

Seniors assistance available

Houston seniors and disabled citizens may request to have a care package of toiletries and nonperishable foods delivered to their front door, courtesy of Gallery Furniture.

Mayor Sylvester Turner and Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale, along with Kroger, are asking people to drop off nonperishable items like soup, protein bars, cans of tuna, and new toiletries such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, baby wipes, and diapers at any of Gallery Furniture's three locations.

Donations may also be dropped off at any area Kroger.

Volunteers will deliver the collected items to household seniors and families with young children whose schools have temporarily closed.

People who need supplies or wish to donate should call 713-694-5570 or drop off nonperishable items at any of Gallery Furniture's three locations. More information is available on the company's website, www.galleryfurniture.com.

Toilet paper for seniors is still available by calling the Leader at 281-481-5656.

Beltway closures planned

At least one inside lane of the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from SH 3/Old Galveston Road to Genoa Red Bluff daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through to Tuesday, April 28.

There will be a total closure of the Fairmont Parkway exit ramp on Beltway 8 through 10 p.m. Tuesday, June 16.

At least one inside lane of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road at Spencer Highway will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through to Thursday, April 16.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Vista will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Friday, April 17.

The northbound U-turn lane on the Beltway 8 frontage road at SH-225 will be continuously closed through 5 a.m. Saturday, May 2.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be closed at NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 until further notice. The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be closed at FM 518 until further notice.

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

Scholarships available

Moore Elementary scholarships are still available to graduating seniors at Dobie High School or Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School who attended Moore in fourth grade.

Applications can be accessed through the Dobie senior counselor's office website and Moore Elementary website.

Applications must be returned via email to DPitts@pasadenaisd.org by Thursday, April 30, to be considered.

COVID testing at EFL, but don't go there until . . .

Testing requires a preapproval, special code number

El Franco Lee Park will serve as a mobile COVID-19 testing site for prescreened residents who have been issued a unique identification code. Residents without such a number will be turned away. Local law enforcement will be on site to ensure protocol.

Harris County Public Health is utilizing its mobile units to provide drive-thru COVID-19 testing at various locations across the Harris County precincts, with El Franco Lee Park serving as a Precinct 1 screening site initially this weekend, future dates and locations are to be determined.

Each of the two additional rotating pop-up locations will be able to perform up to 100 tests

per day. Additionally, HCPH will increase testing capacity at each of its stationary locations effective immediately. As of Wednesday, April 15, the county can test up to 500 residents per day between the two stationary sites.

The mobile pop-up drive-thru testing sites will be scheduled, in partnership with Harris County precincts, between several locations in undisclosed designated areas. Individuals will still complete online screening and obtain the authorization code by the health care provider in order to be tested at any of the HCPH testing sites. Walk-ins without the authorization code will be turned away.

Monday-Wednesday: Precinct 2 and 4 communities will be served.

Thursday-Saturday: Precinct 1 and 3 communities will be served.

The Leader has learned that El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road, will serve as a testing site Friday, April 17, and Saturday, April 18.

Testing will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. HCPH will be assisted by the Harris County Sheriff's Office and Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office.

All individuals can access the online screening tool at readyharris.org or by visiting checkforcorona.com/harris-county. Residents without

Internet access may call the Harris County Public Health COVID-19 resource line at 832-927-7575.

Once residents complete an online assessment, they will be given a code to speak to a health care provider. If one meets the testing criteria, the health care provider will then schedule an appointment at the location nearest to them.

The health department reiterates the sites will only accept people who have a unique identification code through the screening process. If people simply show up at a site, they will not be tested and may run the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Flood control to complete 100-acre drainage site

The Harris County Flood Control District this month will begin construction of the final

phase of the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin, located near the intersection of Beamer Road and South Fork Boulevard.

Stormwater detention basins reduce flooding risks and damages during heavy rain events by safely storing excess stormwater and slowly releasing it back to the bayou when the threat of flooding has passed.

This final phase will involve excavating approximately 1.1 million cubic yards of soil from the southern and eastern basin compartments on the 174-acre basin site and also will remove 50,000 cubic yards of soil from an earlier South Belt excavation phase that was improperly placed in the Clear Creek floodplain near Dixie Farm Road.

The Flood Control District bought the Dixie Farm Road site in 2019 so that this excess

fill could be removed and the site could be investigated for additional stormwater detention.

This South Belt project will be constructed under the same \$16.96 million construction contract as the Dagg Stormwater Detention Basin, HCFCD Unit A500-08-00, and both will be constructed at the same time.

Previous phases of the South Belt basin were completed in 2018 and 2019.

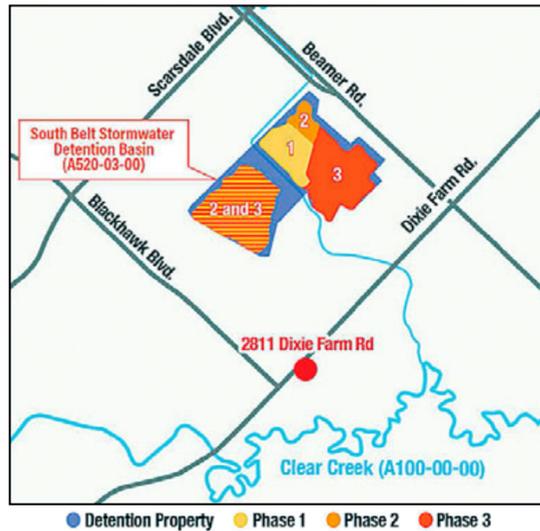
When all phases are complete, the basin will hold approximately 505 million gallons, or more than 1,550 acre-feet, of excess stormwater.

It will help reduce existing flood levels and allow for future stormwater infrastructure improvements on Beamer Ditch/Mud Gully.

The South Belt project is separate from, but complements the Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Management Project, which is now in design.

Construction equipment will access the work area via South Fork Boulevard and Beamer Road. The contractor will use heavy construction equipment, such as dump trucks, excavators and bulldozers to remove trees, vegetation and excavated soil. Motorists are urged to be alert to

Continued on Page 8



Grocery stores report 1st COVID cases

At least two area grocery stores have reported COVID-19 cases but have taken steps to ensure no further spread of the virus.

Pearland H-E-B

One partner at the H-E-B store located on Pearland Parkway at FM 518 has tested positive for the coronavirus.

According to a press release from H-E-B, the employee was the last person to be in the store on April 6.

The facility remains open, as the store continues to enforce proper social distancing practices.

"While the pandemic is an evolving situation with many unknowns, we are sure of one thing: We will do our part to help our fellow Texans in any situation our company and communities might face," the press release stated.

H-E-B continues to operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, with curbside pickup and home delivery service available.

For the latest company news concerning the grocery chain's coronavirus efforts, visit the H-E-B newsroom at <https://newsroom.heb.com/heb-news/articles/h-e-b-is-ready-and-here-for-texas>.

Kroger

According to a report on Channel 13 news, an employee at the Kroger located at Beltway 8 and Sabo has tested positive for the coronavirus.

In response, the local grocery store reportedly deep cleaned the facility and remains open to the public.

Rumors circulated among online social media groups that additional employees at the location had also contracted the virus, but the Leader was unable to substantiate these claims due to privacy concerns.

For additional information related to Kroger's COVID-19 response, visit <http://ir.kroger.com/press-releases>.

County releases ZIP code map for COVID-19 locations

Harris County Public Health has released a map breaking down confirmed coronavirus cases by ZIP code.

As of April 13, ZIP code 77089 had between 40 and 60 confirmed cases, while ZIP codes 77075 and 77034 each had between 21 and 40 known cases. Numbers are expected to significantly increase as more tests become available.

The map covers numbers within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. This and other maps will be updated daily, officials said. Harris County Public Health also recently started sharing case reports based on city and ethnic back-

ground. To view the county's latest maps, visit publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus.

At press time Wednesday, there was a total of 3,907 known cases in Harris County. Of those, 3,141 remained active, while 714 have recovered. In all, 52 persons have died.

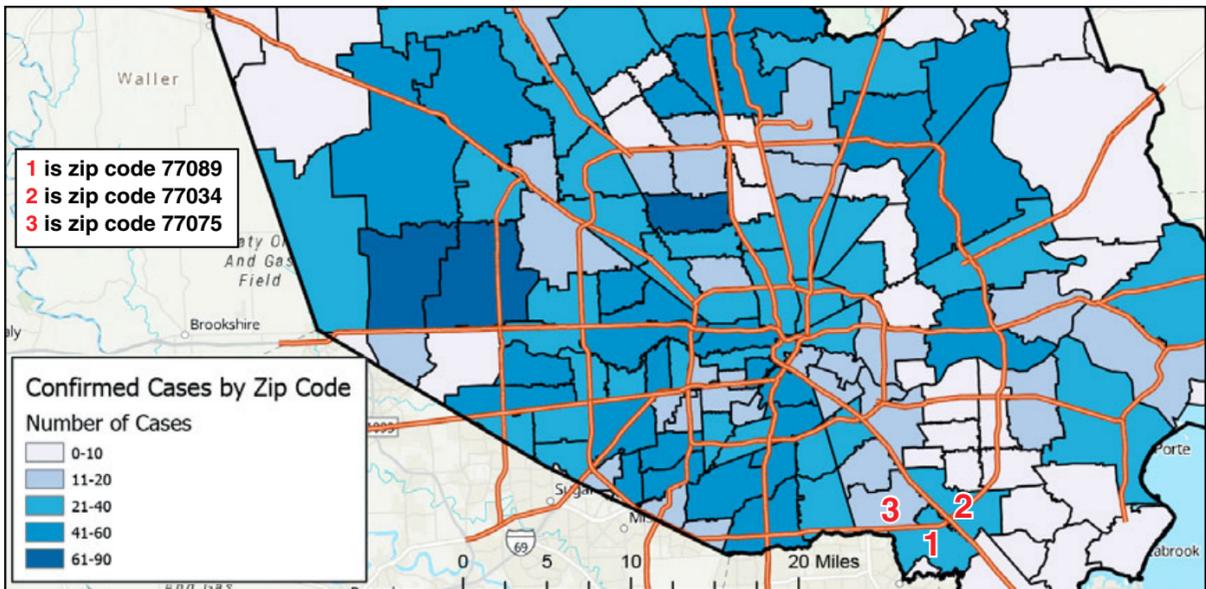
Harris County Jail

The Harris County Sheriff's Office now has 91 employees who have tested positive the majority of whom work in the Harris County Jail.

Five employees are currently hospitalized and

there are 50 inmates in the jail who have tested positive. Here are the latest numbers released by HCSO:

- 79 employees who work in the jail have tested positive.
- 253 employees are currently quarantined.
- 115 previously quarantined employees have returned to work.
- 55 inmates who are in quarantine are awaiting test results.
- 1,758 in observational quarantine after potentially coming in contact with someone who tested positive.



Pipeline going from Wink to Webster



New pipe is shown above being installed along the Beltway 8 feeder at Beamer. The 36-inch steel pipeline will convey crude oil 650 miles from Wink to Webster, with connections to Baytown, Texas City and Beaumont. The new pipeline is expected to transport more than a million barrels of oil per day.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

New pipeline coming through South Belt

A new pipeline is being installed in the South Belt area along the Beltway 8 feeder.

A joint project between ExxonMobil, Plains All American Pipeline, Lotus Midstream, MPLX, Delek and Rattler Midstream, the endeavor has been dubbed the Wink to Webster Pipeline, as it travels the 650-mile stretch between both Texas cities. Enterprise Products Partners L.P., which is building the Midland to Webster segment, owns capacity on the pipeline, also known as M2E3. Plains All American is building the Wink to Midland segment.

Utilizing existing infrastructure when possible, the project will transport more than 1 million barrels per day of crude oil and condensate via 36 inches of steel pipe.

The undertaking is expected to generate more than 3,100 construction jobs and will provide transport for Permian producers to market desti-

nations in Texas.

The project will have origin points in Wink and Midland and deliver to multiple locations in the Houston market, including Webster and Baytown, with connectivity to Texas City and Beaumont.

The endeavor is underpinned by a significant volume of long-term commitments, and project costs will be shared proportionately among the partners. The project is expected to commence operations in early 2021.

Initial operations are expected to begin in the third quarter of 2020.

The Wink to Webster pipeline will play a critical role in supporting growing production in one of the world's most prolific crude oil basins.

Priority will be placed on utilizing existing pipeline corridors and advanced construction techniques to help limit community and environmental impacts.

In My Opinion

Price appreciates community support

Dear Valued Community Partner,
On behalf of the Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland Hospitals, I want to sincerely thank you for your support and engagement as we continue to serve our community in the fight against COVID-19. Over the past couple of weeks, we have navigated an unimaginable situation that has altered not only our personal and professional lives, but has impacted our community, nation and the world.

Each day I have been inspired by the heartfelt support and strength you have exemplified not only for our community but also for our employees and physician partners, who are working hard around the clock protecting our community from COVID-19 while also taking care of their families at home.

Memorial Hermann is prepared to fight the spread of the novel coronavirus and continue serving the Greater Houston area when it needs us most. The wellbeing of our workforce, patients and community remains our first priority. We are actively partnering with city and county officials, as well as other medical institutions in the Greater Houston area, to coordinate efforts and ensure our community stays safe and healthy.

We are not yet at the end of this journey, but I know that together as a community we can get through anything. We are truly grateful for wonderful community partners like you, who are helping us achieve our mission during this extraordinary time.

Sincerely,
Kyle Price

Senior VP & Chief Executive Officer
Memorial Hermann Southeast & Pearland Hospitals

Sims Bayou drainage history shared

Fifteen years (2005) ago we started the process of trying to reduce flooding by Berry Bayou, part of the Sims Bayou water shed, in the Edgebrook corridor. We have accomplished much, which was very beneficial during Hurricane Harvey. We are now on the final Phase 4 of ditch C-106-03.

Harris County Flood Control District has begun the final Phase 4 as of April and should be completed by the Fall of 2021. This long-running project is replacing the existing earthen ditch with a concrete-lined channel. Phase 4 is approximately 4,800 linear feet from Shawnee Street to Interstate Highway 45 south of Edgebrook Drive near Aves Street. On January 7, 2020, Harris County Commissioners Court awarded a \$6.48 million

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

A notice on the City of Houston Public Library website reads, "All Houston Public Library locations will be closed through the end of the month in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The closures come in response to directives from Mayor Sylvester Turner as well as Harris County and federal guidelines. Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services remain available 24/7 with your MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring, and databases. In our efforts to minimize the impacts of the closure, support continued access to library services and resources for our customers, and to help protect staff and customers against the spread of COVID-19, the following changes are in effect."

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services remain available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at 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 robust collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog to determine if a previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are also on the site.

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020.

Visit the City of Houston's Emergency Operations Center website at <https://houstontemergency.org/covid19> or call 832-393-4220 for more meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the number of people infected. For details, visit: www.houstonlibrary.org.

Parker Williams Library

The notice on the Parker Williams Library website reads, "In accordance with Harris County's Stay at Home, Work Safe Order, all branches will be closed and at-library services, including curbside pick up, will be suspended through April 30. Library buildings will not be accessible for public use. No late fees will be assessed during the closure. If you have books or other items checked out, please hold on to them. There is no need to return them at this time. Book drops will be locked for security reasons. Follow @harriscountypl on Facebook or Twitter for updated information."

The library will continue to offer the library services:
- 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
- Download e-Books, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive
- Stream classic films, indie cinema, and award-winning documentaries on Stanoy
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks
- Ask us a question by phone or email
- Get book recommendations
- Register for a library card online."

Frequently Asked Questions (and answers) during Parker William library closure
"Question: I had holds ready for pickup when the library closed. Will I lose my place in the queue and have to place another hold?"

Answer: No. Holds will be at the branch when it reopens to the public. In addition, new holds can be placed online during the closure and they will be processed when libraries reopen.

Question: I have books due. What should I do?
Answer: Stay safe. Hold onto all items until libraries reopen. No late fees will be assessed during the time libraries are not open to the public. All due dates have been extended to May 1. Book drops will be locked. Do not try to return items to the library. Do not leave items outside the library.

Question: I don't have an HCPL Library Card but would like to download e-Books and stream movies. Can I get one?
Answer: Yes. Apply for an HCPL iKnow Digital Access Card on the website, then visit the Digital Media page, to learn how to start reading and streaming. The checkout period is 14 days with up to two renewals. See Borrowing FAQ on the website for complete details.

Question: Can I place an Interlibrary Loan request during the time that the library is closed?
Answer: The Interlibrary Loan service has been suspended. We cannot take ILL requests until libraries reopen.

Question: I have an Interlibrary Loan book that is due. What should I do?
Answer: Hold on to ILL items until libraries reopen. No late fees will be assessed. Book drops are locked for security reasons. Do not leave any items outside the library.

Question: I have books I want to donate. Can I drop them off at the library?
Answer: Do not bring book donations to branch libraries. Hold onto them until the library resumes full services."

For more information, visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>.

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construction contract to L.N. McKean Inc.

This is the fourth and final phase of a project that began in the 1970s and involved the entire C106-03-00 channel, from its confluence with Berry Bayou (C106-00-00) north of the city of South Houston, to IH-45. Also completed is Berry Bayou from Gilpin street through South Houston to Sims Bayou which has been concrete lined along with Ditch C-106-08 along side Hwy 3. Construction of the South Richey Stormwater Detention Basin at South Richey Street, completed in 2016, a second detention center is located at So. Shaver at Hwy 3 is also completed. A third is in the design stage for the southwest corner of So. Shaver at Hwy 3 behind the Exxon station. Stormwater detention basins take in and hold excess stormwater during heavy rain events, releasing it slowly after the rain stops.

This reduces flooding risks and damages for nearby residents and businesses. Yes, we now have less opportunity to flood and with this FEMA has rezoned some areas from AE to X. This meant that flood insurance dropped from about \$1,400.00 a year to about \$450.00. Look at the money in the pocket for those carrying flood insurance. What a success this has been.

This entire flood work was a big group effort by HCFCD, the 3 commissioners of Precinct 2, cities of Houston, South Houston, TxDOT and the strong support of the many people who experienced flooding for so many years and times. Nine (9) group meetings, home owners receiving updates and voicing their concerns, by HCFCD over these 15 years were held at a local church to bring all together to urge this flood plain to its completion.

Considering today's money issues for flooding this can be called a major success story.

James E. (Jim) Muecke,
Project Coordinator

Congress reauthorizes Older Americans Act

It's been awhile since the South Belt-Ellington Leader has heard from me, John Harris of the Houston chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The past months have had you receive any LTE's from Mr. Scott Finley in Dallas. Thankfully, that arrangement is no more. I will once again be taking care of my own media contacts/LTE's out of the Houston office. I hated giving up those relationships I had built up with my Houston media contacts. The South Belt-Ellington Leader News had been great to the Houston Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association over the years but since I had to relinquish my "LTE" powers, I'm not sure where we stand anymore. I hope that you can take a look at the

attached LTE from my Ambassador Ms. Dayo Adeyemo and consider publishing it in the near future. I certainly realize everything is COVID-19 related these days but if you have the space and can fit it in that would be great. Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with the South Belt-Ellington Leader again going forward.

Stay safe out there! John

There are more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's, including 400,000 here in Texas. Recently, Congress passed the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, including key elements of the Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act of 2019 (H.R. 1903/S. 901), critical legislation that will improve the health outcomes of people living with dementia.

I am a proud Alzheimer's Ambassador advocate and Alzheimer's Community educator and do witness the impact of policies in the lives of community members as they share their stories. I want to thank Congressman Pete Olson for supporting the House passage of the

Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act of 2019, through the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. This critical vote will allow individuals living with Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease to access supports and services from programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA). Those programs include nutritional services, supportive services, the National Family Caregiver Support, and other services that enhance the quality of life.

Please join me in thanking Congressman Pete Olson for supporting this legislation. I also want to thank the Congressman for his leadership during this unprecedented public health crisis facing us today.

If you would like to be part of our next big legislative win, visit alzimpact.org/volunteer to join the fight.

Oluwadayo Adeyemo
Alzheimer's Association Ambassador to the Office of Congressman Pete Olson (TX-22); Home Address: Rosenberg, Texas; Email: dayoogundeji@yahoo.com. Phone #: +1 832 285 7810.

Elected officials share their words

A statement by Senator Paul Bettencourt

Sen. Bettencourt reacted to the lawsuit filed by the ACLU, et al, in a Travis County court challenging Gov. Abbott's order which is meant to prevent the release of inmates accused or convicted of "a crime that involves physical violence of the threat of physical violence."

In Harris County, County Judge Lina Hidalgo (D) issued an order, post Gov. Abbott's, to begin the release of inmates from the Harris County Jail during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Chief Administrative Judge of Harris County State District and felony courts, Herb Ritchie (D) stepped in to void Hidalgo's order.

"There has been broad bipartisan outrage regarding County Judge Hidalgo's overreaching order throughout Harris County," said Sen. Bettencourt. "We do not need to release burglars, thieves, forgers, fraudsters, or worse, on to the streets of Harris County while citizens are watching their homes, businesses, purses, and wallets in the middle of a COVID-19 pandemic. It's a 'crime-bomb!'"

Representing two million plus residents, Sen. Bettencourt, joined with 8 Harris County State Representatives (Representatives Harless, Huberty, Cain, Paul, Oliverson, Bohac, Murphy, and

Swanson) filed an Amicus Brief in Federal Judge Lee Rosenthal's Court in the case of Russell vs. Harris County to "object to the wholesale release of individuals accused of felony offenses from the Harris County Jail."

This tweet shows broad bipartisan opposition to Hidalgo's order and the release of those charged with felonies on Personal Recognizance (PR) bonds as low as one dollar. This includes Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, District Attorney Ogg (D), Harris County Constables Mark Herman (R) and May Walker (D), and many other law enforcement officials at a press conference on Tuesday. (See the Texan: <https://bit.ly/2JMzZLE>)

Representative Briscoe Cain, a founding member of the House Criminal Justice Caucus who joined on the Amicus Brief added, "While I believe there are aspects of the bail system that need reform, we must be absolutely sure that we're not releasing inmates with violent criminal histories into our communities. They are treating these criminals like essential employees - free to roam about while hard working taxpayers are required to stay home." Sen. Bettencourt, et al, will continue to follow this issue.

Senator Paul Bettencourt

Kim Ogg: Keeping Harris County strong

As a lifelong resident of Harris County and your District Attorney, I know that public safety requires a partnership among first responders, government agencies and all the people they serve. When neighbors look out for neighbors, when they lend a helping hand to each other, our community is safer and stronger in many ways.

Many people feel the urge to help needy neighbors during the coronavirus pandemic but are restricted by local government's justifiable orders to limit activities outside their homes to just the essentials.

But we can and should keep our community strong by patronizing locally-owned businesses during this unusual time:

We can order take-out from a family-owned restaurant — and tip generously for the preparation of the food if we can afford to.

While many people are mostly staying home, they can get routine auto maintenance done by locally-owned auto shops. The shops are allowed to stay open because they are classified as essential services.

We can shop at locally-owned, or Texas-owned, supermarkets, and hardware stores.

Don't get me wrong — I realize that national and international chain restaurants and stores employ a huge num-

ber of workers in Harris County. I urge employers of every kind to support their active and inactive workers.

But the larger the chain, the more likely an employer will be able to find the financial resources to keep their businesses afloat.

In contrast, local "mom-and-pop" stores and other independently owned service sector businesses usually lack a financial fall-back plan. That's why I urge you to give them much of your business.

We can contribute money to www.fundandfeed.org, a local effort to support our elderly neighbors as well as Houston-area restaurant and healthcare workers.

We can contribute money to the Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund at Houston at greaterhoustonrecovery.org. It's a partnership of United Way and the Greater Houston Community Fund.

Anyone in need of social services as a result of the coronavirus crisis should call 2-1-1 to reach 2-1-1Texas, a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which is committed to connecting Texans to the services they need.

Thank you for keeping our community strong in so many ways as you "buy local."

Sincerely,
DA Kim Ogg

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca
A member of *Southbelt This & That* (Official) Facebook group shared a post of a surveillance video of a home that was getting their yard serviced when suspects riding in an older model Chevy Blazer stopped and stole equipment off the trailer. This incident happened

on April 8 during the day. On the same Facebook group a member posted that Texaco at Beamer and Hughes will pump gas for anyone. One need only pull up and honk the horn and an employee will come out and pump gas. The member states that there is no extra charge for the service.

Also on the same Facebook group, a member wanted to make the community aware of a Hispanic male knocking on doors of residences. The member states that the suspicious male went to one elderly neighbor's house asking if he could check their water quality.

Death

William Bradford Ballard



William Bradford Ballard, 38, loving husband, father and brother, passed away peacefully March 27, 2020. William (Brad) was born in Corsicana Jan. 27, 1982, to Ronald William and Barbara Lynn Ballard. He was a former longtime resident of the Sagemeadow subdivision.

He graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 2001. After high school, William worked as a sales associate at Walmart and attended Massage Therapy School.

He became engaged to Melissa Hernandez Jan. 19, 2007, proposing to her on a carriage ride in downtown Houston.

After asking and receiving permission from his grandparents to be married on their 50th wedding anniversary, William married Melissa on that date, which was June 22. He felt it was a way to honor them.

William enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 2007 and was stationed in North Carolina and Arizona and overseas in Afghanistan, South Korea and England.

He was TDY in Japan and Alaska during his 13-year career. At the time of his death he was a staff sergeant working as an electrical and environmental systems maintainer.

William loved the military because it gave him the opportunity to provide a better life for himself and his family and was able to travel the world with his wife and son.

William was a diehard Dallas Cowboys fan. One of his favorite players was Ezekiel Elliot. William wouldn't let anybody talk badly about his Cowboys.

He would argue for his "Boys." William's other love were the Fast and Furious movies. He also had a

passion for cooking.

Some of his favorite dishes to cook were spaghetti, enchilada casserole and mac and cheese. He also loved grilling a good steak.

William's son Matthew was his pride and joy. His greatest pastime was spending time with him horsing around, wrestling, watching football and working on cars together.

If there were one word to describe William, it would be family. He was all about family. William would make weekly phone calls to various family members to see how they were doing. It didn't matter if he was overseas, distance didn't keep him from being close to them.

He is survived by his wife of Pasadena; son Matthew Ballard; sister Tina Ballard of Katy; grandmother Juanita Ballard of Houston; father-in-law and mother-in-law Joe and Pearl Hernandez of Pasadena; sister-in-law Pauline Esmeralda Howie of Seattle; and numerous family and friends.

William was preceded in death by his father and mother; brother Joshua Miller; grandfather Charles Ballard; and grandmother Annette Miller.

Private services will be held at Brookside Funeral Home April 13, 2020. Pallbearers include Matt Bradley, Greg Masone, Daniel Miller, Ryan Miller, Joshua Box and Ben Maldonado.

Honorary pallbearers are Joe Hernandez and Randy Ballard.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Leader obituary policy

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

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated
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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

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Worship Service • 9:00 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.

Nursery Available at all Services

SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Lady Wolverines' Newsome Athlete of the Year

There were plenty of worthy candidates for the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* Athlete of the Year from Clear Brook High School, yet only one clear choice.

Ian Sandoz ended his terrific career as a club wrestler with the Wolverines by leading his boys' team to the district title and making a regional appearance himself.

Fellow senior Gabby Smith put together a great post-season run, eventually advancing to the state diving championships in Austin.

Brandon Andrews was named the Co-Offensive Player of the Year after guiding the Wolverines' varsity boys' basketball team to second place in District 24-6A and an eventual appearance in the area playoff round.

Allison Lee, another club sport star at Brook, had the Lady Wolverines' bowling team headed to state before the suspension of all action in March ended the season.

Terrific performances for all those athletes and then some, yet the choice for top honors in 2019-2020 goes to

senior volleyball player Kailin Newsome, who delivered one of the finest individual seasons in program history while leading the Lady Wolverines to an all-time first.



Kailin Newsome is the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* Athlete of the Year from Clear Brook High School after setting the program's all-time marks for both single-season and career kills, and also leading the Lady Wolverines' varsity volleyball team to a first-ever district championship.

While becoming the all-time kills leader for both a single season and career, Newsome led Clear Brook to the program's first-ever district championship as the team won 24-6A and advanced all the way to the regional quarterfinals before a loss.

For her effort, Newsome was of course named the Most Valuable Player in 24-6A and went on to be named a first team all-star by the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

Newsome had more than 700 kills for her senior season and better than 2,000 for her brilliant career.

Also a gifted player on the sand, Newsome will continue her education and playing career at Southeastern Louisiana University, where she plans to play both indoor and beach volleyball for the Lions.

Newsome's older sister, Jailin, was also a tremendous player at Brook and is also playing collegiately.

Kailin definitely left the Newsome named profoundly etched in Clear Brook volleyball history.

JFD boys' soccer dynasty Team of the Year

The Dobie High School football team had a season to remember in 2019, winning nine regular season games as a varsity program for the first time in program history.

At this point, there is no doubt that head coach Kevin Berneathy has Dobie football back on the proverbial map. The varsity team

even made its way into the Houston area rankings for the first time in 15 seasons.

So the football program certainly turned some heads in 2019, but the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* pick for Team of the Year from Dobie is the varsity boys' soccer program, which may now be referred to as "the dynasty."

Even if one chooses to

cast aside the five consecutive district titles prior to this season, the 2020 campaign will go down as one of the finest in the storied history of head coach Justo Manrique-led programs.

The Longhorns have dropped just one match during the season, as Aldine MacArthur, previously led by Manrique until 2013, scored

a 2-1 win over the locals Jan. 15 in a nondistrict matchup.

From there, Dobie reeled off a 13-0-1 record in 22-6A play, securing a sixth consecutive league title with still two matches to play when the coronavirus pandemic halted play.

At 14-0-4 overall, this

Continued on Page 5

Brook volleyball earns Team of the Year honor

Clear Brook varsity volleyball head coach Meredith Thompson knew the talent was there, but simple talent is often not enough.

She also understood the depth of skill in the upper tiers of District 24-6A, which seemingly becomes an every night battle of wills in order to score a win.

So heading into the 2019 season, the Lady Wolverines certainly had high hopes, but would they be fulfilled? The answer was an affirmative yes.

Thompson, a Clear Creek ISD lifer first as a multi-sport standout at Clear Creek High School and now the longtime

leader of Brook's very successful volleyball program, previously led one other Lady Wolverines' team to the regional quarterfinal playoff round.

That was fun back then indeed, but let it be known that the 2019-2020 squad landed the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* Team of the Year accolades from Clear Brook by taking the program to new heights. Kailin Newsome wound up her stellar career with 732 kills as a senior, a school single-season record.

She also had more than 2,000 career kills, which is a new school record as well.

The District 24-6A Most Valuable Player and all-star selection also had 79 aces to go with more than 500 digs.

Jaylin Aguirre, the Co-Defensive Player of the Year in the league, had 573 digs to her credit, and setters Kyla Carrier (760 assists) and Kayleigh Schultz (697 kills) were first-team all-district picks, as was middle blocker Bella Lockwood (442 kills).

Thompson, understandably, was the 24-6A Coach of the Year as her team went 28-10 overall with that 24-6A championship record of 11-1.

The school's varsity boys' basketball team drew some interest as Team of the Year candidate, as did the Brook girls' club bowling team that was headed to state at the time of the shutdown. But this school year belonged to the volleyball program following one of the finest seasons in school history. Now, Thompson and the Lady Wolverines will reload, particularly up front, heading into the 2020-2021 campaign, but what a last stand it was for Newsome, Lockwood, Aguirre and others.



Clear Brook varsity volleyball's Meredith Thompson was the Coach of the Year in District 24-6A after guiding her team to its first-ever league championship. The Lady Wolverines are also the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* Team of the Year from Clear Brook.

Campa bags JFD's Athlete of the Year

No one wants to confront the idea that the 2019-2020 spring sports season will not continue. That decision is not likely to come until May 4 or thereafter. Whether or not the action continues, there's little doubt that it has been a sports school year for the memory books at Dobie.

But with apologies to anyone in the spring sports arena who did not get a chance

to finish his or her season, it must be said that Longhorn junior Alberto Campa already had dibs on the *South Belt-Ellington Leader's* Athlete of the Year honor for this school year.

The standout junior all but secured the honor back in back in October, becoming the first Dobie cross-country runner to qualify for the state meet in more than 20 years.

As far as individual candidates, there weren't really many big challengers to Campa. Longhorn sophomore quarterback Cameron Gray was terrific in helping his team to a 20-year best nine team wins while taking the District 22-6A Newcomer of the Year Award, and there were key players on Dobie's District 22-6A championship boys' soccer team, but Campa was the best of the best.

To say he came out of nowhere might be a bit of a stretch, then again perhaps not. Campa indeed performed well as a sophomore, but nothing like he did in 2019.

Stringing together a flurry of top-five finishes seemingly all season, Campa entered the "postseason," that is the 22-6A with still more to prove, and he did just that.

A time of 16 minutes, 20.25 seconds earned Campa third place at the District 22-6A championships in Humble, and he was off to the Region III Championships in Huntsville.

At regionals, Campa went 16:23.40 over a three-mile course, taking 14th and banking a trip to the state championships. He was 91st at state as part of a prestigious field, and figures to enter 2020 as one of the Houston area's top returnees.

Campa told the *Leader* in October that he turned the

Continued on Page 5

Delgado picks Lamar University



Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. has confirmed that No. 1 boys' singles player Sebastian Delgado has decided to continue his education at Lamar University in Beaumont. Though he is not expected to play competitive tennis for the Cardinals, Delgado is hopeful of joining a club tennis program while there. Delgado helped guide the Longhorns' fall team tennis program to second place in the 22-6A standings and an eventual berth in the area playoff round in highlighting his senior season.

Rising Stars track another placed in waiting game

The Rising Stars Track Club, South Belt's longstanding youth organization, is yet another that has had its activities placed on hold. The team had held a couple of weeks of practice at Dobie High School before things were brought to a halt.

And because the regular season doesn't typically ramp

up until the public school season for high schoolers is complete, thus far the 2020 Amateur Athletic Union's track and field season has been the one that wasn't.

Bearing in mind that, like all sports activities, there have been no workouts for weeks, there is a distinct possibility of a complete stoppage for 2020. Yet for now, AAU officials hold out hope.

From a statement: "Like all of you, the AAU continues to monitor the development of COVID-19 (coronavirus) across the country and around the world.

"These are unprecedented times as we navigate the global pandemic and put our efforts toward helping to slow

the spread of the disease. "Seemingly overnight, terms such as 'flatten the curve' and 'social distancing' have become part of our national language and part of our daily life. While people have had to adjust to this new normal, businesses have had to adapt as well. The AAU has been no exception.

"Sports For All, Forever has been the AAU's focus and drive for the past 130 years and counting. And, while events are the AAU's business, the health and well-being of AAU participants are at the forefront of our mind during this time.

"Therefore, we will continue to follow the guidelines set out by public health officials and extend the tem-

porary suspension of AAU event programming through April 30. We recognize the undue hardship suspending AAU licensed events has had on many of you.

"While it is our fervent hope to resume events in the near future, we feel strongly extending the temporary suspension of AAU licensed events is the right thing to do at this time. We will share updates with you as new information becomes available. Stay safe, be well, and remember We Are AAU."

So for the Rising Stars and the rest of the AAU community, there is more wait and see. The way things have taken shape, next month will be a big one for decision makers nationwide.



Camryn Dickson, one of several Rising Stars Track Club athletes to medal at Amateur Athletic Union nationals in recent years, was looking forward to a return this summer but may miss out on that chance.

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CALENDAR

Due to current circumstances, it is advisable to verify if meetings are still being held prior to attending. Most regularly scheduled meetings have been canceled through the month of April.
THURSDAY, APRIL 16
 7 a.m.

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

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, APRIL 18
 7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-

487-8787, or drop in.
 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
 2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, APRIL 20
 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 - 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information, or drop in.

Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website, <https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/>. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective 3/16/2020, to ensure its

members continue their journey to becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on our home page menu (www.youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com) to obtain access to our virtual meeting platform. For information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

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 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For additional information, email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit www.crisishotline.org or call 832-416-1177.

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing Mondays has been canceled until fall. For additional information, send an email to csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Road. For additional information, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group meets at noon weekdays at 3525 Broadway in Pearland. For additional information, call 713-686-6300.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of

NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 22930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.



Dobie student trainers lend helping hands in 2019-2020



The Dobie High School student athletic trainers for the 2019-2020 school year included, left to right, (first row) Jada Hubley, Alexandria Ayala, Alexia Castillo, Ilse Martinez, Liana Cruz, Natalia Garza, Briana Torres, Izmael Valenzuela, Ivanna Cotto, Danielle Wood, (second row) Maria Martinez, Neyna Portis, Brissa Torres, Jessica Tan, Gloria Imaculate, Hailey Hernandez, Sophia Perez, Jacqui Saucedo, Neveah Coleman, (third row) Sirena Rodriguez, Zach Glover, Alayla O'Neal, Cassandra Paz, Laila Henry, Jennefer Gonzalez, Aleyda Benavides, Destiny Thurmond, Andronay Lee, Alexis Austin, (fourth row) Yesenia Morales, Maria Rueda, Lori Mahan, Jalen Young, Jesse Lopez, Joshua Hernandez, Jazlyn Brown, Joseph Hernandez and Jaden Redon.

Photo by Gary Williams

Campa bags JFD's athlete of the year award

Continued from Page 3 to the sport, leaving behind others. Summer training run results showed Campa he could compete with the best of the season opener, and he was off and running, literally.



Dobie junior Alberto Campa became the first boys' cross-country runner to reach the state meet in decades as the Longhorn star was third at district and 14th at regionals to advance. For his efforts, Campa is the South Belt-Ellington Leader's Athlete of the Year from Dobie.

JFD boys' soccer dynasty is team of the year



Dobie's senior core played a huge role in the team winning a sixth consecutive district title in 2020 and then earning the Leader's Team of the Year honor. Those seniors include, left to right, (front row) Oscar Anoruo, manager; Manuel Trejos; Eli Donahoe; Adrian Garcia; (middle row) Oscar Beltran; Imanol Pena; Anthony Nery; (back row) Jonathan Mendez; and Julio Martinez.

Continued from Page 3 team will wind up with the fewest losses in program history, if indeed the postseason is not held. The 2017 Dobie squad won the program's first-ever regional title and went on to compete in the state semis. Manrique will also tell those who will listen that the 2019 team had the talent to

reach that level before losing a sudden death shootout in the area round. If it is to be that this 2020 team doesn't get a chance to continue, the questions will always be there. The seniors, especially, will have had their prep careers cut short. Those seniors include Oscar Beltran, Eli Donahoe,

Adrian Garcia, Julio Martinez, Jonathan Mendez, Anthony Nery, Imanol Pena and Manuel Trejos. Statistically, sophomore Isaac Cortez was the team's leading scorer when play stopped, registering 13 goals and seven assists. Pena, one of the eight seniors on the squad, has added eight goals and nine as-

sists, with Nery delivering to the tune of seven goals and seven assists. In the nets, when and if 22-6A all district teams are selected, certainly goalkeeper Eris Acosta, a sophomore, will garner much attention as a first team pick as the Longhorns have allowed the fewest goals in the league ranks.

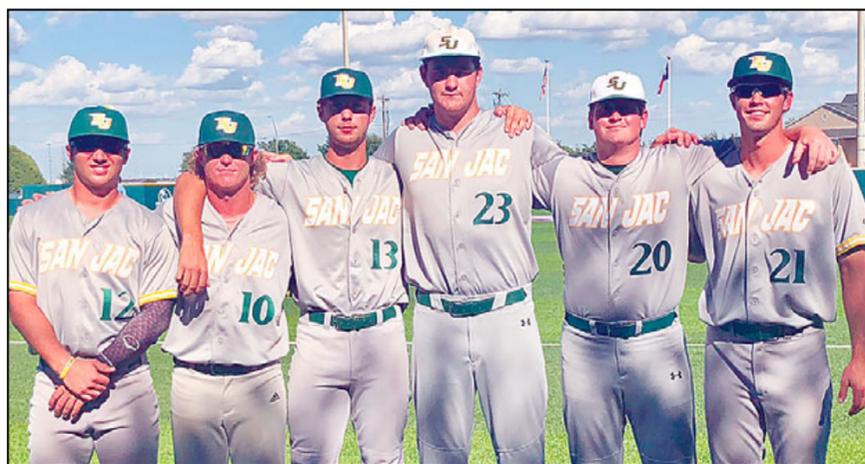
As honest as they come, Manrique offered prior to the 2019 campaign that this just might be the most challenging run for a district title with programs such as Kingwood, Memorial, Humble and others looking to end JFD's run, yet this Dobie team has been as impressive as any, certainly deserving as Dobie's Team of the Year.

Moreno nominated for Hall of Fame



Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. has been nominated for induction into the Texas Tennis Coaches Association's prestigious Hall of Fame, which will be unveiled later this summer. Next week, the Leader will have Moreno's reaction as well as details of his lifelong career in youth tennis, including a lengthy stay at Dobie High School. Clearly, he's hoping to be one of the honorees as the hall of fame class for 2020 is recognized at the annual TTCA convention in December.

SJC baseball's Winget picks Salt Lake CC



San Jacinto College's baseball team will reload for 2021 after 15 players to this point have either signed at four-year universities or decided to replay their sophomore season elsewhere. Six of those signees include, left to right, Adam Houghtaling, Colorado College of the Mines; Chase Wilkerson, Auburn; Mitchell Parker, Kentucky; Luke Little, South Carolina; Evan Hiatt, Southeastern; and Braden Winget, Salt Lake Community College. Winget made his decision just days ago, electing to replay his sophomore season closer to his home town of Provo, Utah.

JFD's boys secure fourth spot in Region III TASCO Rankings

Adding to the intrigue surrounding the varsity boys' and girls' soccer play-offs and whether or not they are eventually contested is the Dobie boys' lofty standing in the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches final regular season rankings. Alief Elsik held the top spot in the rankings, but the Longhorns, who secured the District 22-6A crown just before the stoppage in play, weren't far behind at No. 4. Dobie won the Region III crown in 2017, and Elsik is now the two-time defending champion of Region III. Of interest in the girls' rankings are District 22-6A foes Kingwood and Atascocita in addition to Deer Park, which will join 22-6A beginning next season.

TASCO Rankings TASCO Region III Boys' Rankings

1. Alief Elsik
2. Katy Seven Lakes
3. Katy Tompkins
4. Dobie
5. Katy Cinco Ranch
6. North Shore
7. Houston Stratford
8. Deer Park
9. Jersey Village
10. Fort Bend Ridge Point

TASCO Rankings TASCO Region III Girls' Rankings

1. Katy Tompkins
2. Kingwood
3. Fort Bend Ridge Point
4. Katy Seven Lakes
5. Houston Memorial
6. Deer Park
7. Atascocita
8. Brazoswood
9. Katy Cinco Ranch
10. Clear Lake

JFD athletic trainers fulfill needs in 2019-2020



While they collectively hope the 2019-2020 spring athletic season is not yet complete, J. Frank Dobie High School athletic trainers are left to reflect on what another successful run the 2019-2020 school year has been. The Longhorns' trainers shown above are, left to right, Maria Rueda, main campus; Lori Mahan, Dobie9; and Jesse Lopez, main campus.

Photo by Gary Williams

Pasadena ISD receives city proclamation



To honor National Athletic Training Month in March, the city of Pasadena presented a proclamation recognizing both the month and the hard work and dedication provided by athletic trainers nationwide, including those from the Pasadena ISD ranks. Those there for the event at the Pasadena ISD athletics hall of fame at Phillips Field House included, left to right, (front row) Alexis Padilla, Tish Eubanks, Javet Forges, Maria Rueda, (back row) Rupert Jaso, PISD director of athletics; Jesse Lopez; Chad Barrett; Jeremy Jackson; Rex Lindberg, city of Pasadena director of communications; Hanna Godwin; Jessica Pfannstiel; and Kathryn Vollmer.

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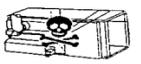
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Over The Back Fence by Alexis



ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY, SALLY

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to former South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Executive Director **Sally Mitchell**, who enjoys a birthday April 16, from her family, friends and the staff at the *Leader*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KELVIN

Best wishes for a great birthday are sent April 16 to **Kelvin Lopez** from parents **Natalie** and **Jose Abarca** and **Kevin Lopez**; brother **Noah** and sisters **Isabella** and **Elliana Abarca**; grandparents **David** and **Ellie Flickinger**; and great-grandparents **Marie** and **David Flickinger**.

SANDRA ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Sandra Williams** for her birthday April 18 from her former co-workers at Central Ace Hardware, family, friends and the staff at the *Leader*.

CONGRATS TO ANGELA AND DAVID

Congratulations are sent April 19 to **Angela** and **David Griffin**, daughter-in-law and son of *Leader* staffer **Bobby Griffin** and husband **Kenneth**, from friends and family, as they celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. Angela and David, both Dobie graduates, have relocated to Texas with their son **Robert**.

CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY, AARON!

Special birthday greetings are sent to **Aaron Giles** who turns 26 on April 20, from grandparents **Ken** and **Bobby Griffin**, parents **Jim** and **Tracy Giles**, wife **Ashley** and sons **Jaxson** and **Jace**, sister **Kristen** and brother **Cody**. Aaron is a 2012 Dobie graduate.

ANN MARKS A BIRTHDAY

Insurance business owner, former Dobie High journalism teacher and former longtime Sageglen resident, **Ann Brannen** celebrates her birthday April 20. Best wishes are sent from her many friends and the staff at the *Leader*.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 16 through April 22, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary

The day for a party for **Ana Garza** is April 21.

Burnett Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Keri Grayson** and **Katie Huehfeld** April 20. Enjoy a slice of birthday cake April 22 with **Jhanet Diehl**.

Bush Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles April 16 for **Sandra Plaza**.

Frazier Elementary

Kevin McDonald celebrates a birthday April 17.

Genoa Elementary

Join in the birthday celebration April 20 for **Coretta Conant**.

Moore Elementary

The day for a birthday party for **Denise Narvaez** is April 16. Break out the birthday cake and ice cream for **Sara Saxton** April 20.

South Belt Elementary

Allison Sutton enjoys a birthday April 17. Blow out the birthday candles for **Robin Sanders** April 22.

Stuchbery Elementary

Best wishes for a great birthday April 17 are sent to **Sylvia Ramirez**.

Melillo Middle School

Send a birthday greeting April 17 to **Giovanna Andrade**. **Patty Gordon** marks a birthday April 19.

Roberts Middle School

Light the birthday candles April 17 for **Danielle Goodrum**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

A party is in order April 18 for **Rosalind Dozier** and **Tyler Prestridge**. **Jennifer**

Teichelman celebrates a birthday April 19. April 21 marks a special birthday for **William Anders**.

Thompson Intermediate

Light the candles April 19 on a double-layer cake for **Christine Veltman** and **Kandace McMullin**. Best wishes are sent April 21 to **Daniel Birch-Merillas** and **Grace Garcia**.

Dobie High

Joseph Janis celebrates a birthday April 17. **Christine Kerr** enjoys a special birthday April 18. Break out the party favors and birthday cake April 19 for **Christine Gomez** and **Carey Sink**. April 22 is a day of celebration for **Michael Taylor**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

The *Leader* sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, April 16: **Janice Elliott**, **Alex Torres**, **Marissa Jones** and **April Carter-Akin**; Friday, April 17: **Heike Jurado-Gabino**, **Tatiana Gonzalez**, **Allison Sutton**, **Danielle Goodrum** and **Jason Sherrill**; Saturday, April 18: **Deadra Lozano**, **Carla Rackley**, **Lydia Sonier**, **Allison Rogers** and **Tchad Taormina**; Sunday, April 19: **Greg Bartlett**, **Tiffany LeCompte**, **Tre McCrummen**, **Marisa Ramirez** and **Kristen Brockman**; Monday, April 20: **Sandra Teng**, **Andy Crawford** and **Shelly Nails**; Tuesday, April 21: **Michael Barlow** and **Carol Talbot**; and Wednesday, April 22: **Barbara Eikenburg**, **Sandy Young**, **Jenny Nguyen** and **Dawne Goforth**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)

J. Frank Dobie student **Jill Miller** was chosen as Miss Pasadena and became eligible to compete in the Miss Texas competition.

The *South Belt Leader* took two awards at the semi-annual convention of the Texas Community Newspaper Association held in Dallas.

The Sagemeadow Utility District honored Sagemeadow resident **Edna Po** with a plaque recognizing her participation in promoting community improvements.

Lamar Winebrenner was elected president of the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees.

35 years ago (1985)

Houston City Council Member **Frank Mancuso** headlined a long list of dignitaries at the grand opening of Fire Station 70 on Beam-

Eighty-two percent of Sagemeadow residents responding to a ballot favored building a bridge to connect Sagemont to Wood Meadow via Sageglen Boulevard.

A runoff election in the Southbelt Municipal Utility District was eliminated after **Don Dutton** withdrew from the race against **Steve Morris**.

30 years ago (1990)

As part of the South Belt area Earth Day activities, **Sen. Hugh Farmer** from Fort Worth took the oath of office for governor for a day at a location adjacent to the Brio Superfund toxic waste dump.

Of the 31 teachers at **Weber Elementary**, 13 had requested transfers to different schools for the upcoming school year.

Air samples collected at **Weber** revealed 2.2 parts per billion of styrene. Previous testing had not produced any styrene.

25 years ago (1995)

Tornado-like winds caused heavy damage in the South Belt area. No injuries were reported.

The San Jacinto College Board of Regents called a special meeting to discuss unauthorized pay raises to at least 22 employees during the past two years.

Frazier Elementary School teacher **Ron Shafer** celebrated 25 years of teaching by hosting former students at **Frazier**.

Clear Creek Independent School District announced a meeting to seek community input on a replacement for retiring superintendent **Ronald K. McLeod**.

20 years ago (2000)

Dobie High School was the first Pasadena Independent School District "Recognized" high school.

A retirement dinner was held for **Dobie's** **Phyllis Shaulis**, **Carole Wright**, **Myrleen Harper** and principal **Jerry Speer**.

Harris County homicide officers released additional information regarding the shooting of **Jonathan Barri-cas**. They revealed that **Barri-cas** was shot through the door. Officers still had not disclosed the caliber of the

weapon. **Barrica's** funeral had an overflow crowd of **Dobie** students and family.

15 years ago (2005)

Nearly two weeks after the disappearance of **Austin Childs**, 19; **John Zimmerman**, 51; and **Scott Keller**, 41, there was still no trace of the three. They had gone fishing off **Freeport** and were lost. The Coast Guard had stopped its search, but others were still searching.

The **Beverly Hills Intermediate Academic** team went further than any other team in the school's history. The team was undefeated in **PISD** competition and only lost in national competition to **Roland Park** of **Baltimore** in the second round.

Todd Krampitz, 32, died after an 11-month battle with liver cancer. **Krampitz** had made national headlines with his campaign to find a liver donor.

10 years ago (2010)

The City of Houston raised water and sewer rates by nearly 30 percent for an average single-family household. The increase would be phased in over the next three years. Roughly 12.5 percent of the 27.7 percent increase took effect June 1. The remaining 15 percent would be phased in every April 1 for three years beginning in 2011.

After serving nine years on the Pasadena Independent School District board, **Frank Braden**, vice president who once served as **Dobie** principal, did not file to keep his seat.

A fourth-grader riding his bike to **Weber Elementary** had a close brush with danger when he was struck by a vehicle leaving the area school. According to police, the child was able to jump from his bike, avoiding serious injury. His bike was not as fortunate, as it was heavily damaged in the collision. The child was treated by paramedics at the scene and released to attend school.

5 years ago (2015)

A **Clear Creek Independent School District** high school student taking classes at **San Jacinto College South** was seriously injured on April 16 when he fell from a third-story balcony. The incident happened at the **Allied Health Science** building. The 17-year-old student, who was part of **CCISD's** **Clear Horizon Early College High School** program, fell over a 4-foot railing surrounding an atrium inside the building. The student suffered serious injuries, including multiple fractures and was transported to **Clear Lake Regional Hospital**.

1 year ago (2019)

The fourth annual **Family Fun Fest** went off without a hitch Saturday, April 13, at **Clear Brook City Park**. Sponsored by the **Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District** and the **South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce**, the event featured a dog show, an Easter Egg hunt, inflatables, games, activities, food trucks and more.

Roberts staff delivers food to families



Roberts Middle School recently held a food drive for their students. **Debbie Carico** offered her realty office as a donation drop-off site. The school surpassed its goal to help 25 families by collecting donations to assist 50 families. Staff members from Roberts Middle School along with help from friends, family and church families were able to fill **Carico's** office with enough food to do-

nate to families within 48 hours. They collected groceries, fresh fruit, milk, bread and all the items that were difficult for families to find on store shelves. It was a team effort in making the deliveries to Roberts families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Shown above are, left to right, **Emily Ontiveros**, **RMS** counselor; **Irma Parkin**; **Derral Parkin**; **DeRonda Preston**, **RMS** counselor; **Carico**; and **Ronda Cook**, community volunteer.



Shown above is **Allie Johnson**, Roberts Middle School New Teacher of the Year. **Johnson** bought tasty items to make sure students did not go without food during the coronavirus pandemic.



Shown above are, left to right, **Bella Cruz**, eighth-grader; **Emily Ontiveros**, Roberts Middle School counselor; and **Lila Cruz**, first-grader. They assisted in the delivery of the food packages to Roberts Middle School families.



Melillo announces honor roll names

Melillo Middle School officials announced third nine-weeks honor roll for 2019-2020 school year.

Fifth grade

Aiden Lorenzo Aguilar, **Dayana Milagros Aguilar**, **Deacon Akinloye**, **Isabella Hila Allen**, **Judith Andrade**, **Kaleigh Olivia Antoine** and **Adelle Bongkisher Bong-fen**.

Lali Gabrielle Bowman, **Hadassah Burgett**, **Jasmine Loraine Cabrera**, **Christian Brian Carter**, **Jayden Michael Castro**, **Chancellor Ty Conley** and **Yanelli Sara Contreras**.

Leslie Maria Costa, **Mia Dalia Creekmore**, **Aidan Michael De la Rosa**, **Charles De la Rosa III**, **Steve Ivan De la Rosa**, **Elizabeth Taman Dinh** and **Kyleigh Marie Annett Dorsey**.

Emma Grace Espino, **Al-yssa Paola Espinoza**, **Delilah Sarahi Evans**, **Courtlyn Nicole Fletcher**, **James David Flores**, **James Edward Foltson III** and **Ariel Elizabeth Gallegos**.

Romeo Rehan Gill, **Jaylyn Abigail Guevara**, **Ein Carey Gunter** and **Dezira Lafaye**, **Hall-Garner**, **Vivian Vy Kha Hang**, **Julian Hernandez**, **Julius Hernandez** and **Kingston Chase Hernandez**.

Prince Royarnold Hill Jr., **Alexia Ai My Hoang**, **Chelsea Tram Ngoc Hua**, **Brianna Huesca**, **Collin Sheppard Jennings**, **Saudia Serenity Knoxon** and **Marina Martha Kostikoglou**.

Anthony Emmanuel Lainez, **Duy Thai Lam**, **Anthony Tran Le**, **Huy Minh Le**, **Sheyla Yen Vi Le**, **Ley-la Magdalena Limon**, **Kayla Rose Lind** and **Allyson Bella Marquez**.

Laila Monique Martin, **Ashley Stephanie Martinez**, **Mackenzie Julia Martinez**, **Miah Rose Martinez**, **Madeline Rosaline Medina**, **Adlin Leah Mena** and **Jillian Denise Mikulski**.

Nikolai Mateo Miranda, **Dylan Mohwinkel**, **Morgan Olivia Momic**, **Andrew Thanh Hung Nguyen**, **Cody Minh Nguyen**, **Hayly Quynh Vy Nguyen** and **Justin Khang Nguyen**.

Nicholas Trieu Khang Nguyen, **Ijeoma Claudia Nmezi**, **Louisa Safor Obah**, **Nathaniel Padilla**, **Nevaeh Celeste Perez**, **Jonny Dat Pham** and **Cullen Dwayne Ponder**.

Aidan Kaelan Quiroz, **Ka-ilyn Arielle Quiroz**, **Kendrick Dimalanta Ramos**, **Jeremy Edward Rangel**, **Nicolas Alexander Rangel**, **Ana Sophia Reyes**, **Kaylee Denise Robles** and **Aubree Elle Rodriguez**.

Christopher Isaac Rubio, **Maranda Abigail Sample**, **Eduardo Sanchez**, **Manuel Ray Sanchez Jr.**, **Donovan Jacob Serna**, **Arabella Renee Smallwood**, **Persephone So-ria** and **Lauren Joliet Soto**.

Jayda Olivia-Faith Stewart, **Evan Daniel Steven Taylor**, **Aiden Robert Teran**, **Anne Nhu Tran**, **Katie Nhi Tran**, **Samantha Hazel Trevi-no**, **Nina Truong** and **Jeremi-ah Eugene Turner**.

Alan Daniel Vallejo, **Em-manuel Vasquez**, **Jetzziel Velasquez Jr.**, **Alex Vouffo** and **Angelina Kim Vu**.

Nathan Nhat Minh Vu, **Kaylie Michele Walker**, **Jyl-lian La'neita White** and **Ra-janae Arrianna Woods**.

Sixth grade

Julian Devery Acevedo, **Anderson Aguilar**, **Kayla Joan Akinfenwa**, **Blessing Abiola Akinloye**, **Sureal Alessandra Alcorta** and **Jalynn Cole Alix**.

Aaron Nicolas Almaguer, **Joel Marvin Alvarenga**, **Le-ovanni Angel Alvarez**, **Henry Mitchell Armenta Alonso**, **Joshua Isaiiah Arredondo**, **Celeste Marie Arriaga** and **Sean Adrian Arroyo**.

Kendall Rae Ashworth, **Londyn Naiomi August**, **Ivan Emmanuel Ayala**, **Adam Baker**, **Makayla Ballard St. Romein**, **Piper Fallon Bat-tarbee** and **Alexander Lee Baumgartner**.

Kylie Lauren Campos, **David Isaiiah Castillo**, **Jakeida Isaela Cervantes**, **Alonzo Pernel Chapman**, **Elena Grace Charles**, **Kevin Ky Anh Chau** and **Jaslynn Grace Chavez**.

Adrian Alexander Corral, **Desiree Marie Correa**, **Cecilia Alejandra Cruz**, **Mia Nicole De Anda**, **Jordan Li De Robles**, **Dinah Delilah Dean**, **Cooper James Estes** and **Jalynn Reese Flores**.

Jonathan Jaiden Flores, **Savannah Georgia Flores-Lewis**, **Calvin Preston Flowers**, **Parrish Jerome Ford II**, **Rox-ann Franco**, **Helio Frausto**, **Reynol Galvan**, **Julietta Garcia** and **Max Emilio Garza**.

Kourtney Goeman, **Em-ily Golenko**, **Adam Gabri-el Gonzales**, **Frank Gonzales-Adame Jr.**, **Maddox Kade Gonzalez**, **Miranda Sofia Gonzalez**, **Abigail Aleina Gutierrez** and **Jakob Hasbell**.

Alejandro Eron Hernan-dez, **Ava Hernandez**, **Eve-lyn Hernandez**, **Maddox Ty Hernandez**, **Morgan Alex-andria Hill**, **Anson Nguyen Huynh** and **Nathan Alejandro Jimenez**.

Davion Cortez Johnson, **Edsel Esequiel Juarez**, **Isa-bella Marie Labra**, **Alex Anh Le**, **Danton Coppell Le**, **Na-than-Cuong Huy Le**, **Ilyena Ann Lindberg**, **Rafael Lopez III** and **Samuel Lopez**.

Daveon Xavier Love, **Don-ovan Huynh Luu**, **Ava Macias**, **Sarah Isabella Massey**, **Liliana Isabella Mata**, **Mia Mata**, **Ed-gardo Joel Mateo** and **Aubrey Denise McAfee**.

Morgan Alexander Mc-Gee, **Tristan Michael Mc-Kissick**, **Samantha Jade Me-jorado**, **James Daniel Moe**, **Nathan Lee Montez Jr.**, **An-gie Munoz** and **Ayden James Munoz**.

Quoc-Bao Ky Ngo, **Daniel Duy Nguyen**, **Gia Vy Nguye-n**, **Haley Tram Ngoc Nguye-n**, **Jennifer Ngoc-Thu Nguye-n**, **Mary Ngoc Nguyen** and **Minh Ngoc Nguyen**.

Tiffany Nguyen, **Viann Nguyen**, **Chloe Lynn Nunez**, **Thalia Evangelina Oddo**, **Jonathan Carlos Orellana Sarmiento**, **Valerie Ortiz** and **Awele Favour Ngozi Marvel-ous Ogochukwu Ozieh**.

Tanya Jolynn Palomino, **Diego Paz**, **Alex Emmanuel Perez**, **Jesus Perez**, **Jazmin Elizabeth Pineda**, **Justin C. Quintanilla**, **Daniel Jeremy Ramos** and **Yvette Ramos**.

Natalie Yvette Rangel, **Jaylyn Loany Requeno Or-tiz**, **Asia'h Monet Richard**, **Ava Grace Richardson**, **Na-than Adam Rodriguez**, **Xza-vier Mykel Rodriguez**, **Josiah Rene Romero-Love** and **Car-los Salgado Jr.**

Julian Salinas, **Melanie**

Nominate a family to win

COVID-19 came so unexpectedly it caught many people off guard without time to prepare. **Tony's Pizza** and **Grinders** will be feeding a family once a day throughout the month of April. Anyone wanting to nominate a family, friend or neighbor should drop by **Tony's** restaurant at 10330 Blackhawk Blvd., enter their name, address and phone number in the box by the register.

Names will be randomly selected and the families will receive a delivery or carryout convenient for them, #Community #Support #InThisTogether.

Warning given: COVID-19 scams

In the midst of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, American consumers are experiencing numerous public health and financial challenges, including virus-related scams, fake products promising cures and price gouging. To help address these concerns and more, **Tex-PIRG Education Fund** is publishing new guides and tips each week to help consumers navigate this crisis.

The following are consumer tip guides.

Top 6 coronavirus stimulus check scams
Since Congress passed a massive \$2 trillion relief package to help Americans, busi-nesses and nonprofits make it through the COVID-19 pandemic, new scams have appeared to take advantage of people's financial needs. From fake checks to social media messages, this guide goes over some of the top scams currently out there and how to avoid scams generally.

How to pay utility bills during COVID-19
Utilities serve many purposes in lives, whether it's the electricity that keeps food and medicine refrigerated, the gas to cook and warm houses, or the water used for drinking and bathing.

Receiving stimulus checks for COVID-19
The COVID-19 stimulus bill signed last month will send much needed relief payments to tens of millions of Americans. While individuals and families wait to receive their checks, many of whom are facing financial worries, misinformation is circulating and opening doors for scammers to take advantage of this crisis.

Whether one is unsure if they qualify, or they want to know how much they'll receive to help plan and budget, this guide has all the information one needs to know about the COVID-19 relief payments.

To see all **TexPIRG Education Fund's** COVID-19-related tip guides, visit <https://us.pirg.org/feature/us/covid19-consumer-tips>.

Pearland issues more restrictions for parks

The City of Pearland has issued additional park restrictions. The areas impacted include playgrounds, courts, restrooms, pavilions and dog parks.

The city continues to work with local, regional and state partners to monitor COVID-19 and keep the community safe and informed.

The Emergency Management group including the Incident Management Team and City Departments, with guidance from the Texas Department of Health Services (DSHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have been planning and changing how staff, facilities, equipment, and ser-

VICES operate in this rapidly evolving situation to continue providing services to the community while keeping residents and employees safe.

In an effort to further promote social distancing and flatten the curve of COVID-19, effective Friday, April 10, 2020, until further notice, the city's parks will be closing the following areas: playgrounds, courts, restrooms, pavilions and dog parks.

The city encourages the use of the trail systems and green spaces that are open, but still actively mandate social distancing measures of a minimum of 6 feet between individuals.

Flood control district begins final phase

Continued from Page 1
 truck traffic when passing near construction access points and along truck routes.

Dagg Detention Basin
 Also this month, the Harris County Flood Control District will begin construction of the Dagg Stormwater Detention Basin, located near the intersection of Culien Boulevard and the Sam Houston Tollway.

The Dagg basin will be constructed at the 22-acre site of a former sand pit purchased by the Flood Control District in 2017. Safety considerations require filling in a 50-foot-deep portion of the former sand pit. Doing so will not reduce the capacity of the Dagg basin to hold excess stormwater because the storage area is above the water level to the top of the basin's banks. The Flood Control District will save approximately \$22 million by using a portion

of the South Belt excavated material as fill for the Dagg basin, resulting in lower disposal costs and savings versus commercially acquired rip-rap fill.

Along with a tree buffer, the Dagg basin design includes floating islands for stormwater quality treatment — a first for Harris County. The floating islands are anchored to the floor of the basin and planted with specialty plant species whose root systems help filter impurities. The basin will be part of a demonstration project to determine what types of islands can withstand floodwater fluctuations as well as provide effective stormwater quality treatment.

When complete, the basin will hold approximately 188 acre-feet, or more than 61 million gallons, of stormwater that otherwise might flood homes and businesses in the area.

Leader adapts to change

Due to a lack of sports- and school-related news in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, this week's *Leader* will be only eight pages in length, rather than its normal 12 pages.

This year will also mark the first time in the *Leader's* 45-year history the paper will not have a graduation issue.

While it remained unclear at press time if local school districts would still have graduation ceremonies, social distancing recommendations would prohibit much of the photography normally associated with the special edition.

Readers urged to send stories

The *Leader* staff is curious as to how South Belt families are spending their time now that local officials have suggested to social distance from others and refrain from public gatherings, forcing many to work and study from home.

Readers are encouraged to email their adaptation stories and photos (list both first and last names in order, left to right) to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

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For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
 Jeremiah 29:11

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Protecting officers, community members



In an effort to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District recently presented masks to all officers from the local Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz patrol contract area which includes also Sagemeadow and Kirkmont MUDs. The protective gear is designed to protect both officers and the public from contracting the disease. Shown above trying out the new masks are, left to right, David Matthews, Jim Towey, Lee Hernandez, Cecile Ganje and Robert Sanchez.

Photo by Marie Flickinger



Signs of the times

During this unique time of life the South Belt community is seeing a number of different signs not normally found in the area. Pictured a message board that honors the heroes that are working tirelessly at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital from every department. If members of the community would like to send cards and notes for medical staff and essential personnel, forward to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital; Attn: Administration, 11800 Astoria Blvd. Houston, TX 77089. To the left is a picture of sacks decorated by young residents of the community who left them for members of Texas Pride trash collection company.



Shown above are Cristian Tamayo (left) and Daniela Tamayo from the Lake at Golfcrest neighborhood. Daniella is a fourth-grade student at Atkinson Elementary and Cristian is a fifth-grade student at St. Helen's Catholic School. Both cousins wanted to send well wishes to the residents of the South Belt area.



Stay Safe is the message from Sierra Robertson and her recent artwork. Robertson, a junior at South Houston High and a member of the Early College High School Program at San Jacinto College. She is a honor student and recently with her parents Katrina and Justin Robertson moved to Highland Meadows subdivision. In her time away from attending school, she has been keeping up with classes online, doing softball drills in the backyard with her sisters and painting and drawing. Thanks to South Belt resident Mike Davis who brought attention to this.



These signs, and others similar kept residents from using all City, County and community recreational facilities over the Easter holiday. During non-holiday times, access to many of the recreation areas is still very limited as areas such as playground equipment is "yellow-taped" to keep people out.
 Photo by Davy Flickinger

Cornyn, SBA's Jeffcoat share CARES information

Sen. John Cornyn and SBA's Tim Jeffcoat provided CARES Act funding information for BAHEP's first virtual general membership meeting. On April 9, 2020, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership held a virtual general membership meeting featuring Cornyn and the federal response to COVID-19 as well as Jeffcoat, district director for the Small Business Administration. The meeting was facilitated by Jimmy Spence, BAHEP marketing director and more than 180 BAHEP members were in virtual attendance — a first in the 44-year history of the organization.

Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, opened the meeting with welcoming remarks and appreciation to Cornyn for his participation. The senator said, "I'm glad that Tim Jeffcoat is on the line, too, because he and the SBA people may be the most popular folks in town now given the \$350 billion that we are trying to push out to small businesses to help them stay afloat during this very difficult time."

Cornyn reported that Congress has passed three pieces of legislation to date the latest of which is the bipartisan CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) that was signed at the end of March. It has already brought \$47 million in recovery grants to the Houston area. He added, "We know that this is a health crisis and an economic crisis unlike any we've experienced before. If you told me a couple of months ago that I'd end up voting for \$2.2 trillion in spending in a single bill and that the vote would be unanimous in the Senate, I wouldn't have believed it."

Health care is first concern

Cornyn said that health care is obviously the first concern. "We've pushed \$100 billion out the door of which \$30 billion will be going shortly. There's flexibility on how that money is spent, but the idea is to maintain capacity to make sure the hospitals and professionals are there to take care of those who need them," he noted.

Cornyn said that the key to dealing with the pandemic is ultimately developing drugs that can treat COVID-19. He stated, "Having a vaccine is the goal, but that's probably going to be towards fall at the earliest. In the meantime, individuals and businesses need a lifeline; so, the federal government is providing by direct deposit to your bank account, if you filed a 2019 tax return, up to \$1,200 a person, \$2,400 for a married couple and up to \$3,400 for a family of four that makes up to \$150,000. This is designed to tide people over to the next step which may well be unemployment insurance. We've extended unemployment insurance by 13 weeks and expanded the benefit by adding an additional \$600 per week in federal unemployment benefits in addition to the state's portion."

The senator also said that it is necessary to make sure jobs are still going to be there for people when this economy starts coming back. He offered, "That's why we established through SBA certified lenders the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). It's initially funded with \$350 billion and designed to provide a strong incentive for employers if they can, and not everybody can, to maintain their payroll and to help pay their rent and overhead."

If they do that through June, what initially started out as a low-interest, 1 percent loan can then be forgiven." Lenders started receiving applications on April 3. Cornyn admitted that there have been challenges

due to the overwhelming number of applications. He explained, "This is a completely new system; so, it's a big learning curve for all of us. There are going to be gaps and unintended consequences and we want to learn from that and make sure that we get the money to the people who need it the most as fast as we can and not waste any money if we can help it. I encourage you to reach out to my team in Houston, Jay Guerrero and Ben Daily, if there are other things we can do to help."

The senator reported that the Federal Reserve has announced another lending facility that will loan out close to half a trillion dollars, which will have a huge boost in terms of liquidity for companies that are finding difficulty with cash flow. He said that for companies with the collateral to secure those loans and pay them back on reasonable terms over the next couple of years, that is another effort to help those large businesses stay as healthy as possible.

Assistance critical for 501(c)(6) nonprofits

During the virtual meeting, Mitchell expressed his apprehension in regard to financial relief for 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations. He said, "Senator, one of the concerns we have is that 501(c)(6) nonprofits were not eligible for the PPP loans and/or the EIDL Program (Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program). I actually got a phone call earlier this afternoon that these nonprofits are eligible for the EIDL Program. It's so confusing. What can we do moving forward regarding the PPP? Is there a chance of getting 501(c)(6) nonprofits eligible for that?"

Cornyn replied that he has had enough feedback from people like Mitchell, chambers of commerce and others to take another look at the PPP and possibly expanding it to include 501(c)(6)s. He said that the goal is to allow nonprofits to keep their employees on the payrolls, too. Mitchell was appreciative of that possibility and said that it's been a tough situation for organizations like BAHEP, the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and the League City Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Mitchell then asked the senator what he would like to see in the next coronavirus relief package that would address issues that have been missed in the first three bills that have been passed. Cornyn replied that there have been ideas like an infrastructure bill. He said, "I'm game. We should have done an infrastructure bill already. The biggest challenge is how to pay for it. If the idea is getting people back to work, infrastructure will do that."

"We need to look at infrastructure across the board to include the oil and gas sector and our ports. We know that the Port of Houston is critical. What I really want to do is to make sure that all the money we've pushed out the door so far is working the way we intended and we have an opportunity to fix some of the gaps, like the nonprofit issue we just discussed, before we go on to do other things."

Mitchell then asked Cornyn to keep the coastal spine, a storm surge suppression system for the region, in mind as part of an infrastructure bill. Cornyn agreed that it was an important project.

SBA district director provides guidance

Mitchell then questioned if the EIDL advances are available now. Jeffcoat answered, "They absolutely are." He continued, "In many cases for businesses, it makes sense to pursue both the Economic Injury

Disaster Loan, since it is for a much longer period of time and covers operating costs, as well as the PPP, because its emphasis is going to be on payroll."

Spence asked Jeffcoat to comment on efforts to help people with existing SBA disaster loans that they may already have. Jeffcoat's answer included not only disaster loans but business loans as well. He said that lenders in the Houston area make SBA-guaranteed loans on a regular basis — every year over \$1 billion. He said that for any business which currently has an SBA micro loan or a 504 loan, those can be deferred for up to six months. "If you have one of those, just contact your lender and they should take care of you," Jeffcoat advised.

For existing disaster loans like from 2017's Hurricane Harvey, these have automatically been deferred by the SBA until Dec. 31, 2020. For a business that might currently have a 7(a) loan, the most popular loan guaranteed by the SBA, the SBA is making the payments for these businesses whose loans are in a regular servicing status for the next six months. That began on March 27.

Which lenders make SBA loans?

Spence then asked for clarification on institutions that are able to make SBA loans, since there has been confusion in this regard. Jeffcoat said that in the Houston area that includes Harris County and the 31 counties around it, there are about 190 lenders working with the SBA. All the lenders are capable of processing the PPP loans.

As of April 9, only about \$130 billion of the allotted \$350 billion has been approved. If someone's bank is not currently making these kinds of loans, Jeffcoat advised people to go to the SBA website which has a list of lenders who are willing to take new customers who do not have an existing relationship with the lender. The website is www.sba.gov/offices/district/tx/houston. At the top of the page is a link to Coronavirus (COVID-19): Relief Options and Additional Resources where one can find lenders at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>.

Mitchell then asked a question regarding applications for EIDL loans. Jeffcoat said that the SBA will quickly notify those who have applied for the loan that their application has been received and will provide an application number. (Editor's Note: As of April 10, the EIDL Program was out of funds.) The SBA also has an Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program allowing small businesses that currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing to bridge the gap while applying for a direct SBA EIDL.

Spence questioned Jeffcoat regarding the timeline involved from the completion of a loan application to the receipt of funds. Jeffcoat replied that the timeline differs from lender to lender depending upon which process is used. It can be as little as a few days, but he said it's difficult to be more specific due to the process employed.

Mitchell closed by thanking Cornyn and Guerrero for their efforts in setting up the meeting. Jeffcoat for his expertise, the BAHEP members who listened in on the meeting and asked questions, and finally to health care workers across the nation who are doing such an amazing job.

CCISD begins registration

Continued from Page 1
 Clear Creek ISD also provides evaluation services for children between the ages of two and five, who are not in a district Pre-K program and are not yet kindergarten age, to determine if a child has a special education disability and if there is a need for special education services.

The Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD), serving children beginning on their third birthday, is the district's special education program to meet the needs of students identified as needing these services. To schedule an evaluation

when schools reopen, parents and guardians may call 281-284-0330.

Visit www.ccisd.net/enrollment for more information on qualifications to

enroll in Clear Creek ISD's pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs as well as step-by-step registration instructions and list of necessary documentation.

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