



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### Laura to visit South Belt

As the Leader is going to press, Hurricane Laura is headed for the Louisiana/Texas area. Here's hoping all will be safe.

See next week's Leader for all the news of damage in the community from Laura.

### McDonald killed in accident

Alayna McDonald, 26, was killed in a one-car accident, Saturday, Aug. 22, about 7:40 p.m. in Clear Lake, in the 14200 block of Bay Oaks Boulevard. She was the only occupant of the vehicle.

She is the daughter of Sageglen residents Chris and Dawn McDonald. Niday Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. (See Page 2 for obituary.)

### COVID numbers decrease

The number of reported COVID-19 cases in Harris County topped the 100,000 mark for the first time Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Despite the milestone, however, the number of active cases in the county dropped sharply from the previous week. Locally, the numbers seem roughly on par with the previous week.

As of Wednesday, Aug. 26, ZIP code 77089 had 1,146 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to Harris County Public Health officials. That figure is 70 higher than the 1,076 count reported on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

In ZIP code 77075, county officials are now reporting 1,094 known cases. This number is 65 higher than the 1,029 cases reported the previous week.

County officials are now reporting 1,239 cases in ZIP code 77034, up 153 cases from last week. In all, there are currently 100,171 known cases in Harris County, an increase of 6,299 from last week. Of those, 26,287 remain active, down 1,787 from last week. A total of 72,656 have recovered from the virus in the county, an increase of 7,933 from the previous week. To date, 1,226 have died from COVID-19, up 148 from last week.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus).

### Emporium hosts event

Houston Auto Emporium is inviting the community to a Community Appreciation Celebration Saturday Aug. 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join them for complimentary hot dogs, drinks and door prizes for the kids. Entertainment will include a Michael Jackson impersonator and music! Face masks and social distancing will be required.

### Beltway closures planned

At least one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Scott Street daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, Sept. 3.

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, Sept. 3.

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, Sept. 3.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from San Augustine to Red Bluff continuously through 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. 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.

At least one alternate main lane and one frontage road lane on both the northbound and southbound sides of the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, Sept. 30.

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.

### Graduation issues available

Extra copies of the Leader's high school graduation issue, published Aug. 6, are available at the newspaper office, 11555 Beamer.

The special edition includes graduation information for Dobie, South Houston, CTHS, and Pasadena Memorial high schools.

## How to handle registrations, licenses, etc., during COVID

With the COVID-19 threat still looming, several government agencies are continuing to do business exclusively online or in-person by appointment only, while other requirements, such as vehicle registrations have been given a temporary waiver.

### Vehicle registration, titles

In an effort to reduce the need for in-person transactions, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, working with Gov. Greg Abbott, has temporarily waived certain requirements for vehicle registration, vehicle titling and disabled parking placards.

The temporary waiver applies to vehicle owners in all Texas counties as set forth in the above-referenced proclamation and statement. This temporary waiver is in effect until 60 days after TxDMV notifies the public that normal vehicle registration, vehicle titling and related services have resumed. The 60-day period will be the same for all counties.

The purpose of the waiver is to prevent customers from having to physically visit a county tax assessor-collector office to obtain initial registration, to obtain a 30-day temporary permit, to transfer title; or to renew registration or a perma-

nent disabled parking placard.

Customers may continue to renew their registration online at [www.txdmv.gov](http://www.txdmv.gov). At this time, TxDMV continues to fill online registration sticker requests and process all other online services.

TxDmv has informed law enforcement agencies and the offices of the county tax assessor-collectors of the temporary waiver. Updated information will be posted at [www.txdmv.gov/covid-19](http://www.txdmv.gov/covid-19) as soon as it is available.

### Driver licenses, identification cards

To minimize the need to visit their local Department of Public Safety office, many Texas driver license and identification cardholders are eligible to conduct their renewal, address change or replacement transaction online by visiting

Texas.gov.

Those who are ineligible from renewing online need not worry, however, as state officials have extended a waiver for people whose licenses expired on or after March 13, 2020. The licenses remain valid for 60 days after the Texas Department of Public Safety lifts the extension waiver.

### Harris County

The Harris County Clerk's Office and annexes, in compliance with state and local guidelines and the Stay Home Work Safe policy, is currently closed to the general public until further notice.

The County Clerk's Office is open by appointment only for assumed names/DBA, birth/death certificates and marriage licenses.

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## Sagemeadow home destroyed



The Sagemeadow home of Elizabeth Weathers caught fire around 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22. The fire started in the garage and quickly spread to a car in front of the garage and the nearby residence. Weathers grew up in the home which previously belonged to her parents. Firefighters from Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, HFD Station 70, Friendswood, Pearland and Forest Bend all answered the fire call. Justin King and Jeremie Collier were at the scene about the time the fire began. Both saved Weathers's three pet dogs from the blaze. Shown above is Colleen Lamb of the SVFD who handed out bottles of water to those fighting the fire. Upon initial investigation, the cause of the fire appears to be electrical in nature. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## \$45M available for rental assistance

Area residents on Monday, Aug. 24, began applying for \$45 million worth of rental assistance associated with the ongoing coronavirus threat. The application process will continue through Sunday, Aug. 30.

Funded by Harris County and the City of Houston, the BakerRipley COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program will bring financial relief to thousands of tenants impacted by the health and economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Harris County provided \$25 million in funding, while the City of Houston provided \$20 million. The funds will be distributed directly to participating landlords on behalf of eligible tenants.

Tenants whose landlords agree to the program terms may apply for rental assistance for past due rent.

The program will provide rental assistance to residential tenants who live within the City of Houston and/or Harris County and are experiencing an economic hardship as a result of COVID-19.

Depending on the tenant's property and in-

come, tenants may be eligible for up to \$1,200 of rental assistance from the county or \$2,112 of rental assistance from the City of Houston.

Tenants may only submit their application for rental assistance if their landlord is a participating member. If a tenant is selected and qualifies for the program, their landlord will be paid directly by the BakerRipley nonprofit group.

Beginning Monday, Aug. 31, tenant applications will be selected for processing. BakerRipley will select tenant applications based on program criteria and priorities.

Tenants will be notified if they have been selected for processing. They will then be required to submit any final eligibility program documents, before being notified whether they have been approved or denied for assistance.

Payments to landlords will begin being made Tuesday, Sept. 8. Both the tenant and landlord will be notified by BakerRipley regarding the payment and the exact amount of relief provided.

For additional information, visit [HoustonRentAssistance.org](http://HoustonRentAssistance.org) or call 832-390-2018.

## Census collection millions behind

This past week, the U.S. Census Bureau began following up with households nationwide that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census.

Based on the current self-response rate of 63.3 percent, the Census Bureau estimates it will need to visit about 56 million addresses to collect responses in person. Up to 500,000 census takers across the country will go door to door to assist people in responding to the 2020 Census. Census takers have completed training on social distancing and safety protocols, will follow local public health guidelines, and will be required to wear a face mask when conducting follow-up visits.

"America has answered the call and most households responded to the census online, by phone or by mail," said Dr. Steven Dillingham, Census Bureau director. "To ensure a complete and accurate count, we must now go door to door to count all of the households we have not heard back from. You can still self-respond online, by phone or by mailing your completed questionnaire."

The Nonresponse Followup operation is the final stage of conducting the once-a-decade population count of everyone living in the United States. Households can still respond now by responding online at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov), by phone at 844-330-2020 or by completing and mailing back the paper questionnaire they received. Households can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more. Those that respond will not need to be visited to obtain their census response.

By census law, refusal to answer all or part of the census carries a \$100 fine. The penalty goes up to \$500 for giving false answers. The Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 effectively raised the penalty to as much as \$5,000 for refusing to answer a census question. Fill out online at [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov).

### What households can expect

In most cases, census workers will make up to six attempts at each housing unit address to count

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## Most unique school year begins

Area students have returned to school in what will surely be the most unique school year on record.

Pasadena ISD began their courses Aug. 18, while Clear Creek ISD began the following week on Aug. 24.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 scare, both school districts started classes online. Pasadena ISD students who opted for face-to-face instruction will begin on-site classes Sept. 8, while Clear Creek ISD will stagger the beginning of in-person instruction from Aug. 31 to Sept. 14.

"We have had a great virtual start to our school year," said Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell. "With almost 50,000 students already engaged online with our hardworking Pasadena ISD staff, we are excited about

the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to when we will be back face to face with our students, but in the meantime, I want to thank our students, staff and parents who are making the very best out of a challenging start."

While things went relatively smoothly given the circumstances, some Pasadena ISD students experienced technical glitches logging on to their required virtual classes. Problems included both hardware and software issues with the electronic devices provided by the district.

The school district has established a Student Technology Help Desk to assist with any issues, such as problems connecting to Wi-Fi and hardware issues like broken screens and defective chargers. Other common hardware problems in-

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## Beamer improvements aid drainage

Harris County is still accepting public input on the upcoming project to make drainage improvements along the Beamer Ditch.

"Giving your feedback and opinions on Flood Control projects is how we can make sure that projects work for you and your neighbors," Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis said in a virtual meeting Aug. 18. "Flooding is an ever-present threat to our community and remains as one of Harris County's highest priorities. As we approach the third anniversary of Hurricane Harvey later this month, we can't forget that many of our communities are still vulnerable to flooding."

The project will provide concrete lining on the area ditch from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road. The endeavor will be broken down into

three phases. Phase 1 will run from Sagerock Drive to Scarsdale; Phase 2 will run from Scarsdale to Astoria Boulevard; and Phase 3 will run from Astoria to Beamer Road near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin.

Construction is expected to take approximately two years. Phase 1 construction will take place from winter 2020 to fall 2021; Phase 2 construction will take place from fall 2021 to spring 2022; and Phase 3 construction will take place from spring 2022 to fall 2022.

County officials said the precautions will be taken to limit traffic congestion along the busy thoroughfare.

There will be no lane closures from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6:30 p.m. One lane of Beamer will re-

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## School charter no longer chartered

The future of the Elite College Prep Academy - Riverstone remains unclear, as the Leader learned the state has revoked its charter school status. State Rep. Dennis Paul's office had been helping the Leader research the problem and learned last week that TEA revoked the charter.

To be located on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision, the campus was to be a branch of the Houston Gateway Academy, its fourth in the Greater Houston area.

A charter school is an independently run public school that is granted greater flexibility in its operations in return for greater accountability for performance.

Records show that in March 2018 Houston Gateway Academy technically closed the not-yet-open campus, then designated a New School charter by the state, citing construction delays and financial problems. That charter had originally been issued with the understanding that the school would be open for the 2018-2019 school year.

At that same time, Houston Gateway Academy also sought a new charter from the state to reopen the same campus, this time seeking a High Quality designation.

That request, however, was denied by the state.

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## Pct. 8 chase leads to felony charges

A local police chase related to an alleged theft at an area motel led to multiple felony charges Friday, Aug. 21.

According to Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office, Deputy J. Toliver and Deputy D. Webber responded to a suspicious vehicle call around 12:10 a.m. near a motel in the 800 block of Dixie Farm Road. The caller reported that he witnessed the suspects stealing an enclosed cargo trailer from the Studio 6 parking lot located near the Gulf Freeway and Dixie Farm Road. He advised the dispatcher that the suspects had pulled over near Gulf Stream Park and Jet Stream Court after leaving Studio 6 and appeared to be attempting to secure the enclosed cargo trailer to a maroon GMC pickup truck.

Upon arriving at the scene, deputies observed a vehicle and trailer matching this description.

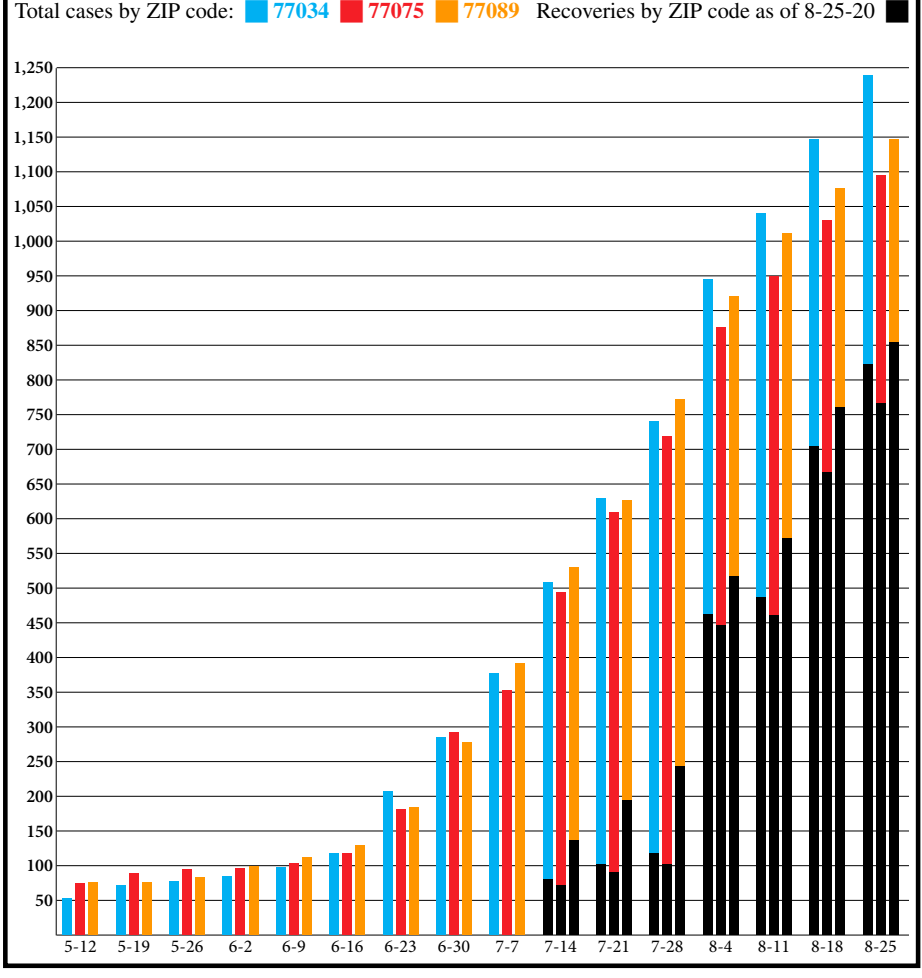
The suspects, after seeing the deputies arriving, entered the truck and began to leave the area. Deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the truck at that time. The trailer, which was only secured to the truck by a chain, began to "fishtail" out of control as it traveled, according to deputies.

The driver was able to recover and turned north onto Highway 3/Old Galveston Road in an attempt to elude pursuing units. The driver briefly slowed near the intersection of Scarsdale Boulevard, where a female passenger, later identified as 27-year-old Kristian Rosas, exited the truck and began to evade deputies on foot. Toliver and Webber were able to apprehend Rosas and take her into custody after a brief chase.

The truck continued to travel north on Old

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## Area ZIPs see COVID improvement



# Flood Control sets plans for Beamer ditch between Sagedowne, Mud Gully

Continued from Page 1  
main open in each direction during the majority of construction.

Bridge closures and detours will be implemented when channel construction is below a bridge (Scarsdale, Astoria Boulevard and Beamer Road-eastbound).

Funding for the \$10.7 million project is to be split between the county and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The county's portion of the funding was approved by voters in 2018, as part of a \$2.5 billion bond package.

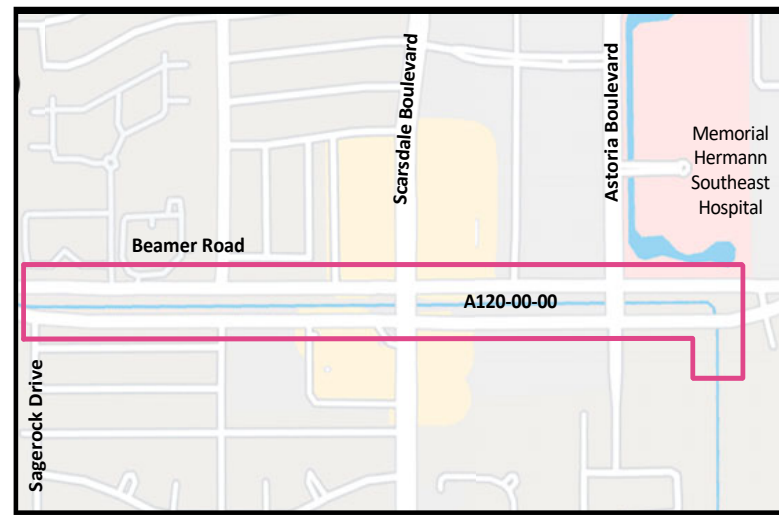
The Beamer Ditch project, also referred to as the C-03 or Mud Gully Project, is just one of many bond projects related to the 2018 bond referendum that are connected to the local Clear Creek watershed.

At least four projects are directly tied to the watershed, and more than \$40 million has been allocated toward the endeavors. Federal funding accounts for approximately \$7.4 million toward local endeavors.

Work on all Clear Creek projects associated with the 2018 bond election has already begun, according to C-03 Project Manager Scott Elmer.

Of the 181 bond projects countywide, encompassing all 23 watersheds, 38 were based on community input.

Public input and comments on the Beamer Ditch project will be accepted through Sept. 5.



Shown is the area of the Beamer Road ditch which will undergo construction the end of 2020 or the early part of 2021. Phase 1 is from Sagerock Drive to Scarsdale Boulevard; Phase 2 is from Scarsdale to Astoria Boulevard and Phase 3 is from Astoria to just past the turn in the Beamer ditch project. The diagram at right shows the approximate 400 homes which will be removed from the 100-year-flood plain after the two-year construction project. While the entire gold and teal areas are currently in the flood plain, the planned improvements will remove the teal-colored area from the 100-year flood plain.



# Deaths



**Alayna Kay McDonald**, 26 year South Belt area resident died unexpectedly Aug. 1, 2020, at the age of 83. Born Aug. 26, 1936, he was preceded in death by his wife of 41 years, Evelyn Wyatt, and grandson Sean Sanders.

He is survived by his daughters Lori Turney and husband Gary and Kathi Sanders; and sister Deborah Henderson and husband Wyatt of Arkansas. He leaves behind beloved grandchildren Elizabeth Duarte, Joshua Turney and Sydney Sanders; and great-grandchildren Daniel and Lucia Duarte.

Kenneth Jack Wyatt, 50 year South Belt area resident died unexpectedly Aug. 1, 2020, at the age of 83. Born Aug. 26, 1936, he was preceded in death by his wife of 41 years, Evelyn Wyatt, and grandson Sean Sanders.

He is survived by his daughters Lori Turney and husband Gary and Kathi Sanders; and sister Deborah Henderson and husband Wyatt of Arkansas. He leaves behind beloved grandchildren Elizabeth Duarte, Joshua Turney and Sydney Sanders; and great-grandchildren Daniel and Lucia Duarte.

Kenneth was a master mechanic, retiring from Hubco Construction. He never met a stranger and spoke without a filter. He was a straight shooter with a generous heart, always helping others in his free time, he enjoyed riding motorcycles and racing. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

Services were Aug. 9. Any donations may be made to Angel Tree Children's Christmas. He was truly one of a kind.

**Shane Michael Spurlock**

South Belt resident Shane Michael Spurlock, 44, died early Thursday morning, Aug. 20, 2020.

He is survived by his wife Nancy, daughter Payton and sons Noah and Jackson; his parents Mike and Linda Spurlock; sister Kimberly Spurlock Bailey and brother-in-law Lance Bailey; and nephews Bryn and Beau Bailey.

He is also survived by in-laws Ernest and Nora Fuentes; sister-in-law Melissa Garza; brother-in-law Alex Garza and nieces Alexis and Avery Garza.

The families extend their heartfelt appreciation for all the expressions of love received in this difficult time. Funeral arrangements are pending.

On Facebook Alayna said, "I love fast cars, slow kisses, John Wayne movies, and I don't mind dancing."

Services are under direction of Niday Funeral Home where the family is planning to receive friends on Monday, Aug. 31, at 1 p.m.

The family invites attendees to wear their favorite team jersey or western clothing in her honor.

A celebration of life will occur at 2 p.m.

Graveside services will be follow immediately afterward at South Park Cemetery in Pearland.

For service updates, monitor www.nidayfunerals.com.

# Riverstone chartered school lost TEA charter in 2018

Continued from Page 1  
"The commissioner has approved the following amendment request:

Houston Gateway Academy, Inc., to permanently return campus #101-828-003 due to failure to commence operations, effective March 26, 2018," a June 2018 letter from the Texas Education

Agency to Richard Garza, Houston Gateway superintendent stated. "(The) charter school requested a campus number preemptively but did not submit the required nonexpansion amendment documentation to forfeit the campus until March 28, 2018."

This was not the first time the campus has had its charter pulled, as it has experienced delays dating back to 2011.

"As a reminder, the previous approval to open campus #101-828-003 is considered null and void, as the charter school failed to commence operations for the 2012-2013 school year

(postponement from the 2011-2012 school year)," a March 2018 email from the TEA to Garza read:

"Additionally, the previous approval of the New School designation, associated with the previously proposed Riverstone location, is also null and void, as the charter failed to open the campus in the 2012-2013 school year."

While construction of the new campus has been halted for more than six months, a new contractor was hired and some work done on the school roughly one year after its most recent charter was pulled, presumably meaning officials had intentions of moving forward.

Construction of the new campus has been fraught with problems since its inception. Disputes with contractors have been cited by school officials as a source of many of the delays.

The school has also been the target of multiple civil suits and criminal charges — including eight federal counts against Garza for embezzlement and money laundering.

A Houston Gateway Academy IT specialist was also charged with four similar federal counts.

The new campus was long opposed by many in the community, even before it sat dormant.

Additional traffic congestion was a primary concern, as the campus borders both Dobbie High School and Moore Elementary, which already crowd Blackhawk during the schools' start and finish times.

A new concern is whether or not the campus should now pay property taxes on the nine-acre site, as schools are traditionally exempt from such fees. At press time, it was unclear what the current status of the campus is, as dozens of calls to the school and Garza have gone unanswered for several weeks.

According to Pasadena ISD officials, one unnamed Dobbie teacher has tested positive for COVID-19.

As a precaution, the school contacted all other staff members who may have been exposed to notify them of a possible spread. To educate students and staff about the healthy crisis, Pasadena ISD has set up a COVID hotline at 713-740-0991.

While many extracurricular activities have been put on hold, Pasadena ISD still intends to play football this semester. See related story on page 5.

Pasadena ISD will continue to serve curbside meals at campuses to all students through Sept. 8, at which time meals will be provided on-site to students who selected in-person instruction, while grab-and-go meals will continue to be provided to students who opted to study from home. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

Clear Creek ISD will also be providing meals to all students who are virtually learning during this pandemic. Meal service will be available for distance-learners at their home campus. Families will be able to pick up a breakfast

and a lunch at the same time. Proof of enrollment (student ID or enrollment info from Skyward) is required at the time of pickup. Refer to SchoolCafe for the menu at each site. To keep contact to a minimum, families are encouraged to deposit funds in their student accounts through SchoolCafe at www.schoolcafe.com/clearcreekisd.

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## 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 by appointment 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. 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.

**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 by coming to the library standing/sitting within 6 feet of the building. A password is not needed. Go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi and 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**  
Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Although Harris County Public Library locations remain closed to the public, updates are found on the website.

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. The library social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. Call 832-927-7870 for additional information.

**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 a 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 details.

**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.

Don't 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 a HCPL card. For details, visit https://www.hcpl.net.

**Parker Williams schedule of events this week**  
Thursday, Aug. 27, 10:30 a.m. Toddler Time Out. Join virtually for family fun on social media on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Thursday, Aug. 27, 2 p.m. Parker Williams Book Club. Join the library online. Each month the library will discuss a book from the 2020 Lariat List. This month's is "The Widows of Malabar Hill." The storyline is set in the 1920s in India. Perveen Mistry, Bombay's only female lawyer, is investigating a suspicious will on behalf of three Muslim widows living in full purdah when the case takes a turn toward the murderous. The author of the Agatha and Macavity Award-winning Rei Shimura novels brings us an atmospheric new historical mystery with a captivating heroine. Email tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information and a digital meeting invitation.

Friday, Aug. 28, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez as the library tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Residents will be needing pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Saturday, Aug. 29. Virtual Photo Club. This month's photo challenge is "Abstract." Residents are encouraged to go close in with their photo shots and post them online with the tag #HCPLphotoclub for a chance to be featured on the library's social media accounts: Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

All month long in September. Virtual Photo Club. The photo challenge "The Signs of Fall," shows what the early signs of fall are to one, whether a leaf newly fallen or decorations being put up. Residents are encouraged to go close in with photo shots and post them online with the tag post them online with the tag #HCPLphotoclub for a chance to be featured on our social media accounts: Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

All month long in September. Virtual Photo Club. Virtual Poetry Club. Residents may send poetry to the library to be featured on its social media accounts. Send an email to PW@HCPL.NET with the subject "Virtual Poetry Club." These posts will be featured on social media.

All month in September. Book Club: "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek," by Kim Michele Richardson. Join the Parker Williams Book Club and read a different fiction book monthly. Contact the team to reserve a copy. Meetings are the last Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. over Microsoft Teams. Contact Tanner at tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information and an invite!

Tuesday, Sept. 1, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 3:30 p.m. Ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience required. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for information.

## Elected officials share their words

### Olson, Fletcher: expand debt forgiveness for small businesses amidst pandemic

Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22) (Aug. 4) announced the Loan Interest Forgiveness for Taxpayers Under a Pandemic (LIFT UP) Act with Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07). This legislation extends the six months of debt forgiveness provided by the CARES Act for small businesses that have previously received Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans. This is the House companion to Sen. Ted Cruz's Loan Interest Forgiveness for Taxpayers Under a Pandemic (LIFT UP) Act of 2020.

"The Houston region is still struggling from Hurricane Harvey, and now the COVID-19 pandemic has set our recovery back and crippled our business community," Olson said.

"This bill will offer needed relief and flexibility to small businesses in our region. We can't afford skyrocketing bankruptcy rates and a closed sign on the doors of all our community businesses. I appreciate Sen. Cruz's leadership on this issue and look forward to working with

Lizzie Fletcher to get this across the finish line in the House."

"Keeping small businesses operating through loans provided by the CARES Act has been essential to mitigating the devastating economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Fletcher.

"For the businesses that previously received SBA loans to help them through other setbacks, such as Hurricane Harvey, in addition to loans through the CARES Act, the LIFT UP Act provides additional flexibility and relief during this time. I thank Congressman Olson for joining me in this important effort that will help support small businesses."

The LIFT UP Act would extend the six months of loan forgiveness provided in Section 1112 of the CARES Act to small businesses that received SBA Business Physical Disaster Loans or non-COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loans, helping to ensure that small businesses recovering from past disasters have equitable access to the aid passed by Congress.

## Unique 2020-2021 year begins

Continued from Page 1  
clude broken microphones, speakers and cameras.

To reach the Student Technology Help Desk, visit [www.ggle.com/pasadenaisd.org/pasadena-isd-distance-learning-student-technology-help-desk](http://www.ggle.com/pasadenaisd.org/pasadena-isd-distance-learning-student-technology-help-desk). Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Thursday when hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Students having issues with their username or password should contact their respective campus first.

Clear Creek ISD has established a similar service to help students experiencing technical problems. Support is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. by calling 281-284-0500.

While many extracurricular activities have been put on hold, Pasadena ISD still intends to play football this semester. See related story on page 5.

Pasadena ISD will continue to serve curbside meals at campuses to all students through Sept. 8, at which time meals will be provided on-site to students who selected in-person instruction, while grab-and-go meals will continue to be provided to students who opted to study from home. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

Clear Creek ISD will also be providing meals to all students who are virtually learning during this pandemic. Meal service will be available for distance-learners at their home campus. Families will be able to pick up a breakfast

and a lunch at the same time. Proof of enrollment (student ID or enrollment info from Skyward) is required at the time of pickup. Refer to SchoolCafe for the menu at each site. To keep contact to a minimum, families are encouraged to deposit funds in their student accounts through SchoolCafe at www.schoolcafe.com/clearcreekisd.

According to Pasadena ISD officials, one unnamed Dobbie teacher has tested positive for COVID-19.

As a precaution, the school contacted all other staff members who may have been exposed to notify them of a possible spread. To educate students and staff about the healthy crisis, Pasadena ISD has set up a COVID hotline at 713-740-0991.

While many extracurricular activities have been put on hold, Pasadena ISD still intends to play football this semester. See related story on page 5.

## Leader checks out social media

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group posted that her door was kicked in Tuesday, Aug. 15, around 1:40 p.m., near Monroe Boulevard and Lettie Street. The member states that there were three young African American males, wearing ski masks and hoodies. The suspects robbed her husband. The member states that the suspects took off either in a Chevy Impala or a Malibu. If anyone has any information, contact the member through Facebook.

nobody noticed.

A member of the *Neighbors* app posted that there was an attempted home break-in at their neighbor's house. The incident happened on Saturday, Aug. 22, during the day in the neighborhood behind H-E-B on Blackhawk.

The member states that they didn't see anybody outside after hearing the loud shattering of glass. Part of the glass window was broken and the window panel was bent.

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* posted a picture of their Toy Hauler RV that was stolen. The member states that the RV which was by the intersection Sabo/Hughes Road was taken sometime between Aug. 11 to 13. If anyone has any information, contact the member at 281-733-7001 or notify local police.

A member of the *Neighbors* app posted that there was an attempted home break-in at their neighbor's house. The incident happened on Saturday, Aug. 22, during the day in the neighborhood behind H-E-B on Blackhawk.

The member states that they didn't see anybody outside after hearing the loud shattering of glass. Part of the glass window was broken and the window panel was bent.

# 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

# Census information necessary to funding from federal government

**Continued from Page 1**  
possible residents. This includes leaving notification of the attempted visit on the door.  
The notification will include reminder information on how to respond online, by paper or by phone. In addition, census workers may try to reach the household by phone to conduct the interview.  
Census takers will go to great lengths to ensure that no one is missed in the census. After exhausting their efforts to do an in-person interview with a resident of an occupied housing unit, Census takers will seek out proxy

sources – a neighbor, a rental agent, a building manager or some other knowledgeable person familiar with the housing unit – to obtain as much basic information about the occupants as they can.  
Census takers are hired from local communities. All census takers speak English, and many are bilingual. If a census taker does not speak the householder's language, the householder may request a return visit from a census taker who does.  
Census takers will also have materials on hand to help identify the household's language.

**How to identify census takers**  
Census takers can be easily identified by a valid government ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date on the badge. To confirm a census taker's identity, the public may contact their regional census center to speak with a Census Bureau representative.  
**Some households will be contacted by phone**  
In order to minimize the need to send census takers to households in person, the Census Bureau is training census takers to follow up

with households by phone. Using information provided to the Census Bureau and third-party purchased data, the Census Bureau has a strong contact list for both landlines and cellphones assigned to houses on the Census Bureau's address list.  
These phone calls will enable the Census Bureau to have maximum flexibility for conducting field operations, and is one more method that census takers can use to reach nonresponding households. Phone calls will be used on an as-needed basis and when in-person contact attempts have not resulted in an interview. If a voicemail is available, the census taker will

leave a message asking the household to call one of the Census Bureau's call centers.  
**Representatives to visit low-responding areas**  
The Mobile Questionnaire Assistance program will continue through Sept. 30. This is a separate activity from census takers going door to door. MQA representatives are in open, public places in the lowest-responding areas of the nation to encourage people to respond to the 2020 Census.  
These locations are where people naturally visit when leaving home and can be used to help increase self-response rates. MQA is part of the Census Bureau's final

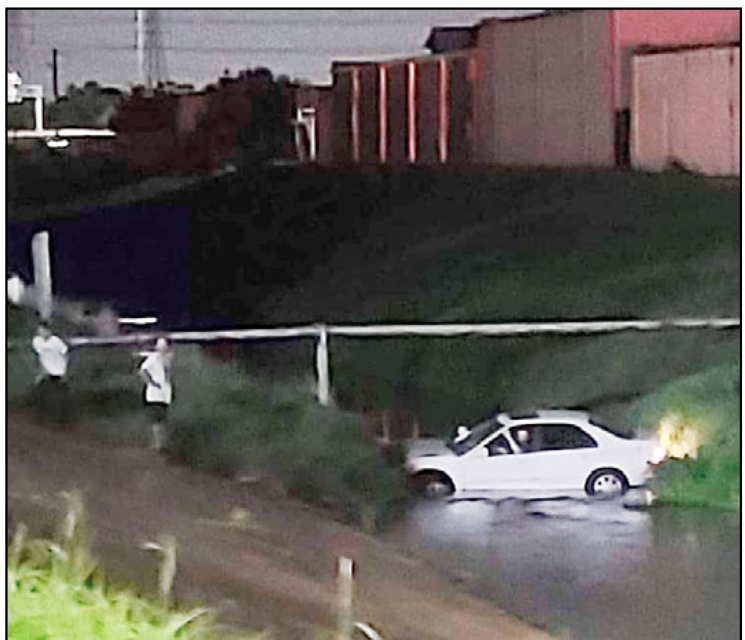
push to encourage people to complete the 2020 Census.  
**About the 2020 Census**  
The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.  
The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone who lives in the United States on April 1, 2020 (Census Day). Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and inform how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years.  
For more information, visit 2020census.gov.

## Tristans celebrate 51 years



Joe and Juanita Tristan, longtime Sagemont residents (45 years), celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary Sunday, Aug. 16, 2020. The Rev. Douglas Guthrie blessed the couple at the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. The photo above was taken at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, where they were married Aug. 16, 1969. They are blessed with children John Tristan, Jeffrey Tristan and Jessica Tristan Foreman. They are additionally blessed with daughter-in-law Stephanie Tristan and son-in-law Trevor Foreman and grandchildren Hannah, Joseph, Lillian, Matthew, Nicholas, Gabriella and Isabella Tristan. Congratulations are sent from family and friends.

## Vehicle lands in ditch



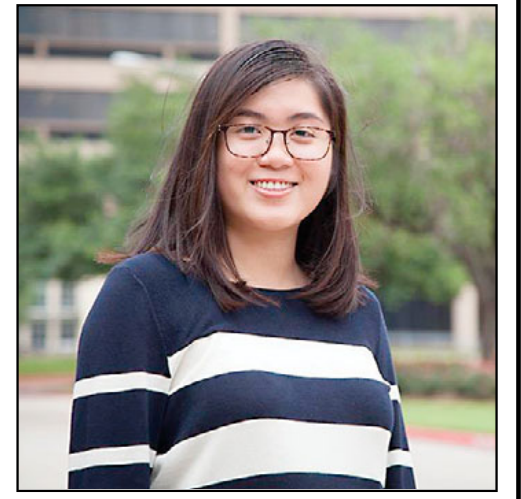
On Saturday evening a vehicle which left the apartments at Beamer and Hall roads was going north on Beamer and inadvertently crossed the esplanade, the southbound side of Beamer, became airborne and ended up in the ditch located behind the M & D Ace Hardware store, according to a witness at the scene. The two occupants were transported to the hospital, but were believed not to have received serious injuries.  
*Photo from People of Sagemont2 Facebook page.*

## Nguyen earns Ph.D. from UH

This month 2012 Dobie High School graduate Khanh Nguyen earned a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Houston. In September she will join the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory at the world-renowned Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, Germany.  
Nguyen's academic achievements are remarkable. She arrived in the U.S. in 2008 speaking little English. She quickly distinguished herself in mathematics and physics and began tutoring Dobie students as well as Pasadena ISD intermediate and high school students in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program and college students in the San Jacinto College math lab.  
As an undergraduate Khanh tutored in the Alliance for Minority Participation and became lead mentor/tutor in the UH Scholar Enrichment Program. It was there that she created the interactive learning model for freshmen women STEM majors — a program still used today. She credits her experience as an

AVID tutor in Pasadena ISD for the success of this interactive program. She was awarded a Barry Goldwater Scholarship for her senior year. In 2015 she graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and a B.S. in physics.  
During her first two years of her doctoral program Nguyen was a graduate teaching assistant and recipient of a UH Presidential Fellowship.

In 2017 she was awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation Research Fellowship to support her last three years of research in mathematics neuroscience and decision-making.  
Nguyen's parents, Trong and Mai, live in the South Belt area, and her uncle, the Rev. Joseph Vu, was a long-time priest at Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church.



Khanh Nguyen

## Abbott against police defunding

Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dennis Bonnen last week held a press conference where they announced a legislative proposal to discourage defunding of law enforcement in Texas. With this proposal, any city that defunds its police department will have its property tax revenue frozen at the current level.

"Part of our job as state leaders is to ensure the safety and security of all Texans, and we will not allow this core function to be undermined by cities that seek to defund and dismantle law enforcement agencies that have a sworn duty to protect our communities," said Abbott. "Defunding the police puts Texans in danger and invites lawlessness into our

cities, and cities that endanger their residents should not be able to turn around and raise more taxes from those same Texans. I strongly urge the Texas Legislature to take up this important issue next session to protect their constituents and ensure law enforcement have the resources and support they need to protect their communities."

## Handling current DMV needs

**Continued from Page 1**  
The office will follow social distancing guidelines, and all patrons must undergo a health screening prior to entering. Refusal will prevent entrance.  
The County Clerk's Office is still actively accepting mail and eFilings. Residents should expect delays, however, due to reduced staff.

and MCD staff from the spread of COVID-19, members of the public will be required to wear face masks/ facial coverings and have their temperature taken.  
If the temperature is higher than 100.4 degrees, the individual will not be allowed to enter the municipal courthouse.  
Members of the public should contact a health care provider and not come to court if they are experiencing symptoms similar to COVID-19.  
For additional information, call the City of Houston Helpline at 311, or 713-837-0311 if outside the City of Houston, or visit the

Municipal Courts website at [www.houstontx.gov/courts](http://www.houstontx.gov/courts).

## Melillo staff prepares for first day of virtual learning



Melissa Martinez, sixth-grade science teacher, is all smiles as she greets her students virtually.



Lois Evans, social studies teacher, is hard at work, interacting with her homeroom students on the computer.



Dawn Rene Tomlinson, fifth-grade teacher, enjoys day one of school as she greets her students virtually.



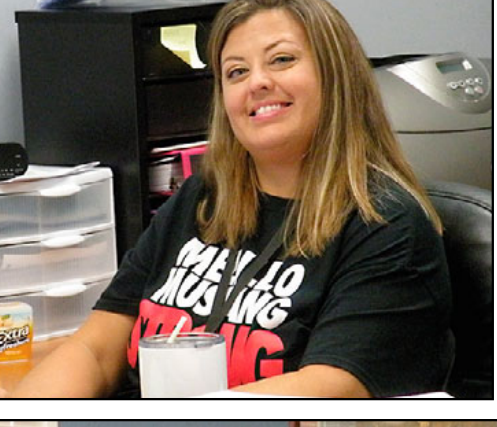
Kelly Schwenk, sixth-grade PL teacher, is working through cyberspace with her students on the computer.



Melillo administrators were busy handing out computer laptops, specifically Chromebooks, to students to use this school year. Shown above are, left to right, Jennifer Saucedo, assistant principal; Chris Bui, assistant principal; and Diane Wheeler, principal.



Melillo's ABE teachers are shown preparing lessons to begin working with their students. Shown, left to right, are Buffy Davila, Luz Chaidez and Julie Jasso.



Melillo's language, literacy and special populations teacher, Heidi Eberhardt, is all smiles while making contact with parents ahead of the first day of school.



Jan Tekell assists students and parents, helping them get online Tuesday, Aug. 18, the first morning of school.

**Online Nurse's Aide Classes**  
*Your Nursing Journey Begins Here*  
**Pathway Personal Care and Educational Services**  
**832-516-9321**  
ALL CLASSWORK DONE ONLINE  
ONE WEEK LAB  
ONE WEEK IN PRACTICE LAB  
Nursing Assistants are the frontline of our country's healthcare system. Providing direct care in every setting, from hospitals to nursing homes.



Life has already become busy for Irma Barreiro who takes phone calls from parents in Melillo's front office.

# Dobie's Castoreno becomes news anchor

By Rebeca Lazo  
Pasadena ISD  
Communications  
Audrey Castoreno, news anchor and reporter for KENS 5 in San Antonio, knows what it's like to be in the limelight.  
For nearly a decade,

she has traveled across the state of Texas reporting the news on topics ranging from weather, local and national news. Her success is the culmination of years of exposure in the newsroom – starting as early as elementary school.

"I caught the news bug, believe it or not, when I was at Frazier Elementary. My teacher was asked to bring our class to the library to help shoot a segment for one of the local stations. I was in awe of the reporter and photographer who came out...I would also always watch the news with my mom every night. I just loved the storytelling aspect," says Castoreno.

It wasn't until she attended Dobie High School that Castoreno realized that her dreams of becoming a reporter would one day become reality.

She joined Dobie News under the mentorship of former journalism teacher Robert Salinas. Her experience at Dobie taught her the fundamentals of journalism in a hands-on learning environment.

"I was lucky enough to learn from Mr. Salinas, who had a background in radio and television. He was tough, but (he) really taught us what it meant to survive in a competitive industry," she said.

"Dobie News and the knowledge I gained definitely gave me a leg up at my internships and in landing my first job," Castoreno said. "Mr. Salinas has remained one of my mentors over the years."

Throughout her years at Dobie, Castoreno became involved with Dobie News. She held the title of news director her senior year and even helped bring Channel One, a national high school show, on campus to cover a story.

"Audrey is among the hardest working students I've ever taught. She knew at an early age what she wanted to achieve and worked tirelessly to make it happen," says Salinas.

After high school, Castoreno continued her education at Sam Houston State University where she obtained a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. She began her career in Victoria, Texas, where she covered the news for about a year and she currently works for KENS 5 as a reporter and a news anchor in San Antonio.

Castoreno said the life of a reporter is hard work, but the experiences have all been worthwhile.

"You're fighting a deadline daily and working to get the latest and most accurate information out there...My days now start before most people are awake and I'm on air anchoring by 4:30 a.m. After my show, I am out in the community feature reporting," she said.

Castoreno has covered many events that have hit national news. From natural disasters to mass shootings and more recently, interviewing Texas Gov. Greg Abbott regarding the national pandemic, she has had the opportunity to share the vast array of news stories with her community.

"I love getting to tell stories that can strike a smile, tear or movement," says Castoreno.

Throughout her years as a reporter, she said one lesson that stands out the most is that there is always a story, national or local, waiting to be told. "I've learned through the years that everyone has a story to tell."

For anyone having an interesting story of a "Grad You Should Know," email communication@pasadenaisd.org with details.



Audrey Castoreno  
Photo by Bend the Light Photography

# Harris County provides relief from COVID

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic fallout, many families have been struggling to afford basic needs. Since families have different needs – from childcare to medical bills to housing – direct financial assistance is the best way to provide relief for working families in Harris County.

At Commissioners Court Tuesday, Aug. 11, Commissioner Rodney Ellis voted to approve an additional \$25 million for an Emergency Direct Assistance Program, which would build on the \$30 million Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund from earlier this year.

"Our community is hurting. Families are hurting. We need to be responsive to them, and help them during these difficult times," said Ellis. "We have the means and the responsibility to step in and relieve those who are struggling. We know that the Relief Fund was effective in helping some of our vulnerable residents, but more resi-

dents are in need of relief. We will pull through this crisis by pulling together and protecting our most vulnerable."

The latest data demonstrates that additional relief is needed in Harris County and that direct assistance is an effective tool to provide that relief. Since March 7, 2020, Harris County residents have filed at least 504,407 initial unemployment claims with the Texas Workforce Commission.

Low-income households of color are struggling the most, with almost half of black and Latino households reporting they could not pay April bills in full. Direct assistance to low-income families can help reduce poverty rates, inject money into the local economy and, most importantly, help families afford their basic needs. Economists who studied how low-income households used federal stimulus payments from the CARES Act found that the money was primarily used on things like

food, supplies and rent. "Many times our clients have needs that go unmet. With the Harris County COVID Relief Fund, Wesley has been able to serve over 500 families with those types of needs," said Erica Luna, community services manager at Wesley Community Center, who testified at Commissioners Court recently. "We heard time and again of families that were going to use the assistance to catch up on mortgage payments that would keep them out of foreclosure. Another recurring need we kept hearing was car notes."

Luna cited a mother of two who used the assistance to get her car back, which had been repossessed and she needed it to get to and from work at a local restaurant.

Of the more than 500,000 families that applied for the Relief Fund in June, 20,000 households and almost 40,000 individuals received assistance. This new round of \$25 million in direct assistance will

help reach an estimated 20,000 households, but is not enough to bring relief to all families in need.

Ellis will continue to advocate for using existing resources to help working families,

and will continue to encourage the federal government to provide additional support for people to weather this public health and economic crisis in the upcoming stimulus package.

## Burnett welcomes Karina Diaz



Burnett Elementary School welcomed Karina Diaz as the new counselor/parent coordinator for the campus. Diaz was born and raised in Pasadena and is a proud graduate of Pasadena Memorial High School. She began her education at UHCL where she received her bachelor's degree in EC-6th Bilingual Generalist in 2012. Two years later, she started her master's program at St. Thomas University where she graduated with a school counseling certification. She taught at Pearl Hall and Pomeroy elementary schools in PSD. This will be her ninth year in education and she is very excited to serve all the students, staff and families at Burnett as the school counselor/parent coordinator.

## Gulf Coast FCU gives \$20,000

As the new school year commences, those working in the education industry are being faced with many new challenges. To help brighten what is normally an exciting time for educators, a local credit union is going above and beyond to show school employees how much they are appreciated.

Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union is giving away \$20,000 to educators and school employees from Aug. 17 to Sept. 5, with The Great Big Back to School Giveaway. Each week ten school employees will be drawn at random to win \$500. The only requirement to enter is to fill out the online entry form on the credit union's website at [www.gcefcu.org/teachersrule/](http://www.gcefcu.org/teachersrule/).

In addition to the weekly cash drawings, GCEFCU will be spotlighting specific school employees each day on their social media pages, giving away \$100 gift cards, prizes, and even a teacher supply shopping spree on the following schedule:

- Thursday, Aug. 27, school librarians.
  - Friday, Aug. 28, bus drivers and transportation.
  - Saturday, Aug. 29, food and nutrition services.
  - Monday, Aug. 31, coaches and P.E. teachers.
  - Tuesday, Sept. 1, fine arts and club teachers.
  - Wednesday, Sept. 2, special needs teachers.
  - Thursday, Sept. 3, school police and security officers.
  - Friday, Sept. 4, maintenance departments.
  - Saturday, Sept. 5, all school employees.
- In past years, they would see an average of 15,000

new teachers and school employees while attending more than 30 new teacher events throughout the back-to-school season. However, with all the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, GCEFCU thought of an alternative creative way to give back to school employees with The Great Big Back to School Giveaway.

**About Gulf Coast Educators FCU**  
Since 1948, eleven Pasadena ISD educators got together and formed what today remains a credit union dedicated to serving the financial needs of school employees in the state of Texas. The credit union offers its member-owners a full line of banking services, but through a cooperative ownership structure. For more information about the credit union, visit [www.gcefcu.org](http://www.gcefcu.org).

## Cubos turns 18!



Erik Cubos celebrated his 18th birthday Aug. 22. He is a senior at Clear Brook High School. Erik is on both the football and wrestling teams. Celebration plans included dinner at home with the family. Parents Erik and Claudia Cubos and sisters Brittney, Hailey and Bonnie Cubos wish him a very happy birthday.

### 40 years ago (1980)

Pasadena Independent School District enrollment figures showed that once again the South Belt area, which accounted for one-fourth of the district's 35,415 enrollment, had the district's largest high school, intermediate school and elementary school – Dobie High, Thompson Intermediate and Burnett Elementary.

Numerous South Belt business establishments had used their marquees to send out get well wishes to Houston Astro pitcher J.R. Richard since his surgery the previous month.

The Harris County Sheriff's Department investigated the attempted rape of a 19-year-old Kirkmont resident. The woman, who was cleaning the Kirkmont house of a friend who was out of town, reported a young man forced his way into the house and threatened her with a knife.

Trustees of Clear Creek Independent School District adopted a \$36,073,999 budget and retained the 1980 tax rate of 82 cents per \$100 valuation at their regular monthly meeting.

### 35 years ago (1985)

U.S. Postal Service officials acknowledged that traffic flow problems existed within the potential service area of a planned post office for the South Belt area and said that the Postal Service would support South Belt Coalition efforts to get the problems resolved.

Houston vice officers raided a Scarsdale apartment complex after an anonymous tip that pornographic-related activities were taking place in one of the units.

Work on a new section of Beltway 8 that would ultimately stretch past Interstate 45 and Beamer Road was expected to begin during the month according to representatives of the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation. The work is part of ongoing construction to make improvements to the beltway as traffic patterns continue to become heavier.

The City of Houston planned to begin construction the following year of a regional, 50 million gallons-a-day water treatment plant on the north side of Ellington, east of Highway 3.

### 30 years ago (1990)

Approximately 1,400 feet of noise reduction barriers would be included in the extension of Beltway 8 through the South Belt area.

First-day enrollment for PISD schools increased by 2,070 students from 33,817 to 35,887. Both elementary and secondary school enrollments rose by approximately 1,000 students.

Planning was underway for Investment Land and Development Co. to build 43 new homes on 9.7 acres of land at Hughes Road and Blackhawk.

### 25 years ago (1995)

A free gold card good for free admission to all Pasadena school district athletic events, plays, musicals and concerts is available to district residents age 60 and older. Applications may be obtained at the South Belt-Ellington Leader office. In addition, gold card holders are offered nutritionally balanced, low-cost (\$1.60) lunches at district schools. On the senior citizen's first visit to a school for lunch, the campus principal will tell the seniors about the lunch schedule and escort them to the cafeteria.

### 20 years ago (2000)

Pasadena Independent School District involved faculty and staff in planning for the new Dobie.

Gene Paul Robertson, 28, was arrested and charged with a felony murder in the death of Anthony (Tony) Chapin, 23.

Andrew René Love, 19, was found dead in his home. Fomer Dobie principal Frank Braden suffered a heart attack and was recovering in Bayshore Hospital.

The Sagemeadow home of Glenda Chaney was destroyed by a fire. The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department and Houston Fire Station 70 (on Beamer Road) and Station 93 (on FM 1959) fought the fire.

### 15 years ago (2005)

Local elected officials expressed optimism for the military presence at Ellington Field to continue despite being affected by the Base Realignment and Closure committee. The Texas Air National Guard was slated to lose its F-16s, which would result in the loss of about half of the personnel of the 147th Fighter Intercept Group.

PISD trustees approved a \$355.7 million budget for the 2005-2006 school year.

Gas prices in Houston soared. Regular unleaded at South Belt area stations ranged from \$2.74 to \$3.31 per gallon. This was after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast but before Rita threatened the Houston area.

### 10 years ago (2010)

The accomplice in the 2009 kidnapping of Susana De Jesus was sentenced to 13 years in prison for his role in the crime that left the former South Belt resident dead. Wallace Ledet IV pleaded guilty to aggravated kidnapping in the case, as well as burglary of a habitation in an unrelated crime. Ledet, 26, was reportedly a high school friend of Nicholas-Michael Edwin Jean, who in May, pleaded guilty to killing De Jesus, and in June, was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole. Ledet told investigators he had nothing to do with De Jesus' death but admitted dropping Jean off at the site of the abduction.

### 5 years ago (2015)

Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin honored outgoing Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis by presenting him with a special proclamation during a public council session.

### LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

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

block of the Gulf Freeway near Hartsook. No immediate arrests were made.

### 1 year ago (2019)

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, a security guard was injured in a shootout outside of a restaurant near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway while trying to break up a domestic disturbance. Houston police responded to this incident in front of Ja-

bastian's Mexican Cuisine to find Anthony Lee Reyes, 30, shot in the leg. According to the police report, Reyes had observed a male suspect choking a female in the parking lot. When Reyes went to the female's aid, the male suspect fired multiple shots at him, striking him once in the leg. The couple then fled the scene in a pickup truck to a nearby apartment com-

plex, where the male suspect unsuccessfully fired shots at another man. Reyes was transported to the hospital in stable condition. Police identified David J. Spears as the male suspect. Spears, 27, was charged with three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and one count each of deadly conduct and a felon in possession of a firearm.

## Bayou Theater receives grants

University of Houston-Clear Lake's Director of Theater and Cultural Arts Eric Despard has been finding new ways to turn the difficulties caused by COVID-19-related closures into ways to ensure the show will go on.

UH-Clear Lake's Bayou Theater has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, one to support the theater's staff, and another, awarded through the Texas Commission on the Arts, to afford the opportunity to bring a previously canceled performance to the virtual stage.

"In July, the Bayou Theater received a \$50,000 CARES Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts," Despard said. "Of the 3100 eligible applications there were 855 total grants awarded, and 44 were awarded in Texas."

"Only seven were awarded in Houston, and we were fortunate to be one of them."

The NEA is an independent federal agency that funds, promotes and strengthens the creative capacity of communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts appreciation.

"The grant enables us to continue supporting our staff throughout the closure due to the pandemic," Despard said.

Additionally, Texas Commission on the Arts awarded funds to the Bayou Theater to provide artistic contracts.

"The Apollo Chamber Players' May performance was canceled, and these funds allow us to bring them back to perform a virtual concert, to take place Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. via Zoom," he said.

"They'll present a virtual program featuring newly commissioned music by Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning composers Libby Larsen and Jennifer Higdon, and vanguard African-American composer Florence Price."

This program also features new choreography created and danced by artists from the Houston Ballet, digitally paired with Apollo's multicultural commissions."

Despard said that plans continue to be made for the 2020-2021 Bayou Theater season and that more information would be coming soon.

To attend the Apollo Chamber Players' Zoom concert, register at [www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/](http://www.uhcl.edu/bayou-theater/) and receive the Zoom link.

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## Over The Back Fence by Alexis

### CODY CELEBRATES 20TH BIRTHDAY

Cody Giles of Kirkwood South celebrates a birthday Aug. 27. His parents, Jim and Tracy Giles, brother Aaron and wife Ashley Giles and sons Jaxson and Jace, sister Kristen Giles and grandparents Ken and Bobby Griffin, wish him a wonderful birthday.

### DITTRICH ENJOY BIRTHDAYS

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

### JAXSON TURNS 21

Special birthday wishes for Jaxson Giles who turns two years old Aug. 30 from his parents Aaron and Ashley Giles, grandparents Jim and Tracy Giles, great-grandparents Ken and Bobby Griffin and aunt Kristen Giles.

### RON CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Ron Williams, former owner of Ace Hardware, is wished a happy birthday Sept. 1 from his family, friends and the Leader staff.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARIE!

Birthday greetings are sent to Marie Flickinger, South Belt Leader publisher, on Tuesday, Sept. 1, from husband David; sons Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger and David (Leader owner) and wife Ellie Flickinger; granddaughters Kimberly Flickinger and fiancé Matthew Lipina and Courtney Durham and husband Chris and great-grandchildren Abigail, Jackson and Penelope Durham; granddaughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca and great-grandchildren Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Elliana and Isabella Abarca; sister Alexis Lochner; her friends and staff at the South Belt-Ellington Leader.

### SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 27 through Sept. 2, 2020.

### Atkinson Elementary

Break out the birthday balloons and party favors Aug. 27 for **Deyanira Quintero**.

### Burnett Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Adelina Cruz** Aug. 27. **Lisa Orr** is wished a happy birthday Aug. 28.

### Bush Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Alecia Nicole Walters** Aug. 31.

### Frazier Elementary

A double-layer birthday cake is in order Aug. 27 for **Amanda Brewton** and **Veronica Huitron**. Send a greeting Aug. 29 to **Kalpna Moble** who enjoys a birthday. Sept. 2 is the day for a celebration for **Debra Hawkins**.

### Genoa Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout Aug. 29 to **Suzy Foster**. Send a birthday greeting Sept. 2 to **Alex Martinez**.

### Meador Elementary

The day for a party for **Sabina Torres** is Aug. 29.

### Moore Elementary

Light the birthday candles Aug. 30 for **Lakennia Cole**. Send a birthday greeting Sept. 2 to **Veronica Rangel**.

### South Belt Elementary

Break out the party favors and cake and ice cream for **Emerald Aue** and **Jason Watson** Aug. 28. **Laquansha Gill** celebrates a birthday Aug. 30. The day for birthday fun for **Courtney Moran** is Aug. 31. Sing a happy birthday song to **Maria Rodriguez** Sept. 1.

### Stuchbery Elementary

Blow out the candles on a birthday cake Aug. 30 for **Dylan Richter**.

### Beverly Hills Intermediate

Light the birthday candles Aug. 28 for **Mackwell Hickerson** and **Dess Priest**. **Margaret Higham** celebrates a birthday Aug. 29. **Wesley Hardy** marks a birthday Sept. 1. A day of fun is planned Sept. 2 for **Dawn**

### Nguyen.

### Thompson Intermediate

Break out the balloons and the birthday cake Aug. 28 for **Melinda Mathis**. The day for a birthday celebration is Sept. 2 for **Janet Reynolds**.

### Dobie High

**Christopher Swinnen** celebrates a birthday Aug. 29. Enjoy a slice of birthday cake Aug. 30 with **Chelsea Bohny**. A birthday greeting is sent to **Trent Morgan** Aug. 30.

### FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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

### Thursday, Aug. 27: Jesse Garcia, and Jeff Jones; Friday, Aug. 28: Tanya Keller and Yvonne Ramirez; Saturday, Aug. 29: Connie Guerrero, Brenda Marshall, Claudia Herrera and Aimee Bennett; Sunday, Aug. 30: James Leonard, Jason Hunt, Tracy Schwerdtfeger, Melinda Funni, Amber McGown, Bobby Burton, Ryssa Bebee, Debrah Tullous and Rebecca Noris-Peak; Monday, Aug. 31: Nyd Salgado, Suzie Ortiz, Tajuana Stewart, John Terana, Mia Bella, Paula Miller, Judie Elizalde, Kathy Cole, Michael O'Daniel, Veronica Lyons, Annalee Young, Carol Rodriguez, Scott Gish, Ashley Hall and Angie Davis; Tuesday, Sept. 1: Tiffany Gay, Maribel Manriquez, Jasmine Manning, Karen Jenkins and Steve Landin; and Wednesday, Sept. 2: Fil Cantu, Stacy Aguirre, Suzanne Hernandez, Karen Young and Mary Hernandez.

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## Remember When

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Dobie's new-look nondistrict football schedule sets up favorably

It's out with the old and in with the new as Dobie's revamped 2020 football schedule includes four nondistrict games in all in addition to a run through District 22-6A play.

For those who care about things like this, the Longhorns will see five new foes in 2020 compared to 2019 when the varsity team went 9-1 overall, collecting the most single-season wins since 1999 for the program.

For 2020, the goal is clear.

The Longhorns will be steadfastly focused on winning the district championship, something Dobie last did in 2010.

The race to the District 22-6A championship, likely headed by Dobie, Deer Park and Channelview, will come soon enough.

In fact, one team will make a big statement on the opening weekend of league play as Dobie plays at Channelview Oct. 16 to get things going in a big way.

At present, the focus is

the Longhorns' early-season activities.

The University interscholastic League, having witnessed an already largely successful return to preseason workouts as well as early-season volleyball matches in classes A through 4A, is allowing for 5A and 6A football and volleyball programs to get started the Monday of Labor Day weekend - Sept. 7.

The football pads can be donned Sept. 10, with scrim-

mages allowed the week thereafter.

Dobie head coach Kevin Berneathy has stuck with original scrimmage partner Clear Springs as the Longhorns will have subsvarsity and varsity outings with the Chargers Friday, Sept. 18, at Clear Creek ISD's Challenger Stadium in Webster.

The scrimmage will serve as prep work for the Longhorns' opening week of games against Jersey Village, featuring the varsity game

Friday, Sept. 25, at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium.

As for Jersey Village, the Falcons were 4-6 a season ago and will again face stiff competition, with "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" magazine placing JV just out of the playoff mix behind the likes of Cy-Fair, Cy-Creek, Houston Memorial and Cy-Ridge in District 17-6A.

With 10 starters on offense and eight more defensively, the Falcons have definite postseason aspirations as quarterback Caleb Weaver, coming off a 2,000-yard, 19-touchdown pass season in 2019, leads an aerial attack that includes receivers Mike Evans (eight scoring grabs a season ago) and Dionel Burrell (four touchdown receptions).

The Falcons' defense is

figured to be led by linebacker Andre Fields, who led the way in 2019 with 90 total stops.

The Longhorns will then head into week two on the road against Bellaire. While the game date and locale are still to be determined, the Longhorns and Cardinals will meet for a third straight season.

Berneathy's first two seasons at Dobie have included victories in high-scoring affairs over the Cardinals, and this one figures to be little different.

The Cardinals drew a third-place designation from DCTF for 2020 after going 6-4 and playing in the bidistrict round a season ago.

Bellaire will have a first-year starter at quarterback in a season that seems not

at all advantageous for that, but linebacker Rodney Dansby had 160 total stops on defense and will lead what could very well be an improved unit.

The Longhorns will have a first-ever matchup against Fort Bend Bush in week three as the locals will host the Broncos Thursday, Oct. 8 at PISD Veterans.

At 5-5 overall in 2019, the Broncos played in the bidistrict round, losing to go 5-6 overall.

This season in District 20-6A, the Broncos are projected fifth behind fellow Fort Bend programs Ridge Point and Travis as well as George Ranch and Elkins, another Fort Bend ISD program.

The Broncos watched as four 2019 graduates signed with FBS college programs,

but the team nonetheless has high hopes of pushing the envelope behind head coach Allen Aldridge.

Following the Oct. 16 District 22-6A opener at Channelview, the Longhorns will play a nondistrict game Friday, Oct. 23, at Willis.

A District 13-6A representative, the Willis Wildcats were 3-7 in 2019 and are projected to finish last this season in a league that includes the likes of The Woodlands, College Park and the Conroe ISD programs.

Steele Bardwell had just over 2,000 yards passing, including 18 touchdowns and returns at quarterback, while Johnny McHenry leads the rushing attack after scoring 13 total touchdowns in 10 games a season ago.

With essentially half as

many total students as Dobie, the Wildcats are making the jump to Class 6A for 2020-2021.

Also of note, the Longhorns' annual homecoming game is again set to be against Pasadena, this time Friday, Oct. 30.

Also, Dobie and South Houston will close the regular season the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The game will have a special 2 p.m. start.

So the initial look at the Longhorns' nondistrict slate appears very favorable in terms of wins, which could very well set the locals up for that elusive district championship run.

For a look at the Longhorns' full schedule, see Page 6.

## UIL's persistent approach about to pay off

Online learning has begun at Dobie and Clear Brook, meaning the athletic season can't be far behind, right? So far, so good across much of the state as Class A through Class 4A programs are inching closer and closer to regular season football games. The A through 4A volleyball seasons? Pfft. They've already begun.

While it once seemed that the fall athletics season might at the very least be compromised, on-field action is actually nearing.

The athletes at Clear Brook and Dobie will be able to celebrate Labor Day by engaging in the first day of allowable preseason workouts.

On the volleyball court, tryouts and the first day of preseason workouts will be served up Sept. 7 as the Lady Wolverines of Clear Brook begin to build toward defending their 24-6A championship from a season ago.

Tournaments such as the Pearland Adidas Invitational, a 60-team event, won't be allowed, but Clear Brook has

nonetheless lined up an express 17-game schedule, beginning Sept. 15 at Pearland.

Dobie, aiming to better its fourth-place finish from 2019, has scheduled 23 matches, including the Sept. 15 opener at Baytown Sterling.

Sept. 7 is also a big day for the Clear Brook and Dobie football programs.

At Brook, head coach John Towels III arrived in February, but then the coronavirus pandemic wiped away spring football workouts.

Thus, the Wolverines at long last will hit the field for basically the first participation. It could still happen, but time is of the essence.

Things are far from being back to normal. Things such as crowd attendance allowances and plenty of other issues still need to be worked out, but a return to high school athletics, the first action since March, is at hand.

play Sept. 25 against Jersey Village.

While the University Interscholastic League has been steadfast in its efforts to get the fall high school and intermediate athletic seasons underway, things are far less clear for the younger athletes.

The Bay Area Football League, featuring 16 total teams including the South Belt-based Sagemont Cowboys and Southbelt Dolphins, hope to begin practices as of Sept. 5.

However, county nor city officials have not yet opened parks for team participation. It could still happen, but time is of the essence.

Things are far from being back to normal. Things such as crowd attendance allowances and plenty of other issues still need to be worked out, but a return to high school athletics, the first action since March, is at hand.

The Dobie varsity tennis program will again be one of the Houston area's busiest as the University Interscholastic League has already allowed for preseason workouts.

Coronavirus concerns will, at present, cost fall team tennis teams more than a month of action, this coming after the 2019-2020 spring season was halted in March.

The pandemic will cost the Longhorns their always-popular exes matches upon the restart, but veteran head coach Manuel More-

no Jr. has outlined a loaded schedule nonetheless.

Kingwood, which claimed the league championship twice in the previous District 22-6A alignment, has agreed to open the 2020 team tennis schedule at Dobie Thursday, Sept. 10.

A day later, the Longhorns will provide one of four host sites along with Clear Brook, Dawson and Pearland as the 10th annual Remembering Ike Invitational plays out Sept. 11-12.

The other four invitees include Clear Creek, Clear Springs, Friendswood and

La Porte for eight overall as teams will go head-to-head in separate one-on-one matchups over three rounds, with the overall championship set for Sept. 12 at Dawson.

Dobie is set to begin District 22-6A action Tuesday, Sept. 15 at home against Channelview, a newcomer to the revamped district.

If the full schedule plays out, Dobie, an area round-off participant in 2019-2020, will play 17 dual matches in all, down roughly 10 per usual standards.

Dobie has elevated Julia Bui, Hayden Lazo, Lael Martinez and Megan Rodriguez as team captains for the 2020-2021 campaign, and they will collectively play a key role as the team's leadership group.

After all, the Longhorns have only recently returned to the court as a group after nearly six months of court closures.

Moreno is entering his 39th overall season as a high school head coach. His 22nd at Dobie figures to require every bit of his veteran experience. For a look at Dobie's full 2020 team tennis schedule, see Page 6.

## Dobie tennis team to be busy as season restart nears



Senior Hayden Lazo, one of four co-captains for the Dobie team tennis program, is readying for the start of the season as the Longhorns take on Kingwood Sept. 10 at home and then host the Remembering Ike Invitational Sept. 11-12.

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## Lajaunie tennis 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 following 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](http://www.DLTennisScholarships.com).

Those previously registered but who are unable to play in October may direct email to tournament director John Thomas at [Tjohnr@gmail.com](mailto:Tjohnr@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 for 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.

## AVA has tryout openings as fall season nears

The Absolute Volleyball Academy of Texas has continued club tryouts for its 2020-2021 season 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](http://avatexas.com). Direct any questions to [info@avatexas.com](mailto:info@avatexas.com).

AVA will be moving into its 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 more information about AVA, visit [www.avatexas.com/missionstatement](http://www.avatexas.com/missionstatement); [www.avatexas.com/philosophy](http://www.avatexas.com/philosophy); or [www.avatexas.com/aboutava](http://www.avatexas.com/aboutava).

## Wolverines line up tough nondistrict football schedule

Clear Brook first-year head coach John Towels III was able to maintain course as it pertains to the Wolverines' 2020 football schedule post-pandemic delays, with the locals playing a pair of road games at Texas City and at Friendswood to get things going.

And the current plan now calls for the Wolverines to navigate a tough District 24-6A alignment before ending the regular season with nondistrict games against Stratford and Morton Ranch.

With Clear Creek ISD sharing two home facilities at Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City and Challenger

## Wolverines line up tough nondistrict football schedule

Columbia Stadium in Webster, the Wolverines will make five true road trips in 2020.

However, should the 2021 schedule then hold true, Clear Brook will be on the "road" just once.

After largely being sidelined from team activities since March, the Wolverines are looking forward to the start of preseason workouts Sept. 7.

Fast forward to Sept. 25, and the Wolverines will open the 2020 regular season against Texas City at Stingaree Stadium in Texas City.

The Stingarees were just 2-8 in 2019 but have now moved down to District 12-5A

## Wolverines line up tough nondistrict football schedule

Division II for this season and next.

Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine has Barbers Hill, Crosby, Port Neches-Groves and Nederland rated ahead of the Stingarees, but the locals feel differently.

In the opener, Clear Brook's run defense figures to be tested as the Stingarees return Simaj McCall from a 1,090-yard, nine-touchdown season.

After the ground game is likely featured in Texas City, the Wolverines will almost assuredly see an aerial attack at Friendswood.

In fact, DCTF has chosen Friendswood to lead the 9-5A

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## Volleyball teams gearing up for Sept. 7 preseason start

It's now less than two weeks and counting as the high school volleyball season gets going across the area, with players celebrating Labor Day 2020 on the court.

High school tryouts for the lower levels will coincide with varsity workouts Sept. 7 as teams begin the week-long hustle to the start of the season, which for Clear Brook and Dobie Sept. 15, albeit seemingly not soon enough.

At Clear Brook, head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff will get a busy week going Sept. 7, with then a pair of scrimmages to end the week.

The Lady Wolverines, set to open on Pearland in the regular season opener Sept. 15 at Pearland, will also scrimmage against the Lady Oilers Sept. 11 and then scrimmage at Clear Falls Sept. 12 to close out a busy week.

After opening the regular season in Pearland Sept. 15, the Lady Wolverines will host Kingwood in their home opener Friday, Sept. 18.

Clear Brook is coming off arguably its best-ever season as the defending District 24-6A champions, and it all finally starts anew Sept. 7, roughly five weeks behind schedule due to the coronavirus.

Similarly at Dobie, head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff are ready to welcome the Lady Longhorns back Sept. 7, with three scrimmages coming before the start of the regular season.

Dobie will scrimmage at Barbers Hill Sept. 11 for all teams and then host La Porte in the same setup Sept. 12.

The Lady Longhorns will also host a tri-scrimmage with Pasadena and Galveston Ball Sept. 14.

The regular season gets going Tuesday, Sept. 15,

with Dobie's teams at Baytown Sterling. Dobie then plays at Shadow Creek Sept. 18.

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**NEW! Riverstone** - Beautiful 4-2-2 with huge island kitchen, granite, located with upgrades, covered patio! #VIN  
**NEW! Green Tree** - Gorgeous 5-3-2 with starters, gated driveway, pool, island kitchen, granite, and more! #CCL  
**NEW! Bellavita** - Lovely 2-2-2 island kitchen, high ceilings, formal dining, crown molding in pool, gated community! #MAR

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### Dobie Longhorns

#### 2020 Varsity Football Schedule

Fri., Sept. 18 at Clear Springs scrimm., 6:15 p.m.  
 Fri., Sept. 25 Jersey Village, 7 p.m.  
 TBA at Bellaire, TBA  
 Thurs., Oct. 8 Fort Bend Bush, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Oct. 16 \*at Channelview, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Oct. 23 at Willis, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Oct. 30 \*Pasadena (HC), 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Nov. 6 \*at Deer Park, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Nov. 13 \*Memorial, 7 p.m.  
 Thurs., Nov. 19 Rayburn, 7 p.m.  
 Wed., Nov. 25 \*South Houston, 2 p.m.

\* District 22-6A games

(HC) Homecoming game

### Clear Brook Wolverines

#### 2020 Varsity Football Schedule

Fri., Sept. 25 at Texas City, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Oct. 2 at Friendswood, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Oct. 9 \*Clear Lake, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Oct. 16 \*Clear Falls, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Oct. 23 \*Clear Creek, 7 p.m.  
 Thurs., Oct. 29 \*at Brazoswood, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Nov. 6 \*at Dickinson, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Nov. 20 \*Clear Springs, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Nov. 27 Stratford, 7 p.m.  
 Fri., Dec. 4 at Morton Ranch, 7 p.m.

\* District 24-6A games

### Dobie Longhorns

#### 2020 Varsity Tennis Schedule

Sept. 10 Kingwood, 3 p.m.  
 Sept. 11-12 Remembering Ike tourn., TBA  
 Sept. 15 \*Channelview or Pearland, 3 p.m.  
 Sept. 18 Clear Springs, 2:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 22 \*Pasadena, 3 p.m.  
 Sept. 25 Cinco Ranch, 3:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 29 \*at Deer Park, 3:30 p.m.  
 Oct. 2 at Dickinson, 3 p.m.  
 Oct. 6 \*Memorial, 3 p.m.  
 Oct. 9 Baytown Sterling, 3:30 p.m.  
 Oct. 13 \*at Rayburn, 3 p.m.  
 Oct. 16 Clear Brook, 2:30 p.m.  
 Oct. 17 Shadow Creek, 9 a.m.  
 Oct. 20 \*South Houston, 3 p.m.  
 Oct. 23 George Ranch, 4 p.m.  
 Oct. 26-31 Bidistrict/Area playoffs, TBA

\* District 22-6A matches

## Dobie grad Blogg decides on TSU baseball



Dobie Class of 2020 graduate Justin Blogg, among the all-time leaders in several of offensive categories within the Longhorns' varsity baseball program, will continue his education and playing career at Texas Southern University, ultimately choosing the Tigers' program this summer. Blogg thus becomes another within the Longhorns' 13-player senior class now set to play at the next level.

## Dobie grad Moorer heads to Ranger

Dobie varsity baseball standout and Class of 2020 graduate Colby Moorer will continue his education and playing career at Ranger College in Ranger, Texas, after signing a letter of intent with the program. Moorer helped Dobie to a strong start in nondistrict play before the season was halted. He has since continued to hone his game at the Hardball Academy.



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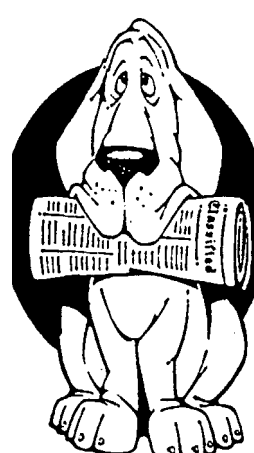
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# CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 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.

**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. Additional information is found on the 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 additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 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.

**Bay Area Genealogical Society** - Temporarily meets online. For details, visit <https://www.txbayareagen.org/> and access "Registers Page" link under "Upcoming Events." Click on "Register Here" link for appropriate date. Call Kim at 281-992-2636 or email [newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org) 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 Friday evening service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

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

**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, realize that they are not alone, and discover choices that are available to them. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

**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/>.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

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

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

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

### MONDAY, AUGUST 31

**Al-Anon Deer Park** - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study.

In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html> or drop in.

**Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park** - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information, or drop in.

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

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

**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.

**Bay Area Quilt Guild** - Meets the first Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program begins at 7 p.m. Visit [www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild](http://www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild) or call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 for information. Visitors may attend two meetings free. A Christmas party is usually held in December. Visit <https://www.bayareaquiltguild.org> for more information.

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

Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

**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](http://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.bayarea.turningpoint.org](http://www.bayarea.turningpoint.org) for information.

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

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

**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. Additional information is found on the 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.

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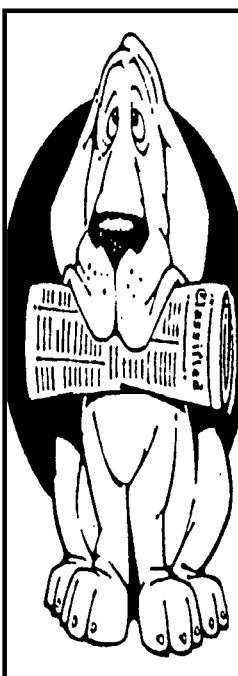
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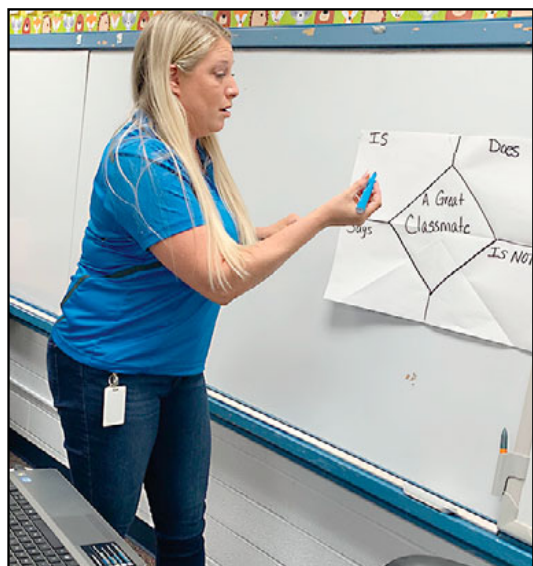
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# Meador Elementary has 1st day of 2020-2021 virtual learning



Halls usually filled with children anxious for the first day of school were empty. This year due to COVID-19 Meador Elementary had quiet hallways on day one of school, since classes resumed virtually. However, students were busy on their home computers, starting their routines.



Above, teaching virtually by filling in a visual chart of the characteristics of a great classmate is Heidi Gritzewsky, second-grade teacher. Below, first-grader Janessa Murray sits at a desk and interacts with classmates on her first day of virtual learning at home.



Filgia Norman, first-grade teacher, is shown instructing her class through the virtual learning format.



First-grader Melany Fernandez, donned with mask and shield, meets her teacher Paulina Rivas during a curbside student device pick-up.

## Chamber holds meeting Sept. 15

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber will have a members only event at 11 a.m. via Zoom. The meeting will be "The Five Questions You Should Ask Your IT Guy."

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**Homegrown Lecture by Texas A&M set for Aug. 27**

Homegrown Lecture Series by Texas A&M Agrilife extension of Harris County will be having a free virtual lecture Thursday, Aug. 27, from 10 to 11 a.m. The lecture will be "Elements of Landscape Design" by Brandi Keller, Harris County Master Gardener program coordinator. For more information, visit [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu). Register through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-grown-lecture-series-tickets-114355313822> and click the link "Select a Date." The deadline to register is at 8 a.m. the morning of the event.

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