

Leader seeks submissions

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* encourages local schools, groups and individuals to continue sending story ideas and photos they'd like to see included in the newspaper. Submissions have declined following the death of *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger in November. Contributions may be submitted to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Knights hold blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a blood drive Sunday, Sept. 21, at St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Blood is needed every day for medical needs due to health and injuries. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Donors must bring identification. All are welcome. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, call Val Comeaux 713-582-5358.

Freeway Manor to meet

Freeway Manor Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at Bible Way Church, 10120 Hartsook. Meetings typically take place the fourth Thursday of the month. Residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley and Gulfway Terrace are encouraged to attend.

Mistletoe Market approaches

The 21st annual Mistletoe Market will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, at the BellaVita clubhouse, 1548 N. Riviera Circle in Pearland, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the BellaVita Belles, the holiday market will feature more than 70 local vendors selling jewelry, home decor, women's clothing, children's clothing and much more. Food and drink will be available for purchase. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Military Moms and Wives of Brazoria County.

For additional information, call 281-464-3150 or visit club-bellavita.org.

Kirkwood to meet Sept. 29

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

Sagemeadow meets Sept. 18

Sagemeadow HOA will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. This month's guest speaker will be FBI Agent Connor Hagan, FBI Community Outreach. Meetings are open to the public. All Sagemeadow residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held the third Thursday of each month. For additional information, visit www.sagemeadow.org.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, located at 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Hughes/Sabo closures set

At least one southbound lane on Hughes/Sabo will be closed continuously at Beltway 8 until further notice due to a city water repair. Westbound Beltway 8 frontage roads may also be intermittently closed at Hughes/Sabo until further notice.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

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

New Covenant feeds needy

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

Beltway closures planned

Two northbound and two southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lanes will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, March 31. Significant delays are expected.

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

4 Pasadena ISD high schools nationally recognized

U.S. News & World Report recognizes Dobie, Memorial, Pasadena, Lewis CTHS

Four Pasadena ISD high schools recently earned the national distinction of being recognized by U.S. News & World Report as some of the top-performing campuses in the country.

Dobie High School, Pasadena Memorial High School, Pasadena High School and Lewis Career and Technical High School were among the nation's elite campuses to be highlighted in the 2025-2026 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools Rankings.

The rankings evaluated nearly 24,000 eligible public high schools, with approximately 18,000 making the final list.

The list didn't specifically include each campus's individual ranking.

The methodology emphasizes how well schools serve all students, including those from historically underserved backgrounds and how effectively they prepare learners for postsecondary success through rigorous coursework and

strong outcomes in math, reading and science assessments. Schools were assessed using the following six key indicators:

- Graduation rates.
- College readiness (AP and IB exam participation and performance).
- State assessment proficiency and performance.
- Science, math and reading outcomes.
- Curriculum breadth.
- Performance among underserved student populations.

Pasadena ISD Superintendent Toni Lopez, who was appointed in March 2025, praised the district's achievement.

"This honor reflects the dedication of our educators and the resilience of our students," said Lopez. "We're proud to see our schools recognized for academic excellence and equity on a national scale."

LaMont Jones, managing editor for education at U.S. News & World Report, said the list serves as a tool for parents seeking to prepare their children to be college-ready upon graduation.

"Students and families need data to help them make one of the most important decisions of their academic journey," said Jones. "Our Best High Schools rankings provide the insights to help them identify schools that will prepare students for college success."

BASIS Tucson North in Arizona was selected the nation's top high school.

Carnegie Vanguard High School was named the top high school in the Greater Houston area, ranking No. 42 nationwide.

For additional information on the 2025-2026 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools Rankings or to see a complete list of recognized campuses, visit www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/rankings-overview.



Christ Church Apostolic, located in the 12800 block of Fuqua east of the Gulf Freeway, caught fire early Saturday, Sept. 13. More than 100 Houston Fire Department personnel responded to the incident, including firefighters from stations 52, 35, 23, 20, 26, 46, 70, 71, 24, 29, 36, 40, 47, 61, 93, 94, 18, 37, 30, 33, Heavy Rescue 11, Rescue 42 and Rehab 42. Two HFD firefighters were injured in the blaze.

Photo by Natalie Abarca

Crews respond to Fuqua church fire

Blaze at Christ Church Apostolic injures 2 firefighters

An early morning fire destroyed the Christ Church Apostolic on Fuqua east of the Gulf Freeway Saturday, Sept. 13, leaving two Houston firefighters injured and the church community grappling with extensive damage to their historic place of worship.

The blaze, which broke out around 6:15 a.m., quickly escalated to a two-alarm fire, prompting a large-scale response from the Houston Fire Department. Around 100 firefighters responded to the incident, according to Houston Fire department officials.

Two firefighters sustained leg injuries while battling the flames and were transported to a nearby hospital. One firefighter suffered a broken ankle, while the other suffered a fractured femur. According to HFD Deputy Chief Douglas Harrison, the injuries took place when a hose came loose from a hydrant and struck them both. The pair are expected to make a full recovery, officials said.

While the fire was largely tempered by 10:30 a.m., crews stayed at the site throughout the af-

ternoon to prevent the structure from collapsing. Firefighting efforts caused the close of Fuqua, creating extensive traffic delays in the area.

The church, a fixture in the community for more than seven decades, suffered significant structural damage and was declared a total loss by fire officials.

The church had occupied the current building for the past 25 years, and the church had just completely renovated following a tornado that struck just two years earlier.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Officials have not yet determined whether it was accidental or the result of foul play. A spokesperson from the Houston Fire Department stated that their records department is actively reviewing the incident.

Because the structure was a place of worship, the incident is being investigated by federal agencies as well as local entities, with the ATF joining the investigation.

Despite the devastation, church leaders are al-

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Dobie teacher fired for online post mocking Kirk death

Incident part of growing statewide trend of disciplinary actions against educators

A Dobie teacher was fired following a controversial social media post mocking the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, according to Pasadena ISD sources.

While most public reports have described the incident as being "handled administratively," Pasadena ISD officials privately confirmed the

employee "will not work in the school district again."

The post, which circulated widely on social media, was deemed "inappropriate and insensitive" by the district. Pasadena ISD officials would not elaborate on the specifics of the post.

Chamber's Evening of Cuisine nears

This year's event to feature sampling from nearly 30 vendors

The annual Evening of Cuisine will take place Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Lone Star Flight Museum, located at 11551 Aerospace Ave. near Ellington Airport, from 6 to 8 p.m. VIP ticket holders may enter at 5:15 p.m.

Hosted by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the event allows attendees to sam-

ple food and beverage from a wide variety of local vendors. The yearly event is traditionally the chamber's most successful fundraiser each year.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Mike Krell from EventWise Productions.

The event will also feature door prizes and

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Leader omission: Mitchell also seeks 129 seat

An article titled *Trump endorses Paul for Senate* that ran in the Sept. 4 edition of the *Leader* omitted an important element to the story.

When discussing who would potentially fill the House District 129 seat currently occupied by Rep. Dennis Paul now that the area representative is seeking higher office, the story mentioned that former Clear Creek ISD school board

member Scott Bowen had filed to run in the Republican primary, but it neglected to mention that longtime South Belt resident and former Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) President Bob Mitchell had also done so.

The article further included a list of endorsements for Bowen but failed to include any for

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Q&A with Dobie grad Rodell Duff

Longtime South Belt resident now an acclaimed country musician

The following story about lifetime South Belt resident Rodell Duff and his successful country music career was originally published by Pasadena ISD as part of the school district's Alumni Spotlight series:

This week, Pasadena Independent School District proudly features Rodell Duff in our Alumni Spotlight. A 2009 graduate of J. Frank Dobie High School, Duff's journey from Pasadena classrooms to international stages is a story of resilience, creativity and heart.

From working in the maritime industry to becoming a traveling musician, Duff continues to inspire through his music and message, reminding us all that hard work and passion can take you anywhere.

Q: Can you share a bit about your background with Pasadena ISD?

A: I attended Pasadena ISD schools from Pre-K through 12th grade. I started at Meador Pre-K, continued through Stuchbery Elementary and Thompson Intermediate, and graduated from Dobie High School.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your journey after you graduated from Pasadena ISD.

A: After high school, I went on to junior college and made the decision to turn down a football scholarship. I worked a few jobs before finding my place in the maritime industry, which has taken me all over the world. Along the way, I picked up the guitar, and with that it opened up a whole new journey, allowing me to travel and share my music globally.

Q: What lessons did Pasadena ISD instill in you, and how have you used that knowledge to get where you are now?

A: Pasadena ISD taught me that there's nothing you can't achieve as long as you work hard. That mindset has been a driving force in everything I do.

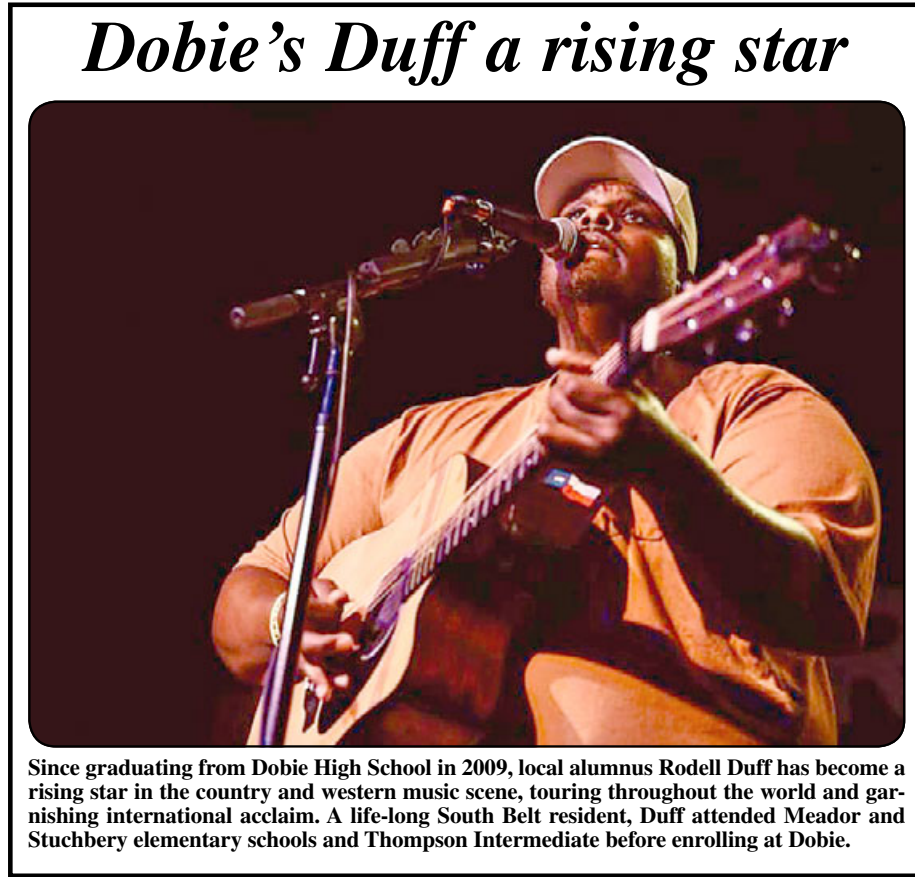
Q: What inspired you to pursue your current career?

A: A heartbreak was simply that powerful motivator that led me to express myself through music.

Q: What does it mean to you to be able to come back and share your work with the Pasadena ISD community?

A: It means everything. I love the district

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Since graduating from Dobie High School in 2009, local alumnus Rodell Duff has become a rising star in the country and western music scene, touring throughout the world and garnering international acclaim. A life-long South Belt resident, Duff attended Meador and Stuchbery elementary schools and Thompson Intermediate before enrolling at Dobie.

In My Opinion

Valdez brings awareness to fundraising struggles

For months, the Knights of Columbus Council 9201, in partnership with St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church at 11011 Hall Rd., Houston, TX 77089, have been working to raise \$200,000 to build a metal storage building for their church. They are currently about a quarter of the way to reaching their goal, and this new building will be constructed at the church's future site at 1750 Riverstone Ranch Dr., Pearland, TX 77089.

At the same time, the church is also holding a Capital Campaign with a goal of raising \$3,000,000, and they are about 50% of the way to meeting this goal. The church and the Knights Of Columbus continue to hold fundraisers every month, however as operating costs continue to increase, the net profits are steadily decreasing.

The church has already spent thousands of dollars on plans and permits. However, the City of Pearland recently added a new city water permit requirement costing over \$20,000. This expense was very unexpected, as there is already a building on the property with water service obtained through a municipal utility district. Now, the city requires a new connection directly to its water department. With this extra cost and the resulting construction delays, we may soon need to purchase new building permits as well.

It's hard to believe that so many roadblocks have come up when all we want to do is build a new House of God to help people in the community grow closer to their Lord and Savior. Despite the recent news that the legal defense fund for Luigi Mangione, the man accused of fatally shooting UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, has reached \$1 million in donations, and Pro-Hamas activists are receiving millions in private funding.

Evil people and groups that support evil activities seem to have no problem raising money. Why then, I ask myself, is it that people around our city and the United States do not open their hearts to support good, worthy causes such as ours?

To the readers of this open letter and my fellow Christians, please remember that by our baptism, we as Catholics are called to be stewards of God's gifts, using them in ways that build up our families, our parish, our community, and our world. We are called to give to God from our first fruits. Giving in the offertory is an act of worship that reflects our commitment to the Lord and His church.

"Through the evidence of this service, you are glorifying God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all others." (2 Corinthians 9:13).

Please send your donations to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church at 11011 Hall Rd., Houston, TX 77089 on the subject line place either Capital Campaign or KC Building fund. With over 1,804,100 Catholics in Houston and roughly 10 million Catholic people in Texas, if every Catholic in Texas gave at most \$5, we would be that much closer to building our church and overcoming these unforeseen obstacles. Please do what you can

Arthur Valdez

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. 18, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Get creative at Craft Lab. Registration required.
Thursday, Sept. 18, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Weekly English language classes. Registration required.
Monday, Sept. 22, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler playtime. Registration required.
Monday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m. – noon. Open lab computer help. Registration required.
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 4 – 5 p.m. Board games at the library. Registration required.
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 4 – 5 p.m. Get creative at Craft Lab. Registration required.
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6 – 7 p.m. Pajama storytime. Registration required.
Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd.:
Thursday, Sept. 18, 10:15 a.m. – 10:45. Toddler time.
Friday, Sept. 19, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.
Friday, Sept. 19, 1 – 2 p.m. Mexican folk mask craft.
Friday, Sept. 19, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Lego Club.
Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.
Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Vietnamese classes: topic conversation. Registration required.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. – noon. Hispanic Heritage Month celebration with Mariachi Luna Llena.

Monday, Sept. 22, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.
Monday, Sept. 22, 4 – 5:30 p.m. 3D printer orientation.
Monday, Sept. 22, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies 'n' books.
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Know your rights workshop with HILSC.
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Community craft: paint-a-pot.

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

King: United States fatality data update

I have been wanting to update you on the fatality data for the U.S. However, the death certificates come in so slowly, I did not want to share incomplete data. But there has now been more than enough time for the 2024 data to stabilize.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, slightly over 3 million people died in the U.S. in 2024. That is a fatality rate (fatalities/1,000 population) of just under 9.0. For the fifty years prior to COVID, the rate had ranged from 7.9 to 9.5. It hit the low of 7.9 in 2009 but steadily increased thereafter, reaching 8.7 in 2019.

Of course, the rate soared during the pandemic, averaging about 10 for 2020-2022. There were about 1.4 million more deaths in those years than would have been expected by the trends in place before COVID.

Of course, there is a fierce debate (mostly on social media) about whether the excess fatalities were caused by COVID itself or some of the government's reactions to it. Given the age distribution of fatalities during the pandemic, I think most of the excess fatalities were caused by the disease itself. Still, there were significant collateral effects from the containment policies that also contributed to more people dying. The most common of these were people deferring health screenings, especially for cancer and cardiovascular conditions.

The 2023 rate was slightly elevated, about 9.3, which was about 100,000 more deaths than the trendline. The rate of 9.0 in 2024 is almost exactly in line with the trajectory in place before the pandemic. The early data for 2025 also indicates we may see a modest improvement this year.

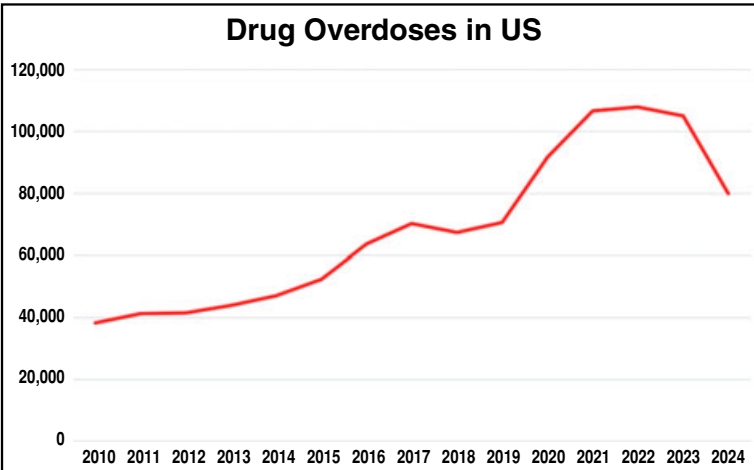
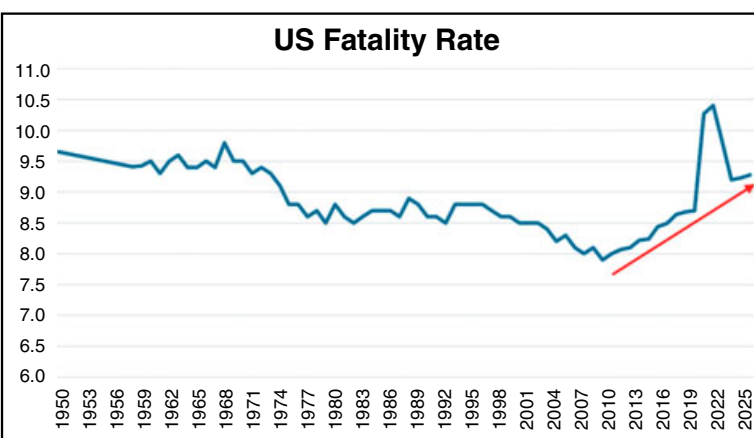
The largest component of the upward trend since 2010 (other than COVID) has been the opioid epidemic. According to the CDC, deaths from drug overdoses soared from under 40,000 in 2010 to over 100,000 during the pandemic. Fortunately, the preliminary numbers indicate that there was a significant downturn in 2024, as the danger from fentanyl-laced illicit drugs has become more widely understood.

However, the fatality rate will have an underlying upward bias in the future because our country is aging. The Census Bureau projects that by 2050, approximately 82 million Americans will be over 65, which will account for about a quarter of the population at that time.

It is important to keep this larger fatality perspective in mind when you hear the various claims about this or that killing thousands of Americans. For example, I have some friends who have been convinced by social media that thousands of Americans have died from the COVID vaccine. When they tell me this, I have a very simple question for them: Why isn't it showing up in the total fatalities?

The U.S. fatality rate is absolutely higher than it should be. But we do not need to resort to conspiracy theories to explain why. We overeat, drink too much, smoke, do dangerous illicit drugs, don't exercise enough, and too many people don't get routine medical check-ups, so serious diseases are not diagnosed while there is still time to do something. MAHA is not complicated; it just takes some common sense, discipline, and good primary healthcare.

Bill King



Alfonso "Al" Vasquez



Alfonso "Al" Vasquez, 85 years old, gracefully departed to heaven on Aug. 26, 2025, at UTMB Health Clear Lake Campus Hospital in Webster, surrounded by his family. He was born on July 9, 1940, in Edinburg, and graduated from Edinburg High School in 1958. After graduation, Al served as a yeoman in the United States Navy from November 1959 to November 1963.

Alfonso returned home and reunited with his high school sweetheart, Barbara Davila. They married on Oct. 14, 1964, and moved to Houston, for a better life and to start their soon-to-be family. Al was a devoted husband

to his wife and strong father figure to his daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Alfonso's athletic abilities did not go unnoticed. He was known as a football star and extraordinary powerlifter whose strength extended beyond the gym. Al inspired generations of men and women through training and mentorship. In his small but mighty garage gym, Al built a community and created a legacy of weightlifters. Professionally, "Big Al" devoted 33 years of service to Powell Industries. He began in 1968 and worked until his retirement in 2001.

Alfonso is preceded in death by his wife; his parents, Innocente Vasquez and Julia Gonzalez; son and daughter-in-law, Arnold and Stephanie Vasquez; and siblings, Consuelo, Pedro, Audela, and Vicente Vasquez. He is survived by daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Carlos Ybarra; son Albert Vasquez; brother and sister-in-law, Innocente and Petra Vasquez; his eight beloved grandchildren Dominique Vasquez, Kristy and grandson-in-law Ryan Cooper, Alexa Vasquez, Joseph Ybarra, Victoria Vasquez, Krystal Ybarra, Alec Vasquez and Nicholas Vasquez;

great-grandchildren Devin and Daxton Spears; many cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives; and dozens of adored friends. Alfonso is missed by all.

Honored pallbearers included Albert Vasquez (son), Joseph Ybarra (grandson), Carlos Ybarra (son-in-law), Ryan Cooper (grandson-in-law), Dean Hernandez (nephew) and Tommy Kitchen (lifetime friend and mentor).

A funeral service was held on Friday, Sept. 12.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the *Leader* style.

Dobie Longhorn varsity cheerleaders begin new year



The 2025-2026 Dobie Longhorns varsity cheerleaders are shown above at the squad's first home football game of the season Saturday, Sept. 6, at Pasadena Veterans Stadium, as the area high school played against Klein High School. The Longhorns were defeated in the game 28-61. Cheerleaders shown above at the game are, left

to right, (front row) Lexie Martinez, Linnea Fonseca, Arianna Bermudez, Yaszlyn Brown, Amirah Carraway, Zadi Battarbee, Isabella Avila, Natalie Elkins, (back row) Maylene Rodriguez, Aubree Rodriguez, Mya Sanders Cullen Ponder, Kiahna Davis, Alyssa Rodriguez and Vida Sosa.

Photo by David Flickinger

Chamber's annual Evening of Cuisine scheduled for Sept. 18

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raffle drawings. Awards will be presented in various categories. Confirmed vendors include Avenida Brazil, Bak-

khus Taverna, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, Chicken Salad Chick Pasadena, Crazy Alan's Swamp Shack, Dave & Buster's, Dobie High School Culinary, Fogo de

Chão, Jeremiah's Italian Ice, Las Haciendas, Luna's Mexican Restaurant-Friend-

swood, MacAbough's Cafe & Catering, McAlister's Deli, Minuti Coffee, Mixing

House, Mornings Kolaches, P.F. Chang's, Raising Cane's Baybrook, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Ryan's Smoke-

house, San Jacinto College Culinary Department, Savan-

nah Cafe & Bakery Webster, Scrumptious Houston, Shake Shack Baybrook, Via 313 Pizza, Walk Ons and Whiskey Cake Kitchen & Bar Baybrook.

General admission tickets are \$40, while VIP tickets are \$60. For additional information or to purchase tickets, visit www.southbeltchamber.com.

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ready making plans to continue their ministry, which includes approximately 100 members. While services at the Fuqua location will be suspended temporarily, members of the congregation are exploring alternative venues to hold worship and community gatherings. The church's

website encourages members to stay connected through small groups and ministry outreach programs.

Services were temporarily held at the FountainBlu Event Center in Pasadena Sunday, Sept. 14, following the incident.

No civilians were injured in the fire.

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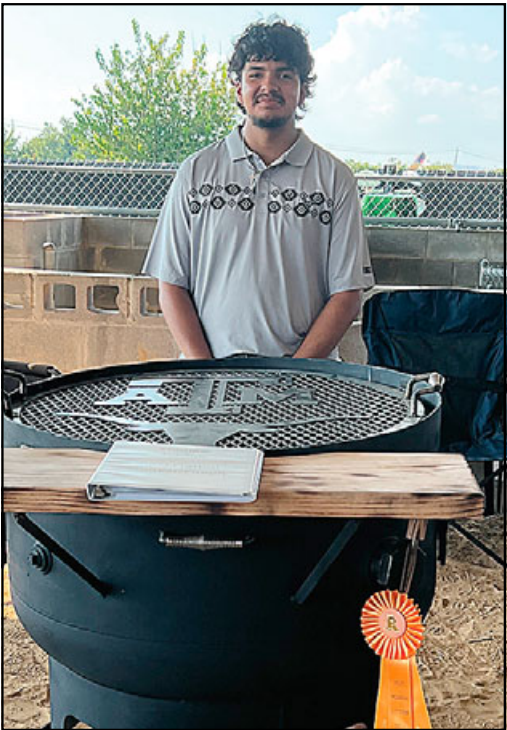
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website encourages members to stay connected through small groups and ministry outreach programs.

Dobie FFA places in Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo agriculture mechanic exhibition



Dobie FFA students recently participated in the PLSR agriculture mechanic exhibition and won many awards. Pictured above with their awards for their entry are Group Reserve Champion Abrianna Carbajal (left) and Mathew Trevino.



Shown is Group Reserve Champion Mathew Trevino with his winning project for the agriculture mechanic exhibition. Trevino also placed third in his division and ninth in his auction spot.



Dobie FFA student Ethan Saldivar is pictured with the project he entered for the agriculture mechanic exhibition.



Dobie FFA student Adrianna Carbajal with her Group Reserve Champion-winning agriculture mechanic project.

BHI names students of the month



Beverly Hills Intermediate School officials recently announced their students of the month for August. These students were chosen for their outstanding effort, kindness and dedication. Staff members at the school highlighted their hard work and positive attitude. Pictured are, eighth-grader Kayden Milton (left) and seventh-grader Dalilah Rios.

Truck crashes on beltway



A truck driver is assessing damage done to his trailer after making a sharp turn from Genoa Red Bluff onto Beltway 8 the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 13. There were no known injuries associated with the one-vehicle accident.

Photo by David Flickinger

A large photograph of a man running in a field of tall grass. He is wearing a dark grey t-shirt and black shorts. The background is a soft-focus landscape with hills and a cloudy sky.

You are in the hands of unparalleled orthopedic care.

Our care revolves around you, to get you back on your game and keep you there. Whether you need relief from tendinitis or a torn ligament, you'll get the same leading-edge treatments that we provide to the Houston Rockets. To help you come back sooner and stronger. This is orthopedic care designed around you.

memorialhermann.org/orthopedics

AARP foundation recruiting volunteers for upcoming tax season

Tax filing season may still be months away, but local AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

sites are already preparing — and seeking volunteers who want to make a differ-

ence in their community. “Tax-Aide volunteers provide free tax preparation and filing services for taxpayers, especially older adults with low to moderate income,” said Ed Klein, District Coordinator. “This service not only eases the burden of filing taxes, it also helps clients secure much-needed refunds that can make a real impact in their lives.” Tax-Aide is currently recruiting tax

counselors and client facilitators, with a special need for bilingual volunteers. Training is provided — no prior tax experience is required. For many volunteers, the program is as rewarding as it is impactful. A District 5 Tax-aide volunteer in Alvin, shared:

“The biggest reason I return to Tax-Aide year after year is the feeling of truly helping people who need

it most. Getting every last credit or refund for our clients is, for me, like winning the lottery. Our clients are so grateful, and it’s incredibly satisfying to provide that kind of support.”

The results speak for themselves. During the 2025 tax season, volunteers at the 10 district sites helped 4,830 taxpayers secure more than \$5.1 million in refunds. Volunteers come

from all walks of life — retirees, working professionals and college students alike. You don’t need to be a tax expert or an AARP member to get involved. All levels of experience are welcome. To learn more about volunteering with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide or to get started, visit www.tx3d5.com and click on the volunteer link. Someone will be in touch to answer questions.

Dobie 9 announces paraprofessional, teacher of the month for August

Officials at the Dobie 9 campus would like to highlight two staff members as their teacher and paraprofessional of the month of August for their commitment and determination toward the school. Shown at right is Veronica Oyervides who is awarded with Teacher of the Month for meeting new challenges for the 2025-2026 school year with flexibility, commitment and determination. Pictured below is Nichole Santos who is being recognized as Paraprofessional of the Month for providing individual, personalized support to students as they started the school year.



Lariaette of the Week, Sept. 12



The J. Frank Dobie Lariaette of the week of Sept. 12 is junior Laila Martin, a second-year line member.

Q&A with Dobie’s Duff

Local alumnus a rising country star

Continued from Page 1 and everything it stands for. It was my teachers and friends who really pushed me to realize that home is in Pasadena ISD, and I’ll always have a place in this district.

Q: What’s your ultimate goal for your career?

A: I want to perform on the Houston Rodeo main stage, win a Grammy, be recognized at the CMAs, and ultimately become a household name.

Q: What’s your favorite part about your job?

A: Everything. From writ-

ing and recording music to playing live shows and connecting with others, every part of it brings joy. But the best part is showing my son that you can do anything you put your mind to.

Q: What’s some advice you would give to current students or recent graduates?

A: Enjoy all the small moments in life. Appreciate everyone. Make someone smile, make their day. Give more compliments. Be kind to one another.

For additional information on Duff, visit rodellduff.com.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The SAGEMEADOW UTILITY DISTRICT, will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on **October 8, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at Sagemeadow Utility District Building, 10755 Hall Road, Houston, TX 77089**. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	Dean Baier, Seth Webb, Edward Figueroa, and David Montgomery
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	Glenn Williams
ABSENT:	None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$ 0.52000/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 0.52000/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0.00000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 258,247	\$ 257,081
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 258,247	\$ 257,081
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,342.88	\$ 1,336.82

Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ -6.06
and percentage of increase (+/-)	-0.45%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Melillo hosts award-winning author, Erin Entrada Kelly



Melillo Middle School recently hosted two-time Newbery Medal-winning author, Erin Entrada Kelly (right) who wrote *The Last Resort*. Pictured with Kelly is Melillo school librarian Debra Yocum.

Remember When

45 years ago (1980)

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League held a general membership meeting to determine what method to use to split the league. The local league had been under fire for the past few years for violating the maximum population rule.

The Pasadena Independent School District would continue to use drug detection dogs in all district secondary schools, despite a recent ruling by a Tyler judge the dogs invaded the privacy of a student there.

A Beverly Hills woman was found dead, apparently of a brain tumor. The 36-year-old had been dead for several hours when her maid found her and called emergency personnel at the Sagemont Fire Station.

40 years ago (1985)

A local florist was accepting food and clothing donations from area residents to send to the survivors of the Mexico City earthquakes.

Dobie High School orchestra director Bill Porter was selected Orchestra Director of the Year by the Texas Orchestra Directors Association.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for Beamer Towers located on Beamer Road and South Hill, adjacent to the Beamer Road Medical Building and across from San Jacinto College South and Southeast Memorial Hospital. Construction on the \$8 million project was set to begin immediately, with occupancy expected in June or July 1986.

35 years ago (1990)

Miss South Belt Josie Stein was crowned Miss Junior Pasadena Rodeo Queen. Dobie Lariaette Emily King won Junior Most Photogenic at the pageant. King was the 1989 Junior Miss South Belt.

After years of detouring off eastbound Fuqua trying to find a viable way to State Highway 3 and Pasadena, the final leg of

Fuqua headed for the contractors’ bids.

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable deputies ended a local auto theft ring with the arrest of five suspects and charges filed against one of them.

Numerous yellow ribbons were tied to trees, doors and poles throughout the South Belt area to show support and symbolize prayers for young people involved in the Middle East conflict.

30 years ago (1995)

The driver of a cement truck was transported to Hermann Hospital after the rear end of his truck was hit by a train near Highway 3 and Scarsdale Boulevard. An occupant of the train was taken to a Clear Lake hospital. None of the injured sustained life-threatening injuries.

A dedication ceremony was set for the Dr. Parker Williams Library at the center of the San Jacinto College South campus. Following the ceremony, tours of the two-story, 40,000-square-foot facility would be conducted, and light refreshments would be served.

A 14-year-old was hospitalized after being shot by a Woodmeadow resident who confronted the youth as he allegedly attempted to steal the man’s car. The youth, who underwent surgery at Memorial Hospital Southeast for a gunshot wound to the leg, and his 14-year-old companion were charged with attempted car theft.

Teachers in the Pasadena and Clear Creek school districts received raises amounting to approximately 3 percent over the previous year’s salary.

Four Clear Brook High School seniors, Melissa Johnston, Stephanie Keener, Elizabeth Tsai and Patricia Tsai, were named National Merit Semifinalists.

25 years ago (2000)

Brio Superfund Site remediation began.

Dobie graduate Kaycie Swain Czelusta was a contestant on Wheel of Fortune.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce raised in excess of \$21,500 at the third annual Night of Cuisine held at Almeda Mall.

20 years ago (2005)

The South Belt area along with all of Houston was preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Rita. Evacuation zones were established, and some residents reported being on roadways for as many as 30 hours while leaving. At the last moment, the hurricane took an eastwardly turn and landed near the Beaumont area.

Approximately 150 of the 400 personnel from the 147th Fighter Wing returned to Ellington Field after a tour of duty. The others were due back within a week.

An airplane crashed just south of Ellington Field. The engine had reportedly quit and the pilot was returning to the airport when it crashed, killing two occupants from the Austin area.

15 years ago (2010)

The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously 6-0 to appoint Donna Page Rander to fill the unexpired term for the District 4 seat through May 2011. Former South Belt resident Stuart Stromeyer resigned from the board in June after moving out of the district. He served six years as a CCISD trustee.

The Capital One Bank in the 11400 block of the Gulf Freeway was robbed. According to a spokeswoman for the FBI, the suspect wrote a note at the check writing stand and then approached the teller. He handed the teller a note which demanded money and threatened her. Fearing for her life, the teller removed cash from her drawer and gave it to the

robber. The robber fled the bank on foot. No immediate arrests were made.

10 years ago (2015)

After years of delays, the newly reconstructed South Shaver Street was unveiled to the public at a ribbon-cutting hosted by Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin on Sept. 22. The endeavor essentially reconstructed the aged street from the Gulf Freeway to State Highway 3/Old Galveston Road. The project, a joint venture between the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Houston and the Harris County Flood Control District, included widening the area thoroughfare from a four-lane undivided roadway with open ditches to a six-lane divided roadway with raised median, curb and gutter drainage, sidewalks, street lighting and improved underground utilities. The estimated cost of construction was \$13.5 million – 80 percent of which will be funded by the Federal Highway Administration and 20 percent of which will be funded by the city of Houston. Construction also involved extensive flood mitigation work, including the widening of Berry Bayou and building a 13-acre detention basin north of South Shaver Street. While the project had been in the works for roughly four decades, construction officially began in June 2014.

A pair of individuals with ties to St. Luke the Evangelist church were among the select few chosen to greet Pope Francis on his first trip to the United States. Jennifer Naaden, who served as director of young adult and junior high youth ministries at St. Luke, and the Rev. Alvaro J. Interiano, parochial vicar at St. Luke, were selected to join President Barack Obama and the first lady Michelle Obama on the tarmac of Joint Base Andrews near

Washington on Sept. 23.

5 years ago (2020)

Gov. Greg Abbott on Sept. 17 held a press conference outlining new regulations related to the state’s efforts to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During the event, the governor issued executive orders expanding occupancy levels for restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums and libraries and re-authorizing elective surgeries for a majority of the state of Texas. The governor also announced new guidance related to visitations at nursing homes and long-term care facilities across the state.

Tropical Storm Beta hit the South Belt area hard, causing extensive flooding in the community. The storm made landfall Monday, Sept. 21, over the Matagorda Bay Peninsula, before being downgraded to a tropical depression the following day. Despite Beta having sustained winds of 40 mph, it was the storm’s slow speed and pockets of heavy rain that had the most impact locally.

While the storm produced rains in the area for roughly 48 hours, by far the most precipitation was received on Monday, with some parts of the South Belt community reporting as much as 12 inches of rain. Street flooding, however, continued well into Wednesday in some parts of the community.

1 year ago (2024)

Eliza Paul retired from the Texas Department of Transportation after serving more than 35 years as an engineer. At her post of district engineer of the Houston District, Paul oversaw projects in six counties, including Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller and Montgomery. Paul is the wife of state Rep. Dennis Paul.



Over The Back Fence by Nicole

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DON!
Birthday wishes go out to Sageglen resident **Donald Graham** who celebrates a birthday Sept. 24 from his wife **Rosa**; son **Esteban Graham** and wife **Amy** and grandson **Lane Graham** of League City; daughter **Teresa Blancas** and husband **Michael** and grandchildren **Gabby** and **Daniel Blancas** of Forney; and son **David Graham** and wife **Kali** and grandchildren **Braxton** and **Blakely Graham** of League City.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 18 through Sept. 24.
Atkinson Elementary
Sing a melody of a happy birthday song to **Gustavo Cadena** Sept. 20.
Burnett Elementary
On Sept. 20, birthday wishes are sent to **Maricela Escamilla**. **Sonya Robledo** celebrates a birthday Sept. 23.
Bush Elementary
The day for a birthday gift for **Vanessa Varner** is Sept. 22.
Frazier Elementary
Send a special birthday greeting Sept. 19 to **Norma Perez**.
Genoa Elementary
Light the birthday candles Sept. 19 for

Amber Arreguin. **Abigail Ortega** enjoys a birthday Sept. 22. Sept. 24 is the day for a party for **Elizabeth Tijerina** and **Diana Perales**.

Meador Elementary
The day for a party for **Celeste Skipper** is Sept. 23.

Moore Elementary
Sept. 20 is the day for a party for **Maria Acosta** and **Mats Holmqvist**.

South Belt Elementary
The day for a double-layer cake and ice cream for **Raquel Hersh** is Sept. 22.

Stuchbery Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles Sept. 18 for **Enrique Macias**. Sept. 21 is the day for a party for **Cindy Garcia**.

Dobie High
Light the birthday candles Sept. 20 for **Reginald Rice**. Share a slice of a double-layer cake Sept. 21 with **Jermaine Gasaway** and **Manuel Moreno**. Sept. 22 is the day for a party for **Lisa Murphy** and **Nicole Ramirez**. The day for a party for **Denice Smajstrla** is Sept. 23. **Mabely Cervantes** enjoys a birthday Sept. 24.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Sept. 18: **Carey Holder**, **Cathey Cox**, **Anthony Virgadamo** and **Leslie Cockerham**; Friday, Sept. 19: **Tasha Ford**,

Diane Martinez, **Carlos Melcher**, **Stacy Mayberry**, **Elyse Totten**, **Jo Ann Minchew**, **Porsche Lancelin**, **Roe Moreno**, **Rita Hernandez**, **David Bergeron**, **Gracie Bries**, **Michelle Griffin**, **Marisa Hartley**, **LaToya Oliver** and **Brittany Swanson**; Saturday, Sept. 20: **Bren Duh**, **Freddy Silva**, **Rebecca Sanchez**, **Doris Zacks**, **Nancy Naquin**, **Peggy Bennett**, **Keith Mercado**, **Sandra Buchman**, **Manuel Guerrero**, **Ricky Aquino**, **Dawn Sharpe** and **Catherine Windsor**; Sunday, Sept. 21: **John Neal**, **Laura Arispe**, **J. Cruz Aannette**, **Cesar D’Agostino**, **Kim Kapsiak**, **Jennifer Pailing**, **Susan Silva** and **April Carson**; Monday, Sept. 22: **Joe Garza**, **Larry Swann**, **Michael Rummel**, **Shawnie Moses** and **Gwen Ohman**; Tuesday, Sept. 23: **Marcus Anthony**, **Carla McKay**, **Cheney Tamez**, **Gloria Tran**, **Cynthia Rodriguez** and **Lauren Allen**; and Wednesday, Sept. 24: **Paola Medel**, **Harold Barron**, **Lissa Stephens-Bell**, **Lindy Hoggard**, **Brenda Flewellen**, **Karl Wilkerson**, **Obed Valdez**, **Jason Rendon**, **Debra Kendrick**, **Kim Martinez** and **Angela Shaulis**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
For birthdays, “Friends Celebrate Birthdays” or announcements email to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week’s publication.

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES



At left, Dobie sophomore safety Jakaleb Crumbley (11) pierced the Dawson backfield and got to quarterback Brown during the first half of action as the Longhorns took on the visiting Eagles Sept. 12 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Dawson came away with a victory for the second straight season within league play and took a big step forward in the race to the playoffs. Despite the loss, the Dobie defense held the Eagles in check for the majority of the game, forcing three field goals on the night.

At right, safety Desmond Talib (10) continues to play a tremendous brand of football on the back end for the Longhorns. On this play, he got inside and made a tackle on Corey Brown (4) during the first half of the big matchup between a Longhorns and Eagles.



Class of 2025 Dobie graduate Lauren Garza has already played a big role in the steady performance of the Southeastern Oklahoma State University women's cross-country program as she finished 19th overall in the Storm's fifth-place finish at the Aggie Duels in Lawton, Okla. to open the regular season. Garza was top 20 in her collegiate debut and she finished at 19 minutes, 36.81 seconds. A week later at the Incarnate Word Invitational in San Antonio, Garza helped her team to a seventh-place overall finish and she was 49th in a time of 19:47.9.

Missed opportunities prove big in Horns' loss to Eagles

The four postseason favorites within the District 22-6A varsity football race sent an early message in week one with dominant victories, with Dawson coming away with a big 26-0 road win over the Longhorns Sept. 12 at Pasadena ISD Veterans Stadium.

It is just one win in the standings, but also one for the Eagles that has set

the Longhorns behind the chains heading into a bye week.

Defending league champion Shadow Creek crushed Alvin, Pearland did the same thing to Sam Rayburn and the Manvel Mavericks overwhelmed Pasadena Memorial.

Dobie's opener against Dawson figured to be the most competitive matchup of the four games, and

while the Eagles produced a four-score victory, the Longhorns will certainly look back on some missed scoring chances as they were shut out for the first time since the 2023 season.

Dobie will now have a bye week Sept. 19-21 before facing Pasadena Memorial in the annual Battle of the Beltway series that resumes Sept. 26 back at

Veterans Stadium.

The Longhorns will be looking for their 10th consecutive victory in the series.

The Longhorns appeared to have an encouraging start to the game as their first drive began in positive territory at the Dawson 40. Da'Marcus Hodges gained seven yards on a third-and-five play, and a five-yard

run by quarterback Jalen Miles set the Longhorns up at the Dawson 23-yard line. Hodges then powered up the gut for 10 yards and a first down at the Eagle 13-yard line. The Longhorns converted a fourth and one play as Hodges gained two yards down to the three-yard line. From there, the Dawson defense stiffened and forced an apparent 20-yard field

goal by Dobie's Nathanael Garcia Campos.

The field goal was good, but a penalty on Dawson gave Dobie the potential for a fourth down-and-goal to go at the one-yard line. The Eagles made a defensive stop and kept the game scoreless.

After Dawson's drive stalled, a punt pinned the Longhorns in on their own one-yard line, but Miles

found tight end Angel Lopez down the middle for a 48-yard gain into Eagle territory.

An eventual third down pass down the seam from Miles to a wide open Hodges fell incomplete, and a short punt punt led to the Eagles' opening score.

The game was scoreless for the first 20-plus minutes before Dawson

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22-6A Football Standings

Shadow Creek	1-0
Pearland	1-0
Dawson	1-0
Manvel	1-0
South Houston	0-0
Dobie	0-1
Alvin	0-1
Rayburn	0-1
Memorial	0-1

Despite lack of success in tiebreakers, JFD tennis pushes on

The season of the super-tiebreaker continued for the Dobie varsity tennis as it fell 14-5 to Pearland while missing out on opportunities to win as many as five of the matches during super tiebreaker play.

While Longhorn head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. looks back at the missed chances, he knows it's all part of a continued learning experience for his young and inexperienced squad.

"The kids continue to play hard and really give it their all out there on the court, and while we lost 19-0 to Shadow Creek, a lot of the matches were more competitive than

they looked by the score," Moreno said.

"It was pretty much the same thing against Pearland. We lost 14-5 overall but dropped five matches that went to a super tiebreaker. Maybe it's a stretch to think you could win all five of them, but if we would have, it would have swung the match in our favor.

"Losing those tight matches in super tiebreakers has really been the theme of much of our season. We have a young team, which obviously means a lot of these kids are playing varsity tennis for the first time. It all comes with experience.

"I know sometimes the

kids get tired of hearing it, but they really have played hard and deserve better results. With that said, we are still in control of our destiny as we try to grab that fourth playoff position within our district."

Moreno has continued to praise the efforts of players such as Dulce Mejia and Chloe Estes at the top of the girls' rotation as well as Angelina Vu, who has played very well since her return from being sidelined with an injury. Vivian Hang and Mia Nguyen have also excelled at times.

For the boys, Jordan De Robles, Trjah Smith and Logan Pham have been the team's most consistent

performers. And Moreno knows his players will continue to make their program as well as their school and community proud as they play out the remainder of the 22-6A schedule that should include victories over South Houston, Rayburn, Alvin and Manvel.

Dobie won its scheduled Sept. 16 match over South Houston as Moreno said the Trojans elected for a complete no-show. And it remains to be seen if Rayburn will be able to put enough players on the court to be able to compete in a regulation team tennis matchup.

The reward for a 5-3 finish will surely include a first-round playoff matchup against a state-ranked Fort Bend Clements program, but getting to the postseason has been the goal for this Dobie group. Moreno said his players will be proud of their finish if they are able to run the table the rest of the way and get to that playoff round.

"These kids really do deserve the reward of getting to the postseason," Moreno said.

"There is no doubt that we play one of the toughest schedules in the area, and the kids have worked hard all along and have really shown a lot of im-

provement. It has really been rewarding on my part to be able to work with these kids every day, and I know they are ready to finish strong and get that playoff berth that we all had aimed for."

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Dobie senior Ava Herrera (9) plays a ball forward during a recent Dobie varsity volleyball match. Through the first five district matches as of press time, the Longhorns stood at 1-4 but had been playing solid volleyball despite a tough schedule.

Photos by Gloria Wallace



Dobie sophomore setter Riese Rackley (15) subs in for teammate Kylar Joseph (4) during a recent Longhorn varsity volleyball match. Following a challenging series of matches within league play, the Longhorns were 1-4 in district action and 10-11 overall at press time.

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BAFL Weekly Standings

Peewee Division			
Team	W	L	T
Wildcats	5	0	0
49ers	4	0	0
Cardinals	4	0	0
Pearland Texans	4	1	0
LP Texans	3	1	0
Panthers	3	2	0
Red Raiders	3	2	0
Manvel Texans	3	2	0
Braves	2	3	0
Cowboys	2	3	0
Eagles	2	3	0
Patriots	2	2	0
Buccaneers	1	3	0
Stingrays	1	4	0
Longhorns	0	4	0
Sharks	0	4	0
Gators	0	5	0






Freshman Division			
Team	W	L	T
Red Raiders	5	0	0
49ers	4	0	0
Panthers	4	1	0
Manvel Texans	4	1	0
Cardinals	3	1	0
Patriots	3	1	0
Cowboys	3	2	0
Wildcats	3	2	0
Buccaneers	2	2	0
Eagles	2	3	0
Pearland Texans	2	3	0
Stingrays	2	3	0
Sharks	1	3	0
LP Texans	1	3	0
Longhorns	0	4	0
Braves	0	5	0
Gators	0	5	0

Sophomore Division			
Team	W	L	T
Cowboys	5	0	0
Manvel Texans	5	0	0
Buccaneers	4	0	0
Red Raiders	4	1	0
Stingrays	3	2	0
Sharks	2	1	1
49ers	2	2	0
Patriots	2	2	0
Braves	2	3	0
Gators	2	3	0
Wildcats	2	3	0
Cardinals	2	2	0
Pearland Texans	1	3	1
Eagles	1	4	0
Longhorns	1	3	0
Panthers	0	5	0
LP Texas	0	4	0

Junior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	4	0	0
Red Raiders	4	1	0
Manvel Texans	4	1	0
Wildcats	4	1	0
49ers	3	1	0
Sharks	3	1	0
Cowboys	3	2	0
Gators	3	2	0
Panthers	2	3	0
Cardinals	2	2	0
Patriots	2	2	0
LP Texans	2	2	0
Eagles	1	4	0
Stingrays	1	4	0
Pearland Texans	1	4	0
Longhorns	0	4	0
Braves	0	5	0

Senior Division			
Team	W	L	T
Buccaneers	4	0	0
LP Texans	4	0	0
Gators	4	1	0
Red Raiders	4	1	0
Cowboys	3	2	0
Pearland Texans	3	2	0
Wildcats	3	2	0
Sharks	3	0	0
49ers	2	2	0
Manvel Texans	2	2	0
Cardinals	2	1	0
Eagles	1	4	0
Panthers	1	4	0
Longhorns	1	3	0
Patriots	0	4	0
Stingrays	0	4	0
Braves	0	5	0

BAFL Week 5 Cowboys PW 28 Panthers 7
Cowboys Fr. 36 Panthers 6
Cowboys' Soph. 60 Panthers 0
Cowboys Jrs. 53 Panthers 0
Cowboys Srs. 53 Panthers 0
BAFL Week 7 Sept. 27 Cowboys' Peewee host Hitchcock, 8 a.m.
Cowboys' Freshmen host Hitchcock, 9 a.m.
Cowboys' Sophs. host Hitchcock, 11 a.m.
Cowboys' Juniors host Hitchcock, 1 p.m.
Cowboys' Seniors host Hitchcock, 3 p.m.

South Belt football predictions	 John Bechtle	 Emory Gadd	 Troy Leland	 Stephen Sutton	 Debbie Vaughn
Shadow Creek at Manvel	Shadow creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow creek
Sam Rayburn vs South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	South Houston	South Houston
Clear Lake at Brazoswood	Brazoswood	Clear Lake	Brazoswood	Brazoswood	Brazoswood
Clear Falls at Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park	Clear Falls	Deer Park	Deer Park
Clear Brook at Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs
Fort Bend Travis at Hightower	Hightower	Hightower	Hightower	Hightower	Hightower
Silsbee at Beaumont Westbrook	Westbrook	Silsbee	Westbrook	Silsbee	Westbrook
Galveston Ball at Houston Westside	Galveston Ball	Galveston Ball	Galveston Ball	Galveston Ball	Galveston Ball
Barbers Hill at Richmond Foster	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hills	Barbers Hill	Barbers Hill
Lutheran South at Anahuac	Lutheran South	Lutheran South	Lutheran South	Lutheran South	Lutheran South
Last Week's Results	7-3	6- 4	6-4	7-3	6-4
Season record	21-9	20-10	19-11	21-9	22-8

Longhorns will enjoy bye week ahead of Battle of the Beltway against Mavs



From left, linebacker Rashaud Howard (7), defensive back Desmond Talib (10), offensive lineman Cam’ron Robertson (63) and running back Da’Marcus Hodges (1) have all made big plays for the Longhorns to this point in the season and will

provide leadership during the off week as the locals prepare to take on Pasadena Memorial in the annual Battle of the Beltway game Sept. 26 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.



Junior Nolen Thomas (13) has already made some big plays through the air for the Longhorns and will continue to provide opportunities in the passing game on the outside as the Longhorns prepare for what will be a seven-week stretch of 22-6A action.

Dawson delivers JFD’s first shutout loss since 2023

Continued from Page 5 finally broke through as quarterback Luke Brown tossed a fade into the left corner of the end zone, with Corey Brown coming down with the 11-yard reception for the score and a 6-0 lead. Noah Abela provided the conversion kick

as the Eagles led 7-0 with 7:32 to go until halftime. Abela made it 10-0 with a 47-yard field goal with 3:38 left in the first half, and his 34-yard field goal on the final play of the first half gave Dawson a 13-0 lead at intermission. The defenses traded

stops in the third quarter before Abela made good on his third field goal of the game, this one from 26 yards away with 3:40 remaining in the third quarter as the Eagles extended their edge to 16-0. Brown took the end around into the end zone

from 4 yards with 9:59 to play as the lead went to 24-0 for Dawson following a successful two-point conversion play.

A late safety completed the scoring as the Longhorns were blanked for the first time since the 2023 season when Lamar walked away with a 53-0 win in nondistrict play.

The Longhorns appeared to have an encouraging start to the game is their first drive began in positive territory at the

Dawson 40.

Hodges gained seven yards on a third-and-five play, and a five-yard run by quarterback Jalen Miles set the Longhorns up at the Dawson 23-yard line. Hodges then powered up the gut for 10 yards and a first down at the Eagle 13-yard line.

The Longhorns converted a fourth and one play as Hodges gained two yards down to the three-yard line,

From there, the Dawson

son defense stiffened and forced an apparent 20-yard field goal by Dobie’s Nathanael Garcia Campos.

The field goal was good, but a penalty on Dawson gave Dobie the potential for a fourth down-and-goal to go at the one-yard line. The Eagles made a defensive stop and kept the game scoreless.

After Dawson’s drive stalled, a punt pinned the Longhorns in on their

own one-yard line, but Miles found tight end Angel Lopez down the middle for a 48-yard gain into Eagle territory.

An eventual third-down pass down the seam from Miles to a wide open Hodges fell incomplete, and a short punt led to the Eagles’ opening score.

It was more of the same as Dawson remained undefeated against the Longhorns in their all-time series and gained an early edge in league play.



Marcus Jones (3) reeled in a conversion two-pointer against Klein and is another guy who has proven to be able to make explosive plays on the offensive side of the football or in the return game for the Longhorns. Photos by Gloria Wallace

<u>District 24-6A Games</u>	<u>District 22-6A Games</u>
Dickinson hosts Clear Creek Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Vitanza Stadium	Alvin hosts Pearland Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m. Freedom Field
Clear Springs vs. Clear Brook Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Challenger Stadium	Pasadena Memorial at Dawson Sept. 19, 7 p.m. The Nest
Clear Lake at Brazoswood Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Hopper Stadium	Shadow Creek at Manvel Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Maverick Stadium
Clear Falls at Deer Park Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Abshier Stadium	South Houston versus Rayburn Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Veterans Stadium

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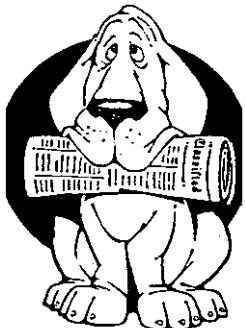
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Sale
Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien.
Sale to be held online at www.SelfStorageAuction.com
Home Free Storage located at 12450 Beamer Rd Houston, TX 77089
Bidding will open (9/27/25 5:30 AM) and conclude (10/5/25 10:00 PM)
Cleanup deposit is required. The seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest cash bidder. Property includes the contents of the space of the following tenant:
Julian Walker: Universal gym, Leather home theater seating

Notice of Public Sale
This property is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.
Sale to be held online at www.bid13.com.
Facility is Boat and Camper Storage, Inc. located at 9021 Alameda Genoa Rd. Houston, TX, 77075.
Bidding will open (9/30/25 8 a.m.) and Conclude (10/7/25 10 a.m.)
Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold as-is to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:
Gerald R. Porter: 1970 Seabreeze 20'0" (TX-9274XP), Chrysler outboard motor (parts only), boat trailer (parts only) and misc.
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearland.rotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and on Zoom. For details regarding services or Judaism classes, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at Cross Roads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.

8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30

a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
8 a.m./ 10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 5125 Preston Ave. Pasadena, TX 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@junio.com for details.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Southeast Houston Toastmasters** - The Southeast Houston Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually with the exception of the second and fourth Tuesdays (hybrid meeting) at seahouston.toastmastersclubs.org and in-person at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. (SB Chamber of

Commerce). Visit the website or call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 for information.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Carmelites - a nondenominational senior citizen social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake on the first and third Wednesdays for a time filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. The meetings are open to those ages 55 and older, with no dues. Day trips and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken for Poland. For details, call Marilyn at 713-444-6744.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.

Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - casual ballroom dance, open to the public, held every Wednesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome to come with or without a partner. The dance itself is free as music is provided by volunteer, Neva Schroder. The city requires an activity card for participants in all of the city's many activities. Call the park office (281-554-1180) for answers to any questions regarding the activity card. Visitors are welcome to walk in to observe or participate.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearland.rotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thompson, Miller 8A squads clash as Pasadena ISD's intermediate action intensifies



With offensive lineman David Gonzales (77) out in front in blocking support, the Lions Kingston Adkins (1) took a hand off from quarterback Aaden Howard (2) and looked for an opening against the Miller Falcons.



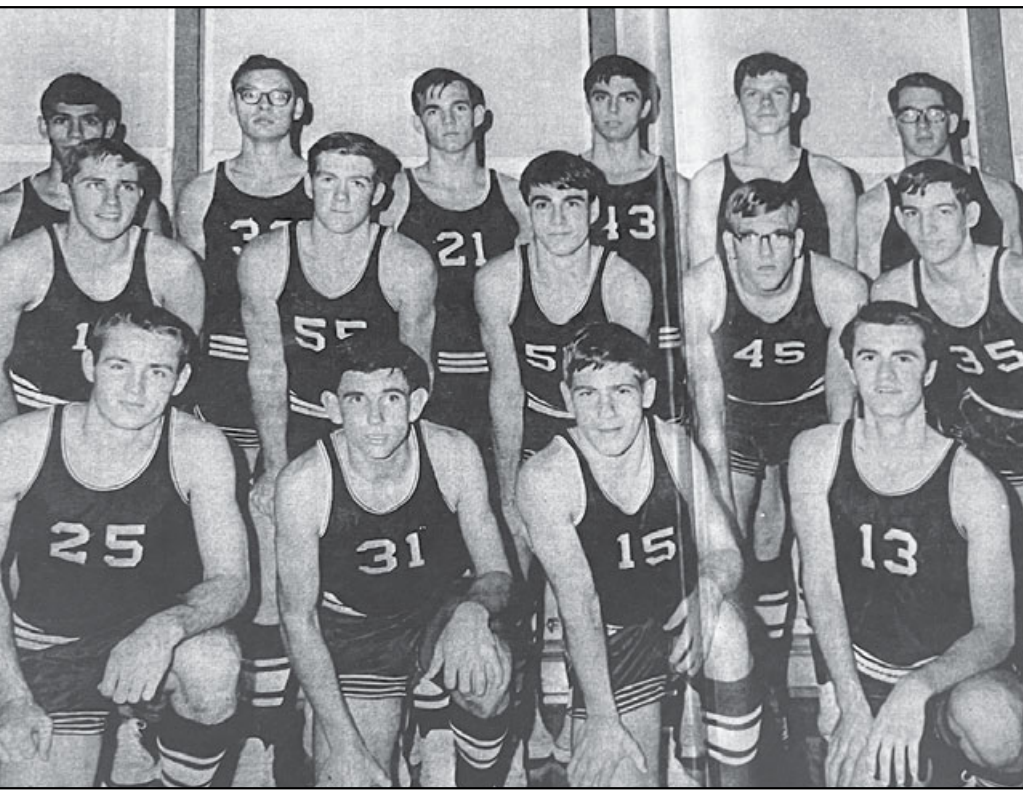
Xavier Brown (23) and Tyrell Sinclair (50) discuss the play call early on in the action against the Miller Falcons as the Lions pushed toward another step toward what has been a strong start to the regular season.



Sunia Kefu (80) proved to be more than the Miller Falcons could handle as he helped the Lions to a victory in the Pasadena ISD matchup as the locals continue to show their dominance within the division.

CCISD Hall of Honor to welcome 2025 inductees Sept. 20

Three legendary Clear Creek Wildcat varsity basketball teams from as far back as 1966 and all the way up to 2008 of Honor inducts its 2025 class in Webster.



Clear Creek's 1967 varsity boys' basketball team is one of three that will now be inducted into the Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor after finishing third in the state. The 1966 and 1968 Wildcat teams will also be enshrined as the district hosts its 2025 ceremony Sept. 20 at the Challenger Columbia Stadium Fieldhouse.

Three legendary Clear Creek Wildcat varsity basketball teams from as far back as 1966 and all the way up to 2008 of Honor inducts its 2025 class in Webster.



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athletes, coaches or teams from Clear Brook High School.

Alexander Guidry, owner of the most state track and field gold medals in the history of the district, will be inducted along with Jim Hatfield, who oversaw the greatest era of Wolverine football from 1988 through 2000. Hatfield, who died in 2014, will be represented by his widow Laurie Hatfield as well as other family members.

The Clear Creek ISD athletic Hall of Honor class will be inducted during a Sept. 20 ceremony at the district's Challenger Columbia Stadium Fieldhouse Community Room.

The newest members of

Austin.

As a senior in 2008, Alexander was the most decorated 5A athlete at the state championships as she earned three gold medals to finalize her stellar career at Clear Brook. Also in 2008, Alexander soared 19 feet, 6 1/2 inches for the gold medal in the long jump.

On the track, she sprinted to a gold medal in the 100 in a time of 11.48 seconds, then took a third gold medal with a time of 23.53 in the 200.

As a sophomore in 2006, Alexander won a state championship in the 100 and was second in the 200. A year later as a junior, Alexander captured golds in both the 200 and

400.

Other inductees for 2025 include Clear Lake High School boys' soccer coach Doug Elder as well as Clear Creek student athletes Carol Atchison Hollinger, Roger Jordan and Tymecka Charelle Moore.

The team inductees for 2025 include three Clear Creek High School boys' basketball teams. Head coach Bill Krueger, a member of the Hall of Honor as an individual, now will see three different Wildcat basketball teams from 1966, 1967 and 1968 inducted. Clear Lake girls' swimming and diving teams, both which claimed state championships in 1981 and 1982,

will also enter the Hall of Honor on the special day.

Before Krueger moved on to Clear Lake, he led one of the state's most successful programs at Clear Creek High School.

Beginning a terrific three-year run in 1966, the Clear Creek varsity boys' basketball program was the state runner-up in the class 3A division, followed by third place state finish in 1967. In 1968, Clear Creek was a regional finalist.

For information on how to support the Clear Creek ISD Hall of Honor, direct email to Athletic Hall of Honor Board President Dede MacPherson at dmacpherson13@comcast.net.

24-6A football title chase begins Sept. 18

Unbeaten Dickinson figures to enter the District 24-6A varsity football race as the clear frontrunner after completing an impressive run of three consecutive victories over playoff-quality opponents.

The Gators' latest conquest came courtesy of a 35-21 victory over host Cy-Fair at Pidgeon Stadium within Cypress Fairbanks ISD Sept. 12 as the Dickinson defense forced

six turnovers and all but shut down the Bobcats completely in the second half en route to the two-touchdown victory. Dickinson head coach John Snelson watched this team begin the season at 3-0 for the first time since the 2018 campaign but still believes the Gators can play better football ahead.

Down 21-14 to open the second half, the Gators deferred to their defense to

turn a deficit into a 28-21 lead midway through the third quarter.

Marzellus Hunter came away with the first big play as he reeled in an errant Bobcat pass and returned it 59 yards for a touchdown.

Moments later, a fumble recovery by Marzellus Hunter led to an eventual 34-yard touchdown run from star running back Malachi Gamble as the Gators took a lead they

would never relinquish.

Gamble, the district Most Valuable Player a season ago, burned Cy-Fair in this one for 133 yards on 21 carries.

Later in the game, Gator receiver Kaileb Peterson caught his fifth touchdown pass of the season, this one again coming from senior signal caller Lorenzo Aguirre as the Gators put the game away.

Cy-Fair scored the first two touchdowns of the game to lead 14-0, but the Gators came back as Aguirre found Peterson for a touchdown pass and Aguirre had a one-yard touchdown plunge to tie the game.

Dickinson will now focus its attention on the start of the 24-6A race as the Gators host 1-2 Clear Creek Sept. 19 at Sam Vintanza Stadium in Dickinson.

The Wildcats trailed by a point late in the fourth quarter but scored on a 2-yard touchdown run in the final two minutes to defeat Channelview by a 13-8 count at Clear Creek ISD Veterans Stadium in League City.

Clear Springs will also

enter the district race on a high note with two consecutive victories after defeating Houston Lamar 21-14 Sept. 12 at Challenger Stadium in Webster.

Sean Carter caught a pair of touchdown passes and ran for another, all in the first half, as the Chargers built a three-touchdown lead against winless Lamar.

The Chargers, certainly a bonafide postseason contender within the 24-6A ranks, put together 300 total yards of offense in the victory. Carter had four catches for 139 yards. Clear Springs will open district competition Sept. 16 back at Challenger Stadium against a winless Clear Brook squad.

The difference making game of the first week of District play will come as Deer Park, coming off a one-point win over Barbers Hill, will host Clear Falls, which has started the season at 2-1.

Both teams were in the playoffs a season ago and will look to gain an early advantage in the standings with a big win to start league play.



Deer Park offensive lineman Gabriel Driskell (70) and his teammates earned their first win of the season against Barbers Hill and will now host Clear Falls in one of the most competitive games of opening weekend within District 24-6A.



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