

Leader takes precautions

The *Leader* is using a closed-door policy and is asking the public to refrain from personal office visits. Residents are asked to direct inquiries to 281-481-5656 or email mynews@southbeltleader.com. After-hours calls should go to *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger at 281-948-2714.

CBC sets holiday hours

Offices of Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will be closed Friday, April 10, in observance of the Easter holiday. They reopen Monday, April 13, at 8 a.m. For convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash is allowed in the drop box.

Holiday trash changes

Clear Brook City MUD residents who have regular trash service pickup on Friday will have regular service on Good Friday, April 10. All trash should be at curbside by 7 a.m. Residents missing this trash pickup date will be serviced Tuesday, April 14. Residents with Monday/Thursday service will not be affected.

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 Genoa Red Bluff to Crenshaw daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, April 9.

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 Thursday, April 9.

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

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

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

Leader adapts to change

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

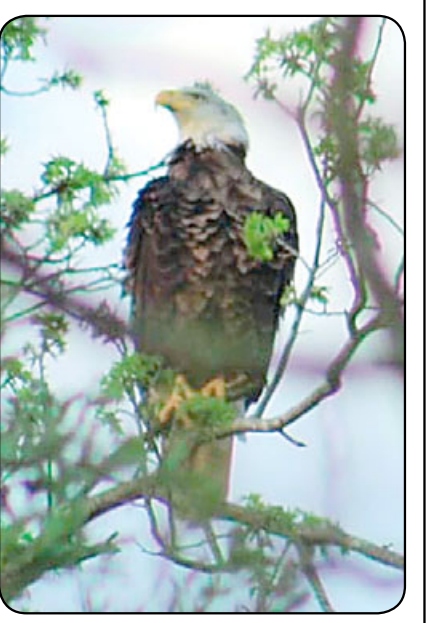
This year will also mark the first time in the *Leader*'s 45-year history the paper will not have a graduation issue. While it remained unclear at press time if local school districts would still have graduation ceremonies, social distancing recommendations would prohibit much of the photography normally associated with the special edition.

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.

Local bald eagle spotted



On Sunday, March 28, near Southport and Fuqua, Sarah Scott, a 2006 Dobie grad, took this photo of a bald eagle in a neighbor's tree. Scott, a self-taught photographer, had this type of bird on her wish list of photos she would like to take. She has taken pictures of eagles at the zoo, but not in the wild, and certainly not near her back yard.

Sagemont Church team proposes new pastor

Sagemont Church announced during its online service Wednesday, April 8, that Dr. Matt Carter will be coming to Sagemont "in view of a call" on Sunday, May 17.

If accepted, the new pastor will replace the founding pastor, Dr. John Morgan, who



Dr. Matt Carter

served Sagemont faithfully for 53 years. Morgan had announced last year that he would be stepping down.

Longtime South Belt resident and Sagemont teaching pastor, Dr. Freeman Tomlin, has been delivering the church's primary sermons since Morgan's retirement, while executive pastor, the Rev. Chuck Schneider, filled in as interim senior pastor.

Carter is the founding pastor of Austin Stone Community Church which began in 2002. During his tenure, the church has grown from a core team of 15 people to more than 8,000 weekly attend-

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

The Sagemont pastor search team consisted of 12 members of the church and was chaired by Dr. Denny Autrey, dean emeritus and senior professor of preaching and evangelism of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Extension program in Houston.

The team was tasked with finding God's man to fill the very "large shoes" vacated by Morgan; and they were tasked with being unanimous in their decision.

The team believed that the task of being unanimous would entail a search that would take several years. The team's guiding scripture in the search was Romans 15:5-7, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus. That ye may be with one mind and of one mouth glorify God, even the Father our Lord Jesus Christ."

Schneider said, "We prayed to God to give us our David, and we believed the process would not go quickly."

However, that was not the case. Schneider quoted Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to His power that worketh in us."

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Palm Sunday the COVID way



Palm Sunday was unique this year, as even most local churches have shuttered their doors during the ongoing COVID-19 scare. Rather than obtaining their palm leaves at Mass as done traditionally, members of St. Luke the Evangelist received theirs outside the facility this year. Members Ricardo Garza (left) and Mary Garza are shown above respecting a safe distance between each other as they continue to practice their faith. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Housecleaning leads to trash problems

Publisher's note: The following information was supplied by Clear Brook City MUD, but Texas Waste, which is the collection company for CBCMUD also is the collector for the municipal utility districts of Sagemeadow (including Kirkwood South) and Kirkmont. The restrictions also apply to residents living in those MUDs.

Clear Brook City MUD officials are seeking the public's cooperation in regards to waste, as the district is seeing an increase in disposals that violate its regulations following the county's shelter-in-place recommendations.

On March 11, Judge Lina Hidalgo issued the "Stay Home, Work Safe" order for Harris County. As a result, residents have had a lot of extra time on their hands, spending it cleaning out their yards, garages and homes.

All this cleaning is generating an enormous amount of extra trash on collection days. While Clear Brook City MUD offers heavy trash collection on the second collection day each week, amounts are far exceeding what is allowed. Trash crews on Monday, March 30, made four trips to the dump to empty their trucks compared to the normal two trips. Crews remained in the district until 5 p.m., whereas they are normally complete

by 2 p.m.

While Clear Brook City MUD has offered this additional service to its residents for years, guidelines and limits to which residents must adhere are in place. These guidelines are printed in the back of the district calendar that is mailed to all residents each year. (Residents may request a copy of the 2020 calendar by calling the MUD office at 281-484-1562.)

Items not acceptable on regular trash collection days include:

Construction debris, car batteries, petroleum, products, medical waste, closed containers, logs or stumps, solvents, paint, rocks, concrete, herbicides, fertilizer, crossties, soil, hazardous materials, pesticides and cooking oil.

The following is a list of guidelines, in which the district is currently experiencing problems.

Heavy trash limits

- All debris must be within 5 feet of curb, carpet and tree limbs must be no more than 4 feet in length and weigh no more than 40 pounds, bundled and tied. Huge piles of carpet or tree trimmings are the responsibility of the homeowner or contractor hired to do the work.

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Tanner hired as Chamber CEO

Stephanie Tanner has been named the new president of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, replacing interim president Sally Mitchell.



Stephanie Tanner

Tanner most recently worked for the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, serving as a communications specialist.

Born in Louisiana, Tanner's family moved to Texas in 1990, first landing at her grandparents' house in the South Belt. The family then settled in La Porte, but Tanner never strayed too far from the South Belt community.

"I grew up visiting my grandparents and playing

in the shadow of Ellington Field, becoming very familiar with the community," Tanner said.

A 2000 graduate of La Porte High School, Tanner went on to attend Sam Houston State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications in 2004.

Following graduation, Tanner began her professional career at a FOX station in San Antonio, before switching to the nonprofit industry, helping establish media ministries for churches around the nation.

Tanner met and married her husband Justin in 2005, and in 2017, the couple welcomed their first child, Vivianne Rose Tanner.

Things have now come full circle for Tanner, as she has returned to live in the South Belt community.

"Life has brought me to many places since

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Grocery stores serve during COVID

While local grocery chains are deemed essential and remain open during this ongoing COVID-19 scare, store managers advise against taking entire families to shop for goods.

Area grocery stores are asking shoppers looking for necessary items to come alone to help prevent the possible spread of the coronavirus.

Officials are asking shoppers to leave the whole family home and only have one person come shop at the store, if possible, to prevent large gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If you come to the store, don't come with your entire family," H-E-B President Scott McClelland said at a recent press conference. "I was in the store yesterday, and because people are

bored they're like, 'Hey, let's all go to the grocery store.' So, a family of six showed up. Send one person, that way you lessen the ability for the virus to spread."

Extra pay Both H-E-B and Kroger have promised extra pay to essential employees who risk their safety through this crisis.

H-E-B: The grocery chain has announced a \$2-an-hour pay increase for all hourly store, manufacturing and warehouse employees as well as transportation partners in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pay increase was retroactive to March 16 and should continue through at least April 12.

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South Belt copes with coronavirus

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second month, the South Belt community continues to cope with the ongoing crisis.

According to a report on Channel 13 news, an employee at the Kroger located at Beltway 8 and Sabo has tested positive for the coronavirus. In response, the local grocery store reportedly deep cleaned the facility and remained open at press time.

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

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced Monday, April 6, there had been 402 new cases of COVID-19 confirmed that day. He, however, described the influx as a "backlog of results" for tests dating back to mid-March.

The spike brings the number of confirmed cases in the city to 1,145, as of late Monday.

Among the infected are 28 municipal workers, 24 police officers and 19 firefighters. One police officer is currently hospitalized on a ventilator, according to Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo.

At press time, there were 220 firefighters in

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Officers respond to gunshot incidents

Deputies from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office responded to two cases involving gunshots in a two-day period, with the District Attorney's office notably refusing to accept charges in one of the incidents.

On Tuesday, March 31, deputies responded to a drive-by shooting around 10:15 p.m. in the 10600 block of Sageburrow.

No injuries were reported, but three vehicles in the driveway were struck by bullets.

Deputies recovered six shell casings, which were collected and submitted as evidence for analysis.

A previous criminal mischief incident oc-

curred at the residence on March 7. Four vehicle tires were slashed in that incident.

The following morning on Wednesday, April 1, deputies responded to a call at approximately 12:45 a.m. in the 11500 block of Sagevalley, where gunshots were reportedly discharged.

Deputies were able to identify the source of the gunfire, and two suspects - a male and a female - were disarmed and detained.

After hearing details of the case, however, the Harris County District Attorney's office declined charges and advised deputies to return the firearms to the suspects.

The reason the county is not pursuing Class "C" misdemeanors.

Easter services set for area churches

While local places of worship may not have their doors open this Easter due to the ongoing COVID-19 threat, most will still stream their church services online.

The following area churches have streaming services scheduled for Easter week through Sunday, April 12.

Many churches also have Facebook and YouTube links on which the services may be accessed.

Bibleway Fellowship Baptist

An online Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. at <https://bibleway1.org/events/sunday-worship> and <https://www.facebook.com/bibleway1.org>.

Christ Church
The streaming Sunday service is at 11 a.m. at <https://www.christchurchhouston.com>.

CT Church
The Sunday service is streaming at 10 a.m. at <https://myct.church> and at <https://www.facebook.com/myctchurch>.

CrossRoads UMC

Streaming services are on the following days: Holy Thursday, 7:30 p.m., on Facebook and YouTube; Good Friday, 7:30 p.m., on Facebook and YouTube; and Easter Sunday service, 10:30 a.m., on Facebook and YouTube. All services are at <https://www.facebook.com/crossroadsumchouston>.

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PISD, city still serving kids free meals

Pasadena ISD's grab-and-go free meal program has been an overwhelming success, with hundreds flocking to participating campuses each day.

As of April 6, they have served 203,757 of the meals since the COVID-19 program began.

Residents have reported seeing between 250-300 vehicles in line down Blackhawk, as drivers wait in line at Dobie High School.

According to Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell, a total of 15,058 meals were served on April 6.

Parents interested in the program may drive by participating campuses (Beverly Hills Intermediate is also participating in the program) to pick up

a breakfast and lunch meal for each child who is present in the vehicle. No meals will be available for parents or students walking up to the campus. Meals will be delivered to each vehicle. Parents are advised not to park.

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

Meal distribution times are 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., while supplies last. Meals will not be distributed Friday April 10, or Monday, April 13, due to the Easter holiday.

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Long lunch line at Dobie High



As of Monday, Pasadena ISD employees have served 203,757 meals to children whose parents have driven through the grab-and-go setup at district schools. This was a portion of a recent line at J. Frank Dobie High School. The line started at the end of Dobie's right entrance, came to Blackhawk, crossed in front of Moore Elementary down to Dobie's left entrance and to the location where the meals were dispensed. The line also included two blocks of vehicles approaching Dobie from the south on Blackhawk.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

State sets unemployment claim procedure

More than half a million Texans have filed unemployment claims in the last 18 days as a result of COVID-19. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will soon outpace the total number of claims received in all of 2019. This unprecedented increase has led to long wait times, overwhelmed call centers and technical issues with the Unemployment Benefit Services portal. TWC staff is working around the clock to expand the capacity to take claims but needs support. Effective immediately, TWC recommends that Texans stagger their calls and access to the online portal based on applicant's area codes.

"The outbreak of COVID-19 has reminded each of us the importance of acting with others in mind," said TWC Executive Director Ed Serna. "Just as with the virus, we can treat this problem far more effectively if we work together and space out the demand rather than having everyone call at the same time. I know there are Texans worried about being out of work and missing their paychecks. We keep working until every Texan that needs help gets help. We are asking for you to join the effort."

Effective immediately, TWC asks that Texans use their area code to find their call and access times listed below. See chart below for recommended call and access times as follows:

- Area Codes beginning with 9: Mon-Wed-Fri 8 a.m.-noon
 - Area codes beginning with 3, 4, 5, 6: Mon-Wed-Fri 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 - Area codes beginning with 7, 8: Tues-Thurs-Sat 8 a.m. - noon
 - Area codes beginning with 2: Tues-Thurs-Sat 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Texans will not be penalized for a delay due to call or user volume. Claims for individuals affected by COVID-19 are eligible to be backdated. Staggering claims will provide help to reduce frustrations for many Texans and provide better access to needed services.

For more information on COVID-19 and unemployment benefits, visit: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-job-seekers>

In My Opinion

Chief gives COVID-19 recommendations

Symptoms of COVID-19 may show up 2-14 days after exposure. Steps you should take if you think you are sick with COVID depend on if you have a high risk of developing severe illness.

People 65 or older, and/or with medical issues, like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or a weak immune system, are at a higher risk for getting very sick from COVID. If you are a high-risk and develop symptoms, call your doctor.

If you are not sick enough to be hospitalized, you can recover at home. Follow your doctor's instructions.

If you are in generally good health and have mild symptoms, stay home and take care of yourself like you would for a cold or the flu.

If symptoms worsen, call your doctor. If you are sick or are caring for someone who is

sick, use the Coronavirus Self-Checker on the CDC's Symptoms & Testing page to help make decisions about seeking medical care.

If you need help finding a doctor or accessing medical care, call 2-1-1 and they can direct you to low- or no-cost providers in your area.

See the CDC website for more information on how to take care of yourself and others at home if sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/index.html>.

We recommend NOT using the local EMS ambulance service for simple transport for Covid symptoms. In these times, EMS might not be available for a lengthy time. If you have any symptoms, call your doctor. EMS is busy helping much more serious patients and calling for them for simple Covid symptoms could easily jeopardize their response and delay your contact with a physician and your recovery.

Chuck Tyika
Southeast Volunteer Fire Chief

Faith services continue online

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Community of the Servant-Savior Presbyterian

Sunday worship service will stream at 10:30 a.m. at <https://www.servantsavior.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/ServantSaviorPresbyterianChurch>.

Bible Christian Fellowship

Sunday worship service streams live on Facebook at 10:15 a.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/truebiblecf>.

Freeway Baptist

Sunday worship service streams at 11 a.m. at [https://www.facebook.com/FreewayHouston](https://www.freewayfamilyandhttps://www.facebook.com/FreewayHouston).

Grace Community

Good Friday, April 10, online communion services are at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (have one's juice and wafer ready.) Streaming services Sunday are at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at <https://mygrace.com> and

<https://www.facebook.com/gracehoustontx>.

Gulf Meadows

Sunday worship service stream at 10:30 a.m. at <https://gulfmeadowschurch.org> and at <https://www.facebook.com/gulfmeadows>.

Kirkwood South Christian

Sunday worship service stream at 10 a.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/kscchurch/>.

Life Church

Good Friday service is online April 10 at 7 p.m. and Easter Sunday, April 12, is online at 10 a.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/lifechurchhxt>.

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic

Holy Thursday/Jueves Santo -Spanish service at 6 p.m., English service 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday/Viernes Santo -English services of Stations of the Cross are at 1 p.m., service and veneration 3 p.m.

Spanish services Via Cru-

cis 5 p.m., servicio y veneracion 7 p.m.

The Grand Easter Vigil/La Gran Vigilia Pascual bilingual service is at 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday/Domingo de Resurreccion English service is at 10 a.m. and the Spanish is at 1 p.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/StLuke-theEvangelist-Houston-TX-846273398855220/> for all live services.

Sagemont Church

Easter Sunday is online April 12 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at <https://sagemontchurch.churchonline.org> and at <https://www.facebook.com/SagemontChurch>.

South Belt Church

Easter Sunday can be seen on Youtube at 10 a.m. at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrOmdTOLiX1NUGKRIMHk2ag>.

Bible Christian Fellowship

Easter Sunday service is live on Facebook at 10:15 a.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/truebiblecf>.

Sagemont Church picks new pastor

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After extensive questioning from the pastoral search team, they unanimously voted to "extend a call" to Carter.

On Sunday, May 17, Carter will be introduced to the congregation. On that date he is scheduled to preach "in view of a call," meaning that once he delivers his sermon,

the church membership will vote on whether or not to offer him the position of senior pastor.

This date and methodology could change due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation as church leadership said they prefer Carter to preach before a live audience rather than to an online crowd.

Should things go accordingly, Carter is then set to assume his new role at Sagemont beginning Sunday, June 28.

For additional information on Sagemont's online church services, visit www.sagemontchurch.org or the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SagemontChurch/>.

Housecleaning leads to problems

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- A maximum of 3 cubic yards is accepted.

All unacceptable items and excessive amounts will be tagged and left.

Property owners, landlords and renters are responsible for the removal of this debris. CBCMUD's service provider will give a price to remove oversized piles of trash.

The cost must be paid to the trash company prior to removal of the debris.

All household bags are to be placed on the other side of the driveway away from large piles. Crews cannot distinguish what is in black bags. Therefore, they will assume it is part of the cleanout.

Trash will be tagged and left. To avoid any questions on household trash, clear trash bags may be used for clear distinction.

Removal of trash creates community health hazards so they must be removed

quickly. Piles not collected within a week will be reported to the health department.

Hazardous waste will be tagged and left. They are not eligible for private collection.

Residents should call Harris County Hazardous Waste Material at 281-560-6200 to find out where items may be taken. Hours of operation are unknown due to the ever-changing COVID-19 situation.

PISD, city serving free meals

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For more information or a complete list of locations, visit www1.pasadenaisd.org.

Clear Creek ISD has launched a similar program, but it allows students to receive multiple days worth of meals at a time. Walk-ups are also permitted, and no adults need be present.

Hours are between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at select schools.

For more information and

a list of participating campuses, visit https://ccisd.net/news/2019-20_district_news/drive_through_meals_for_students.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is also continuing its Curbside Meal Program for youth, ages 1 to 18, at selected area parks.

Local parks include the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road, and the Beverly Hills Park Community Center, 10201

Kingspoint Road.

Each child will receive one lunch and one snack. Children must be present. To ensure social distancing is maintained throughout the curbside meal distribution, meals will be placed in the trunk of the recipient's car.

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

Area copes with coronavirus

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quarantine, 30 of whom were in city-provided rooms. According to Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña, firefighters are now required to wear face masks and check their temperature before entering a Houston Fire Department facility. Due to privacy concerns, it is unclear if any of the firefighter cases are local.

According to Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, 27 deputies have tested positive for COVID-19, with one being in critical condition.

The city's death toll is now 10, while the number of cases in unincorporated parts of the county have jumped to 12, according to Harris County Public Health. The county reported 664 confirmed new cases Monday, bringing its total count to 1,809.

To promote safe social distancing practices, the Houston Parks Department is removing volleyball nets and basketball rims from area parks. As of Monday, 250 playgrounds had also been roped off. Turner said police officers will patrol all parks to further ensure social distancing.

County officials have taken similar measures. While park trails will remain open, playgrounds, picnic areas, benches and drinking fountains will all be shut down. Additionally, all community centers and senior events have been closed indefinitely.

Harris County Public Health officials announced Monday, April 6, that a makeshift medical shelter was being constructed at NRG Park in preparation for an expect-

ed surge of COVID-19 patients in the area.

Officials said, however, the structure is merely a precaution and there are no immediate plans to open the shelter.

"While there are no plans to open the shelter at this time, the county is determined to provide additional support to the medical community during this pandemic," a press release from the health department read.

City and county officials on Monday, April 6, launched an online service to connect essential employees with child-care providers. Essential workers with children 12 and under are eligible to apply for the service on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, visit findchildcarenow.org.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a post from the Pasadena Police Department seeking help identifying the suspect in the video that fled the scene before emergency personnel arrived. On Monday, April 6, at approximately 10:28 p.m., police received calls of a major crash at the intersection of the Beltway 8 feeder and Red Bluff Road. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer K.

Smith at 713-475-7222.

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group shared a photo of two suspects in a vehicle, described as a blue old Hyundai Sonata or as a Kia Elantra with stolen plates of a black 2016 Dodge Ram. The member states that the suspects were driving around in broad daylight trying to open cars. They were last seen on Sagewillow April 5. Neighbors called to make a police report. The member advises other members to make sure to put belongings

out of sight in vehicles.

Another member of the same Facebook group shared a post of photos of shopping carts from a grocery store with used gloves being left and not properly discarded. The member advises customers to dispose their used gloves correctly to keep everyone safe.

A member of *Southbelt This & That (Official)* Facebook group shared a photo that H-E-B will be closed Easter Sunday, April 12. Hours will resume Monday, April 13.

Deaths

James Richard Swinney



Longtime South Belt resident James Richard Swinney, 65, died March 10.

Swinney, who also was known as Rick, Richard and J.R., was born Sept. 8, 1955, in Houston to parents William and Mildred Swinney.

He excelled at sports, including bowling and had bowled multiple perfect 300 games. He also enjoyed basketball and baseball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Mildred Swinney; aunt Betty Ruth Touchet; uncle Jimmy James; and grandfather Leonard James.

Rick is survived by his sisters Linda Swinney, Lystrata Fuman and Sherri Culver.

His wishes were to donate his body to science in hopes that he could help with a cure for others.

A memorial will be held in September. The time and date will be posted on his Facebook page and in the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

Destani Celeste Oliver



Destani Celeste Oliver graced the world with her presence when she was born Sept. 5, 2001, in Houston.

To know her was to love her. She was born to proud and loving parents Charisse and Isaac Oliver.

Destani received her formal education from Dr. Beatrice Mays Institute, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

She continued her education from ninth to 12th grade at Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School, where she was part of the 2020 graduation class as HSHSS honor roll student.

With a chosen path of cosmetology, Destani was scheduled to state boards in early March. Upon graduation she planned to attend Southern University, pursuing a double major in speech therapy and surgical technician.

As a student, Destani was a member of the track team, school choir and an active member of the 2020 prom committee as well as the 2020 Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent student advisory committee.

She spent her free time gaining community service hours in school and by working two jobs, at It's Family Food & Fun and Ahi Poke restaurant.

With the blessing of being raised in a loving Christian

home, she accepted Christ and was baptized. She was a member of Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church, under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Gusta Booker.

On Feb. 3, Destani traded her earthly life for eternal rest and peace. She is preceded in death by her paternal grandfather Ben Oliver; maternal grandfather Carlton Thomas Jr.; uncle Tommy Thomas; and nephew Dorian Chatman.

She leaves to celebrate her life and cherish her memory her parents; sisters Crenice Lane' Leve and husband Henry Osaji, Desiree Celeste' Oliver, Caasi Lane' Oliver; niece McKennah Miller; paternal grandmother Margie Nell Oliver; maternal grandmother Brenda Thomas; godparents Angela and Tony Quiller, and Larhonda and Jerome Jones; and a host of loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A memorial service will be held at date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in honor of David to the American Transplant Foundation or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The family also requests consideration of becoming a live donor or adding one's name to the state's donor registry.

David Lawrence Monkiewicz



David Lawrence Monkiewicz, 62, died April 2, 2020, with his wife by his side. He was born to Pearl (Lewandosky) and Thomas J. Monkiewicz March 19, 1957, in Detroit, Mich.

He was raised in Livonia, Mich., and graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering/industrial management. In the 1980s, he moved to Houston, where he began his consulting career. On May 5, 1985, David married his soulmate, Barbara Guajardo. Together, they had three children and built a loving home.

David had a great skill for fixing cars and an obsession for all things Apple. He also proudly amassed a huge collection of music from the '60s and '70s rock genre and thoroughly enjoyed listening to it on full blast. David also loved camping, investing in the stock market, and driving his wife crazy. Above all, his greatest joy was spending time with his family and friends. There is now a void in the hearts of many that will never be filled.

David was diagnosed with diabetes when he was eight years old and, in 1998, received a kidney from his sister and a pancreas from an anonymous donor. Because of his sister's and the donor's life-saving gifts, family and friends had 22 amazing years with David. He watched his kids graduate from high school and college, celebrated almost 36 years of marriage with his wife, walked his daughter down the aisle, and met his first grandchild. He even saw the Rolling

Stones and Elton John in concert with his family. Words are insufficient to express the family's gratitude.

In addition, to his wife of nearly 36 years, David is survived by his daughter Daniela Monkiewicz-Ibbotson and husband Scott; sons Benjamin and Thomas; one granddaughter; and grandpup, Lulu. He is also survived by his mother and siblings, James and wife Sue, Kenneth and spouse Terry, Michael and wife Cindy, and Linda Meany and husband Shawn. David is now reunited with his father.

A memorial service will be held at date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in honor of David to the American Transplant Foundation or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The family also requests consideration of becoming a live donor or adding one's name to the state's donor registry.

Danny Ray Beville



Danny Ray Beville, 62, died April 1, 2020. He was born to Lawanda and Gordon Beville Aug. 5, 1957, in Houston. The family moved to Albuquerque, N.M., in 1960 where Danny spent his childhood. The family moved back to Houston in 1972 and settled in the Sagemont area. He attended Dobbie High School where he made many friends.

After graduating, Danny entered the workforce working for numerous companies including Southwestern Bell, IBM and Comcast. He was always there to help a friend in need and he had a wit that kept everyone laughing. He touched so many lives with his generosity and passion for life. Danny loved to travel with his friends and family, especially enjoying camping and water activities. Since Danny was such a history buff, one was assured to have a history lesson along the way to wherever one went. He was an active member of Genoa United Methodist Church.

Danny was such a loving uncle and cherished every moment spent with his great-niece Jewel Hartney and great-nephews Adam and Avery Hartney and Kohen and Kegan Beville.

Danny was preceded in death by his father and mother. He is survived by his brothers Gordon Beville Jr. of Sagemont, Larry Beville and his wife Lynn of Pearland; his nieces Ginger, Camie and Sabrina; and his nephew Cody and wife Courtney.

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

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Dobie/Deer Park rivalry will take 22-6A's center stage

It may not be the most popular subject at present, but sooner or later it will take center stage and be the talk of many at both schools.

The decades-long rivalry between Dobie and Deer Park is set to be renewed beginning with the 2020-2021 school year and continuing

through 2021-2022. Channelview High School along with the Pasadena ISD foursome of Memorial, Pasadena, Rayburn and South

Houston will also join the fray in the remade District 22-6A ranks in a few short months.

There will be greatly increased playoff opportunities for each of the seven schools, but make no mistake, Dobie and Deer Park are about to take center stage, and with that, so is the rivalry.

With Pasadena ISD having been pooled with the Humble ISD schools and Deer Park and Channelview drawing the likes of North Shore and the two Beaumont schools, West Brook and United, simply qualifying for the post-season these last two school years has proven tough.

Where team standings are kept, Dobie has seen the most overall success of any of the schools, reaching the post-season in football, volleyball, girls' basketball and softball and baseball as well as taking the league championship both seasons on the boys' soccer field.

Deer Park missed the boys' basketball playoffs a season ago but advanced in almost all of the other team sports.

The greatest reward for both Dobie and Deer Park forthcoming is the increased opportunity for championships, i.e., top playoff seeds.

Paul named JFD boys' hoops head coach

Following a lengthy run as both a varsity head coach and a top varsity assistant in the Beaumont ISD ranks, Franklin Paul has been named the new varsity boys' basketball coach at Dobie High School.

Paul has been tabbed to replace Kevin Cross, who resigned shortly following the completion of the 2019-2020 season, citing the desire to spend more time with his family, which will include getting the opportunity to watch his middle son play basketball in person more often.

As for Paul, he is just the fifth varsity boys' basketball coach in the school's 51-year history. School principal Franklin Moses, who headed up the search and interview process, previously told the *Leader* that more than 70 candidates had applied. Paul was deemed the right fit moving forward.

"We are excited to bring on Coach Paul as the new head boys' basketball coach at Dobie High School," Moses said. "(Paul) brings with him the credentials of several successful programs over the years. I know he will lead our young men both on and off the court to be successful. We look forward to seeing successful teams displaying Dobie Pride each and every night they compete."

Paul indeed has an extensive coaching background, primarily within the Beaumont ISD ranks. He was the varsity head coach at Beaumont Central for three seasons and both last and this school year was the junior varsity boys' head coach and top varsity assistant at Beaumont West Brook High School. As a player himself, Paul earned all-conference honors first at Blinn College and then at McNeese State University.

With additional All-American honors at Blinn and a team Most Valuable Player award at McNeese State, Paul wasn't done competing.

He went on to fashion an eight-year professional career both overseas and here in the states as part of the Continental Basketball Association. Now, he's done well for himself as a coach.

He went 77-23 in three seasons at Central High School and has fashioned a 168-22 overall mark at the junior varsity level. Now, he's ready to lead the way at Dobie.

"I'm very excited to get a fresh start at Dobie and have the opportunity to guide these young men on the basketball court," Paul said. "I'd like to thank Mr. Moses and the search committee for this opportunity and to express that I will do everything possible to ensure the success of the program in all phases. I had the chance to meet some of the terrific leaders at Dobie, as well as the athletic director. I just think it's a great fit for me."



A new era in Dobie boys' basketball has begun as Franklin Paul has been named varsity head coach of the Longhorns. Paul has spent the bulk of his career to this point in Beaumont ISD.

Photo submitted

Due to the COVID-19 situation, Paul has not had a chance to touch base with returning Dobie players in person, and there won't be much time, if any, for offseason activities between now and the start of next school year.

Paul said he plans to be in Houston full time sometime this summer. He's still fulfilling his teaching duties at West Brook but has Dobie on his mind.

"I just want the kids and parents to know that I am available if they have any questions at this time, and that we are going to hit the ground running when we are allowed."

"Offensively, we will play an up-tempo style and try to get the ball up and down the floor. Defensively, we will get in your face with pressure defense, and overall the score and game situation will dictate what we do."

Paul is aware that 10 seniors will graduate from the 2019-2020 team that wound up fourth and dropped a first-round playoff game to Beaumont Central.

Continued on Page 5

Falkenburg readies for competition with TSU football

After what Curtis Falkenburg has encountered during the football recruiting process to this point, he figures he's more than ready for the competitive atmosphere he's set to be a part of at Texas Southern University.

The Class of 2020 Clear Brook High School graduate candidate and three-year varsity football place-kicker announced earlier this month via Twitter that he has joined the Tigers' program after essentially conducting his own recruitment operation since the conclusion of his junior season.

Falkenburg says he's both thrilled and grateful to be joining TSU, and the chance to both study and perform collegiately in the Houston area is a bonus as his family will be able to watch him perform on the field.

That said, Falkenburg admitted he's learned quite a bit about the collegiate recruiting scene and what a game it can be, especially for special teams players like him.

A three-year starter at Clear Brook and a very successful and efficient one at that, Falkenburg originally figured he'd have little trouble lining up with a college football program to be its kicker for 2020 and beyond. Well, think again.

He attended many kicking auditions and camps last summer, often coming away with a feeling that he had won the event entirely or at the very least performed very well.

Too often, he said, the offers would go to others. Falkenburg gets the fact that kickers and punters often get caught up in a numbers game at the collegiate level. Whereas a given program is apt to sign a handful of linebackers, defensive backs or offensive linemen in one recruiting year, kickers aren't afforded the same leeway.

At TSU, Falkenburg says there are two place-kickers already on the roster. Having agreed to what he called a "preferred walk on" deal with the Tigers, Falkenburg expects to go head-to-head on a weekly basis for the chance to kick that following Saturday.

Falkenburg said he also intends to vie for the team's punting duties. "I just wound up having a great connection with coach J.B. (Brown) at TSU," said Falkenburg.

"He made me feel like they really wanted me in the program, and he has basically outlined a program where we are all going to have a chance to play."

"If you kick well that week in practice and show you're ready, you're the guy for that week. I'm okay with that."

TSU is coming off an 0-11 season, but Falkenburg is more focused on merely completing the dream of competing collegiately. "I was in the (Houston) Dynamo youth academy as a kid and thought I was going to be a professional soccer player," he said.

Yet during his freshman season at Clear Brook, then varsity boys' soccer coach Chris Stromeyer mentioned the possibility of trying out as a football place-kicker, noting the team's struggles at the position at that point.

Falkenburg won the job then and feels as though he can do it again.

Off the field, Falkenburg owns a 5.0 grade point average and plans to study business at TSU. He may wind up leaning toward business law, noting the university's penchant for having a strong law school program. Above all, Falkenburg is looking forward to competing at TSU. He's done it many times before with success, so he's not shying away from it.

"Everybody just wants an opportunity," he said. "They've given me that at TSU, and I'm very excited about it. I feel like I have performed well in the past and can do it again."

Audrey Garcia was hitting .552, and Lexi Saenz (.403) and Alexis Uresti (.406) were also off to hot starts.

The team's top two pitchers are also freshmen, including Cat Cavazos (7-1, 2.90 earned run average) and Kaylee Thomas (7-2, 3.36 ERA).

Saenz said a normal season has her program carrying 16 to 20 players, and that number could reach 24 or so for 2021. It's not an issue.

"This (COVID-19) is something we could not control," she said. "It's unfortunate for every program going through it. All you can do is look forward to next season."



Clear Brook senior Curtis Falkenburg is excited to join the Texas Southern University football program this fall, where he will compete with other teammates to be the football team's kicker. A three-year starter with the Wolverines, Falkenburg says he's ready for the competitive environment at the collegiate level.

Photo submitted

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San Jac softball's Saenz looks ahead

Her San Jacinto College softball team was 19-4, with a national ranking in hand and one of the country's most productive offenses hitting on all cylinders. Then it was over.

Head coach Kelly Saenz knows her team's story, or certainly something very similar to it, has played out all over the country.

When the National Junior College Athletic Association made the unpopular, albeit correct, decision to end all spring sports play for 2020, down went the promising seasons of so many programs.

San Jacinto's baseball team, based on the college's North campus, had fashioned a 12-0 start to conference play and had its collective eyes firmly fixed on a World Series trip. That won't happen, either.

"Sure you think about what might have been," Saenz said. "We were 19-4, had beaten the defending national champions and were one day away from starting conference play."

"We talked to the team about the possibility of things stopping one day, and the next day it was done. It's tough for everybody, but sometimes that's the way life goes."

If there is a reason for optimism, it came days ago that the NJCAA will allow players to recoup a season of eligibility, following the NCAA's similar decision prior to that.

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Lajaunie tennis on hold; donations being accepted
The 2020 Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Tournament is still delayed, but tournament founder Camille Lajaunie still intends to host the ninth annual event when it is deemed safe for everyone to participate.
Despite the delay, the tournament committee will be awarding scholarships to deserving candidates this spring.
The deadline to apply for a 2020 scholarship has passed, but plans for 2021 are already being discussed.
To donate to the scholarship fund, visit www.dltennisscholarships.com or direct email to clajaunie@gmail.com.

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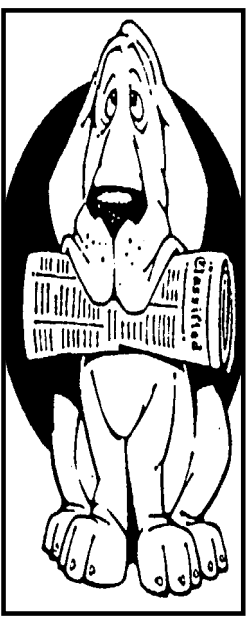


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Beta provides online lessons during COVID-19 pandemic

First-grader Yulissa Mendoza sits in her school uniform at the computer every school day. "Milk and fire. Let's do milk and fire!" a voice exclaims from the screen. Mendoza nods in agreement.
 Tiny video squares with excited young faces cast their votes for a team name. It's not a rerun of "The Brady Bunch." It's a Texas school's virtual response to COVID-19.
 Educators teach live lessons from home as their students interact online. Every day is a new adventure as they adapt to this socially distanced learning technique.
 The leadership of Beta Academy, a Title 1 charter school in Southeast Houston, refused to desert their students when the pandemic hit. Teachers scrambled to familiarize themselves with internet tools like Zoom and Google Classroom, but many families lacked the computers necessary for virtual learning.
 The school loaned more than a hundred Chromebooks to those in need. Bedrooms and kitchen tables transformed into satellite campuses as children all over the city connected with their teachers.
 The entire Beta staff pitched in to make the tran-

sition as smooth as possible. Coach Francisco Avila recorded exercise workouts, and secretary Amanda Haygood took cards and stamps home to send words of encouragement in the mail.
 The school created a special group in the Slack app ti-

pled #share-the-joy where they could post daily victories. Erin Johnson Montgomery sent an excited message the day she got some of her teenage scholars to offer up what she calls "the elusive smile."
 The impact of their efforts is felt beyond the student

body. Parents have appreciated the normalcy this online school brings to a chaotic time. Rachael Phillips said, "Hearing my kid laugh with his friends while in a break-out session makes my heart happy. He is able to get some level of connection that all

of the kids really need right now."
 Kindergartner Elena Abernathy had a partner at school, but her mom and dollies are her partners at home. Seeing her teacher Shawanna Holden on the computer makes her happy. "I love to learn and I

love to listen to my teacher and love my teacher and I love doing work with my teacher. It's very fun for me," she said. Abernathy spends around two hours a day with Holden but misses being close to her and said, "Teachers are funnier than moms."



Shown left is Elena Abernathy, a Beta kindergarten student, giving a thumbs-up for a job well done.

Shown above is Yulissa Mendoza, a Beta Academy first-grader, communicating online with Isabella Badillo, a first-grade Beta student.

Above, Shawanna Holden, a Beta kindergarten teacher, gives instructions online to Julian Chea, Beta kindergarten student. Photos submitted

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for 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) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200.
FRIDAY, APRIL 10
 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 additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.
 8 p.m.

Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, APRIL 11
 7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.
 11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. 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 additional information, call 281-484-9243.
SUNDAY, APRIL 12
 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 13
 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details.
 11:30 a.m.
Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church,

1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information, or drop in.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets at 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For additional information, call 713-686-6300.
 6:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website, https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays). This policy became effective 3/16/2020 for the purpose of ensuring its members continue their journey in becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the home page menu (www.youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com) to obtain access to our virtual meeting platform. For information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.
 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 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the education bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For additional information, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
TUESDAY, APRIL 14
 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.
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Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners

Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For additional information, 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.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
 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.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support for women. Visit www.bayareeturningpoint.org for additional information.
 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.
THURSDAY, APRIL 16
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.



Paul to coach JFD boys' hoops

Continued from Page 3

That leaves five returnees, including two who will likely be in the school's football

program until well into November. But Paul is simply excited to have his chance to build a program again.

"It's not always great to

lose 10 seniors the previous year, but five returnees give us a solid base to start, and there will be opportunities for everyone. I'm not afraid to

have a freshman on the varsity if it's earned. Everybody will have a chance to earn a spot. It's a fresh start for all of us."



Franklin Paul was both an all-conference and All-American performer at Blinn College in Brenham before finishing his collegiate career at McNeese State University. There he was a second-team all-conference selection as a

junior and then a first-teamer in 1998-1999, which included a team Most Valuable Player honor. Paul then fashioned an eight-year pro career overseas and also within the Continental Basketball Association. Photo submitted

Dobie/Deer Park rivalry will take center stage

Continued from Page 3

Reigning 22-6A New-comer of the Year Cameron Gray is back for 2020 and then 2021, and there is plenty of talent elsewhere.

With apologies to the rest of the district in 2020, only Dobie and Deer Park were in the postseason a season ago, and this race promises to come down to these two again.

What's more, the top finisher, be it Dobie or Deer Park, will avoid a likely first round playoff battle with North Shore.

Given that Dobie's last six playoff appearances have all ended with losses to the Mustangs, the Longhorns no doubt are interested in seeing someone else if they advance.

Things will also be competitive between Dobie and Deer Park on the volleyball court.

Again, Memorial will be in the mix, and Channelview was 17-20 overall a season

ago in 2019 as part of a very talented top-heavy district, led by, ahem, Deer Park.

The Lady Deer are also coming off a 41-10 season, culminating with a berth in the Region III semifinals before a straight-set loss to Cy-Fair.

Deer Park's Courtney Plocheck will graduate and take a team-high 450 kills with her. Two other seniors with more than 300 kills each will also exit.

But the Lady Deer have plenty of talent returning, led by Phoebe Stisen and her 352 kills. And coming off a perfect 14-0 run through district play last season, Deer Park will enter the new 22-6A field as the favorite.

Dobie, which finished fourth a season ago and went 20-20 overall, should have what it takes to push the Deer.

Victoria Thomas led the Lady Longhorns with 229 kills as a junior, and three-sport star Keasia Robinson could assume a more prom-

inent role up front alongside fellow returnee Alayna Gonzalez.

Natalie Onozie, with two seasons remaining, is one of the top returnees in the area at setter, and Cadie Master-son will be back to help her at the position.

Kasie Fernandez and her Memorial Lady Mavericks may indeed have something to say about the district race in the end, but it sure looks like this thing could come down to a home-and-home, two-game series between Dobie and Deer Park.

The spring tennis season, which arrives in August each year, will also feature the longtime Dobie rivalry.

The Deer won back-to-back league titles the last time these two programs were matched in district play. At least for 2020, Deer Park figures to have an advantage with Dobie set to graduate boys' No. 1 singles player Sebastian Delgado as well as twins Gisell and Kristy Mo-

rales, who have played a tremendous role in both singles and doubles.

But Dobie, with its proud tradition under longtime head coach Manuel Moreno Jr., doesn't like to settle for second best.

Unless one of the other schools in the revamped 22-6A ranks lands a superchampionship level transfer player, the team tennis race will be between Deer Park and Dobie. The Deer should have an edge for 2020. And, the Deer host the 2020 regular season matchup, which doesn't hurt.

The varsity boys' basketball race may prove to be the most wide open of any of the major sports.

Dobie was fourth in 22-6A a season ago while Channelview was fourth in 21-6A. Both teams fell to district champions in the first round of the playoffs.

While that predicts nothing for 2020-2021, newly hired Dobie head coach Franklin Paul will need to reload at the varsity level after the graduation of 10 seniors. Deer Park was just 12-20 a season ago with five district wins.

Channelview could be the early frontrunner, while South Houston is also looking to rebound from a subpar season in 2019-2020.

Bottom line? The door to the eventual postseason should be wide open for all seven programs. Perhaps a Pasadena or a Rayburn slips into the mix for the first time in a long while.

Dobie, even while figuring to go with a bevy of first-year varsity performers, should have enough athletic ability to compete with any of the other programs, and perhaps the often-seen magic of playing for a first-year head coach like Paul will pay off.

Dobie student trainers deliver another hard-working year

Dobie High School athletic trainer Jesse Lopez marked his 10th year at the school during 2019-2020, which includes his coordinating of the Longhorns' student athletic training and sports medicine program.

As of today, it remains to be seen whether the student trainers have taped their last ankles or delivered the final coolers of water to the sidelines and dugouts.

Regardless of how it all shakes out, Lopez said he is as proud of the 2019-2020 school year as any other.

After all, their "sport" begins each July and typically runs through each May or so, each holiday as well as spring break included.

"These kids are essentially our right hand people out there," said Lopez.

"As for the adults, there's only two of us at the main campus and one more at Dobie9.

"Aside from all of the various physical duties, they are also our eyes and ears out there. They might see a kid limping or hear something about a possible injury. All of

that type of stuff is valuable to us as we work to keep everybody healthy."

A University of Texas graduate, Lopez developed the Longhorn way long before he arrived at Dobie.

He also spent some post graduation time with the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League.

Once at Dobie, Lopez endeavored to align his student training program with that of both UT and Tennessee. The standards, he says unapologetically, are high.

"My first year I believe we

were down to six students, and I wasn't very happy with the setup of the program," Lopez said. "Today, I feel like our student trainers play a very important role in the success of our athletes and their programs."

"We are proud that Dobie athletic programs are as successful as any in the Pasadena ISD, and I don't think that would be possible without the work that our student athletic trainers add to the equation."

"We hold our kids accountable and provide the skills and processes that they need to do

their jobs. It's a long school year but these kids are always out there getting it done."

Lopez said the school year began with 35 or so student trainers in the program. The tough standards of the program always weed some out.

That, and Lopez said student trainers and their parents are required to sign a contract or sorts each school year that outlines rules, standards and expectations.

Beyond that, there's all of the hard work involved.

Towels awaits Brook FB restart

Things were going so smoothly, and then time stopped. Well, not exactly, but pardon incoming Clear Brook varsity football coach John Towels III if he feels that way.

Hired as the Wolverines' new leader in January, Towels had sufficient time to meet the players within the program and construct much of his football staff moving forward.

Like a lot of other programs across the state, Clear Brook was anxiously awaiting the beginning of what could be a very important spring workout into May this month and into May. But that was before COVID-19.

It's now been weeks since players and coaches have

been in contact in-person, and a change to that arrangement isn't coming soon.

School won't begin again until May 4 at the earliest, and on-campus learning and activities could indeed be lost altogether for the 2019-2020 academic year.

In short, Towels and his program have lost out on what was to be a crucial learning and growth period considering Towels was to install his philosophies in all phases of the game.

"We were in the early stages of positional meetings in terms of installing our offense and defense," Towels said. "In that aspect, there's no question you are going to be behind."

"Not knowing when you are going to get the go-ahead to get started again is another tough thing not just for us but for everyone affected by this."

Towels said Clear Creek ISD has issued approval to use the ZOOM app to connect with players in relation to workouts, team meetings, etc. But he also wants to use caution in that aspect.

"Students are already using online capabilities for learning in the classroom every day, and that's what is truly important here is their education," Towels said.

"I don't want to be overloading our kids with more online football stuff on top of that, so it's a fine line. It would be great if we can get the kids as familiar as possible with our terminology on offense and defense, but there's only so much you can do in situations like this."

In the interim, Towels and his staff have requested of his players three things on a daily basis, including taking care of their academics, getting a workout in and offering help around the house at their respective homes. In other words, remain consistently productive.

Whether it is weeks or months before coaches and players meet on the grass, Towels said the expectations will not change.

"We are doing everything we can as coaches to be as prepared as possible (for a restart)," he said. "Kids will take leadership and guidance from their coaches, so if we can lead them out of the gate and get started in a positive way, things will work out just fine."

"As for the players, we ask that they work to be prepared to succeed out there on the field and to play hard. If you are first prepared to succeed and then you play hard, good things are going to happen."

Date	Opponent	Time
July 27-29	Team practice	5 p.m.
Aug. 3-4	Team practice	9 a.m.
Aug. 6-7	at Denton Inv.	TBA
Aug. 11	at Dawson	9 a.m.
Aug. 11	at Katy	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 12	George Ranch	9 a.m.
Aug. 13	at Alvin	9 a.m.
Aug. 13	at Shadow Creek	3 p.m.
Aug. 14	at Friendswood	6 p.m.
Aug. 18	Clear Brook	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 21	at Pearland	3 p.m.
Aug. 25	Clear Springs	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 28	Clear Creek	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	*Channelview	3 p.m.
Sept. 4	at La Porte	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 11-12	at Remembering Ike	TBA
Sept. 15	*Pasadena	3 p.m.
Sept. 18	*at Deer Park	3 p.m.
Sept. 22	*Memorial	3 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Katy Jordan	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Rayburn	3 p.m.
Oct. 2	at Dickinson	3 p.m.
Oct. 6	*South Houston	3 p.m.
Oct. 9	Baytown Sterling	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	Exes matches	9 a.m.
Oct. 12-17	Bi-District/Area	TBA
Oct. 19-23	Regionals	TBA
Oct. 28-29	State tourn.	TBA

* District 22-6A matches

Despite sophomore losses, SJC baseball should rebound

With R.J. Ochoa signing with UT-Rio Grande Valley, the San Jacinto College baseball program has now had 15 players ink letters of intent to continue their education and playing careers at four-year institutions for 2020-2021 and beyond.

That's a huge number, certainly indicative of the SJC program's level of talent that produced a perfect 12-0 record in conference play before the season came to a premature end.

Looking ahead to 2021, the Gators will welcome back this season's sophomore

players within the program who choose to take advantage of an extra year of eligibility granted by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

There's also this year's freshmen who would've been back anyhow. And San Jac, highly regarded for developing MLB draft eligible talent, could also see a boon via the NCAA ranks.

With the NCAA also granting an extra year of eligibility to its athletes, including seniors who would've otherwise exhausted theirs, roster overload at the NCAA level

might just lead some freshmen or sophomores to look elsewhere, it's not a suggestion, but rather a probability.

SJC has now gone two seasons without being able to compete for a Division I JUCO World Series title. Recruiting/letter of intent violations made the program ineligible for 2019, and the coronavirus pandemic ended the team's hopes this time around. The disappointment will persist for 2020 players and coaches, but a solid run to the World Series in 2021 could provide a degree of healing.

Channelview could be the early frontrunner, while South Houston is also looking to rebound from a subpar season in 2019-2020.

Bottom line? The door to the eventual postseason should be wide open for all seven programs. Perhaps a Pasadena or a Rayburn slips into the mix for the first time in a long while.

Dobie, even while figuring to go with a bevy of first-year varsity performers, should have enough athletic ability to compete with any of the other programs, and perhaps the often-seen magic of playing for a first-year head coach like Paul will pay off.

Some of the other sports? Again, the Dobie/Deer Park rivalry should determine the eventual cross-country champion, and for that matter track and field. Deer Park could very well be the team to beat in the pool.

While very few of those involved on either side want to think about it right now, and rightfully so, the Dobie/Deer Park rivalry is about to reignite, and it promises to be as hot as ever.

Gators' Silas finds summer baseball home



2020 San Jacinto College sophomore baseball player Tyrice Silas has agreed to play with the Bancroft Bandits (Iowa) of the Pioneer Collegiate Baseball League beginning in June. Silas, who in 2019 as part of a full season as a freshman hit .413 with 18 extra-base hits, 16 stolen bases and 41 runs scored, was also off to a solid start this season before the National Junior Col-

lege Athletic Association was halted. Silas has signed with Texas State University, where he will continue his studies and playing career this fall. The PCBL is a wooden-bat league that debuted in 2017 and includes a 32-game schedule, and the Bandits are the defending league champions. Players are not paid so as to maintain their collegiate eligibility. Photo submitted

JFD sports medicine uplifts Dobie pride on athletic fields



The fields might be idle at present, but a new level of brightness was added this month to the school's softball and baseball game fields courtesy of the Dobie sports medicine department. The department utilized some of its raised funds to purchase the above signage at

each of the fields. Whenever practices or game action resume, the sense of Dobie pride will be on full display. Photo submitted

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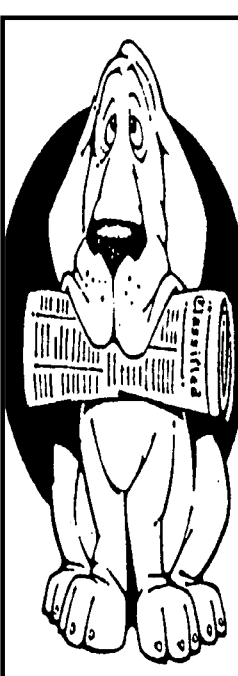
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Over The Back Fence by Alexis



SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays April 9 through April 15, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary
Send a happy birthday greeting April 11 to **Jessica Rocha**.

Burnett Elementary
Victoria Higgins marks a birthday April 13.

Bush Elementary
Celebrate with a double-layer cake for **Jennifer Martinez** and **Consuelo Patino De Alvarado** on April 9.

Frazier Elementary
Special birthday wishes are sent to **Yolanda Barrios** April 9. **Aimee Shelton** celebrates a birthday April 15.

Genoa Elementary
Join in the birthday celebration April 9 for **Lisa Hance**.

Moore Elementary
Break out the birthday cake and ice cream April 11 for **Jennifer Meier**.

Melillo Middle School
April 11 is the day for a party for **Felipa Martinez**. Light the birthday candles April

13 for **Melissa Martinez**. The day for a cake for **Carol Tekell** is April 15.

Roberts Middle School
Share in the birthday fun for **Alysa Mauricio** April 10.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send birthday greetings April 10 to **Irene Malloy**. Blow out the birthday candles April 11 for **Rene Nixon**. April 13 is the day for cake and ice cream with **Jenny Hinojosa** and **Rachel Trader**. Light the birthday candles April 14 for **Michelle Lester**.

Thompson Intermediate
April 10 is a day of celebration for **Jennifer Spray** and **Ashley Vercher**. Enjoy a double-layer cake April 11 with **Araceli Cavazos** and **Lenora Dawson**.

Dobie High
Break out the balloons and party favors for April 9 **Bryan Landry** and **Cody Blanchard**. April 12 is the day for a double birthday celebration for **Stacey LeBlanc** and **Bryan McDonald**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The *Leader* sends birthday wishes to friends in the community. 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 9: **Greg Black, Jennifer Pareya, Victoria Grissom, Yvonne Longoria** and **Keith Harrison**; Friday, April 10: **Mackie Caves, Cynthia Balderas-Reyes, Jennifer Spray, Coby Bellamy, April Simmons, Kristina Koncaba, Traci Rothermund** and **Skip Fell**; Saturday, April 11: **Quinn Fox, Amanda Mancina, Dian Audas, Matt Black, Ra'Shondra Rae, Josh Bowser, Luke Ditta, Linda Rosas, Celina Monroe** and **Brandy Kennedy**; Sunday, April 12: **Elysia Thomas** and **Shelly Little**; Monday, April 13: **Derek Rudewig, Stephen Webb** and **Laura Townsend**; Tuesday, April 14: **Derrick Leadon, Kesha Benford, Sean Allenberg, Deanna Morales** and **Michael Morris**; and Wednesday, April 15: **Annette Black, Marsha Fischer, Lorita Lynn Destin** and **Veronica Lopez**.

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

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)
A Saturday night fire at Garfield Elementary made it the fourth school damaged by fire in the previous year. Total damages were estimated to be \$1 million.

All incumbents were returned to office after local water district elections.

State Sen. Gene Jones expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on the Clear Lake watershed project in a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and various U. S. senators and congressmen.

35 years ago (1985)
Crepe myrtles were planted in esplanades along Fuqua in connection with the Releaf Houston project.

An attorney and the Pasadena Independent School District's superintendent's office corresponded with the Texas Employment Commission about the former superintendent C. Lee Meyer's recent request for unemployment compensation.

30 years ago (1990)

According to a formula provided by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, Southbend mothers experienced a 26 percent miscarriage rate, an alarmingly high percentage.

The long-awaited road extension between Freehill and Old Galveston Road was nearly complete.

A suspect wanted in connection with area burglaries and home robberies eluded capture by fleeing on foot after being spotted inside a Southbend home.

25 years ago (1995)
Only 110 Pasadena Independent School District employees applied for early retirement, short of the 500 anticipated.

Burglars cleaned out a house on Sagewind in Sagemont despite the Brinks alarm which was activated.

Thompson Intermediate seventh-grader Rahat Ahmed was the only student in the Pasadena school district to compete in the state geography bee in Fort Worth.

20 years ago (2000)
Jonathan Barrica, 17, died one month and one day after the shooting in his South Belt home.

A \$31,000 reward was offered in the stabbing death of Gail Totman, 51.

Harold Lundy, 21, and Scott Davidson, 22, survived a car crash into a concrete pillar, thought to be a fatality, with only broken bones.

San Jacinto students, Juan Rodriguez, Ricardo Rico, Natalia Bandasik and David Mitchell, were set to fly a NASA aircraft.

15 years ago (2005)
Three South Belt-area men were lost in the Gulf of Mexico. Austin Childs, 19, John Zimmerman, 51, Scott Keller, 41, and a dog boarded Zimmerman's 28-foot boat at Freeport for an offshore fishing trip. Three days

later, the boat was located floating adrift in the gulf. Six months later, there was still no sign of what happened to the men.

U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay asked Secretary of Homeland Defense Michael Chertoff to name Ellington Field as a regional headquarters for DHS.

On the fifth anniversary of Jonathan Barrica's death, there were still no leads in the case.

10 years ago (2010)
The Bracewell branch of the Houston Library System reduced its hours and began to close on Saturdays, despite great opposition from community members. The move was part of a citywide effort to save money. The system had roughly \$2.2 million less in its budget than it anticipated at the start of the 2010 fiscal year. Most of the city's 42 branches reduced from being open 71 hours a week to 51 hours — a 28 percent decrease. The Harris County Parker Williams Library branch was unaffected by the change.

South Belt Elementary School was officially dedicated. Located in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision, the campus opened at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Rapid growth in the area and construction of the subdivision necessitated the need for a new elementary school, which voters approved in a 2004 bond referendum. Speaking at the event were Dr. Kirk Lewis, Pasadena Independent School District superintendent; Fred Roberts, PISD board president; Marie Flickinger, *South Belt-Ellington Leader* publisher; and Candy Howard, South Belt Elementary principal. A tour of the school followed the ceremony.

5 years ago (2015)

The beginning of April marked the 10th anniversary of the disappearance of three South Belt residents who were lost at sea during a fishing trip in Freeport. Austin Childs, Scott Keller and John Zimmerman left on the evening of April 8, 2005, to go on an offshore fishing trip on Zimmerman's 28-foot boat. The trip was similar to many the trio had made before. The fishermen never returned and their vessel was spotted two days later 30 miles off the coast of Freeport. On April 12, friends recovered the boat's Global Positioning System that indicated the three men had been approximately 60 miles farther out than where the boat was found. The boat was found to have a hole in it and had apparently succumbed to water intake. Several groups, including the U.S. Coast Guard, spent several days looking for the missing men to no avail. Coast Guard officials said waves were six to eight feet high at the time of the fishermen's disappearance.

1 year ago (2019)
The former head of the charter school being constructed in Riverstone Ranch, along with another employee, were indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the school. Former Houston Gateway Academy Superintendent Richard Garza was charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, three counts of wire fraud and two counts of engaging in monetary transactions involving criminally acquired property. Houston Gateway Academy IT specialist Ahmad Bokaiyan faced one count of conspiracy and three counts of wire fraud.

Meador hosts car parade for students



Meador Elementary recently held a "We Miss You!" car parade in which staff members drove around the nearby neighborhood and apartment complexes. There was a lot of honking, waves, smiles and hand-made signs. Meador Elementary staff members miss their school family and hope everyone stays healthy.



Shown above are, left to right, Azariah Rios, Sadie Rios and Isabella Rios with mom Jessica Rios. Shown below leading the March 24 car parade are, left to right, Amy Clowers, Meador assistant principal; Tara Merida, counselor; and Beverly Bolton, Meador principal.



Grocery stores serve area

Continued from Page 1
"H-E-B Partners come together during times of crisis to take care of each other and our customers," a post stated on the store's Facebook page.

"This is the spirit of H-E-B. Texans rely on H-E-B and we rely on our great partners."

Kroger officials announced March 31 the store will provide all hourly frontline grocery, supply chain, manufacturing, pharmacy and call center associates with a Hero Bonus — a \$2 premium above their standard base rate of pay, applied to hours worked March 29 through April 18. The premium will be disbursed weekly to ensure associates have access to additional cash.

The announcement followed and is in addition to Kroger's previous commitment shared on March 21, which provided a one-time bonus to frontline associ-

ates.

"Our associates have displayed the true actions of a hero, working tirelessly on the frontlines to ensure everyone has access to affordable, fresh food and essentials during this national emergency," said Rodney McMullen, Kroger's chairman and CEO. "The Hero Bonus is just one more way we continue to convey our thanks and gratitude not only to our existing associates but also to the more than 30,000 new hires who have joined in the past two weeks and those who will soon join the Kroger Family of Companies."

This point was re-emphasized by Tim Massa, Kroger's senior vice president.

"Recently, we announced an appreciation bonus for our hourly frontline associates. This gesture was to thank our associates for everything they have done during the past few weeks," said Massa.

"However, we recognize that this crisis is far from over and after reflecting on associate feedback and working together with our union partners, we want to

further acknowledge our terrific team for their hard work to date as well as the work yet to come."

Senior programs
Both H-E-B and Food Town are maintaining programs to ensure area senior citizens are receiving essential supplies during this trying time.

H-E-B, in coordination with Favor Delivery, is staffing a volunteer phone line to accept and process orders over the phone from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days a week. All delivery and service fees are waived for the first 30 days of the program (The program began March 20.). Orders include a \$10 tip, which goes to the Favor runner, who will personally shop and deliver items. Visit favordelivery.com/senior for more information.

Food Town: Food Town, located at the intersection of Scarsdale and Beamer, will maintain its seniors-only hours from 7 to 8 a.m., reserved solely for those 65 and older with a government-issued state ID or Texas driver license. Store hours for shoppers under 65 are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dobie decathlon competes in state competition

Dobie's academic decathlon team competed in state competition March 5-8 in San Antonio.

Despite losing its highest scoring region student to compete in a state speech competition held the same weekend, the team finished 16th out of the 40 large schools who advanced to state competition from regional competition and 23rd out of the top 120 small, medium and large schools who advanced to state.

A "C" student Xitlali Martinez was Dobie's highest scoring student followed closely by another "C" student, Cameron Tobias. Individual medal winners included: Tobias receiving gold in social studies, silver in essay, bronze medals in literature and economics; Raneem Shobaki receiving gold in interview (a perfect score); and Amy Tieu receiving bronze in art.

The team awarded gold medals to its most valuable players Ian Cisneros (a "C" student who moved up to compete as an "A"), Amy Hoang who improved the most between region and state competition, and "C" student Sebastian Delgado considered by all the "hardest worker" on the team but who competed as a "B" to fill a team gap.

Coaches Bob Daugherty and Todd Gerles were satisfied considering the many challenges the team faced this year, essentially having to replace its whole "A" team after its first and third best team members left team to compete in a regional orchestra competition held the same weekend.

However, the remaining team members Cisneros, Hoang, Delgado, Shobaki, Minh To, Amy Tieu, Martinez, Tobias and Trang Vu stuck it out and made the team's 2020 finish a respectable one.

The team would like to thank math coach Tommy Etienne, economics coach Phyllis Gerles, science coach Dr. Cecily Haley, Kathy Eads and Dorothy Simmons, the many assistant administrators who

helped in interview. Most of all, the team wishes to thank principal Franklin Moses for his tireless support!

Next year's topic will focus on the Cold War and include the novel *Cat's Cradle*.

If one has or knows of a motivated and gifted student who attends or will attend Dobie in the fall of 2020, contact coaches Daugherty or Gerles through Dobie's website.

Due to coronavirus fears, coaches and students were

urged to take precautions (no handshakes with judges or officials, medals were given in plastic sleeves and coaches gave students disinfecting wipes for their rooms).

Texas' Decathlon competition was still held "face to face" although the national competition (to have been in April in Alaska) has been postponed until May and will be an online competition with no interview or speech competitions.



Shown above are, left to right, Minh To, Raneem Shobaki, Ian Cisneros, Sebastian Delgado and Amy Hoang.



Shown above, left to right, (front row) Amy Hoang, Raneem Shobaki, (back row) Amy Tieu, Ian Cisneros, Minh To, Sebastian Delgado, Trang Vu, Cameron Tobias and Xitlali Martinez.



Shown above are, left to right, Amy Hoang, Sebastian Delgado, Ian Cisneros, Minh To, Cameron Tobias, Trang Vu, Xitlali Martinez and Amy Tieu.

Tanner hired as chamber CEO

Continued from Page 1
then, but I have ultimately decided to come home and raise my family in the very place that I fell in love with as a child," Tanner said. "Now, another chapter begins, as I have the opportunity to become an integral part of the South Belt-Ellington community and I am so honored to have been chosen for this very important role as president/CEO of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce."

Tanner's task of beginning her new job was drastically complicated by the fact that she had been hired just prior to the COVID-19 scare and all of its subsequent repercussions.

"This has been a very unique experience to say the least," Tanner said. "As the world is trying to adapt to the new 'normal,' I am trying to learn our organization as well as lead it. I remain confident that we are doing our best to help our community stay safe and healthy, as well as remaining a constant resource for area business and community leaders, providing timely information to keep our businesses up to date on all that is available to help in this time of uncertainty."

Tanner said the chamber is utilizing technology to circumvent the ongoing issues associated with the coronavirus.

"Technology has definitely provided avenues of communication that continue

to evolve as we try to stay in front of our community," Tanner said. "Virtual meetings, emails and phone calls will be our lifeline for the next bit of the foreseeable future, all while teaching our children and running a household. We must remember that we are all in this together and together we will overcome."

Despite the ongoing challenges, Tanner said the chamber's mission has not changed.

"Our mission remains the same since the inception of this organization; advance the economic growth, welfare and success of the businesses in and around the South Belt-Ellington area," Tanner said. "It is our goal to continue to support this community with resources and connection opportunities that not only advance our reach but provide area businesses with the encouragement to bring about positive influence to our city."

During this transitional period, Tanner reminds South Belt residents to support local businesses.

"Our members are the heart of this organization and we will remain committed to serving our community throughout this time of uncertainty," said Tanner. "If possible, please continue to patronize and support our local business community. Please take care of yourselves and each other. Thank you all for your dedication to our great community and I hope to meet each of you very soon."

Send the *Leader* photos of what you are doing in this changed environment
mynews@southbeltleader.com

South Belt activities during COVID; some the same, some change



Sami donates to seniors

South Belt resident Sami Khaleeq is shown at the *Leader* office dropping off hundreds of rolls of toilet paper to be distributed to area seniors in need. South Belt resident Sandy Robb helped distribute some of the product. Some women who drove to the *Leader* to pick up rolls of toilet paper even cried in gratitude.
Photo by Marie Flickinger

Beamer, Beltway feeder accidents continue



In spite of greatly reduced traffic, accidents continue to take place at the intersection of Beltway 8 feeder and Beamer Road. This accident, which happened Monday evening, resulted in one person being transported to the hospital.
Photo by Davy Flickinger

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"If there is anything that you need us to pray for you, please leave a message at our office and we will be honored to do so."

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 1Peter 1:3

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Pizza for heroes



Jerry Garcia, candidate for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable, recently delivered pizzas from Tony's Pizza & Grinders to the staff at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital to show support for them during this ongoing crisis. Shown above are, left to right, Antoinette Lawrence; Alyssia Oliver, RN; Marsha Millsap; Susie Torres; Freddy Lotsi; Yvette Cuevas, RN; Mary Lou Goodman, RN; Autumn Garner, RN; and Heather Bean, RN.

Assistance for South Belt seniors



Jerry Garcia (left) recently teamed up with Hilton Koch, owner of Hilton Furniture & Mattress, to distribute donated supplies to area seniors. More than 300 local seniors received assistance through the campaign. Also helping to organize the effort were South Belt residents Gilbert Aguilar and Maria Louisa Trevino.
Photo by Marie Flickinger

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