

CBCMUD sets holiday hours

Clear Brook City MUD will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, and will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. The office will re-open at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8. 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 who receive trash services on Monday will not have pick-up on Labor Day, Sept. 7. Trash services will resume Thursday, Sept. 10. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup.

Scarsdale to meet Aug. 31

The Scarsdale Civic Association will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, at the Parker Williams Branch Library, 10851 Scarsdale, Meeting Room E. For additional information, call 855-289-6007 or email info@goodwintx.com.

MUD trash times may vary

Due to a major county construction project, trash collection times may vary in the coming weeks.

Residents should have trash curbside no later than 6 a.m. Monday and Thursday, as collection crews will be working in coordination with construction crews and may arrive earlier than before.

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

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

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

Kirkwood to convene Aug. 31

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

2026 Lariaettes set clinic

Join the Dobie Lariaettes at Dobie High School for their annual Lariaette dance clinic on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

This fall clinic is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grades. For more information or registration for this event, visit https://www.succesfund.com/lariaettedanceclinic.

Sagemont to meet Sept. 1

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

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

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.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

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

All 7 CCISD high schools score A on state tests

Clear Brook High School leads the pack with impressive score of 97

All seven Clear Creek ISD high schools earned A ratings in the Texas Education Agency's 2026 accountability system, with Clear Brook High School leading the pack with a score of 97.

The other campuses also posted strong A scores: Clear Falls (95), Clear Springs (94), Clear Lake (93), Clear Creek (92), Clear Horizons Early College (91) and Clear View High School, the district's dropout prevention campus, with an impressive 96.

Districtwide, Clear Creek ISD received a scaled score of 89, a high B, up one point from last year's 88. Superintendent Karen Engle praised the results, saying, "These results reflect the hard work of our students, teachers, staff, and families who remain committed to excellence every day. Our goal this year is for a 90 or higher

and we are certainly well within that reach."

District performance

According to TEA data, Clear Creek ISD's accountability domains show consistent strength:

- **Student Achievement:** 89 (up from 88)
- **School Progress:** 83 (up from 81)
- **Closing the Gaps:** 88 (unchanged)

Out of 44 rated campuses, 17 earned an A, while most others received B's. The district serves nearly 39,000 students, with about 36 percent economically disadvantaged and 13 percent emergent bilingual learners.

Statewide context

Clear Creek ISD's overall score of 89 places it slightly above the statewide average of 87, according to TEA data. While the district's Student Achievement domain (89) is higher than the state

average of 85, its School Progress score (83) trails the state's 86. In Closing the Gaps, Clear Creek ISD matched the state average at 88.

Across Texas, 24 percent of districts and campuses improved their ratings compared to 2025, with 585 campuses statewide moving up to an A.

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath, who oversees the TEA and its accountability system, emphasized that the ratings are designed to highlight both successes and areas needing improvement.

"This year's A-F ratings illustrate the progress Texas public schools are making and acknowledge the hard work of our educators while illuminating areas of needed improvement," said Morath.

The commissioner has consistently argued that the accountability system is not just about labels

but about transparency for families and communities. He has pointed to gains in advanced mathematics participation statewide as evidence that targeted instruction and high expectations can drive measurable improvement. His position is that the ratings serve as both recognition and a road map – celebrating districts like CCISD for their achievements while also pressing them to address areas where growth is needed.

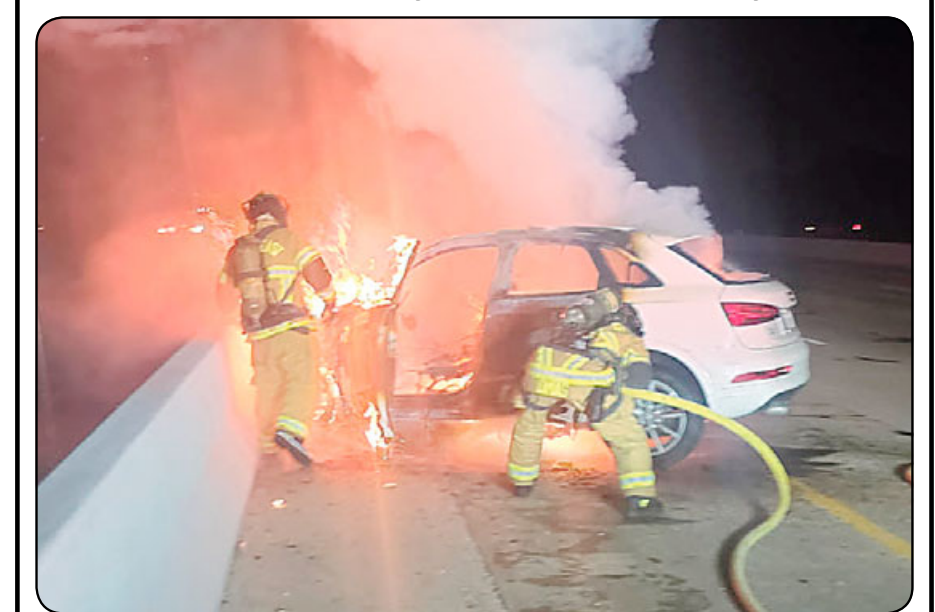
Looking ahead

Engle said that while she was pleased with the scores, there is still room for improvement.

"While we celebrate these accomplishments, we remain focused on continuous improvement," said Engle. "These results demonstrate we are making progress toward that goal."

Parents and community members can explore detailed campus ratings at TXschools.gov.

Car catches fire, driver flees



Firefighters from the newly renamed Southeast Fire Department are shown above extinguishing a car in the westbound lanes of beltway 8 near Kirkville. According to SFD officials, the driver of the vehicle fled before their arrival. At press time, it was unclear what caused the blaze or if the driver was cited for any offenses. Photo by Dean Baier

Flood Control holds public meeting

New Friendswood Basin now scheduled for 2029 opening

The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) provided new details this month on the ongoing construction of the Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin, revealing that the project is now expected to take longer than originally anticipated, with full completion projected for 2029.

Background

The basin is being built on a 105-acre tract along Clear Creek near FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road and Blackhawk Boulevard, directly across from the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin that opened in 2023.

Approved by Commissioners Court in late 2023, the Friendswood basin is a partnership project between HCFCD, the city of Friendswood, Galveston County and the Galveston

County Consolidated Drainage District. Funding sources include the county's 2018 bond program and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants, with a total allocation of about \$32.4 million.

Progress

While residents may see what looks like a finished basin – a large excavation already capable of holding water – officials emphasized that the project is only partially complete. The initial excavation phase, which removed more than 460,000 cubic yards of soil, was considered "early work" to prepare the site.

The next phases involve design refinements, structural features, and long-term conveyance improvements that will allow the basin to function as part of a larger flood mitigation system.

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City Council passes new A/C mandate

Landlords required to provide air conditioning to tenants

Houston City Council on Wednesday, Aug. 19, approved a new ordinance requiring landlords to provide air conditioning in all rental units – a move city leaders say is necessary to protect residents during increasingly dangerous summer heat.

Mayor John Whitmire said the measure reflects the city's responsibility to ensure safe living conditions.

"We're seeing record heat year after year, and people deserve safe living conditions," Whitmire said. "This ordinance is about protecting lives."

The vote followed weeks of discussion about

tenant safety, housing conditions and the rising number of heat-related emergencies reported across the region.

But the measure was not unanimously supported, and some officials raised concerns about how the new requirement will affect low-income tenants.

Council Member Twila Carter, At-Large Position 3, voted against the ordinance, saying her position comes from lived experience with housing insecurity and the financial strain utility bills can place on families.

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City, county launch healthcare tool

Joint project helps area residents find low-cost care

Finding affordable healthcare in the Houston area is now easier thanks to a new online tool jointly launched by Harris County Public Health and the Houston Health Department.

The agencies have released an interactive low-cost Clinic Finder Tool, designed to help Harris County residents locate affordable healthcare services and better navigate the region's public health system.

Also released by the agencies was the 2026 Access to Care Report.

Officials say the resources are intended to address a common challenge for many families: knowing where to go for care, understanding eligibility requirements and finding providers that fit their needs.

"Too often, it's too hard for community mem-

bers to get the healthcare they need," said Harris County Public Health Executive Director Leah Barton. "By understanding the barriers people face, making commitments to address those barriers, and releasing this practical, easy-to-use clinic finder, we're putting essential health services within reach."

Clinic Finder Tool

The new Clinic Finder Tool allows users to search for affordable healthcare services offered through the following sources:

- Harris County Public Health
- Houston Health Department
- Harris Health System
- Harris Center for Mental Health

Instead of visiting multiple websites or calling

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Hidalgo urges public input on budget

Outgoing judge calls financial crisis a "serious issue"

Outgoing Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is urging residents to take a more active role in the county's 2027 budget process, warning that the tax rate and spending decisions made over the next several weeks will directly affect millions of people and determine how the county navigates a growing deficit.

Her call for engagement comes as county leaders brace for what is shaping up to be one of the most challenging budget seasons in recent years.

In a press release this week, Hidalgo said the county is facing a "serious problem" that did not appear suddenly. She pointed to several factors – including rising operational costs, inflation, and the expiration of federal pandemic aid – but emphasized that last year's law enforcement pay parity initiative added roughly \$42 million in recurring costs to the FY 2027 budget alone. That increase, she said, is now a major driver of the county's projected \$129 million shortfall.

Budget Director Daniel Ramos has echoed that assessment in departmental hearings, noting that nearly every major cost category is trending upward. Healthcare, technology, and personnel costs continue to rise, while grant funding has declined and state mandates have added new obligations without corresponding revenue. Ramos has stressed that Harris County has adopted balanced budgets in recent years and will do so again this year, but acknowledged that achieving balance will require difficult choices.

The tax rate debate has already exposed philosophical differences among Commission-

ers Court members. Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey has criticized one proposed rate as "the second largest increase in the history of Harris County," warning that homeowners could see annual increases ranging from \$148 to \$226, depending on the final rate adopted. Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones has countered that unfunded mandates from state and federal governments are forcing counties to absorb costs they cannot avoid. Hidalgo, meanwhile, has argued that the county's own decisions – particularly the pay raises – are the primary reason the deficit is now so large.

To help residents understand the stakes, Hidalgo has continued her push for transparency by livestreaming departmental budget hearings on her official Facebook page. The streams allow viewers to watch agencies justify their spending requests and see commissioners respond in real time. Hidalgo said the goal is to give residents a clearer view of how the county weighs competing priorities during a period of financial strain.

Public participation has become a central theme of this year's process. Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Adrian Garcia have already hosted precinct-level forums that discussed topics such as public safety funding, flood mitigation, infrastructure and workforce development. Hidalgo encouraged residents to continue attending these meetings and to use the county's Balancing Act online tool, which allows users to adjust spending categories and see how those changes affect services.

Several options remain on the table as of

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2 pedestrians killed in same spot

1 male, 1 female killed in separate crashes near Edgebrook

Two pedestrians died within a day of each other from injuries incurred in two separate vehicular accidents near the Gulf Freeway and Edgebrook.

A female pedestrian was killed around 8:50 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23, after attempting to cross the Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook.

According to Houston Police Department officials, a patrol officer responded to multiple reports of the woman going in and out of the south-

bound service road. When the officer yelled for the female to get off the frontage road, she ran into the main lanes of the freeway. She was able to successfully cross the southbound main lane, but she was struck by a pickup truck as she attempted to dart across the northbound main lane of traffic on the freeway.

The unidentified female was pronounced dead at the scene.

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Arrest made in front of Leader



Houston police executed a felony warrant arrest around 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, in front of the Leader office in the 11500 block of Beamer at Beltway 8. Using both marked and unmarked vehicles, police pinned the driver in, briefly closing the entire street. During the arrest, officers had their weapons drawn on the suspect, who was wanted on three aggravated assault charges. Police said a tip led to the arrest. Photo by David Flickinger

In My Opinion

Ezell on court justice

The Houston Chronicle's recent column, "Before eviction becomes homelessness, this court offers a lifeline," makes an emotional case for expanding eviction-diversion programs from two Harris County justice courts - Precinct 1, Place 2 and Precinct 2, Place 2 - to courts throughout the county. But emotion, especially an extraordinary anecdote selected to generate sympathy, is a poor basis for evaluating how an entire justice system should operate.

The tenant featured in the column faced an unusually difficult combination of personal, financial and family circumstances. Her landlords reportedly owned dozens of properties, sought thousands of dollars in disputed charges and apparently failed to prove their case properly. The judge examined the evidence and dismissed the eviction.

If that account is accurate, it demonstrates that the legal system worked. The landlords were required to prove their case. They failed to do so, and the tenant prevailed. What it does not demonstrate is that this case is typical of the thousands of eviction cases filed in Harris County each year.

We could just as easily build an argument around an extreme case from the other side: a small landlord whose tenant refuses to pay rent month after month while the landlord must continue paying the mortgage, property taxes, insurance, repairs and maintenance. Those expenses do not stop when the rent does. A prolonged inability to regain possession could cause the landlord to lose the property, damage his or her credit or threaten the family's financial security.

That story would be emotionally compelling, too. But it would not, by itself, provide a fair or representative analysis of every eviction case. Public policy should not be based on selecting the most sympathetic person on one side and presenting that person's experience as typical of the entire system.

Most eviction cases are considerably more straightforward. Rent is due. Rent has not been paid. Proper notice has been given. The landlord presents the lease and the required evidence, and the judge applies Texas law. A decision reached quickly under those circumstances is not necessarily careless, unjust or "rubber-stamped." It may simply mean the relevant facts are undisputed and the law is clear. Nevertheless, the column portrays ordinary eviction courts as places where "landlords hold all the cards" and judges "rubber-stamp the inevitable." That characterization is not supported by the exceptional case presented, and it is unfair to the other Harris County justices of the peace who hear thousands of cases and faithfully apply the law.

Judges are not measured by the length of a hearing or by how often one side wins. They are measured by whether they consider the evidence, follow the rules and apply the law impartially. A judge who rules for a landlord who has proven a lawful right to possession is not a rubber stamp. Likewise, a judge who dismisses a landlord's case for insufficient evidence

is not necessarily a tenant advocate. Both may simply be doing the job the Constitution and Texas law require.

Harris County officials can decide collectively whether and how to help residents facing financial hardship, homelessness, job loss or other crises. Rental assistance, mediation, legal information, counseling and referrals to social services can benefit tenants, landlords and the community. Preventing avoidable homelessness is a legitimate public goal. How that goal should be pursued is a valid subject for debate, and reasonable people may disagree. But if those services are provided, they should be administered separately from the courts. A courthouse must remain a neutral forum, not become an advocacy or social-service office aligned - or perceived to be aligned - with one category of litigants. When court employees contact tenants, connect them with publicly funded lawyers and assistance programs, and work to prevent cases from resulting in eviction, landlords may reasonably question whether they are entering a neutral courtroom.

Even a well-intentioned program can undermine public confidence if one party believes the court has joined forces with the opposing party before the hearing begins. Judicial impartiality requires more than the absence of actual bias. It also requires avoiding a reasonable appearance that the court favors one side.

A better model would establish an independent Harris County tenant-and-landlord resource center outside the judiciary. It could notify both parties about available services, help eligible tenants seek rental assistance, offer voluntary mediation, provide neutral information and connect either side with appropriate resources. Participation should be voluntary, and unsuccessful negotiations should not affect either party's rights in court. That approach would preserve the benefits of assistance without compromising the court's essential role as an impartial decision-maker.

The Chronicle's column also overlooks the consequences of creating different procedures in courts that share jurisdiction. When litigants are legally permitted to select between two courts, court-specific programs can influence where cases are filed. That can shift thousands of cases from one courtroom to another, creating unequal workloads and burdening the judges, clerks and taxpayers responsible for the busier court. Any serious evaluation of eviction diversion should examine those effects rather than count only the households served.

Public policy should not be built around the most emotionally compelling case a columnist can find. It should be based on representative data, measurable outcomes, equal treatment of litigants and respect for the proper boundaries of the judiciary. If the goal is to help people who are struggling, fund rental assistance and provide mediation and legal resources. But keep those programs separate from the judges who must decide cases fairly.

A courtroom should offer every litigant justice, not give either side reason to believe the court has already chosen whom it is there to help.

Jack Ezell

Free flu shots offered at BHI Community Day

Walgreens pharmacy staff will administer free flu shots during BHI community Day on Saturday, Aug. 29.

The clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Beverly Hills Intermediate. Flu shots will be available to everyone, including uninsured patients.

Residents are encouraged to stop by and receive a free flu vaccination.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library:

Saturday, Aug. 29, 2 - 4 p.m. Saturdays at HPL. Registration required.

Monday, Aug. 31, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Bring family to storytime. Registration required.

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 4 - 5 p.m. Family craft adventure. Registration required.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Houston saxophone quartet presents summer concert series. Registration required.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library:

Friday, Aug. 28, 1 - 3 p.m. Diamond painting club (18+). Registration required for new members.

Saturday, Aug. 29, 10 a.m. - noon. Tai Chi.

Saturday, Aug. 29, 11 a.m. - noon. Embroidery class, border stitches. Registration required.

Saturday, Aug. 29, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Korean language music class. Registration required.

Monday, Aug. 31, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Adult computer classes with Harris County universal services. Registration required.

Monday, Aug. 31, 1 - 2 p.m. ESL classes (various levels).

Monday, Aug. 31, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Babies and books.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

Online services

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

Public input on county's 2027 budget sought by Hidalgo

Outgoing county judge calls for transparency and community participation in ongoing talks

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These include outlet structures, erosion control, and integration with future channel conveyance projects along Clear Creek.

Future

Once complete, the Friendswood basin is expected to provide 700 to

1,300 acre-feet of storm-water storage, reducing flood risk in southeast Harris County and neighboring communities. Hydraulic modeling shows the basin will lower water surface elevations during major storm events, removing dozens of structures and road seg-

ments from the floodplain. Officials stressed that while the basin itself provides immediate benefits, its full impact depends on future channel improvements that will move water more efficiently downstream without shifting flood risk to other neighborhoods.

Online budget portal more accessible so residents can better understand how funds are allocated.

The county's budget calendar is now entering its most consequential phase. Ramos presented the proposed FY 2027 budget to

Commissioners Court on Aug. 17, outlining the county's financial pressures and the options available to close the deficit. The court will now move into public hearings and deliberations before voting on both the budget and tax rate in

September. Hidalgo emphasized that the decisions made during this period will determine how Harris County manages essential services - from public safety and public health to flood control and infrastructure - while confronting a deficit

that could grow in the years ahead.

"This is a moment for residents to be heard," said Hidalgo.

Residents can read Hidalgo's full statement and follow the budget process at budget.harriscountytexas.gov.

Friendswood Basin subject of Flood Control public meeting

New detention basin at Dixie Farm Road/Blackhawk now scheduled for 2029 opening

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Timeline shift

Earlier estimates suggested the basin could be finished by late 2026, but the latest presentation confirms the schedule has been extended to 2029. HCFCD attributed the longer timeline to the complexity of design, permitting and coordination

with partner agencies.

Community engagement

The Flood Control District continues to host virtual meetings to keep residents informed. The Aug. 11 meeting allowed participants to review updated timelines, ask questions and learn how the Friendswood

Basin fits into broader Clear Creek watershed planning.

Residents can follow updates and project documents at HCFCD's Friendswood Basin page at www.hcfcfd.org/Activity/Projects/Clear-Creek/CI-62-Friendswood-Regional-Stormwater-De-tention-Basin.

Landlord's A/C mandate passes Houston City Council

New law requiring landlords to provide air conditioning to tenants is not without critics

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"This particular topic is very personal to me," Carter said, noting that while she supports the goal of ensuring residents have access to cool-

ing, the ordinance could unintentionally raise costs for the very people it aims to protect. "Policies designed to help working families shouldn't unintentionally make hous-

ing less affordable."

Background

Supporters say the measure closes a long-criticized loophole in Houston's housing code: previously, land-

lords were required only to provide heating, not cooling, even during prolonged stretches of triple-digit temperatures. Tenant advocates have argued for years that the

absence of any cooling requirement left renters in older or poorly maintained units vulnerable to heat-related illness, especially seniors, medically fragile residents and

families living in buildings with failing or nonexistent air conditioning systems.

Under the new ordinance, landlords must install air conditioning capable of keeping units at or below 80 degrees. Supporters say the ordinance is a necessary step toward preventing heat-related illnesses and deaths, pointing to record-breaking temperatures over the past three summers and a rise in heat-related emergency calls.

City officials said the requirement brings Houston in line with other major Texas cities that already mandate cooling.

Concerns

Opponents, including Carter, say the ordinance amounts to an unfunded mandate that will ultimately be passed on to tenants through higher rents or fees. They also note that many low-income families already struggle with electricity bills, meaning simply having an air conditioner does not guarantee they can afford to run it.

Carter said the city should confront the real-world financial impact on vulnerable residents.

"Before we celebrate what looks good on paper, let's make sure that we confront the cost in real life," said Carter.

What comes next

The city is expected to release guidance for landlords and tenants in the coming weeks, including timelines for compliance and information on how complaints will be handled.

New Clinic Finder helps Houston-area residents find affordable healthcare

Continued from Page 1
several agencies, residents can use the centralized tool to find clinics that meet their healthcare needs.

Officials say future updates will include additional community providers, including Federally Qualified Health Centers that serve uninsured and underinsured patients.

"Access to healthcare

should never depend on someone's ability to navigate a complicated system," said Houston Health Department Director Dr. Theresa Tran. "This report and the low-cost Clinic Finder Tool reflect what is possible when healthcare and public health organizations work together to remove barriers."

Harris County Public Health provides a wide

range of free and low-cost services, including the following:

- Childhood and adult vaccinations
- Dental care at select clinics
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition services
- Chronic disease prevention programs
- Community health out-

reach

- Environmental health services
- Mosquito control
- Care coordination through ACCESS Harris County

The department also helps connect eligible residents with mental health services, housing assistance and other community resources.

South Belt Chamber to celebrate 25th annual Evening of Cuisine

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will host its 25th annual Evening of Cuisine from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 17 at the University of Houston-Clear Lake Bayou Building.

The milestone event will bring together local restaurants, caterers, bakeries and beverage providers for an evening of food, fellowship and community celebration.

Guests will enjoy unlimited tastings while sampling a variety of cuisines and discovering local favorites.

This year's participating vendors include Whiskey Cake Kitchen & Bar, Red Robin, Mornings Kolaches, Ryan's Smokehouse, Shake Shack, Mixing House, Dave & Buster's, Savannah Café & Bakery, Chicken Salad Chick, Noon Mirth, Yard

House, Luna's Mexican Restaurant, Jeremiah's Italian Ice, Main Event, McAlister's Deli of Webster, Texas Tail Distillery, Rem-ton Vietnamese Cuisine, Las Haciendas and Swamp Shack, with additional participants expected to join the lineup.

The menu will feature American favorites, Texas barbecue, Mexican, Indi-

an and Vietnamese cuisine, along with baked goods, frozen treats and specialty beverages.

The chamber said the event will celebrate 25 years of bringing the South Belt-Ellington community together through food and fellowship.

Tickets are available at southbeltchamber.com/evening-of-cuisine-2026/.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HAMBURGER and TURKEY LEG

Sale!

AUGUST 29TH & 30TH

9 AM TILL 3 PM

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

★ HALF POUND ★

BURGER

FRIES & DRINK

\$15⁰⁰

★ TURKEY LEGS ★

\$15⁰⁰

INCLUDES DRINK

★ Thank you for your support! ★

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

Friends of PWBL seeks donations

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

Mount Olive Lutheran
10310 Scarsdale Blvd.
281-922-5673
Pastor Matthew Brackman
www.mountolivehouston.org

Services: 8:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class: 10 a.m.

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Sunday	12:30 p.m. Misa en Español
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

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

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

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David Flickinger, owner

New automotive shop coming soon



The *Leader* has received multiple inquiries recently about a construction project underway in the 11700 block of Beltway 8 near Hughes/Sabo adjacent to the Kroger. According to city officials, a Mavis Tire & Brakes automotive center is being constructed at the site. At press time, it was unclear when the business was expected to open.

Photo by David Flickinger

AARP Webster sets September meeting

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 is welcoming one to join them at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 14045 Space Center Blvd. 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 for this month will be a fire safety presentation by a member of the League City Fire Department. AARP Chapter 199 is hosting a bus trip on Tuesday, Sept. 22. They will tour Chappell Hill Lavender Farm in Brenham. The trip price is \$5, plus lunch. One may register for this trip at the Sept. 10 AARP meeting. One must be a member of Chapter 199 to participate in Chapter 199 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.

Garden Whisper seeks volunteers

Garden Whisper is seeking like-minded individuals who are willing to volunteer and assist in creating a garden for South Belt community.

If interested, contact Sandra Rule at 713-446-6672.

School supplies donated to Fred Roberts



Fred Roberts Middle School recently received school supplies contributed by American Legion, Legionnaires to right, are counselor Crissy Higham, Legionnaires Estela Thornhill and Tommie Martinez, principal Lali Guerrero and Legionnaire Diana Aguilar.

Flickinger to host 3 fall town hall meetings

Separate functions scheduled for Edgebrook, Clear Lake, Kingwood

Houston City Council Member Fred Flickinger would like to make District E residents aware that he will host three town hall meetings across District E over the next two months.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. for each event, with informational booths from various city departments available to answer questions.

The main programs will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Lo-

cal residents are urged to mark their calendars for the upcoming town hall meetings, as two of the three functions will take place in the South Belt area.

– **Kingwood/Lake Houston:** Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive in Kingwood, from 5 to 8 p.m.

– **Clear Lake:** Thursday, Oct. 8, at Space Center Houston, 1601 E. NASA Parkway, from 5 to 8 p.m.

– **Southeast:** Tuesday, Oct. 20, at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 5560 Laurel Creek Way, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Presentations will be delivered by the following groups:

– **Houston Public Works**

– **Houston Police Department**

– **Houston Fire Department**

– **Solid Waste Management Department**

– **Houston Airport System**

– **Department of Neighborhoods**

– **TIRZ 10/Lake Houston Redevelopment Authority (Kingwood)**

– **Coastal Water Authority (Kingwood)**

Residents will have the opportunity to submit questions, which will be read aloud during the town hall. Resident feedback is a vital part of the discussion and plays a key role in shaping the future of the

community.

Flickinger encourages all residents to actively participate. Resident questions, concerns and ideas are invaluable in guiding the decisions that impact area neighborhoods and quality of life. To submit questions or concerns, visit www.houstontx.gov/council/e. For more information, contact the District E office at 832-393-3008 or via email at districte@houstontx.gov.

Memorial Hermann nationally recognized

10 of system's acute care centers honored by American Heart Association

Memorial Hermann has once again been nationally recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) for delivering fast, evidence-based stroke care that gives patients the best chance at recovery.

In all, 10 of the health system's acute care hospitals received the AHA'S Get With The Guidelines – Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award recognizing their commitment to providing care that follows the latest, research-backed treatment guidelines proven to save lives and reduce disability after stroke. The hospitals included the following:

– Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital
– Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital
– Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital
– Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center
– Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital
– Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital
– Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital
– Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center
– Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center

Adding to this year's honors, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital advanced from the Silver to Gold Plus award, while Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital earned the Target: Stroke Honor Roll Advanced Therapy award for the first time, recognizing their ability to quickly deliver advanced treatment to patients experiencing certain types of stroke.

"Stroke is a medical emergency and every second matters," said Memorial Hermann's System Stroke Program Director Sandi Shaw. "It's an honor to have the American Heart Association recognize the incredi-

ble work happening across our hospitals every day to ensure patients receive the right treatment as quickly as possible. These awards are a testament to the teamwork of our emergency physicians, neurologists, nurses, EMS partners and countless others who work together to improve outcomes for our patients."

In addition to AHA Get With The Guidelines, the following campuses received the AHA's Target: Stroke awards for meeting specific criteria that reduces the time between an eligible patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with thrombolytic therapy.

Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus was awarded to the following:

– Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center

– Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

– Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center
– Memorial Hermann

The Woodlands Medical Center

Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite was awarded to the following:

– Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital

Target: Stroke Honor Roll was awarded to the following:

– Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital

Target: Stroke Honor Roll Advanced Therapy was awarded to the following:

– Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center

– Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Finally, nine campuses were also recognized with the AHA's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award that aims to offer patients

with type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke. These campuses included the following:

– Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

– Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital

– Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center

– Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center

For more information about Memorial Hermann's award-winning stroke care, visit www.memorialhermann.org/services/treatments/stroke-treatment or call 713-222-CARE (2273).



Evening of Cuisine 25 Years of Tastes & Traditions



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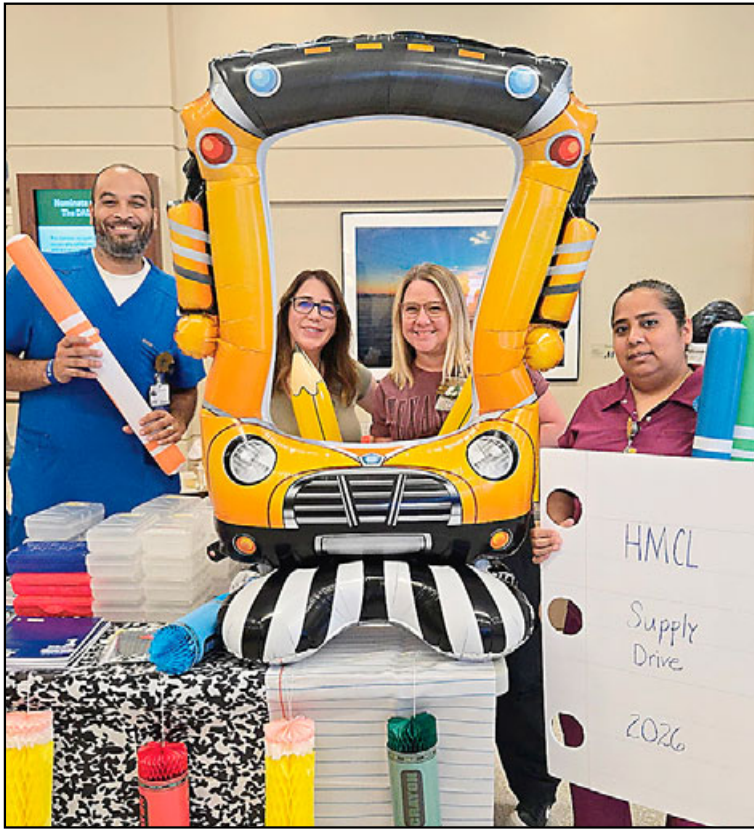


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HMCL hosts back-to-school supply drive



Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital recently hosted a school supply drive to help local students in need. The drive was organized by the hospital's Community Outreach Patient Experience committee. Hundreds of backpacks, pencils, crayons, folders, notebooks, feminine hygiene products and other classroom essentials were collected and sorted at the hospital, then donated to several local organizations and school districts. This event showcased the hospital's commitment to community outreach and its ongoing partnerships with local organizations working to help students succeed both in and out of the classroom. At left, left to right, are Ian Taylor, nursing manager at Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital; Christy Curtis, clinical resource nurse at Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital; Lisa Frankart, BSN, RN; and Vanessa Angel, surgical patient care assistant specialist at Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital.



HMCL representatives assisting with the school supply drive included (front row) Lisa Frankart, chair of COPE and surgical charge RN; (back row) Tresa Mark, from Dickinson High School CIS; Elizabeth Turner, director of Communities in Schools; Kayla Ogden, com-

munity partnerships coordinator and Communities in Schools; Karen Wolfe, director of resource development and Communities in Schools; and Stephanie Clawson, business and community outreach specialist at Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital.

UIL announces new heat safety rules for athletes

New guidelines aimed at preventing heat exhaustion, heat stroke

A sweeping shift in Texas high school sports safety officially took effect this month as the University Interscholastic League (UIL) implemented its first-ever mandatory statewide heat stress regulations.

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, all UIL-member schools are required to strictly monitor environmental conditions using Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) devices. This move shifts the practice from a recommendation to an enforceable required protocol for all outdoor athletics and marching bands across the state.

The policy change comes after years of rising summer temperatures across Texas, prompting sports medicine advisory committees to advocate for data-driven safety thresholds. Unlike standard thermometer readings or the heat index – which only accounts for shade temperature and relative humidity – WBGT measures ambient temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and solar radiation cloud cover. This provides a precise calculation of the true thermal stress placed on a student-athlete's body.

The UIL Medical Advisory

Committee, which spearheaded the change, emphasized that the shift is entirely about removing human guesswork from a potentially life-threatening issue.

"The Medical Advisory Committee's goal is to minimize risk of heat illness for students participating in outdoor activities. Utilizing the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature provides schools with the most accurate, data-backed assessment of environmental heat stress available to protect our students," the committee said in its mandate.

Under the new mandate, athletic trainers or designated school officials must take an initial WBGT reading within 15 minutes of any outdoor activity. If the reading crosses initial safety thresholds, schools must reassess the temperature every 30 minutes.

The UIL guidelines establish a five-tier color-coded system based on WBGT readings, ranging from safe conditions to extreme risk. The protocols require specific measures based on the risk level.

– **Green/yellow (low risk):** Normal activities with scheduled water breaks every

30 to 45 minutes.

– **Orange (moderate risk):** Maximum practice time is reduced, equipment like football pads or heavy marching band uniforms must be removed during parts of practice, and water breaks are mandated every 20 minutes.

– **Red (high risk):** Practice is capped at one hour, protective equipment is prohibited, and intense conditioning drills are banned.

– **Black (extreme risk):** All outdoor physical activity is strictly canceled or moved indoors. For most of Texas, this threshold is triggered when the WBGT hits 92.1 degrees or higher.

With automated platforms like Perry Weather providing real-time data directly to coaching staffs, the guessing game has been removed from the field.

"Our system is completely online in the field, reading those conditions and then alerting out to the coaches," said Colin Perry, CEO and founder of Perry Weather. "Hey, you're in this red zone now, orange zone, black zone and exactly what you have to do when you get into those zones."

The rules apply equally to all sports and marching bands, and schools are now required to have rapid, full-body cooling equipment, such as cold-water immersion tubs, on-site during elevated risk days. Medical experts consider this the most effective treatment for exertional heat stroke. As teams adapt to these stringent guidelines, coaches and parents are being urged to closely monitor students for the warning signs of heat-related illnesses, which can progress rapidly if left unaddressed.

Signs of heat exhaustion

– Heavy sweating and a rapid, weak pulse

– Cold, pale or clammy skin

– Dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting

– Nausea, vomiting or persistent headaches

– Muscle cramps and physical weakness

If a student shows signs of heat exhaustion, they must be moved to a cool, shaded area immediately, given water and cooled with wet cloths or ice packs.

Signs of heat stroke (medical emergency)

– High body temperature

(103 degrees or higher) Hot, red, dry or damp skin (sweating may completely stop) Fast, strong pulse

– Confusion, altered mental state, slurred speech or hallucinations

– Loss of consciousness or seizures

Heat stroke is a life-threatening medical emergency. If a student-athlete exhibits these symptoms, school staff are instructed to call 911 immediately and cool the athlete in an ice tub before emergency medical services transport them.

The UIL has stated that compliance will be monitored, and schools failing to document their daily WBGT readings or adhere to the mandated modifications could face official sanctions. While the rules present logistical adjustments for coaching staffs across the state, school administrators emphasize that the standardization of heat safety is a necessary evolution to protect Texas students.

To view the complete updated UIL guidelines, visit onestargridiron.com/2026/07/UIL-mandatory-heat-safety-mandate-starting-august-1-2026.

2 pedestrians hit at I-45/Edgebrook die in 2 days

1 male, 1 female struck near same intersection, 1 while crossing freeway

Continued from Page 1

The driver of the truck

stopped at the scene and

showed no signs of intoxication.

He was questioned and

released with no charges.

The incident remained under investigation at press time.

The following day Monday, Aug. 24, Houston police learned that a 59-year-old male pedestrian who was struck at the Edgebrook intersection Wednesday, Aug. 19, had succumbed to his injuries.

The identity of the man was pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to Houston

Police Department officials, a bus was traveling north on the service road around 4:10 p.m. in the 10400 block of Gulf Freeway and attempted to make a left turn on Edgebrook Drive. The bus struck a pedestrian who was walking north to south, not in a crosswalk, under the freeway.

The pedestrian was transported to an area hospital, where doctors later pronounced him dead Aug. 24.

As with the previous case, this incident remained under investigation at press time.

Sagemont Cowgirls receive recognition



Shown, left to right, are Sagemont Cowgirls Mini of the Week Alayah Alexander, Cheerleader of the Week Lexi Tovias and Dancer of the Week Paris Butler. The three were recognized for their hard work and dedication. See related story on Page 6.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)

Residents of Kirkwood South won control of their maintenance fund, which had been previously controlled by Depa Land Co. through Mortgage and Trust.

Rocky Smith of Sagemeadow won two 1976 Gremlins in a KRBE radio contest.

45 years ago (1981)

Small gains in local revenues, increased state funding and modest increases in expenditures marked Pasadena Independent School District's \$68 million budget adopted by trustees.

Congressional redistricting resulted in the South Belt area losing Rep. Ron Paul and gaining Democrat Jack Brooks of Beaumont.

40 years ago (1986)

Dobie associate principal Peggy Walters served as interim principal for Dobie while the Pasadena School District continued to receive applications.

35 years ago (1991)

Harris County District Judge Carol Garcia refused acceptance of the Brio settlement saying problems with miscommunication and misperceptions still existed among the 210 clients.

In order to combat student tardies, Dobie High School began two new programs including a Friday/Saturday detention center in the high school and a tardy room in the Dobie Media Center.

30 years ago (1996)

South Belt resident Arturo De La Garza, a 50-year-old who billed himself as a doctor of holistic health, was charged with sexual assault at his clinic in the 13600 block of Beamer.

The Johnson Space Center and the Clear Creek Independent School District teamed up with private industry and the state to develop a first-of-its-kind facility for furthering agricultural education at the high school level.

25 years ago (2001)

The tidal wave of growth was continuing in the Pasadena Independent School District with 850 new students enrolling for classes which was 400 students more than projected by district officials.

Bill Jones, Bernard Maristany, Darryl Smith and Addie Wiseman all declared their candidacy for Rob Todd's term-limited seat.

20 years ago (2006)

Due largely to tips from the community, charges were filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of Erik Garcia.

The Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District board approved the hiring of two additional deputies on the condition the two neighboring utility districts would participate in the hiring.

Republican Party precinct chairs selected Houston

Councilmember Shelley Sekula-Gibbs as the write-in candidate for the congressional seat vacated by Tom DeLay. The selection was the result of a closed-door session held in Pearland. Sekula-Gibbs went on to win the unexpired term in the general election but was defeated by Democrat Nick Lampson for the full two-year term.

Precinct 2 deputy constables reported arrests for criminal mischief, DWI and deadly conduct.

15 years ago (2011)

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a bond elec-

tion seeking \$270.1 million in funding for several projects, including a new career and technical high school, three new middle schools and five replacement campuses for existing schools.

Mike Jackson, state senator from the 11th District, officially filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission

to establish a committee to support his candidacy for the Republican nomination in the newly created 36th Congressional District. The district includes all or part of the following counties: Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk

and Tyler. The 11th Senatorial District, which Jackson has represented since 1999, covers significant population centers in the 36th Congressional District, including the cities of Deer Park, Pasadena, Seabrook, La Porte and the Clear Lake area.

10 years ago (2016)

A 22-year-old South Belt woman was killed and three injured, including two children, following a three-car collision Wednesday, Aug. 17, in the 13700 block of Scarsdale near the Gulf Freeway.

According to police, Scarsdale resident Angelly Heidi Caballero was driving east in a black

Kia Forte at a high rate of speed when she struck the rear of a gray Honda. The Kia then veered into oncoming traffic, where it slammed head-on into a white Ford F-150 pickup. Caballero was rushed to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

A man was killed in a crash Sunday, Aug. 22, in the 8700 block of SH 3/Old Galveston Road. Saucedo Hernandez was pronounced dead at the scene.

No other persons or vehicles were involved in the crash.

U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, who represents much of the South Belt community, announced

on Twitter he tested positive for COVID-19.

1 year ago (2025)

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.

Register by Monday, Aug. 31, at <https://ClearCreekrw.org>.

CCRW convenes Sept. 4

The Clear Creek Republican Women's group (CCRW) is holding its monthly meeting on Friday, Sept. 4, at La Brisa Mexican Bar and Grill at 501 N. Wesley Drive in League City. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The meeting, lunch and forum will take place from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 cash or check (made out to La Brisa).

Jackie Schlegel will be the guest speaker. She leads Texans for Medical Freedom with bold vision and unwavering determination. In addition to her role as executive director, she serves as a trusted adviser to Moms Across America, supporting national efforts to restore health freedom, protect families, and demand transparency in public health policy. Her leadership and advocacy continue to inspire Texans from all walks of life to stand up for their rights and safeguard medical freedom for generations to come.

Register by Monday, Aug. 31, at <https://ClearCreekrw.org>.

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Beltway 8 South
Crisis Pregnancy Center

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

CODY CELEBRATES 27th 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 wonderful birthday.

MILTON ENJOY BIRTHDAYS

Milton Dittich who celebrates a birthday Aug. 30, is sent birthday greetings from family, friends and the Leader staff.

JAXSON TURNS 8!

Special birthday wishes are sent to Jaxson Giles who turns eight years old Aug. 30 from his parents Aaron and Ashley Giles, grandparents Jim and Tracy Giles and the rest of the Giles and Griffin families.

RON CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Ron Williams, former owner of Ace Hardware, is wished a happy birthday Sept. 1 from his family, friends and the Leader staff.

ROSA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Special birthday wishes are sent to South Belt Leader staffer Rosa Graham who celebrates a birthday Sept. 1 from family, friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 27 through Sept. 2.

Atkinson Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Sonia Benitez** Aug. 27. Blow out the birthday candles Sept. 2 for **Michelle Pinkerton**.

Burnett Elementary
Sophia Cole is wished a happy birthday Aug. 30.

Bush Elementary
Remember to wish **Alexia Haynes** a happy birthday Aug. 31.

Frazier Elementary
A double-layer birthday cake is in order Aug. 27 for **Amanda Brewton** and **Veronica Huiron**. Send a birthday greeting Aug. 29 to **Kalpana Mobley**. Join in the fun as **Debra Hawkins** celebrates a birthday Sept. 2.

Hancock Elementary
Blow out the candles Sept. 1 for **Lorena Guerra**.

Moore Elementary
Remember to wish **Dylan Richter** and **Amber Ramsey Suarez** a happy birthday Aug. 30. Send a birthday greeting Sept. 2 to **Veronica Rangel**.

South Belt Elementary
Break out the party favors and cake and ice cream for **Lauren Leider** Aug. 28. The day for birthday fun for **Courtney Moran** is Aug. 31. Birthday greetings go out to **Dawn Nguyen** on Sept. 2.

Melillo Middle School
Blow out the candles on a birthday cake Sept. 1 for **Matthew Sanchez**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Aug. 27 is the day for a fun celebration for **Vanessa Castillo**. Light the candles on a birthday cake Aug. 28 for **Mackwell Hickerson**. A day of fun is planned Sept. 2 for **Dawn Nguyen**.

Thompson Intermediate
Break out the balloons and the birthday cake Aug. 28 for **Melinda Mathis**. The day for a birthday celebration is Aug. 30 for **David Saenz**. **Tiffany Silverthorne** enjoys a birthday Aug. 31.

Dobie High
Tracy Connell celebrates a birthday Aug. 27. Send a happy birthday wish to **Christopher Swinnen** on Aug. 29. Remember to wish **Jazmin Guerrero** a happy birthday Aug. 30.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Aug. 27: **Jesse Garcia**, and **Jeff Jones**; Friday, Aug. 28: **Tanya Keller** and **Yvonne Ramirez**; Saturday, Aug. 29: **Connie Guerrero**, **Brenda Marshall**, **Claudia Herrera** and **Aimee Bennett**; Sunday, Aug. 30: **James Leonard**, **Jason Hunt**, **Tracy Schwerdtfeger**, **Melinda Funni**, **Amber McGown**, **Bobby Burton**, **Ryssa Bebee**, **Debrah Tullous** and **Rebecca Noris-Peak**; Monday, Aug. 31: **Nyd Salgado**, **Suzie Ortiz**, **Tajuana Stewart**, **John Terana**, **Mia Bella**, **Paula Miller**, **Judie Elizalde**, **Kathy Cole**, **Michael O'Daniell**, **Veronica Lyons**, **Annalea Young**, **Carol Rodriguez**, **Scott Gish**, **Ashley Hall** and **Angie Davis**; Tuesday, Sept. 1: **Tiffany Gay**, **Maribel Manriquez**, **Jasmine Manning**, **Karen Jenkins** and **Steve Landin**; Wednesday, Sept. 2: **Stacy Aguirre**, **Suzanne Hernandez**, **Karen Young** and **Mary Hernandez**.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie football to open against Clear Springs Chargers

Plenty of first-year varsity performers are enthusiastic about their opportunity to contribute at the varsity level as the Dobie football program opens the 2026 regular season by hosting the Clear Springs Chargers Aug. 28 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

The Chargers are coming off a 2025 season in which they again reached the postseason under the guidance of longtime head coach Anthony Renfro. The Longhorns, meanwhile, missed out on the playoff picture last season following a regular season finale loss to Manvel and finished at 5-5.

The results from last season have already been tossed aside and both programs will enter the current season with a fresh outlook. Dobie has a select few returnees on offense and in the kicking game but has otherwise rebuilt the defense after returning just one starter.

The Chargers, who will have a first-year starter quarterback, figure to have plenty of experience on both the offensive and

defensive fronts but are otherwise fairly inexperienced within the starting lineup.

"We have three primary goals for the regular season as we get started, and one of those goals is to defeat Clear Springs and get off to a 1-0 start," Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris said.

"Coach Renfro and his staff have always done a tremendous job. Everybody knows that they have a long history of reaching the playoffs, but our sole focus is to come out in the first game, embrace the Friday night experience and all that comes with it under the lights and get this program off to a great start. Every program kicks off any season with high hopes and expectations. We certainly have high expectations for ourselves, and it all starts against Clear Springs."

Dobie does not have a victory in the all-time series against Clear Springs. Going against a bonafide playoff contender such as Clear Springs will certainly allow the Longhorns to

Dobie hosts Clear Springs Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m. Veterans Stadium

find out in a big hurry just where they stand in the grand scheme of things.

It is a challenge that Fitzmorris welcomes for his program. "We want to be able to take on some of the great programs in the area and prove that we have what it takes to come away with wins," Fitzmorris said. "We plan to go out there and give Clear Springs everything they want and to come away with a victory."

Fitzmorris is fully aware that most followers of high school football give his team very little chance of coming away with what would be a first-ever program victory over the Chargers in the series.

While expectations are extremely high at Dobie, the Longhorns will field a starting 22 of primarily first-year varsity perform-

ers and will need to quickly prove that the bright lights of the big stadium Friday night experiences will be more of a benefit as opposed to the latter.

Meanwhile, Clear Springs has been to the postseason each season for the past 14. Springs and the rest of the league figure to be chasing defending champion Dickinson for the league title in the newly created 18-6A, but the Chargers are very much a postseason contender in what should be a very interesting race. Eventually, the Chargers will also have to deal with the likes of Deer Park, Clear Falls and newcomer Barbers Hill.

As for the Longhorns, Fitzmorris detailed how his starting 22 and more will shake out on opening night.

Continued on page 8



Senior Nolen Thomas was banged up in the spring game but has returned to full strength this preseason and will begin the season opener Aug. 28 against Clear Springs as the Longhorns' top receiver on the outside.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

BHI Community Day is Aug. 29

The Beverly Hills Intermediate coaching staff has finalized the schedule for the Aug. 29 BHI Community Day that will begin at 9 a.m. on campus. The seventh-grade football program will scrimmage from 9 to 9:45 a.m., with the eighth-grade football program then scrimmaging from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. The BHI incoming seventh-grade volleyball program will scrimmage from 10:15 to 11 a.m., with the eighth-grade program then in action from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Throughout the morning, players and coaches will engage with community partners in the commons area and there will be carnival games in the smaller gymnasium on campus. There will be a community pep rally from noon to 12:30 p.m. to close out this special day.

Lions plan Red and White Day

The Thompson Intermediate athletic department is making plans for the 2026 Red and White Day coming Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon on campus as the public is invited to enjoy a morning of fun-filled activities surrounding the volleyball and football programs. The volleyball teams will scrimmage inside in front of fans while the football teams will do the same outdoors as there will be food trucks and plenty of entertainment for visitors. Team merchandise and refreshments will also be available for purchase throughout the morning.

Dobie, LSA volleyball playing well early on

The Dobie varsity volleyball team has had a mixture of results through the first two weeks of the regular season, with a pair of solid tournament performances highlighting what was an 8-8 start to the season heading into play Aug. 28.

As expected with 19 players on the roster to start the season, the Longhorns have received a tremendous lift from a variety of players in all phases of the game to contribute to the solid start.

Senior Alyssa Espinoza earned a spot on the Player of the Week ballot across the Houston area after a solid performance at the Dickinson Invitational. Espinoza, the Longhorns' top-returning hitter from a season ago, has again led the way to this point in the season in kills with 97.

Espinoza has been helped on offense by several other hitters, including senior Mahogani Davis, who was second on the team with 76 kills, as well as freshman Neriah LeBlanc with 71. Huesca, another senior, has also come through in a big way offensively with 66 kills.

Alessandra Garza was leading the team in digs through the early portion of the season with 201 to her credit while Junior Riese Rackley had 90 to go with 81 from Allison Walker and 74 from Alyssa Goree.

Rackley and Goree came

into the season expected to be the Longhorns' primary contributors at setter and have certainly done just that. A senior, Goree led the way with 175 assists through 43 sets to go with 160 for Rackley in the same number of sets.

The Longhorns began play in District 19-6A action with a straight set loss at home against Pearland.

For now, the Longhorns have played consistently on a nightly basis and certainly believe they have what it takes to take the next step toward the postseason.

Lutheran South overcame its off first day at the prestigious John Turner Classic in Pearland on the opening weekend of the season to win 35th overall place, and since then the Pioneers have stacked up victories.

Through the first two weeks of the regular season Lutheran South went 10-6. Junior Megan Schwanbek led the way early on with 148 kills to go with 129 from sophomore Carissa Honore. Junior Lucy Gartrell also had 50 kills.

Defensively, Junior Charlie Marsico had 164 digs to lead the squad, with junior Addy Musgrave adding 100.

Musgrove, who has committed to Georgia Tech, has stepped into the primary setter role seamlessly this season and leads the way with 364 assists through 40 games played.

Dobie cross-country hits its stride at Wildcats' invitational

The competition was ramped up as Clear Creek High School hosted the Max Belsit Invitation-

al at Hometown Heroes Park, with top runners from schools such as Beaumont Westbrook,

Richmond Foster, Barbers Hill, Manvel, Clear Creek and Dobie in the mix.

In the 5,000-meter

varsity boys' race, senior John Fowler of Beaumont Westbrook was the top overall gold medalist as

Dobie cross-country At Goehring Invite Crenshaw Park Aug. 28, 7:15 a.m.

he finished the distance in a time of 15 minutes, 23.64 seconds.

For the Longhorns, junior Cruz Jasso once again led the way among his teammates as he finished the event at 16:19.31. Also for the Longhorns, sophomore Robert Pheister was 23rd, clocking in at 16:59.76.

Junior Jordan Roman, making his season debut after competing at the 1,500- and 3,000-meter distances for most of the summer, placed 30th overall as he was in at 17:13.75.

Ruben Flores was the Longhorns fourth official finisher as he clocked in at 17:47.89, and sophomore Jaden Moron finished at 17:51.23.

Barbers Hill came away as the easy team champion with a low of 68 points, with Clear Creek second at 109 and Dobie third at 179.

The sister duo of Janie Cardenas and Jessica Cardenas paced the field in the 5,000-meter varsity girls' race, with Janie the gold medalist in a time of 18:40.29, with her sister, Jessica, second at 18:47.88.

Dobie senior Aracely Alvarado finished just outside the top 10 as she was 11th at 20:36.66. Also for Dobie, freshman Sofia Charles was 41st in a time of 21:54.23, and Destiny Sidiropoulos was 88th with a clocking of 23:34.98.

Freshman Cecilia Bogany put together a time of 23:41.14, good for 94th place. Next was senior Maria Arredondo, who was 104th with a time of 23:54.18.

Freshman and sophomore girls who represent the future of their respective school programs participated in the 3,200-meter event, with freshman

Angelina Wilson of Shadow Creek victorious for the second consecutive week as she outlasted Clear Brook's Xiomara Vasquez at the finish line.

Wilson, certainly a big part of the Sharks' future, was in at 14:00.60 for the gold medal, followed by Vasquez, a sophomore, at 14:00 0.67.

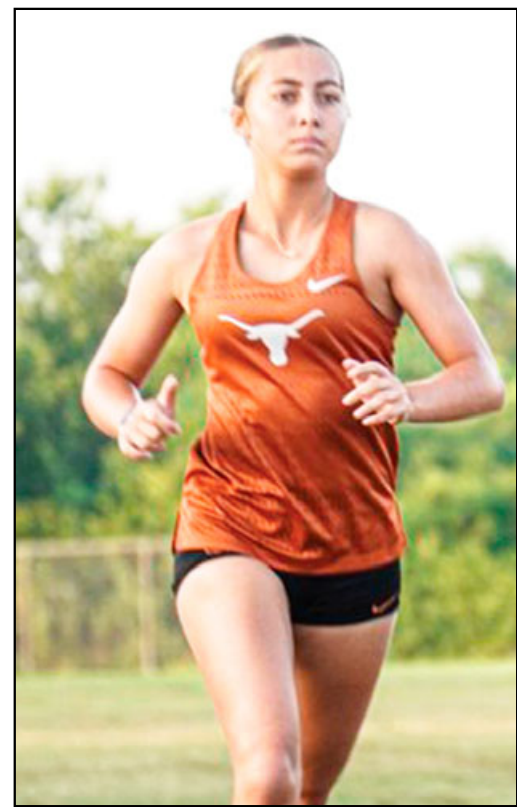
For JFD, freshman Marley Manriquez placed fifth as she turned in a time of 14:26.53.

Vasquez paced the Wolverines to an outstanding finish, and sophomore Olivia Guillen was next as she placed 13th at 14:58.41.

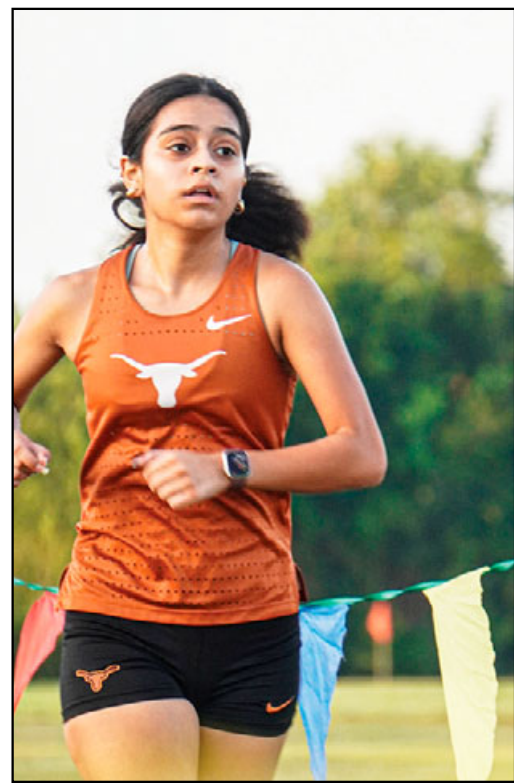
Sophomore Emily Harrell turned in a time of 15:01.35 for 16th place, and teammate Andrea Pando, a freshman, was 37th at a time of 15:45.48. Shadow Creek was the overall team champion with a low of 71 points, followed by Pearland with 121.

Clear Brook wound up third as a team, finishing with 129 points. Dobie was 12th as a team.

The start to the season has been exceptionally rewarding to this point for the Longhorns on both the boys' and girls' side of things. The action continues as the locals take part in the Goehring Invitational at Crenshaw Park Aug. 28, followed by an appearance at the Freedom Run in Alvin, hosted by the Alvin Yellowjackets. Dobie only hopes to continue progressing as the weeks pass.



Junior Destiny Sidiropoulos is first and foremost an exceptional softball player with Dobie, but she has also contributed quite a bit to the Longhorn girls' varsity cross-country program and has gotten off to a strong start this season. Destiny was 88th with a clocking of 23:34.98 in the 5,000-meter.

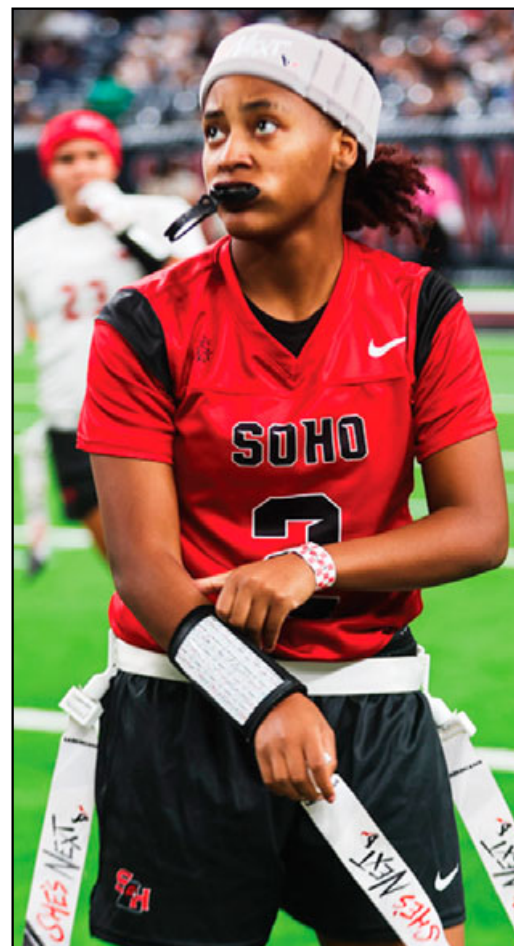


Senior Maria Arredondo has run very well early in the season for the Dobie girls' cross-country program and will continue to play a key role as the season progresses. Arredondo has consistently improved her times and will be counted on to be an official scorer the rest of the way for the team. Maria was 104th with a time of 23:54.18 in the 5,000-meter.

South Houston flag football shows talents for Texans



South Houston's Sariah Albert (6) throws a pass during the Trojans' halftime performance at the Houston Texans' preseason game earlier this month at Reliant Stadium.



Chloe Barnes (2) and her South Houston teammates put together a tremendous run during the She's Next flag football debut season in 2026 as the Trojans reached the state tournament.



Aniya Capers (3) hugs the championship trophy the South Houston flag football team collected following a halftime victory during the Houston Texans' preseason game earlier this month.

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BAFL Weekly Standings

Peewee Division			
Team	W	L	T
Hurricanes	2	0	0
Panthers	2	0	0
Red Raiders	2	0	0
Manvel Texans	2	0	0
Wildcats	2	0	0
Pearland Texans	1	0	1
49ers	1	1	0
Buccaneers	1	1	0
Chargers	1	1	0
Gators	1	1	0
Sharks	1	1	0
Stingrays	1	1	0
Cowboys	0	1	1
Braves	0	2	0
Eagles	0	2	0
Longhorns	0	2	0
Patriots	0	2	0
La Porte Texans	0	2	0

Freshman Division			
Team	W	L	T
49ers	2	0	0
Hurricanes	2	0	0
Panthers	2	0	0
Red Raiders	2	0	0
Stingrays	2	0	0
Wildcats	2	0	0
Buccaneers	1	1	0
Chargers	1	1	0
Gators	1	1	0
Patriots	1	1	0
Manvel Texans	1	1	0
Pearland Texans	1	1	0
Braves	0	2	0
Cowboys	0	2	0
Eagles	0	2	0
Longhorns	0	2	0
Sharks	0	2	0
La Porte Texans	0	2	0

Sophomore Division			
Team	W	L	T
Hurricanes	2	0	0
Panthers	2	0	0
Red Raiders	2	0	0
Stingrays	2	0	0
Manvel Texans	2	0	0
Pearland Texans	2	0	0
Wildcats	2	0	0
49ers	1	1	0
Buccaneers	1	1	0
Chargers	1	1	0
Gators	1	1	0
Braves	0	2	0
Cowboys	0	2	0
Eagles	0	2	0
Longhorns	0	2	0
Patriots	0	2	0
Sharks	0	2	0
La Porte Texans	0	2	0

Junior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	2	0	0
Chargers	2	0	0
Cowboys	2	0	0
Panthers	2	0	0
Red Raiders	2	0	0
Stingrays	2	0	0
Manvel Texans	2	0	0
49ers	1	1	0
Gators	1	1	0
Hurricanes	1	1	0
Pearland Texans	1	1	0
Braves	0	2	0
Eagles	0	2	0
Longhorns	0	2	0
Patriots	0	2	0
Sharks	0	2	0
La Porte Texans	0	2	0
Wildcats	0	2	0

Senior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	2	0	0
Chargers	2	0	0
Gators	2	0	0
La Porte Texans	2	0	0
Pearland Texans	2	0	0
49ers	1	1	0
Eagles	1	1	0
Hurricanes	1	1	0
Patriots	1	1	0
Sharks	1	1	0
Stingrays	1	1	0
Manvel Texans	1	1	0
Wildcats	1	1	0
Braves	0	2	0
Cowboys	0	2	0
Longhorns	0	2	0
Panthers	0	2	0
Red Raiders	0	2	0

BAFL Week 2

Cowboys’ Peewee 0 Patriots 0
Patriots 19, Cowboys’ Fr. 0
Cowboys’ Soph. 20 Stingrays 51
Cowboys’ Jrs. 54 Patriots 6
Cowboys’ Srs. 0 Patriots 51
BAFL Week 3
Cowboys’ Peewee host Hurricanes, 8 a.m.
Cowboys’ Freshmen host Hurricanes, 9:30 a.m.
Cowboys’ Sophomores host Hurricanes, 11:30 a.m.
Cowboys’ Juniors host Hurricanes, 1:30 p.m.
Cowboys’ Seniors host Hurricanes, 3:30 p.m.

South Houston flag makes Reliant trip

What a remarkable flag football season it was for South Houston. The Trojans joined the area league that contained other Pasadena ISD programs for a regular season that included games against Shadow Creek and Alvin, delivering an undefeated regular season that really wasn’t very close by any measure. Simply put, South Houston was dominant in every phase of the game and earned the league championship with a perfect run over a month-long Saturday series of action.

Moving on to the post-season, the Trojans, benefiting largely from a roster that contained many of the school’s top varsity girls’ basketball players, continued an undefeated roll at the bubble at Reliant Stadium, winning a regional championship and qualifying for the She’s Next State Championship tournament at the University of North Texas. South Houston finally saw its

unbeaten season come to an end at the state championship tournament, but ultimately had one last fun-filled appearance remaining.

One of two teams invited to play in a short halftime game during the Texans’ home preseason game against the Las Vegas Raiders, the Trojans again came away with a victory to earn another huge trophy for their efforts.

It remains to be seen what the future of flag football holds across the state of Texas as the University Interscholastic League is still working through some of the logistics in order to possibly officially recognize the sport in the coming school years.

No matter what, the performance of the 2026 South Houston program will go down in history as one of the most remarkable of any sport in the history of PISD. See related photos on Page 5.

Memorial and Dobie kick off their season at home this week

Veterans Stadium in Pasadena will come alive Aug. 27 and Aug. 28 as both Pasadena Memorial and Dobie host opponents to open the 2026 varsity football season.

Technology has allowed for the overall fan experience to be as smooth as ever courtesy of built-in parking prices, online ticket purchase options and other ease of access procedures at the stadium.

Long gone are the days when Pasadena area fire departments assisted with cash parking in the stadium lots on both the home and visitor sides.

There are no more lengthy ticket purchase lines that were once worked by Pasadena ISD athletic district office personnel.

For fans, today’s game experience runs as smoothly as ever.

Helping to make the stadium experience run so seamlessly is a credit to the dozens of Pasadena ISD athletic department and school district officials who chip in a variety of roles each and every week.

Pasadena ISD athletic director Patrick Longstreet and assistant athletic director Astin Haggerty both joined the athletic department during spring 2025.

Coming in as first-year athletic department officials, Longstreet had previously been the varsity football head coach at South Houston, and Haggerty had worked in administration at Clear Springs High School.

Both had to hit the ground running in terms of catching up with all of

the many responsibilities associated with running a school district athletic department. Certainly one of those responsibilities included managing game nights at Veterans Stadium at the varsity level as well as some sub-varsity action and eighth-grade play at Auxiliary Stadium just a short distance away.

Longstreet and Haggerty enjoyed the benefit of being able to learn some of the responsibilities on the go from outgoing district officials Rupert Jaso as well as Donna Branch, both of whom retired following the 2024-2025 school year.

While game nights run smoothly for both fans and participants on the regular, it works out that way due to the steady and consistent performance of those involved with the game night production.

Many game night personnel have communication devices in their hands all the time in the case of an emergency or if something isn’t working properly, a door is locked when it shouldn’t be.

Simply put, everyone involved with the game has a responsibility of being ready for the unexpected.

“There is certainly a checklist of responsibilities involved when you come into this job for the first time,” Longstreet said.

Pasadena Memorial hosts Clear Lake Thurs., Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m. Veterans Stadium

Dobie hosts Clear Springs Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m. Veterans Stadium

Clear Creek hosts Kingwood Thurs., Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m. Veterans Memorial

Clear Brook hosts Houston Madison Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial

Clear Falls hosts Pearland Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m. Challenger Columbia

South Belt football predictions	 John Bechtle	 Emory Gadd	 Stephen Sutton	 Debbie Vaughn
Dobie vs Clear Springs	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Shadow Creek vs Summer Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Summer Creek	Summer Creek
Clear Falls vs Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland
Dawson vs Deer Park	Deer Park	Dawson	Deer Park	Deer Park
Houston Lamar vs Manvel	Houston Lamar	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel
Clear Brook vs Madison	Madison	Madison	Madison	Madison
Dickinson vs Ridge Point	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
Katy vs Atascocita	Katy	Katy	Atascocita	Katy
Friendswood vs Texas City	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood	Texas City
La Porte vs Fort Bend Crawford	Fort Bend Crawford	La Porte	La Porte	Fort Bend Crawford
Last Week’s Results	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Season record	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

Cowboys’ past meets present at El Franco Lee



Several former Sagemont Cowboy players, including current Dobie varsity football head coach Danny Fitzmorris and Cowboys’ athletic director Denny Wranich Jr., were on hand Aug. 22 as the Cowboys played at El Franco Lee Park. Some of those players included in the fun were, left to right, (front row) current Cowboys Bentley Banhart, Memphis Hines, Bryce Starks, Kayden Starks, Thomas Alvarez, Jaylen Jackson, Braylon Woods, (back row) Dobie players Zaire Zavala and David Harris, Fitzmorris, Dobie players Dakarai Parker, Nolen Thomas and Wranich.

have to organize special pregame and halftime performances, there is just a lot that goes into it.”

And once the games are over, oftentimes the job is only beginning for certain staff members.

Student-athletes from some of the district’s high schools have been known to assist with cleaning the stadium rows following games.

Maintenance crew officials clear the press box, restrooms and other areas of necessary trash items etc., as everything has to be turned over completely in order to restart for the next game.

“I am typically the last person to leave the stadium following games, and for the most part it’s about an hour after the completion of the game,” Longstreet said.

There are a lot of things postgame that you need to double check and triple check, but you get into a routine and and it is that routine that takes over.

“There is a lot involved

<i>Sept. 1</i> <i>Thompson 7th at Westbrook</i> <i>4:45 p.m./6 p.m.</i> <i>Beverly Hills 7th hosts Clear Creek</i>
<i>Sept. 2</i> <i>Thompson 8th hosts Westbrook</i> <i>4:45 p.m./6 p.m.</i> <i>Beverly Hills 8th at Clear Creek</i> <i>4:45 p.m./6 p.m.</i>

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

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 28

7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 - 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

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

9 a.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners** - See Thursday's notice.
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.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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 **AA - Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office 281-554-1180 for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.

7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

Noon **AA - Imperfect Nooners**. See Friday's notice.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479 or 281-309-2801.

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

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. In-person address 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.

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

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SAMANTHA HERNANDEZ
President, Dobie FFA Booster Club
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DobieHSFFABoosterClub@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

FUELING FUTURE FARMERS, ♥ ONE MEAL AT A TIME.

San Jacinto College Softball Fall Roster

- 2 Maddi Lopez
- 3 Mia Ortega
- 4 Kylie Corley
- 5 Bella Mata
- 6 Kimora Quave
- 7 Bre Norman
- 8 Keira Thacker
- 9 Adori Howard
- 10 Gabby Aguirre
- 12 Micaela Lewis
- 13 Maya Hernandez
- 14 Brooke Anderson
- 15 Kate Pierson
- 16 Larissa Tavares
- 17 Zoie Powell
- 18 Jules Delome
- 19 Grace Walker
- 20 Alyssa Terry
- 21 Ella Mangus
- 23 Audrey Diercks
- 24 Jenna Hashaw
- 33 Jaselle Salinas
- 55 Vivi Burgos

San Jacinto College begins offseason softball workouts

San Jacinto College softball head coach Kelly Saenz and her staff as of Aug. 17 released the first official roster heading into the fall season, which features a mix of returnees along with newcomers numbering 23 in all as the program begins preparation for the 2027 regular season.

While it is far too early to judge just how well things will turn out on the field come next January and beyond, Saenz is confident that this particular group of players can achieve great things.

Despite a slow start last season, the Ravens rebounded to put together a terrific run in conference play, then had just enough in the tank to capture a World Series berth following a tough regional tournament run. The team captured its World Series opener but then lost consecutive games to end its season.

The 2026 season is now in the rear view mirror, but that doesn't mean that the focus has changed in the least. San Jacinto College has consistently been at the front of the line in terms of World Series contention each season, and the expectations will be the same for 2027.

Roster construction is now complete, the student-athletes have enrolled and since begun classes and are all settled into living arrangements.

Now, it's all about taking care of one's business in the

classroom and out on the practice field. The Ravens typically carry a roster of 25 to 26 players and started this preseason with 23.

Among the 13 returnees are Vivi Burgos, Audrey Diercks, Jules Delome, Adori Howard, Micaela Lewis, Ella Mangus, Bella Mata, Bre Norman, Mia Ortega, Zoie Powell, Jaselle Salinas and Alyssa Terry. Norman, Ortega and Terry, a Clear Brook graduate, were first-team All-Conference honorees, but the 2027 group will largely have a new look.

"We brought in three new pitchers, and then we brought in, as I'm looking at the team, three infielders, two utilities, two catchers and an outfielder, because we had two starting outfielders return for us, so that's where we're at," Saenz said.

"We're looking okay. A lot of little things we need to clean up, but we are a lot more athletic this year."

In the circle, SJC lost conference Pitcher of the Year Kaelin Hicks and others.

"For pitching, we look at what we have coming back and what we need to add to contrast the returnees," Saenz said. "So if we've got riseball pitchers coming back, we need to have some dropball pitchers coming in."

"If we've got nothing but velocity, we need to make sure we have a little bit slower stuff, a little more movement stuff. I think we have a good mix."

"And then the rest of the positions we're looking for versatility, that they're athletic, and they can hit. If they're hitting, we gotta find a spot for them."

Along with mixing in plenty of preseason work on the practice field and indoor facility right now, there are off-the-field experiences such as getting high school players accustomed to the collegiate routine.

And soon, SJC will begin its fall competition season with doubleheaders scheduled against several four-year programs as well as some of the top club programs in and around the Houston area.

The current group will also have the benefit of being able to play games on the home field at San Jacinto College South campus, which was unavailable at this time last season due to construction and upgrades made to the facility.

"I really like the buy-in that we have seen from this group so far," Saenz said. "There's always that adjustment from high school to college."

"They think it's going to be easy like summer ball, or high school play, but then you come over to the JUCO level it is something different than what you thought or have experienced. Sometimes it's hard for players to grasp that in the first little while, but I think we have already made it past those hurdles."

The wins and losses on

the field during the fall will not ultimately matter much in the big picture, but to Saenz and her staff, this portion of the schedule is as important as any.

"To me, it's very important because we have some home games this year as well as some great road trips that should really help us bond," Saenz said.

"We play the University of Houston, Sam Houston, UTSA, TSU and some other good programs. That competition will show us exactly where we are and where we need to make some adjustments heading into January."

"I think you have to have a pretty good idea of what your pitching lineup is going to look like and what the offensive one through nine is going to look like when you come back from the Christmas break."

"You know, after we have played 26-27 fall games, we should have a pretty good idea of what things look like. We always go in with a plan, now is that plan going to change?"

"Yes, it typically does a little bit. But we know for instance that we have these four outfielders, and maybe we move a catcher here or there, and we are always looking to do whatever it takes to get power in the lineup. Versatility and having players that can step into a variety of roles is always something that we look for, and I will truly believe we have that with this group as well."

San Jacinto College baseball players find homes

A dozen players who competed as members of the San Jacinto College baseball team during the 2026 season will now move on to compete at four-year programs. Those players include:

Hunter Crane - Southwest Baptist
Christian De Los Santos - Mississippi Valley State
Andrew Fonte - Northern Kentucky
R.J. Furcal - Sam Houston State
Javier Garcia - Texas A&M International
Zavier Garcia - Texas A&M International
Adam Kilburn - Missouri
Jack Marek - Southern Illinois
Patrick Lewis - Missouri
Dylan McIntyre - Kentucky
T.J. Stottlemire - Appalachian State
Trey Tarkington - Tennessee at Martin

Dobie FB challenges Springs

Continued from Page 5

Much has been made of the fact that the Longhorns went into the offseason in January knowing full well that Orlando Gomez II was the lone returnee on the defensive side of things.

The coaching staff, led by defensive coordinator Cohen Landry, went to work at restocking the roster on that side of the football. Fitzmorris believes that plenty has been achieved through the spring practices, summer workouts and so forth to a point where he feels very confident in the group that will take the field Aug. 28 against Clear Springs.

"First off, we've got tons of talent on defense," Fitzmorris said. "This might be the best defense I've had in the three years since I've been here. We let all of those kids play junior varsity football last year as sophomores, and as I'm looking at my board right now, we have 12 current juniors who will take the field for us."

"We may not have some of the prototypical size on the defensive side, but these guys play fast, they play hard and they do a really good job of getting to the football and making plays. Coach Landry does a great job with those guys. We have the great benefit of having held our defensive coaching staff together for three years now."

"The kids know the system, they are comfortable in it, and in a lot of ways it really allows us to hit the ground running and not have to teach a whole lot of new things to guys."

In terms of the three layers of defense, the Longhorns have R.J. Robinson and Jordyn Thomas at defensive end, with Harley Stewart and Israel Garcia on the inside.

"R.J. Robinson is the kid that played a little bit for us on the varsity last season," Fitzmorris said. "He's long, rangy and has a high motor to go along with Thomas, another guy who is lightning in a bottle and really gets after it."

"On the interior, Stewart is a player who has a chance to be terrific at his spot, while Garcia is a guy who played on the junior varsity B squad a season ago but has elevated his game to a point where he will certainly be starting on opening night."

"As coaches, you always love guys like Israel Garcia," Fitzmorris said. "Every single year, you develop kids and have a tremendous hope that they will develop. For him to basically go from the sophomore level team to starting at the varsity level in a year is a credit to him. It just shows himself as well as other guys what can be achieved in one offseason."

At linebacker, the Longhorns currently have a three-man rotation working that includes Jyles Washington, Gomez and James Fortson III on the inside. At outside linebacker Jakaleb Crumley has won the job as a rush linebacker along with Donavin Lamas.

Fitzmorris feels great about the potential of Crumley.

"He might be the best football player on the entire team, and that's not taking anything away from the other players," Fitzmorris said of Crumley. "He's phenomenal. Number 1, he flies around and makes plays. I mean, sometimes he can be a little reckless, but when he presses the gas he doesn't hit the brakes very often."

The Longhorns began preseason workouts Aug. 11 with the understanding that there were a couple of positions in the secondary that needed to be solidified. So far, so good with the work that some of those guys are put in in the back of the defense.

At cornerback, Dakarai Parker is one of the guys who could step up in a big way. He registered an interception in the scrimmage against La Porte, and then there are the Taylor twins, Quenton Taylor and Quentin Taylor as well as Zyaire Kendrick. At safety David Harris is more than ready to go and the Longhorns also have Michael Brown as well as Zaire Zavala, a sophomore who was elevated to the varsity level after simply earning a spot with tough, hard-nosed play and constant hustle.

"There are a bunch of guys on the defensive side who have shown us a lot and who have earned the right to be either a full-time starter or certainly in the rotation," Fitzmorris said.

"As a coach, that's all you want is guys who desire to be the best version of themselves and want to go out there, go full bore from the snap and be willing to make plays. We have a bunch of those guys on the defense. Overall, as I said before, this has a chance to be our best defense in three years."

"We are young and inexperienced, yes, but I really believe that these guys will thrive in the Friday night lights and come out and make plays for us."

On the offense, junior quarterback Oscar Hernandez will be under center. The Longhorns have traditionally for decades preferred a run-first offense with opportunistic pass plays involved in the mix.

"Oscar is more of a quick-passing-game quarterback for us," Fitzmorris said. "We will be focused on getting the ball out of his hands quickly as he is a turn-and-throw type of kid. Oscar has a strong arm and when he gets an opportunity to take a shot down field, we feel confident that he'll be able to do that."

At receiver, Nolen Thomas is a proven playmaker who figures to be the Longhorns' top option at the position. Dobie also has Markeith Smith and Jordan Ramirez ready to step in and make plays.

Dobie has graduated players who have been the district's leading rushers in three consecutive years but still return players who they feel very good about at running back. Adrian Taylor and Tyler Owens have gotten much of the early publicity, but the Longhorns will also turn to J'mier Gassaway, Faraell

Sims and Ezekiel West at full-back.

"We really have five guys in the backfield whom we feel great about," Fitzmorris said. "We have some talent in that room, and I really think we are going to see the same the plays from that group that we have seen from other running backs in the past. The difference this year is that we have a large group of guys who are simply waiting for their opportunity to make plays, and I know that each one of those guys is going to have an opportunity and will take that opportunity and run with it."

Of course the key to any solid offense is a highly functioning offensive line up front. Dobie came into the offseason with just one guy returning as a starter in the form of Achilles Rostro. Over time, some of the names that have been added to that group include "Blue Waffle" Alex Vouffo, Donovan Martinez and Miguel Johnson. Roberto Rodriguez is another player coming in as a sophomore who has earned his right to play at the varsity level.

At tight end, the Longhorns returned Angel Lopez, and they really like what they have seen from Braylon Byrd. Then again, Byrd may also see time on the defensive line as Fitzmorris said the offensive line has had trouble blocking him throughout preseason workouts.

"We have three primary goals coming out of the gate this season," Fitzmorris said. "The first one is to beat Clear Springs. Number two is to keep the Battle of the Beltway trophy here on Blackhawk. That would come via a victory over Pasadena Memorial. The third goal is to make the post-season and to win a playoff game. The one thing that we have talked about all spring, end of the summer and now into the preseason is focusing on the process each and every day."

"Essentially what that means is, we are approaching the regular season as 10 individual weekly opportunities to get better as a football program and to come away with a victory. While we all know that it is important to be ready for that district opener against Pearland in three weeks, right now our sole focus is on Clear Springs. We are not going to make a Pearland game any more important than Clear Springs in the moment. It's all part of the process and we are going to treat the first play of the game just like the last play of the game and we're not going to make anything bigger than it is."

"Each play represents an opportunity for us to go out there and make something positive happen for ourselves. Everything we do at this point is about detail and focusing on that moment. We can only handle what is right in front of us, so I think we have done a real good job at focusing on the process each day. I really believe that's going to help us as we move along this season."

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