



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### Donut Haven reopens

Donut Haven, at Hughes Road at Beamer, will reopen at 4:30 a.m. Saturday, July 4. The establishment has been closed since late May when longtime cook Sylvester Hernandez contracted COVID-19. The restaurant has been completely cleaned and sanitized, and the Donut Haven staff encourages customers to stop by and say hello.

### Clear Brook MUD news

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Friday, July 3, in celebration of Independence Day. The office will reopen for regular business Monday, July 6, 2020, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru window side of the building.

Clear Brook City MUD residents will have trash service on their regularly scheduled days. Trash should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m.

### 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, July 1, ZIP code 77089 had 277 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to Harris County Public Health officials. That figure is 93 higher than the 184 count reported on Wednesday, June 24. In ZIP code 77075, county officials are now reporting 292 known cases. This number is 111 higher than the 181 cases reported the previous week.

County officials are now reporting 284 cases in ZIP code 77034, up 77 cases from last week.

In all, there are currently 31,422 known cases in Harris County, an increase of 7,001 from last week. Of those, 20,343 remain active, up 4924 from last week. A total of 10,701 have recovered from the virus in the county, an increase of 2,034 from the previous week. To date, 378 have died from COVID-19, up 43 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/Resourses/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resourses/2019-Novel-Coronavirus).

### 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 will be closed at FM 518 until further notice. At least one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 517 to Hughes in Texas City will be closed until further notice. The southbound entrance ramp at FM 517 in Texas City will also be closed until further notice.

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 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 the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

### Apartment fire investigated

An apartment complex in the 10900 block of Tanner Park Court near Alameda Mall caught fire Wednesday, June 17. According to the Houston Fire Department, firefighters arrived on scene around 1:15 a.m. to find a fence area along an apartment complex on fire, with minimal fire spread to the exterior walls of the apartment complex and business. Crews quickly tapped out the fire, and HFD arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin.

Firefighters from stations 52, 26, 70, 61, 93 and 24 responded to this incident. The blaze caused approximately \$10,000 in damage. The fire was still under investigation at press time.

### Stolen fobs found

Multiple vehicles were broken into this past weekend in the Sageglen and Sagemeadow subdivisions, according to Cecelia Ganje, Clear Brook City MUD general manager. There are a couple of recovered car fobs that need to be identified. Anyone who experienced a break-in or who is missing a fob is urged to contact Pct. 2 Sgt. Robert Sanchez at 281-481-9189.

### Park closed July 4 weekend

All Clear Brook City MUD Parks will be closed the July 4th weekend from July 3 through July 5. Parks included are CBC MUD Park, Bishop Park and Tower Park. Park equipment such as playground equipment, picnic tables and benches have been "off-limits" since the early stages of the virus that began in March. Yellow tape was used to deter attendees from using the equipment. CBCMUD is following CDC and Harris County guidelines regarding COVID. The parks will re-open Monday, July 6, with park equipment remaining off limits.

### County cites Highland pool

The Highland Meadow neighborhood swimming pool has been tagged by the Harris County Public Health Department Repairs are to be made on the pool soon, according to Highland Meadow officials. The board has not decided when/if the pool will be open after deemed safe by the county.

### Crossroads holds kids classes

Crossroads United Methodist Church, 10030 Scarsdale, will hold its Early Learning Academy summer program from July 6 to Aug. 6. Classes are Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 281-818-6859.

## Older women robbed in three separate incidents

There has been a string of violent purse-snatchings at area grocery stores this past week.

At least two such incidents took place the afternoon of Wednesday, June 24.

One incident took place at H-E-B at Blackhawk and Beltway 8, while another took place at Food Town at Scarsdale and Beamer.

According to the Houston Police Department, the H-E-B robbery involved a 73-year-old woman. Police said the victim had just unloaded her groceries into her car and was putting her cart away when a suspect driving a grey Volkswagen car stopped, jumped out and pushed the woman onto the ground, before taking her purse and getting back into the vehicle and fleeing the scene.

The victim was treated for minor wounds at the scene by Houston Fire Department paramedics but refused transport to an area hospital.

The suspect is described as a thin black male

in his early 20s, wearing a white T-shirt and blue-jeans. Anyone with any information on this case is urged to contact HPD's Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

The victim is attempting to retrieve her purse and cellphone that were taken during the incident.

The purse is described as a brown alligator

embossed Brahmin, while the phone is an LG K51. Anyone who may have found these items discarded is encouraged to contact the *Leader* at [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) or bring it to the *Leader* office at 11555 Beamer.

The incident at Food Town was similar in nature but involved multiple suspects, and a gold minivan was used as the getaway vehicle.

Multiple online posts on social media sites re-

ported a third robbery that day taking place at the Kroger at Sabo and Beltway 8 around the same time frame, but Houston police had no record of the crime. Police said, however, that such incidents are not always reported to police.

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 27, a second purse-snatching took place in the Food Town parking lot, this time in front of multiple wit-

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## Governor: students can attend school in person

Local schools are moving forward with plans to reopen in the fall, but state officials and area teachers don't necessarily see eye to eye.

During a June 18 virtual meeting with state lawmakers, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that students will be returning to in-person instruction this fall semester.

The motion was subsequently backed by the Texas Education Agency.

According to sources familiar with the meeting, the measure would not require students or staff to wear a mask, and no testing would be conducted for the COVID-19 virus. School districts would, however, be allowed to offer instructional alternatives.

The move was met with sharp criticism, as it

comes at a time when the number of coronavirus cases and hospitalizations continue to rise, and local municipalities are taking strong measures to prevent the further spread of the disease.

Among the most vocal critics are the American Federation of Teachers and the Texas AFT.

"This has left parents, students and teachers with more questions than answers," said Texas AFT

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## SVFD cleans up after trash fire



The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to a vehicle fire around 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 27, on Blackhawk near Kirkfair. According to fire department officials, a driver was hauling trash in his pickup truck when his load caught fire. No injuries were reported. Pictured above responding to the incident are, left to right, Jerry Terrell, Dean Baier, Ross Schreck, Chuck Tylka and Chad Sullivan.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Misunderstanding results in shooting

Harris County Precinct 2 deputies responded to a drive-by shooting around 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 30, in the 10600 block of Sagetrail, which stemmed from a misunderstanding about the Black Lives Matter movement.

According to authorities, two black men were walking home from the convenience store when

they were approached by the suspected shooter, Santiago Fernandez, 69. Fernandez reportedly told the men he disapproved of their shirts, which he believed to be Black Lives Matter T-shirts. Police said, however, the shirts were actually just black Nike T-shirts.

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## Know regulations for using fireworks

The Fourth of July is around the corner, and many South Belt residents are understandably confused as to the current regulations involving the sale and possession of personal fireworks.

The only remaining spot to still purchase fireworks in the immediate South Belt area is located along Beamer Road in the unincorporated parts of Harris County near Dixie Farm Road. (See related ad on Page 8.)

While the stretch of road was once a hot spot for such booths, the practice was prohibited in July 2009 by the City of Friendswood Fire Marshal's Office, citing extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

ETJ is the legal ability of a governing body to exercise authority beyond its normal boundaries, given that an agreement has been reached with

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## COVID-19 local, state update set

As the number of coronavirus cases continues to spike (see the latest statistics on this page), both state and local officials have taken drastic measures this past week to slow the spread of the disease.

### State of Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott on June 26 issued an executive order limiting certain businesses and services as part of the state's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

This decision comes as the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 and the number of hospitalizations have increased and the positivity rate in Texas increased above 10 percent, which the governor previously stated would lead

to further preventative action. The targeted, measured directives in the executive order are based on links between certain types of businesses and services and the recent rise in positive cases throughout the state.

The order includes the following: All bars and similar establishments that receive more than 51 percent of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages are required to close. These businesses may remain open for delivery and take-out, including for alcoholic beverages, as authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Restaurants may remain open for dine-in ser-

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## Watch for smoke testing in CBCMUD

The Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District, along with Nerie Construction, will begin smoke testing sewer lines in the area at 8 a.m. July 6.

This work is being done to rebuild and improve the sanitary sewer systems in the district. Affected subdivisions include Sageglen, Highland Meadow and Wood Meadow I and II.

The contractor will place a front door hanger at affected homes 48 hours before testing. Smoke will be added to the sewer manholes. Residents may see white smoke coming out of roof vents. Residents should not be alarmed, as this is normal. The smoke is nontoxic and will disappear rapidly without leaving an odor.

If smoke enters a house, residents should open windows to allow for ventilation. The smoke will

clear within a few minutes. This process will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

Workers will have ID badges on their shirts. They will be moving from house to house to get a visual of any sewer pipe leaks.

Once residents have received a notice, they are asked to check to see that all drain traps under sinks and in bathtubs, washing facilities and floor drains contain water.

This will include seldom-used bathroom fixtures and floor drains. Residents are asked to run water down the drain for a minute or two to ensure the trap is not dry.

Questions and concerns may be directed to Jason Nerie, project manager, at 281-996-5551 (office), 281-733-3388 (mobile) or [comments@nerieconst.com](mailto:comments@nerieconst.com) (email). (See related ad Page 3.)

## San Jac names new provosts

Dr. Aaron Knight has been named provost of the San Jacinto College South campus.

Knight will begin as the San Jacinto South campus provost July 20. Dr. Brenda Jones is retiring from the college after nearly 20 years.

Knight has been in higher education for more than 25 years. He began his career as an assistant professor of political science at Texas

A&M International University and has spent the last 20 years at Houston Community College. During his tenure at HCC, he has served as government instructor, program coordinator, department chair and interim dean of academics at the Northeast College. For the past five years, he held the systemwide position of

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## Early primary voting underway

Early voting for the July 14 primary runoff elections is currently underway and will continue through Friday, July 10. The runoff elections were originally scheduled to take place in late May, but were postponed due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Voters will decide who will be the party nominee for the positions of U.S. House District 22 representative, Harris County Precinct 2 constable, sheriff and railroad commissioner, among others.

In the U.S. House District 22 race, Republican candidates Kathleen Wall and Troy Nehls will compete for the position being vacated by Rep. Pete Olson. The winner of the primary will face

Democrat Sri Preston Kulkarni in the November general election.

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

The *Leader* has endorsed Garcia in this race. See related editorial on Page 2.

The winner of the Democratic runoff election will face Republican Daniel Vela in the November general election.

The Republican runoff for the position of sheriff is a contest between Paul Day and Joe Danna.

The winner will face incumbent Ed Gonzalez in the November general election.

In the Democratic race for railroad commissioner, Roberto R. "Beto" Alonzo will face Chrysta Castañeda.

The winner will face Jim Wright in the Novem-

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### Precinct 2 constable debate

The Democratic Precinct 2 constable candidate debate held by the Sagemont Civic Club is available to view on the *South Belt Leader* Facebook page.

## CCISD superintendent retiring

Clear Creek Independent School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Smith announced during the June school board meeting he will be retiring Dec. 31, 2020.



Dr. Greg Smith

The public announcement is necessary to allow the school board ample time to identify the next leader of CCISD.

The decision to retire was made five years ago when Smith signed his final contract, informing the board at the time of his intent to close out his

40-year career in education in the Clear Creek Independent School District. His contract expires Dec. 31, 2020.

"There is never a good time to make this type of announcement, but it is important to give the CCISD community time to find the right person to lead this exceptional school district," said Smith. "For those who know me, I do not tire. I remain committed to the work ahead of reopening Clear Creek ISD to 42,000 boys and girls and leading us into a strong fall semester."

Dr. Laura DuPont, CCISD board president, echoed the sentiments of staff and the larger community.

"Dr. Smith is a leader of all leaders," said DuPont. "His handprint is all over this school dis-

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## CCISD OKs recommendations

The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees unanimously approved a set of recommendations to reopen schools Aug. 18.

The recommendations reflect public feedback and provide CCISD staff guidance on what the community seeks in a learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recommendations were developed by the Safely Reopen CCISD Committee, a group of health professionals, parents, students, staff and community members. The approved recommendations are as follows:

Committee charge 1: Develop potential school resumption options for the 2020-2021 academic year for consideration by the CCISD board of trustees. Each option shall consider the needs of all children.

Approved recommendations include:

– Develop school calendar options, including but not limited to the current approved school calendar Aug. 18, 2020 – May 27, 2021; a modified school calendar with transitions to online learning in the event of a COVID-19 resurgence; flexible student attendance schedules, as needed to comply with potential disruptions.

– Offer learning options that may include in-person, in-person and distance-learning hybrid and distance learning.

– Provide continuity in personalized supports to students with specialized needs/services such as special education or those with underlying medical conditions, English-language learners, deaf and hard of hearing, speech, gifted and talented and others in a distance-learning environment.

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## Dobie director Grammy quarterfinalist

Dobie High School band director Kevin Erickson was recently selected as a quarterfinalist

for the 2021 Grammy Music Educator Award.

"To be considered for this award is a tremendous honor, and I'm incredibly proud to represent Dobie High School, Pasadena ISD and our community," said Erickson.

"This is definitely a reflection of the incredible music education programs we have here in Pasadena ISD. "I absolutely have to thank all my students, past and present, for continuing to inspire me to be a better teacher, leader and human being."

Out of 2000 nominees, Erickson is among 216 music educators from around the country to be selected as quarterfinalists.

The Grammy Music Educator Award was established to recognize public and private school educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to music education. Additionally, the award recognizes educators who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools.

Semifinalists for the award will be announced in September 2020 and from those, one recipient will be selected to receive the award.

If Erickson is selected as the winner, he will be flown to Los Angeles to attend the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards, along with other Grammy Week events.



# In My Opinion

## Trevino urges support for Garcia

Jerry Garcia, Harris County Lieutenant has 22 years of law enforcement experience. For 18 years, Jerry has freely coached youth soccer teams to keep kids off the streets after school and was proactively involved with the youth. Not only was Jerry involved with local youths, but his integrity is so sincere that Jerry also dedicates his time to help the senior citizen community by holding lun-

cheon meetings, where he attentively listens to their concerns and complaints to help resolve solutions to their needs. Jerry Garcia came from an underserved community and he personally knows how our community has been neglected, and inadequately serviced. He believes that our community's resources should cater to all people equally. Therefore, our community endorses Jerry Garcia for Constable of Precinct 2. Let's make this change happen.

Maria Luisa Trevino

## Local library events set

### Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Branch Library is located at 9002 Kingspoint. The phones are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 7 p.m., at 832-393-2580 for information.

### Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is now available Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The staff will also be available for reference questions, information, resources and account information on those days as well. Although curbside services will not be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the staff will be waiting to answer customer calls from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Bracewell Neighborhood Library at 832-393-2580. Note that all overdue fines/fees will be waived through Jan. 1, 2021. The outside book drop is open 24 hours a day.

### Bracewell Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program runs through Aug. 15. Visit [www.houstonlibrary.org/summer](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/summer) to register and log one's reading. Use the Beanstack Tracker app on iOS and Android to make logging easy. See the HPL website for storytimes, crafts, STEM and special events. 2020 Environmental Education Summer Programs are being offered through Harris County Precinct 1. Fun and engaging virtual programs with live animals are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Mondays, 1 p.m. Nature Detectives (grades 1-4)

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Polliwog Club (ages 3-5)

Fridays, 1 p.m. Conservation Conversations (grades 5-8)

The programs will use WebEx, a free video conferencing program which works on a smartphone, tablet or computer. For those unfamiliar with the program, visit <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-l-d&q=WebEx-instructions> for a step-by-step tutorial and tips.

For questions or concerns or for a childcare agency interested in having a personalized lesson outside of the above schedule, email [Christina.hartman@cp1.hctx.net](mailto:Christina.hartman@cp1.hctx.net).

### Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned with no overdue fees. The library continues to provide online resources so the public can enjoy the library at home. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop. Keep those items until further notice.

### Additional resources

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

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

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

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

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, it's Wi-Fi service is still available for residents to utilize. If a customer has a device, such as a phone, laptop or tablet but no Wi-Fi, they can come to the library and gain access by standing/sitting within 6 feet of the building. There is no need for a password. All one needs to do is go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi, and then connect to HPL - Public.

HPL appreciates book donations, but is not accepting them at this time. The library staff requests that donations do not get placed outside library buildings, or at the book drops.

Visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) to find virtual programs, and digital resources including e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming music and videos, online learning, online tutoring, and much more. For more information visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) to find out how to chat with a librarian 24/7, or how to send questions through HPL's email reference.

### Parker Williams Library

The information for Parker Williams reads:

"All Harris County Public Library locations will remain closed to the public at this time. Public safety is our top priority. We will provide service updates as they are developed. The book drop at Parker Williams Library is open. No late fees have been nor will be charged during the library closures. You may return library materials to the exterior book drops at most HCPL locations, but we urge you to continue to maintain social distancing and other public health guidelines. You will not be charged late fees. Do not leave any items outside the library or drop box."

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up" is up and running!

The curbside holds pick-up service began June 15.

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pick-up, call 832-927-7870.

- Have your library card number and PIN handy.

- A pick-up time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification

Curbside hours are:

Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for more information.

### Online services

Harris County Public Library will continue to offer a wide array of online services:

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.

- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).

- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.

- Check your account to renew loans or request books.

- e-Books, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive.

- Stream classic films, indie cinema, and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

- Ask us a question via chat on Ask a Librarian.

For those who do not have an HCPL library card, instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for an HCPL card. For more information, visit <https://www.hcpl.net> or call 832-927-7870.

## We're coming back

# July 4th

## We will open at 4:30 a.m.

We've missed you. We have been busy renovating and making your favorite donut place safer and healthy.



10802 Hughes Road

Come see us starting July 4 We've missed you!

# T-shirt results in shooting

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Fernandez then offered to shake the men's hands, but they refused due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As the men walked away, Fernandez yelled racial slurs at them, then followed the men home to the aforementioned residence on Sagetrail. Fernandez then allegedly fired two shots at the men, as they

ran into the house.

Moments after the shooting, a third individual emerged from the Sagetrail home, and Fernandez again drove by the residence and shouted racial slurs at the woman, before pointing a gun at her and driving away.

Given a description of the suspect's vehicle and a partial plate number, deputies were

able to locate Fernandez's car at a nearby residence in the 10500 block of Sageberry.

He was subsequently arrested and charged with three counts of aggravated assault. Those involved in the matter said the incident was professionally handled by Precinct 2 authorities. Sanchez had responded to the episode in his off time.

# Medicare issues scammer warning

Scammers may use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to steal one's identity and commit Medicare fraud.

In some cases, a caller might say they'll send a coronavirus test, masks, or other items in exchange for one's Medicare number or personal information. Don't fall for it; it's a scam.

It's important to always guard one's Medicare num-

ber and check the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) for errors.

Only give one's Medicare number to participating Medicare pharmacists, primary and specialty care doctors, or people that can be trusted to work with Medicare on one's behalf.

Remember, Medicare will never call to verify one's Medicare number.

Visit the website [www.medicare.gov/fraud](http://www.medicare.gov/fraud) for more information on protecting oneself from fraud and reporting suspected fraud.

One can also watch a short video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8LopwN2f0g&feature=youtu.be?utm\\_campaign=20200617\\_cvd\\_frd\\_gal&utm\\_content=enGLISH&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdeliv](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8LopwN2f0g&feature=youtu.be?utm_campaign=20200617_cvd_frd_gal&utm_content=enGLISH&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdeliv).

# COVID-19 local, state update set

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vice, but at a capacity not to exceed 50 percent of total listed indoor occupancy.

Rafting and tubing businesses must close.

Outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people must be approved by local governments, with certain exceptions.

"As I said from the start, if the positivity rate rose above 10 percent, the State of Texas would take further action to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," said Abbott. "At this time, it is clear that the rise in cases is largely driven by certain types of activities, including Texans congregating in bars. The actions in this executive order are essential to our mission to swiftly contain this virus and enhance public health. We want this to be as limited in duration as possible. However, we can only slow the spread if everyone in Texas does their part. Every Texan has a responsibility to themselves and their loved ones to wear a mask, wash their hands, stay six feet apart from others in public, and stay home if they can. I know that our collective action can lead to a reduction in the spread of COVID-19 because we have done it before, and we will do it again."

### Harris County

Also on June 26, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo updated the county's COVID-19 public threat level from significant (orange, Level 2) to severe (red, Level 1). Level 1 indicates a "severe and uncontrolled" level of COVID-19, meaning outbreaks are worsening, contact tracing capacity is strained or exceeded, and health care surge is likely. The elevation to threat Level 1 - the highest in the system - comes as

a variety of data demonstrate alarming trends that are on track to overwhelm the local health care system.

"The harsh truth is that our current infection rate is on pace to overwhelm our hospitals in the very near future," Hidalgo said. "We hope this serves as a wake-up call to everyone that the time to act is now. I'm calling on all residents and businesses to take immediate action to help our medical community get this virus back in check before it spirals beyond control and more lives are needlessly sacrificed. Stay and work from home except for essential business. Wear a face covering if you absolutely have to be out. We've flattened the curve before, and we can do it again, but we need to buckle down and do this together."

Under a Level 1 threat, the public is urged to: Stay home, except for the most essential needs like going to the grocery store for food and medicine. Avoid and cancel all gatherings of any size. Essential workers practice special precautions to prevent spread. All vulnerable individuals (65+ or with pre-existing health conditions) stay home. Self-quarantine for 14 days if in close and prolonged contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19.

Wear face coverings to protect others. Avoid non-essential business and personal travel. Avoid public transportation where possible. Cancel visits to nursing homes, long-term care facilities and hospitals. Avoid and cancel all indoor

and outdoor gatherings, including concerts, rodeos, large sporting events, etc. Schools and after-school activities for youth close, as directed by educational authorities. Area hospitals have reached their full ICU base capacity and are now relying on surge space to treat patients. The number of daily cases and hospitalizations have also reached their highest point since the beginning of the pandemic.

Additionally, Hidalgo announced effective immediately, she will implement a ban on all gatherings of 100 or more people in unincorporated Harris County and encourage cities across the county to do the same.

Harris County is ready to deploy a medical shelter at NRG as a backup should the hospital system become overwhelmed by new cases beyond the existing surge capacity space that remains. The costs for the medical shelter are expected to be 100 percent reimbursed federal funds, either from FEMA funds or CARES Act funding already allocated to the county.

For a list of indicators, including stay-home guidance, visit [ReadyHarris.org](http://ReadyHarris.org).

# Publisher's Opinion

## Why a vote for Garcia is critical

Here is hoping that those voting in the Democratic Primary constable race are paying good attention to the candidates. Frankly no local race has concerned me more than this one in the last 40 years. There is so much more going on that we cannot go to print with yet, but I am urging any of you who have faith in our paper to know that the paper's leadership is very concerned about the current constable.

He comes across as a very likable individual. He has certainly gone out of his way to see that food from various organizations has been distributed throughout the community, but that's not what his job is about.

He is supposed to be a good, fair law enforcement officer, especially for the South Belt contract he is hired to protect.

At the Sagement Civic Club debate he bragged about doubling the size of the patrol. He did not do that. It was our MUD taxpayers who funded more officers to increase the size and better protect the area. In future Leaders we will let you know that under Chris Diaz, we have not gotten what we paid for, and Chris has not been honest with the community, or with those heading the contract regarding this issue.

He also bragged about all the drug and gambling money the "special ops" group took off the streets. He was so right about this, they did a fantastic job!

When proudly telling about this success, what he did not tell you was he stopped this very successful program. It has not been operating most of this year. Even before then, he cut it back.

And what took over as a bigger priority? Work centered around helping him get re-elected. I guess that is more important now than keeping the drugs off the street.

This is the tip of the iceberg. Because he refused my official Freedom of Information request for information, it is hard to get you the rest of the information yet. My biggest concern is how he treats people, especially his employees. There is a reason so very many have left his organization and are now suing. The number is between 15 and 20.

Please vote for Jerry Garcia with 21 years law enforcement experience. It is very hard to beat an incumbent that can use a staff to help him campaign. Your vote as well as your friends and neighbors is much needed. Thanks! Marie Flickinger, Publisher

# Death

## Bobby Joe Allison



Bobby Joe Allison, 67, of Sagement died June 25, 2020. Bobby was born in Columbus, Ga., Dec. 3, 1952, to Jackie and Bobby Allison Sr.

He was married to Laura Allison for 17 years. Bobby graduated from Dobie High in 1972. He was drafted into the Air Force in 1973. He served in the Vietnam War and was stationed in Thailand. He returned home in 1975 and started working at Hobby Airport followed by Entex where he was for more than 20 years.

Bobby's true passion was art. He would sit in the garage and paint for hours. He also attended various art and craft shows to display his art and talk with others. In his free time, he would listen to music and play the guitar.

Being an extremely proud father, Bobby continually bragged about his five daughters. He was always a good mentor to the grandchildren, always demanded respect and showed the young men of the family how to be a gentleman. He instilled in his daughters the desire to find happiness, not settle for less and to always be kind to one another. He found the good in every situation and would always point out the positives to help get through any issues.

He was preceded in death by his father Bobby Allison Sr.

He is survived by his wife of 17 years; and their two girls Chaney Allison and Makenzie Allison; three older girls, Kelly Allison, Shelly Allison and husband Joe Quintanilla and Courtney Allison and Robyn Sarvis; his sister Mary Allison Henson and husband Paul

Henson and brother Wesley Allison and wife Rose; grandchildren Jacob Allison, Sofia Allison, Ariana Allison, Makayla Thompson, Tyler Stormer, Kloe Oates, Tavin Stormer, Mya Stormer, Kane Oates, Skylar and Allison Quintanilla, Hailey Quintanilla, Andrew Quintanilla, Robbie Sarvis and Caden Sarvis; and nieces and nephews Chad Ehlinger, Brooke Ehlinger, Woods Ehlinger, Justin Henson, Ashley Dichiaro, Ben Dichiaro, Drake Dichiaro, Elise Dichiaro, Luke Dichiaro, John Allison, Brianna Allison and Belle Allison.

Bobby was an amazing father, grandfather, soon-to-be great-grandfather, uncle and U.S. veteran.

Those who met him described him as a genuinely nice guy that always greeted you with a smile. He was the voice of reason, the one on whom anyone could depend at any time.

Visitation was held Tuesday, June 30.

A Celebration of Life for Bobby was held Wednesday, July 1, at Forest Park East Funeral Home.

# Church Directory

The Catholic Community of **ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor  
Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar  
11011 Hall Rd.  
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukeescatholic.com](http://www.stlukeescatholic.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

St. Luke's offers ministries for ALL-families, men, women, youth, children, young adults, single, divorced, separated, widowed.

**New Covenant Christian Church**

10603 Blackhawk  
281-484-4230

Bill & Cheryl Hines, Pastors

We've Enlarged Our Day Care Facilities  
Register Now! 281-481-2003

**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

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of People of Sagement 2 Facebook group posted an incident of an elderly lady who was pushed down and robbed at the Food Town on Scarsdale and Beamer. The incident happened Wednesday, June 24, during the day. This post was shared on other Facebook pages. See related story on Page 1.

On the same Facebook page multiple members shared a post that an elderly lady was punched in the face and robbed at H-E-B on Blackhawk and Beltway 8. The incident happened Wednesday, June 24. This post was shared on other Facebook groups. See related story on Page 1.

On the same Facebook group, a member posted to warn other members to watch who one hires a mechanic. The member hired a mechanic and went wrong. For more information, follow post on Facebook.

On the same Facebook group a member posted that the member witnessed three men rob a woman at the parking lot of Food Town on Scarsdale and Beamer. The men knocked down a lady and took her purse. The incident happened Saturday, June 27. The member stated that the men were in a gold minivan. In the comments, another member commented that there was another robbery down the street at the Cimarron Landing Apartments on Beamer Road. The member states that the lady shot at them, the men abandoned the mini van and took off in the woman's vehicle. The incident also happened on the same day. The post was shared on other Facebook pages. See related story on Page 1.

Concerning these incidents on the same Facebook page another member posted a video of a robbery. The member states that the mem-

ber was at the Exxon gas station on Beltway and Sabo. The member is asking for help if anyone knows anything, to contact the member through Facebook.

**KATHALEEN WALL**  
THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FRIENDS FOR YEARS

**YOU CAN TELL THE CHARACTER OF A PERSON BY THE COMPANY THEY KEEP.**

 RAND PAUL U.S. SENATOR (KY)	 RANDY WEBER TX CONGRESSMAN	 ROGER WILLIAMS TX CONGRESSMAN	 PENNY NANCE CEO & PRESIDENT OF CWA	 MARJORIE DANNENFELSER PRES. SUSAN B. ANTHONY LIST
 GREG ABBOTT GOVERNOR	 DAN PATRICK TX LT. GOVERNOR	 KEN PAXTON TX ATTORNEY GENERAL	 GLEN HEGAR TX COMPTROLLER	 SID MILLER TX COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
 WAYNE CHRISTIAN TX RAILROAD COMMISSION	 BRYAN HUGHES STATE SENATOR DIST. 1	 BOB HALL STATE SENATOR DIST. 2	 MAYES MIDDLETON STATE REP. DIST. 23	 VALDOREE SWANSON STATE REP. DIST. 150

# Runoff election candidate for Congress responds

## Kathaleen Wall responds to Leader survey, opponent does not respond

After sending two copies of the questionnaire to Troy Nehls and contacting his office multiple times, he still did not respond.

### Kathaleen Wall



**Name:** Kathaleen Wall  
**Age:** 53  
**Occupation:** Businessman - Sales Engineer, Semiconductor Technology  
**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, Department of Engineering Technology, Industrial Distribution option  
**Marital Status/Children:** Married with a stepson, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren  
**Party Affiliation:** Republican Party  
**What makes you best qualified to serve the con-**

**stituents of Congressional District 22?** (100 words or less)

I am a seventh-generation Texan who has worked, worshipped, and lived in and around District 22 since 1990. I am the only candidate who has never taken a taxpayer-funded paycheck, and the only candidate standing tall as a true capitalist success story that has built businesses and created jobs. Our country needs more business people in Washington; we do not need more career politicians. I will not be beholden to lobbyists or special interest groups. In Congress I will fight to rebuild our economy, bring back critical manufacturing to America, protect unborn children, and "build the wall."

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

I advocate for law and order and justice for all people and families. Though the majority of law enforcement professionals are living up to high standards, there is a need for enhanced law enforcement training on de-escalation techniques. I am a strong supporter of law en-

forcement and mourn the loss of life and injuries that have occurred during the protests. I believe allocating more resources for training shows community support; we must invest in our law enforcement professionals. We must create continuity of standards across departments and communities by states that ensure our citizens are treated equally, everywhere. Defunding or abolishing police is not the answer and will lead only to anarchy. As a powerful first step, I support President Trump's Executive Order abolishing chokeholds unless a law enforcement professional's life is at risk. We must and can do more.

**What, if any, endorsements do you have?** (75 words or less)

I am proud to carry the endorsements of U.S. Congressman Randy Weber, U.S. Congressman Roger Williams, U.S. Senator Rand Paul, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Texas Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller, Texas Railroad Commission Wayne Christian, 3 Texas State Senators, 9 Texas State Representatives, Texas Right to Life, Texas Homeschool Coalition, Texas Values Action, Concerned Women for America, Susan B. Anthony List, National

Association for Gun Rights, and dozens of local leaders.

**If elected, what would you do to improve the South Belt community?** (50 words or less)

I will be accessible and fair in addressing community issues and finding local solutions. After thirty years in this area, I have firsthand knowledge of how flooding affects us. I will work toward a regional flood plan, to protect our energy industry, and to support NASA and Ellington Field.

**What one main project would you like to accomplish if elected?** (50 words or less)

I wish to provide support to President Trump and a house majority which will pass meaningful legislation to rebuild our economy after devastating job loss due to the coronavirus pandemic. I also want to address flooding; I've seen firsthand the devastation caused by floodwaters to our families, homes and businesses.

**Do you support the proposed coastal spine project to reduce storm surge damage? Explain your answer.** (100 words or less)

I support the Coastal Spine Project and will work alongside Senator John Cornyn and Congressman Randy Weber to protect our

Gulf Coast. Our bay area is critical to national infrastructure and a vital petrochemical hub. Part of standing up for American Energy Dominance is safeguarding our supply chain; keeping this area safe is a matter of national security. We must protect the work, people, and projects who keep our country going. I stand with President Trump to protect our oil and gas energy independence, and support expanding oil and gas jobs.

**The topic of immigration reform is currently a hot-button issue. What are your positions on the issues of DACA recipients, or DREAMers; President Trump's proposed border wall; so-called chain migration; and the existing "lottery" system?** (150 words or less)

Legal immigration has brought tremendous benefits to our Country and Congressional District 22. Many of those who have immigrated to our beloved community have done so in accordance with U.S. immigration laws. They understand, as do those born here, that the benefits our great Country offers are possible only because of our policies. To be fair to those who follow the rules, we cannot turn a blind eye toward those who choose not to. I fully support President Trump's efforts to enforce our immigration laws, op-

pose sanctuary cities, end chain migration, and preserve our Nation's legal path to immigration. As part of these efforts, we must better equip border police and we must build a wall. We have not addressed immigration in 35 years; it is time we do.

**What changes, if any, would you make to the existing Affordable Care Act?** (100 words or less)

We must repeal Obamacare immediately to bring down the overall cost of American healthcare and ensure those with legitimate medical needs are not deprived treatment or medications due to cost. The answer to the cost barrier is reduction of government-imposed burdens on the system, not the introduction of government-run programs or increase in regulation. Representatives must remain focused on finding compassionate, people-focused solutions. "Obamacare" has cost people more money and given fewer choices. I believe in making free market choices available to individuals and their families. Let the people decide what type of healthcare plan works best for their family.

**Do you support the idea of sanctuary cities and what would you do if the Trump administration attempted to retaliate by blocking federal funds for such cities?** (100 words or less)

I oppose sanctuary cities because they give felons a place to hide. I stand by initiatives by President Trump to keep American money right where it belongs

– working for American citizens. I spent the 2017 Texas legislative session working daily to gather grassroots support for a strong sanctuary city ban alongside leaders like former Texas State

Representative Matt Rinaldi, who drafted key provisions to make Texas' sanctuary city ban the strongest in the country; as a result of this work I am proud to carry his endorsement.

## Family is why WE DO IT ALL.



We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. As your good neighbor agent, I can help you meet your insurance needs. Call me today.

**Ann Brannen, Agent**  
 107 Landing Blvd  
 League City, TX 77573-3461  
 Bus: 281-332-0568  
 ann.brannen.b4sq@statefarm.com



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# City of Houston announces \$3M+ for artist opportunities

The Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (MOCA) announced new opportunities for artists and artist groups to have their artwork selected for the City of Houston's Art Collection.

In April, MOCA began announcing opportunities for artists and the creative community in response to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

This new series of projects are for the City's airports and the new Sunnyside Multi-Service and Health Center. There are about 100 opportunities open to Houston and Texas artists in the calls for qualifications.

"Two months ago, we announced new art for the Alief Community Center, and we now have new projects coming to Sunnyside and the City's airports," said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

"While we fight against the health impact of the virus, we are also fighting the economic effects with these new investments."

The Houston Health Department operates 12 mul-

tiservice centers and five health centers throughout Houston. Multiservice centers work in partnership with collaborating agencies to provide educational resources, direct services, referrals, access to basic needs and other social service needs.

"The importance of health workers has never been more clear locally and globally," said Debbie McNulty, director of the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.

"To be commissioning new artwork for a community multiservice and health center at this time has taken on greater meaning and significance."

**New Sunnyside Multi-Service and Health Center rendering**

Art showcased at the Houston airports will have a large audience as the Houston Airport System served nearly 60 million passengers in 2019.

"This is a difficult time for all people, including artists – many of which are either self-employed or small

business owners," Houston Airports Curator of Public Art Alton DuLaney said. "It's unfortunate that many galleries are closed, and many artists are out of work."

"We hope this will be a lifeline for some of them. We are honored to be in a position to lift-up our Texas artists in this way while enriching Houston Airports' public art collection."

Pre-application workshops and submission deadlines for each opportunity are as follows:

Sunnyside Multi-Service and Health Center <https://www.houstonart.com/culturalaffairs/sunnysiderfq.html> RFQ submission deadline: Monday, July 27, 2020.

Artist Info Session #2: Thursday, July 11, 2020

Houston Airports Portable Works <https://www.houstonart.com/culturalaffairs/civicairtportsrfq.html> and the RFQ deadline is Monday, Aug. 3, 2020.

– Artist Info Session #1: Saturday, July 8, 2020

– Artist Info Session #2: Thursday, July 18, 2020

Commissions <https://www.houstonart.com/culturalaffairs/civicairtportsrfq.html> and the RFQ deadline is Monday, Aug. 10, 2020.

– Artist Info Session #1: Saturday, July 8, 2020

– Artist Info Session #2: Thursday, July 18, 2020

The Houston Arts Alliance is managing the selection process. The selected artists must be able and willing to sign a contract with Houston Arts Alliance for the commission.

The City of Houston Civic Art Program is funding the artwork.

In 1999, the City of Houston established an ordinance designating 1.75 percent of qualified Capital Improvement Project dollars be set aside for civic art.

For additional information about COVID-19-related emergency financial help or the City's Civic Art Program, visit [www.HoustonArt.org](http://www.HoustonArt.org) or follow the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs on the social media of Facebook and Instagram @HoustonMOCA.

# Houston Airports unveils 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

Additional international facilities, an aviation and aerospace technical training center, 5G technology, and reduction of natural resource consumption are among the myriad factors driving Houston Airports (HAS) to reach for the stars.

In its pursuit of sustained excellence, HAS recently released its 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, which navigates the vision to becoming "a 5-star global air service gateway where the magic of flight is celebrated."

Mario Diaz, director of Houston Airports, said, "We built our five-year Strategic Plan by evaluating our successes, lessons learned, current environment and future trends that may affect the way we operate and grow."

"Our organizational philosophy is built on the foundation of mastering safety, capacity and efficiency to provide exceptional and unmatched service for our millions of passengers each year."

Although growth has been slowed this year by the worldwide effects of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, HAS is proactively preparing for the robust return of air travel. In 2019, nearly 60 million passengers arrived, connected, or departed from HAS.

Diaz emphasized that simply meeting passengers' expectations is not a sustainable strategy – the passenger experience must be enhanced, and exceeding the expectations of every passenger is the goal.

Lindsay Hook, assistant director of Corporate Strategy & Performance (CS&P), is fully confident that the

strategic plan is on point.

"I am profoundly impressed by the leadership's commitment to our vision," she said, "and I have no doubt we'll achieve 5-star success."

The 5-star rating by Skytrax, the leading airports ratings organization, is a global benchmark of excellence and the ultimate quality recognition for an airport system.

Hook, who joined HAS's Finance Department in December 2019, said that she has been particularly impressed with HAS's commitment to stewardship and responsible management as a public agency; commitment to service with regard to employees, customers, and stakeholders; and commitment to sustainability, essential in today's world. Each of these is reflected in the Strategic Plan.

"It is truly inspiring to me," Hook said. "I am encouraged to see the Director and the Airport System take a strong, proactive approach to being responsible in the economic, social, and environmental arenas and subsequently all regions in between."

The Strategic Plan was borne from a transparent situation assessment, an annual exercise undertaken by HAS.

The assessment examined, evaluated and developed strategies to manage changing elements within the business environment, both internal and external to HAS.

Members of the HAS senior leadership team worked with subject matter experts from functional, financial, and supporting divisions in

order to develop a set of priorities that leverage strengths and opportunities "to create measurable results," according to Hook.

The overview of those priorities includes the following: make passengers happy, act responsibly to achieve social, environmental, and economic sustainability, build platforms for future success, and invest in partnerships and employees. Hook said that associated objectives to each of these four pillars have been created to hold HAS accountable in measurable ways as it reaches for fulfillment of the 5-star vision.

"There are so many exciting plans ongoing and on the horizon," Hook said. "Under the sustainability pillar, HAS is creating an Aviation and Aerospace Technical Training Center in conjunction with Texas Southern, the University of Houston, San Jacinto College, Texas A&M and Rice University. That has the potential to be a real game-changer!"

"With regard to building platforms for future success, the ITRP (AH Terminal Redevelopment Program) will play a prominent role in the ultimate vision and mission of HAS coming to fruition," Hook said.

"Not only is ITRP the largest investment we've ever made, but it is strategically critical."

"We're achieving opening-day fresh through ITRP and through other development programs we're have. We're also upgrading IT to help support the new technology wave that's not only required but expected by our customers to enhance their

experience and to ensure we're at the cutting edge of safety and security."

HAS serves the nation's fourth-largest city with a dynamic economy and a diverse population base. Collectively, the three airports (IAH, HOU and Ellington Airport) form one of North America's largest public airport systems and is the premier gateway to Latin America.

What is the biggest challenge to the success of the Strategic Plan?

"The biggest challenge," Hook said, "is maintaining the alignment we have; we all must go in the same direction and reach for the stars together. We will be successful as we continue to pull in the same direction – many hands make lighter work."

"With the collective knowledge of our team," Diaz said, in formulating the Strategic Plan, "we unearthed game-changing opportunities that can transform our airports and energize our vision..."

IAH and HOU are both currently 4-star rated airports, with Houston the only city in the Western Hemisphere with two 4-star rated airports. IAH also recently received the highest ranking among U.S. airports in the World's Top 100 Airports category and placed as second-best airport in North America.

For information on strategic plan, visit [https://d14ik00wldmhc.cloudfront.net/media/filer\\_public/99/e8/99e81714-e186-4cf4-bb3c-dea7b9c4d518/has-strategic-plan-final\\_1.pdf](https://d14ik00wldmhc.cloudfront.net/media/filer_public/99/e8/99e81714-e186-4cf4-bb3c-dea7b9c4d518/has-strategic-plan-final_1.pdf).

# Nerie Construction, L.L.C

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## 48-Hour Notice of Smoke Testing

### Sanitary Sewer & Manhole Rehabilitation, Phase 2 & 3

#### Within Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District Sageglen, Highland Meadow, Wood Meadow I & II

Dear Resident:

We are currently working on rehabilitating the existing Sanitary Sewer Service connections in your area. This work is being done to rebuild and improve the sanitary sewer systems in your neighborhood. We will be smoke testing the sewer lines beginning on July 6, 2020 AT 8:00 AM.

This will help to identify any potential points of inflow and infiltration in the public portion of the sanitary sewer system. The contractor will place a front door hanger reminder at your home 48 hours before testing will begin in your area.

Smoke will be added to the sewer manholes. You may see white smoke coming out of your roof vents. Do not be alarmed as this is normal. The smoke is **nontoxic** and will disappear rapidly without leaving an odor. If smoke enters your house, please open the windows to allow for ventilation. The smoke will clear within a few minutes.

This process will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Workers will have ID badges on their shirts. They will be moving from house to house to get a visual of any sewer pipe leaks.

We ask that after you receive this notice, to please check to see that all drain traps under sinks and in bathtubs, washing facilities and floor drains contain water. This will include seldom used bathroom fixtures and floor drains. Please run water down the drain for a minute or two to ensure the trap is not dry.

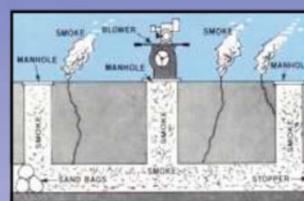
Should you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to call our office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
 Jason Nerie  
 Project Manager  
 281-996-5551 Office  
 281-733-3388 Mobile

Or email us at [comments@nerieconst.com](mailto:comments@nerieconst.com) cc: [cganje@cbcmud.com](mailto:cganje@cbcmud.com) to better assist you.

### THE SUPERIOR SMOKE TESTING TECHNIQUE

High readings on treatment plant flow gauges immediately following rainfall is a positive indication of storm/surface water inflow. Smoke testing is the fastest, most economical and positive means of locating sources of inflow in sewer collection systems. Elimination of these sources as required by law, will improve treatment plant operations – and correct problems of overloading which are a major contributor to pollution of water resources.



The Superior Smoke Testing technique is a fast and easy way to quickly identify...

- Leaks permitting storm/surface water intrusion (inflow)
- Connected roof and cellar drains
- Cross connected sanitary and storm sewers
- All connected lines, including abandoned and supposedly unconnected lines
- Leaking manholes
- Yard and foundation drains
- Sump pumps

### PROCEDURE

As illustrated above, usually two sections of line (600-800 ft.) are tested simultaneously, with the smoke being introduced through a centrally located manhole. Blocking the far side of the upstream and downstream manholes is only necessary when isolating a section of line. The smoke under pressure will quickly fill the main plus all connected lines, and follow the path of least resistance. It will flow through all openings to the surface, revealing the location of the faults. Invariably, the fault will be found at the site or within a few feet of it. Only enough pressure to sufficiently overcome atmospheric pressure is required.

Smoke tests are effective regardless of surface, type of soil, or depth, provided openings exist for the smoke to follow. For example, it is not uncommon to see smoke exiting from cracks in paved surfaces, showing points of surface water entry.

# SJC raises \$360,500 for students in need

The San Jacinto College Foundation raised more than \$360,500 with its 2020 Gala with a Twist fundraising campaign, announcing the campaign's success at the college's board of trustees meeting Monday, June 15, 2020.

"Fundraising campaigns like this are critically important to our success," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor.

"These generous donations enhance our ability to help students in the ways they need it most. Some face an unexpected emergency and need immediate help, and others are working day in and day out to overcome ongoing obstacles like food insecurity and homelessness. It's our mission to help every student achieve their educational goals, and we are so grateful for the community, our partners, and our employees for helping us do that."

Individuals in Texas in 2019, with nearly 1,400 unaccompanied young adults ages 18-24. San Jacinto College's student population of nearly 45,000 each year reflects the statewide demographics of these at-risk populations, and the college continues its mission to meet the needs of its diverse student body.

In addition to the \$360,500 raised by the college's Gala with a Twist fundraiser, the San Jacinto College Foundation approved \$200,000 in emergency funding in March to assist students with \$250 scholarships during the COVID-19 crisis, and nearly 1,200 students have received the emergency aid to date. Students affected by the pandemic also have access to San Jac emergency aid grants through the Federal CARES Act.

Over the past decade, the San Jacinto College Foundation has raised more than \$15 million, awarded more than 12,000 student scholarships, and helped fund campus and faculty programs that play an integral role in helping San Jac students reach their educational goals.

The San Jacinto College Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to enhancing the level of student achievement and excellence at San Jacinto College. Its purpose is to receive donations, bequests, and gifts, and to raise private funds to benefit the people of East Harris County.

Donations to the foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. For more information about the foundation, or to make a donation, please visit [sanjac.edu/foundation](http://sanjac.edu/foundation), or call 281-998-6104.

Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the citizens of East Harris County since 1961.

San Jacinto College is among the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020.

The college serves approximately 45,000 credit and non-credit students annually, and offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. San Jacinto College's impact on the region totals \$1.3 billion in added income, which supports 13,044 jobs. The college is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

For additional information about San Jacinto College, call 281-998-6150, or visit [sanjac.edu](http://sanjac.edu) or join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

# PISD elects new board officers



The Pasadena Independent School District recently swore in its new board members for the 2020-2021 academic year. Vickie Morgan will now serve as board president, replacing Marshall Kendrick, who will now serve as a board member. Morgan presented Kendrick with a gavel for his service as president during the 2019-2020 school year. Mariselle Quijano will now serve as vice president; Fred Roberts will serve as secretary; Nelda Sullivan will serve as assistant secretary; and Jack Bailey and Kenny Fernandez will both serve as board members.

# A&M creates \$100 million fund for student scholarships

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents created a special \$100 million scholarship fund with the goal of making the A&M System's 11 universities better reflect the state's demographics.

The scholarship program addresses diversity and concerns of students who are first-generation and/or from low-income families in the wake of economic uncertainty associated with COVID, current unemployment rates and families' depleted emergency savings.

"Historic challenges call for historic action," said Chairman Elaine Mendoza. "Given the economic impact families are enduring across the state, it is imperative we act before the fall semester begins. Our board's strategic plan articulates clearly our commitment to ensuring our institutions serve a diverse student body. By doing this now, our administration has another tool to support Texans and enable them to pursue their education."

The program is in line with the board's strategic plan that promises the A&M System will remain accessible and affordable for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background.

"The A&M System must ensure that cost and a lack of support for diverse students do not prevent qualified students from attending and finding success at a member institution. Too often we get out of for great kids by out-of-state schools that can make larger offers," said Chancellor John Sharp. "We don't intend to lose underrepresented students to them without a real serious fight. The goal is to make A&M System look like Texas."

The program provides \$10 million annually for scholarships to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, particularly to low income, first-generation and students from geographically underrepresented regions of Texas. The universities will be fund raising to help support this effort. According to the U.S. Census, the state's demographics last year broke down: 41.5 percent white, 39.6 percent Hispanic or Latino, and 12.8 percent black or African American.

Though systemwide the 11 universities are within

reflecting the state's demographic, the student population on some individual campuses skews this data. The strategic plan calls for all Texas A&M System universities to better represent the population of the state.

"This has been in the works for years," said Sharp. "With financial challenges from COVID-19, now is the time to do this."

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation with a budget of \$6.3 billion.

The system is a statewide network of 11 universities; a comprehensive health science center; eight state agencies, including the Texas Division of Emergency Management; and the RELIS campus.

The Texas A&M System educates more than 151,000 students and makes more than 22 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year. Systemwide, research and development expenditures exceeded \$1 billion in FY 2019 and helped drive the state's economy.

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# CCISD OKs recommendations

**Continued from Page 1**

- Extend the school day to implement health and safety protocols, as needed (i.e. 10 minutes).
- Communicate return to school calendar and schedule options and all health/safety protocols.
- Committee charge 2: Consider delivery models of instruction to address the challenges associated with social distancing and the pandemic that will lead to high levels of academic achievement with an understanding that future and potential school calendar disruptions are possible.
- Approved recommendations include:
  - Emphasize the critical importance of teachers developing positive relationships with students and parents in all learning environments.
  - Embed social and emotional learning expectations in all environments to ensure positive, supportive teacher-student, teacher-parent and student-student relationships are developed/maintained.
  - Implement teacher professional learning on how to develop and maintain high levels of academic engagement for in-person, in-person/distance-learning hybrid and distance learning, including building a learning community.
  - Assist teachers to fully utilize its learning, including the integration of Microsoft Teams.
  - Establish class expectations and routines from the start of the school year for students to use its learning.
  - Enhance distance learning through improved instructional resources that allow for synchronous and asynchronous options.
  - Implement ongoing training on distance learning for students and parents.
- Develop optional and targeted learning opportunities outside of traditional school hours.
- Utilize the CCISD grading system to reflect learning and recognize high levels of student achievement in all learning environments.
- Enhance lesson engagement to increase motivation for in-person and distance-learning opportunities.
- Committee charge 3: Address the physical and emotional health of all students and staff in all areas of operations, including transportation, child nutrition, and extracurricular programs.
- Approved recommendations include:
  - Develop/implement health/safety protocols that address: health/safety policies and practices; basic health screenings for students and staff, personal protective measures; stay-at-home requirements; return-to-school requirements; cleaning/disinfecting facilities, vehicles, furniture and equipment; safety equipment, as appropriate, for use in district facilities and vehicles; respiratory hygiene; hand washing/sanitizing; and social distancing.
  - Develop individual facility schedules/plans based on the unique floor plan of each building.
  - Develop/implement mental health supports for students and employees.
  - Provide trauma-sensitive professional learning for all staff.
  - Work collaboratively with parents to develop individualized health plans for each student who is high risk/medically fragile/immune deficient.
  - Work collaboratively with employees to develop individualized health plans for each employee who is

high risk/medically fragile/immune deficient or cares for someone who is medically fragile/immune deficient.

- Develop health/safety protocols for each extracurricular activity and student organizations.
- Analyze/select additional safety equipment, as appropriate, for use in each extracurricular activity and student organizations.
- Clean and disinfect facilities, vehicles, furniture and in accordance with health regulations and guidelines.
- Verify the safety/health measures of facilities outside of the district and make appropriate plans/mitigation strategies to adjust accordingly and ensure consistency prior to travel.
- Committee Charge 4: Mitigate the digital divide among students within Clear Creek ISD service area.
- Approved recommendations:
  - Provide enhanced communication, both in quality/frequency, between teachers and parents.
  - Consolidate communication to parents of secondary students from multiple teachers to a single communication platform.
  - Deploy 1-to-1 laptop

computers to students in grades 4 and 5.

- Determine broadband and computer access needs for students in grades PK-3 and broadband access needs for students in grades 4-12 through Back-to-School survey data.
- Provide training for parents on the use of CCISD online learning software and resources.
- Make campus computer labs available for students during extended hours while adhering to all health/safety protocols.
- Provide transportation services for students in areas without internet service to bring them to school to utilize computer labs.
- Create a mobile computer lab with hotspots and laptops.
- Publicize CCISD outdoor wireless locations.
- Partner with community centers to provide CCISD access points for students to connect securely.
- Partner with community organizations to fund the donation of hot spots and computers to families in need.

To learn more about the committee's work and plans for August 2020, visit [www.ccisd.net/reopen](http://www.ccisd.net/reopen).

**Early voting set**

**Continued from Page 1**  
ber general election.

Residents may cast their ballots at any early polling location. Harris County residents may also now vote at any polling location on Election Day.

Nearly every early voting location 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. 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.

To see a complete list of polling locations, visit [harrisvotes.org](http://harrisvotes.org).

# Know regulations for shooting fireworks

**Continued from Page 1**  
the adjoining municipality.

In this instance, the City of Friendswood worked jointly with the City of Houston, the City of Pearland and Harris County. At that time, state law dictated that a governing body may exercise ETJ up to 5,000 feet outside their established jurisdiction. The fireworks booths in question were located 1,800 feet outside the Friendswood

city limits, which extends to Beamer and Dixie Farm Road.

In 2015, however, Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. of Brownsville drafted Senate Bill 1593, which states a municipality may only prohibit the sale of fireworks within its own boundaries. The bill passed and was subsequently signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

The sale of fireworks along

Beamer has been an ongoing, controversial and confusing issue - even among law enforcement.

In July 2008, City of Houston officials erroneously issued more than 30 citations on the stretch of Beamer between Astoria and Dixie Farm, as the northbound side of the street fell in the fireworks ban area, while the southbound side did not. With the help of the *Leader* staff, the tickets were later dismissed.

Fireworks have long been forbidden within the city limits, and in the last decade, the Clear Brook City and Sage-meadow municipal utility districts have both entered into strategic partnership agreements with the City of Houston, prohibiting the practice.

Transporting fireworks - even in municipalities where their sale is prohibited - is also now easier, thanks to a bill authored in 2013 by Lucio's son, Eddie Lucio III, who serves as a state representative in Brownsville. House Bill 1813 states it is now lawful in the state to transport the items, provided they are kept in a nonpassenger area of the vehicle, such as a trunk or hatchback.

Should one still get

charged with possession of fireworks within the city limits, fines can range anywhere from \$500 to \$2,000 for each individual item.

In 2007, the state raised the minimum age to purchase fireworks from 12 to 16. Parents of offending minors can also be fined, even if they are unaware their children are breaking the law.

Local subdivisions located within the city of Houston include Sagemont, Sagemont Park, Kirkwood, Genoa, Beverly Hills, Rainbow Valley, Eastridge Terrace, Sycamore Valley, Scarsdale and King's Place.

Subdivisions not within Houston city limits and under Harris County's control include Clear Brook Meadows, College Place, Riverstone Ranch, Woodmeadow I and II, Highland Meadow, Ashley Pointe, Blackhawk, Meadows of Clear Creek, Sagemeadow, Estates of Green Tee, Sage-glen, Kirkmont and Kirkwood South.

The Bella Vita, Villa D'Este and Villa Verde subdivisions are located within the City of Pearland.

The annual South Belt fireworks display held at El Franco Lee Park will not be held this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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# Remember When

**40 years ago (1980)**  
The three-year squabble between the only remaining local member of the Sagemont Maintenance Committee and the Sagemont Civic Club was reportedly close to being resolved.

Two South Belt area beauties, Angela Shifflett and Jill Miller, competed for the title of Miss Texas in Fort Worth. Shifflett competed as Miss Duncanville and Miller as Miss Pasadena.

**35 years ago (1985)**  
The Brio Site Task Force was conducting an extensive environmental study re-

quired by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The board of regents of San Jacinto College accepted a petition requesting the deannexation of the north campus from the system, and they approved a salary increase for district employees.

The interim Pasadena Independent School District superintendent was preparing to relinquish his job to the new superintendent Dr. Lon Luty.

**30 years ago (1990)**  
A 27-year-old woman died from stab wounds in an attack in her home in Wood-

meadow.

A 10-foot boa constrictor attached itself to a car chassis to escape the heat. It was finally caught by its owner.

A Houston grand jury subpoenaed food service purchasing records of the Pasadena Independent School District.

Representatives of the Brio Site Task Force said they would welcome a health survey of the problems associated with the Brio site.

South Houston High School principal James Barber said requests by parents and teachers prompted him

to withdraw his retirement resignation.

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# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**SEN. LARRY TAYLOR MARKS 60TH**  
Special birthday wishes are sent from family and friends to Texas Sen. Larry Taylor who celebrated his 60th birthday June 24. Taylor is a lifelong Texan and Baylor University grad who has served the community as a businessman and as a state senator.

**ABIGAIL TURNS EIGHT!**  
Best wishes for a happy birthday Friday, July 3, are sent to Abigail Durham who turns eight years old from parents Courtney and Chris Durham, brother Jackson and baby sister Penelope; aunt Kimberly Flickinger; grandparents Fred and Leslie Flickinger; great-grandmother Olive Falkowski; great-grandfather John Fairchild; great-grandparents Marie and David Flickinger; and great-uncle David Flickinger (Leader president) and his wife Ellie.

**NOAH TURNS FIVE!**  
Best wishes for a great fifth birthday Sunday, July 5, are sent to Noah Abarca from parents Natalie and Jose Abarca; brother Kelvin Lopez, sisters Elliana and Isabella Abarca; great-grandmother Kina Reyes; grandparents David Flickinger (Leader president) and wife Ellie; and great-grandparents Marie and David Flickinger.

**BIRTHDAY CHEERS FOR CHERYL**  
Local author Cheryl Bolen of Green Tee, formerly of Sagemont, is wished a happy birthday July 8. Sending best wishes are her husband John; son Bo, Leader staff member; son John; and family and friends in the South Belt area.

**ROBERT ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY**  
Robert Griffin of San Antonio will celebrate a birthday July 8. Robert is wished a great day by his grandparents, Leader co-founder Bobby and her husband Kenneth Griffin; and other family members in the South Belt area.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District

celebrate birthdays July 2 through July 8, 2020.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
July 3 is the day for a memorable birthday and a double-layer cake for Evelia Nieves and Giselle Ortega.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Amy Vasquez celebrates a birthday July 2. The day for an Independence Day celebration and birthday party for Eliezer Torres is July 4. Blow out the birthday candles for Amanda Lee on July 8.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Stacy Anthony marks a birthday July 2. July 7 is the day for a double-layer cake for Cecelia Elizarraras and Patricia Perez.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Join in the birthday celebration July 2 for Sugell Orocio. Sing a happy birthday song July 3 to Alejandra Alcalá. Join in the birthday celebration July 7 for Debra Rice.

**Meador Elementary**  
Celebrating a birthday July 8 is Sanjuanita Mercado. July 4 is the day for a birthday party and fireworks for Derenda Dehoyos.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Send a special birthday card July 2 to Audra Taylor.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles July 3 for Cheryl Wilson. Light the birthday candles July 6 for Cristel Hines. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday July 7 are sent to Susan Brady and Johnny Tsikis. Denise Palos marks a birthday July 8.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Celebrating a birthday July 2 is Stacy Anthony. Fireworks will fly July 4 on Maria Ojed's birthday. Joey Bernsen enjoys a birthday July 5. Marking a birthday July 6 is Sherry Gates.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Lamona Lemarr and Lauren Lester enjoy a double-fun birthday July 2. Send a happy birthday greeting July 3 to William Agan.

Blow out the sparkler candles on a birthday cake July 4 for Bethany Wilson. Send a birthday greeting July 5 to Cecille Williams.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Marking a birthday July 3 is Yadira Lozano. Join in a double-fun birthday celebration July 5 for Nicole Cannon and Steven Reyes.

**Dobbie High**  
Celebrating a special birthday July 8 is Mary Sanchez.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
The Leader sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, July 2: Mary Collins, Brent Garza, Carrie Ramos, Leslie Eaton, Paul Staton, Randy Weber, Eddie Shields, Darrel Black and Carolyn Benitez-Pineda; Friday, July 3: Nancy Smith, Frank Castillo, Bill Phenix and Benny Outland; Saturday, July 4: Detric Bowie, Tina Garrett, Bob Shaw, April Smith, Miles Thomas and Brent McCrary; Sunday, July 5: Stacey Imboden, Jeanette Tickell, Chris Constance, Shannon Raymond Covington, Francisco Campos, Elindabeth Kolar, James Notias, John Colunga, Ashley Chapman and Stacey Buchanan; Monday, July 6: Teri Perkins, Cristal Anne, Lisa Shepherd, Bonnie Miller, Wally Barbier and Cristel Lasater; Tuesday, July 7: Christopher Poole, Beth Pope, Petrea Phenix, Sarah Wingo, Shawn Shockley, Gloria Martinez, Julie Valenti and Larry Bowden; and Wednesday, July 8: Sammy Shimmfessel, James Cook, Denise Patterson, Margie Remely, Zul-Tan Jackson, Erik Valdez, and Shannon Lawrence.

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

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Sat 9am-11am  
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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

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## Jackson-led UMHB sees 2016 national crown vacated

The NCAA notified the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor that the Infractions Appeals Committee has denied the University's appeal and will uphold the Committee on Infractions' vacating of records penalty for the 2016 and 2017 football seasons.

As a result, the Cru's 2016 Stagg Bowl national championship win, led by star quarterback and Dobie High School graduate Blake Jackson, has been vacated.

"This process has taken more than two years to complete, and we are deeply disappointed by this final decision," said Dr. Randy O'Rear, UMHB president.

"We believe it is a harsh penalty, especially for all

the student-athletes who had no part in the infractions.

"Today's decision could cause serious concern about whether the current NCAA enforcement system will encourage or discourage cultures of integrity and self-reporting for those facing similar situations in the future.

"As soon as we became aware of rules violations, we took immediate and decisive action and we self-reported to the NCAA.

"But in the end, student-athletes who had nothing to do with the violations have been stripped of their team accomplishments by the NCAA."

O'Rear stated, "Although this was not the outcome we had hoped for,

this decision does not detract in any way from the stellar performance of our 2016 and 2017 football teams.

"It does not take away the dedication and determination our student-athletes exhibited both on and off the field to achieve their goals.

"Their accomplishments are an extreme source of pride to UMHB and to our community as a whole."

On April 9, 2018, the University self-reported rules violations to the NCAA's enforcement office regarding impermissible transportation to two football student-athletes. The rules violations resulted in one student-athlete being ineligible to partici-

pate in the 2016 and 2017 seasons.

The case was reviewed through the NCAA Summary Disposition process, a collaborative effort in which the University, Football Head Coach Pete Fredeburg, and NCAA enforcement staff agreed upon the facts of the violations.

The lack of dispute allowed the NCAA's Committee on Infractions to proceed without a formal hearing.

The COI released its report on October 10, 2019. The committee accepted all of UMHB's corrective actions and self-imposed penalties, which included a two-year probation period for the football program, enhanced compliance

training, and a \$2,500 fine.

Additionally, UMHB suspended Fredeburg for three months without pay and for the first three games of 2018.

However, the COI added a penalty of vacating wins and records during the 2016 and 2017 football seasons, including the 2016 Division III national championship, which UMHB promptly appealed.

In that game, Jackson rushed for 119 yards and a touchdown and passed for 171 as UMHB defeated Wisconsin-Oshkosh 10-7 for the crown. Dobie graduates Reggie Wilson and Reginald Cole were also Cru players.

The COI declined to remove the added penalty.

**Continued on Page 6**

## Dobie staff urges physicals

During this break in the action for high school athletics, the Dobie coaching staff is reminding student athletes now is the perfect time to arrange for an athletic physical that is required to be on file within the athletic department no later than Aug. 1. Urgent Clinics Medical Care is offering the physicals to Dobie students for \$20 each. A convenient location is 8498 S. Sam Houston Parkway. The phone number is 832-831-3974. Students are asked to enter the building with just one parent or guardian due to COVID-19 social-distancing guidelines.

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At right, Dobie High graduate Blake Jackson (7) was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2016 Stagg Bowl as he led Mary Hardin-Baylor to a 10-7 win over Wisconsin Oshkosh for the Division III national championship. However, the Cru has been forced to vacate its 2016 and 2017 wins for using an ineligible player those seasons. The Cru also had Dobie graduates Reggie Wilson and Reginald Cole on the 2016 squad that produced a perfect 15-0 record that season.



UMHB photo

## COVID-19 spike could affect fall sports

The reality of an Aug. 3 start to preseason high school football and volleyball workouts across the start was tossed back into question June 25 and then a day later as Harris County officials announced, among other things, stricter social-distancing guidelines moving forward.

Up to June 25, many school districts statewide, including both Clear Creek ISD and Pasadena ISD, had allowed summer strength and conditioning and sport-specific workouts to go on. That much is well known.

But with the June 25 announcement surrounding a significant spike of COVID-19 cases in the

county came a scramble to shut down workouts as most, if not all, Houston area school districts, halted such workouts immediately.

A day later, city officials were also given leniency to forbid social gatherings involving 100 or more persons.

Other than a dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases countywide in recent days, there are few facts and sureties. But there are now issues to consider that involve high school athletics.

Many school districts, including Pasadena ISD, designated July 13 as a

restart date for summer workouts, yet that was before Harris County delivered its gloomy Level 1, or Red stage of guidelines.

Specifically where it involves high school sports, many parents, and surely school district officials, could be wary of moving forward with workouts, which clearly involves gatherings.

The University Interscholastic League still has Aug. 3 designated as the official start of the preseason for football and volleyball, and cross-country and fall team tennis workouts are due to be going by

**Continued on Page 6**

## BAFL sets new workout start; season opens Sept. 5

The Bay Area Football League season is closer to reality, albeit with a delayed start time and regular season reduction.

Following careful consideration, BAFL officials on June 25 announced via Facebook that teams will begin preseason training and practices Aug. 15, while an eight-game regular season will kick off Sept. 5 and run consecutively with no bye weeks.

This outline follows what

BAFL athletic director Denny Wranich previously told the *Leader* just might play out. While the league will miss out on two regular season games in addition to the bye, this plan will allow for more working room now, if needed, but also keep the league in line with the post-season schedule, including the Super Bowl round at Rice Stadium November 22.

The Facebook announcement added that more details will come in the following

weeks, including a league-wide game schedule as well as guidelines in all phases, including player, cheer, drill and mascot safety measures.

The 2020 field of BAFL teams will count 16, with the Galveston Hurricanes, Angleton Wildcats and Pearland Oilers set to join the mix.

## Dobie graduate earns TGCA Hall induction

Dobie High School graduate Laneigh Clark, perhaps best well known professionally for her accomplishments as neighboring Pearland High School's varsity softball head coach, has earned a special honor.

Clark, a winner of 697 games in her career and holder of the 2010 state championship with the "Lady O's," is set to be inducted into the Texas Girls Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

The ceremony was to have taken place this summer in Arlington but has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Clark, now 56, was a softball standout in her own right as a youth but graduated

well before softball became a competitive sport in Texas high schools.

She played on three different Louisiana Tech University teams that reached the college World Series and eventually settled into coaching.

In 22 seasons at Pearland, Clark has experienced just one season without a playoff berth. Her 2009 team reached the state final and in 2010 the Lady Oilers returned from Austin with the state championship trophy.

The 2011 squad also reached state. Clark will no doubt eclipse 700 career wins in 2021 but has no immediate plans to end what is now a Hall of Fame career.

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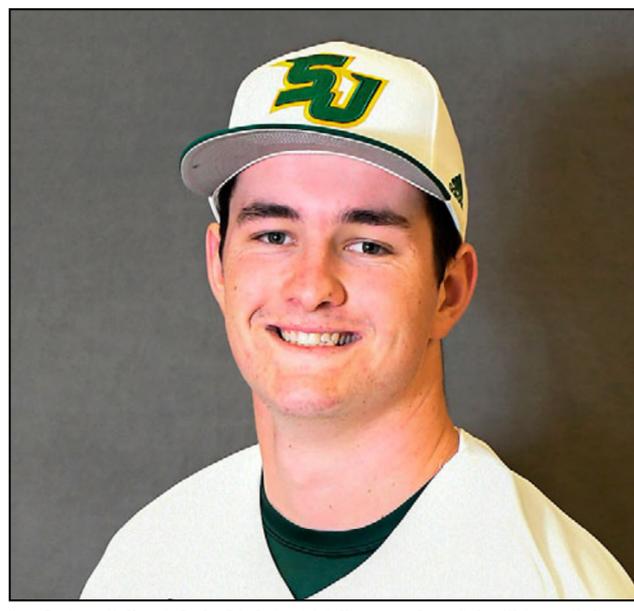
## Swing Queens 6U undefeated, win sizzle

At left, the South Belt-based Swing Queens went undefeated and took first place at the Summer Sizzler 2020 Invitational in Spring. Members of the team included, left to right, (front row) Isabella Granados; Sydney Logan; Shannon Logan; Kinley Brister; (middle row) Sophia Paz; Miranda Coronado; Isabelle Gutierrez; Brianna Quiroga; Arianna Quiroga; (back row) Jesus Paz, assistant coach; Manuel Coronado, assistant coach; Pedro Gutierrez, head coach; and Armando Quiroga, assistant coach.

## Coronavirus concerns continue

Continued from Page 5 then as well. Yet now more than at any time during this month's-long pandemic, a delay is a possibility. It's a calendar issue if nothing else. Opening night for varsity football isn't until Aug. 27, with Dobie and Clear Brook set to go Aug. 28. But the volleyball season is due to begin Aug. 11. Whether or not that happens is now as iffy as ever.

## San Jac's Little signs with Cubs



San Jacinto College's Luke Little is officially a member of the Chicago Cubs organization after signing with the team for a reported signing bonus of more than \$400,000 late last month. A hard-throwing lefty who projects as a reliever, Little was selected in the fourth round of the draft after two seasons at San Jacinto College. He had signed to attend the University of South Carolina but chose to turn professional after going to the Cubs.

## Rojas signs with LeTourneau University



At right, Dobie class of 2020 graduate Gabe Rojas secured his baseball future, officially signing a letter of intent to continue his education and playing career at LeTourneau University after helping Dobie to a strong start this spring before the shutdown.

## Jackson's UMHB team loses appeal

Continued from Page 5 Mary Hardin-Baylor remains fully committed to compliance with NCAA rules," said O'Rear. "Our University and our football program have much to be proud of, despite this disappointing decision. "We deeply appreciate the outpouring of support from Mary Hardin-Baylor Cru alumni and fans around the country who firmly united behind UMHB and our student-athletes." "This decision will hurt for a long time," said coach Fredenburg, "but I have learned from this experience, and our program will continue to move forward and build on our legacy going into the 2020 season and beyond." "The University of

## Brook's Hunt enjoys big day

Clear Brook sophomore Landon Hunt came up big June 17 for his Marucci Elite Texas select baseball team, blasting a pair of home runs, including a grand slam, as part of a 3 for 4 afternoon. Hunt was Brook's starting shortstop at the varsity level as a freshman and was off to a solid start in all phases of the game before the shutdown.

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# CALENDAR

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

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 more information. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

masters.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.

**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.

**Survivors of Suicide Support Group** - gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For additional information, email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit [www.crisishotline.org](http://www.crisishotline.org) or call 832-416-1177.

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 additional information, call 713-686-6300.

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

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

**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 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. Additional 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 additional information, call the church at 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays at 8 p.m., when the church reopens. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For additional information, call 281-484-9243 or visit the website at <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html>.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 4**  
7:30 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. For additional information, call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

**MONDAY, JULY 6**  
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/>.

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.

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.toast](http://www.youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com)

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

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.

6:30 p.m.  
**Bay Area Quilt Guild** - Meetings may resume the first Tuesday when the church reopens at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program begins at 7 p.m. Visit [www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild](http://www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild) or call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 for additional information. Visitors may attend two meetings free.

7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) for additional meeting times electronically.

**THURSDAY, JULY 9**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 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. Details are on Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.

11:30 a.m.  
**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South will have a virtual meeting Thursday, July 9, All attendees must preregister. To RSVP for the meeting and to obtain additional information, visit the website at [www.seen-abwa.org](http://www.seen-abwa.org) for details about the speaker.

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 at 7 p.m. at 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

**FRIDAY, JULY 3**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.

7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit the website [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

7 p.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are can-

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through

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# Crimes . . .

Continued from Page 1

Again, the crime was violent in nature, and again the suspects were driving a gold minivan.

Following the crime, the five suspects drove to the Cimarron Landing apartments on Beamer, where they robbed an elderly woman of her car and left the minivan behind. As the crooks were fleeing the scene, the female victim, who has a concealed carry permit, fired a shot at the suspects. It is unclear if they were struck by a bullet. The woman, who was assaulted during the carjacking, suffered injuries and was taken to the hospital.

The victim's car was found abandoned at an apartment complex on Broadway. The gold minivan used in the crimes was determined to be stolen. Both vehicles are being processed by police for evidence. Witnesses reported seeing three suspects in the Food Town robberies, one who was described as a thin black male. Anyone with any information on this case is urged to contact the Harris County Pct. 2 constable's office at 713-477-2766.

Police advise females to always be aware of their surrounding and to avoid carrying a purse whenever possible. If someone feels their life is in danger, call 911 immediately.

# Wall visits Tulsa



**Congressional candidate for District 22, native Texan Kathleen Wall traveled to Tulsa June 20 to join thousands of Americans supporting President Donald Trump at the rally and celebrating the country's continued transition to greatness under his leadership. A career businesswoman, Wall looks forward to supporting meaningful legislation to rebuild the economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.**

# Governor: students can attend 2020-2021 school in person

Continued from Page 1  
President Zeph Capo. "We want to see kids return to school in some way, but prudence requires that there be a health and safety plan in place to reduce the chances of spreading the deadly virus. The state should require every district to develop a real plan for safely reopening their schools and file it with the Texas Education Agency."

This sentiment was shared by national ATF President Randi Weingarten, who stressed that a rushed reopening without committed attention to the health and safety of students and staff would be reckless.

"Make no mistake about it, educators are eager to return to their classrooms and teach their students in person, but they don't want to do it without a plan that adequately protects everyone and provides the resources to make sure schools don't become the new hot spots of transmission," Weingarten said. "A no-mask, no-testing, no-worries attitude is exactly what will spread the virus."

This point was re-emphasized by Capo, who noted the public's understanding of the novel virus remains in its infancy.

"We're still learning how this virus spreads in young people and still figuring out the best ways to protect educators who have kept our students safe and engaged through remote learning for the last three months," Capo said. "A rushed reopening without precautions says your health and safety don't matter."

**Pasadena ISD**  
Pasadena ISD officials said parents will be given a choice of either sending their children back to school for in-person instruction or to continue distance learning from home.

Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD superintendent, released the following statement Thursday, June 25:

"I want to begin by thanking you for your continued trust in our district as we navigate this new 'normal' of working through COVID-19. For the last eleven weeks of the spring semester, our students were engaged in virtual learning. I know, however, at this time you are seeking information about our plans for returning to school in August. This past week the Texas Education Agency, along with our governor, announced plans for us to return to school and I want to

assure you of the steps we are taking as we move forward.

"My first assurance to you is our commitment to student and staff safety. Every decision we make as a district will be guided by our commitment to safety. Early on, we created a COVID-19 Task Force consisting of a wide variety of stakeholders to create plans that take into consideration all aspects of your child's experience while at school - including entering our buildings, eating lunch, receiving instruction in the classroom and movement around our buildings. It is important to note that our situation is ever evolving and subject to change as our local and state officials address this pandemic.

"As of now, we plan to begin school on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020. We are working as quickly as we can to provide you with detailed plans so that

you can make an informed decision regarding your intentions for this fall.

"While many of you are eager to return to a normal routine with your children attending face-to-face instruction in our buildings, I understand some of you may wish to keep your children home due to a health concern involving your child or a close family member.

"Pasadena ISD will offer two opportunities for instruction for the 2020-2021 academic year. Our hope is you will feel confident in having your child return to campus and receive face-to-face instruction by our teachers.

"For those who decide to keep their child at home, we will provide virtual learning. Our school board is prepared to purchase technology devices for every student in our district. Instruction will include

the use of technology regardless if your child is present face-to-face or present virtually.

"We will provide you a survey no later than July 7 to seek your input on our return to school. We will use your feedback to help guide us in making the best decisions for our schools and our district. Once we have more definitive plans outlined, we ask for your continued support by talking with your child about social-distancing guidelines and other healthy, safe practices at home and at school. It will take all of us working together, as we did this past spring, to get through this challenging time.

"On behalf of our school board, administrators, teachers and staff, I look forward to when we are all back in our regular routines and participating in normal school activities. It will definitely look and feel different, with an intense focus on all aspects of student and staff safety. I encourage you to provide us with feedback in our survey as we continue to plan for an award-winning school year.

"Stay safe and we look forward to hearing from you."

**Clear Creek ISD**  
Working off the recommendation of a select committee, Clear Creek ISD has adopted a similar plan, allowing parents variety of in-person and distance-learning instructional options. See related story on Page 1.

# San Jacinto College names two new provosts

Continued from Page 1

dean, social and behavioral sciences.

Knight is a recipient of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award for

## CCISD's Smith retires

Continued from Page 1  
trict. I know I speak for the other school board members when I say that Clear Creek ISD is the district it is today because of his strategic mindset, heart for children and willingness to bring people to the table for the good of the community."

Smith joined Clear Creek ISD in 2008 as superintendent of schools. During his tenure, he was named Superintendent of the Year by the

teaching and has a demonstrated commitment to building pathways to advance student success. He has extensive experience in curriculum development, fostering partnerships between instructional leaders and advisors, dual credit, and championing the use of Open Education Resources.

"San Jacinto College has an excellent reputation in higher education, and deservedly so," said Knight. "The One-College mindset has allowed the district to be innovative while providing a consistent standard of quality instruction across the board. San Jacinto College is a leader in the region and the nation when it comes to helping students work toward program completion. That means a lot to me. When you help students obtain their educational goals, you strengthen our region's economy and, more importantly, you improve their quality of life. I want to be a part of that and help in

any way I can."

Knight holds master's and bachelor's degrees from Sam Houston State University, as well as a doctorate in political science from Texas A&M University at College Station. "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Okwonna (Dr. Alexander Okwonna was named provost for the San Jacinto North campus) and Dr. Knight to San Jacinto College as provosts," said SJ Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "Both

leaders were selected after a national search that included months of interviews and several forums with San Jacinto College employees. Dr. Okwonna and Dr. Knight exemplify the core values at San Jacinto College and will be excellent leaders as we transition on the North and South campuses. I look forward to working with them as we continue to support our students along their higher education pathway."

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# Locals publish children's book

Celebrate the Fourth of July, 2020, with a nod to Galveston's namesake in a newly minted children's coloring and game book titled "American Independence: The Spanish Secret."

Co-authors Liz Duffy Strassner and Barbara Middleton Wiley, both members of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), created the coloring book to pique kids' interest in the American Revolution and illustrate how instrumental the Southwest region of the New World proved in liberating America from British tyranny.

The book tells the story of Spanish General Bernardo de Galvez and his washbuckling heroism in swiftness from the British what is now the Colonial South, Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Coahuila, Mexico.

Children of the story's featured characters tell the valiant tale from their perspective, rendering a charming portrait of romance, bravery, strategy and collaboration. The coloring book commenced when the two DAR grandmothers formed a Children of the American Revolution Society (C.A.R.) for their grandkids and other children. DAR named their Gulf Coast children's group The Bernardo de Galvez chapter, which stumped the grandmas.

They live just minutes away from Galveston, (Wiley lives in Pearland, Strassner in Friendswood) so the two C.A.R. leaders were charged to realize they knew nothing about Galvez, Galveston's namesake. Three years of research later, their insight crystal-

ized regarding Galvez. Without the Spaniard leading the effort, the colonies would likely have lost their revolution.

The duo's discoveries unfolded into a layered book of knowledge featuring a multicultural collection of spies, local militias and the Spanish army proving instrumental in the protection of America's Colonial forces along the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River.

Alvin R. Wiley, Barbara's husband, illustrated the book. A retired mechanical engineer and United States Air Force veteran, he said he most enjoyed drawing the Battle of Pensacola for the project. "Anything with cannons or boats," he noted.

"Forts were fun, too, but it was hard to make illustrations look real without shading," Wiley explained. "No shading was needed because the kids had to have places to color, and I had to make it fun for the kids."

"We condensed all the key information with the illustrations so that a child would connect and understand," Barbara Wiley said.

Strassner said inspiration first arose to create a children's book when she heard historian John Espinosa describe his boyhood knowledge of the American Revolution.

"I grew up as a Hispanic boy in East Houston. In school I learned all about the Boston Tea Party, about Paul Revere, and all that happened up north in the thirteen colonies. But they never told me about Galvez or the pivotal role of Spain and the Gulf Coast in the American Revolution. I'm so proud that to-

day I know we were part of it, and a big part at that!" said Espinosa, governor, Houston chapter, Los Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez.

"When our research and work fell together, we couldn't wait to get it out," Wiley said.

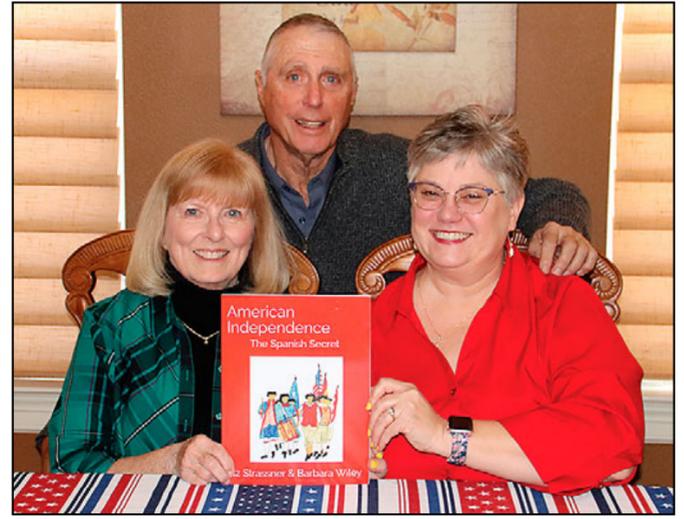
Indications are that others share excitement that the coloring book is out. The Spanish consulate in Miami has requested books, as well as the Spanish Embassy in Washington. DAR chapters across the country have ordered copies, all in addition to the general consul of Spain in Houston, Julia Olmo y Romero, who requested two coloring books for King Felipe of Spain's daughters, Leonor, Princess of Asturias and Infanta Sofia, Strassner said.

The authors priced their book at the lowest rate Amazon allows. To order the coloring book, go to Amazon.com/Books, then enter American Independence: The Spanish Secret.

For more information about the coloring book, contact Barbara Wiley at wileybal@yahoo.com, or Strassner at lstrassner@gmail.com. Strassner is a retired NASA electrical engineer for the Johnson Space Center.

Barbara Wiley is a retired executive secretary having worked for Tranter, in Augusta, Ga., as the benefits administrator and afterward for the president and chairman of the board of Powell Industries in Houston.

Alvin R. Wiley retired from Air Products in 2004, having directed plant manufacturing operations in the United States and Latin America.



Grinning with pride over the new publication are, left to right, Barbara Middleton Wiley, BellaVita resident; Alvin R. Wiley, illustrator; and Liz Duffy Strassner.

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