

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Thursday, January 28, 2021

Email: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

[www.southbeltleader.com](http://www.southbeltleader.com)

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### COVID deaths hit 100

As of Wednesday, Jan. 27, there were now 100 confirmed deaths among South Belt residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials. Of the 4,237 confirmed cases in 77089, 835 remain active, while 3,357 have recovered from the virus. To date, 45 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, one more than the previous week. In 77075, 564 of the 3,111 confirmed cases remain active, while 2,520 have recovered. A total of 27 from the ZIP code have died, up to from the previous week. Of the 3,267 confirmed cases in 77034, 541 remain active, while 2,698 have recovered from the disease. To date, 28 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there are 304,333 total confirmed cases. Of those, 249,861 have recovered from the disease, while 51,563 cases remain active. A total of 2,892 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

### Pct. 2 makes arrest

Deputies from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office recently assisted the Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force from the U.S. Marshal's office in arresting a fugitive in the area of Pearland Parkway and Beltway 8.

The wanted male had three outstanding warrants for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Upon his arrest, officials located 30 grams of methamphetamine, 60 grams of PCP and nearly \$3,000 in cash.

The male suspect was also charged with an additional felony of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver charge.

Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia has placed an emphasis on putting more deputies on the streets. "Please know that we are here for you," Garcia said in a Facebook post. "Stay safe and God bless you all."

### Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from the Gulf Freeway to SH 288 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, Feb. 11. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Red Bluff Road to Pasadena Boulevard through 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

### Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 to FM 518 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31. Closures may affect two lanes of traffic and include alternate entrance and exit ramp closures. At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31. The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

### K of C hosts BBQ Sale

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will host a barbecue chicken plate sale Saturday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (or until food runs out each day) at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. Food will be sold in the rear parking lot and will be drive-thru only. The cost is \$10 per plate. Each plate will include a chicken leg quarter, barbecue beans, potato salad and a drink. Proceeds will benefit St. Luke the Evangelist Church.

### PLT shows 'Love Letters'

As a pre-Valentine's gift to patrons, Pasadena Little Theatre will show "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney through Jan. 31.

Patrons will follow Melissa and Andy's relationship through letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences. As the actors read the letters aloud, what is created is an evocative, touching, frequently funny but always telling pair of character studies in which what is implied is as revealing and meaningful as what is actually written.

Prices for seniors and students are \$12; regular and online are \$15; and tickets are \$18 at the door. For more information, visit [www.pasadenalittletheatre.org](http://www.pasadenalittletheatre.org).

### Photographer arrested

Pearland police arrested a male suspect accused of taking "upskirt" photos of unsuspecting female victims at the H-E-B in the 2700 block of Pearland Parkway at FM 518. While the suspect's name remained unreleased at press time, authorities said he was charged with making invasive visual recordings.

The arrest came after the Pearland Police Department and multiple media outlets released surveillance footage of the suspect. According to investigators, the incident(s) took place at approximately 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20. Police are seeking any additional information about the alleged suspect.

Anyone with further information is urged to contact Detective R. Paquette at 281-997-4249 or [rpaquette@pearlandtx.gov](mailto:rpaquette@pearlandtx.gov).

### Sagemont groups meet

The Sagemont Civic Club and maintenance committee will have a joint meeting Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Gardens at 7 p.m. All Sagemont residents are invited. Call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

## Education board filing open until Feb. 12

Filing for the upcoming May 1 school board elections is currently underway and will continue through Friday, Feb. 12.

To be decided are four spots on the Pasadena ISD board, two spots on the Clear Creek ISD board and three spots on the San Jacinto College District board.

### Pasadena ISD

Up for grabs in Pasadena ISD are the Position 1 seat, currently held by Fred Roberts; the Position 2 seat, currently held by Mariselle Quijano; the Position 3 seat, currently held by Nelda Sullivan; and the Position 4 seat, currently held by Jack Bailey.

At press time, Quijano and Sullivan were the only current board members who had filed to maintain their positions. Roberts, who has held the position since 1993, said he does not plan to run again.

In the Position 2 race, Quijano is being challenged by Al Bledsoe; in the Position 3 contest, Sullivan is being challenged by Yen Huynh Rabe; and both Salvador Serrano Jr.

## Roberts reflects on 28 years with PISD

Longtime Pasadena ISD board member Fred Roberts is not seeking re-election after serving for 28 years.

"It may be time for a new face," Roberts said. "The board will be left in safe hands."

Roberts was first elected to the board in 1993. He currently serves as its secretary.

A Pasadena native, he attended Southwest Texas State University. Roberts is a general insurance agent licensed in 34 states with nationwide clients.

A longtime member of Sagemont Church, Roberts is married to wife Vicki, a 1978 graduate of Dobie High School. They have four children, Zachary Roberts, Sara Roberts Tompkins, Jacob Evans and Jordan Evans, who have all attended Pasadena schools, with three graduating from Pasadena ISD.

In 2014, a Pasadena ISD middle school was named in Roberts' honor.

Roberts said he plans to sit out a year before

and Crystal Davila have filed to run for the Position 4 seat.

The *Leader* has learned that Rabe, a long-time former PISD teacher, intends to recruit a team of fellow educators to run for all open spots. At press time, not all potential candidates had done so.

A 14-year teacher at Pasadena High School, Rabe previously ran for a position on the board in 2019. She currently teaches at Chavez High School in Houston ISD.

Terms are four years.

For additional information on the Pasadena ISD election, visit [www1.pasadenaisd.org/school\\_board/election\\_information/election\\_-\\_may\\_1\\_\\_2021](http://www1.pasadenaisd.org/school_board/election_information/election_-_may_1__2021).

### Clear Creek ISD

There are two board positions up for grabs in Clear Creek ISD.

To be decided are the District 4 seat currently held by Page Rander, the District 5 spot currently held by Jay Cunningham, and the At Large Position A seat currently held by Jennifer

Brodde.

The 2021 Clear Creek ISD election comes fresh on the heels of the recent Nov. 3 board election, which had been delayed from the previous May due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In that contest, District 2 trustee, incumbent

Win Weber was defeated by challenger Michelle M. Davis, while District 3 trustee position incumbent Arturo Sanchez defeated challenger Jason Clark.

For additional information on the upcoming

Continued on Page 2

## Roberts to leave PISD after 28 years



Pasadena Independent School District trustee Fred Roberts, in a rare serious moment, is shown here with wife Vicki at the dedication of the Fred Roberts Middle School April 28, 2016.

## Final look at the year 2020

This is the final installment of looking back at 2020.

### Oct. 8

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and the Siemens Foundation awarded San Jacinto College with the Excellence and Equity in Community College STEM Award for the college's associate degree nursing and process technology programs.

Moore Elementary staff member Christina LeTran was named the Houston Area Association for Bilingual Educators' ESL Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2019-2020.

### Oct. 15

Personnel from the Harris County Pct. 2 Constable's office on Monday, Oct. 12, assisted U.S. marshals in the arrest of an alleged sex offender in the 11600 block of Chickwood. Led by the federal Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force, the law enforcement team was serving a warrant out of Travis County for aggravated sexual assault of a child. The suspect, David Nguyen, was arrested without incident. Nguyen, 73, was transported to the Pasadena Police Department Jail, where he was turned over to the Marshals Task Force.

### Oct. 22

A home invasion took place Friday, Oct. 16, in the 10300 block of Redbrook. According to investigators, two to three suspects were believed to be involved in the crime. No injuries were reported, and no immediate arrests were made.

### Oct. 29

A fatal auto-pedestrian crash took place

Thursday, Oct. 22, in the 10600 block of Highway 3/Old Galveston Road near Beltway 8. According to police, the victim was walking north in a moving lane of traffic at the above address when he was struck by a maroon GMC Sierra. The male driver, 56, immediately stopped, called police and attempted to administer CPR on the victim. Houston Fire Department paramedics arrived and pronounced the victim dead at the scene. The driver did not show signs of intoxication and consented to a blood draw. He was subsequently released.

### Nov. 5

The results from the Nov. 3 general election were tallied, with few surprises at the local level. In the race for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable, Democrat Jerry Garcia easily defeated Republican opponent Daniel Vela to fill the seat formerly held by Chris Diaz. State Rep. Dennis Paul, whose District 129 encompasses much of the South Belt area, kept his position, handily defeating Democratic challenger Kayla Alix. State Sen. Larry Taylor also maintained his Senate District 11 seat, easily defeating Democratic challenger Susan Criss. In the race to replace outgoing Rep. Pete Olson for the U.S. House District 22 position, Republican Troy Nehls defeated Democratic challenger Sri Kulkarni.

Officers from the Harris County Attorney's Office reportedly entered Constable Chris Diaz's Precinct 2 headquarters the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 4, to secure documents pertaining to an alleged illegal eviction that occurred in South

Continued on Page 3

## Man dies after falling out of pickup

The Houston Police Department is investigating the fatality of a man who reportedly fell out of the bed of a truck in the 12500 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua around 10:55 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23. The identity of the deceased male, 21, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

A witness told investigators the victim was in the bed of an unknown white truck that was driving at a high rate of speed, while possibly jumping up and down prior to the accident. According to investigators, the witness then lost sight of the truck, before later seeing the victim's body in the southbound lanes of the freeway at the above address.

## Perry Homes donates \$1M to parks

The City of Houston's 50/50 Park Partners initiative recently announced its corporate sponsors that have pledged major gifts in support of the public-private park improvement project.

The 50/50 Park Partners initiative was created by Mayor Sylvester Turner. He asked the Greater Houston Partnership, Houston Parks Board and Houston Parks and Recreation Department to bring together a citywide coalition of business partners to provide ideas, monetary contributions, in-kind support and volunteers to improve neighborhood parks.

Perry Homes has signed on as the program's pacesetter with its gift of \$1 million. Other 50/50 Park Partners include Chevron, Valero Energy Foundation, Community Health Choice, Crown Castle and H-E-B. Park Partners will each provide funding and in-kind volunteer services that in turn will improve and steward neighborhood parks. Additional funding will come from the

City of Houston.

"I want to thank all of our corporate sponsors for joining the 50/50 Park Partners initiative as we transform 50 neighborhood parks across Houston," said Turner. "2020 reinforced the importance of parks in healthy, vibrant communities. I am proud to see our city come together to bring long-term improvements to our beloved neighborhood parks."

The city has begun hosting community listening sessions on 11 neighborhood parks as part of the 50/50 Park Partners initiative. As community engagement is a guiding principle of the initiative, these sessions are an opportunity for nearby neighborhoods to provide input on potential projects and work with Park Partners to prioritize funding. Feedback gathered during individual sessions will be used to provide information for the park improvement plan.

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## Miriam Williams turns 106



Longtime South Belt resident Miriam Williams celebrated her 106th birthday last month. She and her late husband, Duncan Williams Jr., first moved to South Belt in 1962 and returned after enjoying retirement at Toledo Bend and Colorado. Miriam has seen amazing changes during her life, having experienced everything from riding to town in a horse-drawn buggy from her family's farm in Nebraska, to working at NASA and seeing men walk on the surface of the moon. Miriam also worked for the FBI during WWII and for Continental Airlines. She lived in the Philippines for a number of years. Miriam now lives with her son and daughter-in-law, Duncan III and Jackie Williams, respectively, in Pearland. She enjoys visits from granddaughter Holly Lyons and her husband John and great-grandchildren Abi, Jackson and Will from the Austin area.





# Melillo announces spelling bee winners



Melillo Middle School announced the winners of the 2020-2021 campus spelling bee. The competition was held Dec. 17. The competition included face-to-face students and virtual learning students. The winner will compete in the virtual district spelling bee Feb. 9.

# Atkinson hosts nursing home drive

Atkinson Elementary recently donated 137 new blankets and 297 new pairs of socks to Park Manor of South Belt, as part of a drive hosted by the school. This marks the first year that Atkinson has hosted the drive and organizers made sure that all were able to participate. "We wanted to include every student, face-to-face and virtual, along with staff members," said Andrea Luna, a dyslexia and intervention teacher at Atkinson.



Delivering the donated blankets and socks are, left to right, Ashley Havard, Park Manor employee; Jennifer Arevalo, Park Manor employee; Lini Abraham, Atkinson counselor; and Andrea Luna, Atkinson dyslexia teacher.

# Roberts looks back at 28 years serving PISD

Continued from Page 1 filled with several highs, he said it has also been met with many lows, recalling one incident in which a high school football player died of a heart attack. "When you become a school board trustee, those kids become a part of your family." Roberts takes pride in the fact that only three superintendents have served in Pasadena ISD during his 28 years on the board, whereas the average duration is closer to only three years, he said. He additionally lauded the school district for keeping its payroll competitive with neighboring school districts during his tenure.

# Melillo announces honor rolls

Melillo Middle School officials announced the second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year. **Fifth grade** Alondra Aguilar, Fabian Almazan, Annie Andrews, Dario Antunez, Gissella Arellano, Lilliana Armenta, Jesiah Avendano and Valerie Aviles. Abrey Banda, Leah Basilio, Carlos Beltran, Melissa Betanco, Luke Bhatti, Nicholas Black, Ta'lia Burton, Ambrianna Bustos and Victor Cacho Martinez. Jeison Cacho Martinez, Ashby Caniff, Gianni Cardenas, Daisy Clara Deblas, Isaac Cumpian, Elaine Daniel, Brian Dao and Paulina Davila. Angelica Elizalde, Juan Escalante, Carlos Flores, Avigail Franco, Ryan Galang, Adrian Garcia Jasso, Alejandro Garfias Villarreal, Jessie Garza and Devland Guillory. Natalia Guzman, Myranda Hernandez, Lexi Hernandez, Khloe Hinojosa, Erik Hoang, Lariah Houston and Brandon

# Dobie High second honor roll named

Continued from Page 3 Leon, Juanmanuel Leon, Jenika Kimora Lim-Tom, Greydi Nineth Logan, Ashly Nicol Lopez, Hector Lopez, Santiago Lopez, Hoang Long Luu and Ivan Ray Mariscal. Emily Lylana Martinez, Eayana Kayleen Martinez, Yair Alejandro Martinez, Yessenia Mata, Braxton Kile Mayo, Tashjae Breasia McCann and Zachary Pierce McKenzie. Angelica Marie Medina, Cindy Medina, Julissa Melenciano, Jacob Anthony Mikulski, Kori Sanaa Miller, Connor Mohwinkel, Maria Jose Hernandez, Andrea Nicole Montano and Jacob Aidan Montez. Alena Amelia Morin, Anthony Reyes Morin, Alexandra Elizabeth Moya, Isela Viviana Munoz, Mia Renee Naranjo, Anthony Dwayne Newsome, Anh Quynh Nguyen and Daniel Nguyen. Dylan Thai Nguyen, Huyhoang Huy Nguyen, Jonathan Nguyen, Kelly Thy Nguyen, Mason Lam Nguyen, Ngoc Bao Chau Nguyen, Ngoc Tran Ky Nguyen and Ryan Duc Nguyen. Steven Trieu-Phi Nguyen, Thai Ha Anh Nguyen, Vivian Mai Thanh Nguyen, Vy Vu Tuong Nguyen, Luis Angel Nieves, Carlie Nicole Nix and Samantha Marie Olivares. Haley Rose Olsen, Ju'dah Elatryce Lashaughn Orobiji, Dominic Martin Ortiz, Steven Manuel Oviedo, Ingrid Berenice Passasin, Sydnee Elise Pector and Jordan Willie Peralez. Bella Grace Perez, Erin Jean Raizza Perez, Sofia Leonor Perez, Sophia Nicole Perez, Jaden Duy Pham, Dang Huynh Nhat Phan, Vivian Phan and David Pichardo. John Stewart Pozo, Jerry Marrell Pradia, Nathan Alec Proctor, Linda Anneth Pulido, Sandra Alexa Quiroz-Catalan, Alissa Star Ramirez and Antonio Ramirez. Destiny Leanne Ramirez, Sandy Reyes, Jacob Anthony Reyna, Anneliese Nicole Richardson, Yoselin Rico, Ezequiel Rivera, Curtis Lee Rivers and Ronaldo Rodriguez Roman. Fabian Alexander Rodriguez, Mariana Abril Rodriguez, Marissa Rojas, Irene Anna-Marie Romero, Fermin Giovanni Rostro, Eva Juliet Rubio, Emily Salazar and Leyla Rebecca Salazar. Jessica Saldana, Alisa Rosalinda Sanchez, Charles Daniel Sanchez, Evelyn Sanchez, Nya Simone Sanford, Ciera She'vonne Santee, Emerson Alexandro Sarabia, Rainy Day Sciba, Karina Serrano and Brianna Solares. Skilar Renee Somerville, Hayling Minerva Staine Fernandez, Carrick Lashawn Stearns, Emilee Rayne Sulak, Savannah Rosetta Taplin, Alexis Brienne Taylor and Justin Thannhlem Thach. Cornell James Thompson, Trinh Phuong Tieu, Maria Avenelle Tipton, Jade Tran Tu Nguyen, Irene Torres, Karen Torres, Luis Enrique Torres, Rachel Marie Torres and An Huyen Tran. Britney Ngoc Tran, Carol Kim Tran, Vien Dieu Thi Tran, Khanh Nguyen Kieu Tran, Khoa Ly Anh Tran, Martin Tran, Thang Nguyen Tran and Tiffany Thuy Trang Tran. Vincent Vu Anh Tran, Camden Malik Turner, Giselle Valencia, Yana Victoria Valencia, Alan Vargas, David Vidal, Ashley Villagomez and Katherine Villarreal. Robert Enrique Villatoro, Cardin Nguyen Vo, Khang Bao Vo, Natalie Anh Thu Vo, Lay Nhoc Vong, Khoi Tran Viet Vu, Minh Ngoc Vu, Phu Ngoc Thien Vu and Kimberly Vuong. Ariana Leaiy Walls, Kaitlyn Elisabeth Webb, Travis Alexander Webb, Maria Angelina Wence, Evelyn Paige Wheeler, Jacob Marcellus White and

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

ANGELA ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY Bobby and Kenneth Griffin send birthday greetings to daughter-in-law Angela Griffin, who celebrates a birthday Feb. 2. BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR KARMA Birthday wishes are sent Feb. 2 to Karma Wright, former Leader staffer, from her family, friends and staff at the Leader. OWEN ENJOYS 12TH BIRTHDAY! Owen Michael Flowers celebrates his 12th birthday on Wednesday, Feb. 3. Best wishes and lots of love, hugs and kisses are sent to Owen from big sister Kennedy, little sister Evie, parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers, grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents and Mike and Karen Flowers of Dickinson; uncles Tyler, Austin Scarberry, Joey, Wesley, Travis and Josh; aunts Jenny and Christine; and cousins Brayden, Baylee, Olivia, Jade, Lily, Sierra, Ryker, Connor, Jesse, Christopher and Mason. Owen's mom is a 2005 Dobie High School graduate. LOUIE AND JACKIE ENJOY 62 YEARS Congratulations are sent to longtime South Belt residents Louie and Jackie Weiss who celebrated a happy 62nd wedding anniversary Jan. 23. Their family says, "Wishing you both many more years of love, happiness and

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis

health. Love, Heidi, Louie and Kara plus all the spouses and grandchildren Cody, Louie, Arianna, Ameila and Jence." **SCHOOL DAZE** The following staff of the Pasadena ISD celebrate birthdays Jan. 28 through Feb. 3, 2021. **Burnett Elementary** Kateri Williams enjoys a birthday Feb. 1. **Genoa Elementary** Sing a happy birthday song to Francisca Tarango Jan. 29. Light the birthday candles Feb. 2 for Anita Thibodeaux. **South Belt Elementary** Break out the party favors and balloons Jan. 28 for Kayla Elmore. Join in the birthday fun Jan. 30 with Lauren Hughes. Remember to wish Jessica Arnold a happy birthday Feb. 3. **Stuchbery Elementary** Lety Gonzalez marks a birthday Jan. 30. The day for a party for Emma Tsikis is Jan. 31. **Melillo Middle School** Sing a happy birthday song to Kelly Jurek Jan. 31. Send a special birthday greeting Feb. 3 to Esmeral Cuellar Feb. 3. **Beverly Hills Intermediate** Feb. 2 is the day for a celebration for Cynthia Wright. **Dobie High** Steven Casteel and Elke Cerre share a birthday Jan. 30. Special birthday wishes are sent to Laura Guerrero Jan. 31. The day for cake and ice cream for Frank Mora is Feb. 1. Break out the balloons and party favors Feb. 3 are Garland Ganter and Veronica Oyervides. **FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS** Thursday, Jan. 28: Daryn Edwards, Toni O'Bryan, Chris Valvaneda, Nealda Whitley, Lewis Cambiaso, Edgar Ramirez and Jennifer Hernandez; Friday, Jan. 29: Stephanie Martinez-Hinton, Yvonne Moffitt, Margarito Rivera, Debra Dorn, Lauretta Massicott and Holly Conrad; Saturday, Jan. 30: Bill Heavin, Karen Price, Kimberly Istre, Kristen Mata, Christine Cline and Amy Reichelderfer; Sunday, Jan. 31: Maria Olvera, Erica Bush, Veronica Tanguma-Mejia, Ernie Banks, Josh Keim, Angeles Rios, Maria Zuniga and Craig Thompson; Monday, Feb. 1: Danice Oliver and Lee Terry; Tuesday, Feb. 2: Liza Upshaw and John Scheschuk; and Wednesday, Feb. 3: Garland Ganter. **LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS** Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, put "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.



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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Spring athletics to continue instating COVID-19 safeties

As the high school sports scene continues with basketball and soccer games and nears the start of baseball, softball and track and field action, both participating athletes and their coaching staffs and visiting fans will be reminded that COVID-19 precautions remain in place.

It's all in the name of safety and health for everyone involved as the world continues to navigate the pandemic as well as possible.

The University Interscholastic League, the official governing body of extracurricular activities in Texas, continues to mandate the wearing of masks or face coverings and the enforcement of social distancing practices at its events.

Padadena ISD Director

of Athletics Rupert Jaso and his staff have been pleased with the cooperation shown by fans visiting both district athletic sites such as Veterans Stadium and Phillips Field House as well as Pasadena ISD school campuses since social distancing measures began at the beginning of the school year.

While he stresses that district officials are in no way aiming to play the role of enforcer or rules-maker, a little cooperation goes a long way.

"We certainly recognize that none of this is convenient, but it's necessary and it's the rules and guidelines that the UIL has set forth.

"I have told numerous coaches and staff that it is what it is unfortunately. At the end of the day, our goal is to have the athletics

season proceed as safely as possible for as long as possible, and we're all just doing the best we can to ensure that happens."

As the high school softball season nears at the Pasadena ISD complex and baseball plays out at Maguire Field in Pasadena, all fans will be encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings at all times.

Rows of stands will be designated with either red or green markings to acknowledge seating areas at all facilities, including those on school campuses.

Athletes, coaching staff and all team support personnel will be required to wear face coverings when not taking part in live action. This includes dugouts, bullpens and other warm-up and practice areas.

Athletes competing on the fields are not required to wear face coverings, but will certainly be allowed to do so.

The track and field scene will also feature a different look.

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Dobie guard Aynaiya Jones (20) challenges Chanvelview's Deneisia Winslow (2) from the top of the key during the first half of the Lady Longhorns' easy win, which pushed the locals to a commanding 9-0 mark in District 22-6A action.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## SBHLL 2021 sign-up to include in-person

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has added some in-person registration opportunities while continuing online sign-up for the upcoming 2021 spring season.

The in-person dates include Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., both at the league's facility at El Franco Lee Park.

League officials have noted that all those who register now will be considered to be on a waiting list as registration fees will not be collected until final 2021 playing site details are finalized.

The 2021 registration fees are \$75 per player in the junior t-ball division, \$150 per player in the t-ball division, \$165 per player for coach pitch action, \$170 per player in the minor division, \$175 per major division player and \$200 per player for those in the league's junior/se-

nior division.

There is also a \$100 fundraising/raffle that families will be required to cover.

Those who wish to register their youth for the Challenger (reserved for those with disabilities) may do so free of charge.

To register conveniently online, visit the league's website at [www.sbhll.org](http://www.sbhll.org).

At present, the SBHLL home playing complex at El Franco Lee Park remains closed to team activities such as baseball, softball, soccer and football due to coronavirus concerns.

However, SBHLL officials have been encouraged to plan to play at El Franco Lee Park while remaining flexible with a start date.

For additional information or assistance, reach out to the league's email address at [SBHLL@hotmail.com](mailto:SBHLL@hotmail.com).

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### Dobie boys steady ship

## Lady Longhorns eye perfection within 22-6A

It's make-or-break time across the state on the high school basketball scene, with some teams looking to win district championships and others fighting just to get in to the playoffs later in February.

With five games remaining in the District 24-6A boys' race, Clear Lake, now ranked 22nd in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class 6A state poll, is holding off the rest of the field.

The Wolverines, 17-1 overall and 6-1 in league play, were atop the standings heading into a Jan. 27

game at Dickinson, with the Gators at 5-2 along with surging Clear Springs also at 5-2.

Clear Lake, responsible for Brook's lone defeat to this point, has slipped to 4-3 in the standings.

So the Wolverines have gotten this far and now seemingly face their toughest stretch yet to close out the race.

Dickinson ruled the District 24-6A race over the previous four seasons with a 48-4 record and four district titles during the Tramon Mark era.

But Mark is now a

freshman at the University of Houston, and the Wolverines are looking to hold on to supremacy in District 24-6A.

**JFD girls in control**

Back in action Jan. 27 after press time, the Dobie varsity girls' team has built off a couple of tough non-district victories during the Christmas break and is in clear control of the District 22-6A race at 9-0.

A pair of juniors, post KeKe Robinson and guard Victoria Rivera, have led the way in the scoring column, with Robinson at 15 points and 6.2 rebounds

per game and Rivera averaging just over 12 points and six rebounds per outing over the last five games.

The Lady Longhorns have also gotten nearly 10 points and five rebounds a game from freshman guard Gwendlyn McGrew over the same five-game stretch.

But the Lady Longhorns have also excelled defensively, holding Channelview to nine second-half points in a big win.

Make no mistake, Rivera has drawn consider-

able collegiate interest and Robinson likely has collegiate opportunities in any of three sports, the Lady Longhorns represent team.

"I believe the girls have recognized that we have to play together to be able to win," Dobie head coach Jasmine Hartman said.

"They have been putting 'We over Me' and bringing hustle, fight and energy together. They are

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### Preseason under way

## Baseball, softball set after lost season

Just about 11 months after being unceremoniously removed from competition by the pandemic, the Dobie baseball and softball programs are certainly ready to get back to action.

The Lady Longhorns will scrimmage at the Pasadena ISD Complex Feb. 2 against Dickinson and again Feb. 9 against Clear Creek before opening the regular season Monday, Feb. 15 at Clear Brook.

And after losing a large senior class following a

9-2 start to the 2020 season, the Dobie baseball program is also ready to get back to action beginning with scrimmages Feb. 6 at Alvin and Feb. 8 at Angleton.

Noah Torres will return to help out in a big way in the field and on the mound, and Mikey Torres will also return.

Expect the Dobie varsity girls' softball team to go title hunting this season - as in the District 22-6A title - as the Lady Longhorns return a cast of top performers from a 13-4 team in 2020 before the stoppage.

Head coach Robin Rackley watched as the Lady Longhorns put on quite the offensive show on most nights. And a considerable amount of that production has returned.

There's Leslie Longoria, back for her final season after being a first team all-district performer as a junior. Hitting lead-off, Longoria hit .429 and scored 20 runs.

Jasmin Benitez, now a senior, hit .400 with 16 runs batted in, and sophomore Bella Perez hit nearly .400 as a freshman with 15 runs scored. She was a second team all-district se-

lection in 2020.

The Lady Longhorns will also benefit from the return of Yessenia Pena, who hit .531 with 29 runs batted in on her way to a first team all-district selection.

And there's Karlie Barba, a .532 hitter with 18 runs scored and 21 runs batted in as a sophomore. She was also a first team all-district pick in the District 22-6A ranks.

As if that weren't enough, freshman Marisa Perla burst on the scene as a freshman in 2020, going 8-1 in the circle with a 2.46 earned run average.

Perla also more than delivered at the plate as she hit .483 with 10 runs batted in on her way to second team all-district status. Bella Perez, a second team all-district player, is also back.

## No. 12 Gator baseball opens with three wins

The San Jacinto College baseball team returned to action with three wins in four games in its 2021 season-opening series against Baton Rouge.

Thomas Burbank, Lex Garcia and Walker Bordovsky combined for 12 strikeouts on the mound and Mason Lytle, Chase Adkinson and Armani Sanchez had multi-hit games as the Gators topped Baton Rouge 6-1 Jan. 22 in the opener from John Ray Harrison Field in Houston.

The Gators, ranked 12th nationally in the National Junior College Athletic Association's preseason Division I poll, will host the program's annual Tournament of Champions Jan. 29-31.

While no fans will be permitted at John Ray Harrison Field, the games will be livestreamed on [www.tsnports.com](http://www.tsnports.com) as the Gators host Odessa, Howard, McLennan and Weatherford over the three days. SJC won three of four in the series.

## Dobie volleyballers named all-academic

The Greater Houston Volleyball Coaches Association has honored nine Dobie varsity players as part of its 2020-2021 All-Academic team.

Monserrat Alba, Khadryan Caldwell, Abby Duron, Casey Junkin, Cadie Masterson, Precious

Oko, Natalie Onozie, Bella Perez and Mya Scott of Dobie were named to the GHVCA honor list.

With these players also providing key roles during the 2020 varsity volleyball season, Dobie finished second in the District 22-6A standings.

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# Brook, Dobie basketball teams look to close strong



Dobie's Kentavious Dixon (1) and Johnathan Baldwin (0) battle Memorial's Jordan Obewimo (30) for a rebound as Memorial's Julius Coefield (23) looks on during Dobie's key 57-51 win Jan. 19 as the rest of District 22-6A looked to keep pace in the standings.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

**Continued from Page 5**  
 simply 'all in,' which makes the biggest difference."

### JFD boys chase Eagles

The suddenly-hot Dobie varsity boys' team was to make one last push at

Pasadena in the top spot in District 22-6A, taking on the Eagles Jan. 27 after press time.

A win by Dobie would cut the Eagles' lead to just one game with three to play.

Should the Eagles prevail, the squad, 8-0 for the first time in district play in 28 years, would be well on its way to a top seeding in the league, with the Longhorns pushing for second place.

## San Jac softball gets offensive

San Jacinto College celebrated a return to competitive softball by opening 2021 with five wins in six games, including two against the nation's second-ranked program, in Youngsville, La., Jan. 22-24.

Some of San Jacinto's roster has remained from the remnants of what was a very strong start to 2020 before the shutdown.

With quite a few first-year players as well, the Coyotes went out and took care of business.

Things opened Jan. 22 with a 13-7 victory over Northwest Florida State as Alexis Uresti led the way with a 5-for-5 effort at the plate with three runs scored and a pair of runs

batted in. Tamera McKnight, a key returnee from 2020, was 3 for 5 with three runs scored and four batted in. She had a homer and a double.

Maddy Bailey drove in five, also socking a home run, and Cat Cavazos was the winning pitcher as she came on in relief and struck out 10 over six innings.

Despite an 11-10 loss to Mississippi Gulf Coast, Bailey had four hits in five at bats, and Gabby Cantu was 3 for 5 with two runs driven in. Jules Garcia had a pair of hits and three runs batted in.

San Jacinto defeated preseason No. 2 ranked Chipola 8-7 as Abby Forrester was 3 for 4 with

three runs batted in. The Coyotes led 8-0 early on and hung on for the win.

San Jacinto then got past McLennan 8-6 as Lexi Saenz was 2 for 5 with two runs scored and two more driven in.

Garcia was 3 for 3 with three runs scored and two batted in as Cavazos again got the win in relief with five solid frames.

A 9-7 win over Chipola came next as Uresti homered and drove in four, and Garcia was 3 for 3 with three runs scored. Ronni Grofman got the pitching win.

In an 18-11 win over Northwest Florida State, Saenz homered and drove in four runs as the locals went 5-1 overall.

## COVID-19 protocols continue

**Continued from Page 5**

High school meets may have as many as eight boys' and girls' teams involved, nothing more. Intermediate track and field meets will be limited to either four boys' or four girls' teams per meet.

Pasadena ISD's Brown Relays will be held Friday, Feb. 12, with each of the district's five high schools involved in addition to

three other nondistrict boys' and girls' programs.

At this time, there are no event preliminaries planned, with only "finals" being held. It's just the way things go in 2021 due to COVID-19.

Bear in mind that more than 10 months ago, these spring sports were halted and never continued, it's important to focus on the big goal.

"Everybody wants these young student athletes to have the opportunity to compete in a safe environment," Jaso said.

"Thanks to the cooperation of a lot of people to this point, we have been fortunate to reach this point in the school year with only a few setbacks."

"We've been fortunate to a large degree, and we are hopeful it continues."



The Lady Longhorns' KeKe Robinson (23) defends against Channelview's Kenadee Lane (15) during the second half of the Lady Longhorns' 52-29 victory over Channelview as the locals stayed unbeaten in league play and atop the 22-6A standings, allowing just seven points in the second half.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Sports notes, news items

### Hall of Fame scholarship applicants sought

Pasadena ISD high school students are encouraged to apply for the PISD Athletics Hall of Fame scholarship award, presented annually to deserving students.

Sponsored by the PISD Education Foundation, the scholarship award will be presented later this spring. The deadline to submit applications for the two scholarships totaling \$2,500 each to one deserving male student and one female student is March 26.

To access the application, visit [www.pasadenaisd.org](http://www.pasadenaisd.org), choose departments, choose athletics and then choose hall of fame scholarships 2021. For more information or help with accessing the scholarship online, call 713-740-0838.

### Harris scholarship fund accepting donations

Barry E. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund co-founder Shane Brown is accepting donations to help fund the 2021 scholarship that will be awarded to a deserving Dobie High School student in May.

The fund is in honor of Harris, who was a longtime educator at Dobie High School and supporter of Pasadena ISD athletics. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 65 due to complications from cancer.

Brown is also raising donations for the Harris scholarship fund by taking part in a 1.5-mile run beginning Feb. 19 as he will complete as many 1.5-mile loops over a 48-hour time span as possible. For additional information or to donate, direct email to Brown at [rbrown@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:rbrown@pasadenaisd.org).

### Lajaunie tennis tourney seeks funds

Event organizers are busy with early plans for the 10th annual Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund tournament, with 2021 fundraising efforts underway.

While the 2020 event did not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Lajaunie fund awarded two youth scholarships as well as six others to deserving Dobie High School senior tennis players.

As for 2021 fundraising efforts, those are being accepted both on the Lajaunie tournament site on Facebook at Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund as well as [www.DLTennisScholarships.com](http://www.DLTennisScholarships.com).

For additional information on donations or tournament sponsorship opportunities, call tournament founder Camille Lajaunie at 281-480-6933.

### Delgado an assistant coach at Lamar



Sebastian Delgado, a Class of 2020 Dobie High School graduate, is believed to be the youngest assistant tennis coach in the NCAA ranks as the 18-year-old Lamar University freshman is an assistant coach with the university's women's tennis program in Beaumont. During his playing career at Dobie, Delgado ascended to the No. 1 boys' singles slot and was a team captain.

## JFD varsity boys' soccer begins quest to win seventh straight crown

**Dobie boys vs. Pasadena**  
 Monday, Feb. 1  
 5:30 p.m., Veterans



At right, Dobie's Isaac Cortez (10), working against Alvin's Alexis Leon (14) in the Pasadena ISD Cup earlier this season, has registered three goals and an assist as the Longhorns' varsity boys' soccer program has opened the 2020-2021 season with a 6-0-1 record through the nondistrict portion of the schedule. The Longhorns canceled their final nondistrict matchup against Atascocita Jan. 22 and went up against Channelview Jan. 26 after press time in the District 22-6A opener for both programs. Dobie is aiming for a seventh consecutive league crown dating back to the 2015 season under head coach Justo Manrique.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Melillo Middle School honors 2020-2021 Big Shoot-Out winners



Melillo Middle School recognized its Big Shoot-Out contest winners, who won their schoolwide competition. Melillo's winners included, left to right, Romeo Gill (sixth grade), Alexis Martinez (sixth grade), Jaxon Moham-

med (fifth grade) and Kailynn Scott (fifth grade). Due to Covid-19 concerns, the usual Pasadena ISD districtwide competition is on hold until further notice.



