



South Belt-Ellington Leader

45 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Class of '91 holds reunion

Tickets are currently on sale for the J. Frank Dobie High School Class of 1991's 30th reunion, to be held Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Black Swan nightclub at the Omni Hotel, located at 4 Riverway, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. To follow the event online, visit www.facebook.com/groups/dobiehsclassof91. To purchase tickets, visit www.ticketstripe.com/jfdobieclassof1991reunion. For additional information, email Noel Aleman at noel.aleman1@gmail.com.

Active COVID cases up

As of Tuesday, Aug. 17, there were 183 reported South Belt deaths due to COVID-19, no increase from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 6,371 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 523 remain active, up 87 from the previous week. To date, 70 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 370 of the 4,612 confirmed cases remain active, up 50 from the previous week. A total of 58 from the ZIP code have died, up one from the previous week.

Of the 4,741 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 396 remain active, up 70 from the previous week. To date, 55 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week (one less than the county initially reported).

According to Harris County Public Health officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Countywide, there have been 454,416 total confirmed cases. Of those, 412,028 have recovered from the disease, while 37,205 cases remain active, up 7,752 from the previous week. A total of 5,111 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

At-home vaccines offered

Harris County Public Health staff will provide vaccinations in the home. This is available to Harris County residents who are bedbound or homebound due to medical reasons, regardless of age. The staff will observe clients for 15-30 minutes after vaccinations to ensure no immediate reactions occur. For additional information, contact HCPH at 832-927-8877.

Highway 3 closures set

At least one northbound lane on SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed from FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard to NASA Road 1 daily (excluding Sundays) from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Monday, Aug. 23.

At least northbound lane and one southbound lane on SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed from NASA Road 1 to FM 518/Main Street daily (excluding Sundays) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Tuesday, Aug. 31.

Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to Kirby Drive daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, Aug. 21.

At least one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Kirby to Bellfort daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, Sept. 17.

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. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, Sept. 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

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528.

At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 30.

At least one northbound lane and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 30.

Two alternate northbound and southbound 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 Friday, Dec. 31.

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

The closures are associated with an ongoing 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.

K of C will host sandwich sale

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a sandwich sale at St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday Aug. 22, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. or until food runs out. Meals are \$10 which include a pulled pork sandwich with trimmings (onions and pickles), chips and a soft drink or sausage-on-a-stick for \$6. Proceeds benefit KC charities. For additional information, call Richard Valdez at 713-542-1760.

Local COVID-19 cases continue to increase

South Belt community reports 500 new cases in just one week

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt community continues to climb, with more than 500 new cases being reported this past week. (See related photo.)

Between Thursday, Aug. 5, and Thursday, Aug. 12, there were 504 new active cases in the immediate South Belt area, according to Harris

County records. Of these known cases, 123 were from ZIP code 77089; 197 were from ZIP code 77075; and 184 were from ZIP code 77034.

This marked just the second time since the beginning of the pandemic that the South Belt community has surpassed the 500 mark of new cases in one week. The only other time this has

happened to date was the week ending Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020. That week saw 509 new cases: 148 from ZIP code 77089; 157 from ZIP code 77075; and 204 from ZIP code 77034.

Countywide, active cases from Aug. 5 to Aug. 12 increased from 16,589 to 29,453 - up 12,864 from the previous week.

At press time, it was unclear how many of the new cases were the Delta variant of the disease. County officials, however, said the Delta variant accounts for the majority of new hospitalizations.

On Tuesday, Aug. 10, the number of Texans hospitalized for COVID-19 surpassed the 10,000 mark, according to data released by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

According to the state data, 10,041 people

were hospitalized with COVID-19 across the state of Texas on Monday, Aug. 9, the highest rate since Feb. 4.

The increase represented a 37 percent spike over the number of hospitalizations the previous week.

The surge in new cases has filled local hospitals to the brim, with several Houston-area facilities at full capacity and currently avoiding elective surgeries. According to DSHS records, only 27 intensive care units were available in the city on Aug. 10.

Last week, Gov. Greg Abbott issued a call for nurses from outside the state to lend a hand at Texas hospitals. The governor, however, stands firm in his belief that the state shall not allow lo-

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MHSE installs overflow tents



Memorial Hermann Southeast recently installed tents to handle overflow patients at the area facility. The measure takes place as the number of COVID cases continues to climb in the South Belt community. This past week, there were 500 new cases reported in just the immediate South Belt area. This marked the second time since the pandemic began that the South Belt community has surpassed the 500 mark in one week. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Two new arrests in Mikeska murder

Two additional juveniles have been arrested in connection to the June 17 murder of Elsa Mikeska, 62, that took place in the 10500 block of Fuqua near Beamer.

The two suspects have been referred to Harris County Juvenile Probation authorities on charges of murder.

A 16-year-old believed to be the gunman was arrested in early July on charges of capital murder.

Mikeska was entering her gym shortly before 5 a.m. when the killing occurred. According to police, the suspects parked their SUV next to

Mikeska as she pulled into the gym parking lot. As Mikeska was approaching the gym, two of the suspects also got out of their vehicle and ap-

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Gas smell detected

Several residents noticed a strong gas odor in the area Monday, Aug. 16. Later determined to be mercaptan, the smell originated at a Lubrizol plant in Deer Park. The smell was reported across Greater Houston and led to shelter-in-place orders from both La Porte and Seabrook.

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PISD joins city, county to vaccinate

Mayor Sylvester Turner, the Houston Health Department, Harris County Public Health and leaders from different Houston-area school districts - including Pasadena ISD - recently held a news conference to announce the Super Saturday Vaccination Day initiative to get families and children ages 12 and above vaccinated before going back to school.

The mayor was joined by the City of Houston Chief Medical Officer/local health authority Dr. David Persse, local health authority for Harris County Public Health Dr. Janeana White,

Houston ISD Superintendent Millard House, Al-dine ISD Chief of Staff Sheleah D. Reed, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. Rep. Al Green and other education leaders from the Houston-area school districts.

"Families and educators have a right to feel safe going to a place they know and trust such as a school building to get the vaccine," said Turner. "Having more families and educators vaccinated will mean less students and educators getting sick and missing school. Our goal and our hope

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Hidalgo issues mask mandate, pitting schools vs. gov

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Thursday, Aug. 12, announced a mask mandate has been issued for all schools in the county per CDC guidelines.

The announcement was made as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to climb in the Houston area. (See related story on this page.)

"Effective immediately, all people shall wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public school, nonreligious private school or licensed childcare center within Harris County, regardless of vaccination status," Hidalgo said in a statement.

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The measure goes squarely against Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order issued this past May that prohibits local entities, including school districts, from requiring masks. Prior to Thursday's announcement, commissioners court had the county attorney file a lawsuit challenging Abbott's GA-38 executive order.

The new county mandate also requires schools to notify parents if their child has been in close contact with a COVID-positive student, per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The mask order stresses that face coverings are a secondary safety measure and strongly encourages the use of vaccines, if an option.

"Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to getting vaccinated and should be undertaken with other mitigation efforts," the order states. "Face coverings are not a replacement for vaccinations or for those who cannot get vac-

inated due to age or disability, social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick."

The county announcement pits area school districts between following orders from state or the county, which is acting on federal guidelines.

Earlier in the week, Hidalgo praised Houston ISD for issuing a similar mandate.

"I am supportive of Superintendent (Millard) House's decision," Hidalgo said during a press conference. "It breaks my heart to picture these kids in the classrooms at 100 percent capacity, no masks, with the more transmissible variant."

Both Austin ISD and Dallas ISD have said they will also require masks this year.

Locally, however, South Belt school districts have sided with the state, at least for now.

Both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD have issued statements saying they will adhere to Abbott's executive order.

"Currently, Executive Order GA-38 issued by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott prohibits governmental entities, including public school districts, from imposing a mask mandate, and Harris County Pub-

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County gives tips to beat the heat

Summer is in full swing, and heat is in the forecast.

Harris County Public Health has offered the following tips for South Belt residents to stay safe and keep cool:

- Drink plenty of fluids: During hot weather, you will need an increase of fluids. Limit drinks that contain caffeine, alcohol or sugar as these tend to dehydrate. Remember, pets need water too!

- Replace salt and minerals: Heavy sweating removes vital nutrients from one's body. Sports drinks can replace these nutrients.

- Wear appropriate clothing: Lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes are ideal. Cotton fabrics will keep one cooler than many syn-

thetic.

- Use sun protection: Wear hats, sunglasses and sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher. Sunscreen should be applied 30 minutes prior to outdoor activity and reapplied every two hours.

- Schedule outdoor activities carefully: Limit outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.

- Stay cool indoors: Stay in air-conditioned buildings. Public libraries and shopping malls are good options. Showers and baths can help one cool off as well.

- Monitor those at risk: Infants, young children and the elderly require additional monitoring. Never leave infants, children or pets in a parked car!

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City launches new waste collection app

The Houston Solid Waste Management Department has launched HTX Collects, a mobile app that allows residents to stay better connected with the city's waste and recycling collection programs.

The Solid Waste Management Department collects curbside service for more than 395,000 residential homes within the city limits. With both garbage (black can) and recycling (green can) as the core operations for curbside collections, the mobile app will help residents keep track of weekly services, updates and collection delays.

"The HTX Collects mobile app will make it

easier for Houstonians to learn about environmentally sustainable solutions for their neighborhoods," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "I encourage Houstonians to download the app today and take advantage of all its features. Together, we can help clean the environment in our city."

HTX Collects will include collection reminders for garbage, recycling, yard waste and tree/junk waste specific to their service address. The mobile app will also send a reminder to residents of their collection days.

"This user-friendly mobile app has many features available to residents, giving them the abil-

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Two Gulf Palms homes catch fire

Houston firefighters responded to two separate house fires in the Gulf Palms subdivision this past week.

A house caught fire Wednesday, Aug. 4, in the 12000 block of Palmdate.

Firefighters arrived on scene within five minutes at approximately 12:15 a.m. to find smoke and fire coming from the side of a one-story house. They made an offensive attack and extinguished the fire, which had spread from the exterior into the attic of the home.

A primary search was completed with no one found.

The crews ventilated the home, and HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause of the fire. It remained under investigation at press time. Social media posts indicated the fire was caused by a car explosion in the drive-

way of the residence. (See related photo on this page.)

The blaze caused around \$75,000 in damage. Roughly \$56,000 in property was saved by firefighters.

No injuries were reported. Firefighters from stations 70, 71, 61, 52, 23 and 93 responded to this incident.

A second house fire took place Tuesday, Aug. 10, in the 12300 block of Palmbeach.

Firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes at approximately 1:11 a.m. to find smoke and fire coming from the side of a one-story house.

They made an offensive attack and conducted a primary search, with no one found. Crews controlled the main body of the fire inside

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Exploding car ignites house



A car reportedly exploded under a carport in the 12000 block of Palmdate early Wednesday, Aug. 4, causing the adjacent house to catch fire. The homeowner, who had no home insurance, posted on social media her auto insurance provider was not covering damages to the house. The blaze was one of two house fires to take place in the Gulf Palms subdivision in just one week.

Deaths

Jewel Mae Hayden

Victor Hugo Helguero Maceda

Barbara Jean Smith Nelson



Jewel Mae Hayden (affectionately known as "Maw Maw") passed away Aug. 11, 2021. She was born March 4, 1944, to Pressley Wilson and Jewel Mae Clooney in Houston.

Victor Hugo Helguero Maceda, born Aug. 9, 1939, peacefully passed away at HCA Pearland Hospital July 28, 2021.

Barbara Jean Smith Nelson, 75, of Willis, Texas, passed away at home Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021 in Willis. She is survived by her daughters Evelyn Nelson of Willis and Heidi Beckham and husband Don of Willis. She is also survived by her brother Ira Steve Smith Jr. of Hondo, Texas; her sisters Diana Smith of San Antonio and Cathy Roescher of Castle Rock, Colo.; as well as numerous nieces and nephews around the country.

Jewel married Don Hayden in September 1969 and together they raised daughters Joanna Mae, Roxanna Lee and Donna Ann.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 36 years Maria Elena Helguero and his son Victor Helguero Jr.

Don and Jewel raised their three daughters in Sagement where Jewel was "everyone's Mom" as she welcomed her daughters' friends into their home and treated everyone like family.

Victor is survived by his children Ricardo Helguero, Michelle Garza Helguero and Marco Helguero; his many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; brothers; sister; nephews; nieces; daughter/sister; and brothers-in-law.

Those who grew up in Sagement during the '70s and '80s may recall Hayden A/C company on Hall Road. Jewel often cooked extra food so there would be plenty for her daughters' friends.

Born in La Paz, Bolivia, South America, Victor applied to Texas A&M at the age of 18, was accepted and traveled to the United States to pursue the American dream.

Jewel called almost everyone "baby" or "sweetie" and was loved by many friends and family.

He graduated in 1963 with a mechanical engineering degree and later certified as professional engineer. He went to work for S.I.P. Engineering on the Gulf Freeway in Houston and retired after 35 years.

Jewel was preceded in death by her parents, husband Don and sister Mary Lee.

Survivors include her daughters Joanna Lockey, Roxy Sizemore and husband Forrest, and Donna Gilliam and husband Richard; and grandchildren Karissa Sills and husband Jeff, Lauren Cockrell and husband Josh, Amanda Gilliam, Maranda Hood and husband Michael, Hayden Scates, McKay Scates and wife Erin, Tyler Sizemore, Levi Peters and Alayna Peters.

Jewel was also a great-grandmother to Jarrett Sills, Ava Peters, Kynzee Peters, Zane Gray and Raelynn Hood.

Memorial services will be held Aug. 21, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Shady Oaks Church, 128 Flag Lake Drive in Lake Jackson, Texas.

Leader obituary policy
Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

Publisher's Opinion

Time to hold people accountable

Frequent readers of the *South Belt Leader* know that it is very rare that I use this column to attack other community members, but this week is going to be an exception.

less program and is working to help the homeless so they don't have to take up residency in the drive-thru of a former hamburger facility. There are multiple alternatives for those who are homeless.

I am really upset about the condition of the shopping center on the corner of Sabo and Fuqua. I feel sorry for the tenants who are paying rent in that shopping center with one of the most obvious properties on Fuqua looking like the two pictures attached.

This place makes me very sad. Who ever owns it needs to get out and clean it up. We all need to do our part to get the community cleaned up.

I spent the better part of four hours trying to find out who owns the property, but I need your help.

I am thinking I would like to start a list of volunteers who might help us on various projects.

I can tell you the owner is not Whatburger. It is not Regional Properties Texas, which is the leasing agent for the surrounding properties of that shopping center.

If you would be interested in helping us, please email at mynews@southbeltleader.com. Send your phone number and type of projects with which you would be willing to help. We have a great community. Let's keep it that way. If EACH of us does a LITTLE bit, we can make a GREAT difference.

Our only hope now is Constable Jerry Garcia who has established a home-

Marie Flickinger
Publisher

Old hamburger shop becomes home



Homeless are sleeping in the drive-thru of a former eating location.

Driver charged in DWI fatality

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in a fatal crash that took place around 3:55 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, in the 5100 block of South Shaver Street near SH 3/Old Galveston Road.



Christopher Baulch

The suspect, Christopher Lawrence Baulch, 24, is charged with driving while intoxicated in Harris County Criminal Court No. 11.

The identity of the male victim is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to Houston police, a black Honda motorcycle was traveling east on South Shaver when a black Kia Soul left a stop sign at the intersection of 8800 Wald Street. As the Kia crossed over three lanes of South Shaver to travel west, the motorcycle struck the Kia.

The operator of the motorcycle was ejected from the bike. The victim was transported to Clear Lake Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Baulch, the driver of the Kia, was determined to be impaired and was detained at the scene. The investigation is continuing.

Elected officials share their words from Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Martin

Dear Residents,

With the start of the 2021/2022 school year, I would like to encourage residents to return to school safely. First, please be aware of where school zones are along your route and be sure to slow down to ensure the safety of the children. Additionally, be aware of crosswalks within school zones allowing children plenty of room to cross the road. Remember cell phone use is prohibited within school zones to prevent drivers from being distracted, so they can practice the caution needed when driving near schools and parks.

can change in an instance. Road Conditions can change as quickly as our weather here in Houston and while we enter the peak of Hurricane Season.

It is important to make sure your families are prepared with a Family Emergency Plan on hand. The City of Houston and Harris County have tremendous resources available to residents which will prepare them to have supplies ready for sheltering in place or evacuation, if necessary. Please take the time to stock your pantry and prepare your family, should such a storm impact our area.

I wish each student, parent, teacher, janitor and administrator good luck in this next school year. Stay safe, healthy, and happy.

Please remember to share the road with students who may be riding their bikes. Always allow bicyclists to go before you and watch out for bike riders who may be leaving

driveways or coming from behind parked cars. I would also like to remind residents to make sure you are allowing yourself enough time to travel, as we return to full in-person education. There will be more traffic in the mornings and afternoons, which will add time to your commute. With that in mind, please be sure to adjust your schedule allowing for time when traveling through school zones. We are all in this together as a community, so have patience for students making their way to and from school.

It is also important that parents take the time to remind their students to be cautious when crossing roads, and to make sure students know the importance of staying alert when they are on public roads, as situations

Mikeska murderers arrested

Continued from Page 1
peared to call out to her. Realizing they were attempting to rob her, Mikeska then ran toward the gym. One of the suspects fired one time, striking Mikeska, who collapsed near the gym entrance.

The three juvenile suspects have also been referred to Harris County Juvenile Probation authorities on charges of aggravated robbery for their roles in this robbery incident.

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ment at this time."

A similar statement was released by Clear Creek ISD. "In a school district located in two counties, governed by an independent school board of trustees and required to follow the laws of the State of Texas and rules of the Texas Education Agency, Clear Creek ISD will continue to comply with Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order, which prohibits a school district from mandating face coverings be worn indoors."

Both school districts, however, stated they strongly recommend following the CDC's guidelines and ask that students wear masks.

While officials from San Jacinto College strongly encourage the use of face coverings, the college district will also follow the governor's executive order and not require masks at this time.

Two homes catch fire

Continued from Page 1
the home and tapped out the incident.

The blaze caused approximately \$40,000 in damage. Roughly \$130,000 in property was saved by firefighters.

No injuries were reported. Officials said the fire was unintentional.

Firefighters from stations 15, 70, 71, 52, 61, 93 and 24 responded to this incident.

The suspects then got back into their SUV and fled the scene south on Beamer. About an hour prior to this incident, an aggravated robbery was reported in the 10100 block of Freehill Street near Fuqua and SH 3/Old Galveston Road. The robbery victim described suspects matching those in the fatal shooting of Mikeska. According to the victim, the suspects attempted to steal her vehicle but were unsuccessful because it was inoperable. The three juvenile suspects have also been referred to Harris County Juvenile Probation authorities on charges of aggravated robbery for their roles in this robbery incident.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

According to a member of the Neighbor's app, a man stole their package Saturday, Aug. 14, in Meadows of Clear Creek. The member posted a surveillance video from the Ring cam and one can see the man pushing the packages to the side. The member states that it has been reported to police and encourages the community that if he is seen to report him.

Area Crime Alert Facebook page posted a picture of a man and is alerting community members to be on the lookout if one travels the area at Beltway 8 and Pearland Parkway/Monroe, be aware of a Hispanic male who offers windshield washing at the intersection. The member states that the man in the picture has on more than one occasion broken a motorist's window when they have declined his services. The man has already been arrested once and is back again.

In My Opinion

O'Brien speaks about receiving COVID shot

Hello to all:
I would like to share a story of a recent hospitalization with COVID. I went to the VA hospital one month ago. I had been vaccinated and was told that I had COVID. There were 8 of us in the ER, 3 had been vaccinated and 5 did not receive the shots. They gave the 3 of us vaccinated medications and sent us home.

The other 5, unvaccinated, were admitted that day. I was good for about 13 days and then I had a fever and I went back and was admitted to the hospital for 12 days. I had pneumonia and low Oxygen readings. I was put on 10 liters of oxygen initially. My treatment was excellent, at all levels. I witnessed 2 veterans about my age, I'm 74 years old, pass away during my stay. They had not been vaccinated.

My doctor told me that he believed that I may have been in the same shape without the shots. My request is to please consider others before you dismiss getting the vaccine.

You could be without symptoms and still infect someone and put them into peril. There was a lot of talk about this during my stay. There was one fellow that said that it was his body and no one else's business. As a Christian I

might ask this question: "What would Jesus do?" (WWJD) I have been told that we were to Love the Lord and love our neighbor. Thanks to everyone for their prayers and kind thoughts.

Please consider others before you dismiss the shots. Thank you very much. Praying for all. I am much better but still very weak. Take care and be safe.

Jerry O'Brien

Muecke's thoughts on GLO adjustments

In the *Leader's* 8-12 issue, front page top, is an article stating that GLO has made some adjustments like adding a two car garage and brick work.

That is good, but what about the larger major cost issue. In my case a three bed room 1,982.47 sq. foot brick home being replaced by a 2 bedroom 1,283 sq. foot hardi plank home. Just because only my son and I live in the house. I wonder how many of the South Belt homes, 127 are two people and how many are more than 2.

The article indicated this design would not change.

This entire replacement home plan just was not thought out properly. That is why I have gone to the Governor of Texas and the Land Commissioner asking them to get involved.

James E. Muecke

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www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Saturday Vigil | 5:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | 8 a.m. and 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
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Allen puts Barcelona's lessons to work

J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Star Anna Allen (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Leslie Barcelona who teaches 10th-grade AVID II. Commenting on her teacher, Allen said, "Mrs. Barcelona constantly raises the bar. If I could, I would give her all the awards because she truly deserves them. She is a true educator because she takes the initiative to support her students. In her AVID class, I have learned so many valuable lessons that I put to use regularly. Especially now that I am entering a new chapter in my life, I find myself referring to what I learned from her. To Mrs. Barcelona, 'Thank you for your continuous support throughout the years. I appreciate all that you have done for me. Hook 'em horns!'"

Extracurricular activities for Allen include National Hon-

or Society. Community service activities for Allen included volunteer as Sunday School teacher's assistant and AVID student tutor. "After high school, I plan on attending the University of Texas at Austin and intend to major in economics. I also plan to be on the pre-law track with the hopes of attending law school to become an attorney," Allen said.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top J. Frank Dobie High School students.

The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical, South Houston and Pasadena Memorial high schools.



Roberts Middle School welcomes Price

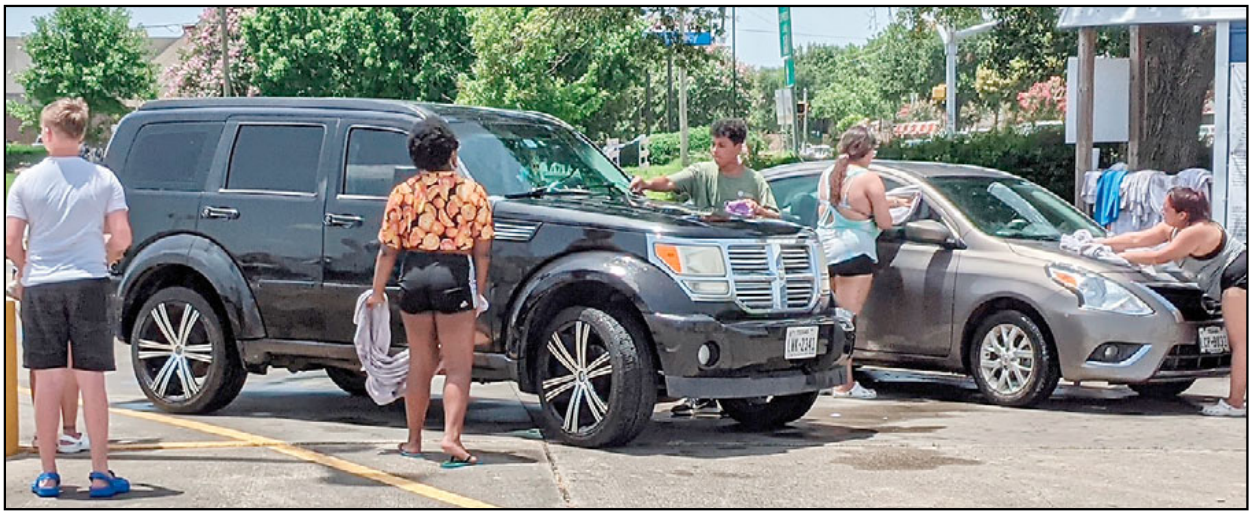


Fred Roberts Middle School welcomed new teacher Lyndsi Price (front row, third from right) to their 2021-2022 teaching staff. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Ashlie Haas, Prescila Lozano, LaShondra Evans, Jorly Thomas, Fred Roberts, Price, Britney Subinsky, Deronda Preston, (back row) Kenny Fernandez, Casey Phelan, Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Alyta Harrell, Emory Gadd and Marshall Kendrick.

Dobie students host car wash

Members of the 2021-2022 Dobie High School Band and Colorguard, braved the near 100 degree temperatures to fundraise on July 24. Co-ordinated by the Dobie Band Parent Organization (BPO), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, students received credit toward their annual expenses by preselling tickets and then giving up their Saturday to wash cars. The students must pay for their annual uniform and instrument expenses as well as travel to various marching events where the expense of a

semidriver, as well as food and drinks are required. The students also participate in several other types of fundraising activities throughout the year, including sales of the popular World's Finest Chocolate. Another car wash fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for August 21, pending weather. For more information on how one can support these students through the Dobie BPO, see their website at <https://www.dobieband.com/band-parent-organization>.



Helping fund raise for the J. Frank Dobie band and Color Guard were, left to right, are Michael Law, Skylar Edoepa, Jay Jones, Miranda Cano and Joslyn Miniel. Future fund raising events for the group will be announced in the Leader. Photos by Seth Webb

City launches new waste collection app

Continued from Page 1
ity to stay up to date on the department's core services. Residents can sign up for service alerts and know what goes where.

This is a seamless way to stay connected with the city's waste and recycling programs.

"Come on, Houston, let's Chase the Waste!" said Interim Director Carolyn Wright.

"All Houston residents have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge about recycling at their fingertips with our new Chase the Waste game. Download the app or visit our web-

site HoustonRecycles.org to play and see if you have what it takes to be a Certified Recycling Ranger."

Residents can find and download the mobile app for Apple and Android devices via the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching for the keywords Houston Trash and Recycling.

SWMD encourages residents to use the following features of the new app:

- Collection calendar: Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste, Junk/Tree Waste services. Set reminders and receive alerts via email, push notifications, and phone

- Waste wizard: Searchable solid waste directory, curbside services, and drop-off location information.
- Waste sorting game: Fun, interactive educational tool to engage, challenge and change recycling behavior.

Those who do not have an Apple or Android device can visit the website HoustonRecycles.org and search their home address in the My Schedule tool. They can also:

- Sign up to receive waste collection reminders by email or phone call.
- Download their collec-

tion schedule into their iCal, Google calendar or Microsoft Outlook calendar.

- Print their personalized collection schedule.
- Search the Waste Wizard on HoustonRecycles.org to learn how to recycle or dispose of materials properly.

For more information about SWMD and their services, visit www.houstonrecycles.org, "LIKE" them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/houstonrecycles or Twitter @HoustonTrash or call 311, the city of Houston's Customer Service Helpline.



Shown above are (front group) Isabella Lara, Brianna Garcia, Alyssa Velasquez, Jacob Montez, (middle group) McKenzie Smith, Natalia Gamez, Joshua Lopez, David Pechardo Jr., Ximena Sanchez, (back group) Mark Gamez and Travis Webb.

COVID cases increase

Continued from Page 1
Officials said the un-

vaccinated account for approximately 99 percent of the COVID-19 hospitalizations. The unvaccinated also account for nearly all COVID-19 deaths, state health officials said.

County tips on the heat

Continued from Page 1
- Set a buddy system: When working in the heat, monitor the condition of co-workers and friends and have them do the same.

summer takes a toll on our most vulnerable Houstonians," said Turner. "This program gives them a chance to keep their homes cool and manage the potential for high electricity bills. I think Reliant for making sure that Houstonians are equipped with the right tools to beat this summer's heat and avoid any heat-related illnesses or complications."

- Keep a pace: If one is not used to working or exercising in the heat, take it slow. Allow their body to adjust to temperature changes.

- Know the signs: If one is gasping for breath, stop all activity. Heat illness can cause confusion and loss of consciousness.

- Remember: Children, seniors, and people with existing health issues are more prone to heat-related illnesses.

- Know the signs of heatstroke and heat exhaustion. To view a list of signs, visit www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html.

The city of Houston is encouraging older adults, people with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals/families who do not have means to cool their homes to call the Houston Health Department's Area Agency on Aging at 832-393-4301 and apply for the program.

Due to the pandemic, the City of Houston will open its cooling centers only in the event of heat emergencies. Proper social distancing and sanitation measures will be in place to ensure safety in the cooling centers. To be notified when emergency cooling centers open, register for AlertHouston notifications at www.houstonemergency.org/alerts. Residents may also call 311, or visit the Office of Emergency Management's website at www.houstonoem.org for updates and locations.

Beat the Heat
In June, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and Reliant officially launched the 2021 Beat the Heat Program. For the 16th consecutive year, Reliant's Beat the Heat Program will help Houston-area residents stay cool and manage their electricity use during the hot summer months. Reliant's \$70,000 donation to the program will allow the Houston Health Department's Area Agency on Aging to continue to offer portable air conditioners to qualifying individuals.

"The hot weather every

To learn more about the Beat the Heat Program and for additional tips on how to stay cool this summer, visit www.reliant.com/en/about/community/beat-the-heat.jsp.

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Garcia motivated to work harder

South Houston High School's Shining Star Daniela Garcia (left) is shown with distinguished educator Michael Oseguera who teaches 12th grade AP computer science principles.

Commenting on her teacher, Garcia said, "Aside from my dad, Mr. Oseguera has been my biggest motivator to succeed. Even with the difficult task of teaching remotely, he engages students and focuses on each one of them. He's kind and approachable, and always encourages us to ask questions. Mr. Oseguera never fails to compliment my projects and he continually thanks me for working so hard in his class, which motivates me to work harder in all of my classes. I am extremely thankful to have had a teacher like Mr. Oseguera during my time in school."

Garcia has shown leadership as senior class vice president, SoHo choir vice president and National Honor Society vice president. Extracurricular activities for Garcia include SoHo choir vice president, member of varsity choir and member of show choir "Red Rhythm."

Community service activities for Garcia included student council and National Honor Society vice president.

"After high school, I plan on majoring in English, minor-ing in computer science and planning to become an editor," Garcia said.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top South Houston High School students.

The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and Pasadena Memorial high schools.



Hoang appreciates Nelson's support

Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School's Shining Star Isabela Hoang (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Mary Nelson who teaches 9th through 12th grade graphic design.

Commenting on her teacher, Hoang said, "Ms. Nelson has been the most influential teacher in my life because she taught me that failure is an opportunity for something better. She was always so encouraging and prompted me to continue working even when things were tough. Her class was something I looked forward to every day and I cannot express how much I learned. I was encouraged to be ambitious and love myself for who I am. I could not ask for a better instructor."

Hoang has shown leadership as COVID-19 cartoon project co-lead artist. Extracurricular activities for Hoang include

Key Club and National Honor Society. Community service activities for Hoang included Eighth Grade Tour Night, Jr. Academy Polar Express event, Pasadena Police Department Trunk or Treat event and VASE event.

"After high school, I plan to attend the University of Houston to get my master's of business administration," Hoang said.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School students.

The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Pasadena Memorial and South Houston high schools.



Advertise in the Leader!

Moore Elementary introduces new staff



Moore Elementary welcomes its new staff members for the 2021-2022 school year. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Maria Canales, custodian; Mary Medina, bilingual paraprofessional; Jessica Armenta, bilingual paraprofessional; (middle row) Esmeralda Lomas, SUCCESS teacher; Maria Vega, intervention

PISD joins city, county to vaccinate

Continued from Page 1

ISD, Alief ISD, Crosby ISD, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, Galena Park ISD, Houston ISD, Huffman ISD, Katy ISD, Pasadena ISD and Spring ISD. They all have at least one school participating with more schools being added as well as school districts.

"Fourteen HISD campuses will take part in the mayor's Super Saturday Vaccination Day initiative this month," said HISD's House "Increasing vaccination rates among our communities will help ease the worries of our families as their children return to school. For some of them, it will be the first time inside a school building in 18 months. Rest assured, HISD is planning for a safe return. We are doing everything we can to protect our students and staff, but we need your help. The best way you can do that is by getting vaccinated."

Super Saturday Vaccination Days began Saturday, Aug. 7 and will take place every Saturday in August in different school campuses throughout the Houston region. For a full list of the participating schools and more information, visit www.houstonemergency.org/super-saturday-vaccination-day.

Sagemont Church honors PISD educators, personnel



On Sunday, Aug. 15 Sagemont Church members and Pastor Matt Carter (center) honored and recognized the educators and school personnel from PISD for the new school year. All board members, administration and employees were invited to be honored. Shown with Carter, left to right, are Bobby McCain, Kenny Fernandez, Kasie Fernandez, Angela Stallings, Fred Roberts, Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Beverly Bolton, Diane Phelan, Casey Phelan, Allison Lewallen, Stacey Barber and Jorly Thomas.

San Jac announces fall classes beginning Aug. 23

The fall 2021 semester begins Aug. 23 at San Jacinto College.

"We are excited to welcome students back to campus this fall," said Jose DeJesus Gil, dean of enrollment services. "We know that students want options for their learning environment, so we have increased our face-to-face course offerings, but we still have online and hybrid options available. We are also increasing our face-to-face opportunities for student services in advising, veterans services, career services, financial aid, counseling and enrollment, and will have more opportunities for students to get involved through our Student Engagement and Activities department."

Student services remain available to all students online for those who wish to connect virtually, regardless of which course modality students select. Services include tutoring and advising, on-campus document drop-off, and virtual appointments for things such as admissions, career services, dual credit, financial aid, testing, veterans services, and more. Registration for the fall semester is open, and students can register for a class up until the first class meeting.

San Jac has several funding options available to students as well to help pay for their tuition, books and supplies, and other things such as child care, health care, food and housing. Those options include:

- Through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), students who were enrolled at the college on or after March 13, 2020, can apply for up to \$1,500 in emergency aid relief. This money is paid directly to the student to help those with hardships due to the pandemic.
- San Jac was also able to remove any outstanding balances for students who were enrolled at the college on or after March 13, 2020, with funds from the HEERF. By removing these financial barriers, students can enroll for the fall, obtain transcripts, remove any holds related on their accounts and other important activities.
- Thanks to a generous donation from MacKenzie Scott and her husband, Dan Jewett, high school seniors from the class of 2021 that live within the San Jac district can attend college this fall and have their tuition paid for. The 21 Forward Scholarship was established with money from the donation to help incoming freshmen begin their higher education journey. Students must enroll in at least six hours beginning this fall.
- Students who attended San Jac in fall 2020 or spring 2021, and received a W or F in a class, can retake the class this fall and the college will pay their tuition for up to two classes. Students should register in SOS, set up an Install-

Remember When

45 years ago (1976)
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department responded to 92 calls during the first six months of the year and sought additional members to fill day- and night-time shifts. Julia Garza of Kirkwood won a Tiffany & Co. bracelet through Crutchfield Carpet Co.

40 years ago (1981)
Across-the-board school lunch price increases were approved by trustees of the Pasadena Independent School District. Elementary school prices were raised from 95 cents to \$1, intermediate from \$1.05 to \$1.15 and high school from \$1.15 to \$1.25.

Dick Kabal of the Texas Highway Department told members of the South Belt Community Improvement Association that the contract for completion of the South Belt from Fairmont Parkway to Beamer Road could be awarded in the first or second quarter of 1982 if no major right-of-way acquisitions or utility problems arose.

35 years ago (1986)
Frank Braden, principal of Dobie High School, was promoted to the position of assistant superintendent for Pasadena Independent School District.

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees approved the 1986-1987 school year budget of \$98,734,416 at a specially called meeting.

30 years ago (1991)
Members of Homes Environment and Lives in Peril discovered documents indicating a toxic waste pit was once located in the former United Sports Association property and possibly in Southbend.

King of Glory Lutheran Church extended a letter of call to Cynthia Annette Vold Forde to serve as its new pastor.

25 years ago (1996)
The former Dan Boone Chevrolet on the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua was scheduled to be torn down to make room for AutoNation.

Five families chipped in approximately \$36 each to get a street light on Dumas Street in Gulf Palms.

20 years ago (2001)
Ninety-five residents of ZIP code 77089 had a total of \$32,333.45 in funds overpaid to the state of Texas just waiting to be claimed.

The Pasadena Independent School District was one of only two districts with an enrollment of more than 30,000 to be named a recognized district for the fourth consecutive year, in a report released by the Texas Education Agency.

15 years ago (2006)
The ninth annual Evening of Cuisine, a fundraiser for the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, was planned.

Precinct 2 deputy constables reported burglaries of two businesses as well as arrests for family violence and evading.

Houston Police began investigating the shooting death of Larry Savala, 26, who was killed outside the Club Rumba on the Gulf Freeway service road at Kingspoint.

CCISD insurance premiums increased 300 percent to \$3.9 million. The district, however, gained \$2.7 million

from Texas House Bill 1. In addition, the district planned to implement its Project Excel program during the 2006-2007 school year.

10 years ago (2011)
Due to persistent drought conditions and decreasing water levels in Lake Houston, Mayor Annise Parker announced that the city was enacting its mandatory Stage 2 water conservation plan. The measure required residents to water lawns at night or early morning, and no more often than twice a week. To further conserve water, the mayor asked residents to refrain from washing their vehicles or filling swimming pools and to limit showers to five minutes, turn off water while brushing teeth and wash only full loads of clothes and dishes.

5 years ago (2016)
Jae Lee was named the new principal of Burnett Elementary. Lee formerly served as assistant principal at South Belt Elementary. He replaced Cynthia Henderson, who had served as Burnett principal for 21 years.

1 year ago (2020)
Tuesday, Aug. 18, marked the start of the 2020-2021 academic year for Pasadena ISD. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the school district provided all instruction virtually until Sept. 8. At that time, students who selected face-to-face instruction returned to their home campuses, while the remainder of students continued to distance-learn until they felt comfortable enough to return to school.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

MARY ELLEN ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Mary Ellen Morgan** Aug. 23 from her husband **Larry**, son **Tommy**, daughter **Elizabeth Echols**, son-in-law **Tim Echols**, grandson **Justin Echols** and the *Leader* staff.

DITTRICH ENJOY BIRTHDAYS
Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Joyce Dittrich** who enjoys a birthday Aug. 25 and to her husband **Milton Dittrich** who celebrates a birthday Aug. 30, from family, friends and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 19 through Aug. 25.

Atkinson Elementary
Send a birthday greeting to **Adrienne Wilkins** Aug. 19. **Rosa Quintana** enjoys a birthday Aug. 25.

Burnett Elementary
Share a slice of birthday cake with **Romona Dawson** Aug. 22.

Bush Elementary
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 25 to **Marie Marler**.

Genoa Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Aug. 22 is **Elena**

Pantoja. Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 23 to **Steven Sawyer**.

Meador Elementary
Celebrating a birthday Aug. 21 is **Judith Kelly**. Remember to wish **Heather Morales** a happy birthday Aug. 22. Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 24 for **Kim Cowan**.

Stuchbery Elementary
Celebrating a special birthday Aug. 20 is **Tracy Duron**. Send a greeting to **Lauren Palos** for an Aug. 22 birthday. Having a memorable birthday celebration Aug. 23 is **Cristina Rodriguez**.

Melillo Middle School
Celebrating a birthday Aug. 22 is **Maria Diaz**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a birthday greeting Aug. 23 to **Ellen Murphy**.

Dobie High
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Aug. 19 are sent to **Lorena Benavides Sanchez**. **Cindy Mutz** marks a birthday Aug. 21. The day for cake and ice cream for **Diane Bledsoe** is Aug. 25.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
The *Leader* sends birthday wishes to

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

Thursday, Aug. 19: **Robert Mireles**, **Nathan Nguyen**, **Pamela Walters**, **Jody Urschel-Oun**, **Shandy Lecourias**, **Pamela McDonald** and **Derrick Pyper**; Friday, Aug. 20: **Rachel McClure**, **Claire Speck**, **Raymond Jackson** and **Todd Nathans**; Saturday, Aug. 21: **John Linares**, **Kip Ledgerwood**, **Gabrielle Loya**, **Brandi Washer** and **Leticia Gonzalez**; Sunday, Aug. 22: **Pat Gonzales**, **Monica Castro**, **Kassi Richardson**, **Herman Garcia**, **Chrystal Sulak**, **Janie Chappaand** and **Bill Edwards**; Monday, Aug. 23: **Viv Castillo**, **Mary Miller**, **Jim Kunkel**, **Shelly Rivera**, **Mary Wesfahl** and **Patti Parker**; Tuesday, Aug. 24: **Mike Justice**, **Sammy Mejia**, **Yessica Musquiz**, **Alyssa Keller** and **Amber Burda**; and Wednesday, Aug. 25: **Bubba Zapalac**, **Andrea Moorehead-Ford** and **Jesse Saenz**.

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

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Bay Area Football League Week 1 Results

| | PWs | Srs. | Jrs. | Sophs. | Fr. |
|-------------------|-----|------|------|--------|---------|
| Cowboys | 22 | 59 | 31 | 27 | 33 |
| Hurricanes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 18 |
| Dolphins | 30 | 31 | 28 | 21 | forfeit |
| Mustangs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | win |

Week 2 Games – Saturday, Aug. 21

Cowboys host Alvin Raiders, El Franco Lee Park

Dolphins at Texas City Bengals, 1431 9th Ave., T.C., 77590

Myers relishes time on the diamond

Continued from Page 5
tucked away neatly in his mind. Should things go according to plan, he'll be working in his desired career field and own a master's degree by this time in 2024.

His baseball career, even now but surely by 2024, will be in the past—but what a ride it's been.

When University of Arizona reliever Vince Vannelle delivered the final pitch of the Tucson Super Regional June 13 and sent his Wildcats to a decisive game, 16-3 over Ole Miss, it did more than lift the fifth-ranked Ari-

zona bunch to the College World Series and end the Rebels' season.

In one quick moment, Arizona's win also "red lighted," as Myers said, the fifth-year senior's playing career. Yet instead of burying his thoughts in the finality of the moment, Myers chose to relish his time with the Rebels in Oxford.

"It didn't really feel real in those first few moments after the loss, but at the same time, I was satisfied," Myers said.

"It was a tremendous ride the entire way all these years, and I gave everything I had and was the best teammate I could be. It will allow me to have nothing but great memories about my playing days."

Speaking of playing days, Myers began his varsity baseball career at Dobie in 2014 as the team's starter at shortstop and performed most of his mound work in 2016 as a senior.

Though he was a three-year starter with the Longhorns, Myers was not heavily recruited.

Nearly ready to embark on JUCO baseball out of state, Myers himself instead contacted Paris (Texas) Junior College head coach Clay Cox about joining the Dragons. And so it began.

Contacted for a story in 2017 about Myers' contributions to his program, Cox proclaimed, "We got a steal," and then raved on and on about the then freshman who hit .262 and drove in 31 runs at the plate but also excelled as the team's closer with 11 saves.

In 2018, Myers had just seven appearances with the Dragons but went 4-1 with a 2.95 earned run average.

Reached days ago via Twitter DM for more on a player who exited his program three years ago, Cox

replied, "Anything for that kid," then proceeded to deliver plenty about Myers in an email, including "I think you would be hard pressed to find a teammate of his at PJC in two years that wouldn't call him the hardest worker and most loving teammate they have ever encountered."

Myers' work at Paris caught the eyes of recruiters at Ole Miss, which welcomed the right-hander in the fall of 2018. Myers appeared in 23 games as a junior in 2019, going 2-0 with a 4.97 earned run average.

In the fall of 2019, Myers began to experience hints of arm trouble. During the team's annual Pizza Bowl game celebrating the end of the fall schedule, Myers' UCL ligament flared.

Fast forward to the Rebels' first intrasquad outing months later, and Myers went from throwing his fastball at 93 miles per hour in the first inning to not being able to finish a second frame. TJ surgery was next.

With just one season of eligibility remaining, Myers was redshirted for the 2020 season anyway.

He said depression hit. He had been the team's most popular fungo bat operator during workouts, but would be excluded. What would he do without baseball?

The pandemic would end the 2020 collegiate baseball season early, meaning everyone was forced to the sidelines. Myers used the time to learn about his life outside of baseball.

"The pandemic was a blessing in disguise for me, mentally," Myers said. "Up until that time, in all reality, my life had been about baseball and everything it involves year after year."

"I had never really known a time in my life where I had to function

without baseball.

"First the surgery and then the pandemic changed all of that. Away from baseball, I was able to really find out who I was outside of the game. I got so close with my family and people I care about. I believe I became a better person, a better man."

"I learned that sometimes the pressure of baseball got in the way of me developing personally and just being happy."

"Baseball had become more of a job than it needed to be. I was able to see that there is life outside of baseball."

"There's going to have to be for almost all of us who play, so the year off did wonders for me."

Returning for the 2021

season with the Rebels, Myers was 4-2 with a 5.57 ERA over 21 appearances. Along the way, it was easy to see via Myers' Twitter feed that he was having fun and soaking it all in.

Sure, it would have been nice to experience the College World Series with his teammates, but that simply wasn't in the cards for Myers.

His degree in exercise science in hand, Myers is now working toward a master's degree in athletic training, which should take two years.

Ideally, Myers wants to follow his entrepreneurial spirit and one day run a sports performance facility, having already zeroed in on the San Antonio or Austin areas.

Paris JC head coach Clay Cox on Myers:

"We were fortunate that Tyler reached out to us post-graduation as he was set to head to Illinois to play JUCO baseball and wanted to stay closer to home. He came to a workout I held in College Station and was 85-87 with a 3-pitch mix and picked it well at SS. He came in as a freshman and was our everyday 3B and closer. If there was six outs left in the game and we had the lead, Tyler was getting the ball. He finished his freshman season fourth in the nation in NJCAA in saves. He was a guy who you may see two hours after practice still getting extra work in and by sophomore year has 90-93. Then was our #1 as a sophomore and was 7-1 before he went down with a strain."

"I think you would be hard pressed to find a teammate of his at PJC in two years that wouldn't call him the hardest worker and most loving teammate they have ever encountered. A compassionate and selfless human being. He had a smile and energy that was contagious. He finds a way to spin a positive light on every negative situation. I don't know if he's ever had a 'bad' day. I know I am a better person and coach for having gotten to spend two years with him. People often ask what I consider 'winning' as a junior college coach. Getting to watch a guy like Tyler who was under recruited out of high school, bounced back from TJ and then goes out in the SEC tournament and does what he did against Vandy. That's what I hang my hat on, that's winning to me. I was beaming with pride, telling everyone that's OUR guy. We knew what he was capable of that day when he took the mound."

"There is no doubt in my mind that whatever endeavors he forges on with post-baseball, he will be successful."

Brook's Julks leads Hooks

At right, Corey Julks has been on a roll over the past several weeks for the Corpus Christi Hooks, highlighting his surge with a 2-run, game-winning homer on the first pitch of the 10th inning as the Hooks defeated the San Antonio Missions 7-5. Over an 18-game stretch, Julks hit safely in 16 games and hit .356 with seven doubles, three home runs, 19 runs scored and 10 runs driven in. Through Aug. 5, he was hitting .287 for the Houston Astros AA affiliate. A Clear Brook High School graduate, the 25-year-old Julks played at the University of Houston and was a 2017 eighth-round draft choice of the Astros.



6U Houston Snipers go unbeaten, win baseball crown

At right, the 6-under Houston Snipers went undefeated and won first place in tournament play after defeating the Dodgers 18-12 Aug. 8 at the Southbelt Little League facility at El Franco Lee Park. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Noah Abarca, Evelyn Nguyen, Santo Carrillo, Javier Garza III, (middle row) Joseph Santiago, Ryan Iparrea, Aiden Boyd, Youssef Guerra, Rogelio Loera, Aiden Adame, Edgar Rivera Jr., (back row) coaches Harrison Richmond, Joshua Santiago, Raul Adame and Edgar Rivera.



At left, primarily a shortstop during his career at Dobie, Tyler Myers ramped up his mound efforts as a senior in 2016 with the Longhorns and stayed there collegiately. During the 2017 and 2018 seasons at Paris Junior College, Myers was both a reliever and a starter with the Dragons, finishing fourth nationally in saves with 11 in 2017. He then joined national power Ole Miss for the 2019 season and underwent Tommy John surgery that wiped out 2020 before finishing strong in 2021 as a senior. He will turn 23 years of age later this month.
Photo by John Bechtel

San Jacinto student-athletes earn 2020-2021 academic nods

The National Junior College Athletic Association recognized nine San Jacinto College student-athletes for their academic achievements during the 2020-2021 school year. "Despite obstacles and adjustments, NJCAA student-athletes rose above challenges to display widespread academic success this year," said Dr. Christopher Parker, NJCAA President and CEO. "It is incredible to see these individuals competing again and accomplishing rich athletic and academic success concurrently. We commend their efforts."

Student-athletes are eligible to earn academic honors by achieving an overall grade point average of 3.60 or higher for the 2020-2021 academic year. The criteria for the three all-academic teams includes:
NJCAA All-Academic First Team: 4.00 GPA; NJCAA All-Academic Second Team: 3.80-3.99 GPA and NJCAA All-Academic Third Team: 3.60-3.79 GPA.
The nine San Jac student-athletes who received NJCAA all-academic recognition included Walker Bordovsky (baseball, first team), Catalina Cavazos (softball, first team), Kaylee Thomas (softball, first team), Maggie Childs (softball, second team), Thomas Burbank (baseball, third team), Kenzie Gates (softball, third team), Luke Pectol (baseball third team), Chris Stuart (baseball, third team) and Nicholas Swanson (baseball, third


team).
"We are extremely proud of these players, as we are of all of our student-athletes," said Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives.
"We take pride in our competitive athletics teams and our rigorous academics. Our student-athletes work hard on and off the field, and they are deserving of this recognition."
This year 2,336 student-athletes received first team, 2,640 second team and 3,297 third team honors. To view the complete list of NJCAA academic honors, visit the NJCAA website at www.njcaa.org.
For more on San Jacinto College sports, visit www.sanjacsports.com.



More than 30 former J. Frank Dobie High School tennis players returned to their old stomping grounds on Aug. 7 to participate in the annual Dobie Exes exhibition match. From left to right, Steven Mullins ('04), Dat Bui ('04), Quan Dinh ('21), Sebastian Delgado ('20), Kiet Nguyen ('21), Steven Irwin ('02), Kyle "Bunkie" Redmon ('21), Michael Portillo ('08), Richard Nguyen ('15), Binh Truong ('08), Luis Cabreja ('16), Lil' Tommy Nguyen ('18), Coach Manuel Moreno Jr., Ivette Alba ('13), Camille Smith ('19), Hellen Le ('17), Travis Dao ('13), Tangen Tran ('07), Julia Bui ('21), Ronald Nguyen ('19), Thomas Le ('05) and Dylan Ta ('21). Other alumni who made an appearance, on-court and off, were Lam Mai, Michael Tran and Nancy Tran ('05); Dr. Justin Lai ('06); Lanise Williams ('07); Thompson Le ('19); Kristy Morales ('20); Jennifer Ho and Lucas Nguyen ('21); and honorary coach Howard Ranft and his granddaughter, Sami Poirrier. At the end of the competition, the alumni presented the current tennis team a \$700+ donation, headed by Dat Bui ('04).

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CALENDAR

It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meeting prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous, visit <https://aahouston.org/>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalnanon.org.

NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - now open. Activities scheduled daily. Visit <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/> for face-to-face and virtual games. Email jpochsner@aol.com for details.

St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers tutoring by retired professionals. Call the church at 281-479-7285 and leave a message for an appointment time.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Additional information is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. Call 713-686-6300 for additional information.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

Noon
Hometown Heroes - Ballroom dances Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 - 3:30 p.m. and Fridays, noon - 1:30 p.m. These are not dance lessons but casual dances. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

11 a.m.
Genealogy Group - The Parker Williams Genealogy group meets the third Friday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Parker Williams Library, Beamer at Scarsdale. The public is invited to attend. For details, email Liz Hicks at eroot@usa.net.

3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Singles Club - dance on the third Friday, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy 3, in Dickinson. All area singles are invited. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112 for details.

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and Zoom online. For information on the 7 p.m. Friday night service or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.

8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.

1 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - offers a knitting class, Saturdays 1 p.m. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22
8 p.m.
AA - at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23
10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details.

Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

6 p.m.
New Directions Singles - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

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

7 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bldg., room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

St. Paul's Anglican Church - has worship services Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave message, or stop by.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. See Thursday's notice.

7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

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Wigginton selected for National Presidential Fellowship for community colleges

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program today announced that Van A. Wigginton, San Jacinto College Central Campus provost, is one of 40 leaders selected for the 2021-2022 class of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship, a highly selective leadership program selecting the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

“I am incredibly honored and humbled to have been selected for this opportunity,” said Wigginton, who began his career at San Jacinto College as a government professor in 1995. “I’m looking forward to working with educational leaders from across the country as we strive to promote student success as well as expand opportunities for the students and communities we serve.”

The Rising Presidents Fellows will embark on the 10-month fellowship beginning in November 2021. Delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Education-

Leadership Initiative, the fellows will be mentored by esteemed current and former community college presidents who have achieved exceptional outcomes for students throughout their careers, and will learn strategies to improve student outcomes in and after college, lead internal change, and create strong external partnerships with K-12 schools, four-year colleges, employers and other partners.

“We are so proud of Van for having been selected to this prestigious program,” said Dr. Laurel Williamson, San Jac deputy chancellor and college president. “Van is an exceptional and visionary leader, who served the college as a faculty member, department chair, dean and now provost. He is an inclusive leader who keeps students at the center of our mission. He is supportive and collaborative, and I know he will bring a great deal of knowledge and

expertise to the Aspen Fellows program.”

As provost, Wigginton has worked closely with local school districts to develop and expand dual credit offerings, providing high school students the opportunity to earn their associate degree while still in high school. Wigginton is active in supporting many local school district programs, and has served on the statewide Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee to help improve undergraduate education. Wigginton is a regent on the Texas Chiropractic College Board of Regents, and has served in various leadership positions within the local Rotary clubs and chambers of commerce. Wigginton holds a doctorate in jurisprudence from the University of Houston, and a master’s degree in public administration and a bachelor’s

degree in government, both from Lamar University.

The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship responds to the growing need for a new generation of leaders well equipped to meet the challenges of the future. Nationally, nearly 80 percent of sitting presidents plan to retire in the next decade. While the traditional pathway to the presidency has often excluded women and people of color, the incoming class of Aspen Rising Presidents Fellows is composed of 68 percent women and 70 percent people of color, and represents institutions of varying sizes and locations.

“To become institutions that truly advance social mobility and talent development, community colleges must have presidents with a clear vision for equitable student success,” said Monica Clark, director of leadership initiatives at the College Excellence Program. “We have selected these fellows because they share that commitment and are well positioned to become transformational leaders.”

Together, the 2021-2022 fellows are leaders at colleges that collectively serve more than 400,000 students. As well, 67 Rising Presidents Fellowship alumni have become presidents of community colleges that collectively serve an additional 953,000 students nationwide.

“On behalf of the San Jacinto College Board of Trustees, we congratulate Van on this incredible honor and recognition,” said Board Chair Marie Flickinger. “Van is a respected leader not only at San Jac, but across our region and state. He is always thinking about what is best for our students, our employees, and our communities, and we know he will bring great insight to, and gain valuable knowledge

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Meite thankful for Maduzia’s support

Pasadena Memorial High School’s Shining Star Sakinah Meite (below, left) is shown with distinguished educator Jeremy Maduzia who teaches 12th-grade academic decathlon. Commenting on her teacher, Meite said, “Mr. Maduzia is without a doubt an unrivaled educator at PMHS. His great taste in music as well as his sarcastic humor was one of the highlights of being around him. The most important thing Mr. Maduzia has given me was the confidence to persevere. There were times throughout Academic Decathlon where I felt like I didn’t belong in this group of intelligent people, yet having Mr. Maduzia constantly cheering me on put away some of the self-doubt that has been limiting me for years.”

Extracurricular activities for Meite include Academic Decathlon, Achieve Club Initiative: Python and National Honor Society.

Community service activities for Meite include teacher appreciation and Adopt a Highway.

“After high school, I plan on pursuing a biomedical engineering degree at the University of Houston,” Meite said.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The Shining Stars represent the top Pasadena Memorial High School students.

The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and South Houston high schools.



from, the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship.”

The following are the 2021-2022 Aspen Fellows:

Aarti Dhupelia, National Louis University, Ill.; Aisha Noni Lowe, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, Calif.; Arlene Rodriguez, Middlesex Community College, Mass.; Cedric Bradley, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Miss.; Clarissa Cota, College of Southern Nevada, Nev.; Cory Clasemann, Ivy Tech Community College, Ind.; Denise Douglas, Lorain County Community College, Ohio; and Diane Stiles, Lake Area Technical College, S.D.

Edgar Soto, Pima Community College, Ariz.; Eric Dunker, Arapahoe Community College, Colo.; George Timmons, Columbia-Greene Community College, N.Y.; Heather Bigard, Lake-Sumter State College, Fla.; Helen Castellanos Brewer, SUNY Rockland Community College, N.Y.; Iris Freeman, Dallas College, Texas; Jean Marie Runyon, Front Range Community College, Colo.; Jennifer Diane Eccles, Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence, Minn.; Jessica Robinson, Cuyamaca College, Calif.; and Kate Connor, Harry S. Truman, Ill.

Kathryn Anne Rogalski, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Wis.; Kimberly Hurns, Washtenaw Community College, Mich.; Kristen Raney, Saint Paul College, Minn.; Lamata Mitchell, Pima Community College, Ariz.; Levy Brown Jr., Vance-Granville Community College, N.C.; and Lizette Navarette, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, Calif.

Michelle Schutt, College of Southern Idaho, Idaho.; Mike Munoz, Long Beach City College, Calif.; Monica Parrish Trent, Achieving the Dream, Inc., Md.; O. John Maduko, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Minn.; Pamela Poh-Ling Lau, Parkland College, Ill.; Ryan Ross, Colorado Community College

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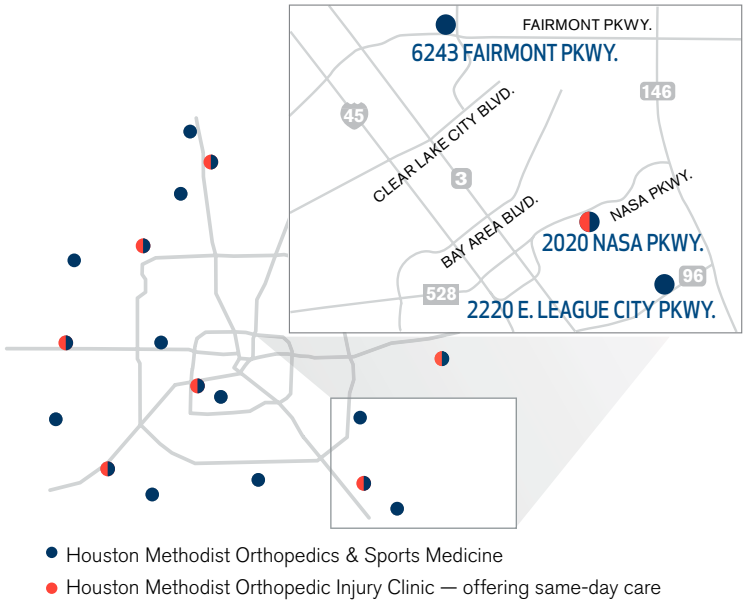
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