



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, May 7, 2020

Email: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

[www.southbeltleader.com](http://www.southbeltleader.com)

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### Hair, barber shops can open

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday that hair salons, barbershops, tanning salons and nail salons may reopen Friday, May 8. Under the new regulations, salons can reopen with only one customer per stylist, and people must wait outside or in their vehicles if there is not enough room inside to stay 6 feet apart. Face masks for both customers and stylists are recommended but not required.

### Governor sets hurricane week

Gov. Greg Abbott has issued a proclamation declaring May 3 – 9 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in Texas. This proclamation raises awareness about the dangers of hurricanes and the precautions Texans can take as hurricane season approaches. The governor is asking Texans to take steps to protect themselves and loved ones from the danger and destruction hurricanes can bring to communities.

“As hurricane season approaches, it is vital that Texans take the time to prepare for any devastating and powerful storms that may reach our shores,” said Abbott. “There are no substitutes for having emergency supplies and a well-prepared emergency plan to protect yourself, your family, and your property. As we enter this hurricane season, I encourage all Texans to remain mindful of the dangers presented by hurricanes, stay informed about potential threats, and take steps toward preparedness.” Texans can visit the Texas Ready webpage to learn about the steps they can take now to prepare for hurricane season.

### SJC sets commencement

San Jacinto College has set the new date and time for the postponed spring commencement ceremony for Friday, Aug. 7. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, San Jacinto College had to delay its spring commencement ceremony originally scheduled for Friday, May 15. The Aug. 7 ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. at NRG Stadium. The college will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make any necessary changes to the ceremony as appropriate. The college will continue to follow all CDC and local guidelines. San Jacinto College is currently operating under altered operations. Up-to-date information can be found online at [sanjac.edu/coronavirus](http://sanjac.edu/coronavirus).

### Beltway closures planned

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 continuously through 4 p.m. Friday, May 8. At least one inside lane of the northbound and southbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from SH 225 to Vista nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, May 13. Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Vista will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Monday, May 18. The northbound U-turn lane on the Beltway 8 frontage road at SH 225 will be continuously closed through 5 a.m. Tuesday, June 2. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

### Martin distributes masks

Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin will host a mask distribution event Friday, May 8, at Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, beginning at 8 a.m. The event will end once all masks have been dispersed. There will be a limit of four masks per vehicle.

### Frazier seniors eligible

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

### Gulf Freeway closures set

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be closed at FM 518 until further notice. At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Tuesday, June 30. This work will require alternate entrance and exit ramp closures. At least one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 517 to Hughes in Texas City will be closed until further notice. The southbound entrance ramp at FM 517 in Texas City will also be closed 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.

### Readers urged to send stories

The Leader staff is curious as to how South Belt families are spending their time during COVID-19. 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](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com).

# COVID cases continue rise in local ZIP codes

As of Tuesday, May 5, ZIP code 77089 had 66 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to Harris County Public Health officials. That figure is four higher than the 62 count reported on

Tuesday, April 28. In ZIP code 77075, county officials are now reporting 61 known cases. This number is 12 higher than the 49 cases reported the previous week.

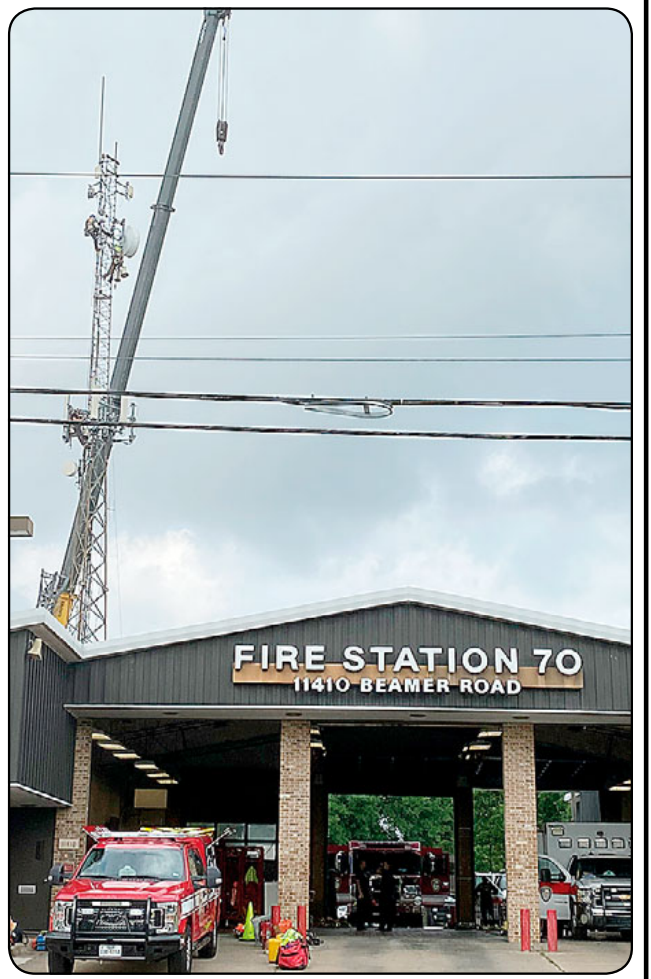
County officials are now reporting 44 cases in ZIP code 77034, up seven cases from last week. For reasons unknown, the county's website had higher figures listed on Monday than on Tuesday for both 77089 and 77075, with 67 cases listed for 77089 and 63 cases listed for 77075. At press time, however, the reason for the discrepancy remains unclear. In all, there are currently 6,838 known cases in Harris County, an increase of 1,011 from

last week. Of those, 4,263 remain active, up 370 from last week. A total of 2,442 have recovered from the virus in the county, an increase of 606 from the previous week. To date, 133 have died from COVID-19, up 35 from last week. Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus).

## Replacing AT&T tower

Contractors spent much of Tuesday, May 5, taking down the old AT&T tower behind station #70 off Beamer Road. The approximate 100-foot-tall communication tower needed considerable upgrading and improvements so the decision was made to replace it. The work is expected to take approximately 10 days and includes pouring a new foundation for the replacement tower. In the photo, there are three men on the tower engaged in the dismantling.

Photo by Marie Flickinger



## Lightning starts house fire

A lightning bolt is suspected to have started a house fire during heavy storms Wednesday, April 29, in the Durham Park subdivision near Beltway 8 and Blackhawk.

Resident Chanel Frank said she was awake at the time of the incident, but the remainder of her family was asleep, including her five-month-old infant.

“I was awake in class for training at my computer when what felt like lightning hitting the house or the yard shook the entire home, and all the lights blew out,” Frank said in a post on the

Durham Park Neighborhood Facebook page. “I was so startled by what happened I went on the other side of the house to check on my children, and my husband was sleeping with them because they were afraid the night before. I then went to check on my five-month-old in my bedroom, all while still being shaken up.”

Awaken by the storm, Frank's husband was trying to console his startled wife, when the couple heard electrical noises coming from the attic, despite their power being out. As the husband

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## Beware of false coronavirus cures

Desperate for a cure to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), many Americans are turning to the internet for answers. What they're finding, however, is a minefield of dubious products posted by unscrupulous sellers. False claims are tricking worried people into paying for fake solutions that give them a false sense of security. The federal government hasn't approved any product that prevents or treats COVID-19.

While myriad fake COVID-related prod-

ucts exist online, a new analysis from the Texas Public Interest Research Group Education Fund found that the most common were for products using claims of antiviral or immune-boosting properties. The group looked at 34 warning letters issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“Fake cures for the novel coronavirus are spreading rapidly online, potentially wreaking

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## VE Day air flight over area May 8

South Belt residents are encouraged to look up to the sky the afternoon of Friday, May 8, as a fleet of vintage WWII airplanes will be flying overhead.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, the Lone Star Flight Museum will host the Fight to the Finish Flyover from 11:45 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. The event will include nearly 30 rare and historic warbirds flying a 120-mile route over the city of Houston.

While the flyover will start and finish at Ellington Airport, the event will not be viewable from the facility, as with the annual Wings Over Houston event, due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns.

Vintage aircraft include B-25 Devil Dog; Grumman HU-16 Albatross; P-51 Mustang; P-63 King

Cobra; SB2C Helldiver; CAF Tora Flight; C-45 Twin Beech; T-6 Texan; BT-13 Valiant; L-17 Navion; T-34 Mentor; Yak 52; and more.

An event program will be available on the museum's website the week of the flight for download. The program will include flight plan and map, along with the estimated timing/location of the aircraft overhead throughout the hour-long flight, and information about each one of the participating aircraft.

Follow the museum's Facebook and Instagram pages for details and livestream video. The Friday, May 8, issue of the Houston Chronicle will also include a full flight plan and schedule.

See link at <http://www.lonestarflight.org>.

## Practice caution before back to normal

As retailers and restaurants, along with other businesses, begin to reopen, Mayor Sylvester Turner and the city's COVID-19 Recovery Czar, Marvin Odum, encouraged Houstonians Thursday, April 30, to practice caution before returning to a normal routine. Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order allowed some businesses to reopen at 25 percent capacity on Friday, May 1. The City of Houston supports a safe and responsible transition to reopening the economy.

“Do not stop social distancing or wearing face coverings because the virus is still prevalent in

our city,” Turner said. “As businesses reopen, I will continue to stress the need for robust and ubiquitous testing.” On Thursday, the Houston Health Department reported 98 new cases of COVID-19 and four additional deaths.

Odum said he is working with local businesses and other stakeholders to develop plans to help Houstonians safely return to work. Odum stressed that contact tracing and testing are priorities.

Additional guidance on reopening is available

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## Area churches are slow to reopen

As the state of Texas slowly reopens, some area churches are more hesitant than others to hold in-person services, opting to err on the side of caution.

While Gov. Greg Abbott deemed churches as essential and therefore allowed to stay open during the statewide lockdown, most in the South Belt area chose to play it safe by offering various forms of live and recorded online streaming.

With the reopening of area businesses, however, some local churches have now resumed

in-person services.

### CT Church

CT Church, 9701 Almeda Genoa, opened Sunday, May 3, with in-person services 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Social distancing is to be practiced, and attendees are encouraged to wear masks and gloves.

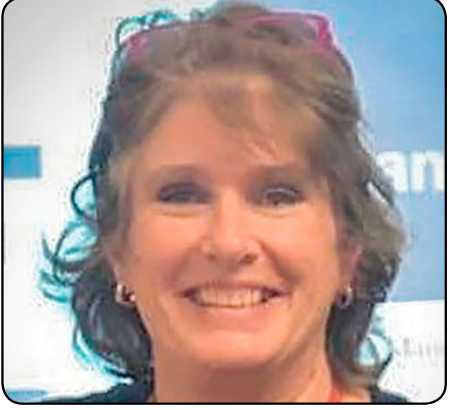
Services will be livestreamed on the church website at [myCT.Church](http://myCT.Church) and Facebook. Services will additionally be available on YouTube.

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# PISD teachers of the year 2019-2020 named



Julia Montes, South Belt resident and literacy peer facilitator at Matthys Elementary School, was named Elementary Teacher of the Year.



Susie Haas, science teacher at Thompson Intermediate, was named Secondary Teacher of the Year.

As social-distancing measures due to the coronavirus pandemic continue, this year Pasadena ISD chose to host its teachers of the year celebration in an unconventional way – virtually using Zoom.

The annual awards celebration, hosted by Dr. DeeAnn Powell, superintendent of schools and the Pasadena ISD board of trustees, celebrates PISD educators who are uniquely dedicated to excellence in their profession.

Powell kicked off the event by acknowledging the changes in this year's awards banquet.

“We wish we could be together in person, but this is a different time,” said Powell. “We're going to celebrate and honor our teachers in a new way.”

Julia Montes, a South Belt resident is a literacy peer facilitator at Matthys Elementary and was chosen as the Elementary Teacher of the Year and Susie Haas, a science teacher at Thompson Intermediate, was chosen as the Secondary Teacher of the Year.

“We all love Susie. She has created lifelong

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## Truckloads of dirt being removed for new retention pond



The Harris County Flood Control District recently began to remove 50,000 cubic yards of excavated material from a site near Dixie Farm Road and Blackhawk, where it had been mistakenly placed in the floodplain two years ago. HCFCD bought the site earlier this year so the inappropriate fill could be removed, and the site could be investigated for additional stormwater detention. The material is to be transported to WCA Greenbelt Landfill on Old Genoa Red Bluff Road. Photo by Marie Flickinger

# Herman sworn into Texas Bar



## In My Opinion

### Thanks to Leader for blood donors

Many thanks to the LEADER for your continuing support of the Knights of Columbus at St. Luke the Evangelist Blood Drives.

### Region's hospitals operate under new normal due to COVID-19

As Texas is cautiously re-opening for business, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has begun a series of virtual general membership meetings designed to provide information, offered by those in leadership positions within industry sectors, on the state of institutions and businesses in the region.

On Thursday, April 30, a panel of health care professionals used the power and convenience of the internet to speak to BAHEP membership of the ways in which regional hospital systems have adapted to COVID-19. They also looked to the future as everyone will be operating under this new normal for some time to come.

The panel consisted of Todd Caliva, CEO, HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake; Stephen K. Jones Jr., CEO, UTMB Health Clear Lake Campus; Dan Newman, CEO, Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital; Kelly Ochoa, vice president of operations, Memorial Hermann Southeast and Memorial Hermann Pearland; and Dr. Gulshan Sharma, vice president, chief medical and clinical innovation officer, UTMB. Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, served as panel moderator while Jimmy Spence, BAHEP marketing director provided technical support.

**Overview**  
The panelists began the discussion by providing an overview of what was taking place within each hospital system. Although specific actions vary between systems, the hospitals also have much in common. The days are consumed by temperature checks and screenings of patients, visitors and employees. Testing is also a huge priority. Additionally, there are command center conference calls that address personal protective equipment (PPE) on hand and what may be needed. There are physician calls where the medical staff is given an administrative update sharing new policy and procedures that are evolving, because things constantly change. Strategic priorities have been put in place across all systems to safeguard employees and the public.

UTMB's Sharma provided compelling statistics.  
"Looking from a statistic standpoint so that everyone can put things into perspective, nationally we have done about 6 million tests, and 1 million have been positive," Sharma said. "That gives you a test positive rate of 16-17 percent nationally. In Texas, we have done about 340,000 tests, and 27,000 have been positive. That gives you a prevalence of about 12 percent in Texas. In the local area of Harris and Galveston counties, the test positive rate is about 9 percent. Galveston County is 3-3.5 percent."

"Regionally we have fared very well compared to what is going on in other areas, because most of the high numbers are coming from states like New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as New Jersey. Texas with social distancing and early lockdown has really fared very well."

"In terms of the current prevalence of this disease in our area, the number of cases has continued to decline throughout Harris County as well as Galveston County. The number of admissions to intensive care units is down. There is also plenty of ventilator capacity, ICU capacity and med/surg capacity."

"We have reached out to nursing homes, because that is where the largest outbreaks are regionally. We have also reached out to correctional care facilities to make sure that we do not have a large outbreak there. The mortality rate is fairly low compared to what has been projected from other regions nationally. The challenge is that the mortality rate goes up when you put somebody on a ventilator or a respirator. If they come early and we can address their needs, I think that is the best way to protect them."

**Panelists answer questions**  
Members of the panel then answered questions that had been submitted by virtual attendees. It was asked if it is safe to go to the hospital.  
"Absolutely," Caliva responded. "I think that I can speak for all of us on the panel in saying that our systems have gone through extreme measures to protect the safety and wellbeing of all of our patients, our employees and our physicians. We've all put in measures from the screening process that we previously discussed to social distancing measures. Anyone who has symptoms is being tested."

Another question concerned resource loading in regard to hospital staff.  
"As Dr. Sharma mentioned, we've been fortunate here in that the numbers we've seen have not been as great as other parts of the country," Jones said. "All of the health systems went through a process of going into great detail looking at the number of doctors, the number of nurses, the number of respiratory techs, supply chain personnel, environmental services — all sorts of key frontline folks. I want to assure the community that we do have enough infrastructure, people and supplies to effectively continue to take care of COVID-19 patients and open back up for business. All of the hospitals are putting very detailed plans in place to do both very, very safely."

Communities across the nation have shown tremendous support for frontline caregivers. When asked how the local community can help the medical community, Newman replied, "Take care of yourself all the time. Health isn't just something you do when the weather is nice outside. The extent that care is delayed can result in worse outcomes than if you seek care now. That is probably the biggest thing that you can do to help the medical community."

An unprecedented effort is taking place internationally to develop a vaccine to combat COVID-19. A number of medications are also undergoing clinical trials to determine their efficacy. When asked about what medications look promising, Sharma said, "There is an antiviral drug called Remdesivir for which clinical trials are showing promising results as you have been seeing on all the news channels. We enrolled about 10 patients in the clinical trial." (Editor's note: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration — FDA — issued an emergency-use authorization on Friday, May 1, for Remdesivir in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19.)

Regarding antibody tests, Sharma reported, "We will offer antibody tests starting May 1. Your primary doctor can order an antibody test, which takes about four hours to get results. This is an IgG (Immunoglobulin G). As a word of caution, just because you have an antibody does not mean that you will be protected. All it means is that you have had an infection with this virus. We still don't have enough data to see if this antibody is protective over a long period of time."

Now that hospitals are again allowing elective procedures, it was asked if anything has changed. Caliva said that much remains the same as before except that all patients will have to go through pre-admittance testing 48 hours in advance of elective surgery involving general anesthesia in order to give plenty of time to get results of the testing. That is the only thing that has changed.

# May 15 deadline to protest taxes

Harris County property owners who believe there is an error in the market value have until Friday, May 15, to protest the value. Some property owners may not have received their value notice yet. They will still have 30 days to file their protest. That later protest deadline will be printed on their notice.

Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger encouraged property owners to use the appraisal district's online options for filing and settling a protest.  
"Using iFile to submit your protest and then selecting iSettle is the quickest and easiest way to file and resolve your protest without having to appear at HCAD's offices, especially this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic," Altinger said. "With iSettle, you can submit electronic documentation to support your opinion of value, and an appraiser will review it. If the appraiser responds with a new value and you accept, you're protest is done for the year."

Altinger noted iFile numbers are printed on the face of the 2020 value notices near the account number. For security reasons, the iFile system cannot be used for filing a protest without this iFile number unless the property owner has an existing electronic owners account. Owners who have misplaced their value notice can use HCAD's free mobile app to retrieve their iFile number by scanning their Texas driver's license. The name and address on the license must match the property address in the HCAD system.

Property owners who opt to iSettle may choose to upload evidence through the owner's website. Property owners will have five days to submit their documentation, such as a closing statement, repair estimates, comparable sales information, deeds or photos, electronically from the date they filed their protest online. Questions concerning iSettle may be directed to [isettle@head.org](mailto:isettle@head.org).

If a settlement through the online system isn't possible once HCAD makes an offer, the homeowner will be scheduled a hearing with the Appraisal Review Board. A video explaining how to file an online protest and use the residential iSettle system is available at [www.head.org](http://www.head.org) under the HELP heading.  
"HCAD must operate under the guidelines and deadlines set out in the state Code, so we do not have the flexibility to change the protest deadline despite the closures and social distancing caused by the pandemic," Altinger said.

Altinger reminded property owners they are protesting market value of their property, and based on their property's condition on Jan. 1, 2020.

## Local library events set

### Bracewell Branch Library

A notice on the City of Houston Public Library website reads, "All Houston Public Library locations will be closed through May 31."

Currently, the Houston Public Library is focusing on providing electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for any resident of Texas with a temporary library card. The way an interested resident can get a library card is to visit the website at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), scroll down onto the Home Page, and find the heading Here's What's Happening. Under that heading, there will be three cards. The middle one is Free Resources for All. Click on the card which will go to the page that lists the digital resources available and a link to obtain a temporary card.

Also, under the heading Here's What's Happening, look for the first card on the left, click on the heading titled Online Resources for Kids. One of the programs listed is Virtual Storytime. This is provided every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes can be found on Facebook by searching Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft. Soon there will be STEM programs.

The HPL updated app is much more user-friendly than before. On the very first page, there is a link to Tumblebooks, which has many picture books that are animated read-alongs for children.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services remain available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a robust collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog to determine if a previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are also on the site.

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

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

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## Parker Williams Library

The notice on the Parker Williams Library website reads, "In accordance with Harris County's efforts to stop the spread of the Coronavirus, all Harris County Public Library branches will remain closed to the public at this time. Book drops opened Monday, May 4; however, no late fees will be charged during the closure. Public safety is our top priority. We will provide service updates as they are developed. Follow @harriscountyp1 on Facebook or Twitter for updated information."

The library will continue to offer the library services:  
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net)  
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube  
- Check an account to renew loans or request books  
- Download e-Books, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive  
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy  
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive  
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks  
- Ask us a question by phone or email  
- Get book recommendations  
- Register for a library card online."

**Frequently Asked Questions (and answers) during Parker William library closure**  
"Question: I had holds ready for pickup when the library closed. Will I lose my place in the queue and have to place another hold?  
Answer: No. Holds will be at the branch when it reopens to the public. In addition, new holds can be placed online during the closure and they will be processed when libraries reopen.

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

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

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

"Question: I have books I want to donate. Can I drop them off at the library?  
Answer: Do not bring book donations to branch libraries. Hold onto them until the library resumes full services." For additional information, visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>.

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca  
A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a video and photos of a person driving off in a black Dodge Ram after breaking into a vehicle. The incident happened May 1 at 4 p.m. on Scarsdale at Beamer. The member was at work and noticed someone broke into the vehicle. They are asking if anyone has any information on who drives that Dodge Ram. The without any license plates.

On the same page, a member shared a post from the Nextdoor app Sunday, May 3, that a young man knocked on a resident's door in a panic asking to call 911. The young man was with friends who took him to an abandoned house across the street from the resident's house. The young man was held at gunpoint by three masked boys. They took his car, phone, jewelry, wallet and a registered gun he had inside his vehicle.

The member helped him file a police report and found a number for his parents to pick him up. The member states the house has been abandoned for years and teenagers continue to enter it frequently with school being out. The member also states that they have contacted the HOA, hoping to get neighbors to file complaints. The member also wants to get the property owner to secure the house. The address is 11402 Sagedowne Lane. The member reports that forwarding complaints to the HOA would be appreciated in hopes that action will be taken and the police will be called more frequently for night patrols in the area.

A member of *People of South Belt* Facebook group posted surveillance videos of two suspects stealing license plates from a vehicle. The incident happened early morning Friday, May 1. The post was shared on other Facebook groups.

# Deaths

## Carol Marie Lowry



Carol Marie Lowry, 84, died April 14, 2020.

She was born Oct. 9, 1935, to Lenn and Vada Post in Illinois, and was raised in Fort Smith, Ark. Her siblings are John Post, "Junior" Post, Martha Metz, Frank Post, Ann Roberts, George Post, Bobby Don Post and Rowena Robison.

Throughout her life Carol loved animals and nature, including her childhood black horse "Danzy." She enjoyed gardening and seeing beauty in nature, whether birds, flowers or squirrels.

Carol met her husband Don and the couple moved to Houston, where they started a family. They raised three girls who gave them four grandsons, giving them half a baseball team for which to root. Carol loved her children and grandchildren dearly and was active throughout their lives, always supporting their adventures. "Nonnie" or "mamaw," as she was known to her grandsons, loved to cook for her family and would whip up chicken and dumplings on a moment's notice.

Carol was preceded in death by her mother and father; siblings John Post, Junior Post, Martha Metz and Frank Post; and great-grandson Will Malek.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years Don Lowry of Houston; daughters Donna Lowry of Houston, Gail Drager and husband Barry of Houston, Sharon Brown and husband Larry of Friendswood; grandchildren Darin Malek and wife Allie of Montgomery, Jason Brown and wife Toyah of Austin, Lonnie Malek and wife Anna of Burleson, Texas, and Jake Brown and wife Krissy of Friendswood; great-grandchildren Kate Malek, Luke Malek, Annie Brown, Landon Malek and Logan Malek; and siblings Ann Roberts, George Post, Bobby Don Post and Rowena Robison.

The visitation and funeral service was held Saturday April 18, at Niday Funeral Home.

Interment followed at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

## UHCL continuing ed goes live

University of Houston Clear Lake's Friday Morning Continuing Education programs are transitioning online and going live Friday, May 8, at 9:30 a.m. with Dr. Bill Powers, UH-Clear Lake's professor of history. Powers will be speaking about VE Day via Zoom, a video/audio conferencing online program.

Additional information about a Friday Morning Continuing Education Virtual Happy Hour, will be held Friday, May 15, at 4 p.m. featuring Jennifer Lehnert, who will discuss art critiquing.

For more information, email Christine Paul at [paul@uhcl.edu](mailto:paul@uhcl.edu).

## Harry G. Morgan



Harry G. Morgan, longtime Pasadena ISD employee, died April 21, 2020.

He was born on Oct. 4, 1925, in the town of West, Texas, where he lived until 1943. He was the eldest of three children born to Harry and Hazel Morgan. He graduated from West High School and went to Texas A&M University and the University of Houston where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

Harry was a member of Shaw Street Church of Christ and a longtime member of the Optimist Club in Pasadena. He served in the Air Force from 1943 to 1945 during World War II and attained the rank of sergeant, receiving the Purple Heart.

After the Air Force and college education, Harry moved to Pasadena where he began his career as a teacher, coach and assistant athletic superintendent for the Pasadena Independent School District. He retired in 1989 after serving 40 years. Upon retirement, he lived in Pasadena and Pearland. He married Glenna Shelton in 2006 in Pasadena.

Harry modeled a hard-working, trustworthy, proud, goal-oriented and tenacious life. One of the most important events in his life was attaining his master of education degree from the University of Houston. His favorite hobbies and activities included hunting, golf and fishing.

Harry was preceded in death by his second wife Helen Cobb; his parents; and his sisters Helen Graves and Elizabeth McGee. He is survived by his wife; sons Glenn and Greg Morgan; granddaughter Brandy Norwood; grandsons Chris Morgan and Hollis Morgan; great-granddaughters Bailey Kay Morgan, Bailey Lynn and Kayla Morgan; and great-grandson Tyler Norwood.

## Leader takes precautions

The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* is using a closed-door policy and asks the public to refrain from office visits.

Residents are asked to direct inquiries to 281-481-5656 or email [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com).

## South Belt Graphics & Printing

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# Church Directory

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[www.stlukecatholic.com](http://www.stlukecatholic.com)

LITURGY SCHEDULE	
Saturday	Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation	is celebrated
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office 281-481-6816  
Faith Formation 281-481-4251  
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# SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

## Coronavirus pandemic means 2020 athletic teams will play "what if" game

It's become popular of late for sports fans and even sports professionals to take part in video game action in an effort to predict the outcome of various sporting events had they been played out instead of canceled.

Doesn't do much good to perform those types of exercises at the college and high school level locally, but there is no shortage of programs or individuals who have been left to wonder what might have been.

There is no top nor bottom of the list, but the six-time District 22-6A champion varsity boys' soccer team from Dobie would have loved to have entered postseason as a No. 1 seed and been allowed to see where that might have taken them.

This is a program that has advanced to at least the second round of the postseason in each of the previous five seasons, and 2020 didn't figure to be any different.

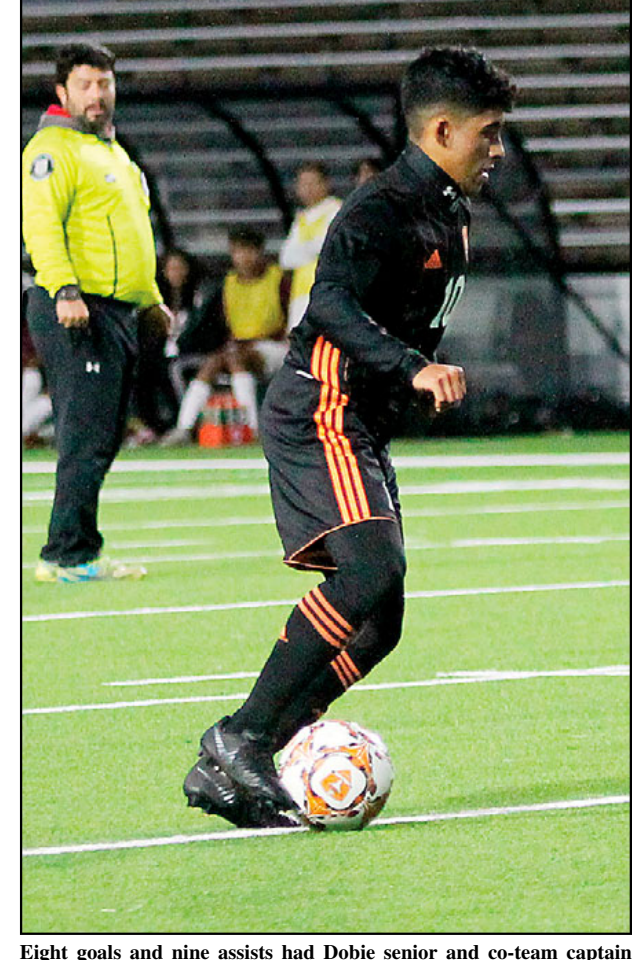
As it stands, the Longhorns will set the program record with just one loss all season, that coming in a meaningless nondistrict game against MacArthur.

Senior Imanol Pena was named the District 22-6A Most Valuable Player, no video game needed for that, and sophomore Eris Acosta was the Goalkeeper of the Year, yet Pena and seven other seniors wanted more.

Likewise, the Clear Brook varsity boys' soccer program broke through and reached the playoffs for the first time in four seasons, yet didn't get to test their postseason mettle, either.

Still in contention for a possible No. 2 seed, maybe the Wolverines would've won a playoff match for the first time in more than a decade. No video game could have decided that.

### JFD's Pena MVP; Acosta top keeper



Eight goals and nine assists had Dobie senior and co-team captain Imanol Pena as Dobie's leading scorer this season on the varsity soccer field, and he went on to win District 22-6A Most Valuable Player honors. In 2019, Pena had been the 22-6A Newcomer of the Year. See Dobie's all-district picks on Page 5.

Although just 10 goals, the Longhorns' Eris Acosta was the clear choice for the 2020 Goalkeeper of the Year in 22-6A as he continued to build upon a standout varsity boys' soccer career.



Dobie varsity softball pitcher Jessica De La Cerda helped get the Lady Longhorns to the regional quarterfinals in 2019. Now a senior, De La Cerda and her teammates will forever be left to consider what might have been.

chance to face rival Memorial.

But this team was headed to the playoffs. There is no video game outcome needed for that. Dobie used the momentum of winning a three-way playoff and the No. 2 playoff seeding a season ago to reach the regional quarterfinals.

What would have played out this season won't be known, but it would have been fun to find out.

Camryn Dickson of Clear Brook appeared to be in mid-season form as she eyed a return to the state track and field meet in the 100 and possibly the 200. As a freshman last season, Dickson was eighth at state in the 100.

Just a sophomore, Dickson will have other chances, but nothing can bring back 2020. True, she faced a tough Region III field of competitors en route to a possible state return, but would she have done it?

Elsewhere, there were plenty of athletes and teams that perhaps weren't headed for postseason success, but that matters little. No video game can bring back the opportunities, real or otherwise. Thanks a lot, coronavirus.

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### Little League World Series canceled

No one wants to be the person identified as he or she who canceled the 2020 Little League season, but it's increasingly clear that the decision will come.

Little League International has announced that the worldwide renowned Little League World Series held annually in Williamsport, Pa., will not take place.

Similar events in a total of six age groups have been canceled in all, seemingly bringing hopes of an eventual start to the youth season, yet Little League has stopped short of that.

Little League International has yet to end or extend a recommendation of halting play until May 11. And officials have also remained open to the idea of some nationwide leagues beginning to play based on local stipulations.

### UIL looks to Breithaupt as 2020-2021 decisions loom

With an eye toward big decisions that will ultimately have to be made later this summer, the University Interscholastic League will rely heavily on Dr. Charles Breithaupt, executive director of the state's public school extracurricular activities governing body.

Now, the focus is pre-season preparation, pre-season and in-season action for 2020-2021, specifically the sports of football, volleyball, cross-country and team tennis.

With seemingly no concrete answers, i.e., dates, where it relates to a safe return to normal activities of any kind, the 2020-2021 fall season may indeed include delays. If so, the UIL has stated that Breithaupt will have a

big say. For his part, Breithaupt has stated that he will carefully monitor the ongoing of professional sports leagues and organizations such as major league baseball, the PGA and LPGA golf tours, the national football league and others.

The remainder of extracurricular activities, including athletics, have been canceled for 2019-2020. That much is known.

Simply put, until the time comes when it is deemed safe to gather in larger, "team" settings, athletics are likely to remain on hold.

While this is early May, it's unfortunately not too early to consider whether delays might be needed.

One detail seems clear. If there is no regularly scheduled start to the 2020-2021 academic year, then athletics will not start on time.

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**Conner chooses Fort Scott T&F**  
Clear Brook High School Class of 2020 senior Keaira Conner has announced that she will continue her education and track and field career at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. Conner, a four-year varsity track and field standout at Clear Brook, is set to join a Greyhounds program that is part of Region VI within the National Junior College Athletic Association.

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★Pearland - Gorgeous 5-3-5-2 off Pearland Parkway! Game room, Media room, study! Two story fireplace, curved staircase and Juliet balcony! Covered patio! #CSC  
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tric bulb (safelight), 1 - lens cover, 4 - various size paper holders, 2 - Beseler negative carriers 35mm and 23C. \$150. Please call 281-485-5114. 5-14

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## Houston public libraries will remain closed until end of May

**Continued from Page 1**  
 Aug. 1, 2020. Visit [www.houstonlibrary.org/my-link-library-card-registration](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/my-link-library-card-registration).  
 "This unprecedented moment in our history requires that we intentionally put first the health and safety of our staff members, families, friends and neighbors," said Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, library director.  
 "To that end, at the direction of our mayor and advice of city public health officials, the Houston Public Library will remain closed to the public at least through May. Please stay safe, and stay tuned for updates regarding the status of the library."  
 HPL's virtual programming includes storytime every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 am on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/houstonlibrary/>. First Chapter podcasts of teen and tween books at <https://anchor.fm/houston-library>. The library will be adding additional content including craft and STEM videos, book chats, book clubs, Living English Lessons and more.

Residents can also virtually visit the historic Julia Ideson Building that houses the Houston Metropolitan Research Center at <http://houstonlibrary.org/research/special-collections/houston-metropolitan-research-center>, access historic pictures, oral histories and more through the Houston Area Digital Archives at <https://digital.houstonlibrary.org/>. Researching family history is still possible online through the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research Center and through access to Ancestry.com, which is provided for customers remotely through the end of May at [www.houstonlibrary.org/research/resources-by-category/234](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/research/resources-by-category/234).  
 Brainfuse is a great resource for many parents helping with schoolwork. Customers can get live homework help with a tutor, build skills, receive writing assistance and more. Brainfuse is available 24/7 for grades kindergarten through college. This is especially exciting news for parents helping their kids with homework while everyone

is working from home. In addition, Brainfuse has tools for adults that include career resources, resume help, practice tests, live job coaching, ESL and more at <http://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/online-resources-kids>.  
 If customers need help with any HPL resource, they can call 832-393-1313 and get assistance Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. or send a message through Email Reference at <https://houstonlibrary.org/email-reference>. Customers will receive a response within 48 to 72 hours.  
**Bracewell Wi-Fi**  
 While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, it's Wi-Fi service is still available for residents to utilize.  
 If a customer has a device, such as a phone, laptop or tablet but no Wi-Fi, they can come to the library and gain access by standing/sitting within 6 feet of the building. There is no need for a password. All one needs to do is go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi, and then connect to HPL - Public.

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

### Southeast VFD needs you!

We are seeking local volunteers to join our active Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. If you are over 18 and can pass a background check and driving record check, we encourage you to come join us any Thursday evening at 7PM at our #1 Fire Station at 10510 Scarsdale Blvd. If you have no, or very limited training, we will provide all the training and protective gear upon acceptance. If you have any previous fire or EMS training, (Fire Department, Forest Service, Military, etc), we can accept those training hours also. You can visit our website: [www.southeastvfd.com](http://www.southeastvfd.com) to learn more, download an application package and see some of the activities that we participate in yearly. Please come to one of our meetings to meet your fellow volunteers and join us in this very important and worthwhile activity. Become a valued and needed part of our growing community where Neighbors Help Neighbors! Your community needs you!

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# CALENDAR

**Due to the current novel coronavirus pandemic, it is advisable to verify if meetings are still being held prior to attending. Since Gov. Greg Abbott has initiated Strike Force for the reopening of Texas some groups have resumed their meetings.**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**  
 7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.  
 Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/> For information, call 713-686-6300.  
 7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**  
 7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
 7 p.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.  
 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. 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
 8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

**MONDAY, MAY 11**  
 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 online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/> 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://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its

member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective 3/16/2020, to ensure its members continue their journey to becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on our home page menu ([www.youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com](http://www.youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com)) to obtain access to our virtual meeting platform. For information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.  
 7 p.m.  
**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg, room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).  
 7:30 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7:30 p.m. in the educational bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

**TUESDAY, MAY 12**  
 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. 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
 Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/> 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](http://www.hascona.com).

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**  
 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. 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
 Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/> 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 details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).  
**Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention** - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit [www.bayareaturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for information.  
 8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

**THURSDAY, MAY 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 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.  
 9:30 a.m.  
**NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit [aglownet.org](http://aglownet.org).  
 11:30 a.m.  
**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South will have a virtual meeting Thursday, May 14, welcoming Joanne Erickson, an experienced attorney, for a presentation on Employee Law. All attendees must preregister. RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/849023302250286> and the Zoom address is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/849023302250286>. After registering, confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting will be sent. Visit [www.seen-abwa.org](http://www.seen-abwa.org).  
 Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/> For additional information, call 713-686-6300.  
 7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group, open meeting at 7 p.m., at 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information or for virtual meetings, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

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 7 p.m.  
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## Dobie grad Ortega lands all-conference softball



Alana Ortega, a 2019 Dobie graduate and solid contributor to the Lady Longhorns' softball program, turned in an all-conference worthy freshman season at Southwestern Assemblies of God University before play was stopped. Ortega hit .317 with eight runs



scored and seven runs driven in, all good for second on the team and she also had 19 hits. Her play subsequently earned Ortega honorable mention all conference status within the Sooner Athletic Conference.

## Dobie soccer duo headed to Paul Quinn



Dobie varsity boys' soccer seniors Anthony Nery (left) and Jonathan Mendez will join the Paul Quinn College program in Dallas this fall. Mendez had three goals and was second on the Dobie team with eight assists, while Nery turned in seven goals and seven assists both



helping the program to the 22-6A championship with a 13-0-1 record. Paul Quinn College is a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics division I program that competes in men's soccer in the Red River Athletic Conference.

## Incoming freshmen to face the unfamiliar

While each and every student certainly faces a first-of-a-lifetime adjustment regardless of grade to be entered or institution to be attended entering the 2020-2021 academic year, there's little doubt incoming freshman high school athletes will be challenged.

When the intermediate track and field season brought an end to athletics at the 10 Pasadena ISD schools, athletes no doubt expected to - per normal procedure - at least have the chance to meet some of their future high school coaches this spring.

For the most part, those chances did not come as school came to a premature end more than two months earlier than expected.

While there is still time, incoming freshmen might also miss out on being able to take part in summer camp environments, typically designed to help them get acquainted with coaches and expectations entering the crucial first year of high school.

Young student-athletes always have the built-in advantage of being able to adjust on the fly, but the coronavirus pandemic doesn't figure to make 2020-2021 easy.

Students all over the country, Clear Brook and Dobie included, could very well be walking into unfamiliar territory come August, or perhaps even later.

At Clear Brook where football is concerned, first-year varsity football head

coach John Towels III will be instituting new schemes in all phases of the game, which shouldn't matter to freshmen who don't know any different.

Similarly, meeting some new coaches won't be an issue, either, as that is par for the course while shifting from intermediate to high school.

The key at Brook will be that everybody, regardless of level of play, skill level or grade class, will be learning on the fly without the benefit of spring workouts, in-person casual chats, etc.

The challenges figure to be much the same at Dobie, yet head coach Kevin Berneathy, entering his third varsity football season, has a proven system in place, the

vast majority of players and coaches understand it, and the biggest concern when activities resume is getting up to speed in a hurry.

The same goes for incoming seventh-grade students looking to play volleyball or football for the first time in school play.

It's going to seem new, and it's going to be unfamiliar. Just roll with it.

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## Lajaunie tennis set for June 26-28

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

Up to this point, tournament organizers, including event founder Camille Lajaunie, have had to work around the shutdown caused by the pandemic as the original dates were May 1-3.

Despite the scheduling issues, the tournament committee has awarded academic scholarships to six deserving class of 2020 seniors from Dobie High School.

Two more sophomores from First Baptist Christian Academy also were honored.

For additional details, see Page 5, April 30, Leader issue.

Tournament registration details will come soon, and scholarship donation, used racket donation and other tournament-related efforts are ongoing. Visit the tournament's Facebook page at Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarships for more details.

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

## NJCAA sets national championship locales

Poised to have a very talented roster in 2021, the San Jacinto College softball program will certainly be aiming to reach the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I World Series.

If the Coyotes do so, they'll be headed to Arizona Western College in Yuma, Ariz., which has been awarded the DI World Series for both 2021 and 2022.

The NJCAA has also announced that the entire series will now be contested on two fields instead of four to allow for greater exposure in all areas, including fan experience, scouting, advertising opportunities and more.

As expected, the NJCAA will return the Division I baseball World Series to one of the true meccas in all of college baseball, Grand Junction, Colo.

The San Jacinto College baseball program, a regular visitor to the World Series as one of the country's elite operations, will be looking to get back to the big show in 2021 after a two-year absence.

In all, the NJCAA decided on 16 new national championship locations for its 25 sports, with the venues receiving two-year host designations.

# Unbeaten league champion Dobie rules District 22-6A boys' soccer nominations



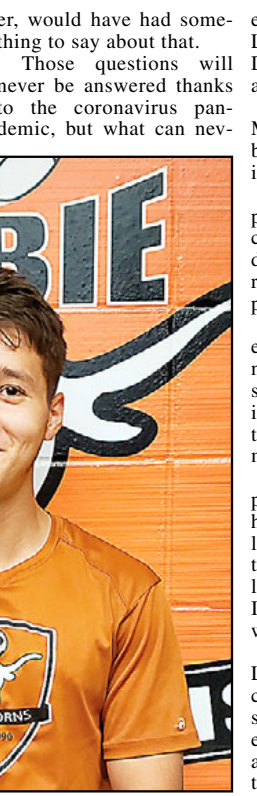
Jonathan Mendez elevated his game in a big way in 2020, contributing in a variety of ways to the Longhorns' title push as he was a first-team all district pick. He will play at Paul Quinn College in Dallas this fall.



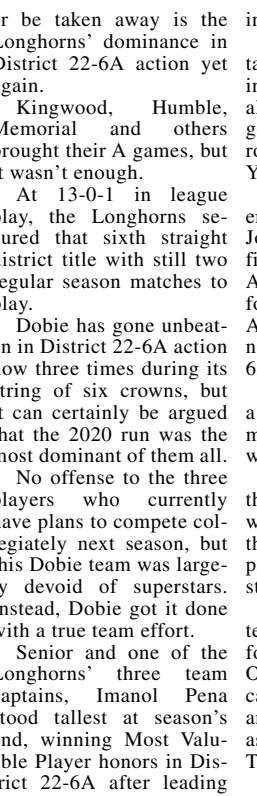
Adrian Garcia, a member of Dobie's Region III championship squad, wound up his career with three straight District 22-6A first-team nominations as a defender and was, therefore, part of four league title teams. He was also a co-captain in 2020.



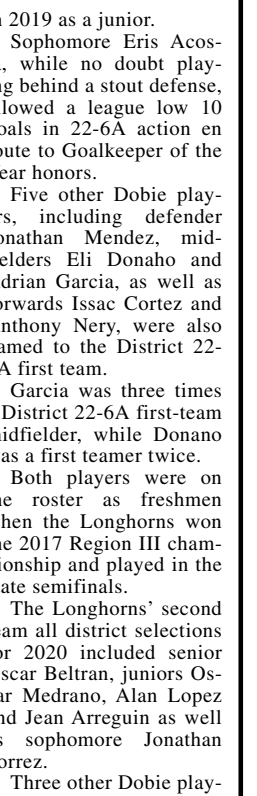
Four-year varsity standout Eli Donaho made a position change this season that helped lead to the Longhorns' surrendering just 10 goals in 22-6A action. The co-captain was an easy choice as a first team all district player.



Senior forward Anthony Nery burst on the scene in 20 with seven goals and seven assists, landing an opportunity to play at Paul Quinn College this fall and scoring a District 22-6A first-team nomination.



With the Longhorns in search of young players to step up in 2020, forward Isaac Cortez did just that on his way to being named a District 22-6A first-teamer. He will head into 2021 as one of Dobie's key returnees on offense.



Jonathan Mendez elevated his game in a big way in 2020, contributing in a variety of ways to the Longhorns' title push as he was a first-team all district pick. He will play at Paul Quinn College in Dallas this fall.



## Henderson relishes UH track career

Dobie graduate and University of Houston track and field standout Justice Henderson is on track to graduate in December with a degree in kinesiology and has thus far been part of three conference championships while contributing in the relays, the 100 dash and long jump events. Henderson set the Pasadena ISD record in the 100 in both the seventh and eighth grades while attending Beverly Hills Intermediate and was a four-time district champion long jumper at Dobie while also excelling in the 100.

### Dobie District 22-6A Second-Team Picks

*Oscar Beltran, Sr.*  
*Oscar Medrano, Jr.*  
*Alan Lopez, Jr.*  
*Jean Arreguin, Jr.*  
*Jonathan Torres, Soph.*

### Dobie District 22-6A Honorable Mention Picks

*Julio Martinez, Sr.*  
*Max Parra, Jr.*  
*Daniel Blanco, Fr.*

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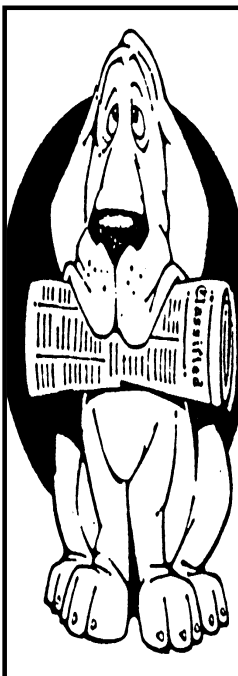
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# Pasadena ISD names 2019-20 outstanding teachers

**Continued from Page 1**  
bonds with her students," said Thompson Intermediate principal Tannis Griffin. "She is one in a million and I am so thankful and blessed that I have the privilege to work alongside her."  
Teachers of the year recipients Montes and Haas will represent the Pasadena ISD as they advance to the Region IV competition later in the year.  
"On behalf of the board and myself, we appreciate all of the phenomenal things you have done," said Marshall Kendrick PISD board of trustees president to the nominees.  
"We appreciate your care. Thank you for your drive and dedication. We know you are giving us your very best."  
Despite the changes in the format of the event, many members of the PISD community were in attendance to support the nominees.  
This year's event sponsors, Bayway Auto Group and Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union joined on the call, as well.  
GCEFCU provided each of the winners with gift baskets and Bayway Auto Group announced that they will provide Teacher of the Year winners, Montes and Haas, with a Jeep or

Ram for their personal use throughout the summer.  
As an extra bonus in this time of crisis, Bayway Auto group will also provide a special discount to PISD employees who purchase a vehicle from them.  
"We're excited to honor these incredible teachers," said Linda Wischnewsky of Bayway. "We take great pride in being part of the PISD family."  
The following are the 2020 Pasadena ISD Teacher of the Year recipients:  
- Elementary New Teacher of the Year Belinda Arredondo, music teacher at Pomeroy Elementary School.  
- Middle School New Teacher of the Year Mary Purvis, sixth-grade English and Language Arts teacher at Lomax Middle School.  
- Intermediate School New Teacher of the Year Jose Lozano, English and language arts teacher at Thompson Intermediate.  
- High School New Teacher of the Year Jacqueline Ordaz, special education and teen leadership teacher at Sam Rayburn High School.  
- Elementary Teacher of the Year Julia Montes, literacy peer facilitator at Mathys Elementary.  
- Secondary Teacher of the Year Susie Haas, science teacher at Thompson Intermediate School.



**Jacqueline Ordaz, special education and teen leadership teacher at Sam Rayburn High School was named High School New Teacher of the Year.**



**Jose Lozano, English and language arts teacher at Thompson Intermediate School was named Intermediate School New Teacher of the Year.**



**Mary Purvis, sixth-grade English and language arts teacher at Lomax Middle School was named Middle School New Teacher of the Year.**



**Belinda Arredondo, music teacher at Pomeroy Elementary School was named Elementary New Teacher of the Year.**

## Caution: be aware of COVID-19 scams

**Continued from Page 1**  
Despite FDA efforts, havoc on Americans' health," said Bay Scoggin, TexPIRG education fund director. "Claiming that a product will cure or protect people from the deadly virus isn't just a threat to the consumer - it risks the virus being transmitted further."  
By law, the FDA has to approve any product that claims to mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose or cure COVID-19. When a company attempts to bypass that rigorous process, the FDA may send a warning letter, and it can eventually lead to fines.  
Additional findings in TexPIRG Education Fund's analysis include:  
More than one in six warning letters were for products claiming that colloidal silver is effective in mitigating, preventing or curing coronavirus, even though the FDA warned more than two decades ago that silver products have no adequately proven medical benefits. That determination has not changed.  
Five warning letters were issued to cannabidiol products with unsubstantiated claims related to how they treated, mitigated or cured the virus. More than half the FDA warning letters (56 percent) were issued to products claiming to either enhance immune systems or have antiviral properties that would prevent, mitigate, treat or cure COVID-19.

TexPIRG Education Fund found other products for sale that made similar claims about effectiveness against COVID-19. For example, online brand 78Minerals is selling a product that advertises nutrients and minerals to "help fight the coronavirus and strengthen your immune system." My Corona Defense by NeoLife claims on social media that the product "helps boost immunity to fight COVID-19 pandemic situation[sic]."  
Claims made by sellers about their products had a number of similarities. Some offered testimonies from individuals who were supposedly cured of the coronavirus after taking the treatment. Others used rhetorical questions to try and convince the reader of their healing power. But in each case, the FDA determined the claims were without the necessary evidence.  
To help consumers avoid these types of products, TexPIRG Education Fund has developed a guide to identify false claims.  
As of last week, no product exists that has been approved by the FDA to prevent or treat COVID-19. Online shoppers should verify any product claiming to prevent or treat coronavirus through the CDC and FDA websites, even if it claims to be approved.

## Take time to do census

**Continued from Page 1**  
Census takers will receive an in-person visit by a census taker to collect their information later this summer.  
According to the Census Bureau's online response map tracking the nation's participation in the census, almost 79 million households have already responded online, by phone or by mail.  
Some areas where census takers were originally going to personally hand deliver forms will now receive a letter in the mail from the Census Bureau reminding them to participate. Even if households don't receive a letter in the mail, the Census Bureau will drop off a census invitation and paper form as soon

as it is safe to do so. Census takers will also follow up with all households that do not respond on their own.  
The Census Bureau strongly encourages the public to respond online at 2020census.gov. Households can respond online in English or 12 other languages or by phone. Households can also respond by mail using the paper questionnaire that was recently mailed to every non-responding address. Households that received a census invitation in the mail and have yet to respond should have received a paper questionnaire by Thursday, April 30.  
Households will receive another reminder postcard in the mail between now and

May 9. The Census Bureau pushed back this mailing to allow the paper questionnaire package to arrive several days ahead of the postcard, which is one in a series of reminders the Census Bureau has mailed non-responding households since mid-March urging them to respond. Census takers will visit every address that does not respond on their own to collect responses in person.  
Responding now to the 2020 Census will minimize the need for a census taker to visit one's home later this year.  
While the Census deadline isn't until July, residents are encouraged to respond earlier. For additional information, visit 2020census.gov.

## DA warns: monitor kids in water

The Harris County District Attorney's office has warned against allowing children being left alone in the bathtub or allowing access to unsupervised pools.  
As the weather warms up, young children are drawn to unsupervised pools and parents sometimes let babies or toddlers splash around in a bathtub without supervision, either of which are dangerous and can even be fatal.  
"These are tragedies for the entire community, and they are imminently preventable and completely avoidable," said Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg. "Parents and caretakers have a responsibility to never allow a small child to be left alone in water."  
Drowning is the second leading cause of injury death for children ages 1-14 years

in America. More children ages 1 to 4 years old die from drowning than any other cause of death except birth defects according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
The bathtub is a dangerous place for young children, even toddlers, to be unsupervised.  
"Parents and caregivers should carefully monitor their young children when they are in the tub, particularly if they are very young or have special needs," said Lucy Johnson, chief prosecutor in the Child Fatality Section of the district attorney's office. "Parents should never leave babies alone in the tub. Even if a child can sit up or even stand, it doesn't mean they can be left alone."  
The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that children can drown in only a

few inches of water, so never leave a young child alone in the bath, even for a moment.  
The organization advises that if a caretaker can't ignore the doorbell or the phone, then the child should be wrapped in a towel and taken along when answering the door or phone.  
The group also notes that bath seats and rings are meant to be bathing aids and will not prevent drowning if the child is left unattended. It is also important to have everything necessary within arm's reach before beginning the bath.  
Never leave water in the bathtub when it is not in use.  
Bathroom Safety Tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics can be found at <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Bathroom-Safety.aspx>.

## Resident thankful for neighbor's intervention amidst fire

**Continued from Page 1**  
to inspect the sounds, the female responded to a knock at the front door.  
A neighbor had come to alert the family that their house was on fire. Frank's husband's intuition had warned him not to enter the attic.  
"He said he had a feeling not to open the attic door because it seemed like a light was on through the crack of

the door, but again, no electricity in the home," Frank said. "As he realized fire was in the attic, I was alerted at the door."  
While safely watching the blaze from outside in her pajamas, Frank said she heard a loud sound. "When we got out, we saw the home was on fire and smoking, and not even 20 seconds later, while we were calling my landlord, we heard

another loud noise from the house, and something collapsed," Frank said. "My roof caved in my room where my five-month-old baby was sleeping."  
Frank is grateful for the help of her fellow neighbors.  
"To the neighbors that stopped their vehicle in front of my home and sent her family member to come knocking at the door, 'thank y'all.

God bless y'all. I love y'all from the bottom of my heart. Y'all saved me and my family," Frank said. "And to the neighbor who called 911 and helped me into my truck and catch my breath and calmed me down while I was panicking, thank you. God bless you. I love you from the bottom of my heart. Kind words mean the world in moments like that. Sure, me and my family

would have realized it was fire and eventually got out, but it may have been too late."  
Frank said she'd like to identify the neighbors so she could thank them in person.  
"Please, if you know the neighbors who came, attention them," Frank posted on Facebook. "I want to personally thank them. Again thank y'all. I owe y'all my life and my family's lives. Thank you."

## Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY, JOHN!**  
Wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent to South Belt Leader staff member **John Bechtie** Monday, May 11, from his family, friends and the Leader staff. He has been the sports editor of the Leader for many years and is greatly appreciated by his co-workers!  
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FRED AND LESLIE!**  
Congratulations to **Fred and Leslie Flickinger** who celebrate 26 years of marriage May 7. Best wishes are sent from daughters **Kimberly Flickinger** and **Courtney** and husband **Chris Durham** and children **Abigail, Jackson** and **Penelope**; Leslie's mother **Olive Falkowski**; Fred's mom and dad **Marie and David Flickinger**; and brother **Davy** (Leader president) and wife **Ellie Flickinger**.  
**OLIVE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
Special birthday wishes are sent Sunday, May 10, for a wonderful birthday to **Olive Falkowski** from her daughter **Leslie Flickinger** and husband **Fred**; granddaughter **Kimberly Flickinger**; granddaughter **Courtney Durham** and husband **Chris**; great-grandchildren **Abigail, Jackson Jackson** and **Penelope Durham**; Marie and husband **David Flickinger**; David (Leader president) and his wife **Ellie Flickinger**; and **Alexis Lochner**.  
**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays May 7 through May 13, 2020.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
**Martha Lerma** celebrates a birthday May 9.  
**Burnett Elementary**  
Send a birthday greeting May 13 to **Yagaira Alaniz**.  
**Bush Elementary**  
**Nicolette Martinez** marks a birthday May 9.  
**Andrew Duron** enjoys a birthday May 12.  
**Frazier Elementary**  
Light the candles on a birthday cake May 8 for **India Kemp**. Blow out the birthday candles May 13 for **Amanda Hooper**.  
**Genoa Elementary**  
Share in the birthday celebration May 9 with **Diana Davis Scheer**. Best wishes for a great birthday May 13 are sent to **Olga Sosa**.  
**Moore Elementary**  
The day for a celebration for **Yvonne Xicoy** is May 9. Blow out the candles May 13 on a special cake for **Gail Bailey**.  
**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Send a birthday greeting May 9 to **Cheryl Lewis**.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
May 7 is the day for a celebration for **Jorge Palomares**. May 10 is the day for a birthday cake for **Krista Harris**. Light the candles for **Kathleen Ingersoll** on May 12.  
**Roberts Middle School**  
**Dora Flowers** enjoys a birthday May 10.  
**Thompson Intermediate**  
Send a birthday greeting May 7 to **Lynette Montes** and **Christopher Mire**. Marking a birthday May 9 is **Krystal LaReau**.  
**Dobie High**  
Break out the party favors May 7 for

**Barbara Jimenez** and **Jesse Lopez**. Light the candles May 9 for **Jordan Evans**. Marking a birthday May 10 is **Kelcey Davis**. Send a humorous birthday card May 11 to **Steven Mayo**. Give three cheers for a May 12 birthday for **Abby Morris, Patrick Davis** and **James Reed**. The day for a gift for **William Malpass** is May 13.  
**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
The Leader sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.  
Thursday, May 7: **Yvonne Villegas, Josh Garza, Stephanie Salazar and Jenn Verchiens**; Friday, May 8: **Amelia Brown, Christopher Barber, Tiffany Robbins, Julie Kutra** and **Sara Muller**; Saturday, May 9: **Tiana Jaime-Perez, Freedom Groebner, Ronny Carker** and **Bubba Barnett**; Sunday, May 10: **Becky Lopez, Kathy Vingoe** and **Angela Ojeda**; Monday, May 11: **Alex Carpenter, Tyson Dillard, Leslie Fair** and **George King**; Tuesday, May 12: **Jennifer Main, Jazalyne Ily, Raymond Massey, Kirk Belch, Sonia Ramos, Jennifer Ashe** and **Sophie Harrison**; and Wednesday, May 13: **Lexi Salinas, Norma Torres, Karen Kerr, Douglas Mikel** and **Faith Roberts**.  
**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Angry Weber students' parents, backed by other Houston area citizens impacted by toxic waste, vented their frustration at Brio Task Force representatives during a limited seated public meeting.  
Clear Creek ISD administrators kept adding portable buildings at Landolt Elementary School to avoid a confrontation over moving students to Weber in Southbelt located three blocks from a toxic waste dump.  
Despite aggressive academic efforts by Pasadena ISD to improve standardized test scores, the overall average for Texas Education Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS), including several South Belt area schools, dropped significantly.  
**25 years ago (1995)**  
Fifth-graders at Frazier Elementary prepared a banner in support of the J. Frank Dobie Lady Longhorns who were headed to the state softball tournament in Austin.  
Pasadena Independent School District's board approved a restructuring of the district's administrative organization.  
The Thompson Academic Games team lost its bid for a

third national championship.  
U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, was committed to Brio remediation and maintaining the Johnson Space Center and the approximately 40,000 jobs dependent on it.  
**20 years ago (2000)**  
Principals Jerry Speer and Frank Braden won Pasadena ISD board elections. Speer won Position 5, and Braden won Position 4.  
A Pearland election resulted in increased momentum for the Scarsdale-Yost Road project with Larry Marcott defeating Bill Berger, the strongest city council opponent to the connection.  
**15 years ago (2005)**  
The fate of Ellington Field was in question due to the Base Realignment and Closure hearings that would soon commence. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was expected to announce bases slated for closure or down-sizing. Rep. Tom DeLay was fighting to keep Ellington as it was.  
After nearly a month of extensive searching, the family of Austin Childs decided it was time to hold a memorial service. The teen was missing, along with two other South Belt area men, after they went fishing off Freeport.  
The opening of Blackhawk to Dixie Farm Road was delayed because of last-minute details.  
During a board meeting, Clear Creek Independent School District trustees changed Clear View Alternative School into a district charter school. After approval by the Texas Education Agency, the school would be eligible to receive \$450,000 in education grants for more faculty and student programs.  
Three San Jacinto College regents returned to their positions, namely, J.D. Bruce and Dr. Reude Wheeler having defeated opponents. Ben Meador was unopposed.  
**10 years ago (2010)**  
The staff at Moore Elementary was honored with teachers being named both the Pasadena Independent School District's Elementary Teacher of the Year and First-Year Teacher of the Year. Elizabeth Neubauer, the school's special education SUCCESS teacher, took home the honor of Elementary Teacher of the Year, while Leah Laredo, a fourth-grade

## Remember When

**40 years ago (1980)**  
Two Dobie students won first place at the University Interscholastic League track meet held at Austin. John Robinson ran the 1,600-meter in 4:08.4, and Gawan Guy ran the 800-meter in 1:50.8.  
An open house and air show *Star Spangled Weekend* was held at Ellington field. This was the largest military forces exhibition in the nation.  
Dobie's varsity baseball team won the 23-4A championship by defeating Deer Park in two games out of three in a series.  
Lynn Carlson of Scarsdale ran his motorcycle into the side of a bull that was crossing Choate Road. Carlson was treated for severe abrasions and a possible fractured leg. The bull had to be euthanized.  
**35 years ago (1985)**  
Metro designed a questionnaire to survey the transportation needs of those in the area.  
City Councilman Frank Mancuso instructed the director of public works to consider funding construction of a bridge on Sageglen Boulevard to connect Sagemont to Woodmeadow and Scarsdale.  
Four interviewees talked with school officials at Pasadena ISD about their administrative personnel structure. Structure changes could be proposed after compiling and reviewing the data.  
A public hearing on Green Tee's petition for lifelong deannexation from Clear Creek ISD was in progress despite Clear Creek's efforts to disallow the petition in the Galveston County Commissioners Court.

**30 years ago (1990)**  
Clear Creek Independent School District's Sixth-Grade Task Force Options Committee stated that if the Weber Elementary School was closed (due to the Brio site), then a replacement school for those students would have to be given first priority.  
A number of South Belt area residents were looking into the increasing number of severe accidents along Dixie Farm Road between Beamer and Interstate 45.  
After several months of study, 151st District Judge Alice Trevathan denied granting a new trial in the Slaughter v. Monsanto case.  
Angry Weber students' parents, backed by other Houston area citizens impacted by toxic waste, vented their frustration at Brio Task Force representatives during a limited seated public meeting.

teacher at the school, was awarded the First Year Teacher of the Year prize.  
Stuchbery Elementary second-grade teacher Sharon Brantly celebrated her 40th year at the area school. She came to Stuchbery when the school was three years old and taught in the same classroom for her entire tenure. The teacher's co-workers surprised her by having a party in the school's library. The Pasadena Independent School District officially recognized Brantly at a banquet.  
**5 years ago (2015)**  
The May 9 school board election results were tallied, with longtime Pasadena Independent School District incumbents maintaining their positions. While challengers in the election campaigned on the need for fresh faces on the board, voters opted to re-elect Marshall Kendrick and Vickie Morgan, who had a combined 55 years of service. In the Position 6 race, Kendrick handily defeated challenger Lydia Velasquez. In the Position 7 contest, Morgan easily defeated challengers Erica Davis Rouse and Chuck Maricle. In the Position 5 election, challenger Kenny Fernandez narrowly defeated freshman board member Larry Savala, who had been appointed to the board the previous year to serve the remainder of Jerry Speer's un-

expired term. Speer, who had served on the board for 14 years, was required to resign when his granddaughter took a position as a school nurse at Queens Intermediate, violating the school district's nepotism policies.  
In the Clear Creek Independent School District election, Jay Cunningham filled the District 5 seat formerly held by longtime trustee Dee Scott, who stepped down after serving 10 years on the board. Cunningham easily defeated challenger Trent Martin, receiving 62 percent of the vote. Incumbents Page Rander (District 4) and Charles Pond (At-Large Position A) both maintained their positions, as they ran unopposed.  
**1 year ago (2019)**  
E.J. Ritchey, former Thompson Intermediate principal, died Sunday, April 28, at the age of 89. Ritchey retired in January 1989, after serving 33 years with the Pasadena Independent School District, 15 years as Thompson principal.  
Former South Belt resident Jesika Taylor was found murdered in an apartment in Alvin May 1. Taylor's husband, Brandon Garrett, was arrested in connection to the crime. The couple had reportedly been involved in a domestic disturbance call two days before her body was found.

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## Church opening info

Continued from Page 1

**Freeway Baptist Church**  
Freeway Baptist Church, 8702 Kingspoint, opened to the public Sunday, May 3, for the 11 a.m. service. Social distancing is to be practiced.

Other churches in the area, however, are taking a more cautious approach.

**Sagemont Church**

By far the largest church in the South Belt community, Sagemont Church, 11300 S. Sam Houston Parkway E., will not open for in-person services before May 17 – a date that coincides with the arrival of the church's new pastor Dr. Matt Carter. This date was originally considered for the resumption of in-person services.

However, the decision was made to continue online services until Sunday, May 31, at which time there will be a worship service and a sermon, but no iConnect Bible study classes. All other public functions will begin Sunday, June 7, at which time the church will also enforce social-distancing practices.

**Other area churches**

At press time, multiple churches in the South Belt Area told the *Leader* there were no definite dates for in-person ser-

VICES, but updated information may be found on their websites. These include Grace Community Church (mygrace.com), South Belt Church (southbeltchurch.org), Mount Olive Lutheran Church (mountolivehouston.org) and CrossRoads UMC (http://crossroads-umc.org/) – all of which will continue to livestream services online.

The status of Bible Fellowship Baptist remains unclear, as information has not yet been received.

**The Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist**

Following an instruction letter by Archbishop Cardinal DiNardo, parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston began the reopening of churches May 1 with a gradual return to public services at a 25 percent capacity.

Social distancing will be practiced. Parishioners are asked to bring facemasks (age 10 and older) and hand sanitizer.

Additional information including service times is available on the St. Luke Facebook page, the website (www.stlukesatholic.com) and myParishApp.com.

The link to Cardinal DiNardo's letter may also be found on the St. Luke parish website.

## JFD alumnus David Griffin receives awards

David Griffin recently received the Civilian Category 111 Award NH-3 (GS-13) and above-Civilian Employee of the Year (2019) for the Aircraft Maintenance Group of OO/ALC, Ogden Utah.

The Aircraft Maintenance Group of OO/ALC consists of more than 2,200 employees and performs depot level maintenance and modification of the Air Force's premier Generation 5 Stealth F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning fighter aircraft as well as the Generation 4 A-10 Thunderbolt, F-16 Falcon, the mighty C-130 Hercules and T-38 Talon.

The T-38 Talon Depot is located at Randolph AFB in San Antonio and is considered a geographically separated unit (GSU) under OO/ALC Hill AFB Ogden, where Griffin presently

serves as a Transformation Engineer.

The T-38, which has been the platform used to train the Air Force's future jet fighter aircraft pilots and NASA pilots for more than 60 years, is on its third life span (flown three times the designed flight hours to date). That equals 80 years of serving and flying.

Griffin has served at OO/ALC as the C-130 Production Chief, F-22 Weapons System Support Center Chief and as a certified Green Belt in lean processes with Six Sigma, served as a Transformation Lead for the entire Aircraft Maintenance Group at OO/ALC.

In 2018 Griffin and his family relocated near San Antonio where his new mission at Randolph AFB is to lead process improvement initiatives, streamline production processes and seek ways to

decrease downtime and increase aircraft availability by speeding up the overhaul, modification and repair processes of the T-38 aircraft undergoing depot maintenance at Randolph AFB.

Griffin has worked for the U.S. Air Force and Lockheed Martin for a combined 39 years. He has worked on the C-5 Galaxy, B-52 Bomber, C-130 Hercules Nightingale, Gulfstream G5, A-10 Thunderbolt and T-38 Talon He has worked with the U.S. Marines and U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force. He has worked with foreign military services including Pakistan, Romania, Israel, Japan and Chile.

Griffin and his wife Angela are both graduates of Dobie High School. He is the son of Bobby and Kenneth Griffin, former longtime residents of Sagemeadow.



David Griffin

## City heads to normal

Continued from Page 1 at the HoustonEmergency.org website.

The city of Houston will return to its normal schedule of operations on June 1, if there is no resurgence of COVID-19 during the governor's phased-in approach to reopening businesses.

The city has modified the Stay Home, Work Safe or-

der. As a result, all city permitted and sponsored events are canceled through the end of May.

The Houston Public Library will remain closed, and all Houston Municipal Court trials, along with arraignments, hearings, jury duty, and parking adjudication hearings, also will be suspended through May.

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## St. Luke's holds blood drive



Brother Knight Jerry O'Brien gets a well-deserved rest after donating blood at the Knights of Columbus Council 9201 blood drive in the St. Luke the Evangelist Church social hall April 29. In all, 39 units of blood products were collected. Council 9201 annually conducts six blood drives after Sunday masses in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. The recent blood drive was a special midweek "by appointment only" drive respecting COVID-19 requirements including social distancing. The next blood drive at St. Luke's will be May 17, under the same COVID-19 protocol. Appointments may be made online at giveblood.org or by calling Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358.

## Walker's office closing

The office of attorney Milt Walker will close on May 29. (See information in ad on this page.)

Milton Walker passed away in February.

He grew up in the panhandle of Texas and graduated from WTSU and Texas Tech Law School where he was a member of the prestigious Law Review. He practiced for 48 years in personal injury, oil and gas, family and probate.

The last 31 years were here in the South Belt.

Of local interest, he and his wife Mary created the Dobie High School website on March 15, 1995 - the first website in the Pasadena ISD.

They used Notepad and Netscape to get three pages up on the internet and paid for it for the first two years of its existence.

The *Leader* ran a story on the site.

In Mary's webmaster classes the district said that they didn't have a server large enough to accommodate her student files.

So Milton built a server for her webmastering classes and maintained for 12 years.

He also built computers and rescued damaged hard drives for people.

He had many talents, but

mainly he cared about family, friends and clients - some who became close friends.

**LAW OFFICE CLOSING**

**The Law Office of Milt Walker**

**will close on May 29, 2020**

Clients having legal matters handled by Milt Walker are urged to CALL 281-481-0909 to make arrangements to retrieve your file. You may leave a message.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Walker at 281-481-0909.

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