



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 45, No. 8

### Leader takes precautions

In order to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 virus, the *Leader* is now implementing a locked-door policy and is asking the public to refrain from personal office visits unless absolutely necessary.

Residents are asked rather to direct inquiries and suggestions to either 281-481-5656 or mynews@southbeltleader.com. After-hours phone calls may be directed to *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger at 281-948-2714.

### Beltway closures planned

At least one inside lane of the westbound Beltway 8 frontage road will be closed from Scott Street/Fellows Road to SH 288 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, March 23.

Both northbound and southbound U-turn lanes at Beltway 8 and Crenshaw will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, March 20.

At least two alternate southbound frontage road lanes on Beltway 8 from Crenshaw to Grayson will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday, March 20.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 from Vista to SH 225 will be closed daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Thursday, April 2.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on Beltway 8 from Vista to SH 225 will be closed nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, April 2.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

### Knights fish fry canceled

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 has canceled its fundraising fish fry dinner originally planned to take place Friday, March 20, due to predicted inclement weather. At press time Wednesday, March 18, it was unclear if the fish dinners scheduled for Friday, March 27, and Friday, April 3, would be affected by the ongoing coronavirus fears. See next week's *Leader* for updates.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be completely closed at NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 until further notice.

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be completely closed at FM 518 until further notice.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Tuesday, March 31.

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

### Sagemeadow seeks officers

Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee candidate nominations are still being accepted by email, for vice-chairman (one-year term) and treasurer (two-year term). Emailed nominations will be accepted until one week prior to the day of the election. In-person nominations will be accepted at today's monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 19. The election is still planned for Saturday, April 4. However, due to the continuously developing state of current events, the date is subject to change.

### Toastmasters go virtual

Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency. The group will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective immediately to ensure that members continue their journey in becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting and access the virtual meeting platform, visit www.youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com and select the "contact us" button on the home page menu.

### DQ postpones free cones

Dairy Queen's free cone giveaway scheduled to take place Thursday, March 19, has been postponed due to ongoing fears of the coronavirus. Originally planned to commemorate the first day of spring, the promotion will be rescheduled, DQ officials said. The store, however, remains open.

"TDQ stores remain open and our top priority is to provide a clean, safe place for our fans to enjoy their favorite eats and treats. We are following cleaning and sanitation practices that exceed local, state and government standards," the company said in a press release. "TDQ has implemented updated safety procedures that include increasing the frequency of employee handwashing and cleaning of high-contact areas in our restaurants including door handles, pin pads for transactions, condiment and beverage stations, countertops and fan seating areas." For information, visit dqtxas.com or follow TDQ on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook.

# COVID-19 fears worsen, forcing closures

## Schools closed; chamber gala, cook-off, Family Fun Fest canceled

Fears over the COVID-19 pandemic continue to worsen, forcing the closures of local schools, businesses and social gatherings.

Three days after declaring the coronavirus – also known as COVID-19 – a national emergency, President Donald J. Trump offered the following guidelines to slow the spread of the potentially fatal virus:

- Avoid gathering in groups of 10 or more people.
- Start homeschooling if possible.
- Avoid discretionary travel.
- Refrain from visiting bars, restaurants and food courts.

Trump also recommended that citizens practice social distancing for at least 15 days, allowing 6 to 10 feet of space between individuals.

These protocol were reinforced by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who on Monday, March 16, made a similar announcement, ordering that all city restaurants, bars and nightclubs be closed for at least 15 days. Restaurants may only offer take-out, pick-up and delivery options until further notice. Customers, however, may still go inside a restaurant dining room or fast-food establishment to place a carry-out order.

In a special-called meeting the morning of Tuesday, March 17, Turner and Houston City Council members voted to indefinitely extend the proclamation of a local state of disaster due to a public health disaster for the City of Houston.

The measure passed 15-1 with District G Council Member Greg Traver voting against it.

The order allows Turner to make decisions to work with the county, state, and federal officials to contain and mitigate COVID-19 spread and protect members of the public.

"As a city, we must work together," Turner said. "This is a crisis that is going to be with us for several weeks, if not several months. It is gravely important for us to take definitive steps to slow the COVID-19 spread. The measures we have put in place will help save lives."

Last week, Turner signed the disaster declaration, which was in effect for seven days.

On Tuesday, Turner also announced the following:

- All city-produced, sponsored and permitted events are canceled through the end of April.
- Starting Tuesday, March 24, no proclamation presentations will be made during the city council public session.
- The city of Houston remains open for business. However, employees are encouraged to limit exposure to members of the public and handle business online, if possible.
- City of Houston Department Directors have the discretion to allow employees to work from home/telecommute.
- The Houston Public Library will remain closed through the end of March. The HPL suspension includes all public programs and events. However, free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring, and databases.

The City of Houston expects to begin COVID-19 testing this week. Turner will announce the testing site procedures and logistics later this week.

### Pasadena ISD

All Pasadena ISD facilities will remain closed for normal operations through Friday, April 10, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Houston area continues to see an increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, and health officials report this number is expected to increase as more testing is made available. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has outlined the need for all communities to implement a social distancing protocol. The district anticipates beginning instructional support outside of school through the use of electronic and nonelectronic materials on Monday, March 23.

Right now, Pasadena ISD is working diligently to prepare its staff to be able to provide support and feedback to students. Parents will receive further information regarding instruction from their child's campus. The district's website has optional extended learning opportunities and activities for students. PISD encourages parents and students to visit the district's website and social media often for the most recent updates as we navigate this unprecedented situation together.

The health of Pasadena ISD students, staff and community continues to be the district's top priority. Pasadena ISD will offer curbside grab-and-go free breakfast and lunch to all district students. Parents may drive by any of the district's traditional high school campuses to pick up a meal for each child present in the vehicle. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:30 a.m., and lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. While initial plans required families to make two separate trips for breakfast and lunch, and the *Leader's* request, Sen. John Cornyn intervened to ensure that multiple trips are not needed. See related story on this page.

### Clear Creek ISD

As a measure to prevent the wider spread of the Coronavirus, the Clear Creek Independent School District will close all CCISD facilities through Friday, April 10.

This decision was made collaboratively with other area school districts.

In a message to the community, CCISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Smith reassured families that learning will continue for children.

"While our schools are physically closed, our spirit of innovation will continue through distance learning," Smith said. "Our community has invested in the necessary resources to support this endeavor. I know there will be challenges along the way, but we will work through them, together."

District leaders are working around the clock to support distance learning for teachers and students. The school district will announce more substantive learning plans later this week and will reach out to families to see what technical support is required at home to allow for distance learning.

All CCISD activities will cease through Friday, April 10, with a plan to re-evaluate the situation on Saturday, April 4.

### Libraries

The Houston Public Library system has suspended service at all locations until further notice. This suspension also includes all public programs and events.

The library's many free online resources and digital services are always available 24/7 with one's MY Link Library Card at www.houstonlibrary.org, including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases.

### H-E-B

H-E-B has been preparing for coronavirus and say they are in a strong position to keep replenishing the shelves, advising customers not to panic, as they are continuing to restock shelves around-the-clock. They are encouraging preparedness, not stockpiling – customers are urged to buy what they need and leave some for their neighbor behind.

### False alarm reported at Taco Bell



With school out and local sporting events canceled, there is currently a shortage of news, with the obvious exception of the ongoing COVID-19 virus fears. South Belt resident Bill Corcoran, a regular *Leader* tipster, called the newspaper Wednesday, March 18, to report seeing some men on the roof of the Taco Bell on Scarsdale near Beamer. Emergency crews were also spotted at the location. A check on the store, however, determined the men were doing repair work on the restaurant, and the emergency workers were merely eating lunch. Residents are encouraged to send tips to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

### Turner suspends water disconnections

On Thursday, March 12, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner issued an Executive Order to suspend water service disconnections throughout the City of Houston through Thursday, April 30.

The City of Houston takes the health and safety of its community very seriously. As it continues its efforts to stop the spread of the COVID-19, it is important that everyone in Houston have access to clean water.

Water bills will still need to be paid on time to avoid late fees, even though water service disconnections will be temporarily suspended. Water bill payments can be made online, through the automated phone system at 713-371-1265, or with a customer service representative at 713-371-1400.

Visit HoustonEmergency.org for updated information regarding COVID-19 in the Houston area.

### Leader, others offer help to seniors

The *Leader* is seeking help the vulnerable in the South Belt community, particularly the elderly and the disabled, by providing necessary supplies when possible.

Anyone who knows of specific area residents in need is urged to contact the newspaper at 281-

481-5656 or mynews@southbeltleader.com. After-hours phone calls may be directed to *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger at 281-948-2714.

Hilton Furniture & Mattress has also agreed to participate and has offered its store to be used as drop center.

### City cancels local recycling event

Houston District E City Council Member Dave Martin would like to make Clear Lake and Southeast Houston area residents aware the Solid Waste Management Department's batteries,

oil, paint and antifreeze (B.O.P.A.) event scheduled for Saturday, March 21 has been canceled. The cancellation was in response to an announcement from the City of Houston. **Continued on Page 4A**

# Pasadena ISD addresses COVID-19 pandemic issues

### By PISD Communication Department

Note: Plans and protocols are changing at a very fast pace. These are the facts leading up to press time. For around-the-clock, up-to-date information, go to the Pasadena ISD website at www1.pasadenaisd.org

The Houston area continues to see an increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and health officials report this number is expected to increase as more testing is made available. As a result the CDC is encouraging a social distancing protocol to be enacted.

### Pasadena ISD complies with social distancing protocol

As a result of the social distancing protocol requested by the CDC and county, Pasadena ISD has closed facilities from March 16 to April 10.

### What about school?

Pasadena ISD is working diligently to prepare on-line/distance learning instruction for their students. Campuses are working on distributing computers this week to students in grades 5-12. Training for teachers to become virtual instructors has begun and the plan is for students to begin virtual instruction on Monday, March 23, 2020.

Teachers have begun reaching out to many students and will provide ongoing support and feedback for the students in their classes. In addition to academics, students will receive fine arts, physical education and social emotional lessons while they are learning at home.

Pasadena ISD is trying to ensure that their students are prepared to graduate at the end of the year or to continue successfully in the next grade level.

The H-E-B chain, which has more than 400 stores in Texas and Mexico said it would not be implementing special hours for vulnerable customers.

"Our leadership team studied this option thoroughly and due to recommendations from health officials we have determined this is not the best and safest option for our customers," the company said in a statement. "H-E-B takes care of Texas, and we feel asking a group to congregate at our stores in a certain timeframe is not a safe idea."

The company said it is working closely with local food banks and is encouraging people to use their online ordering system.

### Food Town

Food Town, however, announced Monday, March 16, that while it will maintain its 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. store hours, it will open its doors an hour early for people older than 65 from 7 to 8 a.m.

Access to the store at this time will require a government-issued state ID or Texas drivers license, the retailer said in a statement.

### Dollar General

Dollar General announced that starting Tuesday, March 17, it is "strongly encouraging that the first hour of operations each day be dedicated solely for the shopping needs of senior customers, who are one of the groups most vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. Other customers are encouraged to plan their shopping trips around this window of time to allow the most susceptible customers in our communities the ability to shop during the first hour that stores are open," the retail chain wrote in a press release.

### Sagemont Church

Sagemont Church held its March 15 services online only and is expected to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. Other church events including iCONNECT Bible studies, were also canceled.

"The coronavirus situation is changing daily, and now the president has declared a national emergency due to the health risks. In light of that decision, and in keeping with our sister churches in the area, we are making the decision now to move all of our services on Sunday, March 15, to an online format only. We will still hold worship services Sunday at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. at sagemontchurch.org and on Facebook Live. The church campus, however, will be closed in order to minimize health risk to our church family," the church posted on its Facebook page. "Join us in praying for wisdom for all decision makers and health officials as well as for healing for those directly affected by the virus. We know that our God is in full control even in the midst of this storm."

For additional information, visit www.sagemontchurch.org/keeping-our-church-family-healthy.

### Other churches

Several other local churches, including all Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, have also been affected. See related story on Page 6A.

### Movie theaters

Several local movie theaters, including the AMC Gulf Pointe 30 located at Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway, are closed until further notice.

### Curbside lunch program Grab-n-go free breakfast and lunch

Pasadena Independent School District will offer curbside grab-and-go free breakfast and lunch to all Pasadena ISD students. This began on Tuesday, March 17, and will continue on school days for the duration of closed campuses.

Parents may drive by any of the five traditional high schools to pick up a meal for each child who is present in the vehicle. With the requirement to maintain a safe social distance, no meals will be available for parents or students walking up to the campus. Meals will be delivered to each vehicle, do not park.

Those campuses include: J. Frank Dobie High School (10220 Blackhawk Blvd., Houston, TX 77089)

Sam Rayburn High School (2121 Cherrybrook Lane, Pasadena, TX 77502)

Pasadena High School (206 South Shaver St., Pasadena, TX 77506)

South Houston High School (3820 Shaver St., South Houston, TX 77587)

Pasadena Memorial High School (4410 Crenshaw Road, Pasadena, TX 77504)

Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:30 a.m., and lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Both meals may now be picked up at once.

There is no cost for these meals, and the program is open to all Pre-K - 12th grade Pasadena ISD students.

### Cancellations:

All Pasadena ISD events (scheduled for March-April 10) have been postponed until further notice.

Continued on Page 6A

# Publisher's Opinion

## Time to take a deep breath, relax

This is about the craziest time of my 77 years. Having gone through the Brio Superfund Site, Harvey, the great South Belt flood of 1979, etc. did not prepare us for what is going on today. It's like the world has really gone crazy. It is no fun being totally left out of the loop and with no control. Just going along with the flow.

But this is a time we need to grab on to family and loved ones and those in our lives that make life worth living. Most of all, it is time to put our fate in God's hands, and try to relax and make the best of each day. The world is much different today than a short week ago when the rodeo was shut down around noon last Wednesday.

Life was so simple before that. But having lived in a community that knows and understands the saying that, "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger," I know we will survive.

As a born and raised a Catholic girl, I could never have imagined being told not to go to church on Sunday. But that is the

message now. And imagine New York without its theaters and restaurants and Las Vegas with closed-up casinos.

Talk about a topsy turvy world! We are there. I am just so thankful to the many people who are working hard for us each day at places like Pasadena Independent School District and San Jacinto College. They are working all day, every day to make things right for all our students.

Thanks to our emergency people - fire, medical and police. God Bless all of you.

Keep an eye out for an older neighbor who may need help.

The upcoming Leaders will be a lot different than you are used to, as there is not much news to report that doesn't have to do with the virus.

But we will do our best to keep you informed to help you during this difficult time. Our prayers and love are with you. As a community I know we will survive.

Marie Flickinger,  
Publisher

## In My Opinion

### Trautman touts voting improvements

Over the past three days, I have heard from voters, community groups, media, and elected officials regarding concerns about long lines on Election Day. There were several factors at play that led to this event, but make no mistake - I believe very strongly that the right to vote is core to our democracy and the voting booth should be accessible for everyone. Running an election in this political climate can truly be a balancing act, especially in a Texas primary where the political parties contract with my office to administer the election. The responsibility of the parties, is to come to an agreement on the polling locations and staffing of election workers. The responsibility of my office, is to provide equipment and to tabulate the results. We did the best with what we had and what we believed was fair and equitable by allocating equal amounts of equipment to each party. However, we take full responsibility for the long lines and wait times, and apologize to the voters and communities who were affected. We will reevaluate machine allocations and turnout projections based on both the data we have available and feedback from the community for the Primary Runoff Election.

In the 15 months I have been in office, my team and I have made a variety of changes to increase equity at the polls. Among these, the implementation of Countywide Polling, expanded Early Voting hours and locations, enhanced Election Judge training, and adding locations on college campuses like Texas Southern University.

It is clear that the history of marginalized communities being left behind in the voting process has led to polling deserts in areas of Harris County. I believe that we have made some strides, but we still have work left to do.

Moving forward, the voters of Harris County have my commitment to working together to make sure the November General Election is a success. There will be more than 50 Early Voting locations and approximately 750 Election Day polling locations. I would again like to express my immense gratitude toward all election judges, poll workers, and voters who give their time and passion to making democracy come alive.

Diane Trautman  
County Clerk

### GOP spokesman on Biden, debate

At last night's debate, Joe Biden capitulated to the left and promised that if he's elected president, he'll ban new fracking and there'd be "no ability for the oil industry to drill, period."

Such a move would decimate Texas' oil and gas industry, putting thousands out of work. So will Lizzie Fletcher and Colin Allred still support their party's presumptive nominee despite it being clear he'd be a disaster for Texas?

### Bob Salera Deputy Communications Director National Republican Congressional Muecke comments: nuisance newspapers

I ask that you read the *South Belt Leader* dated March 12. Page 1 and then continued on page 2A. This is not the first time, a number of previous issues have discussed the problem of the Chronicle distributing this newspaper FREE to the many homes in the South Belt area. Why, the thinking is many are Hispanic. Not so.

A lady walks this neighborhood with her grandson, they take a 33 gallon garbage bag and pick up these papers. She said no one picks up the papers and they lay there until the rains wash them away or they rot.

Another gentleman also disapproves, it is just littering. The papers are also thrown in my neighborhood at times and I do the same, pick them up and place in the trash.

Now what is most upsetting to me is I have now taken the Chronicle at my home for 60 years. The price just keeps increasing to the point I am about to drop the paper.

Here I am paying for you to use my money in this manner. Instead of trying to keep me your just doing the opposite. I well know newsprint is being replaced by electronics. This is not the way to keep your existing customers.

Now, you need to learn from the *South Belt Leader*. A very well written/published newspaper. Very community oriented and no paper better supports their local schools (PISD & CCISD) more than this paper does.

Jim Muecke  
Publisher's comment: Thanks for the kind words!  
Marie Flickinger

### Alva Sepulveda remembers 1st born

Today my first born Carlos Mottu Sepulveda would've turned 40. On December 28, 2017 Carlos took his own life changing things for my family and I forever. Carlos had great qualities one being a good athlete he excelled in baseball, basketball and track Carlos was a natural towards the end it was golf he took a liking to. Carlos loved animals he was part of P.E.T.A. and on his third Prairie dog who gratefully went to a good home. My son was a good person with a good heart. There is something few people knew about him, the love he had for Christ and the wonderful knowledge and wisdom of the Holy Bible. Carlos was 6'2" and 14'11" I close my eyes and imagine my arms around him falling on his hips and he lowering his head to kiss the top of my mine. My son was depressed turning to drugs neither one is prejudice it can happen to anyone. I love, miss and think of him everyday. Until we meet again sweet boy I love you forever,  
Love,  
Mom (Alva Sepulveda)

### Local library events set

#### Bracewell Branch Library

A notice on the City of Houston Public Library website reads, "Houston Public Library temporarily suspends service to implement COVID-19 procedures."

The Houston Public Library values the health and safety of our staff and customers as a top priority. We are actively monitoring guidance from the Houston Health Department, as well as local, state and federal authorities to do our part to support the health of the entire community.

This is a time of rapidly changing conditions regarding COVID-19, and in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this disease in our region, the Houston Public Library has suspended service at all locations until further notice. This suspension also includes all public programs and events.

Remember that the Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are always available 24/7 with your MY Link Library Card at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring, and databases.

Updated information regarding the immediate future of library services, programs, due dates, fines and late fees, and more will be communicated within the next 48 hours.

We encourage you to visit the City of Houston's Emergency Operations Center website at <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19> or call 832-393-4220 for more information meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the number of people infected. For more details visit: [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org).

#### Parker Williams Library

The regularly scheduled events for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., have been canceled.

The notice on the website reads,

"For the health and safety of our staff and customers, effective March 17 through April 1st, Harris County Public Library will temporarily transition to offering limited and no-contact in-person services to the public. Library buildings will not be accessible for public use.

We will continue to offer limited library services:

- Curbside library holds pick up (Monday - Thursday 10 AM to 6 PM, Friday 1 PM to 6 PM, Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM).
- Curbside Grab-and-Go program kits
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube
- Check your account to renew loans or request books
- Download eBooks, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive
- Stream classic films, indie cinema, and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks
- Ask us a question by phone or email
- Get book recommendations
- Register for a library card online
- No late fees will be assessed during this time. Please follow @harriscountypub on Facebook or Twitter for updated information."

For additional information, call the library at 832-927-7870.

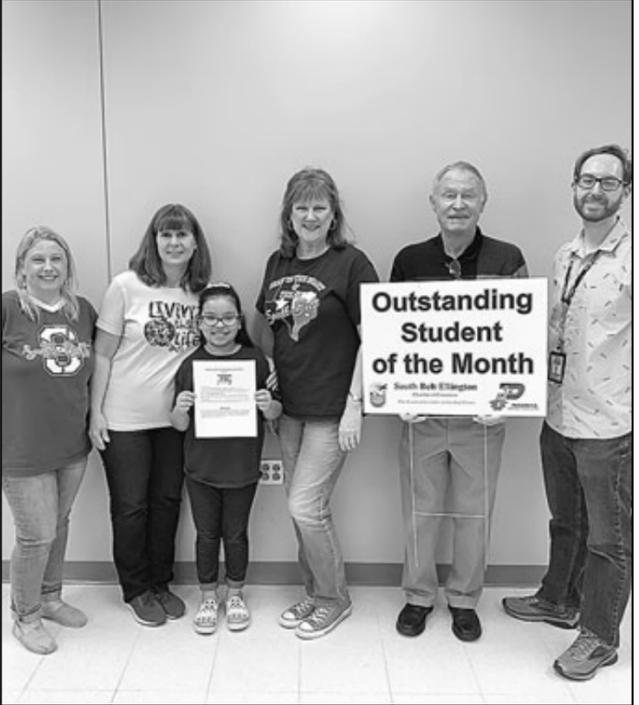
## South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce honors Outstanding Students of the Month for February



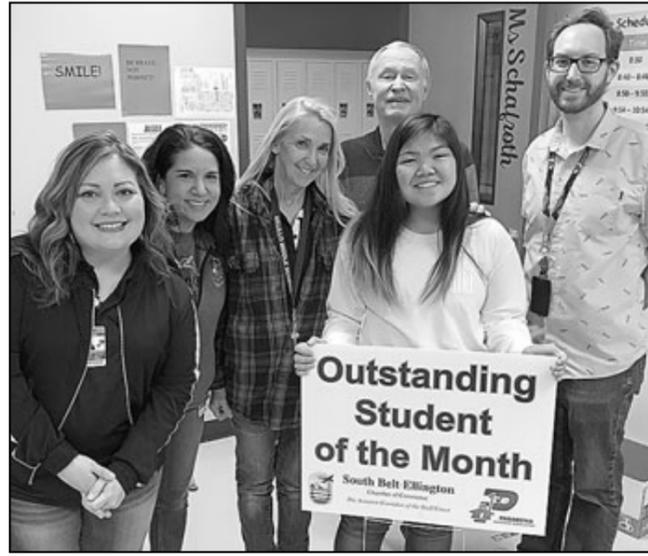
Pre-kindergartener Milan Pecina (holding sign) at Jessup Elementary has been named Outstanding Student of the Month by school staff who say that she is a bright and cheerful student who comes to class eager to learn and participates in math and reading activities. She loves learning new information and is quickly becoming an independent reader. In addition to her academics, Pecina is a kind friend who takes time to help her peers when they need it. She will continue to succeed in school with her hard work and sparkling personality. Shown above, celebrating Pecina's recognition are, left to right, Barry Burleigh, chamber member and owner of Burleigh Chiropractic; Denise Burleigh, chamber member and owner of Insurance for All Ages; Pecina; Dr. Angela Stallings, Pasadena ISD associate superintendent; Jennifer Chapa, Jessup assistant principal; and Dr. Rhonda Parmer, Pasadena ISD associate superintendent.



Fourth-grade Stuchbery Elementary student Ashley Ly (left of sign) was selected Outstanding Student of the Month by school officials who state Ly exhibits several characteristics that the Stallions embody as she strives to follow the school guidelines to success of "improving each day" and encourages others to do daily. She is friendly and improves her relationships and others by seeing the best in her friends. She is uplifting and makes everyone feel welcomed. Since this is her first year in Personalized Learning, Ly has taken advantage of the learning opportunities to become a Self-Directed Learner. Shown above are, left to right, Jose Hernandez, Stuchbery principal; Alexandra Whited, Ly, teacher; Ly; Kristi Koncaba, president and COO of Texan Bank and chamber member; Rebecca Lilley, South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce chair-elect; and Linda Bravo, teacher.



Mia Roppolo (holding certificate), fourth-grade student at South Belt Elementary, was chosen Outstanding Student of the Month by school staff who have noted that she is a great student because she is a hard worker and never gives up. She works hard to be successful, has a great attitude toward school and is a good friend to her peers. She is kind and caring and is helpful anytime that someone may need her, whether it be a peer or a teacher who needs assistance. Roppolo is a great role model for her peers as well. Honoring her in the photo above are, left to right, Marie Goree, fourth grade teacher; Linda Moreno, fourth grade teacher; Candy Howard, principal; Chris Clark, chamber member; and John Harbaugh.



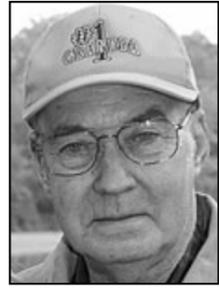
Melillo Middle School staff has named sixth-grader Tiffany Nguyen (holding sign) as the Outstanding Student of the Month, citing that she is a role model for others to follow who exemplifies the school motto "Hearts that Care, Hands that Serve and Minds that Think." Nguyen says her favorite subject is math and "she appreciates learning in Mrs. Schafroth's class." She knows that math is a skill that she will always be able to use in the future. She enjoys vacationing in Vietnam, where she is able to visit with relatives and "hang out" with family. During the summer months, Nguyen is enthusiastic to spend time drawing, singing and dancing. Her favorite Melillo school memory is the event the Mustang Games because she is able to participate as a team member to achieve a goal. Shown with Nguyen, left to right, are Jennifer Saucedo, Melillo assistant principal; Jacqueline Carmona, counselor; Kayne Schafroth, teacher; Chris Clark, chamber board member; and John Harbaugh, children's librarian at Parker Williams Library.



Morris Middle School officials have selected fifth-grader Xian Ampando (holding sign) as the Outstanding Student of the Month, noting that he demonstrates Trailblazer qualities that are very admired, including coming to class prepared, participating during the lesson and being willing to help others around him. Ampando works hard and is excited to be at school as he participates in Sprinkle with Kindness and the Boys Book Club. He gets along with his peers and motivates others to do their best. This Morris Trailblazer is known to offer his best, remain responsible and strive to succeed every day. His teachers enjoy having him in class. Enjoying the day of recognition with Ampando are, left to right, Allison Lewallen, Morris principal; Dr. Angela Stallings; Barry Burleigh; Denise Burleigh; and Dr. Rhonda Parmer.

## Death

### Horace "Buzz" Moore



Horace "Buzz" Moore, 85, of Houston, died March 11, 2020.

He was born in Jacksboro, Texas, Oct. 8, 1934, to James and Minnie Moore.

He grew up in Sweetwater, Texas.

He was married to Oleana Moore for 42 years before her death in 2004.

Buzz had a career as a letter carrier for the U.S. Post Office for 35 years. Oleana and he were members of Sagemont Church and South Belt residents for many, many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife; and brothers Coy Lee Moore, A.J. "Jack" Moore, Wayne Moore and Harold "Bigger" Moore.

Buzz is survived by his

two sons Larry Moore and wife Michelle; and Wes Moore and wife Tracey; grandchildren Zakery Moore, Jerrod Moore and Kaylee Moore; sister Ola "Sister" Robb; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation is Wednesday, March 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Forest Park East Funeral Home, 21620 Gulf Freeway, in Webster.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, March 19, at 2 p.m. at the same venue as the visitation.

Serving as pallbearers will be Zakery Moore, Jerrod Moore, Mike Moore, Jerry Moore, Mike Myers and Gary Carmouche.

### Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group posted two surveillance videos of a man that stole from a home two times in broad daylight. The location is very close to H-E-B on Blackhawk. The family was out of town during the first incident on March 9, and the second time the homeowners' children were home during

on March 15. The member states that the homeowners are giving a reward for any information on the suspect. The post was shared on other Facebook groups.

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a picture of two suspects that robbed a person March 14 in the parking lot of where Foodarama was

previously located on Fuqua at Sabo. Apparently, the incident was a sale transaction gone wrong. The person was meeting two men that were interested in purchasing a golden Frenchie puppy, but instead took the puppy. The member states that if anyone recognizes the suspects to contact them. This post has been shared on other Facebook pages.

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

# South Belt Chamber of Commerce honors outstanding students for February



Thompson Intermediate has named eighth-grade student Alexa Gonzalez (holding sign) the Outstanding Student of the Month for February. According to school staff, Gonzalez is a superb student athlete. She has represented the Lady Lions in volleyball, basketball, track and soccer. Gonzalez is also in Yearbook and PreAP classes. She is a leader among her peers and kind to others; one who is dependable, responsible and shows what it means to have Lion Pride. Sharing the moment of pride with Gonzalez are, left to right, Tanis Griffin, principal; Kristi Koncaba, president and COO of Texan Bank and chamber member; Rebecca Lilley, chamber chair-elect; and Daniel Merillas, teacher.



Atkinson Elementary kindergartener Scarlett Cruz (standing left of sign) was chosen Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Cruz comes to school every day with a smile on her face. She loves school and always does her best in her work each day. She is kind to others and is willing to help her friends and teacher. She has a friendly personality and a great attitude. She actively participates and gives interesting input in class discussions. Shown above with Cruz are, Samantha Coyle, kindergarten teacher; mother of Cruz; Lena Ortiz, school principal; Chris Clark; and John Harbaugh.



Beverly Hills Intermediate officials selected eighth-grader Matison Mitchell (holding sign) the Outstanding Student of the Month. Mitchell is a BHI athlete, musician and honors student whose hard work and perseverance really deserve to be awarded. She works hard every day, even when she isn't feeling her best. According to school staff, she is kind, helpful and caring to her friends and fellow students, and always chooses the high road in any situation. She holds herself to a higher standard and lives up to that standard. Staff say they couldn't be more proud to call Matison Mitchell a BHI Bear and know there are wonderful things in store for her. Shown celebrating Mitchell's accomplishment are, left to right, Kristi Koncaba; Jennifer Teichelman, BHI assistant principal; Mitchell; Rebecca Lilley; and Stacey Barber, BHI school principal.



Burnett Elementary School officials are proud to nominate first-grade student Torri Caniff (holding sign) as the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce February Student of the Month. Caniff is helpful, kindhearted, considerate and hard working. She is a natural born leader and takes initiative when her teacher needs something. When she arrives in the morning, she always has a smile and is ready to learn. Shown above are, left to right, Caniff's father and mother; Torri Caniff; Rebecca Lilley; and Jae Lee, Burnett principal.



The Outstanding Student of the Month for Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School is 12th-grader Alfredo Rodriguez (holding sign). Rodriguez is a member of the auto collision program. Being one of their brightest students and ranking in the top 10 percent of the Class of 2020, Rodriguez describes himself as a fast learner and catches on quickly despite his very social personality. He has won several SKILLS USA competitions and intends to pursue a career in the auto collision industry by continuing to learn from mentors and attending Universal Technical Institute. Shown with Rodriguez are, left to right, Jessica McCoy, 12th-grade assistant principal; Barry Burleigh, chamber member; Denise Burleigh, chamber member; Chris Clark; and John Harbaugh, children's librarian at Parker Williams Library.



Frazier Elementary School officials chose kindergartener Genesis Martinez (standing right of sign) as Outstanding Student of the Month. According to school officials, Martinez exemplifies virtues of her name: G-gentle, E-exemplary, N-noble, E-endeared, S-sweet, I-impartial and S-studious. Sharing the moment of honor with Martinez are, left to right, Rebecca Lilley; Martinez' mother; Martinez' little brother; Wendy Wisburn, Frazier school principal; and Kristi Koncaba.



J. Frank Dobie Ninth Grade Campus (Dobie9) school officials have named Bella Perez (holding sign) the Outstanding Student of the Month. "Bella is an outstanding young lady. She takes pride in everything that she does. Whether it is in the classroom or on the court/softball field. Not only is she on the varsity softball team as a freshman, she also takes private lessons for volleyball to keep her skills up. Doing all of these activities and still maintaining an A/B average, Bella has a great attitude and is a joy to be around. She will be successful in the future because of her high standards and work ethic," said teacher Dawn Sexton. "Bella is an extremely kind young lady. Always respectful and asking such good thought provoking questions in biology. She was asked by her softball coach to write a response to a question about the team. The question was, "Do we remove less qualified players or keep them?" Bella was all about keeping these players on the team to help build their talents and work on becoming a better family as a team. "Just a little story about her sweet nature," said teacher Amanda Langston. Shown celebrating Perez' accomplishment with her are, left to right, Clinton Hopper, assistant principal; Neal Brownlee, assistant principal; John Harbaugh; and Chris Clark.



Hancock Elementary third-grader Aiden Gilbert (holding sign) is curious, hard-working and kind. He happily helps others and is respectful of their needs. He always gets his work done in a timely manner and cares enough to do his best. When he makes academic mistakes, he wants to learn what went wrong so he can learn from his mistakes. He is a dedicated learner and is an excellent example of a Thomas Hancock Bison. Congratulating Gilbert above are, left to right, Dr. Angela Stallings, Pasadena ISD associate superintendent; Denise Burleigh, chamber member; Celena Bustos, third-grade teacher; Barry Burleigh; Veronica Sandoval, Hancock school principal; and Dr. Rhonda Farmer, Pasadena ISD associate superintendent.



Dobie High School named 12th-grader Danielle Colunga (holding sign) as Outstanding Student of the Month of February. According to school officials, Colunga is a remarkable young woman and has an excellent attitude toward her education, her peers and her community. She is a role model to the student body of Dobie High School. She has "cracked the code for time management skills" by not only participating in Advanced Placement courses, but also taking dual credit courses from the local community college. In addition to excelling in her studies, Colunga manages to participate in three sports at the varsity level, including volleyball, cross-country and softball. She is a determined and motivated individual, and has a bright future ahead of her. Joining in recognizing Colunga are, left to right, Teresa Jack, Dobie counselor; John Harbaugh; and Chris Clark.



Genoa Elementary officials named third-grader Rabail Khan (holding sign) the Outstanding Student of the Month. Khan works hard and is always persevering through the hard work. She is an honest student who always follows directions in class. Celebrating this day of notoriety with Khan are, left to right, Dr. Angela Stallings; Tiffany Bennett, Genoa Elementary principal; Khan; Denise Burleigh; and Barry Burleigh.

# Over The Back Fence by Alexis



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOE!

Wishes for a very happy birthday are sent March 25 to longtime Sagemont resident **Joe Dominguez** from his wife **Yolanda**, family, friends and the staff at the *South Belt Leader*.

## SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 19 through March 25, 2020.

### Burnett Elementary

Celebrating a special birthday March 20 is **Jae Lee**, principal. Light the candles on a birthday cake March 21 for **Patricia Castillo**, **Alicia Carrizal** and **Maria Vargas** share a day of celebration on March 22. **Carmen Norris** marks a birthday on March 25.

### Bush Elementary

Light the candles on a birthday cake March 25 for **Maria Trela**.

### Frazier Elementary

On March 20, **Bertila Guerrero** celebrates a birthday. Send a birthday greeting March 21 to **Maria Campos**.

### Genoa Elementary

March 19 is a day for a celebration for **Liz Zalde**.

### Moore Elementary

Join in the birthday fun March 23 for **Katlyn Box**. Send a birthday greeting March 24 to **Kirsten Leeper**.

### South Belt Elementary

Warm wishes for a wonderful birthday

are sent to **Chum Kim** March 20. **Katherine Myers** and **Praisie Thomas** enjoy a birthday March 23.

### Melillo Middle School

March 24 is the day for a fun celebration for **Kimberly Salinas**.

### Roberts Middle School

Marking a birthday March 22 are **Carlynn "Carly" Frank** and **Shelby Willis**. Celebrating a March 23 birthday is **Melissa Hargrave**. Send a birthday greeting March 25 to **Narcedalia Reyes**.

### Beverly Hills Intermediate

Light the birthday candles March 21 for **Berenice Mejia**. Send a happy birthday greeting March 22 to **Laura Guzman**. Share in the birthday celebration for **Daniel Mullen** March 23.

### Thompson Intermediate

**Tiffani Saucedo** enjoys a birthday March 22. Blow out the candles for **Travis Meyer** and **Joshua Pruneda** on March 24.

### Dobie High

Warm birthday greetings are sent to **Jennifer Johnson** on March 19. The day for cake and ice cream for **Leanna Foster** is March 20. Light the birthday candles on March 21 for **Carol Declercq**. **Robert Francis** marks a birthday March 23. Break out the balloons and party favors March 24 for **Angela Gaston** and **Emily Lyons**. On March 24, double birthday wishes are sent to **Gloria Martinez** and **Michael White**.

## FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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

Thursday, March 19: **Tammie Little**, **Tonyka Smith**, **Cindy Dominguez**, **Shanna Young** and **Keith Pinchbeck**; Friday, March 20: **Roxanne Wheeler**, **Ken Ditttrich**, **Martinez Joaquin**, **Carol Dawkins**, **Al Vanek**, **James Leslie**, **Martha Heinrich** and **Sheri Rose**; Saturday, March 21: **Suni Ballard**, **Jamacia Zabala-Gonzalez** and **Joseph Block**; Sunday, March 22: **Kristy Poole**, **Maria Ybarra**, **Michael Hansen**, **Edwin Watson** and **Gary Hooks**; Monday, March 23: **Cindy Kiessling**, **Monica Garza**, **Michael McKissick** and **James Lucadou**; Tuesday, March 24: **Jessica Faulkner**, **Jaime Napoli**, **Rainbow Montenegro**, **Larry Bischof** and **Michelle Noble**; and Wednesday, March 25: **Joe Dominguez**, **Iris Scentsy**, **LaMagnolia Trattoria Italiana**, **Chris Williams** and **Jeff Wright**.

## LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Send an email for notifications of birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

# Remember When

## 40 years ago (1980)

State Rep. Bill Caraway, District 100, sued Randy Pennington citing violations of the Texas Election Code.

Houston City Council adopted an ordinance restricting development that would contribute to area flooding.

Although a total of \$2,750 was offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a fire that caused \$500,000 in damage to Frazier Elementary, Houston Arson investigators had not worked on the case for several months.

Houston and Southeast Volunteer Firefighters worked two separate motor vehicle accidents. The first was an overturned pickup truck on Beamer, the other was an auto-pedestrian accident on Scarsdale.

Absentee voting for four South Belt area utility districts began.

## 35 years ago (1985)

Surveys were done to determine the necessary steps to be taken to add an authorized vehicle lane (called the Gulf Freeway Transit)

on the Gulf Freeway from downtown to the city limits at Choate Road.

## 30 years ago (1990)

Clear Creek Independent School District denied health-related transfers of four families requesting to relocate their children from the Brio area.

The *Leader* reported that more than 200 elementary-aged children were attending private schools instead of Weber because of health concerns.

Several local sports teams left fields near the Dixie Oil Processors toxic dump due to the potential for toxic chemical exposure.

A benefit dance for South Belt resident Robert Alcalá, a quadriplegic after a motorcycle accident, was planned to help defray medical and living expenses.

A special blood drive was underway for Dobie graduate Mike Morris who experienced complications after surgery.

## 25 years ago (1995)

J. Frank Dobie sophomore Cheryl Brzozell won two gold and two bronze medals in the Pan American games in Argentina.

Several South Belt residents won medals in the Clear Creek Independent School District science fair.

The Thompson Intermediate academic team won their third straight championship.

## 20 years ago (2000)

The Scarsdale bridge reopened at Beamer Road.

A house fire across from the home of Jaime Barrica who had been shot at his home was ruled intentional.

The Clear Brook High School Latin Club won first

in the Gulf Coast area competition for the fourth time in five years.

## 15 years ago (2005)

The Harris County District Attorney's office sought a fifth suspect in the murder-for-hire of Luan Cong Pham. This suspect was believed to have supplied the weapon used in the murder.

Harris County leaders Commissioner El Franco Lee, Constable Gary Freeman and Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado hosted an Easter egg hunt at El Franco Lee Park.

The death of Sandra Sanchez, 32, who had dog bites on her body when it was found in the backyard of her residence, was ruled accidental.

*Forever*, a book by Judy Blume, was causing controversy at PISD due to its sexually graphic content. The American Library Association named it as its eighth most banned book.

The Chase Bank, South Belt, was robbed by a male suspect of unknown age. No weapon was displayed, but he gave the teller a note demanding money. The teller complied and the suspect left in an unknown direction.

## 10 years ago (2010)

Pasadena Independent School District officials proposed to open a new facility in the South Belt to cater to would-be incoming Dobie freshmen deemed not yet prepared for high school.

To be located on Blackhawk between Dobie High School and Moore Elementary, the center would primarily house students from Thompson and Bever-

ly Hills intermediates who had not passed their Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests.

## 5 years ago (2015)

Chuck Tylka was re-elected by his colleagues to serve another term as chief of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department. This marked the seventh consecutive time Tylka, who has 40 years of service, had filled the position. Founding member Jerry Terrell, who has 44 years of service, was re-elected assistant chief/fire marshal.

## 1 year ago (2019)

A South Belt resident and his son were shot the evening of Saturday, March 16, during a road rage incident near NRG Park. Ricardo Quiroga, 61, and Richard Quiroga, 28, were leaving the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo around 5:40 p.m. in the 1500 block of Fannin when they got into an altercation with another driver.

The argument escalated, and the incident led both drivers to travel east in the 1400 block of West Bellfort Avenue, where the second driver positioned himself behind the Quiroga's vehicle and began firing a weapon. Ricardo Quiroga then returned fire.

The father was shot in the shoulder area, while his son was shot in the head. Both were transported to a nearby hospital.

Richard Quiroga suffered serious injuries in the incident but was expected to survive.

The second driver fled the scene. It is unknown if he was struck by a bullet. No immediate arrests were made.

# Moore celebrates Go Texan Day



Moore Elementary students and staff recently observed Go Texan Day. Shown above are, left to right, Shelly Blair, second-grade teacher; David Perry; Emiliano Solis; Nyroshi Harris; Dahlia Salinas; Hailey Sichan; and Kayden Milton.



Shown above are, left to right, Chance Slaughter, Xara Oddo, Maite Ortega and second-grade teacher Sara Saxon. Photos submitted



Displaying all smiles during Go Texan Day are, left to right, Lourdes Guenard, librarian; Denise Narvaez, paraprofessional; and third-grade teacher Maury Klann.



Shown above are, left to right, Emmery Lynn; Lakennia Cole, fourth-grade teacher; and Lilah Aguayo. Shown left are, left to right, (front row) Giovanni Hernandez, Jorge Moreno, Antonio Aguirre, Arian Arellano, Amelia Gomez, Kaley Bustos, Alexia Lozano (back row) Hector Gomez, Allyson Moreira, Iker Valdez, David Gloria and Ana Villarreal.

## St. Luke's plans parish bazaar

Members of the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist church, 11011 Hall Road, are planning a parish bazaar to be held Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Anyone who wants to register for a craft or product vendor booth (no food or beverages) should contact Lupe Saiz at communications@stlukecatholic.com.

Registration fee is \$175 (no refunds, consider this donation if the vendor or the event has to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances).

This fundraiser will benefit the St. Luke building fund. Deadline for registering for a vendor booth is Sept. 25.

## Moore offers scholarships

Moore Elementary student council is offering four scholarships to graduating seniors from Dobie and Lewis Career & Technical high schools who attended Moore in fourth grade.

Applications are available through the Dobie senior counselor's office and must be returned by Thursday, April 9, to be considered.

# METRO steps up safety

METRO is stepping up its public service efforts to help safeguard against the spread of the new coronavirus also known as COVID-19.

While METRO has not been instructed to take any specific protective action, the Authority is putting an even greater emphasis on disinfecting surfaces frequently touched by the public during daily bus and rail cleaning, displaying posters along the system reminding riders of public health officials' recommendations to stop the spread of germs,

communicating safety messages on service alerts and remaining in close and continuous communication with local public health and emergency management officials to monitor developments.

These additional measures are being put in place because METRO understands the importance public transit plays in this region and wants everyone to be reassured it will continue to evaluate the threat of this virus and respond appropriately.

Protecting the health and

safety of patrons, employees and the community is METRO's number one priority.

While METRO uses an antibacterial disinfectant to clean vehicles and facilities, self care is still the best protection.

According to METRO officials, it is important that the public relies on credible sources for information and follows the guidance of health officials who encourage proper hygiene, frequent hand washing and staying home if a person is sick.

## UHCL fine arts graduates-to-be showcase work in exhibition

Nineteen seniors preparing to graduate from University of Houston-Clear Lake with a Bachelor of Fine Arts plan to exhibit their works in the 2020 Spring BFA Exhibition, opening April 9 during in the university's Art Gallery.

Lauren Kussro, assistant professor of art and design said that the participating students had submitted five or more of their best works from across all media for the exhibition.

"The art faculty chooses the strongest works from all the selections that reflect the students' best work," she said.

Kussro said that the stu-

dents had been working with art faculty as mentors, receiving additional guidance and direction about their body of work and what choices to make for exhibiting.

"We have some standout pieces in this show," she said. "Eve Maulsby did a large sculptural piece called 'December Reflections' that she made with welded steel and wire. It's a beautiful piece she did in (associate professor of art) Jason Makepeace's class. It's impressive."

Also, she said Rodrigo Gamarro's large linocut print was another focal point of the show. "Linocut is a print process in which linoleum is carved, then inked with a brayer, then run through the press," she said. "Rodrigo traveled to Italy recently and was influenced strongly by the art he saw there. His piece is called 'La Pieta.'"

Kussro said the goal of

the exhibition was to show the best of what the students were creating in the Fine Arts program. "We want people to understand what they're accomplishing and that the faculty are really proud of their students and happy to show off what they're doing," she said. "People who come to the exhibition will see a wide range of really excellent work."

As students graduate Kussro said, some are going on to graduate school, some may receive internships, and some will be doing freelance work.

An awards reception is currently scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, in which winners for Best in Show, first, second and third place will be announced.

For additional information about the UHCL's Art Gallery, visit [www.uhcl.edu/art-gallery/](http://www.uhcl.edu/art-gallery/).

## City of Houston Public Works meets on force main replacement

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin and Houston Public Works would like to make area residents aware of an upcoming public engagement meeting

for the Bayfield Lift Station Wastewater Force Main Renewal and Replacement Project.

The scope of work for this

project includes removing the aging pipes and replacing them with new ones, which will ensure reliable wastewater operations services.

The public engagement meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 31, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Club Room at Space Center Houston,

1601 E. NASA Parkway. Residents are invited to attend to provide input, engage in one-on-one discussion, and ask questions regarding the

project. The meeting will begin with a formal presentation, followed by a breakout session allowing residents to speak directly with the project team. For those unable to attend the public engagement meeting, residents can request project materials and submit comments to [buildforward@houston.tx.gov](mailto:buildforward@houston.tx.gov).

## Legal clinics temporarily canceled

For the health and safety of the public, the Veterans Administration canceled all scheduled Friday and Saturday veterans legal clinics held at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) until further notice.

This notice applies only to the legal clinics sponsored by the Houston Bar Association and Houston Volunteer Lawyers. For information on medical issues, visit [VA.gov](http://VA.gov). For updates, visit [HBA.org](http://HBA.org).

The Veterans Legal Initiative is a program of the Houston Bar Association and Houston Volunteer Lawyers, with funding from the Texas Access to Justice

Foundation, the Houston Bar Foundation and the Texas Veterans Commission.

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## PLT presents "The Glass Menagerie"

Pasadena Little Theatre is proud to continue celebrating its 65th Anniversary season with its final audience choice production.

"The Glass Menagerie" is a classic drama written by Tennessee Williams.

In the production, Tom Wingfield is trapped between the responsibilities he must shoulder, since his father abandoned the family, by providing for his mother, Amanda and disabled sister Laura and the life of adventure and change that he craves just beyond his reach.

When his mother asks him to find a "gentleman caller" at his warehouse workplace to bring home for his sister, Tom's worlds collide and set him on a path to planning his escape.

Director Alric Davis presents this classic drama in a new light in PLT's intimate Black Box space.

The innovative staging features modern technology to juxtapose the revolutionary period of the setting of the "The Glass Menagerie" and advances the memory play's momentum.

"The Glass Menagerie"

features director Alric Davis, a first-time director at PLT. His cast includes Manny Martinez, Shawna A. Glad, Rebecca Bernstein and Rolando Cantu Jr.

This production opens on the Black Box Stage March 20 and continues weekends through March 29. Friday and Saturday showtimes are 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 713-941-1758 or visit [www.pasadenalittletheatre.org](http://www.pasadenalittletheatre.org).



Shown above is cast member Rebecca Bernstein portraying character Laura as she adores playing with her menageries. Photo by Zack Varela

## Moore names spelling bee winner

Moore Elementary third-grader, Lilah Aguayo (right) placed first in the Pasadena ISD Elementary Spelling Bee. Some words she spelled were ancient, golden, abandon, haven, vial and galaxy. Aguayo's parents are Jose Aguayo and Cindy Montemayor. Shown below are, left to right, Diego Corona, third-place winner from Red Bluff Elementary; Aguayo; and Madelynn Peve-to, second-place winner from Parks Elementary.

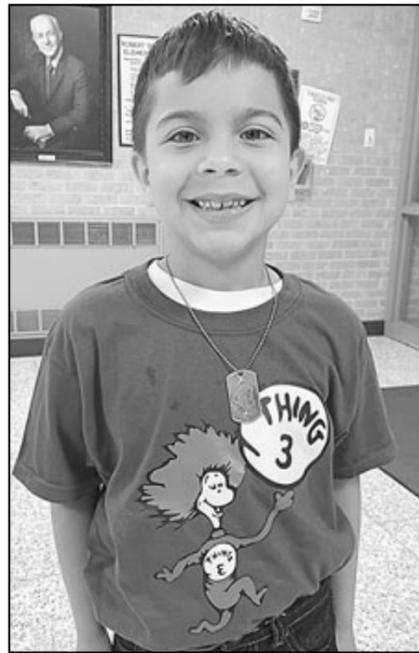
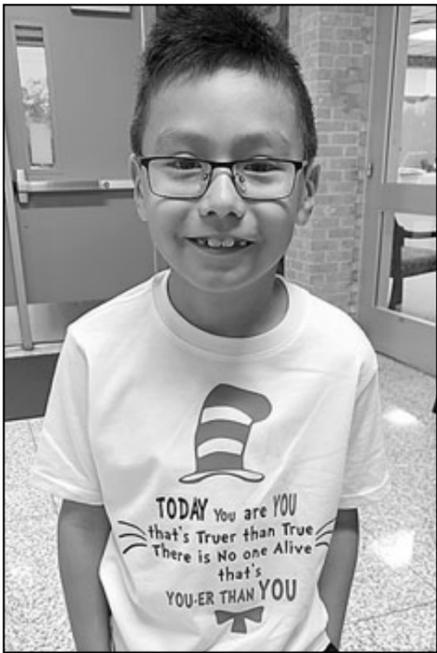


## South Belt announces VIPs for the month of March



South Belt Elementary officials announced the VIP students for the month of March. The students were chosen by their teachers, based on their ability to display the character trait of the month *kindness*. Shown are, left to right, (first row) Mario Sanchez, Alessandra Gutierrez, Hailee Walker, Noah Abarca, Thomas Duong, Camryn Gutierrez, (second row) Sophia Franklin, Jacob Stallings, Dannie Nguyen, Hannah Walker, Kai Gibbs, Felix Gonzalez, (third row) Jeremias Fred, Alessandra Vasquez, Breanna McNeal, Erica Gonzalez, Anthony Gonzales (fourth row) Jaden Jimenez, Maham Bukhari, Carlos Soto, Ethan Nguyen, Gabriel Melchor, Ruby Dent, Juliet Martinez, (fifth row) Belladon Thomas, Kailynn Scott, Ke'Mareun Adams, Crysta Keim, Jordyn Rodriguez and Emma Stone. Not shown are Clayton Davis, Vivian Lara, Luna Molina, Anna Nguyen and Daniel Velasquez. Photo by Lakitha Green

## Frazier Elementary celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday



Frazier Elementary recently celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, with students and staff enjoying the festivities. Shown above left is, first-grader, Ethan Hernandez. Shown top middle is first-grader, Jacob Ayala. Shown top right is, second-grader Aizik Chiovaro.

Shown bottom left are, left to right, Alex Boone, first-grade teacher Charity Boone, Ava Boone and Alonso Boone. Shown bottom right are, first-grader Isabelle Covarrubias and ABE teacher Ashley McPeck. Photos submitted



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**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Saturday	Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30, 9:15, 11:15 a.m.	
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday		9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday		7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated  
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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St. Luke's offers ministries for ALL-families, men, women, youth, children, young adults, single, divorced, separated, widowed.



## New Covenant Christian Church

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### WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

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

Nursery Available at all Services

Editorial

# What COVID-19 statistics from other countries tell us

By Bill King

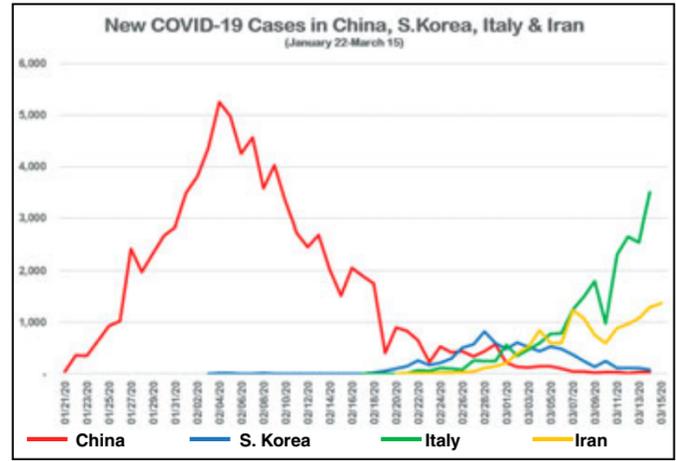
We are so early into the outbreak of COVID-19 it is dangerous to jump to many conclusions based on the very limited data we have. We have studied influenza for decades with a universe of hundreds of millions of cases. Yet, there is still a great deal of uncertainty regarding influenza's fatality and transmission rates. With COVID-19, we are dealing with a data on only about 150,000 cases over less than three months. On top of that, we know little about how accurate the data we have is.

But, with that huge caveat in mind, there may be a pattern developing based on the experiences of China, South Korea, Italy and Iran. These are the current hot spots. All of the other countries that have reported cases have fewer than half the cases of these four countries and their outbreaks started somewhat later.

The World Health Organization (WHO) began publishing daily updates on the number of cases by country on January 21. (See 1 below.) According to their data China already had 278 cases at that time. There were only four cases outside of China. The outbreak in China rapidly accelerated and by the first week in February, it was reporting over 3,000 new cases per day. The number of cases in South Korea, Italy and Iran began to accelerate about two weeks later.

The number of new cases in China and S. Korea peaked after about two weeks and then began to decline almost as fast. Yesterday (March 15) China and S. Korea reported only 27 and 76 new cases, respectively.

But Italy's and Iran's experience has been different; Italy's starkly so. In both countries, the number of new cases has continued to climb, hitting new highs yesterday of 3,497 and 1,365, respectively. And, discouragingly, both are well past the two weeks that it took cases in China and S. Korea to peak.



Once again, we should be very hesitant about drawing too many conclusions based on the very, very limited data we have. There is undoubtedly wide variance in accuracy and methodologies of how the data on new cases is being collected. There has also been a fair amount of justifiable skepticism about China's reported numbers given its penchant for secrecy and gliding the lily about anything having to do with its country.

Nonetheless, there may be some inferences to be drawn. First, the increases in the incidences of infection has been not "exponential" anywhere, notwithstanding the media's repeated characterization to that effect. I frequently see charts showing the cumulative numbers of cases. Those are always going to show a much steeper increase and resemble an exponential function. But the critical parameter is how fast the spread of virus is accelerating or decelerating. That will be reflected by the number of new cases over time, not the number of cumulative cases.

Second, it appears that China and S. Korea were able to contain the virus in about two weeks. As nearly as I can determine from media reports, each had somewhat different containment strategies, but both took extraordinary measures. But Italy, and Iran to a lesser extent, have not been able to contain the outbreak in their countries. Italy's numbers are particularly alarming given they have now locked down the entire country and the virus is still spreading at a rapid (but not exponential) rate. It would be very helpful to determine if China and S. Korea did something(s) that Italy and Iran have not.

Third, the overall infection rates have been extraordinarily low. In Hubei province where the outbreak started, only 1 in 870 people have been infected so far and the number of new cases has slowed to a trickle. In other words, even at the epicenter of the outbreak where it is now largely been contained (at least, according to the Chinese), only slightly more than one/tenth of one percent was infected. (See 2 below.) The rates have even been lower in the other countries (S. Korea=1:6,300 - Italy=1:2,900 - Iran=1:6,600).

I offer this perspective on the data not to suggest that anyone is overreacting or underreacting to the outbreak. But, when facing a new threat, we have been programmed by evolution to exaggerate danger in our minds, at least until we can accurately assess the degree and lethality of the new threat. That instinct can only be overcome by dispassionately examining actual data.

A link to the spreadsheet I have been working on is <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yQxv1UF0j7HHErYrRnOCJ3Fslc0CgNI/view>. You are welcome to download it and do your own analysis. If anyone finds any errors in it, please let me know. I will be regularly updating this analysis.

1. All of these statistics come from the World Health Organization's situation reports. On February 17, the WHO changed the methodology for counting new cases from China's Hubei province. Prior to February 17, the WHO had only included laboratory confirmed cases, not clinically diagnosed cases. On February 17, WHO added the previously clinically diagnosed cases (= 17,688 cases) in a lump sum. For charting purposes, I have "spread" the clinically diagnosed cases over each previous day proportionate to the laboratory confirmed cases from China for that day.

2. The actual number of infections in Hubei was undoubtedly higher than .1% as asymptomatic and mild cases likely went undiagnosed. But even if the infection rate was ten times higher than reported, that still means that 99% of the population was never infected.

# Space X Falcon 9 arrives at NASA

The Falcon has landed. A flown SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket exhibit is open at Space Center Houston. The flown Falcon 9 first stage booster set outside Space Center Houston offers an intimate look at a reusable rocket used to further space exploration and America's commercial space industry.

Its two-stage configuration minimizes the number of separation events and was designed to deliver payloads to orbit for a variety of commercial and government customers, including NASA.

When the booster was flown a second time in December 2017 (CRS-13), it marked the first time a flown booster was used for a NASA mission.

"We're thrilled guests can now see the real thing with this actual piece of flown hardware that's shaping the future of commercial spaceflight," said Harris. SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket exhibit is included with general admission to Space Center Houston.

Thanks to a generous contribution from SpaceX, Falcon 9 is the newest addition to the nonprofit's growing collection of flown space vehicles and historic rockets.

"Our SpaceX rocket exhibit will inspire people of all ages to pursue science learning and discovery," said William T. Harris, president and CEO of the science and space exploration learning center.

"We want everyone to have access to learn about the growing commercial space sector which is stimulating the economy and drawing more companies to provide innovative technologies, medical advances and further NASA's plans to send humans to the moon and Mars."

The Falcon 9 booster is displayed horizontally, allowing guests to walk underneath the flown rocket. It has a 156.5 feet (47.7 meters) long frame with a stage diameter of 12 feet (3.7 meters) and houses nine first-stage engines.



SpaceX Falcon 9

# PISD addresses COVID-19 issues

Continued from Page 1A  
Mobile Health Clinic

Pasadena ISD has given The Pasadena Health Center's (PHC) permission to locate its mobile health clinic at each of the meal distribution sites. Medical staff can see and treat most minor illnesses.

This unprecedented situation together. The health of Pasadena ISD students, staff and community continues to be the District's top priority.

"We wish to thank our Child Nutrition Department for planning and offering these meals for our students," said PISD superintendent Powell.

"We wish to thank our Child Nutrition Department for planning and offering these meals for our students," said PISD superintendent Powell.

At this time, the clinic does have the ability to test for coronavirus (COVID 19), but can see patients of all ages for most other reasons. If one believes one may have been exposed to the coronavirus (COVID 19), contact a primary care physician.

# Governor Abbott temporarily waives DPS expiration dates

For those who do not have a primary care physician, the Pasadena Health Center can see patients at their clinic, located at 908 Southmore Ave. #100, in Pasadena.

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Wednesday, March 18, that he has directed the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to temporarily waive expiration dates for driver licenses, commercial driver licenses and other identification forms.

"Our top priority remains public health and safety, and we will continue to take action to ensure that Texans can avoid large public gatherings," said Abbott.

"Texas is at a pivotal moment in the response to COVID-19, and by temporarily delaying driver license renewals we will help limit nonessential trips into public settings and slow the spread of this virus," said Abbott.

The mobile clinic will be at each of the following meal distribution sites according to the following schedule. No appointment is needed. Payments can be made via Medicaid, CHIP and Sliding Scale.

This action falls within the Governor's State of Disaster Declaration and is

This suspension will be in effect until 60 days after the DPS provides further public notice that normal driver license operations have resumed.

Forms and applications are available on the web-

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# Symphony cancels concerts

The Houston Symphony announced that it is canceling all remaining concerts for the month of March in order to protect the health of audiences, musicians and staff.

"We want to be completely compliant with Judge Hidalgo's recommendation to avoid all public gatherings over 250 people," explained Executive Director, CEO, and holder of the Margaret Alkek Williams Chair John Mangum. "The nature of our art form means that not only do we typically have thousands of people in the audience on any given night, but we also may have hundreds of musicians in close quarters onstage. In light of this, the responsible thing to do is to cancel performances, and continue to closely monitor the situation and follow the guidance and recommendations of our local health officials, the CDC and the WHO."

The Houston Symphony is a key contributor to Houston's nonprofit arts and cultural community, which is a vital part of Houston's economy. The unexpected loss of event-dependent revenue and related decline in charitable contributions is still being felt in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey just 3 years ago and is expected to grow over time as a result of this recent health crisis.

**Mobile Health Clinic Schedule:**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Monday**  
Pasadena High School, 206 S. Shaver St., Pasadena, TX 77506.  
**Tuesday**  
Dobie High School, 10220 Blackhawk Blvd., 77089.  
**Wednesday**  
Pasadena Memorial High School, 4410 Crenshaw Road, Pasadena, TX 77504.  
**Thursday**  
Sam Rayburn High School, 2121 Cherry Brook Lane, Pasadena, TX 77502.  
**Friday**  
South Houston High School, 3820 Shaver St., South Houston, TX 77587.

Visit one of the following links for a message from Dr. DeeAnn Powell: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=13GkAC2\\_E9gR5-nJ75h-mU2qo1cK7TUor](https://drive.google.com/open?id=13GkAC2_E9gR5-nJ75h-mU2qo1cK7TUor) or <https://youtu.be/4px44cYh-G8>.

**Official statement: closure through April 10**

All Pasadena ISD facilities will remain closed for normal operations through Friday, April 10, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Houston area continues to see an increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and health officials report this number is expected to increase as more testing is made available. The Centers for Disease Control has outlined the need for all communities to implement a social distancing protocol. The district anticipates beginning instructional support outside of school through the use of electronic and nonelectronic materials on Monday, March 23. Right now the district is working diligently to prepare the staff to be able to provide support and feedback to the students. Parents will receive further information regarding instruction from their child's campus.

The website has optional extended learning opportunities and activities for students. The district encourages parents and students to visit the district's website and social media often for the most recent updates as we navigate

# Cardinal announces changes to ceremonies

Sunday, daily Masses suspended

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo announced March 17, that all weekday and Sunday Masses have been suspended in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as of Wednesday, March 18.

In regard to weddings, ceremonies are limited to celebration of the Marriage Rite outside Mass itself, with no more than 10 people in attendance, including ministers.

Concerning the baptism of infants, the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is to be postponed, unless there is danger of death.

Funerals may only take place in the form of "The Rite of Committal with Final Commendation." The celebration of a memorial Mass can be rescheduled.

# Harris County juries canceled until 3-31

As of March 17, all jury calls have been suspended through Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

need to appear. Check with the judge for the latest updates.

Harris County jurors who have received a summons for dates through March 31 do not need to appear and do not have to reschedule their service.

If someone has a summons for a date beyond March 31, they need to make sure to sign up for Jury Service reminders through the Jury Service Tab on the following website: <https://www.hcdistrictclerk.com/Common/Juror/Secure/JurorSearch.aspx>.

Reassessments will be considered on an ongoing basis.

This will be the best way to receive alerts on cancellations.

Jurors summoned for Justice of the Peace (JP) Court will need to call their JP Court for the most up-to-date information.

Alternatively, make sure to check District Clerk Office social media and the DCO website prior to appearance date.

# HCAD suspends service inside office

The Harris County Appraisal District will continue operations but will no longer provide face-to-face services to the public inside the building. This policy became effective 8 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, as part of the effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the area.

property owners can file a protest using iFile or settle a protest using iSettle after creating an owner account on the website. A drop box also will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the building entrance at 13013 Northwest Freeway.

"The appraisal district will continue operations, and we are committed to being responsive to our property owners.

"Social distancing is one of the best ways to support the health of the entire community, which is why we also have postponed our public workshops until further notice," Altinger said. "We will continue to have employees available to answer your questions by phone or email during regular business hours," Altinger said.

However, we believe it is in the best interest of our property owners and employees to temporarily suspend direct face-to-face contact with the public while continuing to provide services through other options, such as the phone or our online services," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

HCAD's telephone information center is available at 713-957-7800 for account questions.

Forms and applications are available on the web-

Questions and forms may also be sent to HELP@HCAD.org.

**Regional health care institutions align on protective measures for COVID-19**

HOUSTON – Regional health care providers in the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world, are committed to protecting the health and safety of patients, visitors, employees and members of the community during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Institutions are working together to proactively implement measures that can serve to decrease transmission of the virus and "flatten the curve," which aims to extend new cases over a longer time period to avoid overwhelming the capacity of the health care system.

To accomplish this goal, institutions are calling on anyone visiting a hospital or any health care site to seriously consider the following:

- **Patients and visitors should plan ahead.** Check your institution's website for specific visitor policy information.
- If patients are not feeling well, they should contact their care team for direction before traveling to the appointment.
- If visitors are not feeling well, they should stay home.
- Most institutions only allow **two visitors at a time**, per patient. Visitors must be **18 or older** and **cannot have symptoms** of fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- Allow extra time as **building entrances have been reduced and health screenings are taking place at these entrances.** Screenings include questions about recent travel, current health and a possible temperature check.
- People who do not have a critical reason to be at the hospital or health care site should stay home.
- The best way to prevent the spread of germs is proper hand hygiene and cough etiquette. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

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# SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

## 22-6A honors JFD's Scott



A varsity player since roughly the midway point of his freshman campaign, Dobie senior Marquice Scott (22) averaged 13 points per game in 2019-2020 on his way to a District 22-6A first-team nomination. See all of the selections on Page 3B.  
Photo by John Bechtler

## Baseball, softball hopes for return

With a start date not projected before about mid-April, it's impossible to know when or if the respective high school baseball and/or softball seasons will continue.

It's a difficult ending to consider if so, and the Clear Brook and Dobie teams are dealing as well as possible.

To this point, head coach Robin Rackley's varsity softball team had been rolling. Despite a loss to Atascocita just as play was halted, the Lady Longhorns were 5-1 in league play, just a game behind 6-0 Atascocita.

The team's offense had been as stout as ever, with big hits coming from up and down a lineup that includes many. The by-committee pitching staff was also answering the call for the most part, with 20 overall wins on the horizon.

Dobie, which reached the regional quarterfinals for the first time since 2012 last year, simply wants an opportunity to go farther. Perhaps it will  
Continued on Page 2B



Dobie varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres will be pleased to see the 2020 season continue after his Longhorns began the campaign with a 9-2-1 record before play was stopped.



A Dobie graduate, former longtime varsity assistant and then head coach of the varsity boys' program for 12 seasons, Kevin Cross has resigned his post but will remain at the school in his teaching role.

## San Jacinto softball ends season

Players like Ashley Ramber, Morgan Childs, Lillie Grotenhuis, Dalilah Bravo and so many others delivering career years, and the San Jacinto College team as a whole putting together a tremendously successful season to this point, yet it will be all for naught in a sense.

The National Junior College Athletic Association has made the necessary yet unpopular decision to halt all 2019-2020 spring sports for good.

**2020 Record: 19-4**  
**Top 16 National Ranking**  
**What would have been?**

ending San Jac's as well as hundreds of other seasons for JUCOs across America. For those like Ramber, Grotenhuis, Childs and each of the team's other sophomores, their Coyote careers are over, but what a ride it's been.

With 19 wins in 23 overall games, San Jac went from unranked to the nation's top 16. A win over then-fifth ranked Tyler boosted San Jac's cred just before the start of conference play, which now won't come.

The 2020 offensive production was up there with the nation's best and was threatening the college recordbooks, but now what's left is "what if?" The players will be remembered, and head coach Kelly Saenz will surely extend team awards at some point, but this team had earned the right for so much more. Thank you, Coronavirus - one of many seasons you took away this spring season.

## Dobie hoops' Cross resigns post

Kevin Cross, literally a Dobie boys' basketball lifer, has resigned after 12 seasons as its head coach and many more as its top varsity assistant. A Dobie graduate, Cross played under the guidance of longtime head coach Scott Talton, whom he succeeded in 2007-2008 upon Talton's retirement. A player on Dobie's 1988-1989 regional final four team, Cross attend-

ed college and joined Talton's staff. In 2015-2016, Cross guided the Longhorns back to that regional final four before a loss to Cy-Lakes. That Cy-Lakes team was led by current NBA standout DeAaron Fox. "I would like to thank Kevin personally, as well as on behalf of Dobie High School for past 20+ years of Dobie Basketball. "He has been an intri-

cate part of the successes of not only the basketball program here at Dobie, but more importantly the lives of many young men over the years. "He personifies the qualities and traits of Dobie Pride," Dobie principal Franklin Moses said. The original plan called for a replacement to be on hand sometime this fall, but that timetable may be pushed back.

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## Lajaunie tennis youths to benefit

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship event has joined the ever-growing list of events that have been postponed and could in fact be canceled.

Organizers still plan to play tennis. That stated, event founder Camille Lajaunie told the *Leader* that youth scholarships based on proceeds from the event will be awarded as planned.

The 2020 event was set for May 1-3 but has been postponed indefinitely. Lajaunie is still seeking scholarship donations not only now but throughout the year.

To assist with the Lajaunie scholarship fund, direct email to Lajaunie at cjlajaunie@gmail.com.

## LSU softball, Pleasants on sideline

At right, Dobie Class of 2019 graduate Taylor Pleasants started fast for the Louisiana State University softball team and could have potentially been in the running for Freshman of the Year honors in the Southeastern Conference as well as perhaps help her team to great heights in the postseason. That's all on hold for now but there is chatter of spring season athletes regaining a season of eligibility.



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## PISD Hall of Fame postpones banquet

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Pasadena ISD has elected to postpone the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet of April 4, 2020 at Phillips Field House in Pasadena.

All Pasadena ISD facilities will be closed until April 13, 2020 and no events have been rescheduled at this point in time.

Currently, officials do not know when the banquet will be rescheduled.

Those involved will provide status updates frequently to this committee, and updates will also be posted frequently on the Pasadena ISD website and on Facebook.

Officials have not specifically discussed refunds, but if any of the ticket holders wish to have a refund, those opportunities will likely come about in due time as more is known.

**PISD Athletics Hall of Fame Canceled for 2020 Entries Youth Scholarships Honored**  
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### Swing Queens 6U take La Porte title



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 6-under Swing Queens went undefeated, taking first place at the La Porte Girls Softball Association's invitational. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Shannon Logan, Madeline Herrera, Juliana Hinojosa, Zahriah Garza, Audryna St. Romain, Isabella Granados, (middle row) Miranda Coronado, Sydney Logan, Isabelle Gutierrez, Brianna Quiroga, Arianna Quiroga, Sophia Paz, (back row) assistant coach Manuel Coronado, head coach Pedro Gutierrez and assistant coaches Armando Quiroga and Jesus Paz.

### SBGSA 6U Hustle place third at La Porte Co-op



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 6-under Hustle placed third at the La Porte Co-Op tournament after a solid performance. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Analise DeLeon, Adriana Rodriguez, Rosalyn Marquez, Liliana Marquez, Aribella Esquivel, (middle row) Alyson Salazar, Kendra Varela, Savanna Rodriguez, Esmeralda Marquez, Adalina Sosa, Isabella Armas (back row) assistant coach Eseneth Salazar, assistant coach Eric Rodriguez, head coach Christina Mendoza-Marquez and assistant coach Arturo Esquivel.

### Dynamite 10U earn Mayhem crown



The 10-under Dynamite of the South Belt Girls Softball Association took first place in the March Mayhem tournament in Friendswood. Members of the championship team include, left to right, (front row) Jazlynn Wimbush, Trinity De Leon, Destiny Sidiropoulos, Andilyn Garcia, Jaylyn Torres, Aria Victorian, (middle row) Samantha Uribe, Alicia Diaz, Madison Villatoro, Makayla Lechuga, Gisselle Morales, Emmery Lynn, (back row) coaches Mark Victorian, Ruben Garcia, Juan De Leon and April De Leon.

### Dobie graduate Garcia hopeful at Howard Payne



At right, Dobie Class of 2017 graduate Lesly Garcia (1) was second on the team in goals scored (6), shots (36) and shots on goal (20) in 2019 for the Howard Payne University women's soccer team. She started in 17 of 19 matches played in for HPU while logging over 1,100 minutes of action, earning honorable mention all-conference status. She also started all but one of the team's matches over her freshman and sophomore seasons and is looking forward to her final season in August when things get back to normal. She played three varsity seasons at Dobie.

### Bush Big Shoot Out winners named

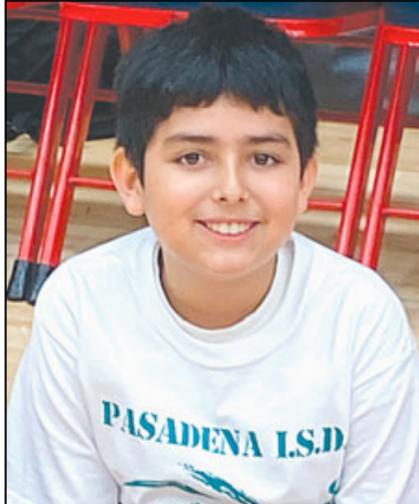
Laura Bush Elementary students first qualified by excelling in their schoolwide Big Shoot Out competition and then participated in the Pasadena ISD Championships last month.



Bush student Mercedez Vento, second place at district



Laura Bush qualifier Zaria Edgar



Laura Bush qualifier David Ramirez



Laura Bush qualifier Brandon Saucedo

### Baseball, softball still eyeing return to action ASAP

Continued from Page 1B come. Ditto for Dobie baseball, which got two more wins in Baytown before the stoppage, including a 10-0 win over Clear Falls that saw left-hander Domenic Martinez throw a no-hitter. At 9-2-1, the Longhorns liked where they were, even with a daunting 22-6A schedule forthcoming. For Martinez, a Paris College signee, and fellow standout pitchers Daniel Garza (four-year starter, UT San Antonio signee) and Alan Lopez, not to mention three-year catcher Justin Blogg, there simply has to be more baseball. The same can be stated for Clear Brook, where the Wolverines had dropped six straight games at one point, largely in part to shaky defense but had just won two consecutive, with the 24-6A race then coming. It's all on hold for now, with no start coming soon.

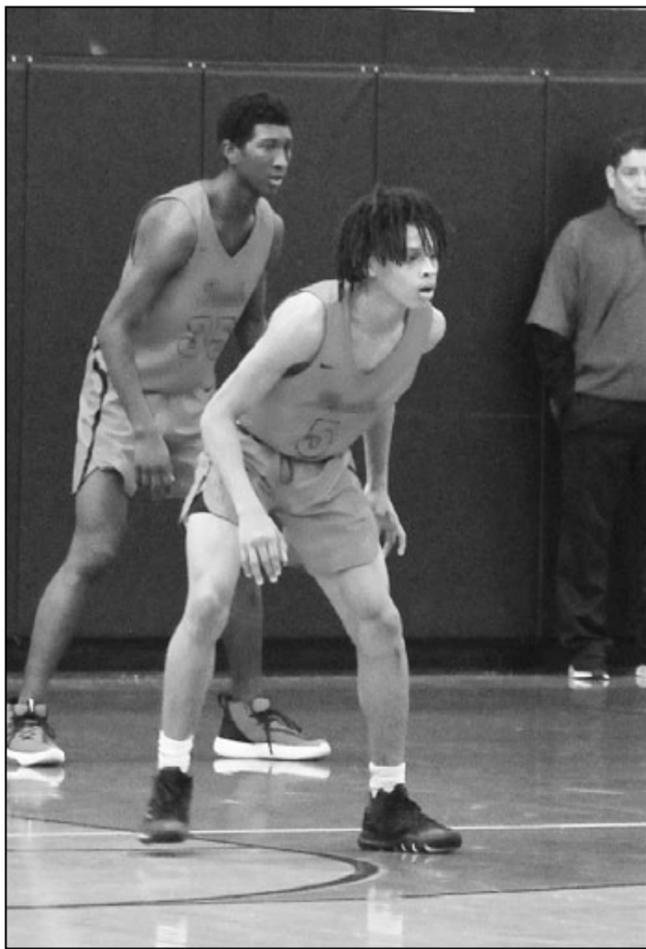


At right, Dobie's Justin Blogg (34) and Alan Lopez (42) helped the Longhorns to a 9-2-1 start before the Coronavirus event. Photo by Gary Williams

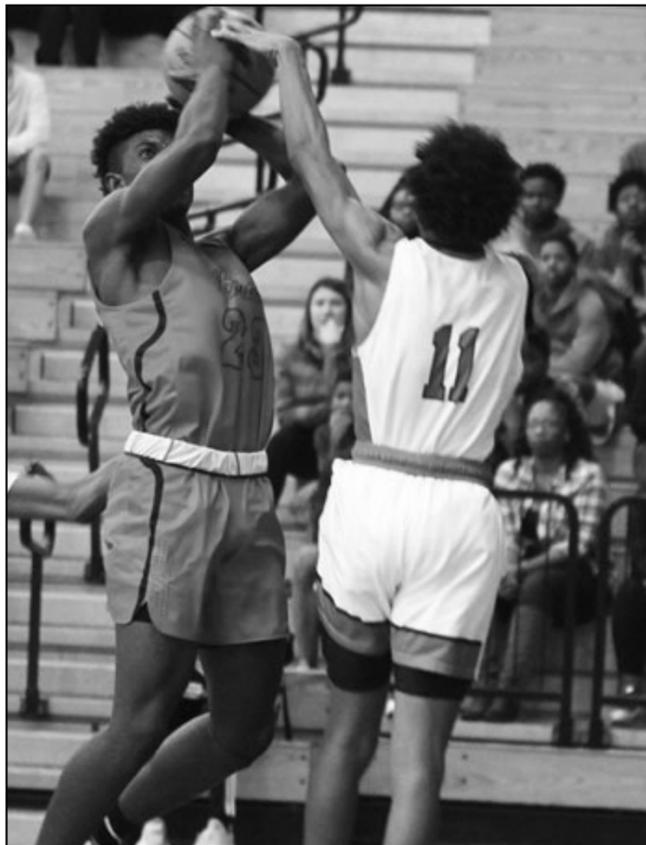
# Wolverine trio grabs all-24-6A basketball honors



Clear Brook senior Brandon Andrews played big for the Wolverines during the 2019-2020 season, leading his team to the area round of the postseason en route to garnering Co-Offensive Player of the Year accolades.



Sophomore Kemo Millender wound up being one of the best do-it-all players in 24-6A, capable of delivering double-digit scoring on a nightly basis and adding a fair share of rebounds and assists on his way to 24-6A first team honors.



Freshman Zyon Little (25) was both an immediate and steady contributor for Clear Brook this season as he was a second-team honoree within the 24-6A ranks. He and teammate Kemo Millender should form a solid 1-2 punch for the Wolverines in 2020-2021.



Largely in part because Dickinson went undefeated in league play and ultimately advanced to state, Clear Brook head coach Nathan Janak missed out on 24-6A honors but still delivered big in his second season, leading the Wolverines two playoff rounds deep.

Photos by John Bechtle

## District 22-6A

### Varsity Boys' Hoops

**Most Valuable Player**  
*Kaleb Stewart, Atascocita*

**Defensive Player/Year**  
*Dylen Scales, Summer Creek*

**Offensive Player/Year**  
*Javon Jackson, Summer Creek*

**Newcomer/Year**  
*Tommy Neuman, Kingwood*

**Coach of the Year**  
*Kenneth Coleman, Summer Creek*

### First-Team Selections

*Jaylen White, Rayburn*  
*Marquice Scott, Dobie*  
*Dylan Dawson, Atascocita*  
*Reyce Allen, Summer Creek*  
*Darian Ramos, Memorial*  
*Nick Neuman, Kingwood*  
*Dylan Miles, Summer Creek*  
*Walker Blaine, Kingwood*  
*Billy Gould, Kingwood*  
*Keith Oliver, South Houston*

### Second-Team Selections

*Brock Fosnight, Pasadena*  
*Tommy Hart, Atascocita*  
*Shannon Hayes, Dobie*  
*Nick Luckett, Kingwood*  
*Brandon Patton, Memorial*  
*Robert Williams, Humble*  
*Nelson Herrera, Pasadena*  
*Kaeden Sims, Humble*  
*Christian Ashby, Atascocita*  
*Cameron Morrison, Atascocita*

# CALENDAR

**Due to current circumstances, it is advisable to verify if meetings are still being held prior to attending.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19**

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for additional information, or drop in.

**Rotary Club of Pearland** – Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email nalix@texascitizensbank.com.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for details.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

**Texas German Society, South Belt (SE) Chapter** – A social group focused on the culture, music, heritage and language of Texas German immigrants. Meets the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visitors welcome. Email OpaGivesHugs@gmail.com for additional information.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062

Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for additional information.

**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.

**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – "Breakfast with Bill," Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

**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, or drop in.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for details.

**Bay Area Singles Club** – monthly dance at 7 – 10 p.m. at the VFW Lodge, Post 6378, located at 5204 Highway 3 in Dickinson, 77539. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information, call 832-483-3257 or 832-477-6778.

**Bay Area Bluegrass Association** – bluegrass music show and jam session is held on the third Saturday (except December.) The stage show is at 7 p.m. Pickers may bring instruments and come early. This event is free, open to the public and is held at Johnny Arolfo Civic Center, 300 Walker, League City. For additional information, visit <http://www.bayareabluegrass.org>.

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

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for details.

**Grief Support Group** – For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

**Scleroderma Support Group** – Do you know someone with scleroderma? Join a support group on the fourth Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Waterford in the Blue Bonnet room, 201 McDermott St. in Deer Park, 77536. Contact Kathy Baker at 713-826-6214 or KBaker58@comcast.net.

**Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to RSVP for child care.

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**

**Al-Anon Deer Park** – Mondays, 10 – 11 a.m. Literature Study, In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com for additional information.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

**Scrabble Club #511** – Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Come, improve crossword playing skills. Call 281-488-2923 for details. There are no meetings on holidays.

**Toastmasters** – The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the website, <https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/>. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective 3/16/2020, to ensure its members continue their journey to becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on our home page menu ([www.youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com](http://www.youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com)) to obtain access to our virtual meeting platform. For information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565. (See Page 1A for notice.)

Continued on Page 4B



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## CALENDAR

Continued from Page 3B

**Due to current circumstances, it is advisable to verify if meetings are being held prior to attending.**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 23**

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - Israeli Folk Dancing on Monday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., 16020 El Camino Real, 77062. \$4/session or \$35/10 sessions for CSH members and \$5/session or \$45/10 sessions for nonmembers. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact 281-488-5861 or [csh@shaarhashalom.org](mailto:csh@shaarhashalom.org).

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

**Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565.

**American Begonia Society** - Houston Satellite meets on the fourth Tuesday, Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Pkwy. (on the lake side), Seabrook. No meetings during holiday weeks. For information, call Joe at 281-481-2458.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

**Free dance lessons** - taught by Lewis and Betty Whistler (35 years of experience) at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, on Tuesdays. Bringing a partner is not required. There is a different dance focus monthly. For details, call Betty at 832-517-5833. For questions about League City's activity card, call the park office at 281-554-1180.

Noon

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class** - Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at [drglandorf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drglandorf@sbcglobal.net) or call 281-488-6318.

7 p.m.

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

7 a.m.

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.

**Young at Heart Senior Club** - Meets the second and fourth week monthly (Nov./Dec. meet second week only) at Covenant United Methodist Church, 7900 Fuqua. Lots of activities, trips, etc. Call Jan Okumura at 832-298-9480 for details.

10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

1 - 3:30 p.m.

**Hometown Heroes Park** - has Hump Day Dance to practice ball-room dances (not lessons) in a casual environment. A variety of

rhythms are played from entry to advanced dancing levels at 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card (see Tuesday 12:30 p.m. dance for details). Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For information on the activity card, call the city at 281-554-1180.

7 p.m.

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

**Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention** - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit [www.bayareaturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for information.

8 p.m.

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

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

7 a.m.

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 7:30 a.m.

**Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. at Pearl and Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., in Pearland. Variety of speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or email [nalix@texasciti.zensbank.com](mailto:nalix@texasciti.zensbank.com).

10 a.m.

**Clear Lake Bridge Club** - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for details.

Noon

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300.

7 p.m.

**Kirkwood Civic Association** meets at the Sagemont Park and Community Center (new location), 11507 Hughes Road. For more information, call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For more information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

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on page 4B

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# Dobie boys' soccer first-ever PISD program with six straight crowns

Perhaps born of a vengeance of sorts following a first round playoff loss to Deer Park that brought about a swift end to head coach Justo Manrique's first season in 2014, the Dobie boys' soccer program has developed a level of success rarely seen in high school sports.

Winning the District 22-6A championship for a sixth straight time earlier this season, the Longhorns, with just a single loss on their 2020 ledger, will aim at a repeat of the program's 2017 regional crown and subsequent state semifinal berth - perhaps more - when and if that time comes.

For the very present, Manrique and his players are left to savor both the present as well as the past.

It all began with a 2015 group that included seniors Bryan Cruz, Jesus Eguia, Edwin Gomez, Gerardo Infante, Rodolfo Jimenez, Jorge Martinez, Nixon Melgar, Sergio Quintanilla, Alexis Saldivar, Nixon Urrutia; juniors Mateo Arjona, Edgar Arzate, Santos Blanco, Rigoberto Fuentes, Denis Lopez, Jonathan Montalvo, Eli Pena, Alejandro Polio, Jose Reyes, David Saravia, Josue Villalta; and sophomores Alejandro Flores, Andy Garcia, Sabino Lozano, Edwin Saldivar; the sophomores were Jasiel Cruz and Sebastian Leal; and the freshmen were Kevin Hernandez, Bryan Nava, Oscar Trevino and Illsen Urrutia.

Onto the 2017 team, there were seniors Emission Amaya, Ashley Balderas (manager), Thomas Carte, Ivan Diaz, Emma Espinoza (manager), Alejandro Flores, Andy Garcia, Sabino Lozano, Sebastian Martinez, Michael Nwokolo (manager), Manuel Parra and Ed-

win Saldivar.

The juniors included Thomas Aleman, David Castaneda, Luis Arellano, Ramon Cahue, Jasiel Cruz, Eduardo Flores and Sebastian Leal. There were sophomores Diego Calderon, Alberto Chavez, Kevin Hernandez, Bryan Nava, Israel Perez, Oscar Trevino and Illsen Urrutia.

The freshmen were Eduardo Benavides, Eli Donaho, Adrian Garcia and Raul Hernandez.

As for 2018, there were seniors Thomas Aleman, Luis Arellano, Antonio Arias, Ramon Cahue, David Castaneda, Alejandro Castillo, Jasiel Cruz, Eduardo Flores, Sebastian Leal, German Reyes (manager); juniors Alberto Chavez, Daniel Hernan-

dez, Kevin Hernandez, Israel Perez, Fernando Portillo, Bryan Nava, Christian Saldivar, Giovanni Solis, Oscar Trevino and Illsen Urrutia.

The sophomores were Eduardo Benavides, Eli Donaho, Adrian Garcia, Raul Hernandez and Jonathan Mendez, in addition to freshman Oscar Medrano.

Moving onto 2019, there were seniors Diego Calderon, Alberto Chavez, Daniel Hernandez, Bryan Nava, Israel Perez, Fernando Portillo, Christian Saldivar, Oscar Trevino and Illsen Urrutia.

The juniors were Oscar Beltran, Eduardo Benavides, Eli Donaho, Adrian Garcia, Jonathan Mendez and Imanol Pena.

The team's sophomores

were Jean Arreguin, Juan Max Parra, Gerardo Torcastaneda, Natanael Delgado, Oscar Medrano, Max Parra, Gerardo Torres and Oliver Vivas, in addition to freshmen Eris Acosta and Isaac Cortez.

In other words, dynasty-like, and a Pasadena mark has been 71-4-3, or 15-1-1 in PISD first.

**2019 Season**  
*PISD Cup Champions*  
*District Champions*  
*Area Playoff Finalists*

**2018 Season**  
*PISD Cup Champions*  
*District Champions*  
*Region Quarterfinalists*

**2017 Season**  
*PISD Cup Champions*  
*District Champions*  
*State Semifinalists*

**2016 Season**  
*PISD Cup Champions*  
*Unbeaten District Champs*  
*Region Quarterfinalists*

**2015 Season**  
*PISD Cup Champions*  
*Unbeaten District Champs*  
*Area Playoff Finalists*

**2020 Season**  
*District Champions*  
*????*

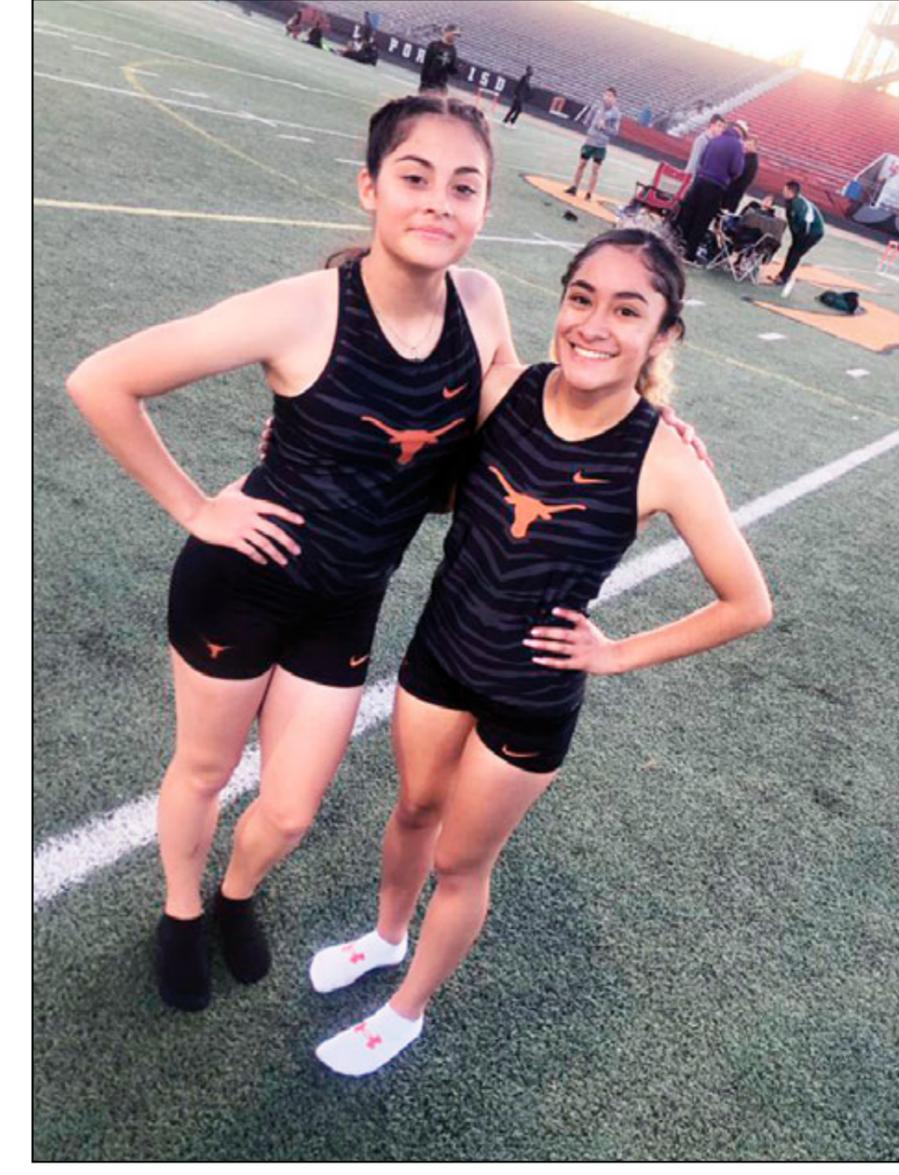


At left, Harris County had light maintenance workers out replacing some bad bulbs at El Franco Lee Park in preparation for the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League and South Belt Girls Softball Association seasons that have for now been pushed back until at least March 31 or early April. Plans remain fluid for both leagues to get in as complete a season as possible when play does resume. Crews are and will continue to work with the youth leagues on maintenance.

At right, Dobie varsity boys' head soccer coach Justo Manrique (left), shown with 2020 players Alan Lopez (4) and Jean Arreguin (2), has led the program to six straight titles, with hopes of more to come this season.



## Dobie track and field still looks forward to competing, finishing season



**JFD's Sanchez, Villarreal soar at La Porte**

At left, Mia Sanchez (left) and Vanessa Villarreal placed second and fourth, respectively, at La Porte in the 400 dash before the season was halted.

**Dobie's Singleton eyes regional 400 berth**

At right, Dobie junior Amari Singleton was the 800 run winner at La Porte's Bayshore Olympics and is eyeing a regional berth when the varsity track and field season does continue.

