



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 46 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, September 15, 2022 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 47, No. 33

### Leader requests assistance

Residents are reminded to not take bulk copies of the *Leader* from local dispensers at area stores, as the physical copies of the newspaper are intended to be read by residents and not for any other uses. When some residents take mass copies of the newspapers from area machines, loyal readers cannot find copies. Precinct 2 deputies are aware of the situation and have intervened in one instance. A white box truck has subsequently been spotted taking large amounts of the papers. Anyone who witnesses such bulk removal of the newspapers from local machines is urged to not make contact with the individual(s) but rather contact the *Leader* office at 281-481-5656. If possible, witnesses are urged to get vehicle make/model and license plate number.

### Kirkwood to hold meeting

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road. Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

### Class of '83 holds garage sale

To raise funds for its 40th reunion, the Dobbie Class of 1983 will host a multifamily garage sale Saturday, Oct. 1, from 7 a.m. to noon at 10602 Sageburrow. In the event of rain, the garage sale will be rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 8.

### Knights host blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, Sept. 25, at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The group's goal is to collect 1,000 donations.

### Sageglen to meet Sept. 19

Sageglen Community Association will hold its homeowner meeting Monday, Sept. 19, at the Sageglen Community Building, 11610 Sageyork, at beginning at 7 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 281-481-2160.

### COVID cases decline

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community continues to drop, with decreases being reported in all three local ZIP codes again for the fourth consecutive week.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 13, there were 242 active cases in 77089, down 54 from the previous week. To date, 136 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

In ZIP code 77075, there were 186 active cases, down 11 from the previous week. To date, there have been 82 deaths in the ZIP code, up one from the previous week.

In 77034, there were 179 active cases, down 17 from the previous week. To date, 90 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease. (Harris County reported 91 deaths the previous week.)

According to Harris County officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit covid-harriscounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cumulative-data.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one southbound frontage road lane and at least one northbound frontage road lane will be closed on the Gulf Freeway from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Sept. 30.

At least one southbound main lane and frontage road lane and at least one northbound main lane and frontage road lane will be closed on the Gulf Freeway from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Dec. 31.

Both the northbound entrance and southbound entrance ramps from FM 518 in League City will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the entrance ramps from SH 96.

The northbound exit ramp to FM 517 in Dickinson will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the northbound exit ramp to Holland/Hughes.

### Beltway closures planned

Two northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, Sept. 30. Significant delays are expected.

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

### Knights sell barbecue

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue sale at St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Sept. 24, and Sunday, Sept. 25. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Brisket sandwich, chips and drink will be \$12; and sausage-on-a-stick will be \$6. All proceeds will go to support KC charities.

## Debate continues over county constable funding

### Republican commissioners block passage of county budget

**Breaking news:** At press time Tuesday, local officials announced Harris County was unable to pass a budget at Commissioners Court when Republican commissioners Jack Cagle and Tom Ramsey failed to appear. See related story on Page 2.

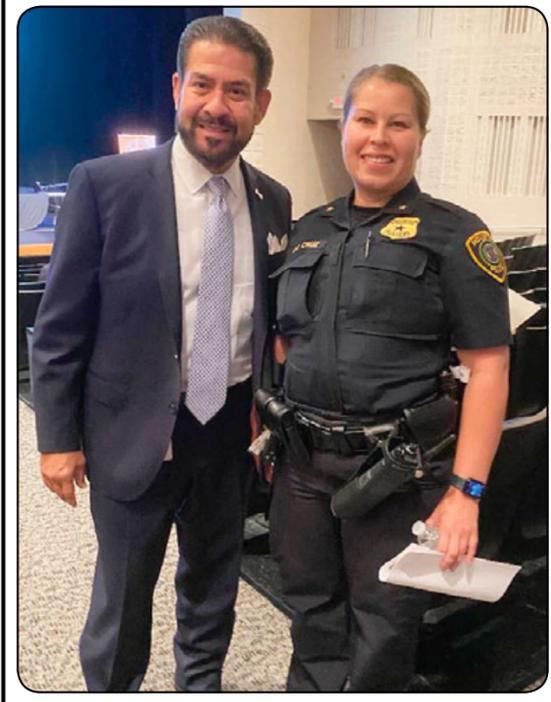
The ongoing debacle surrounding Harris County's constable funding continues, with state and county officials reportedly nearing an agreement that could keep the matter out of court.

A day after last week's *Leader* published a story about the county moving forward with a lawsuit against the state regarding the issue, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia released a press release, saying the state had "capitulated" and is reportedly now denying the county is under investigation for violating a new legislation that prohibits "defunding police." "In a hearing before a Travis County judge, Gov. Abbott and Comptroller Hegar agreed the

state is not investigating Harris County's proposed budget under Senate Bill 23 and has made no determination on the county's law enforcement funding," Garcia said in the release. "After Harris County filed a lawsuit against Gov. Greg Abbott and comptroller Glenn Hegar to block them from abusing their powers and tying up the county's 2022 budgeting process, the governor and Comptroller— through their attorney — (1) walked back their public claims that

Harris County's proposed budget violates Senate Bill 23; (2) admitted the state has not determined that Harris County's proposed budget for FY 2022-2023 reduces funding for law enforcement, and (3) admitted the state is not investigating whether Harris County's proposed budget reduces funding for law enforcement. The parties are expected to reach an agreement making clear that neither the governor nor the comptroller will

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### Garcia visits area

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia (left) is shown to the left taking a break from debates surrounding constable funding to host a recent meeting on community safety, held jointly with the Harris County Sheriff's Office Thursday, Sept. 8, at San Jacinto College. Other local law enforcement agencies, including the Houston Police Department and Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office were also in attendance. Shown with Garcia is HPD Commander C.C. Cruz, who heads the Clear Lake Division.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

### Clear Creek ISD recognized by Forbes

Clear Creek Independent School District once again made Forbes' 4th annual list of America's Best Employers By State for 2022. Of the top 101 workplaces in Texas, CCISD is ranked 13 and one of only two Houston-area school districts on the list.

The list was compiled for each state by surveying 70,000 Americans working for businesses with at least 500 employees. Surveys were conducted anonymously, allowing participants to freely share their opinions. The final list ranks

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### Nehls' District 22 opportunities available

The office of U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, whose U.S. House District 22, represents much of the South Belt community, is currently offering multiple opportunities for area youths and young adults.

To be eligible to participate in the Congressional App Challenge, one must be a middle or high school student at the time of app submission.

#### Congressional App Challenge

Local youths may compete in the annual Congressional App Challenge, a competition designed to encourage student participation in computer science and coding.

Students are encouraged to register online and submit their app by Nov. 1.

For more information, one can visit the official Congressional App Challenge website at CongressionalAppChallenge.us or email questions directly to StudentSupport@Congressional

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## Collins Aerospace opens at Houston Spaceport

Collins Aerospace recently inaugurated a new, 120,000-square-foot facility located at the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport.

An anchor tenant at the Houston Airport System's newly created space hub, Collins will transition its current local operations to the new site, further advancing its space exploration programs.

With more than 40 years in the Houston area and the current site filled to capacity, Collins' new facility in the Spaceport represents a \$30 million investment. The increased footprint allows for expanded operations, manufacturing and testing and is also expected to add an additional 300 jobs in the coming years.

"Collins' long history of innovating, developing and delivering the critical systems that have played an integral role in humankind's exploration of space takes yet another step forward with the opening of this state-of-the-art facility at the Houston Spaceport," said Phil Jasper, president of Collins Aerospace's Mission Systems business. "This strategic location and our strong local partnerships are driving the next-generation technologies that will enable humankind to live, work and play in space."

Along with Collins' existing space facilities in California, Connecticut and Illinois, the new Houston Spaceport location will support the development and testing of several key space systems, including the next-generation spacesuit — which astronauts could wear to work outside the International Space Station and on the moon — as well as Collins' Universal Waste Management System and trash compactor.

"The expansion of Collins Aerospace at the Houston Spaceport is a crucial next step in the city's journey to be the country's premier next-generation aerospace and technical hub," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "The innovative technologies created at this facility will also serve as the critical systems to support hu-

mankind's future space exploration and habitation. We look forward to fueling the future of aerospace right here in Houston."

Some 10,000 square feet of the facility will

be dedicated to Houston's first-ever spaceflight incubator, where startups, universities and industry professionals will collaborate using robotics, medicine, additive manufacturing and more to

solve complex space technology challenges.

The inauguration of the new facility included a ceremonial ribbon-cutting with remarks from

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## Battleship Texas reaches Galveston

### Historic vessel to undergo \$35M restoration

The Battleship Texas recently completed a milestone journey from the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site to Galveston. The Battleship Texas, commissioned in 1914, is the only surviving dreadnought to have served in both World War I and World II. The historic ship will now undergo an extensive, \$35 million repair at Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation's shipyard to fix the hull.

The Battleship Texas Foundation selected Gulf Copper's shipyard in October 2021 as the repair location since they recently acquired a floating drydock that is capable of lifting the Battleship Texas out of the water. In addition, the location of the yard in Galveston significantly reduced the risks associated with towing the Battleship Texas due to sheltered waters and a short travel distance.

"It's an important piece of history. We feel like we're working for the people of the state of Texas so that they can be proud of their ship," said Tony Gregory, president and CEO of the Battleship Texas Foundation. "We are proud to have played a part in maintaining the

integrity of the ship so future generations can continue to learn about her service and history."

The ship closed to the public in August 2019 to prepare for the restoration and required a dedicated project group consisting of the Battleship

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## Sagemont's Carter resigns due to health

Sagemont Church Lead Pastor Matt Carter announced Sunday, Sept. 11, he will be stepping down from the position due to health-related issues.

Carter assumed the role in June 2020, replacing Sagemont founding pastor Dr. John Morgan.

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Dr. Matt Carter

## Wings Over Houston set for Oct. 29-30

The 38th annual Wings Over Houston Airshow will return to Ellington Airport Oct. 29-30.

One of Houston's largest yearly events, the airshow will include performances by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, returning to Wings Over Houston for the first time since 2018.

"We're thrilled to welcome the U.S. Navy Blue Angels back to Wings Over Houston," said Bill Roach, executive director of Wings Over Houston. "Building on the momentum from such a successful return to our in-person event last year, this year's airshow is sure to be both exciting and entertaining for families and guests of all ages."

The event will offer guests hours of aerial performances, displays of vintage aviation, a classic car show featuring up to 100 vehicles, interactive areas for children and adults and opportunities for guests to give back to the community.

"This will be the Blue Angels' first time demonstrating our new F/A-18 Super Hornets, along with the C-130J Super Hercules in Houston," said Capt. Brian Kesselring, com-

manding officer and flight leader of the Blue Angels. "We're excited to return to Texas and perform at the Wings Over Houston Airshow after a four-year absence."

In addition to the Blue Angels, the event will also include performances by the F-16 Viper

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## San Jac to host tree distribution

San Jacinto College will host a tree distribution event Saturday, Sept. 17, at the central campus's Center for Petrochemical, Energy and Technology.

Co-sponsored by LyondellBasell, the event aims to distribute more than 2,500 trees.

The program is in honor of LyondellBasell's outgoing CEO and his commitment to the environment. A joint project with Trees for Houston, the tree distribution program aims to share more

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## Cruz, Babin visit Ellington spaceport



Collins Aerospace recently opened its new 120,000-square-foot facility located at the Houston Spaceport at Ellington Airport. The \$30 million investment is expected to bring more than 300 jobs in the coming years, officials said. Shown above at the opening are, left to right, Phil Jasper, president of Mission Systems, Collins Aerospace; Sen. Ted Cruz; Rep. Brian Babin; spacesuit model; Sylvester Turner, Houston mayor; Mario Diaz, executive director at Houston Airport System; and Peggy Guirgis, general manager of Space Systems, Collins Aerospace.

# Dems respond to GOP "stalling" County fails to pass annual budget

Plans to pass the county-wide budget stalled at Harris County Commissioners Court Tuesday, Sept. 13, after Republican commissioners Jack Cagle and Tom Ramsey failed to appear.

Harris County Democratic Party Chair Odus Eybagharu issued the following statement in response to the inaction of commissioners Cagle and Ramsey: "Commissioners Cagle and Ramsey have broken the contract of public trust, and as a result of their actions, the people of Harris County could

pay a hefty price. "To intentionally stall the county-wide budgeting process is an egregious abuse of power and position. These Republican Commissioners need to show up and do their jobs - the jobs they were elected to fulfill. If they feel unable to complete the duties of their elected offices, both Jack Cagle and Tom Ramsey should resign."

"Failure to pass our county's budget means cuts to law enforcement salaries, incomplete and delayed street

repairs, closed health clinics, longer emergency room wait times, and more for the people of Harris County. Each of us will suffer because of the ridiculous political games these GOP leaders continue to play. "I call on every voter to make note of Cagle and Ramsey's failures, and because this budget cut will mean fewer early voting centers will be available, prepare now to find an open location and vote them out of office - Cagle in November and Ramsey in 2024."

See related story on Page 1.

## In My Opinion

### Ed Jackson writes on propaganda

Propaganda is defined as "information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view."

The old propaganda tactic of setting "Us against Them" has been used to isolate and divide groups since time immemorial, so it's not surprising to see it being used lately to agitate and inflame today's political climate.

True, this "Us vs. Them" propaganda is commonly used by both sides. Recently, however, two in particular have easily made this point.

One of these 'Be afraid' claims is that they (these new armed IRS employees) will soon be coming to our door to ... what?

To seize our old tax returns? Or to hack into our computers and plant fictitious data?

Or maybe to take us to jail for paying -and paying on time yet!-- the correct amount we owed? No. None of these are likely to happen when a simple letter, however, would not cause the anger and resentment this 'fear' message intends.

The other 'Fear of the Day,' is that they (the DOJ-FBI) "unjustifiably" raided a former president's private residence by using a "politically biased" search warrant and "unlawfully" took property and items of their choosing.

The implication being that if they can do that to him, then we (the voter) should be afraid that these same unreasonable searches and seizures can happen to any of us in the future.

Again, we, the innocent John and Jane Doe in everyday America, are not likely targets of overstretched and understaffed police forces.

Clearly these and similar claims are intended to imply that justice no longer exist in America.

Therefore, we are told, we must be afraid and vote accordingly to correct these and other alleged wrongs and failings.

Understanding that while fear-mongering is not new to politics, it seems to be getting more frequent and desperate of late.

However, we, the voters, would do well to remember: the best safeguard against this type of propaganda of unfounded fears and falsehoods -- regardless of which side they come from-- is a well-informed electorate empowered with factual awareness and rational thinking.

Ed Jackson

### Local library events set

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

#### Bracewell Branch Library

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

Thursday, Sept. 15, 4 - 5 p.m. Family storytime.

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 4 - 5 p.m. Kids craft.

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 6 - 7:30 p.m. English class - romantic relationships - living English lessons. 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.

#### Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card.

To get a card, visit the home page at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card.

Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases.

Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

#### Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for reopening information or the main website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 15, 12 - 1 p.m. Adult computer class: Libby and e-books. Come learn about the electrifying world of e-books. Registration required.

Friday, Sept. 16, 1 - 3 p.m. Genealogy.

Friday, Sept. 16, 4 - 6 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Basic of Battle. Registration required.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Virtual citizenship workshop.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 3 - 4 p.m. Korean language reading class. Registration required.

Monday, Sept. 19, 5 - 6 p.m. Tweens DIY club - birdhouses. Registration required.

Monday, Sept. 20, 4 - 6 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Roleplay etiquette. Registration required.

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5 - 6 p.m. Camelot to cosmos: sci-fi and fantasy club.

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.

- A pickup time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are: Monday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

#### Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.

- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).

- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.

- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.

- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer

281-481-5656

E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

## CBHS crowns queen, king



Clear Brook High School officials recently announced the homecoming queen and king for the 2022-2023 school year. The crowned queen is Alexis McLaurin (left), pictured with the crowned king Tristan Lisbany. Alexis is the daughter of Jamie and Kendrick McLaurin. She is a member of the women's track and field team in her free time. Alexis enjoys cooking, designing clothing as well as trying on and analyzing her different fashion creations and giving to those in need. After high school, Alexis plans to attend college and major in biology and human physiology with the goal of being in the medical field. Tristan is the son of Jennifer and Daniel Lisbany. He is currently a member of the boys' varsity basketball team and National Honor Society. He serves the community by volunteering at a food bank. Tristan plans to attend college to study psychology and play college basketball.

## Deaths

### Linda Swinney



Linda Swinney, was born in Huntsville May 14, 1960, and died Aug. 27, 2022, in Houston. Her biological mother was Marion James. She was raised by her grandparents William and Mildred Swinney.

Linda was a Beverly Hills resident for 52 years. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, William and Mildred Swinney; aunt Betty Ruth Touchet; uncle Jimmy James; grandfather, Leonard James; and brother, Richard Swinney.

Linda is survived by her son Justin Swinney; grandson Yuri Swinney; granddaughter Evelina Swinney; sisters Lysistrata Beagle and husband Stefan Furman and Sherri Culver and husband Ian Culver; nephew Mi-

chael Beagle and wife Kayla; niece Kara Beagle; nephew Matthew Beagle and wife Kelsey; and 10 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorial services will be held on Sept. 24, noon to 2 p.m. at Natalie's Banquet Hall, 550 FM 1959 Rd., Suite C. Houston, TX 77034.

### Christopher James Martinez



Christopher James Martinez, beloved son of Richard and Christine Martinez, was a lifelong resident of South Belt and later the Clear Lake area.

He was born Jan. 9, 1985, and died Aug. 19, 2022. He attended Frazier Elementary and graduated from Clear Brook High School in 2003.

He was preceded in death by his loving maternal grandparents, James and

Rosa Sanders of Sagemont and his paternal grandfather, Joe Martinez. He leaves behind his devastated parents, older brother Eric, his nephew Damian and sister-in-law Michelle Martinez and niece Alexis Meirhoffer. In addition, he leaves his aunt Debbie and uncle Mike Sanders of Sagemont and paternal grandmother, Rosa Fuentes. His friends were many who will also feel his loss greatly.

Christopher was a die-hard Astros fan and attended many hometown games. He was a devotee of all things wrestling and especially the WWE. He was a member of the "Bullet Club" and attended many events locally and around the country.

Christopher also had the good fortune to travel to destinations points all over America and to his grandmother's home country of Germany. There he became a huge fan of the German soccer franchise of Bayern-Munich.

While his time on earth was brief, he was a spiritual young man who led a full, interesting life filled with curiosity and wonder. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. He is gone too soon.

A private service will be held. This is a reprint due to an error by the Leader.

## Elected officials share their words

### Mayor Pro Tiem, Dave Martin

#### Dear residents,

We have hit the start of the school year running and are already gearing up for National Night on Tuesday, Oct. 4. Since its founding in 1984, National Night Out has served as a national crime-prevention initiative aimed at furthering police-community partnerships, fostering neighborhood camaraderie, and deterring criminal activity. Each year my staff and I enjoy visiting as many neighborhoods as possible across the district, interacting with the community. I encourage you all to take the opportunity to participate in these events by reaching out to your local community or homeowner's association.

With public safety being a priority heading into the fall, I wanted to share how my Council District Service Fund is being utilized this fiscal year. At the beginning of each fiscal year, July, I submit projects for approval to the Mayor's Office and City Legal Department. If approved, these projects are to be completed over the next fiscal year, which ends June 2023. Council District Service Funds are provided to each District Council Member through the City's General Fund and separated in two buckets. One bucket is for infrastructure related projects used in District E mostly for panel replacements while the other is utilized for more diverse district needs.

I just received the approvals for non-infrastructure related projects. Those submittals include our monthly weekend electronic recycling events, right of way mowing in Kingwood and Clear Lake, removal of dead and dangerous trees along Kingwood major thoroughfares, FLOCK Security Cameras, matching grants for Harris County Department of Education CASE program and over \$300,000 dedicated to increasing public safety for District E through Houston Police Department Overtime Initiatives and equipment. Each of these projects is carefully selected to keep a level of service within District E as well as provide specialized care to the District E resident. We look forward to working with our City Departments to complete these projects over the next fiscal year. The infrastructure projects should be approved by the end of this month in time for our next newsletter.

As we transition to fall, the days will begin to shorten reducing our day light hours. In an effort to make sure our pedestrian paths and streets are illuminated please alert CenterPoint Energy to any street light outages you see along our roadways by calling 713-207-2222 or using the online map. Additionally, if you are walking or biking at night please make sure to wear reflective clothing and/or reflective lights to increase your visibility to those driving motor vehicles.

#### The District E Office Welcomes

#### Michael McKnight to the Team

Mayor Pro Tem Martin is happy to announce Michael McKnight, a Kingwood resident who recently graduated cum laude from Texas A&M University in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and is currently working towards a master's degree in Political Science at Sam Houston State University has joined the District E Office team as our new executive assistant.

Michael hopes to attend law school starting in 2024. Michael's hobbies include visiting with friends and family and using the greenbelt trails in Kingwood.

#### Happy 80th Birthday Mrs. Marie Flickinger

Mayor Pro Tem Martin would like to wish a special Happy Birthday to Marie Flickinger. May-

or Pro Tem Martin and District E staff had the privilege to attend Marie's birthday celebration at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 1. Mayor Pro Tem Martin presented Marie with a proclamation from the City of Houston and Mayor Turner, as well as Certificates of Special Recognition to Marie's Doctors and Nurses who recently saved her life. Marie is a major force in the South Belt-Ellington community. She is the co-founder and publisher of the South Belt-Ellington Leader newspaper, as well as the chief organizer and founding president of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce. Southeast Houston would not be what it is today, without Marie Flickinger.

#### Storm Management Protocols

The 2022 Hurricane Season has been relatively quiet. As a reminder to all District E residents, since 2017 the City of Houston has enacted active storm management protocols which includes a lake lowering strategy. The City of Houston's active storm management protocol goes in to effect anytime there is a forecast predicting three inches of rain within the San Jacinto Watershed over twenty-four hours, while Lake Houston is at full pool, 42.5 ft. The lake is lowered a minimum of six inches. This happens ANYTIME regardless of season. Lake Houston currently can be lowered one foot within 24 hours and the City of Houston is constantly watching incoming weather patterns.

Unusually High Water Consumption? Here's What You Need to Know

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin has been looking into the reports of high-water bill cases he's committed to. Investigations have taken roughly 21 days to reach a resolution with three outstanding from July. To date, 96% of the cases submitted the District E Office have resulted in water meters reading accurately when tested. Mayor Pro Tem Martin and the District E Office staff have been able to successfully assist nearly 80 people since July resulting in a bill adjustment, transmitter replacements, escalation to the Water Appeals Board, payment plans, or further collaboration with Customer Account Services.

The District E Office has limited access to the review of accounts due to privacy laws in Texas as Utilities Code 182.052 restricting Mayor Pro Tem's view of account details and case notes. As will all District E constituent casework, the District E Team remains committed to assisting District E residents with any concerns. If you believe your water bill is unusual it is important to contact Houston 3-1-1 (713-837-0311) first.

After residents have called Houston 3-1-1 a unique service request number is generated, which triggers an investigation. Once you receive your service request number after calling Houston 3-1-1, please send your service request number along with your most recent water bill to our office at [districte@houstontx.gov](mailto:districte@houstontx.gov) for the District E office to monitor. The District E Office provided this information in an earlier press release this summer found here. Please keep in mind a Houston 3-1-1 report needs to be submitted each time an issue occurs.

For more information, please contact Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin's Office by calling 832-393-3008 or by emailing [DistrictE@houstontx.gov](mailto:DistrictE@houstontx.gov).

#### Preparing Your Home and Property for Heavy Rain

There are actions you can take to keep the threat of rising water to a minimum and reduce ongoing storm drain maintenance costs.

Keep ditches clear of debris. Mow weeds and

tall grass, and don't block culverts. Remove or secure large objects that are on the property that may end up in the ditch during a storm.

Keep curbs and gutters clear of debris that may prevent water from flowing into inlet drains.

Keep inlet drains clear of debris. Storm drains are not trash receptacles Call the 3-1-1 (713-837-0311) to make a request to clean the drainage system.

Never put grass clippings in a storm drain. This will clog the system and cause rainwater to back up into streets and yards. Any person caught dumping into the storm sewer system can receive a fine of up to \$2,000. Report violators to the 3-1-1. Keep trash cans at least two to three feet behind the curb on pick-up days.

Property owners are responsible for cleaning ditches abutting their property. This includes weed removal, mowing, and trash/rubbish removal. However, if there is a drainage problem the property owner should contact 3-1-1 and request an investigation by the Public Works Street and Drainage Division.

Residents can help be our eyes and ears on the streets. Alert Houston Public Works via 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 of potential problems that could cause flooding or high water in your community. Once you've reported a problem please follow up with our office by emailing your case number and information on the issue to our office at [districte@houstontx.gov](mailto:districte@houstontx.gov) so that we can help make sure the problem is addressed in a timely manner.

#### Collins Aerospace Houston Spaceport Facilities Ribbon Cutting

District E staff attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new 120,000 square-foot state-of-the-art Collins Aerospace facility at the Houston Spaceport on Aug. 31. U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and U.S. Representative Brian Babin, along with Mayor Turner and many other state and local representatives attended the ceremony. (See photo Page 1.)

The increased footprint allows for expanded operations, manufacturing, and testing and is also expected to add an additional 300 jobs in the coming years. To read the Collins Aerospace press release click here.

#### NASA's Artemis 1 Launch Cape Canaveral Visit and Houston Launch Party

Mayor Pro Tem Martin, along with Council Members Alcorn, and Robinson, attended the attempted launch of NASA's Artemis 1 Space Launch System rocket and the complete Orion spacecraft, at Cape Canaveral on August 29. Over that weekend, Mayor Pro Tem Martin was able to meet and speak with NASA Astronauts, NASA officials, Federal Representatives, visit Pad Site 39 B, and the Apollo 1 Mission Memorial Pad Site. Even though the launch was scrubbed, it was an amazing experience and Mayor Pro Tem Martin would like to thank NASA's Johnson Space Center and Lockheed Martin for the invitations and for being such gracious hosts. For updates and information about the Artemis 1 Space Launch System rocket and rescheduled launch dates please visit here.

Additionally here in Houston the District E team had the chance to attend a launch party at Space Center Houston. The District E Staff would like to thank NASA Johnson Space Center for the invitation to their Artemis 1 Launch Party at Space Center Houston. The next tentative launch date for the Artemis 1 is Sept. 3, 2022, at 1:17 p.m. CDT. To watch a live stream of the Artemis 1 launch, visit NASA Live.

#### Greater Houston Partnership Legislative Policy Forum

District E Staff attended the Greater Houston Partnership Legislative Policy Forum at the San Jacinto College LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology (CPET) Center. Legislative staff from all levels of government convened to discuss emerging issues relating to education and the workforce pipeline, and exploring ways that industries are partnering with local educational institutions to grow the skilled workforce that Houston needs to compete in the global, 21st century economy and create opportunity for all Houstonians.

Speakers included Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor of San Jacinto College, as well as experts from industry leaders including LyondellBasell,

Dow Chemical, and Ineos.

#### Applications Being Accepted for HPD Youth Police Advisory Council

The new school year is underway, and the Houston Police Department is looking forward to working in tandem with young leaders in our high schools. HPD is inviting Houston area high school students to apply for the 2022-2023 Youth Police Advisory Council (YPAC).

In addition to meeting with Police Chief Troy Finner and other HPD leaders to discuss issues affecting youth and the community, YPAC members also give back by participating in community service projects. The students also attend youth leadership conferences throughout the state.

YPAC members are required to meet five times during the school year at the HPD Edward A. Thomas Building at 1200 Travis Street in downtown Houston.

The application deadline is Oct. 1, 2022. Applications are available here. For more information, click here, email rhonda.holmes@houstonpolice.org or call 713-308-3200.

#### CitizensNet 1 City of Houston

CitizensNet was created to share important city issues of interest to you and your neighbors. Subscribe to CitizensNet or manage your preferences here: [houstontx.gov/citizensnet/](http://houstontx.gov/citizensnet/). Thank you for your interest in the City of Houston! The "Know Your Zone" map was created by District E in collaboration with the Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department, Houston Planning Department, Houston Office of Emergency Management, Houston Emergency Center, and the Houston Public Works Department.

To date, signs have been installed at Deussen Park, East End Park, River Grove Park, Kings Harbor, W Lake Houston Parkway Bridge, and on the FM 1960 Bridge. Houston Public Works has been hampered by the weather but is still working to install signs that have been requested by community groups and private community boat dock owners.

Should you like to request a presentation for your group (HOA, Civic Club etc.) or receive resources directly, please email the District E Office at [districte@houstontx.gov](mailto:districte@houstontx.gov).

#### Houston Public Works Adopt-A-Drain Program

Houston's Adopt-A-Drain is a partnership between Houston Public Works, Keep Houston Beautiful and community partners.

Houston Public Works currently has more than 100,000 inlets in our drainage system. Houston's Adopt-A-Drain program allows the community to help prevent future flooding, save taxpayers' dollars, and keep our neighborhood storm drains clean and litter free. Nearly two thousand drains have been adopted since the program launched. Our goal is to get as many adopted before the next major storm or rain event.

To adopt a drain: visit [www.houstonadoptadrain.org](http://www.houstonadoptadrain.org), enter your email address, and follow the link you are sent. There is a short video on the website to help walk people through the process. By adopting a drain, you are making a commitment to keep the drain clear of leaves and trash by cleaning it at least 4 times a year (especially before it rains).

Sincerely,  
The District E Office  
Mayor Pro Tem Martin  
900 Bagby, First Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

Email: [districte@houstontx.gov](mailto:districte@houstontx.gov)  
Phone: (832) 393-3008  
The District E Team  
Jessica Beemer, Chief of Staff  
Dustin Hodges, North Sector, Manager  
Mark Mitchell, South Sector, Manager  
Michael McKnight, Executive Assistant  
City Resources: Houston 311 (713) 837-0311  
City Solid Waste Department; City Office of Emergency Management  
Community Resources  
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce  
Partnership Lake Houston  
Kingwood Service Association  
Kingwood Super Neighborhood Council

Article edited due to length.

## Elected officials share their words

### By Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz,

#### Greetings District D Friends & Neighbors,

Happy September! First, I am excited to share that I have promoted Steven A. James to be my Chief of Staff. As some of you may know, Steven was recently my Director of Constituent Services. He has been a real asset since my first day in office and an invaluable resource for District D residents.

Under my leadership and with Steven leading the District D team, our priority will continue to be to advocate in the best interests of the District D community. If you have heard me speak before, you know that I proudly call District D - The District of Destination. The quality of life of everyone in District D is always at the forefront of my work.

This month, I had the pleasure of honoring some extraordinary District D residents and supporting their wonderful community events.

My office and I have also spent time addressing important community issues, ensuring your voice is heard and accountability is held at all levels of city government. The City of Houston has tools that allow you to be informed and have access to readily available information dealing with your home and neigh-

borhood.

These tools serve as accountability, and

# Cloutman wins South Houston High School spirit award

Dickie Cloutman, South Houston High School Class of 1964, has been named the recipient of David M. Ainsworth Alumni Spirit Award for 2022.

The award is presented annually to a South Houston graduate who has made significant contributions to the school's alumni engagement efforts. The award was named in honor of its first recipient, David Ainsworth, who helped to build social media engagement for his class before succumbing to cancer in 2013.

"I know it's a special recognition and it's not taken lightly," Cloutman said. "I'm just tickled to death. It's an honor to be able to get this award."

Cloutman was selected for this award for his devotion and commitment to maintaining and building connections among South Houston alumni.

Cloutman was among the original board members of school's Alumni Association, which was reorganized ten years ago. He has provided continuous support for various alumni events and fundraisers, including a commemorative brick project for the Victory Bell courtyard.

The complete project can be viewed during Homecoming festivities on Sept. 23 at the school. The annual open house for alumni will begin at 10:30 a.m. that day.

Cloutman will be recognized in a pregame presentation that night, 30 minutes before the Trojans take on Pasadena at Veterans Memorial Stadium. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Open house activities will also include a hot dog picnic at 11:30 a.m. and the "Beat Pasadena" pep rally at 1:30 p.m. From 4 to 6 p.m., the Alumni Association will host a mixer at Pepper's Restaurant at 3604 Fairmont in Pasadena.

South Houston is cele-

brating its 65th anniversary this fall. The school opened on Oct. 18, 1957.

"When I was invited to become part of the Alumni Association," Cloutman said, "that was the highlight

of my life."

Homecoming visitors will be able to tour the Hall of History, a campus museum that opened in 2016. Cloutman was among several alumni who donated

multiple items for display, including his Future Farmers of America (FFA) jacket, an Elvis Presley ticket stub and items for the museum's student newspaper collection. Cloutman has helped

planned many class reunions and has been instrumental in helping to share alumni news and vintage photos for the Alumni Association's Facebook page and other social media outlets. He carries the unofficial title of historian for the Class of 1964.

When I started a class website on classreport (.org), folks started filling me in about classmates who had passed away," Cloutman said. "If someone had a grandbaby, I'd post that as news along with pictures."

Cloutman attended South Houston Elementary and South Houston Junior High (now South Houston Intermediate). Although his involvement in high school organizations was limited to FFA, he fostered strong relationships with his classmates.

"I did not do sports, I was not in the choir, I was not in the National Honor Society - I just had a lot of friends," he said. "We formed a group with a bunch of guys who would go to football games together and we called ourselves the 'Table Brothers.' We met in the mornings in the cafeteria and we had a table set up just for our guys. I still keep in touch with them."

One of his fondest memories with the "Table Brothers" involved creating a large banner for their class out of bedsheets and a broomstick. Cloutman's mother helped by sewing the sheets together. The banner read "Yea, Seniors '64" on one side and "Go Big Red" on the other.

Cloutman still has the banner and often brings it to homecoming games and major alumni activities. "I would not have had an active social life if it were not for good friends," he said. "That's why I am so active now. I didn't have opportunities to join different extracurricular activities and such when I was in school. When I got involved with the exes association, I was

thrilled." After high school, Cloutman attended San Jacinto College. He joined the Navy in 1966 and served until 1972. In 1974, he helped organize the Class of 1964's first reunion.

"We had no money for mailing stamps or for long-distance phone calls, and we still had a tremendous turnout," he said. "We only had about 20 people sign up and we exceeded that at the door. We even had a little funding to start the next reunion."

That led to smaller and more frequent class get-togethers at local restaurants - what came to be known as "Dickie Lunches."

"One year, we had a picnic that was a 'bring your own box of chicken' event," Cloutman said with a chuckle. "We rented a jukebox, put it in the pavilion and played music that was popular back then. We had the pavilion reserved for the night. We played poker, etc. That was a wonderful picnic."

Cloutman says the relationships he has built over the years continue to grow.

"South Houston afforded me the opportunity to meet these people and remain friends with them throughout the years," he said. "That school is very special to me."

**Past recipients**

- Past recipients of the award include the following:
  - 2013, David Ainsworth, Class of 1968.
  - 2014, Dennis Keim, Class of 1970.
  - 2015, Jamie Hugo Ashby, Class of 1969.
  - 2016, Bob Fay, Class of 1959.
  - 2017, Pam Wallace Jones, Class of 1965.
  - 2018, Lori Regelbrugge Ray, Class of 1976.
  - 2019, Diane Lively Phelan, Class of 1989.
  - 2020, Al Carter, Class of 1970.
  - 2021, Herman Munster III, Class of 1968.



Dickie Cloutman is the recipient of the David M. Ainsworth Alumni Spirit Award at South Houston High School for 2022.

Shown above at top, in the group photo, are Cloutman's "Table Brothers" posing with their banner in 1964. Left to right, are David Freeman, Gary Warner, Herschell Moody, Larry Schneider, Bobby Haggard, Dickie Cloutman, Steve Jordan, Jack Dudley, Gary Carpenter, Ralph Young, Phillip Zorn, Richard Pearson and Resce Price. Above, left to right, are Cloutman, Helen McHavey, Al Stedman, Herman Williams, Judy Bivins-Lawhorn, John Lawhorn and Hubert Winters posing with the same banner at South Houston's 2011 homecoming game.

# Dobie holds 1st pep rally



Representatives from multiple Dobie High School organizations recently came together to host the area high school's first pep rally of the year. Shown above at the event are, left to right, Justice Johnson, Larlaette colonel; Giselle Valencia, Cheer captain; Chris Cantu, Color Guard lieutenant; and Kaitlyn Webb, head drum major.

Photo by Sarah Young

# Wings Over Houston returns

Continued from Page 1

Demo Team, Debby Rihn-Harvey, U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Demo Team, Extreme Flight with Patrick McAlee, and ReMax Skydiving Team.

Other special elements of this year's airshow include the "Military Might!" drive-in style show on Friday, Oct. 28, as well as the return of Guitars

N' Cars, a classic car show over the coming weeks. To learn more about ticket options, aircraft, additional event attractions, travel accommodations, sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, visit [www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com).

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 Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.\*  
 Sunday 1 p.m. Misa en Español\*  
 \*Also Available on Facebook Live  
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.  
 Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)  
 Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.  
 Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
 Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
 Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862  
 All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

# Webster AARP to meet Oct. 13

AARP Webster Area Chapter 199 welcomes all to attend their meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586. The meeting is in the large, blue roof building inside Clear Lake Park on the north side of NASA Parkway. Everyone is invited to come to the monthly meetings and to enjoy coffee, cookies and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before meetings start at 10 a.m. Each month the group has entertainment or a speaker on various topics of interest to seniors. On Oct. 13 the program will be presented by The Homeless Mat Ministry. This group meets to serve the homeless by making mats for their comfort and to enjoy fel-

lowship together. The group will be educated about the process and how this ministry is making a difference to many less fortunate folks.

Each mat uses 700 plastic grocery bags to create. If anyone would like to contribute their clean grocery bags, fold them flat and bring them to the meeting.

A social after the program ends will be spooktacular with the group's version of Halloween bingo.

The Chapter also organizes day trips for the AARP Chapter 199 members by bus to local area points of interest at minimal cost. The next bus trip will be on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

See area homes that belonged to the earliest settlers.

Cost of the trip is \$28, per person which includes lunch. There is a 20-person minimum for this trip. The bus will leave Clear Lake Recreation Center at 7:30 a.m. One may register and pay for this trip at the regular AARP Chapter 199 meeting on Thursday, Oct. 13. Bring correct change or a check made out to AARP Chapter 199.

If anyone is interested in joining the AARP Chapter 199, annual dues are \$8 per year per person. However, one must be a member of national AARP and show their current national membership card to join any local chapter.

For more information, contact Lynne Justis at 832-212-5417, [aarpchap199@yahoo.com](mailto:aarpchap199@yahoo.com).

# Dobie Cheerleaders of the Week named



J. Frank Dobie High School recently named its Cheerleaders of the Week. The winners shown above attended Dobie's football game. They are, left to right, Audrey Paredes (junior), Leilani Moorman (senior) and Adrianna Avila (sophomore).

Photo by Sarah Young

# Battleship Texas in Galveston for repairs

Continued from Page 1

Texas Foundation, the operator of the ship, Valkor Energy Services, the project management and engineering firm for the ship repair, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the administrator of the ship.

Resolve Marine Group was contracted in 2020 and coordinated with the Battleship Texas Foundation and Valkor Energy Services to reduce the amount of water leaking into the ship to help ensure a safe journey.

After an extensive campaign to save it from destruction, the Battleship Texas was decommissioned and

commemorated as a museum at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on April 21, 1948 - 112 years to the day that the Texas Republic won its independence.

The restoration project is expected to be completed between June and September 2023, after which the Battleship Texas will seek a new place to reside and reopen to the public.

**Battleship Texas Foundation**

Formed in 1998, the Battleship Texas Foundation exists today as an advocate for Battleship Texas, and to help develop the historic ship into a premier hands-on museum

and visitor attraction.

The Battleship Texas Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; as of Aug. 1, 2020, Battleship Texas Founda-

tion has taken the lead in the operations of Battleship Texas, with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department retaining an advisory and oversight role.

# CCART meets Oct. 11

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its October meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation from the local representatives in the Texas State Legislature.

The meeting will start at 10 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee and cookies. The business meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.

All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited to join. Annual dues are \$50.

# Pct. 8 welcomes battleship



Deputies with Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office are shown above recently welcoming Battleship Texas, as it makes its journey to Galveston for a \$35 million renovation.

# Texas Tuition Promise Fund enrollment open for families until Oct. 1

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds families that enrollment in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition plan, began Sept. 1 and will run through Feb. 28, 2023.

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund offers parents and loved ones the chance to prepay a child's future higher education at Texas public colleges and universities at today's prices, excluding medical and dental institutions.

The \$25 application fee to enroll in the plan will be waived for September and October enrollments (must be postmarked by Oct. 31,

2022). "With inflation putting stress on the family pocketbook, now is the perfect time to think about a Texas Tuition Promise Fund account, which gives families an additional tool to help plan for their children's future education," Hegar said. "Planning today is a good way to put your child on a path to a college education. And, we offer three different payment plans and three tuition types to fit your budget."

Participants in the plan purchase "tuition units" that can be used later toward undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at the most expensive Texas public four-year university or college, cost \$164.12 per unit.

Participants in the plan purchase "tuition units" that can be used later toward undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees across Texas public four-year uni-

versities and colleges, cost \$113.83 per unit.

Type III tuition units, based on the weighted average cost of in-district tuition and schoolwide required fees across Texas public two-year community colleges, cost \$29.48 per unit.

Under the plan, 100 tuition units equal roughly one academic year consisting of 30 semester hours of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at the Texas public school that most closely matches the tuition unit's pricing base. Participants can purchase up to 600 Type I tuition units - approximately six aca-

ademic years - or the dollar equivalent of Type II or III tuition units.

The plan has flexible payment options with each contract, including lump-sum payments, installment payments that include a 6 percent interest charge or pay-as-you-go payments. The pay-as-you-go payment option allows participants to gradually add more tuition units as the family budget allows based on tuition unit prices at the time of purchase.

Enrollment in a pay-as-you-go contract requires purchase of at least one tuition unit of any type; future payments can be as low as

\$15.

An online calculator provides pricing estimates on the type and number of tuition units currently needed for any two- or four-year Texas public college or university.

For more information about this prepaid college tuition plan, including Texas residency requirements, how the plan's Transfer Value can be used at medical and dental institutions, private and out-of-state colleges and universities, career schools and registered apprenticeship programs, go to [TuitionPromise.org](http://TuitionPromise.org) or call 800-445-GRAD (4723), option

5.

The plan's outreach team also offers free webinars to provide an overview of the plan and discuss the different tuition unit types and payment options.

Additionally, it provides information about the Texas Match the Promise Foundation matching scholarship opportunities.

Go to the Texas Tuition Promise Fund website for information about how to register to attend upcoming webinars. Residency restrictions, age requirements, eligibility criteria, household income restrictions and contribution requirements apply.

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# Controversial funding debated

**Continued from Page 1**  
 be investigating nor making a determination of the county's proposed budget under Senate Bill 23."
 

Last month, Hegar penned a letter to Gov. Greg Abbott and other top state officials, alleging that Harris County officials violated a new state law that prohibits local municipalities from defunding police departments without putting the measure up for a popular vote.

Hegar said investigators are looking into the following three claims:

- Harris County abruptly ended a long-standing policy to "automatically roll over" unspent departmental funds from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year, resulting in a loss of more than \$3 million in funds previously dedicated to the Constable's Office in FY 2021-2022 being returned to the general fund.
- Harris County proposed a planning budget for FY 2022-2023 on Feb. 8, 2022, that reduced funding to the Constables Office by more than \$12 million, as compared to short FY 2022. While the recently published revised planning budget for FY 2022-2023 increases funding to the Constables Office, it still represents a \$3 million reduction in overall funding.
- The budgeting practices of Harris County may not provide the Constables Office with full authority to expend their allocated budget to meet public safety needs.

According to the new law, Harris County will need voter approval before it can adopt its FY 2022-2023 budget. Otherwise, the county would have to revert to its FY 2021-2022 budget, which actually provides nearly \$100 million less in constable funding.

The county's recently passed \$1.4 billion budget marks the fourth consecutive budget increase for all eight constables' offices, as well as the Sheriff's office. The budget also includes a \$10 million increase to the District Attorney's Office, now also in danger of being lost.

The Democrat-led Commissioners Court is surprisingly at odds with fellow

Democrat, state Sen. John Whitmire, viewed by many experts as the front-runner in the upcoming 2023 Houston mayoral election.

"I don't play politics with crime fighting," Whitmire said during a recent interview on Fox 26's What's Your Point? show. "Criminals don't discriminate. They work in all communities. The nonsense of experimenting with defunding the police so you can then fund other programs is just wrong."

Hegar released a statement refuting the recent revelations.

"Recently my office initiated an investigation into a complaint made by Harris County constables alleging that Harris County has acted to defund police, which violates Texas law and thereby reduces the constables' ability to protect the lives and property of residents," Hegar said in the statement. "My investigation complies with the statutory duties envisioned by the Legislature when it passed Senate Bill (SB) 23. My role is not to prevent the adoption of a budget. It is to examine whether the adopted budget complies with Texas law. My letters warned the county that their proposed budget would not be in compliance. I hoped this would give Harris County and the constables an opportunity to reach a local solution, thus enabling the county to resolve the matter prior to adopting their proposed budget and triggering otherwise avoidable consequences. And that is almost what happened. Unfortunately, Harris County

Judge Lina Hidalgo instead engaged in partisan maneuvering, attacking me and obstructing the discussions with law enforcement. Rather than finding an amicable solution that keeps constables on the streets with the equipment and personnel needed to protect Harris County residents, Judge Hidalgo has decided to spend taxpayer funds to sue and continue engaging in political misdirection."

Hegar further said the county is still subject to all provisions of the new legislation.

"If Harris County commissioners move forward and adopt a budget that fails to cure the issues in the proposed budget that we reviewed, then that adopted budget will be in violation of Local Government Code. Harris County remains subject to all the provisions of SB 23," Hegar said in a statement.

Garcia remained adamant, at press time however, the county would move forward with its FY 2022-2023 budget unimpeded.

"This latest admission by state officials proves Harris County has and continues to prioritize public safety spending to the highest degree," Garcia said. "I'm glad that Gov. Abbott and Comptroller Hegar seemingly have come to their senses and recognize the same. This is not just a win for Harris County residents but also for local governments across the state of Texas, who know better than anyone in Austin does on how to govern to keep their counties safe."

# Son of Dobie alumnu leads Midnight Yell practice



Shown at left is Zac Cross, Head Texas A&M Yell Leader, leading the Midnight Yell practice. Above is Zac (center) with family friend Linda Britt (left) and grandparents Lynn and Ernest Cross. Midnight Yell could be likened to a pep rally. Held at Midnight the night before a home football game on Kyle Field and two nights before each away game, A&M Yell Leaders are chosen by the student body in place of a cheer squad. Zac's parents, Stephen and Elizabeth Cross graduated from and are employed at J. Frank Dobie High School.

# New perspective brought to social work students at UHCL

Although social work's values and ethics transcend gender, men have been noticeably absent from the front line of social work services. The National Association of Social Workers reports that about 82 percent of new social workers are women, although about 46 percent of the clients social workers support are boys or men.

Sean Hogue, Joe Perez and Christian Primus, all working toward their Bachelor of Social Work at University of Houston-Clear Lake, believe more men should consider social work as a career and are hoping to slowly bring the percentage of women and men in the field to balance.

"I think men just look at social work as women who work in Child Protective Services and they don't want to do that, but there are many other aspects of social work that men don't seem to know much about," said Hogue.

"I think I have a unique perspective because I'm a man, and I know the field could use more men. Because about half the people social workers serve are men, it makes a lot of sense to get more men involved," he said. "I'll be modeling the type of behavior many boys and young men have not seen in their lives."

He said that he hoped to normalize talking about mental health or emotional issues, which men in particular are reluctant to discuss. "I hope having that perspective as a man will encourage others to share more openly," he said.

At age 53, Hogue is a non-

traditional student with a previous career in bartending and transferred from San Jacinto College, having received a Mental Health Substance Abuse Counseling certificate, as well as an Associate of Arts in social and behavioral science.

"It's been an interesting transition from bartending to chemical dependency, but it makes sense," he said. "I went back to school later in life, and I worked in chemical dependency relapse prevention for about a year. I'm interested in clinical social work. I'd like to get my Master of Social Work and then provide therapy."

Hogue said he had experience in chemical dependency but was open to working with other populations. "This is a different route than psychology; I didn't know you could work as a therapist with a degree in social work," he said.

Perez, who began his academic career in psychology at UH-Clear Lake, said his courses were not what he'd expected and took a chance on (Associate Professor of Social Work) Roberta Leal's Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice class.

"I think I was meant to be in that class," he said. "I found out more about social work from Dr. Leal and found out it was right up my alley. I wanted to help people find the resources to make their lives better. That's where it started for me."

He said he was not surprised the field was dominated by women. "I was raised by a single mother and I've always known social workers were

mostly women, and I think sometimes men can be intimidating. But men can also bring a separate viewpoint, although it might feel strange for people to see me as someone who could help. I hope men would come forward more to approach me as a man," he said.

Although Perez said he envisioned himself ultimately as a social worker in a school setting, his internship in an eldercare facility has broadened his perspective. "I would not mind staying in eldercare," he said. "Home hospice was never on my radar; I did not know I could be good at it until I did my internship."

After more than eight years serving in the U.S. Army, Primus went to San Jacinto College to become an X-ray technician. "I considered psychology, although social work was not on my list," he said. "My father is in social work, and he told me that many people who start out in psychology end up in social work. I just wanted to work in my community to help people."

Primus agreed that men might have the preconceived idea that social workers generally only work in CPS.

"It's not well known that social workers can be in government working on changing policy, or they can work as therapists," he said. "I would like to go into the clinical side of social work. I don't think many people even realize that this career path is even available."

He said he also planned to pursue a MSW and hang his shingle as a therapist. "There's no specific population I want to work with—on the clinical side, you can work with children or adults. Wherever I can help, I will try."

For any man considering a "helping" profession, Primus said consider social work an option. "It's not easy; there are children and adults with stories that are much worse than yours," he said. "But, if you are in the position to help and give back where you can, it's worth it."

# Nehls aiding young adults

**Continued from Page 1**  
 AppChallenge.us.

One can contact District 22's Bailee Higgins at Bailee.Higgins@mail.house.gov.

**Internships**  
 The District 22 office is currently accepting applications for fall 2022 interns.

To be eligible for an internship, one must be recent graduate or a college-aged student.

For more information, contact District 22's Alex Chadwell at 346-762-6600 or alex.chadwell@mail.house.gov.

**Military academy nominations**  
 The District 22 office is also accepting applications for military service nominations.

"One of my greatest honors in Congress is having the ability to nominate a future leader to one of our nation's esteemed military academies," said Nehls. All materials must be submitted by Oct. 7. To learn more about the nomination process, visit nehls.house.gov/service-academy-nominations.

# Sagemont's Carter retires due to health

**Continued from Page 1**  
 who had served in the position for 53 years.

Prior to his time at Sagemont, Carter was the founding pastor of Austin Stone Community Church, which began in 2002. During his tenure, the church grew from a core team of 15 people to more

than 8,000 weekly attendees spread over six campuses and with a budget in excess of \$24 million. Carter holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry in Expository Preaching from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

than 8,000 weekly attendees spread over six campuses and with a budget in excess of \$24 million. Carter holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry in Expository Preaching from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

# CCISD named top employer

**Continued from Page 1**  
 the 1,382 employers across 50 states and the District of Columbia that received the most recommendations.

"As the second-largest employer in the Clear Lake-area, our 5,000 employees are committed to helping students achieve, contribute and lead with integrity," said Interim

Superintendent Dr. Karen Engle. "These hardworking and dedicated team members make achievements like this possible."

This is the third year in a row Clear Creek ISD has been named to the list of top employers across the state of Texas. NASA and The University of Texas Health Science

Center at Houston took the top spots for 2022.

Those interested in joining the CCISD team can learn more at [www.ccisd.net/joinourteam](http://www.ccisd.net/joinourteam). To view the full list of America's Best Employers By State, visit this link, [www.forbes.com/lists/best-employers-by-state](http://www.forbes.com/lists/best-employers-by-state).

# Aerospace opens

**Continued from Page 1**  
 Collins' executives, U.S. Senator - and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation - Ted Cruz; as well as U.S. Representative - and Ranking Member of the House Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee - Brian Babin.

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that excelled included Meador Elementary, which earned all possible distinction designations; Frazier Elementary, which received four out of five possible distinction designations; and Melillo Middle School, which earned five of six possible distinctions.

**1 year ago (2021)**  
 The South Belt community was spared the brunt of Hurricane Nicholas, with minimal damage being reported locally. Downed fences and branches accounted for most of the physical damage. The only other problem reported was loss of electricity to approximately 150 Sagemeadow homes.

A man was stabbed Wednesday, Sept. 8, outside an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Redford. The victim, David Diaz, 31, was transported to an area hospital in an unknown condition. No immediate arrests were made.

# Beta Academy scores an A

Students aren't the only ones receiving a grade. The Texas Education Agency released its 2021-2022 academic scores, and Beta Academy School District earned an A rating.

Despite multiple challenges during the pandemic, the district earned a score of 92 percent and distinct designations in English Language Arts/Reading, Science, Social Studies, Postsecondary Readiness, Top 25 percent Comparative Academic

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# Remember When

**45 years ago (1977)**  
 Hail and winds up to 75 miles per hour brought much destruction to the South Belt area. Numerous fences, a large 40-to-50 foot tree and a portable building were blown down.

Dr. Edward Montgomery reported samples of water taken in the Sagemont area showed to have 3.4 mg of flouride as opposed to the maximum recommended amount of 1.6 mg.

**40 years ago (1982)**  
 Edwin Kent Risinger Sr. was named new tax assessor-collector for the Pasadena school district by the district trustees. He replaced Elroy Saterlee, who retired after 11 years with the district.

San Jacinto College South enrollment increased by approximately 300 students. The enrollment for the fall semester was more than 3,200 students.

Three traffic accidents within a six-hour period at the intersection of Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway prompted Houston City Councilman Frank Mancuso to request the police department to post an officer there to direct traffic.

**35 years ago (1987)**  
 Moore Elementary learned that the school ranked fourth statewide in the amount of money raised during Jump Rope for Heart raising \$10,265.

The South Belt Noon Optimist Club elected Rudy Schubert as its president.

**30 years ago (1992)**  
 The new 33,500-square-foot Clear Creek administration building and education center was opened. The building cost just under \$3 million to construct.

Dobie running back Cory Westfahl scored on an 81-yard run to help Dobie get its first win of the season by defeating Alvin 23-10.

**25 years ago (1997)**  
 Houston Police were investigating a drive-by shooting, which occurred in the 9700 block of Grenadier.

Soccer practice was disrupted for pre-schoolers when a jogging, off-duty policeman shot and killed a man who

was verbally abusive to the victim's six-year-old nephew at Beverly Hills Park.

**20 years ago (2002)**  
 The Pasadena Independent School District's enrollment total continued an anticipated upward turn as 44,748 students were attending classes, an increase of more than 1,300 students over the previous school year.

Voters in the Harris County portion of the Clear Creek Independent School District overwhelmingly voted not to become part of the San Jacinto College District. In the election, 8,921 voters opposed the annexation while 420 voted for the annexation.

Dr. Adena Loston, president of San Jacinto College's South campus, announced that she was taking the position of senior advisor for education at NASA in Washington, D.C.

**15 years ago (2007)**  
 Stuchbery Elementary received a bomb threat on the evening of Friday, Sept. 7.

Over the weekend, the Pasadena Independent School District Police Department, along with a bomb-sniffing dog, conducted a thorough search of the building. The dog, new to the department, targeted an area of possible concern, so the Houston Police Department and the Pasadena Police Department were notified and brought in for a more thorough investigation. As a precautionary measure, all of Stuchbery and part of nearby Thompson Intermediate were evacuated to Sagemont Church on Monday morning. By 9 a.m., the police departments said no threats had been detected, and all students and staff returned to their respective schools.

Houston City Councilmember Addie Wiseman hosted a ribbon-cutting for Blackhawk Park, located at 9401 Fuqua, near the Blackhawk intersection. Joining Wiseman and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department in the celebration

were Marie Flickinger, editor/publisher of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*; Tony Riojas, president of the Southbelt Dolphins; and Jeremy Ward, athletic director of the Southbelt Dolphins. Ward had worked closely with the city for several years to get the park, which included two new football fields, one soccer field, concession facilities, restrooms and a children's playground developed.

Lifetime South Belt resident Christine Valdez organized a team to participate in a walk for a cure for the little-known polycystic kidney disease. Having lost both her grandfather and her mother to the inherited disease, Valdez, 21, was the top earner at the previous year's event.

Bridgegate resident Awilda "Awi" Santiago founded the Bridgegate Community Group when she could not get her neighborhood developer or the City of Houston to maintain the areas surround-

ing the entrances to her community. Santiago distributed flyers to her neighbors, urging them to pitch in and help clean up. She noticed that for every 50 flyers distributed, two people would respond (12 in all). The group's first task was to clean up the main entrance to the community at Cayman Mist and Fuqua.

Reps. Nick Lampson, Chet Edwards (chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee) and Gene Green visited the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base. The purpose of the visit was for Lampson to show his colleagues the site of future renovations he requested for the Ellington Field fire station.

**10 years ago (2012)**  
 Representatives from several City of Houston departments addressed community concerns at a town hall meeting hosted by Council Member Wanda Adams. The meeting was the first of its kind

since Adams' District D incorporated much of the South Belt following redistricting.

City of Houston work crews began repairing the weathered and damaged stretch of Dixie Farm Road between Beamer Road and the Gulf Freeway. In all, 61 panels were to be replaced on the damaged street. The city planned to make similar concrete repairs on Scarsdale, Sabo and Beamer in the next year.

**5 years ago (2017)**  
 South Belt students returned to school Monday, Sept. 11. Students had originally gone back Monday, Aug. 21, but their stay was short-lived after classes were canceled due to Hurricane Harvey, which made landfall Friday, Aug. 25.

The Pasadena Independent School District earned a "Met Standard" designation from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), according to the organization's annual accountability report. Local campuses

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**Over The Back Fence** by Natalie

**LORETTA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
 Special birthday wishes are sent Sept. 16 to local businesswoman **Loretta Williams Gurnell** from family, friends and the staff of the *South Belt Leader*.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
 The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 15 through Sept. 21.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
 Sing a melody of a happy birthday song to **Angi Fox** Sept. 20.

**Bush Elementary**  
 The day for a birthday gift for **Enrique Macias** is Sept. 18.

**Frazier Elementary**  
 Light the birthday candles for **Chelsey Riemer** Sept. 17.

**Meador Elementary**  
**Aracely Jasso** celebrates a birthday Sept. 16. Blow out the birthday candles Sept. 17 for **Amy Clowers**.

**Moore Elementary**  
 The day for a birthday gift for **Randi Howard** is Sept. 16.

**Melillo Middle School**  
 Send a birthday greeting Sept. 19 to **Brittney Crawford**.

**Roberts Middle School**  
 The day for a double-layer birthday cake is Sept. 17 for **Rebecca Dietz** and **Jose Robledo**.

**Dobie High**  
 Send birthday wishes Sept. 17 to **Alfred Valdez**. Light the birthday candles Sept. 19 for **Erica Ba**. Share a slice of a double-layer cake Sept. 21 with **Jermaine Gasaway** and **Manuel Moreno**.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
 Thursday, Sept. 15: **Dawnella Woods, Jackie Williams, Patricia Jones, Crystal McGoldrich, Kristi Ortiz, David Young, Shawn Black** and **Michelle Poole**; Friday, Sept. 16: **Peter Hoth, Kairy Barkley, Jorge Sanchez, Mark Wilson, Brandy Rogers, Claude Van Court, Angela Starr, Anna Aranova** and **Melissa Norman**; Saturday, Sept. 17: **Michael Nevills, Fauna Santos, Alice Mireles, Xavier Sustaita, Jose Ochoa, Reggie Godbolt, Sandy Muse, Dean Konrad,**

# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## At 1-2, Longhorn football squad continues road swing at Lamar

What looked to be a tough three-week road swing of games has just far turned out to be just that as the Dobie varsity football team now hopes to conclude the stretch with a win against Houston Lamar Sept. 16 at Delmar Stadium.

Dobie opened the regular season with a win over Clear Brook at home but has now dropped consecutive road games to Conroe Grand Oaks (17-14) and Dickinson.

In the 41-3 loss to 6A Division I power Dickinson, Dobie got a field goal from Daniel Campeiro but otherwise watched as six turnovers eventually stalled other scoring opportunities.

Each week represents a chance to quickly turn things around, and the now 1-2 Longhorns will aim to do just that against Lamar.

It's easy to see Dobie's issues to this point on paper. The Longhorns are averaging 10 points per game with just 31 through three outings.

With a new starter at quarterback for the first time in four years entering 2022, Dobie figured to need some time for growth. Through three games, Dobie has 52 passing yards and 691 total yards of offense.

The Longhorns' running game has carried the load to this point, with senior Raynard Hall

sixth in the District 22-6A ranks through three weeks with 250 yards on 42 tries.

Sophomore Cameron Mathews has also excelled early on with 243 yards on 43 tries, and Jalen Baldwin has also made several big plays.

Six turnovers against Dickinson created short fields for the Gators' offense often, but the Longhorns' defense has performed solidly through three weeks.

Junior Derrick Kelley is third in the 22-6A ranks with 30 total tackles, including three tackles for loss. Senior Nigel Hill has also stood out with 28 total stops, and Dempsey Spear has 26 total tackles.

Aiden Sanchez and Anormy Lee have paced the Dobie pass rush with two sacks each, and Jeremiah Burch has three pass breakups through the three games.



At left, the Dobie varsity football team has lost consecutive road games at Grand Oaks and at Dickinson to slip to 1-2 early this season. Despite the setbacks, Dobie senior running back Raynard Hall (23) is sixth in the District 22-6A ranks with 250 yards on the ground and a pair of scores through the three games. With 732 yards rushing and nine scores as a junior in 2021, Hall is set to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark for his career as the Longhorns take on Houston Lamar Sept. 16 at Delmar Stadium. Lamar comes into the game at 1-2 with a win over Beaumont West Brook and consecutive losses to The Woodlands and Clear Falls. After facing Houston Lamar, Dobie will open District 22-6A play against Deer Park Sept. 22, at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## CB's Trevino runs well



Christopher Trevino took 14th place overall as the junior represented the Clear Brook varsity boys' team at the Region III Cross-Country Preview, hosted by Sam Houston State University Sept. 10 at Kate Barr Ross Memorial Park in Huntsville. Atascocita senior Oliver Maldonado was the Class 6A top overall medalist as he covered the 5,000-meter course at 15:32.59. With Trevino in at 16:41.83, the Wolverines' best returnee from a time standpoint in 2021 began to shape his late-season march. At 17:31.6, Trevino was 61st overall at the Region III Championships in 2021.

**Dobie at Houston Lamar**  
Fri., Sept. 16, 7 p.m.  
Delmar Stadium

## Lady Longhorns aim to take out Memorial volleyball Sept. 16



At far left, Dobie's Juliana Aguirre (12) had 49 kills through 66 total sets at press time Sept. 12 as she has added to the team's attack up front. A sophomore, Aguirre has chipped in at the varsity level for the first time as the Longhorns look to reset in the 22-6A race following a straight-set loss to Deer Park Sept. 9.

At left, Dobie junior Ariana Garza (8) will lead her team into action Sept. 16 at home versus Memorial in a key district matchup. Garza has 119 kills to this point, which is third on the team.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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## Dobie tennis tops Pearland at Remembering Ike event

Sophomore Nolan Tran came up with the decisive victory, defeating Pearland's Caleb Petry by a 10-8 super tiebreaker as the skies grew dim Sept. 10, giving the Longhorns' team tennis squad seventh place in the Remembering Ike Invitational event.

The decision might have seemed inconsequential to the other 14 programs in the tournament,

but it was huge for a Dobie squad that has seen its share of struggles this season during what has been a 2-10 run.

Following an 18-1 loss to Deer Park Sept. 9, the Longhorns know the new goal is second place in the District 22-6A ranks, but that's just fine with the locals.

In fact, Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr.

believes a win like the one over Pearland can spur a run in 22-6A play. Dobie took on Pasadena Sept. 13 after press time and will then take on Memorial.

"We trailed Pearland 8-3 at one point, so it was huge to come back and get the win," Moreno said.

Leslie Figueroa got us to eight, and then Leena Phan got the ninth win as Nolan was beginning his

tiebreaker. It was huge for us. We played the match shorthanded and found a way to win. I am so proud of the kids. Their effort has been great all season, but the schedule has been tough.

"I really believe you improve as a team when you play the tougher teams. We are better for it. Nolan has really played well for us, and played a smart tie-

breaker to get the win.

"The girls won at the 2 through six spots to really help us. It was just a great group effort, but that's what team tennis is all about."

Dobie opened the Remembering Ike event with a 15-4 loss to Shadow Creek and then had some chances for a better result despite a 12-7 loss to Kingwood Park.

The eventual win over Pearland came as it nearly became too dark to continue, but the Longhorns pulled through.

"I think we can use this as a boost moving forward. Deer Park is the top team in the district and is going to win out," Moreno said.

"We are treating it as if we are 0-0 and have a great chance at second place. The kids know what is in front of them and just have to go out and do it. We haven't lost to a Pasadena ISD program in years and don't plan to start now. I think beating Pearland will help us."

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## Dobie girls set the pace

At right, the Dobie varsity girls' cross-country team is the one to beat come next month's District 22-6A Championships after a title-winning performance at the Deer Park Invitational 5,000-meter run Sept. 9. Senior Ashlee Garcia was second overall in a time of 21 minutes, 30.76 seconds. The JFD girls have won team crowns in District 22-6A in both 2020 and 2021.



At far right, sophomore Lauren Garza, who joined Dobie for its late-season push in 2021 at the varsity level, closed at 21:53.53 at Deer Park for fifth place. For more on the Dobie girls' and boys' team performances at Deer Park, see story on Page 8.

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## LSA volleyball pair is All-Tournament



Lutheran South Academy volleyball players Kirra Musgrove (left) and Taylor Crane were All-Tournament team selections as the Pioneers (17-6 at press time) excelled at the EAST Invitational Sept. 8-10. LSA defeated St. Joseph's (25-22, 25-21) and Concordia (25-23, 25-22) and then pushed champion Cornerstone Christian in the final before taking second place overall in the event. Musgrove is a sophomore in her first season with Lutheran South. Crain, a junior, has verbally committed to Baylor.

## South Belt football predictions



John Bechtle



Emory Gadd



Troy Leland



Stephen Sutton



Debbie Vaughn

Dobie at Houston Lamar	Dobie	Dobie	Lamar	Dobie	Lamar
Deer Park at Clear Brook	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park
Westside at South Houston	Westside	South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	South Houston
Hightower at Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Hightower	Hightower	Hightower	Hightower
Channelview at Clear Lake	Lake	Channelview	Lake	Lake	Lake
Clear Creek at Pasadena Memorial	Memorial	Memorial	Memorial	Memorial	Creek
Huntsville at Clear Springs	Springs	Springs	Springs	Springs	Springs
Heights at Clear Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls
Baytown Lee at La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	Lee	La Porte	Lee
Manvel at Friendswood	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel	Manvel
Last Week's Results	7-3	7-3	8-2	5-5	6-4
Season record	18-12	19-11	24-6	17-13	23-7

## Longhorn girls win Deer Park cross-country

Cautious optimism is about all that will come out of the Dobie camp should one ask, yet it's looking more and more like the Dobie varsity girls' cross-country team is the one to beat come next month's District 22-6A Championships.

The Longhorns, already the 2021 and 2022 team champions out of District 22-6A, put together another great effort at the Deer Park Invitational Sept. 9, winning the Division I team crown at the 5,000-meter distance as senior Ashlee Garcia was second overall in a time of 21 minutes, 30.76 seconds.

Garcia, one of four returning runners from the 2021 title squad, is in the

midst of her best season while also juggling her time with the school's varsity volleyball program.

With Garcia leading the way at Deer Park, the Lady Longhorns also had sophomore Lauren Garza take fifth place, with Isela Munoz sixth. Garza, who joined Dobie for its late-season push in 2021 at the varsity level, closed at 21:53.53 at Deer Park for fifth place, with Munoz's time of 21:56.85 giving her the sixth position.

From there, Kyla Lobo clocked in at 22:12.00 for 11th place, and Ashley Dunn was Dobie's fifth official scorer as her time of 24:37.83 placed her 29th.

With Beatriz Laepple of Katy Jordan winning top

overall medalist honors in a time of 21:07.20, Dobie and Katy Jordan battled for team honors, with Dobie's 50 points for placing one better than Katy Jordan's 51 for the team title.

**DP boys rule 5,000**

The Deer Park varsity boys' team continued to have the look of big-time District 22-6A team favorite after the Deer cruised in the 5,000-meter Division I event.

As for Dobie, the locals' Giovanni Avila and Damian Rosas were 12th and 13th, respectively, with Avila in at 18:26.75 for the senior and Rosas, a junior, in at 18:32.17.

In a time of 19:06.22, sophomore Christopher Lopez placed 24th, and a time of 19:19.60 earned

junior Jose Munoz 28th place.

At 19:45.51, junior Francisco Dunn placed 33rd overall for the Longhorns, and a time of 19:55.98 gave junior Pedro Acevedo the 35th spot.

As for the Division II varsity boys' race, Dobie's Conner Torres, a sophomore, paced the locals as he was 21st in a time of 20:39.49.

A time of 21:01.98 gave senior Martin Martinez the Longhorns' top finish in the junior varsity 5,000-meter boys' race.

**JV girls set the bar**

The Dobie girls also stood out in the two-mile junior varsity race behind the efforts of a freshman and two sophomores.

Freshman Isaura Cor-

## Pioneers excel as cross-country hosts

The Lutheran South varsity cross-country teams stood out at the Pioneers' own invitational Sept. 8 as sophomores Marcus Gaitan and Matthew Gaitain went 1-2 in the boys' 5,000-meter race to lead the way.

Marcus Gaitan was the top overall medalist with his 5,000-meter clocking of 16 minutes, 23.62 seconds, with his brother, Matthew Gaitain, second in a time of 16:35.20.

From there, the Pioneers were third overall as a team. Junior Nathan Mendoza placed 19th with his time of 19:07.48, and a time of 20:32.87 placed Nathan Robert 32nd.

The Pioneers' fifth official scorer was junior Lucas Wells as he was 39th in

Van Wie (15th in a time of 15:05.61) were next for Lutheran South, and Jemma Reikert clocked in at 15:18.78 for 18th place.

LSA's fifth official scorer was another freshman, Madeleine Richards (27th at 16:33.37), and sophomore teammate Sophia DeOre was 28th with her time of 16:34.59.



With five freshmen qualifying as official scorers, the Lutheran South Academy varsity girls' cross-country team finished second as a team at the LSA Invitational Sept. 10 as the ladies challenged a 3,200-meter course. Members of the LSA varsity girls' team are, left to right, Lanie Ward, Madison Van Wie, Jemma Reikert, Madeleine Richards and Elisabeth Hergenrader. Fort Bend Christian Academy was crowned as varsity girls' team champion.



The Dobie varsity girls' cross-country team, looking to secure a third straight District 22-6A championship next month, made a big statement at the Deer Park High School Invitational Sept. 9, taking the team crown in the Division I race. Dobie's Ashlee Garcia was second overall at the 5,000-meter distance as she earned a time of 21 minutes, 30.76 seconds, just behind top overall medalist Beatriz Laepple of Katy Jordan (21:07.20). Members of the Dobie group included, left to right, Ashley Dunn, Lauren Garza, Kyla Lobo, Garcia and Isela Munoz. Garza placed fifth overall for Dobie, with Munoz sixth.

## Bay Area Football League Week 5 Results

	Srs.	Jrs.	Sophs.	Fr.	PWs
Cowboys	0	13	18	0	6
49ers	21	43	12	58	14
Dolphins	58	0	0	0	--
Eagles	44	57	42	1	--

**Week 6 Games – Saturday, Sept. 17**  
 Cowboys at Bay Area Bucs, Lutheran South Academy  
 Dolphins at Alvin Raiders, Bob Briscoe Park

## 2022 Bay Area Football League Divisional Standings through Sept. 10 Games

Freshman Div. Standings				Sophomore Div. Standings				Junior Div. Standings				Senior Div. Standings				PeeWee Div. Standings			
Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T	Team	W	L	T
League City	5	0	0	Hitchcock	5	0	0	League City	5	0	0	Hitchcock	5	0	0	Bay Area	5	0	0
Angleton	4	0	0	Bay Area	4	1	0	Pearland Pats	5	0	0	Magnolia Park	4	0	0	Pearland Pats	5	0	0
Hitchcock	4	0	0	League City	4	1	0	Pearland Texans	4	0	0	League City	4	1	0	League City	4	0	0
Southeast	4	0	0	Sagmont	4	1	0	Angleton	4	1	0	Southbelt	4	1	0	Hitchcock	4	1	0
Bay Area	4	1	0	Pearland Patriots	4	1	0	Brazosport	3	1	0	Pasadena	4	1	0	La Porte	3	1	0
Brazosport	3	1	0	La Porte	3	1	0	Sagmont	3	2	0	Manvel	3	1	0	Pasadena	3	1	0
Pearland Texans	3	1	0	Pearland Texans	3	1	0	Alvin	3	2	0	Sagmont	3	2	0	Alvin	3	2	0
Pearland Pats	3	1	0	Alvin	3	2	0	East End	2	2	0	Bay Area	3	2	0	Angleton	3	2	0
North Shore	3	2	0	Brazosport	2	2	0	Magnolia Park	2	2	0	East End	3	2	0	Santa Fe	2	2	0
La Porte	2	2	0	Magnolia Park	2	2	0	Manvel	2	2	0	Southeast	2	2	0	Manvel	2	2	0
East End	1	2	0	Southeast	2	2	0	Barbers Hill	2	2	0	Alvin	2	3	0	East End	2	3	0
Alvin	1	3	0	Manvel	1	3	0	Southeast	2	2	0	Pearland Patriots	2	3	0	Sagmont	2	3	0
Sagmont	1	3	0	Barbers Hill	1	3	0	Hitchcock	2	3	0	Barbers Hill	1	3	0	Magnolia Park	1	3	0
Barbers Hill	1	3	0	North Shore	1	3	0	Bay Area	2	3	0	Brazosport	1	3	0	Brazosport	1	3	0
Magnolia Park	1	3	0	Angleton	2	3	0	Santa Fe	1	3	0	La Porte	1	3	0	Southeast	1	3	0
Pasadena	1	3	0	Southbelt	0	4	0	Southbelt	0	4	0	Santa Fe	1	3	0	Barbers Hill	0	3	0
Manvel	0	4	0	Pasadena	0	4	0	Pasadena	0	4	0	Angleton	1	4	0	Southbelt	0	3	0
Santa Fe	0	4	0	East End	0	4	0	La Porte	0	4	0	Pearland Texans	0	4	0	Pearland Texans	0	4	0
Southbelt	0	5	0	Santa Fe	0	4	0	North Shore	0	5	0	North Shore	0	5	0	North Shore	0	5	0

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## CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

7 a.m. **AA** - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.

7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.

10 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300.

6 p.m. **Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** - Meets at Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

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

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

1 - 3 p.m. **Parker Williams Genealogy Group** - meets the first and third Fridays monthly at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale, 1-3 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net for details.

7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - 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.shaar-hashalom.org.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group of NA, open, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

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

9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.

11 a.m. **Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - meets at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787.

1 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Bay Area Singles Club** - meets at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Bring snacks to share. Call 281-470-2750.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. Call 281-479-7285.

2 p.m. **Grief Support Group** - Meets Sunday at Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.

8 p.m. **AA** - Meeting. See Friday's notice.

11 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - (for Yom Kippur) in person at Shaar Hashalom and on Zoom. Contact adulated@shaarhashalom.org for additional information.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

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

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

1:30 - 3 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, is now open. Volunteers Jerry and Edith Sanford teach lessons Mondays with a different dance rhythm each month. Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Toastmasters** - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Mondays (in person) at https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com. Visit the website or call 281-467-1880.

7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational building, room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.

7 p.m. **AA** - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call 832-725-8479.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

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

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

11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

2 p.m. **The National Active and Retired Federal Employees** - meets at 9500 Hall Rd. Call 713-734-1461.

7 p.m. **Houston Skyscraper Shadows Civic Club** - meets at 7900 Fuqua. Call 713-332-6294.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

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

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

Noon **AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Hometown Heroes Humpday Dance** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

7 p.m. **NA** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

8 p.m. **AA** - Meeting. See Friday's Notice.

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### Carpio is Celts' top runner



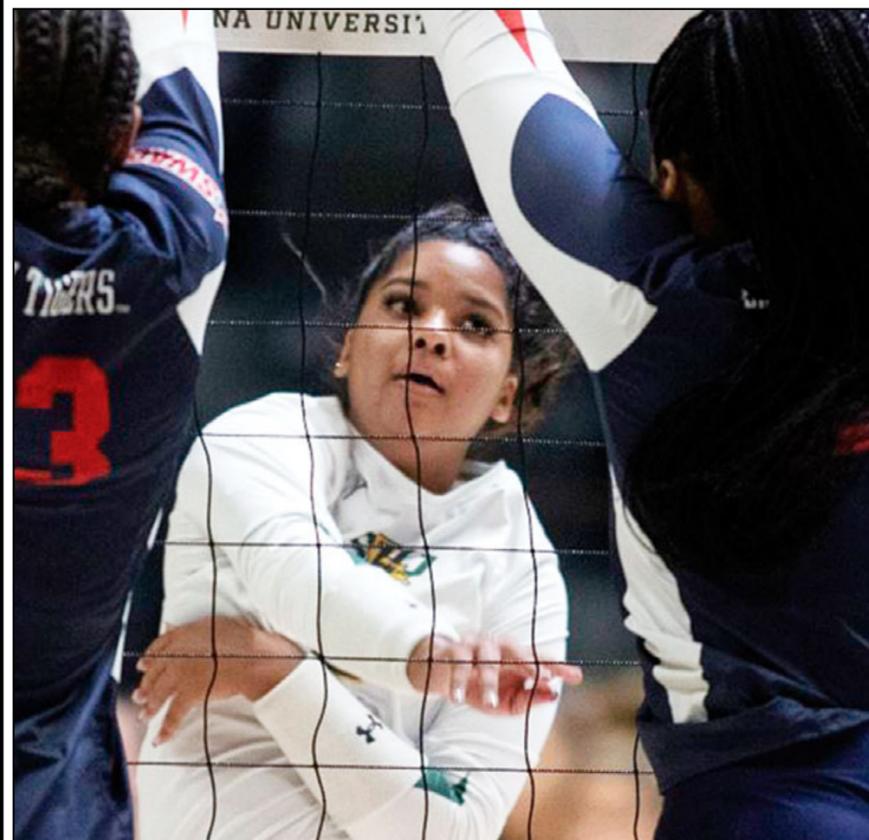
Dobie Class of 2021 graduate and University of St. Thomas runner Jhancarlos Carpio, a sophomore, has been selected the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference's Men's Cross-Country Runner of the Week for meets contested September 1-3. Carpio impressed at the Celt Opener, securing a first-place finish at 15 minutes, 50 seconds over the 5K course as he guided his squad to the team crown at the Texas Southern University Invitational. Following up his outstanding debut this season, Carpio was 20th overall at the Nory Hershey Rice Invitational.



### Newsome has big night for Iowa State

Clear Brook Class of 2017 graduate and varsity volleyball stand-out Jaden Newsome is off to a great start as she completes her collegiate eligibility as a fifth-year senior at Iowa State University. Iowa State downed Drake by a score of 3-1 (25-13, 25-27, 25-19, 26-24) to open the Cardinal and Gold Challenge Sept. 7. Newsome dominated the night as she hit .462 with nine kills on only 13 attempts. Newsome also delivered 37 assists and 10 digs as she came one kill shy of a triple-double. Nine kills matches the senior's career high. Newsome, a second-team All-Big 12 selection a season ago, had 1,000 assists in 2021 for the Cyclones. She is pursuing a master's degree in information systems and business analytics after receiving a bachelor's degree in sport management from Missouri. Following the 2021-2022 spring semester, Newsome was named as a member of the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll for her classroom work.

### Newsome is Southland top volleyball player



After helping the Southeastern Louisiana University volleyball team continue its strong start, junior Kailin Newsome, a Class of 2020 Clear Brook High School graduate, was named the Southland Conference Offensive Player of the Week. Newsome led the Lions with 3.73 kills per set and posted a .348 attack percentage in a 3-1 week for the Lady Li-

# Harrison blends skills, know-how in lengthy track and field run

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Forty-eight years in the sport as a coach/confidant/ambassador or liaison. Countless team and individual awards recognizing both the achievements of her track and field programs as well as the work she poured into them. There isn't enough time in the day to properly describe all of the time, energy, professionalism and passion that Judy Harrison has contributed to the sport of track and field. Track and field has given Harrison a profession in life at times, and she's happy to give back wherever she can.

If she has it her way, Harrison will be involved in the sport as long as her mind and body will allow, and she is showing no signs of slowing down.

Harrison, once one of the sport's most heralded track and field head coaches at San Jacinto College's Central campus, returned this month from her duties at the Department of Defense's annual Warrior Games on the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, Fla.

Harrison's role sounds simple, yet it's one of the most essential pre-meet requirements to ensure things run smoothly both for the athletes and meet organizers.

In Orlando at the Warrior Games, Harrison's days began well before sunrise as she sorted implements including shot and discus weights as well as javelins for those competitors.

There would be Harrison, surrounded by five-gallon buckets filled with weights of all shapes and sizes.

When a particular weight or javelin was needed, Harrison knew its location.

"There are shots anywhere from one to 7.6 pounds, and as many as four different discus weights and sizes in addition to the javelins," Harrison explained.

"It can be a lot to keep up with, because many athletes have their own weights and javelins that they travel with.

"On meet days, it's important to stay organized with the equipment so that they can focus on competing.

"Most of the time, I don't even get to see the athletes compete. The job of keeping everything running smoothly can be never-ending, but I just love

being able to contribute to a sport that has given me so much.

"If I can do something, anything really, to help both the athletes comfort-

able and the meets running smoothly, I'll do it." For many years, Har-

ison was the runner of the show as San Jacinto College won two National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Championship

track and field crowns and finished as runners-up another seven times.

All-Americans at San Jacinto College. She led six future Olympians along the way.

coached track and field at Dobie and was the leader of the program when the cross-country program was formed.

"Like anything else in track and field, it requires training and focus, but learning to run or throw with prosthetics, as we have all seen, can be done at an exceptional level," Harrison said.



At the Department of Defense's annual Warrior Games on the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, Fla., Judy Harrison stands outside of the complex entrance prior to the start of competition.



They may seem like ordinary five gallon buckets to many, but they are the tools of the trade these days for Judy Harrison who, at the 2022 Warrior Games, kept track of dozens of weights and javelins for the field event competitors.

### Dobie graduate starts season hot



Victoria Thomas, a Class of 2021 Dobie High School graduate, was named as her team's All-Tournament selection as she guided McCook County Community College to a 2-2 run at the MCC Classic, which welcomed 18 programs from six different states to McCook, Neb. Thomas, a sophomore right-side hitter played in 14 sets over the two days and led MCC with 49 kills to go along with seven assist blocks and 36 digs.

### Dobie tennis 10, Pearland 9

- Boys' doubles**
- 1) Ethan Garcia/Austin LeClere (PL) def. Ryan Le/Thang Tran, 8-5.
  - 2) Chris Castle/Daniel Nelligan (PL) def. Diego Flores/Nolan Tran, 8-3.
  - 3) Caleb Petry/Adam Thompson (PL) def. Nestor Garza/Pitou So, 8-1.
- Girls' doubles**
- 1) Tiffany Tran/Natalie Vo (D) def. Shayna Bui/Mikayla Garcia, 8-1.
  - 2) Hailey Maldonado/Amalia Reyes (D) def. Jennifer HaTon/Sophie Tien, 8-3.
  - 3) Leena Pham/Kayla Tran (D) def. Madelyn Bradshaw/Kenady McArthur, 8-6.
- Mixed doubles**
- 1) Anika Phan/Stanley Burns (PL) def. Leslie Figueroa/Dominic Ortiz, 8-6.
- Boys' singles**
- 1) Austin LeClere (PL) def. Dominic Ortiz, 6-0, 6-2.
  - 2) Stanley Burns (PL) def. Thang Tran, 6-3, 6-3.
  - 3) Ethan Garcia (PL) def. Ryan Le, 6-0, 6-2.
  - 4) Diego Flores (D) def. Adam Thompson, 6-3, 1-6, 10-2.
  - 5) Nolan Tran (D) def. Caleb Petry, 5-7, 7-5, 10-8.
  - 6) Daniel Nelligan (PL) def. David Caballero, 6-2, 6-0.
- Girls' singles**
- 1) Anika Phan (PL) def. Hailey Maldonado, 6-1, 6-3.
  - 2) Tiffany Tran (D) def. Shayna Bui, 6-1, 6-1.
  - 3) Natalie Vo (D) def. Sophie Tien, 4-1, retired (injury).
  - 4) Leena Pham (D) def. Jennifer HaTon, 7-5, 7-6 (7-0).
  - 5) Leslie Figueroa (D) def. Emily Schulze, 6-0, 6-0.
  - 6) Kayla Tran (D) Kenady McArthur, 6-2, 6-0.

Note: Dobie's Nolan Tran recorded the decisive win, defeating Caleb Petry in the boys' No. 5 singles match, 5-7, 7-5, 10-8.

Previous to that from 1975 through 1979, she

worked as an assistant team leader began in October 2000 at the Summer Paralympics in Sydney, Australia.

She has also visited Poland, Germany, France and many U.S. destinations in her various roles with the U.S. Paralympics program.

"Because of track and field, I've been able to travel the world," Harrison said.

"It's not a usual trip where you have time to see all of the sites, but you're still visiting a beautiful country and being a part of something special. You make your own memories along the way.

"I may be basically an equipment manager who handles logistics and the small details, but all of those roles are important. You need everyone on hand and available to do what is needed.

"Running a track and field meet requires cooperation by many, and I'm just happy to play my role."

In the states, Harrison attends the Warrior Games, the Desert Challenge Games in Arizona and the Paralympics Nationals.

Whatever is needed, Harrison is there to lend a hand.

In more than 50 years as a competitor, coach, aide, assistant or pit raker, Harrison and track and field have built a bond destined to last as long as she wishes.

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