



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 45 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, February 18, 2021 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 46, No. 3

### Schools closed

At press time Wednesday, Feb. 17, it was announced that all local schools, including Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek ISD and San Jaccollege, would remain closed through the end of the week due to the extreme winter weather. Initial plans called for closing campuses on just Monday, Feb. 15, and Tuesday, Feb. 16, but the closures were extended, as conditions remained dangerous later in the week. Several area residents remained without power on Wednesday, adding to the decision, as even virtual learning would be impossible for many students.

### Dobie Cheer tryouts

There will be a mandatory parent meeting for parents and students on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Dobie main cafeteria. For questions, email Amber Allen at aallan@pasadenaisd.org.

### COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, Feb. 17, there were 107 confirmed deaths among South Belt residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, up four from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 4,741 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 444 remain active. To date, 47 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, an increase of two from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 360 of the 3,495 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 29 from the ZIP code have died, up one from the previous week. Of the 3,609 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 282 remain active. To date, 31 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 338,284 total confirmed cases. Of those, 303,996 have recovered from the disease, while 31,123 cases remain active. A total of 3,147 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.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus).

### Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from SH 225 to Vista daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through March 4.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Spencer Highway continuously through 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

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

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 1.

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

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

The 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.

### KC hosts drive-thru fish fry

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, will host a drive-thru fish fry Fridays, from Feb. 26 to March 26, 4 to 7 p.m. in the rear parking lot. Dinner consists of a breaded USA catfish fried fillet, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob, French fries, tartar sauce and a drink. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities.

Cost is \$10. Cash and credit are accepted. All money raised will benefit KC local and community projects.

## South Belt hit hard by cold, ice, loss of electricity

The South Belt area was struck by a hard freeze Monday, Feb. 15, and Tuesday, Feb. 16, with temperatures dipping into the teens.

The National Weather Service declared the event as a Winter Storm Warning. A wind-chill temperature of 5 degrees was reported at Hobby Airport early Monday. Other nearby areas experienced wind-chill temperatures of near-zero degrees.

The freezing conditions forced the closures of local schools and several businesses.

Both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD remained closed through Wednesday, Feb. 17. Face-to-face Pasadena ISD students were instructed to take home their electronic devices so they could study virtually, should Wednesday's on-campus classes also be canceled.

While the winter storm was difficult for many, several South Belters revealed Monday, as the area received some rare snowfall, with many social media users posting photos of their experiences.

Icy road conditions forced the closures of many freeways. Officials reported hundreds of vehicular accidents, including a 10-car pileup on the Gulf Freeway just south of downtown early Monday.

Despite the problems in other parts of the city, issues in the South Belt community were relatively limited, as most residents heeded the advice of local officials to stay at home and only drive if absolutely necessary.

Thousands of residents were left without power due to the freeze. Other locations, including the Leader office, lost the use of water.

ERCOT declared the freeze its highest emergency level and initiated intentional rolling blackouts to conserve power. Thousands of others, however, were left without power due to equipment failure associated with the frigid temperatures.

Some criminals took advantage of the situation to victimize others, as there were reports of crooks impersonating CenterPoint Energy workers to gain entry into homes of people without power in order to rob them.

The City of Houston opened the George R Brown Convention Center as a shelter for the area's homeless, so they could escape the cold. While METRO was initially transporting affected individuals to the facility at no charge, all busing operations were suspended Monday, as officials deemed conditions too dangerous.

The city also opened several warming centers throughout the area for those without homes or without power. One homeless man reportedly died Monday after refusing to be taken to a shelter.

As some of the ice melted Monday afternoon, many South Belt residents were scrambling to find open stores to provide necessary supplies and food. A handful of local stores did open with limited hours to supply the demand.

Many area residents took to social media to discuss which local stores were open and which ones weren't. With limited openings, some stores

became far more crowded than usual. Some online users reported a line at the Scarsdale Burger King of being approximately two blocks long.

For the City of Houston's latest up-to-date emergency alert information, visit [houstonemergency.org/winter-weather-february-2021](http://houstonemergency.org/winter-weather-february-2021).

### Water boiling mandated for area

A boil water notice has been issued for the City of Houston's Main Water System.

The water pressure dropped below the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's required minimum of 20 PSI during the arctic winter weather event starting at noon Feb. 16.

The boil notice also applies to residents serviced by the Clear Lake City MUD and the Clear Lake City Water Authority, as both entities also get their water supply from the City of Houston.

Residents should boil water for at least two minutes, officials said.

Individuals without power to boil water are advised to use bottled water.

Houston Public Works has received reports of low water pressure, and officials ask the community to conserve water in the area.

The public is advised to minimize water usage for health and safety and discontinue use of sprinklers, washing machines and other nonessential activities that require water usage.

City officials expect pressures to improve and to have stabilized pressures back into the operational range before the end of the day Thursday, Feb. 18.

Residents with questions about this matter, should contact 311 or email [waterquality@](mailto:waterquality@)

Continued on Page 2

### Elections set; SJC has no election

The deadline to file for a position on the ballot in the upcoming May 1 school board elections was Friday, Feb. 12.

Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek ISD and the San Jacinto College District will all hold elections.

Four spots on the Pasadena ISD board are to be decided, including 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.

Quijano and Sullivan are the only incumbents who filed to maintain their positions, as Roberts and Bailey are not seeking re-election. Both incumbents are facing opponents, as Quijano is being challenged by Crystal Davila for the Position 2 seat, and Sullivan is being challenged by Yen

Huynh Rabe and Sunil Nepal for the Position 3 spot.

Candidates Salvador Serrano Jr., Noble J. Alix Jr. and Paola Gonzalez Fusilier have all filed to fill the Position 1 seat, while Casey Phelan, Al Bledsoe and Areef Bhuyan have all filed to fill the open Position 4 spot. 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).

Three 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 1 seat.

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### School still avoiding meeting with Paul

The proposed meeting between state Rep. Dennis Paul and officials from the controversial charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision have still yet to be solidified.

According to sources familiar with the event, school officials have been uncooperative.

The Elite College Prep Academy - Riverstone, located Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, has remained half-constructed for several years, causing complaints from residents who view the property as an eyesore. Construction on the new campus came to a halt more than a year ago - well before the current COVID-19 scare.

This is not the first time work has stopped on the school, as construction has been fraught with problems since work began in 2015.

The school made citywide headlines in April 2015 when it was revealed that the school was not following city codes.

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### Dobie Winterguard announced



J. Frank Dobie's 2021 Dobie Winterguard has been named. They are, left to right, (front row) Eleezabeth Torres, Trinity Tucker, (back row) Chris Cantu, Penny Hernandez, Paul Vu and Cassidy Idele. Photo by Michael Acosta



The South Belt community was struck by a hard freeze this past week, forcing the closure of local schools and businesses. The frigid conditions caused several residents to lose power and the use of water. Officials from the Clear Brook City MUD, Sagemeadow MUD and Kirkmont MUD worked diligently to maintain the flow of water. The Clear Brook City MUD building near Blackhawk and Scarsdale is shown above with a rare layer of snow on the property. Photo by Marie Flickinger

### Abbott names Houston mass vax site

Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 10 announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is establishing three mass community vaccination sites throughout the state, including one at NRG Stadium. The site will be capable of administering more than 10,000 shots per day, officials said.

The other two locations are AT&T Stadium and Fair Park in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The sites will be operated by FEMA in partnership with the state of Texas through the Texas Division of Emergency Management and local officials.

Preparations and build-out of these three locations is now underway, and the sites are expected to be open to eligible members of the public beginning Feb. 24. Registration details for appointments at these locations will be announced in the coming days.

"These mass community sites will allow us to expand access to COVID-19 vaccinations in underserved communities and help us mitigate the spread of the virus," said Abbott. "Thank you to our partners at FEMA for working with the State of Texas to establish these vaccination sites and help us protect our most vulnerable."

This sentiment was shared by FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Robinson.

"Our state and local partners have made an

extraordinary effort in the vaccine rollout. These sites are another opportunity to work together and assist in the vaccine administration," said Robinson. "We are making progress, but the job isn't complete until everyone who wants a vaccine receives a vaccine."

The goal of establishing these joint federal pilot sites is to continue to vaccinate more Texans in an efficient, effective, and equitable manner, with an explicit focus on making sure that communities with a high risk of COVID-19 exposure and infection are not left behind. The state will closely monitor vaccination uptake at each of these sites and will work with local and federal partners to make real-time decisions to ensure the best utilization of the additional vaccines that have been made available. Mayor Sylvester Turner is grateful for FEMA's efforts.

"On behalf of all Houstonians, I thank the White House for its plan to establish a COVID-19 mass vaccination site at NRG Park in Houston," said Turner. "Getting the vaccine into the arms of as many people as possible as quickly as possible is vital to ending this pandemic and saving lives. We look forward to working with FEMA, the Texas Division of Emergency Management and Harris County to iron out the details, including registration and access. We must work collaboratively to get the vaccine into the arms of all Houstonians as quickly as possible."   
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### HCAD tax study shows high accuracy

The Harris County Appraisal District has received the results of the Texas Comptroller's 2019 Property Value Study, which provides an unbiased review of the district's appraisal performance.

"The study is the only truly independent measurement of how accurate and fair HCAD's work is, and I'm pleased to report that the appraisal district passed with very good marks," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

The study found that overall, the district achieved a median level of appraisal of 98 percent. The target level is 100 percent. Approximately 12,400 properties were reviewed for the study.

"This means our appraisals are extremely accurate and uniform, with almost 75 percent of properties appraised within 1 percent of the true value."   
Continued on Page 8

### Cyclist killed near Edgebrook

A cyclist was killed in a crash Sunday, Feb. 7, in the 8900 block of Easthaven Boulevard near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

The identity of the victim, 54, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to police, the driver of a gold Chrysler Town and Country minivan was traveling south on Easthaven at Clearwood Drive around 2:45 p.m. when he struck the victim, who was on

a bicycle traveling in an unknown direction.

The victim was transported to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake in critical condition. Doctors pronounced the man dead the following day, Monday, Feb. 8.

The driver of the Chrysler remained at the scene and was questioned and released, pending further investigation.

No charges had been filed at press time, as the investigation is continuing.

### Driver's license renewal rules set

The Texas Department of Public Safety recently announced the waiver on expiration dates for driver licenses and identification cards ends on April 14. Customers who need to renew are urged to make an appointment or renew online as soon as possible.

The waiver, granted by Gov. Greg Abbott in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applied to DLs, commercial DLs, commercial learner permits, ID cards and election identification certificates that expired on or after March 13, 2020.

"Driver License employees have worked diligently to help Texans during challenging times and should be commended for their dedication," said Steven McCraw, DPS director. "The Driver License Division has innovated to better serve constituents by implementing a new appointment solution to improve services and by providing extended hours at several locations across the state."

Online renewals

Many Texans are eligible to skip the trip to the office entirely by renewing their DL/ID card or changing their address online at [Texas.gov](http://Texas.gov). Customers can also renew by phone at 1-866-DL-RENEW (1-866-357-3639). The requirements and cost for online and phone renewal are the same as in-person transactions.

Expanded office hours

To assist customers needing in-office DL services, designated high-volume offices are offering expanded hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday.   
Continued on Page 8

## Abbott names Houston vax site

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 ratively to vaccinate as many people as possible and in a targeted way to include a diverse population.”

**City of Houston**  
 The Houston Health Department re-opened its COVID-19 vaccine waitlist Friday, Feb. 12, for people age 65 and older, people age 60 and older with chronic health conditions and people with disabilities.

Those who qualify may call the department's Area Agency on Aging at 832-393-4301 to leave a voicemail with their name and phone number. Calls will be returned for screening and scheduling as supply is available. People only need to leave one message.

The department paused adding people to the waitlist Jan. 29 after receiving approximately 70,000 calls. There are currently about 10,000 people on the list.

An additional 9,000 first doses of vaccine arrived at the department on Friday and another 1,900 were anticipated for early the next week. Of the new allotment, 6,729 are for the department's Area Agency on Aging, 3,974 for providers

in underserved communities and 197 for previously scheduled appointments during the week of Feb. 15.

The department's vaccination sites were closed Monday and Tuesday due to inclement weather.

People with appointments on those days will be contacted to reschedule.

People can register for the HoustonRecovers subscription of AlertHouston, houstonemergency.org/alerts, to learn about new appointment opportunities through email, text message, voice call or mobile app push notification.

### Second doses

The department will schedule 4,784 second doses next week by reaching out via text message and email with links to self-register.

People with internet or technology challenges and those who don't receive a message should contact the COVID-19 call center 24 to 48 hours before Moderna's recommended 28-day due date.

If a resident's contact information has changed since they received the first dose from the health department, they should alert the call center at 832-393-

4220. People vaccinated by the health department during the week of Jan. 18-23 will be scheduled for second doses from Feb. 17-20.

The department currently provides the Moderna vaccine, with the second dose recommended 28 days after the first dose. Updated guidance from CDC says it should be administered as close as possible to 28 days but can be scheduled up to 42 days after the first dose.

The department provides second doses only to people who it provided a first dose.

### Doses administered

As of the end of the day on Feb. 11, the Houston Health Department received a total of 53,150 first doses, administered 37,912 first doses and transferred 14,690 to other providers.

The department received a total of 27,300 second doses, administered 15,740 second doses and transferred 4,260 to other providers.

For the latest information about COVID-19 vaccinations through the Houston Health Department, visit HoustonEmergency.org.

## Businesses must render property

The Harris County Appraisal District has begun the process of mailing personal property rendition forms to businesses known to have been operating in Harris County during 2020.

The appraisal district will continue offering its free workshop sessions to help business owners complete the required personal property rendition forms before the April 15 filing deadline. This year the district will conduct eight online workshops with individual sessions starting March 10. Registration is now open at [www.head.org](http://www.head.org) > Online Services > Rendition Workshops.

Participants can sign up for an available 30-minute time slot to meet individually with appraisal district staff who will answer questions and provide one-on-one help completing the form. There is no charge to attend.

For those who own tangible personal property used to produce income, they must

file a rendition with the Harris County Appraisal District by April 15. A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable personal property owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business such as furniture and fixtures, supplies, raw materials, and business vehicles, vessels and aircraft.

“Those who attend these workshops will consult individually with appraisal district staff who will explain personal property taxation and rendition requirements, as well as answer questions about completing the rendition forms,” said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. “These sessions have been very successful in the past and have helped business owners complete their renditions on the spot.”

All business owners are required to file renditions whether or not they have received notification. Businesses that fail to render or that

render late are subject to a 10 percent tax penalty. Filing a fraudulent rendition carries a 50 percent penalty if found guilty.

State law permits business owners to obtain an automatic extension of the filing requirement by submitting a request in writing by the April 15 filing deadline. The extended deadline for such businesses would then be May 15.

For new businesses, or those that have not received a rendition, a rendition form is available on the appraisal district's website at [www.head.org](http://www.head.org) under the “Forms” tab along with information on the rules of the process or on the rendition workshops sign-up page mentioned above.

Business owners with questions about the rendition requirements are encouraged to attend any of the workshop sessions, call the appraisal district's Information Center at 713-957-7800 or email [help@head.org](mailto:help@head.org).

## Immigrant COVID guide available

The City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods recently announced the publication of its COVID-19 Guide to City of Houston Resources for Immigrants and Refugees, a new online multilingual resource.

Produced by the department's Office of New Americans and Immigrant Communities, the guide provides basic COVID-19 prevention and recovery information for hard-to-reach residents at high risk for contracting the virus.

The guide is available in the languages most spoken in Houston, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Arabic, French and English. “Immigrants and refugees across the City of Houston have been disproportionately hard-hit by COVID-19,”

said TaKasha Francis, Department of Neighborhoods director. “We want to reach those communities to stress the importance of getting tested, address questions and misinformation about the vaccine and connect them to directly needed recovery services such as food assistance, help with evictions and immigration services.”

This point was reinforced by Terence O'Neill, ONAIC Manager. “The pandemic has made it difficult to reach these communities at highest risk for contracting COVID-19,” said O'Neill. “One of the challenges we face in reaching immigrants and refugees is the language barrier, for many are non-English speakers.”

The guide features FAQs

about COVID-19 symptoms, testing, contact tracing and vaccines. It also directs residents to agencies that offer recovery resources such as food and PPE supplies, rental assistance, legal guidance, help with immigration matters, services for people with disabilities and social service referrals.

The city also offers language access assistance for non-English speakers and American Sign Language interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing at testing and vaccination sites.

To access the guide, visit [www.houstonemergency.org/covid19translated](http://www.houstonemergency.org/covid19translated).

For COVID-19 news, weekly testing sites and vaccine updates, visit [www.houstonemergency.org/covid19](http://www.houstonemergency.org/covid19).

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

## Water boiling mandated for area

**Continued from Page 1**  
 houstontx.gov.

For a link to a Google Map of the impacted area, visit <http://bit.ly/boilwaternotice2021>

Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within a mile of the potentially affected area should use only water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at

least one minute for all personal uses, including drinking, cooking, bathing and tooth brushing.

Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling.

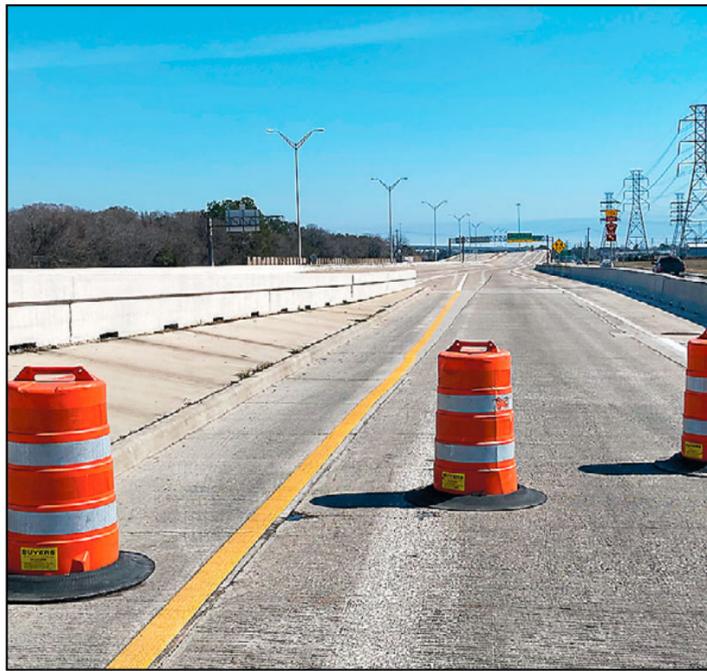
Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their

water supply distributor to determine if the water is safe for personal use.

The public should avoid contact with waste material, soil or water in the potentially affected area.

If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil or potentially affected water, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.

# Wintertime in the South Belt area



Freezing temperatures and icy road conditions forced the closures of several area streets and freeways this past week, until officials deemed them safe to travel on. Shown above, county workers used barrels to close Beltway 8 near the Gulf Freeway on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Photo by Davy Flickinger



With only a handful of area stores and restaurants open during the recent winter storm, lines were exceedingly long at the locations. Shown above, dozens of cars are in line to eat at C&D Burger Shop on Fuqua on Wednesday, Feb. 17. The above line wrapped around to Beamer.

Photo by David Flickinger



With thousands of residents without power and heat, there was a particularly high demand for firewood to stay warm. Perhaps the only line longer than that of the few local restaurants that remained opened during the winter storm was Dan's Tree Service, located at Hughes Road and Beamer, with the queue stretching around the block. The owner is shown above dumping a new load of firewood on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Elections set; SJC has no election

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 tion A seat currently held by Jennifer Broddle.

In the District 4 race, Rander is being challenged by Jeffrey Allan Larson; in the District 5 contest, Cunningham is being challenged by Christine Parizo and Keith Thomas Esthary; and in the At-Large Position A race, Broddle is being challenged by Jonathan Cottrell, Michael John Creedon, Marlene Montesinos and Keven Oditt.

Terms are up to three years.

For additional information on the Clear Creek ISD election, visit [www.ccsid.net/explore\\_c\\_c\\_i\\_s\\_d/board\\_of\\_trustees/board\\_election\\_information](http://www.ccsid.net/explore_c_c_i_s_d/board_of_trustees/board_election_information).

## School avoiding meeting with Paul

**Continued from Page 1**  
 of 2019 when the former head of the school and an IT tech were indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Despite the ongoing plague

of issues associated with the campus, officials contend they are moving forward with construction.

The *Leader* is aware of an ad that was published looking for a contractor to complete construction of a school that

is already underway. It is believed that this involves the Riverstone charter school.

It is hoped that plans regarding the public meeting will be finalized by next week. See future editions of the *Leader* for more information.

**Late Bulletin:** While Friday, Feb. 12, technically marked the last day to file to run in the local school board elections, potential write-in candidates had until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, to make their intentions known.

No one filed to run as a write-in candidate in the San Jacinto College election.

At press time, it was believed that no one had filed to run as a write-in candidate in the Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD elections either.

## South Belt Graphics & Printing

**One stop for all your wedding needs:**

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## South Belt-Ellington Leader

Celebrating 45 years as . . .

*The Voice of Community-Minded People*

**11555 Beamer**  
**281-481-5656**

E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)  
*Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners*

# 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.*

### New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care *Christian Based Child Care*

*Now Enrolling*

New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

**281.481.2003**  
[www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com)  
 10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089  
 Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

## Meador names Olympiad participants



Congratulations are in order for these fourth-grade students who represented Meador Elementary School in Olympiad. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Annabelle Rodriguez, Cornell Stewart, Emmanuel Martinez, Christopher Nunez (middle row) Carolyn Erazo, Alyssa Picarro, Azul Pineda, Stephanie Bounds (coach), (back row) Kevin Goffney (coach), Xavier Davis, Faith Guarjardo and Isaac Figueroa.

## Frazier recognizes star readers



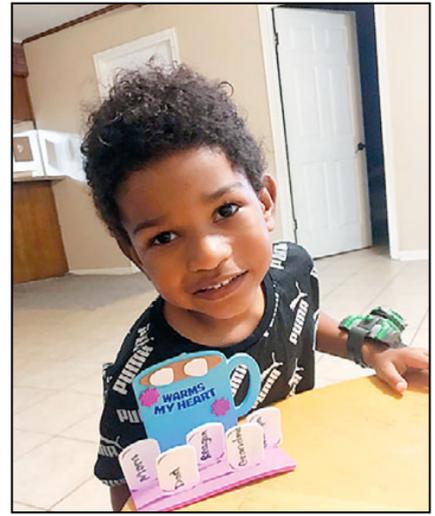
Frazier Elementary School recently recognized some of its star readers. All smiles behind their masks and holding their certificates are, left to right, Presley Shelton, Reagan Aziz, Alexandra Betancourt and Natalia Betancourt. These students completed their Winter Break Reading Bingo challenge.



Students that earned the most Advanced Reading points for their respective grade levels are, left to right, Harmony Stephens, Ximena Mesta and Adam Bowman.



Holding a certificate, book marker and gift card, Nevaeh Bumgarner had the most AR points for her grade level.



Knoz Aziz enjoys the moment, having completed his Winter Break Reading Bingo challenge.

## Memorial Hermann updates visitor policy

Memorial Hermann recognizes the importance of family support in the healing process and currently effective, the health system will begin allowing one adult (18 and older) visitor per patient per day.

This new policy applies to Memorial Hermann hospitals as well as TIRR Memorial Hermann and Katy Rehab.

Pediatrics and Women's Services will allow two adult visitors (18 and older) per patient per day and one adult overnight visitor for labor and delivery and pediatric patients.

Memorial Hermann's outpatient facilities, including imaging centers, breast

care centers, sports medicine and rehabilitation locations and medical group clinics will continue to enforce a no-visitor policy with very limited exceptions until further notice to ensure social distancing can be achieved in waiting areas.

University Place, a Memorial Hermann skilled nursing facility and independent adult living community, continues to adhere to the state's guidelines for nursing center visitation.

All visitors will be required to clear a health screening and will be provided a mask to wear upon entry and throughout their entire visit.

Additional details of the

updated visitor policy include:

- One visitor (18 and older) will be allowed per patient per day.

- Age restrictions do not apply to visitors under 18 who present in the Emergency Center with a patient. Minors who accompany Emergency Center patients may remain with the patient.

- Visiting hours for all Memorial Hermann hospitals, TIRR Memorial Hermann and Katy Rehab are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Visitors of Day Surgery patients will be allowed to remain onsite until the patient is discharged as long as social distancing is not compromised in the waiting

area.

- No overnight visitors are allowed.

- One adult (18 and over) visitor per day for patients in contact isolation. No visitors for patients in droplet, airborne or a combination of isolation precautions.

- Family members may visit patients in hospice or supportive medicine care.

- Visitors may utilize hospital cafeterias and cafés.

- Very limited compassionate exceptions to the modified visitor policy will be made for areas including but not limited to the NICU, pediatrics and labor and delivery, and will be managed by each facility.

Memorial Hermann continues to encourage the use of video chat programs on personal device to visit with loved ones who cannot visit in person.

For more information and details on the updated visitor policy, visit <https://memorialhermann.org>.

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## Burnett recognizes Diaz

Burnett Elementary honored Karina Diaz, school counselor, during National School Counseling Week. Burnett officials thanked Diaz for all her hard work and dedication to Burnett staff and students. Staff members celebrated with her on her first year as an elementary school counselor.



Karina Diaz, Burnett Elementary counselor, stands in front of her decorated classroom door. School officials and students left notes of gratitude and "thumbs up" notes to show their appreciation.



Standing in front of a decorated wall in honor of National School Counseling Week is Karina Diaz. The decorated wall displayed her work in photos that were taken during the school year at Burnett.

## Career, technical ed students of the month spotlighted



Giving two thumbs up to his plants in the greenhouse is Edmundo Tellez-Guron, a Career and Technical High School student.



Pasadena Memorial High School culinary students are shown presenting their baked goods – conchas, an authentic Mexican pastry – while learning a lesson about enriched yeast dough. Shown are, left to right, Nathaniel Burke, Erick Mata and Juan Ramos, all twelfth-grade practicum culinary students.



Michael R. Y'Barbo, center, is a CTHS criminal justice instructor. He is shown speaking to a group of criminal justice freshman and sophomores who are learning the mechanics of a basic traffic stop during a recent class. Justice Sears, a criminal justice student, is behind the wheel during the mock traffic stop. Looking on are, front to back, Omar Valencia, Jocelyn Gonzalez-Clawson, Alexis Benstante, Ezequiel Delgado and Ashley Morales.



Floral design students are busy designing Mardi Gras floats. Shown building their floats are Sheila McGee, left, and Isaiah Ferufino-Nunez.

## Meador celebrates National School Counseling Week



Meador Elementary celebrated National School Counseling Week as well as their very own school counselor, Tara Merida. Shown to the left are Merida (left) holding long-stemmed roses and balloons. Beverly Bolton, Meador principal, holds a sign showing her sentiments toward Merida. Bolton says, "Meador is lucky to have Mrs. Merida spread kindness, happiness, positivity and her smile with us each and every day. Thanks for all you do for the students, families, and staff." The photo at right shows Merida holding a package of sweets in front of a decorated wall in her honor.



## Burnett receives check for new books



Cassandra Moon, Burnett Elementary librarian received a check from the Beanstack Black Voices Microgrant in the amount of \$750 to purchase picture books, chapter books and graphic novels featuring characters of color.

## Remember When

**45 years ago (1976)**  
Barbara Taylor won the 1976 United States Twirling Association title of Miss Texas at a competition held in Houston.  
A lone armed robber escaped with \$115, a pair of gloves and a quart of orange juice in the robbery of the 7-11 store located at Hall Road and Beamer Road in Kirkwood South.  
**40 years ago (1981)**  
Six-year-old Brian Warwick was killed when a pickup truck collided with the Big Wheel he was riding on his block.  
Two Dobie High School students were arrested in connection with a burglary at the school. Approximately \$15,000 in equipment, including 16 IBM typewriters, a computer, a microwave oven and coins taken from the library Xerox machine and the school's candy and soft drink machines, was taken from the school.

**35 years ago (1986)**  
As a precaution against possible contamination of its water supply by the nearby Brio toxic waste site, the South Bend Utility District made an agreement with Municipal Utility District 13 to purchase water for a period of up to one year.  
A bomb scare sent Stuchbery Elementary's 460 students out of the building prior to dismissal.  
**30 years ago (1991)**  
Harris County and the utility districts Southbend and M.U.D. 13 and H.E.L.P. filed additional motions claiming EPA improperly allowed the handling of the information on Brio to be done by the Brio Task Force, rather than EPA.  
Frazier Elementary fifth-grader Delia Dozier read all 20 library books from the Texas Bluebonnet Award Reading Program for the second year in a row.  
**25 years ago (1996)**  
Dobie High School Lady Longhorn supporters and softball players met Chuck Norris at a restaurant while

at a tournament in Brenham.  
Dr. Susan Eason assumed the role of San Jacinto College South registrar.  
**20 years ago (2001)**  
A three-car accident on the feeder road of South Belt and I-45 left 11 victims recovering.  
Major improvements were scheduled for Hobby and Ellington airports.  
Fund-raisers for 10-year-old Lindsay Simpson's heart surgery totaled more than \$31,000. Frazier teachers promised to wear pajamas to school if they reached a goal of \$5,000. Three high schools made "love links" to decorate the trees and fences around the playground. Various elementaries, intermediates and high schools participated in the fundraising event.  
**15 years ago (2006)**  
Houston police were investigating the alleged attempted abduction of a Frazier Elementary fourth-grader as he went home from school. The male student reported that he had been grabbed by an unknown man near the corner of Hughes and Sageburrow. The boy was not harmed and returned to school the following day.  
A South Belt resident who found some money was seeking the owner so it could be returned. The good Samaritan used the *Leader* as a point of contact and several persons called to claim the money. None, however, were able to accurately describe that amount of money nor the

location where it was found. The money was eventually donated to the good Samaritan's church.  
Stephanie Wright, Beverly Hills Intermediate principal, announced plans to retire at the end of the school year.  
**10 years ago (2011)**  
Hundreds of South Belt's faithful attended a City of Houston meeting to voice their opposition to Mayor Annise Parker about churches being assessed a mandated drainage fee under the Rebuild Houston program. Sagemont Church's executive pastor, the Rev. Chuck Schneider, and Grace Community Church's pastor, the Rev. Garrett Booth, as well as Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis spoke at the

event.  
A fatal shooting took place at 11045 Fuqua. The victim, David Davila, 27, suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Davila was inside Joe's Texas Club, an after-hours club, when he and two men began arguing. The argument escalated into a physical altercation, which then moved to the sidewalk outside. During the fight, one of the men produced a pistol and fired one time, fatally striking Davila. No immediate arrests were made.  
**5 years ago (2016)**  
The South Belt community was struck by a wave of violent crime, with two drive-by shootings and a home invasion all taking

place within three days. The most serious crime occurred early Sunday, Feb. 14, in the 11500 block of Gullwood near Olivewood, where a drive-by shooting took place at a house party, striking four victims – one fatally. While police believe the two shootings were related, no immediate arrests were made.  
Longtime Pasadena Independent School District staff members Candy Howard, South Belt Elementary, and Steven Fullen, South Houston High School, have been selected as the district's elementary and secondary principals of the year for 2016. Dr. DeeAnn Powell, PISD Superintendent, and several district administrators delivered the news Friday, Feb. 12, by surprising the honorees at their respective campuses.  
Howard has dedicated 32 years of service to PISD, first serving alongside Fullen as a fifth-grade music teacher at Kruse Elementary from 1984 to 1997. Howard rose to a leadership position at Jensen Elementary, first as assistant principal and then principal from 1997 to 2000. In 2009, Howard was named principal of the new South Belt Elementary.  
**1 year ago (2020)**  
Houston firefighters responded to a fire at an apartment complex in the 10700 block of Fuqua Feb. 15. Two units were damaged in the blaze. The American Red Cross was called to assist the families. No injuries were reported. Arson investigators determined the fire to be accidental in nature.

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## Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**JADE CELEBRATES 13TH BIRTHDAY**  
Special happy birthday wishes are sent to **Jade Elizabeth Scarberry** who turns 13 years old Thursday, Feb. 18. Hugs and kisses are sent to her from dad **Austin**, wife **Tiffany** and little sister **Lily Scarberry**; mom **Nicole Scarberry**; grandparents **Jannie** and **Robert Scarberry**, former longtime South Belt residents; aunts **Jenny Hayes** and **Stacey Flowers**; uncles **Stephen Flowers**, **Joey Hayes** and **Tyler Scarberry**; and cousins **Brayden** and **Baylee Espinosa**, **Olivia Moreno**, and **Kennedy**, **Owen** and **Evie Flowers**. Jade's parents are both Dobie High School graduates.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 18 through Feb. 24, 2021.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Sing a happy birthday song to **Norma Flores** Feb. 21.

**Bush Elementary**  
Remember to wish **Aide Buenrostro** a happy birthday Feb. 18.

**Genoa Elementary**  
The day for a party for **Summer Bradley** is Feb. 18. Celebrating a special day Feb. 22 is **Maria Montelongo**.

**Moore Elementary**  
Join in the birthday fun Feb. 18 with **Ashley Evans**. The day for party favors and birthday balloons for **Carmen Chavez** is Feb. 22. **Cindy Montemayor** celebrates a special birthday Feb. 24.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Celebrating a birthday Feb. 19 is **Amber Morris**.

**Melillo Middle School**  
The day for cake and ice cream for **Olivia Mah** is Feb. 20. Sing a chorus of a happy birthday song Feb. 21 to **Wanda Soto**.

**Roberts Middle School**  
Break out the birthday balloons and party favors Feb. 23 for **Tincy Varghese**.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Blow out the birthday candles on a double-layer cake Feb. 23 for **Joseph Fee** and **Quan Nguyen**.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Sing a chorus of a happy birthday song Feb. 19 to **Yolanda Robinson**. Enjoying a birthday Feb. 21 is **Melissa Prestridge**. **Kristin Cortese** will celebrate a special birthday Feb. 24.

**Dobie High**  
The day for a party for **Reema Shaikat** is Feb. 18. Birthday cake and ice cream are on tap for **Dendy Farrar** Feb. 20. Join in the

birthday fun Feb. 22 with **Lori Sims**. Break out the party favors and balloons Feb. 24 for **Kevin Berneathy**, **Wendy Sharpless** and **Tamalar Whiting**.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Feb. 18: **Sonja Britt**, **Jason Jaeger**, **Leslie Barr**, **Sterling Washington**, **Rose Pena**, **Tianne Bernal**, **LeRoy Peters**, **Shana Kiser**, **Daer Platt**, **Valerie Chavez** and **Troy Taormina**; and Friday, Feb. 19: **Jason Minck**, **Dalaina Rounsavall-Harris**, **Patricia Doran** and **Ryan Mint**; Saturday, Feb. 20: **Paul Brantly**, **Heidi Samford**, **Judy Lucadou-Dooly** and **Jamie Baggett**; Sunday, Feb. 21: **Michael Gabbard**, **Vonda Byars**, **Kellie Nelson** and **Richard Salinas**; Monday, Feb. 22: **Gerald Maduzia**; Tuesday, Feb. 23: **Mark Roberts**, **David Adkins**, **Brian Groff**, **Tonya Abel**, **Angie Abel**, **Charlese Richard**, **James Spence** and **Liz Cantu**; and Wednesday, Feb. 24: **Wendy Sharpless**, **Andrew Belmarez**, **Ken Moore**, **L.A. Dalton**, **Michael Brown** and **Rebecca Cappello**.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## West Brook's stunning comeback ends Dobie girls' season

The worst eight-minute stretch of play of the course of the season was enough to end the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team's season. Outscoring the District 22-6A champion Lady Longhorns 21-4 in the fourth quarter, Beaumont West Brook came away with a 41-39 bidistrict playoff round victory Feb. 11 at Dayton High School. Dobie, which saw a 14-game winning streak come to a stunning end, controlled much of the action over the course of three quarters on the way to a 35-20 lead entering the fourth quarter. But the Lady Bruins, improving to 14-7 overall with the No. 4 over No. 1 seed victory, saved the best quarter of their season

for the last. West Brook advanced to take on Clear Creek in the area round, while Dobie ended its season at 19-5. The Lady Longhorns entered the postseason with high hopes after dominating the 22-6A field to the tune of a perfect 12-0 record. While reeling off the 14 consecutive wins, it has been more than two months, Dec. 8, 2020 to be exact, since the locals had tasted defeat. All is not lost for the Lady Longhorns. Far from it. Seniors Vanessa Lam, Devin Richard and Madelyn Tellez will certainly be missed moving forward, but the majority of the rotation will return in 2021-2022.

Key players Victoria Rivera, KeKe Robinson, Payton Smith and Kendall

Brown will return for their senior seasons, and Janae Tucker and Jacque Giron

will be juniors. Gwendlyn McGrew, meanwhile, played a lot as a freshman

and has three seasons remaining. This one will sting for quite a while. But the cru-

el reality of competitive sports is that the postseason comes with a ground zero start for all teams.

Upsets happen, and this one was that. But Dobie head coach Jasmine Hartman has the

program in terrific shape. The Lady Longhorns will return next season and begin a new journey.



Dobie leading scorer Victoria Rivera (22) will lead a cast of key returnees as the District 22-6A champion Lady Longhorns' varsity basketball team will look to continue its dominance within league play.

## JFD boys draw BWB hoops

Pasadena's first district championship since the 1992-1993 season, complete with an 11-1 record, was about the only thing that could slow Dobie's roll in the 22-6A varsity boys' basketball race.

Ironically, Dobie first-year Franklin Paul was Beaumont West Brook's junior varsity boys' basketball head coach and top varsity assistant a season ago before being named head coach at Dobie. Paul's Dobie squad will

enter the postseason with plenty of confidence after reeling off the nine wins to close out the regular season. The Longhorns did everything they could to catch eventual District 22-6A champion Pasadena. Included in the Long-

horns' winning streak to finish was an easy 54-41 victory over the Eagles. Problem is, the Longhorns got zero help from any other team in the district, so second place and a bidistrict playoff date with Beaumont West Brook it is.

**Bidistrict Hoops**  
Dobie (15-10) vs. West Brook (12-7)  
Feb. 19, 7 p.m.  
GCM High School

The Eagles, beaten only by Dobie in the second half of league play, will hold the No. 1 seed in the bidistrict playoffs and will go against C.E. King.

The Longhorns, winners of nine straight games to close the regular season, have drawn Beaumont West Brook, the No. 3 seed out of District 21-6A.

The bidistrict round plays out Feb. 18-20, with the area round coming

Longhorn's Johnathan Baldwin (right) went head-to-head with Pasadena's Kanye Ortiz (1) in a first-round league game as the two teams went 1-2 in 22-6A play. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



## Wolverine boys to face Pearland

The District 24-6A varsity boys' basketball champion Clear Brook Wolverines will begin their playoff journey by facing the Pearland Oilers, a team that wound up fourth in the District 23-6A standings.

Clear Brook, which wound up the regular season at 21-2, went on to win the District 24-6A championship with a 10-2 record following a 59-57 loss to Clear Falls Feb. 10.

The Oilers wound up fourth in the 23-6A race at 9-5 and will look to pull what would be considered a first-round upset. The Brook/Strake winner will face the Summer Creek/Channelview winner in the Feb. 22-23 area playoff round.

Pearland is led by Ty Williams, who has given them 12 points and seven rebounds per game. Charles Clark enters the postseason with 10 points per game to his credit.

Clear Brook is led by junior Kemo Millender at 23 points per game, while his brother, sophomore Marcus Millender, is at 16 points per outing.

A season ago, Clear Brook won 26 overall games before falling to Summer Creek 58-55 in the same area playoff round.

For 2020-2021, the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches has Summer Creek at No. 14 in its latest Class 6A poll while Brook is at No. 21, but the Wolverines will first be focused on Pearland.

## Brook, Dobie baseball to open

At long last, the 2021 high school baseball season will officially begin Monday, Feb. 22 as the Dobie varsity squad plays at Galveston Ball.

**Varsity Baseball Openers**  
Dobie at Galveston Ball  
Monday, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m.  
Brook at Pasadena Memorial  
Monday, Feb. 22, 3:30 p.m.

Manuel Contreras was 2 for 4 with two runs scored, and Noah Torres had three hits and scored a pair of runs.

The Longhorns topped Angleton 7-6 Feb. 8 as Ryan Saxton had two hits, scored three runs and drove in one.

Diego Torres, Noah Torres and Marcelo Mercado all had two hits in the game for the Dobie Longhorns.

Dobie trailed Baytown Sterling 9-6 in a weather-shortened scrimmage Feb. 12 as Estrada had two hits.

Meanwhile, the Clear Brook varsity squad will also start its season Feb. 22 at Pasadena Memorial.

The first week of tournaments comes next as Dobie plays at the Oiler Invitational in Pearland, while Brook heads to the David Anzaldua Classic in La Porte.

The Longhorns could very well enter the regular

season opener swinging the bats very well despite missing at least two scrimmage opportunities due to the weather.

Dobie got things going Feb. 6 with a 13-11 win over Alvin as the two programs went 13 innings so as to get plenty of players

in on the action. Juan Estrada had three hits in the game, including a pair of doubles. He drove in a pair of runs, while Devin Molina, Colten Cox, Bryce Sanchez and Matthew Torres doubled. Sanchez had three runs batted in.

## Dobie softballers to tourney action

A pair of scrimmage wins would likely have to serve as a lead-in to the 2021 varsity softball season for the Lady Longhorns as the wintry weather across Texas was plenty enough to postpone Dobie's planned Feb. 15 opener at Clear Brook.

The Longhorns certainly focused on taking on Deer Park and others for the District 22-6A crown, hope to get off to another strong start this season after the 2020 campaign ended with the locals at 14-4.

Dobie will enter play as one of the most varsity-play experienced teams in the region, what with eight seniors having signed to play collegiately beyond the 2020-2021 school year.

## JFD soccer teams win

The Dobie varsity boys' soccer team may be positioning itself for a big second-half push after the area thaws from the frigid conditions coating the state.

And the Lady Longhorns' varsity squad will be looking to fortify its playoff standing moving forward after a 1-3 start to District 22-6A play.

Playing in extremely chilly conditions Feb. 12 at San Jacinto College South, the Lady Longhorns received goals from a Valery Marroquin and Jade De Robles in a 2-0 shutout victory over Sam Rayburn.

With one game remaining in the first half of league play against South Houston, the Lady Longhorns have improved to 2-3.

Meanwhile, Channelview's 5-0-1 run in District 22-6A action has left the six-time defending league champion Dobie program with some work to do, but the Longhorns have begun to step things up.

Isaac Cortez tallied two goals and Oscar Medrano added another as the Longhorns went to 3-2 for third place in the District 22-6A standings with a 3-0 shutout of the Rayburn Texans Feb. 13 at Veterans Stadium.

Daniel Blanco, Gerardo Martinez and Sergio Ten-

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# District champion Dobie celebrates National Signing Day



Dobie first team all-district defensive back Nate Wallace (seated) signed to play at Peru State College in Peru, Neb. With Wallace at his signing were his parents, mother Gloria Wallace (left) and Elias Wallace (father).



Johnathan Baldwin, the District 22-6A Most Valuable Player in 2020, will continue his education and playing career at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, after a star-studded career at Dobie.



Darrius Pamplin, a first team all-district performer for the Longhorns in 2020, will now continue his education and playing career at Bethel College, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program in Newton, Kan.



Dobie senior Jeremiah Hernandez, a four-year varsity performer, will now continue his education and playing career at National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program Hastings College in Hastings, Neb.



Texas Lutheran University in Seguin will be the new collegiate home of Dobie's Joe Hinojosa after the first team all-district offensive lineman signed a letter of intent with the Bulldogs.

## Longhorns to face BWB Bruins

**Continued from Page 5**

The Longhorn/West Brook bidistrict matchup, set for Friday, Feb. 19, at Goose Creek Memorial High School, will pit teams that went head-to-head Dec. 5, with the Bruins emerging with a 64-55 victory over the turnover-laden Longhorns.

Paul rued the fact that the Longhorns didn't really give themselves a chance to win after turning the ball over 28 times.

Also, the Longhorns then were still getting in sync with Paul's system. Things are much different now.

"I think we are just in a spot where everybody knows their roles and we are moving the basketball and playing together as a team.

"Taking care of the basketball and giving ourselves shots at the basket instead of the ball going back the other way will be critical. We didn't do that the first time against them, so we have to turn that around."

West Brook went 12-7 overall, including 7-5 in a league headed by Region III powers Atascocita and Summer Creek. The Bruins were third, just ahead of C.E. King.

Dobie reeled off nine straight wins to finish 10-2 overall for second place in District 22-6A. The team's 1-2 start in league play proved costly to the Longhorns. But in a way, 2020-2021 has included parts of two seasons for the Longhorns, and the locals are on the good side of things.

"Nobody is making any excuses this season, but we had our 10-day break for COVID and then played like a team that had been off right out of that," Paul said.

As for going against West Brook and head coach Andre Boutte, where he served as an assistant prior to taking the leading role at Dobie, Paul said it's all about living in the present.

"We are going into the game as the Dobie Longhorns and looking to advance over a solid program," Paul said.

"Obviously, I owe a lot to coach Boutte for helping me get to this point, but we are looking to win the game."

The other bidistrict matchups involving 22-6A and 21-6A squads include Pasadena versus C.E. King, Summer Creek versus Channelview and Memorial versus Atascocita.



Dobie's Jeremiah Ballard, the top receiver in the District 22-6A ranks and an easy first team all-district pick, is headed to the University of Texas-El Paso to play with the Miners.



Dobie defensive lineman Amar Lewis, an all district honorable mention selection in 2020, is headed to Division III Louisiana College in Pineville, La., where he will continue his education and playing career.

## SJC softball piles up wins, snags No. 18 national rank

The San Jacinto College softball team has emerged as a serious threat in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I rankings after reeling off nine consecutive victories early this season.

The Coyotes went from unranked this preseason to reaching No. 18 nationally after a 12-3 start to 2021. The team then won two more in a doubleheader sweep of Navarro entering play Feb. 12.

Perhaps head coach Kelly Saenz and her staff could have seen this coming, then again, perhaps there's no way the group could have imagined a start of this magnitude.

The 2020 squad was out of the gate at 19-4, hit .417 as a group and was nationally ranked before the pandemic shut down the season.

While the entire roster was eligible to return, there were just a few who did.

Now sophomore pitcher Cat Cavazos was 7-1 with a 2.90 earned run average as a freshman.

Fast forward to now, and Cavazos is holding up a pitching staff that overall has pitched to a 5.18 ERA, with Cavazos 5-1 with a save and a 3.60 ERA.

Offensively, Alexis Uresti hit .406 with four homers and 16 RBIs in 2020 as a freshman.

If anything, she's been even better as a sophomore, hitting .511 with eight doubles, 19 runs batted in, 11 steals and a pair of homers.

Lexi Saenz was hitting .403 with 19 runs driven in when things stopped in 2020, and she has responded as a sophomore with a .370 batting average, six doubles, three homers and 14 runs batted in.

Tamera McKnight, one of the team's biggest power threats in 2020, has dropped off some early on but remains a key cog in the middle of the lineup.

As for the newcomers, Jules Garcia is hitting .540 with 27 hits and 11 stolen bases. Abby Forrester has driven in 16 runs with 17 hits, and Tabby Burnett has hit .432.

Is any of this sustainable over a full season? The Coyotes are hitting .407 as a team and have scored 159 runs over 17 games, more than nine runs per game.

The pitching staff as a whole will have to get lower than five earned runs allowed per game, but it is certainly doable.



The Longhorns' Gerard Joseph was the District 22-6A Defensive Player of the Year in 2020 and will now continue his education and playing career at the University of Texas-El Paso.



Dobie first team all-district receiver Jonathan Jean has signed with the University of Texas-Permian Basin in Odessa, where he will continue his education and playing career with the Falcons.

## 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 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.

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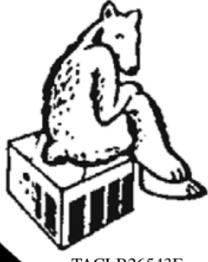
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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit <https://aaahouston.org/meetings>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com); for Al-Anon meetings, visit [www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html](http://www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html).

**NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club** - The club is currently closed. Visit <https://aclunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for games or email [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com).

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aaahouston.org/meetings/>.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aaahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19**  
7 a.m.  
**AA** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**Bay Area Genealogical Society** - Meets either online in a virtual webinar format or at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing prior to 7 p.m. in-person meeting. Virtual attendees need to register for each webinar session. For details, visit [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org).

**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](http://www.hascona.com).  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are online. Join the 7 p.m. Friday or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service and visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/calendar> and click on calendar link. For details, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>.

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

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
7:30 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.

**Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit <http://www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html> for more information.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
8 p.m.  
**AA** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
10 a.m.  
**Al-Anon Deer Park** - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details or visit <http://www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html>.

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

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Toastmasters** - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets on a virtual site at <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. To be a guest, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access. For more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or

Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

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

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.

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

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - CrossRoads UMC meeting. See Friday's notice.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**7:30 a.m.**  
**Rotary Club of Pearland** - See Thursday's notice.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.

**Kirkwood Civic Association** - meets on a conference call meeting. Call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990 for details. Civic club meeting conference dial-in 605-475-6006 Access Code: 4382419. Visit the Facebook page of Kirkwood Civic Club.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group. See Thursday's notice.

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# TDPD sets driver license renewal rules during COVID

Continued from Page 1 p.m. Friday.

## Scheduling appointments

Services at driver license offices are now conducted by appointment only. To schedule an appointment or check availability, visit the online appointment scheduler. If one is unable to find an appointment at the office of their choice, they should check back for availability at that office or other locations nearby.

Residents should check often as availability does change.

If one is unable to make their scheduled appointment, they should reschedule or cancel it ahead of time. While the department is working to serve as many customers as possible, people with ap-

pointments not showing up continues to be a major obstacle. In December 2020, for example, approximately 31 percent of people were no-shows for their appointments.

The appointment system, which debuted in May 2020, is designed to provide additional convenience, reducing the time Texans wait in line. Customers can book appointments for a specific day and time, up to six months in advance, and show up 30 minutes or less before their scheduled time. Customers can check in using the kiosk inside the office or from their mobile device.

All offices offer a limited number of same-day appointments. These appointments are available on a first-come,

first-served basis. Customers who book these appointments can leave the DL office until their designated time.

Additionally, most offices also offer customers without an appointment a spot on a

# HCAD tax study shows accuracy

Continued from Page 1 of the property sampled having appraisal ratios within 10 percent of the median," Altinger said. "Further it reflects that we treat all properties the same no matter what the value of those properties are."

The Property Value Study is an extensive and independent review of the appraisal district's appraisal performance by the Texas Comptroller of Public Ac-

counts. The goal of the audit is to allow the state to reach an independent conclusion as to whether the district has complied with the professional standards of appraisal and state law.

## PLT holds fish fry 2021

Pasadena Little Theatre will hold a fish fry March 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The plates will cost \$15 and include fried fish, hush puppies, coleslaw, potato salad, brownies and a bottled water. To order, visit [pasadenalittletheatre.org](http://pasadenalittletheatre.org).

## Frost Bank hosts Spring Fling

Frost Bank's Alameda Financial Center, located at 9990 Alameda Genoa, invites the community to a Spring Fling on Tuesday, March 16 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

The drive-thru event will feature complimentary breakfast courtesy of Frost and a live DJ will provide a lively atmosphere.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Houston and Galveston will be distributing puzzles and games for the kids. This event is free and open to the public.

# Cuellar wins 1st place



Presenting his scholarship certificate to Mainliners Welding Academy is Juan Cuellar, a Career & Technical High School welding student. Cuellar won first place in the Pipeliners Welding Competition held in Dickinson for the Texas High School Welding Series.

# PMHS presents National FFA Creed



Olivia Casas

Congratulations are in order for Pasadena Memorial High School Future Farmers of America students Olivia Casas (left), Senior Creed Speaker, and Alexis Santallanes, Greenhand Creed Speaker, for present-



Alexia Santallanes

ing in the contest by reciting the National FFA Creed from memory and answering questions related to the topic. The FFA creed has 258 words in six sentences with five paragraphs.

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