



South Belt-Ellington Leader

44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, September 17, 2020 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 45, No. 34

K of C hosts blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 is hosting a blood drive in the Social Hall at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, on Sun., Sept. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dobie, SJC hold college meet

San Jacinto College and J. Frank Dobie High School will hold an informative parent meeting. Join the Virtual Financial Aid Information Night and hear about the different ways to pay for a student's college education.

COVID numbers decrease

At press time Wednesday, Sept. 16, a total of 36 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials. That number is up six from the previous week.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Fairmont Parkway daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, Sept. 18. The northbound U-turn lane will also be closed during the same times.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Scarsdale to Broadway/Park Place nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 19.

Community matching grants available

The City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods is inviting local civic groups to apply for grants to provide matching funds for beautification and improvement projects.

COVID testing at UHCL

University of Houston-Clear Lake will serve as a COVID-19 testing location through Saturday, Sept. 19. Preregistration is preferred, but not required.

Early voting debate continues for upcoming election

The subject of mail-in voting has been a controversial one in recent weeks, as the practice is viewed by some to be necessary out of COVID-19 safety concerns, while others see it as ripe for possible voter fraud.

Earlier this month, the Texas Supreme Court temporarily blocked Harris County from sending mail-in ballot applications to all its voters for the Nov. 3 election.

A similar lawsuit filed by state Attorney General Ken Paxton to prohibit the county's mail-in proposal was also granted by the high court in a Sept. 15 ruling.

That same day, the state's all-Republican Supreme Court ordered that three Green Party candidates be added back onto the ballot after a lower court had previously had them removed.

Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins had announced the previous month the county would send mail-in applications to all of its nearly 2.5 million registered voters.

to vote and, during the time of COVID-19, to ensure that Harris County voters can cast their ballots safely," Hollins said.

According to the GOP lawsuit, however, Hollins is a "rogue clerk who is abusing the application to vote by mail process and compromising

the integrity of elections in Harris County."

This message was reinforced by Paxton. "Election officials have a duty to reject mail-in ballot applications from voters who are not eligible to vote by mail," Paxton said in a statement.

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Robber dies in Windmill Lakes incident

An alleged robber was fatally shot around 10 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at an apartment complex in the 10100 block of Windmill Lake Boulevard.

ferred a gunshot wound and was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

According to police, the victim had just parked his vehicle when the suspect approached him with a pistol and demanded his keys.

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Officers busy with chases, manhunts

Local police have kept busy this past week with police chases and manhunts.

serve a warrant to a man at a residence on Astoria Boulevard. Rather than comply with police, the man fled from the house, leading police on a lengthy chase.

On Monday, Sept. 14, Pct. 2 Deputy A. Sandoval attempted to stop a driver in the 9800 block of Sageaspen for failing to display license plate.

The driver, however, refused to stop and led the deputy on a two-mile chase, reaching speeds of 60 mph in a 30-mph zone, before crashing into a tree in the 11400 block of Sagecountry near Sagewell.

Frank Braden dies

Former Dobie Principal Frank Braden died Sept. 14 at the age of 86. Braden served as principal of Dobie from 1979 to 1986, at which time he was promoted to the position of Pasadena ISD assistant superintendent.



Frank Braden

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On Tuesday, Sept. 15, a stolen vehicle that had allegedly been used in multiple crimes was abandoned near Sagewind and Sagedowne.

On Friday, Sept. 11, a second manhunt proved unsuccessful, when Houston police attempted to

In addition to serving as principal at Dobie, Braden also served as principal at Thompson Intermediate from 1972 until 1974. Previous to

Residents urged to submit Census

The U.S. Census Bureau is continuing to visit area households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census.

could mean fewer federal dollars for many crucial services.

At press time, 88.2 percent of households had been counted nationwide. Of those, 65.5 percent had self-responded, while the remaining 22.7 percent responded after a follow-up visit.

South Belt residents are encouraged to respond to the Census, as it will affect the region's federal funding for schools, hospitals, roads and other essential programs for the next decade.

According to the Greater Houston Partnership, the 2010 Census granted \$101.6 billion to federal spending programs in Texas distributed by state and local governments, businesses, nonprofits, hospitals and households.

Locally, however, only around 76.6 percent of households had responded to date.

The Census Bureau strongly encourages the public to respond online at 2020census.gov.

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Scarsdale incident becomes felony

A man on drugs allegedly followed a woman home and threatened her Sunday, Sept. 13.

stable Phil Sandlin's office, deputies were dispatched to the area around El Camino Boulevard and Highway 3 around 4:43 p.m. after receiving reports of a woman being followed by an

Both the suspect and victim reside in the 77089 ZIP code.

According to Harris County Precinct 8 Con-

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Charges filed in Edgebrook stabbing

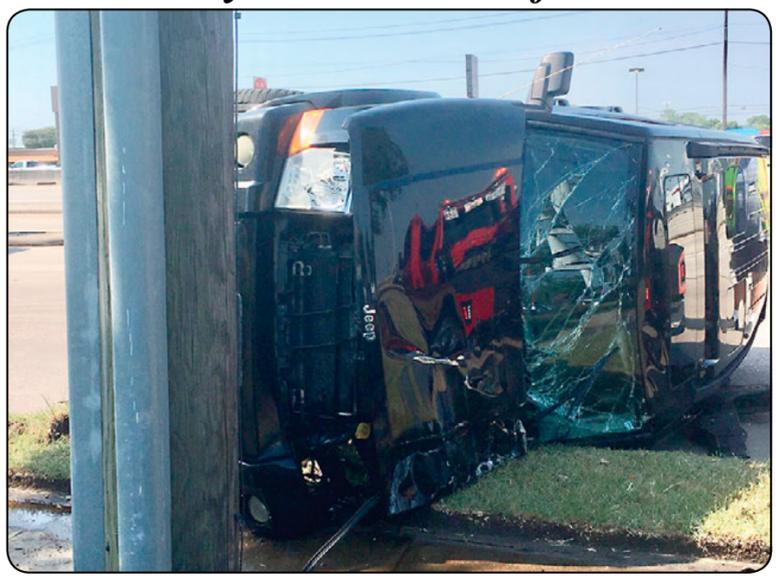
Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the stabbing of a man at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgebrook Drive around 1:55 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10.

According to police, Breaux and Luker, who were in a dating relationship, got into a verbal altercation in their apartment. During the argument, Luker pulled out a knife and stabbed Breaux multiple times in the arms and abdomen.

The suspect, Christopher Daniel Luker, 24, is charged with aggravated assault of a family member in the 248th State District Court.

Houston Fire Department paramedics transported Breaux to the hospital. Luker was later taken into custody by responding HPD officers and subsequently charged for his role in the incident.

Friday crash on I-45 feeder



A major car crash held up traffic for hours on the northbound Gulf Freeway feeder near Almeda Mall the morning of Friday, Sept. 11. According to witnesses, the driver of the above car struck an 18-wheeler, before flying in the air and coming to a stop at approximately 11:15 a.m. Houston police said there were no fatalities.

CCISD's superintendent to retire



Dr. Greg Smith

With school now back in session, this will mark the last semester for Dr. Greg Smith, Clear Creek Independent School District superintendent, who is set to retire Dec. 31.

flourish and excel, even in the midst of significant challenges."

Smith earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Oakland University; his master's degree in education administration from University of Houston-Clear Lake; and his doctorate in education administration from Texas A&M University.

Smith began his position as Clear Creek ISD superintendent in January 2008. He has been in public education for 40 years, 20 of those years as a superintendent.

Under his leadership, the school has excelled in several areas.

"Dr. Smith is a leader of all leaders," said DuPont. "His handprint is all over this school district. I know I speak for the other school board members when I say that Clear Creek ISD is the district it is today because of his strategic mind."

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HFD accepting applications

The Houston Fire Department is accepting applications for firefighter trainees.

with a grade of "C" or better (only two credit hours of physical education will be accepted) or at least two years of full-time active military service with an honorable discharge as stipulated on a DD214 Member 4.

Applicants must meet the above requirements by their Civil Service exam date.

The examinations will be given from 7:30

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Community matching grants available

The City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods is inviting local civic groups to apply for grants to provide matching funds for beautification and improvement projects.

The program supports neighborhood beautification and improvement projects by providing dollar-for-dollar matching grant reimbursements, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

Eligibility requirements - Neighborhood-based organizations and civic clubs with State of Texas 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit certification are eligible to apply.

Noncertified firefighter and EMT applicants must have 24 transferable college credit hours

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PISD 1 of 2 Texas districts honored

Pasadena Independent School District is one of only two school districts in the state of Texas to be recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work.

by Solution Tree for demonstrating a commitment to PLC concepts, implementing these concepts for three years and for showing clear evidence of improved student learning.

School districts honored as a Model PLC have successfully met the rigorous criteria set by Solution Tree, which calls on educators to show they have done the following:

Becoming a Model PLC school district was part of a long journey, dating back to 2013. That

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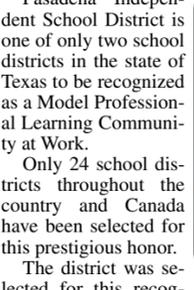
Houston USO sponsors golf tournament



Shown posting the flags at the Golfcrest Country Club Houston USO golf tournament are, right to left, Staff Sgt. Christopher Betances, Staff Sgt. Marion Demetree and Staff Sgt. Carlos Espinosa. Now shown, but participating was Staff Sgt. Curtis Williams. The USO successful inaugural fund-raising tournament was held Monday, Sept. 14. Nearly 100 golfers enjoyed food, fun and golf. In addition to sponsors and golf registrations, funds were raised through sale of honor signs, "mulligan" tickets, and silent auctions. PTSD Heroes partners

sponsored and golfed with veterans, bringing an awareness to their efforts. About \$10,000 was netted toward the USO efforts in supporting the locally active duty military and their families. Signs to honor active duty or veteran loved ones may be purchased through Oct. 16 for \$25 per sign.

Photo by Denise Burleigh



Dr. DeeAnn Powell

In My Opinion

Muecke on police policy reforms

Mayor Pro Tem Martin, The Chronicle yesterday had an article where 5 council persons, new ones, wrote Mayor Turner a letter about how he is handling the revisions to police policies. Now you may remember when the Mayor appointed the 45 members of this committee I objected to some that he appointed. It was not a cross section of citizens (voters) living in the city of Houston who should be the decision makers.

Remember, we would not need a police protection if it were not for a criminal who wishes to do wrong. But for some reason right now all emphasis is on the police and not the criminal. One big issue is a choke hold, and that is not proper language.

Remember back in the school days some times you just had to fight over an issue. The first thing you tried to do is get your arm around the neck and take him down. When the police have an incident, like a total drunk or someone high on drugs they are very strong and violent. I guess people want the police to take them down to be hand cuffed by grabbing an arm, waist or leg. That just does not work. So we have to be very careful with the wording on the so called choke hold, may-

be call it a NECK TAKE DOWN. This also applies to all other wording that will be reviewed and re written.

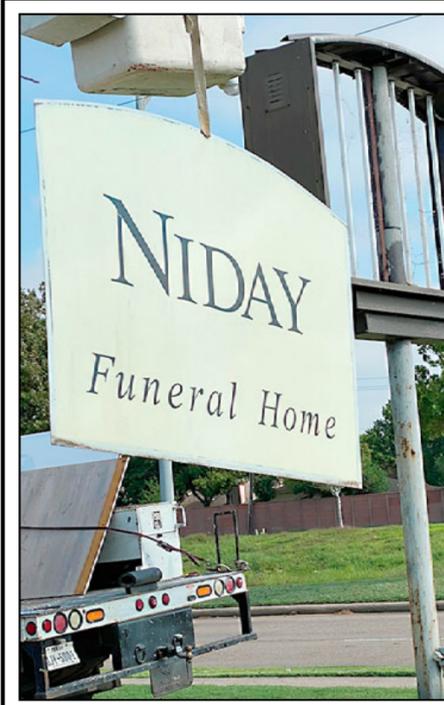
As I have mentioned I was on the CRC (Citizens Review Committee) for 5 years. All confidential but I don't think this falls there. One case an officer was chasing a criminal in an apartment complex and the criminal was shooting at the officer. The officer did not return fire and while being interviewed he was asked why? Simple - To Much Paper Work. The committee should not go this route.

Bottom line, yes there are some officers that over react and use too much force. But remember they are spit on, cursed, in these mob incidents rocks thrown and so forth. Not an easy job but each day they go out to protect us.

We need to review police policies but make sure it is done with the proper thought, get control of a situation. WHAT REALLY NEEDS TO BE DONE is get control of the criminals that are looting, rioting, burning and destroying. We need criminal/court reform.

For instance, when I was young there were few jails and prisons. Look how many we have today and full. Some police involvement put them there. Today I do not feel safe leaving my home. Thank you for all your doing on council and for the city.

James E. Muecke



Niday now Peevey

Niday Funeral Home on Beamer near Scarsdale is now Peevey Funeral & Cremation, after longtime employee Phillip Peevey recently purchased the business.

A South Belt native, Peevey had previously served as general manager of Niday, working at the establishment since it opened in October 1999. Before that, Peevey had worked with the previous Niday owner, Jack Niday, at South Park Funeral Home in Pearland.

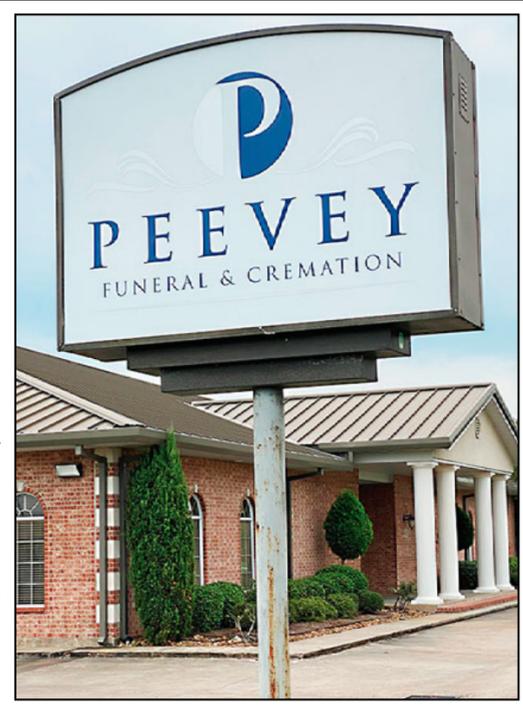
Peevey said he had worked so closely with his mentor that people often mistook him for his son.

Niday died in December 2015 at the age of 85.

The new owner said it had always been his predecessor's intention to transfer the business to him someday.

"It was always the plan," Peevey said. "Here, we always like to say 'we honor wishes.' Well, this was his wish."

Despite the change in ownership, Peevey said nothing else has changed, including the staff. "It's the same familiar faces, just a new name," Peevey said.



Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint, has phone service Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 832-393-2580 for information. Visit the website at https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200&events or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events>.

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

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

To use HPL To Go:

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

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

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

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

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, Wi-Fi service is still available by coming to the library standing/sitting within 6 feet of the building. A password is not needed. Go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi and connect to HPL - Public.

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

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., is closed to the public. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for updates.

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

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for 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.

Online services

- Harris County Public Library will continue to offer a wide array of online services:
- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check an account to renew loans or request books.
- e-Books, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive.
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

Parker Williams schedule of events this week

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

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) virtually for family fun. Parents in attendance are encouraged to participate to facilitate virtual interaction. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome to join. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.

Friday Sept. 18, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez who tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Participants will be needing pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 12:30 p.m. Virtual class of "Fermenting Food for Health." Register at <https://www.hcpl.net/events/35586> and follow instructions. The class is based on the teachings of Sandor Katz's book Wild Fermentation and is perfect for home gardeners or those seeking fermented foods wonderful health benefits. To attend the event, register with a valid email by Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. to receive an invitation the day prior and an hour before the event.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 1 p.m. Talk Like a Pirate Day. Ahoy! Learn the lexicon of loquacious buccaneers, privateers and pirates that the Parker Williams crew will blast broadside of piracy and show the treasures of collection. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Sept. 22, noon. Drawing with Ms. Ariel (Ariel Perez) for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 5 p.m. "Hobbit Day" This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m. Spanish Storytime. Join Jason Cruz with a story in Spanish. A different story will be available on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Toastmasters open house set for Sept. 28

Nervous or sweating when needing to speak to a small group or a large audience? Attend the Young Professionals SE Toastmasters open house Monday, Sept. 28, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., for an opportunity to explore a membership as an option to quell one's nerves in public speaking.

Toastmasters meetings are designed to facilitate one's ability to deliver prepared speeches and impromptu speeches. The immediate feedback one receives from a speech evaluator gives pointers for improving a presentation with regard to hand gestures, vocal variety and content organization, to name a few benefits.

Attendance at the open house will give a glimpse into the myriad benefits to being a Toastmaster. Visit www.youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com to obtain attendance information or contact the vice president of membership at 832-372-6337 for inquiries.

Elected officials share their words

Cornyn: Pass real COVID relief, no tax breaks for rich, marijuana subsidies

On the floor Aug. 4, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) discussed the need for the Senate to remain in session to pass a commonsense alternative to the House's liberal wish list, the HEROES (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions) Act.

Excerpts of Cornyn's remarks are below, and video can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmloIDZBycw&fea_ture=youtu.be&t=1042.

"The HEROES Act, passed by the House, includes a long list of liberal priorities. Things like environmental justice grants—what in the heck does that have to do with COVID-19? Soil health studies,

and not one but two subsidies for diversity of inclusion in the cannabis industry. Hardly anything to do with COVID-19.

"What's more, our colleagues across the aisle, who have railed about tax cuts for the rich—well, they want to allow millionaires and billionaires in blue states to pay less in taxes. They want a tax cut for the millionaires and billionaires in their states.

"These unwanted, unaffordable, and frankly laughable proposals are not the types of solutions America needs to recover from this crisis.

"The stakes are high, and I believe the Senate must stay in session until we're able to deliver the relief that our country needs."

Delegation files brief for GLO, not Houston, to manage Harvey relief

Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), along with Sens. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe), Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) as well as Reps. Dwayne Bohac (R-Houston), Sam Harless (R-Spring), Dan Huberty (R-Kingwood), Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park), Sarah Davis (R-Houston), Jim Murphy (R-Houston), Dennis Paul (R-Houston), Tom Oliverson (R-Tomball) and Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) filed an Amicus Brief with the Texas Supreme Court to overturn the 3rd Court of Appeals decision letting the City of Houston keep possession of Harvey recovery funds and block the General Land Office from accepting any new applicants as that would potentially jeopardize federal funding and "run counter to statute," from HB 2776 (sponsored by Creighton) from the 85th Session.

"Houstonians have spent the last three hurricane seasons waiting for the City of Houston to provide disaster recovery assistance," said Bettencourt.

"The Senate Finance Committee heard testimony on this mismanagement as far back as 2019, and that is why the GLO has taken the action that they have. To allow this mismanagement to continue could potentially create a \$1.25 billion liability to the State."

Court testimony highlighted that only 245 Houston families had received assistance in the City's homebuyer assistance and homeowner's assistance programs, with only 65 homes built in the last two years.

This is compared to the General Land Office building 1,618 homes for Texas families through the state-run Homeown-

er Assistance Program during this same time period.

"The City should stop wasting taxpayer's money and let the GLO finish the job," added Harless. Swanson added, "The City of Houston continues to demonstrate a remarkable talent for mismanaging and wasting taxpayer dollars. Their incompetence now puts Houston at risk of losing vital disaster recovery assistance, which if not spent, will be returned to the federal government. The General Land Office should and must regain administrative authority to see these funds disbursed before it is too late."

As noted in the brief, if the disaster recovery funds allocated by Congress have not been spent by Aug. 17, 2024, the State of Texas would lose access to those funds. Therefore, the burden of closing this shortfall would then fall on the State of Texas to allocate money to assist with disaster recovery due to the City of Houston's inability to adequately manage the program and fulfill their fiduciary obligations to their residents.

Under a program managed by the GLO rather than the City of Houston, residents would likely see an increase in services. This would result in better administrative oversight and more efficient services to those who need them.

Instead of recognizing the obvious as Harris County did when they returned control of the program to the GLO, the City of Houston has elected to spend additional time and money in litigation," concluded Bettencourt.

"Houstonians should not be forced to spend another hurricane season waiting for this case to wade through the legal system and get relief from that flooding."

Shaar Hashalom celebrates holy days

"In the beginning..." At sundown Friday, Sept. 18, the Jewish year 5780 will end and 5781 will commence with the High Holy Days. The Jewish tradition places the first day of creation on the first day of the Hebrew month Tishrei.

Even though prior to the exile to Babylonia, Tishrei was the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar (the first being Nissan, the month in which Passover is celebrated), the years were always counted from the first of Tishrei.

The year begins with Rosh Hashana, "head of the year," that is celebrated Sept. 19 and 20. The destiny of each person is written in the Book of Life on Rosh Hashana, and after a reprieve period of 10 days, on Yom Kippur the book is closed and sealed.

These days, "Yamim Nora'aim," Days of Awe are devoted to meditation, repenting, and asking forgiveness from people and God.

Yom Kippur will commence on sundown Sunday, Sept. 27, and will end on Mon-

day evening, Sept. 28, with the blowing of the Shofar (ram's horn). Jews worldwide will spend Yom Kippur in prayer and fasting.

The next holiday, Sukkot, celebrated only five days after Yom Kippur, is closely tied to both a historical event of the land and the season.

It marks the 40-year journey of the Israelites through the Sinai Desert on their way from Egypt to Israel and the Fall Harvest.

Sukkot will commence Oct. 2. The holiday of Sukkot will be celebrated by dining and spending time in temporary structures, made of wood, cloth and the like, and topped with palm branches.

Sukkot will conclude eight days later with Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Shemini Atzeret is an "additional day" to Sukkot and Simchat Torah is the holiday of the Torah, the five books of Moses.

In Israel, these two holidays are Simchat Torah, which concludes the holiday season, marking both the end and the

beginning of reading the Torah Scroll (It takes one full year to read the scroll from beginning to end.) The Torah scrolls are carried around the synagogue, in an exhilarating parade, accompanied by singing and dancing, and symbolizing the continuous cycle of life and celebration.

This year the congregation will celebrate these days on Zoom.

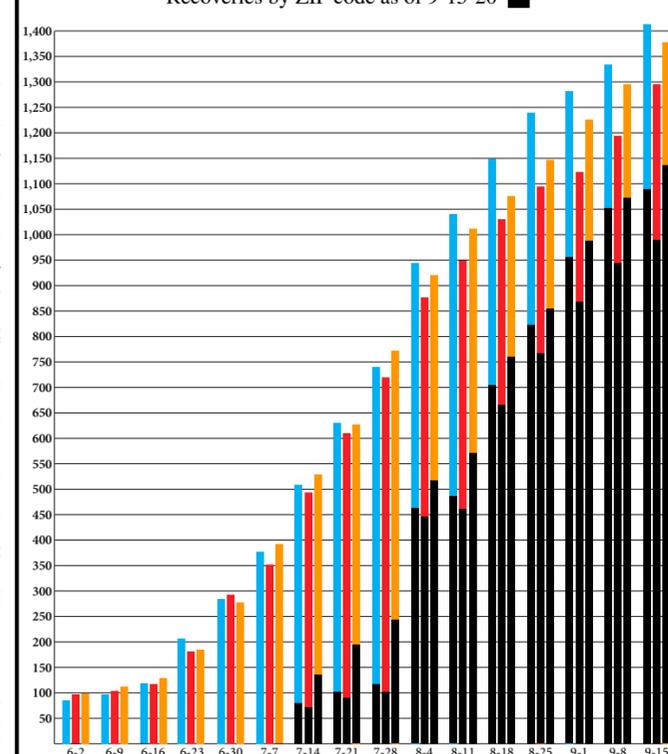
Non-CSH members who wish to join the service may contact ritual@shaarhashalom.org for the link.

The High Holy Days schedule follows:

High Holiday Times Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m., Torah Service at 10:15 a.m.; Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Sept. 20, 10 a.m., Torah Service/Shofar at 10:15 a.m. There will be no Tashlich service due to COVID-19. Kol Nidre, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m.; Yom Kippur, Sept. 28, morning services at 10 a.m.; Yizkor at 3 p.m. and Mincha/Neilah from 5:35 p.m. to 7:34 p.m.

Area ZIPs see COVID improvement

Total cases by ZIP code: 77034 (blue), 77075 (red), 77089 (orange)
Recoveries by ZIP code as of 9-15-20 (black)



Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of the People of Sagemont 2 Facebook group shared a post of their mother-in-law outside smoking when a vehicle drove by twice, prompting her to go inside. After a few minutes a young heavy-set Hispanic female wearing a big gray shirt and house shoes knocked on the door. She acted as if she knew the member's mother-in-law, who opened the door. The young female who went inside, uninvited and acting friendly, indicated her dad was having car problems down the road and needed to borrow money. The young female walked around the house, then left quickly. The member stated that their mother-in-law, who has trouble walking and is in a weakened condition, noticed money was missing from her purse. Apparently, the suspect had been watching her house and targeted her. A police report has been filed. The incident happened Monday, Sept. 14, around 2:50 p.m., near Alameda Mall. The member stated that the vehicle in the pictures could be related to the incident with the young female.

Another member on the same Facebook group posted that there were police helicopters flying over Astoria, Rhinebeck and Barbizon. Other members commented that police were looking for a suspect that attempted murder of his wife. The suspect was later caught and taken to Pasadena jail and would be transferred later to Harris County jail.

After a member of the People of Sagemont posted a photo of her tree which had vehicle parts scattered around it and asked if anyone knew what had happened, a neighbor related that a high-speed chase through the neighborhood involving two men, resulted in their vehicle crashing into the tree. The member stated she is grateful the vehicle ran into the tree and not into her house. The incident happened Tuesday, Sept. 15, between midnight and 1 a.m., on Sagecountry Drive.

Support Leader advertisers!

H-E-B opportunity exchange and expo Sept. 28

Register for the H-E-B Supplier Diversity first virtual Opportunity Exchange and Expo, taking place Sept. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event will allow small and minority business owners to interact with H-E-B leaders who will learn how to do business with H-E-B. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/h-e-b-2020-opportunity-exchange-tickets-115221440430> for more information and to register for this event.

Church Directory

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

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

*Also Available on Facebook Live

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

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

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

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

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WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Wednesday
Sunday School • 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Worship Service • 9:00 a.m. Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.

Nursery Available at all Services

Bush Elementary welcomes students back to campus



Steven Nguyen poses for a photo with his Spider-Man mask before entering campus for his face-to-face instruction.



Rhys Cameron dons a favorite mask and is ready to begin his school year.

Photos by Maria Mata



Ready for the school year are Justin Mai (left) and Jayden Mai.



Shown above are siblings Luis Delcid (left) and Adriana Delcid posing together in their appropriate gear as they walk into school for face-to-face instruction.



Claudette and Cliff Farley

PISD's Frank Braden dies

Continued from Page 1 Intermediate School. Braden graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University in 1959 and received his ME from the University of Houston in 1963. In 1959, he began his career in PISD as a teacher and a counselor at San Jacinto Intermediate School.

In 1964 he was transferred to Beverly Hills, and served as assistant principal at Pasadena High School from 1969 until 1972, when he became the Geo. Thompson Intermediate's principal. Braden also served as PISD director of transportation from 1974 until becoming the principal at Dobie High School in 1979.

Braden served as Dobie's second principal, replacing Allen Sory, who served as Dobie's first principal.

Braden then, in the year 2000, ran for and was elected to the board of trustees for the Pasadena Independent School District where he served for approximately 12 years.

Services will be held Saturday, Sept. 19 at South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena. Visitation will be held at 9 a.m. with services following at 10 a.m.

The Leader was unable to obtain the obituary for Braden at press time, but plans to run it next week.

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Harris County Sheriff's office launches Project Guardian

The Harris County Sheriff's office launched Project Guardian to improve the agency's interactions with children and adults in Harris County on the autism spectrum. The innovative program engages families with loved ones with autism and provides deputies with critical information about the person with autism, including any special needs should they encounter them when responding to a call for service.

"We continuously work with the community to ensure we are doing all we can to best serve our residents with compassion and understanding," said Ed Gonzalez, Harris County sheriff. "Project Guardian engages the community, builds positive relationships, and embraces public safety as a shared responsibility. It's an example of what we can accomplish together."

A simple interaction with law enforcement could be a very stressful or traumatic situation for a person with autism. Flashing lights on an emergency vehicle may cause a person with autism to become frightened and act out.

Families are encouraged to participate in the program by submitting basic information about their loved one with autism, including a recent photo and any individual characteristics attributed to autism that deputies should take into consideration during their interaction with them.

The Harris County Sheriff's office is committed to diverting individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis away from the criminal justice system and toward

more appropriate care, resources and services. Every deputy is required to complete a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training course to ensure they respond as professionally, humanely and safely as possible to the scene of a mental health crisis. Deputies learn the wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms persons with autism experience, as well as ways to comfort them and de-escalate situations that may arise.

Project Guardian database information will be kept confidential and only provided to deputies if they are responding to a call for service at a residence with a registered program participant. For more information on Project Guardian or to register a loved one with autism, visit <http://www.harriscountycit.org/project-guardian/>.

– matched savings.
– credit building.

Classes are conducted mainly online with a live instructor and include online after-class coaching to help students stay focused and assist them with setting and reaching their training and employment goals.

The Alliance is a nonprofit organization that has been creating opportunities for immigrants, refugees and underserved residents in Houston for more than thirty-five years. Call 713-776-4700, extension 162, for additional information.

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Mathew donates royalties

When her high school shifted to virtual learning in March, Sydney Mathew, a sophomore at Shadow Creek High School, began writing poetry for her English class. Her poems focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine were affecting her friends and family. The creative outlet allowed her to put her thoughts, feelings and emotions into words. The feedback was so good that she decided to publish a poetry book, Corona Diaries.

Sydney donated her first royalty check to Memorial Hermann Southeast to recognize health care workers for their hard work and dedication during the current crisis.

Her donation helped purchase additional personal protective equipment for nurses and staff working in the hospital's intensive care unit.



Dr. Nibu Mathew (left), Sydney's father, and Sydney Mathew are shown displaying her \$200 donation to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital to help buy PPE.

The Alliance offers free training and classes

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused the loss of jobs and closure of many businesses which may never return even after the pandemic subsides. At the same time, employers continue to struggle to find qualified workers to fill opportunities in transportation, construction, health and child care.

To learn more about how to enroll and quickly prepare for a stable, well-paid job in one of these high-demand industries, email The Alliance at info@thealliancetx.org or visit the website at <https://thealliancetx.org/> and click on the menu tab for "Program Centers."

The Alliance through its Center for Literacy and Advancement is offering no-cost training to qualified individuals for high-demand occupations including:

- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA).
- Commercial Truck Driver (CTD).
- Home Based Child Care Provider (HBCC).
- Electrocardiogram Technician (EKG).
- Basic Electrical Technician (BET).
- Phlebotomy Technician (PHLEB).
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technician (HVAC).

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are offered concurrently with training to support successful completion of these programs by students with limited English proficiency.

High School Equivalency preparation classes are also available. Occupational Training Program completers choosing to be self-employed and start their own businesses can take advantage of The Alliance's entrepreneurship support opportunities including:

- micro loans.
- vehicle down payment.

The Texas Center for the Book has launched the 2020-2021 Letters About Literature Texas contest, a program that invites students to respond to authors of books or poetry who have touched their lives. The contest opens Nov. 4, 2020, and is open to Texas students in fourth grade through 12th grade.

Participants select a book, book series, essay, play, poem, short story or speech that has made a lasting impact on their lives. They then write a personal letter to the

author that reflects how they have been changed, inspired or motivated by the work they selected. State winners receive \$100 and travel assistance for the 2021 Texas Library Association Annual Conference.

All submissions for the contest must be submitted through the online submission platform at <https://texastatelibrary.submittable.com/submit> by Dec. 17, 2020, 5 p.m.

A permission form is required for all students who will be younger than 13 on Nov. 4, 2020.

The form can be found at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/sites/default/files/public/tslac/exec/2021%20TCF%20LAL%20Permission%20Form.pdf>.

To learn more about the contest, how to submit and to view winning entries from previous years, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook or contact Rebecca Manley at rebecca@tsl.texas.gov or 512-936-2505.

Established in 1987, the Center for the Book seeks to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries.

The center builds partnerships with library professionals, educators, authors, publishers and booksellers who provide support to the center's shared mission of promoting a love of literature throughout the Lone

Star State. The Texas Center for the Book is under the direction of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission at the Lorenzo De Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission provides Texans access to the information they need to be informed, productive citizens by preserving the archival record of Texas; enhancing the service capacity of public, academic and school libraries; assisting public agencies in the maintenance of their records; and meeting the reading needs of Texans with disabilities.

For additional information, visit www.tsl.texas.gov.

For more information on the initiative, a project of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook or contact Rebecca Manley at rebecca@tsl.texas.gov or 512-936-2505.

Students invited to participate in writing competition

The University of Houston System-wide Public Art Committee has been attempting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its public art collections on all UH campuses, but closures due to COVID-19 caused numerous delays over the summer. However, nothing—not even a global pandemic, can keep the show from finally going on via Zoom on Sept. 29, from 5 to 6 p.m.

University of Houston-Clear Lake associate professor of art Jason Makepeace and Professor Emeritus of Art Nick J. de Vries will present their works of public art on the UH-Clear Lake campus in a virtual event titled, "Live Artist Conversation." The presentation will be moderated by Samuel Gladden, College of Human Sciences and Humanities Interim dean and director of Cultural Arts Eric Despard.

"The great appeal of this event is to showcase the arts at UHCL by sharing our public art collection," Gladden said. "This is a great venue for people to find out more about the arts at UHCL, so they can appreciate the work of these artists as well as the arts and culture at the university."

Gladden will be speaking about the bronze sphere sculpture at the front entrance of the Bayou Building. The sculpture, called "Spiritus Mundi," by Spanish artist Pablo Serrano, is the largest display of

public art on campus. "I'll be speaking about how 'Spiritus Mundi' is such an excellent piece to use to mark key moments in the university's life," he said. "Recently refurbished, it is at the center of our campus, just as art is at the heart of all we do."

Makepeace's sculpture, located outside the Arbor North building, is titled "Moldable Subtractions," and is inspired by his interest in kayaking. "As an avid kayaker, I find it interesting that the basic design of the canoe and kayak has not changed over thousands of years," he said.

"What's changed is the process by which they're crafted. The sculpture explores the relationship between new and old technology of the single-manned vessel and how craftsmanship maintains itself even when the base materials change."

Inspired by his fascination of science and art, de Vries' sculpture, titled "Frisian Horses," is in the courtyard area between Arbor Main and Arbor North. "Natural formations, both seen and unseen, as well as reactions to human behavior were the starting points of most of my past series of work," he said. "The 'Frisian Horses' series embodies these concepts."

For more information about this event and to join via Zoom, visit <http://publicarts.uh.edu/events/>.

For more information on the initiative, a project of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/centerforthebook or contact Rebecca Manley at rebecca@tsl.texas.gov or 512-936-2505.

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HCAD certifies appraisal roll

Roland Altinger, chief appraiser of the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD), certified the 2020 appraisal roll to turn over to the jurisdictions.

The importance of certifying the appraisal roll listing the property values is that state law allows those jurisdictions in Harris County to move forward with the process of adopting the 2020 tax rates.

"Certification is the final step in the 2020 appraisal process for most of our tax base," Altinger said. "The appraisal roll provides taxing jurisdictions with the value of the properties completed to date."

We also give the taxing units estimates of the value and number of accounts not yet complete so they have as much information as possible when they start their rate adoption process."

After certification, the rolls with the values are provided to the county, cities, school districts and other taxing entities so the governing bodies of the taxing units can set their tax rates for the upcoming year.

"Only 8.3 percent of the total appraised value in the district remained under protest when the Appraisal Review Board (ARB) handed over the appraisal records to me on Aug. 21," Altinger said.

As of that date, there had been approximately 30,000 more protests filed this year than in 2019. For certification, state law requires that at least 90 percent of the total appraised value is no longer under protest.

As the remaining protests are resolved, the accounts will be added to the supplemental roll that is provided to the taxing units.

"I thought it might take longer to get through the protest process this year because of the building changes we had to make for social distancing with the pandemic so property owners could feel safe in pursuing their

UHCL celebrates 50th anniversary with art

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PISD 1 of 2 Texas districts to win award

Continued from Page 1
 year, 350 associate superintendents, principals and assistant principals attended a PLC at Work conference in San Antonio. This event created a shift in culture. After the conference, schools worked on their campuses' individual PLC processes and implementations, focusing on team collaboration and increasing access to tools that boost student achievement.

Marsha Jones, a former principal and current executive director of curriculum and instruction, attended the conference and later worked with administrators and faculty throughout Pasadena ISD to lead efforts of implementing PLCs districtwide.

"Being named a Model PLC District is an amazing accomplishment and a testament to the incredible work of our district, campus adminis-

trators, teachers, collaborative teams and students," Jones said. "In Pasadena ISD, 'All Means All,' and the continued work and effort of our PLC collaborative teams will continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and educators."

All 67 schools in Pasadena ISD go the extra mile to set aside time and resources for intervention and enrichment for students, PLC trainings, and to work in collaborative teams each week. Pasadena ISD has also created its own hashtag #PISDPLC so educators and administrators can share ideas with one another via social media. "I am so proud of our leadership teams and staff who have been dedicated to making sure we implement Professional Learning Communities with fidelity. PLCs have made a true difference in our school district, helping to boost stu-

dent achievement in all student groups," said Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD superintendent. "Marsha Jones is to

Census . . .

Continued from Page 1
 every nonresponding address.

Census workers will usually make up to six attempts at each address to count possible residents. This includes leaving notification of the attempted visit on the door. The notification will include reminder information on how to respond online, by paper or by phone.

In addition, census workers may try to reach the

household by phone to conduct the interview. All census takers will have government-issued ID badges with a photo and U.S. Department of Commerce watermark. Residents may confirm their identities by calling 1-844-330-2020.

The 2020 Census will conclude data collection Wednesday, Sept. 30. For additional information or to complete a 2020 census, visit www.census.gov.

Alleged robber dies

Continued from Page 1
 The victim was able to still holding him at gunpoint, the suspect allowed the victim to remove some personal items from the vehicle. At this time, the victim was able to retrieve his own gun, and fearing for his life, turned it toward the suspect.

Both individuals exchanged gunfire, and each was struck at least once.

The victim was able to run away and call 911.

Paramedics responded to the scene and transported him to the hospital.

Officers found the suspect a short distance from the robbery scene, where he was pronounced dead.

At press time, no charges had been filed, the case will be referred to a Harris County grand jury.

City hosts grant

Continued from Page 1
 with a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization as co-applicant. Grant projects must represent a specific geographic area located within the Houston city limits.

The application deadline is Thursday, Nov. 6.

For additional information or to apply for the grant, visit houstontx.gov/neighborhoods/Matching-Grant-App-Packet-FY2021.pdf.

Dr. Smith planning retirement



Clear Creek ISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith (center) will retire at the end of this semester in December after serving 13 years in the position. Having spent 40 years in education, Smith said he made the decision to retire five years ago when he signed his last contract. The superintendent is shown above back in May 2019 presenting Teacher of the Year awards to Clear Brook High School's Alaina Garza (left), who earned the secondary teacher honor, and White Elementary's Lyzette Ruiz, who claimed the elementary school honor.

Voting controversy over fraud concerns

Continued from Page 1
 by preparing to send over 2 million ballot applications to many Texans who do not qualify and have not requested to vote by mail. This blatant violation of law undermines our election security and integrity and cannot stand. I will continue to fight for safe, fair and legal elections across the state."

Despite the recent ruling, Hollins said the county still plans to send out roughly 300,000 mail-in applications to voters 65 and older.

"The secretary of state and attorney general have made it clear that they don't want us to proactively send applications to voters," Hollins said. "They think making it convenient to apply is a bad thing. We disagree."

To be eligible to vote by mail in Texas, a voter has to be 65 years or older; have a disability or illness; be out of the county during the election period; or be confined in jail, with no conviction. Voters can go to www.harrisvotes.com to print out the application or call 713-755-6965 to request one. The last day to register to vote for the Nov. 3 election is Oct. 23 (received, not postmarked).

Early voting
 While state officials have declined to allow universal mail-in voting, Gov. Greg Abbott recently issued a proclamation extending the early voting period for the Nov. 3 election by nearly a week. Under this proclamation, early voting by personal appearance will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and continue through Friday, Oct. 30. The proclamation also expands the period in which marked mail-in ballots may be delivered in person to the county clerk's office, allow-

ing such delivery prior to as well as on Election Day. "As we respond to COVID-19, the State of Texas is focused on strategies that preserve Texans' ability to vote in a way that also mitigates the spread of the virus," said Abbott. "By extending the early voting period and expanding the period in which mail-in ballots can be hand-delivered, Texans will have greater flexibility to cast their ballots, while at the same time protecting themselves and others from COVID-19."

Voter registration
 There is still time for South Belt residents to register to vote in the Nov. 3 election.

To vote in Harris County, one must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election date. To change one's name or address, a completed and signed application is also required.

To register in Texas, one must:
 - Be a citizen of the United States.
 - Be a resident of the county in which the application for registration is made.
 - Be at least 18 years old by Nov. 3.
 - Not be a current felon.
 - Have not been declared mentally incompetent by a court of law.

Voter registration forms may be obtained online at www.hctax.net/Voter/Registration or by calling 713-274-VOTE (8683). Forms may also be picked up in-person at the Harris County Tax Office, located at 1001 Preston in downtown from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The completed forms are to be mailed to Ann Harris Bennett, Harris County tax assessor-collector and voter registrar, P.O. Box 3527, Houston, TX 77253-3527. Forms may also be returned to the downtown tax office.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)
 The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League held a general membership meeting to determine what method to use to split the league. The local league had been under fire for the past few years for violating the maximum population rule.

The Pasadena Independent School District continued to use drug detection dogs in all district secondary schools, despite a recent ruling by a Tyler judge the dogs allegedly invaded the privacy of a student there.

A Beverly Hills woman was found dead, apparently of a brain tumor. The 36-year-old had been dead for several hours when her maid found her and called emergency personnel at the Sagemont Fire Station.

35 years ago (1985)
 A local florist accepted food and clothing donations from area residents to send to the survivors of the Mexico City earthquakes.

Dobie High School orchestra director Bill Porter was selected Orchestra Director of the Year by the Texas Orchestra Directors Association.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for Beamer Towers located on Beamer Road and South Hill, adjacent to the Beamer Road Medical Building and across from San Jacinto College South and Southeast Memorial Hospital. Construction on the \$8 million project was set to begin shortly after the groundbreaking, with occupancy expected in June or July 1986.

30 years ago (1990)
 Miss South Belt Josie Stein was crowned Miss Junior Pasadena Rodeo Queen. Dobie Larriette Emily King won Junior Most Photogenic at the pageant. King was the 1989 Junior Miss South Belt.

After years of detouring off eastbound Fuqua trying to find a viable way to State Highway 3 and Pasadena, the final leg of Fuqua headed for the contractors' bids.

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable deputies ended a local auto theft ring with the arrest of five suspects and charges filed against one of them.

Numerous yellow ribbons were tied to trees, doors and

poles throughout the South Belt area to show support and symbolize prayers for young people involved in the Middle East conflict.

25 years ago (1995)
 The driver of a cement truck was transported to Hermann Hospital after the rear end of his truck was hit by a train near Highway 3 and Scarsdale Boulevard. An occupant of the train was taken to a Clear Lake hospital. None of the injured sustained life-threatening injuries.

A dedication ceremony was set for the Dr. Parker Williams Library at the center of the San Jacinto College South campus. Following the ceremony, tours of the two-story, 40,000-square-foot facility would be conducted, and light refreshments would be served.

A 14-year-old was hospitalized after being shot by a Woodmeadow resident who confronted the youth as he allegedly attempted to steal the man's car. The youth, who underwent surgery at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital for a gunshot wound to the leg, and his 14-year-old companion were charged with attempted car theft.

Teachers in the Pasadena and Clear Creek school districts received raises amounting to approximately 3 percent over the previous year's salary.

Four Clear Brook High School seniors, Melissa Johnston, Stephanie Keener, Elizabeth Tsai and Patricia Tsai, were named National Merit semifinalists.

20 years ago (2000)
 Brio Superfund Site remediation began.

Dobie graduate Kaycie Swain Czelusta was a contestant on Wheel of Fortune.

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce raised in excess of \$21,500 at the third annual Night of Cuisine held at Almeda Mall.

15 years ago (2005)
 The South Belt area along with all of Houston was preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Rita. Evacuation zones were established, and some residents reported being on roadways for as many as 30 hours while leaving. At the last moment, the hurricane took an easterly turn and landed near the Beaumont

area. Approximately 150 of the 400 personnel from the 147th Fighter Wing returned to Ellington Field after a tour of duty. The others were due back within a week.

An airplane crashed just south of Ellington Field. The engine had reportedly quit and the pilot was returning to the airport when it crashed, killing two occupants from the Austin area.

10 years ago (2010)
 The Clear Creek Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously 6-0 to appoint Donna Page Rander to fill the unexpired term for the District 4 seat through May of 2011. Former South Belt resident Stuart Stromeier resigned from the board in June after moving out of the district. He served six years as a CCISD trustee.

The Capital One Bank in the 11400 block of the Gulf Freeway was robbed. According to a spokeswoman for the FBI, the suspect wrote a note at the check writing stand and then approached the teller. He handed the teller a note which demanded money and threatened her. Fearing for her life, the teller removed cash from her drawer and gave it to the robber. The robber fled the bank on foot. No immediate arrests were made.

5 years ago (2015)
 After years of delays, the newly reconstructed South Shaver Street was unveiled to the public at a ribbon-cutting Sept. 22 hosted by Dave Martin, Houston District E City Council Member. The endeavor essentially reconstructed the aged street from the Gulf Freeway to State Highway 3/Old Galveston Road and was a joint venture between the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Houston and the Harris County Flood Control District. The project included widening the area throughfare from a four-lane undivided roadway with open ditches to a six-lane divided roadway with raised median, curb and gutter drainage, sidewalks, street lighting and improved underground utilities. The estimated cost of construction was \$13.5 million - 80 percent of which would be funded by the Federal Highway Administration and 20

percent of which would be funded by the city of Houston. Construction also involved extensive flood mitigation work, including the widening of Berry Bayou and building a 13-acre detention basin north of South Shaver Street. While the project had been in the works for roughly four decades, construction officially began in June 2014.

A pair of individuals with ties to St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church were among the select few chosen to greet Pope Francis on his first trip to the United States. Jennifer Naaden, who served as director of young adult and junior high youth ministries at St. Luke's, and the Rev. Alvaro J. Interiano, parochial vicar at St. Luke, were selected to join President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama Sept. 23 on the tarmac of Joint Base Andrews near Washington.

1 year ago (2019)
 The South Belt community was spared the brunt of Tropical Storm Imelda. Rains associated with the storm, however, caused street flooding and school closures. While some predictions called for the area to receive as much as 12 inches of rain, county officials said the actual amount was only about half that. The incident marked the first named storm to strike the Houston area since Harvey in August 2017.

Burnett Elementary received a library makeover from the stars of the hit HGTV show Property Brothers. The brothers, Drew and Jonathan Scott, unveiled Burnett's new and improved library during a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Sept. 12. The school was selected from 15,000 applicants, including 150 Texas schools, nationwide for the library renovation. Sponsored by Heart of America, HarperCollins and Kohl's, the renovation included a collaborative learning theater, 700 new library books, a check-in area and a Lego wall.

Each Burnett student also received two books. The brothers selected Burnett Elementary for showing "heart" during Hurricane Harvey and creating a safe space for students and their families whose homes were damaged.

Smith to retire Dec. 31

Continued from Page 1
 set, heart for children and willingness to bring people to the table for the good of the community."

Today, Clear Creek ISD is considered one of the largest high-performing school districts in Texas, while serving and leading more than 42,000 students.

In 2014, Clear Creek ISD was a finalist for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award and TASA Honor or Board Award. In 2013, Clear Creek ISD voters overwhelmingly approved a \$367 million school construction bond that led to the 1:1 tablet initiative and a \$487 million bond election in 2017 to build new schools and renovate old facilities.

Just this month, the school district, which employs more than 5,000 people, was named one of the top 100 workplaces in Texas by Forbes Magazine.

During his tenure, he has been named Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards; Top Administrator by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association; and Superintendent of the Year by the Texas PTA.

Outside of his work with Clear Creek ISD, Smith serves in several other local leadership roles. Smith is co-chair of the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium; president-elect for the Texas Association of School Ad-

ministrators; member of the Space Center Rotary Club; and former chairman for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP).

Smith and his wife Kathy are the parents of two daughters and grandparents to one granddaughter. The career educator said he has no plans of slowing his efforts to improve local education following his retirement.

The Clear Creek ISD school board has begun its search for Smith's replacement, holding a series of virtual meetings on the matter, seeking input from staff, parents and community members. Visit www.ccisid.net/superintendentsearch for information about the ongoing search.

Pct. 8 arrest results in 2 felonies

Continued from Page 1
 known man.

The victim told Precinct 8 dispatchers that the male had been following her in a silver Ford SUV from the area of Scarsdale Boulevard near the Gulf Freeway. As dispatchers kept her on the phone while deputies responded, the woman stated she was turning into a neighborhood and was still being followed by the man.

Upon arriving at a family member's residence, located in the Camino South neighborhood of Clear Lake, the woman exited the vehicle and ran inside the house.

The suspect, later identified as 37-year-old Anthony Quinn Hill, exited his vehicle as well and followed her to the front door of the residence. The victim stated that Hill was attempting to enter the home by force through the front door. Precinct 8 Sgt. M. Ford and Deputy J. Glover arrived on scene and observed Hill standing in the front yard of the residence. Glover subsequently detained Hill for investigation.

Upon speaking to Hill, he stated he met the victim at a red light, where he attempted to give her his Facebook information. He stated when she drove away, he followed her home.

After speaking with the victim, it was learned Hill had followed her for approx. 6.2

miles. She stated when she ran into the residence, Hill tried to enter the home by force. He was able to open the screen door and continued attempting to make entry into the wooden front door. Upon getting the door open, he made partial entry to the home before a male resident pushed against the door from the inside in an effort to keep Hill out of the residence. The resident and suspect got into a brief struggle by pushing against the door from each side.

Hill admitted to deputies that he had a knife and marijuana in his vehicle and told them he had smoked the synthetic drug "Kush" earlier in the day. A search of his Hill's vehicle led to the discovery of an open pocket knife in the driver's side door.

The Harris County District Attorney's office was contact-

ed and a second degree felony charge of burglary of an occupied habitation with intent to commit an assault was accepted. Hill was taken into custody and was transported to the Harris County Joint Processing Center. While on his way to the jail, Hill became enraged and began kicking and spitting while yelling several direct threats against Glover's life. This resulted in the DA's Office accepting an additional third degree felony charge of retaliation on a public servant.

Hill's bond has been set at \$75,000 for the burglary charge and \$50,000 for the retaliation charge. At the time of this incident, Hill was out of jail on bond for a previous aggravated assault of a family member case (stabbing) and was on deferred adjudication for a harassment of a public servant case.

Don't be a victim: learn self-defense!

In light of recent multiple muggings and assaults in the South Belt area, free online classes of self-defense are being taught by the American Society of Karate for teens and adults (ages 13-80). These classes are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the comfort of one's own home.

No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. To preregis-

ter, visit <https://tinyurl.com/askdefense> and fill out a short form.

For additional information on martial arts classes, visit www.AskKarate.com, email Online@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 17 through Sept. 23, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary
 Sing a melody of a happy birthday song to **Angi Fox** Sept. 20.

Burnett Elementary
 Break out the balloons and birthday cake Sept. 19 for **Nancy Guevara**.

Bush Elementary
 The day for a birthday gift for **Enrique Macias** is Sept. 18. Light the candles on a cake for **Vanessa Castro** Sept. 22.

Frazier Elementary
 Sing a chorus of a special birthday tune to **Chelsey Riemer** Sept. 17. Send a happy birthday greeting Sept. 20 to **Quynh Nguyen**.

Meador Elementary
 Blow out the birthday candles Sept. 17 for **Amy Clowers**. Marking a special birthday Sept. 23 is **Celeste Skipper**.

South Belt Elementary
 The day for a double-layer cake and ice cream for **Raquel Cavazos** and **Leslie Matthew** is Sept. 22.

Roberts Middle School
Rebecca Dietz and **Jose Robleto** enjoy a day of celebration Sept. 17.

Melillo Middle School
 Send a birthday greeting Sept. 19 to **Brittney Crawford**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
 Break out the party favors and birthday cake Sept. 22 for **Stacey Barber**, BHI principal.

Thompson Intermediate
 The day for a birthday celebration for **Pamela Crawford** is Sept. 17. Celebrating a birthday Sept. 21 is **Rosa Garcia**.

Dobie High
 Send birthday wishes Sept. 17 to **Alfred Valdez**. Light the birthday candles Sept. 19 for **Erica Ba** and **Crystal Stinson**. Happy birthday greetings are sent Sept. 20 to **Jacqueline Dickerson**. Share a slice of a double-layer cake Sept. 21 with **Jermaine Gasaway** and **Manuel Moreno Jr.** Blow out the candles on a cake Sept. 22 for **Monika Rivera**. The day for a party for **Denice Smajstrla** is Sept. 23.

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

Thursday, Sept. 17: **Michael Nevills, Fauna Santos, Alice Mireles, Xavier Sustaita, Jose Ochoa, Reggie Godbolt, Sandy Muse, Dean Konrad, Letty Lopez, Tracy Dukes, Sandra Sankey and Tara Johnston**; Friday, Sept. 18: **Carey Holder, Cathey Cox, Anthony Virgadamo, Leslie Cockerham**; Saturday, Sept. 19: **Tasha Ford, Diane Martinez, Carlos Melcher, Stacy Mayberry, Elyse Totten, Jo Ann Minchew, Porsche Lancelini, Roe Moreno, Rita Hernandez, David Bergeron, Gracie Bires, Michelle Griffin, Marisa Hartley, LaToya Oliver and Brittany Swanson**; Sunday, Sept. 20: **Bren Duh, Freddy Silva, Rebeca Sanchez, Doris Zacks, Nancy Naquin, Peggy Bennett, Keith Mercado, Sandra Buchman, Manuel Guerrero, Ricky Aquino, Dawn Sharpe and Catherine Windsor**; Monday, Sept. 21: **John Neal, Laura Arispe, J. Cruz Aannette, Cesar D'Agostino, Kim Kapsiak, Jennifer Paling, Susan Silva and April Carson**; Tuesday, Sept. 22: **Joe Garza, Larry Swann, Michael Rummel, Shawnie Moses and Gwen Ohman**; and Wednesday, Sept. 23: **Marcus Anthony, Carla McKay, Cheney Tamez, Gloria Tran, Cynthia Rodriguez and Lauren Allen**.

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.

HFD applications

Continued from Page 1
 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sept. 18; Oct. 16; Oct. 30; and Nov. 13 at the HFD Val Jahnke Training Facility, at 8030 Braniff Street near Hobby Airport.

Only online applications will be accepted. Access to the internet and to computer terminals may be found at any City of Houston Pub-

lic Library if open. Online applications will be accepted until all testing slots are filled.

To apply online, visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/houston (search for "firefighter trainee"). For more information, interested applicants may visit hfdcareers.org.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

PISD outlines game night stadium coronavirus safety protocols

Attending a live athletic event within the Pasadena ISD or any school district this 2020-2021 school year is simply going to require patience and understanding, and likely plenty of it.

Pasadena ISD officials are focused on 100 percent compliance with both Harris County- and University Inter-scholastic League-mandated safety protocols, including social distancing measures where it pertains to ongoing coronavirus concerns.

Simply put, fans who are allowed to attend events such as football games and volleyball matches may either feel like royalty or the survivors of a lottery drawing. It's just going to feel different. And masks/face coverings are required.

No mask, no entry. The UIL has currently mandated that sporting

School, for instance, they have a large (number of members) band. They will get first priority on attendance. When you consider the need for social distancing, the space gets smaller. That's just one of the many scenarios we have to plan for as a district."

With the mandate of a social distancing of six feet, Pasado ISD plans to allow for 900 bodies per stadium side, which includes accommodating for bands, drill teams, etc. Each week, his department will access how

many tickets may be issued to the public. Those tickets will then be available for online purchase only. There will be no tickets, monies or otherwise exchanges on the Veterans Stadium grounds.

Concession items such as soft drinks and game night snacks will be available, but must be individually wrapped and sealed per guidelines. Every effort will be made to make it a great experience for everyone involved, Pasado promised, but guidelines will be adhered to as closely as at all possible.

Jason has seen photos and heard second- and third-hand reports of social distancing measures allegedly not being followed at some of the Class A through 4A events that have played out to this point, and says everything will be done by his team to ensure Pasadena ISD doesn't end up in a similar light.

Whereas he has a game-night staff of 15 or so in a normal year, he has already planned for 50 this year. "We

are going to do everything we can to comply with the regulations that have been laid out to us.

When and if some of those guidelines are adjusted, we will adjust accordingly. We are going by what we have in place for now."

PISD is still ironing out its link information for on-line ticket sales as well as a site address for games being viewed via livestream on the internet. Jason said those details are coming very soon. Check www.pasadenaisd.org for updates.

As for high school volleyball matches, most of which will be contested within individual gymnasiums with far less capacity, the same guidelines were adhered to when play began.

Jason said that, in the case of volleyball, officials were to factor not overall seating capacity on a single sideline of bleachers, but instead how that total number played out within the social distancing measures.

While not wanting to be held to a number, Jason said it is possible that as few as 60 volleyball fans per side will be allowed at matches. And, tickets are only available through the district website.

"Each school district may do things a bit differently, but it's all focused on achieving the same goal," Jason said. "We all realize that school athletics have been absent since March.

"The kids deserve the opportunity to get back out there and continue within the sports they love. I think that whether you are a school district official, a parent, a student or casual observer, you want to do your part to ensure these kids and their coaches get that chance.

"We certainly have a plan in place to do our part."

PISD Stadium Guidelines

- * 900 bodies per side-bands, drill units first priority
- * Tickets available for online purchase only, no exceptions
- * Concessions available, individually-wrapped, sealed
- * No district issued or educator/admin. passes accepted
- * Stadium sideline access extremely limited
- * Livestreaming of games will be allowed

Visit www.pasadenaisd.org for updates on ticket sales, streaming, etc.

Intermediate sports action resumes

Not to be left out, student-athletes at Beverly Hills, Thompson and Pasadena ISD's other eight

intermediates will move forward this month. In fact, the PISD volleyball season is served up Sept. 17 with

Dobie golf seeks used clubs

The Dobie High School golf program is preparing to begin its 2020-2021 season, and the Longhorns are looking for some preowned or used clubs to help some players who need them this season.

Kevin Cross, the team's first-year head coach, said the program is in particular need of clubs designed for female players, but any donations will be accepted.

For more information or to reach Cross, direct email to kcross@pasadenaisd.org.

Intermediate Sports Resume

- Volleyball Sept. 17**
Beverly Hills at Jackson
Thompson hosts Park View
- Football Sept. 28-29**
Beverly Hills vs. Bondy
Thompson vs. Miller

Thompson hosting Park View and Beverly Hills at Jackson.

Both the football and volleyball length of schedules are shorter for 2020-2021, but PISD Director of Athletics Rupert Jason stressed the importance and excitement of returning to play.

The football season kicks off Sept. 28-29 with Beverly Hills taking on Bondy and Thompson going against Miller. Coronavirus-focused social-distancing measures will be enforced both on the field of play and in the fan attendance areas. The football season will encompass five weeks, and there is no post-season or playoffs for 2020. The volleyball season is six weeks in length, with no tournament play.

"We're going to make every effort to complete the seasons as they are scheduled," Jason said. "We recognize the importance of athletics for our intermediate students. If we have to miss a week due to a COVID issue or otherwise, we'll just move to the next week. But we are very optimistic about the intermediate seasons playing out."



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Dobie inching toward 2020 opener

COVID protocols focused

Coming off a 20-year best 9-1 regular season, one would think the Dobie varsity football program is focused solely on grabbing what would be a first district championship in the 6A class.

Yet pardon the entire program if that's the furthest thing from everybody's mind. Instead, the football program, like most across this nation, is aiming a good portion of its energy at safety protocols courtesy of the COVID-19 concerns.

It's a scenario playing out all over the state where Texas public schools are concerned. Between guidelines set forth by county and state

officials and those mandated by the University Interscholastic League, simply walking through a door two at a time is frowned upon, yet a necessary concern.

The usual routine simply isn't the usual routine, not now and who knows when.

In Dobie's case, most of the football players are attending school in person, yet there are those who have chosen to begin the 2020-2021 educational year virtually.

For those athletes, nothing athletically speaking happens prior to 2:45 p.m. most days.

Dobie head coach Kevin Berneathy acknowledged that

first and foremost he's thrilled to see footballs flying through the air.

After six months of very little to no action on Dobie's fields, there are signs of action.

Yet the long hours have and will continue to pile up. Whereas in a normal year, the Longhorns' football staff saw nongame days end at 6 p.m. or so, those same days now extend another hour or so.

As it is, Dobie, selected by "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" as the favorite to win the championship in District 22-6A is underway, and that's a great thing.

The preseason goals remain

much the same. Stay healthy and find a way to improve each day. Dobie is set to scrimmage against Clear Springs, and Berneathy has only a couple of focuses.

"We are really young and inexperienced on the offensive and defensive fronts, so you're always a little concerned about seeing growth in those situations as the season gets closer," Berneathy said.

"But honestly, we are all just excited to see the kids compete.

"They've been away from the football field for a long time. Conditioning and getting closer to being in football

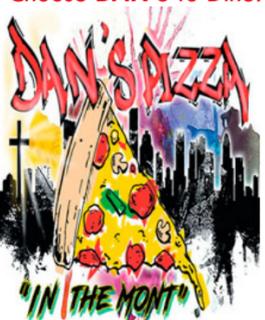
shape this week has been a focus."

As of today, the season opener is eight days away. If this were 2019 or any other year for that matter, the sole focus of Dobie's would be on Jersey Village, the team's opening night opponent.

Right now, though, most programs are focused on simply running through the tunnel and getting on the field for kickoff.

When that time comes, it'll be time to think about the opponent.

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Excited to be back, JFD VB busy at it

The Dobie volleyball program seemingly worked double time in preparation for the regular season. With three scrimmages ahead of the regular season opener Sept. 15 at Baytown Sterling (after press time) and now matches coming Sept. 18 at Summer Creek, the Sept. 19 home opener against Spring and another road match at C.E. King to finish off an eight-day whirlwind of action, it's a wonder anyone associated with the program had a chance to take a breath.

Still, there weren't any sad faces seen anywhere. The reality is high school volleyball is back, and the Lady Long-

horns, like surely all of their peers across the state, are thrilled to be back on the court.

"We are beyond excited to be able to start our season," Dobie head coach Dawn Sexton said days before the Sterling opener. "We finally get to play someone other than ourselves."

Dobie is set to play six non-district matches prior to the District 22-6A opener against Channelview Sept. 29. The priority, of course, is challenging for the league title later this season, but that doesn't mean Dobie, even in the midst of ongoing coronavirus protocol measures, isn't focusing on the here and now.

"Before we begin district play, we are focusing on, first, keeping everyone safe and healthy," Sexton said.

"We have some new faces (at the varsity level), so we are going to try and get them in ((match action) early before district play begins. Giving them playing time early in the season will help us once district play begins."

Continued on Page 6



Veteran linebacker Alexander "A.J." Garcia (19) and other experienced defensive returnees will look to show the way early on as the Dobie varsity football program ushers in several new faces along the defensive front. Early on in workouts, everyone involved within the program spent time adjusting to coronavirus protocols.
Photo by David Flickinger

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Dobie's Campa runs off with win in debut

Credit Alberto Campa with doing his part to practice social distancing as he and his Dobie teammates, including the Lady Longhorns, took part in the opening week of the cross-country season Sept. 11 at La Porte's Northwest Park. Campa, a state qualifier in

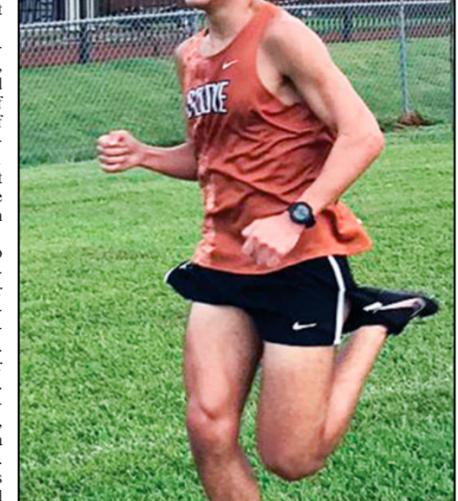
2019 and one of the region's top returning seniors, ran away from the pack in the Division I 3,200-meter run, cruising to the win at 9 minutes, 54 seconds. Second place went to La Porte's Sergio Lara, who led the host Bulldogs to the overall team championship with

his time of 10:03. Dobie did not enter the requirement of at least five to qualify for the team standings. The Longhorns' Robert Montano also started strong, taking 15th overall at the 3,200-meter distance at 11:22. Dobie senior Amari Single-

ton also picked up where she left off a season ago, grabbing the third overall spot in the Division I 3,200-meter varsity girls' event at 12:25. Teammate JoJo Olivares was fourth in the same event at 12:26. The Lady Longhorns' Grace Castaneda just missed a top 10 slot, settling for 11th at 13:18.

At 13:25, Dobie sophomore Ashley Garcia was 14th, and Karissa Hernandez wound up 25th with her clocking of 14:09. Abby Duron's time of 14:25 was 27th-best and Veronica Ramirez's time of 14:41 gave her the 37th overall spot as the Lady Longhorns were second to La Porte in the team standings.

The Lady Longhorns also performed very well in the junior varsity girls' 1,600-meter race as junior Presley Pina collected the second overall medalist spot with her time of 6:36. Annemarie Johnson of Deer Park was the champion at 6:36. At 6:57, Dobie's Angelica Medina was sixth-best, and Jennifer Gonzalez had a time of 7:02 for eighth place. Nicole Jasso of Dobie was 16th in a time of 7:21, and a time of 7:48 gave Jasmine Mooney 27th place. Lesly Cruz (8:01) and Valerie



Bracing for a longer race, Dobie's Alberto Campa easily won the season opener at La Porte's Northwest Park, winning at 9 minutes, 54 seconds.

JFD netters enjoy tennis reboot despite rough start

The wins and losses didn't really play a huge role on opening weekend, what with Dobie facing two bonafide Region III powers and another really good squad. As for those wins, Dobie's varsity team tennis squad grabbed one in four tries while playing the likes of Kingwood, Clear Creek and Clear Brook over the course of three days to open the season.

The team's win came via a 15-4 dismantling of La Porte, which the locals also defeated in last season's bidistrict playoff round. "It was hot for everybody, but playing four matches in three days was almost too much right out of the gate," Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said. "We are normally used to having a couple of weeks to practice as a full team

and get acclimated, but this year we are basically just on the go." Dobie began the season Sept. 10 with a 12-7 loss to former District 22-6A two-time champion Kingwood and then opened the Remembering Ike Invitational with a 17-2 loss to Clear Creek.

After beating La Porte 15-4, the Longhorns lost the consolation final to Clear Brook by a 17-2 count. Dobie went up against Pearland in a nondistrict matchup Sept. 15 after 22-6A foe Channelview bowed out of the season due to coronavirus concerns. The Longhorns are to host Pasadena Sept. 22 in league play, and team

officials have already told Moreno the Eagles may not be able to field a full team due to those same coronavirus concerns. "We just have to navigate this season the best we can," Moreno said. "I certainly understand that some families prefer that their kids not play because of the virus," Moreno said. "I'm just excited for the kids who are out here working hard."

"Win or lose, they are enjoying being around their teammates and having that team experience again after being off the court since March. I could tell they were having fun with it, that and being part of a team."

Dobie team tennis returns to action
JFD hosts Pasadena
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2:30 p.m.

JFD volleyball ready for season

Continued from Page 5
If there are advantages to be had in these times on the volleyball court, the Lady Longhorns did welcome back several key veterans from 2019 who are being asked to steady things, especially early on. Senior Victoria Thomas led the team in kills in 2019 and leads things on the outside attack along with Alayna Gonz-

lez, another senior returnee. Junior Keasia Robinson could be a force in the middle, and setters Natalie Onozie and Cadie Masterson both excelled a season ago. "This team has good chemistry and play well together, so I'm eager to see what we can do before district begins," Sexton added. The Lady Longhorns en-

tered the offseason with a vacancy at libero, but Sexton is confident multi-sport standout Abby Duron, who played quite a bit as a junior, is more than up to the task. "She will fill the role nicely with her experience from last year. (Duron) is a softball and cross-country runner, so she is quick to the ball and moves extremely well," Sexton said. "Having an experienced roster has been a bonus, especially this year since we didn't get to see kids that much over the summer," Sexton said. "By already knowing our system, it was more fine tuning than teaching. The returners have helped the newcomers understand the expectations that we have in our program. They have welcomed them with open arms and are excited to compete."

Dobie Volleyball Is Back
Dobie at Shadow Creek
Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Dobie hosts Spring
Sept. 19, noon
Dobie at C.E. King
Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m.

Dobie High School Varsity Volleyball Roster

- 1 *Alayna Gonzalez, OH, Sr.*
- 2 *Maya Scott, RS, Jr.*
- 3 *Monserrat Alba, OH/RS, Jr.*
- 4 *Keasia Robinson, MB, Jr.*
- 5 *Abby Duron, Lib, Sr.*
- 6 *Natalie Onozie, S, Jr.*
- 8 *Ariana Garcia, MH, Fr.*
- 9 *Cadie Masterson, S, Sr.*
- 10 *Bella Perez, DS, Soph.*
- 11 *Alexa Gonzalez, S/OH, Fr.*
- 12 *Precious Oko, RS, Sr.*
- 13 *Victoria Thomas, OH, Sr.*
- 14 *Casey Junkin, DS, Sr.*
- 15 *Khadryan Caldwell, MH/RS, Sr.*
- 16 *Marisa Soto, RS, Sr.*
- 17 *Ashlee Garcia, DS, Soph.*

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CALENDAR

Due to the current public health situation, it is advisable to verify if meetings are still being held prior to attending. Since Gov. Greg Abbott has initiated Strike Force for the reopening of Texas some groups have resumed their meetings. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the area, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings>. To access the schedule for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com. For a list of Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - Although the bridge club is closed at this time, visit the website <https://acblunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for details about online games or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for additional information.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Virtual meeting Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Information for the event is accessible on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.

7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday service at 9:30 a.m. on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the web address <https://zoom.us> with the Meeting ID 917 102 8979 and the Passcode 18csh1818. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-friday.html>. For the general website, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday service at 9:30 a.m. on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the web address <https://zoom.us> with the Meeting ID 917 102 8979 and the Passcode 18csh1818. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-friday.html>. For the general website, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group meets at noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

<https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/>. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective 3/16/2020, to ensure its members continue their journey to becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page menu located at www.youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com to obtain access to the virtual meeting platform. For additional information or to be notified of in-person meetings, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group meets at noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For information, call 713-686-6300.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., is held at First Presbyterian Church in the youth building, located at 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518) in Pearland. For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners

Group meets at noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For additional information, call 713-686-6300.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.
7 p.m.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Virtual meeting Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Information for the event is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group meets at noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For additional information, call 713-686-6300.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., is held at First Presbyterian Church in the youth building, located at 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518) in Pearland. For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.

6:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website,

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., is held at First Presbyterian Church in the youth building, located at 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518) in Pearland. For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.
7 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Park and Community Center (new location), 11507 Hughes Road. For additional information or for the meeting online, call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., is held at First Presbyterian Church in the youth building, located at 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518) in Pearland. For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.

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

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Dobie9 students return to campus



Students above are seated in compliance with social-distancing guidelines while they wait for classes to begin.



Jeremiah Deleon (left) and Mike Van Essen, Dobie9 principal, share an "air hug" on the first day back to campus.



Above, students walk in single file in the same direction as they switch classes during the day. Shown left are students walking to class, following the directional decals on the floor to ensure social distancing while in the stairwells. *Photos by Maria Mata*

Applications accepted for students on the 2020-21 YPAC

The Houston Police Department is inviting Houston-area high school students to apply to serve on the 2020-2021 Youth Police Advisory Council (YPAC). Students who serve on the

YPAC committee will address issues affecting youth and the community, participate in community service projects, and attend youth leadership conferences throughout the state.

Additionally, the YPAC committee meets regularly with Chief of Police Art Acevedo and other top HPD officials. YPAC members are required to meet five times

during the school year at the HPD Edward A. Thomas Building at 1200 Travis in downtown Houston. Applications are available online. The deadline to apply is Monday, Oct. 5, 2020.

For additional information, visit <https://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/ypac.htm>, email rhonda.holmes@houstontpolice.org or call Rhonda Holmes at 713-308-3200.

Atkinson welcomes back students



Donna Koonce (left), Atkinson pre-K teacher, watches her students Samantha Gomez (front), Angel Nguyen (middle) and Amyiry Johnson line up via social distancing.



Helping Truper Smith, a first-grade student, find his class are Lena Ortiz (left), Atkinson principal, and Sheri Graham, first-grade teacher.



First-grade teacher Sheri Graham (left) and pre-K teacher Donna Koonce pose for a picture before students arrive.



Fourth-grade teacher Tulu Sarkar is shown preparing for the beginning of the school day.



Tracy Nguyen smiles as she opens her computer for the start of the day. *Photos by Terri Salazar*

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