



South Belt-Ellington Leader

44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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ZIP COVID numbers reported

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Harris County this past week.

As of Wednesday, June 24, ZIP code 77089 had 184 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to Harris County Public Health officials. That figure is 55 higher than the 129 count reported on Wednesday, June 17.

In ZIP code 77075, county officials are now reporting 181 known cases. This number is 64 higher than the 117 cases reported the previous week.

County officials are now reporting 207 cases in ZIP code 77034, up 89 cases from last week.

In all, there are currently 24,421 known cases in Harris County, an increase of 6,714 from last week. Of those, 15,419 remain active, up 5,106 from last week. A total of 8,667 have recovered from the virus in the county, an increase of 1,562 from the previous week. To date, 335 have died from COVID-19, up 46 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.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus.

Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed continuously at Kirby through 3 p.m. Saturday, June 27.

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane from Scott Street/Fellows Road to Furman Road will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, June 27.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Friday, June 26.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, June 26.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway at NASA Bypass/ NASA Road 1 will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. At least one lane of the northbound and southbound entrance ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 and exit ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

Two alternate lanes on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway is 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 is also closed until further notice.

There will be a total closure at the southbound IH 610 connector ramp at the Gulf Freeway through 5 a.m. Monday, Sept. 28.

The northbound connector ramp from the Gulf Freeway to the IH 610 South Loop, along with one inside lane, will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least two alternate main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The northbound and southbound entrance ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street and the northbound and southbound exit ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

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

Free self-defense goes virtual

The American Society of Karate has free virtual self-defense/white belt classes for teens/adults (ages 13-80) Fridays at 7:30 p.m. No previous self-defense experience necessary. Visit <https://ringcenter.al2X.pnHWJ> to preregister. Email Michael.Alonzo@AskKarate.com or call 281-788-5930 for additional information.

Unmanned recycling resumes

The City of Houston has resumed its daily recycling services at the Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center.

The unattended service had been put on hold in March due to the coronavirus. Special staffed events, such as the monthly electronics recycling event and the regular B.O.P.A. events, however, remain closed until further notice.

The recycling service is available at no charge to City of Houston residents. Accepted items include aerosol cans; aluminum cans; cardboard; catalogs; glass bottles and jars; magazines; newspapers; plastics No. 1-No. 5 and No. 7 (toys, packing materials, flower pots, Styrofoam, or plastic furniture are not accepted).

Early voting for runoff begins June 29

Early voting for the July 14 primary runoff elections will begin Monday, June 29, and continues through Friday, July 10. (There is no voting on Friday, July 3, or Saturday, July 4.)

Originally scheduled for May 26, the elections were postponed by Gov. Greg Abbott due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Voters will decide who will fill many key positions. Among these are the positions of Harris County Precinct 2 constable and the U.S. House District 22 representative seat being vacated by Rep. Pete Olson.

The race for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable is a runoff between incumbent Chris Diaz and challenger Jerry Garcia.

During the March primary contest, Diaz received 34 percent of the vote to Garcia's 39 percent.

The winner of the Democratic runoff will face Republican Daniel Vela in the November general election. (See related story about the candidates' virtual debate on this page.) In the U.S. House District 22 race, Republican candidates Kathleen Wall and Troy Nehls will face each other in a runoff.

The winner of the primary faces Democrat Sri

Preston Kulkarni in the November general election. Additional Democratic runoff elections of local interest include that of railroad commissioner, taking place between Roberto R. "Beto" Alonzo

and Chrysta Castañeda. The winner will face Jim Wright in November's general election.

A sample Democratic ballot can be found at harrisvotes.org/SampleBallot/DemocraticSam

pleBallot.pdf. Additional Republican runoffs of local interest include the contest for sheriff, taking place between...

Sparks fly in constable's Zoom debate

Sparks flew between Democratic Precinct 2 constable candidates at a virtual debate held by local homeowner groups Tuesday, June 23.

Incumbent Chris Diaz is running on his leadership experience, while challenger Lt. Jerry Garcia emphasized his work as a police officer and the need for change, repeatedly accusing the current constable of being unethical and corrupt.

"We cannot afford to go backwards," said Diaz. "We have to keep moving forward. That's what the people of Harris County want. The people of Harris County want us to continue moving forward and to build on this program. Hell, how can you argue with a constable program under my watch that has taken \$24 million of il-

legal drugs out of the community just in 2019, out of the Sagemont area. I mean, we're working hard. We're keeping our communities safe. We're building that program. We do a whole lot more to supervise and overlook our precinct. We built these relationships, so I want to continue that, I mean, we're bringing a lot of resources to the community. You can't break that. You have to keep that going. It's like starting over. You can't start over."

Garcia countered that change is necessary. "In Dr. Doyle's opening prayer, he mentioned

three words -honesty, integrity and accountability. Unfortunately, we have not gotten that and received that from Chris Diaz," Garcia said. "His past actions have proven this. The many unethical and immoral things he has done have not only affected the community here, it's everywhere all across the precinct. I'm a 22-year veteran. I'm a police officer. I'm just an average guy, and I'm tired of it. I'm tired of the systemic problems that have been created from a broken system."

This back-and-forth continued throughout

Unique light display brings solace



The backyard fence of South Belt resident Laura Lemasters was recently featured on the ABC Channel 13 news for showing a glowing cross. Lemasters, who currently has a family member in the hospital, said she found solace in the display, which was apparently caused by sunlight shining through her neighbor's obstructed window. The resident said she hasn't seen another such visual in the 17 years she has lived at the area home.

Edgebrook area shooting investigated

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man that took place around 8:15 a.m. Thursday, June 18, at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway, just south of Edgebrook.

The victim, Marc Rolon, 24, was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

According to police, officers responded to

a shooting at the above address and found Rolon had sustained a gunshot wound to the face. He had apparently suffered it during an altercation with an unknown suspect. Anyone with information in this incident is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Gazebo man forced to find new home

A recent post on Alameda Southeast Nextdoor about a homeless man living in the gazebo at Bishop Park on Blackhawk near Scarsdale led to the man being evicted by Harris County Precinct 2 deputies Saturday, June 20. The eviction was met with mixed reviews on the social media site.

"Our first instincts should be compassion, not defensive," said Nextdoor user Winter Lowe. "We have no idea what these people are going through. Next time you see someone like so, give them some water and a meal."

This message was countered by Nextdoor user

Michelle Fernandez.

"Do any of y'all frequent this park?" asked Fernandez. "I take my kids here. Family members have had parties in the gazebo. Women have been assaulted in the past on this trail. Yes, this person may not have harmed anyone, but it shows that it is an open invitation to others that choose to sleep in this park."

Clear Brook City MUD General Manager Cecilia Gange sided with Fernandez.

"We've got kids out here," Ganje said. "You just don't know."

Parade, fireworks canceled for 2020

The annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show at El Franco Lee Park has been canceled this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This marks the second time in the event's 32-year history the display has been called off, as it has previously experienced a rainout.

According to event organizers, they were unable to get a definite answer from county officials about proper social-distancing guidelines, and such an event takes several weeks of planning to execute. The yearly event is funded by the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, which was already canceled this past April due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The annual South Belt Fourth of July parade has also been canceled out of social-distancing concerns.

This marked the second time in the parade's 33-year history that the event has been canceled, as the 2018 parade was rained out.

While parade organizer and *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger is saddened by the cancellation, she finds solace in the fact that there has been several other local parades in recent weeks, due to the pandemic.

"Although I'll miss the parade, we have had so many neat parades in the area, from Dobie to Sagemont Church. I think every school in the community has had some kind of a parade."

HPD investigates fatal accident

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that took place in the 500 block of Edgebrook near Frey around 3:55 p.m. Friday, June 19.

The identity of the male victim, 21, is pending notification to family members by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to police, the victim was operating a white and black Suzuki GSZ600 motorcycle traveling north on Edgebrook when the driver of a white Chevrolet 2500 pickup truck, traveling south on Edgebrook, failed to yield the right of way, turned left in front of the motorcycle and struck the victim.

Paramedics transported the victim to Ben Taub General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The male driver of the Chevrolet, 62, did not show signs of intoxication and was questioned and released. The investigation is continuing.

Area residents have long complained of speeding on the stretch of Edgebrook between Theta and Frey. Police had installed a speed-monitoring sign, enforcing the street's 35-mph limit, but it is no longer active. A local resident and community activist has asked the city to re-activate the machine and increase daytime patrols on the area street.

Diaz reverses decision to be "transparent"

Although Constable Chris Diaz told some of his top employees and *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger he wished to be transparent to the community in regards to the illegal Jan. 29 eviction at 603 Mississippi in South Houston, he has changed his mind and no longer wants to share the sought information.)

The *Leader* had put in a Freedom of Informa-

tion Act (FOIA) asking for video from the eviction. (See *Leader* June 18, 2020.) The FOIA request was submitted initially in early March.

Flickinger requested the videos because of the many apparent illegal and questionable actions surrounding the evictions.

Additionally, the *Leader* was receiving emails

Diaz denies getting "other" Garcia into primary race

One of the major issues in the primary election between Constable Chris Diaz and opponent Lt. Jerry Garcia was the filing of an additional person also named Jerry Garcia who entered the race at the last minute, which threw the race into major confusion with two Jerry Garcias in the contest.

Tuesday's debate (See related story this page.) ended with candidate Jerry Garcia asking Diaz if he got the other Jerry Garcia into the primary race, and if he paid the \$1,000 filing fee for the second Jerry Garcia to enter the race.

Diaz answered "I talked him out of it," referring to the fact that although the second Garcia signed up at the last minute to run, he then opted not to campaign. "You don't lie to the people," said Diaz, and then falsely implied he had been against the second Garcia running for constable. But, factually, Garcia was right on when he asked Diaz the question, because, as the *Leader* has confirmed, Diaz did get the second Garcia to run and paid the \$1,000 filing fee.

The *Leader* learned that the plan to throw such a monkey wrench into the race was set in motion for a couple of weeks before the filing deadline.

Some of those involved and/or aware of the plan included Kim Bellotte, who previously

worked for Diaz; Nancy Gosney, a current employee and Diaz's wife, Ana.

Diaz supplied the \$1,000 filing fee in cash. Although the "other" Garcia was related to Diaz's wife, the constable claimed not to be aware of his plans to run for the office.

Shortly after entering the race, the "other" Garcia announced he would not run. Only, as all politicians know, by that time it was too late to remove his name from the ballot. The hotly contested race headed to runoff between incumbent Diaz and the original Jerry Garcia.

Photos that were turned in to the *Leader* clearly showed the "other" Garcia had signs in his yard supporting Diaz and even wore T-shirts supporting Diaz, making many conclude he was only in the race to take votes from the original Garcia.

Diaz lost the primary to Garcia, receiving 34.77 percent of the vote (5,081 total votes) to Garcia's 39.15 percent (5,721 votes). In spite of the fact he had withdrawn officially, and did no campaigning, the cousin of Diaz's wife, received 9.22 percent of the vote (1,347 votes), roughly on par with legitimate challenger George Coffney Jr. (9.38 percent, 1,371 votes) and ahead of Alberto "Bert" Rivera (7.47 percent, 1,092 votes).

Price moves to new position

Kyle Price, senior vice president and chief executive officer for Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland, is transitioning to a new role in the hospital system.

"For the past five years, I have been proud and fortunate to serve as the SVP and chief executive officer for Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearland," Price said. "I began my career with Memorial Hermann as a director of Imaging Services at Memorial Hermann Southeast in 2005, and this region and community will always hold a special place in my heart. It has been my honor to serve with you all, and while I am excited for the future, I will forever cherish the memories and accomplishments that we made together."

Price will now serve as senior vice president of service lines (heart and vascular, primary care and women's and children's) for Memorial Hermann, effective July 1.

The SVP acknowledges it is a unique time to tackle a new role in the medical field, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"I understand that these changes are coming at an unprecedented time in our system's history," Price said. "This transition is part of an evolved organizational structure and service line operating model driven by Memorial Hermann's new vision: to create healthier communities, now and for generations to come. The decision to transition to a service line operating model by July 2020 was made long before COVID-19 appeared, and as we move forward with our Service Line Transformation, that move is proving to be more relevant and timely than ever - especially in light of the current economy and financial challenges we face."

"Our goal is to create exceptional experiences while delivering safe, high-quality, cost-effec-



Kyle Price

tive care that feels seamless to patients. This is the future of health care, and this is where Memorial Hermann is headed. Service Line Transformation is what's going to get us there. It's what's going to enable us to balance our need to reduce costs, while still leading, innovating and driving our organization forward. I am excited to help spearhead these efforts in my new role."

Prior to working as SVP and CEO, Price served as chief operating officer of Memorial Hermann Southeast for seven years. While in this role, Price was instrumental in establishing growth in the southeast market. He was a key member of the administrative and leadership team responsible for the development of Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital, which opened in March 2016, as well as the Memorial Her-

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Dunkin' Donuts break-in reported

On Wednesday, June 17, at approximately 1:45 a.m., crooks burglarized the Dunkin' Donuts on Scarsdale Boulevard by gaining entry through the store's roof.

According to Precinct 2 officials, two unknown males entered the establishment, while a third suspect, driving a dark colored vehicle, waited outside.

Once inside, the thieves forced their way into the safe and stole an unknown amount of cash, before fleeing out the rear door to the awaiting vehicle.

As the crooks were removing the rooftop air conditioner to get in, they broke a gas line, causing a leak. An alert resident reported the gas odor, and firefighters from the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to the incident to find constable deputies on the scene. SVFD Chief Jerry Terrell called CenterPoint Energy to shut off the natural gas.

Several social media users erroneously reported that the establishment was robbed, rather than burglarized.

The case is currently under investigation by the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office. Anyone with any information on the case is urged to call the constable's office at 713-477-2766.

In My Opinion

Get educated before voting

Know Your Elected Official – Christopher E. Diaz, Constable Pct. 2 Harris County

Ensuring the public's right to gather information about their elected officials will aid in the uncovering of abuses. Citizens have a responsibility as well, to educate themselves about their elected officials and the laws that govern their communities. By doing this, they gain a better understanding as to when law-enforcement elected officials are, and aren't, working within the prescribed scope of their lawful authority. Take notice in just a few bad leadership behaviors: petty tyranny, abusive supervision, coercive power, social undermining, supervisory abuse, supervisory verbal abuse, aversive leadership, destructive leadership, tyrannical leadership & despotic leadership.

Attributes of authority that Diaz lack sufficiently:

Leadership: Leadership is not defined by vertical position. Leaders who rely on their title or position to influence others do not work well with others, because they fail to acknowledge that leadership is about working with others. Diaz lacks in leadership with zero experience on the streets, has never made an arrest and never patrolled. There is a mandatory certification for all peace officers to complete in the State of Texas, called a Psychological Law Enforcement Evaluation (L3). This evaluation is in question & a concern that Diaz does not hold the certification. Many requests have been made for a copy, but he can't produce? How can Diaz lead an agency when he chooses not to expand his own experience in education or keep his qualifications/certifications up to standard. Would you trust in a dentist to do dental work if he had zero experience and no certification?

Values: Effective leaders have a strong moral compass & have defined their values. They have a code of ethics on how to treat others & their behaviors back up their words. How can Diaz value this agency when he doesn't value his own self. He doesn't value the safety and security of his deputies. There are deputies that do not

have handheld radios assigned to them, yet his wife and brother-in-law (not an officer) have brand new Harris County radios in their personal possessions. His brother-in-law has bragged about how he monitors the officers. Diaz uses Harris County funds from the training budget to go on mini vacations that have nothing to do with law enforcement. Financial campaign reports are public records. Go to <https://www.clerk.hctx.net/electioninfo>. Your donations to his campaign have paid for Sam's Club \$14,469 (spent soon after a Galveston beach house purchase). Sam's Club \$6,548. Edible Arrangements \$4,097 (this is a mystery expense), amongst many frivolous expenditures not associated with his elections. Illegal reporting/spending of campaign funds can result in State & Federal criminal charges. Ask Diaz, how important are your values and morals if you are not ethically controlling the Taxpayers money in a responsible manner?

Accountability: Accountability ensures that officers can work together effectively. Pct. 2 needs to create a system of internal checks & balances to make sure officers carry out their duties properly and act with integrity. Pct. 2 staff need to trust their commanders to make ethical decisions. Diaz & staff need to place the public ahead of personal interests & political gain. Violating the rules, break public trust & lose credibility. Diaz has his employees using their personal addresses to harvest votes from people that do not live in Harris County.

Integrity: When working as part of a collaborate group, your actions reflect not only on the organization you represent, they reflect upon us as individuals. For example, are you being open and honest about the intentions of your organization? Diaz clearly is using the COVID situation (like Hurricane Harvey) as a campaign tool to obtain votes from citizens. Diaz Government Official Facebook site of "Constable Christopher E. Diaz" bleeds desperation of attention from the community by bribing, buying, swaying & coercing the communities. This behavior does not adhere to the moral & ethical standards of an elected official. <https://www.tdci.texas.gov/documents/policy/ED0201.pdf>

Diaz does not practice transparency and trust. He censors his Government Official

Facebook site by omitting, carving and deleting the public's comments that are not approved by his personal standards. This type of corruption erodes our freedom of speech & is illegal.

Stability: If you want your employees to work to the highest of their abilities, you need to communicate with them that they are valued, safe & secure. Dictatorship & tyranny are not acceptable. Diaz is tearing down his employees and causing an unhealthy toxic work environment. Step back and question the turn over rate of staff.

The only way to make a change is for the citizens to spear-head this change & take control over their votes during this runoff election. Communities need to come together & voice their concern. Your vote COUNTS - stop the patterns with Diaz corruption & dirty tactics. Your vote is your vote - don't let Diaz & his staff intimidate you in choosing your candidate. A desperate change is needed NOW, so please consider Jerry Garcia as your new Constable.

Donna Anderson

Muecke: citizens review committee

Mayor Turner Excuse the format, my computer has a problem.

Today America is facing two major crisis, the virus and protesters. The virus will grow and infect many more due to the closeness, destructive, looting and burning protesters.

Now why am I writing you. I was a member of the CRC, Citizens Review Committee from 2005 to 2010 when Mayor Parker disbanded this group due to political pressure. We were 4 panels consisting of 7 members each. We were volunteers paying our own vehicle expenses. We met most each Sunday afternoons to review the cases. We were a great group consisting of white, black, Hispanic, male, female, young and old and various levels of income. We were very diverse. I was recommended, vetted and selected. After the closing of the CRC, we as a group met at a restaurant and had a lunch to say good bye. Several of us still communicate. All use of force, shootings were investigated by Internal Affairs, then up the chain of command to the Police Chief. At this point we volunteers then reviewed, our eyes looked at this information other than as a police official. Each case was from a quarter inch thick to maybe 6" to 8", full of documentation, pictures, autopsy, written testimony, verbal and what could be included. We could only agree or if we had a question, an officer would come and discuss. This did not happen often as

most were well done.

But a segment of the population did not like this system, they wanted us to have subpoena powers. That is Grand Jury, we were review. I felt this was a very good system that we were looking out for the citizens. Our police are not the problem. Okay maybe a few bad cops, but this happens in all types of business. This can be controlled by good supervision.

We do not need to defund or even put too many controls on the officers procedures. Remember, often times they have just seconds to make a decision, my life or theirs. Lets look at the criminal. An officer is trained to control his emotions. WHAT would you do if some one spit in your face or language used.

I respectfully ask that you consider starting a new Citizens Review committee. This time I ask that the vetting be just a little tighter to make sure this individual knows and understand how he represents the people and also the officers. Mayor Parker was wrong to disband.

Now my 2 cents. I am 86, born in the Great depression and immediately lost my dad to health issues. No assistance for my mom other than family and friends. Then WW II and so much more over the years. I have walked many steps and have seen a lot. But nothing like today. For some reason all attention and blame is placed on police. They are not the problem, the criminal element is. Look at George Floyd (a convicted felon numerous times) and the Bland woman. If Floyd had not used a counterfeit \$20 bill and if Ms Bland had obeyed the officer by removing the cigarette in her mouth, both most probably would still be alive today. We have laws on the books that they refuse to obey. In my early days the police had night sticks/baton's and flashlights and yes the cattle prod. This was harsh and yes we had criminals, but few. We had few prisons, today we have many and all full. It was, do the crime, you do the time.

The criminal is the problem and this is what needs to be addressed. It is up to you elected officials; city, county, state and federal to take control of the problem. The criminal is the problem and stop feeling sorry for them being in a hot jail. Just don't do the crime. I wear a mask, gloves and may now need a bullet proof vest.

I am a member of the Clear Lake Division PIP, Positive Interaction Program, for many years. A great way for citizens to meet and visit with the local police that are protecting us. At each meeting with speakers and the Commander giving us an update, lets us know about crime in our area. I just wish more would attend and learn.

James E. Muecke

Publisher's Opinion

Time our officials do their job

After watching the Sagemont Civic Club meeting with the Constable Pct. candidate debate, I have to just shake my head. To be frank with our readers, there are so many problems in the Precinct 2 Constable's office, I have problems keeping up with them. Constable Chris Diaz accused candidate Jerry Garcia of getting lies in our newspaper. Nothing could be further from the truth. I'm not upset with Chris Diaz nearly as much as I am with members of the governing bodies who are in a position to learn the truth about wrong things that are going on. If any of them really cared, they could not see all we have seen and do nothing. I know the virus is a good scapegoat for not getting things done. So much is wrong

here, it shouldn't take much for someone to prove the problems and fix things for the community, current and former employees, etc. There is a vindictiveness that is unbelievable against people.

Voters could change it, but so few vote in a runoff. Frankly the problems are so overwhelming most can't comprehend them. Do your part and vote in a change, Jerry Garcia, someone who has real law enforcement experience which Chris doesn't.

Please know the facts before voting. We apologize for not giving you the full details on Mississippi Street, but they are coming, as are other issues. We will be able to soon. Be safe, **Marie Flickinger**, Publisher

Diaz won't be transparent . . .

Continued from Page 8

detailing wrongdoings on the part of some of the deputies at the 603 Mississippi scene, and the paper was hoping to get to the facts of the issues.

This included pressure being put on officers who were at the scene of the incident being urged to change their reports.

Additional issues included a concern that part of one of the tapes had an 18 minute segment missing.

The deputy reportedly began his tape at 9:53 a.m. and when turned over to the county attorney's office, the tape began at 10:11 a.m.

The South Houston Police department had initially posted on Facebook that "squatters" had been evicted and arrested, and they appeared to be eager to share the story, for a short time.

The posting was quickly removed from Facebook, as it was learned that those who had been evicted were

not squatters but had actually been paying tenants.

Although people were evicted, and some jailed when stolen property was found, this was apparently done illegally, as there was no warrant, and the case was not due to go to court until eight days after the eviction. When it did go to court, the papers were found to have been improperly submitted to the court, and the case was dismissed.

The FOIA was submitted to the Harris County Attorney's Office. The *Leader* has been trying since last February to get the factual information. In March, *Leader* personnel was then told to submit the FOIA to the county attorney's office. Upon doing so, the instructions changed to submit Constable Chris Diaz's office.

After Diaz repeatedly told Flickinger he wanted her to have the documents requested in the FOIA, that he was "totally transpar-

ent," he notified the county attorney's office he was OK with the items being turned over to the *Leader*.

Then, according to county officials, Diaz changed his mind and did not want the items turned over, saying there was an independent investigation going on regarding the issues.

Diaz has asked Precinct 1 Constable Al Rosen to do an independent investigation on whether there was wrong doing.

Some are questioning Rosen's role in this since Rosen is listed on printed campaign literature of Diaz's as someone who has endorsed the current Precinct 2 constable.

In fact, Diaz included Rosen as an endorser of his in the questionnaire in this week's *Leader*. (See Page 3.)

The issue of whether or not the FOIA items ever make it to the *Leader* is now in the hands of the Attorney General of Texas.

Deaths

Wanda Dingell



Wanda Dingell died Friday, June 19, 2020, at 12:12 p.m. Her family said she felt no sting of death as Jesus held her hand. Her daughter was with her, holding her hands for her final precious minutes here.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, F. (Pat) Dingell and two brothers. Survivors include her only son Ronn Canon; siblings Patricia Woolard of Tyler, Texas, and James Canon of Splendoria; numerous nieces and nephews; and her chosen daughter Judy Gross of South Belt.

Family will receive friends Friday, June 26, 6 to 8 p.m., at Christian Temple Church, 9701 Almeda-Genoa Road. The Celebration of Life will be Saturday, June 27, at 11 a.m. at the same location. Interment is at 2 p.m. at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Following her husband's death the family funded a mission in Manzanillo, Mexico. In lieu of floral offerings, contributions may be made to the mission at <https://giving.ag.org/Give/Details/600001-225145?MinistryName=peacock&Page=1>.

Travis Washburn



Travis Lavone Washburn, age, 80, died June 16, 2020, surrounded by his family at home. He was born June 23, 1939, in Nacogdoches to Travis "Bud" and Cora Odell Redden Washburn.

He was a 1957 graduate of Baytown Lee High and a 1961 graduate of Stephen F. Austin University where he met the love of his life Delores Snow.

The couple married March 1, 1962, before he reported to bootcamp in Fort Chaffee, Ark. Travis worked many different jobs supporting his family, but he spent most of his career as a credit analyst in the oil industry in the Houston area.

Travis' (Pops) faith in Christ was the cornerstone to his life and he served as a longtime deacon at First Baptist Church of Conroe. He was a devoted husband, loving father and a committed friend to many.

Travis was always present in a time of need with a lending hand, a soft smile, a good 'dad' joke, or a bit of "Pops Logic." He enjoyed spending time with family, watching his grandchild-

ren participate in their many activities and he loved to play dominoes and Skip AL.

Travis is survived by his wife of 58 years, Delores; children Robin and husband Bubba Stokely, Patrick and wife Karon Washburn, Jason and wife Heather Washburn, Derek and wife Erin Washburn and Megan and husband Will Metcalf; 12 grandchildren, Chad Stokely, Chase Stokely, Taylor Washburn, Brett and wife Cori Washburn, Gentry Washburn, Lindsey Washburn, Travis Washburn, Ashley Washburn, William Washburn, Davis Washburn, Amelia Metcalf and Elizabeth Metcalf; and four great-grandchildren, Parker Stokely, Colton Stokely, Aubrie Stokely and Tripp Washburn. He is also survived by his sister Gwen Collier of San Antonio and brother-in-law Rudy and wife Peggy Snow of Carthage; and numerous other nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his in-laws, Glen and Lorene Gentry.

The visitation was held Friday, June 19, at Metcalf Funeral Home, in Conroe. The funeral service was Saturday, June 20 at First Baptist Church of Conroe, with Dr. Jeff Berger officiating.

Interment followed at Conroe Memorial Park. The church service was live-streamed at www.fbconroe.org/live-stream.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial donations be made to First Baptist Church of Conroe's Building Fund (11401 Prince Henry Ct.); Montgomery, TX 77316 or Young Life of North Montgomery County Camp Scholarship Fund (www.giving.younglife.org/northcounty).

Elected officials share their words

Kim Ogg: COVID-19 testing

As we near our third month of social distancing and precautionary measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we all have many questions and concerns.

We must be extremely careful as Texas "reopens." At work, as our employees return to our buildings, we are social distancing, wearing masks in public areas, and cleaning our workspaces at the end of each shift. I am mirroring these actions in private life too because I do not want to unnecessarily expose anyone to a virus that has already killed several friends and a member of my extended family.

There is another crucial step you can take that is simple, quick, and free: <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov>.

Give yourself and your family peace of mind—if only to set a baseline for those around you. It also helps our medical community in the struggle to accurately monitor the spread of the disease. My immediate family members and I have been tested several times and I urge you to help us kick COVID-19 through this simple act. For information on testing procedures and locations, <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov>. Best regards, **Kim Ogg, Harris County District Attorney**

Bill King: Writing on sales tax

The City of Houston sales tax receipts for June (reflecting April sales) were down 17% from last year following a 10% decline in May (March sales). While that makes for a pretty ugly chart, the decline is less than many feared. Because the City had enjoyed good sales tax growth before the COVID shutdowns, the collections for the calendar year are only off by 1.5%.

The sharp decline is reminiscent of the 2008 financial crisis. However, Houston entered the Great Recession with historic oil prices. WTI hit a high of \$164 per barrel in June 2008. And while the price fell two-

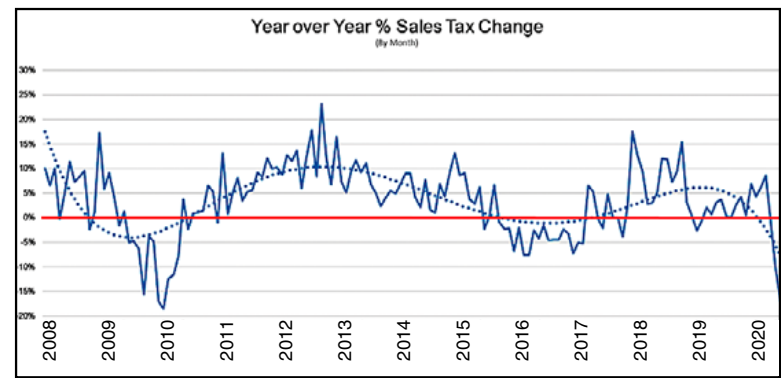
thirds to \$50 in January 2009, it had recovered to over \$80 by June.

But oil prices were already on a downward trajectory before the COVID recession, falling by half from 2014 to 2018.

While oil has rebounded from its flash crash in March, the price has not been consistently this low since the early 2000s.

There are many who contend that Houston's economy is less dependent on the energy industry than it was even 10 years ago.

I think how quickly Houston recovers from the COVID recession will tell us a lot about how true that is.



Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca
A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group posted that they encountered a guy that attempted to walk into their backyard gate. The member states that her dogs went crazy and then she ran outside to confront him. The guy told her that he had the wrong address. The member describes him as 5'8", wearing a blue T-shirt and shorts, balding, and had white claws in his hands, and was stumbling. The incident happened Wednesday, June 17, on Ramey Street.

A member from the same Facebook group posted a picture of a person driving a Ford Explorer truck with Tennessee plates, following a woman around. The member advises the community to keep a lookout.

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* posted that Dunkin' Donuts on Scarsdale was burglarized early Wednesday morning, June 17. The member stated that suspects gained entry through the roof and the suspects got away with cash. See related story on Page 1.

A member on the Next-door neighbor app, posted that someone broke into their husband's truck. The incident happened on Thursday, June 18, around 1:30 p.m., on Gulf Palms. The member states that the driver's window was broken and tools and two-way radios were stolen. The member stated that a neighbor saw a white van parked near the home around that time. The incident was reported to local authorities and the member asks any neighbors who have any surveillance cameras that can help them find the suspects to let them know.

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Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.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
Youth Ministry 281-481-4735

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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday	Wednesday
Sunday School • 8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Worship Service • 9:00 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.

Nursery Available at all Services

Runoff candidates for constable Pct. 2 respond

The following responses appear in the same order as they appear on the ballot. Answers are not edited

Christopher Diaz



Name: Constable Christopher "Chris" Diaz
Age: 46
Occupation: Harris County Constable Pct. 2
Education: Associates Degree in Business from San Jacinto College and continued education at University of Houston Clear Lake
Marital Status/Children: Married to Ana Diaz / 2 children Christopher and Nicholas

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, my family and I are lifelong residents of Precinct 2. We live in Jacinto City and I am a proud product of the Galena Park ISD, San Jacinto College and the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Since taking office in 2013, my staff and I have partnered with the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce, Clear Brook City MUD, and local schools on local community projects in which we both participate and sponsor. With these partners we have been able to increase the number of Deputies serving the South Belt area. I am proud to have several deputies on staff that live in the South Belt.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I am currently serving in my second term as your Pct. 2 Harris County Constable.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards

and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, I do hold a TCLEOSE commission for the past 10 years. Upon taking office in 2013 we also became Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and Standards Training Provider, which provides training for not only Precinct 2 deputies but also provides training for other Texas Law Enforcement Agencies.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100 words or less)

I am the best qualified person to serve the constituents of Precinct 2 as their Constable because I have the qualifications and experience to continue to run the office. During my two terms of office we have been able to increase patrol units, provide more security during local community events, implemented Neighborhood Night Out at both offices and have been able to increase the budget by great communication with our Harris County Commissioners. I have strong partnerships with local, state and federal elected officials as well as local business and organizations which helps us better serve the community.

In the wake of the recent George Floyd death and other alleged acts of police brutality, Black Lives Matters protests have sprung up worldwide. What measures, if any, would you implement to address police reform? (150 words or less)

It is our job as Law Enforcement to develop a trusted connection to our community. Seven years my administration has been working in partnership with community leaders, churches and other group to promote community awareness and to educate the public. Through these long-term relationships, we have been able to work in the community to address racial injustice. I have been endorsed by the Black Ministers because of this work.

I strive to hire deputies and staff that represent the community we serve. We must have training and evaluations throughout a Deputies career to ensure there are no signs of any racial injustice.

I am partnering together with local community leaders, local and state representatives

to ensure new legislation is put in place to help us continue police reform.

This question cannot be answered in 150 words or less. It is ongoing issue that will take everyone working together to resolve.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)

Congressmembers Garcia, Lee, Gene Green. Senator Whitmire, Representative Perez, Vo, Noriega. Constables Rosen, Walker, Eagleton. Councilmen Gallegos, Shabazz, Plummer, Former Councilman Rodriguez, South Houston/Jacinto City Mayor and Councils, Trustees Garza, Hernandez, Miller, Esparza, Broussard, Johnson, Erica Davis

HPOU, HC Deputies, Metro Police Union, Locals 28/22, USW, Seafarers, Teamsters, Pipefitters, Plumbers

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

I see one of the biggest challenges affecting the South Belt community is the growth. To keep up with the ever-changing population trends we as your primary law enforcement agency need to make sure we change with it.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

To continue and expand our Citizens Police Academy and community outreach to keep in touch with as many people in the community as possible. I would like to put in place a "Are U Ok" program for our senior citizens and others in need. I would like to increase our Special Ops division to get more drugs off the streets. I believe Communication is the key to success we will continue to send Deputies to as many community functions as possible to ensure we have good communications and continue to be a good steward of the taxpayer's dollars.

How do you view the department's role in the South Belt patrol contract? (100 words or less)

I believe the role of this office is provide a safe and secure place to live and work. The patrol should have open communications with the public we serve in order to better understand the needs of the

community.

How would you address possible problems with employees? (150 words or less)

This office addresses possible problems with employees in accordance to the Standard Operating procedures set forth by the Harris County Human Resources and on the advice of the Harris County Attorney's Office.

How would you prioritize the department's various obligations in the South Belt community (serving paper, patrol contract, etc.)? (150 words or less)

The department has many obligations to the community from providing a safe community to be responsive at a moment's notice for an emergency service call. Our primary obligation is to be responsive and timely when calls for help. These Deputies are provided under the Deputy Patrol contract.

We also serve civil papers and bailiff the Justice of the Peace Court. These obligates are performed by our Civil and Building Security Divisions.

We also have a Special Operations Division that has taken over an estimate of 24 million dollars of illegal drugs and weapons off the street in 2019.

In addition, we also are proud of our Community Outreach program that continues to help those in need. Our Community Outreach team works with the community to provide education and awareness. We are able to provide services through our long-established partnerships.

Jerry Garcia



Name: Lt. Jerry Garcia
Age: 48
Occupation: Lieutenant at Harris County Constable's Office
Education: University of Houston-Downtown

Marital Status/Children: Married/4 children

Party Affiliation: Democrat
Do you reside in Precinct 2? If so, what section and for how long? (100 words or less)

Yes, I do reside in Precinct 2. I have been a resident of the Gulf Meadows subdivision for about 23 years.

Do you have any direct ties to the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

I do have direct ties to the South Belt community. I have resided in the South Belt area for about 23 years. I attend St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church where I have been a member for about 10 years. I have also served in the South Belt area as a soccer coach/trainer at South Belt Youth Soccer Club for about 18 years. I have many family and friends in the South Belt area and I truly care about the prosperity of our community and believe we deserve better.

Do you have any law enforcement experience? If so, for which department(s) and for how long? (100 words or less)

To lead an effective and efficient 21st century law enforcement agency, the combination of leadership experience and innovative ideas is crucial. I began my law enforcement career with the Constable's Office Precinct 5 as a patrol deputy for 10 years and transitioned to the Civil Division serving an additional 7 years. During this time, I was asked to lead the Constable's Office within the Precinct 2 Civil Division as a Sergeant where I served for 3 years. I am currently a Lieutenant in the Constable's Office where I've been for about 1 1/2 years.

Do you have a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) license? If so, for how long? (50 words or less)

Yes, I currently hold a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Master Peace Officer License. I am also a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Instructor. I have been licensed with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement since 1996.

What makes you best qualified to serve the constituents of Precinct 2? (100

words or less)

I strongly believe that I am the most qualified candidate to serve the constituents of Precinct 2. My opponent, Mr. Diaz does not have the law enforcement experience that I have. The main function within the Constables office is the execution and service of civil process. My experience consists of over a decade of true leadership experience within the civil division as well as a decade serving in the patrol division within the Constable's Office, none of which my opponent in this race has possessed prior to being in Office.

In the wake of the recent George Floyd death and other alleged acts of police brutality, Black Lives Matters protests have sprung up worldwide. What measures, if any, would you implement to address police reform? (150 words or less)

It is clearly evident from the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Botham Jean, Philando Castille, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, and so many others that there is a major problem of accountability within our system. If elected to be your next Constable in Precinct 2, I will immediately require additional de-escalation training that exceeds what is currently mandated by the State. Additionally, we will start a review board which will include members of the community to review any present and future allegations of police misfeasance or malfeasance. It is not enough to send thoughts and prayers to the families. As leaders, we must acknowledge the problem and act upon it to prevent future atrocities. I am committed to working for the community by upholding integrity and transparency. I will not tolerate any wrongful acts by anyone in the Constable's Office.

Do you currently have any endorsements? If so, from whom? (50 words or less)

Bay Area New Democrats, Bay Area Democratic Movement, TPEC (Texas Progressive Executive Council), the Houston GLBT Caucus, Harris County Deputy Constables Association, National Latino Peace Officer Association, C.O.P.S. LOCAL 911 (Coalition of Po-

lice & Sheriffs, Inc., I.U.P.A., AFL-CIO), Harris County Tejano Democrats, MABAH (Mexican American Bar Association of Houston), and CLEAT.

What do you see as the biggest challenges directly affecting the South Belt community? (100 words or less)

Major issues affecting the South Belt community are the lack of patrol visibility, homelessness encampment issues, the rise in criminal activity, and traffic enforcement. I have received numerous concerns from our citizens in regard to traffic violations, major accidents within the South Belt area, and the lack of proactive visible patrol activities.

What goals would you like to accomplish if elected? (100 words or less)

If I, Lt. Jerry Garcia, am elected as your next Constable in Precinct 2 I would like to bring back integrity and a positive culture within the Constable's Office. Furthermore, if elected Constable I would like to implement proactive patrol visibility to deter criminal activity in our communities. Establishing a mental health unit and a Citizens Outreach Team is a top priority of mine to provide citizens with quality service. There is currently a discon-

nect with the Constable and the residents of South Belt. As South Belt resident I am already connected and engaged in our community.

How do you view the department's role in the South Belt patrol contract? (100 words or less?)

At present, the Harris Constable's Office Precinct 2 patrol division is suffering from a lack of experienced leadership. I believe that bridging the gap between the Constable and the South Belt community is of the utmost importance since there is currently a disconnect between the Constable and the citizens. The disfunction within this agency must end and a better high-quality agency must be introduced. If elected Constable, we will ensure that the agency is transparent, accountable, and permits the citizens to have a voice in ensuring that our employees are doing quality and dutiful work for all of our citizens.

How would you address possible problems with employees?

The precinct 2 community deserves an agency that employs people with good hearts, people who come to work with the best interest of the community in mind. If I am elected Constable in Precinct 2, I will ensure that situations involving employ-

ees engaging in bad acts are held accountable. I will not be covering up any problems that come to my attention like the current administration has done so in various community matters involving employees. I will ensure that the administration holds ALL employees to the highest standards on or off duty, including myself. Good leaders always lead by example.

How would you prioritize the department's various obligations in the South Belt community (serving paper, patrol contract, etc.)? (150 words or less)

Prioritized resource allocation within Precinct 2 is extremely important. One of the fundamental roles of a Constable is to serve civil process. The serving of all judicial civil processing is of high priority to safeguard the right to due process for all parties involved. Furthermore, providing effective patrolling within the community is of the utmost importance. A proactive visible patrol within the South Belt community must be implemented in order to deter criminal activity in the area. Proper usage of the people's funds is critical in ensuring transparency, effectiveness, and bridging the gap between law enforcement and the underserved community.

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Genoa celebrates end of year



Shown left is Lucas Elizondo, a second-grader at Genoa Elementary School celebrating with the Teacher Appreciation Parade. Below, left to right, are Genoa Elementary second-grade teachers Meshia Horn, Emily Delano, Christie Bishop and Diana Davis-Scheer. These teachers are waiting for students to pick up their materials on the last day of school.
Photo by Maria Elizondo



Third-grade bilingual teachers Netza Lopez (left) and Maria Duran wait on the last day of school for students to pick up their materials.
Photo by Netzahualcoyotl Lopez



Shown are left to right, (front row) Sugell Orocio, Genoa Elementary teacher; Elizabeth Tijerina, Genoa Elementary teacher; (back row) Natalia De La Cerda; Ana Karen de la Cerda; Everardo de la Cerda; and Sonia Garcia. All those in the back row are former students of Tijerina. Each student had the opportunity to see their teacher on the last day of school at material pick up.
Photo by Amanda Rodriguez

Unmanned recycling resumes

Continued from Page 1
not accepted); steel cans; telephone books; and tin cans. Junk waste, tree waste and garbage are not accepted at the facility.

To get to the Ellington recycling center, from the

Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8, drivers should take I-45 south toward Galveston and turn left onto FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road; go to Highway 3/Old Galveston Road and turn right; drive two blocks and turn left onto Brantly; go

past a dock with signs to the right and turn left onto Loop Road/Broussard.
The recycling center will then be on the left-hand side. For additional information, visit www.houston.solidwaste.org or call 311.

Joneses celebrate 60 years



Longtime South Belt residents Richard and Roma Jones will celebrate 60 years of marriage June 25. The Joneses are members of Sagemont Church. The couple were married in Highlands, Texas. Plans for an anniversary celebration are still pending. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Davis Jones; grandson; (middle row) Keelan Jones, grandson; Roma Jones, wife; Richard Jones, husband; (back row) Shannon Jones, daughter-in-law; Allen Jones, son; and Stephen Jones, son.

MHHS promotes Price

Continued from Page 1
mann Pearlland Convenient Care Center, which opened in February 2014.

The Memorial Hermann Pearlland CCC provides a 24-hour emergency center with 17 treatment rooms, imaging and laboratory services and primary care offices for adult and pediatric patients all in one facility. Price was also involved in facilitating increased access to various services including oncology, heart and vascular, sports medicine and weight management.

Price spent the previous decade of his career in a variety of leadership roles for Memorial Hermann, including director of imaging and oncology services; administrative director of ancillary services; and administrative director of service lines. In those roles, Price provided operational leadership and administrative oversight for his departments and areas.

Price holds an associate degree in radiological sciences from South Arkansas College, a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration from LeTourneau University and is a graduate of the Advisory Board Fellowship in Washington, D.C.

Price, his wife Kim and their three children reside in Alvin.

Price will work closely with hospital officials to find a replacement.

"I will be working with system leadership as we begin our search to identify the best candidate to fulfill the position and will continue to serve as SVP and CEO lead-

ing the Memorial Hermann Southeast and Pearlland campuses until a permanent replacement is named," Price said.
Price is grateful for all the staff at Memorial Hermann Southeast.

"I am so grateful for your support and partnership as we help create healthier communities in Southeast

Houston, and I know that work will continue.

"You should be very proud as well," Price said. "Thank you for your endless dedication, unwavering compassion and tireless work ethic."

"Your support and partnership is what helps make Memorial Hermann so great."

Catherine, Jeff O'Brien celebrate 45 years



Catherine and Jeff and O'Brien live life by the numbers.

Forty-five years ago, June 13, 1975, Jeff and Catherine O'Brien were married. Last week, they reflected on their first 45 years together. Not in any particular order of importance:

They have five college degrees between them.

Jeff has had 12 different employers, going from oil field to coffee production to plastics distribution, back to oil field, into retirement and into retail for fun and something to do.

Catherine has gone from owning/operating her dance studio to being a stay-at-home Mom to cancer research to teaching to administration to retirement/teaching/consulting.

Of all those jobs, they agreed that child rearing was the hardest job that they'd ever done.

They have lived in one apartment and three houses in the South Belt with a vegetable garden in each home. In those homes, they have had one house fire, ridden out four hurricanes, resulting in two

house floods.

Catherine has seen Jeff through one hernia surgery, four knee surgeries and a knee replacement. Jeff has seen Catherine through four surgeries, including the two C-sections that produced beautiful daughters. Their daughters graduated from college, masters-prepared and debt free.

They have had 10 mammalian pets and one saltwater aquarium.

They have traveled to six foreign countries and 44 U.S. states, and have visited all but three presidential libraries. Together they've enjoyed hunting, fishing, kayaking, the ballet and live plays at the Alley, and have sat through many school performances, band and choir concerts and dance recitals. Jeff enjoys golf, and Catherine enjoys riding in the cart and looking at the wildlife.

They've had eight cars, four pickup trucks, one van, and one sports car, and one clunker that they were going to refurbish, but never got around to.

They've outlived their parents; many aunts, uncles, and cousins; but still have all of their beautiful siblings and their extended families.

They have cultivated many friends who have loved and supported them over the years. They've had their disagreements, and life hasn't always been easy, but they've held onto each other throughout it all. They've had to stay up late on occasion because Grandma Hoover said, "Never go to bed angry."

And they have never entered or left the house without kissing each other hello or goodbye. They know how fortunate they are to have found a stubborn Irishman who can live with an equally stubborn German girl. May all marriages be as blessed. In addition to the vows they made on Friday, June 13, 1975, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Texas City, they have renewed their vows twice at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church and look forward to renewing them when they hit the 50 mark.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)

The three South Belt area coaches who resigned from the Pasadena Independent School District are Dobbie coach Randy Riddell, Thompson coach Jim Mercer and Beverly Hills coach Pam Contreras.

Two teenage brothers being transported from the Clear Creek Landing apartments by Harris County Sheriff's deputies for disorderly conduct drew a crowd of more than 200 people when they resisted arrest.

35 years ago (1985)

Dr. C. Lee Meyer, who was forced to resign from the Pasadena Independent School District after serving 10 years as superintendent, accepted a position with the Texas Education Agency as an educational consultant to monitor school districts.

30 years ago (1990)

Heavy rains put a damper on the annual Fourth of July festival and caused the fireworks display to be canceled.

The Pasadena Independent School District received a thumbs-up from the Texas Education Agency for the

district's latest accreditation go-round.

The first graduating class from Dobbie High School (1970) celebrated its 20-year reunion.

25 years ago (1995)

At a Clear Creek Independent School District board meeting, CCISD adopted a new health textbook which teachers had picked as their third choice.

Tom Roach of the Woodmeadow subdivision was named Father of the Year by Community Partners of Houston.

The new J. Frank Dobbie head football coach became an official member of the community when he bought former baseball coach Jim Mavroulis' house in Kirkwood.

20 years ago (2000)

Beverly Hills area residents started a Citizen Patrol to counter crime in the community.

Pearland resident Daniel Ray Howard, 25, was arrested by FBI agents in connection with the Bank United robbery at the Kroger grocery store on Fuqua.

Kailey Waddell, daughter of Chad and Stephanie Waddell of Sageglen, was chosen first runner-up and most photogenic in the 2000 Strawberry Festival Beauty Contest.

15 years ago (2005)

Miles Bozarth, 85, the first principal at Stuchbery Elementary, died after a battle with cancer.

Commissioner James V. Hansen, of the Base Realignment and Closure committee, accepted an invitation to visit Ellington Field. He was invited by Rep. Tom Delay and the Ellington Field Task Force to see firsthand what a valuable asset Ellington was to the nation.

Ellington manager Mary Case was named the new manager of Hobby Airport. Perry Miller was eventually named Ellington manager.

10 years ago (2010)

While Houston was spared the brunt of Hurricane Alex, the South Belt area was still hit hard by heavy rainfall in its wake. Roughly 8 inches of rain fell between Wednesday at 10 p.m. and Friday at 10 p.m., according to the Harris County Flood Control District's rain gauge

located at the Beamer ditch at Hughes Road. Despite the heavy rains, area flooding was minimal. Heavy rainfall, however, is believed to have played a role in a fatal traffic accident that took place Thursday afternoon on the Gulf Freeway at Edgebrook, where an infant was killed when thrown from a south-bound vehicle.

Participation in the annual July 4th parade was lower than expected due to earlier rainfall with several entries dropping out.

City of Houston Mayor Annise Parker announced the establishment of the Special Ethics and Council Governance Committee on Redistricting and Term Limits and appointed Councilman Mike Sullivan, who represents the South Belt, as its chair. All other council members would serve as committee members. The committee would consider matters related to City Council redistricting based on the provisions of the Houston City Charter and the 2010 federal decennial census, as well as examine matters related to current city term limits.

5 years ago (2015)

At a press conference on June 30, Houston Mayor Annise Parker formally announced the Federal Aviation Administration's approval for Ellington Airport to become the nation's 10th commercial spaceport. Houston City Council initially approved the spaceport in July 2013. The launches being proposed for Ellington Airport would involve reusable launch vehicles executing horizontal, rather than vertical, take-offs, departing in a fashion similar to commercial aircraft.

A Sageglen resident made national headlines when someone allegedly set

fire to a Confederate flag hanging in front of his house. Originally from Alabama, Michael Peek said he mounted the flag to replace an American flag that had been stolen from the property. The incident came fresh on the heels of a national debate about the Confederate flag after accused South Carolina shooter Dylann Roof was photographed with it. Several national retail chains had since pulled the item from stores.

1 year ago (2019)

Dr. John D. Morgan, se-

nior pastor of Sagemont Church for 53 years, announced the beginning of a transition period that would find his successor as leader of the 21,000-member church. The church marked its 53rd anniversary, along with Morgan's 53rd year as pastor, on June 2. In those 53 years, Sagemont Church witnessed more than 18,000 baptisms; 20,000 professions of faith; and gifts totaling nearly \$364 million. Morgan would continue to deliver the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship services for several more months.

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Over The Back Fence by Alexis

POMPAS ENJOY 46TH ANNIVERSARY
Nancy and Roger Pompa mark 46 years of marriage Tuesday, June 30. Best wishes are sent to both of them as they enjoy this anniversary.

HARDYS CELEBRATE 64 YEARS
Congratulations are sent to Rose and James Hardy as they celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary Tuesday, June 30, from friends in the South Belt area.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays June 25 through July 1, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary
Marking a memorable birthday June 27 is Tulu Sarkar. Birthday greetings are sent to Maria Zamora June 28. Sing a birthday song June 29 to Maria Giron.

Burnett Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for Nancy Fehst June 26. Send a birthday greeting June 27 to Donia Colello.

Bush Elementary
Jennifer Howard enjoys a birthday June 27. The day for a party for Maggie Mayes is June 29. Light the birthday candles July 1 for Marite Portales.

Genoa Elementary
Sing a birthday song June 25 to Tara Poi.

Meador Elementary
Julie Jasso celebrates a birthday June 28.

South Belt Elementary
The day for cake and ice cream for Kathy Savelle is June 26.

Mellillo Middle School
Celebrating a birthday June 25 is Leticia Guevara. Break out the balloons and party favors for Penny Havard June 26. Kristin Konzelman celebrates a special birthday June 28. Marking a birthday June 30 is Christine Wright.

Roberts Middle School
Sing a happy birthday song June 27 to Gracie Hernandez.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
The day for a birthday celebration for Joseph Peterson is June 29. Light the birthday candles for Vanessa Schultz June 30.

Dobbie High
Share a double-layer birthday cake June 26 with Ana Valencia and Reggie Wilson. Sing a happy birthday song June 26 to Maria Morales. Blow out the birthday candles June 30 for Steven Mullins.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The Leader sends birthday wishes to

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

Thursday, June 25: Caryn Cybulski, Vicki Cox, Keith Lawler, Rebecca Parchmont and Michelle Pewthers; Friday, June 26: Phil Sandlin, Eric Waguespack, Telena Bence, Suzy Matthews, Maricela Juarez and Laura Arnold; Saturday, June 27: Loree Medina, Zel Bell, Ruth Clay, Ynot Guillory, Danielle LeBlanc Judge and Robyn Bryant; Sunday, June 28: Jan Edwards Barker, Daren Williams, Kim York Hillis and Carla Pronio; Monday, June 29: Kristi Rogers, Terri Nicholson, Cheryl Raymond and Judy Lannou Thiele; Tuesday, June 30: Darla Arenas, Kimberley Villarreal, Susan Jenins-Cowan, Marlene Varela, Sonya Hernandez and BJ Parmelee; and Wednesday, July 1: Siobhan Strambler, Barbara Porbandt, Tina Ramirez and Piper Sais.

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

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie vs Deer Park rivalry will rule 22-6A fall action

Perhaps the glitz and glamour has been left behind as Atascocita and Summer Creek, two high school programs as loaded as anyone with Division I collegiate prospects in a variety of sports, have shifted elsewhere.

Yet where one door closes, another opens as Dobie High School is set to renew its decades-old rivalry with Deer Park in District 22-6A come August, and the Channelview Falcons also hope to stake their claim in a variety of sports.

Now that fall schedules are set, it's time to take a glance at some of the key matchups the Longhorns will face against its 22-6A newcomers.

Regardless of sport, the new schedules in 22-6A will follow the same order in terms of matchups. In easier

to understand terms, Dobie is aligned with Channelview for all 22-6A openers.

JFD football at Channelview Sept. 18

On paper, this one would seem to be a mismatch. But buyer beware, it's not always smart to look at one's previous year's record in determining the outcome of a sporting event at the prep level.

If one chooses to do so, they'd find the Longhorns in the midst of their best stretch of football in decades, having gone 9-1 during the 2019 regular season for the first time since 1999.

Meanwhile, the Falcons, competing with the North Shores and Beaumont West Brooks of the Texas high school football landscape, went just 4-6.

The Falcons a while ago

were led by quarterback Jalen Hurts long before he went to Alabama and then starred at Oklahoma. He's with the Philadelphia Eagles now, but Hurts' father, Javerion Hurts, remains the head coach at Channelview.

The Longhorns should boast more overall talent, and having a proven quarterback like Cameron Gray to run the show should be a difference maker.

However, it's a home game for Channelview, and both teams understand the importance of a win when it comes to possibly hoisting the 22-6A crown.

Dobie last won a district title in 2010 before 6A was born, and the Longhorns are still seeking their first post-season win since the 2004 campaign.

Dobie volleyball vs. Deer Park

The last time the Lady Longhorns stepped on a volleyball court in 2019, they were the victims of a 1 versus 4 bidistrict playoff matchup.

That is, 21-6A champion Deer Park took down fourth-seeded Dobie in straight sets at Phillips Field House.

In fact, if anyone is keeping score, the Lady Deer have opened the playoffs in consecutive years with wins over Dobie.

For 2020, the decades-long battle returns to the district level as Dobie will face Deer Park with far-reaching implications.

Head coach Kasey Fernandez's team at Memorial could factor in, yet this could also wind up being about as close to a two-team title chase as there is.

The Lady Longhorns re-

turn a strong starting core as they look for a deeper post-season run, but Deer Park returns plenty as well.

Like it or not, Deer Park has certainly held an advantage over the Lady Longhorns for some time now, so it could very well turn into a them and the rest scenario, but Dobie hopes not.

Dobie tennis at Deer Park Sept. 18

The fall team tennis season would, too, seem to be fairly cut and dried.

Deer Park is regularly one of the top eight programs in the Region III ranks.

While Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. will bristle at the thought, the Deer will be the clear-cut favorite in the 22-6A ranks come October, with Dobie easily the lone program capable of changing things at

the top.

Beyond those two programs, there shouldn't be much surprise.

In short, Deer Park will host Dobie September 18 for the championship and top seed in the league.



Alayna Gonzalez's (1) Dobie varsity volleyball team saw its 2019 season end in the bidistrict playoffs against Deer Park and now looks forward to going head-to-head with the Lady Deer twice annually in District 22-6A action.

Dobie staff urges physicals

All student-athletes looking to take part in sports during the 2020-2021 school year will first be required to have a current and updated physical on file in the athletic department before being eligible to compete.

The deadline for completion is Aug. 1, 2020, but the Longhorn coaching staff is urging their athletes to get it handled sooner than later.

The Dobie sports medicine department has offered the Pearlard Clinic as a cost-affordable choice locally.

Open seven days a week, the clinic can be reached at 832-831-3974.

UIL to allow Friday live football airings

The University Interscholastic League, continuing to evolve with the changing landscape created by the coronavirus pandemic, has made a huge concession when it comes to Friday Night Lights.

For 2020 only, the UIL will allow Friday night varsity football games to be aired live via television or internet, recognizing that in-person fan attendance may be limited or compro-

aired.

Up to now, the UIL has allowed for Thursday or Saturday games to be aired live but mandated that Friday game broadcasts have a delay of at least an hour after the completion of the game. Yet for 2020, changes were warranted.

The bonus, according to UIL officials, is that school media departments will be able to market advertising opportunities along with

airing the games.

For instance, most of the Pasadena ISD high schools have for a couple of years filmed the games at Veterans Memorial Stadium and delivered other media-like support.

The live airing of the games will also allow for fans who cannot attend games in person to be able

to watch from home.

Of course, there are many things still far from certain.

While high school strength and conditioning and individual sports summer workouts have resumed, the late August start to the football season has not been confirmed.

If games are played, there are many fan attendance issues to be resolved.

In addition, will school bands, drill teams and cheer squads be allowed to perform?

For now, fans know they will have live viewing access to the varsity games when they are played. Much of the rest is still to be determined.

Dobie grad Mata gets Dawson softball post

Dobie graduate Christina Borsche Mata, a member of the Lady Longhorns' 1993 and 1995 state championship teams, is the new varsity softball head coach at Dawson High School in Pearland.

Mata has been the softball head coach at Pasadena Memorial High School, where her teams reached the postseason in six of seven seasons.

During that time, the Lady Mavs also built a heated rivalry with Dobie.

Memorial reached the regional quarterfinals in 2017 and advanced to the post-season in 2019 as well.

Now, Mata and her Dawson team will go head-to-head in District 23-6A action against Pearland, which has for many seasons been led by another Dobie graduate Laneigh Clark.

Read us 24/7 at www.southbeltleader.com

BAFL sees 2020 season as a reality

Whether it comes as regularly scheduled in the second week of August or as part of the country's Labor Day celebration, it certainly appears as though the 2020 Bay Area Football League season will be held.

As with everything these days amid ongoing coronavirus fears, BAFL officials still have several details to iron out, such as an official opening day, length of regular season, etc.

However, with high schools both in the public and private sectors going about their usual summer business, including strength and conditioning, the trend would seem to be pointing toward a full go come August.

BAFL organizations have in recent days and weeks hosted both registration and uniform sizing opportunities.

In a normal given year, preseason workouts would begin in roughly a month.

Regardless of whether that holds true, the 2020 season being contested has become much more of a reality.

A couple of nudges in the right direction?

The University Interscholastic League has expressed optimism that, barring a setback via the pandemic, the high school football season is on schedule and that fans may indeed be allowed to attend.

Further, the Texas Education Agency has indicated favorably that the 2020-2021 academic year will begin on time with usual in-person attendance.

There's been more than enough uncertainty over the past three-plus months, and still more remains, but perhaps there is light coming. Everyone associated with BAFL sure hopes that light shows.

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Dickson's gold rush leads HTown win

Flashing her penchant for the love of competition, Clear Brook junior-to-be Camryn Dickson made a solid return to the track, winning double gold June 20 at the Leander Spartans Invitational in Liberty.

Dickson, representing the HTown Hurricanes track club, won the 100 dash at 12.30 seconds and also championed the 200 dash at 24.98, both in the 15-16-year-old age bracket.

With the team championship on the line in the 15-16 bracket, Dickson teamed with Brittney Green, Hailey Davis and Kennedy Poullard for the 4x400 relay win at 4:09.07.

In all, Dickson took home three gold medals and accounted for 25 team points.

Dickson reached the UIL state championships in 2019 in the 100 and appeared well on her way to a special sophomore season earlier this spring before the coronavirus ended action in the middle of March.

So after a competitive layoff of essentially three months, Dickson came up with two individual wins in Liberty as she will now likely focus her attention on her junior school year.

As of right now, there are no more meets set locally.

Dickson is also a long-time member of the South Belt-based Rising Stars Track Club, which was forced to sit out the 2020 summer season due to the pandemic.



Camryn Dickson emerged as a big winner at the Leander Spartans Invitational at Old Panther Stadium in Liberty, winning both the 100 and 200 dashes and helping her HTown Hurricanes take top honors in the 15-16 age bracket as she took part in the team's 4x400 relay win to conclude the meet. She is set to be a junior at Clear Brook High School.

JFD expands gridiron look

The Dobie varsity football program has given itself the option of a new look for the upcoming 2020 regular season. As part of a recent photo shoot, senior and all-district performers Rushad Ball (2) and Johnathan Baldwin (10) donned the Longhorns' black and white uniforms. Still, head coach Kevin Berneathy said his team won't often vary from its long-held tradition of burnt orange and white options. The Longhorns will open the regular season Aug. 28 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena against Alief Elsik.



20 at the Leander Spartans Invitational in Liberty.

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Emily Adams, Bridgeland
Eva Fitzgerald, Cinco Ranch
Kayla Greihl, Cinco Ranch
Kenedi Miller, Clear Brook
Bri Zamora, Clear Creek
Rachel Bromh, Clear Falls
Mia Johnson, Clear Falls
Blakely Montgomery, Clear Falls
Alana Dawson, Clear Springs
Shyla Richardson, Clear Springs
Mallory Madison, College Park
Annie Heliste, Cy-Fair
Kara Spice, Cy-Fair
Kailey Freidrich, Cy-Ranch
Maddy Villarreal, Cy-Ranch
Kiyah Feldly, Davis
Phoebe Stigen, Deer Park
Kylie Mueller, Dulles
Bailey Tillman, Fort Bend Austin
Allie Scheck, George Ranch
Logan Lednicki, George Ranch
Kamie Lohnes, Grand Oaks
Sarah Sampson, Grand Oaks
Fallon Thompson, Grand Oaks
Jordan Gamble, Katy
Hannah Hoover, Katy
Maddie Waak, Katy
Sophie Ocampo, Kingwood
Megan Wilson, Kingwood
Annie Antar, Klein
Gaby Mansfield, Klein
Kiersten McFall, Klein
Devan Taylor, Klein
Jenna Karp, Klein Cain
Mekaila Aupui, Klein Collins
Logan LeRoux, Memorial
Taylor Odum, Memorial
Kyla Traylor, Memorial
Piper Boydstuh, Oak Ridge
Julia Neveu, Oak Ridge
Jenna Gray, Pearland
Tianna Davis, Ridge Point
Alley Batenhorst, Seven Lakes
Casey Batenhorst, Seven Lakes
Mayo Olibale, Seven Lakes
Deja Benjamin, Shadow Creek
Alexis Andrews, Stratford
Marjani Stanfill, Stratford
Jozie Dhayler, Summer Creek
Alaryss Medina, Summer Creek
Clara Brower, The Woodlands
McKenzie Moore, Tomball Memorial
Paris Herrman, Tompkins
Eliana Posada, Tompkins
Cindy Tchouangwa, Tompkins
Karina Garoni, Travis

Gators boast lengthy professional baseball history as seven ink contracts

Second-round pick Alerick Soularie is on board with the Minnesota Twins for a reported \$900,000 signing bonus. Pitcher Mitchell Parker is confirmed to have signed with the Washington Nationals for a reported \$100,000 signing bonus, and former SJC player Adysin Coffee has signed with the Chicago White Sox for a \$50,000 bonus.

Three other nondraftees have signed professional contracts, with Dane Acker and fourth-rounder Luke Little presumably closing in on deals with the Oakland A's and the Chicago Cubs, respectively.

It's all in a day's work for the San Jacinto College baseball program, which boasts quite the pedigree when it comes to sending its players to the professional baseball ranks.

A total of seven current or former Gators will enter the pro ranks either because of the 2020 first-year player draft or through the free agency signing period.

This coming after the 2020 draft was limited to just five rounds due to the financial ramifications seen throughout baseball due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Every year since 1997, that's 23 seasons and counting, San Jacinto College has seen at least one of its players reach the pro ranks (minor league baseball, of course included) through either the former draft and follow process, the actual June draft or via free agency signing.

San Jacinto offers the chance to get a quality edu-

cation first and foremost but to also compete for a national championship and to be drafted into the big league world.

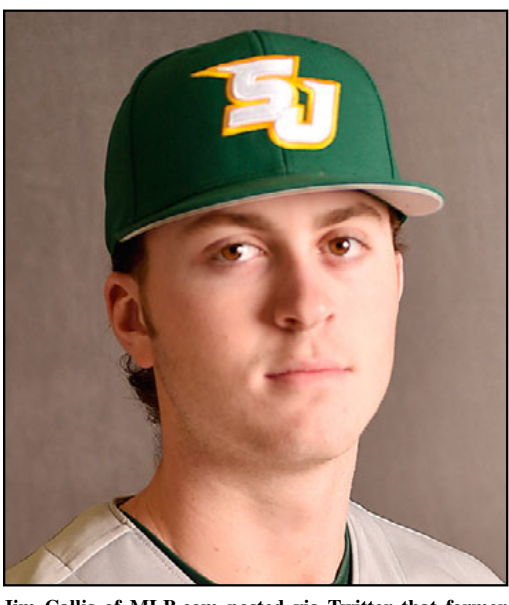
While the Gators have not yet bagged a JUCO World Series crown in the head coach Tom Arrington era, the Gators have reached the championship final numerous times.

And the program's professional draft history is virtually unmatched throughout college baseball regardless of rank (D-1, D-2, JUCO, etc.).

Just take a look at the results above. Every year, pro scouts are knocking on San Jac's door.



Former Atascocita High School and San Jacinto College star Alerick Soularie is now part of the Minnesota Twins organization after being a 2020 second-round pick and agreeing to a \$900,000 signing bonus.



Jim Callis of MLB.com posted via Twitter that former San Jacinto College right-hander Dane Acker has signed with Oakland for the full slot bonus of \$447,400 after Acker was the team's fourth-round pick in 2020. At San Jac in 2019, Acker went unbeaten and earned All-American honors. At Oklahoma earlier this year, Acker no-hit LSU at Minute Maid Park.

Lajaunie scholarship tennis event to be held June 26-28

It's a go for June 26-28 as the ninth annual Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund Tennis Invitational will take place at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena.

The official registration form is available via the tournament website at dltennisscholarships.com, as players will have the option of entering a variety of male and female singles or doubles categories in addition to mixed doubles.

The registration fee is \$35 per player for singles or \$22.50 per player for doubles.

To register or to gain additional information, direct email to tournament director John Thomas at jtjohnjr@gmail.com or call him at 713-941-8631.

The event honors Dobie graduate and former tennis standout Darren Lajaunie, who died of complications from cancer in 2010. His wife, Camille Lajaunie, is the event founder.

Funds raised from the event go toward youth tennis camp scholarships as well as college education scholarships to deserving Dobie High School tennis players.

Current Dobie players may also compete in the 2020 Lajaunie event free of charge. To do so, call Longhorn head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. at 713-417-8062.

At this year's event, individually packaged snacks and refreshments will be provided in addition to hand sanitizer.

Applicable social-distancing measures will also apply.

For additional information, direct email to Camille Lajaunie at cjlajaunie@gmail.com.

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CALENDAR

Due to the current public health situation, it is advisable to verify if meetings are being held prior to attending. Since Gov. Greg Abbott has initiated Strike Force for the reopening of Texas some groups have resumed their meetings. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the area, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>. For Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com. For Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
 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/> for additional information.

7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Virtual meeting Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Information for the event is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.

7 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets in an online Zoom meeting. Participants need to preregister at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Information for the event is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 26
 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/> for additional information.

6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society - Meets monthly, the last Friday, online in a virtual webinar format. Virtual attendees need to register for each webinar session. Speaker: Melissa Core Finlay presenting "Orphans, Infants and Minors: Genealogy Nuggets and Pitfalls in Guardianship records." Details will be posted on <https://www.txbayareagen.org>.

7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All in-person synagogue events are canceled at this time. 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>.

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

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 27
 7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

11 a.m.
StartSchoolLater.net (SSL) Houston Chapter - informational meeting about the link of teen sleep deprivation to depression and low academic performance. The public is welcome, 11 a.m., on the fourth Saturday online in a zoom meeting. For details, call 281-229-1409. RSVP is requested for meeting attendance.

11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html> for details.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 29
 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - will resume meeting at In His Presence Fellowship Church when church reopens. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information, or visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html>.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.

6:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website, <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective 3/16/2020, to ensure its members continue their journey to becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on our home page menu (www.youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com) to obtain access to our virtual meeting platform. For information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

7 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's Group 12-Step Recovery is meeting outdoors temporarily near the tennis courts behind St. Luke's at 7 p.m., weather permitting. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

7 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational building, room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.

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

7:30 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled including Israeli folk dancing. Visit the website of the synagogue at <https://www.shaarhashalom.org> for more information.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or 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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
 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/> for additional information.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or 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 details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 2
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Virtual meeting Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Information for the event is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or 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, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call the church at 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

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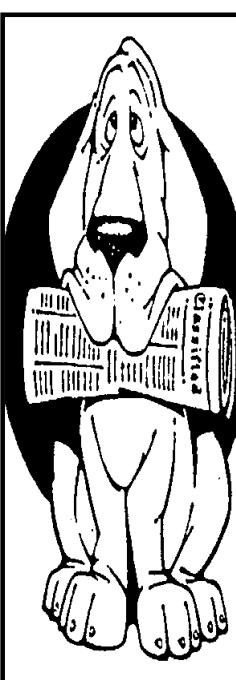
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Susan Blalock Award winners announced

The Susan Blalock Award is given in honor of the first principal of Morris Middle School. This award is for sixth-grade students only. Any student can be nominated for this award. Students

who are nominated should exhibit strong character and solid academics. Blalock always believed in her Morris Trailblazers and believed in students working hard and showing character.

Xavier Martinez is a student who has been consistently studious, is always polite and respectful and helps his fellow students. He clearly exhibits both strong character and a good work ethic. Martinez has proven to be an amazing student. He is kind, hilarious, caring, incredibly intelligent and always willing to offer help and to peer tutor, say school officials who are sure he could and would teach the class if he were allowed.



According to school officials Isabella Byron, has an undeniable work ethic, working to the best of her ability and always looking for ways to improve her academics. She exhibits a strong moral and honest attitude, leading by example, showing what a model student should be. Byron was nominated for this award because she has portrayed outstanding work ethic in band and in school. She is one of the students who arrives at band first and comes prepared every day. She has improved on her skill set for her instrument so much this past year. She has always completed her work on time. When asked to complete tasks, she does it without hesitation and with a smile. She is a student who models responsibility when it comes to her work. She has volunteered a handful of times to stay after school and help set up for band concerts and participated in elementary performances. She has never missed an after-school rehearsal which has made her a dependable performer in band. Byron has great qualities that equal to an outstanding student, not just in the band hall but in school, too.



Continued from Page 1
tween Paul Day and Joe Dana. The winner will face incumbent Ed Gonzalez in the November general election. To view a sample Republican ballot, visit harrisvotes.org/SampleBallot/RepublicanSampleBallot.pdf. Some residents may be eligible to cast their vote by mail. To be eligible to vote by mail, a voter has to be 65 years or older; have a disability or illness; be out of the county during the election period; or be confined in jail, with no felony conviction. The last day to apply for a ballot-by-mail is seven days prior to an election. Voters can go to www.harrisvotes.com to print out the application or call 713-755-

Congress, constable runoff elections early voting begins June 29

6965 to request one. Nearby early voting locations include the Harris County annex at 10851 Scarsdale and Beamer; the east Harris County Activity Center at 7340 Spencer Highway in Pasadena; and the Freeman Branch Library at 16616 Diana Lane in the Clear Lake area. Polling hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 29 through July 2; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 5; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 6 through July 9; and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 10. Residents may cast their ballots at any early polling location. Harris County residents may also now vote at any polling location on Election Day. To see a complete list of polling locations, visit harrisvotes.org.

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Sparks fly in area constable's Zoom debate

Continued from Page 1
the function. "If the system ain't broke, don't fix it," Diaz said later in the debate.

Again, Garcia diverged. "I disagree when you said that the system's not broken. How can you say that?" Garcia said.

On more than one occasion, Diaz accused Garcia of being disloyal, as he once served on the Precinct 2 force, before taking his current position at Precinct 3.

Garcia responded by saying his loyalty is to the community.

"It's not personal," Garcia said. "I'm loyal to the people, not a position."

Both candidates addressed the current topic of racial injustice and police brutality.

"I just want to get this out front, black lives matter, 100 percent" Diaz said. "And we've been practicing that since we came in. We've been building relationships for seven years. Of course, I've been an elected official for nearly 20 years (Diaz has also served as both mayor and a city council member for Jacinto City), so we've been building those partnerships for a long time."

Garcia said he has experienced the struggles firsthand.

"I grew up in a poor, underserved neighbor-

hood," Garcia said. "I've been slammed on police cars for just standing there. I've lived it. I understand it. I am willing and ready to stand with the people to make these changes. We're tired of the system. We're tired of the people who stem from this broken system, and that's how we're going to make the changes necessary to help our communities."

In a particularly heated moment of the debate, Garcia demanded to know if Diaz had paid the \$1,000 fee for a second candidate named Jerry Garcia - the cousin of Diaz's wife, Jacinto City Mayor Ana Diaz - to enter the Democratic primary. (The second Garcia later dropped out of the race, but his name remained on the ballot.)

While Diaz never directly answered the question, he said he tried to talk the second Garcia out of running and eventually persuaded him to withdraw from the race.

During the debate, Diaz touted his local accom-

plishments, which he said included increasing the local Precinct 2 patrol from five to 15 officers and the creation of the department's special operations force that combated vice crimes in the area, such as narcotics, gambling and prostitution.

Clear Brook City MUD General Manager Cecilia Ganje, however, took issue with both of these claims.

According to Ganje, there were nine deputies on the Precinct 2 force when Diaz took office in

St. Francis Cabrini cancels Trash & Treasure

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church has canceled its annual TRASH & TREASURE this summer, possibly Southeast Houston's largest garage sale. The church is located at 10727 Hartsook St., Houston, Texas 77034.

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2013, and the additional officers were only added at the request and expense of the Clear Brook City MUD.

Further, the special operations division lauded by Diaz has since been disbanded.

To see the complete debate, visit the Sagemont Civic Club's Facebook page.

Early voting for the July 14 primary runoff elections will take place from Monday, June 29, to Friday, July 10. See related story on Page 1.)

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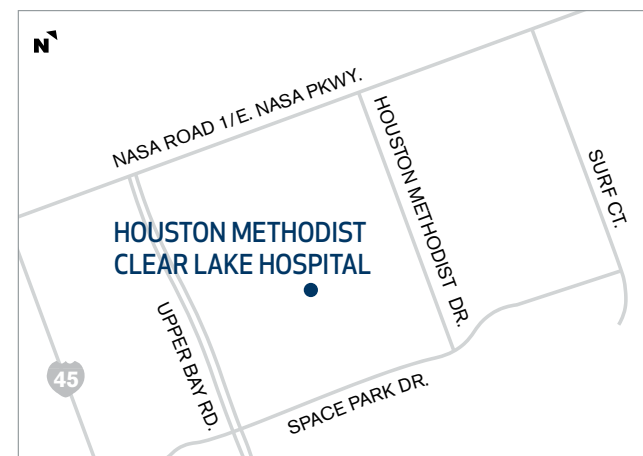


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