



South Belt-Ellington Leader

44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Leader takes precautions

The *Leader* is now implementing a locked-door policy and is asking the public to refrain from personal office visits. Residents are asked to direct inquiries and suggestions and call 281-481-5656 or email mynews@southbeltleader.com. After-hours phone calls may be directed to *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger at 281-948-2714.

Trash pickup continues

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, April 9, (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Feb. 10, (second Friday of the month). April is for junk waste, but tree waste will also be accepted. For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Changes to Leader content

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.

Election date changed

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee has pushed its election back to Saturday, April 18. In an effort to abide by governmental recommendations, the group will hold the election electronically. Two seats are up for grabs in the contest. Details will be posted on the Sagemeadow HOA website, sagemeadow.org and on social media.

Additionally, the next committee meeting is scheduled to take place Thursday, April 16. Depending on circumstances, the function may be another come-and-go style, a "parking lot" meeting, or it may be canceled entirely.

For more information, email the Sagemeadow HOA at info@sagemeadow.org or leave a message at 832-377-0847.

Beltway closures planned

At least one inside lane of the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Genoa Red Bluff to Crenshaw daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through to Thursday, April 9.

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 9.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 from Vista to SH 225 will be closed daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, April 9.

At least one inside lane of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed at SH 225 daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Tuesday, April 7, and nightly from :30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, April 8.

There will be a total closure of the northbound Beltway 8 frontage road at SH 225 nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, April 8.

At least one inside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to SH 288 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, April 5. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Knights cancel fish fries

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 has once again canceled its fundraising fish fry dinners at St. Luke Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road.

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

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

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.

South Belt COVID-19 continues; victims connected to area

The South Belt community continues to grapple with the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) scare, with at least one resident case being confirmed as testing positive.

While federal privacy laws prohibit hospitals from releasing personal patient information, multiple area health officials have corroborated the account with the *Leader*.

At press time, rumors had some area employees identified as testing positive, but the *Leader* was unable to confirm the rumors. Harris County health officials will not release the ZIP codes of infected

individuals. They will only identify quadrants of the county. It also remained unclear at press time what steps have been taken to ensure other employees or customers have not also become infected.

As a precaution, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital has curtailed nearly all visitations. See related story on this page.

METRO
Additionally, a METRO driver with ties to the South Belt has also tested positive for the virus. The driver operated the 247 Fuqua Park & Ride

from 6:18 a.m. to 9:17 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24, and Wednesday, 25.

Anyone riding the routes driven by the operator in the last 14 days should monitor themselves for possible symptoms, contact their health care provider as soon as they develop symptoms and self-isolate to avoid exposing others.

METRO is working with public health officials so they can identify and notify anyone who rode the bus on these routes in the last 14 days.

METRO has enhanced the cleaning and disin-

fecting of its buses. The buses used for the routes driven by the driver who has tested positive have also been temporarily removed from service for additional sanitation. Since March 20, METRO has sought to minimize the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission by an operator or passengers by encouraging social distancing on its buses and adding vehicles on heavily traveled routes so that this can be accomplished.

On March 23, METRO instituted back-door
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Southeast VFD welcomes new engine



Southeast Volunteer Fire Department had a visit this week from the new Pierce Ascendant 100' Mid Mount Tower truck which the department is purchasing. The truck should be in service by May 15. Shown in foreground is Chief Chuck Tylka who is talking to Steve Mannis, manager of Siddons Martin, the company selling the truck. In background is Cory Frankum also representing the truck manufacturer; seated in the truck is Dean Baier, senior member paramedic with Southeast VFD.
Photo by Marie Flickinger

Clear Creek ISD postpones May 2 election

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees approved an order to postpone the Saturday, May 2, 2020, school board election to the uniform election date of Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020.

The approval took place during the March 23 board meeting earlier this week and was based on Gov. Greg Abbott's proclamation on March 18, 2020, in which he gave political subdivisions including CCISD the option to postpone the May general and special elections until the fall in light of the circumstances.

District 2 position, currently held by trustee Win Weber, and District 3 position, currently held by trustee Arturo Sanchez are up for election. In

the District 2 position, candidates include Michelle M. Davis, Will Stromeyer and Win Weber. In the District 3 position, candidates include Jason Clark and Arturo Sanchez. To learn more about each candidate, visit the CCISD board election page at https://www.ccisd.net/explore_cc_c_i_s_d/board_of_trustees/board_election_information.

Applications for a ballot by mail ("ABBMs") for voters that are voting by mail due to being over the age of 65 or due to disability will still be valid for the November election. The voter registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 5, 2020 and the deadline to submit an ABBM is Friday, Oct. 23, 2020.

Early voting will now take place Monday, Oct. 19, through Friday, October 23, 2020, though the

times and locations are to be determined.

Election Day polls will be open Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Locations are to be determined.

FTC offers tips to avoid scammers

Scammers are taking advantage of fears associated with the COVID-19 virus to financially benefit.

The Federal Trade Commission offers the following tips to keep crooks at bay:

- Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their

call list, but it might lead to more robocalls, instead.

- Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are trying to get you to buy products that aren't proven to treat or prevent the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) online or in stores. At this time, there also are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the coronavirus. Visit the FDA to learn more.

- Fact-check information. Scammers, and
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May 15 San Jac graduation delayed

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation in our region, San Jacinto College will postpone its May 15 commencement ceremony. "This was a very difficult decision," said San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "We know that graduation is a time when our graduates and their families should celebrate their academic achievements. For me, this is my favorite part of my job, celebrating with students who have overcome much to get to this point. However, we have to keep the health and safety of all of our college community in mind. We are committed to finding the best solution possible for our graduates and their families once the coronavirus situation is over."

A new date or other arrangements will be announced as they are available. For up-to-date information on the San Jac altered operations period during COVID-19, visit sanjac.edu/coronavirus.

Emergency funding
The San Jacinto College Foundation Board of Directors has approved \$200,000 in emergency funding to assist students in need during the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

"We know that circumstances have changed for many of our students as a result of the
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CCISD teacher job fair ends April 4

Previously scheduled as an in-person job fair, the newly planned virtual job fair will provide applicants the ability to share a personal glimpse into their interest and background, in addition to the standard resume and application submittals.

"During these unprecedented times, it is important for us to continue to connect with those interested in joining our team and furthering our mission and I commend our staff for finding ways to conduct this virtually," said Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith.

Interested applicants will begin by applying online for current job openings for next school year. Then, they will have the opportunity to upload a two-minute video through CCISD's Flipgrid profile under the campuses or departments of choice.

Applications and videos must be submitted no later than April 4. Campus and department staff will reach out to those applicants with whom they

are interested in connecting further.

For more information and directions on using Flipgrid, visit www.ccisd.net/jobfair.

San Jac donates COVID-19 supplies

In response to the ongoing need for medical supplies and personal protection equipment for medical professionals on the front line fighting COVID-19, San Jacinto College has transferred a pallet full of medical supplies to Harris County Public Health.

"This challenging situation has put our healthcare partners in critical need of PPE and equipment and we are glad to be able to lend a hand to our neighbors in this way," said San Jacinto
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Seniors to benefit from food events

Lt. Jerry Garcia, candidate for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable, Hilton Furniture & Mattress and the *South Belt Leader* will host a food collection drive Saturday, April 4, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Hilton location adjacent to Almeda Mall at 12100 Gulf Freeway.

"Many seniors are without transportation and family members," Garcia said. "During our stay-home order, many seniors are unable to go to grocery stores and are unable to provide for themselves. Those who do have transportation should not be endangering themselves by going grocery shopping since our seniors are most vulnerable to succumbing to the coronavirus due to their other health issues that might hinder their ability to fight off the virus."

Volunteers will be outside Hilton Furniture, where drivers will pull up and pop their trunks. Helpers will receive items. There will be no direct contact with people, limiting any possible spread of the disease.

Once removed from the trunk, all items will be placed on a table, where they will be disinfected. They will then be organized according to
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Chamber plans stimulus event

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce is preparing a webinar event to help local businesses understand the "Payroll Protection Program" in the recently passed stimulus bill.

As the chamber strives to be a resource hub for small businesses, it will host this webinar alongside some of the community's top financial leaders and experts.

The following concerns are to be addressed:
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Community Health Network conducts testing for COVID-19

Once the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo announced it was closing all activities due to COVID-19 risk measures, Community Health Network recognized its role as a leader in providing primary health care and to act into preparing its staff for the upcoming battle against COVID-19.

Community Health Network has taken all necessary steps to ensure that responding to the needs and safety of the community and its staff comes first. By expanding their testing capabilities, they are providing COVID-19 prescreening

and testing by following the Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Scarsdale Family Health Center, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd Suite 160, is part of Community Health Network, and is keeping its doors open to the community for adult primary care, prenatal care and women's health care, pediatrics, behavioral health, pharmacy services as well as COVID-19 testing.

To access these services call 281-824-1480, or text name to 281-385-8401, or visit www.mychn.org.

Memorial modifies visitor policy

Memorial Hermann Health System has further modified its visitor policy as an effort to continue to protect patients, workforce, caregivers and the community.

As of Friday, March 27, Memorial Hermann no longer allows visitors to enter its facilities until further notice.

This policy modification applies to all Memorial Hermann facilities.

This decision will further protect patients and the community from the spread of COVID-19 and help conserve Memorial Her-

mann's supply of personal protective equipment to ensure its ability to continue providing safe care during this time.

The following limited exceptions to the "no visitor" policy will be made and these visitors will be required to clear a health screening before entering the facility.

Exceptions may vary by location. They include:

- One visitor for laboring women.
- One visitor (parent or guardian) for pediatric

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Hospital heroes recognized



Memorial Employees got a nice surprise recently when they came to work and found welcoming messages. Shown, left to right, are Jose Damian, RN; Ryan Arnold, RN; Kayley Wilson; Ashley Moss, RN; Jordan Bounds; Samantha Anderson, RN; Morgan Patterson, RN; Loretta Garza, RN; and Gary Godfrey, RN.

In My Opinion

King on City of Houston's "Resiliency" Plan

I spent a couple of hours last week wading through the City's recently released Resilient Houston, a plan, which, according to its authors, "provides a framework for collective action for every Houstonian; our diverse neighborhoods and watersheds; city departments; and local, regional, and global partners . . . to protect Houston against future disasters—from hurricanes to extreme heat waves—and chronic stresses such as aging infrastructure, poor air quality, and flooding."

There are some good ideas in the report, like planting a lot more trees and trying to get buildings out of the floodway. Although I'm not sure we really needed a year-long study that cost God-knows-what to know that planting more trees and not building in the floodway are good ideas.

It also sets a lot of completely unrealistic goals with no concrete ideas on how to accomplish the goals. For example, we will apparently have no more car-crash fatalities or serious injuries by 2030. Most of the goals are sufficiently far enough in the future that everyone will have forgotten about them when they are not met.

There are also some truly idiotic ideas. My favorite is to spend \$5,000,000 on local artists to "create resilience awareness projects across the city." Can you imagine what a boondoggle that would be? BTW, it would take the annual property taxes of

about 500 average Houston homeowners to pay that bill!

Mostly the study is a bunch of new-urbanist nonsense that if we would all just give up our cars, start riding the light rail or biking to work, and move into a 1,000 square-foot multi-story apartment, the City would become a metropolitan utopia. I was a little surprised there was no recommendation that everyone in the City start wearing Birkenstocks.

The report never mentions the City's structural deficit. The word "pension" does not appear in the report, even though that remains the City's largest ongoing fiscal issue. It only has one oblique reference to the City's financial challenges saying, "We will need to develop new funding and financing tools that enhance our current funding." Of course, that is code that we are going to come up with some creative new ways to tax you more.

There are many references to the City's aging and inadequate infrastructure, but not even the vaguest hint about how to address that issue, what the priorities should be, or how to finance new projects.

All in all, this will be another study that will become a dust collector on some shelf at City Hall. Too bad the City didn't spend the money on actually fixing something, like maybe some potholes.

Bill King

Bay Area Genealogical Society suspends activities

The Houston Public Library including the Clayton Center for Genealogical Research has suspended service at all locations until further notice. In that light, the BAGS board has canceled all activities of the Bay Area Genealogical Society until further notice. BAGS is evaluating options for electronic meetings and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Bay Area Genealogical Society has held its monthly meetings in the Chapel at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive. For more information, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org or call Kim Zubrek at 281-992-2636.

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://houstonemergency.org/covid19> or call 832-393-4220 for more information meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the number of people infected. For more 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 ebooks 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 eBooks, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive
- Stream classic films, indie cinema, and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks
- 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 eBooks 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>.

Elected officials share their words

Commissioner Rodney Ellis statement COVID-19: Community Resources

Dear Friends,

Lives are on the line, and Harris County is responding. We continue to take unprecedented steps to reduce the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and making tough, yet appropriate, decisions to protect the health of county residents. I commend Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner for their bold decision to restrict the operation of county and city restaurants to only take out, delivery, or drive-through services, and close bars and nightclubs until March 31.

I recognize the economic hardships many residents and business owners will experience during this period may be long-lasting. You have my commitment, that once we get through this, we will do everything in our power to assist those who are sacrificing for the greater good. Together, we must ensure as much social distancing as possible to slow the spread of the virus to reduce the devastation in our community.

Although each of us will have a personal story of how this has affected our lives, focusing on the community's health and working together to get through this time is how we will overcome these enormous obstacles. We will get through this pandemic together. Having the latest and the most accurate information is vital to helping you make the best decisions for you and your family.

Below you will find the latest information from various entities that was compiled by my staff. While we have made an effort to include as much information as possible, there may be some updates that we did not receive. County guidelines: Precinct One will be following the guidelines jointly issued by Harris County Public Health Department, the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Harris County and the City of Houston on March 12. Designed to create the social distancing needed to help slow the spread of the virus throughout our community, these guidelines are what we will follow. Please note that the guidelines were updated yesterday and now limit gathering to 10 people or less. Additionally, the following Precinct One facilities and programs will be closed or suspended until further notice: Precinct One community centers, any gatherings of greater than 10 people, all seniors programs (excluding Meals on Wheels), organized sports at Precinct One sports fields, Harris County aquatics program, Youth after-school programs, Precinct One transportation services. Resources: Important Numbers: to help separate fact from fiction, you can have your questions answered by trained professionals:

Harris County residents can get the latest information by calling Harris County Public Health's dedicated hotline at 832-927-7575 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday) you can also text CV19 to 888777 to get text updates directly from Ready Harris. City of Houston residents are encouraged to contact 832-393-4220 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m. M-F, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday). Additionally uninsured residents of unincorporated Harris County can call the "Ask My Nurse" hotline for clinical-related questions at 713-634-1110 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday)

Immigrants: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that any testing, treatment or services relating to COVID19 will NOT be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation. More information can be found here.

Small Business Relief: Harris County and the State of Texas are working to qualify for Small Business Administration Economic Injury Loan Disaster. To complete and EIDL worksheet, business owners can go to this website. This is NOT a loan application but will help qualify Texas for inclusion in the program.

Food Distribution: HISD is partnering with the Houston Food Bank to get food out to our community. Curbside pickup is available and social distancing is required. Check the map for time and place.

Price Gouging: If you witness an instance of price gouging during the #COVID19 response, report it to the Harris County Attorney's Office so that we can hold them accountable. Email ConsumerHelp@cao.hctx.net or call 832-839-6941.

Volunteer: Volunteers are needed at the Houston Food Bank and fosters are needed at area animal shelters.

Grocery Stores: Grocery stores will continue to operate and are restocking every day. No need to rush to the store or hoard food. Stores will have varied hours to provide time to restock. While at the stores, practice social distancing and be sensitive to the needs of others. Curbside pick up and delivery are good options too, some stores are also offering those services for free during this time. They are also hiring!

Mental Health: Take care of your mental health during the COVID-19 outbreak. Disaster Distress Line 1-800-985-5990 offers free counseling 24/7 (in various languages).

Staying Healthy: Please keep in mind that the number one way to reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19 remains good hygiene and cleaning practices, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Harris County Public Health. That means you should wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds several times a day, stay home if you're feeling sick, and sterilize dirty surfaces at home and at work with detergent or soap.

I hope these resources are helpful. Feel free to share with your neighbors. We'll continue updating our list and providing frequent updates.

Thank you for continuing to care for your family and neighbors during this difficult time. Please reach out to my office if we can be of assistance or answer your questions. Together, we will get through this. Sincerely, Rodney Ellis

Senator John Cornyn relays bipartisan coronavirus legislation information

Sen. Cornyn authored the following op-ed in the Dallas Morning News on the three coronavirus relief packages he worked on in the Senate and how they will benefit Texans:

The rapid spread of the novel coronavirus has taken a tremendous toll on the physical and financial health of the American people. As the number of cases has soared, medical professionals and leaders at every level have made a single, critical request: stay home.

Social distancing is key to flattening the curve to avoid overwhelming our health care system. While it's the most important thing Texans can do right now, that doesn't mean this shift in our daily routines is without consequence. Small businesses and schools have closed their doors, restaurants have switched to takeout-only operations, and families have canceled travel plans. As a result, millions of workers have lost their jobs and our economic engine has slowed to a sputter.

Think about the waiter at your favorite Tex-Mex restaurant, the person who cuts your hair, the housekeeper who cleans rooms at a nearby hotel — a few weeks ago, each of these men and women had a reliable source of income, and today, many have either been laid off or forced to work fewer hours.

Texas workers and small businesses have been burdened by this crisis at no fault of their own, and the U.S. Senate just delivered serious assistance.

On Wednesday, we unanimously passed a bill which will send direct financial help to the Texans who need it. A family of four can receive up to \$3,400 because of this legislation, with no piles of paperwork to sort through. It also expands unemployment insurance eligibility, and provides an extra \$600 a week in federal unemployment benefits. When it comes to covering bills and navigating this uncertainty, that money is a lifeline.

This bill also provides serious relief for small businesses. It creates new loans to help these businesses cover everything from mortgage payments to payroll expenses, and helps ensure employees at businesses of all sizes will have the support they need now, and jobs to come back to later.

Of course, this bill also gets to the heart of this crisis — the virus itself. It provides \$100 billion for hospitals that are struggling to manage the influx of patients, and it helps fight the shortage

of critical medical devices, such as respirators. It also cuts red tape to speed up the process of making vaccines and treatments widely available, and helps get doctors and nurses to the hardest-hit areas.

This legislation builds on two bills President Donald Trump signed earlier this month.

The first invested \$8.3 billion in the early stages of our fight against the coronavirus. It provided funding for masks and other personal protective equipment for our health care professionals and first responders, and supported our community health centers and state and local health departments. It also bolstered our resources in the race to develop a vaccine, possible treatments and more diagnostics.

Shortly after that, we passed a second bill to support the workers and small businesses hit hardest by this pandemic. It improved paid sick leave for those impacted by the coronavirus, made unemployment insurance more accessible, and strengthened food security for Americans of all ages. It also made coronavirus testing free for all Americans — no one should ever be in a position of sacrificing health and safety because of cost.

Amid all this uncertainty, one thing is abundantly clear: There's no time for politics as usual. Each of these bills received broad bipartisan support in both the Senate and House, and each was quickly signed by the president. I'm proud to have joined both Republicans and Democrats in swiftly passing these bills to bolster our nation's response to the coronavirus.

As millions of Texans hunker down at home, there's an entire network of people who have continued working. Our incredible health care professionals and first responders are fighting this virus on the front lines. Farmers, ranchers and producers are growing our food, truckers are delivering it, and store employees and food bank volunteers are stocking shelves.

I'm incredibly grateful for the work these men and women are doing, day in and day out, to support their neighbors during this difficult time for our country. As this crisis continues to evolve in the days and weeks ahead, I promise to do the same.

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence and Judiciary Committees.

"Stay Home, Work Safe" By Dave Martin, Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin would like to make residents aware that recently Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced a "Stay Home, Work Safe" order to further contain the spread of COVID-19 in Houston and Harris County.

The order went into effect at 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, and will last until Friday, April 3, unless modified. The official order can be viewed here.

This order requires individuals to remain at home or a place of residence, with exceptions for essential work and activities. Businesses in the critical infrastructure sectors identified by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) can remain open.

These sectors include Chemical, Commercial Facilities, Communications, Critical Manufacturing, Dams, Defense Industrial Base, Emergency Services, Energy, Financial Services, Food and Agriculture, Government Facilities, Healthcare & Public Health, Information Technology, Nuclear, Transportation Systems, and Waste & Water Systems.

Childcare to support these industries is still permissible. Essential businesses like grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations will remain open. Restaurants may continue food takeout and delivery services, while bars and nightclubs will remain closed per Mayor Sylvester's emergency order announced on March 16.

City and county parks will also remain open, but residents are encouraged to maintain social distancing practices, such as: Avoid gatherings of 10 or more people.

Maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other people.

Avoid eating or drinking in bars, restaurants, and food courts - use drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options.

Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.

Do not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical care situations.

Residents are also encouraged to practice good hygiene habits, such as: Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Use hand sanitizer when you can't wash your hands.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, use the elbow of your sleeve.

Don't use your hands to cover coughs and sneezes. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, especially if you are at higher risk for Coronavirus.

Get plenty of rest, drink plenty of fluids, eat healthy foods, and manage your stress to keep your immunity strong.

Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.

For updated information about local risk, routine protective actions, frequently asked questions, communication resources, rumor control, emergency preparedness tips and more, please visit: <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19>.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin would like to thank District E residents for their cooperation to reduce the spread of COVID-19 throughout our communities. Times are tough and we are truly making the best of them.

For more information, contact Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin's office at (832) 393-3008 or trict@houston.tx.gov.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a surveillance video of a vehicle burglary in the Fuqua/Blackhawk area. The incident happened March 30. There were two suspects and one is described as a black male with a black shirt and pants. The other suspect was not captured on camera.

On the same Facebook group another surveillance video showed a vehicle burglary at Beverly Hills on March 30. The member states that there were three suspects in a gold minivan. The suspects took a pressure washer.

A member of *People of South Belt* Facebook group shared a post from San Jac College who will be providing free tutoring online for students. Student Success Center tutors have become available for online tutoring. Schedule an appointment online at <http://sjctutortrac.sanjac.edu>. Email any questions to ssctutoringsouth@sjcd.edu or ssctutoringcentral@sjcd.edu or ssctutoringnorth@sjcd.edu, depending on the campus that one attends.

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Tuesday & Thursday		7 p.m.

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

PISD HoF banquet canceled, but honorees not forgotten

The largest class of inductees yet was set to go into the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame April 4. While

that won't happen for now, it does nothing to take away from the accomplishments of this star-studded class.

For 2020, the eighth annual banquet at Phillips Field House would have welcomed seven individual athletes, a team and one of the most recognizable families in Pasadena ISD lore.

In the South Belt area, there is still plenty of affinity and admiration for the 1993 Dobie High School varsity softball team, which was scheduled to be among the inductees.

It happened to be the first-ever official year for softball in the state, with the University Interscholastic League having recognized the sport as officially beginning in the 1992-1993 school year.

Current Dobie High School varsity softball coach Robin Rackley was the team's starting catcher in 1993, and she had the honor of receiving pitches from Christa Williams, a two-time Olympic gold medalist who will forever be recognized as one of the greats of the game.

Going into that 1993 season, there was really no way of imagining the frontrunners in the Houston area, let alone the state. There was simply no history to draw upon.

Williams and teammate Heather Martinez, an out-

fielder, made the Texas Girls Coaches Association All-Tournament team in 1993 as freshmen, while Nicole Myers, the team's starter at third base, also

made the all-tourney squad as a sophomore. Martinez, who like Myers and Williams played on Dobie's 1995 state titlists as well, hit better than

.500 in the state tournament during wins over El Paso Bel Air and Tomball and remains a prominent fixture in the state recordbooks. The Lady Longhorns played well that 1993 season but settled for second place in an abbreviated district behind Texas City.

In fact, with just two teams qualifying for the postseason in 1993, Dobie had to win the equivalent of a play-in game against Deer Park just to get into the tournament field.

Yet once the Lady Longhorns got past the Lady Deer following another big pitching effort from Williams, the team seemed destined to make its way to state.

Martinez led the charge in that state semifinal game as Dobie used 17 hits to hammer El Paso Bel Air 10-2. In the other state semifinal, Tomball shut out Waco Midway 2-0.

The state championship game had Williams' imprint all over it, as she struck out 13 as part of a three-hit shut-out, handing the Lady Long-

horns a 1-0 win and Texas' first-ever state crown.

There was no state tournament Most Valuable Player

that season, but it was clear that Williams, herself already a Pasadena ISD Athletics

Continued on Page 5

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Robin Rackley, shown above is known today as Dobie High School's uber-successful varsity girls' softball head coach, but she is also a Lady Longhorn lifer, having been the team's starting catcher in 1993 as Dobie defeated Tomball 1-0 to capture the state's first-ever softball championship. The team and several other Pasadena ISD greats were to be inducted into the PISD Athletics Hall of Fame April 4, but a future plan will come later.
Photo by Jade Wise

Spring high school football workouts in jeopardy

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to delay and even threaten the continuance of any and all spring high school sports activities, which includes spring football workouts for those choosing to participate.

One of the hundreds of statewide football programs that very well could lose out on spring drills is Dobie, which means the Longhorns and perhaps all others will get an early start in August.

The University Interscholastic League has yet to affirm official start dates for the 2020-2021 sports year, but suffice to say Dobie will be allowed the earliest possible August workout start date in addition to two scrimmage outings before the start of the regular season should spring workouts

indeed go by the wayside. Specific varsity football schedules have yet to be released, including home or away game sites. PISD Director of Athletics Rupert Jaso confirmed that no set dates or schedules are due anytime soon where it relates to

Little leagues on hold until May 11
Little League International, which governs better than 6,500 baseball and softball leagues in 84 countries, continues to advise its members, including the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League, that no activities occur prior to May 11.
The recommended temporary suspension of activities via Little League International was last updated March 16 and includes a link for additional information and updates at LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus.
While leagues such as SBHLL and the South Belt Girls Softball Association could indeed begin play as much as two months or more behind normal schedule, Little League International officials still hope to salvage as much of the 2020 as possible when it is deemed safe to return.
As is the case with many athletic leagues in both the public and private school sectors, it is hoped that youth leagues nationwide will be able to compete at some point in May. SBHLL is part of the Southwest Region, based in Waco.
The Southwest Region will be responsible for adjusting/rescheduling any postseason/all-star events if and when that time comes.

Moreno knows resuming tennis play will be tight
Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. vows to do his part to see the remainder of the spring season, including district, regional and state action, play out.
He does, however, admit the schedule will be tight if play is allowed at all.
The UIL currently has May 4 as the first allowable day for any spring sport to resume. Where tennis is concerned, that would allow for less than three weeks before the regularly scheduled state tournament.
"The first issue is the safety of the kids and how quickly they can prepare their bodies for competitive play," he said.
"You want the kids practicing social distancing and doing the right things to stay free of illness. With that in mind, having enough time to go through district and regional play would be tight, but I think it can be done."
Moreno obviously feels for all his young athletes affected,

JFD boys' basketball coaching search rolls on

The coronavirus pandemic has understandably tabled several key issues at hand

at many schools, but the search for just the fifth-ever varsity boys' basketball coach in program history, including just its third in the last 40 years, pushes on.

2009 due to a heart episode. He is the winningest varsity head coach of any sport in the district's history and twice advanced Dobie to the Region III Final Four, including 1988-1989, when Cross was a key member of the roster along with his brother, former varsity assistant head coach Stephen Cross.

Kevin Cross had long been Talton's top aide before succeeding him upon retirement.
For Cross in terms of on-court results, the highlight came in 2015-2016 as senior Royce Hunter led Dobie's charge to the Region III semifinals before a loss to Cy-Lakes, then paced by current NBA standout DeAaron Fox.
The next Dobie head coach will be rebuilding at the top levels. The 2019-2020 roster featured 10 seniors, including four-year varsity performer Marquice Scott, the team's leading scorer who is set to graduate. Scott was a 22-6A first-team honoree after this season, and fellow senior Shannon Hayes made the second team.
Among the returnees for 2020-2021, Jaylon Jackson is a full-time basketball player who will be a senior. Johnathan Baldwin and Braden Gant are football players who figure to join the 2021 team following the completion of the football season. They, too, will be seniors.
The solace as Dobie

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age, 1 - yellow electric bulb (safelight), 1 - lens cover, 4 - various size paper holders, 2 - Beseler negative carriers 35mm and 23C. \$150. Please call 281-485-5114. 4-9

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CALENDAR

Due to current circumstances, it is advisable to verify if meetings are still being held prior to attending.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
 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 details, or drop in.

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
 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 details, or drop in.

7 p.m.
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.

8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays from 8 to 9 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, find that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
 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, or drop in.

11 a.m.
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. For additional information, 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 details, call 281-484-9243.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
 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.

5:30 p.m.
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.

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.

MONDAY, APRIL 6
 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 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 details, or drop in.

11:30 a.m.
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 additional information, or drop in.

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

6:30 p.m.
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 commit-

ted 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.

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

7 p.m.
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.

7:30 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing Mondays has been canceled until fall. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or csh@shaarhashalom.org.

7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For additional information, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
 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 details, or drop in.

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

6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Quilt Guild Auction - All events are canceled until further notice. For more information, visit bayareaquiltguild.org.

7 p.m.

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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
 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 details, or drop in.

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

7 p.m.
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.

7 p.m.
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.

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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
 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 details, or drop in.

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

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

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Co-Defensive Players/Year

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Newcomer/Year

Orlando Horton, Clear Falls

Coach of the Year

Jason Wilson, Dickinson

First-Team Selections

Samuel Bell, Alvin

Kemo Millender, Clear Brook

Maurice Pinnock, Clear Creek

Corey Kelley, Clear Falls

Alex Lee, Clear Lake

Garrett Rooker, Clear Springs

Deuce Guidry, Dickinson

Second-Team Selections

Brayden Wright, Alvin

Zyon Little, Clear Brook

Coleman Kramm, Clear Creek

Nick Anderson, Clear Creek

Von Wells, Clear Falls

Carson Lindsey, Clear Falls

Jeffrey First, Clear Lake

Jabari Miller, Dickinson

Honorable Mention - Brook

Shane Porter

Jordan Baker

JaMichael Young

Marcus Millender

Delgado shines as one of Dobie's bright young talents



Shown above is Sebastian Delgado. Aside from his considerable talent on the tennis courts as Dobie's top-ranked player for both 2018 and 2019, Delgado was part of the school's Academic Decathlon program this school year, where he medaled.

Sebastian Delgado didn't win many tennis games, let alone matches, as a seventh-grade student at Beverly Hills Intermediate, so he resolved to do better.

By the end of his eighth-grade season, Delgado had placed fourth in the district to better his efforts. Mission accomplished. Once he decided to join the Dobie tennis program, he often couldn't find enough court space for which to hone his game, yet he vowed to himself that he would. He wound up winning the district championship as a freshman, then began his varsity career as a sophomore ranked as low as No. 13 on the boys' singles ladder.

To date, he has competed in back-to-back seasons in the team fall campaign as the Longhorns' No. 1 ranked boys' singles player.

If the current spring seasons is in fact over or is deemed to be so in the coming days or weeks, Delgado will end his solid career with the Longhorns as not only the two-year No. 1 boys' singles player and two-year team captain, as bestowed upon him by his teammates, but much more.

"He's been one of the hardest workers I've been around since he got here as a freshman," Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said of Delgado.

"Playing tennis requires a lot of time and effort, but he's also been a student athletic trainer and has devoted his time to Academic Decathlon this year, winning a state medal. That's not easy to do. Losing Sebastian to graduation will be a big loss for us. He's just been such a valuable source for the program and for all of his teammates. He should be proud of what he has done at Dobie High School, and there's no doubt that he is going to be very successful in the future."

Delgado freely admits he isn't likely to go on to enjoy greatness on the collegiate tennis scene past this year, but does endeavor to one day help allow more South Belt area youths the opportunity to play the game right here in the community.

Whatever Delgado does, he always wants to become better or more proficient not only for himself but also to help encourage and inspire those around him to do better. Moreno said prior to the season that he felt great about the 2020 team tennis group as a whole, including its leadership with captains like Delgado and the Morales twins, Gisell and Kristy.

Turns out Moreno was right. After two seasons of faltering in the first round of the postseason, the Longhorns dumped La Porte in 2019 to

advance. Delgado, the Morales twins and others, it seemed, had willed the Longhorns to not only believe but to expect more.

For Delgado, he said it all began in the third grade when an aunt and uncle introduced him to the game. Once he arrived at Beverly Hills Intermediate, Delgado wanted to play football and basketball, which he did, but he also wanted to play tennis. "I only made it for four weeks, and I didn't win any matches, but I wanted to do my best to represent Beverly Hills Intermediate."

After eventually ending his BHI career on the courts with that fourth place finish, it was time to make a decision at Dobie. While Delgado still loved basketball, it was tennis that would take center stage from now on.

After having played down as low as 13th as a freshman but also winning that title as a freshman, Delgado said he played in USTA summer events and tried to play up a competition level or two when he could.

"Kobe Bryant is certainly one of my idols, and I always wanted to have that mentality he had in everything I did," Delgado said. "He was always the first one on the court and the last to leave. I wanted to do that, too, but I have always wanted to do my job and show

my coach that I can lead and be an example."

Throughout his career and especially this year, Delgado has done whatever he can to promote team unity and growth. He personally organized several team socials, a point Moreno speaks to as well, and simply has done whatever it takes to help both him and his teammates be successful.

"He just puts so much thought and detail into his ideas for the team," Moreno said. "His Secret Santa idea at Christmas was so well thought out. The other kids really bought in and had a great time with it. He gives a lot of credit to the other kids, and rightly so, but Sebastian comes up with so much on his own."

Oh, and there's also his venture as a member of Dobie's academic decathlon team. Buoyed by the support of history instructor Bob Daugherty, Delgado joined the team this school year as a newcomer and wound up third in the district in the varsity division. He went on to earn a state medal, something Delgado said brought tears to his eyes.

"Everything I do, I just want to give it my all," Delgado said. "I stayed up a lot of late nights studying for academic decathlon. I wasn't the best at it in the beginning and still am not, but I'm proud of the hard work my

teammates and I put in. In the end, it was a rewarding experience and something I'll always remember."

And Delgado will cherish his tennis career as it stands, whether or not the 22-6A spring championships are contested or not.

While he hasn't decided on a major, Delgado would like to attend Texas Tech University but is also considering Lamar University in Beaumont.

Moreno, having attended Lamar University and having played for former long-time head tennis coach Ron Westbrook, hopes Delgado ends up in Beaumont.

"Sebastian is not going to play competitive tennis there (Lamar), but I just think it would be a perfect fit for him," Moreno said. "They have an outstanding engineering program, and I know he has an interest in that."

He plans to play club tennis at the next stop and one day "wants to provide for a South Belt-based youth tennis facility."

Based on the drive and determination he has shown to this point in his young life, there's no reason to bet he won't do it.

"Sebastian is a gem of a young man. I am so honored to have had him in the program," said Moreno.

Photo submitted

Locals benefit from NCAA decision

Thousands of NCAA spring sports athletes will have the option of receiving a "do-

over" thanks to an important decision made by the group March 30.

Zamarripa to Howard Payne



Lutheran South Academy football standout Mark Zamarrripa (left) is headed to Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, after signing a letter of intent with the program in February. Zamarrripa was a first-team All-District performer for the Pioneers in 2019 as he helped his team reach the second round of the postseason. With Zamarrripa is Howard Payne graduate assistant/linebackers' coach Josh Spicely.

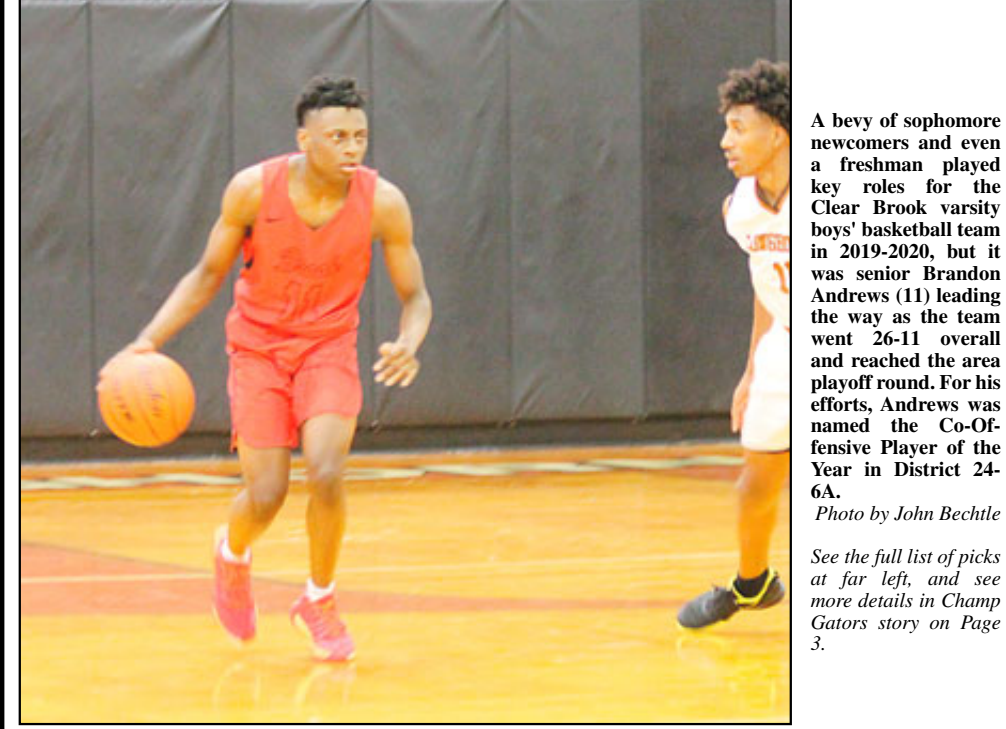
In the case of baseball and softball athletes, NCAA teams competed in 15-20 overall games and lost the chance to take part in conference or postseason play before the coronavirus pandemic essentially shuttered athletics worldwide. Now, athletes will have the chance to get the 2020 season that wasn't back.

Dobie graduate and current Louisiana State University women's softball player Taylor Pleasants, for example, will have the option of having her freshman year of athletic eligibility reinstated and can restart in 2021 with four seasons remaining. It's a nice gesture, for sure, as winter sports athletes, including men's and women's basketball players who saw their postseason tournament hopes dashed when play ended were not included in the decision. For them, especially the seniors, things are simply over.

There's a slew of former San Jac baseball players now competing at four-year schools who will get their year of eligibility reinstated. So will JUCO athletes in softball and baseball. But with as many as 14 current SJC baseball players having inked letters of intent, a return to the North campus for the 2021 season is unlikely.

For Pleasants, who at the time of the stoppage was enjoying a tremendous offensive start to her collegiate career, a season if giving back was simply the proper thing to do.

Andrews scores Co-Offensive Player/Year



A bevy of sophomore newcomers and even a freshman played key roles for the Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team in 2019-2020, but it was senior Brandon Andrews (11) leading the way as the team went 26-11 overall and reached the area playoff round. For his efforts, Andrews was named the Co-Offensive Player of the Year in District 24-6A. Photo by John Bechtle

Pscencik turns LSA career into Nebraska opportunity

Literally, born to attend Lutheran South Academy, Beau Pscencik has done plenty right by his institution, scoring numerous athletic performance honors as well as academic accolades along the way.

There's been three seasons as a big-time performer on the football field, a short spell in track and field and as well as a role on the Pioneers' 2019 state championship baseball team before an injury cut his stay short.

Like many of his peers, Pscencik hopes his senior year hasn't come to a premature end, complete with the potential loss of a senior prom and live graduation ceremony.

He jokingly admits that six weeks ago he would have gladly accepted a break of two weeks or so from school, but for right now the idea has gotten old.

What Pscencik is sure of is that he has fashioned a fine high school career - both on and off the field - into a chance to play college football at the University of Nebraska, where he will head later this summer. The way he sees it, the LSA way of life has worked out just fine for him.

Pscencik's father, Rob, is the athletic director and an assistant football coach with the Pioneers. His mother, Sheila, is the head of school at LSA, so Beau basically knew just where he was headed for academics as far back as kindergarten, and he's just fine with that.

"I really see it as a privilege to have been here at Lutheran South," Pscencik said. "You get to where you know everybody, all of your teammates, and you know your coaches better. They get a great feel for your abilities and what you can do."

"Particularly as juniors and seniors, we bonded as a group (on the football field) and really came together as one. We may not

have had the most overall talent ever, but we played for each other and did what we could to and what we had to as a group. I'm proud of that."

Coming off a broken ankle suffered during the 2019 baseball season, Pscencik wanted to get out of the gate quickly this football season. He did just that, returning the season's opening kickoff for a touchdown.

"There's actually a funny story to that," he said. "My dad is on the defensive side and told me that if I returned the kick for a touchdown, I could take the first two plays off on defense. Once I got to about midfield, I looked over at him and could see he had that 'are you kidding me?' look. I still had to go back in on defense, but it was a cool moment."

Pscencik and his teammates finished second in district and won a playoff game before their season ended. As for Pscencik, he had right at 1,000 yards rushing to go with more than 950 receiving and another 700 or so in the return game.

At Nebraska, Pscencik said he is looking to earn considerable playing time early on in his career, whether it be in the offensive backfield or at slot receiver. He'll also volunteer his services, of course, in the return game.

Off the field, Pscencik also has his game in order. Owner of a 3.8 grade point average (he says he started off slow as a freshman), Pscencik plans to study business, with likely an emphasis on sports management.

"I've been involved in sports my entire life, so naturally I'd like to stay in the field at some level," he said. "I'm just excited to get the next chapter started and see what's in store for me at Nebraska."

Whether or not his senior year at LSA plays out like he and everyone had hoped over the next few weeks, Pscencik has his memories.

"We had a bunch of guys who were willing to get it done on the football field,"



Lutheran South's Beau Pscencik, shown above, had to know he had a special season in line after he took the 2019 regular season's opening kickoff back for a touchdown. In his final season, Pscencik wound up with more than 2,000 all-purpose yards.

Pasadena ISD hall of famers recognized

Continued from Page 3

Hall of Fame inductee, was the state's finest player that season.

Dobie's 1993 state championship team was guided by coach Martha Dossman.

The players included Melissa Atkinson, Christina Borsche (now the varsity softball head coach at Pasadena Memorial High School), Stacie Clark, April Cook, Angela Demel, Tara Ezzell, Erica Guajardo, Michelle Love, Martinez, Shannon McDonald, Myers, Pilar Ortiz, Rackley and Williams, who is the varsity softball head coach at Friendswood High School.

Williams, as many know, went on to play at both UCLA and the University of Texas and won Team USA Olympic gold medals in both 1996 and 2000.

While Dobie's 1995 state championship team is not among the PISD hall inductees yet, it's of note that Cook, an outfielder, Guajardo (catcher), Myers (third base), Martinez (converted from outfielder to shortstop) and Williams all made the TGCA All-Tournament following the Lady Longhorns' victory that season.

Charlie Goehring, the Pasadena High School track and field and cross-country head coach from 1991 through 2007, is among the honorees.

There's also T.J. Mills, a Pasadena High School graduate who won four consecutive state football championships as head coach at Sealy High School in the 90s.

Steve Prentice is a member of the 2020 Hall of Fame class, having dominated in the pool for the South Houston Trojans, particularly during the 1970 season; and there is 1975 Sam Rayburn High School golfer Ron Schroeder.

Brian Williamson starred on Pasadena High School's

1971 team and will enter the hall, as will 2007 Pasadena High School graduate Marlen Esparza, an Olympic boxer.

Bo Snelson, a 2009 Pasadena Memorial High School

graduate and football star for the Mavericks, will be inducted along with his family, which includes his father, John Snelson, formerly the longtime PMHS varsity

football head coach who currently holds the same role at Dickinson High School.

Once Athletics Hall of Fame committee members have a chance to confer, a de-

cision will be made as to just how to properly honor the 2020 class.

The banquet has been canceled, but these greats are far from forgotten.

MLB agreement impact unknown

Continued from Page 3

The news is much more encouraging for each of the three San Jacinto College pitchers if one chooses to follow the information laid out by prebaseballreport.com via its JUCO rankings for 2020.

McLennan hard-throwing right-hander Connor Phillips is the top-rated prospect in terms of draft eligibility and value, and Little is No. 2 with Parker at No. 3 and Birdsell seventh in the top 10.

San Jacinto led the National Junior College Athletic Association ranks with six players drafted in

2019, including No. 17 overall Jackson Rutledge, now the Washington Nationals' top-rated pitching prospect.

With the 2020 MLB amateur draft now eligible to be trimmed to five rounds, it's highly unlikely six Gators go this time around, but at least Little, Parker and Birdsell can hope.

And if the MLB isn't in their respective futures for now, they have major college baseball to rely on.

Barring injury, the San Jacinto College pitching trio should get a shot at pro baseball, yet thanks largely in part to the coronavirus, the when just became much

more of an unknown.

Another former San Jacinto College player, Atascocita High School graduate Alerick Soularie, has to be dismayed by the agreement.

While it remains to be seen just who among the Gators, if anyone will first be drafted this summer and then perhaps sign, the Gators' list of four-year school signees is up to 14.

In addition to Bird (Texas Tech), Little (South Carolina) and Parker (Kentucky), there's Austin Hendrix, who's headed to the Red Raiders with Birdsell.

Tyrice Silas has signed

on at Texas State, and Chase Wilkerson has chosen Auburn. Incarnate Word landed San Jacinto's Zach Limas, and Chezzare Gonzalez ultimately decided on New Mexico.

Antonio Valdez will play at Baylor beginning in 2021, and Evan Hiatt will head to Southeastern University. Angelo State has signed the Gators' Hunter Townsend, and Bryant Salado has picked nationally prominent Oregon State.

Austin Marozas will be at Kentucky with Parker, and Adam Houghtaling will join the College of the Mines.

Spring football workouts in jeopardy

Continued from Page 3

2020 football.

What the Longhorns, coming off their most wins (9) in 20 seasons, do know is they will take on Alief Elsik in the 2020 opener, followed by nondistrict games against Bellaire, Friendswood and Dickinson. Alief Elsik is a relative newcomer to the Longhorns on the football field. Under head coach Kevin Beneathy, Dobie is 2-0 against Bellaire following two very competitive games in both 2018 and again last season.

Dobie has never played a varsity football game against Friendswood, while Dickinson got the better of Dobie in playoff games dating back to the early 80s.

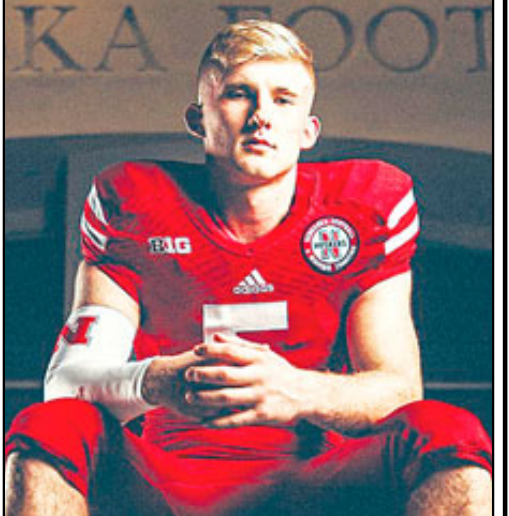
As for the District 22-6A campaign, the Longhorns will go against league newcomer Channelview and then enjoy a bye before going against Pasadena, Deer Park, Memorial, Rayburn and South Houston in that order.

Of interest, Dobie is the only varsity program from the newly minted 22-6A ranks to have reached the postseason in 2019, giving a grand opportunity for each of the teams this season and beyond.

Dobie last won a district title in 2010 in large part due to a resounding win over longtime rival Deer Park. Clearly, the Longhorns have similar championship hopes later this fall.



Dobie varsity football head coach Kevin Beneathy, shown above, may not get the opportunity to lead his program through spring drills, but that won't hamper the progression at Dobie as the varsity team looks to improve upon nine overall wins a season ago. Photo by Jade Wise



Having excelled for three varsity seasons at Lutheran South and scoring both competitive and academic accolades at the state level, Pscencik will now take his talents to the University of Nebraska football program after signing with the Huskers last fall.

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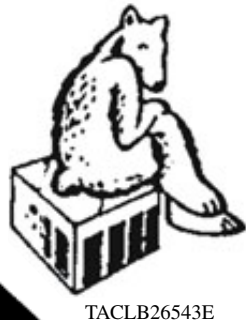
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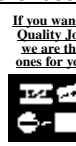
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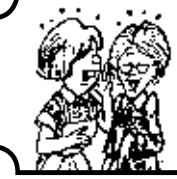
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Over The Back Fence by Alexis



ELLIANA TURNS THREE!

Best wishes for a great second birthday are sent April 4 to **Elliana Abarca** from parents **Natalie** and **Jose Abarca**; brothers **Kelvin** and **Noah** and sister **Isabella Abarca**; grandparents **David** and **Ellie Flickinger**; and great-grandparents **Marie** and **David Flickinger**.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 2 through April 8, 2020.

Burnett Elementary

Erica Cantu marks a birthday for celebration on April 8.

Frazier Elementary

Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Felicia Olivares** April 5. The day for a party for **Javier Guerra** is April 6.

Meador Elementary

Blow out the candles for **Maria (Lupita) Jimenez** on April 8.

Stuchbery Elementary

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday April 3 are sent to **Laurie Chmarney**. The day for a party for **Javier Guerra** is April 6. Light the candles on a birthday cake April 8 for **Robin**

Salinas.

Melillo Middle School

April 2 is the day for a fun celebration for **Wanda Ortiz**. Light the birthday candles April 5 for **Bertha Cantillo**. The day for a double-layer cake for **Charlotte Anthony** and **Charlene Gronewold** is April 6.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Share in the birthday celebration for **Freddie Joseph** April 2. Enjoy a double-layer cake April 8 with **Laura Dossman** and **Kathleen Pyle**.

Thompson Intermediate

April 6 is the day for a double celebration for **Kevin Cowart** and **Nicholas Dell'Anno**.

Dobie High

Warm birthday greetings are sent to **Clarence McNeill** on April 2. **William Daugherty** marks a day of celebration on April 3. Birthday greetings are sent to **Tracie Richeson** April 6. Cheers for a happy birthday are sent to **Andrew Barrett** and **Amrian Millard** on April 8.

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 2: **Raven Brooks, Minerva Segovia, Stephen Hooper, Mona Valerio, Suzette Corona, Yvette Cheatwood, Cathy White, Edward Gish and Lisa Bourque**; Friday, April 3: **Erika Saavedra, Lillian Lee, Aimee Salazar-Arroyo, Maria Keim and Sharon Rhoads**; Saturday, April 4: **Debbie Pitre, Monika Sandridge, Jenn Copeland, Wendy Bahng Nguyen, Travis Doe and Katie Burns**; Sunday, April 5: **Chris Gehringer, Davis Borsche, Jennifer Smith, Teri Polluck, Debbie Trelue, Cindy Russell and Don Adam**; Monday, April 6: **Carol Barber, Jason Weston, Lena West and Jerry Devila**; Tuesday, April 7: **Denise Goodwin, Selena Conley, Deborah Belmarez, Larry Higgs, Jeff White and Melanie Clinckscales**; and Wednesday, April 8: **Adriel Rodriguez, Tricia Black, Alexander Restrepo and Ruth Scotton**.

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)

The \$1.66 million City of Houston road project underway in the South Belt area was not expected to be completed until April 1981.

The Pasadena Independent School District board was still considering bids to repair fire damage done to Burnett Elementary School.

35 years ago (1985)

Pasadena Independent School District trustees, in an unprecedented move, reduced the administration-recommended contract length of six district employees, two of those being assistant superintendents.

Clear Creek ISD discussed the possible construction of a secondary school west of I-45.

A 2-month-old Dalmatian was donated to Fire Station 70 on Beamer by Sharon Macha.

30 years ago (1990)

Round two of the Slaughter v. Monsanto Brio-related lawsuit began while an additional 20 suits were underway.

Farm and Home, developers of the Southbend subdivision, offered to pay a portion of the cost of relocating Weber Elementary.

Weber third-grader Jeffery

Steinsholt was removed from school by his parents because of health concerns. His parents claimed if he attended for more than three days his nose became congested.

25 years ago (1995)

The Pasadena Independent School District board accepted the resignation of Don Proffitt, Genoa Elementary principal.

J. Frank Dobie Latin Club students won their 15th state title in Amarillo with the highest score ever recorded at state level.

A Sagement man received stab wounds from his stepdaughter's ex-boyfriend.

A South Belt man was shot outside his home on Bazin Street after being questioned about the bludgeoning death of his former wife.

20 years ago (2000)

A total of \$5,000 reward was offered in the Jonathan Barrica case shooting. A South Belt community reward of \$4,000 was added to a reward of \$1,000 from Crime Stoppers in the shooting of Barrica.

Ron Shafer, Frazier Elementary teacher of 25 years, planned to retire at the end of the school year. A memory quilt was being put together in his honor.

15 years ago (2005)

Ninety eight-line video gambling machines were removed from, and two arrests were made in, a business on Kingspoint as a result of a raid by Houston Police's Vice Squad.

An 11-year-old Kirkmont resident and his mother believed the youth was a target of an unsuccessful abduction. The boy was playing basketball in his driveway when a black car stopped and the driver ordered the boy into the car. The car sped away as the mother approached it.

A group of volunteers from Sagement Civic Club, Super Neighborhood 80 and Keep Houston Beautiful, met to clean up along Beamer and Hughes Road.

10 years ago (2010)

A Community of the Servant-Savior Church, previously known as Sagement Presbyterian Church, was destroyed by fire. Houston Fire Department officials determined the blaze to be caused by arson. No immediate arrests were made. Sunday services went as scheduled with church members meeting on the grounds where the building once stood. Subsequent services were held at

Stuchbery Elementary after reaching an agreement with the Pasadena Independent School District.

5 years ago (2015) Kyle Price was appointed chief executive officer of Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital on April 5. Price succeeded CEO Erin Asprey, who was promoted to president of the South Region for the Memorial Hermann Health System. Price had previously served seven years as the hospital's chief operating officer.

Trevion Jerrell Davis, 22, was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon for his alleged role in the April 6 robbery of the O'Reilly Auto Parts in the 10900 block of Beamer. Davis was found hiding in the parking lot of the nearby Beamer Place apartment complex during a manhunt after the robbery.

1 year ago (2019)

San Jacinto College was once again honored by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence Program as being one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation. This marked the third consecutive time the area college was recognized with the biennial prize.

May 15 San Jac College graduation postponed

Continued from Page 1

COVID-19 situation, and we wanted a way to be able to help these individuals,"

said Tom Watson, San Jacinto College Foundation board chair. "We want our students to be able to

complete their certificate or degree this semester without the worry of added expenses. I thank the foun-

dration board and college leadership for their support of these efforts to assist our students."

San Jacinto College is currently in an altered operations period during the COVID-19 situation. Additional information is available on the college website at www.sanjac.edu/coronavirus.

PISD, CCISD

At press time, it remained unclear if Pasadena ISD and Clear Lake ISD would still hold traditional graduation ceremonies. See district websites and future editions of the *Leader* for additional information.

Memorial modifies policy

Continued from Page 1

ric patients.

- Family members for patients in hospice or supportive medicine.

- One visitor for patients receiving emergency care.

- One visitor for patients

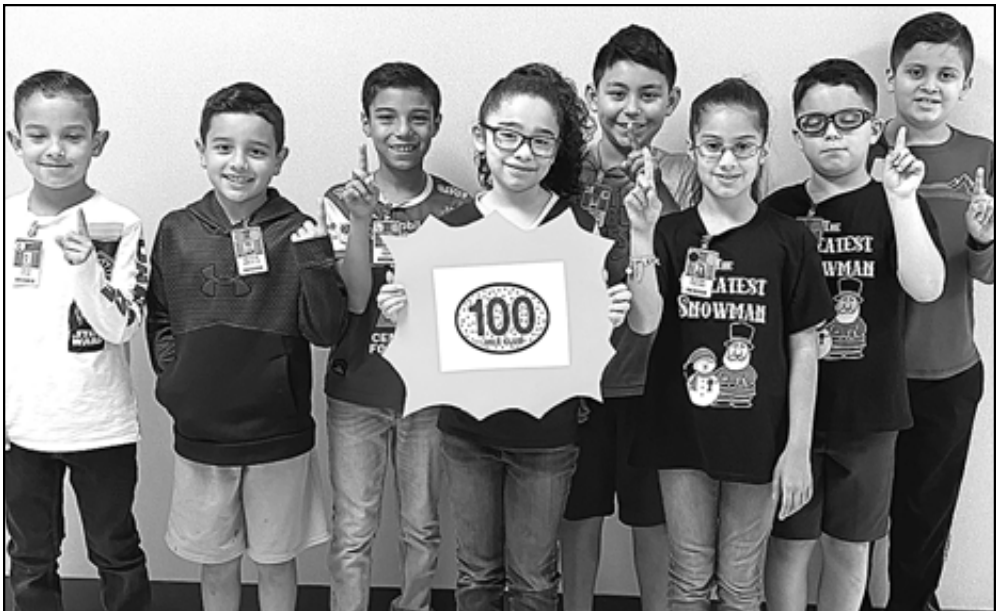
at the time of discharge following a surgery or procedure.

- Patients with a disability or other medical condition who need assistance communicating with staff will be evaluated for potential visitor exceptions on a case-

by-case basis.

Memorial Hermann recognizes the importance of family support in the healing process and is encouraging the use of video chat programs on personal devices to visit with loved ones who cannot visit in person.

Bush runs more than 100 miles for Get Fit Jog



This is an exclusive club of Bush Elementary third- and fourth-grade students that ran more than 100 miles between September and March. Shown above are, left to right, David Vega, Andrew Amezcua, Cruz Jasso, Vanessa Rivera, Brandon Saucedo, Aleya Trevino, Noah Holguin and Alexis Gonzalez. Photo submitted

Atkinson distributes learning packets



Atkinson Elementary recently distributed packets for students to continue lessons at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Diligently working in the distribution are, left to right, Dee Davis, first-grade teacher; Sheri Graham, first-grade teacher; Jana Childs, kindergarten teacher; Samantha Coyle, kindergarten teacher; and Donna Koonce, pre-kindergarten teacher. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Toastmasters meet online

The Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club has canceled in-person meetings.

The group will temporarily conduct meetings virtually, Mondays, at 6:30 p.m. on the Zoom platform. The community is invited to join the meeting by visiting the Zoom platform at <https://zoom.us/j/7535561426> (meeting ID is 753-556-1426). For more information, visit www.youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com.

St. Luke's plans fall bazaar

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, located at 11011 Hall Road, is planning a Parish bazaar to be held Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Anyone who wants to register for a craft or product vendor booth (no food and beverages), should contact Lupe Saiz at communications@stlukecatholic.com.

Registration fee is \$175 (no refunds, consider this a donation if the vendor or the event has to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances).

This fundraiser will benefit the St. Luke building fund. Deadline for registering for a vendor booth is Sept. 25.

Shaar Hashalom updates meetings

Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue functions are canceled. Members are asked not to come to the synagogue until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline>.

For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling 571-317-3122. For members who would like to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

The following CSH classes have updated their schedules:

- Lunch with the Rabbi will resume in the fall Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m. at Congregation Shaar Hashalom Schwartz social hall.
- Conversations with Rabbi Stuart will resume in the fall on the second Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., Sawa Restaurant and Grill, 16608 El Camino Real.
- Adult Hebrew "From Aleph Bet to Prayers" taught by Phyllis Greenspan will resume in the fall.
- "All About Judaism" taught by Rabbi Stuart Federow will resume in the fall, Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., in the Congregation Shaar Hashalom Schwartz social hall.
- "Is This the Good Place?" presentation will resume in the fall the second Sunday of each month at 9 a.m.
- "Praying Whether You Believe or Not" will resume in the fall the second Sunday of each month at 11:15 a.m.
- Classes are not held on holidays. Check the calendar for details. Visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/> for more information.

San Jac College donates COVID-19 supplies

Continued from Page 1

to College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "As an institution that works closely with our local health care providers to train the next generation of their workforce, it is important for us to support them during this pandemic."

Included in the supply transfer were latex and nitrile gloves, surgical and N-95 masks, safety glasses, disposable wipes, gowns, hand sanitizer and alcohol prep pads. Items were delivered Saturday, March 28, to Harris County Public Health.

"We are extremely grateful to San Jacinto College for their generous donation of personal protection equipment," said Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, executive director and local health authority for HCPH. "Our dedicated public health workforce is on the frontlines serving the people of Harris County and combating the spread of COVID-19. As the well-documented need for PPE rises across the country, we are fortunate to have a strong network of community

partners to help us serve our community."

Last week, the college loaned three respirators from the respiratory therapy program to Methodist Hospital Baytown to assist with the shortage in that location.

"Everyone in health care is

acutely aware of the crisis we currently have within our communities and health care systems," said Rhonda Bell, dean of health sciences at the San Jacinto College Central Campus, who coordinated the loan to the hospital. "The opportunity to assist our health care partners is one small bright

spot in an extremely difficult time."

San Jacinto College is currently in an altered operations period during the COVID-19 situation.

Additional information is available on the college website at www.sanjac.edu/coronavirus.

Vets legal clinics canceled

For the health and safety of the public, the Veterans Administration canceled all scheduled Friday and Saturday veterans legal clinics.

The clinics are held at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics

(CBOCs) and are canceled until further notice.

This notice applies only to the legal clinics sponsored by the Houston Bar Association and Houston Volunteer Lawyers. For information on medical issues, visit VA.gov. For updates, visit HBA.org.

The Veterans Legal Initiative is a program of the Houston Bar Association and Houston Volunteer Lawyers, with funding from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, the Houston Bar Foundation and the Texas Veterans Commission.

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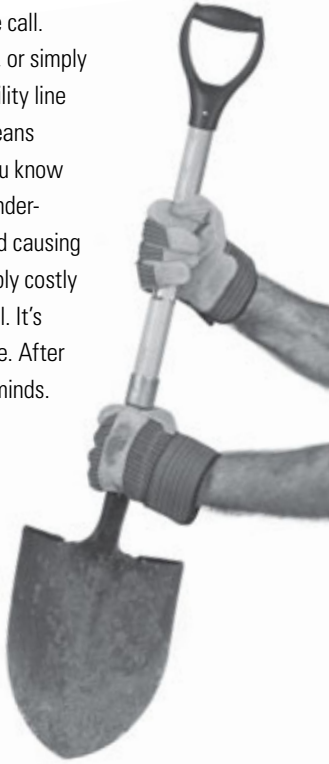
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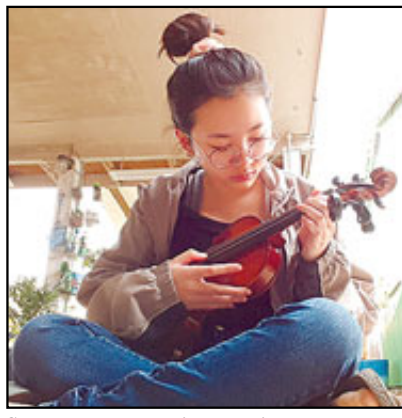
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Quarantine Flash Mob plays for community

Orchestra students went outside to their yards and porches to share the joy of music with their communities recently. After seeing news from around the world of the importance of music to the well-being of a community, the South Belt Elementary orchestra teachers were inspired to organize a group they call the Quarantine Flash Mob.

Not only did the orchestra teachers organize the group, but they also decided to participate. This will be a weekly occurrence for the South Belt orchestra students. The word was spread and students from Dobie High School, Thompson Intermediate, Melillo Middle School and Fred Roberts Middle School also are joining the event.

Weather permitting, one only needs to step outside the door at 10 a.m. Mondays and listen. One just might hear some beautiful music being shared for the community to enjoy.



Shown above, playing her instrument outdoors, is Linda Pham, a Beverly Hills Intermediate student.



Above, preparing to play his cello outside his home, is Theodore Villareal, a Morris Middle School student.



Shown above are, left to right, Jessica Cardenas and Jannie Cardenas, Morris Middle School students, playing a duet.



Ngoc Tran, above, a student from Beverly Hills Intermediate brings music to her neighborhood playing her violin.



Doing his part to liven up the community is Jayden Mayeux, above, a Morris Middle School student.



Shown above is Issac Espinoza, a Morris Middle School student, filling the outdoors with melodies.



Above is Oliver Saavedra, a Morris Middle School student reading and playing his music.



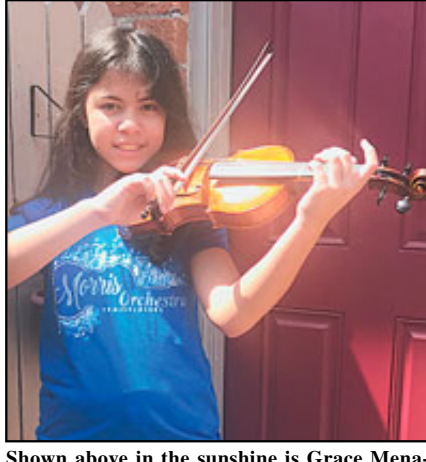
Enjoying the great outdoors with his instrument above is Mark Mata a Morris Middle School student.



Above, the Morris Middle School student making melodies is Savannah Talavera.



Above, making music is Isaias Ruiz, a Morris Middle School student.



Shown above in the sunshine is Grace Menahem, Morris Middle School student.



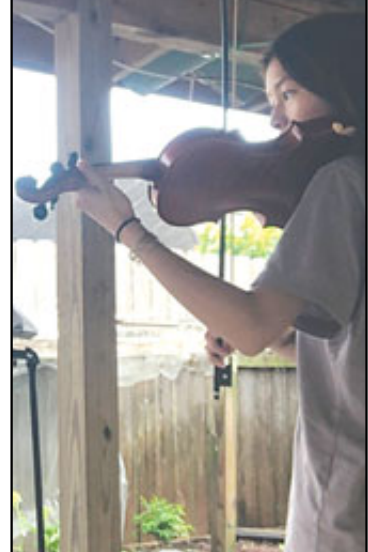
Enjoying the beautiful day while playing her violin is Daniela Guerrero, Morris Middle School student, playing her violin.



Shown above is Aly Gomez, Morris Middle School student, playing to an unseen audience in her neighborhood.



Bringing the neighborhood alive with his violin is Cristian Monge, a Morris Middle School student.



Linh Ngo, Beverly Hills Intermediate student, fills the air with her music.



Benjamin Gutierrez, a Morris Middle School student, plays his violin for his neighbors.

South Belt adjusts for COVID-19

Continued from Page 1
boarding, and temporarily suspended collecting fares to avoid unnecessary contacts.

Latest city stats
On Tuesday, March 31, the Houston Health Department announced 68 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 377.

The department also reported the city's fourth coronavirus death. The resident, a man in his 70s with underlying health conditions, died Friday, March 27. Houston's three previous COVID-19 deaths were elderly women with underlying health conditions.

The department launched an investigation to identify potential contacts exposed to the virus. The department will provide close contacts guidance about the virus and monitor them for the development of symptoms.

Schools
Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD closures have been extended through Monday, May 4, as students continue to study online from home.

The extensions were announced Tuesday, March 31, after Gov. Greg Abbott issued a statewide social-distancing order, prohibiting all non-essential work through the month of April.

The Leader has heard from

multiple sources that schools will likely remain closed through the duration of the academic year.

Meals
CCISD: On Monday, March 30, Clear Creek ISD began offering free lunch and breakfast pickup for multiple days at a time. Monday's pickup will include lunch and breakfast through Thursday morning. Thursday's pickup will include lunch and breakfast through Saturday breakfast. This will be for drive-thru or walk-up only between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at select schools. Students can pick up meals without an adult present.

For locations and details, visit https://ccisd.net/news/2019-20_district_news/drive_through_meals_for_students.

PISD: Pasadena ISD will continue its grab-and-go free breakfast and lunch program at select schools. Local campuses include Beverly Hills Intermediate and Dobie High School.

Parents may drive by the participating campuses to pick up a breakfast and lunch meal for each child who is present in the vehicle. No meals will be available for parents or students walking up to the campus. Meals will be delivered to each vehicle.

Parents are advised not to park.

Each student will receive a breakfast and a lunch at the time of pickup. A parent only needs to go through the line once. Each student will get two meals.

For more information, times and locations, visit www1.pasadenaisd.org.

Houston: The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is continuing its Curbside Meal Program for youth, ages 1 to 18, at selected area parks. Local parks include the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road, and the Beverly Hills Park Community Center, 10201 Kingpoint Road.

Each child will receive one lunch and one snack. Children must be present. To ensure social distancing is maintained

throughout the curbside meal distribution, meals will be placed in the trunk of the recipient's car.

For additional information, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2020/HPARDCurbsideMealDistributionProgram_NewInfo.pdf.

Resources
For up-to-date information about the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the following sites:

City of Houston: houstonemergency.org/covid19.

Harris County: publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html.

WHO: www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019.

Chamber to hold info stimulus webinar event

Continued from Page 1

– SBA Disaster Relief: Who is eligible?

– How to Apply? Where to apply?

– What type of loan/assistance is best for each business?

– What next?

Any business interested in signing up or wanting ad-

ditional information on this or the chamber, should email the chamber of commerce at info@southbeltchamber.com.

The time and date of the webinar is still to be determined. "Like" and follow the chamber on Facebook @southbeltcc and visit its website southbeltchamber.com to learn more.

Preparing for event to help seniors



Hilton Koch (far left), owner of Hilton Furniture & Mattress, meets South Belt residents Lt. Jerry Garcia (center) and retired U.S.C.G. Lt. Commander Gilbert Aguilar in preparation for the collection Saturday, April 4, and hands-free distribution of food and supplies Sunday, April 5, to benefit local senior citizens. All collected items will be disinfected for the safety of the seniors.

See related story, Page 1.

Local businesses, city partner for seniors

Continued from Page 1
food type, and boxes will be made for preselected recipients on Sunday, April 5.

Desired items include non-perishable canned goods, beans, rice, vegetables, soups, fruits, canned chicken, canned tuna, sausages, cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, dry milk, pasta, spaghetti, sauce, peanut butter, jelly, protein bars, bottled water, soap, toiletries, toilet paper and hand wipes.

Anyone needing assistance or wanting to donate is asked to email adoptsenior2020@yahoo.com.

Another senior drive
Mayor Sylvester Turner joined the Kroger Company and Mattress Mack of Gallery Furniture Friday, March 27, to announce a partnership to feed more than 10,000 seniors in need during the City of Houston's COVID-19 health crisis response. They announced the donation drive during a Facebook Live chat that was viewed by thousands of people

Friday morning.

"We are living in an unprecedented time that is affecting various areas of our communities in different ways. Many Houstonians are asking, 'What can we do to help?'" said Turner. "This is one easy way you can support those in need within our local community, whether it's through donating food and supplies or volunteering your time. We are Houston Strong, and helping is what we do best."

Customers can donate non-perishable food at any Houston area Kroger store or Gallery Furniture 6006 N. Freeway or Gallery Furniture Grand Parkway every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Gallery Furniture is also accepting donations of cleaning supplies and toiletries.

"There is an extremely large number of housebound seniors in our community who don't have access to the food and supplies they need," said Joe Kelley, president of Kroger

Houston. "While many people can make a weekly trip to the grocery store, this specific group of individuals cannot. We want to make sure that our seniors are taken care of by ensuring they are fed and their pantries are full. These are people's parents and grandparents – and they need our help. That's why we wanted to get involved in the senior drive alongside Mack and Mayor Turner. Together, we can make a bigger impact in fighting hunger in our communities."

Hundreds of volunteers

at the Gallery Furniture I-45 location are working to put together care packages and distribute them to several thousand food-insecure seniors.

"I want to personally thank Kroger and the City of Houston for the incredible donations and continued support."

said Mattress Mack. "Thousands have already benefited from the generosity of amazing Houstonians, and we will continue to do our best to continue these efforts. Stay strong, friends, and remember the essence of living is giving."

Residents cautioned: watch for scammers

Continued from Page 1
sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified.

Before passing on any messages, contact trusted sources. – Know the seller. Online sellers may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household and health and medical supplies when, in fact, they don't.

– Don't respond to texts and emails about checks from the government. The details are still being worked out. Anyone who informs one they can give money now is a scammer.

– Don't click on links from unfamiliar sources which could potentially download viruses onto a computer or device.

– Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus, visit the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) websites.

– Do one's homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Do not let anyone rush a decision when making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it. It is a scam. For more information, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-fc-doing.

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