



South Belt-Ellington Leader

45 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, August 5, 2021

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Free school supplies available

HPD-Hunton Distribution
The Houston Police Department Clear Lake Division will hold its third annual Backpacks for Kids school supply giveaway at Hunton Distribution, located at 735 FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road, Saturday, Aug. 7, from 8 a.m. to noon or until supplies run out.

Faith Baptist Church
Faith Baptist Church, 9850 Mango, is having a Backpack Give Away drive-thru, Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Backpacks with school supplies will be given out while supplies last.

Sagemont Church
Sagemont Church will host its second annual School Supply Drive-Thru Tuesday, Aug. 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. (or until supplies last). Families who live in the 77089 ZIP code with children in elementary, middle or intermediate school are invited to come pick up a free backpack filled with school supplies to start off the new school year. This event will be held on Sagemont's main campus at 11300 S. Sam Houston Parkway E. For more information, visit www.sagemont.cc/schoolsupplies.

Dobie cheer hosts car wash

Dobie cheer will host a car wash Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Snowies Shaved Ice, 10902 Scarsdale. Cost is \$5.

At-home vaccines offered

Harris County Public Health staff will provide vaccinations in the home. This is available to Harris County residents who are bedbound or homebound due to medical reasons, regardless of age. The staff will observe clients for 15-30 minutes after vaccinations to ensure no immediate reactions occur. For more information, contact HCPH at 832-927-8787.

Active COVID cases up

As of Wednesday, Aug. 4, there were 178 reported South Belt COVID-19 deaths, up one from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 6,045 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 313 remain active, up 192 from the previous week. To date, 68 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 123 of the 4,286 confirmed cases remain active, up 61 from the previous week. A total of 55 from the ZIP code have died, no increase from the previous week.

Of the 4,412 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 142 remain active, up 81 from the previous week. To date, 55 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there have been 425,862 total confirmed cases. Of those, 404,193 have recovered from the disease, while 16,589 cases remain active. A total of 5,049 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Aug. 6. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed continuously at San Augustine through 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528. At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 30.

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

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31. Both the northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps between IH 610 South Loop and Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

Tri County hosts luncheon

The Tri County Republican Women's Club will host a luncheon Tuesday, Aug. 10, at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Drive in Pearland, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Guest speaker will be Julie Posey, who will share her true story of human trafficking that was made into a Lifetime movie in 2003. Tri-County serves Brazoria, Galveston and Harris counties but all are welcome. Meetings are free. Lunch will be available for \$15. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.tricountyrw.club.

First responders parade set

South Belt resident and real estate agent Robert Aguilar is helping to organize a first responders appreciation day and parade Saturday, Aug. 7, at JLA Realty, 7918 Broadway/FM 518, Suite No. 106, in Pearland. First responders may receive a free lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parade participants are encouraged to decorate their vehicles with posters, balloons, etc. Parade will begin at 11 a.m. (lineup begins at 10:30 a.m.). Children are urged to wear first responder costumes. A costume contest will take place at noon. For more information, call Aguilar at 832-282-5639.

GLO meeting leaves area residents hopeful

A meeting held Sunday, Aug. 1, between U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and representatives from the Texas General Land Office left South Belt community members hopeful about Hurricane Harvey replacement homes in the area being constructed properly.

The proposed construction of new houses in the South Belt area to replace those destroyed during Harvey in 2017 has been an ongoing controversy, as community leaders say legal loopholes allow the GLO to bypass local deed restrictions.

Opponents of the construction say the replacement houses are smaller in size, have little to no brick and do not include garages. Local leaders contend the new homes are incongruous with the surrounding residences and will have a negative

impact on property values.

"The builder has submitted us with plans and pictures of the proposed homes that are to be constructed in our area, and those homes look nothing like any of the surrounding properties," said Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour. "They would not be within the appearance and harmony of the community."

A similar position was taken by Clear Brook City MUD General Manager Cecelia J. Ganje. "Unfortunately, the replacement housing being considered for these residents is substandard at best and fails to account for the cohesive community development and aesthetic that existed in our area prior to Hurricane Harvey," Ganje said in a letter to GLO Commissioner George P. Bush in May. "The proposed structures do not comply

with the pre-existing builder standards and legal and HOA guidelines that have been established since as early as the 1960s."

Sagemont (where most of the affected homes are located) deed restrictions explicitly require all homes to have two-car garages and a certain amount of brick.

According to GLO officials, approximately 120 South Belt residents applied for assistance in the rebuild program.

Organized by members of the historic Pleas-

antville neighborhood in Northeast Houston, Sunday's meeting also included GLO Chief Clerk/Deputy Land Commissioner Mark Havens, second in command to Bush.

Pleasantville residents have encountered similar problems with Harvey rebuild efforts as South Belt residents, and the two communities have formed an alliance.

Residents of Pleasantville, one of the first neighborhoods in Houston where blacks could

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Local COVID-19 cases increase

The South Belt community saw a sharp spike in active COVID-19 cases this past week.

According to Harris County Health statistics, ZIP code 77089 saw a 200 percent increase in active cases between July 21 and July 28, with numbers jumping from 40 to 121. ZIP codes 77075 and 77034 also saw sharp increases. (The number of cases continued to climb this past week. See related sidebar entry.)

Countywide, active cases between July 21 and July 28 jumped from 4,761 to 9,217 – an increase of 4,456.

COVID-19 hospitalization rates have reportedly quadrupled in some parts of the state, with

the vast majority of patients being unvaccinated.

At press time, it was unclear how many of the local cases, if any, were the Delta variant of the disease.

Following the nationwide spikes, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday, July 27, reversed course, recommending that counties with high COVID-19 transmission rates return to wearing masks indoors, even with vaccinated individuals. The agency further recommended that students K-12 should wear masks in the classroom, regardless of vaccination status.

Gov. Greg Abbott quickly responded on social

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County offers \$30M in COVID relief

Harris County on Wednesday, July 28, launched a \$30 million relief package to help residents still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Harris County Recovery Assistance program is accepting applications through Wednesday, Aug. 11.

Officials said a one-time payment of \$1,500 will be given directly to 20,000 eligible families living in Harris County. The money will be sent out in late fall with the option of direct deposit or certified mail.

Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, recipients can use the money for any type of urgent expense, such as housing, groceries, utilities, medical bills and childcare.

While roughly 50,000 applications have already been received, officials said that should not be a deterrent from applying for assistance. Applications will be prioritized by the lowest income bracket and processed at random.

How to qualify

- Recipients must meet the following requirements:
- Households must be within Harris County (inside or outside City of Houston limits).
- Applicant must be 18 years or older (or be an emancipated minor).
- Households must self-certify that they have experienced economic hardship during the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Households must have at least one member enrolled in a public assistance program, or a total household income at or below 60 percent of the HUD Area Median Family Income (\$33,300 for one person; \$47,520 for a family of 4).

One payment will be made per family unit. If housing is shared by more than one family unit, each family unit may apply.

As required by federal guidelines, at least one adult member of the household must be a U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident, refugee or other qualified noncitizen.

How to apply

One must apply online at HarrisCountyRelief.org.

Applicants will be asked for proof of ID, proof of residency within Harris County, and documentation of public benefits OR that the household income is at or below 60 percent HUD Area Median Family Income.

A list of acceptable documentation can be found on the Harris County Relief website.

If residents have any questions, the call center is available at 832-345-6289 on weekdays from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. It's also open Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If one doesn't have access to a computer or internet, help is available in-person at the following

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C&D robbery suspects sought

Two suspects (shown to the left from surveillance footage) robbed C&D Burger Shoppe, located in the 10600 block of Fuqua near Beamer, around 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1. According to Houston police, one of the suspects entered the store twice by himself before entering a third time with the second suspect, who allegedly produced a pistol and demanded cash from the register. The two men fled the scene by jumping the fence that connects to the adjacent Sage Hollow Apartments. Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

San Jac's free tuition continues

It's not too late for local high school graduates in San Jacinto College's taxing district to register for the fall semester tuition-free.

The area college is offering up to three years of free tuition as part of its 21 Forward program.

The move is made possible by a generous \$30 million donation from MacKenzie Scott.

The funds will be used to create the 21 Forward scholarship. All 2021 high school graduates that live within the San Jacinto College taxing district at the time of their high school graduation are eligible.

The scholarship is good for up to three years at San Jacinto College (through Dec. 2024). Students must begin classes at San Jacinto College this fall, take a minimum of six credit hours each semester and must apply for financial aid annually.

The 21 Forward program is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it kicks in only after all other grant and scholarship funding has been applied.

Once all other funding sources have been applied, the remaining balance, if any, will be picked up by the donor.

Scott reportedly made the generous donation in response to recent gains made by the college district's minority students.

To stay enrolled in the 21 Forward program, a student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as determined by financial aid at the end of each semester.

The San Jacinto College District includes six independent school districts, including Channelview ISD, Deer Park ISD, Galena Park ISD, La Porte ISD, Pasadena ISD and Sheldon ISD. Homeschool, private school and GED graduates in the district are also eligible. Clear Creek ISD is not located in the college's taxing district.

A few South Belt homes, including some in the Ashley Pointe and Villa Verde subdivisions, are still located in the San Jacinto College tax

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County encourages child vaccinations

According to Harris County Health officials, the Delta variant is spreading throughout the Greater Houston community, the COVID-19 positivity rate is up to nearly 10 percent and daily COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are increasing.

The Delta variant is about two times more contagious than the original strain of COVID-19 and targets the unvaccinated, including children. With school starting soon, crowded halls and extracurricular activities provide opportunities for children to become infected.

Harris County Public Health strongly encourages parents of children ages 12 and up to get them vaccinated. Only 54 percent of Harris County residents age 12 and older are fully vaccinated, so children are likely to come in contact with unvaccinated people. Children under age 12 are especially vulnerable since they aren't eligible for the vaccine.

Fully vaccinated people have the greatest protection against the Delta variant. So far, 63 percent of Harris County residents have had one vaccine dose. They need to get their second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine as soon as possible for the most effective protection against the Delta variant. Most people contracting the original COVID-19 strain or the Delta variant are unvaccinated, so most of these new infections could have been prevented.

COVID-19 vaccines are free at all HCPH

sites throughout Harris County and no appointment is needed. To find one nearby, visit pub.health.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information. If one prefers to make an appointment, go to vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787.

Parents must accompany their children, ages 12 to 17, to be vaccinated or children must bring a consent form signed by their parent or guardian. Consent forms are available at vacstrac.hctx.net. Children 12 to 17 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine.

Adults over the age of 17 can choose from three vaccines: the one-dose Johnson & Johnson and the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

Parents with children under 12 should get them tested frequently to see if they have the virus. Four out of 10 people infected with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms, so parents may not know their children are sick with the virus. If they are infected, parents can monitor them to make sure they don't develop serious symptoms and keep them isolated, so they don't infect others.

Testing is free and quick at HCPH sites throughout the county, and results come back within 48 hours. No appointments are needed. To find a site nearby, visit pub.health.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information or call 832-927-7575.

Pct. 8 deputies target illegal drugs

Deputies from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office have kept busy as of late battling illegal drugs.

On Monday, July 26, at approximately 7 a.m., Precinct 8 deputies Gomez and Means were patrolling the 200 block of El Dorado Boulevard near the Gulf Freeway when they observed a parked vehicle at a location known for drug transactions.

Deputies observed smoke emitting from the vehicle's sunroof and detected the strong odor of marijuana.

Deputies approached the vehicle and observed a male attempting to hide a marijuana blunt. The male was identified as 30-year-old Christopher Troy Laster Jr. Deputies proceeded to conduct a

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I-45 named most deadly in country

Interstate 45 is the most deadly highway in the nation, according to a new study conducted by Budget Direct.

Data from the study, which researched the most deadly roads across the globe, indicated that the stretch of I-45 from Galveston to Dallas was home to 56.5 fatal accidents for every 100 miles of roadway. Additional data from 2019 indicated that the Houston area was the most lethal stretch of Interstate 45 with 73 deaths.

The study attributed the high death rate to a combination of busy, urban stretches and driver complacency.

Houston also saw a sharp jump in pedestrian and bicycling deaths.

Data indicates that lockdowns associated with

the COVID-19 pandemic only contributed to more traffic fatalities, as empty roads encourage reckless driving. While overall mileage was down 13 percent for the year, traffic deaths increased by 8 percent.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.3 million people die each year from traffic accidents – more than half of whom are pedestrians or cyclists.

The 19,000-mile Pan-American highway was named the deadliest road in North America.

In 2016, it claimed 184 lives in El Salvador alone.

To view the entire report, visit www.budgetdirect.com.au/blog/the-most-deadly-roads-in-every-country.html.

Beware of parking

Illegal parking along Sageyork between Hughes Road and Sagebud has drawn the ire of neighbors who have complained to the Leader. Parking along the stretch of road has been prohibited for several years, following a county study that determined parked cars hindered the flow of traffic along the area thoroughfare. No-parking signs were installed along the street, but over time, residents began to park illegally. Parking regulations are expected to be enforced in the coming weeks.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Death

Ruth Ann Dry



son, Fredrick Lee Dry. Ruth was a very creative person, enjoying painting and cake decorating in her early years. She had an extreme fondness of hummingbirds and was enamored with their beauty and flight.

She worked as a dedicated secretary for Ideal Plumbing of Houston for more than 30 years. In her spare time she studied genealogy and was fascinated with learning her family history and ancestry, which was not surprising because of the dedication and deep love she had for her entire family.

Ruth was undeniably "family focused" and so proud of her grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, on whom she doted and bragged about every chance she was given. She also had several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews whom she dearly adored.

Ruth is survived by her son Fredrick Lee Dry; her sister

Linda Jewell "Judy" Jackson; and her three grandchildren Jessica Nicole Madden and husband Charles Madden, Danica Boswell and husband James Boswell and Russell Drummond Dry and wife Kiana Dry. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her eldest sister Bobbie Aliene Bianco.

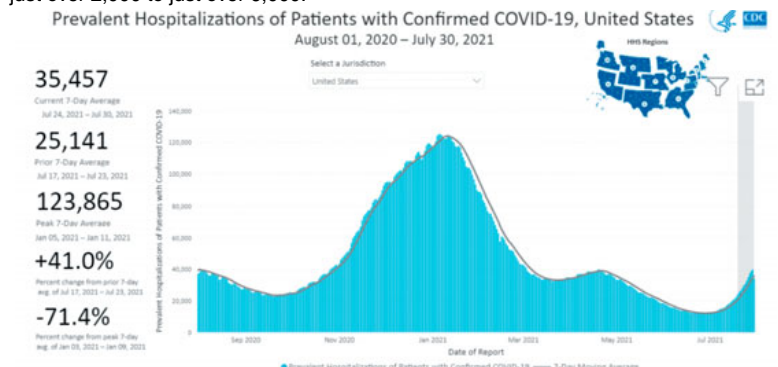
A memorial service celebrating Ruth's life will be held Aug. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the American Legion Post 554, 1650 Highway 3, in League City.

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

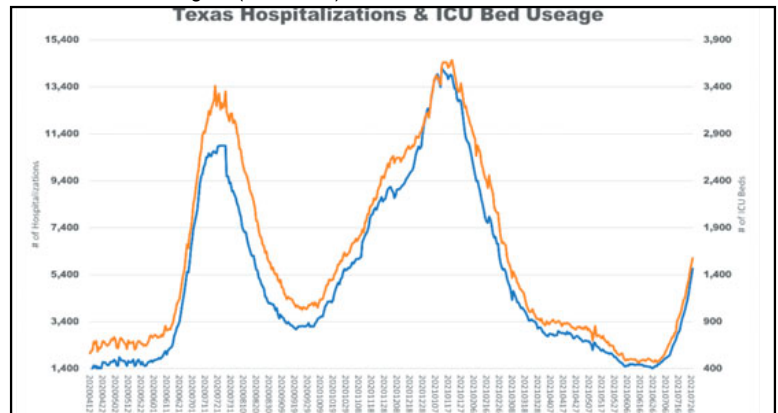
Bill King shares stats; COVID stages a comeback

At the end of June, it appeared COVID was on its last legs. But it has staged an alarming comeback in July, with hospitalizations and case counts increasing dramatically. The good news is that, at least so far, fatalities have not increased correspondingly.

US hospitalizations nearly tripled during July, jumping from about 12,000 at the end of June to over 35,000 by the end of July. Daily new hospitalizations also tripled from just over 2,000 to just over 6,000.



In Texas, hospitalizations increased fourfold, rocketing from approximately 1,600 to over 6,500. COVID ICU bed usage did not increase by quite as much but still ended the month about 2.5X higher (481-1,776).



All of Texas' reporting regions saw fairly similar increases over the month of July. There was not a disproportionate increase along border.

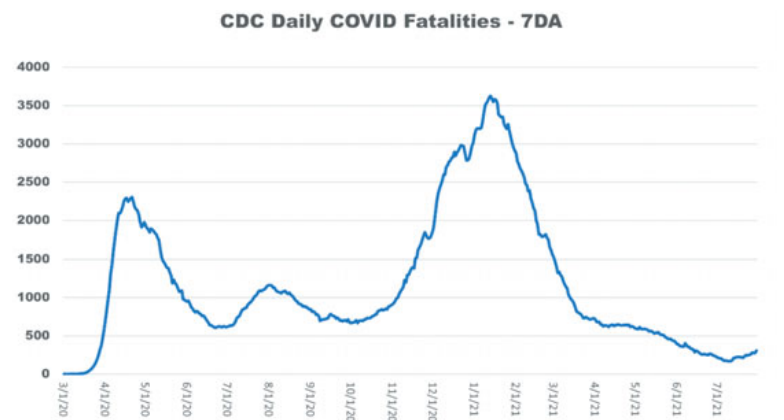
As you can see from the chart, hospitalizations are back to their previous highs in April but are still only about a third of the January levels. But the alarming aspect of the hospitalization data is that the increases have been nearly straight up since beginning to move up in early July and show

no signs of slowing.

Fatalities
The only bright spot in COVID data for July is that, at least so far, fatalities have not risen at nearly the rate of hospitalizations. The CDC's seven-day average for fatalities, which had fallen to below 200 per day in early July, broke 300 again at the end of the month. Nonetheless, fatalities nationwide are less than 10% of what they were in January.

Texas' date of death analysis bottomed out at about 20 per day at the end of June and has only marginally increased. The last data, which should be mostly complete, stood at about 26.

The CDC Excess Death Analysis, which is based on actual date of death, continues to show that since mid-March, fatalities have been running between 103-108% of their model's prediction. However, since the CDC did not adjust for population growth, anything about 103% or below should be considered normal. Also, there are a number of factors other than COVID cur-



the way down the list of states for the largest portion of their population vaccinated.

Testing Results
Nationwide, testing has held steady at about 700,000 tests per day. The CDC's daily "new case" count increased nearly six-fold from 12,500 to over 72,000. The seven-day average for positivity is now over 8%.

Texas' seven-day average for "new cases" has shot up from 1,000 to 10,000 per day. The positivity rate for the State's date of specimen testing jumped from 4.4% to over 16%.

Conclusion
The consensus among researchers is that the delta variant is the principally to blame for COVID's comeback. It appears to be able to replicate in the upper respiratory track much more rapidly, not only making it more contagious but also improving its chances of overwhelming immunity previously acquired in an infection or by vaccination. In addition, most Americans have gone back to many of their normal activities.

We also may have more susceptible individuals than many of us previously believed. The CDC has estimated that about 110-120 million Americans had recovered from infection, acquiring some degree of natural immunity in the process. That number, when added to the number of Americans fully vaccinated, comes to about 80% of the total population.

However, a recent study has estimated that the number of COVID infections is significantly lower. These researchers concluded that only about 65 million Americans had recovered from COVID as of early March. I am a little skeptical of their conclusion, but if they are right, we may have as few as 60% of the population with some immunity. That means there could be as many as 140 million Americans still susceptible to COVID.

There has been a lot of media attention on breakthrough infections - people getting COVID a second time or after being vaccinated. We always knew that the vaccines effectiveness in preventing an infection was in the 70-95% range. And because vaccines essentially mimic natural immunity, it is a reasonable guess that it has a similar reliability. At, say, 90%, with 165 million Americans fully vaccinated and perhaps another 100 million with natural immunity, that is potential for 26 million breakthrough infections. We have not seen anywhere near that kind of number yet. Nonetheless, you can see from the numbers even a small percentage of breakthrough infections can make a significant contribution to a rise in cases.

The good news is that the vaccines continue to be very effective at preventing serious COVID cases. According to a Kaiser Foundation study, there have been less than 1,000 COVID related deaths in people who have been vaccinated and virtually all had serious comorbidities. That is less than .5% of the COVID related deaths since February 1. That study and numerous surveys have also found that well over 90% of those hospitalized with COVID have not been vaccinated. Hopefully, that is why we are seeing the disconnect between cases and hospitalizations from fatalities that many of us have been expecting. Of course, fatalities trail cases and hospitalizations, so we may yet see a more dramatic increase, especially considering that about 10 million seniors have not been vaccinated.

The United Kingdom's recent experience may provide some hope that we will see the current wave peak soon. The UK is about 10% ahead of us on vaccines and saw the delta variant a few weeks before we got it. After a similar surge in cases, they began to see a decline a couple of weeks ago. Their COVID fatalities did not increase significantly. Also, Canada and Israel, which are also ahead of us on vaccines, have experienced much milder increases. Hopefully, as we see the immunity rate creep up with more vaccinations and more recoveries, we will see our wave top out as well.

I am going to post on the numbers again in about week to let you know if we are beginning to see any hint of that in the data.

Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

Bracewell Branch Library

For the Summer Reading Program and children's services, visit houstonslibrary.org or houstonslibrary.org.

Bracewell Library, 9002 Kingspoint, is open. Customers are encouraged to come into the building to browse the collection, check out and return materials, use the library's computers and Wi-Fi, and check out their own holds. In addition, customers may continue to schedule appointments and have curbside delivery of their items. For information, visit <https://houstonslibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonslibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, noon - 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, noon - 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursdays, noon - 5 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is available by appointment

Contactless curbside services, known as HPL To Go, are available by appointment. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. 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. The library continues to provide online resources to enjoy the library virtually. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop, but taken inside.

Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at www.houstonslibrary.org under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonslibrary.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 collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

All overdue fines/fees will be waived through Dec. 31, 2021, retroactive to March 14, 2020.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library has now officially reopened its doors, subject to limited capacity. See the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for information. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
 - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
 - A pickup 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 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

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 an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
- 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 an HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

Thursday, Aug. 5, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Take a moment to have some fun and interaction with the little one or little ones. Join John Harbaugh and Jason Cruz for a virtual Toddler Time through Microsoft Teams. Parents are encouraged to participate to facilitate interaction. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome to join virtually. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.

Thursday, Aug. 5, 3 p.m. Craft-To-Go: "Tabletop plastic file organizers. Explore one's creation with this take-home file organizer to decorate and arrange one's desk or a study corner."

Friday, Aug. 6, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez who 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.

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time. Join John Harbaugh and Celeste Plew for a program on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Aug. 10, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, drawings and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 1 p.m. Spanish Storytime. Libros en Espanol con Sr. Jason! Join the storytime in Spanish with Jason Cruz, featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for details.

In My Opinion

Muecke receives letter from GLO

Today I received a reply from the General Land Office stating my letter and a request from Governor Greg Abbott, to review my problem with GLO. The governors letter stated for the GLO staff assistance to "review" and respond. The letter just said as a follow up on my options they were sending a form for me to fill out to opt out of the program. This is the 4th form I now have received so it looks like they want me to back out. Why? The letter is signed by Ms Heather Lagrone, Senior deputy Director, stating a cc was sent to The Governors office and to Commissioner George P. Bush, who did not review my letter.

So in a nut shell I am back to day one. As stated I now have a 1,982.47 square foot all brick three bed room bath and a half, two car garage/carport. The offer by GLO is for a "3 foot off the ground" Hardiplank, 2 bed room, 2 bath, no garage/carport home 1,283

square feet. A pad out front to park two cars in all weather conditions. Look at the beating I would take in value. How many today would want to purchase such a small home.

Ms. Lagrone was just following policy, did not read or understand my letter as to what is wrong with the GLO on replacing homes. Mayor Turner, Mayor of Houston, Texas held a news conference on Monday July 26, 2021 with a number of home owners expressing their displeasure of what and how GLO is handling the rebuild program. I assumed that my letter would be shown to Commissioner George P. Bush for him to really see what the responses and feelings are for those wishing to no longer flood.

I ask that you may want to follow up with this issue directly to Governor Greg Abbott and Commissioner George P. Bush. Many just want a replacement home the size they now have with what is in place. Is that too much to ask? Thank you.

Sincerely,
James E. Muecke



Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *People of Sagemont* Facebook page shared photos of a surveillance camera of two individuals that robbed C & D Burger Shop at gunpoint the afternoon of Saturday, July 31. The member states that no one was hurt and ask the community if anyone knows who they are to contact C & D Burgers. This post was shared on other social media pages. See related story on Page 1.

A member of *People of Sagemont* 2 posted pictures of a suspect that broke into

her husband's work van and also in her father-in-law's work van across the street. The member reported the incident to local police, the incident happened Monday, August 2, on Kirkmont Drive.

Another member of the same Facebook group posted a picture of their trailer that was damaged due to a person or persons trying to steal it. The incident took place Monday, August 2, on Sagepark Lane. There were neighbors that reported hearing some noises in the street after 5:30 a.m.

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Castro's thankful for Campbell's motivation

Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School's Shining Star Jose Castro (below, left) is shown with distinguished educator Justin Campbell who teaches 11th grade AP U.S. history.

Commenting on his teacher, Castro said, "I chose Mr. Campbell because he's the one educator that has made my high school experience better and impacted my life tremendously. He was super encouraging. He was always pushing my class to do better and to succeed. He was friendly and a great teacher, but also a great listener. He was overall very charismatic, which made U.S. history very enjoyable and easier to understand. Thanks to his efforts, I felt adequately prepared for the difficult AP exam and I got a 4."

Castro has shown leadership as HOSA

historian. Extracurricular activities for Castro include National Honor Society and HOSA.

Community service activities for Castro included National Honor Society.

"After high school, I plan on attending the University of Houston," Castro said.

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

The Shining Stars represent the top Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School students.

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



Beta Academy announces free meals for 2021-2022

Beta Academy Charter School announced its policy that this school year, healthy meals will be offered every school day to all students at no cost. Typically, a student's household must meet income eligibility requirements to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued guidance that allows schools to offer meals to all students at no cost for the 2021-2022 school year. Each school has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed upon request.

While no application or eligibility determination process is required for a student to receive free meals this school year, the income eligibility requirement will likely resume in the 2022-2023 school year.

County offers COVID-19 relief

Continued from Page 1

–Memorial Assistance Ministries.

–YMCA of Greater Houston locations.

For additional application assistance, visit www.harriscountyrelief.org/application-assistance.

–East Harris County Empowerment Council.

Firefighters respond to Edgebrook area fire

A house fire took place on July 27 at 6:35 a.m. on the 500 block of Shawnee.

There were no reported injuries and around \$40,000 estimated damage was done. The cause had to do with a failure of heat source.

Firefighters arrived on scene within two minutes to find light smoke coming from the eaves of a 1-story home. They found a fire in the kitchen area and quickly extinguished it. Several breakers had been tripped and the fire appeared to have started by a faulty plug. Crews from stations 26, 70, 29, 52 and 61 responded to this incident.

Beckham leaves a memorable mark for Albarran's future

J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Star Bryan Albarran (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Derek Beckham who teaches 10th grade Early College English II.

Commenting on his teacher, Albarran said, "I felt prepared for college when I met Mr. Beckham sophomore year. By writing a 1,000-word essay, his assignment has made writing papers a breeze. I have applied the skills I gained from his class at San Jac by forming my own opinions and embracing different perspectives. My experience in ECHS has brought many challenges, yet I always could rely on him for advice. Pursuing my bachelor's no longer has to be a dream. It is motivating to have a person believe in your potential. Thank you Mr. Beckham, for exemplifying dedication in and outside the classroom."

Albarran has shown leadership as Key Club, freshman representative and AVID, bilingual tutor. Extracurricular ac-

tivities for Albarran include Visual Arts, Key Club, HOSA, AVID and National Honor Society.

Community service activities for Albarran included cards for Veterans at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston Food Bank (Hurricane Harvey and COVID-19 relief), Visual Arts Scholastic Event and Project Linus.

"After high school, I hope to pursue a bachelor's in marketing," Albarran said.

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

The Shining Stars represent the top J. Frank Dobie High School students.

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



American Legion Post 490 receives awards



The American Legion Post 490 just came back from the state convention. The post received the Guzman award which is the highest award given to an American Legion Post in the State of Texas. This represents the outstanding community service and volunteer hours. Last year the post gave out more than a \$100,000 to different organizations in the Houston area and had reported

over 10,000 volunteer hours. David Witucki (center), national recruiter, received the Recruiter of the Year for recruiting more than 100 members. Over the last five years Witucki has recruited over one thousand members to the American Legion. Pictured with Witucki are, left to right, John J. Cronin, commander and Johnny Lundstrom, first vice commander.

Harris County constables review unified use of force policy

Harris County constables announced a Citizen Review Committee comprising of diverse community leaders from across Harris County. They met Tuesday to review proposed changes to the policies that govern Harris County constables' use of force policy, based on a collaborative initiative by the local elected Harris County constables.

The constables joined in presenting to a citizen review panel a proposed unified use of force policy, aimed at proactively reviewing how deputy constables use force when interaction with the community.

The changes come amid a national conversation on police use of force policy, prompted by the in-custo-

dy death of Houston native George Floyd last year, and a commitment to address community policing that honors citizen needs for both safety and preservation of rights.

"This was a proactive effort on the part of eight Harris County constables to address the need to make policy enhancements that bring more transparency and equity to the policing process," said Howard Jefferson, former president of the NAACP.

"We think that everyday citizens of Harris County will be very pleased with the work we put into this because citizens want and deserve to see proactive efforts on their behalf," continued Jefferson.

Each of the eight elected constables have community members from their pre-

cincts to serve on the Citizen Review Committee, which was tasked with providing feedback on the proposed policy changes and enhancements to the use of force policy.

Among the enhancements made to the policy were prioritizing de-escalation, requiring accountability for an officer to intervene when observing a fellow officer using excessive force, and requirements for annual use-of-force training.

As part of the citizen review, deputy constables gave demonstrations on various arrest techniques, restraints, and the use of less-lethal weapons, thus allowing community input and open dialogue.

Citizen Review Committee members also took part in officer "Shoot/Don't Shoot" simulations to give them a perspective of the conditions police officers face.

An official survey was taken to record the respons-

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San Jac's free tuition continues

Continued from Page 1

district, despite being zoned to Clear Creek ISD and Pearland ISD schools. To verify whether or not they are in the college's taxing district, residents should check their Harris County tax records.

San Jac officials announced the scholarship program at each of Pasadena ISD's six graduation ceremonies. Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell said the announcements were met with roaring

applause.

The 21 Forward program is similar to San Jacinto College's Promise program, which also offered free tuition to area students.

The Promise program, however, was offered to only Pasadena ISD students. The Promise program also required students to attend school full time, whereas the 21 Forward program allows students to attend either full time or part time.

Pasadena ISD has a

lengthy relationship working with San Jac College on mutual projects, including Early College High School, dual credit programs and workforce training.

Powell proudly noted this year's ECHS program had more than 400 students earning an associate degree at the time of the high school graduation – more than any other school district in the state.

For additional information, visit www.sanjac.edu/21Forward.

Pct. 8 constable deputies target Clear Lake illegal drugs

Continued from Page 1

probable cause-based search of the vehicle and located 7.1 grams of crack cocaine.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted felony charges for possession of a controlled substance. His bond has been set at \$2,500.

Later that day at approximately 6 p.m., Deputy Peters observed a vehicle with a fictitious temporary tag and conducted a traffic stop in the

500 block of El Dorado Boulevard near SH 3/Old Galveston Road.

Peters made contact with the driver who was identified as 42-year-old Kendre Kodol Holmes. Peters conducted a consent-based search of the vehicle and located a small glass container containing phencyclidine, commonly known as PCP.

A check of Holmes information revealed he is currently out on parole. The Harris

County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted felony possession of a controlled substance. His bond has been set at \$2,500.

Precinct 8 has been focusing its attention on the El Dorado Boulevard area of Clear

Lake between the Gulf Freeway and SH 3/Old Galveston Road due to high narcotics activity. Anyone who spots suspicious activity is urged to contact the Precinct 8 dispatch center 24 hours a day at 281-488-4040.

Local COVID-19 cases on the rise

Gov. Abbott really cares about the health and safety of Texas students, educators and their communities, he will give local school officials and health experts the option of requiring masks in their schools."

PISD lists new year school supplies

Pasadena Independent School District released their school supply list for all elementary, middle and intermediate schools in the district. Listed this week are the supplies needed for South Belt area middle schools.

Melillo Middle School Fifth/Sixth grade

3" binder, a set of plastic dividers with pockets, 1 pack of ear buds/headphones, 48 #2 pencils, 4 black dry erase markers, 2 large pink erasers, 3 packs of pencil top erasers, 1 pack of Post-It notes, 8 composition books and 3 packs of wide-ruled filler paper.

2 packs of map coloring pencils, 4 boxes of facial tissues, 1 pair of scissors, 4 to 6 glue sticks, 2 highlighters, 1 handheld pencil sharpener, 1 pencil bag, 2 packs of index cards, 6 pocket folders with brads, 1 hand sanitizer and 1 roll of paper towels.

Morris Middle School Fifth/Sixth grade

1 set of ear buds/earphones, 6 packs of #2 pencils, 1 pencil bag, 1 hand held sharpener, 1 pack of wide-ruled filler paper, 1 pack of color pencils, 1 pack of washable markers, 1 pack of scissors, 4 highlighters and 2 glue sticks.

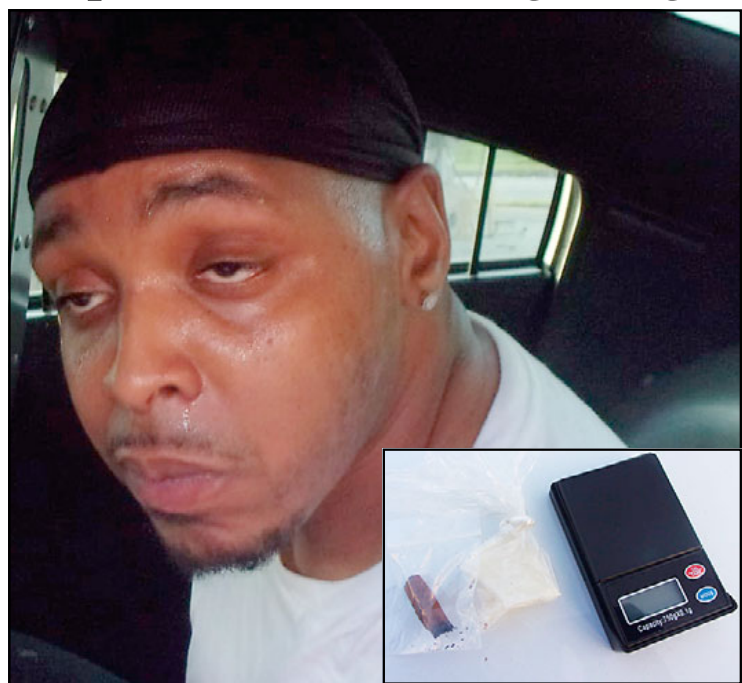
1 pack of index cards, 8 packs of Post-It notes, a 5 subject spiral, 4 plastic folders with pockets and brads, 1 pack of graph paper, 1 hand sanitizer, 1 roll of paper towels, 4 boxes of Kleenex and 6 one subject spiral notebooks and a mouse.

Roberts Middle School Fifth/Sixth grade

60 #2 pencils, 1 pack of colored pencils, 1 pencil pouch, 3 boxes of Kleenex, 1 pair of scissors, 1 box of crayons and 4 erasers.

1 pair of headphones, 12 glue sticks, 1 pack of highlighters, 1 hand sanitizer, 1 Roberts MS planner, 6 composition notebooks and 1 roll of paper towels.

Suspect arrested on drug charges



Deputies from Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office have been patrolling for drug sales along El Dorado Boulevard near the Gulf Freeway. On Monday, July 26, a search of a suspicious vehicle led to an arrest for crack cocaine. Christopher Troy Laster Jr., 30, (shown above) was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

responsibility," tweeted Abbott on July 27. "In May, I signed an executive order prohibiting mask mandates by government entities. Every Texan has the right to choose whether they will wear a mask or have their children wear masks."

Issued on May 18, Executive Order GA-36 prohibits governmental entities in Texas – including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities or government officials – from requiring or mandating mask wearing. Doing so could potentially result in a fine.

Also on July 27, the Texas State Teachers Association released a statement, calling on the governor to withdraw the executive order.

The Texas State Teachers Association calls on Gov. Greg Abbott to withdraw his prohibition on mask mandates and allow individual school districts to require mask use in their facilities if local officials believe masks will help protect the health of their communities as schools reopen for the fall semester," the statement read. "Educators are eager to return to the classroom, but the pandemic is still dangerous. With COVID-19 cases increasing again and many people still unvaccinated, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that everyone older than 2 wear a mask when they go back to school. Children younger than 12 have not yet been approved for the COVID vaccine. If

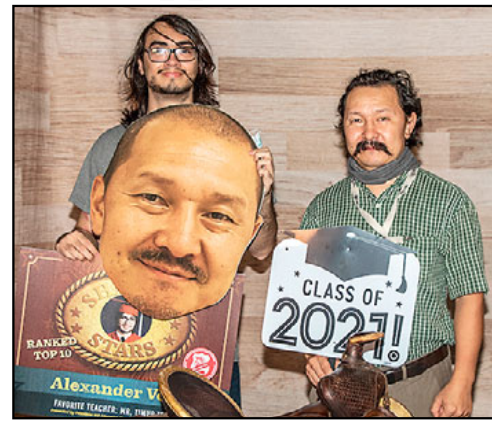
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Vela appreciates Tsend's personality and motivation



South Houston High School's Shining Star Alexander Vela (left) is shown with distinguished educator Timur Tsend who teaches 9th and 11th grade medical terminology and health science theory.

Commenting on his teacher, Vela said, "I choose Mr. Tsend because he influenced my life in the way I listen to other people. Mr. Tsend was both a teacher and a person. While others would maintain more of teacher-to-student relationship, with Tsend, however, he would create a relationship similar to that of peer-to-peer, a friend. He would tell stories and share his views of the world in a friendly and professional manner that one would learn from his stories. If I never took his classes, I probably wouldn't pay attention to what others say as much as I do now."

Extracurricular activities for Vela include National Honor Society member. Community service activities for Vela included Grace Church for NHS, the ROCK WOI for NHS, NHS fundraiser and Strawberry Park for school.

"After high school, I plan on going to study at University of Houston," Vela said.

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

The Shining Stars represent the top South Houston High School students.

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

Join SB Chamber for an evening of cuisine

Save the date, Thursday, October 14, for the Annual South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Evening of Cuisine, Taste of South Belt. This year's event will be held at the illustrious Lone Star Flight Museum in the backyard of Ellington airport.

"We are so excited to see this event move forward this year and look forward to a very successful night for the South Belt community! That's why we need your help to tell YOUR favorite restaurants in the area to be a part of this awesome event," said Stephanie Tanner, chamber president.

There are plenty of opportunities for South Belt businesses to be involved with this annual community affair. Sponsorships range from \$250 through \$2,500 and offer specific marketing avenues to showcase one's business.

This year, the chamber is proud to announce the newest addition to the evening, Kid's Kitchen, which is an interactive booth for the kiddos to decorate cookies or cupcakes facilitated by Celeste's Cakes N' More sponsored by Community Health Network.

Also, be on the lookout for resident Chris Clark,

Chef from Clear Brook City MUD and past chairman of the event, at Chris Clark's Recipe Corner. This fun social media and eblast campaign will help home chefs make an impressive dinner at home without formal training.

One can find the latest recipe on the chamber's Facebook page at southbeltcc. For only \$25 per adult and \$10 per child (ages 4-12), this fun night out will have live music, a live auction along with samples of the most yummy food and drinks from around the

South Belt area.

"The Taste of South Belt is the place to be to showcase your restaurant or catering business, regardless of size," said Ezreal Garcia, Chairman of Evening of Cuisine, Community Health Network.

If one is interested in partnering with the Chamber, as a restaurant or sponsoring business, reach out to info@southbeltchamber.com or call 281-481-5516.

One can also visit the Chamber website at southbeltchamber.com for more information and for purchasing tickets.

Ackerman inspires Peter's love for math

Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Star Noah Peter (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Kevin Ackerman who teaches 9th through 12th grade academic decathlon and calculus BC.

Commenting on his teacher, Peter said, "I have known Mr. Ackerman since freshman year where he was one of my coaches in Academic Decathlon. In this class, he taught me how to do an interview and give a speech. He was also the teacher that made me realize that I wanted to pursue a career that had a focus on math. The way he explained mathematical concepts interested me and helped me figure out what I wanted to do after high school. He transformed a confused freshman into a more confident and math-loving person. I want to thank Mr. Ackerman for everything he has taught me."

Peter has shown leadership as Interact membership director. Extracurricular activities for Peter include Aca-

ademic Decathlon.

Community service activities for Peter included Interact, New Gen Peacebuilders and Pasadena Public Library.

"After high school, I plan to attend the University of Texas-Austin and become a software engineer at a reputable company. I plan to use that knowledge and connections I gain from that job to start my own tech business," Peter said.

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

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

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



PISD, CCISD announce 2021-2022 free/reduced lunch

Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD announced that this school year, healthy meals will be offered every school day to students in grades pre-K through eighth at no cost. Typically, a student's household must meet income requirements to qualify for free or reduced-price meals. However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued guidance that allows schools to participate in a program that allows for those schools to offer meals to students at no cost for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students attending high school campuses will operate as they have in the past. Parents will need to fill out an application for the 2021-2022 school year to qualify for meal benefits. Students in grades nine through 12 will be charged based on their meal benefits status. The price for a high school meal will be \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.50 for lunch. Reduced-price meals for those that qualify will be \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch in grades nine through 12.

While no application or eligibility determination is required for students in pre-K through eighth grade for students to receive free

meals this school year, income eligibility requirements will likely resume in the 2022-2023 school year. As such, both districts will process household applications in 2021-2022 to ensure that students receive the proper meal benefits during the first 30 days of the 2022-2023 school year.

Beginning Aug. 1, 2022, both campuses will distribute letters to households about the 2022-2023 eligibility benefits and actions parents and guardians need to take to apply.

Criteria for meal benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits at the beginning of school year 2022-2023:

- Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels.
- **Categorical or automatic eligibility**
 - Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FD-PIR)
- **Program participant**
 - Child's status as a foster child, homeless, run-

away, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster.

- Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start.

Income eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must complete the free and reduced-price meal application. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

- Names of all household members related or not living in the household.
- Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member.
- Last 4 digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number."
- Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct.

Categorical or program eligibility

Both campuses are working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. They will notify the households of these children that they do not need

to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels they should have should contact Rebecca Coronado, free and reduced clerk, at 281-284-0712 for CCISD or Blanca Banda, secretary for Nutrition Services, at 713-740-0146 for PISD.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact Rebecca Coronado at 281-284-0712 (CCISD) or Blanca Banda at 713-740-0146 (PISD).

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Rebecca Coronado (CCISD) or Blanca Banda (PISD) will review applications and determine eligibility. Households of guardians dissatisfied with the reviewing official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Becky Strothers, finance manager, at 281-284-0704 for CCISD or Carla Merka, chief financial officer, at 713-740-0146 for PISD.

Unexpected circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the Child Nutrition office. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit (MB) with a Food and Beverage Certificate (FB) by KHA Thai LLC dba KHA THAI, to be located at 10904 Scarsdale Blvd. unit 252 Houston, Harris County, Texas. Managers of said corporation are Nareekarn Thanatumchokchai and Onuma Phiukhao.

Parker Williams Genealogy meets Aug. 6

The Parker Williams Genealogy Group meeting is set for Friday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. inside the Parker Williams Library located at Scarsdale Boulevard and Beamer Road. This is the second meeting of the group since the library closed last year due to the pandemic. Anyone interested in researching their family history is invited to attend. For more information, email Liz at erootrot@usa.net.

Green Thumb Lecture set Aug. 9

Green Thumb Gardening Lecture Series: Gardening for Beginners by Harris County Master Gardeners with Houston Community College is Monday, Aug. 9, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This is a free virtual lecture and one can register early at hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops.

NASA Aglow Lighthouse meets Aug. 12

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. at Praise Chapel, located at 18516 Highway 3 in Webster.

The next scheduled meeting is Aug. 12, featuring the guest speaker Mary Bostrom who was ordained with World Ministry Fellowship.

Bostrom has been called to be a teacher and helping to the Body of Christ come into alignment with God's timing. Currently, Bostrom is helping the church to understand the Jewish roots and signs in the heavens.

Bostrom serves on the council of Texas Apostolic Prayer Network, coordinating strategic prayer assignments in the eleven County Birthplace Region. Bostrom hosts Bible studies in her home and teaches on Facebook, YouTube and her blog site www.Mbostrom2.com.

Along with her husband Ken, Bostrom hosts their show on Kingdom Broadcasting Network (KBNtv) and on Kingdom Insight (KiTV) out of Canada to the nations that can be seen on YouTube along with broadcasting on WRNO Short Wave Radio as well. Bostrom is vice president of Ken Bostrom Ministries focusing on their mission to "Reach the lost, Teach the found and Preach the Word."

The public is welcome to the meeting. Plan to attend and bring a friend. Questions and requests can be emailed to nasaaglow74@gmail.com.

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Remember When

45 years ago (1976)
The home of James and Snookie Williamson, who had lived in Sagemont for just two weeks, burned to the ground.

William B. Cummings Jr. served as drum major for the famous Texas A&M band.

40 years ago (1981)
San Jacinto College's board of regents approved a 17 percent increase in the district tax rate and adopted a \$30,612,570 budget for the 1981-1982 school year.

The Gulfway Drive-In Theatre was shut down and approximately 12 persons were arrested following a riot at the theater.

35 years ago (1986)
Buzzy Kieth, Dobie football coach and 28-year coaching veteran, was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association's Hall of Honor.

Pasadena Independent School District's deficit for the 1986-1987 budget reached nearly \$14 million.

30 years ago (1991)
In order to reduce its debt and continue to provide residential services, the Southbend Homeowners Association board of directors recommended that its members accept a \$100 maintenance fee increase.

Even without a tax hike parents living in Clear Creek ISD could expect to spend more money for student education in extracurricular activities to help save seventh- and eighth-grade sports.

25 years ago (1996)
Atkinson and Moore elementary earned state "Exemplary" status for outstanding performance on the 1995-96 Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. This was the first time a Pasadena campus had received this rating, the highest in the state.

Houston policemen on bikes running radar began on Hughes Road.

Two former Clear Brook

High School coaches moved up to athletic director positions. Jim Hatfield became the athletic director of the Clear Creek School District, and Mike Watson became the new athletic director for the Pearland district.

More than seven various fire trucks responded to a fire at the Kroger grocery on Fuqua.

20 years ago (2001)
More than 325 people attended the meeting at Stuchbery Elementary where city of Houston officials were able to clear up many questions surrounding a federal buyout for homes which suffered over 50 percent substantial damage during Tropical Storm Allison.

South Belt state Rep. Garnet Coleman, 39, was arrested after a confrontation with the president of his children's school.

15 years ago (2006)
Seven schools in the South Belt area of PISD received recognized status as a result of test scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

Precinct 2 deputy constables assisted federal law enforcement officers in a drug raid and reported other incidents, including a robbery and arrests for endangerment to a child and prohibited weapons.

10 years ago (2011)
Both the Pasadena Independent School District and the Clear Creek Independent School District were rated as

"Recognized" by the Texas Education Agency.

San Jacinto College South broke ground on its new science and allied health building. Scheduled for completion in fall 2013, the new three-story, 150,000-square-foot building will house nine areas of scientific study and will include nursing simulation labs, an astronomy observatory, and laboratories designed to model pharmaceutical environments.

A massive four-year construction effort to widen the Gulf Freeway from Beltway 8 to El Dorado Boulevard began. The project is approximately five miles in length, beginning at Kurland Road, just north of Beltway 8, and ending approximately

one mile south of FM 2351 (Clear Lake City Boulevard). The freeway will be increased from three to five lanes in each direction, and the frontage roads will be increased from two to three lanes in each direction.

5 years ago (2016)
A former Dobie student and her husband were killed at their Bellaire-area home July 29, allegedly at the hands of their 16-year-old son. Dawn Whitely Armstrong, a 1992 Dobie graduate, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her husband, Antonio Armstrong, was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he later died. The story made international news, as Antonio Armstrong was once a

star football player at Texas A&M University and briefly played in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins.

A man died Thursday, July 28, from a self-inflicted gunshot in the 17000 block of the Gulf Freeway near FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard following a brief police chase. Gary Leonard Blalock Jr., 38, was pronounced dead at the scene. Officers had originally attempted to stop Blalock for being a suspected drunk driver.

1 year ago (2020)
With the Dobie Class of 2020 graduation taking place Thursday, July 30, the area high school officially ended its most unique year on record. Pasadena ISD students were on spring break

If you worked with Jerry "Stubby" Hartwell any time prior to 1982, please contact Chris Madeksho at 713-910-8000.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, REBECCA! Birthday wishes are sent to Rebecca Lilley, director of physician resources at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, South Belt Chamber board member and active community member, who celebrates a birthday Aug. 11, from friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 5 through Aug. 11.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to **Dee Davis** Aug. 9. Send a birthday greeting to **Lini Abraham** Aug. 11.

Burnett Elementary
Send birthday greetings Aug. 5 to **Isabel Amaya** and **Daniel Kornelis**. **Guadalupe Trevino** celebrates a birthday Aug. 8. Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 10 to **Cassandra Moon**.

Genoa Elementary
Join in a birthday celebration Aug. 7 for **Erica Halligan**.

Moore Elementary
Patty Valdez celebrates a birthday Aug. 6. Break out the balloons and party favors for **Gisela Villagarcia** and **Rosie Brown** Aug. 7. Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 11 to **Letty Garcia**.

South Belt Elementary
Jacquelyn Anderson is wished a happy birthday Aug. 5. **Salma Mezoiu** celebrates a happy birthday Aug. 10.

Stuchbery Elementary
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Aug. 7 are sent to **Elida Delafuente**. Send birthday greetings to **Jessica Reed** on Aug. 8.

Melillo Middle School
Remember to wish **Audrey Medina** a happy birthday Aug. 7. Enjoying a special birthday Aug. 10 is **Kayla Joes**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Sing a happy birthday song Aug. 10 to **Kevin Schulba**.

Thompson Intermediate
On Aug. 11, enjoy a slice of birthday cake with **Travis Teichelman**. Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 10 to **Yvette Giron**.

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

Thursday, Aug. 5: **Edna Peña, Wendy Phillips, Karen Owen, Lillie Alvarez, Deanna Goodlet and Shaun Stanton**; Friday, Aug. 6: **Renita Walker, David Perry, Kenneth Brown and Jeff Weber**; Saturday, Aug. 7: **Curtis Bradley, Claudia Castillo, Eric Jackson, Doug Mills and Vu Tuong**; Sunday, Aug. 8: **Kathy Jones, Brad Fuller, Jesse Lopez, Toshana Kitchen, Christopher Herrera, James Xavier Garcia, Shawn Arguello, David Elliot, Heather DeRousse, Jarod Hunt, Rebekah Peterson, Jami Cadena and Verda Carr**; Monday, Aug. 9: **Sam Farias, Dennis Spencer, Robert Coy and Jill Kasselman**; Tuesday, Aug. 10: **Alex Limon, Zerick Guinn and Keith Black**; and Wednesday, Aug. 11: **Martin Zuber, Felicia Minjares, Jill Hansen, Shannon Burke and Sonja Terry**.

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

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD car wash comes Aug. 7

The Dobie football program will host its annual car wash fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dobie High School main campus, 10220 Blackhawk Blvd. Players and support staff will be washing cars for a \$5 minimum donation. Proceeds will go to benefit team events and scholarship efforts throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

SBGSA fall registration ongoing for players 4-16

The South Belt Girls Softball Association continues to host online registration opportunities for the fall season at just \$75 per child. The fall season presents a noncompetitive atmosphere in which scores are not kept and instead the focus is on skill development and team building. During the fall season, the schedule will feature convenient Saturday games only. Players ages 4 to 16 as of Aug. 1, 2021 are eligible to compete, and there are no residency restrictions. SBGSA officials are also seeking adults to fill coaching openings during the fall season. The league's online registration is available at www.southbeltssoftball.com. For additional information about the league or to look into coaching opportunities, call Adriana Estrada at 832-891-3579.

S.B. youth soccer club registration ongoing

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is continuing online registration for the fall 2021 season. Families may visit the league website at www.southbeltsoccer.org to get started. Only credit or debit cards will be accepted as forms of payment. All registered players will receive a uniform, which includes jersey, shorts and socks. Parents will be required to provide shin guards, a ball and cleats. The discounted fees are \$120 per under-4 through under-8 players, \$140 per under-9 and under-10 players, \$160 per under-11 and under-12 players and \$180 per under-13 through under-19 players.

Dobie tennis served up

Fresh off a trip to Dallas to begin the regular season, the Dobie tennis team will host Region III power Dawson in fall team tennis action Friday, Aug. 6, at Dobie. The matches will begin at 3:30 p.m. The Longhorns are also excited to host the 2021 Exes Matches as former Dobie players are invited to participate in a fun-filled morning of play Saturday, Aug. 7, beginning at 9 a.m. The current Longhorns are coming off a successful 2020 run and looking for more in 2021.



Lady Horns to blend experience, youth

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
The sprint that is the high school volleyball preseason began Aug. 2 as programs from across the state worked toward the Aug. 9-10 openers. At Dobie, the Lady Longhorns will infuse a heavy dose of youth to go with proven senior leadership as they look to improve upon last season's 15-10 run that ended in a bidistrict playoff loss. Senior Natalie Onozie, the 22-6A Setter of the Year in 2020, is back along with the district's Blocker of the Year in fellow senior Keke Robinson as the Dobie varsity volleyball team will take aim at league champion Deer Park atop the league standings this season. Senior Maya Scott, who played a key support role a season ago with more than 80 kills, is also ready for a strong final run within the program. There's also a group of as many as seven sophomores who have joined the varsity roster, led by hitter Arianna Garza, who made a splash at the varsity level as a freshman in 2020. Seemingly everywhere Dobie head coach Dawn Sexton turns, there are players willing and able to chip in to the cause as the 2021 season opens Aug. 10 against Baytown Sterling at Phillips Field House.

It's all a matter of figuring out just who fits where, and who fits with whom, Sexton said. "We're very excited about the start of the season," she said. "We had a solid offseason, a bunch of these ladies had successful club league seasons and we look ready to get off to a good start to the preseason (workouts began Aug. 2)." Dobie has talent, depth and versatility heading into the season. How things settle in is to be determined, Sexton added. "We have to see who plays best next to each other, what combinations work the best together and so forth," Sexton said. "We lost our top hitter from last year (Victoria Thomas, now at McCook College in Kansas, had 220 kills), and she is a big loss. But I do think we can attack from a variety of angles this season, so that will hopefully allow us to keep defenses guessing." With Thomas leading the way in kills, Onozie surpassing 900 career assists at setter and Robinson controlling things up top, Dobie went 15-10 overall in the pandemic-abbreviated season, losing twice to eventual District 22-6A champion Deer Park before being swept in the bidistrict round by Atascocita. Garza, meanwhile, gained more and more playing time as 2020 progressed and will now be stepping in for what will

Aug. 10 Volleyball Openers

- Dobie vs. Baytown Sterling**
Phillips Field House, 6 p.m.
- Brook hosts St. Agnes**
Clear Brook H.S., 5:30 p.m.

At left, Dobie's Maya Scott (2) enters her senior season ready to help the Lady Longhorns push defending District 22-6A champion Deer Park for the title, but first comes a meshing of experience and youth in-house. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Defending champs take the field Aug. 9

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Back-to-back nine win seasons. Twenty five wins over the first three seasons of head coach Kevin Berneathy's tenure with the Longhorns, coupled with winning the program's first district championship in 10 years. The Dobie football program is now listed high in the credits, among those at the top of the leaderboard. Whatever analogy one chooses to use, the Longhorns have taken some big steps since Berneathy took over prior to the 2018 season. Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine even ranked the Longhorns among the top 50 in the state among 6A programs. After the 2020 season, 12 seniors signed letters of intent to play collegiately. Yet while quite a few of the players who occupied roles in the 25-win run have since exited via senior graduation, Berneathy and his staff are plenty confident the 2021 team is ready to take its turn under the bright lights of Friday night football. Dobie, the defending District 22-6A champion, will open preseason workouts on the main campus Aug. 9 with the aim of being all systems go for the regular season opener Aug. 27 against Alief Elsik at Crump Stadium. Berneathy says the Longhorns are well-positioned for a solid start. "We did lose some guys

Harris' South Belt 5K is Nov. 6

The South Belt 5K run, benefiting the Barry E. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund, will return to El Franco Lee Park Saturday, Nov. 6 as event organizers have a morning of family-fun activities planned in the community. The event is in honor of Harris, the former long-time Dobie High School educator and Pasadena ISD athletics support staff member who died after a cancer battle in 2018. Race committee chairperson Shane Brown said the Bayway Auto Group will return as the title sponsor of the event, which will also feature a 1K run and family-oriented 1K walk. Previous honorees of the scholarship award include Dobie graduates Camille Smith (2019), Eli Donaho (2020) and Cadie Masterson (2021). Registration as well as other race details will be available in the coming weeks on the Barry E. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund Facebook page. More information about the fund is there, also. To donate to the fund or for additional fun run facts, contact Brown at 713-740-0370.

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At right, Dobie has won 25 games in varsity football head coach Kevin Berneathy's three seasons, and heading into 2021 the program has every intention of defending its District 22-6A championship. Preseason workouts at the upper levels begin Aug. 9, and players will put on the pads for the first time Aug. 12. Photo by Gloria Wallace

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45th BAFL season to kick off Aug. 14

In just a little more than a week, the Bay Area Football League begins its 45th anniversary season as 20 programs in all will go head-to-head across southeast Houston as part of opening kickoff Saturday, Aug. 14. Of local interest, the Sagemont Cowboys will travel to Pearland to take on the Hurricanes Aug. 14 while the Dolphins will play at the North Shore Mustangs on opening day. Game times are 8 a.m. for peewee, 9 a.m. for seniors, 11 a.m. for juniors, 1 p.m. for sophomores and 3 p.m. for freshmen. A spring and summer-long shortage of plastic used to make football helmets has made finding and getting enough helmets a nationwide concern. But those issues with manufacturers will do nothing to hamper what is sure to be one of the most exciting seasons in league history for football players as well as drill and cheer squad members and mascots. "Everybody is excited to get started," Southbelt Dolphins' athletic director Raoul Garza said. "We have a good mix of returning and new players, with maybe half of our players new. And the drill and cheer squads are working hard to get ready. It's going to be a terrific year for the Southbelt Dolphins." The league has also established a new website at www.bayareafootballleague.org.

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Aug. 12-14 Pearland's Turner VB Classic includes Brook, state powers

Visiting state volleyball powers San Antonio Reagan and Dripping Springs will join Clear Brook and three other Clear Creek ISD programs as the John Turner Classic returns in Pearland Aug. 12-14.

With the pandemic having forced the University Interscholastic League to ban tournament play during the 2020 volleyball season, the always-popular Turner Classic was forced to the end line.

For 2021, 32 high school programs have confirmed attendance, including hosts Pearland and Dawson as the event plays out over three days beginning Aug. 12.

Single day tickets are \$12 each and will be available at the door of the various match locations. As of press time, the tournament schedule had not been released.

Clear Brook joins Clear Creek ISD foes Clear Creek, Clear Falls and Clear Springs at the event. For additional tournament details, visit the tournament website at www.johnturnerclassic.com.

More details will come in the Aug. 12 Leader as they become available.

Pearland Adidas Classic

Alvin	Kingwood
Atascocita	Klein Cain
Bellaire	Lake Travis
Brazoswood	Magnolia
Clear Brook	Magnolia West
Clear Creek	Manvel
Clear Falls	Montgomery
Clear Springs	New Braunfels
Clemens	Pearland
Cornerstone	Ridge Point
Dawson	S.A. Reagan
Dripping Springs	Shadow Creek
Episcopal	St. Agnes
Foster	Summer Creek
Fulshear	The Woodlands
George Ranch	Austin Westlake

Clear Brook Lady Wolverines 2021 Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 10	St. Agnes	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 12-14	at Pearland tourn.	TBA
Aug. 17	at Kingwood	6 p.m.
Aug. 19, 21	at Dickinson tourn.	TBA
Aug. 20	Friendswood	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 24	at Jersey Village	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	at Clements	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	Summer Creek	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 2/4	at Clear Creek ISD Tourn.	TBA
Sept. 3	Deer Park	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	*at Alvin	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	*Clear Lake	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Clear Falls	6 p.m.
Sept. 17	*Clear Creek	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 21	*at Brazoswood	6 p.m.
Sept. 24	*Dickinson	6 p.m.
Oct. 1	*at Clear Springs	4 p.m.
Oct. 5	*at Clear Lake	6 p.m.
Oct. 8	*Clear Falls	6 p.m.
Oct. 12	*at Clear Creek	6 p.m.
Oct. 15	*Brazoswood	6 p.m.
Oct. 19	*at Dickinson	6 p.m.
Oct. 26	*Clear Springs	6 p.m.
Nov. 1-2	Bidistrict playoff round	TBA

*District 24-6A matches

Dobie Lady Longhorns 2021 Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 10	Baytown Sterling (Phillips)	6 p.m.
Aug. 13	at Stafford	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 17	Dekaney	6 p.m.
Aug. 20	Terry	6:30 p.m.
Aug. 21	at Dickinson tourn.	TBA
Aug. 24	at Spring	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 26-27	at Battle of Brazos tourn.	TBA
Aug. 31	Alvin	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 2/4	at Santa Fe Tourn.	TBA
Sept. 3	Shadow Creek	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	*Channelview	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Texas City	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 17	*Pasadena	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 21	*Deer Park	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 24	*at Memorial	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	*Sam Rayburn	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	*at South Houston	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	*at Channelview	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 8	St. Agnes	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	*at Pasadena	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 15	*at Deer Park	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	*Memorial	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 22	*Sam Rayburn	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 26	*South Houston	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 1-2	Bidistrict playoff round	TBA

*District 22-6A matches

Dobie 2021 grad Noah Torres picks Bossier Parish baseball



Dobie High School Class of 2021 graduate and District 22-6A first team, all district baseball selection Noah Torres (seated center) is set to continue his education and playing career at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, La., after signing a letter of intent with the Cavaliers. Those with Torres at the signing included, left to right, (front row) Steven Sutton, Kevin Schulba, Linda Torres (mother), Hector Torres (father), Raleigh Garza (cousin), Virginia Torres; (middle row) Joe Gonzalez (godfather), Socorro Gonzalez (godmother), Alfonso Garcia (grandfather), Suzy Garza (aunt), Eliza-

beth Garcia (grandmother), Sara Elsner, Mercy Elsner (friend), Chris Garza (uncle), Kennedy Torres (sister), Socorro Torres, Gavin Carrillo (teammate), Mikey Torres (teammate), Juan Torres, Kellen Gomez (cousin), Juan Torres (uncle); (back row) Miguel Torres (Dobie varsity baseball head coach), Marisa Garcia, Laura Gomez (aunt), Elisha Garcia (youth pastor), Jacob Guerrero, Logan Marcano (teammate), Nick Perez (select baseball coach), Colton Cox (teammate), Will Joiner (Dobie assistant coach), Frank Mora (Dobie varsity baseball assistant coach) and Anthony Ponce (Dobie golf coach).

Dobie volleyball opens Aug. 10 against Baytown Sterling at PFH

Continued from Page 5
surely be a bigger role.

There's also sophomores like setters Alexa Gonzalez and Arrianna Borrego, defensive specialist Alana Goree, libero Ally Frias, middle hitter/right side Haley DeHoyos and hitter Mattison Mitch who have earned the varsity call-up.

Sexton said she feels great about both the present and future. It all starts very soon with three

scrimmages in four days and then the Baytown Sterling opener.

"I'm really looking forward to the scrimmage with Barbers Hill (Aug. 6 at Barbers Hill) and Klein Oak as those are two very good programs and we will be tested in a lot of ways," Sexton said.

"It'll definitely give the newcomers a chance to see what it takes at the varsity level."

Dobie hosts the trio of

Angleton, La Porte and Little Cypress-Mauriceville Aug. 7 and then hosts Galveston Ball and Pasadena Aug. 9 in a final tuneup before the regular season opener. First-week action concludes with the Lady Longhorns at Stafford Aug. 13.

"We'll probably use the nondistrict schedule to get as settled as possible," Sexton said.

"Like I said, the biggest thing is deciding who fits where and alongside who. I like our talent level and versatility, so it's going to be exciting to work with the ladies."

Onozie, who has more than 900 career assists as setter, clearly holds the keys to the operation early on, and Robinson has proven to be one of the area's top blockers.

But the sophomores will also be big in the overall success of the team, and how quickly the development of that group comes should be fun to watch.

22-6A FB champions ready for repeat run

Continued from Page 5
who played a big part in getting us to where we are today," Berneathy said.

"Being part of 25 wins over three seasons is something to be proud of, but the nature of high school sports is that kids graduate each year.

"There are still a lot of great football players returning who have been part of a pretty good run of success.

also have a first-year kicker for the first time since the 2017 campaign.

Make no mistake, expectations remain high. It's easy to say that year after year, but the system and philosophy brought in by Berneathy prior to the 2018 season clearly works, and the players' belief in the system is obvious.

The going will get tougher in 2021 on the

JFD FB Important Dates

Aug. 7: Car wash fundraiser. See Page 5.

Aug. 13: Freshman scrimmage at Ridge Point, TBA.

Aug. 20: V/JV scrimmage versus Clear Springs at Veterans Stadium, TBA.

Aug. 27: Varsity 2021 opener at Alief Elsik, Crump Stadium, TBA.

"Our quarterback (Cameron Gray) is back for his third season, and we have two running backs (Trajan Davis, Jalen Baldwin) who we feel really good about.

"I feel Brendonn Williams, Joshua Rodriguez and some others are ready to take advantage of their opportunities. We have two tight ends who weren't even in the program at this time last year who have performed well.

"Along the offensive line, we have most of those guys (Richard Gary, Edward Lara, Dakarey Ramsey, Mohamed Elghawi, Valente Morales) back, so we feel really good about that group."

Defensively, the team returns just four starters on paper, but Logan Riley and Anfony Lee should help in a big way up front while junior linebacker Nigel Hill is ready to shine.

Ryan Saxton is back in the secondary, and Berneathy likes the effort of several others vying for spots in the back.

Due to the pandemic, the Longhorns scrapped the planned season opener against Alief Elsik in favor of Jersey Village. Berneathy was forced to schedule St. Thomas last season at the last minute, and Fort Bend Bush was added as the Longhorns won all three games rather easily.

This season, Dobie opens at Elsik and will host Bellaire before road games at Friendswood and Dickinson to conclude nondistrict play.

While Elsik could be down this season, Bellaire, Friendswood and certainly Dickinson have big post-season aspirations.

"It's all a process, and the goal is always to try to get better every day, but we had a really good spring and I think the kids have done what they need to do in the summer to stay ready," Berneathy said.

At right, Dobie senior Keke Robinson (4), the Blocker of the Year in District 22-6A a season ago, returns to run the net for the Lady Longhorns this season. Robinson, a three-sport standout at Dobie, is a three-year varsity volleyball letterwinner. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Clear Brook tracksters compete at Junior Olympics



The Clear Brook and Clear Springs track and field programs were well-represented at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games in Humble as, from left, Karo Oghomi (Clear Springs Class of 2021), Keon Clark, Stone Marion (Clear Brook Class of 2020) and Sage Marion (Clear Brook Class of 2022) teamed in the young men's age 17-18 4x100 relay. The event runs through Aug. 7.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 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/>.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Details are on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for additional information.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church. Call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/> for more information.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 6
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon
Hometown Heroes - Ballroom dances Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 - 3:30 p.m. and Fridays, noon - 1:30 p.m. These are not dance lessons but casual dances. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are live and Zoom online. For information on the 7 p.m. Friday night service or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 7
7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.
11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit <https://www.houstonalananon.org/> for additional information.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 8
8 p.m.
AA - at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, AUGUST 9
10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information or visit <https://www.houstonalananon.org/>.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for more information.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has resumed meeting in person at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.
7 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617.
7 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bldg., room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801 for details.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, See Thursday's notice.
8 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 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/>.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Additional information is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for additional information.

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MISCELLANEOUS
SENIOR DESPERATE for lawn equipment. All lawn equipment was taken out of shed. Anyone willing to donate or sell at a reasonable price please call 832-994-8609. 8-5

FOR SALE. Two burial plots (#5 & #6) at Grand View Cemetery on Spencer Hwy. Regular price, \$4,995 each. Selling for \$3,500 each. Call 346-342-1608. 9-9

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San Jac announces August events

The following are San Jacinto College's upcoming timely events and calendar items.

Payment deadline
Aug. 5 at 7 p.m., is the payment deadline for all registrations for fall 2021. Registrations made after Aug. 5 at 7 p.m., will require payment or a payment plan set up on the day of registration.

Visit www.sanjac.edu/payments for payment information.

Maritime information
Learn more about the San Jacinto College Maritime Technology and Training Center and the courses and programs it offers on Friday, Aug. 6 at 10 a.m. To register, visit www.sanjac.edu/form/maritime-information-session-registration

tion.

Fall classes begin
Monday, Aug. 23 marks the beginning of San Jacinto College fall classes. For more information, visit www.sanjac.edu/fall.

Businesses obtain credit
Join the continuing and professional development community engagement workshop, Entrepreneurship 101: Financial Essentials with BBVA, Wednesday, Aug. 25 from noon to 1 p.m. To register for this free event, contact community.engagement@sjcd.edu or call 281-476-1893.

Medicare 101
Join the continuing and professional development community engagement workshop, Medicare 101, Thursday, Aug. 26 from noon to 1 p.m. To register

for this free event, contact community.engagement@sjcd.edu or 281-476-1893.

The 3 Cs
Join the continuing and professional development community engagement workshop, Special Event Planning: The 3Cs for a Successful Event, Monday, Aug. 30 from noon to 1 p.m. To register for this free event, contact community.engagement@sjcd.edu or 281-476-1893.

GLO meeting hopeful

Continued from Page 1
legally own a home, say the GLO's rebuilding process is inequitable to people of color.

The meeting took place just days after Mayor Sylvester Turner voiced his support for Houston homeowners in their fight against the GLO.

The City of Houston previously oversaw Harvey rebuild efforts until the GLO took control last year after Bush said the city was hindering reconstruction.

Other allies include Houston City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin, state Sen. Carol Alvarado and state Rep. Dennis Paul.

Havens was receptive to resident complaints, saying the GLO would work with local civic groups to provide more uniformity with the existing homes in the community. This marked the first time in four months of discussions the GLO had shown any flexibility in its existing stance.

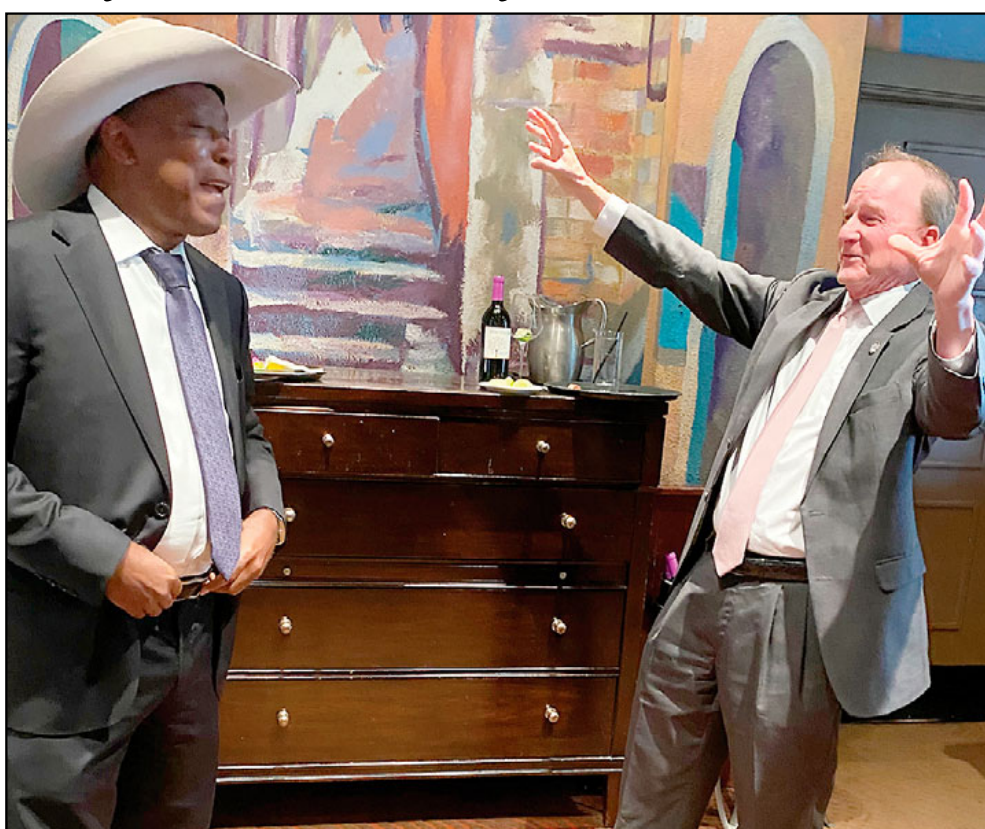
Havens said, however, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development would have to sign off on all upgrades, as it supersedes GLO authority. All upgrades must be specifically described in the respective subdivision's deed restrictions.

Logic would dictate that GLO cessions in Pleasantville would transfer to the South Belt community.

The South Belt area is being led in the GLO fight by members of the Sagemont and Sagemeadow civic groups. The Clear Brook City MUD and the Leader have also been active in the discussions.

A similar meeting with Havens is currently being planned by South Belt community leaders. See future editions of the Leader for additional information.

Mayor, community members attend Dave Martin event



A fundraiser was recently held for Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin (right). The council member is shown above at the event clowning around with Mayor Sylvester Turner. Martin said the cowboy hat was an inside joke, ribbing fellow Council Member Mike Knox, whom Turner recently prohibited from



wearing a cowboy hat in his official city photo. Shown below with the mayor at the event are, left to right, Francisco Llanito and Billy Burge III, the developer responsible for building much of the South Belt community. Photos by Marie Flickinger



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