

### Local HOAs to gather Sept. 2

A group of local community leaders, led by Rainbow Valley Civic Club President Fred Brown and Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour, will host a public meeting Tuesday, Sept. 2, that encourages all local civic groups and HOAs to come together in unity.

To be held at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes, the function will replace the Sagemont Civic Club's normally scheduled monthly meeting. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m., with networking beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The community meeting will feature multiple notable guest speakers, including Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia (tentatively), Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, Houston At-Large Position 3 City Council Member Twila Carter, Houston Police Department Cmdr. Derrick Small and Harris County Appraisal District board member (and Kirkwood Civic Club President) Erika McCutcheon.

In addition to the Rainbow Valley Civic Club and Sagemont Civic Club, other groups taking part in the event include Sagemeadow, Kirkwood, Beverly Hills and Sycamore Valley.

For additional information, contact Brown at 281-788-5115 or Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### CBCMUD sets holiday hours

In observance of Labor Day, the Clear Brook City MUD office will be closed from 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, through Monday, Sept. 1. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

Clear Brook City MUD residents whose trash services fall on Monday will have regular trash pickup on Labor Day, Sept. 1. All trash should be at curbside no later than 6 a.m.

### Kirkwood to meet Aug. 25

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held on the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

### HPD's PIP rescheduled

The Houston Police Department's monthly Positive Interaction Program meeting, originally scheduled for Monday, Aug. 18, has been rescheduled for the following Monday, Aug. 25, due to a scheduling conflict at its host venue, Grace Church. The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in Classroom No. 103 at Grace, located at 14505 Gulf Freeway. A guest speaker is to address traffic enforcement.

The monthly PIP meetings will resume next month at the group's regular schedule, which recently changed days, locations and times. Residents are reminded of the group's new schedule change. Previously held the third Tuesday of each month at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, the meetings now take place the third Monday of each month at Grace Church. The meetings also have a new start time of 6 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.

### Sagemeadow to meet Aug. 21

Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. This month's guest speaker will be Shani Descieux (IRS Community Outreach).

Meetings are open to the public. All Sagemeadow residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month. For additional information, visit [www.sagemeadow.org](http://www.sagemeadow.org).

### 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.

### Beltway closures planned

One outside lane of the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Beamer to Hughes Road/Sabo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays through Wednesday, Sept. 3.

One outside lane of the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Fairmont Parkway to Red Bluff in Pasadena continuously through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

One inside lane of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Greenshadow to Red Bluff in Pasadena continuously through Wednesday, Dec. 31.

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

### Hughes/Sabo closures set

At least one southbound lane on Hughes/Sabo will be closed continuously at Beltway 8 until further notice.

Westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads may also be intermittently closed at Hughes/Sabo until further notice.

# County proposes \$3B 2025-2026 budget

## Deputy pay increase a driving factor in projected \$130M budget shortfall

Harris County Commissioners Court received its first look at the proposed \$2.95 billion budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 during a presentation Thursday by Budget Director Daniel Ramos.

The plan reflects a growing tension between rising public safety costs and a projected \$130 million shortfall.

Ramos emphasized that the proposal is "meant to be amended" to reflect the priorities of county officials and residents. Nearly 59 percent of the budget is allocated to public safety, including the following items:

- \$26.4 million increase for the Harris County Sheriff's Office, bringing its total budget to \$714.9 million.
- \$11.7 million boost to the Public Defender's Office.
- \$51.2 million for outsourcing jail inmates.
- \$1.5 million in overtime to reduce court backlogs.
- \$3.4 million for forensic sciences to expedite evidence processing.

The budget also includes \$8.5 million for three new criminal district courts and \$2.5 million for cybersecurity upgrades.

### Deputy pay raises

The county's recent decision to match Houston Police Department salaries for deputies and constables is a major driver of the deficit.

The move will cost \$142 million in the first year, with long-term projections exceeding \$1 billion over five years.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, a former sheriff and vocal advocate for law enforcement, defended the investment:

"We're not just talking about numbers – we're talking about lives," said Garcia. "This budget reflects our commitment to keeping Harris County safe and competitive."

### Disaster recovery and infrastructure

The budget also responds to recent weather events, including the spring 2024 flood, May windstorm and Hurricane Beryl. A portion of disaster recovery funds will be reinvested into the Public Contingency Fund and used to support a proposed \$100 million increase in Flood Control revenue – pending voter approval.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis emphasized equity and long-term planning.

"We must ensure that our budget reflects the

values of fairness and resilience," said Ellis. "That means investing in communities that have historically been left behind."

County Judge Lina Hidalgo warned of trade-offs.

"This is not going to happen without really painful cuts to really important services," said Hidalgo. "The only way to not have that happen is to go to the voters."

### What's next?

- Department hearings: Sept. 2-5.
- Final budget vote: Late September.
- Fiscal year begins: Oct. 1.

### Community input

Harris County officials are seeking the public's input on the proposed budget.

Residents can still weigh in using the county's online budget tool, available at [budget.harriscountytexas.gov](http://budget.harriscountytexas.gov). The platform allows users to explore spending categories and submit feedback directly to the Office of Budget and Management.

Officials say public input will be critical in shaping the final budget.



## Apartment complex catches fire

An apartment complex caught fire around 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, on the Gulf Freeway service road at Hartsook near Edgewood. A firefighter with the Houston Fire Department reportedly suffered heat exhaustion and was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital. Witnesses said a dog was killed in the blaze. Responding emergency personnel occupied two of the freeway's frontage road lanes, causing extensive traffic delays. The cause of the fire remained unknown at press time. See additional photos on Page 3.

Photo by James Bolen

## Filing deadline nears in City Council race

### Special at-large election follows Plummer's resignation

With the filing deadline fast approaching, the race to fill Houston City Council's At-Large Position 4 is beginning to take shape.

The seat was vacated by Council Member Letitia Plummer, who announced her candidacy for Harris County judge on July 8, triggering a special election scheduled for Nov. 4, 2025.

Candidates seeking to appear on the ballot must file by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, according to the city secretary's office.

Plummer, who has served on council since 2020, said the county lacks the bold leadership she could provide.

"I'm running for Harris County judge because I believe we need bold leadership to tackle flooding, crime and economic inequality."

Her departure leaves a citywide seat open.

At press time, four candidates had already declared their intention to run, including the following:

- **Alejandra Salinas:** A trial attorney at Sus-

man Godfrey and board member of the Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce. Salinas is campaigning on safer neighborhoods, reliable city services and infrastructure improvements.

- **Dwight Boykins:** Former District D council member (2013-2019), known for initiatives addressing food deserts and senior services. Boykins has received an endorsement from former Congressman Beto O'Rourke.
- **Obes Nwabara:** President of the Bayou City Arts Festival and a previous candidate for At-Large Position 2 in 2023. He's focused on expanding public transit and improving water infrastructure.
- **Al Lloyd:** A local business owner. While his platform has not been widely publicized, Lloyd filed paperwork with the city secretary's office in late July.

Early voting for the special Nov. 4 election

Continued on Page 2

## Political dominoes fall in South Belt

### Local districts part of statewide GOP political shake-up

In a whirlwind of announcements and political maneuvering, the South Belt area is at the epicenter of a dramatic reshuffling of Texas's Republican leadership – one that could redefine the region's representation for years to come.

It began with Attorney General Ken Paxton's declaration that he's challenging longtime U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the 2026 Republican primary.

The race has already heated up, as Paxton is positioning himself as the MAGA-aligned alternative to Cornyn's more traditional conservatism.

That move opened the door for state Sen. Mayes Middleton, who currently represents District 11, encompassing the South Belt community located south of Beltway 8, to announce his candidacy for attorney general.

Middleton pledged to bring legal muscle to conservative causes.

"I am running for Texas Attorney General to continue the fight for our shared conservative values that keep the Texas miracle alive," said Middleton.

Middleton's departure from the Senate has prompted state Rep. Dennis Paul, an ally of the *Leader* currently representing House District 129, to throw his hat into the ring for Middleton's seat.

Paul, who has represented the Clear Lake and Pasadena areas since 2015, emphasized continuity and conviction in his recent announcement.

"It has been my great honor to serve the voters in HD 129 and I will continue to be your conservative voice for Senate District 11," said Paul. "I will faithfully represent those values which make Texas the greatest state to live, work and raise a family."

Paul's announcement was quickly followed by an endorsement from Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who effectively leads the Senate.

Patrick said Paul "has everything that's needed to be a Texas Senator," citing his "track record of being a stalwart conservative."

And in the latest twist, Bob Mitchell, former president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP), has announced his campaign for Paul's soon-to-be-vacant House seat.

Mitchell, a longtime advocate for aerospace and regional development, said his experience at BAHEP will help him get things done in the Senate.

"This community has given me so much, and I want to give back by fighting for the future of our economy, our schools and our families," said Mitchell, a former longtime South Belt resident. "I know this district, and I know how to get things done."

Political observers say the shake-up reflects deeper currents within the Texas GOP, with battle lines being drawn between supporters of President Donald Trump and more traditional conservative Republicans.

The Texas primary election is scheduled to take place Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

## HPD investigates fatal Clearwood crash

### Male driver, 38, dies at scene after striking tree at high-speed

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that took place around 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, in the 9600 block of Clearwood Street near Alameda Genoa Road.

Jorge Salazar Landa, 38, was killed in the crash, according to Houston Police Department officials.

Responding HPD officers reported that a gray Ford Mustang was traveling north at the above

address at a high rate of speed when it veered off the road, struck a light pole and hit a tree.

Paramedics from the Houston Fire Department responded to the one-vehicle accident and pronounced the driver, Landa, dead at the scene.

According to HPD Vehicular Crimes Division Sgt. V. Vo, the investigation was continuing at press time.

## Sink takes Dobie helm

Dobie High School started its 2025-2026 school year this past week, with Carey Sink being named the school's new principal just the evening before classes began.

Sink, a Dobie alumnus and longtime administrator on campus, steps into the role following the departure of former Principal Jorly Thomas, whose exit was announced later than usual due to internal administrative restructuring. (Thomas will now serve as an administrator with the district.)

A 1990 Dobie graduate who also attended elementary and intermediate school at local Pasadena ISD campuses, Sink has served as an assistant principal at Dobie for several years, most recently overseeing 12th-grade students with last names A-L. He also formerly served as assistant coach for the Longhorns varsity football team, on which he used to play.

The timing of the announcement was attributed to final decisions made during summer leadership meetings and the need to align district staffing across multiple campuses.

### A familiar face

According to Pasadena ISD officials, Sink's deep ties to the school and South Belt community are expected to bring continuity and stability during a time of transition.

## PISD leaders past, present celebrate Dobie opening



Pasadena ISD leaders past and present gathered at Dobie Tuesday, Aug. 12, at a luncheon to kick off the district's 2025-2026 school year. Shown above at the function are, left to right, (front row) PISD administrator Traci Powell, former Pasadena ISD Superintendent DeeAnn Powell, PISD administrator Stacey Barber, PISD Chief of Schools Alyta Harrel, Dobie volunteer Emory Gadd, former Dobie principal/new PISD administrator Jorly Thomas, former PISD board member Fred Roberts, PISD Superintendent Toni Lopez, PISD board member Nelda Sullivan, PISD administrator Troy McCauley, PISD administrator Jeremy Richardson, (back row) PISD board member Kenny Fernandez, PISD board member Joe Campos, Sagemont Church Senior Pastor Levi Skipper and PISD board member Marshall Kendrick. Notably absent from the photo is new Dobie Principal Carey Sink, who wasn't appointed to the position until later that evening. See additional photos on Page 3.



# In My Opinion

## King highlights

### HCTRA review results

As most of you are aware, the Center for Tax and Budget Policy at the Baker Institute, where I am a fellow, has undertaken to review the financial statements issued by various local governmental entities in the Houston region. The Center has just released its review of the FY 2024-2025 financial statements for the Harris County Toll Road Authority. The full report can be viewed here, however, these are some of the highlights.

HCTRA is very profitable. Since 2011, it has generated \$4.5 billion in surpluses over its operating expenses and debt service. In the last two years, its surpluses for each year have been slightly over \$400 million.

HCTRA also has a very strong balance sheet, ending the year with over \$2 billion in net assets and a very strong cash position. It has the highest credit rating of any toll road operator in Texas. However, HCTRA is still quite heavily indebted. At the end of the year, its total liabilities were over \$3.6 billion, with over \$3 billion in bond debt. HCTRA recently added more bond debt, and its capital improvement plan indicates it will need to borrow even more over the next few years. The need to borrow additional funds has been driven, in part, by the withdrawals from the system by Harris County (see below).

Harris County has made significant withdrawals from HCTRA. Prior to 2021, the annual withdrawals averaged approximately \$120-130 million. However, since 2021, the Commissioners' Court has averaged withdrawing just under \$300 million per year. According to state law, these funds are restricted to mobility and "related" projects. The records show that the funds are transferred to a segregated account for mobility projects, with most of the money allocated to the four commissioner precincts. There is some review by auditors on how this money is spent, but there is limited transparency on exactly

which projects these funds are used for.

The transition to eliminate manned toll booths and rely entirely on electronic collection of tolls greatly facilitated traffic flow on the toll roads, but it has also presented a number of operational and financial challenges for HCTRA. The most significant of these is the increase in vehicles using the toll road system without paying. We estimate that HCTRA lost approximately \$100 million last year from uncollected tolls.

While throughout most of its history HCTRA has enjoyed very robust growth in traffic and toll revenues, there is some indication that growth may be leveling off. Since the pandemic, which dramatically lowered traffic and revenue, the monthly tolls have consistently been in the \$72-\$76 million range.

There are a number of other details in the full report. If you are interested in this topic, I encourage you to take a look at it.

I want to acknowledge that both the County Auditor's Office and the HCTRA management team were very helpful in the preparation of our report. Both provided us with information that improved both its accuracy and completeness. We greatly appreciate their cooperation and input.

If you would like to see more of this type of information on our local governments be made available to the public, please consider supporting our center. You can make donations through the Baker Institute website. In the designation box, use the drop-down menu and select "Center for Tax and Budget Policy."

Also, a reminder that our next readers' conference is set for Saturday, November 8, at the Norris Conference Center at City Centre. More details will be forthcoming soon about registration and the agenda. Hope to see you all there.

Bill King

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of the *Neighbor* app posted that their vehicle was stolen from Parc at South Green Apartments.

The incident was reported Sunday, Aug. 17. Another member in the same complex commented that their vehicle's rims and tires were

taken as well and believes that the suspect/suspects were spooked away because one tire and rim was left behind.

## AARP Webster sets meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 invites one to join them at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook 77586. They meet in the large building with the blue roof inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. One is invited to come to meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies, and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Each month there is entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors, followed by a social activity.

The program will be presented by Deann Luprete, licensed insurance broker. She will discuss and highlight details about Medicare and other valuable important senior information. The Sept. 11 social activity will be lunch from Raising Cane's. They are excited to offer one a lunch of three chicken fingers, Cane's sauce, Texas toast, chips, drink and dessert. The cost is \$8. If one wasn't able to sign up at the Aug. 14 meeting, one can sign up before the Sept. 11 meeting begins at 10 a.m.

AARP Chapter also organizes day trips for our AARP Chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next bus trip will be on Friday, Sept. 26, to the Railroad Museum in Galveston which includes a sack lunch from Rail Yard. Members may register and pay for this trip at the Sept. 11 monthly meeting. One must be a member of Chapter 199 to participate in the bus trips.

If one is interested in joining AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show one's current national membership card to join any local chapter. AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP. For more information, contact President Veronica Stanford at 409-256-1195 or at veronica\_stfrd46@yahoo.

## Local library events set

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

### Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Aug. 21, 3 – 4 p.m. Open lab computer help. Registration required.  
Thursday, Aug. 21, 4 – 5 p.m. Bring your family to storytime. Registration required.  
Thursday, Aug. 21, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Weekly English language classes. Registration required.

Monday, Aug. 25, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. 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 open. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for reopening information or the main website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:

Thursday, Aug. 21, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.  
Saturday, Aug. 23, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.  
Saturday, Aug. 23, 10:30 – noon. Painting class for adults: Acrylic sunflowers with Malu Garza.

Monday, Aug. 25, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.  
Tuesday, Aug. 26, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.  
Wednesday, Aug. 27, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

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

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

### Online services

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

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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David Flickinger, owner

## Laura Leger Lajaunie



Laura Leger Lajaunie was born into a French-speaking, Cajun clan in Church Point, La., on May 23, 1941, and passed away Aug. 16, 2025, after a slow decline into dementia. To the end though, through even the hardest days of loss and confusion, she remained herself — strong, determined, loving and playful.

The simple and beautiful life she filled those days with left a legacy of love and connection that ripples through multiple generations. Lajaunie loved life. In the truest sense of that phrase, she found pleasure in all the everyday moments she stitched into her life's fabric. The strongest and most beautiful part of her tapestry was family. She built a life centered around it: first with her husband, Ronald, and then with their two sons, Kelly and Darren. When they married, she folded their wives, Laura and Camille, into her life as her own daughters. And when her long-awaited grandchildren, Sydney, Andrew and Kylie, came, her loving family was complete.

When they were just coming to know themselves as adults, she met Ronald at a dance. They became friends while working at the Lafayette Charity Hospital and she soon knew he was her one. Beginning married life on Oct. 19, 1963, they moved to Lake Charles then on to Virginia, finally landing in Houston. A much-loved and pampered child, she was a complete novice at almost all household chores, but learned quickly as a young mother, displaced Cajun and Houston transplant, creating a warm and welcoming home. She had a special relationship with her mother-in-law, Edmay Lajaunie, and was the daughter of her heart. Building a community of faith and friends wherever they landed, she and Ronald forged lifelong friendships that supported and sustained them while they adjusted to being away from family and learned who they were as parents and partners.

1969 saw their big move from Virginia to the Space City with two young and very well-behaved sons in tow. They joined St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church. Laura began selling Avon, and they got busy molding two humans one could hope to meet. They became members of St. Luke Catholic Church in 1975, staying lifelong and valued members. And in 1984, with both sons in college, Laura coupled her Avon work with a part-time job at Dan Moore Insurance Agency where she stayed until 2001 when her youngest grandchild needed child care. She took on the role with no hesitation, complete commitment and a loving and playful spirit. She shared her wisdom; did far too many loads of laundry despite protests from at least one of her related employers; learned who her grandchildren are and how best to support them; and had the grace and generosity to make space for new parents to figure out what they were doing.

Her purpose was children — loving, supporting, educating, offering quiet guidance. She knew intuitively how to guide young children specific to their unique needs, as

a mother, grandmother and teacher. Laura's long held hope to become a grandmother was realized in 1995 when her little look alike, Sydney, was placed in her arms. She rehoned those boy skills when Andrew joined the family in 1996, and in 2000, began working as the most critical part of Kylie B's dream team. Having to wait far longer than she thought necessary to become a grandmother, she savored every moment, from the smallest to the profound. She was very happily and deeply involved in her grandchildren's lives, making sure she attended any and all school, church and extracurriculars events. She lit up when she saw them, from the first time she held each one to the very last moments. Laura had a beautiful ability to enjoy the moment she was in. Grandchildren made her life complete and all the moments that followed so very sweet. In 2006 she became a pre-K teacher at St. Bernadette Catholic Church and continued that important work through 2018, extending her loving influence beyond her immediate family.

Together, she and Ronald created a beautiful, connected and uncomplicated life, full of friends, family and faith. For 61 years, they were an inseparable team, handling whatever life brought with grace and quiet strength. Laura loved with all of her heart, committed a lifetime to caring for her family — first Ronald, those Lajaunie boys, and her grandchildren; the loving care of her mother, brother and Edmay at the end of their lives; and the impossible challenge of losing Darren. Never flinching from the heart-wrenching work of letting someone loved go in degrees. Her family saw her in the way she loved, unflinching constant and steadfast. She gave selflessly to the care of her people in all of

life's many moments, big and small. She is survived by her husband; son Kelly and his wife Laura Gross, their two daughters Sydney and Kylie Lajaunie; her grandson Andrew Lajaunie and her daughter-in-law Camille Lajaunie; her niece Elaine Granger; and many friends and extended relatives. She is preceded in death by her son Darren Lajaunie; her brother Horace Leger; her parents, Sidney and Edith Leger; and her in-laws, Moise and Edmay Lajaunie.

The family will receive friends at St. Luke Catholic Church, Friday, Aug. 22, from 10 until 11 a.m., with the rosary recited at 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow at Forrest Park East Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund. Donations (checks) may be sent to 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, TX 77059.

## Joy Pitts



Joy Pitts joined her heavenly father on Aug. 11, 2025. Born to Monroe and Lillian King on Nov. 18, 1934, in Trinity, Joy attended Trinity High School and gave her heart to the Lord at a young age at Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church. There she received her first introduction to mission work from "loyal and dedicated teachers."

After graduating as valedictorian of her class and receiving a full scholarship, Joy moved to Houston to attend Massy Business College prior to enrolling at Blinn College and continuing her education. However, God had other plans for her that summer when she met Sam "Buddy" Pitts. She married the love of her life on May 30, 1954, at Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church in Trinity. Settling in Houston, Joy worked as a legal secretary while Sam attended the University of Houston. After graduation, they settled in the East End of Houston where they were faithful in using their time and talents at Mason Drive Baptist Church. Moving to Sagemont in 1972, they moved their membership to then-Sagemont Baptist Church and continued giving back to the Lord. Joy had a love of family and friends that extended to everyone connected to them.

Joy loved God and being involved with missions and had a passion for leading others to Christ. She didn't often miss an opportunity to witness

– even to the hospital staff during her last days. She led Ateens at both Mason Drive and Sagemont and devoted her time to the Union Baptist Association and Woman's Missionary Union of Texas (UBA/WMU) for 12 years in the roles of Ateens director, treasurer and WMU director. Both Joy and Sam served on the board of directors for the Missions Centers of Houston where she spent three years as treasurer, and 10 years as chair of the Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC) Advisory Board. Her involvement with CWJC was special to her and allowed her to meet and interview scholarship applicants who were preparing for the ministry or mission fields. As a conference leader in UBA/WMU, Joy traveled throughout Texas, New Mexico (Glorietta), North Carolina (Ridgcrest) and many other states, and directed Ateens camps in Panama, the San Blas Islands and Hawaii. Her God-given gift of writing and speaking enabled her to pen heartfelt, encouraging articles for the Ateens' Accent magazine, and speak at recognition services, installations, and banquets at both national and Texas WMU organizations. Joy loved her Sunday School class where she taught for many years, and attended faithfully while enjoying the uplifting, enduring friendships she had with "her ladies."

Joy is preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, her parents and brother, Ray King. Surviving Joy are her daughter Brenda Wendorf and husband Jay; son Sam and wife Valerie; grandchildren Madison Pitts (Henry), Sam Elza Pitts (Brooke), Emmitt Pitts (Michelle), Jacob Wendorf and Nicole Wendorf Sanchez (Jeremiah); and great-grandchild, Rylee Joy Pitts. Also surviving are her sisters Barbara Wiggins (Oscar), Carol Alexander and Doris McDonald; sister-in-law Betty Patrick; numerous special nieces and nephews; and a host of faithful friends.

Victor worked for NASA contractors for 30 years, training astronauts for missions to the moon and Mars. He helped others reach the stars — even if he stayed grounded.

He was a devoted Eckankar student for 51 years, a cleric for 33 and a steady guide to many.

Victor lived with purpose and heart. He will be deeply missed.

A visitation with the family was held on Aug. 15.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Joy's name to: Union Baptist WMU Scholarship Fund (<https://wmufoundation.com/give-to-scholarships/#scholarships>), Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (<https://www.imb.org/about/lottie-moon/>) or a charity of one's choice.

## Victor Torrijos



Victor (Vic) Baja Torrijos passed away at home in Houston on Aug. 11. He was 80.

He was born in Manila on Nov. 27, 1944, and raised on faith, books and music. He studied engineering at De La Salle College but also played guitar in a band — because life, for him, was both structure and song.

In 1970, he met Grace on a blind date, though they'd crossed paths years before. They married that October and built a life grounded in love and quiet courage for 54 years. In 1976, they left the Philippines during the Marcos regime and started over in Houston, raising three sons: Vic Jr., Carlos and Philip Torrijos.

Victor worked for NASA contractors for 30 years, training astronauts for missions to the moon and Mars. He helped others reach the stars — even if he stayed grounded.

He was a devoted Eckankar student for 51 years, a cleric for 33 and a steady guide to many.

Victor lived with purpose and heart. He will be deeply missed.

A visitation with the family was held on Aug. 15.

## Filing deadline nears

Continued from Page 1 will begin Oct. 20.

**County race heats up**  
Plummer's candidacy adds to a growing field in the March 3, 2026, primary for Harris County judge.

Other declared candidates include the following:

– **Annise Parker:** Former Houston mayor, who has pledged to fight budget cuts and improve flood prevention.

– **Aliza Dutt:** Mayor of Piney Point Village and former journalist, running on crime reduction and border control.

– **Warren Howell:** Harris County native focused on lowering tolls and eliminating DEI programs.

– **Marty Lancton:** President of the Houston firefighters' union, has filed campaign paperwork and is expected to run as a Republican.

The filing deadline for county judge is Dec. 9, 2025.

The primary election will take place March 3, 2026.

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### 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.
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## First meeting for 5 gens of Blancases

Former longtime South Belt resident Isidro Blancas recently visited the area to introduce his great-granddaughter, 7-week-old Charlie Wood to his 101-year-old mother, Mary Blancas. Shown to the left with baby Charlie are, left to right, (front row) great-great-grandmother Mary Blancas, grandmother Monica Wood, (back row) great-grandfather Isidro Blancas and father Shea Wood. It was the first time the five generations came together.

## South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce

### Evening of Cuisine

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Early VIP Entry 5:15 p.m.

General Admission 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lone Star Flight Museum

<https://southbeltchamber.com/evening-of-cuisine-2025/>



A delightful culinary event designed to tantalize your taste buds. From savory appetizers to sumptuous main courses and indulgent sweets, this event promises a memorable dining experience.

General Admission \$40

VIP \$60





Thompson's leadership team takes on 1st day of school



Pictured are Thompson Intermediate leadership team members on the first day of school of the 2025-2026 school year under the direction of Principal Tanis Griffin. Left to right, are (front row) Christine Veltman, Gina Teston, Denise Medina, Griffin, Kelli Moneyhun, Ca-Lishea Woods, Lauren Soto, (back row) Leticia Sanchez, Jill Butler, MaryBeth Nicol, Travis Teichelman, Arianna Ibarra and Prudencio Reyna.

Firefighters respond to apartment blaze



The Del Mar Apartments, located in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgemoor, caught fire around 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19. According to witnesses, the blaze started in an upstairs unit and quickly spread to surrounding apartments. Despite Houston firefighters successfully tapping the fire within an hour, the entire block of eight units appeared to be destroyed. According to Houston Fire Department officials, a firefighter had to be transported to a nearby hospital due to heat exhaustion. While HFD arson investigators were at the scene, the cause of the fire had not been determined at press time. See additional photo on Page 1.

Photo by James Bolen

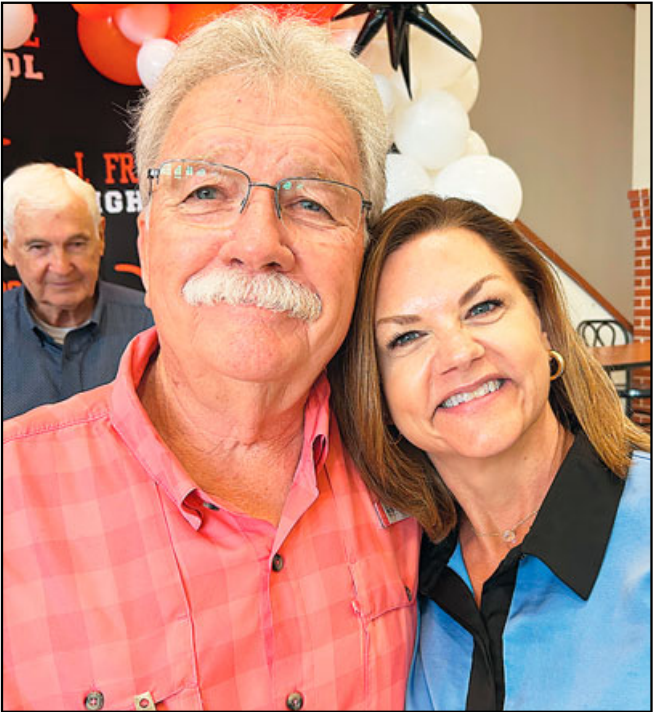
Apartment complex catches fire near Edgemoor, I-45



Firefighters from the Houston Fire department are shown above responding to an apartment fire around 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway at Hartsook near Edgemoor. While a Houston firefighter was transported to the hospital with heat-related injuries, there were no reported injuries among residents. See additional photo on Page 1.

Photo by James Bolen

PISD leaders visit Dobie



Former Pasadena ISD board member Fred Roberts is shown above with new PISD Superintendent Toni Lopez Tuesday, Aug. 12, at a luncheon held at Dobie to kick off the 2025-2026 school year. A former principal at Thompson Intermediate, this will mark Lopez's first complete year at her new post, replacing DeeAnn Powell who resigned midyear last school year. Shown in the background is current Pasadena ISD board member Marshall Kendrick. See related photo on Page 1.

Dobie community greets Sink



New Dobie Principal Carey Sink (second from left) received a warm welcome from former school administrators and community leaders at a celebration held at the area high school campus Tuesday, Aug. 12. Shown above at the school's kickoff luncheon are, left to right, longtime Dobie volunteer (and Sagemont Church Associate Pastor) Emory Gadd, former Dobie Assistant Principal/former PISD Athletic Director Donna Branch and former Dobie Principal (and current Clear Creek ISD administrator) Franklin Moses. See additional photo on Page 1.



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5

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Thursday, October 9, 2025  
Doors Open: 6:00 PM | Dinner Served: 6:30 PM

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- Live Music by 2 Made New
- Special Message from Pastor Levi Skipper
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# Dobie FFA students participate in Pasadena ISD Progress Show



FFA students at Dobie High School recently participated in the Pasadena ISD Progress Show which featured only student participants and their livestock. Pictured are (left) former Dobie FFA president Hunter Stacey and his brother Luke Stacey who won the Reserve Showman award.



Abrianna Carbajal placed first in Wave 1 showmanship.



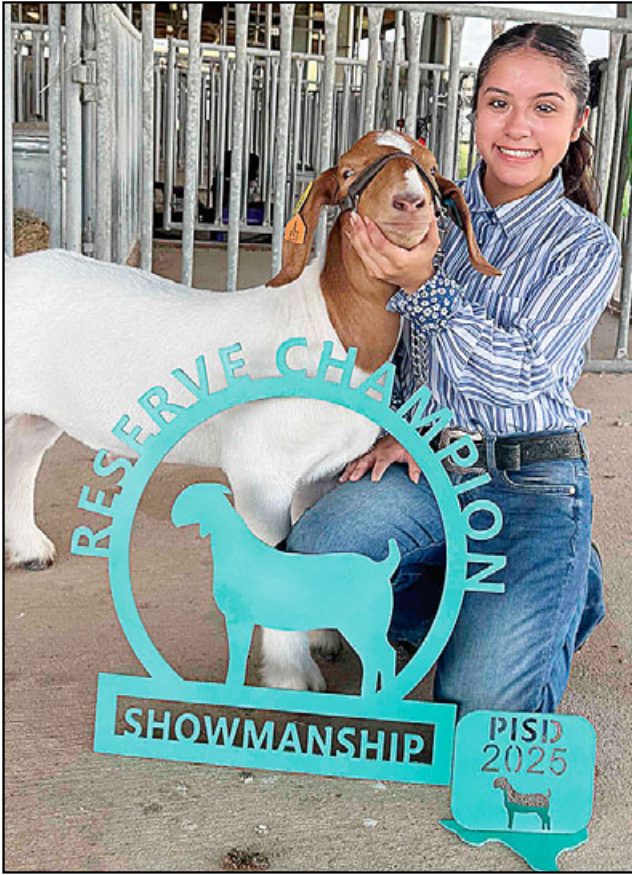
Dobie FFA student Mathew Trevino placed first in Wave 3 with his entry.



FFA student Julian Cano won first place in Heat 1 then went on to win Grand Champion for cattle. Left to right, are Cano, Sherrie Bryant, cattle coach Christian Viguerias and Dobie agriculture teacher Schuyler Morris.



Pictured is Kevin Rubio whose project placed first in his class.



Vianka Alanis won Grand Reserve Champion in Showmanship.

## Remember When

**45 years ago (1980)**  
Members of the Dobie High School Lariatettes drill team would be seen both locally and nationally on the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon. Lariatette Dina Jackson was set to travel to Las Vegas with sponsor Peggy Moree to present Lewis a check for approximately \$75,000, the amount earned by the Houston area's drill team kick-a-thon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association held in the Astroarena.

Trustees of the Pasadena Independent School District approved a 20 percent hike in employee health insurance premiums and completion of Moore Elementary at their regular meeting.

Approximately 200 residents of the Scarsdale subdivision evacuated their homes early one morning when a new Exxon natural gas line located in the Alcott field on Choate Road developed a leak.

Houston area investigators reported that a short circuit in the aluminum wiring was the cause of a fire that destroyed a home in the 11100 block of Sagecrest. The owners of the home were on vacation at the time the fire occurred.

**40 years ago (1985)**  
Pasadena Independent School District employees honored new school superintendent Dr. Lon Luty with a standing ovation during his first appearance before the district employees as a whole in the Phillips Field House.

Figures released by San Jacinto College South after regular registration showed an increase in enrollment of 163 students over the previous year. Enrollment stood at 3,588, but that number was expected to increase after late registration.

Area sports organizers were disappointed that plans for a youth sports complex on Dixie Farm Road had

been squelched, but a county official said plans were only delayed.

Tommy Baccaro, a 20-year veteran of Pasadena ISD, was named the new principal of Beverly Hills Intermediate.

**35 Years ago (1990)**  
Plans to build a South Belt area adult probation office for Harris County never got off the table because of anticipated resident opposition to the proposal.

Clear Brook High School would begin the school year

with its first senior class.

Pasadena ISD board of trustees eliminated all smoking within any district-owned building. The ban prohibited staff, teachers and visitors from smoking inside buildings and district-owned vehicles.

In recognition of their winning the World Series, the South Belt Palomino baseball team, their parents, friends and fans were invited to a Houston City Council meeting.

With one year completed

on his three-year contract, Pasadena ISD superintendent Dr. Larry Vaughn received a one-year extension. He also received a 5 percent pay increase to his \$92,000 salary.

**30 years ago (1995)**  
The 11th annual South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Banquet was set to be held at the Hobby Holiday Inn on the Gulf Freeway.

Texas Commerce Bank-Alameda Genoa held an open house to mark its 25th birthday. The bank began as Alameda-Genoa Bank.

A religious rights candidate who lost his 1992 bid for the Pasadena school board dropped his lawsuit against the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

The president of South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, speaking at a CCISD board meeting, urged trustees to proceed with a replacement school for Weber Elementary School.

**25 years ago (2000)**  
Pasadena Independent School District learned from the Texas Education Agency that the district would not receive the hoped-for state funding for the year for facilities approved in February's \$199.05 million bond election.

Natasha Butler went into labor in the registration line at San Jacinto College.

Sageglen resident Sandra Kaye Hayes, 42, died from choking on a watermelon seed.

Anthony "Tony" Chapin

died as a result of a hit-and-run car incident.

**20 years ago (2005)**  
Ruth Young, a 9-year-old Frazier Elementary student, was killed as a PISD school bus ran over her. Young was walking her bicycle across Hughes Road at Sageburrow when the bus pulled out. The driver said he never saw her or her bike. A controversy regarding the hiring of the bus driver ensued after an official in the district office changed the driver's official records from not eligible for hire (due to criminal history) to eligible. The case went to the grand jury, and the driver was charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Community leaders were anxious to hear results from the Base Realignment and Closure committee. Ellington Field appeared on BRAC's list of bases to be affected.

The library at Elmer Bondy Intermediate was renamed to honor its former principal, Tommy Baccaro. The new name would be the Thomas D. Baccaro Learning Resource Center.

Deputies from Precinct 2 conducted a warrant sweep in the South Belt area. Four arrests were made, two of those for felony warrants.

**15 years ago (2010)**  
A former Dobie student was found dead by his father in the 9900 block of Southport Drive near Keese Drive at about 10 a.m. Patrick Carver, 18, had reportedly been shot multiple times. According to police, items were missing from the home, but they had not determined a motive at press time.

Dobie High School was temporarily placed under lockdown. According to Pasadena Independent School District's communications department, the incident stemmed from a domestic dispute, with a wife showing up at Dobie with concerns about her husband. A school official

said the school was placed under lockdown as a precautionary measure with all students still on campus being told to remain indoors. Neighboring Moore Elementary was also being watched by PISD police. The lockdown was lifted about 6:15 p.m. when police deemed the campus safe.

A South Belt resident was arrested after allegedly exposing himself to a female employee at a local fast food restaurant. According to officials, a male customer ordered a soft drink while parked at the establishment. When a female carhop attempted to serve the customer, he was reportedly exposed and gratifying himself.

The Wells Fargo bank on Beltway 8 near the Gulf Freeway was robbed. According to FBI officials, a lone suspect entered the bank with a silver revolver and announced his intention of robbing the establishment. Before leaving the bank, the suspect fired a single warning shot, but no one was struck. As the suspect left the bank, he carjacked a vehicle from a bank employee who was just arriving at work. At press time, the vehicle had not been recovered.

**10 years ago (2015)**  
Enrollment at Dobie High School topped 4,000 students, as Pasadena Independent School District classes resumed from summer break.

Dobie High School's swimming pool, located at the school's former location on Beamer that now houses Beverly Hills Intermediate, was closed by City of Houston officials after the facility failed to pass inspection. Problems included a water pump leak and sand in the pool. The issues were resolved the following week.

The Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist Church celebrated its 40th anniversary with a calendar of different events. The church was established in 1975 to help meet the needs of an expanding community.

**5 years ago (2020)**  
A fatal crash took place early Wednesday, Aug. 26, in the 7000 block of Beltway 8 near Highway 3/Old Galveston Road. According to investigators, the driver of a silver Dodge Durango was ejected from his vehicle which flipped it multiple times, killing him at the scene.

**1 year ago (2024)**  
A body was found the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 21, outside a strip center located at Beltway 8 and Pearlard Parkway/Monroe. The body was reportedly found around 9:10 a.m. in from of the Dollar Tree store located adjacent to the Target. While a crime scene was established around the area where the body was found, police believe the individual died from natural causes. The official cause of death was to be determined by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

## Over The Back Fence by Nicole

**MARY ELLEN ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY**  
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Mary Ellen Morgan** Aug. 23 from her husband **Larry**, son **Tommy**, daughter **Elizabeth Echols**, son-in-law **Tim Echols**, grandson **Justin Echols** and the *Leader* staff.

**JOYCE DITTRICH ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY**  
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Joyce Dittrich** who enjoys a birthday Aug. 25, from family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

**CODY CELEBRATES 26th BIRTHDAY**  
**Cody** Giles of Kirkwood South celebrates a birthday Aug. 27. His wife **Liz** and daughter **Braelyn**, along with the rest of the **Giles** and **Griffin** families wish him a wonderful birthday.

**BIRTHDAY CHEERS FOR ASHLEY**  
**Ashley** Giles celebrates her birthday Aug. 27. Her husband **Aaron** and sons **Jaxson** and **Jace**; and the rest of the **Giles** and **Griffin** families wish her a awesome birthday.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 21 through Aug. 27.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
**Jessica Armenta** enjoys a birthday Aug. 21. Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 26 for a special birthday for **Jessica Perez**. Sing a happy birthday song to **Sonia Benitez** Aug. 27.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Share a slice of birthday cake with **Romona Dawson** Aug. 22.

**Bush Elementary**  
Send a humorous birthday card Aug. 22 to **Agatha Candappa**. Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 25 to **Marie Marler**.

**Frazier Elementary**  
**Kyle Curd** enjoys a birthday Aug. 25. A double-layer birthday cake is in order Aug. 27 for **Amanda Brewton** and **Veronica Huitron**.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Enjoying a birthday Aug. 22 is **Elena Rivera**. Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 23 to **Steven Sawyer**. Aug. 24 is the day for a fun celebration for **Emery Hernandez** and **Angela Escamila**.

**Meador Elementary**  
Blow out the candles Aug. 23 for **Anabel Camaliche**. Remember to wish **Kim Cowan** a happy birthday Aug. 24. Aug. 25 is the day for a party for **Nancy Catalan** and **Isabel Ortega**.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Sing a happy birthday song to **Adrianna Golden** Aug. 22. Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 25 for a special birthday for **Carolina Miranda**. Birthday greetings go out to **Christina Herrera** Aug. 27.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
**Corey Klein** celebrates a birthday Aug. 21. Send a greeting to **Heather Morales** for an Aug. 22 birthday. Having a memorable birthday celebration Aug. 24 is **Kendall Gomez**.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Celebrating a birthday Aug. 22 is **Maria Diaz**.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Send a birthday greeting Aug. 23 to **Marlene Jimenez**. Aug. 27 is the day for a fun celebration for **Vanessa Castillo**.

**Dobie High**  
Remember to wish **Cindy Mutz** a happy birthday Aug. 21. **Monica Veloz** celebrates a birthday Aug. 22. The day for cake and ice cream for **Issac Goudeau** is Aug. 26. Break out the birthday balloons and party favors Aug. 27 for **Tracy Connell** and **Misael Rosales**.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Aug. 21: **John Linares**, **Kip Ledgerwood**, **Gabrielle Loya**, **Brandi Washer** and **Leticia Gonzalez**; Friday, Aug. 22: **Pat Gonzales**, **Monica Castro**, **Kassi Richardson**, **Herman Garcia**, **Chrystal Sulak**, **Janie Chapa** and **Bill Edwards**; Saturday, Aug. 23: **Viv Castillo**, **Mary Miller**, **Jim Kunkel**, **Shelly Rivera**, **Mary Wesfahl** and **Patti Parker**; Sunday, Aug. 24: **Mike Justice**, **Sammie Mejia**, **Yessica Musquiz**, **Alyssa Keller** and **Amber Burda**; Monday, Aug. 25: **Bubba Zapalac**, **Andrea Moorehead-Ford** and **Jesse Saenz**; Tuesday, Aug. 26: **Arlette Jarmon**, **Marci Chiovaro**, **Fred Manly**, **Stephanie Mayo** and **Rick LaMantina**; and Wednesday, Aug. 27: **Jesse Garcia**, and **Jeff Jones**.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Dobie VB at Dickinson ahead of Manvel opener; challenging stretch is coming

In only the second full week of the regular season, the Dobie varsity volleyball team is set to get a great feel for what District 22-6A play has to offer as the locals will host Manvel Aug. 22 at Dobie main.

The Longhorns hosted Clear Creek Aug. 19 after press time as part of a very busy week that will now include a pair of days of competition at the Dickinson Invitational in addition to the 22-6A opener against Manvel.

Dobie will also host Dawson Aug. 26 at home to continue a challenging start to the district season.

The locals split matches as part of opening week, sweeping Baytown Sterling Aug. 12 at home but then suffering a similar sweep at Goose Creek Memorial three days later.

Dobie got contributions from its entire roster during a straight-set

sweep of Baytown Sterling to open the 2025 season at home, downing the Rangers 25-13, 25-17, 25-15 as the Longhorns completed a program sweep with victories at the junior varsity and freshman levels as well.

In the varsity victory over Sterling, Alyssa Espinoza led the way with seven kills and Kylar Joseph and Jordan Johnson both had five each in the win. Allesandra Garza had nine digs while Espinoza had eight more.

Alyssa Goree led the way with 13 assists, and sophomore Riese Rackley made her varsity debut with seven assists.

Dobie was not as sharp at Goose Creek Memorial, falling 25-23, 25-20, 28-26.

Manvel went 10-6 for fourth place a season ago, with champion Pearland winning 40 overall matches and Shadow Creek, Dawson and Manvel also winning more than 30 matches apiece.

Each season is different, of course, but the Longhorns will get a good feel for the road ahead after taking on Manvel and Dawson early on in the 16-match marathon that is the district race.

As for the Dickinson Invitational Aug. 21 and Aug. 23, 32 different programs will be in action over the course of two

days, with pool play Aug. 21 and then trophy bracket action Aug. 23.

With several players stepping into key varsity roles for the first time in 2025, this particular group will need to learn on the fly under the direction of head coach Dawn Sexton with some big time matches coming up early in the season.

**Dobie at Dickinson tourn.**  
**Aug. 21, TBA**

**Dobie hosts Manvel**  
**Aug. 22, 5:30 p.m.**

**Dobie at Dickinson tourn.**  
**Aug. 23, TBA**

**Dobie hosts Dawson**  
**Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m.**

## Longhorns scrimmage at La Porte's new digs



**Dobie senior offensive lineman Leudy Matos (61) is part of a stellar group up front for the Longhorns that figures to form a solid group in the trenches in 2025. It all starts August 21 with a scrimmage at LaPorte and will progress to the regular season opener August 29th against Clearbrook at Veterans Memorial stadium in League City. photo by Gloria Wallace**

With a focus on continued day-by-day sharpening toward the Aug. 29 regular season opener at Clear Brook, the Dobie program will have the privilege of being the first visitors at La Porte ISD's newest showcase.

Dobie football fans have a chance to take in the feel of La Porte ISD's \$56 million state-of-the-art Bulldog Stadium Aug. 21, with head coach Kevin Bernethy's program having basically been on the road since the end of the 2022 season while construction ensued.

On the field, the Longhorns will face a solid La Porte program that owns a 5A-state ranking after winning a district championship a season ago and reaching the regional final.

Sophomore running back Sean Simon is coming off a tremendous freshman season at the varsity level and is one of the state's top Class of 2028 recruits.

"The goal for us is, first and foremost, is to come out of the scrimmage with everybody healthy and ready to go toward the regular season against Clear Brook," Dobie head coach Danny Fitsmorris said.

"Coach Bernethy runs an outstanding program at La Porte, and we just want to get in some outstanding work against a quality football program and continue to build toward the regular season. It'll be fun for all of us to be able to experience the new stadium at La Porte."

"Beyond that, we want to stay focused on what we need to do as a program to continue to prepare for opening week.

"Certainly having a chance to go up against La Porte at all levels will help prepare us in a big way. It's about being ready for Clear Brook."

**Dobie at La Porte**  
**Bulldog Stadium**  
**Aug. 21**  
**Freshmen: 4:30 p.m.**  
**Junior Varsity: 5:30 p.m.**  
**Varsity: 7 p.m.**  
**Dobie at Clear Brook**  
**CCISD Veterans**  
**Aug. 29, 7 p.m.**

## Beverly Hills athletics sets Community Day

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff has formalized plans for the school's annual Community Day as both the Bear football and volleyball programs will scrimmage as part of a fun-filled early start Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On the football field, the Bears' seventh-grade squad will scrimmage from 9 to 9:45 a.m., with the eighth-grade to follow from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

The Beverly Hills volleyball action will include seventh-grade scrimmage play from 10 to 10:45 a.m., followed by the eighth-grade scrimmage from noon to 12:45 p.m. Both the Beverly Hills cheer and dance programs will also perform as part of the fun, and there will be concessions and spirit wear available for purchase.

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## LSA VB wins Volleybash; Stresman picks up 400th win

What an opening week to the 2025 season it was for the Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball team.

Senior setter Aniston Collins, already one of the top performers in program history and having been part of more than 100 team victories over three-plus seasons, reached 2,000 career assists during the first day of the Pasadena Memorial High School Volleybash tournament.

On the second day of the event, Pioneer head coach Geoff Stresman, now in his 21st season, earned career victory No. 400.

And the best part? Lutheran South swept six matches at the tournament to win the event championship and started the season at 7-0 entering the second week of play Aug. 19 after press time.

LSA, a bonafide power in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A classification, opened the season with a sweep of Concordia Lutheran and then defeated Porter, Northbrook, Fort Bend Hightower, Humble,

Goose Creek Memorial in the championship semifinals and then La Porte in the championship match, losing just one set along the way as part of a dominating performance to make a statement early on this season.

Sophomore Addison Musgrove and Collins led the way, with Musgrove delivering 89 assists and 40 kills to go with 41 kills and 64 assists from Collins. Freshman Carissa Honore added 24 kills in her first week with the varsity squad. Winning the Volleybash tournament will only give the Pioneers added confidence as they move forward in the nondistrict part of the schedule in 2025. Lutheran South has put together more than 100 victories over the previous three seasons and is in the midst of one of the greatest runs in program history.

Stresman, who is in his 21st overall season and will now begin building toward 500 career wins, guided the 2022 and 2023 teams to consecutive state tournament appearances before the push ended at

the regional level a season ago.

LSA has seen a handful

of players graduate and move on to the collegiate volleyball ranks yet con-

tinues to enjoy success on the court. Time will tell as to just how this particular season plays out, but a 7-0

start to the campaign figures to pay off down the line as the Pioneers build up toward the district race.



**Lutheran South Academy senior setter Aniston Collins reached 2,000 career assists as she and her Pioneer teammates captured the championship at the Pasadena Memorial Volleybash Aug. 14 in Pasadena. A Stephen F. Austin University commit, Collins has been part of two different state tournament runs at LSA. The Pioneers open the regular season Aug. 12 with a straight set victory at Concordia Lutheran, winning 25-18, 25-15, 25-16.**



**Lutheran South Academy varsity volleyball head coach Geoff Stresman has now won more than 400 career matches with the Pioneers as he is in his 21st season. He guided the program to consecutive state tournament appearances in 2022 and 2023.**

## Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor Class of 2025 goes in Sept. 20

The Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor will officially induct its 2025 class next month, Sept. 20 at the Challenger Columbia Stadium Field House as standout teams, individual athletes and head coaches from across the decades will join the school district's prestigious group.

Past stars and legendary coaching figures from Clear Brook High School were eligible for induction for the third year, with multi-gold medalist sprinter Erica Alexander Guidry and Jim Hatfield, the school's first ever and still winningest head football coach, now set for in-

duction.

Guidry, formerly the girls cross-country and track and field coach at Clear Brook, is now in the same role at Clear Springs High School.

Hatfield, who exited coaching after 29 total years and was eventually athletic director of the

school district, died in 2014 following a cancer battle.

With the ceremony nearing, the *Leader* has a chance to catch up with Hatfield's widow, Laurie Hatfield, who was by her husband's side the entire way as he first began his coaching career in Kansas

and spent many years at Rockport before the family moved to the Bay Area.

Hatfield was for three seasons the offensive coordinator at Clear Creek High School before landing the gig as Clear Brook's first-ever head football coach when the campus opened for the

1987-88 school year.

Hatfield, as the winning percentage and gold in the trophy case will prove, quite simply delivered the greatest era in Clear Brook football history.

He and his wife had already built themselves quite a nice life in high school football as Jim began his journey on the field in 1971, spending the majority of his early career at Rockport and, for a bit, at Ingleside before joining Clear Creek head

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## Lions welcome community Aug. 23 to kick off fall



**The Thompson Intermediate athletics program will celebrate the arrival of the fall season as the football and volleyball programs will scrimmage Aug. 23 as part of a fun-filled day that will include performances from the school's choir, band and orchestra as well as cheer and dance routines. The Lions' sev-**

enth-grade volleyball and football programs will scrimmage beginning at 9 a.m., while the eighth-grade action will begin at 10:30 a.m. The community is also invited to take part in book fair and face painting activities and enjoy the fare from a variety of food trucks during the event.

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Dobie offensive coordinator Charles Washington (left) and defensive coordinator Cohen Landry have been working with their respective groups through the spring and now summer and are excited to see how the results pay off as the Longhorns go against a stellar La Porte program before opening the regular season Aug. 29 against Clear Brook.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Longhorn defensive back Desmond Talib (10) has already been an All-District performer at linebacker previous to this season and has switched spots to the defensive secondary as he looks to provide leadership in a captain's role this season at Dobie.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



Alyssa Goree has switched jersey numbers for 2025 and has continued to provide solid play for the Longhorns early on this season. Dobie will begin the 22-6A race Aug. 22 at home against Dawson Manvel sandwiched around appearances at the Dickinson Invitational.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

# JFD searches for the winning formula

Despite a winless start to the 2025 varsity team tennis season, Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. remains confident that his group has what it takes to make a postseason push at the District 22-6A opener Aug. 26 at Dawson nears. The Longhorns entered the 2025 season with plenty of inexperience on both sides of the net in terms of girls' and boys' groups, and dropped at least two matches early in the season simply because there weren't enough girls to be able to put together a mixed doubles squad. Dobie has in recent days fortified the girls' roster to include nine players from its previous six. The team also got a pair of boys' side wins from Trijah Smith and Brayden Rojas, yet still lost a third match this season by a 10-9 count. "The kids really are working hard out there, and it's hot," Moreno said. "From a competitive standpoint, we are still having problems winning key points and therefore key games and super tiebreaker situations that we have needed to win in order to have success in the overall matches." Dawson is a regional power and figures to have first dibs on the 22-6A championship. From there, Shadow Creek and Pearland have solid programs and advanced to the playoffs last season along with the Longhorns. Dobie will face the aforementioned programs in the first half of the district race along with a key match against Memorial, so the playoff fate of the locals figures to be decided in the first couple of weeks of league play. "No disrespect intended toward Dawson, South Houston, Sam Rayburn or Alvin, but we will know early on where we stand in terms of the playoff race," Moreno said. "We for sure need to be able to handle business against Memorial, but I don't like to concede anything. "We are going to go into that Dawson match expecting a victory, and we will do the same thing against Shadow Creek and Pearland or anybody else that we play. The kids really have been playing better tennis than the record shows. They really need a victory to be able to see some positive results come from their effort, and I know they are close," Moreno said.



The Clear Brook tennis program took time out to honor Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. following an announcement earlier this summer that he will be inducted into the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame as part of its 2025 class. Those among the Wolverines honoring Moreno included, left to right, Kateanne King, Adrienne Zermenio,

Thien Nguyen, coach Tim Brown, Zohaib Gul, Luke Porterfield, Daniel Lam, Benjamin Page, Ethan Tai, Valeria Leal, Travis Nguyen, Elizabeth Gauntt, Caroline Honeycutt and coach Jennifer Galvan. As for the play on the court, the Wolverines defeated the Longhorns 10-9, with the difference being Dobie having to default the mixed doubles match.

Bay Area Football League Week 1 Results					
Division	PW	FR.	SOPH.	JR.	SR.
Cowboys	20	24	40	47	6
Pear. Texans	21	0	0	7	13
Week 2 Aug. 24 – Cowboys host Texas City Stingrays, El Franco Lee Park					

Thompson Lions
8th A Football
Sept. 3 at Queens 5 p.m.
Sept. 8 San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Sept. 16 Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 23 at Southmore 5 p.m.
Sept. 30 at Bondy 5 p.m.
Oct. 7 Beverly Hills 5 p.m.
Oct. 21 at South Houston 5 p.m.

Thompson Lions
8th B Football
Sept. 3 Queens 5 p.m.
Sept. 8 at San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Sept. 16 at Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 23 Southmore 5 p.m.
Sept. 30 Bondy 5 p.m.
Oct. 7 at Beverly Hills 5 p.m.
Oct. 21 South Houston 5 p.m.

Thompson Lions
7th A Football
Sept. 2 at Queens 5 p.m.
Sept. 8 San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Sept. 15 Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 23 at Southmore 5 p.m.
Sept. 29 at Bondy 5 p.m.
Oct. 6 Beverly Hills 5 p.m.
Oct. 20 at South Houston 5 p.m.

Thompson Lions
7th B Football
Sept. 2 Queens 5 p.m.
Sept. 8 at San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Sept. 15 at Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 23 Southmore 5 p.m.
Sept. 29 Bondy 5 p.m.
Oct. 6 at Beverly Hills 5 p.m.
Oct. 20 South Houston 5 p.m.

BHI Bears
7th A Football
Sept. 2 Jackson 5 p.m.
Sept. 8 at Park View 5 p.m.
Sept. 15 Bondy 5 p.m.
Sept. 23 Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 29 at San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Oct. 6 at Thompson 5 p.m.
Oct. 20 Southmore 5 p.m.

BHI Bears
7th B Football
Sept. 2 at Jackson 5 p.m.
Sept. 8 Park View 5 p.m.
Sept. 15 at Bondy 5 p.m.
Sept. 23 at Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 29 San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Oct. 6 Thompson 5 p.m.
Oct. 20 at Southmore 5 p.m.

BHI Bears
8th A Football
Sept. 3 Jackson 5 p.m.
Sept. 9 at Park View 5 p.m.
Sept. 16 Bondy 5 p.m.
Sept. 24 Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 30 at San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Oct. 7 at Thompson 5 p.m.
Oct. 21 Southmore 5 p.m.

BHI Bears
8th B Football
Sept. 3 at Jackson 5 p.m.
Sept. 9 Park View 5 p.m.
Sept. 16 at Bondy 5 p.m.
Sept. 24 at Miller 5 p.m.
Sept. 30 San Jacinto 5 p.m.
Oct. 7 Thompson 5 p.m.
Oct. 21 at Southmore 5 p.m.

# BAFL Weekly Standings

Peewee Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Pear. Patriots	1	0	0
Pear. Texans	1	0	0
LP Texans	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
Braves	0	1	0
Buccaneers	0	1	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Gators	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Sharks	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	1	0
Manvel Texans	0	1	0
Cardinals	0	0	0

Freshman Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Panthers	1	0	0
Cowboys	1	0	0
Pear. Patriots	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
LP Texans	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
Braves	0	1	0
Buccaneers	0	1	0
Pear. Texans	0	1	0
Gators	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Sharks	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	1	0
Manvel Texans	0	1	0
Cardinals	0	0	0

Sophomore Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	1	0	0
Braves	1	0	0
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Cowboys	1	0	0
Gators	1	0	0
Sharks	1	0	0
LP Texans	1	0	0
Stingrays	1	0	0
Eagles	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Pear. Patriots	0	1	0
Panthers	0	1	0
Red Raiders	0	1	0
LP Texans	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	1	0
Wildcats	0	1	0
Cardinals	0	0	0

Junior Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	1	0	0
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Cowboys	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Sharks	1	0	0
LP Texans	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
Braves	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Gators	0	1	0
Panthers	0	1	0
Red Raiders	0	1	0
Manvel Texans	0	1	0
Pearland Texans	0	1	0
Pear. Patriots	0	1	0
Cardinals	0	0	0

Senior Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	1	0	0
Eagles	1	0	0
Buccaneers	1	0	0
Red Raiders	1	0	0
Pearland Texans	1	0	0
Sharks	1	0	0
LP Texans	1	0	0
Wildcats	1	0	0
Braves	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Cowboys	0	1	0
Longhorns	0	1	0
Panthers	0	1	0
LP Texans	0	1	0
Stingrays	0	1	0
Pear. Patriots	0	1	0
Cardinals	0	0	0



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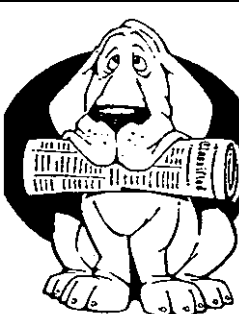
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# CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

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, AUGUST 22

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

7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or https://na.stuff.com/.

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. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

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** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of

Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 25

5 p.m. **New Directions** - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at 600 Hobbs Road, League City, TX 77573, (community room). For further information, call Jill at 646-489-4367.

6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff\_reunion@juno.com for details.

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 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the 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.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Join Wise Owls every second and fourth Tuesday of the month for companionship and games at United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.

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.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen

Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

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

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

**Carmelites** - 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 **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 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.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.

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

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

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.



# Distinguished class will enter Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor during Sept. 20 ceremony

Continued from Page 5

coach Aubrey Schultz's staff as offensive coordinator in 1985.

Laurie Hatfield says the Wildcats struggled to a 0-9-1 run the first season and then improved to 3-7 before going 5-5 in year three.

It was at that time that the longtime assistant coach put his name in the hat for the head football coaching job at Clear Brook.

The hiring committee clearly got it right as they hired Hatfield to begin the program from the ground up. Laurie says her husband played a part along with some of the athletes in choosing both the school colors and the mascot, which was settled as the Wolverines.

The Wolverines jumped out of the gate with a tremendous season at the junior varsity level in 1988 and then began quite a successful run in the Class 4A level while going up against area programs such as Friendswood as well as then state power La Marque.

Brook and the Cougars would wage quite the battle for both district and post-season supremacy for many years, as La Marque was quite honestly the top program most

of the time.

But at the same time, Hatfield and his staff put together an exceptionally successful program.

Assistant coach James Smith joined the program and brought his three sons with him. First it was J.J. followed by Jamal and Jerrold as they contributed greatly to the success of the Wolverines during their playing careers.

The star players during Hatfield's run at Clear Brook are quite simply too numerous to name without leaving out some special performers.

During Hatfield's tenure, Clear Brook was responsible for delivering as many players to the collegiate ranks as any as the top programs in Houston.

Clear Brook also sent players to the professional level including both the Canadian Football League as well as the National Football League.

Make no mistake, the Wolverines had an interesting cast of characters over the years. Without getting into details, there were run-ins with the law, a years-long beef with athletes from Friendswood High School, as well as other issues.

Through it all, Hatfield was the calming

and steadying voice that made it all work. Quite honestly, his accomplishments at Brook should have made him part of the first class of inductees from the campus into the Clear Creek ISD Hall

of Fame, but at least his time has arrived now. "It truly is a special time for us even though Jim died many years ago and is not here to witness this special moment," Laurie Hatfield said.

"We had a nice life at Rockport and he had a nice career there, but things really opened up and gave us a lot of opportunities when we came to Clear Brook. It was such a special time

for our family. "Our son, Michael, was part of a state tournament tennis team at Brook, and we just really felt part of a tremendous family there for many years. Jim went on to

become athletic director and finished out his career the way that he wanted.

"The Clear Creek ISD experience over the years was so special, and seeing Jim go into the dis-

trict Hall of Honor now is truly a gratifying moment for myself as well as our family.

"There is no doubt that Jim would be so proud. He earned this opportunity, yes, but also it's just

nice to know that others remember and respect the great body of work that my husband was able to put together there.

"A lot of the credit goes to the great athletes and the hard work that they poured into the program over the years because you can't do it without talent. Jim also had a tremendous staff of assistant coaches over the years who really bought into the program and helped Jim develop these kids on a daily basis.

"It truly was a great time, and that 1996 team really put it all together. I think that was our first year in 5A, and it really meant a lot to be able to achieve great things at the highest level of Texas high school football after so many years of battles with La Marque and other programs.

"Jim would be so proud to have experienced this special moment, and we will be there as a family to help honor him as he is inducted. It will be a special moment for our family, and I know Jim will be watching from above."

Along with Alexander Guidry and Hatfield, the Class of 2025 athletes will include Carol Atchinson Hollinger, a swimmer with the 1990 Clear Creek High School program; three-sport athlete Roger Jordan of Clear Creek, who excelled in football and basketball and in track and field, and Tymeeka Charelle Moore, also a three-sport athlete with the Wildcats who stood out in volleyball and basketball and in track and field.

Doug Elder, who was the head coach for several state tournament-chasing Clear Lake High School varsity boys' soccer teams, will be inducted along with Hatfield to represent the 2025 coaching entries.

Elder was the head coach of the Falcons from 1988 through 2000 and has gone on to enjoy a very successful career in the collegiate coaching ranks.

The 2025 class of teams that will enter the Hall of Honor include three remarkable varsity boys' basketball teams from Clear Creek High School as well as the 1981 and 1982 back-to-back state championship swimming teams from the girls' program at Clear Lake High School.

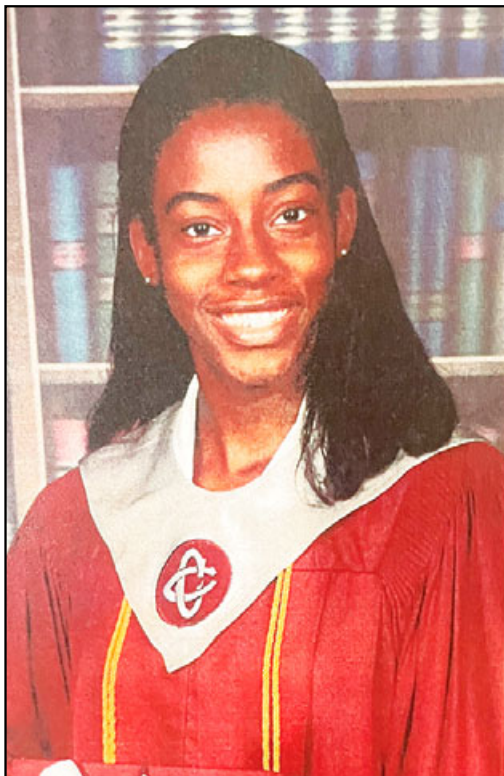
Clear Creek High School put together an exceptional run on the basketball court beginning in 1966 as the Wildcats were state runners-up in Class 3A and followed that up by finishing third in the state a year later. In 1968, the Wildcats wound up in the regional final to cap the stellar three-year push.

As for that two-year run in the pool for the Falcons, the team won consecutive Class 5A state championships under the direction of head coach Lanny Landtroop, now deceased who is also in the Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor for his achievements as the Falcons' longtime head coach.

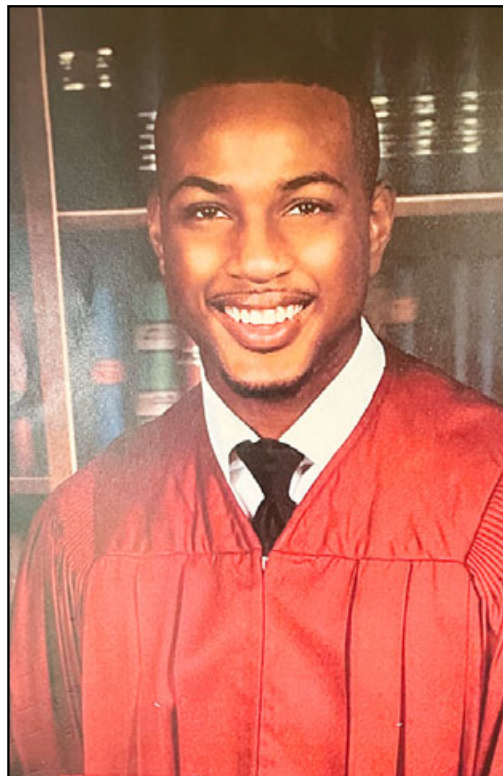
The Clear Creek ISD Athletic Hall of Honor is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is currently hosting its annual fundraiser. To find out how to assist with the program, visit the Clear Creek ISD Athletic Hall of Honor page on Facebook.



A 1990 high school graduate, Carol Atchinson Hollinger was a standout swimmer with the Clear Creek Wildcats as she reached the state championship meet at the class 5A level.



Tymeeka Charelle Moore will join the 2025 Hall of Honor class as she was a 2000 graduate who excelled at Clear Creek High School in volleyball and basketball as well as in track and field.



Class 2000 Clear Creek High School graduate Roger Jordan is set to enter the Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor as a football, basketball and track and field standout with the Wildcats.



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Doug Elder is one of two head coaches to join the 2025 class of inductees as he led the exceptional Clear Lake High School varsity boys' soccer program from 1988 through 2000.

## Leader pickers to face tough Week One lineup

The field has been solidified for the 2025 *South Belt-Ellington Leader* football pickers contest as sports editor John Bechtel will be joined by local realtors Troy Leland and Stephen Sutton in addition to former longtime Sagemont Church associate pastor Emory Gadd and Debbie Vaughn, formerly of C&D Burger Shop.

Right out of the gate, the first week of games up for choice will be one of the most competitive fields of the entire regular season.

Dobie will visit Clear Brook and will be looking to extend its victory string over the Wolverines to four.

Pearland, projected by some to be the frontrunner within 22-6A, will host a Fulshear program that also has aspirations of a deep playoff run.

Dawson, which was edged out of a playoff berth on the final week of the regular season in 2024, will begin its season by hosting a Bridge-land program that will be a Region II power.

One of the best matchups of the entire state lineup for the first week could be Summer Creek hosting Shadow Creek.

Summer Creek came within one victory of playing for a state championship last season, while Shadow Creek put together a 9-1-1 overall

regular season and won the 22-6A title before being upset in the first round of the playoffs.

Clear Springs, a district champion from a season ago along with Dickinson and Deer Park, will host Ridge Point, which was the 21-6A champion in 2024 and boasts a roster that includes several big time collegiate prospects.

Dickinson will host Katy in another game of the week option as two of the state's all-time powers go head to head, and Westfield travels to C.E. King.

Former Dobie head coach Kevin Berneathy and his La Porte Bulldogs' program will open its brand new state-of-the-art stadium while hosting Deer Park in another edition of one of the state's longest rivalries.

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