



South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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COVID breaks local record

The number of local COVID-19 cases continues to escalate and hit a new record, with at least 335 new cases being reported this past week in the South Belt community.

As of Wednesday, July 22, ZIP code 77089 had 627 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to Harris County Public Health officials. That figure is 98 higher than the 529 count reported on Wednesday, July 15.

In ZIP code 77075, county officials are now reporting 609 known cases. This number is 116 higher than the 493 cases reported the previous week.

County officials are now reporting 629 cases in ZIP code 77034, up 121 cases from last week.

In all, there are currently 58,480 known cases in Harris County, an increase of 9,453 from last week. Of those, 38,790 remain active, up 6,460 from last week.

A total of 19,129 have recovered from the virus in the county, an increase of 2,905 from the previous week. To date, 560 have died from COVID-19, up 87 from last week.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resourcess/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

K of C will host BBQ Sale

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a BBQ Sandwich Sale at St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Road in the rear parking lot Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday July 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. or until food runs out.

Meals are \$8 and include a chopped beef sandwich with trimmings (onions and pickles), chips or Fritos and a soft drink. Proceeds benefit KC charities. For more information, call Richard Valdez at 713-542-1760.

Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Hiram Clarke to Alameda/FM 521 continuously through 8 p.m. Saturday, July 25.

At least one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to Furman Street daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, July 24.

There will be a complete closure of the southbound Beltway 8 frontage road at SH 225 nightly from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Aug. 2.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Thursday, Aug. 6.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Aug. 6.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway at NASA Bypass/ NASA Road 1 will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

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

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

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway 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 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

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

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

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

Self-defense classes go virtual

The American Society of Karate has virtual self-defense classes for teens and adults (ages 13-80). These classes are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the comfort of one's own home. No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. Fill out a form at <https://ringcentr.al/2XpnHWj> to preregister.

For additional information visit www.AskKarate.com or www.facebook.com/askkarate, email Online@AskKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

School info updated online

The procedures for reopening local schools are regularly changing, as area school districts are working from recommendations from public health officials, which are also in flux, due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19. (See related story this page.)

Parents are urged to routinely check the website or social media pages of their child's school district/campus.

Pasadena ISD parents may visit www.pasadenaisd.org, while Clear Creek ISD parents may visit www.ccisd.net. Updates will also be provided on the *Leader's* Facebook page.

COVID escalation alters PISD, CCISD, SJC plans

With the number of COVID-19 cases still continuing to climb, local officials are re-examining their positions on reopening area schools in the fall.

Harris County

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Harris County Public Health Executive Director Dr. Umair Shah on Monday, July 20, sent a letter to local school district superintendents across the county outlining a series of recommendations schools should take to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, staff and the community as a whole, including delayed opening for in-person instruction.

In the letter, Hidalgo and Shah strongly urge schools to follow new Texas Education Agency provisions allowing an eight-week online instruction waiver, halting in-person instruction until at least October. Hidalgo and Shah also request school districts make accommodations for remote learning, cancel all extracurricular activities until in-person instruction resumes, and for written plans to be developed and shared with parents and community members regarding steps that will be taken to promote health and safety on campus.

"Today, our community remains in the midst of a severe and uncontrolled spread of COVID-19,"

Hidalgo said in a statement. "The fastest way to reopen our schools over the long haul is to flatten and - just as importantly - substantially bring down our hospitalization curve."

"We commend local school districts who have made the hard decision to defer in-person instruction. We know that this has been a very challenging time for everyone in our community -- and particularly so for students, teachers and parents. In-person instruction is vital for the educational development and social well-being of children and young adults. In addition to their

key roles in learning, schools promote the development of social and emotional skills and offer opportunities for physical activities. For low-income families, schools also provide much needed food assistance by offering students healthy meals and access to resources they may not otherwise have.

"We must come to grips with the fact that in order to learn and grow, students must be healthy and safe. That means not setting arbitrary dates for reopening schools that provide false hope.

Continued on Page 2

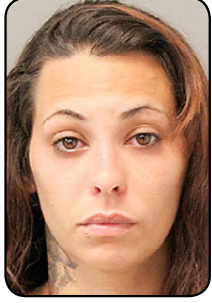
Garcia visits CBC board meeting



On Wednesday, July 15 - one day after narrowly defeating incumbent Chris Diaz in the hard fought contest to become the Democratic nominee for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable - Jerry Garcia (left) addressed the Clear Brook City MUD board, which oversees the local Precinct 2 patrol contract. While Garcia will still face Republican Daniel Vela in November's general election, he is expected to assume the new role of constable in January, as the precinct is heavily Democratic. Clear Brook City MUD board members shown above are, left to right, Chris Clark, Chuck Tylka and Jim Bishop. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Alert officer leads to felony arrest

The alert actions of deputies from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office led to multiple felony charges being filed Tuesday, July 14, at a convenience store located along I-45 near Dixie Farm.



Brianna Simon

According to Sandlin's office, at approximately 10:50 p.m., Precinct 8 deputies D. Bustos and J. Mitchell were on patrol in the 15300 block of the Gulf Freeway, near Dixie Farm Road when both deputies observed a male and a female, identified as 29-year-old Carnell Walker and 28-year-old Brianna Simon, enter a gray Dodge minivan in the parking lot of a Shell gas station. Deputies recognized Walker from a previous arrest involving him being in possession of a stolen vehicle and narcot-

ics. Knowing this, a check on the minivan's license plate was conducted, as the van drove off at a high rate of speed traveling north on the Gulf Freeway service road, with Walker driving. The records check showed the van was listed as stolen by the Pasadena Police Department.



Carnell Walker

Mitchell and Bustos followed and caught up to the van as it entered the main lanes of the Gulf Freeway. A felony traffic stop was conducted, and the vehicle conducted, as the van drove off at a high rate of speed traveling north on the Gulf Freeway service road, with Walker driving.

The records check showed the Pasadena Police Department listed the van as stolen.

Mitchell and Bustos followed and caught up to the van as it entered the main lanes of the Gulf Freeway. A felony traffic stop was conducted, and the vehicle

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Commercial vehicles targeted

Burglaries of commercial work vehicles continue to be reported in the South Belt area.

Most recently, thieves targeted a work truck around 2 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, in the Edgebrook area, which is patrolled by the Houston Police Department.

Clear video surveillance footage of the incident appears to show the same two suspects that were pictured on Page 1 of the July 16 edition of the *Leader* for taking part in a similar crime in the Precinct 2 constable's patrol area.

Commercial vans have also been targeted in the burglaries, but the crimes are taking place in residential neighborhoods. The thieves appear to be searching for tools.

Photos and surveillance footage of the suspects have also been widely distributed on social media, with at least one victim offering reward for information on the case.

Police are seeking at least two suspects, both young black males, one with dreadlocks and a neck tattoo.

The crooks may have been traveling in a red vehicle. Anyone with any information about incidents in the city limits is urged to contact HPD's Burglary and Theft Division at 713-308-0900.

Anyone with any information about incidents outside the city limits is urged to contact Precinct 2 Sgt. Robert Sanchez at 281-481-9189 or robert.sanchez@cn2.hctx.net.

PW Library still serving area

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Parker Williams Library is still closed for internal use. The library staff is working hard to serve the South Belt community by providing free lunches from the Houston Food Bank, checking out books to the community through no contact curbside service and by providing free virtual library programs through their Facebook and Instagram pages.

Free lunches from the Houston Food Bank are available Monday through Friday from noon to 2 p.m. Meals are on a first come, first served basis for community members ages 18 and younger. Children should be in the car to receive a meal, but parents and caregivers can show a school ID, report card or birth certificate in their absence.

Residents interested in checking out books, DVDs and CDs have options. Visit the HCPL.net website and place holds on specific titles through one's online account.

Patrons may also call 832-927-7870 and library staff will check the shelves for a title of interest. Residents can request a custom book bundle to check out at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/book-bundles>.

These services are available using the Beamer Road entrance to the library. There are two no-contact curbside pick-up spots to pick up available holds. In addition, the library is offering virtual programs and library activities which are listed on Page 2.

San Jac commencement to be online

San Jacinto College has moved its spring commencement online. The ceremony was originally postponed from May to August due to COVID-19, and will now take place virtually.

"We know this is not how the class of 2020 planned to celebrate their graduation, but due to COVID-19 concerns we had to make the decision to transition our ceremony online," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "We invite all of our graduates, along with their friends and families, to gather online to honor and celebrate their achievements from the safety and comfort of their home."

The Aug. 7 virtual ceremony will be held at 7 p.m., and will be livestreamed on YouTube. Each graduate will be recognized with their photo and credential information, and the ceremony will include remarks from Hellyer and other college leaders.

For more information and for the YouTube link when it is available, visit sanjac.edu/com mement.

For information about the college's COVID response, visit sanjac.edu/coronavirus.

COVID testing available at Scarsdale

COVID-19 testing is now being conducted at the Scarsdale Family Health Center, located at 10851 Scarsdale, Suite 160. The site is just one of 11 such sites in the Greater Houston area being operated by the Community Health Network.

Another nearby location is the Pearland Family Health Center, at 2552 E. Broadway, Suite 102. All tests are free of charge. Additional lab work is covered by many insurance providers.

All test recipients must undergo a prescreening process. Having symptoms is not necessary to have

a test conducted. The health centers follows Centers for Disease Control guidelines, which allow for health care workers, first responders, exposed individuals and high-risk individuals to be tested.

Residents wishing to be prescreened for a test should call the Community Health Network's COVID-19 response line 281-954-4850. Health care officials will then tell the residents where and when to go for testing.

For additional information or to see a complete listing of testing locations, visit www.mychn.org.

BAHEP hosts COVID Zoom discussion

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership recently hosted a virtual forum with local medical leaders to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 14, BAHEP officials teamed up with coronavirus research experts Dr. Scott C. Weaver, scientific director of the Galveston National Laboratory, and infectious disease physician Dr. Susan McLellan, medical director of the Biocontainment Patient Care Unit at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Approximately 200 people joined the update through the virtual meeting held on Zoom.

Longtime South Belt resident and BAHEP President Bob Mitchell began the meeting by thanking McLellan and Weaver for taking the time from their busy schedules to provide the update.

Basics behind the virus

Weaver spoke of the basics behind the virus saying, "Coronaviruses have been around for a long time, and we've known about them for a long time. Even before 2002, we knew that coronaviruses caused a number of important diseases in agriculturally important animals. We learned a lot about how they replicate, how they hijack cells to make many more virus particles of themselves, and how that leads to disease in animals."

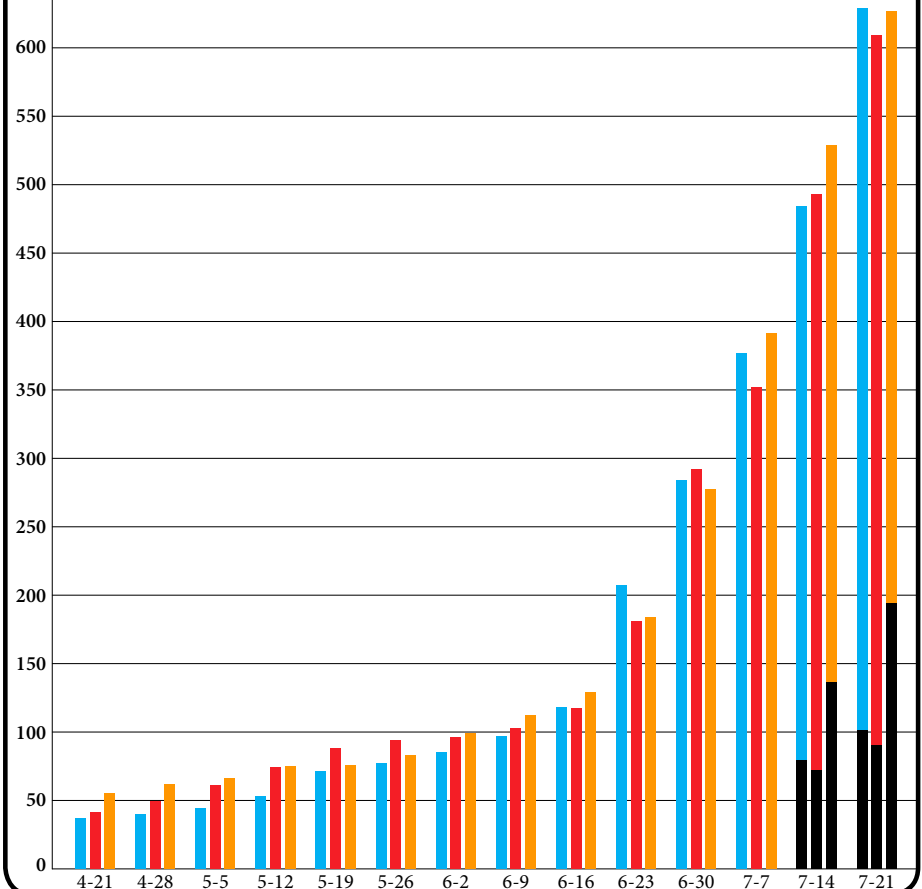
"Fast forward to December of last year when there were some reports of pulmonary illness in China. It turns out retrospectively now that first cases probably occurred a little before that. In January of this year, the outbreak started getting a lot of attention. The World Health Organization,

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Area ZIPs see major COVID increase

See story on sidebar this page

Total cases by zip code: 77034 77075 77089 Recoveries per zip code as of 7-21-20: ■



In My Opinion

Garcia thanks voters, community

Dear friends, neighbors, constituents, I wanted to take the opportunity to say THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!!! WE DID IT!!! Without your support we could not have done what we did. For twenty months I gave 110% to our campaign and I gave 110% to YOU.

I know your concerns. I listened I understand. I care. With my 22 years of law enforcement experience, your trust, and God's will, we won. Over the past few years we have seen a rise in crime, major accidents at the Beltway, homeless encampments and the drugs and prostitution associated with them, and other issues which concern you. Unfortunately, not enough has been done to address your concerns.

I promise, change is coming. Together we overcame the first hurdle but I will need you once again in November. These are OUR communities and your concerns will be addressed. Our Constable's office will be open, transparent, honest, and most importantly, accountable. As I have for over 22 years, I promise to continue to serve you humbly and with a compassionate heart.

God placed me in a position to serve on a grander scale and I promise I will not let you down. I know it was God, but also you all, who entrusted me with this opportunity. I will never forget why I am here and I will never forget who I serve. I will serve the entire precinct and together, we will bring the changes necessary to better the lives of our citizens.

I will continue to work hard and I ask that you please come out and support us again in November. Again, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you and I look forward to serving you as your Harris County Precinct 2 Constable. God Bless You All.

Sincerely,
Jerry Garcia

Ed Jackson: Just stop and think

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow the news leads are about the Covid-19 pandemic; it's on TV, radio and in print. It can

be heard in conversations both public and private, between friends and family. It can be a conversation starter with complete strangers. It can be seen almost anywhere one looks as more and more of us are wearing masks. And, sadly, it can be personal when someone we know tests positive, or is hospitalized. Or dies.

Yet with all this, there are still many among us who choose to believe the virus is one or more of the following:

- 1) a hoax, 2) not as serious as made out to be, 3) something other people get, 4) hyped by the media for ratings, 5) just a scheme to ruin businesses and upset the economy, and 6) a liberal lie to discredit the president.

Really? Just a little critical thinking should dismiss the "hoax" hoax. The whole world is part of some US hoax? Really? Not a serious health issue? Really? There are more than a few who, prior to being infected, now admit they thought it wasn't a big deal. Of course it's number one in the media because it affects so many tens of millions of people. Really. Something to make mess up the economy just to make the incumbent look bad up to the election? Think about it; the whole world is in voluntary financial straits in the hope he doesn't get re-elected? Really?

And then there is the resistance to wearing a mask in public. Reasons given for not wearing one are: 1) it makes breathing hard, 2) it's politically incorrect, 3) it doesn't help anyway, 4) Covid-19 is a hoax so why bother, 5) it's just another attempt of governmental overreach, and 6) it's a free country thus a free choice.

Lets take a minute to consider some of these excuses. It makes breathing hard? For a few minutes maybe, but not nearly as hard as on a ventilator. If one is available, that is. A mask is not a political statement, it's more like an IQ test. If mask don't help then why do all first responders wear them? It's hard to believe that all medical staff wear them daily for hours on end just to perpetuate a hoax. Overreach? Like requiring licenses and limits for so many other things as practicing medicine, driving, fishing, operating businesses, etc. And in a truly "free country" should one be free to speed thru neighborhood streets and school zones, even smoke in restaurants and bars, or

choose to use either restroom? Who knows, in a really free country maybe one could, just for fun, yell "There is NO fire" in a crowded theater.

In the real world we try to find the best or most qualified mechanics, plumbers, dentists, A/C repairmen to do the things we can't. We wouldn't hire a lawyer who cares nothing about winning our case. We do these things because we're smart and we care about the results. We trust the airlines to do the same with their mechanics and pilots. Who wants a bus driver, even the best one, flying the plane?

This virus isn't responding to hopes and prayers. It isn't stopped by walls or borders. It doesn't respect social status or political party. It's not intimidated by threats or bullying, nor does it react to hunches or high temperatures.

It is what it is, and that's more complicated than most of us understand. But we don't have to. At the present time, our best chances to protect ourselves and others are to listen to the medical and scientific professionals and do our serious best to follow their advice.

Ed Jackson

A&M AgriLife Home Grown lecture July 23

The Home Grown lecture series presentation of "Offbeat Garden Eats," by Brandi Keller, Harris County Master Gardener program coordinator, is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Register for the free virtual event through Eventbrite at <https://homegrown2020july.eventbrite.com/>. The deadline to register is 8 a.m. July 23.

COVID escalation alters plans

Continued from Page 1
dates this virus does not recognize or respect. Instead, our focus should be on thresholds and on developing measured reopening plans," said Hidalgo.

Pasadena ISD
As for Pasadena ISD, the school district has pushed back all in-person instruction until the second week of September. Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DecAnn Powell released the following statement:

"As we work on our plans for reopening schools, we continue to seek guidance regarding face-to-face instruction with the recent rise in cases across our community, cities and state. Thank you for the 31,000+ responses to our back-to-school survey.

Over 65 percent of parents asked for virtual learning for at least the start of the school year, and we are working hard to be able to roll out the best possible learning platform for all students PK-12. I want to provide you an update on a few items of importance:

"There has been extensive discussion and collaboration about how to best proceed with instructional delivery once school officially starts Aug. 18. Due to the continual rise in transmission of COVID across our community, we have determined the best course of action at this time is to provide all instruction virtually until Sept. 8, when our buildings will open for those choosing to learn in a face-to-face environment with their peers. Our hope is that in the additional time away from our buildings that we will help our communities flatten the curve prior to allowing students to return to campus.

After Sept. 8, any family who chose virtual learning will continue to do so until they feel comfortable sending their child to their assigned campus for face-to-face learning. We realize this delay in offering face-to-face instruction will place a burden on some of our families who desperately need childcare in order to work and we are looking at ways to provide alternatives during this delay.

"With the additional three weeks of required virtual learning, principals, teachers and staff will have extra time to prepare class-

rooms, safety protocols and building procedures. It will also provide teachers the time they need to establish "onboarding" opportunities for all students to become accustomed to the virtual curriculum in the event that we are required to return to a virtual setting at any point during the school year. Teachers will provide virtual instruction during the school day following an established schedule similar to the one that will be followed once face-to-face school resumes.

"Please know these decisions are made with much deliberation and consultation with our board of trustees and local and state guidance, which continues to evolve. Safety has, and will continue to be, the top priority and will guide all decisions we make as a district. We appreciate your continued support, patience and understanding as we continue to navigate this pandemic together."

Clear Creek ISD
The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a modification to the 2020-2021 academic calendar to provide a gradual transition of students into the schools, as well as to provide teachers and staff time on campus to be trained on safety protocols, receive professional learning on technology solutions and overall prepare for the moment students walk into the school doors.

"We will do this right and safely so that we provide the learning experiences our students deserve and have been waiting for since March," said Clear Creek ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Smith. "This plan has received the support of the Galveston County Health Department and area physicians."

The transition into the 2020-2021 school year delays the official start of school from Aug. 18 to Aug. 24. Aug. 24 is the official start date of school under Texas law, which states schools may not begin any earlier than the fourth Monday of August.

Since Clear Creek ISD is a District of Innovation, it has had the flexibility to change its start date. Moving to August 24 aligns with Texas law.

The week of August 24, all students will begin instruction in the School-

to-Home learning model, where students learn online from home and teachers provide direct instruction from their classroom.

"This week will be a great opportunity to train students on our technology applications and give teachers time to work directly with students in a distance learning, live environment," said Dr. Steven Ebell, deputy superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. "In the event of a COVID-19 disruption this year, this will be the way we provide continuous instruction to students as they work from home. It is important, in this world of COVID-19, that students and teachers feel confident learning in a virtual environment. We also want to take the opportunity to show parents and students that School-to-Home is not what they experienced during the emergency closure."

The week of Aug. 31, the school district will welcome pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, sixth grade and ninth-grade students who have selected the brick-and-mortar learning. This will provide time for these important transitions in a child's educational journey. Then the week of Sept. 8, all students who have elected for brick-and-mortar learning will return to school with safety measures in place, including wearing a face mask.

For those families who would like another option for learning in Clear Creek ISD, they may enroll their children in Clear Connections Online Learning Program. This is open to students in grades K-12. Instruction is provided by CCISD teachers in a structured day. Additional courses for high school have been added based on student interest. To learn more, visit clearconnections.ccisd.net.

Clear Creek ISD is asking parents to select their learning choice as soon as possible to allow for adequate staffing for Brick and Mortar as well as Clear Connections Online Learning Program.

Parents may make that selection by logging into their Skyward Family Access Account and completing the 2020-2021 Back to School forms located on the left side of the screen.

For more details on CCISD's reopening plan, visit www.ccisd.net/reopen.

Deaths

Janice McDonald



Janice Kirby McDonald, 79, died peacefully July 2, 2020.

She was born June 17, 1941, in Warren County, Ky., to P.H. and Mamie Kirby.

Jan went to Warren County High School where she met the love of her life Charles Wayne McDonald in 1957. Jan and Charles married on May 21, 1958, and spent 62 loving years together.

On June 1, 1972, Jan and Charles moved to Houston. In 1978, they joined Sagemont Church, where they could most often be seen sitting behind the pastor in the second row.

Jan was a wonderful, dedicated and loving mother to their children Theresa Lynn Walker, Cary Alan McDonald, Kevin Wayne McDonald, Kelly Christopher McDonald and Jamie McDonald Dillard.

She treasured her children and embraced every moment with them. Jan was a grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother to so many. She especially loved her and Charles' roles as Meme and Pepe (Jan definitely won that naming war). Suffice it to say, that the holidays were not only interesting, but very crowded.

Jan made friends everywhere she went, which was a necessity as Charles has never met a stranger.

Her favorite things in life were flowers, shopping and, most importantly, her family and Jesus. She will be dearly missed and forever in her family's hearts.

Her funeral is scheduled for 2 p.m. July 23, 2020, at Niday Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road.

Rhoda Lanell Dotson



On July 9, 2020, Rhoda Lanell (Goodrich) Dotson, 85, peacefully left this life and went to her eternal reward.

She was born Nov. 10, 1934, to Davis and Florence Goodrich in Limestone County, Texas. She graduated from Groesbeck High School and moved to Houston with a friend to take a job as a secretary for Houston Lighting and Power.

While out dancing one night with her friends, Rhoda met a handsome young man named Duard Darnell Dotson. The two were married Dec. 30, 1955. After becoming pregnant several months later, Rhoda left the workforce and became a stay-at-home mother.

Rhoda and Darnell moved to the final section of the Beverly Hills subdivision in 1965 and lived in the same house for the rest of their adult lives.

They became well known in the neighborhood, as they spent countless hours at the Little League fields with their sons, both of whom graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School.

Naturally social in personality, Rhoda became a huge asset when she decided to become an Avon representative, a job she held for many years.

She also spent hours window shopping at Almeda Mall, and one of her favorite activities was having a piece of pie and a cup of coffee at Piccadilly Cafeteria.

Rhoda was preceded in death by her parents; her husband in 2001; her son Glenn Dotson in 2016; and all her siblings Homer Go-

odrich, Chesley Goodrich, Vera Stewart, Louise Reed, Hazel Oakes and Mary Beth Stewart.

She is survived by her son Mark Dotson of Houston; daughter-in-law Renée Dotson of Friendswood; grandson Daniel Dotson of Friendswood; granddaughter Caitlin Dotson of Kerrville; great-grandson Everett Gilchrist of Kerrville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family members request donations to the Houston Food Bank at houstonfoodbank.org.

Teresa Michelle Wood



Teresa Michelle (Wilkinson) Wood, 58, was born Oct. 22, 1961, in France, to Luther and Marie Wilkerson.

She was a dual citizen of the U.S. and France, being born while her father was in the Air Force.

She lived in the South Belt area and went to Dobie High School. She died May 5, 2020.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 33 years, James Earl Wood (Jim) and her father Luther Wilkerson.

She leaves behind daughters Crystal Glasscock of Temple, Texas, and Samantha Wood of Houston; granddaughters Makayla Glasscock and Kelsie Glasscock of Temple; her mother Marie Wilkerson; brothers Mike and Jimmy Wilkerson, both of League City; and her mother-in-law Gloria DuPuy of Houston.

Teresa will be missed by many and loved by all.

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

Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation administration at 832-393-2222. Note that all overdue fines/fees will be waived through Jan. 1, 2021.

To use HPL To Go:

1. Place a hold through the online catalog or by phone.
2. Receive email or phone call of notification prior to scheduling a time for pickup.
3. Upon arrival, park and stay in the vehicle and call to notify staff of arrival.
4. Have MY Link card number and PIN ready.

Bracewell Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program runs through Aug. 15. Visit www.houstonlibrary.org/summer to register and log one's reading. Use the Beantack 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-1-d&q=WebEx-instructions> for a step-by-step tutorial and tips.

For questions or concerns or for a child care agency interested in having a personalized lesson outside of the above schedule, email 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. To get a library card, visit www.houstonlibrary.org, on 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.

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

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, 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 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 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 Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 832-927-7870 for information.

The information for Parker Williams reads:

"All Harris County Public Library locations remain closed to the public. We will provide service updates as they are developed. The book drop at Parker Williams Library is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closures. Borrowers may return library materials to the exterior book drops at most HCPL locations. Do not leave any items outside the library or drop box."

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

- 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.

- 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.

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.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of People of Sagemont 2 Facebook group posted that there was a white vehicle with a woman getting out stealing packages. The member states that their mom happened to be sitting in the front part of the house and saw UPS drop off a package, then not even a few minutes later the white car backed up and a woman got out to steal the package.

The member's mother was able to get to the package before the woman, then the woman ran back to the vehicle and took off. The incident happened on Thursday, July 16, blocks away from Atkinson Elementary.

The member states that they could not provide a description since it happened so fast and the woman was wearing a mask.

On the same Facebook group a member posted that on Saturday, July 18, at Valero/Circle K on Beamer Road and Kirkfair Drive a lady walked in to get water and a charger and about sixty seconds later the member

walked out at the same time and the lady's car was stolen that fast. The lady left her car running since she thought she'd be in and out. The local police were called, but there was no response. The member wanted to alert the community to stay safe.

A member of Southbelt This & That (Official) Facebook group posted that two individuals who looked like teenagers, walked by the member's house and stole bicycles that were on the driveway. The incident happened Saturday, July 18, around 2:30 a.m., on Sagegreen Drive and Sageking.

A member of The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert Facebook group shared a post of a surveillance video of a male and female in a U-Haul and stealing a bike. The incident happened Friday, July 17.

On the same Facebook group a member shared a post of a break-in at the Stadia Sports Grill on Pearland Parkway Tuesday, July 21, at 5 a.m. The post states that only a small amount of cash

was taken and that the cost of repairs will be more than what was taken. The owners are asking for any information on the suspect in the surveillance video to contact the owner directly.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Church Directory

Attend the church of your choice

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

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

Kaisers celebrate 50th anniversary



Happy anniversary wishes are in order for Dr. Klaus and Christa Kaiser, residents of Sagemeadow since 1975. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 17. They met in Bonn, Germany. In 1970 they followed an invitation from the University of Houston where Klaus started to work as a professor in the Department of Mathematics, where he currently teaches and works as the editor of the *Houston Journal of Mathematics*. Christa worked with several companies in Germany and in Houston, and retired in 2011. Christa joined the Harris County Master Gardeners in 2003 and is still an active member of the Precinct 2 Genoa Friendship Garden. In earlier years they enjoyed camping in many national parks. Klaus and Christa love traveling throughout the United States and Europe. Their daughter Hilde Kaiser attended Frazier Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School. Hilde received her bachelor's degree at Texas A&M University and her master's degree at the University of Chicago. The Kaisers have one grandchild, Karl Michalski, who resides in Evanston-Chicago.

Education foundation's 1st virtual event raises \$33,000

The Clear Creek Education Foundation (CCEF) was saddened to cancel the 14th annual "I Love CCISD" fashion show due to COVID-19 restrictions, originally scheduled for Sunday, March 22.

During these uncertain times, it's hard to know how to ask for community support. With that in mind, CCEF decided to plan and host their first ever virtual event, "iLOVE CCISD," supporting teachers, the community's first responders for children.

The online event lasted 48 hours, raising \$10,000

through silent auction, raffle, donations and T-shirt sales.

With many sponsors and donors continuing to support, the virtual event raised \$33,000 total to support the teachers and students through innovative programs in the Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD).

"We were blessed that our community sponsors supported us through the transition and enabled us to move forward with our virtual event. It's a great testament to the love and support we receive from so many in the CCISD community," expressed Deborah Laine,

CCEF executive director.

Proceeds will support teacher grants for the new school year that provide innovative learning materials to CCISD students, beyond what CCISD provides."

CCEF was thrilled with the amount of social media buzz generated, with more than 10,000 people reached online, resulting in more than 45 percent of winning bidders identified as new donors. During the virtual event, more than 40 items were up for grabs in a silent auction format.

Twenty-two specialty baskets were personally designed

and created by teachers and staff at CCISD schools in support of the original CCEF fashion show. Other items received from community partners were featured as well.

Guests registered on the online bidding platform and had fun bidding against their friends virtually.

"This was my first virtual fundraising event, and CCEF did a great job of promoting the event in advance, providing detailed information and pictures of baskets, and keeping the enthusiasm going for the event with reminders and notifications," said Deborah Krupp, MRI Technologies CEO. "Thank you, CCEF, for your efforts to support our teachers and our children's education during these challenging times!"

In addition to the auction items, CCEF sold raffle tickets for a beautiful David Yurman necklace, donated by Lewis Jewelers. Congratulations to Lori Schubert, with Ron Carter Cadillac Hyundai, for having the lucky winning ticket.

Each year, CCEF hosts a Kinderart contest throughout the district. Congratulations go to Josiah Hall, kindergartner in Charlotte Aalund's art class, at League City Elementary, for designing the 2020 winning Kinderart.

Hall's art was featured on CCEF's T-shirts for sale leading up to and during the virtual event. Along with Hall's art, the top five finalists from the contest had their art featured on individual notecards for sale. Lydia Foster, North

Pointe Elementary; Liv Vigil, Brookwood Elementary; Kaylee Cogoux, McWhirter Elementary; Parker Standifer, League City Elementary; and Savannah Robbins, Ralph Parr Elementary were the young aspiring artists selected and featured on this year's notecards.

CCEF is very grateful for the continued support of the community as well as the event sponsors.

This event would not have been possible without the businesses and individuals including Mercedes-Benz of Clear Lake, Chemical Process and Production, UTMB Health, Elite Care 24 Hour Emergency, Amoco Federal Credit Union, Beacon Federal Credit Union, Memorial Hermann, Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, Ron Carter Cadillac Hyundai, Service Steel Warehouse, Rob and Jill Kaale, Jay and Carrie Cunningham, Ann Hammond, Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital, Nicholas and Kari Long, Elaine Rister, Plant Process Equipment Inc., Ron Carter Autoland-Alvin, Texan Bank, South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center, The Mackay Family and Women Who Wish.

About CCEF

Established in 1992, the Clear Creek Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization located in League City.

Comprised of volunteers with a passion for excellence, the foundation raises funds to enrich academic achievement within Clear Creek Independent School District.

Remelys celebrate 40th wedding anniversary



Mark and Margie Remely celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary July 19. They were married July 19, 1980, in Painesville, Ohio. The Remelys have lived in the South Belt area for 32 years, with the exception of three years when they lived in Arizona. Mark is a retired senior mechanical designer and Margie is a retired secretary/office manager. They have planned a quiet celebration at home with family since Mark is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for aggressive cancer.

"Harmony in the Air" returns with daily performances

The highly rated Houston Airports "Harmony in the Air" performing arts program is back. Daily performances began June 29.

Year after year, Skytrax cites "Harmony in the Air" as a 5-star feature at both airports and passengers are delighted the program is returning after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Harmony in the Air" is one of several initiatives that Houston Airports has undertaken to create an enjoyable travel experience.

The program features live performances by some of Houston's finest professional musicians at both George

Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston (IAH) at the Art Gallery Connector in Terminal A, and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) at the Rotunda, Monday through Friday from noon to 3:00 p.m.

The performances include a diverse repertoire of classical, jazz, pop, and international music performed by more than 75 of Houston's finest professional musicians. "Harmony in the Air" performers include Apollo Chamber Players (classical); Ars Lyrica Houston (classical); Axiom Quartet (classical); Bob Chadwick Trio (bossanova); Cary Quartet

(classical); Divisi Strings (classical); Eddie Akhmetchene Trio (jazz); Gerling-Mut Duo (classical); Hope Cowan (classical); Mark Prause (contemporary, pop); Melvin Johnson and the Electro-Akoustics Band (R&B, pop); Musiq (classical); Mystery Loves Company (pop); Paul English Jazz Quartet (jazz); Retrospect (contemporary, American classics); Solero Flamenco (flamenco); The Dancewicz-Doucet Duo (classical); and Tony Henry (R&B, pop).

For more information on the program, visit /hou/harmony-in-the-air/ or /iah/harmony-in-the-air/.

Garcia introduces Wear Your Mask Act

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (TX-29) introduced the Wear Your Mask Act, H.R. 7524, which would require individuals in any federally owned, leased or operated facilities or buildings to wear a face mask.

The resolution would require all facilities in this category to supply face masks at all public entrances to those who do not have one.

This act would be in effect until the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

Diseases determines that this requirement is no longer needed to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has shown that the spread of COVID-19 can be significantly reduced by wearing a face mask.

According to Garcia, unprecedented numbers of new coronavirus cases are seen across the country each day, and the act will help utilize what is already available to slow the spread of the virus.

"In the Houston region and across the country, we are observing significant spikes in the number of COVID-19 cases and one of the few tools we have at our disposal to protect ourselves against the spread of this virus is wearing a face mask," said Garcia.

"As Congress continues to work on additional COVID-19 relief efforts, it is incumbent upon us to take simple common sense actions that will prioritize the

safety and well-being of federal workers and the general public that visit federal government buildings."

Garcia added, "As members of Congress, we have a responsibility to keep people safe and we know based on CDC guidelines that wearing a face mask could make the difference between life and death during this pandemic.

"This is why we must include H.R. 7524, the Wear Your Mask Act, in our next COVID-19 relief package."

Communities In Schools – Bay Area receives \$14,300 from Celanese Foundation

Communities In Schools – Bay Area has announced it has received a contribution of \$14,300 from the Celanese Foundation to support dropout prevention programming for campuses in the Clear Creek Independent School District.

Founded in 1989, Communities In Schools – Bay Area is a nonprofit dropout prevention organization that

provides individualized case management services, targeted group activities, and campuswide programming for students on 20 Clear Creek and Dickinson ISD campuses.

Communities In Schools – Bay Area's services include basic needs assistance, academic interventions, resource connection, social emotional learning, enrichment

activities and behavioral health support.

Working directly inside schools, Communities In Schools – Bay Area connects students to a caring adult, supportive services and resources to help them stay in school and reach their potential.

The Celanese Foundation is an employee-led effort as part of Celanese Corporation

(www.celanese.com).

This is the fourth year that Communities In Schools – Bay Area has been a beneficiary of funding from the Celanese Foundation.

"We are incredibly grateful for this generous contribution from the Celanese Foundation. As an Adopt-A-School partner for Clear Creek Intermediate School, Celanese and the employees at its Clear Lake facility go

above and beyond in helping to meet the needs of our students with food, school supplies, and holiday meals and gifts.

"We look forward to continuing this amazing partnership with Celanese for the 2020-2021 school year," stated Dr. Peter Wuenschel, Executive Director of Communities In Schools – Bay Area.

Communities In Schools – Bay Area's mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

For more information on Communities In Schools – Bay Area dropout prevention programs, visit www.cisba.org or call 281-486-6698.

The Celanese Foundation is an employee-led effort dedicated to improving the quality of life for people around the world and focuses on initiatives to improve the fundamental living conditions of people, with a special focus on families and children. To learn more about the Celanese Foundation, visit https://foundation.celanese.com/.

Virtual legal clinics for veterans

The Veterans Legal Initiative is a program that offers free legal advice and legal representation to low-income veterans. Currently during the COVID-19 pandemic, legal clinics are held every Friday from 2 – 5 p.m. over the phone.

Applications can be submitted online or requested by telephone. Legal issues may include family law, consumer, wills and probate, property, tax, disability and veterans benefits, as well as other civil legal problems or questions. Qualifying Veterans receive

one-on-one legal advice and counsel and screening for additional free legal representation.

Clinics are open to all low-income U.S. Veterans and spouses of deceased veterans in Harris and surrounding counties.

Apply online at www.MakeJusticeHappen.org, call 713-228-0735 or visit www.MakeJusticeHappen.org.

To date, the program has served more than 20,000 veterans with advice and counsel and/or legal representation. More than 400 attorneys have

volunteered to assist with the Veterans Legal Initiative.

Veterans Legal Initiative

The Veterans Legal Initiative is a public service of the Houston Bar Association, Houston Volunteer Lawyers and Houston Bar Foundation, with funding from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.

VLI is made possible by grants from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, the Houston Bar Association, the Houston Bar Foundation and the Texas Veterans Commission.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension workshop set

Creating School Gardens Workshop: A workshop for community leaders wanting to start a youth/school garden is scheduled for Friday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to noon, sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Topics will include basics of planting, building a garden with raised beds or containers, easy vegetables and herbs and garden maintenance and troubleshooting. Registration is \$10 and due by 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, at https://schoolgardensJuly31.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit https://harris.agrilife.org/.

Home Grown lecture by A&M Agrilife July 30

Home Grown lecture series presents "Ornamental Grasses for the Landscape," by Paul Winski, a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension agent on Thursday, July 30, from 10 to 11 a.m. Register for the online free event through Eventbrite at https://homegrown2020july.eventbrite.com/. The registration deadline is at 8 a.m. For details, visit hcmga.tamu.edu.

See Page 2 for information on another Texas A&M AgriLife Extension lecture.

CenterPoint Energy encourages customers to utilize payment arrangements during COVID

CenterPoint Energy is encouraging customers to contact the company if they are experiencing financial difficulty and may need payment assistance, arrangements or extensions during the COVID-19 situation.

While CenterPoint Energy has currently suspended natural gas service disconnections, customers are encouraged to call now to avoid a disruption once the suspension ends.

"We remain committed to keeping our customers' interests and well-being top

of mind during the pandemic and ask that they contact us as soon as possible so we can offer bill payment assistance," said Tal Centers, vice president of Gas Operations

in Texas.

"While we have not yet resumed disconnections due to nonpayment, we want to ensure customers have plenty of time to contact us and make arrangements for outstanding balances.

"If you need payment assistance, we encourage you to contact customer service for guidance regarding payment programs in your area."

In many cases, as part of COVID-19, qualification guidelines for assistance have been relaxed to assist as many customers as possible.

Customers can visit CenterPointEnergy.com/PaymentAssistance or log into CenterPointEnergy.com/MyAccount to request a payment extension or arrangement.

CenterPoint Energy also asks that customers be mindful of scammers targeting utility customers during this time.

The company would never call and demand payment over the phone or by prepaid debit card to avoid disconnection.

Deadline extended to apply for P-EBT

The deadline to apply for Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) food benefits has been extended to July 31.

P-EBT is a one-time benefit of \$285 per eligible child and can be used in the same way as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits to pay for groceries.

Children who received free or reduced-price school meals during the 2019-2020 school year may be eligible for this one-time food benefit.

The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.

Coast Guard Foundation prepares for hurricane season response

The Coast Guard Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening the Coast Guard community and service by supporting members and families, announced it is preparing for the Atlantic hurricane season, predicted by NOAA to be an especially active one.

The Foundation is taking the necessary steps to be ready to assist Coast Guard members and families who may be impacted by hurricanes and other natural disasters this year.

When natural disasters like a hurricane strikes, Coast Guard members are often

the first to respond; leaving their own families, impacted homes and property behind to aid others in distress.

The organization assesses member and family needs through its disaster relief and response program to ensure they quickly get the resources needed to bounce back from the devastation.

Knowing that their families are being cared for allows Coast Guard members to focus on serving their neighbors and rebuilding their communities.

In total, the Foundation has invested \$3.25 million in direct assistance for families

who have suffered the tragic loss of a loved one or needed critical support during natural disasters and emergencies.

This relief has helped with temporary housing and home repairs, groceries and basic essentials and hotels for evacuated families.

"Serving in the Coast Guard comes with great sacrifice," said Susan Ludwig, Coast Guard Foundation president.

"Members and their families must be prepared for injuries or losses in a different way than everyday Americans. The Coast Guard Foundation is there for them when

help is needed."

For more information on how to prepare for hurricane season, visit https://coastguardfoundation.org/news/prepare-for-2020-hurricane-season. To learn more about the Coast Guard Foundation or to help support its work, visit www.coastguardfoundation.org.

BAHEP hosts COVID Zoom discussion with medical leaders

Continued from Page 1

getting as much information as they could from China, finally determined that the outbreak was spreading from person to person."

Weaver spoke of the importance of a recent publication stating, "I want to talk a little bit about a scientific paper published last week that involved a collaboration with three different universities - Tulane University, the University of Pittsburgh and UTMB - along with the National Institutes of Health - to study one mode of transmission from person to person of this new SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) coronavirus 2."

"This paper was the newest chapter in the growing evidence of airborne spread. In this study, the virus was grown in large quantities in cell cultures in laboratories here at UTMB and other places. Then it was taken to a special facility called an aerobiology facility. We have one of them here in the Galveston National Lab where we intentionally create aerosols that include bacteria or viruses to do experimental infections of animals. This is the most common way that a biological weapon would be spread and that some kinds of viruses and bacteria are spread naturally. An aerosol in the way we define it in the world of virology is a spray, a collection of very tiny droplets ranging in size from 1 - 5 microns. These individual particles or droplets are smaller than you can see with the naked eye."

"The most important finding for this new paper was that this new SARS coronavirus can survive at least 16 hours suspended in the air in an aerosol. The other important finding is that this new SARS coronavirus survives a little bit longer than the first SARS coronavirus or another virus called MERS coronavirus, which stands for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome."

"Part of the reason that the new coronavirus may be spreading more efficiently than the first SARS or MERS may have something to do with its ability to survive in these aerosols. When we're breathing or talking or singing, we're constantly producing these aerosol-sized droplets that are emitted from our mouth or our nose. Usually these don't contain viruses or other microorganisms and are harmless if not inhaled."

"If viruses replicate in the right part of our respiratory tract, they can be very concentrated in these aerosols that we produce. Then they can be exhaled into a room environment. If that room has poor ventilation and people are crowded together in that kind of a room, you can have very efficient transmission of aerosol borne viruses. Outdoor locations tend to be safer, because there's usually wind to dissipate such an aerosol."

Weaver concluded, "The evidence is growing that airborne transmission of this virus is a major mode of why it's spreading so efficiently, and we really need to take these kinds of measures to limit the density of people, to keep them wearing masks when they're in risky environments, and to close places that are the highest risk environments where we simply don't have much control over people's behavior."

Mechanics of transmission
McLellan began her presentation by saying, "There are a couple of things that I want to talk about from a public health perspective. I think that a lot of times the public is very confused about the recommendations, what to do, and why this coronavirus has changed over time. The most important thing is to remind people that this is a learning situation. One coronavirus is not the same as another coronavirus is not the same as another coronavirus. Otherwise we'd have SARS instead of COVID."

"The public health response has to be very careful not to go overboard for all of the reasons that one is hearing now. If on the basis of extremely limited information we had been talking about a shutdown back in January, that fully would have been untenable."

"The information that we're getting now about the persistence of these aerosols and duration of longevity of this virus in these aerosols makes it clear that the 'just six feet away thing' doesn't work. The mask works to protect other people and somewhat to protect yourself, because it will prevent some of those aerosols from getting in. We don't think that this virus is like Ebola where maybe as little as one viral particle getting into you is going to make you get sick. This is probably one where you need to be exposed to a number of them."

What COVID looks like

"What does COVID-19 look like?" McLellan asked. "I can tell you that it looks pretty awful. The intensive care unit is pretty much full of COVID patients in the hospital that I'm rounding in now. I will also tell you that only a minority of them are in the over 65 age group. We have an assortment of people on ventilators who are in their 30s and 40s. Proportionately, it is definitely true that more of the younger people will survive than the older people, but when you are talking about a disease spreading rapidly in a large population of young people, you're going to get a bunch of those young people in the hospital."

"This is a disease that when you get infected it takes a few days to start cooking up inside your system. The first symptoms are very nonspecific. These can include flu-like symptoms such as achiness, tiredness or a sore throat for a day - not shortness of breath or a measurable fever. That first day of not feeling good with some aches and pains is the day that you are most infectious. The two days before and two days after are not so bad. Ten days after that, the viral load in your respiratory tract, which is what is producing the droplets in aerosols, has really gone down a fair bit."

"Losing the sense of smell or taste can happen early on. The average time for breathing to go down the tubes is about a week, and that is when people go to the hospital. With COVID, the immunological response is part of the disease process and is part of what makes people very, very sick."

Clinical therapies, treatments

McLellan then spoke of clinical therapies and treatments. She stated, "Hydroxychloroquin was promoted, because in a test tube, it has antiviral activity. The only problem is, it's been tested against a number of viruses over the last 50 years, and it's never really panned out to do very well."

"You've probably heard a lot about remdesivir, an antiviral. Remdesivir looked

very promising, because in a test tube it had good activity against all of the previously identified coronaviruses. It had also been well tested for safety, because it was one of the drugs that was tested in the large clinical trials that occurred for Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

Governor allots \$200 Million for CARES

Continued from Page 1

net costs incurred by LEAs from May 21 through Sept. 1.

"As school districts delay the start of in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19, it is essential that we work to provide Texas students with the devices they need to connect and communicate online for classroom instruction," said Abbott. "As we continue to combat COVID-19 in Texas, we are committed to providing reliable and effective solutions that will help students academically succeed while protecting public health." The point was re-emphasized by Patrick.

"While getting our students back to school is our top priority, many local districts are also developing a variety of virtual learning plans to ensure that students do not lose valuable learning

time as we continue to fight COVID-19," said Patrick. "This funding is an essential step in closing the digital gap for students by making access to technology available to every child who needs it." This sentiment was also echoed by Bonnen. "The onset of COVID-19 has yielded unprecedented educational challenges in the State of Texas, and the embrace of new technologies and virtual learning methods will be instrumental in our effort to provide quality instructional continuity for all students," said Bonnen. "This funding will go a long way to close existing technology gaps and improve connectivity statewide, and in doing so, our students will be equipped with the tools needed for success in the upcoming school year."

Nelson further agreed. "Virtual learning works when students have access to the proper Wi-Fi and electronic devices," said Nelson. "These funds help bridge the digital divide and prevent students who lack access to technology from falling behind." Hinojosa also agreed with Abbott. "No child should ever be denied the ability to achieve his/her dreams simply because he/she does not have technological devices or internet access," Hinojosa said. "Education is the great equalizer and while that will look different in the near term, a move to distance learning to protect students and teachers can only be effective for all learners if they all are able to actively learn and participate. Today's actions by the governor and TEA will move us toward this goal of ensuring every child has equal access to the tools and resources necessary to achieve a high-quality

education." The first was a question about the accuracy of antibody tests. McLellan responded that there is not a lot of agreement on which might be the best antibody test, and people have to be very careful when they use them. She said, "They're useful on a population basis of per-

Questions asked

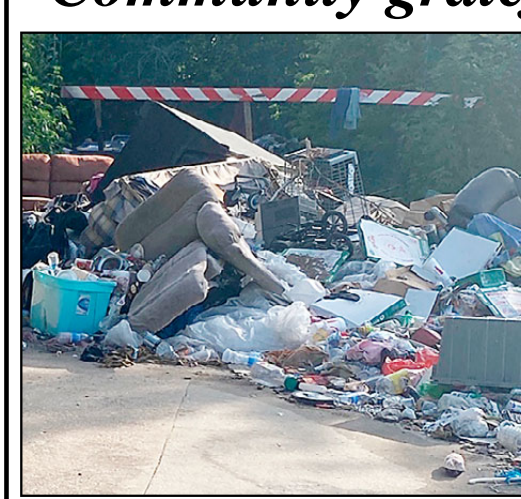
Near the meeting's end, Weaver and McLellan answered questions from virtual attendees.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted, and charges of possession of a controlled substance, unlawful carrying of a weapon and felony tampering with evidence were accepted on Walker. Charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (possessing a stolen vehicle) were declined. A charge of felony tampering with evidence was accepted on Simon. It was learned Walker has previously been charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle four times in Harris County. Both subjects were transported and booked in the Harris County Jail, where they are being held without bond at this time.

There's a good chance that a teacher or a student will show up infected. That increases the risk that we will have spread in the classroom. It's too difficult and too early to answer that question about what we're going to be able to do later in August. It's probably going to depend very much on local conditions - even school by school conditions. It's a very complicated question that nobody can answer for sure now."

Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=r07J0wlyqSQ&feature=youtu.be to see the meeting.

Community grateful for cleanup



City crews working with the Houston Police Department and the Solid Waste Management Department recently cleared a large amount of trash from a homeless encampment behind the Walgreens located near the intersection of Fuqua and Sabo. While the area has been an ongoing nuisance for more than three years, court rulings prohibit removing the squatters from the spot. The left photo shows the site before it was cleaned, while the photo on the right depicts the spot following the cleaning. The community sends a special thanks to Paulino Lozano, Sergeant, Houston Police Clear Lake Division; Richard Buitron, Sr. Police Officer/Community Service Liaison, Houston Police Clear Lake Division; and Jason Curtis, Sr. Police Officer, Houston Police Clear Lake Division and Christopher Castillo, Police Officer Southeast Division.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)

The Pasadena Independent School District's districtwide property reappraisal, which began in the spring, was complete and all property owners had been notified of whopping increases in the value of their property. The largest increases in appraisal were of property in the South Belt area.

A female murder victim found in the sandpit behind Beverly Hills in mid-July had been identified as that of a Houston woman.

A tornado was sighted in the South Belt area during heavy rains, but it was reported that it did not touch down or cause any damage.

A 20-cent across-the-board increase in PISD lunch prices was approved by trustees during a recent board meeting. Effective for the 1980-1981 school year, lunch prices were set at 95 cents for elementary, \$1.05 for intermediate and \$1.15 for high school students.

35 years ago (1985)

Arthur Hardy, registrar at San Jacinto College South, retired after more than 20 years with the college in teaching and administrative

roles. Joining the San Jacinto system in 1963, two years after the college originated, Hardy taught business courses such as bookkeeping, data processing and accounting. He became the South campus registrar in 1982.

Directors of the Sagemont Park Community Improvement Association told a quarterly gathering of the membership they were waiting to get responses from a recent questionnaire before decisions could be made. The most significant question on the questionnaire was on raising the annual maintenance fee from the then \$10 a year to \$30 a year.

An 18-year-old male drowned in a swimming pool accident at Windmill Lakes.

The Clear Creek Independent School District board reaffirmed its policy of assigning students 20 days in the Alternative Learning Center for possessing or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any injurious substance while at a school function. At that time, the state recommended a sentence of 10 days for first offenders, but CCISD opted to continue

with the 20-day sentence rather than have it appear the district was becoming more lenient with offenders.

25 years ago (1995)

Neighbors were encouraged to participate in National Night Out Tuesday, July 25, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Dobie Parking stickers were scheduled to be sold for \$20 the first week in August in the school's activity center. Application forms, which required a parent's signature, were made available in the main office of the school.

20 years ago (2000)

City of Houston officials urged a voluntary reduction in water consumption due to drought conditions. Jason Wilson, a 16-year-old Dobie junior, was found dead in his Scarsdale home.

15 years ago (2005)

Concerned that the opening of the district's fourth high school was in jeopardy, CCISD trustees voted to sue League City. The decision to sue was made after League City voted against honoring the permit previously approved by the city's planning and zoning commission.

Academically Acceptable. All CCISD high schools and elementary schools were rated Exemplary or Recognized.

5 years ago (2015)

A man died July 24 after being shot inside a local strip club. The incident happened at the Lounge Plaza Men's Club in the 12300 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua. Witnesses reported that the victim and the suspect had an altercation earlier in the evening. The suspect later returned with a pistol and shot the victim multiple times in the chest and leg. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital, where he later died.

1 year ago (2019)

Win Weber was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Clear Creek ISD board of trustee Chris Reed, following his death the previous month. A former longtime Clear Creek ISD board of trustee member herself, Weber was a personal friend of Reed's. Reed was elected to the District 2 seat in May 2017 following Weber's retirement from the board. A criminal defense lawyer by profession, Weber will serve in this position through May 2020, when the District 2 spot is up for election.

A warrant was filed on a former board member of the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League for allegedly stealing from the organization. Paul Rodriguez was charged with credit card abuse, a state jail felony. According to investigators, Rodriguez had recently resigned from the board but had continued to use the group's credit card for personal expenses. Rodriguez avoided arrest by proactively posting a no-arrest bond, allowing to remain out on bond while awaiting trial. A similar incident took place the previous year with the former president of the Dobie High School baseball booster club. In that case, Christopher Anthon Escalera, 44, was charged with felony forgery and misdemeanor theft.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOSE!
Greetings for a happy birthday on July 25 are sent to **Jose Abarca** from his wife **Natalie**; children **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah**, **Elliana** and **Isabella Abarca**; mother-in-law **Ellie Flickinger** and her husband, **David Flickinger** (Leader president); grandparents **Marie** and **David Flickinger**; and friends and staff at the Leader.

IRVINES ENJOY 12TH ANNIVERSARY!
Wishes for a happy 12th anniversary on July 26 are sent to **Steven** and **Rebecca (Heath) Irvine** from Rebecca's father **Richard Heath**, a longtime Kirkwood resident.

TORI CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Special birthday wishes are sent July 28 to former South Belt resident and Dobie High School graduate **Tori Mask** from friends and the Leader staff. She currently posts a blog about the history of the South Belt on <http://southbelthouston.blog.spot.com/>.

KENNY MARKS A BIRTHDAY
Break out the balloons and party favors for **Kenny Fernandez** who celebrates a birthday Sunday, July 26. He is active in the community as a local businessman, president/CEO at North American Shipping Agencies, chair of the South Belt Chamber and Pasadena ISD board of trustees member.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 23 through

July 29, 2020.

Bush Elementary
Light the birthday candles July 25 for **Ruby Contreras** and **Tonya Goan**. Three cheers for a happy birthday are sent on July 27 to **David Blevins**, **Maracha Hernandez** and **Minerva Licea**. **Maria Flores** enjoys a birthday July 29.

Genoa Elementary
Join in the birthday celebration July 28 for **Lisette Kearns**.

Meador Elementary
Marking a birthday July 25 is **Maria Gonzalez**.

Moore Elementary
The day for a double-fun birthday for **Gloria Guillen** and **Myra Nevarez** is July 26.

South Belt Elementary
Sing three choruses of a birthday song July 26 to **Hortensia Armenta**, **Marie Goree** and **Sara Simmons**. A happy birthday celebration is in order July 27 for **Valeria Sanchez**. Send a birthday greeting July 28 to **Lakitha Green**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday July 28 are sent to **Linda Bravo**.

Roberts Middle School
Light the birthday candles July 27 for **Fred Leggin**.

Dobie High

Break out the balloons and cake and ice cream for the July 24 birthday celebration of **Rebekka Gabino** and **Cam Luong**. Birthday

greetings are sent to **Rowena Hickman** July 25. The day for a birthday celebration for **Ana Solis** is July 26. **Hector Saldivar** marks a birthday July 27. Enjoying a special birthday July 29 is **Monique Smalls**.

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

Thursday, July 23: **Mario Salazar**, **Angeles Gomez**, **Melinda Evans** and **Amanda Karsten**; Friday, July 24: **Richard Schreier**, **Montoya Wiltner**, **Connie Alberti**, **Richard Golenko** and **Pete Ortiz**; Saturday, July 25: **Kelly Jones**, **Stephanie Gutierrez**, **Cherie Cundiff**, **Mario Rodriguez** and **Brodie Riner Jr.**; Sunday, July 26: **Kenneth Sublett**, **Magda Adams**, **Debra Patterson**, **Kendrick Woods**, **Jenny Batson**, **Terrie Nichols**, **Kenny Fernandez**, **Eric Madsen**, **Gina D'Orazio** and **Elizabeth Bazan**; Monday, July 27: **Lydia Garcia**, **Joanne Mata** and **Sean Kean**; Tuesday, July 28: **Ariana Mena**, **Alyssa Chambers**, **Tori Mask**, **Dana Milburn** and **Sandy Nelson**; and Wednesday, July 29: **Codie Salyer**, **Linda Brisbay**, **Gina Trevino**, **Donielle Taverner**, **Albert Perez** and **Tiffany Barras**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Alert officer . . .

Continued from Page 1

Both occupants were detained without incident.

While conducting an on-scene investigation, deputies learned Walker reportedly had a gun in a black bag and that Simon had thrown it out of the vehicle before they got on the freeway as the deputies were catching up to them. Deputy J. Toliver checked the area and located a black bag in that location. It contained 2.8 grams of Adderall pills, a Smith and Wesson M&P Shield 9mm handgun and several empty syringes. The vehicle was confirmed by the Pasadena PD to have been stolen.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted, and charges of possession of a controlled substance, unlawful carrying of a weapon and felony tampering with evidence were accepted on Walker. Charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (possessing a stolen vehicle) were declined. A charge of felony tampering with evidence was accepted on Simon. It was learned Walker has previously been charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle four times in Harris County. Both subjects were transported and booked in the Harris County Jail, where they are being held without bond at this time.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Cross-country, tennis Sept. 7

UIL says volleyball can begin Sept. 14, football comes Sept. 24

High School football is king in Texas but is far from the only sport affected by the coronavirus. There's also volleyball, cross-country and team tennis at the public school level to be concerned with, and both Dobie and Clear Brook are feeling the effects. There was wide speculation that the University Interscholastic League

would offer an official announcement on July 20 in relation to how it plans to proceed with fall sports.

On par with how things go during a pandemic, UIL word came a day later.

As of now, classes 5A and 6A may get started with preseason football and volleyball workouts Sept. 7, with volleyball matches allowed Sept. 14 and football games

beginning Sept. 24. In a nutshell, much of nondistrict play will either disappear or need adjusting.

So an Aug. 3 start to preseason workouts has, as expected, evaporated at this point.

The UIL has followed a similar path taken by private school governing body Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, as there is an abbreviated fall schedule, yet at least there is

action planned for now. The UIL and TAPPS currently plan to proceed with preseason workouts in mid-September, with regular season games and matches arriving soon after. Under those guidelines, here's how it will go for public schools.

As it stands, Alief ISD's decision to forgo extracurricular activities at the start of school already meant the Longhorns will not face the

Elsik Rams to open the season. Since there is a late start to the preseason, the Longhorns could, like TAPPS, lose additional nondistrict games, but the current Sept. 24 start date for games could allow a nondistrict game to begin 22-6A action in October.

As for Dobie volleyball, the Lady Longhorns are currently set to be in Channelview Sept. 11 to take on the Lady Falcons in the District 22-6A opener for both programs. It may require a little juggling, but if the current UIL plan holds true, the entirety of most district schedules will be played.

As for nondistrict matches scheduled beforehand, those are all but lost pending rescheduling efforts.

That is the glass half full thought process should one consider that there was and still could be a cancellation of the season.

But it must be noted that high school volleyball teams are likely to be robbed of 20 or more matches courtesy of the coronavirus pandemic.

Clear Brook and Dobie will both likely lose three tournaments each, along with that being the absence of 12 to 15 matches or so. That's valuable seasoning that

will be lost.

It must be stated that high school volleyball programs are only afforded seven calendar days, scrimmages included, to prepare for the start of a season in common times.

In that respect, there won't be much of an adjustment in terms of a rush to prepare for play.

But the loss of five weeks or so of court time is what it is at this point. Teams and coaches simply hope for no further delays.

Cross-country? A similar issue lies ahead as Dobie boys' state qualifier Alberto Campa leads his group into action, with girls' Region III qualifiers Amari Singleton and Izzy Padilla set to pace the Lady Longhorns.

The current scenario now has classes 5A and

6A allowed to begin a competitive season Sept. 7.

Which schools or districts will feel most comfortable hosting meets moving forward? In some cases, it will require currently closed public parks to reopen for business.

Campa, Dobie's first

state qualifier in decades when he advanced in 2019, wants to compete.

Prior to his junior year, Campa focused on self-preparation in the summer months and then came up big when the season began. He will be ready when the bell rings Sept. 7.

Continued on Page 6

Pre transfers to TSU

Former Clear Brook High School track and field standout Kenneth Pree has announced via Twitter that he has left the University of Houston and will transfer to Texas Southern University to continue his education and athletic career.

Pree specialized in the jumps (long, triple) at Clear Brook and also contributed to several relays.

In terms of athletic eligibility, he will be a sophomore at TSU.

Continued on Page 6

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Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton is ready to lead her Lady Longhorns into action sometime this fall. While a realistic preseason start of Aug. 3 is now gone, the University Interscholastic League will allow volleyball matches beginning Sept. 14, with football games allowed Sept. 24.

San Jac baseball, softball players get NJCAA honors

By Courtney Morris
San Jacinto College The National Junior College Athletic Association recognized seven San Jacinto College student-athletes for their academic achievements during the 2019-2020 season.

The seven San Jac baseball and softball players who received the NJCAA all-academic recognition included Lillie Grontenhuis, softball, first team; Kaylee Thomas, softball, first team; Laura Hernandez, softball, second team; Adam Houghtaling, baseball, second team; Morgan Childs, softball, third team; Nicholas Swanson, base-

ball, third team and Jordan Williams, baseball, third team.

San Jacinto College head coaches applauded their players' hard work on and off the field.

"I am extremely proud of the personal achievements and academic success of our student-athletes, especially considering the unprecedented cancellation of the competitive season and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," San Jac baseball head coach Tom Arrington said.

"We want to congratulate our players on their success in the classroom," San Jac softball head coach Kelly Saenz said. "We are

very proud of them, especially with a difficult spring semester."

NJCAA student-athletes faced their biggest opponent yet in the 2019-2020 season: COVID-19. Although the pandemic disrupted the playing season and academic year, all-academic students maintained top grades in their college classes, with 9,555 earning grade point averages (GPAs) of 3.6 or higher.

These are the academic criteria for NJCAA recognition: All-Academic First Team: 4.00 GPA; All-Academic Second Team: 3.80-3.99 GPA; All-Academic Third Team: 3.60-3.79 GPA.

This year, 2,427 student-athletes received first team, 3,043 second team, and 4,085 third team honors.

"NJCAA student-athletes proved that no obstacle is too difficult to overcome," Dr. Christopher Parker, NJCAA president and CEO, said.

"These difficulties pushed our student-athletes to the limit this year, but the opportunity to overcome these challenges presented itself, and our student-athletes flourished academically."

To view the complete list of NJCAA academic honors, visit www.njcaa.org.

Lajaunie tennis now coming Oct. 9-11

The ninth annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will be held Oct. 9-11 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena fol-

lowing two delays because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Players who have already registered and have paid entry fees will remain set to play, and registration opportunities are still available at www.DLTennisScholarships.com.

Those previously regis-

tered but who are unable to play in October may direct email to tournament director John Thomas at jtjohnjr@gmail.com for additional information.

Those registering are asked to include a cellphone number on the entry form so as to receive up-to-date

tournament details including court playing times, etc.

The tournament provides youth tennis camp and collegiate education scholarships for young players and honors the memory of Dobie graduate Darren Lajaunie, a tennis enthusiast who died of complications of cancer in 2011.

TAPPS sets fall sports reboot

The dominoes began to tumble July 17 as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, the state's largest governing body for private school extracurricular activities, announced its latest plans for eventually moving forward with fall sports.

The announcement will cover fall sports conducted by South Belt-based Lutheran South Academy and its football, volleyball, cross-country, team tennis, golf and soccer.

While a good number of schools, LSA included, still plan to begin in-person learning as scheduled in August, it had become increasingly unlikely that preseason workouts for sports such as football and volleyball would be allowed to start Aug. 3. They will not.

Instead, strength and conditioning workouts for fall sports may begin Sept. 8, with in-pad football workouts underway Sept. 15. Football scrimmages may be conducted beginning the week of Sept. 21, with regular season games coming the week of Sept. 28.

Volleyball practices may start Sept. 7, with scrimmages coming Sept. 14, and regular season competition then is slated for a Sept. 21 start.

The same schedule applies for cross-country, team tennis and golf. LSA may begin preseason soccer workouts Sept. 28. TAPPS has announced that there will be no makeup of games or matches lost to the reboot.

The LSA volleyball program stands to lose more than five weeks of action, including valuable tournament play. LSA's football team originally had a bye week set for Oct. 2 but will now seek an opponent for that week before beginning district play the following week, Oct. 9 against Spring Frassati.

If the current plans hold true, LSA will play a six-game slate, with four games lost to the pandemic. The Pioneers won nine overall games in 2019 and reached the second round of the postseason.

As one might imagine during these times, plans could change as soon as to-

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Graham to be inducted into ABCA Hall of Fame

The American Baseball Coaches Association has announced eight individuals to be inducted to the ABCA Hall of Fame in January 2021, including legendary San Jacinto College and Rice University head coach Wayne Graham.

The ABCA Hall of Fame Class of 2021 includes Bill Anderson, Occidental College (Calif.); Hal Baird, Auburn University (Ala.); Roger Cadore, Southern University (La.); Sammy Dunn, Vestavia Hills High School (Ala.); Wayne Graham, San Jacinto College, Rice University (Houston); George Horton, Cal State Fullerton/University of Oregon; Tony Robichaux, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and Don Sneddon, Santa Ana College (Calif.).

The 2021 ABCA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held during the 77th annual ABCA Convention on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at the Gaylord National in Washington, D.C. Tickets to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet will go on sale Sept. 1.

Induction to the ABCA Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the organization. The ABCA was founded in 1945 and the Hall of Fame began in 1966. Graham spent 27 seasons at the helm of the Rice University baseball program, and 38 seasons overall as a collegiate head coach. Graham's highly successful

teams at Rice and San Jacinto College combined for a total of six national championships and an overall record of 1848-641-2 (.742).

At Rice, Graham amassed a 1,173-528-2 (.689) record to go along with seven College World Series appearances and the 2003 National Championship, the school's first team national championship in any sport.

Beginning with the 1995 season, Rice appeared in 23 consecutive NCAA Regionals and advanced to the Super Regionals 10 times following the adoption of the format in 1999. His Owls also captured 21 conference championships as part of three different conferences, including 20-straight from 1996-2015.

Graham coached 39 different Rice players to a total of 56 All-America awards and 136 former players were drafted by professional teams. The 14 Rice draft picks in 2007 tied the college record for the most players selected from one school in a single year.

A native Houstonian, Graham's coaching career began at Scarborough (Texas) High School. In nine seasons at Scarborough and one at Spring Branch, Graham's teams compiled a 98-13 (.883) district record, won seven district titles and never finished lower than second in the district race.

After 10 successful seasons at the high school

level, Graham moved on to San Jacinto College in 1981, where he proceeded to turn the Gators into a Junior College powerhouse. Following a pair of conference titles in 1982 and 1983, Graham's Gators made seven-straight NJCAA World Series appearances from 1984-1990. After a runner-up finish in 1984, his teams captured three consecutive national titles from 1985-1987. The Gators once again came back from a runner up finish in 1988 to claim another pair of national titles in 1989 and 1990.

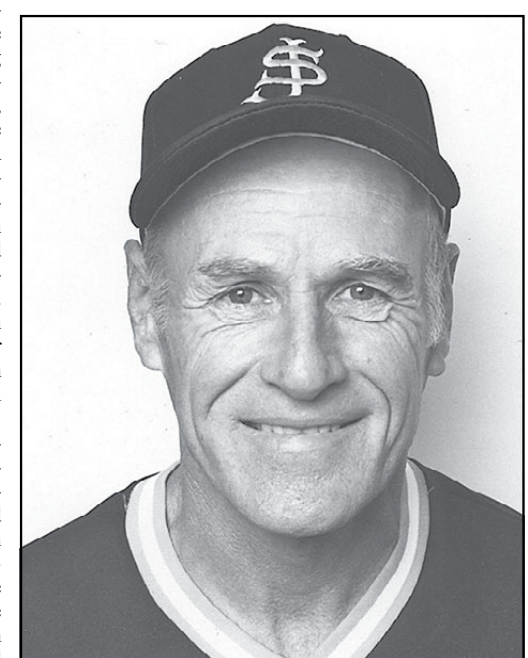
Named the Junior College Coach of the Century by Collegiate Baseball, Graham completed his 11-year tenure at San Jacinto with a 675-113 (.857) record and five National Coach of the Year awards. His uniform number (37) was retired by San Jacinto and he was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 1995.

Graham's coaching career was preceded by an 11-year professional career that included stints as a third baseman and outfielder with the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Mets organizations. A Texas native, Graham played two seasons at the University of Texas under legendary coach and ABCA Hall of Fame member Bibb Falk.

Graham's success led to his induction into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003, and he was named one of Houston's 38 Sports Legends in

2004. In addition, he was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame

in 2005 and the College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012.



A winner of five national titles at San Jacinto College, legendary baseball coach Wayne Graham was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association's Hall of Fame in 1995. Now, the winner of another national championship at Rice University will enter the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame for 2021.

Thunder 2K11 softball wins championship in Baytown



The South Belt-based HTX Thunder 2K11 captured first place at the Baytown United States Fastpitch Association Turn Up The Heat Tournament. Members of the team included, left to right, (front row) Brooklyn Coronado, Joane Trevino, Sofia Charles, Mariah

Mendez, Juliet Tijerina, (middle row) Izabell Trevino, Melody Ramirez, Kaylee Ibanez, Taylor O'Dette, Victoria Arredondo, Khayla Juarez, (back row) head coach Chris Ramirez and assistant coaches Eric Ibanez, Mike Mendez, Robert Juarez and J.R. Charles.

Fall sports decisions come

Continued from Page 5
The rust will come off slower for some, faster for others.

Team tennis is another fall sport facing similar issues, but a Sept. 7 start date is doable.

At Dobie, the Longhorns have already

missed weeks of simply being able to swing a racquet during the summer.

Preseason workouts usually start later this month, but now it's Sept. 7.

To be blunt, teams like Dobie who often rely on

nondistrict play in an effort to best prepare for 22-6A action, will likely lose much if not all of that.

So an announcement has been made, and it very well could hold up. Now some districts need to get on board.

AVA has tryout openings as fall 2020-2021 season nears

The Absolute Volleyball Academy of Texas has continued club tryouts for its 2020-2021 season on Sundays from noon to 1 p.m. at its facility in Dickinson until all teams are full.

The facility is located at 451 Spruce St. in Dickinson. AVA's current team

openings are for incoming fifth- through 10th-graders.

Players may register for the tryouts at avatexas.com. Direct any questions to info@avatexas.com.

AVA will be moving into a new eight-court indoor facility that includes eight outdoor sand courts

in early September. Its location will be 380 Green Wing St. in Webster.

For additional information about AVA, visit any of the following links, including www.avatexas.com/missionstatement, www.avatexas.com/philosophy or www.avatexas.com/aboutava.

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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. For Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

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.

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 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.

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

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

FRIDAY, JULY 24

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.

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

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

SATURDAY, JULY 25

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7:30 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.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

StartSchoolLater.net (SSL) Houston Chapter - informational meeting about the link of teen sleep deprivation to depression and low academic performance. The public is welcome, 11 a.m., on the fourth Saturday at the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-229-1409. RSVP is requested for meeting attendance.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 26

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

MONDAY, JULY 27

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.

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

Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website, <https://youngprofessionalsstoastmasters.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.youngprofessionalsstoastmasters.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. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 28

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.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

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.

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

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 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

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

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

THURSDAY, JULY 30

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.

Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 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.

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

Kirkwood Civic Association meets with a phone meeting. Call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990 for additional information.

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

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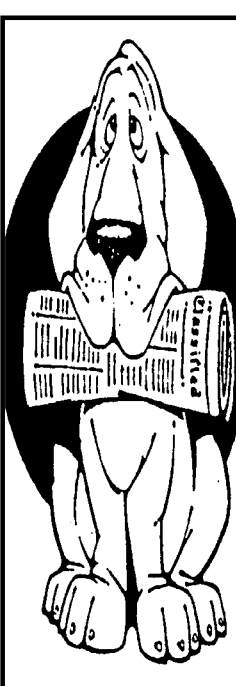
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Career & Technical High School awards Shining Stars, distinguished educators

As part of the Shining Stars awards to the top ten students from each high school in the district, each Shining Star was able to select a teacher to receive a distinguished educator award. The information

and photos for Career and Technical High School were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running photos from Pasadena Memorial, South Houston and Dobie high schools.



David Chandler

David Chandler, AP Physics 1 teacher was chosen by three of his students to receive a distinguished educator award. Shining Stars recipient Heaven DeLeon said, "Mr. Chandler is an exceptional person who has dedicated his career to encouraging students to delve into the topics of science, technology, engineering and math. He didn't just teach me about Newton's Laws, free body diagrams, nor momentum. He went beyond the classroom and taught me valuable life lessons as well. He puts his students first and understands that learning consists of much more than teaching for a test. His saying to his students, 'I have no life, you are my life,' perfectly demonstrates what a remarkable teacher he is."



Heaven DeLeon

Tan Nguyen, recipient of a Shining Stars award, shared of his time with Chandler, "Mr. Chandler is one of the best teachers I ever had in my high school journey because of his laid back and easy going attitude toward students. His teaching is always very interesting since he never makes students take wordy notes on topics, but he instead actively engages with the students by connecting complex concepts to easy real life examples that everyone can understand. Mr. Chandler would always push and motivate me to try my best on the course even if it's difficult and this is what made him one of the most influential teachers in my high school journey."



Tan Nguyen

Shining Stars recipient Karla Chapa shared her thoughts about Chandler, "Mr. Chandler never failed to recognize my academic efforts and continuously pushed me far beyond my limits. He reminds me that there is true power to achieve greatness from what one holds within oneself. In times of sorrow and derailment, from my numerous obstacles, he was there to uplift me with his humor and inspiring scholarly advice. There was a point in my high school 'run' where I felt like giving up was the best choice for me, due to my civil status, yet he was there to pull me aside and remind me that being an immigrant does not define me. He believed in me and never doubted me, even when I was at a point to pull my 'white-flag' to surrender my dreams."



Karla Chapa



Desiree Gomez

Desiree Gomez, a Health Science and Practicum of Pharmacy, was selected by Shining Stars recipient Diya Patel to receive a distinguished educator award. Patel shared these words of her experience with Gomez saying, "For the two years that I've had Mrs. Gomez as my teacher, there's never been a day that I wasn't happy to walk into her class. At her door, she goes above and beyond by greeting all students with an awesome fist bump. Then, she starts each class with an attention signal followed by the "hot news" of the day. This always cheers me up and shows that aside from being a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Gomez also cares about creating a friendly and inviting classroom. Choosing to be in her Pharmacy Technician



Diya Patel

pathway was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Knowing that the journey to become a certified pharmacy technician isn't going to be easy, she continues to believe in all of her students. When Mrs. Gomez is teaching, I see her passion for the medical field shine through and inspire us all. She makes sure that all students understand the content thoroughly by spending as much time as needed to explain a certain topic or clarify an answer to a question. This has always stood out to me because it shows that her love for teaching is immeasurable. Mrs. Gomez has been and will continue to be one of my biggest inspirations to keep moving forward in college and beyond. I consider myself very lucky to have had her as my teacher."



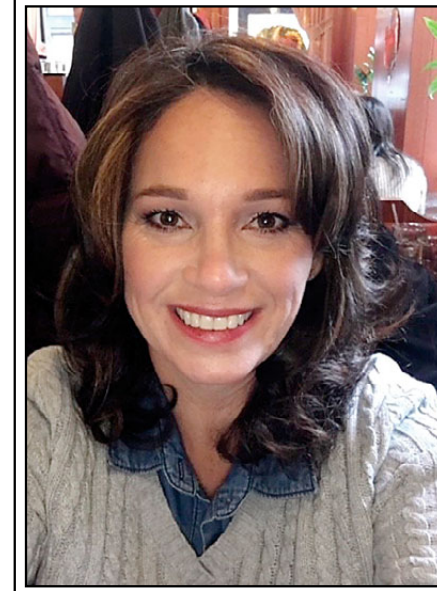
Lisa Anders

Shining Star recipient Joe Perlera has selected art teacher Lisa Anders as his choice for distinguished educator award recipient. Perlera said, "Mrs. Anders has been the catalyst for my interest in the elegant abstractions that the world of art has to offer those who plumb its depths and analyzes its masterpieces. However, that



Joe Perlera

pales in comparison to what Mrs. Anders has ingrained in me: compassion and perseverance. When the storms of life came and left me and those I love devastated, she had mercy on me and helped me and my family back up with a cheery spirit. That is not learned in any classroom, but is yet the most valuable skill to learn."

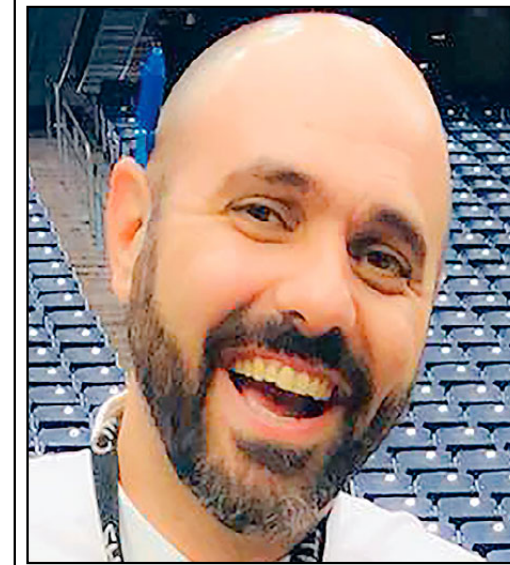


Melissa Ramsey

Daniel Guel, a Shining Stars recipient, chose Melissa Ramsey an AP Language teacher for his distinguished educator. Guel said, "Mrs. Ramsey always brought a positive attitude to her classroom every single day. She truly cared about every one of her students, and if she thought something was wrong she would check up on us. She was also a great teacher that tried her very best to keep us engaged even if the topic was sleep inducing. I actually had her for two periods as she also took on the burden of teaching our very first academic deathlon team. Even though we were all new to it, she did her very best to ensure that we were learning the right way and she was able to lead us to third place in district in our first year! She is one of the best teachers at CTHS and she makes it a lot brighter place."



Daniel Guel



Casey Crews

Shining Stars recipient Legrand Dudley selected his AP biology, anatomy and physiology teacher Casey Crews as his distinguished educator award recipient. Dudley said, "Mr. Crews is an amazing teacher who is truly passionate about his teachings. He really goes above and beyond for his students by making relatable jokes, awesome experiments, and just overall having a good vibe. Mr. Crews is fun to talk to, especially about interesting topics like sci-fi, possible futures, and biological achievements. I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do as I got closer to graduation and Mr. Crews inspired me to venture toward the sciences."



Legrand Dudley



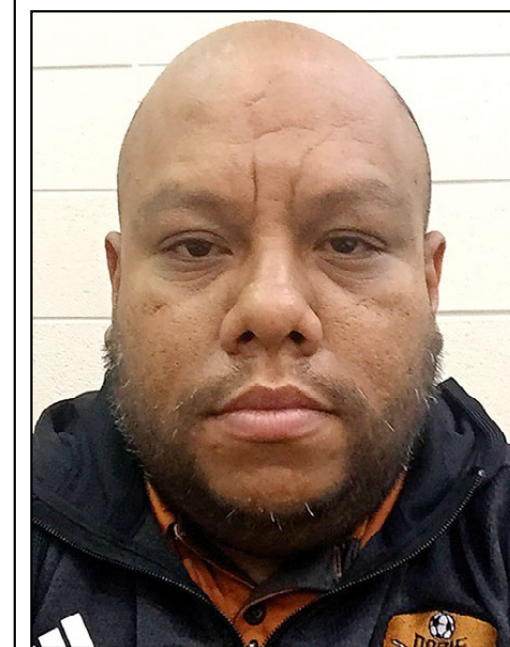
Elin Washington

Elin Washington, a sixth-grade social studies teacher, was chosen to be a distinguished educator by Shining Stars recipient Lee Roy Chavez Jr. Chavez said, "In fifth grade, I had the honor of learning from Mr. Washington. Besides being the first teacher to give me detention (Ah, the memories...), he would always encourage and remind me of the potential that resided within me. His



Lee Roy Chavez, Jr.

encouragement and unparalleled teaching style allowed me to tap into that potential and become driven to excel academically. Guaranteed, most fifth-graders wanted to be in his class, since he strove to make learning a fun experience. This educational journey has been far from ordinary, and it all stems from being the student of the amazing educator and mentor, Mr. Washington."



Justo Manrique

Justo Manrique, the boys' varsity soccer coach, was selected by Shining Stars recipient Elijah Donaho as a distinguished educator award recipient. Donaho said, "Coach Manrique has been my soccer coach throughout my four years of high school and has had a significant impact on my life. He has pushed me not only on the field but also in the classroom with the high standards he sets for his teams. His dedication and enthusiasm towards the game of soccer is boundless, however, the thing I admire the most about him is the love and passion that he has for each and every member of the team. He treats us as if we are family and that is something that will last a lifetime." Donoho was the captain of the 2020 Varsity Soccer Team at Dobie High School.



Elijah Donaho



Ashley Brown

Shining Stars recipient Andrew Jaso chose AP calculus teacher Ashley Brown as a distinguished educator award recipient. Brown . Jaso said, "I chose Mrs. Brown because she is an amazing teacher who believes in her students and does everything to make sure her students understand what she teaches. I've had Mrs. Brown as a



Andrew Jaso

freshman in geometry and now in AP calculus as a senior and I can say that she is one of the best teachers that I have ever had because she has greatly impacted my high school experience. Mrs. Brown is a caring, funny and inspiring teacher, and I greatly appreciate her for everything she has done for me and all her students."