



# In My Opinion

## Wood: Stop mid-decade redistricting, end gerrymandering

I am writing to express my outrage at the blatant attempt to redraw district lines in the middle of the decade—solely to appease Donald Trump's demands. This is not only undemocratic; it is an insult to the people of Texas. Redistricting is meant to reflect population changes based on the census, not to serve the short-term political ambitions of one man or one party.

Gerrymandering in Texas has already poisoned our democracy. It allows a racial minority of voters to cling to power in a state where the majority of residents are people of color. That is nothing short of disenfranchisement on a massive scale, an intentional manipulation of representation to silence the voices of millions.

The impact on our largest cities—San Antonio, Austin, Houston, and Dallas—has been devastating. These cities are home to the majority of Texans, generate the lion's share of the state's tax revenue, and drive our cultural and economic vitality. Yet, because of gerrymandering, they are robbed of political influence in the very state they sustain. This is a cynical theft of power that treats the will of urban Texans as irrelevant, despite the fact that without these cities, the Texas economy would collapse.

Mid-decade redistricting is not governance—it is a hostile takeover of democracy. It is an abuse of power, an insult to our state's voters, and a shameful example to the rest of the nation. The people of Texas deserve fair maps drawn in good faith, not partisan carve-ups designed to protect political insiders and silence the majority.

I urge—no, I demand—all Texans abandon this scheme and commit to ending the gerrymandering that has held Texas back for decades. Stop treating our democracy as a rigged game. The people are watching, and history will remember who stood for the right to vote and who stood in the way.

Joe Wood

## Charter school finally opens

Continued from Page 1

Texas Education Agency and was named a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School.

Programs include bilingual and ESL instruction, college readiness initiatives, and a strong emphasis on math and reading proficiency.

### A troubled path to opening

The school's opening has been delayed for several years due to construction issues and legal troubles. In 2018, the original contractor abandoned the project over a payment dispute, leaving the building unfinished and prompting neighborhood complaints about the eyesore it had become.

Compounding the delays

was the indictment of former HGA superintendent Richard Garza, who pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$250,000 in school funds.

Garza awarded a no-bid contract to an IT vendor who funneled money back to him, which he used to purchase a luxury SUV and a condominium. He was sentenced to five years in federal prison and ordered to pay restitution to the Texas Education Agency.

During the investigation, the Texas Education Agency halted HGA's expansion plans, including the Riverstone campus. With the legal matters resolved and construction completed, the school is now cleared to open.

### Moving forward

The South Belt community, traditionally zoned primarily for Pasadena ISD schools, now has a new educational option. While some residents previously expressed frustration over the stalled project, others are hopeful that the new campus will bring academic opportunities.

For families seeking a high-performing, tuition-free alternative to traditional public schools, Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone may be the fresh start they've been waiting for.

For additional information about the campus, visit [www.hgschools.org/apps/pages/riverton-bid](http://www.hgschools.org/apps/pages/riverton-bid).

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## BHI staff participates in a scavenger hunt activity



Visiting the *Leader* location, left to right, are (front row) Summer Thomoson, (back row) Johna Moreland, Shelly Tillman, Katherine Wood and Abraham Tristan.

Beverly Hills Intermediate School recently participated in a team-building scavenger hunt competing against Thompson Intermediate and had to take pictures of each location during the hunt, one of those locations being the *Leader* office.



Hunting at Dobie 9 are, left to right, (front row) Jesus Arzola, Jamika Lasker, Yesenia Lopez, (back row) Johnny Fernandez and Brandon Bryant.

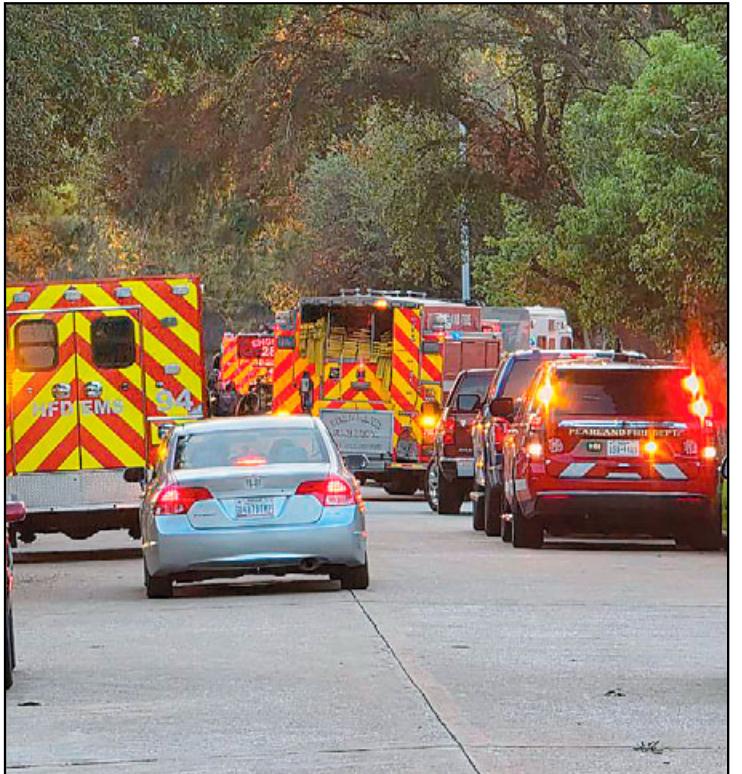


Pictured at the Sagemon Church cross are, left to right, (front row) Yara Quintanilla, Berry Mejia, (back row) Melanie Thompson and Stephanie Davis.



Checking out H-E-B on Blackhawk Boulevard are, left to right, (front row) Melissa Garcia, Yesenia Ramirez, Lupita Batre, (back row) Jacqueline Resendez and Matthew Martinez.

## SVFD responds to blaze



Firefighters with the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to a house fire on Meadoway Drive in the Highland Meadows Village subdivision the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 10. Investigators determined the blaze was started by an exhaust fan in the home's bathroom. Included in most modern homes, the fans are a common cause of house fires if not regularly cleaned, according to SVFD officials.

Photo by Cecelia Ganje

## Pct. 2 stops leads to arrest



A routine traffic stop led to an arrest around 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at the Valeo station across the street from the *Leader* office in the 11500 block of Beamer at Beltway 8. According to officials with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, it was learned by deputies upon making contact with the driver, that he had open warrants, for which he was subsequently taken into custody and placed in jail.

Photo by David Flickinger

## Houston Health launches new dashboard to track extreme heat affect on Houston area health, illness

The Houston Health Department (HHD) launched the Houston Summer Surveillance dashboard developed by the Data Science program, the same team previously recognized for work related to the Houston Wastewater dashboard.

The Houston Summer Surveillance dashboard is a publicly accessible tool that tracks how extreme heat affects public health and can inform health interventions for heat-related illnesses (HRIs) and other health conditions worsened by heat.

"Extreme heat is becoming increasingly more common, and it is essential to formulate tools and strategies to keep our community safe," Dr. Loren Hopkins, chief environmental science

officer, said. The interactive dashboard collects temperature and health data in the Houston area to compile them into visualizations, such as trends over time and location, demographic breakdowns and summaries. Data fed into the dashboard includes emergency visit data from HHD's in-house, syndromic surveillance system for healthcare facilities, located in the combined region of Harris, Fort Bend and Montgomery counties, and forecasted Heat Index data from the National Weather Service. As of Aug. 7, there have been 1,630 HRI emergency visits within the region since April 1, 2025.

"This dashboard is one segment of the work that the

HHD is conducting to understand the increase in risk of various health outcomes that the Houston community may experience due to extreme heat," Komal Sheth, a senior staff analyst, said. "The data displayed can highlight the populations most burdened by heat-related illnesses and identify hotspot areas or times of day when a cooling center may be most effective."

Users can then navigate the dashboard to see trends in emergency visit counts over time, such as by day of week and/or time of day, as well as spatial hot spots and by specific HRI, such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, etc. Data can then be filtered through categories, such as age or racial groups, and update visualizations to

reflect those selections. The dashboard also shows emergency visits for other health conditions and vulnerable groups that are exacerbated by heat, such as acute kidney injury, pregnancy-related complications like preterm birth, acute cardiac events, stroke and more.

"HHD is currently developing an alert system that, when complete, will issue warnings on high heat days with reminders to stay safe and cool," said Hopkins.

Another feature includes summaries of how many HRI emergency visits have been documented overall this summer down to specific dates. Users can then compare data to past years. For example, there were 42 HRI emergency department visits reported on July 29,

2025 compared to 31 visits on the same day in 2024 and 21 visits in 2023. Data is updated every Wednesday at 2 a.m. from May through October.

"Because this dashboard is publicly accessible, researchers and organizations in the heat and climate sector, and even the general public if interested, who don't typically have access to this data can leverage the dashboard to understand the effects of heat on health," said Senior Staff Analyst Kaavya Domakonda.

For additional information on Houston Health's new dashboard, visit [www.houstonhealth.org/houston-summer-surveillance-heat-related-illness-hri-heat-exacerbated-health-monitoring](http://www.houstonhealth.org/houston-summer-surveillance-heat-related-illness-hri-heat-exacerbated-health-monitoring).

## Dobie FFA student places big in Neumann Classic Prospect Show



Dobie FFA student Luke Stacey was recently invited by his Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo sponsors to participate in the Neumann Classic Prospect Show, an event put on by East Chambers High School in Winnie. Stacey's sponsors are also agriculture teachers at Easy Chambers. Stacey placed first in class and won Reserve Grand Showman. Left to right, are Cameron McGhee (HLSR sponsor and agriculture teacher), Kaley McGhee (HLSR sponsor and agriculture teacher) and Stacey.

## 17 Pasadena ISD schools named healthiest in U.S.

National children's health organization Alliance for a Healthier Generation unveiled its 2025 list of America's Healthiest Schools, celebrating 1,120 K-12 schools nationwide for their commitment to advancing whole child health, including 17 schools from Pasadena ISD.

Supported by Del Monte Foods, Kaiser Permanente, and Kohl's Cares, Healthier Generation's annual award program recognizes schools for implementing evidence-based policies and practices to support academic success and lifelong well-being. Schools are recognized in nine health-related topic areas.

The following Pasadena ISD campuses were recognized for their commitment to health and wellness:

- Keller Middle School.
- Kruse Elementary School.
- Williams Elementary School.
- Fisher Elementary School.

Each of these campuses was awarded in one or more of the following categories:

Increasing Family & Community Engagement, Improving Nutrition & Food Access, Implementing Local School Wellness Policy, Bolstering Physical Education & Activity, Enriching Health Education, Promoting Tobacco-Free Schools, and Supporting School Health Services.

"Schools play a crucial role in positively shaping the health and well-being of our nation's youth, and they deserve national recognition for their outstanding efforts," said Kathy Higgins, CEO of Healthier Generation. "The dedication of school leaders, educators and staff to support the physical, emotional and academic needs of their students is nothing short of extraordinary. Their commitment is creating healthier futures for children and communities alike."

See the full list of recognized schools on Healthier Generation's website at [www.healthiergeneration.org/take-action/schools/award](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/take-action/schools/award).

## County to hold flood meetings

Public meetings to be held virtually Aug. 19-20

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**Tuesday, Aug. 19:** Meeting will be held via Zoom from 6 to 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Aug. 20:** Meeting will be held via Zoom from noon to 1 p.m.

The study area includes the following watersheds:

Brays Bayou, Buffalo Bayou, Clear Creek, Cypress Creek, Greens Bayou, Halls Bayou, Hunting Bayou, Little Cypress Creek, Sims Bayou, Vince Bayou and White Oak Bayou.

"The SAFER Study is not just about infrastructure – it's about people, neighborhoods and the future of the county," said Emily Woodell, chief External Affairs officer for HCFCD.

"We want to hear directly from the residents who experience flooding firsthand."

**Unable to attend?**

Residents unable to participate in the virtual meetings may still submit questions and comments in advance of the functions. The meeting will also be made available for view following the events.

For additional information on the county's SAFER study or to submit comments, visit [thesaferstudy.org](http://thesaferstudy.org).

## YOU'RE INVITED!

### City of Houston's Clear Lake Area PIP Meeting

Partnering with the community for a safer Houston!

When: Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6 P.M.

Location: GRACE Church – Houston • 14505 Gulf Freeway • Classroom #103

### WHY ATTEND?

- Learn about HPD programs and community initiatives
- Share your concerns and ideas • Meet neighbors and local officers
- Get involved in making a difference

For more information : C. Castillo at 832-395-1777

Let's build a stronger, safer community—together!

We look forward to seeing you there!



# Mission Possible: PISD educators share their stories of purpose, passion, possibility

As the new school year begins, Pasadena ISD educators are embracing the districtwide theme "Mission Possible" with renewed energy and purpose. The first day back for teachers brought a wave of excitement, fresh ideas and heartfelt reunions as teachers returned to their classrooms, ready to

inspire their students. From libraries to math classrooms, these teachers and coaches are proving that with heart, resilience and vision, anything is possible. Teachers responded to questions which included personal motivation, inspiration, mission and goal aspirations.



Patricia Myers, Early College English teacher, Dobie 9 campus



Carolina Miranda, first-year kindergarten teacher, South Belt Elementary

What motivated you to become a teacher? "My first-grade teacher, Ms. Bailey, was my inspiration. I'll always remember her. And now I get to teach in the same district I grew up in—it's a full-circle moment."

How do you maintain a positive mindset as a new teacher? "I make sure I'm positive first so I can give that same energy to my students. Building one-on-one connections helps me make the most impact. When they're struggling, I want to be the one who lifts them up."

What brings you the most joy in teaching? "Being able to make an impact in students' lives. I remember all my teachers, and now I get to be that person for someone else. Creating a warm, safe environment is everything."



Allison Sutton, librarian, South Belt Elementary

What's your mission as a librarian? "My goal is to make kids readers and help them love reading," Sutton said. "I want the library to be an escape—a place that opens the door to the future. If you can't read, everything else becomes harder."

How do you make Mission Possible real for your students? "I give them steps—small ones for pre-K, bigger ones for fourth-grade—so they feel successful," she explained. "It might be hard, but it's possible. Just try."

What keeps you coming back year after year? "One of the best parts of my job is watching students grow over time," Sutton said. "I get to see them every year, and I know where they started and where they're headed. That continuity lets me build real relationships and help them reach new milestones."



Heather Nielsen, ABLE 1 teacher, Thompson Intermediate

What drives your work in special education? "I love teaching SPED. I love working with my kids. They come with new challenges, and it's great to see them become successful in such a short amount of time. Our goal is to make them more independent—because if they're not independent, they cannot be successful in the real world."

What inspired your transition from music to special education? "I started out teaching orchestra and had several SPED students in my program. Some of them had autism and were playing instruments. I saw how music gave them an outlet, and I realized I wanted to do more. That's when I knew special education was where I belonged."

What keeps you excited about teaching? "There's something special about the first day—fresh faces, fresh ideas. Even putting on a new shirt makes it feel new. With any student, anything is possible. 'Mission Possible' should be the theme all year, every year."



Thuy "Coach" Nguyen, eighth-grade math teacher and coach, Thompson Intermediate

How did you transition from computer science to teaching? "Teaching wasn't my original path—I majored in computer science. But after a life-changing event, I needed a stable career. I took a leap of faith, joined an alternative certification program, and dove in. I fell in love with it."

What led you to coaching? "I've always been a tennis player. After my first year, I started coaching tennis, then volleyball and basketball. I went to my students' games to support them and fell in love with the sports. I just said, 'Let's do it.'"

How do you bring Mission Possible into your classroom? "As a first-generation immigrant, I know what it's like to feel stuck between expectations and personal dreams. I want my students to know it's okay to find their own path. I've been there. I want to be the teacher who helps them believe in themselves."

## St. Luke Church parishioners take on pilgrimage



Parishioners from St. Luke Church embarked on a five-day pilgrimage, traversing the final 100 miles of the Camino de Santiago. Their journey began in Sarria, Spain, with a destination to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Each day presented them with new challenges as they navigated obstacles and enduring physical hardships. Despite the challenges, reaching the Cathedral brought the parishioners a deep sense of accomplishment and celebrated the journey with newfound friendships. The parishioners earned their official pilgrim's passport, an emblem of devotion and perseverance. Left to right, are (front row) Monica Marin Ramos, (middle row) Otilia Pereira, Montse Ramos, Guadalupe Castillo, (back row) Juan Jose Ramos, Diana Cantu, Daniela Guardado, Coni Perez and Anisa Perez.

Photo by Monica Ramos

## Mitchell launches Legislative campaign

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"I've dedicated my career to bringing good jobs and economic development to Southeast Texas," said Mitchell. "And now, I'm running to ensure the Gulf Coast has a strong conservative voice in Austin who knows how to deliver results and protect our families and businesses from government overreach."

A strong advocate for coastal protection, Mitchell was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Gulf Coast Protection District Board, where he works to safeguard lives, property and commerce from hurricanes and storm surge. He currently serves as the board's vice president.

He has also served on the governor's Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee and numerous regional boards in health care, education and economic policy. Locally, Mitchell served

on the boards of Clear Lake Regional Medical Center, UTMB Health System, the Manned Spaceflight Education Foundation and Communities in Schools, among others.

In 2022, Mitchell ran an unsuccessful campaign for Texas House District 11, finishing second in the Republican primary behind Middleton with 15 percent of the vote.

Mitchell's tenure at BAH-HEP, which began in 2001 and culminated in his presidency in 2008, was marked by the following high-impact initiatives:

— **NASA advocacy:** Mitchell led efforts to restore funding for NASA's human spaceflight program in 2010.

— **Flood protection:** Mitchell championed the Coastal Spine project to protect the Gulf Coast from hurricane storm surge.

— **Insurance reform:**

boasts the support of several area mayors, including Pearland Mayor Kevin Cole; Friendswood Mayor Mike Foreman; Seabrook Mayor Jim Sweeney; former Seabrook Mayor Thom Klopski; Taylor Lake Village Mayor Jon Keeney; former Morgans Point Mayor Michel Bechtel; and former Houston Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Martin.

Now residents of Pearland, Mitchell and his wife Joan are proud parents and grandparents and active members of their community.

The general election for Texas House District 129 will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, with early voting beginning Oct. 20.

For additional information on Mitchell's campaign, visit [www.facebook.com/mitchell4tx](http://www.facebook.com/mitchell4tx).

## Golf cart drivers needed

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital's unique volunteer program offers one the opportunity to explore new directions, develop skills, make friends and have fun. The hospital is seeking men and women of all backgrounds who find satisfaction in helping others—students, professionals, retirees, service-minded individuals—to transport their patients, staff and visitors to and from the hospital parking lots.

They ask that volunteers commit to volunteering one shift per week, Monday through Friday, 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. or 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those interested must complete an application and interview, as well as a background and driving record check, orientation and training. The volunteer application can be found at [volunteer.memorialhermann.org](http://volunteer.memorialhermann.org).

For more information on volunteer opportunities at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, email [SEVolunteer.Services@memorialhermann.org](mailto:SEVolunteer.Services@memorialhermann.org).



## Remember When

### 45 years ago (1980)

The Dobie High School Lariettes hosted their third annual Muscular Dystrophy Kick-a-thon in the Astroarena over the weekend. What started out as a project for Dobie's 80 drill team members three years before, had become a regionwide, 1,700-girl event. Pledges for the year totaled more than \$75,000.

At least six burglaries or attempted burglaries occurred in the South Belt area in the course of four days.

Officer Loti Brewer of the Harris County Sheriff's Department's south district patrol (including the South Belt area) was promoted to the rank of chief petty officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Brewer received the top rating of the three men chosen from 60 who qualified for the rank nationwide.

### 40 years ago (1985)

The Wings Over Houston air show, sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, was set to be held at Ellington Field. The event would feature the Ghost Squadron of the Confederate Air Force, 100 vintage World War II aircraft and modern static military aircraft displays and jet fighter flybys. There was also to be a civilian aerobatic act, including a wing-walking act.

Dobie High School Principal Frank Braden sent a memo to all faculty directors of extracurricular activities to be on the lookout for any type of hazing activities within the groups during the upcoming school year.

### 35 Years ago (1990)

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 14 through Aug. 20.

### Burnett Elementary

Share in the birthday fun Aug. 17 with Jennie Graham. Send a happy birthday greeting to Melisa Evans Aug. 18.

### Genoa Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout Aug. 17 to Erika Gonzalez. Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 20 to Parris Patrick.

### Hancock Elementary

Light the birthday candles for Xochithl Baez Aug. 20.

### Meadow Elementary

Send a birthday greeting to Jennifer Chavez Aug. 15. Celebrating a birthday Aug. 17 is Tracie Nair. Blow out the candles Aug. 19 for Klarissa Trevino.

### Moore Elementary

Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 18 to

### Construction crews from Austin Bridge Company

to 1,543.

### Nearly 2,000 homes in the Sagemont subdivision

began the city of Houston's automated refuse collection

### program with only Thursdays

in addition, a separate yard trimming pickup would be conducted each Monday.

### A benefit bake sale and car wash was planned by

Kroger employees to help

defray hospital costs for

employee

Erwin Whitney

who had suffered a seizure

the previous week and re-

mained unconscious. Whitney formerly worked at the Target near Almeda Mall.

### The South Belt Palomino

baseball team won their

first-ever world champion-

ship at the Palomino World

Series in Greensboro, N.C.

### 30 years ago (1995)

The Clear Creek school

district tallied 26,246

students on the fourth day

of school, a 4 percent en-

rollment increase over the

same

day the previous year. Clear

Brook High School en-

rollment jumped by 4.8 percent

### for Ms. Houston.

The Rev. Mark Butcher and the Freeway Baptist family celebrated the church's 50th anniversary.

Jerry Speer was sworn onto the Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees.

After Kathleen Wood-

worth's horse was killed by

a train, the staff at the sta-

bles collected enough mon-

ey to buy her a new one.

Sagemont Church

opened Sagemont Centre

for the Arts.

South Belt area 4-year-

old Pamela Ann Kinsel,

the daughter of Bill and Mar-

garet Kinsel, was selected

Tiny Miss American Rodeo

Queen in a competition in

Galveston.

25 years ago (2000)

Three locals took part in

national competition: Patri-

cia Marie Alders, Miss Teen

Houston; Nikki Williams,

Miss Junior Teen Houston;

and Angela Marie Hunter

to 1,543.

Nearly 2,000 homes in the Sagemont subdivision

began the city of Houston's automated refuse collection

program with only Thursdays

in addition, a separate yard trimming pickup would be conducted each Monday.

Work was underway on

the more than \$6 million,

900-space Park 'N Ride facil-

ity being constructed be-

hind the Sabo townhouses.

The so-called Fuqua Park N

Ride was expected to open

the following spring.

20 years ago (2005)

All three proposed

schools for the South Belt

which were to be open for



## Lexie set to lead Lamar VB



Lexi Gonzalez and her Lamar University women's volleyball teammates will begin the regular season in DeLand, Fla. as the Cardinals take part in the Stetson Hatter Invitational August 29-30 while going against Northern Illinois and Stetson. Gonzalez, a Class of 2024 Dobie graduate, played in all 29 matches for Lamar a season ago and was twice named the Southland Conference Center of the Week on her way to 857 assists for the season.

## Pearland Track Xpress 17-18 4x400 places fifth nationally at JOS



The Pearland Track Xpress summer track and field program delivered an exceptional performance at the season-ending Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games earlier this month at Turner Stadium in Humble. As part of that effort, the boys' 15-16 4x400 meter relay team finished fifth nationally

with a time of 3 minutes, 18.25 seconds in the event. The Pearland group included, left to right, coaches Edmond Ewing and Angel Thomas, Zed Thomas, Adam Abiola, Deshawn Singleton, Kevin Jackson II and coaches Elbert Sharp and Cedric Lilly.

## Melillo musicians help 11-under Arrietta Elite win championship ring; Ortega named Most Valuable Player



Melillo Middle School student Braylin Ortega put together a terrific two-way performance with three home runs and 12 strikeouts across a couple of appearances as he led the 11-under Arrietta Elite AAA select baseball team to a gold medal at the Perfect Game Bayou World Series in Lake Charles, La. earlier this summer.



Four Melillo Middle School band/orchestra members, Braylin Ortega (honors band - percussion), Alexander Gordon (band - euphonium), Evan Rodriguez (band - percussion) and Robin Castillo (orchestra - violin) traded in their musical instruments for baseball gloves and bats this summer as they helped the 11-under Arrietta Elite AAA select team to a championship ring at the Perfect Game Bayou World Series. Facing off against four different teams across seven intense games, Arrietta Elite emerged as tournament champions,

earning the coveted championship ring. Ortega slugged three home runs and also collected 12 strikeouts on the hill in the event on his way to tournament Most Valuable Player accolades, and Gordon and Gage Trevino also went deep once each. Members of the team are, left to right, coach Ruben Castillo, Hector Perez, Robin Castillo, Angel Arrieta, coach Hector Arrieta, Trevino, Dylan Valdez, Gordon, Rodriguez, Ortega, Andrew Araujo, Cash Reutzel, Juan Trujillo, R.J. Martinez and coach Ricardo Valdez.

## Pleasants named assistant at LSU



Former Louisiana State University and 2021 NFCA All-American shortstop Taylor Pleasants has been named a full-time assistant coach for the LSU softball program after serving as the graduate assistant coach last season. A four-time NFCA All-Region selection and three-time All-SEC honoree, Pleasants coached from first base and worked primarily with the infielders during the 2025 season. A standout throughout her collegiate career (2020-2025), Pleasants finished as LSU's all-time leader in double plays turned (59) and ranked No. 2 in career assists (520). Offensively, she ranks No. 3 in program history with 217 career RBIs and No. 4 with 47 home runs. Professionally, Pleasants has played two seasons with the Florida Vibe (2024-2025) and has represented Team USA, helping the Eagles capture gold medals at the 2022 World Games and the 2022 Canada Cup. A four-year varsity softball standout at Dobie High School, Pleasants put together a career that ranks her as the greatest offensive player in program history.

### JFD JV White Football

Aug. 28 North Shore 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 3 Klein 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 11 \*at Dawson 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 25 \*Memorial 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 1 \*at Shadow Creek 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 9 \*Pearland 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 16 \*Iowa Colony 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 23 Tomas 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 29 \*at Alvin 4:30 p.m.  
Nov. 6 \*Manvel 4:30 p.m.  
\*District 22-6A game

### JFD Fresh. White Football

Aug. 28 TBA 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 3 Klein 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 11 \*Dawson 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 25 \*at Memorial 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 1 \*Shadow Creek 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 9 \*at Pearland 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 16 \*Iowa Colony 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 23 at Tomas 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 29 \*Alvin 4:30 p.m.  
Nov. 6 \*at Manvel 4:30 p.m.  
\*District 22-6A game

### Brook JV Football

Aug. 28 at Dobie 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 4 at Eisenhower 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 10 G.C. Memorial 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 18 \*Clear Springs 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 25 \*at Dickinson 6 p.m.  
Oct. 2 \*Deer Park 5:30 p.m.  
Oct. 15 \*at Clear Creek 5:30 p.m.  
Oct. 23 \*Clear Falls 5:30 p.m.  
Oct. 30 \*Clear Lake 5:30 p.m.  
Nov. 6 \*at Brazoswood 6 p.m.  
\*District 24-6A game

### JFD JV Orange Football

Aug. 28 Clear Brook 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 3 Klein 6 p.m.  
Sept. 11 \*at Dawson 6 p.m.  
Sept. 25 \*Memorial 6 p.m.  
Oct. 1 \*at Shadow Creek 6 p.m.  
Oct. 9 \*Pearland 6 p.m.  
Oct. 16 \*S. Houston 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 23 Rayburn 5 p.m.  
Oct. 29 \*at Alvin 6 p.m.  
Nov. 6 \*Manvel 6 p.m.  
\*District 22-6A game

### JFD Fresh. Orange Football

Aug. 28 North Shore 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 3 Klein 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 11 \*Dawson 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 25 \*Memorial 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 1 \*at Shadow Creek 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 9 \*Pearland 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 16 \*Iowa Colony 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 23 Tomas 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 29 \*at Alvin 4:30 p.m.  
Nov. 6 \*Manvel 4:30 p.m.  
\*District 22-6A game

### Brook Freshman Football

Aug. 28 Dobie 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 4 Eisenhower 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 10 at G.C. Memorial 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 18 \*at Clear Springs 5:30 p.m.  
Sept. 25 \*Dickinson 6 p.m.  
Oct. 2 \*at Deer Park 5:30 p.m.  
Oct. 15 \*Clear Creek 5:30 p.m.  
Oct. 23 \*at Clear Falls 5:30 p.m.  
Oct. 30 \*at Clear Lake 5:30 p.m.  
Nov. 6 \*Brazoswood 6 p.m.  
\*District 24-6A game

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Clayton Washington (8) should be a vital part of the Dobie defensive backfield this season as the Longhorns have reloaded the back end of the defense in anticipation of slowing down the top passing offenses in the district.



Cameron Robertson (64) returns to help anchor a Longhorn offensive line that should be one of the top groups in the district with several veteran starters, including Robertson, returning up front.

Photos by Gloria Wallace

At right, Adrian Taylor (9) was elevated to the Dobie varsity level as a freshman and played in the defensive backfield for the Longhorns but will now make the shift to the offensive backfield as he lends his skill set to a group that figures to get plenty of action as Dobie features their run-heavy offense for 2025. Dobie began preseason workouts Aug. 11 and will head to La Porte ISD's new Bulldog Stadium for a series of scrimmages Aug. 21 against a Bulldog squad that has designs on making a run at the state championship in 5A. As for the Longhorns, they will go against La Porte and then focus their attention on the regular season opener Aug. 29 against Clear Brook at Clear Creek ISD's Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City.



Alyssa Espinoza (1) was a solid contributor to the Dobie varsity girls' volleyball team a season ago, and now she and her teammates are off to a 1-0 start after defeating Baytown Sterling at home Aug. 12 to open the regular season. Espinoza, now a team captain as a junior, will lead the Longhorns Aug. 15 at Goose Creek Memorial. Of note, the Dobie program scored a sweep over the Rangers with victories at all three levels on opening night.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

## Dobie volleyball to play Gator invite

The Clear Brook varsity volleyball program will once again face a big opening-week challenge at the Turner Invitational Aug. 14-16 (see Page 5), and both the Wolverines and Dobie will be in action at the same event in week two.

Clear Brook and Dobie will be part of a 32-team field at the Dickinson Invitational Aug. 21 and Aug. 23 that will also include Alief Elsik, Angleton, Galveston Ball, Baytown Lee, Belaire, Brazoswood, Clear Falls, Clear Lake, Crosby, Dickinson, Dulles, Elkins, Foster, Friendswood, Galena Park, George Ranch, Goose Creek Memorial, Houston Lamar, La Porte, Longview, Manvel, Nederland, Needville, North Shore, Pasadena Memorial, Pearland, Santa Fe, Shadow Creek, St. John's and Baytown Sterling.

## Dobie football looks forward to 2025

Continued from Page 5

stands within the front seven on the defensive side, and the secondary will be able to lean on Desmond Talib, among others.

"Yes we are the coaches, but this is their program. At the end of the day, it's the players who are out there making plays to decide the outcome of games. I have really given our senior group the responsibility of leading the way for not only 2025 but showing the way for some of the younger groups as we look to the future."

In terms of offensive production, or for that matter statistics on the defensive side of things, the Longhorns will not have a long list of proven performers outside of, for instance, Hodges.

"Building a foundation is very important in every program, and we feel like

what it takes to get back to the postseason."

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