



South Belt-Ellington Leader

44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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ZIP COVID numbers reported

As of 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 20, ZIP code 77089 had 76 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to Harris County Public Health officials. That figure is one higher than the 75 count reported on Tuesday, May 12.

In ZIP code 77075, county officials are now reporting 88 known cases. This number is 14 higher than the 74 cases reported the previous week.

County officials are now reporting 71 cases in ZIP code 77034, up 18 cases from last week.

In all, there are currently 9,859 known cases in Harris County, an increase of 1,443 from last week. Of those, 5,849 remain active, up 990 from last week. A total of 3,803 have recovered from the virus in the county, an increase of 590 from the previous week. To date, 207 have died from COVID-19, up 24 from last week.

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

Ace Hardware burglarized

On May 11, at 10 p.m., the Ace Hardware located on 11600 Beamer Road was burglarized by unknown subjects who stole several items with an approximate value of \$1,400. The incident is under investigation at this time by Harris County Constable Precinct 2.

CBC holiday hours set

The office of Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District will be closed Monday, May 25. The office will reopen Tuesday, May 26, at 8 a.m. Payments may be left in the drop box at the drive-thru.

CBC Municipal Utility District residents whose trash service falls on Monday will have regular trash service pickup Memorial Day, May 25. All trash should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. Residents missing this pickup date will have services Thursday, May 28. Residents with Tuesday/Friday service will not be affected.

HOA seeks nominations

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold an election for three seats on its architectural control committee June 20. This committee is responsible for reviewing and approving changes to property within the Sagemeadow subdivision. Nominations for each seat will be accepted from May 21 through June 17. All candidates must be property owners in Sagemeadow subdivision. For more information, see the HOA's website at www.sagemeadow.org.

The Sagemeadow HOA will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. Details will be posted on the HOA's website.

Free food giveaway planned

Freeway Baptist Church, 8702 Kingspoint, will host a produce giveaway Thursday, May 28, at 11 a.m. The church will give away 150 boxes of fresh produce, weighing 18 pounds.

There is a limit of one box per car. Social distancing will be maintained. For more information, call 281-484-0323 or visit freeway.family.

Beltway closures planned

There will be a total closure of the Fairmont Parkway exit ramp on Beltway 8 through 10 p.m. Tuesday, June 16.

The northbound U-turn lane on the Beltway 8 frontage road at SH 225 will be continuously closed through 5 a.m. Tuesday, June 2.

At least one inside lane of the eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane west of Kirby will be closed continuously through 3 p.m. Saturday, June 6. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Gulf Freeway closures set

The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway at NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least one lane of the northbound and southbound entrance ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 and exit ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Dec. 31. Two alternate lanes on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Dec. 31.

The southbound entrance ramp on the Gulf Freeway will be 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. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through June 30. This work will require alternate entrance and exit ramp closures. At least one southbound frontage road lane on I-45 from FM 517 to Hughes in Texas City and the southbound entrance ramp at FM 517 in Texas City will also be closed until further notice.

There will be a total closure at the southbound IH 610 connector ramp at the Gulf Freeway through 5 a.m. Monday, Sept. 28. The connector ramp from the Gulf Freeway to IH 610 South Loop, along with one inside lane, will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Dec. 31. At least two alternate main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The northbound and southbound entrance ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street and the northbound and southbound exit ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Dec. 31.

4 inches of rain in 24 hours

The South Belt community was hit hard by thunderstorms late Friday, May 15, and early Saturday, May 16, causing extensive flooding in the area. According to Harris County officials, the Beamer ditch at Hughes Road received 4.08 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.

Area graduation plans developing

While all final arrangements will hinge on state guidelines established by Gov. Greg Abbott, local school districts are going forward with plans for in-person graduation ceremonies, to be held later this summer.

Pasadena ISD
Pasadena ISD has tentatively scheduled its graduation ceremonies to take place at NRG Stadium Thursday, July 30, and Friday, July 31.

"Our goal is to do everything possible to have in-person ceremonies," said Troy McCarley, Pasadena ISD associate superintendent. "Our seniors deserve it." McCarley noted that all plans are flexible, and the school district will adhere to all social-distancing practices laid out by Abbott. "I ask that parents be patient as we adapt to the new norm," McCarley said.

Dobie High School is set to hold its commencement ceremony Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m. Also scheduled for Thursday, July 30, are Pasadena High School and Lewis Career and Technical High School, which will hold their graduation ceremonies at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., respectively.

South Houston High School, Sam Rayburn High School and Pasadena Memorial High School will all hold their graduation ceremonies the following day on Friday, July 31. South Houston and Sam Rayburn will share a 4 p.m. time slot, while Memorial's event will be held at 7 p.m.

McCarley said additional plans are being made to honor graduates entering the military prior to the July commencement, a number he estimates is between five and 10 students per high school campus. For information on Pasadena ISD's graduation ceremonies, visit www.nrgpark.com/events/pasadena-isd-graduations.

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Passing baton at Sagemont Church



Sagemont Church was the site of a car parade commemorating the passing of the baton from the Rev. John Morgan (far right), founding pastor, to the newly elected pastor Dr. Matt Carter (far left). Shown with the pastors are their wives, Jennifer Carter (second from left) and Kathie Morgan, as they stand near the empty tomb in front of the church. As Morgan retired after 53 years of service, Carter has become the second pastor of Sagemont Church since it was founded in 1966. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Sagemont abandoned house now secure

An abandoned house that was the site of a recent armed robbery has now been secured, thanks to the efforts of the Sagemont Civic Club. During the April 26 incident, three young adults – two females and one male – were held at gunpoint by three men. The three victims were robbed of the personal belongings, along with their vehicle, which also contained a gun.

According to neighbors, the abandoned house in the 11400 block of Sagedowne had long been an attraction for area youths and vagrants, as it was easily accessed through open windows. The residence was suspected to be a hot spot for drug activity, civic club officials said.

The vacant house was particularly alarming, due to its proximity to both Stuchbery Elementary and Thompson Intermediate.

Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour initially reached out to the home's registered

owners to discuss the property's condition and the possibility of securing the house. Barbour said the club members have been working on this project for several weeks.

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Education leaders on COVID effects

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership recently hosted a virtual conference with local educational leaders to discuss the effects of the COVID-19 virus on area school districts.

The webinar was the second in a series of three such online conferences, with the other two addressing local health care and the area's aerospace industry. (For more information on the health care conference, see the May 7 edition of the *Leader*. For more information on the aerospace meeting, see next week's *Leader*.)

Taking part in the virtual meeting were Dr. DeeAnn Powell, superintendent, Pasadena ISD; Dr. Greg Smith, superintendent, Clear Creek ISD; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District; Dr. Ira K. Blake, president,

University of Houston-Clear Lake; Lloyd Graham, superintendent, La Porte ISD; Dr. Warren Nichols, president, College of the Mainland; and Thad Roher, superintendent, Friendswood ISD.

Opening statements
Pasadena ISD

Pasadena ISD's Powell stressed that the ongoing pandemic has had a stronger than average impact on her school district, due to its lower socioeconomic status, noting that PISD has 53,000 students, and 86 percent were on free- or reduced- or low-financial status before COVID.

"You can only imagine how this has impacted our community," Powell said. "Staying connected with our families has been vital. Virtual learning is

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Graduate ads available

For those who want to congratulate this year's seniors in the *South Belt Leader*, see samples of ads and cost on Page 7.

Sagemont Church welcomes new pastor

On Sunday, May 17, Sagemont Church members called Dr. Matt Carter with a 99.6 percent vote of affirmation as the church's second lead pastor in its 54-year history. Carter and his wife, Jennifer, and their family came to Sagemont from Austin where they founded The Austin Stone Community Church. That church grew to more than 7,500 in weekly attendance on six campuses since its beginning in 2002.

The call to Carter follows the retirement of

Dr. John D. Morgan, who stepped down from the pulpit at the end of 2019. In Morgan's 53-year ministry at Sagemont, the church grew from 16 to more than 6,400 active members and became known for its core value of doing ministry debt-free and its commitment to missions around the world.

As Carter came to Sagemont Church in view of a call on Sunday, the church met in its two

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Balloon release for Jesse Jackson

On Friday, May 15, 2020, CCISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Smith, flanked by

Late Bulletin

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Dobie senior parade "awesome"

The a drive-thru senior parade held at Dobie High School Wednesday, May 13, was a huge success, with approximately 650-700 students taking part, campus administrators said.

"It was awesome," said Dobie Principal Franklin Moses. "It was a cool deal for our students, but it was just as rewarding for our educators and staff."

Aimed at boosting the spirits of graduating seniors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the event included Dobie staff members holding inspirational signs for seniors as they drove through the area campus's parking lot to pick up their graduation caps and gowns, all while maintaining appropriate social-distancing practices. Teachers from local feeder campuses also participated.

Seniors entered the campus through its rear parking lot, where they were greeted by well-wishers, before snaking around the lot three or four times, then proceeding to the front parking lot

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In My Opinion

Atkinson drive through awards set

"Parents!!!! We want to celebrate your students and close out the school year with a bang! Please save the dates for our End of Year Drive Through Awards Celebration. The event will take place over two days. Each day the time will be from 10 am until noon. On Thursday, May 28 we will celebrate with PreK, Kindergarten, and First Grade. PreK and Kindergarten will drive through the circular drive off of Kingspoint. First Grade will drive through the regular car rider pick up line.

On Friday, May 29 we will celebrate our Second, Third, and Fourth Graders. Fourth grade parents will drive through the circular drive off of Kingspoint. Second and Third Grade will drive through the regular car rider pick up line. The students will receive their report cards, any left over school supplies, and any awards that they may have attained. Parents, please have a sign with your child's name and their teacher's name displayed prominently to assist us in moving the line efficiently.

We hope to have a festive atmosphere with music, signs for the students, and more. Though we want to see all of our students it will be imperative that the line keep moving. So, please stay in your vehicle and slowly move through the line. The grade level teachers will be present, as well as the support teachers. Please be patient as there may be heavy traffic in the area during the drive throughs. We will keep the traffic moving as smoothly as possible. If you have questions please contact the school or email me at rwhtaker@pasadenaisd.org

Richard Whittaker
Peer Facilitator - Math
Atkinson Elementary

Carraway worried about flooding

I get very nervous when Hurricane Season is announced. I don't believe the ditch/drainage in my area (Fuqua, Beamer, Sabo, I-45, BW8) has been effectively addressed for a long time. The water flow is from northwest to southeast, so we get water flow all the way from Astroworld/Reliant/NRG area.

Hard to believe unless you look on a map. The high density of concrete has been our nemesis for many years. We need a louder "squeaky wheel". Please address this old Upper Sagemont/Kirkwood area, again for us. And, thank you for being our very respected advocate for many, many years.

Major street flooding again?? What happened to all that Fed money to keep this from happening again in this 3rd/4th largest city in the U.S.?? Another Hurricane Harvey is in the future ... what did

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Branch Library is located at 9002 Kingspoint. The library will continue to provide online resources so the public can enjoy the library at home.

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

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

The HPL updated app is much more user-friendly than before. On the very first page, there is a link to Tumblebooks, which has many picture books that are animated read-alongs for children.

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

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020.

While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, it's Wi-Fi service is still available for residents to utilize. If a customer has a device, such as a phone, laptop or tablet but no Wi-Fi, they can come to the library and gain access by standing/sitting within 6 feet of the building. There is no need for a password. All one needs to do is go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi, and then connect to HPL - Public.

Visit the website of the City of Houston at <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19> or call 832-393-4220 for more meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the number of people infected.

For information on questions and answers during the closure period, visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/covid-19-closure-faqs>.

For additional information, visit: www.houstonlibrary.org.

Parker Williams Library

A notice on the website reads, "All Harris County Public Library locations will remain closed to the public at this time. Public safety is our top priority. We will provide service updates as they are developed. The book drop at Parker Williams Library is open. No late fees have been nor will be charged during the library closures. You may return library materials to the exterior book drops at most HCPL locations, but, we urge you to continue to maintain social distancing and other public health guidelines. You will not be charged late fees. Please do not leave items outside the library.

Curbside Holds Pick-Up starts Tuesday, May 26.

Harris County Public Library will continue to offer a wide array of online services:

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service while maintaining social distancing with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download ebooks and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check your account to renew loans or request books.
- 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 via chat on Ask a Librarian.
- Get book recommendations via Book Hunters.

If you do not have an HCPL library card, you can get instant access to all HCPL's digital materials including ebooks, streaming movies and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card.

Parker Williams Curbside Holds Pick-Up

When you receive notification that your holds are ready for pick-up, call your HCPL pick-up location (832-927-7870). Please have your library card number and PIN handy. You will be given a pick-up time and instructions for curbside pick-up. When you arrive at the library, follow the instructions you were provided over the phone. You may be asked to show your library card or other form of ID for verification.

Note: Library staff will not be able to take your returns during curbside pick-up, please put them in the book drop. For your safety and that of HCPL staff, curbside pick-up will be temporarily suspended during bad weather. Curbside Holds Pick-Up will be available Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday 1 - 6 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information including curbside holds pick-up, visit <https://www.hcpl.net/blog/2020/03/harris-county-public-library-temporary-building-closure>.

For additional library information, visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>.

we learn? And, what did we change? Makes for a media event, but for residents, it's a headache. Help!!

Rosemary Carraway

Muecke shares road improvements

To Betty McGinnis of Senator Carol Alvarado's office:

Remember about 3 or so months ago I asked your help getting the phone number from a TxDOT employee who handles road design. You did and I called. I explained my concern about the conditions at I-45 and the Beltway. Traffic flowing from I-45 South and North wanting to exit onto the Beltway west. Two lanes of traffic coming together to form one lane to enter the Beltway and the Beamer Rd. exit.

A long back up and then merging, some allowed and some did not, made this dangerous. There was an area for a lane on the right side that would take cars to the Beamer Rd. exit, the left lane could move onto the Beltway. But this right lane was marked off for traffic, which caused the congestion.

I discussed this with TxDOT and was told because of distance, signage and so forth they could not open this lane. So I hung up and said I failed.

Well guess what, this evening going to mass at St. Luke's, no back up, traffic flowing really good, no merging AND this lane is now open. So now the left lane merges onto the Beltway and the right lane can continue to the Beamer Rd. intersection, just as I thought it should. Beautiful.

Thanks again for your help, it worked.

Jim Muecke

Hannan concerned for possible flooding

Well as far as I can tell nothing has been done to improve A119-09, so that a major flooding event is likely. The gas station on the 2.8 acres which has been raised up, paved over, and has a nice sluice going into linear detention at 119-09 is going to cause major flooding to the Sagemont Park Townhouses (including my house).

There has been a lot of talking and meetings but nothing has been done to open up the bricked up dam under Sabo Road.

Who is in charge of this (and accountable for the coming disaster) and what must be done to get them to take action. (We have had many discussions but nothing happens.) The gas station is going to be the kiss of death for people who are upstream of the bricked up, detention (with two small drain pipes through it.)

John L Hannan
Sabo Road

Coaches say farewell to students



Shown above are left to right, Thompson Intermediate coaches Kaylyn Harlan, Diana Hejtmank, Amanda Carroll, Alexandra Alvarado and Tiffany Nelson. Together they penned the following note for eighth-graders moving onto high school. "Eighth-grade Lady Lions, we are so proud of each and every one of you and everything you have accomplished here at Thompson. Y'all are a special group of athletic young ladies, and we can't wait to see what your future holds. Continue to work hard and strive to be better every day. We will miss y'all and good luck in high school. Love, Coach Alex Alvarado, Coach Kaylyn Harlan, Coach Amanda Carroll Coach Diana Hejtmank and Coach Tiffany Nelson."

Elected officials share their words

Olson takes stand against reckless liberal wish list

Congressman Pete Olson (TX-22) today voted against a \$3 trillion partisan spending bill that will not responsibly give American families the help they need. The 1,800-page bill, deceptively packaged by House Democrats as COVID-19 economic aid, was drafted without Republican input and contained numerous provisions unrelated to COVID-19. "During a global crisis, the American people deserve and expect a government that responds thoughtfully and responsibly," Olson stated. "This radical, partisan wish list is a Trojan horse loaded with liberal goals: throwing open the doors of our nation's prisons, dumping money into sanctuary cities and setting up our elections for massive fraud. I am committed to developing responsible aid targeted to the pandemic and will continue every effort to work with my colleagues across the aisle to help American workers and families struggling in these challenging times."

The bill proposed by House Democrats included the following:

Anti-Work Provisions will make economic recovery more difficult by making it more profitable for individuals not to work.

Prisoner Release provides get-out-of-jail free cards for certain prisoners, including: Those within one year of release, prisoners over 50, juveniles, inmates with health conditions, Includes \$250M in spending to reintegrate ex-prisoners into society.

Incentives for Illegal Immigration, awards federal funding to sanctuary cities, requires review of those detained by ICE so certain illegal immigrants can be released, prevents the deportation of illegal immigrants, authorizes illegal immigrants to work during this crisis, allows illegal immigrants to collect Economic Impact Payments.

Wasteful Spending, provides funding to matters unrelated to combating COVID-19 including: \$125M to National Science Foundation, \$50M to Legal Services Corporation, \$50M to the EPA in "environmental justice grants", \$40M to U.S. Geological Survey, \$10M to National Endowment of the Arts, \$10M to National Endowment of the Humanities.

Wholesale Election Law Changes, federalizes the entire election process and takes power away from the states calls for mailed absentee ballots to be sent to every voter permanently, permits same day voter registration nationwide which would lengthen voting lines, codifies ballot harvesting, enacts national vote by mail, and prevents states from having voter ID requirements

DA Ogg explains officer-involved shooting process

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg on Tuesday released a video explaining the extensive process that goes into investigating officer-involved shootings.

The video, which is less than two minutes long, was created to raise awareness of the process after a recent spate of police shootings, including the well-known raid that ended in the shooting deaths of two people at their southeast Houston home on Harding in January 2019.

"The Harris County DA's office places a priority on ensuring justice for all in each and every police shooting because the public's trust in our justice system depends on it," Ogg said. "We know the process can be confusing and complicated for victims and their families who aren't used to dealing with the courts."

When a police officer shoots a civilian, prosecutors with the Civil Rights Division of the District Attorney's Office, who are available 24 hours a day, go to the scene. While it is still an active crime scene, prosecutors observe the collection of evidence and the police officer's "Critical Event Walk-through" in which the officer explains what happened.

After the police and investigators turn over all the evidence to the DA's office, the case is independently reviewed by prosecutors and in every instance all of the evidence is presented to a grand jury for consideration. That grand jury, composed of anywhere from nine to 12 Harris County citizens, looks at all of the evidence to decide whether they believe the shooting was self-defense or if the shooting was an illegal use of force.

If the grand jury decides the police officer was justified, the case is closed. If grand jurors decide the officer's actions were criminal, they issue a formal charge, called an indictment, against the police officer. The DA's office then prosecutes the case, which is resolved either in a trial or a plea. "When there is video in an officer-involved shooting, which is often the case, it is evidence we use," said Assistant District Attorney Natasha Sinclair, who is the chief in charge of the Civil Rights Division. "But a video is just one piece of all of the evidence that we need in order to see a complete picture."

The PSA video can be viewed online at <https://www.harriscountyda.com/officer-involved-shootings-independent-review-process>.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarea

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* Facebook group posted pictures of vehicles that were vandalized. It is not clear if it was one person or more than one that did the damage, but windows, lights and side mirrors were broken. The incident was reported Saturday, May 16, at the Sagemont Church Annex building parking lot. According to the member the suspect was caught.

On the same Facebook group a member posted that their sister's black four-door 2015 Nissan Sentra was taken from their driveway on May 16, sometime after 3 a.m. The license plate of the vehicle stolen is MVP3922. The member posted surveillance videos from their neighbor.

On the same Facebook group a member shared photos of a jeep that crashed into the guardrail and half-way to the ditch. The accident happened at Beamer and Hall Road on Saturday, May 16, before noon.

Ybarra becomes U.S. Army soldier



U.S. Army Pvt. Joseph Ybarra, son of Carlos and Liza Ybarra of Friendswood and grandson of Al and Barbara Vasquez of Houston in South Belt Ybarra earned the title of United States Army Soldier after graduating from U.S. Army recruit training at Fort Jackson, S.C., from Aug. 9, 2019, until Oct. 17, 2019. Ybarra proceeded to Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga., for 22 weeks of Advanced Individual Training for his 25U from Oct. 18, 2019, to April 1, 2020. Ybarra stayed committed during some of the world's most demanding entry-level military training to be transformed from civilian to U.S. Army soldier instilled with pride, discipline and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Training subjects included close physical fitness training, computers, radios and marksmanship. He graduated Wednesday, April 1, 2020, from Fort Gordon with honors. Upon completion, Ybarra was presented the U.S. Army emblem as a U.S. Army Soldier 25U - Signal Support System Specialist. Ybarra is a 2019 graduate of Clear Brook High School.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Former CBHS, collegiate VB star now Dr. Dittrich

Dr. Alicia F. Dittrich, DPT, a former Lady Wolverines' varsity volleyball star and 2011 Clear Brook High School graduate, has added another achievement to her credits as a graduate of Texas Woman's University Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

Dittrich graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in health sciences, a B.S. in psychology and a minor in nutrition.

She accomplished this while being a four-year starter on the Sugar Bear Division I volleyball team.

While Dittrich was on the team and for the first time in the school's history, UCA earned two invitations to the NCAA Volleyball Tournament.

She returned to Houston and began teaching at Clear Lake High School while

coaching volleyball there and for Absolute Volleyball Academy.

In 2017, she left teaching to enter the physical therapy program at Texas Woman's University.

Hurricane Harvey kicked off her first week at TWU, which set the tone for her three-year journey.

Dittrich entered the PT program as a single mother, and over the next three years faced the challenge of a rigorous school schedule, the death of several family members, working whenever possible and raising her daughter.

She also applied and was accepted into the doctoral program at TWU, a program she will continue to complete over the coming years.

In order to maintain her mental health during her journey, Dittrich took up paddle boarding and put together

a Girl Bike Gang at the school.

The GBG trained for and completed the MS 150 in 2019. While the ride is postponed this year due to COVID-19 until the end of September, Dittrich and several of her friends completed a 151-mile ride April 25-26 in honor of the cause.

The MS150 was not the only thing COVID-19 has disrupted.

As this chapter started in

the uncertainty created by Hurricane Harvey, so did it end with the uncertainty created by COVID-19.

Regardless of any unexpected hurdles, Dittrich plans to study for the boards over the summer and take the National Exam at the end of July. She is also planning to return to teaching while developing a program for proactive care to prevent injury in athletes.

Dittrich was a star athlete and her past injuries continue to affect her while she participates in both day-to-day and sporting activities. Learning about injury prevention has been a driving force and passion for her.

She is excited about achieving her DPT and all her future possibilities while working toward injury prevention with athletes in the future.



A four-year volleyball standout at Clear Brook High School and then the University of Central Arkansas, Alicia Dittrich has also starred in the classroom, recently earning a doctorate in physical therapy from Texas Woman's University.



While the MS150 fundraising bike ride event was canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, Alicia Dittrich and her Girl Bike Gang mates completed a 151-mile ride in late April to commemorate the cause.

JFD's Amezcua to Ottawa



Dobie varsity softball player and 2019 all district honoree Michelle Amezcua is set to continue her education and playing career at Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kan., where she plans to study biology. "We are very excited to have Michelle joining the softball family," said OU head softball coach Jay Kahnt. "Michelle is an athletic infielder that can play multiple positions. Both her high school team and her travel team have prepared her for transition to college. We can't wait to watch Michelle grow over the next four years." Ottawa University has a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program that competes in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Lajaunie tennis tournament scheduled for June 26-28

The ninth annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament is scheduled for June 26-28 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena.

ren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarships for additional details. Darren Lajaunie graduated from Dobie, where he played tennis.

He and his family, including wife Camille and son Andrew, played tennis in the Bay Area before Darren's cancer-related death.

Up to this point, tournament organizers, including event founder Camille Lajaunie, have had to work around the shutdown caused by the pandemic as the original dates were May 1-3.

Despite the scheduling issues, the tournament committee has awarded academic scholarships to six deserving class of 2020 seniors from Dobie High School.

Two more sophomores from First Baptist Christian Academy also were honored. Tournament registration details will come soon, and scholarship donation, used racket donation and other tournament-related efforts are ongoing. Visit the tournament's Facebook page at Dar-

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Even in pandemic, Dobie coaching carousel turns

The coronavirus pandemic has failed to keep the annual coaching carousel from turning at high school campuses this time of year, and Dobie is no exception.



One Dobie graduate is replacing another as Monika Rivera Mackey, an all-district player for the Lady Longhorns, has been elevated to varsity girls' soccer head coach after several seasons as the junior varsity head coach. She replaces Bryan McDonald, who is the new varsity boys' soccer head coach at Ridge Point High School.

Dobie principal Franklin Moses earlier this year brought in Franklin Paul to head the Longhorns' boys' basketball program, and now there is more.

As for head coaches, Dobie graduate Monika Rivera Mackey, an all-district performer in her own right while a Lady Longhorns' varsity soccer player, will now lead the program, replacing the departed Bryan McDonald.

Mackey won't travel far. She has been the Lady Longhorns' top junior varsity coach for several years. As for McDonald, he is also a Dobie graduate, he is headed to Ridge Point High School to be the varsity boys' soccer head coach.

Former Dobie varsity boys' basketball head coach Kevin Cross, a graduate of Dobie and career-long staff member, is shifting over to golf, where he and longtime varsity baseball assistant Tony Ponce will join him. The moves came after previous head coach Chris Ferguson retired and Kristen Tolley chose to step away from coaching.

On the baseball front, varsity baseball head coach Miguel Torres is elevating Dobie graduate and former player Frank Mora Jr. to the top varsity assistant role.

With some of these moves will also come the need to fill various assistant roles, but there is time for that, particularly with operations on hold for the foreseeable future.

Singleton excels at SFA University



Dobie graduate and Stephen F. Austin University track and field standout Camille Singleton has graduated in three years with a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology and a minor in human health sciences from SFA. She was a dean's athletic honor roll member and contributed to three consecutive Ladyjack's conference track championships. Singleton, the elder sister of Dobie senior-to-be Amari Singleton, plans to attend nursing school.

Sandra Yandell
Broker Associate

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JFD celebrates 2020 graduates with parade

Dobie High School 2020 graduates were honored recently with a car parade. Area officials, teachers from surrounding schools and parents attended to celebrate these students. See related story on Page 1. Photos by Marie Flickinger



Local high school, college graduations still in state of flux

Continued from Page 1
his high school principals, announced to the Class of 2020 via livestream that all Clear Creek ISD graduations will be held at the District's Challenger Columbia Stadium from May 29 - June 2 according to the following schedule:
Friday, May 29, Clear Lake High School at 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 30, Clear Creek High School at 8:30 p.m. and Clear View High School at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 31, Clear Falls High School at 8:30 p.m.
Monday, June 1, Clear Springs High School at 8:30 p.m. and Clear Horizons Early College High School at 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 2, Clear Brook High School at 8:30 p.m.
Rain plan dates are Wednesday and Thursday, June 3 and June 4.

With the hope and expectation that in-person indoor ceremonies would be allowed by the end of July, the District had secured NRG Stadium to graduate students from the five large comprehensive high schools and hold ceremonies for the two smaller schools at Clear Falls High School.
However, on May 5, 2020, Abbott announced graduation ceremonies could only be held outdoors due to COVID-19 concerns.
"We were at a crossroad," Smith said in the Friday announcement. "Do we stay the course and hope the indoor restrictions would be lifted by late July or change direction and move outdoors?"
In light of the May 5 state announcement, the district surveyed senior families to request feedback on three options: Stay the course for NRG and Clear Falls locations, with the risk of indoor

ceremony restrictions could still be in place on July 26; pivot to a virtual ceremony; or, move to the outdoor ceremony plan at Challenger Columbia Stadium, with TEA safety guidelines in place.
"Overwhelmingly you told us, 'Let's do this!'" Smith said. "Let's graduate our students in our own backyard."
The Texas Education Agency released explicit graduation requirements for school districts to address the public health concerns for outdoor ceremonies.
Due to the current 25 percent venue capacity mandate, graduates are limited to four guests each. Other COVID-19 safeguards that will be in effect include the use of face coverings by graduates, guests and staff, and spacing graduates six feet apart and families in the bleachers six feet apart from families in a differ-

ent household. Additionally, CCISD will have extra security and paramedics at the stadium. Graduates, families and staff will be required to provide self-health assessments prior to entering the stadium as was also mandated in the TEA guidance report.
Students will be seated on the field in alpha order and those seats will be matched to color coded quadrants in the bleachers. Families will be directed to sit in the corresponding color quadrant in an effort to place parents in closer proximity to their graduate. Entry tickets and parking placards will align with the quadrant color coding system for streamlined and safer entry and exiting of the stadium.
Graduates will receive notification from their high school as to when they may pick up their family tickets as well as detailed protocol instructions.

For the latest 2020 graduation plan updates, visit www.ccisd.net/Classof2020.
San Jacinto College
San Jacinto College's spring commencement has been rescheduled for Friday Aug. 7, at NRG Stadium at 7 p.m. All graduating students must apply for graduation. Students need to apply whether they intend to walk in the ceremony or not.
All students who apply for graduation will receive the invitation to RSVP for commencement, regardless of what they indicated on their graduation application.
For more information on San Jacinto College's graduation program, visit www.sanjac.edu/student-services/graduation-beyond/com-mencement-ceremony.
University of Houston - Clear Lake
More than 1,200 University of Houston-Clear Lake Hawks applied to graduate

this May.
Like other colleges and universities, University of Houston-Clear Lake commencement will be a slightly different experience this year.
The ceremony, originally set for May 17 at NRG Arena, will be held virtually in July.
For those wanting to participate in a more traditional, face-to-face ceremony, graduates will also have the option to participate in the next face-to-face ceremony currently scheduled for December 2020.
"The COVID-19 pandemic prevents us from gathering in the traditional way to celebrate spring 2020 commencement," said Ira K. Blake, UH-Clear Lake president. "While we will not be gathering this May, I want to assure graduating students that we will be celebrating their accomplishments and ushering them in as alumni. And, we also will graduate and celebrate graduates again in a traditional ceremony in the fall."
The virtual commencement will be held on July 17 at 6:30 p.m. and will contain many of the same elements

of the face-to-face ceremonies with student speakers and remarks from university leadership, as well as a formal induction into the UHCL Alumni Association.
In addition, during the week of the regularly scheduled commencement in May, graduates will be provided virtual congratulations from Blake and the Alumni Association.
Graduates also will have the opportunity to participate in other Alumni Association-related events, which will welcome them into the Alumni Association as well as allow university faculty and staff to celebrate them.
"We realized that we still had a safe and creative way to celebrate our graduates," said Carri Hill, director of Alumni Engagement.
"Over the next couple of weeks, we will contact our graduates with the specific details about activities that should be a completely safe and fun way for the students to show their school pride and celebrate this huge accomplishment."
Of more than 1,200 university students who applied to graduate this semester, 775 were undergraduate stu-

dents, while the remainder were graduate students.
Registrar Bryan Heard emphasized that all students who have met the requirements of their degree programs would still be graduating in May.
The university will evaluate eligibility of those students who applied to graduate and post degrees to transcripts by early June.
"Students can expect to receive diplomas at the address on file within eight weeks after degree posting," said Heard.

"Our office is open its normal business hours to answer questions related to commencement."
In addition to the virtual ceremony, graduating students will be invited to participate in the next face-to-face ceremony, which we hope to have in the fall."
For additional information concerning commencement, call the office of the registrar at 281-283-2525, or visit www.uhcl.edu/academics/commencement.

Governor waives late renewal fees

Gov. Greg Abbott has waived license renewal late fees that accrue between March 13 and June 15, 2020, for occupational licenses issued by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).
This waiver applies to licenses associated with a variety of occupations such as barbers, cosmetologists, electricians, speech-language pathologists, and dyslexia therapists.
"This waiver removes financial barriers that could prevent Texans from getting back to work as we safely and strategically open the economy," said Abbott.
"The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges for the Texas workforce, and we are committed to restoring these hardworking Texans' livelihoods while protecting public health."

JFD's senior Lariaettes honored with surprise



Saturday, April 18, would have been the J. Frank Dobie Lariaettes' final night of the annual spring show. That night is a special night for seniors as they dance their final time at Dobie and receive a final rose to signify their time leaving. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lariaettes were not able to have the annual show. On Saturday, April 18, the Lariaette directors and Lariaette underclassmen surprised each senior in front of their home with a car parade, a rose



Holding encouraging posters is Dobie sophomore Analaura Elizarraras participating in the surprise car parade.



Hannah Woernley, a Dobie junior, greets seniors with a sign decorated in Dobie colors during the car parade.



Dobie sophomore Haley Salinas goes through the roof to greet seniors.



Carolina Miranda, a Dobie junior waves to senior Lariaettes.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)
A black male, posing as a yard man in the Woodmeadow subdivision, forced his way into a home where he committed an aggravated assault, robbery and attempted rape on a female resident.
The Sagemont Committee decided to make Sagemont residents aware that failure to pay their maintenance fee for 1980, or any previous years by June 6, would result in two actions. First, a lien would be filed against the property which would have to be settled prior to sale of the property. Second, the homeowner's name would be given to the Credit Association of Greater Houston as a delinquent payer of an outstanding debt.
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department reported the largest number of responses in a four-day period in the history of the department over the Memorial Day weekend with eleven runs in 79 hours.

35 years ago (1985)
A \$14.5 million bond election for the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 13 failed, 139 votes to 40 votes.
Arson was suspected in the massive destruction of the Beamer Townhouses for the second time in less than a month. Three units were totally destroyed, two units were heavily damaged and numerous others were affected.
Construction of the Sageglen bridge to connect Sagemont with Scarsdale Boulevard was on hold by Councilman Frank Mancuso following protests from Sagemont residents in the area of the proposed bridge.
New soil, air and water samples studied around the Brio Refining site indicated nearby Southbend residents were safe, according to pollution specialists.
Clear Creek Independent School District trustees unanimously agreed to hire an architectural firm to proceed with plans for a new high school to be located on FM 2351.

30 years ago (1990)
One of three final candidates for superintendent of Clear Creek Independent School District, if hired, would lead a district then under close scrutiny by the Texas Education Agency.
The Dobie Longhorn varsity basketball team ended the year as Region III runner-up.
A group of mothers whose children attended Weber Elementary, which was located a few blocks from a toxic waste site, ended their nightly trips to the garbage containers at the Clear Creek ISD administration building. The mothers went through looking for anything that would help their children transfer to another school.
Dobie seniors earned \$364,000 in scholarships.
25 years ago (1995)
Five educators, with a combined total of more than 100 years of experience, retired from Atkinson Elementary.
A report from the Texas Education Agency said administrative costs in the Pasadena Independent School District were 40 percent below the state standard.
The 40,000-square-foot two-story Parker Williams Library at San Jacinto

College's South campus opened.
Ten-year-old Wesley Michael Beaver died after a courageous battle against cancer. He had attended Moore Elementary.
20 years ago (2000)
The last remnant of Weber Elementary, its concrete foundation, was removed. The final phase of Brio began. Activities included removal of concrete slabs, which were formerly home foundations in the Southbend subdivision located adjacent to the north side of the Brio site, and removal of streets.
Harry Dao Jr. was named Dobie's valedictorian. Dao had a 5.58 grade point average going into the second semester.
South Belt resident Jennie Nguyen, 7, of Scarsdale died Sunday in a drowning accident at Galveston.

15 years ago (2005)
A burglary and arrests for outstanding warrants and possession of narcotics kept deputies from Precinct 2 Constable Gary Freeman's deputies busy.
Firefighters from Forest Bend, Friendswood and Southeast Volunteer Fire Departments responded to a house fire on Sagecountry. A preliminary investigation blamed a clothes dryer as the probable cause of the blaze.
Concerns over bones brought to the Morris Fifth Grade Center by two students caused principal Susan Blalock to notify police. The bones, found while the students were fishing, were found to be animal, not human.
The roadway extension connecting Blackhawk to Dixie Farm Road from Scarsdale was ready. Removal of several trees that were blocking the view was the last obstacle in opening the roadway.

10 years ago (2010)
Lance Baxter Williams was sentenced to roughly 2.5 years in state prison for the 2006 murder of Beverly Hills resident Erik Garcia. The sentence came almost four years to the day of the fatal shooting. Williams, 23, will also have to serve 10 years of probation as part of

his punishment. He was initially given only 180 days of jail time by the jury in the case, but Judge Denise Collins of the 208th Criminal District Court handed down an additional two years, the maximum allowed her.
On the day of the killing, Garcia, 16, was hanging out with his 14-year-old cousin in his backyard, which is along a ditch in the 10500 block of Stover, when they were approached by Williams and three other teens, all of whom were unidentified juveniles. Words were reportedly exchanged between the two groups, and according to Garcia's cousin, Williams, a former Dobie student, and one of the other teens both pulled out pistols. Williams then proceeded to fire several rounds, striking Garcia five times. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

5 years ago (2015)
For the second time in less than two weeks, the South Belt community was hit hard by storms, causing extensive flooding in the area. According to the Harris County Flood Control District, the A120 Beamer ditch at Hughes Road received nearly 6 inches (5.92) of rainfall in less than

12 hours late May 25, and early May 26.
1 year ago (2019)
A state judge ruled Wednesday, May 15, that the city's Proposition B was unconstitutional and void in its entirety. The measure, approved by Houston voters the previous November, required that the city's firefighters be paid the same as their police counterparts. The proposition had proven to be controversial because Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said its implementation would require hundreds of municipal layoffs. According to Turner, implementing the firefighter raises mandated by Proposition B would cost the city approximately \$80 million a year. The ruling was appealed by the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association.
Nate Martin and Ashley Witson were recently named Mr. and Miss Lutheran South Academy at the local private school's senior prom. The honor, similar to prom king and queen, is voted on by students and is given to the pair that best embodies the spirit of the area school. Martin is a basketball player at LSA, while Witson participates in cheer and dance.

PISD checks options

Continued from Page 1
other area school districts and community members when going forward.
"At this time, the Pasadena Independent School District is researching calendar options that have been discussed by (TEA) Commissioner (Mike) Morath."
Powell said. "As our Pasadena ISD family knows, it

takes a great deal of time to create our calendar each year.
"Working closely with surrounding school districts, San Jacinto College District, parents and our staff, we will study all available options and take any possible changes or recommendations to our board if warranted."

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

- BAYLEE CELEBRATES HER 17TH!**
Happy birthday hugs and kisses are sent to Baylee Espinosa who turns 17 years old Monday, May 25, from mom Jenny (Hayes) Laney and step-dad Josh Laney, big brother Brayden, and little sister Olivia; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (former longtime South Belt residents); aunt Stacey (Hayes), uncle Stephen, and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers; uncle Joey Hayes; uncle Austin, aunt Tiffany, cousin Jade and Lily Scarberry; and uncle Tyler Scarberry.
- JACKSON TURNS FOUR!**
Best wishes for a happy birthday May 21 are sent to Jackson Durham from parents Courtney and Chris Durham, sisters Abigail and Penelope; aunt Kimberly Flickinger; grandparents Fred and Leslie Flickinger; great-grandmother Olive Falkowski; great-grandfather John Fairchild; great-grandparents Marie and David Flickinger; and great-uncle David Flickinger (Leader president) and his wife Ellie.
- SCHOOL DAZE**
The following staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays May 21 through May 27, 2020.
- Burnett Elementary**
Light the candles May 21 for Karessa Whitely.
- Bush Elementary**
Marianela Diaz enjoys a birthday May 21.
- The day for a birthday celebration for Audra Smith is May 26.**
Frazier Elementary
Marisol Cervantes marks a birthday May 22. Send a happy birthday greeting May 24 to Mayra Villarreal. May 26 is the day to enjoy cake and ice cream with Teresa Garcia and Angie Oquin. Join in a birthday song May 27 for Sherril Poulis.
- Genoa Elementary**
Best wishes for a memorable birthday May 27 are sent to Karen Garza.
- Meador Elementary**
Special birthday greetings are in order for Stephanie Bounds on May 21. Marking a birthday May 24 is Esmerelda Araujo. Blow out the birthday candles May 25 for Heather Cline.
- Stuchbery Elementary**
Sing a chorus of a happy birthday song May 25 to Sylvia Theriot.
- Melillo Middle School**
Send a birthday greeting May 27 to Griebling Collin.
- Roberts Middle School**
Kelli Redd celebrates a happy birthday May 23.
- Beverly Hills Intermediate**
Micah Strickland is wished a happy birthday May 21. Special birthday greetings are sent to Curtis Occhionero and Marianella Tyler May 23. Break out the balloons and party favors May 25 for Matthew Martinez and Summer Robinson.
- Thompson Intermediate**
Send a happy birthday greeting May 25 to Erynn Kalisek. Jennifer Darcy marks a birthday May 27.
- Dobie High**
Happy birthday wishes are sent May 23 to Caitlin O'Connell. Lisa Barrett celebrates a birthday May 24.
- FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**
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, May 21: Vance Britt, Shelly Woodin, and Kimberly Garza; Friday, May 22: Felicia Ayala, Kevin Dalley, Bill Mondy and Becki Withers; Saturday, May 23: Damon Holt, David Cino and Nicole Wiens; Sunday, May 24: Barbara Gorman, Claudia Gonzalez, Cathy Greene, Dana Long and Richard McGinty; Monday, May 25: Felicia Gonzalez, Michelle Belvin, Herman Ortiz, Tammy Silva and Andrea Wheeler; Tuesday, May 26: Christine Maricle, Thomas Tillman Jr., Brian Brezina, Chris Ellis, and Randy Asbury; and Wednesday, May 27: Shelli Perseval, Jeffrey Short, Dan Lisbony and Jamie Nguyen.
- LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**
Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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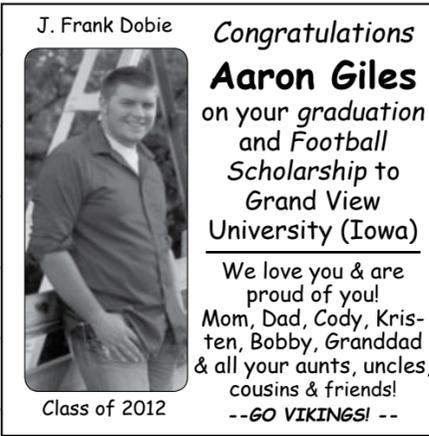
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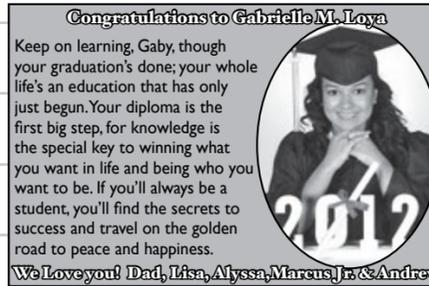


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Congratulations to Gabrielle M. Loya



Keep on learning, Gaby, though your graduation's done; your whole life's an education that has only just begun. Your diploma is the first big step, for knowledge is the special key to winning what you want in life and being who you want to be. If you'll always be a student, you'll find the secrets to success and travel on the golden road to peace and happiness.

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CALENDAR

Due to the current public health situation, it is advisable to verify if meetings are still being held prior to attending. Since Gov. Greg Abbott has initiated Strike Force for the reopening of Texas some groups have resumed their meetings.

For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the area, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For more information, call 713-686-6300.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 22

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online. Visit the site <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

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.

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

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

Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - no meeting at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 p.m., until the church reopens. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243 or visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html>.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.

Alcoholics Anonymous - no meeting at CrossRoads UMC until church reopens 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program. Currently the group is not meeting in-person, but will resume meetings when Life Church campus opens up. For more information, call 713-419-2635.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 - 11 a.m. Although there are no in-person meetings, visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html> for an electronic meeting or call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

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.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website, <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/YoungProfessionalsSE>. 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 attend the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the home page menu at www.youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com to obtain access to the virtual platform. For information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter currently is not meeting at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.

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.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting will resume when church opens, 11011 Hall Rd. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Israeli Folk Dancing resumes when the ministry opens to the public. Dance is originally scheduled 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.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

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.

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.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243 or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For additional information, call 713-686-6300.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, meets online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners/>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

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.

Kirkwood Civic Association - There will be no meeting for May. The next meeting will be the last Thursday in June. For details call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.



Hunton cooks for 2000+ health care workers



Members of Hunton Services provided cooked meals for more than 2,000 health care workers at three local hospitals last week including HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake. Shown working at the Clear Lake event are, left to right, Kris Hardin, president and general manager, Hunton Services; Cesar Ortega, HPD Clear

Lake officer; Mike Uresti, director of facility management, HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake; Richard Hunton Jr., president and CEO, Hunton Group; Albert Mireles, VP of human resources, Hunton Group; and Vic Hernandez, field supervisor, Hunton Services. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Sagemont church welcomes Carters

Continued from Page 1
services via livestreaming due to COVID-19 recommendations. After Carter preached, church members were given an opportunity to respond by voting online, by call-in vote, or in a drive-thru voting process. Because of the pandemic, most members of the church have only seen and heard Carter through online videos, but they have responded very positively and are excited about Sagemont's future with Carter as pastor. The church hosted a drive-by parade on campus Sunday evening for members to welcome their new pastor after the voting results were announced.

he called Carter into ministry in 1994. It was a connection with Sagemont Church that Carter only realized during recent discussions with church leadership. In his 18-year ministry at The Austin Stone Church, Carter ministered to thousands of University of Texas students and young professionals in the Austin area. He is looking forward to making Sagemont a place for all ages to worship and be disciples. Younger generations in particular will be a focus in the years to come. The church is already in the process of building a 45,000-square-foot building for junior high, high school and college students.

Carter intends to continue Sagemont's legacy of being a debt-free church and to increase mission efforts even beyond what has been done in the past. As pastor of The Austin Stone Church, he has sent over 270 full-time missionaries around the world in the church's 18 years. He is motivated to reach the Houston area, the fourth largest city in America, through his new opportunity at Sagemont.

Carter is in demand as a guest speaker and teacher around the world. He has guest-taught at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Africa New Life Seminary in Rwanda. He has been featured at many conferences, including Catalyst, Exponential, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference. He is the co-founder of the For the City

network, a nonprofit organization that helps to connect like-minded, Christ-centered nonprofits for greater impact. An author, Carter has written or co-written several books, including "A Church for the City," "The Real Win," "Steal Away Home," "The Long Walk Home: Discovering the Fullness of Life in the Love of the Father" and "The Gospel of John: Christ-Centered Commentary Series." Carter's Bible studies include "The Real Win: Bible Study for Men," "Creation Unraveled: The Gospel According to Genesis," "Creation Restored: The Gospel According to Genesis" and "The Prodigal Son: Discovering the Fullness of Life in the Love of the Father." As he preached on a pas-

sage in 1 Chronicles 11, Carter told the church Sunday, "In the years to come, I want us to be a church that is full of lion chasers. Because Sagemont was founded by an actual lion chaser, this church has in its very DNA the foundation to be a lion-chasing church. In the next few years that we have together on this planet, we're going to be a church that faces and walks towards, and even runs towards, and wades into the challenges that we face as a church to lift high the name of Jesus Christ in this city and around the world."

Sagemont Church has had a rich history over the past 54 years. The church welcomes Carter and his family and is anticipating an incredible future as the next chapter of the church's story begins.

Congregation uses parade to welcome pastor



Sagemont Church members in more than 350 vehicles participated in a car parade held Sunday, May 17, to welcome Dr. Matt Carter as pastor and his wife Jennifer. Shown enjoying the festivities were, left to

right, Roy Guel; former Sagemont pastor John Morgan and wife Kathie Morgan; Dr. Matt Carter and Jennifer Carter; and Chuck and Maureen Schneider. Photo by Jason Ryan

Close call for area resident



A resident of the apartment complex on Beamer near Hall Road had a close call last Saturday morning. The resident hit a patch of water while turning south on Beamer from the intersection of Hall and Beamer. When he did so, he lost control of his vehicle running

it through the guardrail near that intersection. At the time he was alone in the vehicle and was not injured. He was reportedly on his way to get a new tire. The Leader thanks Ellie Flickinger for this news tip. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Carter and Autrey share a story in which the search team began to pray on September 8, 2019, that God would lead the team to the right man and that he would also begin preparing that man for Sagemont. It was that very day that Carter testifies that he and his wife, Jennifer, began to sense God preparing them for a new assignment. The search team and Carter connected months later.

In the church's May 10 worship services, Dr. O.S. Hawkins, president and CEO of Guidestone Financial Resources; and Gregg Matte, senior pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church, sent video greetings and encouragement to the church.

In the worship services on May 17, Dr. J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Morgan, founding pastor of Sagemont Church, also sent words of affirmation to the church via video.

A special surprise moment in Sunday's service occurred when Christian artist Al Denson, who spent his childhood and teenage years at Sagemont Church, sang his song, "Will You Be the One?" It is believed that God had used Denson's song on the radio when

COVID prayer time set by South Belt Church

South Belt Church will post five prayer stations May 23 and 24 in the church parking lot. The church invites the South Belt community to drive through at 13100 Beamer Road and pray for different groups in the South Belt community affected by COVID-19. This sign reads, "Please pray for our brave first responders and medical professionals who are on the frontline of the COVID-19 response."



Education leaders in BAHEP discussion

Continued from Page 1

going well for us, but it's just not the same here in Pasadena ISD without our kiddos." Clear Creek ISD Clear Creek ISD's Smith echoed this sentiment, but added that his district, which includes 42,000 students, might use the experience to possibly expand its online teaching tools in the future.

"We have the opportunity to re-imagine education differently," Smith said. "Perhaps it will be more of a hybrid approach."

"The challenge is to make it better over time. I'm excited about the opportunities, but there's nothing like having your boys and girls in a classroom being taught by a kind, caring, loving, compassionate teacher."

San Jacinto College

San Jacinto College's Hellyer emphasized that her academic students, which number approximately 32,000, will largely complete courses on time.

"It's our technical courses that have been really moved around as to when they will finish," Hellyer said. "Our plan is to have all of the technical courses completed by the end of June. It's been a struggle. About 35 percent of our enrollment of 30,000 students is technical."

Panelists answer questions Pasadena ISD

When asked how instruction has changed in Pasadena ISD, Powell responded, "We have a large personalized learning program with about 10,000 kids enrolled, and they honestly didn't miss a beat. We monitor that, and about 96 percent of those kids are online daily being successful in the platform that they're used to."

"We have 43,000 other students who didn't have that format of day-in day-out instruction. Thinking had to change as to how we interact with students and how we do assignments and how we receive those assignments back. We got over 900 devices out to homes that didn't have internet connectivity."

"Our board has been super supportive by buying additional devices and approving emergency purchases of items that we need to stay safe and keep working. Our Education Foundation has helped out in a big way."

"The school year ends on May 28. We plan to extend instruction into the summer for

students who didn't complete their coursework successfully. We are going to hold them accountable by supporting them and by supporting their parents to make sure we don't leave huge gaps in their learning."

Clear Creek ISD

When asked about the financial impact of sales-tax collection and oil revenues being down, Smith responded, "The greatest thing to remember is that as human beings, we are the most adaptive species on earth. I think financially we all have to work strategically. We should not ask for anything in this budget that we can't sustain past this session. I believe cuts are on the way. We're going to have to restrain and show discipline in areas that have just gotten back to some sense of normalcy from 2011."

"We're going to have to re-prioritize once again and strategically either abandon things or repurpose staff members in order to make sure that kids have what they need."

"Financially it's a difficult picture. We have work to do. We need to look at those options to ensure that we're able to sustain past this next legislative session, even if it means tapping into the state's rainy day fund as well as our own funding balances."

"It's tough to socially distance kids, especially when you have 1,000 kids in an elementary school and 3,000 kids in a high school, unless you're willing to take a look at doing some split schedules—some in the morning, some in the afternoon, some in the evening. All of these are on the table, because I don't believe that distance learning long term is the best way for our students to learn. We know that it creates a bigger gap in those who need direct teaching and learning."

"Everybody wants to play football. Everybody wants the pep rally. Everybody wants the prom, but we have to make sure that everybody is safe and healthy."

San Jacinto College

When asked if whether colleges will be fully up and running by the fall semester or not, Hellyer responded, "San Jac is reassessing for the fall. All of the community colleges are designing their plans for the fall around modified face-to-face, taking into consideration social distancing. We've had small class sizes. We've been proud of that, but that's going to change to even smaller classes. We've learned a lot

of things during this process. Maybe we need to do things differently?"

"We're also building our modeling similar to what we had this spring. We start face-to-face and then we have to move online. I think we're all anxious to see what happens through this transition of re-starting business and how that impacts us. Is there a likelihood that we might not be back at all in the fall face-to-face?"

"We're looking at a lot of different scenarios. I think we're in such a critical stage right now of what happens over this next month. As Ira said, we're in a critical funding year. Our funding for higher education comes out of contact hours and enrollment. I don't see enrollment being what it was before. In a recession, community colleges normally grow in enrollment. We've never had this kind of recession—potentially depression. I think a lot of the jobs are going to change also. What do we really need to be offering?"

"We've been working with the lieutenant governor and some of our senators. Sen. Larry Taylor has been a huge supporter of helping us look at some potential items we need to be addressing in the legislature."

"I wish I could say that everything is going to be back to what it was. There are a lot of challenges including end of course testing and dual credit students. Changes have been made to allow some flexibility. I just worry about what happens after the fall. Students in our ISDs have had a lot of changes in their lives. There are a lot of conversations that need to keep happening no matter what the fall semester looks like."

Mitchell makes final statement

Longtime South Belt resident and BAHEP President Bob Mitchell closed the meeting by stating, "I've said for many, many years as long as I've been associated with this job that the strength of this community is our educational system. As I sat here listening to everyone on the panel, I feel even more deeply that you all are the strength of this community, and I am so proud and honored to be associated with every one of you."

For those interested in viewing the entire panel discussion, it has been posted on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEPID1mmEVQ>.

Trying to keep groceries dry



Heavy rain kept customers waiting outside a long time at the Kroger grocery store on the beltway feeder Friday around 3 p.m. Residents in the South Belt area saw rain that caused shoppers to back up their cars near the entrance of Kroger in an effort to stay dry. Sam Kannapper, South Belt resident since 1974, submitted this photo.

Dobie graduate parade a great success

Continued from Page 1

to collect their caps and gowns. Originally set to last from 5 to 7 p.m., the parade lasted until 7:40 p.m., Moses said. Some graduates went through the route more than once.

While the event was originally designed to just be a one-off event to benefit 2020

graduates who didn't get to experience a traditional senior year due to the coronavirus, Moses said school officials may continue doing the parade in future years. "It was a huge hit among the educators," Moses said. "I've had a lot of them reach out to me about them doing it again." The principal

said the parade was an emotional experience for many. "A lot of the mamas had tears in their eyes," Moses said. "It was very emotional at the end." Moses is grateful for everyone who helped make the unique event a success.

"I'd like to thank the faculty and staff from all the schools,"

Moses said. "It had a huge impact. I'd also like to thank the families. Everybody pulled together. It was an opportunity for everyone to come together. It did us all good. I kept hearing it was 'food for the soul,' and I'd agree with that."

Moses said a seniors' picnic is also being planned to take place this summer following graduation practice to honor this year's graduates.

Education leaders on COVID

Continued from Page 1

relates to the 2020-2021 school year," the statement read. "The district will be prepared to continue educating all students virtually through distance learning, if necessary. Additionally, if COVID-19 conditions allow and guidance

from local, state and federal health officials is provided, the district will be prepared to welcome students back to campuses or operate in a hybrid model, with both distance and in-person learning occurring simultaneously."

PISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell said her school district is also weighing different options but is hopeful that in-person instruction can resume in the fall. "The district is monitoring all guidance from the CDC and local health department regarding the safe return to school," Powell said.

"It is always our preference to have our students with us on campus, so we are planning for face-to-face instruction with safety protocols in place to protect students and staff. Once we have all our safety practices outlined, we will survey our parents related to their intentions of sending their children back to school. We know

we must plan for a variety of scenarios based on guidance we receive from state and local officials, which might possibly include distance and blended learning options. We will continue to update parents and our community regarding our planning."

All local plans will hinge on guidelines established by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. The Texas Education Agen-

cy recently recommended that school districts consider extending the 2020-2021 academic year by either moving to a year-long model, adding 30 days to a traditional calendar or spreading the school year out with intermittent breaks.

Recommendations call for staggered in-person attendance and an increase in remote learning. See related story Page 1.

Abandoned house secured

Continued from Page 1

owner, but she lived out of the area and said the house was the responsibility of the tenant because it was a lease-to-own property. The tenants, however, had stopped paying rent several months prior and had abandoned the home.

Barbour then reached out to city officials to see if the residence could be boarded up, as they had done in the past with similar homes in the area. The city agreed to help, but when crews were dispatched to the home, they were met by the homeowner, who was already on site with her own contractor to secure the house.

The home has now been legally returned to the original

owner. The robbery suspects are described merely as three black males. Anyone with any information on this case is urged to contact the Houston Police Department Robbery Division at 713-308-0700.

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