

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 Sagemlen subdivision.

Beverly Hills to meet Aug. 7

Beverly Hills Civic Club will host a meeting Friday, Aug. 7, at the Beverly Hills Park community center, located at 10201 Kingspoint, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. All Beverly Hills residents are welcome to attend.

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.

New Covenant feeds needy

Each month, New Covenant Christian Church, 10603 Blackhawk at Kirkfair, will have food distribution events the first and third Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies last. The purpose of the events is to provide food to people in need. For additional information, contact the church at 281-484-4230.

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.

MUD offers dumping reward

Clear Brook City MUD is offering a \$1,000 reward for information on who disposed of a dead dog at Clear Brook City Park the morning of Monday, July 20.

According to MUD officials, the body of a large dog was placed in a trash bag and left behind the gazebo at the park. Harris County Animal Services was called to humanely dispose of the canine. Anyone with information is urged to contact Precinct 2 Capt. Marco Leal at 713-855-6154.

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.

Ellington eRecycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 311.

South Belt students to return to school

2026-2027 school year to bring many changes to local school districts

South Belt students will return to class next week, as both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD open the 2026-2027 school year, with each local district launching new virtual learning opportunities.

Start dates, times and holidays

Pasadena ISD: Students begin classes Thursday, Aug. 13, with freshman orientation set for Aug. 12.

Clear Creek ISD: Pre-K, kindergarten, sixth-grade and ninth-grade students will start classes Tuesday, Aug. 11, while all other grades start Wednesday, Aug. 12.

Clear Creek ISD bell times are as follows:

- High schools: 7:10 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.
- Intermediate: 8:40 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

– Elementary: 7:55 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
PISD start times vary by school and should be confirmed through the individual campus.

Both school districts share similar holiday schedules, including Thanksgiving week, winter break and spring break.

Pasadena ISD calendar highlights include the following key dates:

- Fall break: Oct. 9 – 13
- Thanksgiving: Nov. 23 – 27;
- Winter break: Dec. 21 – Jan. 1
- Spring break: Mar. 8 – 12
- Last day: May 21 (early dismissal).

Clear Creek ISD calendar highlights include the following key dates:

- Fall break: Oct. 9 – 12

- Thanksgiving: Nov. 23 – 27;
 - Winter break: Dec. 21 – Jan. 1
 - Spring break: Mar. 8 – 12
 - Last day: May 20 (early dismissal).
- To view Clear Creek ISD's 2026-2027 Back-to-School Guide, visit www.ccisd.net/backtoschool.

Virtual learning

Both school districts are expanding their virtual learning programs, with each one launching new options for students. Pasadena ISD is debuting its FLEx Virtual High School, while Clear Creek ISD is rolling out Clear Tech, a first-year partnership with Texas Tech University.

Pasadena ISD's FLEx Virtual High School: Pasadena ISD is launching FLEx Virtual High

School, a tuition-free, full-time online campus for grades 9 – 12. Powered by Pasadena Virtual School's two decades of online instruction, FLEx offers Texas-certified teachers, Advanced Placement and dual-credit courses, NCAA-approved core classes, career pathways and virtual clubs. Students may enroll full time or part time, and home-schooled students are eligible.

PISD Superintendent Dr. Toni Lopez praised the flexibility of the program.

"FLEx is about giving families flexibility and expanding opportunities," said Lopez. "Students will experience the Pasadena ISD tradition of excellence in a format that meets their unique needs."

Continued on Page 4

Garcia distributes backpacks



Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (second from right) hosted his fourth annual back-to-school backpack giveaway Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Scarsdale County Annex, attracting dozens of local families as students prepare to return to class next week. Shown above at the event are, left to right, Gabriel Cordova, Lisa Holbrook and Anita Eakman. See additional photos Page 3.

Sales tax holiday set for Aug. 7-9

Tax-free items include back-to-school clothes, supplies

Texas shoppers will get a break from sales taxes on back-to-school essentials during the state's annual sales tax holiday, scheduled for Friday, Aug. 7 through Sunday, Aug. 9.

The three-day event exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from state and local sales taxes, a savings of up to 8.25 percent depending on the local rate.

The holiday was permanently set to the first Friday in August beginning in 2026, following legislation that standardized the dates. That means families can now plan around a predictable weekend each year.

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said the holiday is designed to ease the burden on families while supporting local businesses.

"This weekend is about helping Texas families stretch their dollars while keeping their back-to-school shopping local," Hancock said in the comptroller's announcement.

What qualifies?

The following items qualify for the annual tax holiday:

- Clothing and footwear under \$100 per item.
- School supplies such as binders, calculators, crayons, notebooks and scissors.
- Backpacks under \$100, including those with wheels if wearable on the back.

– Cloth and disposable face masks are also exempt, as they meet the definition of clothing.

There is no limit on the number of qualifying items a shopper can buy. For example, two shirts at \$80 each both qualify, even though the total purchase is \$160.

What doesn't qualify

The following items are excluded from the tax holiday:

- Clothing or footwear priced at \$100 or more.
- Athletic or protective gear such as football pads or golf cleats.
- Jewelry, handbags, purses, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches and other accessories.
- Computers, software and textbooks.

Online and layaway purchases

The exemption applies to purchases made in-store, online, by mail or by phone, as long as the transaction is completed during the holiday. Layaway items also qualify if placed on layaway or paid off during the weekend.

With many Texas districts starting classes the following week, the tax holiday offers families one last chance to stock up on supplies without paying sales tax.

The comptroller's office estimates shoppers save about \$8 for every \$100 spent, a meaningful discount for households preparing for the school year.

Memorial Hermann offers school tips

Tips offered to help local students return to class

Summer is in full swing, but believe it or not, school will be starting up again next week.

According to Memorial Hermann Health System officials, there are some things that parents can do now to prepare their kids for a strong start to the school year.

"Back-to-school season is about more than shopping for school supplies," said Dr. Krystal Batchelor, a pediatrician with the Memorial Hermann Health System. "It's an opportunity for families to start healthy routines that prepare children both physically and mentally for a successful school year."

One of the most important ways parents can prepare children for school is by adjusting their sleep schedule. Rather than waiting until the night before school starts, families should begin making small changes a few weeks in advance by gradually adjusting bedtimes and wake-up

times, and by limiting screen time before bed.

"Proper nutrition also plays an important role in a child's day-to-day health. Starting the day with a balanced breakfast can help students stay focused, energized and ready to learn," Batchelor said. "While some breakfast foods may contain sugar, pairing them with healthier options, such as fruit, yogurt or a source of protein, will help create a more balanced meal."

Batchelor adds parents should also schedule their child's annual wellness checkup before the school year begins.

"Parents should schedule appointments as early as possible, as summer availability is limited and fills quickly," Batchelor said. "Scheduling appointments before classes begin helps ensure children are healthy, up to date on vaccinations and ready for the year ahead."

Continue on Page 3

County to hold virtual flood meeting

Webinar to focus on Friendswood basin at Dixie Farm/Blackhawk

Harris County Flood Control District will hold a virtual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, to discuss the ongoing construction of the future Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin.

To be located on an undeveloped 105-acre site along the Clear Creek overbank at FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road and Blackhawk Boulevard, the site is essentially across the street from the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin, which opened in May 2023.

Approved by Harris County Commissioners Court in December 2023, the Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin is a partnership project between Harris County Flood Control District, the city of Friendswood, Galveston County and Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District.

This project is utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds through Harris County's partnership with Galveston County. Construction also utilizes funds from HCFCD's 2018 bond.

Total allocation for this project is approximately \$32.4 million, of which an estimated \$13.5 million is from bond funding. Additional contributions from partners include an estimated \$8 million from the city of Friendswood, \$7.5 million from Galveston County and \$3.5 million from the Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District.

According to Harris County Flood Control officials, the project is on schedule, with workers recently completing the first phase of work, which involved preliminary excavation. The excavation site is located on an undeveloped 105-acre tract north of Clear Creek, south of FM 1959 and east of Blackhawk Boulevard.

The future stormwater detention at this location is part of an overall flood risk reduction

project, which includes mitigation storage along Clear Creek.

HCFCD officials point out, however, that the Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin Project is not part of the ongoing Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Management Project, being conducted in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The purpose of the new Friendswood basin along Clear Creek is to work in conjunction with future channel conveyance improvement projects to reduce flooding risks in the Clear Creek watershed. While the channel conveyance improvements will move the stormwater more efficiently out of an area, the stormwater detention basin will take in and temporarily store stormwater to ensure that the increased conveyance does not transfer the flooding risk to upstream or downstream communities. Typically, stormwater detention basins are constructed first and can provide flood risk reduction benefits on their own.

The \$5.5 million preliminary excavation was a way to get started with the basin in advance of major project construction. County officials had an excavation target of more than 460,000 cubic yards (approximately 46,000 truckloads) in three locations within the tract of land.

Officials said the basin is anticipated to provide anywhere from 700 to 1,300 acre-feet in storage, once complete.

The Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin Project is expected to be complete in late 2026, according to HCFCD officials.

For additional information on this project or to register to take part in the virtual meeting, visit hcfcd.org/Friendswood. Participants may also join by phone at 346-248-7799 using Webinar ID 826 2003 9650.

Continued on Page 4

Local pools close for summer season

While the heat index may suggest otherwise, summer is coming to an end, and several local swimming pools are closing for the season.

Beginning next week, all area pools are now closed on weekdays, as local students return to school.

The Ashley Pointe and Highland Meadow pools will close after Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7. Ashley Pointe's holiday pool hours are from noon to 8 p.m., while Highland Meadow's hours are from 3 to 8 p.m.

The Clear Brook Meadows and Riverstone

Ranch pools will remain open two weekends past Labor Day, closing Sunday, Sept. 20. Pool hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Sageglenn pool will remain open week-ends through the month of September, closing for the season Sunday, Sept. 27. Pool hours are from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and from 1 to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

City of Houston swimming pools – including Sagemont, Beverly Hills and Wilson Memorial parks – are also now only open weekends through Labor Day.

Beamer roadwork continues



Construction continues along Beamer between FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road and El Dorado Boulevard, where Houston District D City Council Member Carolyn-Evans Shabazz has launched a roadway improvement project. Workers are shown above at Beamer and Dixie Farm. Work is expected to be complete later this month.

Photo by James Bolen

In My Opinion

King reviews city’s apartment rent decline

According to data from the research firm MRI Real Estate Software, apartment rents in the Houston region have been declining for nearly two years. However, this comes after a rapid increase in rents during the pandemic.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the average monthly rent for an apartment was \$1,048, but then rapidly escalated over the next two years to \$1,266, a 21% increase. Since late 2022, however, rents have fluctuated while generally trending downward and have steadily fallen since the end of 2024. Last month, the average was \$1,252.

At \$1,252, rents are still well above their pre-pandemic levels, but on an inflation-adjusted basis, they are down about 8% from 2019.

With a few exceptions, rents are down across the region. A handful of submarkets have shown some rebound in rents. Areas near the Texas Medical Center in particular have fared better.

MRI groups apartments into Classes A through D, generally based on age, condition, location, and amenities, with Class A representing the newest and most upscale properties and Class D the oldest and most distressed. These classifications are widely recognized in the multifamily industry.

Each class has a trajectory similar to the overall average. However, Class A has fallen further and more rapidly than the other classes, falling over 8% over the last four years. Most of the newer projects are Class A. The occupancy rate for projects that were opened in the second half of 2025 is only 66%. Many of these newer projects are offering substantial concessions to new tenants.

Class C and D project rents held relatively steady after the pandemic but have fallen significantly (5-7%) during the last year. I am tempted to associate that decline with the immigration crackdown since many recent immigrants begin their time in Houston in those projects. However, counterintuitively, occupancy in Class C and D projects is up slightly while rents have declined over the same period. I spoke to several Class C and D owners, who indicated that they have been forced to aggressively cut rents and offer other incentives to maintain occupancy. Anecdotally, they indicate that their tenants’ immigration issues have put constant but modest pressure on maintaining their occupancy. This generally aligns with my impression that the

new immigration enforcement policies are causing a gradual decline in Houston’s immigrant population, but not a dramatic exodus.

The number in MRI’s report that got my attention is that there are 80,000 vacant apartments in the Houston region. That large number of vacancies, combined with falling rents, complicates the common characterization that Houston is facing a worsening housing-affordability problem.

It does not mean that every Houston household can afford suitable housing. Extremely low-income residents may remain unable to afford even comparatively modest rents. But the data raises an important question: Are Houston’s current housing difficulties primarily the result of an insufficient supply of apartments, or of incomes that are too low for some households to afford the housing already available?

More to come on that question.

Bill King

Jackson: Beware of hidden agendas, issues

On Monday, July 20th, 2026, the Sageglen HOA held its annual meeting and I, as a Sageglen homeowner, experienced something that I found disturbing.

It was brought to our attention that xerox copies were made of the election ballot that had been mailed to homeowners. These ballot copies listed the individuals who expressed interest in running for the open positions and were distributed in the neighborhood. The proper steps for submitting ballots were not followed as outlined on the mailed ballot information and, for this reason, 80 plus ballots were disqualified.

As a homeowner I would like to caution all homeowners to be on guard when approached by individuals who express interest in running for MUD districts, HOAs, and Civic Clubs. We must all stay informed and educate ourselves about these individuals and their issues. And not feel rushed or pressured into something.

It is important to make sure these individuals, or the candidates they support, don’t have any hidden agenda or ulterior motives and are trustworthy. And most importantly that they have the Best Interest of Our Community at Heart.

If we don’t safeguard ourselves, public trust in our organizations begins to diminish and our communities begin to decline.

Ed Jackson

Summer newsletter for District D, Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, council member

Dear District D Family,

As we close out another remarkable summer in the District of Destination, I am filled with gratitude for the countless moments that brought our community together and reminded us of what makes District D such a special place to call home. This summer was one of celebration, opportunity, and progress, and I am proud of all that we accomplished together.

Before reflecting on the many successes of the season, I want to take a moment to acknowledge a tragedy that has deeply impacted our city. On behalf of the District D Office, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, whose life was tragically cut short following a fatal shooting involving ICE agents. No family should have to endure such a heartbreaking loss, and our hearts remain with all who are grieving during this incredibly difficult time. As investigations continue, we join many across our city in hoping for a full, transparent, and fair accounting of the events that led to his death. May we honor his memory by continuing to pursue truth, accountability, and a future where every member of our community is treated with dignity and humanity. His life mattered, and we must strive to ensure that his passing inspires meaningful reflection and lasting change. Even in times of sorrow, our community has continued to demonstrate resilience, compassion, and unity.

One of the defining moments of the season was welcoming the FIFA World Cup to Houston. As the eyes of the world turned toward our city, District D proudly stood at the center of the excitement. The tournament brought visitors from across the globe, generated tremendous economic activity for local businesses, and showcased Houston’s rich diversity, culture, and hospitality on an international stage. From neighborhood businesses experiencing increased traffic to residents embracing the energy of this once in a generation event, the World Cup demonstrated the incredible impact that major events can have when a city comes together.

This summer also gave us the opportunity to honor our history through meaningful Juneteenth celebrations across the district. As the home to many of Houston’s most significant Black cultural and historical landmarks, District D takes immense pride in commemorating

Elected officials share their words

the resilience, freedom, and achievements of those who came before us. Seeing families gather, neighbors reconnect, and our community celebrate together served as a powerful reminder that our history continues to shape our future.

We were equally honored to celebrate some of the pillars of our community, our seniors. Whether through our annual Sunnyside Senior Citizens Luncheon and Dance or the many events held throughout the district, it was a privilege to recognize the generations whose wisdom, leadership, and lifelong contributions continue to strengthen our neighborhoods. Watching so many of our senior residents laugh, dance, fellowship, and create new memories together was truly one of the highlights of the summer.

At the same time, our young people enjoyed a season filled with learning, exploration, and opportunity. From resource fairs and educational programming to recreational activities, internships, and community engagement initiatives, our office remained committed to ensuring that every young person had opportunities to grow, discover new passions, and prepare for bright futures. Investing in our youth today is one of the greatest investments we can make in the future of District D.

Now, as August arrives and students, educators, and families prepare for a new school year, we look ahead with excitement and optimism. I encourage every student to embrace the opportunities that await them in the classroom, every parent to continue supporting their children’s educational journey, and every educator to know how deeply your dedication is appreciated. The beginning of a new school year represents far more than new backpacks and school supplies. It represents fresh starts, new goals, and limitless possibilities.

As always, thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Council Member. Together, we will continue building safer neighborhoods, expanding opportunities, celebrating our rich history, and ensuring District D remains a place where every resident has the opportunity to thrive.

Here’s to a successful school year and an even brighter season ahead.

With gratitude,
Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz
Councilmember, District D

Letter from Fred Flickinger

Dear District E Residents,

Recycling is one of the easiest ways we can reduce landfill waste and protect our environment, but only when the right materials go into the green recycling cart.

Unfortunately, recycling contamination has become a growing challenge across Houston. Contamination occurs when non-recyclable or improperly prepared items are mixed with recyclable materials, reducing the value of those materials and making them more difficult, and sometimes impossible, to process.

Today, Houston’s recycling contamination rate exceeds 42 percent nearly double the national average of 15 to 25 percent. That contamination comes at a significant cost. Extra sorting, equipment repairs, disposal of contaminated materials, and lost revenue from unrecyclable loads resulted in nearly \$2.5 million in additional costs and lost revenue in 2025 for the City’s recycling processor.

Beyond the financial impact, contamination also creates safety hazards. Items like hoses, extension cords, ropes, textiles, and other “tangles” become wrapped around sorting equipment, forcing workers to stop operations to remove them by hand. Every shutdown increases operating costs and exposes employees to additional safety risks. Even more concerning, improperly discarded lithium batteries can spark fires capable of shutting down an entire recycling facility for days.

If you recycle regularly, please take a few extra seconds before placing something in the recycling cart. Those small decisions help protect our environment, improve worker safety, and keep recycling costs down for everyone.

Recycle These Items

- Paper, newspapers, magazines, and mail
- Flattened cardboard boxes
- Aluminum and steel cans (empty and rinsed)
- Plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs (#1 through #5 and #7), emptied and rinsed
- Glass bottles and jars
- Food and beverage cartons

Keep These Out of Your Recycling Cart

- Plastic bags and bagged recyclables
- Garden hoses, extension cords, ropes, chains, and string lights (“tan-

glers”)

- Styrofoam and other non-accepted plastics
- Electronics, batteries, chemicals, and syringes
- Clothing, textiles, and toys
- Food waste, greasy pizza boxes, and containers with food or liquid inside

Remember these three simple rules:

- Empty it. Remove all food and liquid.
- Rinse it. A quick rinse helps prevent contamination.
- Keep it loose. Never bag your recyclables before placing them in the green cart.

Every clean recycling cart helps reduce contamination, lowers processing costs, and ensures more recyclable materials are turned into new products instead of ending up in a landfill. Thank you for doing your part to keep District E clean, sustainable, and a leader in responsible recycling.

Finally, I want District E residents to save the date for upcoming town hall meetings in September and October. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the presentations will start at 6 p.m.

Kingwood/Lake Houston – Tuesday, Sept. 22, 5 to 8 p.m., Kingwood Community Center, located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive Kingwood, Texas 77345.

Clear Lake – Tuesday, Oct. 8, 5 to 8 p.m., Space Center Houston, located at 1601 E NASA Pkwy Houston, Texas 77058.

Southeast - Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5 to 8 p.m., St. Augustine Catholic Church, 5560 Laurel Creek Way Houston, Texas 77017

I have also extended invitations to several city departments, including Houston Public Works and Houston Parks and Recreation, as well as a range of community speakers and elected officials.

In addition to various information tables for residents to peruse before the meetings begin. I look forward to everyone hearing these updates and addressing community questions, comments, and concerns. This is the perfect opportunity to engage with your community and have your questions answered. We hope you will join us. Feel free to invite a neighbor, friend or colleague! Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sincerely,
Fred Flickinger
Council Member District E



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.

New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care



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

281.481.2003

www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com

10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089

Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

Guest editorial: PISD on attendance

By Former Dobie Principal Jorly Thomas, PISD Communications

What happens before the first bell rings? The work behind student success

As parents are squeezing in the last days of summer, buying school supplies, and getting ready for the first day of school on Aug. 13, you might be wondering: What do principals do all summer when there are no students in the building?

The answer is simple: a lot.

Most people think principals spend the summer getting the building ready, hiring new staff, building schedules, and preparing teachers for the new year. They do all of that, but there is another part of the job that many parents never see. They study data.

Principals spend part of their summer looking back before moving forward. They review what worked last year, where students grew, and where students struggled. They look at reading, math, science, and social studies results. They review athletics, fine arts, and other student programs. The goal is not to admire last year’s success or dwell on challenges. The goal is to learn from it and make this year even better for students.

High school principals also study graduation data. This year, that data gave us something to celebrate. Pasadena ISD achieved the highest graduation rate in district history, with 92 percent of students in the Class of 2025 earning their diplomas. The district’s previous record was 91.3 percent, set by the Class of

2022.

“This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of our students, the tireless work of our staff and the support of our families,” said Superintendent Dr. Toni Lopez. “Reaching a record 92 percent graduation rate is a milestone worth celebrating, and we are proud of every graduate.”

“While we celebrate this achievement, we know there is still work to be done,” Lopez said. “Our goal is to ensure every student has the support they need to one day walk across that stage and receive a diploma.”

Another thing principals study closely is attendance. Parents, you may not realize this, but attendance has been a challenge for schools across the country since COVID. While things have improved, schools everywhere are still working to help students rebuild strong attendance habits. Pasadena ISD is no different.

You might even be asking yourself, “Does attendance really make that much of a difference?”

The answer is yes.

Students cannot learn if they are not in class.

Think about learning like building a staircase. Every lesson is another step. When students miss school, they miss some of those steps. Missing a day here or there may not seem like a big deal, but over time those missed days begin to add up.

Our Pasadena ISD research team found that students in grades 5, 7, and 9

who attend school at least 90 percent of the year are nearly twice as likely to earn higher levels of academic performance.

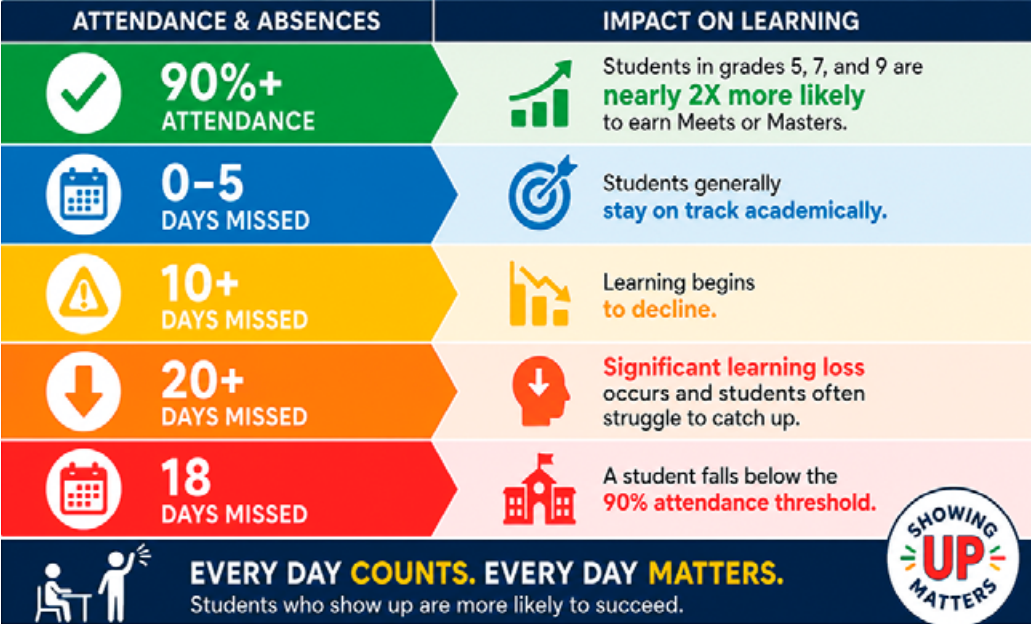
The attendance chart tells an important story. Students who miss five days or less during the school year are much more likely to stay on track academically. Around 10 missed days, learning can begin to decline. By 20 or more missed days, students often experience significant learning loss and may struggle to catch up.

Parents are often surprised to learn that missing just two days of school per month adds up to about 18 days over the course of a school year. That’s enough to place a student below the 90 percent attendance mark. When you look at it that way, it’s easy to see how a few absences here and there can make a difference.

That’s why principals spend so much time studying attendance data before the school year starts. They know every day matters because every lesson matters.

The good news is that attendance is something all of us can influence together. One of the most important things families can do to help their children succeed is make school attendance a priority.

While principals are studying data, teachers are busy preparing classrooms, planning lessons, learning new strategies, and getting ready to welcome students back. Together, they are working to make sure every child has a strong start to the school year.



Save the Date

Evening of Cuisine

25 Years of Tastes & Traditions

Thursday, September 17, 2026
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
University of Houston Clear Lake - Bayou Building
www.southbeltchamber.com

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

David Flickinger, owner

DWI suspect arrested following chase



A man was arrested on felony charges following a police chase early July 19 along Beltway 8. According to Precinct 8 officials, the incident began around 3:45 a.m. when deputies spotted the man driving a blue Chrysler 300 erratically and suspected to be intoxicated. When deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop, the driver refused to stop and a pursuit ensued. The chase – which exceeded 100 mph – came to a stop near Cullen Boulevard when the driver crashed into a concrete barrier. After the crash, the driver continued to allegedly resist arrest, prompting deputies to use a taser to subdue him. Jesse Nava, 38, was charged with evading arrest/detention motor vehicle. He was uninjured.

Meth arrest made near Edgebrook



A traffic stop led to felony drug charges around 4 a.m. July 18 in the 1100 block of Edgebrook near the Gulf Freeway. According to Precinct 8 officials, the incident began when K9 Deputy K. Peters conducted a traffic stop after allegedly seeing the driver commit multiple moving violations. Upon making contact, the driver – identified as Craig Allen Pittman – reported-

ly gave Peters consent to search his vehicle (in which he was believed to live). The search yielded 4 grams of methamphetamine, along with drug paraphernalia commonly used for narcotics distribution. A set of brass knuckles was also found. Pittman, 56, was arrested and charged with manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

Community distributes backpacks

Hosted by Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia, event now in 4th year



The fourth annual back-to-school backpack giveaway, hosted by Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia (right) Aug. 1 at the Scarsdale County Annex, was a huge success, ensuring that local students have the supplies they need to start the 2026-2027 school year strong. Shown above with the constable at the

event are, left to right, Mario Rodriguez, Claudia Villa, Burnett Elementary Principal Jae Lee, Clear Brook City MUD General Manager Cecelia Ganje, Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado and Stuchbery Elementary Principal Jose Hernandez. See related photo on Page 1.



Claudia Villa is shown above helping to distribute backpacks to local students at the fourth annual back-to-school backpack giveaway.



Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia is shown above at the event visiting with an attendee.



Shown above taking part in the annual back-to-school-backpack giveaway are, left to right, (front row) Mario Rodriguez, Joe Loredio, Lisa Holbrook (South Belt-Ellington Chamber president), Constable Jerry Garcia (host), Maria Bonilla (HEB), Kayleigh Reyes (Alameda Dental), (back row) Maria Montemayor, Anita Eakman (South Belt-Ellington Chamber vice president), Gabriel Cordova (Frost Bank), Jae Lee (Burnett Elementary principal), Judge Jo Ann Delgado, Cecelia Ganje (Clear Brook City MUD general manager), Jose Hernandez (Stuchbery Elementary principal), Jarvis Sanders (HEB), Suria Francis (HEB) and Erica Espinoza.

Memorial Hermann offers back-to-school tips

Health experts offer tips to help local students return to class

Continued from Page 1

Returning to school can also be stressful for some children. Parents should watch for signs of stress and anxiety, including changes in sleep patterns, school avoidance or frequent physical complaints, such as headaches or stomach aches. Batchelor said stress and anxiety can often present as physical symptoms, so it's important for parents to recognize these changes and provide support when needed.

"As students return to the classroom, illnesses of-

ten become more common. Practicing good hand hygiene and keeping children home when they're sick can help reduce the spread of illness," Batchelor said. "It's important to make sure kids are eating healthy, getting enough sleep and staying rested. This will significantly help support the immune system."

Choosing the right backpack is another important part of back-to-school preparation. While rolling backpacks can help reduce strain on a child's back, Batchelor acknowledges

that many children prefer traditional backpacks because they often follow current trends.

"Parents should choose a backpack that fits properly, sits high on the back and is worn with both shoulder straps," said Batchelor. "A properly fitted backpack can help promote good posture and reduce unnecessary strain."

Batchelor encourages families to remember that brain breaks are just as important as schoolwork. Children can experience burnout just like adults, making it es-

sential for them to have time to simply be kids. Whether it's playing a sport, spending time outdoors, or hanging out with friends, taking breaks from screens and schoolwork can help support a child's overall well-being.

"While preparing for the school year can feel overwhelming, small changes can help make the transition easier for children," Batchelor added. "By focusing on healthy routines, proper nutrition, and overall wellness, parents can help ensure their children are prepared for a successful school year."



REGISTER NOW FOR FALL CLASSES

CLASSES BEGIN AUGUST 17



SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

APPLY, REGISTER, AND PAY AT SANJAC.EDU

An Equal Opportunity Institution
sanjac.edu/accreditation

Former Brook students now teachers



Three Clear Brook High School alumni are shown together above as they prepare to begin the new school year as teachers at Rakow Middle School in Rockwall ISD east of Dallas. Although the women are from different graduating classes (1996 and 2000) and not know each other, they unwittingly hired on

at the same campus roughly 250 miles away, ironically located in the town of Fate. Teachers shown above are, left to right, Ambner Kyle Forgey, Kristan Saavedra and Teresa Graham Blancas. (Blancas is the daughter of longtime *Leader* staff member Rosa Graham.

South Belt family marks 3 generations of local Catholic Daughters court



In 1991, Adele Roby joined the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) local Court Mother of Unity #2292 and dedicated her time and talents to helping people in need. Inspired by her mother, Roby's daughter, Stacey Aguirre, joined in 2011. Earlier this year, Olivia Aguirre joined the court following in the footsteps of both her mother and grandmother. Left to right, are Adele Roby, Olivia Aguirre and Stacey Aguirre.

South Belt students return to class

Both PISD, CCISD launch new virtual learning platforms

Continued from Page 1

For more information on Pasadena ISD's FLEX Virtual High School, visit <https://virtualschool.pasadenaisd.org> or call 713-740-0899.

Clear Creek ISD's Clear Tech Virtual Program: Clear Creek ISD is introducing Clear Tech, a new virtual program in partnership with Texas Tech University's Texas Tech K-12. The 2026-27 school year marks its first year of operation, offering tuition-free, full-time online instruction for grades K-9, with high school expansion planned for 2027-28.

Students complete asynchronous, TEKS-aligned coursework through Texas Tech K-12 while remaining enrolled in CCISD, giving them access to district resources, counseling, technology tools and extracurricular activities.

The only one of its kind in the Houston area, Clear

Creek ISD Superintendent Dr. Karen Engle called the program "groundbreaking."

"This virtual education brings together two world-class educational institutions to offer students a rigorous academic program with the added benefits of in-person support and enrichment opportunities," said Engle.

For more information on CCISD's Clear Tech Virtual Program, visit www.cleartech.ccisd.net.

Early College High School

Both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD maintain strong partnerships with San Jacinto College through Early College High School (ECHS) and dual-credit programs. These initiatives allow students to earn significant college credit – and in many cases, an associate degree by the time they graduate high school.

Pasadena ISD: PISD operates multiple ECHS cam-

puses tied to San Jacinto College, with students being zoned in the following manner:

– **South Houston and J. Frank Dobie** Early Colleges attend classes at San Jacinto South campus.

– **Pasadena High, Sam Rayburn, and Pasadena Memorial** Early Colleges attend classes at San Jacinto Central campus.

Transportation is provided, and students remain eligible for extracurriculars at their home campuses.

For information on Pasadena ISD's Early College High School program, visit www.pasadenaisd.org/echs.

Clear Creek ISD: CCISD students participate in Clear Horizons Early College High School, located at San Jacinto College South. The program allows CCISD students to graduate with a diploma and up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate degree.

Clear Creek ISD has also expanded dual-credit opportunities with San Jacinto College and College of the Mainland, offering career-focused courses in fields such as welding, process technology and cosmetology.

For more information on CCISD's Clear Horizons Early College High School, visit <https://chechs.ccisd.net>.

Open enrollment

Pasadena ISD continues its open enrollment policy, allowing students from outside district boundaries to attend PISD campuses. Current PISD families may request transfers to campuses other than the one they are zoned to. Applications are processed through the district's ScribChoice portal, with approvals based on space and student records.

For more information on Pasadena ISD's open enrollment, visit www.pasadenaisd.org/open-enrollment.

Clear Creek ISD, by contrast, maintains strict attendance boundaries and does not offer open enrollment. Families must attend the campus to which they are zoned.

Free and reduced meals

Pasadena ISD: All PISD students are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch, thanks to the district's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision. This federal program allows schools in qualifying areas to serve meals at no cost to all enrolled students without requiring individual applications.

Clear Creek ISD: CCISD families must still apply for free or reduced meals through SchoolCafé, which also manages menus and payments. For more information on Clear Creek ISD's SchoolCafé, visit www.schoolcafe.com/CLEARCREEKISD.

County dredges near hike-and-bike trail



A Fast Action Service Team (FAST) crew from the Harris County Flood Control District was dredging the bayou along near the hike-and-bike trail in Riverstone Ranch this past week. According to county officials, FAST – a dedicated, flexible 29-person maintenance crew – is able to quickly mobilize to handle urgent, localized drainage and infrastructure issues across the county's bayous and channels. FAST duties range from installing signs to completing major channel repairs and erosion fixes.

County to hold meeting on Friendswood basin

Hosted by Flood Control, virtual meeting to take place Aug. 11

Continued from Page 1

History
In 2017, out-of-bank flooding along Clear Creek caused approximately 3,000 homes to flood within the Friendswood city limits during Hurricane Harvey. During the community engagement meetings prior to the 2018 bond election, city of Friendswood community members requested that the Flood Control District evaluate potential stormwa-

ter detention options along Clear Creek near the city of Friendswood.

As a result, the Flood Control District contracted with an engineering firm in 2019 to evaluate the potential locations for stormwater detention basins between FM 1959 and FM 528. Nine potential regional stormwater detention basin alternatives were evaluated in the area. Due to the characteristics of the watershed, the

study found that none of the alternatives, without a broader plan for stormwater management measures beyond just regional detention, were significantly beneficial, cost-effective, or sustainable. This study was completed in February 2020. To view the Engineering Report, visit www.hcfcd.org/Portals/62/Watershed/Clear-Creek/2024/CI62/ReportWithoutExhibit_LCC%20Detention%20

Study%20-%20Final.pdf.

In late 2019, the Flood Control District participated in another planning study led by the city of League City and additional key planning partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, city of Friendswood, Galveston County and the Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District. This study, called the Lower Clear Creek & Dickinson Bayou Water-

shed planning study, aimed to develop a comprehensive flood mitigation plan for the sub-watersheds of lower Clear Creek & Dickinson Bayou. One of the improvement strategies identified in the preliminary modeling of the study was the design and construction of a stormwater detention basin in the lower Clear Creek area – which led to the Friendswood Regional Stormwater Detention Basin project.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)

The home of James and Snookie Williamson, who had lived in Sagemont for just two weeks, burned to the ground.

William B. Cummings Jr. served as drum major for the famous Texas A&M band.

45 years ago (1981)

San Jacinto College's board of regents approved a 17 percent increase in the district tax rate and adopted a \$30,612,570 budget for the 1981-82 school year.

The Gulfway Drive-In Theatre was shut down and approximately 12 persons were arrested following a riot at the theater.

40 years ago (1986)

Buzzy Kieth, Dobie football coach and 28-year coaching veteran, was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association's Hall of Honor.

Pasadena Independent School District's deficit for the 1986-87 budget reached nearly \$14 million.

35 years ago (1991)

In order to reduce its debt and continue to provide residential services, the South-bend Homeowners Association board of directors recommended that its members accept a \$100 maintenance fee increase.

Even without a tax hike parents living in Clear Creek ISD could expect to spend more money for student education in extracurricular activities to help save seventh- and eighth-grade sports.

30 years ago (1996)

Atkinson and Moore elementary earned state exemplary status for outstanding performance on the 1995-96 Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. This was the first time a Pasadena campus had received this rating, the highest in the state.

Houston policemen on bikes running radar began on Hughes Road.

Two former Clear Brook High School coaches moved up to athletic director positions. Jim Hatfield became the athletic director of the Clear Creek School District, and Mike Watson became the new athletic director for the Pearland district.

More than seven various fire trucks responded to a fire at the Kroger grocery on Fuqua.

25 years ago (2001)

More than 325 people attended the meeting at Stuchbery Elementary where city of Houston officials were able to clear up many questions surrounding a federal buyout for homes which suffered over 50 percent substantial damage during Tropical Storm Allison.

South Belt state Rep. Garnet Coleman, 39, was arrested after a confrontation with the president of his children's school.

20 years ago (2006)

Seven schools in the South Belt area of PISD received recognized status as a result of test scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

Precinct 2 deputy constables assisted federal law enforcement officers in a drug raid and reported other incidents, including a robbery and arrests for endangerment to a child and prohibited weapons.

15 years ago (2011)

Both the Pasadena Independent School District and the Clear Creek Independent

School District were rated as "Recognized" by the Texas Education Agency.

San Jacinto College South broke ground on its new science and allied health building. Scheduled for completion in fall 2013, the new three-story, 150,000-square-foot building will house nine areas of scientific study and will include nursing simulation labs, an astronomy observatory, and laboratories designed to model pharmaceutical environments.

A massive four-year construction effort to widen the Gulf Freeway from Beltway 8 to El Dorado Boulevard began. The project is approximately five miles in

length, beginning at Kurland Road, just north of Beltway 8, and ending approximately one mile south of FM 2351 (Clear Lake City Boulevard). The freeway will be increased from three to five lanes in each direction, and the frontage roads will be increased from two to three lanes in each direction.

10 years ago (2016)

A former Dobie student and her husband were killed at their Bellaire-area home July 29, allegedly at the hands of their 16-year-old son. Dawn Whitely Armstrong, a 1992 Dobie graduate, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her husband, Antonio Armstrong, was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital, where

he later died. The story made international news, as Antonio Armstrong was once a star football player at Texas A&M University and briefly played in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins.

A man died Thursday, July 28, from a self-inflicted gunshot in the 17000 block of the Gulf Freeway near FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard following a brief police chase. Gary Leonard Blalock Jr., 38, was pronounced dead at the scene. Officers had originally attempted to stop Blalock for being a suspected drunk driver.

5 years ago (2021)

Harris County Public Health announced the county had surpassed 5,000

COVID-19 deaths. The milestone had been met the previous day. Earlier in the week, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Thursday raised the county's COVID-19 threat level amid a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations fueled by the spread of the Delta variant and a slowdown in vaccinations. The threat level was raised from yellow, or moderate, to orange, or significant, in the midst of the spiking cases during a fourth wave of the pandemic.

1 year ago (2025)

A week after being charged with capital murder for a shooting that took place in May outside an apartment complex in 1400 block of Redford, a suspect was arrested.

Javeon Washington, 18, was the second suspect to be charged in the crime, which took place May 15 at the complex located near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

Tyrell Robinson, 21, was already in custody for his role in the killing, being charged with murder in the 174th State District Court shortly after the fatal shooting.

The pair are accused of killing Jermon Williams, 20.

According to Houston Police Department officials, patrol officers responded to a shooting call at The Redford apartment complex at the above address around 2:35 a.m. and found a male suffering from gunshot wounds in the parking lot area. Paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene. Neighbors reported hearing gunshots before finding the male unresponsive.

Further investigation identified Robinson as a suspect in this incident. He was subsequently arrested and charged for his role in

the crime. Additional investigation led to the identification of Washington as a suspect in this case and on July 9, he was charged with capital murder.

HPD's Southeast Patrol Division Crime Suppression

Team arrested Washington Friday, July 25. Once dubbed by police as a "hot spot" for violent crime, this marked the first known fatal shooting to take place at The Redford in nearly two years.

Could I be Pregnant?

I need a pregnancy test
I need to know what to do
We are here for you. We care!!
All Services are Free and Confidential.

281-484-0005
Beltway 8 South
Crisis Pregnancy Center

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, REBECCA!

Birthday wishes are sent to **Rebecca Lilley**, director of physician resources at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, South Belt Chamber board member and active community member, who celebrates a birthday Aug. 11, from friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays August 6 through August 12.

Atkinson Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Dee Davis** Aug. 9. Send a birthday greeting to **Martha Reed** Aug. 12.

Burnett Elementary

Send a double happy birthday greeting Aug. 10 to **Cassandra Moon** and **Savannah Sanchez**.

Bush Elementary

Mariela Ramos celebrates a birthday Aug. 6.

Frazier Elementary

Blow out the candles Aug. 11 for **Claudia Contreras**.

Hancock Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout Aug. 9 to

Valeria Saucedo. Send a birthday greeting Aug. 10 to **Erica Amaya**.

Moore Elementary

Patricia Valdez celebrates a birthday Aug. 6.

South Belt Elementary

Blow out the candles Aug. 7 for **Marisol Yanez**. **Salma Meziou** celebrates a happy birthday Aug. 10.

Stuchbery Elementary

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Aug. 7 are sent to **Elida Delafuente**. Send birthday greetings to **Amy Pace** on Aug. 10.

Melillo Middle School

Aug. 10 is the day for a party for **Kayla Joos**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Melissa Bolgiano celebrates a birthday Aug. 11.

Thompson Intermediate

On Aug. 11, enjoy a slice of birthday cake with **Travis Teichelman**. Aug. 12 is the day to celebrate a birthday with **Cheryl Harvick**.

Dobie High

Aug. 8 is the day for a fun celebration for **La Nguyen**. Send a happy birthday wish

Aug. 9 to **Leslie Constant**. **Yvette Giron** and **Kim Rinehart** celebrate a birthday Aug. 10. Best wishes for a special birthday Aug. 11 are sent to **Cohen Landry**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, Aug. 6: **Renita Walker, David Perry, Kenneth Brown and Jeff Weber**; Friday, Aug. 7: **Curtis Bradley, Claudia Castillo, Eric Jackson, Doug Mills and Vu Tuong**; Saturday, Aug. 8: **Kathy Jones, Brad Fuller, Jesse Lopez, Toshana Kitchen, Christopher Herrera, James Xavier Garcia, Shawn Arguello, David Elliot, Heather DeRousse, Jarod Hunt, Rebekah Peterson, Jami Cadena and Verda Carr**; Sunday, Aug. 9: **Sam Farias, Dennis Spencer, Robert Coy and Jill Kasselmann**; Monday, Aug. 10: **Alex Limon, Zerick Guinn and Keith Black**; Tuesday, Aug. 11: **Martin Zuber, Felicia Minjares, Jill Hansen, Shannon Burke and Sonja Terry**; and Wednesday, Aug. 12: **Leslie Rojas, Maricela Lopez and Mike Millikin**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email anniversary, vacation and information on other events to mynews@southbelt-leader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

More discounts.

State Farm® offers more discounts to more drivers.
Get to a better State®.
Get State Farm.
CALL ME TODAY.

Cynthia Beecher, Agent
11705 S Sam Houston Pkwy East • Houston, TX 77089
Bus: 281-464-2422
cynthia.beecher.gwne@statefarm.com
M,T,W,Th,F 8:30am to 5:00pm
Sat 9am-11am
After Hours by Appointment

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
1201159

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie offensive line-man Achilles Rostro (52) returns to lead the Longhorns up front in the trenches for the upcoming season. Pre-season workouts will get underway Aug. 10, and Dobie will host the La Porte Bulldogs in scrimmage action Aug. 20-21. The regular season kicks off Aug. 28 as the Longhorns host perennial postseason threat Clear Springs at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



High school sports action picks up the pace

Just like that, the arrival of August also has signaled a fast start to the 2026-2027 school year and with it the beginning of the fall athletics season both at the high school and intermediate levels.

The high school volleyball season was served up officially Aug. 1 as many programs across the state hosted tryouts in conjunction with the start of preseason workouts. Local programs such as Dobie, Clear Brook and Lutheran South have been training at a fever pitch in preparation for the start of the regular season.

The University Interscholastic League has established Aug. 10 as opening day, and the Longhorns, Wolverines and Pioneers will get going a day later, Aug. 11.

The Longhorns and Wolverines will both begin their seasons on the road as Dobie travels to Baytown to take on the Sterling Rangers. The Wolverines will head over to St. Agnes, while Lutheran South will host Victoria West to begin its season.

The action intensifies Aug. 13-15 with tournament action as Dobie travels to Port Neches for the three-day event hosted by Port Neches Groves.

Meanwhile, both the Wolverines and Pioneers will compete in the prestigious John Turner Classic, hosted by Pearland ISD.

Cross-country is another sport in the fall that will be off and running as Dobie will compete Aug. 6 in a practice meet involving the Deer Park and Pasadena Memorial programs.

The regular season officially begins Aug. 14 as the Longhorns attend the Pearland Dawson Invitational. Both the Longhorn girls' and boys' cross-country programs have upheld a high standard in recent years and will once again have high expectations for 2026.

The Longhorn varsity tennis program is also looking forward to a successful season under the direction of Texas Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Famer Manuel Moreno Jr., who has begun his 45th overall season in Houston.

The Longhorns hosted Katy Aug. 4 and then travel to Barbers Hill Aug. 5. The locals will host Baytown Sterling Aug. 6 and will then host both Clear Creek and Nederland Aug. 7 before returning to the court to host the Clear

Brook Wolverines Aug. 13.

Beverly Hills Intermediate athletic officials have set Aug. 11 as Parent Night at the school beginning at 6 p.m. as families and athletes will have a chance to meet the coaches, learn about expectations within the Bears' athletic program and ensure finalization of required paperwork in order to compete.

The coaching staff has also 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.



The Lutheran South Academy gymnasium stood empty for one of the final times of the year as the clock ticked closer and closer to the start of the 2026 high school volleyball season. The regular season is set to start Aug. 11 as the Pioneers go up against Victoria West at 5 p.m. Dobie, meanwhile will start its season the same night by traveling to Baytown Sterling to take on the Rangers at 6 p.m. Clear Brook will begin its season by traveling to St. Agnes for a 5:30 p.m. varsity match. Lutheran South and Clear Brook will then play in the prestigious John Turner Classic Aug. 13-15 in Pearland, while Dobie will attend the Port Neches-Groves tournament Aug 13-15.

Volleyball Opening Night is Coming

Dobie at Baytown Sterling

Aug. 11 - varsity, 6 p.m.

Clear Brook at St. Agnes

Aug. 11 - varsity, 5:30 p.m.

Lutheran South hosts Victoria West

Aug. 11 - varsity, 5 p.m.



Thompson Intermediate coaching staff member Daniel Sawyer and his colleagues should once again have the Lions pointed in the right direction on the football field as the 2026 season inches closer by the day. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

BHI plans Aug. 9 Community Day

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

Thompson plans 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.

Thompson hosts volleyball tryouts

The Thompson Intermediate coaching staff has established Aug. 13-14 as try-out dates for seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball players in accordance with the start of school. Those who wish to try out must have completed their Rank One paperwork and have a current 2026- 2027 physical on file. The tryouts will be held after school each day from 3:30 to 5 p.m



Dobie junior running back Adrian Taylor (9) and his teammates are projected to finish fifth in the newly created District 19-6A standings on the varsity football field this season. However, the Longhorns have for 57 previous seasons aimed at the postseason and do not figure to settle for anything less in 2026.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Dave Campbell's predicts Shadow Creek to win 19-6A football

Pearland will enter the new District 19-6A varsity football alignment as the defending league champion, and while the Oilers are again expected to put together a terrific season, *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine has anointed Shadow Creek as the favorite to lead the way in 2026.

As for the projected playoff run this season, *Campbell's* has Shadow Creek winning the title and, therefore, representing the district as the top seed in the Division II playoff bracket, with Pearland taking second and assuming the top Division I seed.

Manvel is projected third and set to head to the Division II bracket, while Dawson, says *Campbell's*, will finish fourth and would represent the Division I field as the No. 2 seed.

As for the remainder of the district, Dobie is projected to finish fifth, a spot ahead of 19-6A newcomer Brazoswood. Pasadena Memorial, Alvin and Sam Rayburn round out the nine-program field.

Shadow Creek Sharks (8-4 overall in 2025; 6-2 in district play)

Head coach Tyrone Green again figures to produce a terrific program out on the field this season as the Sharks have adjusted well since their climb to Class 6A.

Coming off a run to the Division II area around playoffs in 2025, Shadow Creek returns seven starters on the offensive side of the football along with six starters defensively.

Standout receiver Jaylen Addai is a game-breaker on the outside and will once again team with returning quarterback Tavis Coleman, who threw for 2,441 yards and 37 touchdowns a season ago.

Addai caught 37 balls for 779 yards a season ago and turned 14 of those receptions into touchdowns. Green reports that Addai is a terrific route runner who also brings game-breaking speed on the outside.

Along with Addai, the Sharks return Aden Star-

ling at receiver, as Starling caught just over 500 yards worth of passes a season ago and scored nine touchdowns.

The Sharks also expect quite a bit from athlete B.J. Lafell, who scored 10 touchdowns a season ago in just four games.

The strength of the Shadow Creek defense will be in the secondary as starters Brandon Gerard and Kevin Jackson lead the way. Brandon Herbert, yet another standout in the defensive backfield, had 45 overall stops last season, including 10 tackles for loss.

On the defensive front, the Sharks are very excited about the productivity of Deneim Scott and Demarcus Jacoby Thomas joining forces.

The Sharks are simply

loaded at the skill positions and should be able to score points in bunches. How far this team goes this season will depend largely on the overall performance of the defense in the biggest games.

Pearland Oilers (11-1 overall and 2025; 8-0 in district play)

Head coach B.J. Gotte got everything he could have asked for and more from the Oilers a season ago as they ripped off 11 consecutive victories to reach the area round of the Division I playoff bracket before a 28-21 loss to Dickinson.

For this season, defensive lineman DeMarco Jenkins has drawn enough attention to be considered by *Campbell's* as the pre-season Defensive MVP in the district. Also on de-

fense, the Oilers feature the talents of linebacker Kam Harris and defensive back Ed Smith.

Price Mireles is also considered a playmaker on the defensive side of things along with defensive back Mekhi Guischard-Yearwood.

The Oilers will likely go with Kaleb Smith at quarterback, a first-year starter who will rely on the talents of outstanding running back Royce Swan.

The Oilers will also need to replace some outstanding talent at receiver, but expect a big season from tight end Karon Johnson as well as receivers Braxton Jones and Lance Gore.

Along the offensive front Roy Swan is a guy who has shown big promise along with Colby Rao

and A.J. Zimmerhanzel. Grayden Phillips is another top offensive lineman, and Michael Shawver is expected to deliver a big season at receiver as well.

Manvel Mavericks (8-4 overall and 2025; 6-2 in district play)

Veteran head coach Kirk Martin led the Mavericks to the Division II area round last season and has the Mavericks in line for another big season.

Linebacker Sam Weary had 100 overall tackles to go with four quarterback sacks and three interceptions a season ago and could very well be one of the top defensive performers across the Houston area.

Quarterback Brayden Tuiasosopo is ready to step in full time under center and will be throwing the football to talented receiver Carter St. Junious as well as Bryson Jones and Jor-

dan Jackson.

The running back room includes Kenneth Malone-Hays as well as Xaiden Brown. The Mavericks' top offensive lineman is Drake Jones, and he will get help from Thomas Johnson and others. Ronald Carr is another player who will get

a considerable look at running back.

On the defensive side of things, the Mavericks are also excited for the return of Greedy James as well as lineman Brayson Robinson and defensive back Ju'ven Smith. James has

Continued on Page 6

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

MORE THAN CHILD CARE. BUILDING FUTURES.

ENROLL TODAY!

DID YOU KNOW? STUDIES SHOW THAT MARTIAL ARTS IMPROVES ACADEMICS AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

We help students stay on track and build confidence.

KARATE CLASSES

2-3 TIMES PER WEEK

TRANSPORTATION FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS

- ✓ Weber Elementary
- ✓ Southbelt Elementary
- ✓ Stubberty Elementary

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

We build strong kids from the inside out.

CALL (281) 484-9006 USAKARATESCHOOL.COM

11101 RESOURCE PKWY, HOUSTON, TX 77089

Dave Campbell's Texas Football

22-6A Preseason Defensive MVP

DeMarco Jenkins, Pearland, interior

22-6A Preseason Offensive MVP

Jaylen Addai, Shadow Creek, receiver

Projected Order of Finish

1. Shadow Creek (Div. II)
2. Pearland (Div. I)
3. Manvel (Div. II)
4. Dawson (Div. I)
5. Dobie
6. Brazoswood
7. Memorial
8. Alvin
9. Rayburn

Las Haciendas

MEXICAN BAR & GRILL

Lunch Specials

Dine in • To-Go • Catering

Order Online @ www.lashaciendasgrill.com

Margaritas to-go, available with food orders!

Gift Cards • Party Rooms • Lunch & Daily Specials

11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

South Belt • 281-484-6888

12933 Gulf Freeway

NASA • 281-557-3500 316 W. NASA PARKWAY

League City • 281-334-2175 2951 MARINA BAY DR. STE. 150

Stafford • 281-240-3060 12821 SOUTHWEST FRWY.

Sandra Yandell
Broker Associate

Laura Yandell
Sales Associate

More Buyers.

More Sellers.

More SOLD.

#1 in South Belt.

THE EXPERIENCE YOU NEED.

THE NAME YOU TRUST.

The Sold Team

facebook

TEXAS PREMIER REALTY

281-464-SOLD (7653)

[illegible]

Pasadena ISD coaches, administrators talk 2026 football



The varsity football head coaches from the Pasadena ISD programs were joined by district administrators in Alvin for a preseason outlook as the 2026 season will begin Aug. 27-29 across the state. Those representing the district included, left to right, Sam Rayburn head football coach Sergio Gonzalez, Pasadena Memorial head coach Colton Freeman, Pasadena ISD superintendent Dr. Toni Lopez, Dobie head coach Danny Fitzmorris, South Houston head coach Lam-ont Mayberry and Pasadena ISD Chief of Staff Jeremy Richardson. Sam Rayburn will open the season by traveling to Aldine Aug. 28. Meanwhile, Pasadena Memorial will host opening night at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena by hosting Clear Lake Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Dobie will be at Veterans Stadium a night later, Aug. 28, hosting Clear Springs. South Houston is set for its debut at the Class 5A level as Mayberry will lead the Trojans into action at Sharpstown Aug. 27.

Dobie Cross-Country Schedule	
Aug. 14	at Pearland Dawson, 7:15 a.m.
Aug. 21	Max Blansit Invitational – Hometown Heroes Park, 7:15 a.m.
Aug. 28	Charlie Goerhing Invitational, 7:30 a.m.
Sept. 4	Freedom Run – Alvin, 7:30 a.m.
Sept. 5	Run the Dog Pound – Magnolia, 7:15 a.m.
Sept. 11	Bulldog Invitational, La Porte, 7:15 a.m.
Sept. 17	Longhorn Stampede Dobie, 7:00 a.m.
Sept. 25	Trojan Tune-Up – Crenshaw Park, 7:15 a.m.
Sept. 26	Nike South College Station, TBA
Oct. 1	October Classic – Texas City, 8 a.m.
Oct. 8	Pasadena Memorial Invitational, 7:30 a.m.
Oct. 14	District 19-6A Champs – Dobie, 7:30 a.m.

Listen ... A Texas Road Trip is Calling

... Can you hear Marley the penguin saying hello?

... the Rainforest heard you need a break.

... an afternoon of fun calls from the Lazy River.

... and there is a beach chair with your name on it.

Wake Up Steps Away from Every Adventure

At left, Dobie junior Jordan Roman returns this season as the defending district champion in varsity boys' cross-country and will lead the Longhorns along with several other exceptionally talented teammates. The Dobie girls' program is led by senior Aracely Alvarado, who qualified for regionals a season ago. Dobie will begin the regular season Aug. 14 at Pearland Dawson. Dobie is also set to host the District 19-6A championships Oct. 14 on the main campus.

Texas Storm 4x800 champions

The Texas Storm summer track and field program celebrated the national championship run of the team's 17-18 year-old 4x800 relay squad that captured a gold medal in the event during the 2026 USA Track and Field National Junior Olympic Championships in Norwalk, Calif. The foursome, including left to right, Armando Martinez, Lewis Murphy, Korey Griffin and 2026 Dobie graduate Johan Villavicencio delivered a time of 8 minutes, 8.15 seconds in the event to bring home the national championship. Villavicencio is now headed to Arkansas-Little Rock to continue his education and track and field career.

COUPON

\$200 OFF FOUNDATION REPAIR OR SEWER REPAIR

(on jobs \$2,500 & up)

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per house.

FOUNDATION REPAIR
UNDER SLAB SEWER REPAIR
HOUSE LEVELING

Allied Foundations
281-479-5247

FREE ESTIMATES

MOODY GARDENS
GALVESTON ISLAND
HOTEL, SPA & CONVENTION CENTER
ATTRACTIONS, GOLF COURSE

Tickets & Hotel Packages:
409-744-4673
moodygardens.org