South Belt-Ellington Leader

Serving South Belt since 1976

The Voice of Community-Minded People

Thursday, July 16, 2026 **Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com** **www.southbeltleader.com** **Vol. 51, No. 24**

MUD to close for training

The Clear Brook City MUD office will be closed for employee training Wednesday, July 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the building. For emergency assistance, call 281-484-2893. A similar closure is planned for the following week.

Sageglen to hold election

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its annual election meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, July 20, at the Sageglen Building located at 11610 Sageyork. Homeowners will be voting on one board member and one Architectural Control committee member.

All absentee ballots/proxy must be submitted to the office no later than 4 p.m. Monday, July 20. Homeowners must show ID to vote at the meeting. Guest speaker will be Javier Frutos, community liaison from Harris County Precinct 2. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

MUD trash times may vary

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

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

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

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

Sagemeadow to meet July 16

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 16, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes. Homeowners are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month. For meeting agenda, guest speaker or other additional information, visit hnsmm.sites.townsq.io/0.

Knights hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, July 19, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, located at 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Donors must bring identification. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/geo. See related ad on Page 3.

Coffee with the Constable

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

Freeway Manor to meet

Freeway Manor Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 23, at Bible Way Church, 10120 Hartsook. Residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley, Gulfway Terrace and Los Colinas are encouraged to attend.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

Spring 2026 STAAR results trickle in

Preliminary results indicate PISD, CCISD on par with statewide gains

The Texas Education Agency has released the Spring 2026 STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessment results, providing a statewide snapshot of high school performance in Algebra I, English I, English II, biology and U.S. history.

Published last month, the results, show gains across all tested subjects, with several areas surpassing pre-pandemic performance levels. District-level data for Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD, available through TEA's Research Portal, reflect many of the same upward trends.

This year's STAAR release schedule differed from prior years. Traditionally, TEA publishes all STAAR results – grades 3–8 and high school EOCs – together in mid-June. In 2026, however, the agency staggered the releases, saying the delay was necessary to implement new science standards and ensure accurate performance benchmarks.

Statewide gains

According to TEA, the percentage of Texas students meeting grade level increased in every EOC subject compared to 2025.

– **Algebra I:** 54 percent of students met grade level, up seven points from 47 percent last year.

– **English I and English II**: Both subjects continued their upward trajectory, surpassing pre-pandemic performance.

– **Biology**: Results exceeded pre-pandemic levels, with steady gains across student groups.

– **U.S. history**: 70 percent of students met grade level, one of the strongest statewide outcomes.

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said the results "reflect the hard work of Texas students, educators and families," adding that "focused instruction and high expectations continue to produce positive outcomes for students across our state."

Pasadena ISD

Pasadena ISD's EOC results, as reported by TEA, show improvement across multiple subjects:

– **English II**: Pasadena ISD students posted year-over-year gains, consistent with statewide literacy improvements.

– **Algebra I**: The district recorded higher percentages of students meeting grade level compared to 2025, mirroring the statewide seven-point increase.

– **Biology**: Pasadena ISD's biology scores improved, aligning with the statewide trend of surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

– **U.S. history**: A majority of Pasadena ISD students met grade level, reflecting the statewide

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Blackhawk power lines raised

Crews from CenterPoint recently raised the power lines along Blackhawk near Hall Road. The move was necessary should Harris County move forward with plans to install new traffic signal on Blackhawk at Riverstone Ranch. Such an installation has caused safety concerns, as plans would likely then call for the removal of the three-way stop at Blackhawk and Hall Road, which could potentially confuse regular commuters. At press time, no official plans had been announced by the county. *Photo by David Flickinger*

Potential traffic signal causes concern

Light at Blackhawk/Riverstone could create safety issues

The possible installation of a new traffic signal on Blackhawk at Riverstone Ranch Drive has renewed concerns from residents, who believe the county's plan – which also calls for the removal of the existing three-way stop at the nearby intersection of Blackhawk and Hall Road – could cause safety concerns.

The proposed installation, which county officials say is to relieve traffic congestion in the area, has been in the works for around a decade. A similar traffic light was installed in 2022 on Hughes Road at Riverstone Ranch.

Should the traffic signal be installed on Blackhawk, county plans call removing the aforementioned stop sign at Hall to further alleviate congestion along the area corridor.

Some community leaders, however, have expressed concern that such a removal of the longtime stop sign could confuse regular commuters on Hall Road who think drivers on Blackhawk still have to stop at the intersection.

At press time, Harris County officials had not officially announced that a decision on the long-studied traffic light had been made, but Precinct 2 staff told the *Leader* that the endeavor was likely moving forward.

The recent raising of nearby power lines on Blackhawk by CenterPoint crews further indicates that installation plans appear to be moving forward.

Haz Mat responds to gas spill

Hazardous Material crews from Harris County, along with emergency personnel from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, are shown above responding to a gas scare Wednesday, July 8, at the Shell gas station on Blackhawk and Kirkville Drive near Dobie High School, where a customer accidentally overfilled the gas tank on his vehicle by approximately 40 gallons, causing a large spill and potential fire hazard. *Photo by David Flickinger*

People's Choice winners announced

Annual South Belt Fourth of July Parade entries recognized

The winners of the inaugural People's Choice awards in the annual South Belt Fourth of July Parade have been decided, with first-, second- and third-place winners being announced.

Winning first place in the People's Choice Crowd Favorite category was Armenta's Early Childhood Development.

The second-place winner for the People's Choice Crowd Favorite award was the South Belt All Stars.

Taking home the third-place People's Choice Crowd Favorite prize was San Jacinto College.

Previously announced winners from the 36th annual South Belt Fourth of July Parade included the following:

– Most Patriotic: Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia

– Best South Belt Spirit: Dobie High School FFA

– Most Original: Duckorama

– Judges' Choice: Armenta's Childhood Early Development

HPD seeks Fuqua robbery suspect

Man accused of robbing store at gunpoint near Monroe

Houston police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying a suspect wanted for the armed robbery of a convenience store in the 8000 block of Fuqua near Monroe back on Tuesday, June 2.

According to Houston Police department officials, an unknown male entered the business around 9 p.m. brandishing a firearm. The suspect reportedly approached the clerk, jumped over the counter, took the entire cash tray from the register and fled the store on foot. He was last seen headed north.

The suspect is described as a skinny black male, wearing dark-colored clothes, dark-colored face covering, white and black tennis shoes and latex gloves.

To view surveillance footage of the incident, visit www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1534018488189955.

A reward of up to $5,000 is being offered for any information that leads to the arrest/felony charges of the suspect. To be considered for cash payment, tipster must directly contact Crime Stoppers of Houston by calling 713-222-TIPS (8477), submitting an online tip at www.crime-stoppers.org or through the Crime Stoppers mobile app.

Surveillance footage of suspect

Catholic Daughters hold shoe drive

Group seeks new shoes, socks for students entering K-8

The local Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 2292 at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church has kicked off a back-to-school shoe and sock drive aimed at helping children in the community start the new school year with confidence and dignity.

The effort focuses on providing new shoes and new socks for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, with all sizes needed for kids, youth and teens.

Donations will be accepted before/after Mass on July 25–26 and August 1–2 at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, with collection sites in both the Education Building and the main church entrance.

Donations may also be dropped off at the church office Monday–Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All items must be new, and the group notes that every contribution directly benefits children in the community.

For additional information, residents can contact the organizers at eileen.ellicles.cda@gmail.com. See related ad on Page 7.

Thomas promotes Advanced Placement

Parents: The Choices We Make in 5th Grade Can Shape Opportunities in 12th

By Jorly Thomas, Pasadena ISD (former Dobie principal)

As parents, we're always trying to make the best choices for our children. We help with homework, sign them up for activities, and look for opportunities that will help them succeed. But what if I told you that some of the choices that can impact your child's future begin years before high school?

In fact, they can begin as early as the transition from fourth grade to fifth grade.

That may sound surprising. When most people think about preparing for college, they picture high school students taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes, earning college credit, or visiting college campuses. The reality is that many of those opportunities start much earlier.

As students move from fourth grade into fifth grade, families face one of the first academic choices that can influence future opportunities. Pasadena ISD offers Pasadena Advanced Courses (PAC), formerly known as Pre-AP, for students who are ready for an added academic challenge. These courses help students build the skills and confidence needed for AP classes, dual credit opportunities, and college-level work later in their school journey.

Why does this matter?

Because college readiness is not built in one year. It is built over time. The students who earn college credit in high school, become AP Schol-

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In My Opinion

One year later... We remember... We are grateful

As I reflect on the devastating floods that struck Kerr County one year ago, my heart is filled with gratitude for the countless people who came together to help complete strangers during one of Texas' darkest moments.

A special thank you to The Gardens Houston and Carmen Garza for immediately opening your doors and providing a place for our community to gather donations.

To Mike Work and Linda Webster—thank you for standing beside me from the first donation to the last. Your tireless dedication, long hours, and unwavering commitment made an incredible difference.

Thank you to our amazing partners:

– St. Luke's Knights of Columbus

– Jerry Garcia and the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's Office; Mike Kritzler and Marcos Anderson

– South East Volunteer Fire Department

– Rotary Club of Greater Houston Veterans

– At His Feet Ministries Rotary District 5890

– Shaw Real Estate

– South Belt Ellington Leader

– Adrian Garcia Harris County Precinct 2

– Gallery Furniture

And to every volunteer and donor—many whose names were never announced but whose kindness was felt in every box packed, every item donated, every trip made, and every helping hand offered—you know who you are. This effort would not have been possible without you.

The floods may have occurred in Kerr County, but the outpouring of generosity reminded us that the true strength of Texas isn't found in any one community—it's found in neighbors who are willing to help, no matter where the need exists. Together, we proved that even in the darkest moments, the heart of South Belt shines bright.

Thank you for your generosity, your compassion, and your servant hearts. May we never forget those affected by the floods, and may we always remember the incredible spirit of the people of South Belt and beyond who stepped forward to help.

With sincere gratitude,

Kay Barbour

King: Review of Harris County budget

As Harris County prepares to adopt its budget for the upcoming fiscal year, our team at the Baker Institute conducted a comprehensive review of the County's current budget and budgeting process. You can review our report here. We concluded that Harris County enjoys a relatively strong financial position; however, it is likely to face significant fiscal headwinds in the future.1

Here are the highlights:

– Harris County is very dependent on property tax revenues. Property taxes make up over 80% of its general fund revenues.

– Prior to last year's budget cycle, the County Budget Office highlighted that over the last five years, the County's expenditures have been growing faster than its revenues (7% vs. 5%), and that the County will run significant deficits over the next five years unless the County raises more revenues or trims spending.

– From 2020 through 2023, the County's property-tax revenue was relatively flat. However, the County dramatically increased its property-tax rate by approximately 10% in 2024, resulting in record property tax collections. The County Budget Office is assuming the property tax base will increase by 5.5% annually in the future. However, due to state-imposed limitations, political constraints, and other market and demographic factors, we are skeptical that the County's tax base will grow at that rate.

– The County's general fund expenditures are dominated by law enforcement (46%) and the administration of justice, i.e., the court system (17%). Because of recent substantial pay raises for law enforcement officers, those percentages will likely increase in future years. The overcrowding of the Harris County jail due to the backlog of cases in the Harris County courts continues to be a financial challenge for the County. However, there has been some improvement in reducing the backlog in the last year.

– The County is very dependent on excess revenues from the Harris County Toll Road system to fund county road projects. However, as we have previously noted, the County may be approaching the limit on how much it can transfer from the toll road system, which will put additional pressure on its General Fund. Https://www.bakerinstitute.org/research/harris-county-toll-roads-are-generating-large-surpluses.

– During and immediately after the pandemic, the County relied very heavily on federal grants related to the pandemic. Several new programs were launched, and headcounts in several departments were increased. Most of those grant funds have now been expended, and the County will face difficult decisions about finding alternative funding or scaling back or eliminating those programs.

– From 2018-2023, the County's headcount increased marginally (17,363 to 17,969). However, due in part to federal grant funding, the headcount increased by 11.4% over the last two years (17,969 to 20,020). This increase in the headcount has significantly contributed to expenditures growing faster than revenues.

– Harris County's finances are extremely complex. The County Budget Office must assemble and reconcile information from dozens of departments. We found its staff competent, cooperative, and transparent in its dealings with us. Nevertheless, the County could make significant improvements to its budget documents and website, making its finances more transparent and accessible to ordinary residents.

– This was our original baseline review of the County's finances. We will be following up on this in the future.

Bill King

Burns: The illusion of well-intentioned solutions

In our current election cycle, our country was flooded with promises of sweeping "solutions" to our most pressing issues. Recently, these "solutions" often came in the form of Democratic Socialist policies designed to eliminate economic hardship. Whether the proposal was a guaranteed living wage, rent control, or government-funded universal healthcare, these goals were presented as simple matters of compassion and political will.

However, the renowned economist Thomas Sowell offers a cold reality check that every voter and policymaker needs to hear: "There are no solutions, there are only trade-offs."

Sowell's definition of economics centers on an unyielding truth: resources are inherently scarce, while human desires are limitless. In other words, we cannot have everything we want for free. True economic thinking is not about finding a magic bullet; it is about weighing what we must sacrifice to get what we need. When we ignore this, well-intentioned "solutions" trigger severe, unintended consequences.

Consider three popular democratic socialist proposals and the hidden trade-offs they carry:

– Mandated Living Wages: Raising the local minimum wage to a high "living wage" sounds like an instant fix for poverty. The trade-off, as Sowell frequently points out, is that it raises labor costs. Small businesses must reduce hours, cut benefits, or replace workers with automation. The "solution" ends up pricing workers out of the job market entirely.

– Aggressive Rent Control: Capping what landlords can charge. Housing requires scarce resources to build and maintain. The trade-off of artificially low rent is a collapse in housing quality, landlords' inability to make repairs, and a severe shortage of new construction. The "solution" for today's tenant creates a housing crisis for tomorrow's.

– "Free" Universal Healthcare: Expanding public healthcare for everyone removes the immediate price barrier for patients. However, it does not remove the scarcity of doctors, nurses, hospital beds, and medical equipment. The trade-off of a "free" system is that access must be rationed by time rather than price, resulting in skyrocketing waiting lists, delayed surgeries, and reduced medical innovation.

When we view policies through the lens of trade-offs rather than utopian solutions, our political conversations change. We stop demanding the impossible from our leaders, and we start demanding honesty.

At the next election, let's stop asking if a candidate's policies sound compassionate. Instead, let's ask the essential Sowellian questions: "At what cost? Compared to what? And what are the hard trade-offs we are actually willing to accept?"

Larry Burns

Gutherie thankful to Ta for project

The St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church congregation is preserving its past while preparing for their future. Members of the St. Luke parish would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Paul Ta, manager of Sheer Perfection Fabrics & Upholstery, for his incredible display of stewardship. Ta and his dedicated team reupholstered and refinished all of the wooden freestanding chairs, allowing the church to preserve a part of its history while blending it seamlessly into their new space, in the Family Life Center. Their craftsmanship, professionalism and commitment to completing the project in a timely manner made all the difference. St. Luke clergy say they could not have completed the project without the generosity, hard work and dedication of Ta and his staff and are deeply grateful for everything the team has done. Shown are (left) the Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie and Paul Ta.

Photos by Ema Puente

Tractor-trailer bottoms out near Beltway 8, Blackhawk

A tractor trailer-hauling a load of vehicles bottomed out Monday, July 13, as the driver attempted to exit onto Beltway 8 from a gas station at Kingspoint Road near Blackhawk Boulevard, blocking multiple lanes of traffic on the service road. Someone is shown above trying to use a jack to lift the trailer, as the driver accelerated. The measure proved unsuccessful. A tow truck later came to the driver's aid.

Photo by James Bolen

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/ or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library:

Thursday, July 16, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL Get LIT 2026.
Saturday, July 18, 2 – 4 p.m. Saturdays at HPL. Registration required.
Monday, July 20, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Bring family to storytime. Registration required.
Monday, July 20, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL Get LIT 2026.
Tuesday, July 21, 1 – 5 p.m. HPL Get LIT 2026.
Tuesday, July 21, 1 – 5 p.m. Bad art club. Registration required.
Tuesday, July 21, 4 – 5 p.m. Family STEM. Registration required.
Wednesday, July 22, 6 – 7 p.m. Pajama storytime. Registration required.
Visit https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library:

Thursday, July 16, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.
Friday, July 17, 1 – 3 p.m. Adult fuse bead keychain craft.
Friday, July 17, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.
Friday, July 17, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Lego club.
Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
Saturday, July 18, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Korean language music class. Registration required.
Monday, July 20, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Adult computer classes with Harris County universal services. Registration required.
Monday, July 20, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.
Monday, July 20, 4 – 5 p.m. Cricut sublimation orientation.
Monday, July 20, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.
Tuesday, July 21, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.
Tuesday, July 21, 10:15 a.m. – 1 p.m. Personas que corren con libros: Club de lectura en Espanol.
Wednesday, July 22, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mini yarn pom-pom cactus craft for adults.
Wednesday, July 22, 4 – 5 p.m. Dino life cycle craft.
Wednesday, July 22, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

Online services

– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
– Stream classic films, Indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
– Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card for a HCPL card.

For additional information, visit www.hcpl.net.

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David Flickinger, owner

Guest editorial: Pasadena ISD promotes AP courses

By Jorly Thomas, Pasadena ISD (former Dobie principal)

Continued from Page 1

ars, or compete at the state level in academic competitions often started building those skills years earlier. They learned how to work through challenges, think critically, and believe in themselves.

As a parent, you might ask, "Why should I consider these opportunities for my child?"

The answer goes far beyond taking harder classes.

When students are involved in advanced academic opportunities, they learn alongside other students who enjoy asking questions, solving problems, and challenging themselves. They begin to see learning as more than simply completing assignments and passing tests. They build confidence, learn to think in new ways, and discover talents they may not have known they had. The earlier students get involved, the more time they have to grow those skills.

Just as important is the partnership between families and schools.

Many parents may not know what questions to ask – and that's okay. Most of us are busy working hard, taking care of our families, attending activities, helping with homework, and doing our best to create opportunities for our children. At Pasadena ISD, we want to make the process easier.

We believe parents should not have to figure everything out alone. Our goal is to help families understand the opportunities available to their children, answer questions, provide guidance, and feel supported every step of the way.

For many families, middle school is an important transition. Students move from one teacher to several teachers, expectations increase and new opportunities become available. That is why partnership matters.

In the South Belt area, schools such as Melillo, Morris, and Roberts Middle School work closely with families during this transition. Parent meetings, campus visits, academic planning sessions, and ongoing communication help families understand what opportunities are available and how to prepare for them.

The goal is not simply to help students adjust to a new school. The goal is to help families understand how decisions made in middle school can open doors in high school and beyond.

What many families may not realize is that Pasadena ISD offers a true K-12 pathway. Students can begin participating in programs such as Spelling Bee, Chess, Gifted and Talented opportunities, UIL A+ Academics, coding experiences, and student leadership activities. As they grow, those opportunities expand into Academic Pentathlon, Academic Decathlon, Pasadena Advanced Courses, Advanced Placement classes, dual credit courses, leadership development opportunities, and college credit programs.

These are not separate programs. They are connected opportunities that help students grow year after year.

And they are producing real results.

Last year, Pasadena ISD students earned more than 7,448 college credit hours, saving local families an estimated $3.1 million in future college tuition costs. Students are also finding success in Advanced Placement courses. Since 2022, AP enrollment has increased by more than 50 percent, AP exams taken have increased by nearly 40 percent, and the number of AP Scholars has grown by almost 80 percent. Today, Pasadena ISD has 432 AP Scholars.

Learning also happens outside the classroom. More than 900 students participated in district chess competitions across 50 campuses, giving students opportunities to compete, collaborate, and grow. Students are learning to lead as well. A state-record 22 Pasadena ISD campuses have been recognized through student leadership programs, helping students develop communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. Through the Cool 2 Code initiative, students are gaining coding and robotics skills that will serve them well in an increasingly technology-driven world.

Of course, not every student is interested in advanced academics, chess, coding, or academic competitions – and that's okay.

One of the strengths of Pasadena ISD is the variety of opportunities available to students. While some students find their passion through AP classes, dual credit, or academic competitions, others find it on the athletic field, in the band hall, in choir, orchestra, theater, agriculture programs, career and technical education courses, student leadership organizations, fine arts programs, and many other activities.

The list almost feels endless.

That's because every child is different.

Some students find confidence through academics. Others find it through sports. Some discover a love for music. Others discover a passion for healthcare, engineering, agriculture, teaching, public service, or the skilled trades. Our goal is not to put every student on the same path. Our goal is to help every student find their path.

That is what makes the Pasadena ISD student experience special. Students have the opportunity to explore different interests, discover new talents, and find places where they belong. When students find something that connects to their interests, school becomes more than a place they attend – it becomes a place where they can thrive.

This focus on opportunities is more than a program or initiative. It is a commitment from Superintendent Dr. Toni Lopez and the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees.

Together, they believe every student deserves access to meaningful opportunities that help them discover their strengths and prepare for the future. Whether that pathway includes advanced academics, college credit, athletics, fine arts, career training, leadership development, or extracurricular involvement, the goal is the same: help every student find a pathway to success.

Perhaps the most important part of the story is access.

Parents should not have to win a lottery or drive across town to find opportunities for their children. Across Pasadena ISD, students have access to advanced academics, leadership programs, academic competitions, robotics, AP courses, dual credit opportunities, fine arts, athletics, career pathways, and specialized learning experiences close to home.

Opportunity should not depend on where you live.

Today's families are looking for more than a school. They are looking for a pathway – a pathway that helps students discover their interests, develop their strengths, and prepare for whatever comes next.

And that pathway starts earlier than many people realize.

A student who begins with Chess, Spelling Bee, UIL Academics, student leadership, or advanced coursework in elementary and middle school could later earn college credit, receive scholarships, compete at the state level, or graduate with a clear plan for the future.

As parents consider educational opportunities for their children, it may be worth asking one simple question:

What opportunities will my child have access to over the next thirteen years?

In Pasadena ISD, the answer is more than a single program or a single campus.

It is a system designed to help students grow, explore their interests, and prepare for the future.

Because the goal is not simply graduation.

The goal is making sure every student leaves with opportunities they never imagined possible.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Antonio Cisneros, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukescatholic.com

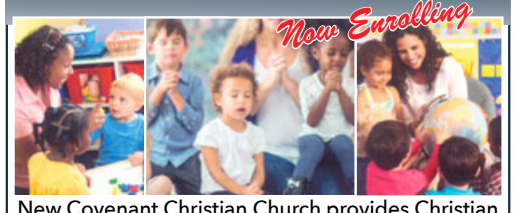
LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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



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

Local Boy Scouts display flags in honor of July 4

South Belt residents may have noticed small flags springing up throughout the community earlier this month. The flags were installed by local Boy Scout troops along major thoroughfares in the area in honor of the Fourth of July and America's 250th anniversary. The above esplanade adorned with flags is located in front of Bishop Park on Blackhawk near Scarsdale.

Photo by David Flickinger

Girl Scout troop donates cookies to local fire department

Girl Scout Troop 143162 recently donated 27 cases of Girl Scout cookies to Houston Fire Station 93. The cookies were donated by individuals, as well as a generous donation from a Girl Scout "Cookies 4 Heroes" campaign donation. Left to right, are Capt. Michael Rodriguez, Girl Scouts Lily Cobb and Xara Oddo, emergency operations engineer Paul Magilke, Girl Scout Braelyn Bingham, firefighter EMT Roman Montoya and emergency operations engineer Robert Miley. Troop 143162 Girl Scouts Brooklyn Ulekowski, Anna Isaak and Emily Neurohr are not pictured.

PISD Athletics earns statewide honor

Local school district named a Texas Way District of Distinction

Pasadena Independent School District has been honored as a 2025–26 Texas Way District of Distinction, a statewide recognition awarded jointly by the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) and the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

The distinction highlights Pasadena ISD's exceptional commitment to promoting sportsmanship, positive fan behavior, and character-driven athletics across all secondary campuses.

The announcement was made last month during the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association Convention in Round Rock, where district leaders from across Texas gathered for annual professional development and statewide athletic updates.

Pasadena ISD was selected as one of only 38 districts statewide to receive the honor – an elite group chosen from roughly 1,200 UIL-participating districts.

According to officials, the statewide initiative is focused on character and conduct.

The Texas Way initiative is a collaborative effort developed by UIL, THSCA, and 2Words Character Development, a widely used character-education program in Texas athletics. The initiative provides districts with tools, training, and expectations designed to elevate conduct at athletic events, strengthen sportsmanship, and reinforce the role of athletics in building responsible young leaders.

Participating districts commit to do the following:

– Encourage respectful fan behavior

– Reduce incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct

– Support coaches in modeling character-based leadership

– Promote positive interactions among athletes, officials, and spectators

– Integrate character-education lessons into athletic programming

The initiative is now entering its third year of statewide implementation, with growing participation and measurable improvements reported across Texas.

Pasadena ISD improvements

According to Pasadena ISD Athletic Director Patrick Longstreet, the district's second year of participation in the initiative produced clear, measurable gains in sportsmanship and conduct across multiple sports and campuses.

Longstreet reported that Pasadena ISD saw the following improvements:

– Fewer player and coach ejections across the district

– Noticeable improvements in sideline and spectator behavior

– Stronger examples of leadership and character from student-athletes

– Positive feedback from schools implementing Play the Texas Way programming

– Increased community engagement and support for character-driven athletics

SJC, Rice enter into Take Flight Scholars agreement

Partnership promotes STEM education, mentorship

San Jacinto College and Rice University entered into an agreement for the Take Flight Scholars Program, an initiative that aims to expand access to high-impact academic, research and transfer-readiness opportunities for honors students.

"This agreement supports a clear pathway from associate degree completion to successful transfer for many of our honors program students," said Dr. Alexander Okwonna, San Jacinto College North Campus Provost and Incoming Deputy Chancellor and College President. "Through the Take Flight Scholars Program, more students will have expanded access to transformative academic experiences to continue their education at one of the nation's leading universities. This agreement reflects our shared commitment to creating opportunities for our students and graduates to ensure they are equipped to succeed at every stage of their educational journey."

Take Flight logo

The Take Flight Scholars Program is open to honors students studying in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), business, arts and humanities, and social sciences. The program goals include creating and supporting learning opportunities for students to develop and deepen interest in their chosen academic area of study. It is also designed to empower students to complete their associate degree and then transfer.

Students who participate in the program will have the opportunity to attend events and connect with current Rice University students; participate in enriching summer research and project-based experiences, including paid summer research opportunities; receive mentorship from faculty, graduate students and current Rice students; and will be prepared to transfer. Students who transfer from San Jacinto College to Rice University are guaranteed to receive Rice course equivalent credit for a set of core courses.

Currently, there are 72 San Jacinto College honors students participating in the Take Flight program. One student stated, "As someone who did not grow up around people who attended four-year universities, a program like the Take Flight Scholars partnership represents not only an opportunity, but a bridge connecting where I come from to the future I am determined to build."

Storm sewer work currently underway on Dixie Farm

Much to the disappointment of several area residents, work currently being done along FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road between Beamer and the Gulf Freeway involves the storm sewer system and not road repairs. The stretch of road has long been complained about by local residents because of its aging condition and has been the site of multiple traffic fatalities, including a 17-year-old girl in 2024. A city project to make road improvements is, however, currently underway on nearby Beamer between Dixie Farm and El Dorado Boulevard.

SHSU names spring 2026 graduates

The following area students received degrees during the 2026 spring semester at Sam Houston State University:

– Deanna Alcala, Doctor of Philosophy, counselor education.
– Claudia Cubos, Bachelor of Science, health care administration.
– Christian Mariscal, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice.
– Stephanie Perez, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice, certificate, mgmt. & lead in CJ.
– Gilberto Ramirez Jr., Bachelor of Arts, criminal justice.
– Jenire Resendiz-Aquino, Bachelor of Arts, interior design.
– Jared Tate, Bachelor of Business Admin., human resource management.
– Makenzie Lee, Bachelor of Science, nursing.

Friends of PWBL seeks donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library would like to thank the South Belt community for their continuing support. The library is currently in need of new or gently used children's books, adult paperback novels (both fiction and nonfiction) and DVDs and CDs. Donations can be made during open hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., suite 501.

Congregation Shaar HaShalom to host garage sale

Congregation Shaar HaShalom and its sisterhood will have the synagogue's annual indoor garage/rummage sale on Sunday, July 26, and the following Sunday, Aug. 2, both between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. The sale will have household and kitchen items, clothes, books, toys, jewelry, traveling and loads of surprise treasures.

Proceeds from this sale provide the funds to support the synagogue's programs such as its school, adult education and its sisterhood's activities.

The Congregation, is located at 16020 El Camino Rea, Houston, TX 77062. For more information, visit www.shaarhashalom.org, call the office at (281) 488-5861 or email csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Hometown Heroes Park hosts free ballroom dance

A free ballroom dance is held every Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level.

The dance is casual dress, and the purpose is to have fun, get some mental and physical exercise and make friends. A variety of rhythms are provided by Neva and Bill Schroder, including foxtrot, waltz, rumba, cha-cha, tango, Viennese waltz, swing, West Coast swing and several popular Latin dances.

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

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

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

Dobie FFA launches Fill the Fence campaign

The Dobie FFA Booster Club is proud to launch its 2026–2027 Fill the Fence campaign in support of the Dobie High School FFA Chapter. Members invite local businesses, organizations, foundations, families and community partners to join in making a lasting impact on the lives of students.

This sponsorship campaign provides a unique opportunity to support agricultural education while gaining valuable community recognition. Sponsorships will be displayed on the fence surrounding the Dobie Agriculture Barn, prominently facing the heavily traveled Blackhawk Boulevard, providing year-round visibility to thousands of community members.

Dobie FFA is home to outstanding students who represent the school at the district, area, state and national levels. FFA members are dedicated to developing leadership skills, expanding their agricultural knowledge and preparing for successful futures through hands-on learning and competition.

With the support of sponsors, the students are able to:

– Attend leadership conferences, camps and conventions

– Compete in Career and Leadership Development Events

– Participate in livestock exhibitions and agricultural mechanics competitions

– Develop classroom, technical and life skills that prepare them for college, careers and leadership opportunities

Every contribution directly supports the many educational and competitive opportunities offered through the Dobie FFA Chapter. Sponsors' investments help ensure that students continue to learn, grow and achieve excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

The Dobie FFA appreciates the generosity and commitment to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders.

If one is interested in participating or wanting more information, contact dobiehsffaboosterclub@gmail.com.

The Dobie FFA Booster Club is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization EIN: (47-4905509). Gifts to the Dobie HS FFA Booster Club are tax deductible.

STAAR gains made

Continued from Page 1

70 percent benchmark.

– **English I**: The district showed steady improvement, consistent with TEA's statewide upward trajectory.

Clear Creek ISD

Clear Creek ISD posted results that exceeded statewide averages in several areas:

– **Algebra I**: Clear Creek ISD students outperformed the state average, continuing the district's strong math record.

– **English I and II**: Both subjects showed high proficiency rates, reflecting statewide gains in literacy.

– **Biology**: Clear Creek ISD's Biology results surpassed pre-pandemic levels, consistent with TEA's statewide findings.

– **U.S. history**: Clear Creek ISD posted one of its strongest subject performances, aligning with the statewide 70 percent meeting grade level.

What's next?

While high school EOC results are now public, grades 5 and 8 science results – part of the 3–8 STAAR program – will be released July 31, following standard-setting for the new science TEKS.

– TEA will also update the following later this month:

– District-level dashboards on the Texas Assessment Research Portal

– Campus-level performance reports

– TexasAssessment.gov family portals with individual student results

Parents can access their child's EOC scores using the unique access code provided by their school.

Former C&D causes safety concerns, attracts city attention

Several residents have complained in recent months about the former C&D Burger Shoppe on Fuqua that is now in a state of disrepair and has become an eyesore and safety hazard. The site is a common place for dumping and for vandalism. The property is also unkempt and has high grass and weeds. The leasing agent on signage at the site said they no longer are affiliated with the property. This past May, dozens of volunteers helped clean the property for the second year in a row as part of the annual South Belt Cleanup (shown above), but the site continues to be an ongoing issue. Houston District D City Council Member Carolyn Evans-Shabazz has gotten involved and is demanding action from the city's Community Code Enforcement division.

KBP invites families under the sea for "The Little Mermaid JR."

Kids' Backporch Productions will bring an underwater adventure to the stage this summer with four performances of Disney's "The Little Mermaid JR." at the Proscenium Theatre at the Marie Spence Flickinger Fine Arts Center, San Jacinto College South campus, located at 13735 Beamer Road in Houston, Texas.

Based on the beloved Hans Christian Andersen story and animated film, "The Little Mermaid JR." follows Ariel, a curious young mermaid who dreams of exploring the world above the waves. After making a dangerous bargain with the sea witch Ursula, Ariel must find the courage to pursue her dreams, earn the love of Prince Eric and restore harmony beneath the sea. Featuring memorable songs, colorful characters and plenty of humor and heart, the production offers family-friendly entertainment for audiences of all ages. The cast includes 46 students (ages 7-14) who cannot wait to share their talent with the community.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, July 24, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 25, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, July 26, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $15 for adults, $12 for seniors age 65 and older and $10 for children age 18 and younger. For information on purchasing tickets, visit https://events.ticketleap.com/events/kidsbackporch.

Cast members who will perform "The Little Mermaid JR." include, left to right, Emma Firnkoess, Leila Ashley, Phoenix Zimmer and Pyka Bliss. Performances are scheduled Friday, July 24, Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)

After a meeting between Harris County and city of Pearland officials, the road connecting Green Tee Terrace and Sagemeadow was reopened. The meeting included two owners of a portion of the property where the road is located.

An estimated increase of nearly $1 million for utilities was included in the proposed 1976-77 Pasadena Independent School District budget.

45 years ago (1981)

Longtime Dobie High School track and field coach John Bryan resigned to take a similar position at La Porte High School.

The road linking the back of San Jacinto College South to Scarsdale's Astoria Boulevard was completed, giving direct access to the Gulf Freeway.

40 years ago (1986)

Frazier Elementary principal John Markgraf resigned and moved to Chicago.

County Judge Jon Lindsay met with the Southeast Harris County Economic Development Council after a request for economic development funds. Between $50,000 and $75,000 would be made available for monitored use by the council.

City and county law enforcement were working to solve a series of burglaries in the South Belt. The suspects were believed to use police scanners to avoid being caught.

Due to nonfunded state-mandated programs and slow economic conditions, PISD feared a $5 million budget deficit.

A vacant house on Sageville Drive, which had become an eyesore after a fire approximately two years earlier, was bulldozed and the lot cleared.

35 years ago (1991)

George Rodonaia, a Soviet dissident, was happy to find a position at Cokesbury United Methodist Church as associate pastor.

Two South Belt homeowners arrived home in the 11000 block of Sagerock to find Hispanic males armed with double-barreled shotguns waiting in the garage. According to Precinct 2 Sgt. Rick Holloman, the invaders demanded entry to the house, but one of the homeowners refused. One of the armed men fired a blast into a brick wall. Neighbors were alerted, but when they arrived, the two men took their car keys then stole two vehicles and fled.

30 years ago (1996)

Jon Paul Fleming, 17, was working as a mess hall supervisor at El Rancho Cima Boy Scout Camp near San Marcos when he noticed a Scout leader choking. Fleming performed the Heimlich maneuver on the man, who was from a Genoa troop. The Scout leader, previously unknown to Fleming, said he would have died had Fleming not performed the life-saving maneuver.

Gregory Jones, assistant principal at South Houston High School for seven years, was named principal at Thompson Intermediate.

25 years ago (2001)

FEMA required residents in the 100-year flood plain whose homes were damaged 50 percent of the appraised value (less land value) to either raise the structure or abandon it. The city announced plans to open a local office for homeowners seeking permits to repair their homes.

Members of Sagemont Church and of The Freedom Church, formerly known as Gulf Meadows Baptist Church, announced the joining of their respective memberships into one collective church family.

20 years ago (2006)

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks ruled that Rep. Tom DeLay had withdrawn his candidacy for the general election for Congressional District 22 as opposed to becoming ineligible. As a result, DeLay's name would stay on the November general election ballot.

Precinct 2 deputy constables responded to numerous calls for service after the 4th of July holiday. The calls included assault, burglaries to a home and a business as well as an arrest for possession of cocaine.

15 years ago (2011)

Construction of the new right-turn lane on Blackhawk south of Beltway 8 heading east to the Gulf Freeway began Monday, July 11, after multiple setbacks.

10 years ago (2016)

A recent Dobie graduate was fatally shot Saturday, July 9, while riding as a vehicle passenger in the 12300 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua. Geovanni "Geo" Rios, 18, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Rios was a backseat passenger in a white Chevrolet Tahoe traveling north on the freeway frontage road around 1:35 a.m. when the vehicle was struck by multiple gunshots, presumably fired from another vehicle, investigators said. Rios was struck in the head by a bullet, killing him. No immediate arrests were made.

South Belt resident and longtime owner of USA Karate, Michael Stewart Tucker, died July 8 after battling an illness.

5 years ago (2021)

Chris Bui was recently selected by Pasadena ISD officials to serve as the new principal of Atkinson Elementary. Prior to his new post, Bui served as assistant principal at Melillo Middle School from 2008-2021, seventh-/eighth-grade science teacher and instructional facilitator at Scobee Junior High in Southwest ISD in San Antonio from 2004-2008; fifth-grade science teacher/special education coordinator at KIPP Aspire Academy in San Antonio from 2003-2004; and seventh-grade science teacher at Pin Oak Middle School in Houston ISD from 2002-2003. Bui attended Trinity University in San Antonio from 1994 to 1998, earning a Bachelor of Science in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish. Originally planning to become a physician, Bui enrolled in medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Near the end his third year of medical school, however, Bui chose to leave medical school and pursue the education field. Bui returned to Trinity University from 2001-2002, earning a Master of Arts in teaching. Bui went on to study at St. Mary's University in San Antonio from 2005-2007, earning a principal certification.

1 year ago (2025)

Local businessman and longtime San Jacinto College board member John Moon Jr. died unexpectedly Friday, July 4, from a suspected heart attack.

A product of Pasadena ISD, Moon attended San Jacinto College after graduating from Sam Rayburn High School. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University and a Master of Science from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Moon would later serve as an adjunct professor at San Jacinto College before being elected to the school's Board of Trustees Position 5 seat in 2009. At the time of his death, Moon served as vice chair of the board. He served as chair of the college's Building Committee and formerly served on the school's Finance Committee. Moon additionally served on the San Jacinto College Foundation's board of directors.

A certified public accountant and licensed real estate agent, Moon spent 30 years in the banking industry before shifting toward commercial real estate and investments later in his career.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

ALAYA TURNS 15!

Alaya Jasso who recently celebrated her 15th birthday July 15 is wished a happy birthday from her parents **Susanne** and **Ulises Vargas**. Alaya is a sophomore at Dobie High School.

BIRTHDAY WISHES SENT TO DIANN

Birthday wishes are sent July 18 to **DiAnn Fernandez** from her friend **Linda Bergeron**, who says, "May you have a blessed day and year. You are so loved by friends and family!"

GRAHAMS CELEBRATE 53RD

Don and **Rosa Graham** are celebrating their 53rd anniversary July 21. Married in Kenedy, Texas, the couple is sent wishes from their children and grandchildren **Esteban** and **Amy Graham** and **Lane** of League City; **Teresa** and **Michael Blancas** and **Gabriella** and **Daniel** of Forney; and **David** and **Kali Graham** and **Braxton** and **Blakely** of League City.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 16 through July 22.

Atkinson Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout July 18 to **Jennifer Vann**.

Burnett Elementary

Send a birthday greeting July 18 to **Lourdes Munoz**. Blow out the birthday candles July 19 for **Sandra Trojan**.

Bush Elementary

Nina Maldonado celebrates a birthday July 17.

Genoa Elementary

Remember to wish **Satyavathi Budankayala** a happy birthday July 19. Sing a happy birthday song July 22 to **Lisa Hernandez**.

Meador Elementary

Blow out the candles July 21 for **Vianney Trevino**.

Moore Elementary

Krishelle Rangel enjoys a birthday July 17.

Stuchbery Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Orietta Tejeda** July 17. Break out the birthday cake and ice cream July 22 for **Ella Escalona** and **Jose Hernandez**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Give a birthday shoutout July 17 to **Lucila Elizondo**. Send a birthday greeting July 18 to **Krystal Smith**. Enjoying a birthday July 21 is **Yara Quintanilla**.

Dobie High

Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Ernestina Martinez** July 17. Remember to wish **Erica Trevino** a happy birthday July 18. Cheers for a birthday celebration July 20 for **Branford Jones** and **Abbey Sallee**. A double-fun day is planned July 22 for **Kevin Erickson** and **Norma Garces**.

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, July 16: **Jessika Paquinto**, **Mark Campbell**, **Kelly McBeth**, **Angie Roach**, **Clarissa Garza Andrus** and **Brad Janacek**; Friday, July 17: **Christina Trevino**, **Crystal Ybarra**, **Corey Cephus**, **Myra Rowe**, **Marsa Outland Brister**, **Vicki Sorensen**, **Jenelle Lee, Kimberly Sommerfelt** and **Mary Jason Rowe**; Saturday, July 18: **Maddie Patterson**, **Keith Milam**, **Luis Revilla, Diann Fernandez**, **Cathy Todd**, **Steve Garza**, **Misha Lesley-Burkins**, **Kathy Haigler** and **Michelle Malveau**; Sunday, July 19: **Fred Alvarez**, **Terrell Session**, **Gary Hilliard** and **Anne Tyson**; Monday, July 20: **Junior Lynn**, **Curtis Eads, Mary Johnson** and **Chris Cole**; Tuesday, July 21: **Natalie Sweet**, **Denise McMurrough**, **Vanessa Veltman** and **Danielle Clay**; and Wednesday, July 22: **Judith Kemle**.

LEADER *WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS*

Send and 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.

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD volleyball camps coming

Dobie varsity volleyball coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will offer a pair of summer camps designed to both help younger players develop their skills within the sport as well as prepare incoming high school-aged players for the upcoming 2026 season.

Students entering the first through eighth grades are invited to attend the Longhorns' developmental camp July 20-22 at Dobie main. Incoming first- through sixth-grade students will attend the camp from 9 to 11 a.m. at a cost of $50 per participant. Incoming seventh- and eighth-grade students will attend from noon to 2 p.m. also at a cost of $50 per participant.

Players ages 14 through 18 may attend the Longhorns July 28-30 camp, to be at Dobie main at $60 per participant.

Sexton and other experienced volleyball coaches will direct participants in skill development, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills as well as friendly match play. Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m.

Visit the Dobie High School volleyball website at https://dobie.pasadenaisd.org/49529_2 for a link to register for either camp. For any questions, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

The regular season begins Aug. 11 as Dobie travels to Baytown Sterling to take on the Rangers at 6 p.m. for the varsity match.

Dobie volleyball hosts tryouts

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host tryouts for all incoming freshmen through senior players Aug. 1 and Aug. 3, both inside the gymnasium at Dobie main. All players will work out from 6 to 9:00 a.m., with sophomores, juniors and seniors then training from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Freshman will work out separately from 1 to 3 p.m.

On Monday, August 3, all players will work out from 6 to 8 a.m., with the 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. session involving sophomores, juniors and seniors. Freshmen will then be involved in a separate session from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Dobie teams will then be posted at 6 p.m.

All players looking to try out must have a PISD physical on file within the Rank One system, and all necessary forms at www.rankone.com must be completed prior to any on-court training. There are no exceptions. Dobie will begin the regular season Aug. 11 at Baytown Sterling.

BHI plans Aug. 9 Community Day

Beverly Hills Intermediate will host its annual Community Day Aug. 9 as the football and the volleyball programs will scrimmage in front of Bear fans. There will also be performances by the cheer and dance teams as the school celebrates the start of the fall athletic season in conjunction with the start of school. There will be concessions available for purchase throughout the day, and Beverly Hills team merchandise will also be available.

Brook volleyball sets scrimmages

High School volleyball workouts across the state will begin Aug. 1, and the Clear Brook volleyball program has released its scrimmage details leading up to the regular season opener.

The Wolverines will scrimmage Aug. 7 at Pearland beginning at 9 a.m. A day later, Aug. 8, the Wolverines will scrimmage at Clear Falls, also at 9 a.m. Clear Brook will travel to St. Agnes to open the regular season Aug. 11, with the varsity match starting at 5:30 p.m.

JFD football plans Head Start camp

Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris and his staff will host the 2026 Longhorn Head Start football camp on the main campus July 27-29, from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. each day. The camp will be open to incoming freshman at Dobie High School as well as incoming seventh- and eighth-grade student athletes who plan to play football at Beverly Hills Intermediate or Thompson Intermediate. The Dobie staff encourages young players to attend to learn, compete, grow and eventually become a Longhorn.

SBGSA hosts fall ball sign-up till July 26

The South Belt Girls Softball Association has opened fall ball registration now through July 26 for competition within the 6-and-under through 16-and-under divisions at a cost of $125 per player. The league is also registering a 4-and-under division at $50 per player. Visit the league's Facebook page at South Belt Girls Softball Association-SBGSA.

JFD grad Jackson hosts FB camp

The Blake Jackson Football Camp returns to Dobie High School July 20-22 as the former Longhorn varsity football standout will host youths entering the fifth through 12th grades for an afternoon of football instruction from 4 to 6 p.m. on the main campus. The fee to attend the camp is $100 per day. To register for the camp, visit www.sportsprepusa.org.

Cowboys set important dates

With the regular season quickly approaching, the Sagemont Cowboys have announced several key upcoming events. The preseason football camp will be held July 21 and July 23, with the first official practice morning coming July 25. The annual Scrimmage Jamboree is Aug. 8, and the program-wide pep rally is Aug. 14. The first day of the regular season comes Aug. 15. The football camp will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. both July 21 and July 23 at Denny Wranich Sr. Field, at El Franco Lee Park.

SBYSC continues fall 2026 registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has opened registration for the fall 2026 season as early registration will allow players to save $20 on registration fees through July 15. Registration fees include $130 per player for the under-4 through under-8 age groups, $150 per player for the under-9 and under-10 age groups, $170 per player for the under-11 and under-12 age groups and $190 per player for the under-13 through under-20 age groups. The league will provide uniform items such as shirt, shorts and socks, while parents are required to provide shin guards, soccer cleats and a soccer ball. Visit www.southbeltsoccer.org and click on the registration fall 2026 tab to get started on registration details.

Dave Campbell's picks Dickinson to lead 18-6A football race

The University Interscholastic League has changed the number of the district to 18-6A, but *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine predicts that will likely do nothing to alter the exceptionally high level of competition within the usual frontrunners as defending champion Dickinson, Clear Springs, Deer Park and Clear Falls will once again headline things for the 2026 varsity football season.

Defending league champion Dickinson went 13-1 overall a season ago and brings back one of the top-performing quarterbacks in the state in the form of Lorenzo Aguirre.

The Gators return just eight starters overall, but veteran head coach John Snelson and his staff always have plenty of athletic ability at their disposal.

Heading into 2026, *Dave Campbell's* has the Gators ranked 10th overall in its 6A preseason state poll. In terms of the Houston area, only North Shore, C.E. King and Summer Creek are rated ahead of the Gators.

Dickinson will have competition for the 6A Division 1 top playoff seed as Deer Park also has big plans for the 2026 season.

In the Division 2 ranks within 18-6A, *Campbell's* views Clear Springs and Clear Falls as the frontrunners ahead of league newcomer Barbers Hill. Clear Creek and Clear Lake rank atop last-place Clear Brook.

Dickinson's Aguirre has drawn the honor of being *Campbell's* preseason Player of the Year in the league. On the defensive side, pass rusher Michael Benavidez has been selected as *Campbell's* preseason Player of the Year.

Aguirre was one of the top quarterbacks in the state as a junior, passing for 3,410 yards and 43 touchdowns. He led the Gators to the Region III DI title game with wins over Atascocita, Pearland and Strake Jesuit before a loss to North Shore.

Benavidez had six quarterback sacks in 2025 and also picked off a pass and will now lead a Deer Park defensive group that returns six starters in all.

Dickinson Gators (13-1 overall in 2025; 7-0 in district play)

Longtime Gator head coach John Snelson is clearly a legend in the state as he has put together one of the top all-time head coaching resumes. A Sam Rayburn High School graduate who starred on the football field as a Texan, Snelson first put together a regional power at Pasadena Memorial before taking over at Dickinson.

Snelson is a member of the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame both as an individual and as a member of the Snelson family.

The Gators do not have the deep pool of proven playmakers on either side of the football in relation to a season ago but nonetheless should have little trouble putting points on the board with Aguirre in control.

Top receiver Ja'Marion Payne had eight touchdown receptions a season ago, and sophomore Isaiah Thomas is ready to step in and show what he can do. Jayse Washington also made several big plays in the 2025 season when the ball came his way, and clearly has a solid connection with Aguirre.

In the backfield, Dickinson may be in a position to allow several players to show what they can do both in the preseason and the scrimmages, then into the first couple of weeks of the season prior to league play.

For now, Tavin Gomez is the most experienced returnee after rushing for nearly 600 yards and nine touchdowns a season ago. On the offensive front, the Gators will also rely on several varsity newcomers, while the group is anchored by both Darien Coleman and Jordan Miller as well as Chandler Bratton.

Defensively, the Gators will need to limit opposing teams as the offense on its side of the field finds its stride. That defensive group is led by lineman Chase Lewis, who had 71 tackles as well as six sacks.

Lewis will be joined by Braeylon Bradley, who had 37 stops to go with four sacks a season ago. At linebacker, Mar'quay Hunter is joined by Ethan Sampson.

The Gators should be outstanding in the back as returning defensive back Royce Bimage is a highly

Continued on Page 6

Dave Campbell's Texas Football

Preseason Defensive MVP

Michael Benavides, Deer Park, lineman

Preseason Offensive MVP

Lorenzo Aguirre, Dickinson, quarterback

Projected Order of Finish

1. *Dickinson (Div. I)*
2. *Deer Park (Div. I)*
3. *Clear Falls (Div. II)*
4. *Clear Springs (Div. II)*
5. *Barbers Hill*
6. *Clear Lake*
7. *Clear Creek*
8. *Clear Brook*

Vuong earns Houston area honor

Dobie swimmer Zoey Vuong was honored as one of the Houston Chronicle's 100 outstanding athletes for the 2025-2026 school year after she was named as a nominee for Athlete of the Week during the year after taking first place in the Longhorn Pentathlon, winning each of the five events with season-best times at that moment in the schedule. The events included the 50 free, 50 breast, 50 fly, 50 back and 100 free.

Villavicencio qualifies for Nationals

Dobie Class of 2026 graduate Johan Villavicencio will continue his education and collegiate running career at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, but he hasn't taken much time off since graduating from high school. A member of the Texas Storm summer track and field program, he has qualified to compete in the 800 as well as the 4x800 relay at the USA Track and Field Junior Olympic Outdoor Championship July 27 through Aug. 2 in Norwalk, Calif. Villavicencio was a big time contributor to the Longhorns' cross-country and track and field programs during an outstanding run from 2023 through 2026.

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Dave Campbell's Texas Football ranks 18-6A teams ahead of start

Continued from Page 5

touted recruit after registering 67 tackles and four interceptions a season ago.

In summary, Dickinson returns the top performing quarterback in the district in the form of Aguirre and should have more than enough weapons on the offensive side of the football to score points.

Matchups against Clear Springs and Clear Falls in previous seasons have proven to be highly competitive, but the Gators have been largely the team to beat in this district for many seasons. 2026 could bring much of the same.

Deer Park Deer (6-5 overall in 2025; 5-2 in district play)

Deer Park returns six starters on both sides of the football, with head coach Austin Flynn and his staff encouraged about the 2026 season.

Dual threat quarterback Haden LaFrenz is back under center for the Deer after he threw for just over 1,600 yards and 17 touchdowns while also rushing for nearly 600 yards and six more touchdowns.

In the backfield, Trace Yates returns after he had just over 800 yards rushing to go with seven scores a season ago.

Deer Park has for each season under Flynn been one of the top aerial attacks in the area, and Lafrenz has both Aandon Schroeder and John Arthur French back at receiver.

Schroeder caught 36 passes for 680 yards and eight touchdowns a season ago while French had 29 grabs for 489 yards and six touchdowns.

Up front, Deer Park has undergone a bit of a rebuild, but the group is excited about the possibilities of Gabriel Driskall.

On the defensive side, the Deer are very excited about a front seven led by Benavidez as the group has the potential to be special.

In addition to Benavides, linebacker Woytek stepped up big a season ago with 92 stops and should be as good as advertised this season.

Defensive tackle Eddie Lopez could be in for a big season, and other help will come from linebackers Trace Calhoun and Lex Sablatura as well as safety Kai Saputil. Defensive back Charles McCaskill is also considered to be an up-and-coming cormer in the back of the defense.

With Lafrenz and several other returnees back on the offensive side of things, Deer Park should have little trouble scoring points.

With the defensive front seven also looking strong, Deer Park certainly plans to challenge the Gators for the 6A Division 1 top playoff seed.

Clear Falls Knights (7-4 overall in 2025; 5-2 in district play)

Clear Falls will be looking to make the postseason as a Division 2 representative in what would be an eighth consecutive season.

Head coach Zach Head has been in charge for much of the current run of success, and the Knights plan on having another big season.

Clear Falls will work in a first-time starter at quarterback this season, and otherwise will welcome five starters on offense as well as another five on the defensive side of the football.

Clear Falls has been able to rely on its defense to handle business within league play in recent seasons, and 2026 should be no different. Linebacker Tristan Gaviria had a huge season a year ago with 120 overall tackles, including 14 tackles for loss.

Running mate Briggs Worthington has proven to be equally talented as he came away with 116 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and quarterback sack last season.

Elsewhere on defense, defensive back Mario Cresta can help in the back, while Landon Baker is a solid presence along the defensive line. Jake Loyd also figures to get plenty of action at linebacker.

On offense, the Knights will count on Andrew Maston and Hunter Brierty, as they will have others to whom they will show the way.

Anderson Smith could very well be the team's quarterback, while the Knights will look at several running backs to make a difference.

At receiver, Clear Falls could come away with a very talented position group that includes Graysonn Sneed, Chase Rieman and Jayden Rivas.

Sneed had 27 catches for 427 yards and six touchdowns a season ago while Rieman caught 25 passes for 442 yards and another six touchdowns.

The Knights will also aim to take advantage of Rivas' speed on both sides of the football.

It is never easy to determine just how things will play out with a first-year quarterback and a first-year running back, but Head is confident that the Knights have more than what it takes to make another push for not just the playoff berth but the district championship.

Clear Springs Chargers (7-4 overall and 2025; 5-2 in district play)

Head coach Anthony Renfro will lead a very young Charger program in 2026 as just 20 overall players return, including a total of seven starters.

Like Clear Falls, the Chargers will welcome in a first-year quarterback, who could be Jaxon Weger.

Renfro does think his team will have plenty of success in the trenches as the offensive front is led by Connor Walter and Mariano Aguirre, both of whom started all 11 games a season ago. Fellow offensive lineman Caden Sullivan also registered a handful of starts for the Chargers.

The running back group will include Chase Williams as well as Darrien Moore, and the wide receiver group will include Brayden Mondey and Parker Tramposch. The Chargers could have the top kicker in the league with the return of Clayton Smith.

Defensively, the front edge includes Brandon Sanlone along with linebackers Ryan Hughes and Larry Pacheco. In the defensive backfield, Clear Falls can rely on Chris Williams as well as Caden Corpus.

Barbers Hill Eagles (10-4 overall in 2025; 4-2 in district play)

The Eagles made a big splash in their final season at the Class 5A level, reaching the Division 1 regional finals and winning 10 overall games.

Head coach Cody Simpson returns six starters on offense and another five on defense as the Eagles make the jump to the 6A ranks.

Much like Clear Springs, Barbers Hill will rely on its strength in the trenches for success this season.

Offensively, Max Summers is the leader of the offensive line that will also get help from Breydon Nelson as well as Damien Jimenez.

The Eagles figure to lean on running back Miles Spurlock, particularly with a new quarterback under center. At receiver, Barbers Hill has Kaegan Morton to go with tight end Reiden Cook and Tyler Gilley at receiver.

As for the Eagles' defense, defensive lineman Bryce Jackson is a playmaker who has four years at the varsity level and will play collegiately at the University of Houston. Also on defense, Morton will help out at defensive back along with Kross Kilgo and Koli Ackerman.

The Eagles will play several guys on both sides of the football with just 34 returning lettermen, but Simpson put the Eagles in position to be successful in his debut season and certainly expects similar results in 2026.

Realistically, this district may boil down to five programs contending for four playoff spots. However, Clear Lake, Clear Creek and Clear Brook are planning on making things difficult for the opposition.

Clear Lake Falcons (1-9 overall in 2025; 1-6 in district play)

The Falcons had a rough go of things a season ago but will look for improvement this time around.

Quarterback Cooper Jackson started last season at receiver and then wound up passing for 891 yards and five touchdowns.

The Falcons have five returning starters on offense and another five starters on defense. Running back Sean Rowe should get quite a bit of action in the backfield after rushing for just over 200 yards and a pair of touchdowns a season ago.

Zaedrian Lewis can play quarterback or receiver and is a big play threat with the ball in his hands.

The offensive line will include Mark Breaux III, who will be a team captain. There are three other starters returning on the offensive front.

Safety Terrell Stinson leads the defense after playing at Hitchcock a season ago, and the linebacking crew includes a pair of solid players in Luke Bullig and Luke McInnes.

Clear Creek Wildcats (3-7 overall in 2025; 2-5 in district play)

Longtime head coach Dwayne Lane will lead the Wildcats into action this season.

During the offseason, there was a quarterback competition between Jay'shon Parks and Brice Dickens.

Also on offense, the Wildcats will lean on running back Jalen Hill as well as Luke Rose.

Marcus Kern and Anthony Rea are the leaders along the offensive line, and the top sophomore is receiver/defensive back Joel Horn.

Kern and Rea are both three-year starters on the offensive front, and the defense will be led by lineman Jake Roberts, tackle Brayden Ladd as well as defensive back Rafe Trevino, Seth Saxton and Ever Hernandez.

Clear Brook Wolverines (0-10 overall in 2025; 0-7 in league play)

Head coach Patrick Sanders and his staff will return four starters on both offense and defense as the Wolverines look to get back to respectability.

The program is now working toward a winning season for the first time since 2016. Samuel Alfred will make a return at quarterback, and the running game is led by Moziah Hayling.

The receiving group is led by Lyndon Clarke, considered to be the top sophomore in the program. The offensive front will be led by Aiden Green.

Longtime Gator head coach John Snelson is a member of the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame both as an individual and as a member of the Snelson family.

Dual threat quarterback Haden LaFrenz is back under center for the Deer after he threw for just over 1,600 yards and 17 touchdowns while also rushing for nearly 600 yards and six more touchdowns. Deer Park returns six starters on both sides of the football, with head coach Austin Flynn and his staff encouraged about the 2026 season. With the defensive front seven also looking strong, Deer Park certainly plans to challenge Dickinson for the 6A Division 1 top playoff seed.

2026 Clear Creek ISD/18-6A Varsity Football Schedule Announced

Clear Brook	Clear Creek	Clear Falls	Clear Lake	Clear Springs	Barbers Hill	Dickinson	Deer Park
Thurs., Aug. 28 *Madison* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Aug. 27* *Kingwood* *Challenger, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Aug. 28* *Pearland* *Challenger, 7 pm.*	*Thurs., Aug. 27* *Pas. Memorial* *PISD Veterans, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Aug. 28* *at Dobie* *PISD Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Aug. 28* *Aldine Nimitz* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Aug. 28* *Ridge Point* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Aug. 28* *at Dawson* *The Rig, 7 p.m.*
Fri., Sept. 4 *at Friendswood* *Henry Winston, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Sept. 3* *at Hou. Memorial* *Tully, 6:30 p.m.*	*Thurs., Sept. 3* *Kingwood* *Turner, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 4* *Kingwood Park* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 4* *Houston Heights* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 4* *Crosby* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Fri, Sept. 4* *Katy* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 4* *La Porte* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*
Fri., Sept. 11 *Cy-Ridge* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 11* *at Channelview* *Maddry 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Sept. 10* *Elkins* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 11* *West Fork (HC)* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Sat., Sept. 12* *at George Ranch* *Traylor, 5 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 11* *at Dayton* *Bronco, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 11* *Atascocita* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Sept. 10* *at Kingwood* *Turner, 6 p.m.*
Thurs., Sept. 17 **Deer Park (HC)* *Challenger, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 18* **at Clear Springs* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 18* **at Barbers Hill* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 18* **Dickinson* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 18* **Clear Creek* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 18* **Clear Falls* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 18* **at Clear Lake* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Sept. 17* **at Clear Brook* *Challenger, 6:30 p.m.*
Fri., Sept. 25 **at Clear Falls* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 25* **Barbers Hill* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 25* **Clear Brook* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 25* **at Deer Park* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 25* **at Dickinson* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept .25* **at Clear Creek* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 25* **Clear Springs* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Sept. 25* **Clear Lake* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*
Thursday, Oct. 1 **Barbers Hill* *Challenger, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 2* **Dickinson* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 2* **at Clear Lake* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 2* **Clear Falls* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 2* **at Deer Park* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Oct. 1* **at Clear Brook* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 2* **at Clear Creek* *Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 2* **Clear Springs* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*
Fri., Oct. 16 **Clear Lake* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 16* **at Deer Park* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 16* **Clear Springs* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 16* **at Clear Brook* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 16* **at Clear Falls* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri. Oct. 16* **Dickinson* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 16* **at Barbers Hill* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 16* **Clear Creek* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*
Fri., Oct. 23 **at Clear Springs* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 23* **Clear Falls* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 23* **at Clear Creek* *Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Oct. 22* **Barbers Hill* *Challenger, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 23* **Clear Brook* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs. Oct. 22* **at Clear Lake* *Challenger, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 23* **Deer Park* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 23* **at Dickinson* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*
Fri., Oct. 30 **at Clear Creek* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 30* **at Clear Brook* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Oct. 29* **Dickinson* *Challenger, 6:30 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 30* **at Clear Springs* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 30* **at Clear Lake* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri. Oct. 30* **Deer Park* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Thurs., Oct. 29* **at Clear Falls* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Oct. 30* **Barbers Hill* *Eagle, 7 p.m.*
Fri., Nov. 6 **at Dickinson* *Sam Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Nov. 6* **Clear Lake* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Nov. 6* **at Deer Park* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Nov. 6* **at Clear Creek* *C.C. Veterans, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Nov. 6* **Barbers Hill* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Nov. 6* **at Clear Springs* *Challenger, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Nov. 6* **Clear Brook* *Vitanza, 7 p.m.*	*Fri., Nov. 6* **Clear Falls* *Abshier, 7 p.m.*
**18-6A games*	**18-6A games*	**18-6A games*	**18-6A games*	**18-6A games*	**18-6A games*	**18-6A games*	**18-6A games*

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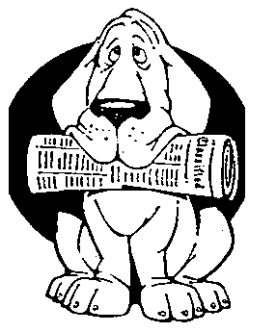

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 16
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** – Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. – Sat., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 17
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "**Breakfast With Bill**." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://nastuff.com/. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** – meets at Cross Roads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JULY 18
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – See Friday's notice.

SUNDAY, JULY 19
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** – has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.,11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** – See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** – See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, JULY 20
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group.** See Friday's notice.
5 p.m. **New Directions Singles Social Group** is a singles group for those 55+. Meetings are the first and third Monday held in the community room at Maplewood Crossing, 600 Hobbs Road, League City. There will a potluck dinner and may include group activities. For further information, call Carol at 281-508-1663. See Facebook page: New Directions Singles Social Group.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** – Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** – #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) –** St. Luke's Group 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

TUESDAY, JULY 21
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** – See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**. See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "**Breakfast With Bill**." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – See Thursday's notice.
Carmeliters – a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group.** See Friday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing –** casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office (281-554-1180) for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** – See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA) –** See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** – See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** – See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, JULY 23
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** – Check website for time and location https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** – Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. – Sat., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dobie tennis begins workouts as fall team tennis season nears

Now beginning his 45th overall coaching youth netters, Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. has announced the 2026 varsity fall team tennis schedule as the Longhorns will, as usual, be one of the Houston area's most active programs from now through early October.

The 2026-2027 Longhorns are attending voluntary practices from 5 to 8 p.m. July 16 and July 23, and there will be mandatory team practice sessions July 27 and July 30, both from 5 to 8 p.m.

Dobie will also practice Aug. 3 from 9 a.m to noon and from 5 to 8 p.m. before opening the regular season Aug. 4 at home against Katy.

Dobie will play 13 team tennis matches in the month of August, including challenges against Katy, Barbers Hill, Baytown Sterling, Clear Creek, Nederland, Clear Brook, Dickinson, Deer Park, Clear Springs, Alief Hastings, Dawson and Alief Taylor.

An Aug. 25 date will have the Longhorns beginning District 19-6A play against Pearland at Dobie main, beginning at 3 p.m.

Moreno has set aside Oct. 2 for a matchup against the Dobie exes at 9 a.m. at the Longhorn courts, with the postseason beginning Oct. 5-6.

Entering the new District 19-6A alignment, the Longhorns already know that regional power Dawson as well as Pearland will be tough to handle.

Shadow Creek has also shown a great deal of improvement in recent years.

The wild card for each of the teams in the district will be what will come from newcomer Brazoswood.

The Buccaneers have replaced Alvin in the league after the UIL realignment.

Estes headed to Bevill state tennis

Dobie High School Class of 2026 graduate and varsity tennis standout Chloe Estes will continue her education and playing career at Bevill State Community College in Jasper, Ala., after signing with the Bears. Estes was a two-year team captain with the Longhorns. "I couldn't have asked for a better team captain the last two years. Twenty-four/seven, I could always count on her. The team always came first to her, so I'm happy she is being awarded for the chance to play college tennis, a dream of hers finally coming true. Couldn't have happened to a nicer young lady," said Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr.

LSA state champions earn AGH accolades

The two-time running Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A Division II State Champion Lutheran South University baseball program continued to reap the benefits of a 29-9 season as several players brought home All-Greater Houston honors.

Longtime head coach Aaron Schneider was named the Private School Coach of the Year after leading the Pioneers to a second consecutive state crown and a sixth overall under his guidance.

With the six crowns, Schneider is now tied for a second all-time in TAPPS history for state championships.

Senior right-handed pitcher Wyatt Powell was the Private School Pitcher of the Year as he went 12-1 with a 0.86 earned run average, fanning 82 batters over 57 innings.

Offensively, Powell was also a big contributor as he hit .364 with a .420 on-base percentage, delivering 10 doubles, a triple, three home runs and 27 runs driven in. Powell is a Sam Houston State University signee.

The Pioneers also had the Hitter of the Year honor come their way in the form of senior Jaylen Walker, who batted .438 with a .528 on-base percentage.

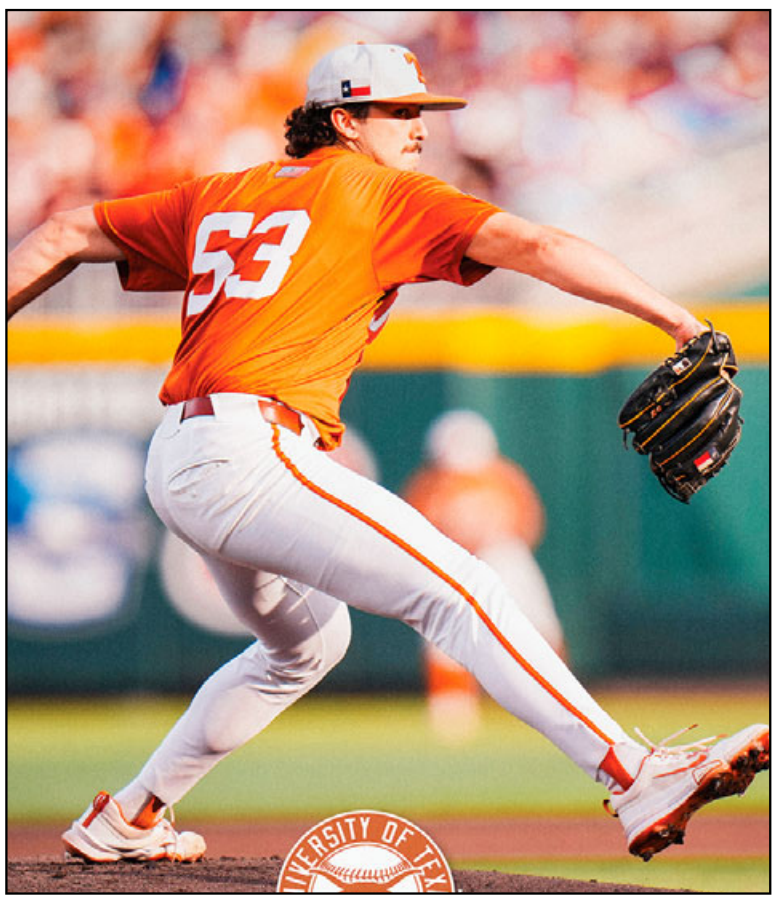
The University of Houston signee had 53 hits overall, including 15 doubles and four home runs to go with 43 runs driven in and 45 runs scored. Walker also swiped 32 bags.

Junior pitcher David Corona was an All-Greater Houston selection after going 7-2 with a 1.57 earned run average. Corona struck out 91 hitters over 67 innings of work.

Senior shortstop Marcus Cantu was also an AGH honoree after batting .405 with a .580 on-base percentage. Cantu had eight doubles, two triples, five home runs and 21 runs driven in while scoring 45 runs and stealing 25 bags.

Lutheran South head coach Aaron Schneider was named the Private School Coach of the Year after leading the Pioneers to a second consecutive state crown and a sixth overall under his guidance. With the six crowns, Schneider is now tied for a second all-time in TAPPS history for state championships.

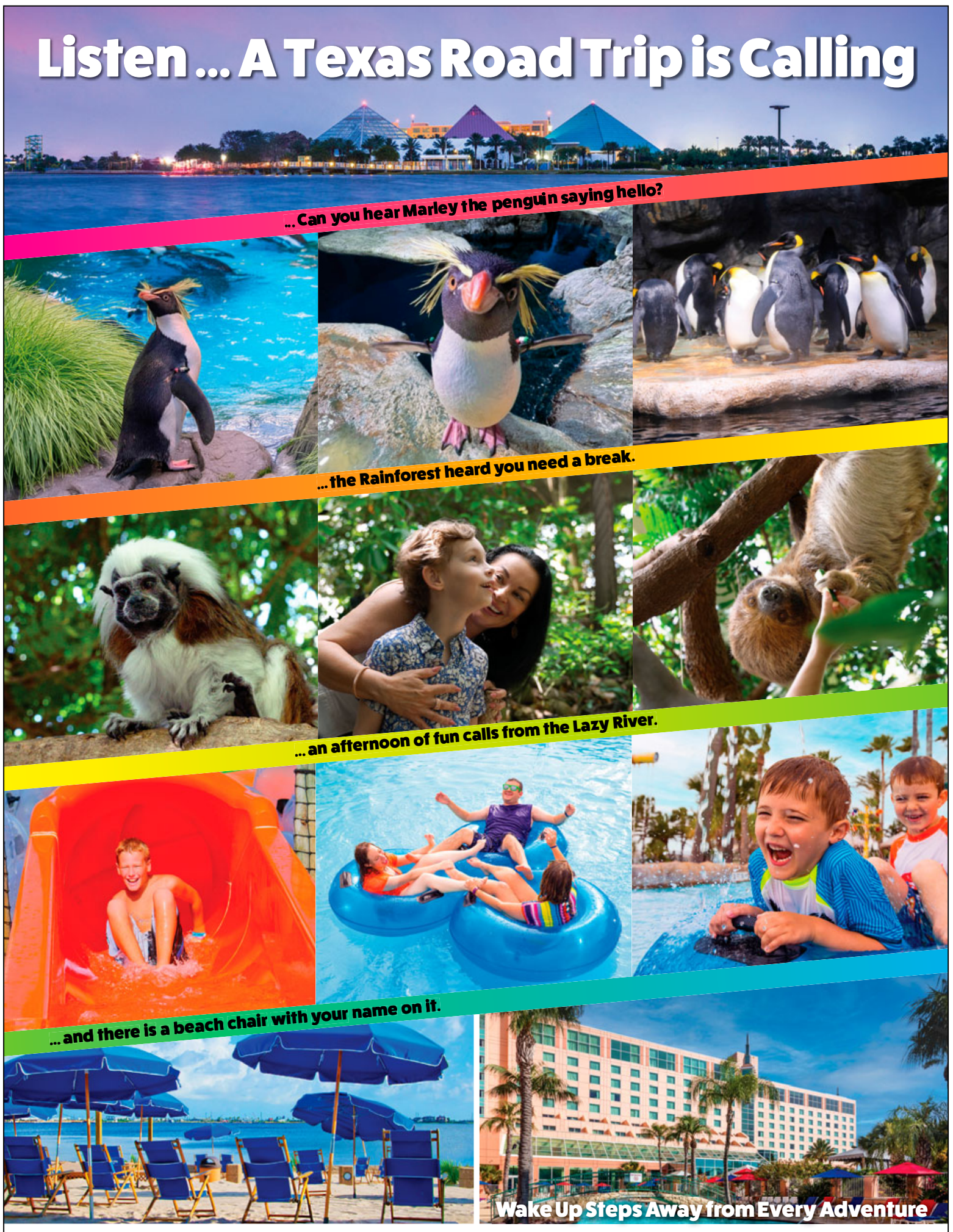
Cardinals draft LSA, UT lefty Harrison



Class of 2021 Lutheran South Academy graduate and standout left-handed pitcher Luke Harrison has been selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the eighth round of the 2026 MLB draft, the 234th overall selection. Harrison is coming off a tremendous 5-year run at the University of Texas, where he helped the Longhorns reach the 2026 men's college baseball World Series in Omaha, Neb. *Photo courtesy of UT Athletics*

LSA grads meet in K.C.

At right, Lutheran South Academy graduates Luke Stewart (left) and Rowdy Sowers went head-to-head on the baseball field during the Kansas City Collegiate Summer League earlier this month. Stewart is a Class of 2024 LSA graduate, while Sowers graduated in 2023. Both have continued to compete collegiately while representing the Pioneer program at various locations across the nation.



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