



South Belt-Ellington Leader

44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Face coverings now required

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced Wednesday that all residents 10 and older will be required to wear a mask, scarf, bandanna or handkerchief in public beginning Monday, April 27. Covering is required except when eating, drinking, exercising or when one is alone or in one's home.

Testing for all at EFL

Harris County is providing free COVID-19 testing for anyone who wants it. Testing will be conducted at Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road, Monday, April 27, through Wednesday, April 29. (Testing is available earlier at other sites.) All residents, however, must complete a prescreening process and be issued a unique identification number. All others will be turned away. The City of Houston also continues to do coronavirus testing for anyone wanting to be tested. Locations, however, remain private to only those who have been prescreened and given more information. See related story on this page picture on page 8.

Area ZIP figures released

Harris County Public Health officials are now releasing the specific number of confirmed coronavirus cases by ZIP code. As of April 21, ZIP code 77089 had 55 confirmed cases, ZIP code 77075 had 41 known cases, and ZIP code 77034 had 37 confirmed cases. Maps are updated daily and include numbers within Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. At press time, there was a total of 4,977 known cases in Harris County. Of those, 3,740 remained active and 1,159 have recovered. In all, 78 people in Harris County have died. Statistics are also now being reported by municipality and ethnic background. To view the county's latest maps, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

Special blood drive April 29

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 is hosting a special blood drive in the social hall at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, Wednesday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., by appointment only. Make appointments online at giveblood.org (sponsor code 1185) or call Val Comeaux, 713-582-5358. Entrance is only from the church's west parking lot; follow the signs.

Frazier seniors eligible

Attention Dobie Seniors! The deadline to submit an application for a Frazier Elementary scholarship has been moved to Friday, May 8. Email the application and questions to Susan Blue at sblue@pasadenaisd.org. Eligible students must have attended Frazier Elementary.

Leader takes precautions

The Leader is using a closed-door policy and asks the public to refrain from office visits. Residents are asked to direct inquiries to 281-481-5656 or email mynews@southbeltleader.com. After-hours calls may go to 281-948-2714.

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 comply with social distancing guidelines and refrain from public gatherings, forcing many residents 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.

Beltway closures planned

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

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

At least one inside lane of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road at Spencer Highway will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, May 4.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Vista will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Monday, May 18.

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

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

Leader adapts to change

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

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

Gov. Abbott begins process of reopening Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott held a press conference Friday, April 17, in which he issued three new executive orders to begin the process of reopening the state of Texas, while revising hospital capacity and certain social distancing guidelines.

Within the orders, select activities and services that pose minimal threat of spreading COVID-19 are allowed to reopen using a "retail-to-go" model; certain restrictions on surgeries have been loosened; and schools will

remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Additionally, Abbott has established the Strike Force to Open Texas - a team of nationally recognized medical experts and private and public leaders who will advise the governor on safely and strategically reopening the state of Texas.

"Texans are battling a colossal challenge - an invisible enemy that has tested our lives and our livelihoods - but overcoming challenges is

part of who we are as Texans," said Abbott. "We have shown that Texas can continue our efforts to contain COVID-19, while also adopting safe standards that will allow us to begin the process of reopening Texas. The Strike Force to Open Texas brings together nationally recognized medical experts with public and private sector leaders to achieve this mission. By coming together, we can get Texans back to work, practice safe standards that will prevent the spread of COVID-19, and we can overcome this pan-

demie." James Huffines will lead the advisory strike force and Mike Toomey will serve as chief operating officer. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Attorney General Ken Paxton and Comptroller Glenn Hegar will serve as consulting members.

In addition, Abbott has assembled a team of top health officials for consultation. These health experts will develop a medical architecture to com-

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Governor's order closes schools to "in-person" activities until May 28

Following an executive order from Gov. Greg Abbott, Pasadena ISD announced Friday, April 17, it will remain closed to in-person instruction

for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through May 28.

"Although it makes us very sad, we know this

is in the best interest of student and staff safety," Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell said in an online video message posted to the district's website.

Pasadena ISD students will continue instruction through the district's online platforms or instructional packets. Additionally, all school-related student activities are canceled during this time.

Powell said more than 85 percent of students are keeping up with their online assignments, and around 98 percent of the students in the district's Connect program are doing so.

"I want to say a huge thank you to parents and students," Powell said. "You're doing your very

best to complete assignments and stay engaged with our schools and our teachers."

Progress reports are to be sent out on April 24 notifying parents of their student's standing.

Powell stressed that there's still time left for students to make up online assignments if they were late getting started. For those who do not complete online assignments, interactive learning will be extended into the summer months. Students who still fail to complete assignments in a timely manner will have to repeat a grade, Powell said.

Graduation has been rescheduled to take place at NRG Stadium Thursday, July 30, and Friday,

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Area chase leads to felony drug charge

Two recent police chases in the South Belt community have led to felony arrests.

Missouri City chase ends at Beltway-Beamer

Several area motorists got quite a scare around 4 p.m. Thursday, April 16, when they saw multiple Missouri City police officers with their weapons drawn on a car full of passengers on the Beltway 8 feeder near Beamer.

According to investigators, the incident began when an off-duty Missouri City police officer spotted a stolen truck near Beltway 8 and attempted to stop the vehicle in question. When the driver refused to stop, a chase ensued.

As the pursuit progressed, multiple other units

joined, forcing the driver to eventually stop near the aforementioned address.

The stolen truck was occupied by four suspects, three males and one female. All were juveniles.

The driver was arrested, while the others were allowed to go free.

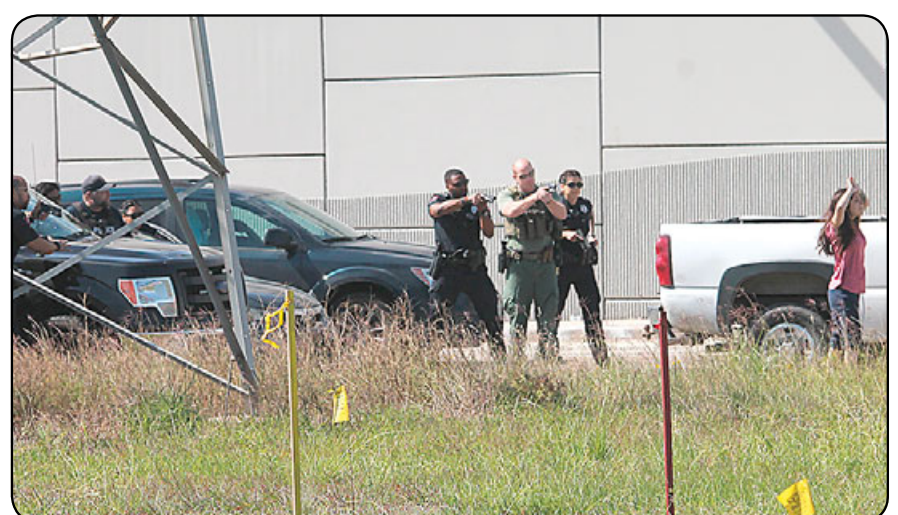
One Missouri City officer - a South Belt resident - suffered minor injuries in the chase.

Precinct 8 begins at Dixie Farm Road

Another police chase led to multiple arrests, including one for felony drug possession. On Tuesday, April 14, at approximately 10:46 p.m.,

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Missouri City makes Beamer arrest



Missouri City police officers are shown above with their weapons drawn on a female suspect following a police chase involving a stolen truck that ended on Beltway 8 near Beamer around 4 p.m. Thursday, April 16. The juvenile female pictured was just a passenger in the vehicle and was released without charges, as were two additional male juvenile passengers. The driver, also a male juvenile, was apprehended. One officer, a South Belt resident, suffered minor injuries during the pursuit. Photo by Davy Flickinger

Wetlands area open during COVID-19

While most local park features remain closed due to COVID-19 scares, South Belt residents may still utilize the 10,000-square-foot wetlands area at El Franco Lee Park, located near Hall Road and Beltway 8.

Opened in the fall of 2017 and officially dubbed the EFL Butterfly Garden, the space contains native and adapted pollinator-friendly plants that support butterflies as well as other insects and

wildlife.

"It is a living lab," said Tracy Whatley, a nearby Dobie High School environmental science teacher who, along with her husband Chris, brings about 50 students to work the garden each year. "And that's not something a school can normally provide. It's like our own personal secret garden."

On a humid morning, the Whatleys joined

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Update on upcoming elections

Concerns over the ongoing COVID-19 scare have pushed back the dates of several local elections until later dates are deemed safer by area officials.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has postponed the May 26 primary election runoff until July in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The elections are now scheduled for July 14, with early voting taking place July 6-10.

Several key positions remain to be decided.

In the election to fill the U.S. House District 22 seat being vacated by Rep. Pete Olson, both the Democratic and Republican races are involved in a runoff.

On the Democratic side, Sri Preston Kulkarni is facing Derrick A. Reed. During the primary, Kulkarni narrowly missed receiving the 50 percent of the vote necessary to avoid a runoff, taking home 46 percent of the vote to Reed's 28

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Voters urged to vote by mail

Harris County Clerk Diane Trautman urges voters 65 and older to vote by mail to ensure their safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. Last month, the governor postponed the May 26 primary runoff elections and rescheduled them for July 14, with early voting taking place July 6-10. The deadline to apply to vote by a mail ballot for these elections is July 2.

"Our office will do everything it can to ensure a safe, secure, and accessible election," said Traut-

man. "In order to do anything different from a normal uniform election, our office will require explicit guidance from the Texas Secretary of State."

To be eligible to vote by mail in Texas, a voter has to be 65 years or older, have a disability or illness, be out of the county during the election period, or be confined in jail, with no conviction. Voters can go to www.harrisvotes.com to print out the application or call 713-755-6965 to re-

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CrossRoads distributes 400+ boxes

Feeding the Multitudes Ministry of CrossRoads UMC in conjunction with the Houston Food Bank has been supplying the South Belt community with grocery selections including fresh produce, milk and orange juice, depending on the food bank truck's availability of items.

Coordinated by CrossRoads UMC members Rob and Laura Bradley, who also work with Southeast Area Ministries, the monthly event has been going strong for two years with at least 30 volunteers for each event.

Church volunteers assisted by Jae Lee, Burnett Elementary principal, and Leticia Sanchez, Burnett counselor, worked in the event, serving more than 400 people, packing food in the trunks of vehicles on a first-come, first-served basis. The drive-thru caravan April 18 stretched from the church parking lot to Blackhawk Boulevard.

The public is notified by signs and social media of upcoming food distributions which are held the third Saturday of each month. (See related photo Page 8.)

Harris County testing held at EFL Park

El Franco Lee Park, located at 9400 Hall Road near Beltway 8, will once again serve as a COVID-19 testing site Monday, April 27, through Wednesday, April 29. (See story this page.)

Testing will be conducted only on prescreened residents who have been issued a unique identification code. Residents without such a number will be turned away by local law enforcement.

The pop-up testing site is one of two for Harris County that rotates among the county's four precincts.

The area park also served as a testing site on

April 17-18, screening a total of 224 residents which is capacity for the El Franco Lee Park site.

The two pop-up sites are in addition to the county's two stationary testing sites, which can each test up to 500 people per day.

To access the county's online screening tool and possibly receive an authorization code to be tested, visit at readyharris.org or checkforcorona.com/harris-county. Residents without internet access may call the Harris County Public Health

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Pct. 2 sees spike in domestic disturbance

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office has reported seeing a spike in local domestic disturbance calls, due, in part, to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

County officials attribute the increase in calls to the fact that many individuals who would normally be at work every day are now at home with their families 24 hours a day. This coupled with family members also not at work or loss of wages has added to the stress in the family unit.

Below is the statistical comparison analysis of

family-related calls for service within the Harris County Precinct 2 constable's South Belt contract patrol area:

- March 28 - April 10, 2020 (two-week period):
 - Family prevention - 4 calls
 - Family disturbance - 6 calls
- Comparison - entire month of March 2019:
 - Family Prevention - 9 calls
 - Family Disturbance - 11 calls

The comparison analysis shows that at the

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Sagemeadow election results are tallied

The results from the Sagemeadow maintenance committee's April 18 board election have been tallied.

In the race for vice chair, which holds a one-year term, Carlos Lopez Jr. defeated challenger Mariana Guzman, receiving 69.23 percent of the vote (27 total votes) to Guzman's 30.77 percent (12 votes).

Marie Rose handily won the contest for trea-

surer, as she only faced write-in candidates.

Rose received 92.31 percent of the vote (36 votes), while write-in candidates received 7.69 percent of the vote (three votes).

The position holds a two-year term.

For additional information on the Sagemeadow maintenance committee, visit sagemeadow.org or find the group on social media.

Constable Sandlin moves out tenters

Deputies from Harris County Precinct 8 Phil Sandlin's office recently removed a homeless encampment along Beltway 8 near the Gulf Freeway.

Officials from the Texas Department of Transportation assisted in the removal of the site, which had been draped with Texas and American flags and surrounded by a makeshift fence.

Authorities were cooperative with the primary tenant of the encampment, allowing him one day to prioritize his possessions - none of which were discarded against his will. This marked the second

time that community leaders, led by the Leader and South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, have had such a camp removed, as a similar site was cleared at Beltway 8 and Sabo about two years ago.

Another homeless encampment was removed from the intersection of the Gulf Freeway and Monroe the same day as the most recent raid.

Anyone without a current place to reside is urged to contact Leader publisher Marie Flickinger at 281-948-2714, who will put them in touch with city officials that can help rectify the situation.

Encampment under Beltway removed



Officials from Harris County Precinct 8 Phil Sandlin's office and the Texas Department of Transportation recently removed squatters from a homeless encampment near the intersection of Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway. Officials allowed the camp's tenants to keep any selected possessions before clearing the site. A similar raid took place the same day near the intersection of the Gulf Freeway and Monroe. See related photos on Page 8. Photo by Marie Flickinger

In My Opinion

Price on support from community

Dear Valued Community Partner, On behalf of the Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland Hospitals, I want to sincerely thank you for your support and engagement as we continue to serve our community in the fight against COVID-19.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have navigated an unimaginable situation that has altered not only our personal and professional lives, but has impacted our community, nation and the world.

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Kyle Price

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

Sims Bayou drainage history shared

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

C-106-03. Harris County Flood Control District has begun the final Phase 4 as of April and should be completed by the Fall of 2021. This long-running project is replacing the existing earthen ditch with a concrete-lined channel. Phase 4 is approximately 4,800 linear feet from Shawnee Street to Interstate Highway 45 south of Edgebrook Drive near Aves Street. On Jan. 7, 2020, Harris County Commissioners Court awarded a \$6.48 million construction contract to L.N. McKean Inc.

This is the fourth and final phase of a project that began in the 1970s and involved the entire C106-03-00 channel, from its confluence with Berry Bayou (C106-00-00) north of the city of South Houston, to IH-45. Also completed is Berry Bayou from Gilpin street through South Houston to Sims Bayou which has been concrete lined along with Ditch C-106-08 along side Hwy 3. Construction of the South Richey Stormwater Detention Basin at South Richey Street, completed in 2016, a second detention center is located at So. Shaver at Hwy 3 is also completed. A third is in the design stage for the southwest corner of So. Shaver at Hwy 3 behind the Exxon station. Stormwater detention basins take in and hold excess stormwater during heavy rain events, releasing it slowly after the rain stops. This reduces flooding risks and damages for nearby residents and businesses. Yes, we now have less opportunity to flood and with this FEMA has rezoned some areas from AE to X. This meant that flood insurance dropped from about \$1,400.00 a year to about \$450.00. Look at the money in the pocket for those carrying flood insurance. What a success this has been.

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

James E. (Jim) Muecke,
Project Coordinator

Elected officials share their words

Sen. Bettencourt: ACLU lawsuit against Gov. Abbott's Inmate Release Executive Order

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

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

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

Representing two million plus area residents, Bettencourt joined with eight Harris County State Representatives (Reps. Sam Harless, Dan Huberty, Briscoe Cain, Dennis Paul, Tom Oliver-

son, Dwayne Bohac, Jim Murphy, and Valoree Swanson) and filed an Amicus Brief in Federal Judge Lee Rosenthal's court in the court case of Russell vs. Harris County to "object to the wholesale release of individuals accused of felony offenses from the Harris County Jail."

This tweet shows broad bipartisan opposition to Hidalgo's order and the release of those charged with felonies on Personal Recognizance (PR) bonds as low as one dollar.

This includes Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, District Attorney Kim Ogg (D), Harris County constables Mark Herman (R) and May Walker (D), and many other law enforcement officials at a press conference on Tuesday. (See the Texan: <https://bit.ly/2JMzLE>).

Rep. Cain, a founding member of the House Criminal Justice Caucus who joined on the Amicus Brief, added, "While I believe there are aspects of the bail system that need reform, we must be absolutely sure that we're not releasing inmates with violent criminal histories into our communities."

They are treating these criminals like essential employees - free to roam about while hard working taxpayers are required to stay home." Bettencourt, et al, will continue to follow this issue.

Deaths

Paul Edward Bardwell



Paul Edward Bardwell was born in Chicago, on August 23, 1930 to parents, Mary and William Bardwell. He died on March 29, 2020. He was a longtime South Belt resident.

He married Charlotte Oct. 24, 1953. Paul was employed for Honeywell in Texas in 1955. Paul later transferred to Maxwell House Coffee as an instrument mechanic.

Upon arrival in Houston, Charlotte and Paul became members of St. Christopher's Catholic Church. Paul's life at this point centered around work, family and travel. Vacations consisted of camping trips across the United States.

In 1974, the family moved to the Sagemont area. They became charter members of St. Luke's Catholic Church. In 1985 Paul retired from General Foods (Maxwell House). He joined Charlotte in daily attendance of Mass, volunteering with the various nursing homes and prayer ministries. Paul and Charlotte continued their love of travel. Paul outfitted a van for camping, traveling across the United States, meeting people, making new friends and sharing the love of Jesus with all. Both had a knack of finding

someone needing a moment of prayer.

Often, they would hear from their new friends on the various ways that God had answered those prayers.

Paul was a man of commitment. On Feb. 3, 1991 Paul was received as an active member in the Secular Franciscan Order (Third Order of St. Francis). On April 26, 2001, he was given a Certificate of Honor as Volunteer of the Year by the CLC Briarwood Health Care Center.

For five years, he and Charlotte kept a statue of the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe in their home. Each weekend they traveled to different churches across the state to place the statue in host churches.

Paul and Charlotte traveled the world. They planned for gold in Alaska, saw the land of the midnight sun in the Arctic Circle, visited Finland, circled around Cape Horn, sailed through the Panama Canal, traveled through South America, walked the streets of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, made the trek to Medjugorje, and traveled with two 747s full of fellow Catholics on a tour to over 17 countries. His favorite trip, was to Vatican City where he saw and heard Pope John Paul II. It was an experience he shared over and over to all who would listen.

In 2003, just after their 50th anniversary, Paul lost Charlotte, who was the love of his life. He continued to carry on with the work they started. He limited his travel more to visiting local family and trips to see family in Illinois and Wisconsin. Paul especially enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The great-grands knew there was a spot on Great-Grand Paul's lap just for them.

Paul is survived by his son Pat Bardwell and wife Sarah; son Bill Bardwell; and daughter Cathy Leavitt and husband Chris. He is also survived by his brother Frank Bardwell; grandchildren Lynzee Baker, Dakota Bardwell, Mary Charlotte Teel, John Leavitt and David Leavitt; great-grandchildren Hunter Baker, Hayden Baker, Kirsten Teel, Kylie Teel, Kyra Teel, Kennedy Teel, Kayden Teel, Valkyrie Leavitt and Athena Golub-Leavitt. He is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews. Paul was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years; parents; brother Harry Bardwell; and sister Marilyn DeStefano.

Honorary pallbearers are John Leavitt, David Leavitt, Anthony Baker, and Shawn Teel, Hunter Baker, Hayden Baker and Kayden Teel.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, Houston, TX 77089; National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 8111 North Stadium Dr. Houston, TX 77054; or the Franciscan Ministries, a charity which supports the poor.

Dale Jones



Dale Jones, 60, was born Sept. 21, 1960. He died April 15, 2020. He was in the Beverly Hills marching band for two

years along with his brother and sisters and in the J. Frank Dobie marching band all four years of high school. He was a South Belt resident for eight years before graduating and joining the U.S. Navy.

Those who knew him say that when Dale walked into a room, he would brighten it up. He brought much peace, joy, laughter and love with him wherever he went. He did not let one morning or one night pass without letting his wife Patricia know how much he loved her. His daily greetings he gave from the time he awoke until the time he went to bed will be missed. His wife and everyone close to him knew how happy he was.

He enjoyed weekend Yachtzee games, unwinding, and slow dancing in the kitchen. Patricia looks forward to meeting again and finishing their tiebreaker. She misses his jokes and giggles, the warmth of his heart, and his kind and reassuring words. Even beyond the grave, his personality, warmth, and reassurance shines through. Dale said he would take care of her always and she knows he is keeping his promise.

Dale loved his brother Chuck so much and was proud of him standing strong and following through with his commitments, ensuring that things fall into place. They knew each other inside and out. Dale would have done anything for his brother and vice versa.

One of Dale's favorite activities was sitting on the beach and watch his wife look for shark teeth, or sitting by the water and fishing with her because he saw what joy it brought her. He said whatever brought her joy, brought him joy. The couple loved listening to 70s and 80s music, just enjoying each other's company.

Dale told his wife that God put him on this earth for the purpose of finding unconditional love - and that he had finally found it. He talked about how much he loved his family and was very proud of all his children, always wishing the best for them. He looked forward to the times he spent with his niece Candice, holding a very special place in his heart for her. He also held a special place in his heart for his longtime friend, coworker and landlord Ronnie, who was like a brother to him. Dale valued the time in prayer he spent with his brother, his dad Chuck Sr. and his stepmother Jeanette.

Dale had so much love for his nine grandchildren. Anytime Patricia missed the grandchildren, he was open to visiting them or having them come for a visit. Grandpa Dale, as he was known, will truly be missed. He will also be missed at the cornhole games, the laughter, the barbecues and much more. His family felt Dale was taken too soon. He had so many plans. He had so much love, so much laughter and so much joy to spread. Although he is gone, he will never be forgotten. He was a true man of God.

Dale leaves behind his wife; daughter Jessica Jones; sons Eric Jones and wife Amanda and Miles Jones; mother Glenda Jones and father Charles Jones and wife Jeanette Jones; sisters Jer Barone and husband Mick, Debora Krehel, Teri Jones and Terri Batcheler; brother Charles Jones, wife Teresa; and nine grandchildren.

There will be a private family funeral service Thursday, April 23, at Crowder Funeral Home in Pearland with interment following at Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Action Ministries, P.O. Box 35702, Houston, TX 77235.

Congressman Olson: OPEC agreement ending oil market manipulation

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22) recently issued the following statement in support of action by President Donald Trump that resulted in an agreement between Russian and Saudi Arabian leaders to halt oil-market dumping and market manipulation:

"This OPEC agreement is welcome news to a crippled energy industry in Texas and throughout the United States.

"While demand is at an unprecedented low due to COVID-19, this energy war between Russia and Saudi Arabia added undue pressure on energy-producing nations.

"I was proud to join Republican Whip Steve Scalise and my House colleagues

on a letter to Saudi Arabia demanding this very outcome.

"President Trump acted decisively in brokering this agreement and I'm thrilled with the result.

"The decision by OPEC to collectively withhold 9.7 million barrels a day from the global markets is a critical move as we continue to address the global COVID-19 pandemic and try to restore economic activity.

"It will save jobs, reinforce our economy and bring needed certainty to the markets during this challenging time."

Gregory T. Angelo
Communications Director
Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22)
202-225-5951 (office)

bring down the Houston area's total economic output for 2020. Economic data and forecasts present an increasingly grim outlook for Houston. A new Moody's Analytics analysis commissioned by the Wall Street Journal provides one measurement of the economic damage being inflicted on Houston. The analysis, published April 2, indicates business closures in Harris County - which represents two-thirds of the region's population - have caused a 27 percent drop in the county's daily economic output.

The back-to-work plan needs to be aggressive, and yet safe for Texas workers, customers, healthcare suppliers, and citizens. It must balance the necessary need for action with the safety and well-being of every Texan.

This is just the kind of challenge to which Texans have always risen - we can create and execute such a plan. We must take bold action NOW before the harm resulting from the COVID-19 cure (national economic shutdown) becomes worse than the disease itself.

We must get the Texas, and Houston, economies restarted as soon as possible as they have been doubly injured. First, from the virus-related shutdown itself and, secondly, from the sharp reduction in the demand for fossil fuels (Texas' lifeblood) resulting from the global immobility caused by the shutdown.

The energy industry is grappling with the oil war between Russia and Saudi Arabia as well as depressed demand for crude oil and gasoline. Economists predict the Houston area's workforce will see massive losses as a result of the coronavirus and energy downturns.

Economist Bill Gilmer, director of the Institute for Regional Forecasting at the University of Houston's Bauer College of Business, says a moderate recession could siphon as many as 44,000 jobs from the region's economy by the end of this year. The Perryman Group, a Waco-based economic analysis firm, envisions the Houston area losing nearly 256,000 jobs and racking up \$27 billion in economic losses. Patrick Jankowski, Greater Houston Partnership economist, splits the difference and anticipates job losses of at least 200,000, meaning losses would be less severe than the 1980s energy bust but more severe than the Great Recession.

The stay-at-home directives are negatively affecting virtually every sector of Texas' economic base. Restaurants are in a fight for survival. Even with federal relief, Texas' major airlines - American, United, and Southwest - are reeling. In the lodging sector, Texas is projected to lose 44 percent of its jobs, or more than 64,000 positions, according to a mid-March forecast from the American Hotel & Lodging Association. Experts predict some Texas hotels won't survive the coronavirus crisis unless swift action is taken to get back to work. Galveston's previously thriving cruise industry has been decimated.

Another very important reality is that the healthcare sector is extremely vulnerable right now. While we appreciate that local hospitals have not been inundated with COVID-19 cases, regular hospital admissions have been drastically reduced because of the postponement or cancellation of elective surgeries and treatments for non-life-threat-

ening illnesses. Hospital revenues have plummeted as a result. Texans are delaying all doctor and dental visits out of concern for the virus. It is imperative that we keep the Texas healthcare system functional and the back-to-work plan must address these healthcare issues.

There has been real harm caused within family life in Texas. There have been 745,443 total unemployment claims in Texas since March 14th, representing 5.2 percent of the state labor force. People's schedules are in flux, children are at home, and Texans are suffering.

But emerging good news is providing evidence that this is the best time to develop the back-to-work plan. It appears that we are at, or near, the apex of new cases of COVID-19. People are recovering and new cases are dropping. For Harris County, on April 15 the Combined Daily Case Count (tracking new cases minus recoveries) shows a sharp decline. This is great news and the long awaited light at the end of the tunnel.

There are 3,238 active cases combined in Harris County and the City of Houston now - with 801 recoveries. And the recovery numbers are moving in the right direction.

Diagnostic testing methods and availabilities are increasing daily. Most tests can take anywhere from a few hours to a few days, but new rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19 show promise of results in less than an hour. Examples of rapid diagnostic tests that have been recently authorized include those by:

- Abbott: results in as little as 5 minutes.
- Mesa Biotech: results in as little as 30 minutes.
- Cepheid: results in as little as 45 minutes.

There is also a new saliva-based test through Rutgers which can deliver results in 24 to 48 hours.

The global race is now on for doctors and scientists to find effective therapies and a vaccine for the coronavirus. A successful vaccine is the ultimate solution to bringing the virus under control. Three potential COVID-19 vaccines are making fast progress in early-stage testing in volunteers in China and America.

Looking ahead, NIH infectious disease chief, Dr. Anthony Fauci, indicates that it may now be possible to finish the necessary larger studies to validate the efficacy of these vaccines sooner than the 12 to 18 months he'd originally predicted - maybe toward "mid to late winter of next season."

There is a final argument for implementing a back-to-work plan now. In the unfortunate event a decision to reopen Texas businesses now causes another flare-up of the disease later this summer, our hospitals are ready to react. We have more ventilators than ever, more therapies, more PPE (Personal Protective equipment), more ICU beds, and more knowledge to tackle any situation.

In conclusion, this paper has explained the stark predicament that the national economic shutdown has caused and has weighed those elements against the good news factors that are now emerging as a justification for positive action to reopen Texas for business. The analysis is incontrovertible, and the case has been made. We must act NOW to develop a plan to get Texas, and the rest of the nation, back to work.

Bob Mitchell
President, BAHEP

BAHEP's Bob Mitchell on The Importance of Reopening Texas for Business

As one of Houston's largest economic development organizations, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has, for more than 44 years, supported businesses in southeast Texas. BAHEP's board of directors, and its more than 270 member companies, strongly encourage Texas elected officials (local, state, and federal) to use all means possible to immediately develop a strong, coordinated, and collaborative back-to-work plan to reopen Texas for business. Further, because of Texas' strong corporate readiness, its engineering prowess, its "can-do" spirit, and its proven expertise gained from

successfully navigating previous crises, Texas is uniquely qualified to lead the rest of the nation in its reopening plans. In addition Houston business leaders are ready to assist and participate in these planning and implementation phases to create action now toward a positive outcome.

Before we get to the many pressing justifications for a restart, we first want to thank Gov. (Greg) Abbott for the strong leadership he has already exhibited in moving Texas, and the nation, forward. He has been correct to state, paraphrasing, that as goes Texas, so goes the nation. We applaud his efforts to re-

lease a 'return to work' plan as early as the end of this week.

Texas enjoys America's second largest state economy and produces more than \$1.8 trillion of annual economic output - ranking the Lone Star State as the world's 10th largest economy. GDP in Texas ranks slightly higher than all Canada's GDP of \$1.73 trillion. Texas has led the nation in new job creation for the last several years. It is imperative to get Texas' massive economic engine back to full production as soon as possible.

Closer to home, any lingering daily decline resulting from a continuing business shutdown undoubtedly will

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
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 - 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 items until libraries reopen. No late fees will be assessed during the time libraries are not open. 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>.

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www.stlukecatholic.com

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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

Nursery Available at all Services

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Nursery Available at all Services

SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

It's confirmed, the 2019-2020 sports year is over

Gov. Greg Abbott's April 17 announcement that all public and private schools remain closed for the duration of the 2019-2020 academic year is the trigger for subsequent announcement of other school-related organizations.

Confirming what was basically inevitable, the University Interscholastic League, the official governing body of extracurricular activities in Texas, halted all athletic activities for the remainder of the school

year.

The Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, which governs similar activities for private schools such as Lutheran South Academy, did the same.

It was a tough decision to make, yet surely the only one that could have come about given the current status of the coronavirus pandemic not only in Texas but nationwide.

The stoppage is without question hard to swallow

for the 2019-2020 senior class.

Unlike most junior college and NCAA athletes, these seniors will not receive a "do-over," but rather the end has come.

But it's also as difficult for freshmen, sophomores and juniors who, just as the seniors did, saw a year of eligibility end prematurely.

From a South Belt area perspective, there will be many cases of "what might have been."

The Dobie boys' soccer

team, with eight seniors showing the way, won a sixth straight district title literally days before the original stoppage and had been looking forward to a deep playoff run.

Similarly, Clear Brook's boys' soccer program qualified for the postseason for the first time in several years but will not get a chance to taste the postseason.

The Dobie varsity softball team was 5-1 in league play at the time play ended and was surely headed to

the postseason The Longhorns' baseball team, with the senior pitching trio of Daniel Garza, Alan Lopez Jr. and Dom Martinez leading the way and throwing to senior catcher Justin Blogg, also had started strong in nondistrict play and was about to open 22-6A play at Summer Creek. That didn't happen.

Clear Brook sprinter Camryn Dickson, a state qualifier as a freshman in 2019 in the 100-meter, had been eyeing a return to Aus-

tin, which also could have led to increased collegiate recruiting opportunities. Those chances will now have to wait.

And the defending state champion baseball and softball programs from Lutheran South won't get a chance to defend their respective titles this season but will still be the champions heading into 2021.

Small consolation, perhaps.

Everywhere one looks, there will be unfinished sto-

ries to tell.

While it's truly no one's fault, it's an unfair outcome for athletes across the state.

What's next during the course of the pandemic? Will little league seasons be canceled before they began? Like it or not, it could happen.

Summer track and field programs are all but called off, and there will be no summer youth sports camps. The state's annual 7-on-7 football program at the very least will be delayed.

And how will all this alter the start of 2020-2021 fall programs like volleyball,

football and cross-country, not to mention team tennis? Those activities are months away for sure, but not immune.

For now, the 2019-2020 season, sadly, is done. It's a difficult life lesson to learn that oftentimes things just aren't fair.

Moreno hoping Hall call comes his way

While it may not seem like the proper time to be celebrating either crowning or career-long achievements in athletics of any level, few can fault Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. as the summer approaches.

Nominated for induction into the Texas Tennis Coaches Association's Hall of Fame, Moreno, the Longhorns' head coach since 1999 and a lifelong supporter of youth tennis at local, state and national levels, will find out sometime later this summer if he has been deemed worthy of enshrinement this year.

Regardless of the outcome - there are as many as 15 or so candidates up for induction for 2019-2020, yet there is no limit to the number of single-year entrants - Moreno says he's merely proud to be in the conversation for induction.

That said, he has logged more years in his coaching career than he has remaining, and the potential Hall of Fame induction would be

special.

"I'm just very humbled and honored to be considered for the TTCA Hall of Fame," Moreno said. "I don't take compliments very well. A lot of times I just feel like we are doing our jobs as coaches, and seeking out recognition is not part of it. But to have someone bring up the Hall of Fame and to think I should be considered is truly special. If I were to be inducted, there's no doubt it would be the caper to my career. I'm not done yet, but to get into the Hall of Fame would be rewarding on many levels."

Pearland head coach Brittany Doyle, who nominated Moreno for the TTCA Hall of Fame, said she first encountered Moreno when she was a player at rival Deer Park High School and competed against Moreno's Longhorns. "He cheered on all of us players even if we weren't on his team," Brittany Doyle said. "That was something that you don't see much of. He wants each and every player to do well regardless of who they play for."

"Obviously, he wants

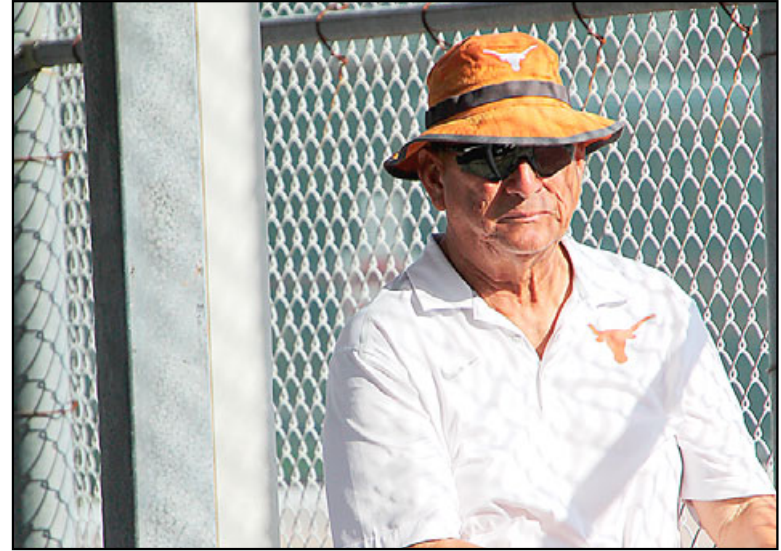
to win, but coach Moreno cares about young players. As a coach, he also taught me the ins and outs of how to run a tournament.

"My first year at Pearland, I didn't host any events because I just didn't have the experience. With his help, this season, we hosted freshman, junior varsity and varsity tournaments."

"I'm more than happy to nominate coach Moreno for the Hall of Fame. If I can be 25 percent of the coach and leader for youth tennis that he has been, I will consider myself to have done well."

The story has been told many times in the *Leader*. Moreno played prep tennis at Galveston's O'Connell High School where he was an all-state doubles player in 1973 and went on to play at Lamar University under the guidance of Ron Wesbrooks, who to this day remains one of Moreno's most trusted

Continued on Page 5



Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. has earned Texas Tennis Coaches Association honors in the past but hopes this is his time to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He now has the most tenure on the Dobie coaching staff, having been the program's leader since 1999. As for the hall of fame, the 2020 class of inductees is set to be announced sometime this summer.

JFD's Perez off to Kutztown



Alexis Perez of Dobie appeared in the Region III tournament as part of Dobie's team in 2018 and played in the event as an individual as a junior. This season she was playing as well as ever before the coronavirus pandemic ended the spring sports season prior to the district tournament rounds. See story on Page 5.

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Humble ISD officially exits; hello to Deer Park and Channelview

With the University Interscholastic League's announcement that spring sports would not continue, so came the end of Humble ISD's stay within District 22-6A.

And what a glorious stay it was, at least where the HISD faithful are concerned. While no players or coaches will shy away from some good competition, there had to be a few collective groans two school years ago when the UIL announced that it would pair Humble ISD with the Pasadena ISD ranks to form District 22-6A.

Pasadena ISD has seen the likes of Pearland and Dawson in league play previously, and there have also been appearances by Kingwood and Humble.

Yet the arrival of Kingwood and Humble in addition to Summer Creek and Atascocita smelled like a doozy at the time, and it sure was.

The long and short of it?

Humble ISD claimed district championships in every major team sport in 2018-2019 and seemed on its way to repeating this school year, although the Dobie varsity softball team or the school's varsity basketball team planned to have something to say about that before play was halted this spring.

Atascocita won consecutive football championships and also rolled to big finishes in both boys' and girls' basketball.

Kingwood claimed a pair

of volleyball crowns and also ruled fall team tennis. Kingwood also won last season's baseball title. Summer Creek's girls won the Region III hoop title two seasons ago and reached the final this season.

Get the drift? Dobie had reached the playoffs in every team sport in 2019-2020 and was well on its way to doing similarly this school year as Pasadena's most competitive school.

In today's Class 6A landscape, Dobie, despite owning

a state top-10 enrollment figure, has found winning district championships quite the challenge.

Yet while Humble ISD could very well get a taste of its own medicine when it greets the likes of North Shore and Beaumont West Brook in 21-6A beginning next school year, Dobie and the rest of Pasadena ISD have seen a proverbial door open with only Deer Park and Channelview coming in. Just don't mention possible bidistrict playoff matchups.

Pandemic certainly could affect 2020-2021 start

The 2019-2020 sports season has come to an end in both the public and private school arenas.

That much is known. But what is yet to be determined in how far-reaching the coronavirus pandemic will ultimately be as it relates to 2020-2021 and, specifically, fall high school sports.

Two of those sports, football and volleyball, have already seen a good chunk of their respective off-season programs affected greatly, and the summer figures to be largely barren of activities.

If school were in session presently, the volleyball pro-

grams at Clear Brook and Dobie would be well into their off-season workout and training programs, with the respective coaching staffs eyeing potential varsity contributors for next season.

Instead, coaches at all levels are left to shelter in place with a note pad, putting together likely rosters, if that's possible.

The usual summer camps that come each July might still be held, but how well will they be attended, with parents everywhere sure to err on the side of caution.

The high school volleyball season doesn't begin until the first week of August. Surely

things will have returned to normal by then. Right?

Meanwhile, the 2020 football season is huge for the University Interscholastic League as its the 100th all-time for the state's extracurricular activity governing body.

But spring football was a no-go this spring, and 7-on-7 is likely to be awash as well. August is a ways off, but football players will be behind the curve regardless.

The bottom line is that it remains to be seen how far-reaching this pandemic will be. Spring sports are already gone, and it's only prudent to consider fall sports.

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South Belt youth soccer addresses spring stoppage
Editor's Note:
The following note was issued to 2020 spring season registrants within the South Belt Youth Soccer Club after the group was forced to cancel the 2020 spring season due to the affects of the coronavirus pandemic.
Members,
The latest COVID-19 "Stay At Home" and "Social Distancing" restrictions in place have practically meant the end of spring season for our teams.
We were hoping to be able to start the season and schedule the games but we have to be realistic about the current situation.
The club will issue re-

funds to all the players that did not get to play any games this season.
We will open Fall 2020 registration on the club website once the situation improves.
Please be patient regarding refunds since we have to process several hundreds of them.
We will credit the card that was used to register the player.
We ask all of our members to practice safe measures and to follow the recommendations and guidelines issued for the safety of all. Looking forward to the fall season.
Regards,
Alex Dokhani

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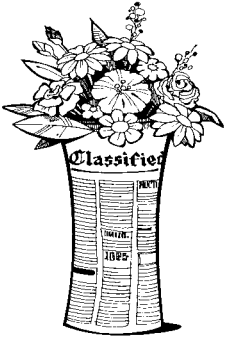
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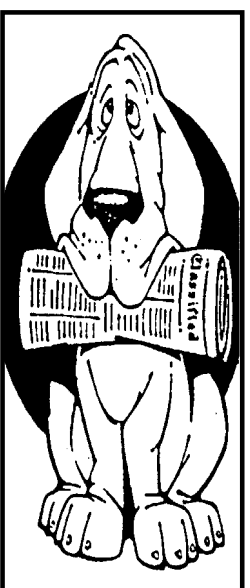
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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for 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 additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom's - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue functions are canceled and the synagogue is closed 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 +1-571-317-3122. 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>. For more information email csh@shaarhashalom.org.

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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
 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.
AI-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
 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 27
 10 a.m.
AI-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 - 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call

409-454-5720 for 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 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.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website, <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective 3/16/2020, to ensure its members continue their journey to becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on our home page menu (www.youngprofessionals.toastmasters.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.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

7:30 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing has been canceled until further notice due to the current health situation. For information, email csh@shaarhashalom.org.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 28
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through

Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

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 additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30
 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 additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.



JFD girls' soccer star Mitchell has UH in sight

Like many of her peers, Dobie senior Taiya Mitchell would have loved to have closed out her brilliant four-year varsity soccer career competing against the rival Memorial Mavericks for a chance to go to the playoffs.

That moment won't come, unfortunately, yet will do nothing to tarnish Mitchell's career, as she is set to go down in the history books as one of the Lady Longhorns' best-ever competitors.



A starter on the varsity soccer field literally from the moment she walked through the campus doors on Blackhawk Boulevard, Mitchell started every game for the Lady Longhorns over the four years, giving head coach Bryan McDonald and the rest of the team a steady, everyday force.

A two-time District 22-6A Defensive Player of the Year before her junior year even came about, Mitchell has indeed been one of the top players at her spot throughout her career.

The folks at the University of Houston obviously took notice, as Mitchell is currently under verbal commitment to play with the Cougars beginning next school year.

In Mitchell, the Cougars will be getting a player who clearly evolved from a relatively quiet player early on to quite the vocal leader these days. It's something she simply had to grow into.

"I think I really became

Dobie varsity girls' soccer player Taiya Mitchell started every game of her four-year career and earned two Defensive Player of the Year awards. Now, she is ready to try her skills collegiately at the University of Houston.

much more vocal and became a leader because of my two years of playing volleyball," Mitchell said.

"I only played volleyball my junior and senior years, but I'm really going to miss it and my teammates. Volleyball is different in that every point is emotional and can be a celebration. I think I became a lot more vocal out there on the soccer field from having played volleyball."

Mitchell did score a handful of goals later in her career as she pushed forward particularly later in games, but her largest contributions on the field rarely fill up a stat sheet, and she is fine with that.

"I've always enjoyed being in control of the defensive end of the field," she said. "Pre-

Moreno hoping for hall call

Continued from Page 3

mentors. Both Vince Stiglich Jr. and Wesbrooks are TTCA Hall of Fame inductees.

Moreno has also been a member of the TTCA for better than 35 years and has earned his share of honors previously. He was the Class 5A Coach of the Year in 2005 and brought home the Loretta Hrnrcir Dedication Award in 2019. He is also a USTA and NHSTA member, playing key roles in the leadership of both.

Moreno had coaching stops at O'Connell (13 years) and Clear Lake High School during his career. His brief stay at Clear Lake didn't end how he had hoped, and Moreno today admits he only expected to be at Dobie for one school year, with plans to move on elsewhere.

Instead, he's been somewhat of a Dobie lifer and doesn't want to consider what coaching elsewhere would have been like.

"I had known Steve Jamail (former longtime Dobie principal) from when he was also at O'Connell, and they way he supported Dobie tennis and myself was great," Moreno said. "That, and the kids have been terrific over the years. We don't always have the greatest talent in terms of superchamp level and so forth, but the kids care about their community, the school and the tennis program. I'm very proud of what we have developed here."

This particular school year will be bittersweet for Moreno. On one hand, the Longhorns broke through and advanced to the area playoff round in the fall team tennis campaign. Yet seeing the spring season cut short by the coronavirus pandemic will resonate negatively for a while.

Moreno has admitted before now that this particular team reinvigorated him as a longtime coach, and not being able to finish the year representing their school on the court this spring at district and potentially regional stings.

"I feel for all of the kids in all programs that saw

their time as student-athletes come to an end by all of this," Moreno said. "In our case, their time on the court as competitive players as part of a team ended early, and no one wants to see that."

So with an in-person school year having been declared not possible for the remainder of 2019-2020, Moreno spends most of his days at home in Galveston, longing for a return to normalcy. "I miss the kids, and I miss being out there on the courts with them," he said.

"A lot of times you don't fully realize what you had or will miss until it's gone. I miss our kids for sure."

As spring turns to summer, Moreno will no doubt think of his potential induction into the TTCA Hall of Fame from time to time. He's been a member of the storied association since the days of 20-25 person gatherings. This December, there figures to be 600 to 700 in attendance at the annual convention, and perhaps Moreno will be honored among other worthy hall inductees.

LSA's Justice chooses Tech football



Lutheran South Academy senior Jake Justice, an all-state and all-district performer this season on the Pioneers' varsity football team, has announced that he is set to join the Texas Tech University football program, where he plans to compete for a role beginning this fall. Justice led the Pioneers in receptions this season as he helped guide the team to a second-round playoff appearance.

JFD's Cantu picks Nunez CC



His senior season as well as that of the entire Dobie varsity baseball team might have come to a premature end, but Xavier Cantu will take his pitching/ infield skills to Nunez Community College beginning this fall after agreeing to join the program earlier this month.

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Wolverines' Randle bets hard work leads to shot

Amid the permanent school closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there are still class of 2020 graduates to be who are looking for the perfect match for their athletic skills.

Count Clear Brook High School middle linebacker Theo Randle III as one of those athletes.

The Division I football programs have long since landed the big fish, as have many of the smaller programs. Even the JUCOs have scored the majority of their recruiting classes.

So where does that leave Randle, a two-year starter at middle linebacker who is relatively undersized for the middle in college yet is more than willing to make the switch to outside linebacker or even strong safety?

"I've talked to Sam Houston and Incarnate Word about walking on," said Randle, who can be seen via his Twitter feed pumping out squats or performing cone drills by his lonesome any day of the week. In short, when his time and opportunity comes, Randle plans to be ready to seize it.

While District 24-6A heavyweights Dickinson and Clear Springs rule the roost most of the time these days, Randle started his junior and senior seasons for a

Wolverine team that endured several more losses than victories.

Randle believes he delivered leadership skills and the intangibles to compete at the next level.

"I feel like we played hard as a group, and your job as a middle linebacker on defense is to lead the group and make sure your teammates are in the proper positions to be successful," Randle said.

"We made the playoffs my junior year even though our record wasn't what we would have liked.

"This year, we played hard even if the breaks didn't go our way."

Whether it be a quarter, a full game or season or an entire four-year career, Randle simply wants the opportunity to show he belongs in the collegiate football ranks, regardless of the level.

He's volunteered at an area nursing home and plans to study nursing in college, with a career in the field to follow. But Randle also wants to play more football later this fall.

"I'm looking at some options, and I know the right path will come," Randle said. "I know I can contribute. When I get that chance, I know I'll be ready."

For those who want proof, just look him up on Twitter.



Theo Randle III, a two-year starter on Clear Brook's varsity football team, is willing and ready for a position change on the field as he continues to eye collegiate playing opportunities later this fall.

2020 Lajaunie memorial tennis now June 26-28

The ninth annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament is now set for June 26-28 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena.

To date, tournament organizers have had to work around the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic as the original dates encompassed early May.

Despite the scheduling issues, the tournament committee has awarded academic scholarships to eight deserving Class of 2020 seniors, including six from Dobie High School. Those eight recipients will soon be recognized in the *Leader*.

Tournament registration details will come soon, and scholarship donation, used racket donation and other tournament related efforts are ongoing. Visit dltennisscholarships.com for additional details.

Darren Lajaunie graduated from Dobie, where he played tennis. He and his family, including wife Camille and son Andrew, played tennis in the Bay Area before Darren's cancer-related death. See more Lajaunie tournament news beginning next week.

LSA's Whitney will join Sam Houston



Lutheran South softball star Lauren Whitney, who helped the Pioneers to a state title in 2019 as the team's starting catcher, will first graduate from LSA later this spring and then join the Sam Houston women's softball program after signing a letter of intent. Whitney had the Pioneers off to a solid start this spring before the season was cut short.

JFD's Perez headed to Kutztown

Two-time Region III Championship golfer Alexis Perez has parlayed a career as one of Dobie's top female performers in recent memory into a collegiate opportunity at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania.

It's ironic then, that even Perez admits it almost didn't happen. Perez, after all, excelled with a basketball in her



Kutztown University in Pennsylvania landed a top Houston area golfer as Dobie's Alexis Perez signed with the program earlier this school year. Perez, formerly a basketball player, quickly developed an impressive golf game since her arrival at Dobie in 2016-2017.

hands and seemed destined to play that sport throughout her career at Dobie.

That is, until she tried her hand at golf. "Playing golf just seemed to come natural to me," she said. "I won't say it was easy, but I got pretty good at it pretty quickly."

Perez said she won her first junior varsity tournament as a freshman and was promoted to the varsity level by coach Chris Ferguson.

As a sophomore, Perez was part of a Lady Longhorns' group that advanced to regionals as a team for the first time in many years. Goodbye basketball, hello emphasis on golf.

Perez qualified for regionals as a junior and very clearly had designs on competing for a District 22-6A title this season before the coronavirus pandemic stopped spring athletics.

Perez looked at potential collegiate opportunities here in the Houston area, but preferred other options.

"I've always wanted to go away for college," she said. "I really enjoyed my visit to Kutztown University and am looking forward to playing there. It is a Division II program, and I would like to play Division I golf and even try to make the LPGA Tour."

Brook seniors honored for another terrific season



The Clear Brook bowling team had another terrific year, one that concluded with the Lady Wolverines' team reaching state but then being unable to compete due to the coronavirus pandemic. Nonetheless, the program celebrated the performance of its senior class. The seniors and their coaches include, left to right, coach Cecil Rutherford, Ethan Rodriguez, Marc Hernandez, Joshua Berry, coach Roxy Casas, Allison Lee, Rebecca Cybulski, Miguel Hernandez and coach Claudia Gentry.

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ENJOY THE DAY, KENNETH!

Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Kenneth Griffin** April 24 from his wife **Bobby**; son **David Griffin** and wife **Angela** and grandchildren **Robert** and **Kenneth**; daughter **Tracy Giles** and husband **Jim** and grandchildren **Kristen**, **Cody**, **Aaron** and wife **Ashley** and great-grandsons **Jaxson** and **Jace**; and friends at the *Leader*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAY!

Best wishes are sent April 27 for a wonderful birthday to **Dobie grad Jay Do** from friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 23 through April 29, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary

The day for a party for **Mary Baker-Porter** is April 28.

Burnett Elementary

Sing two choruses of a happy birthday song April 28 to **Jessica Kidd** and **Erica Lopez**.

Frazier Elementary

Celebrate with a layered birthday cake April 29 for **Melba Donato** and **Meredith Rives**.

Genoa Elementary

Send a birthday greeting April 23 to **Debbie Blair**. Join in the birthday celebration April 26 for **Portia Alvaro**.

Meador Elementary

Birthday wishes are in order for **Cherie Briscoe** on April 23.

Moore Elementary

Send a happy birthday card April 25 to **Dee Pitts**.

South Belt Elementary

Join in the fun with a birthday celebration for **Lesley Cooper** on April 23. **Roseann Herte** enjoys a birthday April 26.

Stuchbery Elementary

Best wishes for a great birthday April 23 are sent to **Charyl Lyons**. Break out the birthday cake and ice cream April 26 for **Carolyn Eastburn**. Happy birthday wishes are sent April 27 to **Iris Montemayor**.

Melillo Middle School

On April 24, light the birthday candles for **Nicole Ram**. The day for a birthday celebration for **Jacqueline Carmona** is April 27.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send a birthday greeting April 24 to **Criselda Bocanegra**. April 25 marks a special birthday for **Keith Whitley**.

Thompson Intermediate

Light the candles April 29 for a double celebration for **Nicole Horne-Sherman** and **Melissa Taylor**.

Dobie High

Nataly Gonzalez-Hernandez and **Tiffany Lambert** enjoy a birthday on April 23. Blow out the birthday candles April 24 for **Lynn**

Capell. The day for a present for **Laura Sharpless** is April 29.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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 23: **Lewis Reyna**, **Mandy Lewis** and **Ashley Coppens**; Friday, April 24: **Dakota Golightly**, **Charles Chassay**, **Theresa Flower**, **Lisa Castellano** and **Claudia Espinoza**; Saturday, April 25: **Rebecca Castonguay**, **Anne Seaton**, **Steve Jones**, **Misty Kuehn** and **Liana Pena**; Sunday, April 26: **Traci Thompson**, **Steve Patterson**, **Stephen Brady** and **Dan Fortson**; Monday, April 27: **Emily Walker**, **Erika Gonzalez**, **Christopher Malek**, **Pam Navarre**, **Mary Pinkerton**, **Freda Mathews**, **Paula Morley**, **Amber Allan** and **Penelope Villeda**; Tuesday, April 28: **Ralph Jackson**, **Kelly Schwell**, **Jason Stonestreet**, **Monica Rasmussen** and **Carrie Ramirez**; and Wednesday, April 29: **Kevin James**, **Jonathan Ellis**, **Ben Bryant** and **Melissa Rahman**.

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.

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40 years ago (1980)

A contract for repairs of fire damage at Burnett Elementary was awarded to Stoner Construction Company with the low bid of \$235,500.

John Robinson, senior at J. Frank Dobie, set a new state record of 4:04.9 in the mile run at a 23-4A district track meet.

Contracts for the design phase of the improvements to Turkey Creek were awarded. The design would be for construction on the two waterways to enable them to carry the runoff from the watershed at full development.

Two young male employees of the New Vaudeville Pizza on Hughes Road were instrumental in the apprehension of a Houston man suspected of being responsible for approximately 250 robberies since Christmas.

35 years ago (1985)

Buzzy Kieth was named head football coach at Dobie. He came from El Campo.

Dobie freshman Barbara Myers was in a coma in the intensive care unit at Texas Children's Hospital after being hit by a car driven by an unlicensed driver. Myers recovered and eventually worked on the *Leader* staff.

The Texas Department of Health ruled water samples taken from the Sagemeadow Utility District by an independent lab were safe to drink.

30 years ago (1990)

For the 10th straight year, Dobie's Latin Club swept the competition and won the state championship.

Clear Creek Independent School District was expecting a sharp decline in students at Weber Elementary because of the proximity to the Brio Superfund site.

Weber Elementary also received transfer requests from 13 of its 31 classroom teachers, a 42 percent rate.

A group of remaining Weber parents called a meeting regarding a lack of commitment by the district in solving the Weber problem.

25 years ago (1995)

The San Jacinto College Board of Regents unanimously accepted the retirement of Chancellor Tom Sewell.

Two South Belt principals, a J. Frank Dobie assistant principal and a Dobie coach were among 225 Pasadena Independent School District employees who opted to take the district's voluntary exit incentive.

A Sagemont Park teenager remained in jail after being charged with the stabbing death of Jimmy Dickson, 18, of Green Tee.

The newly constructed Parker Williams Library on the campus of San Jacinto College South received the quarterly Community Improvement Award from the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

20 years ago (2000)

A record of 26 teams were to compete in the fourth annual South Belt Spectacular Cookoff.

Stuchbery had 104 years of experience retiring at the end of the school year when Gladys Scheidt, Frances Fuller, Carolyn Frailey and Barbara Charba retired.

Constable Gary Freeman incorporated new computer technology, which resulted in the arrest of 16 criminals since January.

The Bulgier family donated a monument for two firefighting victims, Lewis Mayo and Kimberly Smith of Fire Station 76.

Atkinson observed its 30-year anniversary with an open house celebration. St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church announced its proj-

ect to raise \$2 million in funds for a long-awaited church building.

15 years ago (2005)

The ninth annual barbecue cookoff held at El Franco Lee Park was believed to be the most successful to that date. Forty-two teams participated, and nearly \$9,000 was raised for the annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

The search for Austin Childs, Scott Keller and John Zimmerman wound down. The trio disappeared off the coast of Freeport during a fishing expedition. Childs' family had exhausted every resource in their search.

Sagemeadow resident Cathy Massey was named Volunteer of the Year for Shriners Hospital in Galveston.

Early voting was underway for the San Jacinto College Board of Regents.

Dobie senior Kristopher Ritel won first place in the national Business Professionals of America competition held in Anaheim.

10 years ago (2010)

Former Pasadena Independent School District Director of Fine Arts and longtime music educator Barbara F. Eads died after a battle with cancer. South Belt resident James

"Jimmy" Myron Willprecht died when his plane crashed in a wooded area in Friendswood. Willprecht, 52, was flying alone in his 1973 Bellanca Super Viking when the plane crashed in a field north of the Wilderness Trail subdivision between FM 528 and FM 2351.

5 years ago (2015)

South Belt attorney John Eddie Williams Jr. was named the Pasadena Independent School District's 2015 Distinguished Alumnus. A 1972 Pasadena High School graduate, Williams is a managing partner at the Williams Kherkher Law Firm on the Gulf Freeway. He and his wife Sheridan, support many organizations, including MD Anderson and Memorial Hermann hospitals, as well as the PISD Education Foundation.

1 year ago (2019)

Twin brothers were simultaneously arrested on DWI charges Saturday, April 20, following a crash on Highway 3 at Beltway 8. The brothers were each driving separate vehicles. Joseph Bramlet was charged with felony DWI since he had a child in his vehicle, while James Bramlet was charged with misdemeanor DWI and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

Martinez wins at HLSR



Isaac Martinez, shown above was selected as one of the winners of the 2020 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Agriculture Education Rodeo Art Contest. Martinez is a third-grader at Meador Elementary School. He received four NRG park ground passes and his artwork was displayed inside NRG Center.

Roberts announces yearly awards



Roberts Middle School recently surprised its staff with yearly awards and gifts. Due to COVID-19 and schools being closed, school officials delivered goodies to the recipients' doors. Shown above is Ashlie Haas, fifth- and sixth-grade math teacher at Roberts, who was voted Teacher of the Year by her peers.



Shown above is Allie Johnson, fifth-grade science teacher at Roberts Middle School. She was voted New Teacher of the Year by the Robert MS staff.



Shown above is Maribel De La Fuente, Roberts Middle School Paraprofessional of the Year. She was voted for by Roberts MS staff.

Valdez named Teacher of the Year



The 2019 - 2020 Teacher of the Year for Moore Elementary is Patricia Valdez (center), who was selected because she is a beloved and dedicated teacher, setting high expectations for her students and ensuring expectations are met. Valdez, a SUCCESS teacher, is one who goes above and beyond what is expected to make certain her students are successful academically, socially and emotionally. She has built a partnership with area businesses and takes her students on community-based instruction trips so they can have real world experiences. She demonstrates a positive outlook on school and life. Moore Elementary personnel feel fortunate to have such a dedicated staff member. Shown with Valdez are Brandi Castillo (left) and Bobbie Bashinski, SUCCESS paraprofessionals.

Harris County tests again at EFL Park

Continued from Page 1

COVID-19 resource line at 832-927-7575. Once residents complete an online assessment, they will be given a code to speak to a health care provider. If one meets the criteria, the health care provider will then schedule an appointment at the location nearest to them.

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

City of Houston

The Houston Health Department continues to operate two coronavirus testing sites, screening approximately 1,000 people per day combined. The city has now expand-

ed its testing to screen anyone who wishes to do so.

Like with the county, all people wishing to be tested must still be issued an authorization code first.

Residents can call the department's COVID-19 call center at 832-393-4220 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. to receive a unique identification code and instructions on where to go for testing and how to obtain their test results.

The testing sites only accept people with the identification code obtained through the department's COVID-19 call center. People showing up at the test sites without an identification code will be turned away.

The testing sites will continue operating until further notice. The tests are free to the pub-

lic. Workers at the sites only collect insurance information and don't accept payment. The information obtained through testing or services will not be used against immigrants in their public charge evaluation.

For additional information visit HoustonEmergency.org/covid19.

Pct. 2 keeps peace

Continued from Page 1

present rate of calls for family preventions and family disturbances during the two-week period above compared to this time last year for the entire month of March 2019, the calls on are on course to surpass last year's numbers, presumably due to the added stress on the family unit during the Covid-19 pandemic health emergency.

COVID-19 Response Team

Following last month's order by County Judge Lina Hidalgo for all Harris County departments to Stay Home/Work Safe, the Harris County Precinct 2 constable's office has formed a COVID-19 Response Team. Captain Paul Martinez will serve as commander of this team under the supervision of Chief Deputy Lee Hernandez. This team not only has oversight on the well-being of the deputies working patrol during this time but ensures that proper COVID protocol is used in daily operation and the handling of the public interaction.

Governor: Distance-learning extends to May 28

Continued from Page 1

July 31, if it is deemed safe by local officials. Specific times and dates for individual schools will be announced soon. Tegeler Career Center will hold its graduation Wednesday, July 29, at Phillips Field House in Pasadena.

The district will continue its curbside grab-and-go meal distribution program Monday through Friday at the same times and locations. To date Pasadena ISD has provided nearly 300,000 meals for children. Local meal distribution sites include Dobie High School and Beverly Hills Intermediate. Meal times are 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (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.) Pasadena ISD is asking parents to take an online survey about the district's current performance during the COVID-19 pandemic. To take the survey, visit www.pasade.naisd.org or the district's Facebook page.

Powell encourages students to keep pushing through the next month during this ongoing crisis. "Stay safe, keeping working hard, and just know we love you, and we miss you all," Powell said.

Clear Creek ISD

Clear Creek ISD will also remain physically closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. "There will soon be the

day yellow buses will be rolling through neighborhoods, schools bustling with children eager to learn, and large events that draw people of all ages together to witness the great talent our students have in the arts and athletics," CCISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith posted in an online statement. "That day, however, will not be in this academic school year."

The district will also continue its distance-learning program for the duration of the school year, Smith said. The school district's employees for their hard work during this trying time.

"Our entire CCISD team of educators and staff have done an outstanding job of creating and delivering distance-learning into the living rooms of 42,000 homes," Smith said. "Our parents and guardians have taken on this additional burden with a winning spirit. They have learned how we do school and rallied around their children in meaningful, and at times, humorous ways."

The superintendent also praised the district's students for their performance during the crisis. "To our students, you are resilient, creative and intelligent," Smith said. "There are countless stories of children from kindergarten through high school who have taken this time to make the world around them a better place for all." Some students have made masks, while others have donated food and supplies. To see the features on these CCISD students, visit ccisd.net/news/ccisd_today/ccisidmpact.

Smith encourages parents to remind their children that this challenging time will soon pass, and students will soon return to a sense of normalcy.

"We know there is nothing more normal in a child's life than the tradition of going to school, learning with friends and building positive relationships with their teachers," Smith said. "Please remind your children that those days await them with great desire from all of us in CCISD."

Plans for CCISD's graduation and other Class of 2020 events will be released soon.

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Members of the public with general legal questions or COVID-19-related inquiries, including unemployment, eviction, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and more—are

invited to sign up online for the Houston Bar Association (HBA)'s LegalLine program. Visit HBA.org/LegalLine to learn more and view available slots. LegalLine is held Wednesdays through May 2020. Individuals may sign up online

by 5 p.m. Tuesday to have a licensed attorney call them back at their assigned time on Wednesday. Questions on all areas of law are welcome. For information about LegalLine, including statistics, visit <https://www.hba.org/legaline>.

COVID-19 changes way of life, what is done

Meals for first responders



Above, wearing protective gear as a standard procedure, are Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz (left) and Sammy Khaleeq, owner of CGS Digital Marketing. Khaleeq, a South Belt resident, provided 300 lunches to first responders which include constable officers and some members of Southeast Volunteer Fire Department.



Guarding the meals to be given to first responders are, left to right, Cpl. Vance Britt, Sgt. Robert Sanchez, Lt. Fermin Vasquez and Deputy Robin Uresti.

Testing now for everyone at EFL



Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis (left) visits with Dr. Umair A. Shah, executive director of Harris County Public Health Friday, April 17, the first day of drive-thru COVID-19 testing at El Franco Lee Park. The county is now testing all who want it and may have been exposed. It is no longer necessary to have symptoms to be tested. It is necessary to call and get a code number before arriving for testing. To register to be tested, visit readyharris.org or checkforcorona.com/harris-county. Last week, 112 people were tested for the virus on each day of the two-day testing. Testing at El Franco Lee Park will be held again April 27, 28 and 29. Results take a couple of days. See related story Page 1. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Distance-learning outdoors



Well-known resident Kathy Freeborn (left) assists the Woodmeadow neighborhood children with free tutoring on their school subjects. Freeborn uses a table in her front yard to hold the tutor sessions. She is shown here with student Isabel Jimenez who was studying algebra. Jimenez is an eighth-grader at Thompson Intermediate. Photo by Judy Harrison

MUD, school elections updated

Continued from Page 1
percent.
On the Republican side of the aisle, Kathaleen Wall will face Greg Hill. Wall received 35.48 percent of the vote during the election to Hill's 20 percent.
The race for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable will also head to a runoff between incumbent Chris Diaz and challenger Jerry Garcia. During the March primary contest, Diaz received 34 percent of the vote to Garcia's 39 percent.
The winner of the Democratic runoff election will face Republican Daniel Vela in the November general election.
CCISD
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees approved an order to postpone the Saturday, May 2, school board election to the uniform election date of Tuesday, Nov. 3.
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.
For additional information on each candidate, visit the CCISD board election information page at www.ccisd.net/cms/one.aspx?portalId=645487&pageId=1228798.
Early voting will take place Monday, Oct. 19, through Friday, Oct. 23, although 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.
PISD, San Jac
No Pasadena Independent School District or San Jacinto College elections are planned, as no opponents filed to run against incumbents.

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MUDs
Kirkmont MUD: The Kirkmont Municipal Utility District will hold an election to determine two positions on its board. Incumbents Jean Ann Williams and Lonnie Piquiet are up for re-election and both have filed to maintain their seats. While former board member Bonnie Dimicelli missed the filing deadline to appear on the official ballot, she has filed the necessary paperwork to be a write-in candidate in the election.
As a challenger, Dimicelli does not have to run for a specific seat, as the two open positions will be awarded to whoever receives the most overall votes. Terms are four years.
Other MUDs: No elections will take place in the Clear Brook City and Sagemeadow MUDs, as all candidates are running unchallenged. On the Clear Brook City MUD board, incumbents David Flickinger, Chuck Tylka and Chris Clark all filed to maintain their positions. Likewise, Glenn Williams and David Montgomery have both filed to maintain their seats on the Sagemeadow MUD board.

Team effort benefits South Belt



Donning the current standard garb of face masks and gloves for volunteers, workers at CrossRoads UMC prepare boxes of food items for needy South Belt families during a monthly distribution event sponsored by Feeding the Multitudes Ministry aided by the Houston Food Bank. Shown above, left to right, Chris Hook, Mariluz Lopez, Soledad De La Cerda and Misako Herring are busy serving approximately 400 people who arrived in their vehicles to receive donations of fresh fruits and vegetables, milk and orange juice and other items April 18. According to the CrossRoads Church pastor, the Rev. Cesar Martinez (not shown), the ministry's project began two years ago under the leadership of church members Rob and Laura Bradley, assisted by Jae Lee, Burnett Elementary principal, and Leticia Sanchez, Burnett counselor.

Abbott begins open Texas process

Continued from Page 1
prehensively test and trace COVID-19 that will enable Texans to gradually and safely begin the process of returning to work and other activities.
The medical team will work alongside a special advisory council that will share innovative ideas to help businesses strategically reopen while containing the spread of COVID-19. The council consists of 39 business leaders representing the state's regions and industries. The advisory council will collaborate with working groups to devise strategies, statewide standards, and appropriate time frames to reopen the state while prioritizing the health and safety of all Texans.
The strike force will immediately begin providing input on potential additional openings of activities and services in Texas consistent with guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
The governor will announce a revised plan for the state based on these initial recommendations on April 27.
For more information about the governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, visit gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas.
The governor's second executive order (GA-16) relates to the reopening of select services and activities. This order establishes a temporary "retail-to-go" model that will allow retail outlets in Texas to reopen beginning Friday, April 24. Under this model, reopened establishments are required to deliver items to customer's cars, homes or other locations to minimize contact.
Under this executive order, schools – including public, private and higher education institutions – will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. (See related story on Page 1.) Teachers may go into the classroom for video instruction, to perform administrative duties and to clean out their classrooms.
The governor's third executive order (GA-15) loosens restrictions on surgeries put in place by Abbott in March.
The governor also directed state parks to reopen Monday, April 20, with strict guidelines to reduce transmission of COVID-19 – including requiring visitors to wear face coverings, maintain a six-foot distance from individuals outside of their party and prohibiting the gathering of groups larger than five.

Felony drug chase starts at Dixie

Continued from Page 1
Precinct 8 deputies D. Bustos and C. Torres were patrolling the area near the Gulf Freeway and Dixie Farm Road when they deputies observed a white Lexus 4-door vehicle exit the Studio 6 Motel parking lot at a high rate of speed.
Upon checking the driver's speed, the deputies found that the driver was traveling in excess of 100 mph.
The deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle as it traveled north on the Gulf Freeway. The driver of the vehicle failed to yield to deputies, and a pursuit was initiated.
The driver took the Airport Boulevard exit, made the U-turn and continued south on the Gulf freeway feeder road.
Deputies briefly lost sight of the vehicle, but it was quickly relocated by Sgt. C. Hulsart on the southbound Gulf Freeway frontage road at Freeway.
The vehicle was still traveling at a high rate of speed, and a pursuit was initiated, as the vehicle re-entered the Gulf Freeway main lanes.
The driver took the Alameda Genoa exit and remained on the feeder road. Upon arriving at Clear Lake City Boulevard, the driver turned to the east and headed into Clear Lake. The driver continued on Clear Lake City Boulevard and crashed into the curb when attempting to make a turn onto Middlebrook at a high rate of speed.
The driver and two passengers immediately attempted to evade on foot. The driver and a female passenger were quickly apprehended.
The driver was charged with felony evading in a motor vehicle and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute after units recovered crystal methamphetamine and heroin from the vehicle.
King and Nuss were both charged with misdemeanor evading arrest/detention.

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St. Luke's collects masks



The parishioners of St. Luke the Evangelist have joined forces to make masks as a way to help with the COVID-19 epidemic while staying healthy and remaining at home with their families. St. Luke's will have collection tables set out in the walkway between the administration office and the education building Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to collect all finished masks and filters. For more information and an instruction video/pattern, visit www.stlukecatholic.com (Masks for First Responders under the News Section). Shown above is Luisa Rowsey, a St. Luke parishioner.

Beamer/BW8 accidents continue



Despite the large decrease in traffic, the intersection of Beamer and Beltway 8 continues to have constant traffic accidents. On Tuesday, April 14, at Beamer and the westbound Beltway, there was an accident in which the driver of the vehicle shown above was taken to the local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The other driver pulled over and stayed for the police report. Photo by Lisa Premm

Before & after at Beltway/Sabo



Local law enforcement officials recently removed a homeless encampment near the intersection of Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway. The raid was conducted by officers from Harris County Precinct 8 Phil Sandlin's office, along with assistance from the Texas Department of Transportation. Help with housing the homeless is available to those who currently need it. See related story on photo on Page 1.

