with capital murder in the fatal shooting of Elsa Mikeska, 62, that took place June 17 on Fuqua near Beamer. Ben Rivera, 27, and Dylan Walker, also 27, were both charged with evidence tampering regarding a human corpse in the killing of 5-year-old Samuel Olson. This brought the number of arrests in the case up to three, as Theresa Balboa, the girlfriend of Olson's father, was also charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse.

Area Fourth of July still scaled down

children are breaking the law.
Local subdivisions located within the city of Houston include Sagemont, Sagemont Park, Kirkwood, Genoa, Beverly Hills, Rainbow Valley, Eastridge Terrace, Sycamore Valley, Scarsdale and King's Place.
Subdivisions not 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, Sageglan, Kirkwood and Kirkwood South.
The Bella Vita, Villa D'Este and Villa Verde subdivisions are located within the City of Pearland.
Before purchasing fireworks this year, however, residents should know that there is a nationwide shortage of the products, due to issues associated with the ongoing COVID pandemic.

While the stretch of road was once a hot spot for such booths, the practice was prohibited in July 2009 by the City of Friendswood Fire Marshal's Office, citing extra-territorial jurisdiction. (ETJ is the legal ability of a governing body to exercise authority beyond its normal boundaries, given that an agreement has been reached with the adjoining municipality.)
The minimum age to purchase fireworks is 16.
Parents of offending minors can also be fined, even if they are unaware their



POMPAS ENJOY 48TH ANNIVERSARY
Nancy and Roger Pompa celebrate 48 years of marriage June 30. Best wishes are sent from friends to the special couple as they enjoy this anniversary.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DWIGHT!
Birthday wishes are in order for former Houston City Council Member Dwight Boykins, who celebrates a birthday July 6, from his friends at the *South Belt Leader*.
ABIGAIL TURNS 10!
Best wishes for a happy birthday July 3 are sent to Abigail Durham, who turns 10 years old, from parents Courtney and Chris Durham, brother Jackson and baby sister Penelope; aunt Kimberly and husband Matt Lipina; grandparents Fred and Leslie Flickinger; great-grandmother Olive Falkowski; great-grandfather John Fairchild; great-grandparents Marie and David Flickinger; great-uncle David Flickinger (Leader president) and his wife Ellie; and Marie's sister Alexis Lochner.
NOAH CELEBRATES 7TH BIRTHDAY!
Best wishes for a great seventh birthday July 5 are sent to Noah Abarca from parents Natalie and Jose Abarca; brother Kelvin Lopez, sisters Eliana and Isabella Abarca; grandparents David Flickinger (Leader president) and wife Ellie; and great-grandparents Marie and David Flickinger and Kina Reyes.
SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 30 through July 6.

Frazier Elementary
Enjoying a birthday June 30 is Yeliza Davila.
Genoa Elementary
Join in the birthday celebration July 2 for Sugell Orocio.
Meador Elementary
Fireworks will fly on the July 4 birthday for Derenda Dehoyos.
Moore Elementary
Marking a birthday July 6 is Olga Soto.
South Belt Elementary
Birthday wishes go out to Audra Taylor July 2.
Stuchbery Elementary
Light the birthday candles July 3 for Cheryl Wilson. Blow out the birthday candles July 6 for Cristel Hines. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday July 7 are sent to Susan Brady and Johnny Tsikis.
Meillio Middle School
Celebrating a birthday July 2 is Stacy Anthony. Joey Bernsen enjoys a birthday July 5. Marking a birthday July 6 is Sherry Gates.
Beverly Hills Intermediate
Join in the birthday celebration July 1 for Melissa Garcia. The day for a birthday celebration for Vanessa Schultz is June 30. Lauren Lester and Mark Samuel enjoy a memorable birthday July 2. Send a happy birthday greeting July 3 to William Agan. Blow out the sparkler birthday candles July 4 on a cake for Bethany Wilson. Remember to wish Cecille Williams a happy birthday July 5.

Thompson Intermediate
Marking a birthday July 3 is Yadira Lozano. Join in a double-fun birthday celebration July 5 for Nicole Cannon and Steven Reyes.
FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.
Thursday, June 30: Susan Jenins-Cowan, Marlene Varela, Sonya Hernandez and BJ Parmelee; Friday, July 1: Siobhan Strambler, Barbara Porbandt, Tina Ramirez and Piper Sais; Saturday, July 2: Mary Collins, Brent Garza, Carrie Ramos, Nancy Pompa, Leslie Eaton, Paul Staton, Randy Weber, Eddie Shields, Darrel Black and Carolyn Benitez-Pineda; Sunday, July 3: Nancy Smith, Frank Castillo, Bill Phenix and Benny Outland; Monday, July 4: Detric Bowie, Tina Garrett, Bob Shaw, April Smith, Miles Thomas and Brent McCrary; Tuesday, July 5: Stacey Imboden, Jeanette Tickell, Chris Constance, Shannon Raymond Covington, Francisco Campos, Elinadabeth Kolar, James Notias, John Colunga, Ashley Chapman and Stacey Buchanan; Wednesday, July 6: Teri Perkins, Cristel Anne, Lisa Shepherd, Bonnie Miller, Wally Barbier and Cristel Lasater.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Send an email with anniversary, vacation and information on other events to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD volleyball youth camps

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host the 2022 Lady Longhorns' youth camp July 19-21 before welcoming incoming high school players for a preseason camp July 25-27.

The Lady Longhorns' youth camp July 19-21 will include students entering the third through sixth grades as of the 2022-2023 school year. That session runs from 9 to 11 a.m. daily, while students entering the seventh and eighth grades will attend from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Students must register no later than July 1 to guarantee a camp T-shirt. Dobie's incoming high school player preseason camp July 25-27 will host incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For additional information or to request registration, direct email to Sexton at dsxt@pasadenaisd.org.

The Lady Longhorns will open the 2022 regular season Aug. 9 at Baytown Sterling, taking on the Rangers at 4 p.m. (freshmen), 5 p.m. (junior varsity) and 6 p.m. (varsity).

Clear Brook youth VB camps

Clear Brook varsity volleyball head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff will host a series of youth camps in July in preparation for the 2022-2023 school year. The camps are designed to both give each athlete an opportunity to refresh skills and learn new skills and meet high school coaching staff members and prospective teammates. Each participant is responsible for bringing court shoes, knee pads, water bottle, a good attitude and a willingness to learn.

The camps will run July 20-22, with session I running from 8 to 10 a.m. for those students entering the third through fifth grades as of the 2022-2023 school year. Session II is for incoming sixth- and seventh-grade students as well as first-time eighth-grade players and also runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Sessions I and II are \$70 per student. Session III (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) is for all elite level eighth-grade players and incoming ninth-grade players at \$85 per student. Visit the team website at clearbrookvolleyball.org to scan a QR code for registration.

Stafford has JFD football on pace this summer

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Several factors have combined to signal the start of a new era within the Dobie High School football program, and while first-year head coach Demond Stafford might understand the thinking, he is clear about what expectations are and will continue to be moving forward.

"The (Dobie football) brand is bigger than any one coach, one player or groups of coaches or players, and the brand is one of great success," said Stafford, who since being hired away from Sam Rayburn in mid-March has been working double time to maintain stability amidst so much change.

"You of course have small goals along the way, but the focus first is to compete for and win a district championship.

"From there, you go into the postseason and work toward doing something that maybe others say you can't do, and that's win a first round playoff game.

"The players have bought in and are all on board. Your program is always going to be player-driven, and we are excited about where we are.

"There's always an aspect as a coach that you wish was farther along, but I like what I see. The guys are fully engaged in strength and conditioning and are doing everything they can to get better."

Stafford was an assistant coach with Dobie for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. He has watched the Longhorns both up close and from afar for several years, and now it's his turn to lead the burnt orange and white.

The arrival of Stafford as the new head coach for 2022 is alone enough to signal a new era within the program, but there's much more.

Since walking back on campus, Stafford has also hired as many as eight assistant coaches.

As for players, gone are more than 40 senior class

of 2022 graduates, including many who were a part of the 2020 district championship team.

One player does not make a team, but the quarterback is super important to an offense, and the Longhorns must replace a three-year starter.

Dobie has also graduated running backs who gained 1,000+ yards in back-to-back years, and the offensive line returns one starter - Evan Jordan.

For the record, the Longhorns welcome back just four starters on offense, with six back on the defensive side.

Nigel Hill at linebacker, tackle Rodrick Drumgo and end Anfonry Lee are the most recognizable faces on defense.

"We're going to be younger across the board," said Stafford.

"There's no doubt about that. But there's also great opportunities for some of these guys.

"The great programs reload and move forward with the same lofty expectations. That's certainly the goal here."

Games start in less than

two months. The Longhorns will host Clear Brook Aug. 26 at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium to kick things off before undertaking a trio of road games to fulfill nondistrict play.

"We will be ready," Stafford promised. "It was important to have a successful spring ball period not only for the guys but for us as coaches to get a feel for where we are. We answered some things and feel good about that heading into the preseason.

"Now that I have the staff pretty well filled out, we are familiarizing ourselves with one another and doing what we can to progress toward the season."

Per University Interscholastic League guidelines, Dobie will open freshman workouts Aug. 1, and all other subvarsity and varsity workouts will begin Aug. 8.

"I'm excited to be back here in a leadership role," Stafford said. "Like I said before, the brand is bigger than all of us. We have big expectations here at Dobie."

2022 Regular Season Opener
Dobie Longhorns
host Clear Brook
Friday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.
PISD Veterans Stadium

At right, Dobie's Jalen Baldwin (4) can provide both pass-catching ability and game-breaking skills in the running game as the Longhorns eye areas of offensive production heading into the 2022 season.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Wolverines make state 7-on-7 appearance

A casual "Oh by the way, I signed us up for a qualifier," comment turned into a Texas 7-on-7 state tournament berth for Clear Brook, the program's first state appearance since 2017.

All things considered, the Wolverines' run to the state tournament had to be considered unlikely at best.

Yet there the Wolverines were, competing in pool play June 24 in College Station before finishing up in the consolation bracket a day later.

With Class of 2022 graduate and two-year

varsity starting quarterback Cam McCalister preparing this summer to play at McNeese State beginning this fall, the Brook 7-on-7 outfit turned to the duo of Jesse Shelton and Kingston Cramer at quarterback.

Returning District 24-6A all-league defensive back Jaylen Price also stepped in at quarterback and led a scoring drive during qualifying.

With top receiving target Michael Lewis also missing time during qualifying, the Wolverines simply adapted.

"The guys just have

done an amazing job of playing together," said Clear Brook offensive coordinator Brandon Bills.

"We beat Clear Creek first and then won at Clear Springs, something we had never done, to advance to state.

"We don't have Power 5 (conference) recruits, but we play together and do what is necessary to get it done.

"Clear Brook is not one of the bigger names in 7-on-7, but I'm so proud of the guys for doing what it takes to get the job done."

In the midst of the

Wolverines trying to get to state, the players also learned that Brook head coach John Towels III had been named head coach at Lewisville Hebron and would be leaving. They pushed on.

"In a way, I think the kids did this as a bit of a tribute to coach Towels," Bills suggested.

"They will face some uncertainty with a new leader coming in, but they went out and did what it took. The guys deserve all the credit."

At the state tournament, the Wolverines ran into plenty of tough competi-

tion. In Pool L, the Wolverines lost to Midlothian 31-12 and then fell short against Plano by a 14-13 count.

Clear Brook lost a third pool play game, this time 20-15 to San Angelo Central. In the consolation bracket, Wakeland downed Brook 34-6.

Local hoopsters play TABC event

The Clear Brook and Dobie basketball programs were just two of nearly 300 to take part in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches 2022 Boys Showcase June 24-26 in Duncanville.

With more than 300

collegiate coaches in attendance over the three days, the respective teams, including dozens of Division I college recruits, took to the court.

Clear Brook went against a tough pool that included Mansfield Leg-

acy, Lucas Lovejoy and Trinity Leadership Cedar Hill, falling 74-66 to Legacy and then coming up short, 63-58, to Lovejoy. In its final game against Trinity Legacy, Clear Brook fell 87-68.

Jaden Shanklin had six

three-pointers on his way to 23 points and Julio Cisneros added 15 points on the strength of three three-balls as Dobie bounced Denton 60-57.

The Longhorns also hammered Temple 70-49 and cruised 65-41 against Little Elm to go unbeaten at the event.



At left, Dobie's Jaden Shanklin (13) had a solid season for the Longhorns as a junior and will look to take a big step as a senior in 2022-2023. At the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Boys Showcase June 24-26, Shanklin shot the ball extremely well from 3-point land and led Dobie in scoring.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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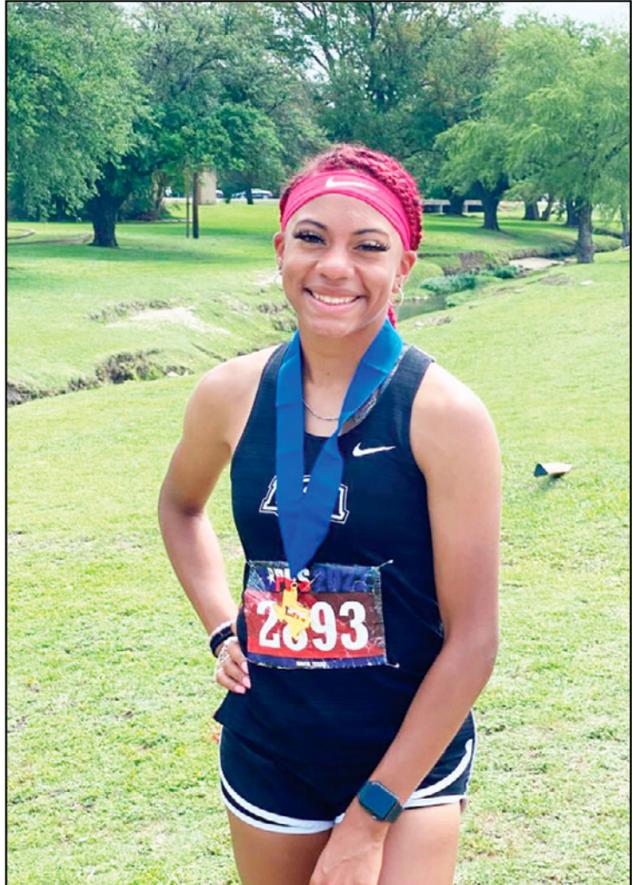
Azore has pro basketball intentions



UT-Arlington wing David Azore, a Class of 2017 Clear Brook High School graduate, was not selected in the 2022 NBA Draft June 23 but still plans to pursue offseason and training camp opportunities. The all-time leading scorer at Clear Brook, Azore overcame knee surgery early in his career at UTA and is sixth on the program's all-time scoring list with 1,390 points. As a senior, he averaged 19.8 points per game and was an All-Sun Belt first-team pick. Azore earned his BBA in marketing in 2021.



Mallard Smith of LSA is AGH



Ayana Mallard Smith, a Class of 2022 Lutheran South Academy graduate and Sam Houston State University signee, was an All Greater Houston girls' track and field honoree among private school nominees as she was honored for her excellence in both the 100 and long jump events. Mallard Smith repeated as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A state champion in the 100 and won silver in the long jump.

LSA's Harvey is AGH track pick



Kaden Harvey of Lutheran South cleared the 6-foot-4 mark in the high jump for a silver medal at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 5A State Track and Field Championships at Waco Midway High School in May, eventually earning All-Greater Houston Private School accolades in the event. Harvey's silver-medal finish also helped the Pioneers win the TAPPS state boys' team championship.

Aug. 13 Kickoff BAFL youth league welcomes 19 teams

The 2022 Bay Area Football League season will kick off Saturday, Aug. 13, and league officials have 19 programs from across the Houston and surrounding areas ready to begin preseason workouts in July. The 2022 lineup of BAFL programs includes Alvin, Angleton, Barbers Hill, Brazosport, East End, Hitchcock, La Porte, League City, Magnolia Park, Manvel, North Shore, Pasadena, Pearland Patriots, Pearland Texans, Sagemont, Santa Fe, Southeast Houston and Southbelt. The Sagemont Cowboys, who will return to Denny Wranich Sr. Field at El Franco Lee Park this

- Bay Area Football League 2022 Field Locations**
- Alvin Raiders – Bob Briscoe Park, 3315 Hwy. 35, Alvin, 77511
 - Angleton Wildcats – 1 Wildcat Dr., Angleton, 77515
 - Barbers Hill Eagles, Eagle Dr., Mont Belvieu, 77523
 - Bay Area Bucs, Lutheran South, 12555 Ryewater Dr., Houston, 77089
 - Brazosport Longhorns – Freeport Int., 1815 W. 4th St., Freeport, 77541
 - East End Eagles – Gragg Park, 6200 Wheeler St., Houston, 77023
 - Hitchcock Red Raiders, Hitchcock H.S., 6629 FM 2004, Hitchcock, 77563
 - La Porte Texans – Baker 6th Grade, 9800 Spencer Hwy., La Porte, 77571
 - League City 49ers – Davis Sportsplex, 1251 Texas 96, League City, 77571
 - Magnolia Park Sharks – Mason Park, 541 S. 75th, Houston, 77023
 - Manvel Texans – Manvel High School, 19601 Hwy. 6, Manvel, 77578
 - North Shore Mustangs – North Shore Park, 14440 Wallisville Rd., 77049
 - Pasadena Panthers – Memorial Baptist, 6901 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, 77505
 - Pearland Patriots – Pearland Dad's Club, 6614 Fite Rd., Pearland, 77584
 - Pearland Texans – Dawson H.S., 2050 Cullen Blvd., Pearland, 77581
 - Sagemont Cowboys – El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Rd., Houston, 77089
 - Santa Fe Braves – 5525 Ave. O, Santa Fe, 77510
 - Southbelt Dolphins – Blackhawk Park, 9401 Fuqua, Houston, 77089
 - SE Houston Wildcats – 4911 Holly Bay Ct., Pasadena, 77505

Jaden Newsome to return to lead Iowa State volleyball for 2022



With Iowa State picked to finish third in the 2022 Preseason Big 12 Volleyball Poll, Clear Brook Class of 2017 graduate Jaden Newsome (3) is set to return for her final season with the Cyclones while she pursues her master's degree in information systems and business analytics. Originally signing with Missouri out of high school, Newsome starred at Iowa State during her redshirt senior season in 2021, earning All-Big 12 second team honors for her play. Newsome was one of three Cyclones to play in all 102 sets of the team's 28 matches and ranked fourth in the Big 12 with 9.80 assists per set, recording 1,000 assists for the season. She also finished with at least 50 assists in three different individual matches. A star at Clear Brook in many statistical categories, Newsome has her bachelor's degree in sports management.



Dickson runs at USATF U20s



Clear Brook Class of 2022 graduate and Texas A&M University signee Camryn Dickson competed in the USATF U-20 National Championships June 24-25 at the prestigious Hayward Field on the campus of the University of Oregon in Eugene, racing in the 100 and 200. A two-time state silver medalist in the 200 with Clear Brook, Dickson was fourth at the U-20s in a time of 23.48 seconds, with the University of South Carolina's Jayla Jamison winning at 22.93. In the 100, Dickson was third in her heat and 10th overall with a time of 11.56.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, JULY 2

7:30 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See

Thursday's notice.

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JULY 3

8 a.m./10:15 a.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. Call 281-479-7285.

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

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

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

INDEPENDENCE DAY MONDAY, JULY 4

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

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

5 p.m. New Directions Singles - Age 55 and older meets for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For details, call Grant at 281-814-4750.

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

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

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

TUESDAY, JULY 5

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

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

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

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

2 p.m. National Association of Retired Federal Employees - meets at Clear Lake Community Center, 5001 NASA Pkwy. Lunch is \$6. Call 713-944-2461.

6:30 p.m. Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 713-253-2521. Visitors may attend two meetings free.

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

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

9:30 a.m. Carmelites - meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake. Meetings are open to those 55+, with no dues. Call 713-444-6744.

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

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

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

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

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

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

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Brook graduate, hoopster Lyons to Highland C.C.

At right, Clear Brook Class of 2022 graduate Tosh Lyons (35) has elected to continue his education and playing career at Highland Community College in Highland, Kan., as part of the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference within the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II ranks. Last season, the Scotties finished at 15-14 overall. Lyons played a key role for Clear Brook during consecutive solid seasons both in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.



Wolverines complete memorable run to state 7-on-7 event



The Clear Brook squad made a memorable run to the Texas State 7-on-7 football tournament in College Station and came away with a positive team-building experience heading into the rest of the summer as well as the high school football pre-season. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Christian Wright, (middle row) Lance Kellum, Jaylen Price, Keyon Kellum, Raiden Garcia, Jaylon Richardson, Sam Perry, Zaron Jones, Brennan Thompson, Malik Merrik, Jayden Price, Cedric Barnes, (back row) Jesse Shelton and Kingston Cramer. See related story on Page 5.

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Ole Miss sweeps Oklahoma

Ole Miss used 10-3 and 4-2 victories to sweep Oklahoma and win the 2022 NCAA College World Series baseball championship in Omaha.

Clear Brook High School graduate Aaron Calhoun is a freshman right-handed pitcher with Oklahoma, and while he did not pitch in the title series, his Sooners came within two wins of a title.

Calhoun was utilized sparingly as a freshman but is expected to compete for more innings in 2023, either as a starter or out of the bullpen.

Dobie's Rodriguez leaves impression with JFD tennis

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

If a student-athlete endeavors to leave a program in better shape than it was when they arrived, Dobie Class of 2022 graduate Megan Rodriguez should feel plenty proud of her legacy on the Longhorn tennis courts.

Rodriguez, a multiyear captain among her teammates, was a varsity team member nearly from the moment she walked onto campus.

For Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr., it wasn't only about wins and losses with Rodriguez but also the leadership, guidance and overall presence she brought to the court.

"Even though she had never played tennis before high school, you could tell she had an athletic background," Moreno said.

"She had been a gymnast, so Megan could move around the court and was pretty natural, pretty quickly swinging a racket and hitting the ball."

Rodriguez at the time was simply looking to find another quest or two. A highly competitive gymnast for 11 years prior to high school, she had hit a fork in the road.

"I didn't even know how to hit a tennis ball the first time my mom took me out there to the court for a summer workout," Rodriguez said.

"It was fun, and a change of pace for me after all those years in gymnastics."

Moreno, with a lifetime of both tennis playing and coaching experience to draw upon, knew that while Rodriguez was new to the sport, the possibilities for

the then freshman were great.

"The athletic ability was there, and she wasn't unlike a lot of our incoming freshmen in that most of them come in with little experience," Moreno said.

"Megan is the first freshman that I've invited back to varsity practice that quickly. She started at the bottom of the varsity ladder that first year but made steady progress and moved up pretty quickly.

"Megan is a talented student-athlete, and she leaves here as someone who left a tremendous mark on both the program and myself.

"We're going to miss her in the program, that's for sure."

Rodriguez for the most part played girls' doubles with Ashley Huynh during her sophomore and junior seasons, then joined Lael Martinez for mixed doubles as a senior.

"I'm proud of what I did on the court," said Rodriguez, who is headed to Texas A&M University in College Station, where she has been accepted into the engineering program. She will also play the violin in A&M's philanthropic orchestra.

As for four years in the Dobie tennis program, she said, "I gave it 100 percent and feel like I did well. I'm definitely proud of what we did both as a team and what I did. Considering I had never played tennis before high school, I'm happy with the results."

Moreno has been a high school tennis coach now for 40 years, most of those seasons at Dobie.

He's worked with and developed hundreds of players

over the years. For Moreno, it's not only about talent but also overall presence within his program.

On the boys' side of things, Moreno said Martin Zuber stands out after all these years, and now Rodriguez goes down as a legend among the Lady Longhorns.

"Martin is just a perfect example of the type of student-athletes you hope to work with, and Megan is in that same conversation. Not only did they maximize their abilities on the court but just meant so much to their teammates and this program.

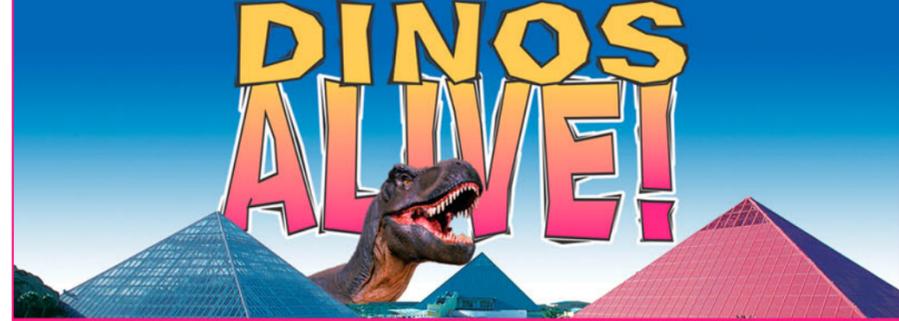
"It's how you'd want your own children to turn out. I could never say enough great things about Megan. She truly is at the top of the list of impressive individuals in our program."



Megan Rodriguez, a four-year member of the Dobie varsity tennis program, left a tremendously positive impression on her teammates and coach and is now on her way to study engineering at Texas A&M University.

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USWNT softball competes at Canada Cup, Pleasants homers



Taylor Pleasants socked three home runs as she contributed to the USWNT USA Softball's 6-2 run at the Canada Cup in Surrey, B.C. A Dobie softball legend, Pleasants is a standout at Louisiana State University, where she has played two full seasons in

addition to the 2020 pandemic-shortened campaign. Pleasants homered twice and drove in three runs as Team USA defeated host Canada 9-2 during the Canada Cup. She also went deep for a solo home run as USA defeated Czech Republic 13-0. The USWNT squad lost a pair of one-run decisions to TC Colorado but went on to win the Canada Cup.