

### Motel death ruled homicide

The death of a man found dead Tuesday, April 27, inside a Fuqua-area motel has been ruled a homicide.

According to police, officers responded to a call around 4:55 p.m. at the Studio 6 Motel in the 12700 block of North Featherwood near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway to find the victim with multiple stab wounds.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the incident and pronounced Raymond Escalon, 63, dead at the scene. At press time, there was no known motive or suspect(s). Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

### Recycling at Ellington May 8

The City of Houston will hold its monthly e-waste recycling event at Ellington Airport Saturday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Due to the current health crisis, the collection program will be contactless. Residents are asked to wear masks when speaking to staff and place all items to be recycled in the trunk of the vehicle to ensure no direct contact is made.

Items accepted include computers; routers; laptops; power cords; UPS; cellphones; VCRs; scrap metal/wire; monitors; hubs; printers; cables; servers; DVD players; cable boxes; ink-jet cartridges; TVs; mice and keyboards; switches; fax machines; telephones; toner cartridges; and copiers.

The e-waste collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For more information, call 311 or visit [www.houstonx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstonx.gov/solidwaste).

### City heavy trash set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, May 13 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, May 14 (second Friday of the month). April is for tree waste only.

Due to a larger amount of debris being discarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, pickups may be delayed. For additional information, visit [www.houstonx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstonx.gov/solidwaste) or call 311.

### COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, May 5, there were 155 confirmed South Belt deaths due to COVID-19, up three from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 5,551 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 111 remain active. To date, 60 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 80 of the 4,001 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 49 from the ZIP code have died, no increase from the previous week.

Of the 4,077 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 69 remain active. To date, 46 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there have been 393,583 total confirmed cases. Of those, 380,137 have recovered from the disease, while 9,186 cases remain active. A total of 4,241 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

### Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Alameda/FM 521 to Bellfort daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Tuesday, May 18. At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 288 nightly from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, May 7.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, June 4. The closures are associated with the project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528.

At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 30.

At least one northbound lane and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 30.

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

Both the northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps between IH 610 South Loop and Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31. The closures are associated with ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes.

### Tri County hosts meeting

The public is invited to attend the Tri County meeting May 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Golfcrest Country Club to hear Dr. Robin Armstrong who was featured on national TV.

Armstrong received recognition for his treatment of COVID patients at a nursing home where he is the medical director. Meetings are free. If one stays for lunch, the cost is \$15. RSVP to [trcwmembership@gmail.com](mailto:trcwmembership@gmail.com). For information, visit <https://trcwx.org>.

## PISD, CCISD each lose incumbent in May 1 election

Election results from the May 1 local school board elections have been tabulated, with incumbents from both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD losing seats.

In the Pasadena ISD race, incumbent Nelda Sullivan will maintain her Position 3 spot, while incumbent Mariselle Quijano lost her Position 2 seat.

In the Position 3 contest, Sullivan handily defeated her two challengers, receiving 70.8 percent of the vote (5,047 total votes). Yen Huynh Rabe received 23 percent of the vote (1,643 votes), and Sunil Nepal received 6.2 percent (442 votes).

In the Position 2 race, Quijano received 48.4 percent of the vote (3,403 votes) to challenger Crystal Dávila's 51.6 percent (3,628 votes).

In the election to fill the Position 1 seat being vacated by Fred Roberts, Paola Gonzalez Fusilier defeated Noble J. Alix Jr., receiving 55.7 percent of the vote (3,991 votes) to Alix's 44.3 percent (3,173).

In the contest for Position 4 being vacated by Jack Bailey, Casey Phelan beat out opponents Al Bledsoe and Areef Bhuyan. Phelan received 54 percent of the vote (3,729 votes), while Bledsoe received 38.9 percent (2,691 votes) and Bhuyan received 7.1 percent (491 votes).

This election cycle had proven unique in that two distinct camps of candidates had emerged — one including incumbents and one including challengers.

## Andrea Longoria killed in accident

Former longtime South Belt resident and Dobie High School guidance counselor Andrea Longoria was killed in an auto-pedestrian accident the evening of Friday, April 30, during her daily walk near Northfork Drive and Bagnoli Rose Lane in Pearland. Longoria, 74, served as the school's counselor for 19 years, before retiring in 2011. She was also active in St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. The site of the crash has become a make-

shift memorial, including signs that tell drivers to slow down. At press time, no charges had been filed against the 17-year-old driver, and the incident was still under investigation and funeral arrangements had not been released. Longoria leaves behind her husband, three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Visitation is at 6 p.m. May 10 at St. Helen's Church in Pearland. Funeral Mass is May 11 at the same church at 11 a.m. (See obituary next week.)

## Constable officers in SWAT event

A domestic disturbance led to a SWAT stand-off Saturday, May 1, at the Clear Creek Landing apartment complex located in the 11700 block of Beamer near Hall Road.

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office responded to a terroristic threat/weapons call at the above address at approximately 9:40 p.m. and met with the female complainant who was attempting to pick up her

child from the location. The woman told deputies that the child's father had made threats against her involving a weapon.

Deputies attempted to make contact with the father, but he refused to speak with them.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office SWAT team was then notified, along with Harris County Sheriff negotiation units. After several hours of phone

## New regs for outside mask use

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this past week relaxed its guidelines for outdoor mask use for fully vaccinated Americans.

The new guidelines say that residents who have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus may now take off their masks at small outdoor gatherings or when dining outside with friends from multiple households. The CDC recommends that unvaccinated people continue to wear masks at such gatherings.

People are considered fully vaccinated by the CDC two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The CDC recommendations further say that all residents, vaccinated or not, do not have to wear masks outdoors when they walk, bike or run alone or with members of their household. They may also now go maskless in small outdoor gatherings with fully vaccinated people.

"If you are fully vaccinated and want to attend a small outdoor gathering with people who are vaccinated and unvaccinated, or dine at an outdoor

restaurant with friends from multiple households, the science shows if you are vaccinated, you can do so safely unmasked," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, CDC director, said during a virtual White House briefing Tuesday, April 27. "Generally, for vaccinated people, outdoor activities without a mask are safe. However, we continue to recommend masking in crowded outdoor settings and venues, such as packed stadiums and concerts where there is decreased ability to maintain physical distance and where many unvaccinated people may also be present. We will continue to recommend this until widespread vaccination is achieved."

President Joe Biden said the new guidelines serve as an inspiration for people to get vaccinated. "The bottom line is clear, if you're vaccinated, you can do more things, more safely, both outdoors as well as indoors," Biden said at a press conference Tuesday, April 27. "So for those who haven't gotten their vaccinations yet, especially if you're younger or thinking you don't need it, this is another great reason to go get vaccinated now."

## Garcia begins Beltway coverage

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office has begun the process of taking over local Beltway 8 patrols from Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office.

The transition will affect the six-mile stretch from the Gulf Freeway to Mykawa Road, the portion located within Precinct 2. This will mark the first time Precinct 2 deputies will patrol this space. The toll road east of I-45 will be served by Sandlin.

Garcia said he initially approached Harris County Toll Road officials about the proposal this past January. The measure then needed to be approved by Harris County Commissioners Court. The move will require Garcia to hire nine new deputies.

"During the campaign, I said I'd put more deputies

on the streets, and I'm trying to fulfill my duties and obligations," said Garcia. "We're working very hard, and we're very excited." According to Garcia, two deputies began patrolling the beltway last week. Four more deputies will begin May 8, and all nine new deputies will be on the road by June 1.

Garcia said he hopes the presence of local deputies will minimize area collisions. "This was a high priority for me because of the number of accidents," said Garcia. "There's been a problem for many years with traffic accidents along the beltway at the Beamer and Sabo intersections, and it appeared not much was being done about it. So, we're going to start enforcing traffic regulations to ensure the safety of the community. I'm super excited about it."

## Meador honors librarian, secretary



Meador Elementary staff showed their appreciation for all that their librarian Karen Barton (left), 21 years as the librarian at Meador and 29 years in PISD, and secretary Johanna James, 26 years at Meador and 30 years in PISD, do each day working with students, staff and parents. The staff celebrated National Librarian and National Secretary Day with donuts, cards and kind words of "We donut know what we'd do without you!"

In one camp, incumbents Quijano and Sullivan sided with new candidates Alix Jr. and Phelan. Rabe led an opposing camp, siding with Davila and Bledsoe.

### CCISD

In the CCISD election, incumbents Jay Cun-

ningham and Jonathan Cottrell will maintain their positions, while longtime board member Page Rander will lose her District 4 seat.

In the District 4 race, Rander received 46 percent of the vote (261 votes), while the challeng-

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## Setting up free community COVID shots



The City of Houston Health Department will hold a COVID two-shot Moderna variety vaccination event Saturday, May 8, at the Sagemont Church Annex, 11600 Hughes, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be available. To set an appointment, visit [www.HoustonEmergency.org/covid19](http://www.HoustonEmergency.org/covid19) or call 832-393-4220 or 832-393-4301. Part of the team planning the event are shown, left to right, Emory Gadd, associate pastor at Sagemont; Mark Mitchell, aide to Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin who arranged the event; and Chuck Schneider, senior executive pastor of Sagemont Church.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## City launches new recycling

The City of Houston is launching a curbside recycling cart-tagging pilot program modeled on the Recycling Partnership's successful Feet on the Street campaign.

The cart-tagging initiative is aimed at improving the quality and quantity of recyclable materials collected in the single-stream curbside recycling program. The education project is funded by a grant from The Recycling Partnership and a solid waste reduction grant provided by the Houston-Galveston Area Council from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The cart-tagging recycling education program will provide residents personalized and real-time feedback on the contents of their recycling cart. It is intended to educate residents on how to recycle right and how to recycle more, thereby increasing the number of quality recyclables collected.

Quality recyclables include the list of Houston's accepted items — empty and dry aluminum and tin cans, food and beverage cartons, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, and plastic bottles, tubs and jugs — that can circulate back into the economy to become new products or packaging.

Developed by the national nonprofit The Recy-

cling Partnership, the Feet on the Street cart-tagging program helps communities improve the efficiency of their recycling programs, reduce the number of new resources used in packaging and improve the health of communities.

"Recycling is not only the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Recycling properly will save our taxpayers money by reducing the cost of dumping at the landfill, and it gives residents the ability to directly participate in driving a local circular recycling economy to combat climate change. We know Houston residents want to recycle the right way, and through this cart-tagging campaign, we are providing them personalized, real-time feedback to do just that."

The City of Houston cart-tagging pilot program will sample 60,000 of the 390,000 homes that receive city-provided solid waste services. The six-month program will include a comprehensive education and outreach strategy that involves a team of observers who will visit each resident's location on collection day and provide tailored feedback on how to improve the contents of their recycling cart. If nonaccepted items are found in the recycling cart, observers will leave an "Oops" tag on the cart. The tag will notify the

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## Dobie hosts 9th annual Hall of Honor

Dobie High School hosted its ninth annual Hall of Honor induction ceremony Saturday, April 24.

Begun in 2013, the Hall of Honor recognizes alumni and staff members who have made significant contributions in the community and serve as role models to students.

According to the school's website, "the Hall of Honor award is presented to any person who has distinguished himself or herself (alumnus/alumna since graduating from Dobie High School), community volunteer, fallen hero or faculty or staff member by exceptionally meritorious service to the community in a duty of great responsibility. The performance must be such as to merit recognition that is clearly exceptional and reflects positively on J. Frank Dobie High School."

Four alumni and one faculty member were recognized at the year's event. Student inductees included YouTube star T Nguyen, Class of 2007; education activist Erica Davis Rouse, Class of 1991; track star Gawain Guy, Class of 1981; and U.S. Marine Corps Col. William Smith, Class of 1970. Former Dobie English teacher Barry Harris, now deceased, was the sole faculty member to be inducted.

### T Nguyen, Class of 2007

A YouTube sensation known as Princess T, Nguyen, along with her sidekick Princess Pham, has built an empire with her online program "Princess ToysReview," which combines social media and children's entertainment. Nguyen, whose roots run deep in the South Belt community, having attended Burnett Elementary, Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School, returns to her alma mater regularly to give back to her fellow Longhorns.

Over the past several years, she has hosted toy donation events at Dobie for students attending campuses in the South Belt area. The sisters also started a foundation in honor of their sister who passed away.

Erica Davis Rouse, Class of 1991

Davis Rouse always had a passion for serving students and the community. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Rouse has amassed over 15 years of professional sales experience, serving the majority of that time in management for AllHere Education, School Innovations and Achievement and John Wiley & Sons. Over the years, Rouse has volunteered for several educational and nonprofit organizations, including serving as a board of trustee for the San Jacinto College District and as an advisory board member for the Smahrt Girl Foundation. Rouse has served Pasadena ISD as a team mom for several of her son's activities, including mentoring and coaching in the Leaders of Tomorrow program. She has volunteered for several nonprofit organizations including Making it Better Texas and Yellowstone Academy and tutors at New Covenant Church. Rouse is a proud ambassador for the Houston Texans as a member of the Cheerleaders Alumni Organization.

### Gawain Guy, Class of 1981

Gawain Guy was a record-breaking track and cross country standout. As a junior at Dobie, he won the 800 meters at the state track meet. As a senior, he doubled the distance and established himself as one of the top runners in the nation — leading Dobie to the 1981 state track title. He won a total of three state titles, one in cross-country, one in the 800 meters and one in the 1600, where he clocked the fastest time in the nation and was ranked as the No. 1 miler in the land by Track and Field News. His achievements in track and cross-country didn't end there. Twice during his running days at Rice, he won the NCAA title in the indoor 1,000 meters, earning All-American honors in the process. Outdoors, he won the SWC 880 title in 1985. He still holds the Rice record in the metric mile. He doubled his successes, earning him a spot in the Rice Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998 and in the Pasadena ISD Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013. Guy competed in the first round of the 1984 Olympics for his

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# In My Opinion

## O'Brien calls it, cause for open rebellion

What the *SB-E Leader* calls "controversy" over proposed construction of new houses, I would identify as "cause for open rebellion," and it certainly won't be the first time that the South Belt Community has had to rebel against branches of the government. I cannot conceive of replacing a 3-BR brick home and 2-car garage with the dinky little cottage that I saw on the front page of last week's paper (Vol. 46, No. 13, page 1, above the fold).

The General Land Office (GLO) and George P. Bush may think they know what they're doing, but it's obvious that they do not. Many sections of the South Belt have and enforce deed restrictions for a reason: to maintain the property values of the community. How does an HOA enforce existing deed restrictions while GLO gets to say, "Oh, the rules don't apply to us?"

I sympathize with the homeowner whose home was damaged during Harvey. Mine was, too. We had to sell ours at a loss because we had begun building a new home ahead of Harvey and couldn't handle 2 houses at once. However, I can't begin to imagine having the GLO tear down a home which is obviously higher in value and replacing it with one of less value and less square footage. What a complete ripoff!

As I was reading the article, I thought of that show "Extreme Makeover," where a crew comes in and rebuilds/replaces houses with newer ones, meeting the needs of the family and the community. Then, I pictured a supportive community shouting "Move that bus!" But instead of a cheering crowd of well-wishers, I envision cries of shock and dismay, EMT dispensing smelling salts to people who faint dead away, and stricken neighbors screaming when they see what has just happened to their neighborhood. I guess it's time to dig out my old t-shirt and revise the logo: "Since EPA GLO won't do it, SOUTH BELT will!"

Signed, NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)

Catherine O'Brien

## Schoppa shares thoughts on waste

Dear South Belt Leaders, you know who you are! Take time to drive down the 9200 block of Hall Road, the back way to Target just north and parallel to Beltway 8.

What was a sweet and serene road with trees and a lovely pond with waterbirds has become a dumping ground for trash, mattresses, old furniture, put there by those too lazy and stingy to dispose of these things by not planning for heavy trash pickup. You, too, know who you are. Call your councilwoman Carolyn Evans-Shabazz 832.393.3001, 311, anyone you know who cares. It's our community and it's up to us to care for it!

Dana Schoppa

## Muecke shares thoughts on Biden

WHERE IS OUR CONGRESS and the American people? Our legal government consists of the Congress/Legislative branch which furnishes the laws for this country, the Supreme Court that rules if a law passed is legal or not, if questioned, and then the President/Chief executive Officer that carries out the laws passed by Congress. No where is the Executive Order shown in either the Constitution or By Laws. George Washington was the first to use one and then other following Presidents have used them to some extent. Jimmy Carter issued 80 a year for his 4 years. Trump used them as congress mostly blocked what ever he proposed. Now Biden is going wild, 22 in his first day in office. Open border, now a crisis area; XL pipeline, thousands of jobs lost and others.

Governing like this shows DICTATORSHIP. Look at Hitler in WW II, first took the guns, then the voices and then their lives. For instance the gun/weapons executive order, that was an item that Congress should have handled because of the Second Amendment. Congress needs to study the Executive Order and write a law to just what the Executive order allows the President to use for. Our Representatives are not looking out for the rights we have in how our government operates.

Jim Muecke

## Masone comments: PISD mask mandate

My name is Greg Masone. I'm a registered nurse and a life-long resident of Pasadena. I have grown up in this community and lived here for most of my 38 years. I attended Burnett Elementary, Thompson Intermediate, Dobie High School, and obtained my Associates Degree in Nursing from San Jacinto College. Two of my four children currently attend Moore Elementary on Blackhawk Road, and the other two will as soon as they reach school age. I love this community and plan to remain a part of it for many more years.

I'm writing to you to open up a discussion about the mask mandate currently in effect within the Pasadena Independent School District. I understand you are in correspondence with the CNO of PISD. I have spoken with her several times myself, and she has updated me regarding the outlook of the mandate in the school district. I appreciate the due dili-

gence going into this and her willingness to take the time from her busy schedule to talk with me.

Which is why the mandatory mask mandate is such a concern to me as a parent. I have studied the research surrounding the efficacy of mask mandates to curb infection rates. Overwhelmingly, over decades, the research has shown that masks do not lower the incidence of viral infections. Even in the Operating Room, an area I am also very familiar with, we've found that masks actually increase by over 30% surgical site infection rates in patients! And that's just with bacteria. A virus is much smaller and more versatile than most bacteria.

Still, I thought it would be good to bring my concerns about the mandate directly to the Board. To put it plainly, I disagree with masks being mandatory. I think masks should be a decision left up to the parents to decide for their children, and not a decision that is made apart from parent's input. I've always been supportive of district efforts to improve and safeguard the health of students and teachers, but always on a voluntary basis. We need to have the flexibility to make decisions that are right for our own families first.

As I mentioned earlier, I am a Registered Nurse. I have taken care of my fair share of COVID positive patients in the past year, and I have done my own due diligence in understanding the risk-factors associated with this virus. This is so I can better take care of my patients, but also so I can protect myself and my family too. One area I have focused on is the role Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) plays in preventing transmission of the virus. We have very stringent protocols in my hospital that have now become second nature to myself and my fellow nurses. Yet despite that, over half of the nurses I work with have contracted the virus. The PPE we use includes a properly fitted N95 mask, a Level 3 surgical mask over that one, a face shield or protective eye goggles, disposable gloves, and a disposable plastic gown. We put these on and take them off during every patient encounter. It's a lot of work! When the COVID pandemic hit Texas last year, one of my (many) jobs in my hospital was to educate the staff on proper PPE donning and doffing. It's an area I'm very familiar with.

would be happy to show you research from the CDC and the World Health Organization that discusses this. Additionally, more recent research performed with COVID and masks have shown masks do not decrease the rates of infection. Numerous experts in medicine, evidence-based research, and respiratory illnesses have spoken out about the lack of evidence on the efficacy of mask mandates, but to no avail. About a year ago, even the CDC, WHO, Dr. Fauci, and the U.S. Surgeon General all recommended against wearing masks, saying they don't really do much and can give people a false sense of security. Masks, of the sort available outside of healthcare facilities, are primarily effective against viruses transmitted by droplets, which can easily be blocked by masks. Research highly supports the idea COVID is an airborne virus that tends to float and go around minor barriers such as masks, similar to how bubbles in water will move around your hand if you try to grab them. There appears to be a strong desire to "do something", despite that "something" having very little evidence to support it.

COVID is a tricky virus, one, as I mentioned earlier, that can even infect trained healthcare personnel with the best equipment available to protect themselves. Which is why I think the mask mandate for our children should be a voluntary one. I think everyone, from parents, to children, to teachers, and everyone else within the school district, should have the freedom to choose whether they wear a mask or not. I think this should be voluntary 1st because I think all healthcare-based decisions should be voluntary, but 2nd, because research suggests basic cloth and medical masks don't do much anyway. Texas after all, experienced a major 2nd and 3rd wave of COVID despite having a mask mandate in place. At the very least I believe parents should be involved in the decision to keep it mandatory or to make it voluntary. We are nearly a month after the ending of the statewide mask mandate and two weeks after the end of Spring Break. Infection and hospitalization rates are continuing to drop, while vaccination rates are setting daily records. Over ten million vaccines have been administered to Texas residents, and teachers have had access to the vaccine since early March. Other school districts have made masks voluntary and have not met disaster.

I think it's time to truly give this idea fair consideration. Parents are beginning to desire a voice at the table, as the recent lawsuit filed against Katy ISD's mask mandate suggests. I know there are many like-minded parents in PISD who also want to be heard. Given the upcoming Board election, it might be good to hear what the community wants to say about these matters. I know the mask mandate will play a large part in how I vote. I have been discussing this matter with many other residents and parents too, and bringing attention to it on the community boards I participate in.

I look forward to hearing from anyone interested in talking about this, and I thank you for taking the time to read this. I know I write a lot, but parental choice is a matter I truly care about!

Take care,  
Greg Masone

## Dobie colorguard places 3rd



J. Frank Dobie Colorguard participated in the TCGC final competition April 10, finishing overall in third place. The team recognized their two seniors for this season, Destiny Wilson (front row, left) and Penny Hernandez (front row, right). Wilson has been a member of Dobie colorguard for four years as the weapon captain and Hernandez has been a member for two years as the flag captain. Both girls are wonderful role models for the others on the team and will be missed by the guard members. Behind them are, left to right, Paul Vu, Trinity Tucker, Cassidy Idele, Eleezabeth Torres and Chris Cantu.

## Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

### Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is located at 9002 Kingspoint. For additional information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org> or call 832-393-2580.

### Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is on operation

Contactless curbside services, known as HPL To Go, are available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. To use HPL To Go:

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

### Book drop

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

### Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) under Here's What's Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access the digital resources and access the link to obtain a temporary card. Also, under Here's What's Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

All overdue fines/fees will be waived through June 30, 2021, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, Wi-Fi service is still available by coming to the library standing/sitting within six feet of the building. A password is not needed. Go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi and connect to HPL - Public. HPL is not accepting book donations at this time. Visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) to chat with a librarian 24/7, or to send questions.

### Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

### Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"

After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
- A pickup time and instructions will be given.
- Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

### Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
- Stream classic films, Indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
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- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

Thursday, May 6, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join John Harbough and Jason Cruz for a virtual toddler time through Microsoft Teams and interact with little ones. Parents are encouraged to participate. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome to join virtually. Sign up once with a valid email address at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to register for the Virtual Toddler Time event series and get a weekly invitation. #toddlertime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Friday May 7, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Ariel Perez tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Pens and markers are needed for videos to be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Saturday May 8, 11 a.m. Crafts-to-Go + Fashion Show. Pick up a craft kit to make a hanging cherry blossom. The library will provide the supplies; and participants provide the creativity. Stay until the end to enjoy the Fashion Show celebrating AAPI! This program is found at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #AAPI #AsianAmericanPacificIslanderMonth #May2021 #HeritageMonth #crafts #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Tuesday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join John Harbough and Celeste Plew on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Tuesday May 11, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez. Plan a time of virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, May 12, 11 a.m. Bilingual Vietnamese Storytime. Enjoy Story Time in English and Vietnamese with Kathy Pham with singing, reading and learning in both languages. Video is available on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. Appreciation is given to @compendiumvein spired for sharing this book. #Vietnamese #Storytime #Bilin gual #reading #literacy #counting #picturebooks #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Wednesday, May 12, 1 p.m. Spanish Storytime with Jason Cruz. A different story will be available on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, May 12, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams over Discord online. No prior experience is required. Contact [tanner.adams@hcpl.net](mailto:tanner.adams@hcpl.net) for details.

## Officers in SWAT event

Continued from Page 1 negotiations, the suspect gave up peacefully.

Jeremy Keys was charged with making a terroristic threat to a family member and aggravated assault.

Beamer was blocked off for several blocks during the incident, preventing many from getting to their own apartments at the complex. No injuries were reported.

## Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the *Leader* are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the *Leader* style.

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**PC Praise Chapel**  
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We will be honoring all mothers with a special program on Mother's Day, May 9 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Kathie Morgan, the wife of Pastor John Morgan, will be ministering on "Some of the most difficult things God asks us to do." This will be a powerful message for all to hear.  
We will also be giving each mother a long stem red rose and Bill and Renee Morris will be ministering special music. All are welcome!  
May 16  
World renown and accomplished violinist, LaDonna Taylor, will be here at 6 p.m. for a powerful healing and miracle service. You will not want to miss it! Come and receive your breakthrough!  
Service times: Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & at 6 p.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m.  
18516 Highway 3, Webster, TX 77958 • 281-338-6633  
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Kathie Morgan



LaDonna Taylor

## Death

### Robert "Bob" Breeden



Robert "Bob" Breeden, 90, of Houston passed away April 26, 2021. He was born in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 22, 1930, to Marvin and Maureen Breeden.

Bob was married to Barbara Breeden for 66 years. He had a career in surgical supply sales for more than 40 years. Bob started at W. A. Kyle and worked for Physicians Sales and Service (PSS).

He loved to golf and even took his son to Scotland to golf. He was a Bible study teacher and was active in the church choir for 60 years. Bob could participate in anything and do very well, including swimming, diving and tennis. Bob loved to hunt, especially taking his son on those hunting trips. He was also known for his sense of humor and "dad" jokes!

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bob is survived by his loving wife; daughter Brenda Ortiz and her husband Trini; son Bobby Breeden and his

fiancée April Carson; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held at Sagemont Church Saturday morning, May 1, 2021, with a funeral service immediately following. Dr. John D. Morgan officiated the funeral ser-

vice, with music being sung by Rex Forsythe and Phyllis Carr.

Interment was at Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to Sagemont Church in Bob's honor.

## JFD graduation May 13

Dobie High School will hold a Class of 2021 drive-thru parade at the campus Thursday, May 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. Seniors are invited to decorate vehicles and drive through the Dobie senior parking lot. Teachers from all the feeder schools have been invited to park in the back parking lot with signs, decorations and other fun celebrations for seniors.

## ASK offers self-defense

The American Society of Karate is offering online self-defense classes Fridays at 7:30 p.m. No previous self-defense experience required. To preregister, visit [www.ASKKarate.com](http://www.ASKKarate.com) and go to online events-->Mind Body Site-->Daily Classes. Sign up under the livestream Friday 7:30 p.m. class.

Email Online@ASKKarate.com or call 281-571-3697 for information on other martial arts courses. Classes are taught by experienced black belt instructors.

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(Modified during COVID-19)  
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\*Also Available on Facebook Live  
Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)  
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.  
Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862  
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

## New Covenant Christian Church Day Care Christian Based Child Care



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

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# Atkinson celebrates Summer Academic Challenge



Atkinson Elementary had an awards ceremony to finally celebrate 2020's Summer Academic Challenge. The challenge ran from June 1 to Aug. 1. After having to work around COVID school rules and social distancing, the school was able to celebrate the students who participated and won. Students were tasked to complete lessons on 3 different programs. The winners consisted of completing 84 lessons in Dreambox, 630 total minutes in iStation and 700 minutes of reading or reaching AR point goal. The students are shown above, left to right, (first row) Sophia Garcia, Dominic Hernan-

dez, Benjamin Garcia, Mia Watkins, Jaxson Elizalde, Hector Gonzalez, Adrian Manzanarez, Dennis Fernandez, Jazmin Nunez, (second row) Olivia Guzman, Alvaro Carrera, Jancarlo Marquez, Joselyn Martinez, Caitlyn Nguyen, Jandel Moreno, Anthony Valerio, Ariana Ortega, (third row) Jacob Fonseca, Christina Gonzalez, Kyree Pipkins, Sofia Vega, Yaritza Lopez, Cayden Nguyen, Peyton Nunez, (fourth row) Anna Trinh, Christopher Perez, Caleb Villarreal, Alexis Esquivel, Paige McMullen and Raquel Obath.

# Moneyhun, Teacher of the Year



Thompson Intermediate officials presented their Teacher of the Year award to Kelli Moneyhun. They described her as amazing and one who continuously shows her Lion pride. Thompson staff and students congratulated her, giving her a candy bouquet and a plaque designating her recognition.

# Harris County mails property value notices; values increase 8-10 percent

The Harris County Appraisal District has mailed property value notices to many residential property owners and is following with commercial and industrial value notices. "We are seeing a large number of residential and commercial properties in Harris County increasing in value this year," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. "Residential properties are in high demand and have gone up about 8-10 percent in value, and commercial properties are following along the same lines with a value increase of just over 9 percent." Altinger explained that the appraisal district is required by law to appraise all property at 100 percent of market value as of Jan. 1. Specific information for residential and commercial property is below, and market area maps are available on the HCAD website at www.hcad.org under "Appraisal" and then "Reappraisal." Individual property values also are available at www.hcad.org.

**Residential**  
The Harris County housing market had a robust year because of low interest rates and a shrinking inventory of homes. The inventory of available homes fell to a 1.9-months

supply at the end of December 2020, which means the supply of homes for sale is very low. The county has hovered around a 3-months' supply for the past 5 years, which indicates a seller's market. A 6-month inventory of homes is considered a balanced market. With inventory at historically low levels, the issue of housing prices and affordability will continue.

The sales volume of homes has increased, and home values continue to rise. The sales volume for single-family residential properties was 96,151 homes in 2020, which is a 10.5 percent increase from the

86,996 homes sold in 2019, according to the Houston Association of Realtors. The average sales price increased to \$324,069 in January 2021, which is a 5.1 percent increase from \$305,959 in January 2020.

Year-over-year, the median sales price of single-family homes - the figure at which half the homes sold for more and half for less - rose 6.1 percent to \$260,000 in January 2021, compared with \$245,000 in January 2020, according to the Houston Association of Realtors.

Homes in all price ranges saw value increases of between 8-10 percent with 84 percent of all the homes in the county going up in value because of the demand for single-family homes.

ties increased 6.6 percent from the certified value in 2020 to 2021, the values of hotel and motel properties fell about 5 percent because of the impact of the pandemic.

The Houston office market was suffering before the pandemic, but the pandemic has caused many companies to put office space decisions on hold until they can figure out how they want to configure their office space for work at home or social distancing. Vacancy rates grew to 22.1 percent over 2020's 19.9 percent. Overall rental rates remain steady but

with generous concessions. Houston's apartment values have remained stable but there has been some pandemic impact. There is an oversupply of new Class A units primarily in the center of the county, such as downtown, Galleria and Upper Kirby. Rental rates have declined in those areas by 1.7 percent and landlords are giving generous concessions to absorb some of the excess units. Rental rates in the suburban market are staying steady, and with more people working from home, many apartment dwellers have moved to the suburbs where they can pay a lower rate.

The retail market took one of the hardest hits from the economic shutdown but started to recover in the fourth quarter. Vacancy rates rose to 5.8 percent at the end of 2020, up from 5.3 percent the previous year. Warehouses are continuing to grow with 30 million square feet of new construction because of the explosion in e-commerce activity from the pandemic. The demand for vacant land grew in 2020 with the strongest demand concentrated in or near the Aldine, Klein, Tomball, Cy-Fair, Katy and Houston school districts.

Property owners who receive their notices may begin the protest process immediately. While there is a protest form included in the packet, one of the fastest and easiest ways to do this is to use the district's online iFile program at www.hcad.org/iFile.

# Trevinos win Yard of the Month



Congratulations to Alma and Fred Trevino for winning the Sagemeadow HOA yard for April. Alma, the gardener of the family, rescued countless numbers of plants in her front and backyard during the ice storm. She can often be found in the garden, raising and multiplying plants. The front yard features potted queen's tears bromeliads and snake plants. Fred restores old garden benches and loves to display his favorite flags. Homemade garden art draws their grandchildren to the yard, their questions on how things work are a great tool for their grandparents to explain. A winter green boxwood hedge borders the front door area. Beds with roses, annuals and perennials lend color to the yard. Their property is on Sageaspen.

"Exemptions can provide significant relief for qualifying taxpayers by reducing taxable value and tax levies," Altinger said.

Residence homestead exemptions are the most common type of exemption and apply to most owner-occupied homes in Texas. Property owners should check their account online to make sure that all exemptions they are entitled to are in place.

**Commercial**  
All commercial property categories are increasing in value except for hotel and motel properties. Values for commercial properties rose 9.3 percent overall, with 65 percent of commercial properties increasing in value, 27 percent remaining unchanged and 8 percent falling in value. Commercial property includes apartments, office buildings, retail, medical offices, hospitals, hotels, warehouses and vacant land.

While values of medical properties increased 11.8 percent, vacant land increased 10.4 percent and office proper-

# Gabriel graduates



Gabriel Guillory-Robles graduated from Arizona State University May 3 with a master's degree in saxophone performance. Upon earning his bachelor's in music performance from Texas Christian University, he was one of only two saxophonists accepted into the master's program at ASU where he advanced to master his craft under the renowned saxophonist Dr. Christopher Crestivo. Along with members of Quartet Helios, he finished second in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, third in the North American Saxophone Alliance quartet competition, and was a finalist in the Wind Division of the Music Teachers National Association Senior Chamber Competition. Gabriel is the son of South Belt residents William and Lisa (Guillory) Jones and Gabriel and Lulu Robles of Deer Park. He is a 2012 Dobie High grad who attended Thompson Intermediate, Morris Middle School and Frazier Elementary.

# Morris releases butterflies

Morris Middle School fifth-graders nurtured caterpillars until they turned into butterflies. They released them into the wild April 27. All students experienced the life cycle of a butterfly from the caterpillar stage to the adult stage.



Above is fifth-grader Leah Moreno with two butterflies ready to take flight. Below is Amy Brewster, fifth-grade science teacher, releasing a butterfly.

# Stuchbery Teacher of the Year



Stuchbery Elementary staff congratulated their 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year, Lauren Palos, who was recognized for her hard work and dedication to her students. Shown above, left to right, are Jose Hernandez, principal; Palos; and Daniela Cruz, assistant principal.

# Genoa participates in STEAM



Genoa Elementary staff celebrated their five third- and fourth-grade students who represented the school at the district level Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Showcase. Left to right, are Bryan Duran, fourth grade; Julian Wilson, third grade; Joseph Dominquez, third grade; Abner Morales, third grade; and Brianna De La Garza, fourth grade. Photo by Karen Garza



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## Meador Elementary celebrates annual Rodeo Day

Meador couldn't invite parents to their annual Rodeo Day performance this year due to COVID precautions, but students were filmed dancing socially-distanced line dances and videos were shared with their parents. Students from all grade levels dressed up in their favorite cowboy/cowgirl boots along with hats and western clothing.



Shown left are, left to right, Sofia Teniente, second grade; Freya Teniente, kindergarten; and Marieli Teniente, first grade.



Above, wearing western vests and hats are (left) fourth-grader Flor Vasquez and kindergartener Axel DeRamon-Vasquez.



At left, donning brightly-colored attire to celebrate Rodeo Day are, left to right, Kenberly Jones, fourth-grader; Beverly Bolton, principal; and Ronni Gary, fourth-grader.



Shown above, left to right, kindergarteners Briceson Guyton, Freya Teniente and Logan Bounds demonstrate some western moves.



Above, Meador staff members joining a western line-up are, left to right, Heather Cline, technology teacher; Tracie Nair, music teacher; Michael Butler, PE aide; Kevin Goffney, coach; Beverly Bolton, principal; and Stephanie Bounds, coach.

## Frazier makes top 10 for Name That Book



Frazier Elementary officials congratulate their 2020-2021 Name That Book team. These students made the top ten. They represented the school well at the district competition on April 16. The school is very proud of them and all the hard work they put into it. They really showed out and gave their all to be able to get in the top ten. With the help of their librarian they were able to pull off this win. Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Presley Shelton, Nevaeh Bumgarner, Lexie Arnes, (back row) Lupe Palacios, librarian; Mia Martinez, Serenity Horton and Alexander Williams.

Photo by Lupe Palacios

## Movement equips first-graders with books

"Inspire a love of reading and learning." This was the idea that laid the groundwork for a communitywide literacy initiative that is benefiting every first grade student in Pasadena ISD.

In an effort to address a need created by the COVID-19 pandemic, several area churches, along with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, partnered to raise funds and purchase books for all first-grade students in the district through the foundation's My Home Library program.

The books were distributed during campus-led events at each elementary school on April 30. The date coincides with "Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día)," a national library program that fosters literacy for children of all backgrounds.

During the celebrations, campuses handed out bags containing three books, one with a bookplate and a bookmark, along with family involvement activities.

A total of 10,200 books were distributed to 3,400 first-graders.

"Libraries are places where all members of the community are welcome to use the available resources to pursue their interests. This project is a natural extension of PISD campus libraries in supporting literacy for all children of all backgrounds. We are excited to be included in the celebration of our first grade students as they add to their personal library at home," said Melissa Rip-

py, director of libraries and instructional materials.

The book initiative was spearheaded by the Rev. Lindsay Kirkpatrick of Asbury United Methodist Church.

Kirkpatrick reached out to churches in the area in November to organize a "Pasadena One Book Initiative" fundraising event for the Christmas holiday. With the support of First Baptist Church, New Wine Christian Fellowship Church and Parkgate Community Church, the program organizers' "Christmas in Pasadena" program raised \$5,000 in donations, with the intent of putting a book in the hands of each first-grader.

"Fostering a love for learning and confidence in the classroom are important building blocks for building a good life, and our churches were happy to partner in this effort," Kirkpatrick said.

With the help of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, the church-ettes were able to maximize their fundraising efforts. The foundation made a dollar-for-dollar match for all money raised through the One Book initiative, raising between both entities a total of \$10,000.

"We are very pleased to partner with the Pasadena Independent School District and area churches and organizations to provide books to every first-grader in the district," said Dr. Julie Finck, Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation President. "Access to books in the home

is a key strategy to fostering a culture of reading among families and the community and empowering children to become strong, confident and life-long readers. Together, we can make Pasadena a city filled with readers and achievers."

Multiple organizations and businesses were involved in donating various resources to bring the book donation project to fruition. These donors include:

21st Century Afterschool; family involvement activities - \$24,300; Religious Institutions: One Book Initiative - \$5,000; Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation: dollar for dollar match - \$5,000; Gulf Coast Educators Credit Union; 3,500 bags for the books; Pasadena Public Library; 4,000 bookmarks; Pasadena ISD Library Services; 3,500 book plates; CIS: volunteers; Pasadena ISD Curriculum Department; creation of educational family activities; and Pasadena ISD Communication Department: printing of educational family activities.

Gloria Gallegos, associate superintendent for special programs said the books will inspire a love of reading among students.

"It is important to start reading at a young age because reading improves vocabulary, communication, grammar, writing skills and expands their imagination as well as their experiences," Gallegos said.

The books were specifically selected to engage native English- and native

Spanish-speaking students. These books include:

"The Feelings Book," written by Todd Parr. The story addresses the wide range of moods among children.

"Brave," written by Stacy McAnulty, a superhero book that inspires children to never give up.

"It's Okay to be Different," also written by Todd Parr, which addresses diversity.

"The dual language books, emphasizing social and emotional well-being, are sure to become family favorites for years to come," said Rhonda Parmer, associate superintendent of campus development.

Program organizers said the books were ordered, sorted and readied for distribution to the campuses ahead of the April 30 campus celebrations. Students enrolled in face-to-face learning had the opportunity to participate in the campus celebrations. Parent coordinators distributed the bags to students who are learning virtually.

"It is wonderful to see so many organizations come together to solve a real problem in our community. Early literacy is critical to a child's future success in school. We are grateful to the many people who contributed and to our district leaders who paved the way to make this vision a reality," said Parmer.

For more information, contact the child's campus. Check back weekly for more stories about the book distribution project.

## Scout troop 692 provides annual flag

Boy Scout Troop 692 at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church will be offering two different annual flag subscription services to the neighborhood.

This program gives residents of the community the opportunity to show their pride and love for this country.

The annual subscription fee is four holidays for \$40 or seven holidays for \$70. With one's subscription in place, a 3-foot by 5-foot

American flag, mounted on a 10-foot pole will be raised in their front yard on four or seven national holidays whichever is selected.

Proceeds from this flag program will help support the troop activities including camping and high adventure, and the purchase of troop equipment.

For more information regarding Boy Scout Troop 692, email Troop692Scoutmaster@gmail.com or call Delilah at 832-591-9398.

## New recycling begins

Continued from Page 1 resident of corrections that need to be made to the contents of their recycling cart, specifically identifying non-compliant items that need to be removed. If noncompliant items are found on a subsequent visit, another tag will be left for the resident, and the cart may not be serviced. The tag will be left for trash items with food residue; batteries and electronics; long tangled items such as cords, hoses and chains; yard waste; household items; scrap metal; scrap wood; and shredded paper.

The City of Houston reminds residents to keep recyclables loose and unbagged in their recycling cart. Plastic bags are an absolute no for recycling carts as they impact the recoverability and salability of other recyclable items. Residents may visit HoustonRecycles.org for more information on how to properly dispose of plastic bags and other items.

"The Recycling Partnership's Feet on the Street program works by giving households instant feedback

on what is and is not recyclable," said Chris Coady, director of Community Programs at The Recycling Partnership. "Through this personalized and real-time recycling education initiative, we are helping communities like Houston capture more quality recyclables, which are then transformed into new materials, creating a more circular economy, a less wasteful planet and stronger, healthier communities."

Now, more than ever, Houstonians view recycling as an important daily routine. During a time of social distancing where many non-essential employees are working remotely and commercial recycling is near an all-time low, producers see residential recycling programs as a critical supplier of essential materials manufacturing feedstock, and the City of Houston's recycling program helps supply that need.

For additional information on the city's recycling program, visit www.HoustonRecycles.org.

## Green Thumb lecture May 10

The Green Thumb Gardening lecture "Integrated Pest Management" presented by Harris County Master Gardeners with Houston Community College is scheduled for May 10. The free virtual lecture will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Register early at hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops.

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# Remember When

### 45 years ago (1976)

The year 1976 marked the first year for a girls' track team at Dobie High School.

Lana Shannon, daughter of Bobby and Joyce Shannon, was named Miss Black Gold Jamboree at a festival held at Southern State Bank.

Jeffery Tate was fatally injured when he was struck by a truck on South Belt and Sagedwood.

### 40 years ago (1981)

Houston Police continued to search for a tall, thin black male who was suspected of stealing an undetermined amount of cash from Sagemont Modern Savings and Loan on Hughes Road.

Clear Creek Independent School District trustees approved an average 15 percent pay increase for teachers.

### 35 years ago (1986)

Approximately 300 people visited with Harris County political candidates at an open house at San Jacinto College in anticipation of the upcoming election.

Precinct 654 was formed in the South Belt area. The boundaries were Beamer, Kingspoint, Blackhawk and Hall roads.

A fight, which began at Dobie High School, resumed after school and resulted in the arrest of one juvenile. The fight wound up on Fuqua near Randalls, and involved 10 to 15 high school students from Dobie and Ross Sterling High Schools.

### 30 years ago (1991)

Dobie varsity football coach Buzzy Kieth accepted the second annual Tom Landry Award from Baylor University Coach Grant Teaff. The award was present-

ed at the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame banquet in Waco.

More than 900 cases of truancy were filed in court by the Pasadena Independent School District. Approximately a quarter of those involved South Belt area schools and students.

### 25 years ago (1996)

Dobie senior Alisha Broussard won her third straight gold medal at the state triple-jump competition.

Dan Martin, Memorial Hospital Southeast vice president/CEO, cut the ribbon to open the hospital's new quarter-mile walking track.

### 20 years ago (2001)

The Gardens was named the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce SEED business of the year.

Mayor Lee Brown nominated acting Fire Chief Chris Connealy, a 1977 Dobie graduate, to serve as fire chief for the Houston Fire Department. He will assume the position pending City Council approval.

For the third consecutive year, South Belt area homeowners faced a major increase in their Harris County tax appraisals.

### Incumbent Paula Thomas garnered more than 70 per-

cent of the 2,649 votes cast in her run for at-large Position B in Clear Creek Independent School District's board election.

### 15 years ago (2006)

Kirk Lewis, who for years served as a spokesman for PISD, was officially named superintendent.

Houston firefighters responded to a townhome fire on Sabo near Sagedwood. The fire was caused by a short in the aluminum wiring of an electrical outlet on the first floor.

The congregation of Cokesbury United Methodist Church honored its pastor, the

Rev. Sara Owen-Gemoets, with a retirement reception and appreciation.

For its military service during World War II, Ellington Field, the joint-use civil/military airport, was declared a historical landmark by the Houston Airport System.

### 10 years ago (2011)

Dobie High School's Academic Decathlon team took home second place at the national championships held in Charlotte, N.C. Granada Hills Charter School won the event, giving California its ninth consecutive national title. Dobie piled up 50,436.2 points, the most ever for

the school at the national level. The point difference - 1,677.3 - is considered razor-thin in the scoring system used.

### 5 years ago (2016)

Hundreds gathered at El Franco Lee Park to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, despite rainfall. Texian Cookers won the prize for best overall cooking team, placing first in beans, fourth in chef's choice and fifth in ribs.

The Pasadena Independent School District officially dedicated the new Fred Roberts Middle School on Thursday, April 28. Named for longtime PISD school board member Fred Roberts, the new campus is located in the 13400 block on Conklin near Beltway 8.

### 1 year ago (2020)

Susie Haas, science teacher at Thompson Intermediate, was named Pasadena ISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year. Julia Montes, South Belt resident and literacy peer facilitator at Matthys Elementary School, was named Elementary Teacher of the Year.

For their efforts, each teacher was presented a gift basket from the Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union.

Further, Bayway Auto Group provided each Teacher of the Year recipient with a vehicle for their personal use throughout the summer.



**FRED and LESLIE MARK 27 YEARS**  
Best wishes are sent to Fred and Leslie Flickinger who celebrate 27 years of marriage May 7 from daughters Kimberly Flickinger and Courtney and husband Chris Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; Leslie's mother Olive Falkowski; Fred's mom and dad Marie and David Flickinger; and brother Davy and wife Ellie Flickinger.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BRITTNEY!**  
Best wishes to the newest member of the Leader staff, Brittney Cubos, who celebrates her birthday May 7 from her parents Claudia (former Leader staffer) and Erik Cubos, her family members and friends. Brittney is also pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

**OLIVE CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
Special birthday wishes are sent Monday, May 10, for a wonderful birthday to Olive Falkowski from her daughter Leslie Flickinger and husband Fred; granddaughters Kimberly and husband Matt Lipina; granddaughter Courtney Durham and husband Chris; great-grandchildren Abigail, Jackson and Penelope Durham; Marie and husband David Flickinger; David (Leader president) and wife Ellie Flickinger; and Alexis Lochner.

**ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY, JOHN!**  
Wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent to South Belt Leader staff member John Bechtle Tuesday, May 11, from his family, friends and the Leader staff. He has been the sports editor of the Leader for many years and

is greatly appreciated by his co-workers!

**CONGRATS, SCHREINER GRAD LUIS!**  
Schreiner University conferred degrees on 230 graduates for the 2020-2021 academic year. Among those earning degrees is South Belt resident Luis Cabreja, with a Master of Business Administration in business.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena ISD celebrate birthdays May 6 through May 12.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Martha Lerma enjoys a birthday May 9.

**Bush Elementary**  
Nicolette Martinez marks a birthday May 9. Send a birthday greeting May 12 to Andrew Duron.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Remember to wish Lacryca Flatt a happy birthday May 7.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Share in the birthday celebration May 9 with Diana Davis Scheer.

**Meador Elementary**  
Best wishes for a happy birthday are sent May 4 to Paulina Rivas-Lopez.

**Moore Elementary**  
The day for a birthday party for Traci Marr and Beth Anne Mullen is May 6. Break out the balloons and ice party favors for Yvonne Xicoy May 9.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
Send a birthday greeting May 9 to Cheryl Lewis.

**Melillo Middle School**  
May 6 is a day for a birthday cake for

Sandra Vann. Break open the balloons and party favors May 7 for Jorge Palomares. Light the candles for Kathleen Ingersoll May 12.

**Dobie High**  
Break out the party favors May 7 for Jesse Lopez. Light the candles May 9 for Jordan Evans. Send a humorous birthday card May 11 to Steven Mayo. Give a birthday shoutout May 12 to James Reed.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
To have 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 issue.

Thursday, May 6: Patrick Ermis, Roni Gonzales and Erin Hill; Friday, May 7: Yvonne Villegas, Josh Garza, Stephanie Salazar and Jenn Verchiens; Saturday, May 8: Amelia Brown, Christopher Barber, Tiffany Robbins, Julie Kutra and Sara Muller; Sunday, May 9: Tiana Jaime-Perez, Freedom Groebner, Ronny Carker and Bubba Bannett; Monday, May 10: Becky Lopez, Kathy Vingoe and Angela Ojeda; Tuesday, May 11: Alex Carpenter, Tyson Dillard, Leslie Fair and George King; and Wednesday, May 12: Jennifer Main, Raymond Massey, Kirk Belch, Sonia Ramos, Jennifer Ashe and Sophie Harrison.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Lady Longhorns sweep past SC; Alvin next

The Dobie varsity softball team is on to the Region III final 16 to take on the Alvin Yellowjackets as the march through the state playoffs continues.

The area round best-of-three series between Dobie and Alvin will be May 6, May 7 and, if necessary, May 8. The entire series will be played at Clear Lake High School, with a start time of 6:30 p.m. for all games.

The Lady Longhorns will enter the area best-of-three series riding a wave of confidence created by a dominating bidistrict series sweep of Summer Creek that included four

homers. Alvin, meanwhile, is in the area round after getting past Clear Creek in the same bidistrict round.

Alvin and Dobie have had quite the storied post-season history against one another, last meeting in the 2019 season with Al-

vin winning 6-5 and 9-1 in the regional quarterfinals. The Dobie/Alvin area round winner will face either Clear Springs or

Kingwood in the regional quarterfinals. The Lady Longhorns will look to ride a hot offense that has played a huge role in the team's

22-9 overall record. In the series opener April 29 against Summer Creek at the Pasadena ISD Complex, sophomore Marisa Perla broke a 2-2 tie in the bottom of the fourth inning with a three-run home run for a 5-2 lead. Karlie Barba and Jasmin Benitez connected for solo shots in the bottom of the sixth, and Perla then finished off a complete-game pitching effort for the 7-2 win.

A day later at Summer Creek, Dobie, meanwhile, is 12-13-3 overall, but has won three straight games entering the post-season. Dobie defeated South Houston to finish up.

**Continued on Page 6**

### Area Softball Playoffs Dobie vs. Alvin

**Game 1: Thur., May 6, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Game 2: Fri., May 7, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Game 3: IF Sat., May 8, 6:30 p.m.**

All games at Clear Lake High School



At right, sophomore Marisa Perla starred in the Lady Longhorns' series win over Summer Creek. In the opener, her three-run homer in the bottom of the fourth inning broke a 2-2 tie, and she pitched a complete game, five-hitter as part of a 7-2 win. Perla had three more hits in the 16-3 series clincher, with Yessenia Pena scoring three times and knocking in three runs. Next up for the 22-9 Dobie squad is Alvin in the area playoff round.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

### May 8 in Austin

## Brook's Dickson to go for double gold

Camryn Dickson of Clear Brook will look to join previous Lady Wolverine track and field state gold medalists as she sprints in the 100 and 200 events May 8 at the UIL 6A State Championships at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.

Alicia Emanuel was Clear Brook's first-ever female state champion as she won the 400 in 1996 in the Class 4A division, and current Lady Wolverines' head track coach Erica Alexander pocketed six golds during her illustrious career in the sprints as well as the long jump.

But now all eyes will be on Dickson as she and seven other state qualifiers go for gold across two events, the 100 and 200.

In a rarity, it will be the same eight qualifiers running in the 100 and 200, with the 6A 100 set for 6:05 p.m., followed by the 200 at 7:30 p.m.

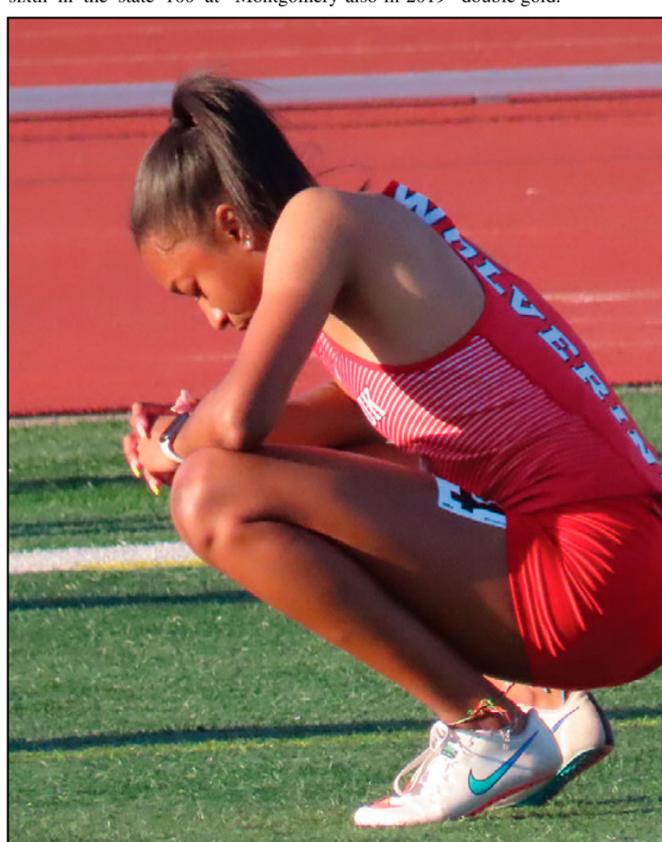
Dickson, San Antonio Reagan's Jasmine Montgomery and DeSoto's Ja'era Griffin were part of the last UIL state championships in 2019 before the

pandemic wiped away the 2020 season.

In 2019, Griffin placed fourth in a time of 11.65 while Montgomery was sixth in the state 100 at

11.83. Both were sophomores. Dickson's time of 11.88 was eighth as she wrapped up a brilliant freshman campaign. Montgomery also in 2019

took part in the state 200, winding up seventh in a time of 24.55. None of that will matter May 8 as Dickson goes for double gold.



Camryn Dickson will look to add her name to the short list of Lady Wolverine state track and field champions when she competes May 8 in the 100 and 200 in Austin. She made her way to Austin in 2019, taking eighth in the 100.

## San Jac softball aims at top seed

San Jacinto College entered the final week of the regular season in prime shape to claim the top seeding in the upcoming Region XIV South Zone postseason softball tournament.

The Coyotes, ranked 12th in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association Division I poll, entered play May 4 after press time against second-place Blinn, with the locals leading South Zone play at 14-2 and Blinn second at 11-5.

The Coyotes, who closed the regular season with two games against Alvin, entered play at 37-8 overall, needing one win over Blinn or two over Alvin to secure the postseason tournament top seeding.

The regional tournament comes May 14-16, with the

NJCAA Division I Championships May 25-29 at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex in Yuma, Ariz.

San Jacinto has been one of the country's top-performing offenses this season, hitting .404 as a team. Alexis Uresti has boosted her batting average to .518 with 50 runs batted in, 37 steals and 72 hits.

Jules Garcia has a team-best 77 hits en route to a .507 average with 35 stolen bases and 77 hits. Maggie Childs was at .336 with a team-high 14 doubles, and Tamera McKnight had team-bests of nine home runs and 56 runs batted in.

The Coyotes also continue to lean on sophomore pitcher Cat Cavazos, who is 18-2 with an earned run average of 1.79.

## JFD baseball draws Kingwood

The Dobie varsity baseball team will ride a three-game winning streak into a best-of-three bidistrict playoff series against the Kingwood Mustangs.

The series opener is Friday, May 7 as the Longhorns, seeded third out of District 22-6A, host the 21-6A second-seed Mustangs at Dobie High School, beginning at 4 p.m.

The bidistrict series continues May 8 at

Kingwood High School at noon, and a deciding game, if needed, will follow 30 minutes after the completion of game 2.

Kingwood, 23-9 overall, locked up the No. 2 seed with a win over Sum-

mer Creek. Dobie, meanwhile, is 12-13-3 overall, but has won three straight games entering the post-season.

Dobie defeated South Houston to finish up.

**Continued on Page 6**

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Dobie's Andrew Salazar (left) celebrates with teammate Noah Torres (7) after banging a home run in the regular season finale as the Longhorns beat South Houston 14-2 in five innings to finish third in 22-6A at 8-4.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

## JFD baseball to go against Kingwood

Continued from Page 5

Andrew Salazar and Noah Torres homered and Christian Padua allowed one hit, fanning eight over five solid innings as the Longhorns punished South Houston 14-2 to wrap up District 22-6A play at 8-4.

Kyle Wallace doubled and wound up his day with a season-high four runs batted in, and Ryan Saxton doubled, stole two bases and scored twice. Juan Estrada tripled and scored

three runs.

The Longhorns' strong finish allowed for the third-

place finish within 22-6A as Deer Park and Memorial were league co-champions.

### Bidistrict Baseball Playoffs Dobie vs. Kingwood

Game 1: at Dobie, May 7, 4 p.m.

Game 2: at Kingwood, May 8, noon

Game 3: IF Sat., May 8, after G2

## Dobie sets Mantle tryouts

Dobie High School incoming freshmen are invited to try out for the Longhorns' 2021 Mickey Mantle summer league baseball team as Longhorns' head coach Miguel

Torres and his staff host tryouts at the school Monday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Those trying out for the team must be academically eligible.

Bring a glove and per-

sonal bat if preferred and be ready to compete for a spot.

The coaching staff will provide additional summer league details at the tryout.

## Brook baseball gets Oilers

It will be District 24-6A champion Clear Brook taking on Pearland as the varsity baseball bidistrict playoffs get going beginning May 7.

Pearland, with a late-season loss to Strake Jesuit, wound up fourth in the District 23-6A standings.

The Oilers will host the best-of-three series opener May 7 at 7 p.m. before the series shifts to Clear Brook High School May

8 for the second and, if necessary, deciding third game.

Clear Brook won its

first district championship in 25 years this season, going 10-2 in District 24-6A play.

### Bidistrict Baseball Playoffs Brook vs. Pearland

Game 1: at Pearland, May 7, 7 p.m.

Game 2: at Brook, May 8, 1 p.m.

Game 3: if needed, 30 min. after G2

## Megawatt 6U takes third at Deer Park Bash



The South Belt Megawatt 6-under softball team took third place in the Deer Park End of Season Bash. Not bad for a team full of first-time players. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Madison McDonald, Arianna Correa, Torynn Casiano, Diamond Vargas, Mariella Hernandez, (middle

row) Mayah Aranda, Rylee Flores, Isabella Garza, Kateleya Razo, Adrienne Guzman, Ribbie Vargas, Aubrey Mireles, (back row) coaches Rodney Razo, Gregg Vargas, Aldo Mireles and John Vargas. Not pictured is player Alexandra Hernandez and coach Junior Casiano.



Lutheran South Academy junior Ayana Smith starred at state, setting a 5A state meet record in the long jump while winning one of her three gold medals. Smith also won gold in the 100, anchored the school's 4x100 relay to a gold medal and took second in the 200.

## Smith gets state meet record; LSA boys' tracksters third

State and school records fell as Lutheran South Academy starred at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State Track and Field Championships

at Baylor University in Waco.

Among the stars for the 5A Pioneers was junior Ayana Smith, who returned home with three gold medals and a silver, while setting a state championship meet record in the long jump at 18 feet, 10 inches.

On the track, Smith was just as explosive, winning the 100, taking silver in the 200 and anchoring the Pioneers' 4x100 relay squad to a gold medal.

At 12.82, Smith was the gold medalist in the 100, and her time of 26.25 was good for second place in the 200.

A time of 51.01 was enough for the Pioneers to win the 4x100 as Smith was joined by Isla Caudill, Lindsey Witson and Emily Adams. In all, Smith was responsible for 33 points.

The LSA boys finished third overall as a team as senior Perry Brown won a silver medal with a school record of 22.08 in the 200 and also took home a bronze for third place in the 100 in a time of 11.26.

The Pioneers' Braden Leimkuehler finished his career in style as he was third at 42.41 for a bronze medal in the 300 hurdles and just missed another medal as he was fourth at the 110 hurdle distance in a time of 16.75.

Ditto for senior Lane Whitney as his toss of 131-4 in the discus was enough to crown him state runner-up, and his best throw of 43-11 was sixth in the shot.

In a time of 43.9, the Pioneers were fifth in

the 4x100 relay as that foursome included A.J. Okwonna, Kenyan Bernard, Easton Brenner and Brown.

In a time of 1:33.69, the Pioneers wound up sixth in the 4x200 relay as that group included Okwonna, Bernard, Brenner and Matthew Savala.

Marcus Gaitan completed an outstanding freshman season as he placed fifth in the 800 at 2:01.26. Meanwhile, sophomore Alexis Salerno was fifth in the 300 hurdles at 43.42. His time of 17.92 was seventh in the 110 hurdles.

Brenner also took part in the 200 final as his time of 23.46 was seventh for the senior.

With a leap of 4 feet, 10 inches, LSA junior Audrey Pfeiffer was the state runner-up for a silver medal in the high jump.

Sophomore Rachel Bell is also excited for the future after her throw of 94-8 in the discus was fourth-best at the state level, and sophomore Malorie McGee wound up sixth in the triple jump with an effort of 31-7 1/2.

Caudill, part of the gold medal 4x1 win, was seventh in the pole vault as she cleared 7-0.

The Pioneers were also fourth in the 4x400 relay and fifth in the 4x200 relay. Alaina Pink, Tori Burkett, Makynna Robbins and Malorie McGee teamed for fourth at 4:20.81 in the 4x400, and the 4x200 group included Robbins, Pink, Emily Adams and McGee in at 1:50.59.

## Dobie softball advances

Continued from Page 5 Creek, Dobie already led 6-2 before scoring nine runs in the top of the fourth, leading to a 16-3 series clincher by run-rule in five innings.

Yessenia Pena starred in game two, smacking a homer and two doubles, scoring three runs and

driving in three more to lead her team.

In both games, the Lady Longhorns kept the offense coming. The top four in the order - Leslie Longoria, Jasmin Benitez, Perla and Karlie Barba - combined to go 8 for 16 with all of the team's seven runs batted in and four

runs scored.

Pena was 3 for 3 with three runs scored and three more driven in during the series clincher, and Benitez and Perla also had three hits apiece.

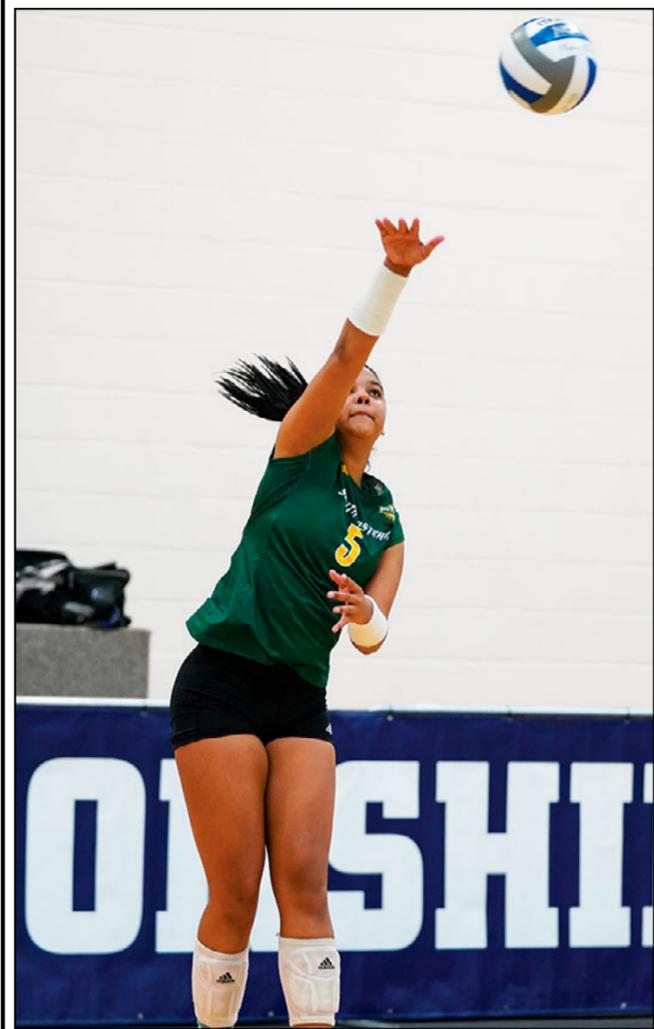
Benitez also scored three runs, and Barba was 2 for 3 with two runs driven in.

She also started in the circle and went four frames for the win, with Sandra Quiroz-Catalan handling the fifth.

At left, the Lady Longhorns' Jasmin Benitez (2) was a combined 5 for 8 with four runs scored, a home run and a double in the bidistrict sweep over Summer Creek.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## SLU's Newsome is AVCA All-Region



Southeastern Louisiana University outside hitter Kailin Newsome has earned an All-Region honorable mention by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. The freshman from Clear Brook High School pushed the Lady Lions (11-5, 9-3 Southland) to their first winning season since 2002 and their highest Southland Conference Tournament seed in program history. Newsome was an explosive component of the potent Southeastern Louisiana offense, finishing the regular season as the circuit leader in overall kills (261) while ranking second in kills per set (4.14) and points (280.5). She recorded double-doubles in 11 matches, including 10 in a row, to close out the regular season. This is the third postseason honor for Newsome, having previously been named the Southland Conference Freshman of the Year and earning first team All-Conference honors. She is the all-time kills leader at Clear Brook after a brilliant four-year varsity career.

Photo courtesy of Marcus Sarate, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Islander Athletic

## Delgado aids Lamar's success



Dobie Class of 2020 graduate and Lamar University freshman student Sebastian Delgado assisted this season with the Cardinals' tennis program, which wound up second at the Southland Conference Tennis Tournament.

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## CALENDAR

It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit https://aahouston.org/meetings; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for Al-Anon meetings, visit https://www.houstonalanon.org/online-meetings.html.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 29**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

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

Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300 for information.

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church. Call 713-661-4200 or visit https://nastuff.com/.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 30**  
7 a.m. AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

Noon Hometown Heroes - Ballroom dances Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 - 3:30 p.m., and Fridays, noon - 1:30 p.m. These are not dance lessons but casual dances. Call 281-554-1180 for details.

7 p.m. Bay Area Genealogical Society - Virtual attendees must register. Michael Strauss speaks on "The Road to Independence: Researching your Revolutionary War Ancestors." For information, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

7 p.m. live-in caregiver for a stroke patient. Call Debbie at 281-813-1428. 5-6

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
SILENT AUCTION for large Hot Wheels car collection. April 28 - May 8. View by appointment only. Call 713-941-5501. 5-6

**PETS**  
FREE PUPPIES. 3 females and 1 male. Please text - 713-454-3527. TF

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PRESSURE WASHING! Free Estimates. Call Scott and Sons at 979-235-0645. House, driveways, sidewalks, boats, R.V.'s, etc. Time for cleaning. Free Estimates! 5-6

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Saint Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bldg., room 4.11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
**TUESDAY, MAY 4**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
6:30 p.m. Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets the first Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program at 7 p.m. Visit www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild or call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 for information. Visitors may attend two meetings free.  
7 p.m. Sagomont Civic Club - Meetings are the first Tuesday, on Zoom or at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Rd. Call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545 for details.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
**Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention** - Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit bayarea.turningpoint.org.  
8 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous - CrossRoads UMC meeting. See Friday's notice.  
**THURSDAY, MAY 6**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - See Thursday's notice.  
Noon Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous - See Thursday's notice.

## LEADER READERS

25 words: Personal: \$8 for 1 week/ \$21 for 3 weeks; Business: \$10 for 1 week/ \$27 for 3 weeks

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# J. Frank Dobie High School hosts ninth Hall of Honor ceremony

**Continued from Page 1**  
 native home, Jamaica. He earned his B.A. from Rice and for the past 18 years, he has served as vice president of sales at CT Design and Equip-

ment, a food and beverage service firm in Indianapolis.  
**Col. William Smith, Class of 1970**  
 After graduating from Dobie High School in 1970,

William Smith went on to attend the University of Texas at Austin, along with the Marine Corps Officer Candidates

School. Upon his graduation in 1974, Smith was commissioned as a Marine second lieutenant. A few months later in 1975, he participated in the raid on Koh Tang Island Cambodia to recover the SS Mayaguez and crew, the last combat operation of the war in Southeast Asia. Smith continued to actively serve for the next 29 years on a variety of assignments including director, drill instructor of School Parris Island; United Nations peacekeeper; U.S. military observer Group Palestine; commanding officer, Officer Candidates School; and director, Coalition and Special Warfare Center, along with various senior staff assignments at the Pentagon. After rising to the rank of colonel, Smith retired from active

service in 2004. Shortly after, he was hired at LMI, a government consultancy that assists both U.S. and foreign governments. While serving with the consultancy, he served as director of International Programs; general manager in Saudi Arabia; regional director, in North Africa, with on-site management responsibilities in Tripoli to assist the government of

Libya; and program manager for a year-long effort in Iraq. Smith is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College and holds a Master of Arts in national security and strategic studies, a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance. Smith currently resides in Virginia with his family. He serves as the chairman

of the board of directors of the Young Marines and holds lifetime memberships in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Military Officers Association of America.

**Barry Harris, faculty**  
 Barry Harris made an impact on every student as an English teacher at Dobie for 20 years. He gave his time and talents to volunteering with

the McDonald's Invitational Basketball tournament each year and he was named Volunteer of the Year in 2015 for his many contributions to the tournament. After he died in June 2018, the campus butterfly garden was dedicated in his name and a scholarship fund was also created in his name to continue his legacy of commitment to education.

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## Mask rules changing

**Continued from Page 1**

This point was reinforced by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "The announcement by the CDC is an accomplishment we all share thanks to those of us who already made the choice to get vaccinated," Turner said. "As more people get vaccinated, the CDC will continue loosening its guidance on who needs to wear a mask and when they should be used."

"The City of Houston will require people to continue to wear face masks inside municipal buildings like City Hall and the George R. Brown Convention Center."

"To continue moving toward the end of the pandemic, and to respect our shared sacrifices during the past year, I strongly recommend everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Houston Health Department-affiliated vaccination sites are now available with or without appointments. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is safe, free and key to getting our lives back to normal."

For a nearby vaccination site, visit [HoustonEmergency.org/covid19](https://HoustonEmergency.org/covid19) or call 832-393-4220 or 832-393-4301. For a complete list of CDC guidelines, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html).

## NASA Aglow meets May 13

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. at Praise Chapel, located at 18516 Highway 3 in Webster.

The next scheduled meeting is May 13, featuring guest speaker Jeanette Simpson Brown who operates in the gifts of healing, miracles and deliverance while praying for the lost and hurting. The public is welcome.

Plan to attend and bring a friend. Questions and requests can be emailed to [naaglow74@gmail.com](mailto:naaglow74@gmail.com).

## J. Frank Dobie Hall of Honor celebrated



Above are, left to right, Randy Sawyer, Gawain Guy, Sammy Shimfessel, Keith Davis, Bruce Loyd and Cathy Millikan Shimfessel. All except Loyd and Davis are 1981 graduates of Dobie High School. While Davis is from Dobie's graduating Class of 1982, Loyd was Guy's roommate at Rice University. They all attended the event to support Guy.



Above, Bryan Nguyen (left) gives flowers to his wife T Nguyen, Class of 2007, who is holding her recognition plaque.



Above, displaying a \$4,000 check for Hall of Honor scholarship recipients are Franklin Moses (Dobie principal), Hannah Collazos, Thuc Vo, Henry Nguyen, Roy Gomez, Casey Junkin and Dr. Barbara Taylor, Class of 1977. At left are, left to right, Col. William Smith, Gawain Guy, Erica Davis Rouse, T Nguyen, Debra Daughtry (sister of Barry Harris) and Moses.

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