

Sagemont meeting July 20

The Sagemont Maintenance Fund (formerly Maintenance Committee) will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, July 20, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 10826 Sagebluff. Terry King's position is up for election.

Sageglen election meeting set

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its annual election meeting July 19, in the Sageglen building, 11610 Sageyork. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Active COVID cases down

As of Wednesday, July 14, there were 178 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 5,673 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 49 remain active. To date, 69 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 46 of the 4,093 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 56 from the ZIP code have died, no increase from the previous week.

Of the 4,180 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 27 remain active. To date, 53 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there have been 406,271 total confirmed cases. Of those, 397,453 have recovered from the disease, while 3,850 cases remain active. A total of 4,939 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/Reports/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Kirby to Bellfort daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, July 24.

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from SH 288 to Kirby Drive nightly from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, July 24.

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, Aug. 6. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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.

BHI holds early registration

Beverly Hills Intermediate's early registration dates are Aug. 3, 4 and 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration will take place by appointment to allow better service to families. To schedule an early registration appointment, go to www.tinyurl.com/BHlearly. Contact Jennifer Teichelman for any further questions at jteichelman@pasadenaisd.org.

At-home vaccines offered

Harris County Public Health staff will provide vaccinations in the home. This is available to Harris county residents who are bedbound or homebound due to medical reasons, regardless of age.

The staff will stay and observe clients for 15-30 minutes after vaccinations to ensure no immediate reactions occur. For more information, contact HCPH at 832-927-8787.

Knights host blood drive

The Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive at the St. Luke Church social hall, 11011 Hall, Sunday, July 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donors will receive a free beach towel. Appointments preferred but not necessary. To schedule appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org and use Sponsor Code Search 1185. For information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358 or John Urdiales at 832-530-7255.

Faith distributes backpacks

Faith Baptist Church, 9850 Mango St., Houston 77075, is having a Backpack Give Away Drive-Thru on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Organizers will be giving out backpacks with school supplies, while supplies last.

Parker Williams holds sale

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library will be hosting a book sale on Saturday, July 17, and another book sale on Saturday, July 24. Unless marked, adult books will be 3 for \$1, DVDs will be 50 cents and children's books will be 5 for \$1.

Theresa Balboa charged with capital murder

Theresa Balboa, the woman charged with hiding the body of her boyfriend's 5-year-old son Samuel Olson, has now been charged with capital murder in the boy's death.

Balboa had initially been charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse.

According to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, the cause of Olson's death was homicidal violence with blunt head trauma.

Olson's father reported the child missing Thursday, May 27 - two days before his sixth birthday. Earlier that morning Balboa falsely re-

ported the child's mother and someone in a police uniform had taken the boy. That story, however, unraveled when the mother provided police with home surveillance video showing she never left her house that day.

Investigators said the child's body appeared to have been dead for several weeks. He was officially seen alive April 30 at his school in northeast Houston.

An arrest warrant affidavit stated that Balboa's male roommate told investigators he arrived home at his apartment May 10 to find Olson on the bed bruised and unresponsive. He and

Balboa then reportedly put the child's body in the bathtub, where he'd stay for two days. The roommate told investigators he then purchased some plastic wrap and duct tape from Walmart, before placing the boy's body in a plastic bin. He

and Balboa then stashed the bin in a storage unit in Webster.

On June 1, another friend helped Balboa retrieve the bin, which was reportedly emitting a

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BAHEP holds membership meeting

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership held its semiannual Texas legislative update on June 30, 2021, featuring a panel discussion with the region's legislative representatives. Participating on the panel were Sen. Carol Alvarado, District 6; Rep. Mary Ann Perez, District 144; Rep. Greg Bonnen, District 24; Rep. Dennis Paul, District 129; and Rep. Briscoe Cain, District 128. The general membership meeting was held at the South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center.

BAHEP Board Chairman Charlie Stegemoller, senior director, Business Development, SAIC, welcomed the legislators and members of the organization and introduced the elected offi-

cialists in attendance. Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District, served as panel moderator.

Legislative update

Hellyer asked each of the panelists to give a brief recap of bills which they authored or sponsored. Alvarado sponsored Senate Bill 900 related to the safety of aboveground storage tanks. The act takes effect on Sept. 1, 2021. Perez was one of the co-sponsors in the House. Alvarado said that the bill was a result of the March 2019 massive tank fire at Intercontinental Terminal Company in Deer Park. The investigation following the fire revealed that the

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Cause of Teaneck death undetermined

The cause of death for tattoo artist Julian Issac, found June 19 in the 11800 block Teaneck Drive, has yet to be determined roughly one month after his death.

Issac had made citywide headlines after initially being reported as missing.

According to police, detectives originally responded to a possible kidnapping call in the 11700 block of Teaneck Drive on June 15. During their investigation, they canvassed the area for three days and were able to recover video surveillance of a male - reported as missing - walking in the area by himself. After careful review of the case, no suspicion of a murder or a kidnapping was evident. The case was transferred to the Missing Persons Unit for a follow-up investigation that began on June 18.

On the afternoon of June 19, the body of an indi-

vidual was found in the backyard of a residence at the above address. HPD Missing Persons investigators were in the neighborhood when the discovery was made.

Volunteers from Texas EquuSearch also assisted in the search for Isaac, with staging taking place at Burnett Elementary.

Police said there were no immediate signs of foul play, such as bullet casings or blood.

Prior to his death, Isaac, 29, had reportedly called his mother and told her he was being chased and that someone was going to kill him.

Isaac worked as a tattoo artist at Red Eye Gallery Tattoo Studio near downtown, and his disappearance had been widely covered by local media.

An autopsy is currently underway to determine Isaac's cause of death.

Bui named new Atkinson principal

Chris Bui was recently selected by Pasadena ISD officials to serve as the new principal of Atkinson Elementary.

"I am very excited about serving as the principal at Atkinson Elementary," said Bui.

Prior to his new post, Bui served as assistant principal at Melillo Middle School from 2008-2021, seventh-/eighth-grade science teacher and instructional facilitator at Scobee Junior High in Southwest ISD in San Antonio from 2004-2008;

Pcts. 2, 8 join chase

Deputies from precincts 2 and 8 joined the Webster Police department in a pursuit the afternoon of Tuesday, July 13, that began with a suspicious vehicle. The chase took officers north on the Gulf Freeway from Webster through the South Belt community. Precinct 2 deputies threw road spikes on the ground around Monroe, causing the suspect's tires to go flat. The driver, however, continued to drive on four flat tires for several miles before coming to a stop at IH-610 and Cullen. The suspect refused to get out of the car or show his hands, telling the officers to instead shoot him. The driver tried one more time to flee in his vehicle, but Houston police officers used a PIT maneuver to stop him. The suspect was subsequently arrested.



Chris Bui

fifth-grade science teacher/special education coordinator at KIPP Aspire Academy in San Antonio from 2003-2004; and seventh-grade science teacher at Pin Oak Middle School in Houston ISD from 2002-2003.

Bui attended Trinity University in San Antonio from 1994 to 1998, earning a Bachelor of Science in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish. Originally planning to become a physician, Bui enrolled in medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

"Prior to entering the education profession, my goal was to become a pediatrician," Bui said.

"I attended medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center from 1998-2001. Near the end of my third year of medical school, I chose to leave medical school and pursue the education field."

Bui returned to Trinity University from 2001-2002, earning a Master of Arts in teaching. Bui went on to study at St. Mary's University in San Antonio from 2005-2007, earning a principal certification.

The principal said he always planned on working with children.

"My ultimate goal was to work with kids," said Bui. "Growing up in a family of physicians, my initial dream was to become a pediatrician. After completing many rotations in my third year of medical school, I realized that interactions with kids in the medical field was not where my passion was. I had taken a couple of education courses in undergraduate and had many friends

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BAHEP hosts elected officials



Several elected officials recently attended a meeting hosted by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership to discuss the state's 87th Legislative Session and other items of local concern. Shown above at the function are, left to right, Charlie Stegemoller, BAHEP board chair; Rep. Briscoe Cain; Rep. Dennis Paul; Rep. Greg Bonnen; Rep. Mary Ann Perez; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District; Marcy Fryday, chair, BAHEP Political Protocol Committee; and Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president.

Man charged in fatal shooting

Charges have been filed against a suspect, accused of fatally shooting a man around 11:30 a.m. Friday, July 9, in the 200 block of El Dorado Boulevard near the Gulf Freeway.

The suspect, Christopher Ryan Jones, 28, is charged with murder in the 179th State District Court.

He is accused in the death of Richard Powell, 38.



Christopher Jones

According to Houston police, patrol officers responded to a shooting in a field at the above address and were directed by witnesses to a suspect vehicle fleeing the scene. Officers followed the vehicle, conducted a traffic stop and took the suspect, later identified as Jones, into custody.

Other responding officers discovered Powell, who was dead with multiple gunshot wounds.

The two men had reportedly gotten into an altercation at the adjacent gas station prior to the shooting.

Following further investigation, the Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and Jones was subsequently charged for his role in the incident.

Catalytic converter thefts reported

There have been several reports of someone driving a wrecker vehicle stealing catalytic converters from cars in the South Belt area.

According to Sgt. Robert Sanchez of the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office, the suspect hooks his tow truck up to a vehicle, usually one parked in the street, hauls it two or three blocks away and then proceeds to take the catalytic converter off the vehicle and leave it there.

Sanchez said there have been at least six such

incidents in a two-week period. The six incidents took place in two groups of three thefts happening roughly two weeks apart. Three of the thefts took place in the Highland Meadow/Woodmeadow area, and three of the thefts took place in the Kirkwood South subdivision.

Sanchez predicts the thief will return to the area.

"It's about that time," Sanchez. "He'll probably

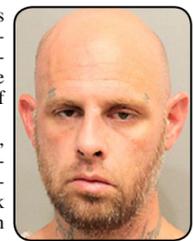
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Gulf Freeway drug arrests continue

Deputies with Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin's office continue to battle the scourge of drugs of along the Gulf Freeway.

On Friday, July 2, Precinct 8 deputies Gomez and Means were patrolling the 15300 block of the Gulf Freeway, an area known for high narcotic activity, when they observed a male reach into an occupied parked vehicle.

Deputies initiated contact, as they believed a



Paul Wesley Jr.

drug transaction was taking place.

The male standing outside of the vehicle was identified as 36-year-old Paul Thomas Wesley Jr. A check of Wesley's information revealed he had an outstanding parole violation warrant for possession of a controlled substance and was placed into custody. Deputies proceeded to conduct a search of Wesley's backpack and located 7.7 grams of methamphetamine.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted additional felony charges for possession of a controlled substance.

The driver of the vehicle was found to be in possession of a glass meth pipe containing residue and was released with a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sales tax holiday set for Aug. 6-8

The state's annual sales tax holiday is set to take place Friday, Aug. 6, through midnight Sunday, Aug. 8.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the comptroller encourages all taxpayers to continue practicing social distancing and support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the

annual tax-free weekend.

Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, one does not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items one buys during the sales tax holiday.

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HPD's PIP meetings continue

The Houston Police Department's July Positive Interaction Program meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, at the Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital Professional Building Room 200.

The guest speaker will be HPD Sr. Officer Sabrina Rocha, who will speak on active shooters.

"We're looking forward to seeing you at the meeting," HPD Officer and Clear Lake Division PIP host Richard Buitron said in an email. "Bring a friend/neighbor and let's work together to make our PIP the best in the city. Police and citizens working together to help make our neighborhoods safer."

Face masks will be required. For additional information, call Buitron at 832-395-1777.

PIP history

The Houston Police Department has had a Community Service Division since the 1970s. When a group of citizens requested a presentation on a crime prevention topic, they would send one of their officers to the group and advise them what they could do to keep from becoming crime victims again. This is proactive policing. In 1982, out of the patrol division came the idea that citizens also need to know more about their

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Atkinson welcomes Bui

Pasadena ISD officials recently named Chris Bui as the new principal of Atkinson Elementary. Prior to working at Atkinson, Bui most recently served as assistant principal at Melillo Middle School, where he worked for 13 years. Bui has also worked in Houston ISD and in San Antonio. Bui is shown above being greeted at his new campus.

Photo submitted

In My Opinion

Muecke comments on constable's pay

Commissioner Garcia, I just received this weeks copy of the South Belt Leader. What caught my eye is how little money Precinct 2 receives compared to District 6 and District 1. Poor District 8 and 2 are at the bottom of the list.

This is really a poor distribution of our tax dollars. I do understand that each precinct has special needs, but not at this \$ amount division. Now I am speaking up for Constable Jerry Garcia. He has come in to rebuild this precinct which had been poorly handled. Constable Garcia has spoken to you on my behalf and the other tax paying citizens requesting additional funds. Again, I ask that you make it your priority to address this in the near future. Thank you.

You may also want to read, page 2, my article that was published on my feelings on the crime we are now experiencing, especially the many criminals who are not properly punished.

James E. Muecke

CBC MUD share thoughts about I-45

Dear Chairman Bugg: We, the Board of Directors of Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District, request that you proceed with the construction of the North Houston (I-45) Highway Improvement Project (the "Project") as quickly as practical. The project will improve commerce and benefit millions of people commuting and traveling in and through the Houston area over many years.

The Project is being delayed and put at risk by a relatively small number of individuals. Individuals and businesses that are inconvenienced or sustain dam-

age by the progress of the Project should be fairly compensated and made whole. No one should be made wealthy in excess of reasonable compensation by other taxpayers.

Representatives of the Project and affected persons should certainly be able to find an equitable and reasonable solution that allows progress on the completion of an improvement project that is essential to our area's growth and transportation needs.

If a person or business buys or leases property next to the freeway, they should reasonably expect that a future expansion is highly likely - especially because many such improvement projects are predicted and recorded up to decades in advance. We do not support frivolously risking the loss of Federal tax dollars or the subsidizing anyone's individual investment choices in excess of fair and reasonable compensation. In suburbia we experiences similar issues. Large commercial properties are built abutting residential subdivisions. Rarely do the affected property owners ask to be compensated for it.

Respectfully,
Board of Directors
Clear Brook City MUD

O'Brien concerned about city taxes

Dear Editor, I know it would be unusual for the South Belt-Ellington Leader to publish a letter to the editor re: Pearland City Council, but this is an issue that affects your readers. I live in Riverstone Ranch Clear Creek (77089 zip code), and while I am technically in the City of Pearland, I am in Harris County. I pay property taxes to Pasadena ISD, and to Harris County, including Harris County Flood Control District. I pay taxes to Municipal Utility

District (MUD) #509, and Pearland water, sewage, and garbage bills.

On June 14, Pearland City Council approved a move in a 5-2 vote to propose a "storm water fee" to fund drainage projects. The proposal will go before the voters in May 2022. (Side note: Mayor Cole thinks moving the vote to May is a good idea because Pearland ISD is seeking to increase their tax rate during the November 2021 election. "If you have both of those on the ballot," Cole said, "you'll lose both of them, in my opinion...") Heaven forbid that politicians would dream of asking voters to approve two tax increases simultaneously (!), but the November vote is an issue for Pearland ISD voters.

Call it a fee. Call it a tax. A rose by any other name.... My issue is "I don't need any more stinking taxes."

Flood control maintenance is the responsibility of Harris County Flood Control, in my case, and Brazoria County Drainage District for those living in Brazoria County sections of Pearland. If the drainage districts need more money to regulate flood control, then they can discuss raising taxes; not the city.

I called the Public Works Department for an explanation. I was told that they need the money to pay for sewers and drainage. Sewers?! How did we go from

a discussion on storm water drainage to sewer maintenance? Yes, I understand that my MUD taxes paid to have the streets poured and the sewer lines put in, but if Pearland can't afford to maintain them afterwards, they shouldn't continue taking in additional subdivisions. If it's a problem with sewage maintenance, then let's talk about increasing sewage rates.

In The Pearland Journal (June 23), Council Tony Carbone said he would rather put out bond referendums than set a drainage fee, which he suspects would never be rescinded. I am in agreement with him on that. I have NEVER seen a tax go away! I would rather use my right as a citizen to vote on individual projects funded by bonds with a termination date than to give up my rights to a public works department to create whatever projects they want, or use those dollars to set about hiring more staff over which I have no control.

What can you do to have your voice heard? The email addresses of all council members are located at this link: <https://www.pearlandtx.gov/government/city-council/fsiteid-1>. Use it to let each member of council know "NO MORE TAXES" and certainly not for city drainage projects.

C. H. O'Brien

Property tax bills filed under tax relief have been passed by Senator Paul Bettencourt

Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) passes SB 8, SB 12, and SJR 4 out of Senate Local Government unanimously at the hearing held on Saturday July 10, 2021. These bills are designed to build upon the property tax reform and relief and school finance reform efforts from the past sessions and have a dozen bipartisan co-authors.

"Property tax relief has been one of my top priorities since I was elected to the Texas Senate in 2014," said Senator Bettencourt.

"These bills will provide much needed relief to homeowners for first year homestead exemptions and those over 65 or disabled!" he added. "SB8 will address a longstanding issue in Texas that prohibits homeowners from tax savings in their first year of home ownership!"

Back in 2005, the Texas Legislature passed a school tax compression like passed in HB 3 during the 86th Legislative Session. In 2007, the Legislature passed a constitutional amendment that was approved by voters to compress the tax rate for those individuals with an over 65 or disabled exemption. These bills are following the same pattern now, as followed then, so that all Texas homeowners will receive the benefit of tax rate reduction provided in HB3.

These bills make the following key changes:

- SB 8 by Senator Bettencourt - gives homeowner benefit of the resident homestead exemption the first year of acquiring your property instead of having to wait until January 1st of the following year for the exemption to take effect. This bill has 11 bipartisan co-authors.

- SB 12 by Senator Bettencourt & Senators Kolkhorst - SB12 is the enabling legislation and SJR 4 is the constitutional amendment.

These bills will provide school Maintenance & Operation tax rate reduction for over 65 and disabled homeowners that are capped due to their tax ceiling adjustment. Co-authors include Senator Hinojosa (D- McAllen) and Senator Lucio (D- Brownsville)

"Property tax relief has been a major priority of Lt Gov Patrick, myself, and other members for years," said Senator Bettencourt. "I'm happy to see it added to the 87th Special Session By Governor Abbott as these bills will provide over Two Hundred Million dollars of property tax relief," he said.

"I want to thank the members of the Local Government committee for the bipartisan unanimous support!" he concluded.

Elected officials share their words by Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Martin

Dear Residents,

This week, my council colleagues and I unanimously approved a minimum 18% pay raise for Houston firefighters over three years using a portion of the city's federal stimulus relief. The raise went into effect July 1, which was the start of the next fiscal year. This pay increase is long overdue but this is a small step in the right direction.

For those of you who spent their Independence Day weekend on the water, it is important to prioritize safety as well. Remember, it is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence (BUI), life jackets should be worn by everyone on the water, and please be mindful and pay attention to your surroundings such as stumps, boaters, and kayakers.

The weekend was the perfect time to

make sure Lake Houston residents and visitors were aware of the Lake Houston Safety Plan. This plan was created by District E in collaboration with the Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department, Houston Planning Department, Houston Office of Emergency Management, Houston Emergency Center, and the Houston Public Works Department. The Lake Houston Safety Plan provides both Lake Houston residents and visiting recreational users with information that will prepare them to better identify their location on the lake and how to best report a lake incident to 9-1-1 dispatchers. Keep a look out where you head out on the water to #KnowYourZone in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact HPD Lake Patrol at 832-394-9854.

HPD hosts youth program

The Houston Police Department Southeast Division Post 8300 is offering its Explorers program every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the HPD Southeast Patrol Station, located at 8300 Mykawa, to area youth considering a career in law enforcement.

The Explorers program provides educational training programs for young adults on the purposes, mission and objectives of law enforcement.

The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within law enforcement and to challenge them to become responsible citizens.

For additional information, call HPD Officer L.E. Anderson at 346-397-1363 or email lloyd.anderson@houstonpolice.org.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of the Neighbor's app posted that their mom had ladies knocking on their car windows and stand behind the vehicles has she tried to reverse and also witnessed it also happening to other people in the parking lot of Food Town on Scarsdale Boulevard. The incident took place Sunday, July 11, the member advises others to lock their vehicles and windows closed.

A member of Southbelt/Sagemont Crime Alert Facebook page posted a picture of a female who went to the member's home and also knocked on the front neighbor's home. The member states the female claimed

she was lost and asked for a ride home, but saw two men walking down the street and claimed to know them and left. This occurred Thursday, July 8, approximately 1:30 a.m. at Wolcott Park Lane and Banfield Court. The local police was notified. The post was shared on other social media pages.

A member of People of Sagemont Facebook group posted a picture of their neighbor's truck that was stolen from Sonora subdivision, Saturday, July 10, during the night.

The member is asking the community from Sonora subdivision to check their camera footage and see if anyone can spot this truck.

Miriam Hope Williams



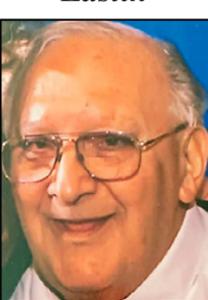
Miriam Hope Williams, 106, formerly a South Belt resident, and then of Pearland, died peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior June 26, 2021. She was born in Loma, Colo., Dec. 15, 1914, to Mathias T. Nelson and Florence Jenny Montgomery.

After growing up in Nebraska on a farm and helping her father in his hardware store, she attended business school in Denver. She first accepted a position with the FBI in Washington, D.C. and then after transferring to Denver with the FBI, she took a position with Continental Airlines. She met her love, John Duncan Williams Jr., in Denver at a dance by the Timberline Club. In a whirlwind courtship, they were married four weeks later in September 1945. His career took them to such wonderful places as the Philippines, Florida, California, Virginia, then Pearl and to East Texas, Colorado, Sagemont area of Houston and then back to Pearland. While in the Philippines, their son John Duncan Williams was born. As circumstances allowed, Miriam worked at many interesting offices from managing a busy doctor's office to working at NASA-JSC.

She was an excellent homemaker, a gifted seamstress and tailor, making sports jackets for her husband and son, as well as many of her own clothes including beautiful quilted jackets and quilts. She loved to travel and she and Dunc traveled to Denmark and Norway on va-

Deaths

Barry Robert Lastik



cation to find where her father was born and lived before his mother immigrated to America with him and his younger brother. She also traveled to the Holy Land twice, the last when she was 80. Their travels also included many lovely places here in the States.

When the couple retired in Colorado, her faith in the Lord was growing and she was seeking to learn more. She felt the Lord leading them to Colorado and so they went. There she found a church that aided in her spiritual growth in the Lord and the Holy Spirit. She was a member of a Christian women's group, loved the Lord, loved serving and helping others and was always ready to share her faith and tell others about Jesus.

She also enjoyed walking and had many special walks on her birthday with the first one on her 80th. She walked from their house in Canon City to the top of Skyline Drive. Several friends accepted her invitation to join her as she walked.

At the time of her death, she was probably the oldest living person in Pearland, according to the Pearland Historical Society.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; sister Lois Nelson; sister Geneva Fetrow; grandson Scott Williams; and husband John Duncan Williams.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Duncan and Jackie Williams; granddaughter and husband Holly and John Lyons; great-granddaughter Abigail Lyons; great-grandsons Jackson Lyons and William Lyons; as well as beloved nieces Pam McElroy (Randy); and Claire Whitmore (Wayne). She is also survived by beloved nieces and nephews on her husband's side.

A visitation and a Celebration of Miriam's Life were held Tuesday, July 6, at South Park Funeral Home, 1310 N. Main in Pearland. The family requested memorial gifts may be given to her church El Cordero De Dios Templo Cristiano, 12515 Astoria Blvd., Houston, TX 77089.

Tax holiday Aug. 6-8

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Items one buys before or after the sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund available.

Online purchases
To promote social distancing, the Texas Comptroller's office wants all taxpayers to know that during the Tax-Free Weekend, one can buy qualifying items online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) tax free, when either:

- the item is both delivered, and paid for, by the customer during the exemption period; or
- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

A seller accepts an order when the seller has acted to fill the order for immediate shipment.

An order is filled for immediate shipment regardless of whether the shipment is delayed due to a backlog of orders or because stock is currently unavailable to, or on back order by, the seller.

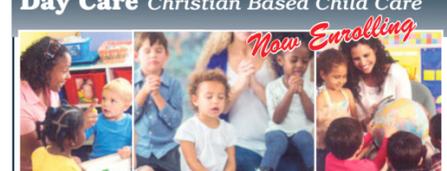
In-store purchases
The comptroller's office urges all taxpayers buying certain qualifying items at their local retailers to practice appropriate social distancing as described in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines during the sales tax holiday.

- Qualifying items**
- Clothing and footwear.
 - Face masks.
 - Backpacks.
 - School supplies.
- For additional information, visit www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-490.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the Leader style.

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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Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com
Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership hosts elected officials at in-person forum

Continued from Page 1
state didn't regulate above-ground storage tanks. The bill promotes the safety of storage vessels by adopting requirements for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of storage vessels with the objective of protecting groundwater and surface water resources in the

event of accidents and natural disasters. Alvarado was also one of the sponsors of Senate Bill 678. She said that the bill sets up the infrastructure for a small business disaster recovery loan fund. Although not currently funded, Alvarado said that the main goal of the bill was to set up the

infrastructure for the future where quick, short-term, bridge loans with low financing rates would be made available to small businesses to help them keep their employees working. **Alzheimer protection** Perez sponsored House Bill 413 relating to Alzheimer's disease. She said that

currently about 400,000 people have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in Texas which ranks second in the country in the number of Alzheimer's deaths. The act says that nursing facilities have to prepare a written notice disclosing whether the facility is certified or is not certified to provide specialized care

and treatment for facility residents with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. The notice must be provided to each facility resident and each person applying for services from the facility or the person's next of kin or guardian. The act takes effect on Sept. 1, 2021. Perez said that more needs to be done, but the act is a step in the right direction.

Perez also sponsored House Bill 2106 relating to the prevention, identification, investigation, and enforcement of payment card fraud. The bill passed both the Texas House and Senate with 100 percent support, she said. Credit card skimming is a type of credit card theft where crooks use a small device to steal credit card information in an otherwise legitimate credit or debit card transaction such as at a gas pump or ATM machine. When a credit or debit card is swiped through a skimmer, the device captures and stores all the details stored in the card's magnetic stripe.

Perez noted that the bill also established the first financial crimes intelligence center in the state of Texas. **State budget** Bonnen is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the Texas House. Hellyer asked him, "What is in the state budget bill that will impact Bay Area Houston?" Bonnen spoke about the complexities created by the pandemic and its potential effect on budgeting. He said that House Bill 3 from the 86th Texas Legislature was a transformational, once-in-a-generation change in the way public schools are funded. Bonnen reported that it was a huge accomplishment during this legislative session to be able to fully fund House Bill 3.

Paul sponsored House Bill 3029 and worked with Sen. Larry Taylor who sponsored Senate Bill 1160 to create the Gulf Coast Protection District. Paul explained that it's taken 13 years to get something accomplished with funding the coastal barrier. He said that the federal government needs a district with which it can contract and which can be the local sponsor for the coastal barrier. The coastal barrier, Paul said, will be the largest single engineering project that the federal government has ever done.

Hellyer asked Paul to provide a brief overview of the reforms made to ERCOT and how those reforms will positively affect the state's power grid. He spoke of Senate Bill 2 which related to the governance of the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Office of Public Utility Counsel, and an independent organization certified to manage a power region. The bill revamped how the ERCOT board is set up and appointed. There will be 11 members on the board appointed by a separate committee. Paul noted that the bill establishes a lot more oversight of ERCOT. He also spoke of Senate Bill 3 that related to preparing for, preventing, and responding to weather emergencies - increasing the amount of administrative and civil penalties. The bill addressed winterizing equipment, rolling blackouts, communication, budgeting, and protection for critical agencies such as hospitals and other care facilities. Paul then talked about House Bill 16 that related to the regulation of certain retail electric products in order to protect consumers from sky-high electric bills as well as a number of other bills passed to protect businesses and consumers.

Qarini inspires Vo to continue pushing forward

J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Star Thuc Vo (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Rosa Qarini who teaches 10th-grade AP world history. Commenting on her teacher, Vo said, "Mrs. Qarini is the epitome of what I believe a teacher should be. Though her class was sometimes stressful as AP world history should be, there was never a day in which I didn't learn something new. She made an effort to make her lectures fun and relatable to her students which tremendously helped with the learning process. Not only did she provide me academic support as a teacher, she also welcomed me with open arms whenever I needed emotional support. Her support motivates me to push past my limits and inspires me to become a teacher later in life."

ular activities for Vo included HOSA (Future Health Professionals), speech and debate, junior varsity golf, Engines of Change for the Holocaust Museum Houston, orchestra, Key Club and Revamp Youth Foundation. Community service activities for Vo included Texas Children's Hospital (230 hours), Key Club (52 hours), Luv Michael (40 hours) and HOSA (five hours). "After high school, I plan on pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology, earn a PA certification, become a surgical PA. Maybe become a New York Times bestseller," Vo said. *The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top J. Frank Dobie High School students.* *The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from South Houston, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and Pasadena Memorial high schools.*



Balboa charged

Continued from Page 1
foul odor, and drove the woman to a Best Western motel in Jasper, roughly 130 miles away. After returning home, the friend called Crime Stoppers to report Balboa's location. Both the roommate, Ben Rivera, 27, and the second friend, Dylan Walker, 27, were also charged with evidence tampering involving a

human corpse. The South Belt community became an area of focus in the search after it was learned that the child had been seen at Balboa's apartment near Dixie Farm Road and the Gulf Freeway. Police and volunteers from Texas EquuSearch combed the surrounding area exhaustively searching for signs of the child to no avail.

Roberts turns 100



Betty Roberts, who turned 100 on July 14, was born in 1921 in Salina, Kan. She moved to Texas in 1938 with her family. Betty married Melvin Roberts July 4, 1940, and the couple were married 66 years until his death in 2006. Their family includes two daughters, Shirley Edgar and Molly Angie; two granddaughters, Tiffany Wallace and Laura Smith, and one great-granddaughter Makena Wallace (above, right). Betty's daughter Molly and husband David Angie have lived in the South Belt area for 45 years. Molly taught at Stuchbery Elementary for 30 years. On Saturday, July 10, the family celebrated Betty's birthday at granddaughter Tiffany's home in Tomball with family and friends.

Castro serves as role model for Munoz

Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School's Shining Star Juan Munoz Jr. (below, left) is shown with distinguished educator Adrian Castro who teaches eighth-grade algebra. Commenting on his teacher, Munoz Jr. said, "Coach Castro was always enthusiastic to come in to work and teach every day. Without his superb teaching tactics I would be unable to be the overachiever that I am today. He was much more than just a teacher as he also taught his students little life lessons through his story times. At the end of the day, he served as an inspiration for the type of man I want to become."

Munoz Jr. included robotics and school court. Community service activities for Munoz Jr. included serving as a robotics competition volunteer and serving in school court. "After high school, I plan on graduating with an engineering degree and start my own company," Munoz Jr. said. *The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School students.* *The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Pasadena Memorial and South Houston high schools.*



NASA historic Apollo free tickets available

Space Center Houston welcomes guests to experience the historic Apollo Program and relive the Apollo 11 Moon landing aboard the NASA Tram Tour. Starting this weekend, tours will return to NASA's Historic Mission Control. This is the facility where NASA monitored nine Gemini and all Apollo lunar missions, including the historic Apollo 11 trip to the Moon and the final Apollo 17 trip to the same lunar body. The NASA team exercised full mission control of Apollo 11 from launch at the Kennedy Space Center to splashdown in the Pacific Ocean. Space Center Houston guests will relive the first steps landed on the Moon. A free timed ticket is required to visit Apollo Mis-

sion Control Center. Guests can get a timed ticket the day of their visit through the free Space Center Houston mobile app, at the ticket booths, ticket kiosks and the Guest Services Desk. Timed tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Space Center Houston members can make timed-ticket reservations online and up to three days in advance. For timed admission tickets to Space Center Houston, visit spacecenter.org. Ticket prices range from \$24.95 for children (ages 4-11) to \$29.95 for adults (12 and older) with discounts for seniors and members of the military. All Space Center Houston experiences are subject to change while the center continues to monitor state and local health and safety guidelines.



Henley named for new leadership

The Clear Creek ISD board of trustees has approved new leadership within various departments. Associate principal Sheridan Henley from Clear Brook High School was named the executive director of assessment and evaluation. Henley has 21 years of experience in education.



BEVERLY HILLS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

EARLY REGISTRATION

AUGUST 3RD, 4TH & 5TH

8:00 - 3:00 PM

By appointment ONLY

Appointments will be made in 30 minute increments
To schedule your appointment, fill out the form at tinyurl.com/BHlearly

Masterson awarded good citizen



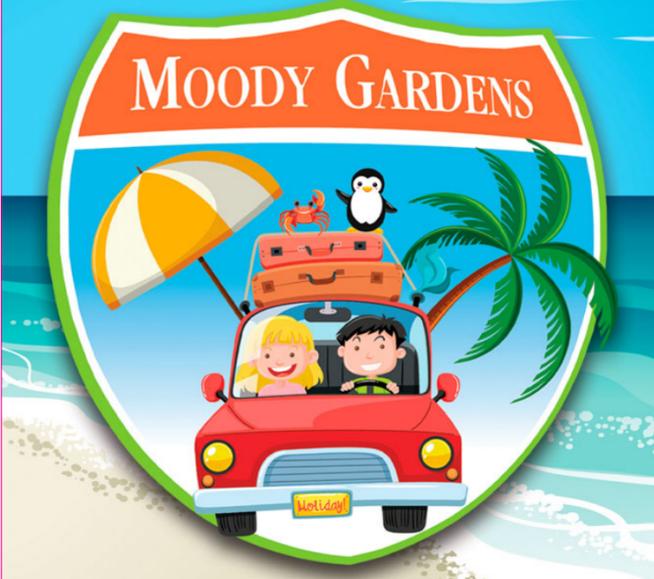
Cadie Masterson (left) has received the 2021 Good Citizen award from Dobie High School. Each year one senior from each high school's graduating class across the country receives this prestigious award from the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). This student exemplifies the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Masterson was presented the award by Jane Long DAR member, Sharon Boeger. Attending the Senior Awards Program were Masterson's parents, Chuck and Bridgette Masterson and her grandmother Patricia Cade. The members of Jane Long Chapter wish Masterson well as she attends Texas State University where she plans to major in elementary education.

The Carmelites are back!

The group known as the Carmelites has returned with excitement to again be meeting, socializing and planning new trips. This is a nondenominational senior citizen social group which meets at St. Bernadette Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake City. The next meeting is 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 21. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. and are filled with fun, fellowship, lending library with books and puzzles, coffee and bingo. Anyone age 50 or older may be a member. There are no dues. Day trips and extended trips are available. The Carmelites are now taking deposits for four fabulous trips: a Hawaiian cruise, an Italian, Spanish and French Riviera cruise, Utah's Mighty National Parks by Rail and Mackinac Island, the Grand Hotel and Niagara Falls. Plan to come and join the fun! Contact Marilyn Roberts at 713-444-6744 for details on meetings and trip. Roberts is active in St. Luke's Catholic Church.

Attractions Hotel Golf

SUMMER ROAD TRIP



PLAN YOUR ISLAND GETAWAY!
MoodyGardens.org

Wheeler teaches Le to think critically and be open-minded

South Houston High School's Shining Star Charles Le (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Bradley D. Wheeler who teaches 11th and 12th grade physics I and physics C.

Commenting on his teacher, Le said, "I chose Mr. Wheeler as a Distinguished Educator because he has been one of my most, if not the most, influential teacher that I have had during the duration of my academic career. Mr. Wheeler has taught me to think critically and look at things in different perspectives through his teaching. He has taught me that the road to success is not smooth sailing but rather it is marked with failures that if learned from and incorporated properly will eventually lead to success. Thus, this is the reason I chose Mr. Wheeler to be my Distinguished Educator."

Le has shown leadership as a National Honor Society member. Extracurricular activities for Le include tennis. Community service activities for Le included being National Honor Society member.

"After high school, I plan on studying theology at the University of St. Thomas to work toward becoming a theology professor," Le said.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top South Houston High School students.

The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and Pasadena Memorial high schools.



Herndon inspired by Claytor's motivation to students

Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Star Ellienne Herndon (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Noah Claytor who teaches ninth through 12th grade orchestra.

Commenting on her teacher, Herndon said, "Mr. Claytor was the first teacher from PMHS that I ever met when I auditioned for him as an eighth grader, and I knew right away that I would learn so much from him throughout my time in high school. Now when I look back at the last four years, some of my fondest memories and most valuable lessons have come from orchestra and Mr. Claytor. He has always encouraged me to be the best that I can be and challenged me to be even better. I am so grateful for the opportunity that I have had to be a part of the wonderful family that he has created among all of his students."

Herndon has shown leadership as a member of National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, and Stu-

dent Council. Extracurricular activities for Herndon include orchestra and all-school musical.

Community service activities for Herndon included participation in various orchestral performances at assisted living homes and celebrations that took place at the school, hurricane cleanup in Louisiana and Southeast Texas with the Mormon Helping Hands and Baytown City Back To School fair in 2019 and 2020.

"After high school, I plan to study Mechanical Engineering at Brigham Young University," Herndon said.

The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.

The Shining Stars represent the top Pasadena Memorial High School students. The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena ISD. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and South Houston high schools.



TxDOT seeks public comment on funding

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is inviting public comment on the draft annual update to its 10-year plan, the Unified Transportation Program (UTP), to include the potential removal of funding assigned to the I-45 North Houston Highway Improvement Project (known as the NHHIP). The UTP guides the development of transportation work across the state and authorizes the distribution of construction dollars expected to be available.

At the June 2021 meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission (Commission), J. Bruce Bugg Jr., chairman, requested TxDOT staff include specific reference in the Draft 2022 UTP to the funding allocated to the \$7.9 billion NHHIP due to the project pause requested by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and uncertainty about how or when the project may advance. The UTP update process will allow the public to comment on current funding approved for the NHHIP. The Commission is expected to consider formal action on this funding in August 2021 as it takes action on the 2022 UTP.

This week marks the opening of the 30-day public comment period on the 2022 UTP following the public meeting:

- Aug. 2: Virtual public hearing for comments.
- Aug. 9: UTP public comment period closes at 4 p.m. CT.

The public meeting and hearing will be conducted in English. Persons who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the Transportation Planning and Programming Division at 800-687-8108.

More information on the

UTP public meeting, hearing and comment period can be accessed at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/unified-transportation-program.html>.

In addition to attending the virtual meetings, public comments may also be submitted in the following ways:

- Electronically: Visit www.txdot.gov and search the keywords "UTP public involvement" to access the on-line public comment form to provide feedback on the UTP and the funding assigned to the NHHIP.
- Email: U T P - P u b l i c C o m m e n t s @ t x d o t . g o v
- Phone: 800-687-8108.
- U.S. mail: Texas Department of Transportation, Attn: TPP-UTP, P.O. Box 149217, Austin, TX 78714-9217.

The Draft 2022 UTP will be available for public comment through Aug. 9, 2021 at 4 p.m. CT.

Additional NHHIP info: The NHHIP will address critical safety and mobility needs including updating the highways to current design and safety standards, relieving traffic congestion, improving storm water drainage and improving evacuation routes.

Consistent with plans previously approved by the Houston-Galveston Area Council Metropolitan Planning Organization (H-GAC MPO), the NHHIP includes roadway improvements to add four managed express (MaX) lanes on I-45 from Downtown Houston to Beltway 8 North, reroute I-45 to be parallel with I-10 on the north side of Downtown Houston and parallel to US 59/I-69 on the east side of Downtown Houston, and realign sections of I-10 and I-69 in the Downtown area to accommodate greater mobility.

The project will also depress I-69 between I-10 and Spur 527 south of Downtown to improve safety by eliminating unsafe weaving.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NHHIP became available in September 2020. TxDOT prepared a series of white papers titled "NHHIP Project Facts and Highlights" to help condense the contents of the Final EIS and simplify key information regarding matters of high priority to the public. The Final EIS and the NHHIP

Project Facts and Highlights can be accessed on the project website at www.ih45nortlandmore.com.

The purpose of the NHHIP is to implement an integrated system of transportation improvements that would:

- Bring I-45, I-10, and US 59/I-69 up to current design standards to improve safety and operations.
- Manage I-45 traffic congestion in the NHHIP area through added capacity, MaX lanes, options for single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) lanes, and improved operations.
- Improve mobility on I-45 between US 59/I-69 and Beltway 8 North by accommodating projected population growth and latent demand in the project area.
- Provide expanded transit and carpool opportunities.
- Improve the capabilities of I-45 as an emergency evacuation route.
- Improve storm water drainage on I-45.
- Support the projected significant increase in travel on the regional highways in the Houston-Galveston area.

A video presentation on the NHHIP can be found at <http://ih45nortlandmore.com/ChangesForTheBetter.aspx>.

For more information, contact Danny Perez at 713-802-5077.

Also follow them on Twitter and Instagram at TxDOT Houston and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TxDOTHouston.

CCISD Citizen of the Year sought

The Clear Creek ISD board of trustees is now seeking nominations for the 2021 Citizen of the Year.

This distinguished award is presented each year to honor an outstanding member of the community who champions the Clear Creek Independent School District and devotes their efforts to the betterment of public education.

The recipient will be announced at the Clear Creek Education Foundation's (CCEF) Annual Gala on Nov. 1, 2021, at South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center in League City.

Recipients eligible for the Citizen of the Year award must meet the following requirements:

- Demonstrated a commitment to Clear Creek ISD through volunteer efforts.
- Contributed significantly in ways that have benefited the entirety of Clear Creek ISD.
- Maintained a reputation across the Clear Creek ISD community as an individual with high standards and dedication to excellence in public education.
- Voluntarily served the district and its students and patrons over an extended period of time.

Former recipients of the CCISD Citizen of the Year

honor include Chris Reed (posthumously), Mayor Pat Hallisey, Trent Martin, Joyce Abbey, Harry Hartman, Robert Davee, David Braun and Dr. James O'Malley.

All nominations must be submitted no later than Aug. 1, 2021, to be considered for the 2021 award. Nomination forms are available online on the CCEF and district websites. Once completed, nominations can be emailed to cccf@ccisd.net or mailed to: Clear Creek Education Foundation, Citizen of the Year Selection Committee, P.O. Box 1631, League City, TX 77574

Green Thumb lecture set for July 20

The Green Thumb Gardening lecture "Fall Vegetable Gardening" by Harris County Master Gardeners with Harris County Public Library System is set for Tuesday, July 20.

This free virtual lecture will be presented from 11 a.m. to noon. No registration is required. One can watch via Facebook live at facebook.com/harriscountypylive.

Bay Area Singles dance resumes July 16

The Bay Area Singles monthly dances are resuming. The next dance will be held Friday, July 16, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy. 3, in Dickinson. All Alvin singles and South Belt area singles are invited to attend.

Bring party snacks to share. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information, call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112. Note the changes in day and time.

Pandemic benefits announced

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) provides food benefits to families with enrolled students (up to 21 years of age) who temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals for the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The application for P-EBT opened June 2 and the deadline to apply is Aug. 13. Go to yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT to apply. The application link is case sensitive.

Who Needs to Apply? A parent/guardian should

apply if eligible child is:

- A student who is certified for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- Enrolled in Kinder - 12 and not part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between August 2020 and June 2021.
- Born on or before Aug. 1, 2014, and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for the first time during the 2020-2021 school year in May or June 2021.

A parent/guardian does not have to apply if eligible

child is:

- Born on or before Aug. 1, 2014, and is part of a family who received SNAP benefits for at least one month between October 2020 and June 2021.

For more information about eligibility, applying and getting your P-EBT benefits, visit hhs.texas.gov/pebt, or call the P-EBT Call Center at 833-442-1255, Monday -Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Remember When

45 years ago (1976)

After a meeting between Harris County and City of Pearland officials, the road connecting Green Tee Terrace and Sagemeadow was reopened. The meeting included two owners of a portion of the property where the road is located.

An estimated increase of nearly \$1 million for utilities was included in the proposed 1976-1977 Pasadena Independent School District budget.

40 years ago (1981)

Longtime Dobie High School track and field coach John Bryan resigned to take a similar position at La Porte High School.

The road linking the back of San Jacinto College South to Scarsdale's Astoria Boulevard was completed, giving direct access to the Gulf Freeway.

35 years ago (1986)

John Markgraf, Frazier Elementary principal, resigned and moved to Chicago.

County Judge Jon Lindsay met with the Southeast Harris County Economic Development Council after a request for economic development funds. Between \$50,000 and \$75,000 would be made available for monitored use by the council.

City and county law enforcement were working to solve a series of burglaries in the South Belt. The suspects were believed to use police scanners to avoid being caught.

Due to nonfunded state-mandated programs and slow economic conditions, PISD feared a \$5 million budget deficit.

A vacant house on Sageville Drive, which had become an eyesore after a fire approximately two years earlier, was bulldozed and the lot cleared.

30 years ago (1991)

George Rodonaia, a Soviet dissident, was happy to find a position at Cokesbury United Methodist Church as associate pastor.

Two South Belt homeowners arrived home in the 11000 block of Sagerock to find Hispanic males armed with double-barreled shotguns waiting in the garage.

According to Precinct 2 Sgt. Rick Holloman, the invaders demanded entry to the house, but one of the homeowners refused. One of the armed men fired a blast into a brick wall. Neighbors were alerted, but when they arrived, the two men took their car keys, stole two vehicles and fled.

25 years ago (1996)

Jon Paul Fleming, 17, was working as a mess hall supervisor at El Rancho Cima Boy Scout Camp near San Marcos when he noticed a Scout leader choking. Fleming performed the Heimlich maneuver on the man, who was from a Genoa troop. The Scout leader, previously unknown to Fleming, said he would have died had Fleming not performed the life-saving maneuver.

Gregory Jones, assistant principal at South Houston High School for seven years, was named principal at Thompson Intermediate.

20 years ago (2001)

FEMA required residents in the 100-year flood plain whose homes were damaged 50 percent of the appraised value (less land value) to either raise the structure or abandon it. The city announced plans to open a local office for homeowners seeking permits to repair their homes.

Members of Sagemont Church and of The Freedom Church, formerly known as Gulf Meadows Baptist Church, announced the joining of their respective memberships into one collective church family.

15 years ago (2006)

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks ruled that Rep. Tom DeLay had withdrawn his candidacy for the general election for Congressional District 22 as opposed to becoming ineligible. As a result, DeLay's name would stay on the November general election ballot.

Precinct 2 deputy constables responded to numerous calls for service after the Fourth of July holiday. The calls included assault, burglaries to a home and a business as well as an arrest for possession of cocaine.

10 years ago (2011)

Construction of the new right-turn lane on Blackhawk south of Beltway 4 heading east to the Gulf Freeway began July 11 after multiple setbacks.

5 years ago (2016)

A recent Dobie graduate was fatally shot July 9 while riding as a vehicle passenger in the 12300 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua.

Geovanni "Geo" Rios, 18, was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Rios was a backseat passenger in a white Chevrolet Tahoe traveling north on the freeway frontage road around 1:35 a.m. when the vehicle was struck by multiple gunshots, presumably fired from another vehicle, investigators said. Rios was struck in the head by a bullet, killing him. No immediate arrests were

1 year ago (2020)

The results from July 14 primary runoff elections were announced. In the race for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable, challenger Jerry Garcia squeaked out a victory over incumbent Chris Diaz, receiving just 229 more votes. Garcia went on to face Republican Daniel Vela in November's general election.

In the contest to fill the U.S. House District 22 representative seat being vacated by Rep. Pete Olson, Troy Nehls handily defeated Kathaleen Wall. Nehls went on to face Democrat Sri Preston Kulkarni in November's general election.

Both Pasadena ISD and

Clear Creek ISD announced

their plans to reopen for in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. The school districts, however, said they would also allow concerned parents to opt out and have their children continue to learn remotely from home out of COVID-19 fears.

Two fatal accidents took place on the Gulf Freeway, one involving a pedestrian and one involving a motorcyclist. A female pedestrian was killed July 13 while attempting to cross the Gulf Freeway on foot near Beltway 8. A male was killed in a motorcycle crash on the Gulf Freeway near Dixie Farm Road.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis



SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 15 through July 21.

Atkinson Elementary

Break out the party favors and balloons for Claudia Trevino July 15.

Genoa Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song July 15 to Kathryn Martinez. Join in the birthday celebration July 17 for Virginia Gomez.

South Belt Elementary

Give a birthday greeting July 19 to Norma Castro.

Stuchbery Elementary

Tiffany Steele celebrates a special birthday July 19.

Melillo Middle School

Loren Garcia enjoys a birthday July 16. Remember to wish Jennifer Vann a happy birthday July 18.

Roberts Middle School

Light the birthday candles July 19 for a double celebration for Mekali Ball and Sandra Palma.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send a birthday greeting July 18 to Krystal Smith. Enjoying a birthday July 21 is Yara Quintanilla.

Dobie High

Birthday greetings are in order July 19 for Devyn Billiott.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbelt-leader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, July 15: Soyla Tovar, Irma Villanueva, Rachel Garza, Marlon Taylor, Verena Reynolds, Abel and Harley Rankins; Friday, July 16: Jessika Paquinto,

Mark Campbell, Kelly McBeth, Angie Roach, Clarissa Garza Andrus and Brad Janacek; Saturday, July 17: Christina Trevino, Crystal Ybarra, Corey Cephus, Myra Rowe, Marsa Outland Brister, Vicki Sorensen, Jenelle Lee, Kimberly Sommerfelt and Mary Jason Rowe; Sunday, July 18: Maddie Patterson, Keith Milam, Luis Revilla, Diann Fernandez, Cathy Todd, Steve Garza, Misha Lesley-Burkins, Kathy Haiger and Michelle Malveau; Monday, July 19: Fred Alvarez, Terrell Session, Gary Hilliard and Anne Tyson; Tuesday, July 20: Junior Lynn, Curtis Eads, Mary Johnson and Chris Cole; and Wednesday, July 21: Natalie Sweet, Denise McMurrough, Vanessa Veltman and Danielle Clay.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS Email anniversary, vacation and information on other events to mynews@southbelt-leader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

Family is why WE DO IT ALL.



We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. As your good neighbor agent, I can help you meet your insurance needs. Call me today.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Bay Area Football League ready to begin workouts

Bay Area Football League preseason practices start in mere days (July 24), and the South-belt Dolphins still have football player registration opportunities as well as those for drill team and mascot candidates.

Youth football players who will be ages 5 through 12 as of Aug. 1, 2021, are eligible to play in the league, while drill team members may be between the ages of 8 to 13 and mascot between 4 and 7 to participate.

There are sibling discounts and payment plans available.

Football players may contact Dolphins' athletic director Raoul Garcia at 281-818-7880 while those seeking drill and/or mascot spots may call Christina Ybarra at 1-346-245-9608 to inquire about spots.

Cowboys equipment PU

The Sagement Cowboys will host one last preseason football equipment session July 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park.

Any final registration payments will be due at this time, and first-year families must bring a player's birth certificate for Cowboys' files.

Conditioning at EFLP

The Cowboys will also host preseason conditioning workouts for any players July 19 through July 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park, designed to help the players gear up for the 2021 season.

The 2021 Bay Area Football League season kicks off Saturday, Aug. 14. The league's master set of team schedules appears July 22.

Wolverine football looks to push for postseason

Entering year two of the head coach John Towels III era at Clear Brook, the Wolverines' varsity football program seems much more equipped to push for a Division II playoff berth this season out of District 24-6A.

The pandemic was tough on athletic programs across the nation, and the Wolverines had to make a

go of it without the benefit of a spring practice season, full summer of 7-on-7 and other conditioning exercises under the guidance of Towels and his staff.

Still, the former Duncanville defensive assistant led the Wolverines to a 3-0 start, including a win over Clear Lake that kicked off league play.

From there, though, the

Wolverines lost to Clear Falls and Clear Creek in back-to-back games and wound up with four straight losses to end the 2020 season.

Heading into 2021, have things changed enough within the 24-6A ranks to allow the Wolverines to have higher hopes? 'Maybe' is perhaps the best answer.

While it's hard to imagine the likes of Dickinson and Clear Springs not advancing in the Division I ranks and defending Region III Div. II finalist Clear Falls falling off much, the Wolverines could very well avenge a 40-7 loss to Clear Creek a season ago and advance.

How things shake out in 24-6A come November

can wait for now, as the Wolverines ride plenty of optimism into the 2021 season under Towels and staff.

With seven starters back on the offensive side and six more defensively, Clear Brook brings back more starting talent outside of Clear Falls.

Cameron McCalister brings his dual-threat ca-

pabilities back at quarterback, and Trent Lacy returns to solidify the running back position after an injury-plagued 2020.

At receiver, Nathan Barnett is back after having 24 grabs for 471 yards and two touchdowns before an injury forced him to miss the team's final four games, all Clear Brook losses.

Add Michael Lewis and newcomer Tre John as targets for McCalister at receiver, and the Wolverines certainly have options when all are healthy.

The Wolverines did lose valuable contributors

Jaysen Price on offense and Kam'rin DeVault on defense, but the defense figures to get a big lift from John Baldwin and Jaden Wincher on the front line, with linebacker Ethan Guinn returning as the leader of the entire group.

Colby McCalister heads up the secondary after a big 2020, and Jake Lopez also figures to slot in for the Wolverines in the back.

The bottom line is year two of the Towels era is here, and the Wolverines expect to make a big jump.

Continued on Page 6

Kristoff wraps up rewarding career

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

Seventeen years, summers included. It would all come to an end this week or that one, yet Michelle Kristoff wasn't quite ready.

In one last blaze of glory, Kristoff and her University of Houston-Victoria softball teammates, Dobie graduate and head coach Lindsey Ferguson Ortiz included, had more to do.

An improbable run to the Red River Athletic Conference postseason tournament championship ensued, with Kristoff earning the win in two games and ultimately being named the event's Most Outstanding Pitcher.

Next came an appearance for UHV in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics postseason Opening Round.

The Jaguars were seeded fourth yet came away with a trophy that included an invitation to the NAIA World Series, a first for the UHV program.

Three games there, and it was finally over. Just like that.

But for Kristoff, first a player in the South Belt Girls Softball Association and then a four-year varsity performer at Dobie before a solid two-year run at San Jacinto College, the end could not have been scripted any better.

By her own words, Kristoff had "17 years of giving my all and getting so much more in return. Unforgettable memories,

friendships that will last a lifetime and many life lessons. My love for the

game will never go away but will forever hold a special place in my heart."

The playing careers of many athletes are not well served in just a few brief

paragraphs, but Kristoff did join the Dobie varsity program as a freshman in 2014 and made nine appearances in the circle to get things going.

She went 8-7 as a sophomore in 2015 and set herself up for 27 wins over her final two varsity seasons, pausing long enough to hit .342 as a junior with three home runs.

Kristoff played at San Jacinto College for the 2018 and 2019 seasons, fanning 159 as a freshman and then winning 19 games and pitching six shutouts to go with 168 strikeouts and two no-hitters in 2019.

The 2020 season for Kristoff and the entire sports landscape was a bit of a wash due to the pandemic, but as mentioned above, 2021 was a bit like a dream.

"I don't think any of us knew what to expect (in the postseason) after having a so-so run of things in the regular season, but we just focused on going out there and leaving it all on the field," Kristoff said.

"To win the conference and then follow that up with an Opening Round win and get to the World Series is something none of us will forget. It was a blessing and a privilege

Continued on Page 6



Over 17 years of playing competitive softball, Michelle Kristoff contributed a great deal to the success of many teams, including at the University of Houston-Victoria, where she helped guide the Jaguars to a first-ever National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series appearance in May.

Fall high school sports preseason near

With a great bit of confidence that the plans will hold true, fall athletic programs across the area, including at Dobie, have set forth preseason dates as coaches and athletes look to return to action.

JFD football plans

The Longhorns' annual preseason mandatory parents meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 29, at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium as the coaching staff delivers pertinent informa-

tion heading into the 2021 campaign.

Player orientation follows Friday, July 30, as the coaches meet with returning 10th- through senior-year players at 9 a.m.,

followed by incoming freshmen at 11:30 a.m. Incoming freshman football workouts then start Aug. 2, while returning sophomore, junior varsity and varsity level players will

begin workouts Aug. 9.

Dobie's freshman program will travel to Ridge Point High School Aug. 13 for a scrimmage, and the Longhorns' entire program will scrimmage against Clear Springs Aug. 20 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Dobie tennis starts

The new-look Dobie varsity tennis program will begin preseason workouts July 26 at the school as veteran head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. will look to restock the ladders following 2021 graduation.

The Longhorns, second to District 22-6A champion Deer Park last fall, will take aim at the fall team tennis season beginning July 26 as those expected to contribute at the varsity

Continued on Page 6

Whaley to Pitt softball



Yvonne Whaley has announced via Twitter that she will transfer and play the 2022 season with the University of Pittsburgh softball program. A four time, all district, first team performer and District 22-6A Most Valuable Player as a senior at Dobie, Whaley was a starter for the majority of three seasons at Texas Tech University, hitting .342 this spring in 44 starts. At Pitt, she will have two years of eligibility remaining as the 2020 season was halted due to the pandemic. Whaley is now set to join a Pittsburgh Panther program that is looking to make a big jump in Atlantic Coast Conference action. In the classroom, Whaley is continuing to major in kinesiology.

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Brook football faces challenges ahead as 2021 nears

Continued from Page 5

Clear Springs Chargers
Former Chargers' assistant coach Anthony Renfro is back as the head coach of the program after a short stint as the head man in La Porte, and he now oversees a Clear Springs group rich in tradition but looking to bounce back from a bidistrict loss to Pearland in 2020.

Like Clear Creek, the Chargers, defending champions of District 24-6A, will welcome seven starters on the offensive side of things but have had to in the offseason address a defense with just two players back.

But the offense should score plenty of points, what with 6-foot-5 receiver Noah Thomas, a Texas A&M commit, leading the way after a 40-catch season of more than 800 yards and seven scores as a junior.

For both his production in 2020 and promise for 2021, Thomas is *Dave Campbell's* preseason Offensive Most Valuable Player.

As if Thomas doesn't provide problems on the outside, running Ky Woods is arguably the league's most explosive performer at his spot as well, witness nearly 800 yards rushing and 11

touchdowns as a junior.

Add in sophomore Xai'Shaun Edwards and his 300-plus yards rushing as a freshman, and the Chargers are set in the offensive backfield, with junior Cody Kuhlmann the likely starter at quarterback.

Renfro, who made a name for himself on the defensive side of things while ascending the ranks, no doubt went to work addressing the team's assets and needs upon his arrival.

But lineman Jake Ferree proved to be a game changer in 2020 with 15 tackles for loss and five sacks among 64 tackles, and defensive back Michael McBride logging 91 total tackles, including eight for loss and a pair of interceptions.

Dickinson Gators
At 5-3 overall and 4-1, there are those on the outside looking in that would consider the Dickinson Gators to have a solid season.

Far from it, actually, COVID-19 issues forced the program to endure a three-week break in its schedule early on, and a late-season loss to Clear Springs landed the Gators as a Division I second seed.

From there, a first-round playoff loss to Daw-

son followed as the off-season began a tad early in Dickinson.

Looking ahead to 2021, longtime head coach John Snelson feels as though his program has both the overall skill and depth of talent to win back the District 24-6A championship and, subsequently, what would be the Division I top seeding.

Senior tight end Donovan Green is considered one of the best at his position nationwide. He has verbally committed to Texas A&M University.

Former Dickinson star tight end Jalen Wydermyer is a junior at Texas A&M University and almost certainly will declare for the 2022 NFL Draft, so it's certainly conceivable that Green slots in with the Aggies and keeps the Gator pipeline to College Station flowing.

Dickinson also plans to rely heavily on the guys in the trenches as both P.J. Williams and Micah Barnett are collegiate top targets, and Reggie Sanders offers plenty of speed out of the backfield.

At quarterback, Snelson and his staff will likely decide between Deuce Solomon, a sophomore, or senior Luke Martin.

While six starters return offensively, the Gators

will also lean on returning first team all district performer Layden Roque at linebacker and five other returning starters, including defensive back Kolby Harris.

Clear Falls Knights
The Clear Springs Chargers advanced all the way to the 2020 Region III Division II championship game after finishing third in the District 24-6A ranks and now plan to make a run at that elusive program-first league crown.

In aiming at that top spot, the Knights will lean heavily on the talents of the state's most experienced defense, with 10 starters back on a unit that helped the Knights to an 8-4 overall finish after a 4-2 run in District 24-6A that included losses to Dickinson and Clear Springs.

Knights' linebacker Kannon Garza, the all-time leading tackler in program history, is *Dave Campbell's Texas Football* magazine's choice as Preseason Defensive Most Valuable Player after 98 total tackles in 2020, including seven for loss.

If Garza isn't enough for opposing offenses to be concerned with, the Knights also have Keewan Grismore, he of 86 tackles, including eight for

loss as a junior.

There's also defensive end Brady Crabtree, linebacker Corey Kelly, lineman Serigne Toukara, linebacker Josh Wright and more.

Tristan Zarella was a big contributor at defensive back a season ago but is ticketed for much more play at receiver this season, and the Knights have Luke Vidal and his nine touchdowns back at receiver in the spread offense to go with Max Williams.

Clear Falls' run game should be led by David Smith, and the team is likely to go with any of one or more of three options.

Clear Creek Wildcats
Perhaps the team most in competition for an eventual Division II playoff berth is Clear Creek, which advanced to the postseason in 2020 but now must reload a defense that welcomes back just three starters.

Another hurdle for the Wildcats to overcome will be the loss of a large 40-player senior class from the 2020 squad, which points to youth being served this go-around.

But while the defense returns few, the Clear Creek offense will rely on a slew of returning play-

Dave Campbell's District 24-6A Forecast

Order of Finish

1. Dickinson (DI bracket)
2. Clear Falls (DII bracket)
3. Clear Springs (DI bracket)
4. Clear Creek (DII bracket)
5. Clear Brook
6. Clear Lake
7. Brazoswood

Preseason Offensive MVP

Noah Thomas, WR, Clear Springs

Preseason Defensive MVP

Kannon Garza, LB, Clear Falls

including seven on the defensive side of things.

But it may take more than just veteran talent to break a Brazoswood playoff drought that last saw the program in the 2012 postseason.

Head coach Danny Youngs watched his team go 1-8 overall in 2020, including an 0-6 mark in District 24-6A action.

Given the overall strength of the same playoff front-runners from a year ago, the Bucs will likely find wins hard to come by this season.

Clear Brook Wolverines

2021 Varsity Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 26	Texas City	6 p.m.
Sept. 3	Friendswood	7 p.m.
Sept. 10	at La Porte	7 p.m.
Sept. 17	Fulshear	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	*at Clear Lake	7 p.m.
Oct. 1	*at Clear Falls	7 p.m.
Oct. 8	*Clear Creek	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	*at Brazoswood	7 p.m.
Oct. 29	*Dickinson	7 p.m.
Nov. 5	*at Clear Springs	7 p.m.

*District 24-6A games

Defensive end Vontroy Malone could be a stand-out across the league after a 65-tackle season that included 11 stops for loss and three sacks.

Carlos Cantu is another returnee up front who had another 65 tackles for the Bucs, and defensive back Reid Mitchell is back for his third season at safety.

Moving the football consistently and scoring points may best come down to how well Dijon James, a former linebacker, performs in the role of the Bucs' lead ball carrier this season.

PT school next

Kristoff reflects on journey as softball ends, new goals

Continued from Page 5

to be a part of that. It was certainly a great way to cap my playing career.

"I don't know if any of us are ever prepared for the end because it comes so sudden, but we had a great run."

In the middle of the Jaguars' playoff run, Kristoff graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's in kinesiology, and she is in the process of applying to three-year physical therapy programs.

As a magna cum laude graduate with a 3.69 GPA on a 4.0 scale, Kristoff was also a 2021 CoSIDA Academic All-District 4 NAIA Division first team softball member.

CoSIDA annually recognizes the nation's top student-athletes for their performances both on the fields and in the classroom.

The All-America program, for which Kristoff remains eligible, recognizes NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and NAIA student-athletes.

In addition, Kristoff four times earned dean's list honors and also was on another occasion a member of the President's List at UHV.

She is also a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete and a Red River Athletic

Conference Scholar Athlete.

This summer has been unique to Kristoff in that she hasn't had to travel for summer tournament play, a break she never fully realized how much she would appreciate.

"I don't have the emotional and physical strain of needing to be somewhere every day or being ready to pitch when it's my game," she said.

"That part of it has been nice. For 17 years there hasn't been much of a break to be honest, so this has been nice."

With all of her academic achievements and recommendations that are sure to come when and if needed, Kristoff will have little trouble securing her future professionally.

Softball may be in the rearview mirror for now, but it just may come back. If not, Kristoff will surely find another avenue.

"Softball has provided many opportunities for me, and I am forever grateful for those," Kristoff said. "But I'm excited about new chapters in my life and what they may bring."

So Kristoff has put softball aside for now, but she has set herself up nicely for the next few chapters of her life as they develop this summer and beyond.



A CoSIDA Academic All-District selection out of the NAIA ranks for her successes in the classroom and on the softball field, Michelle Kristoff graduated magna cum laude from the University of Houston-Victoria in May with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and now plans to attend physical therapy school.

Fall sports programs set preseason plans

Continued from Page 5

level will work out from 6 to 8 p.m. through July 29, with another practice coming July 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dobie's 2021 fall team tennis season begins Aug. 2-5 with a trip to Dallas as the Longhorns will face DeSoto, Cedar Hill and Sherman as part of a team-building journey.

The Longhorns then return to the courts Aug. 6, taking on Region III power Dawson in Pearland.

JFD volleyball Aug. 2
The high school volleyball preseason begins Aug. 2 as teams begin workouts, with the regular season getting started Aug. 10.

On opening night, Dobie will host the Baytown Sterling Rangers, with the varsity match at 6 p.m. Clear Brook hosts St. Agnes at 5:30 p.m.



At right, Dobie High School tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. will welcome returning players back for preseason workouts later this month, while the regular season begins Aug. 2 in Dallas.

South Belt area sports camps, sign-ups

Dobie youth volleyball camps

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton will host the Lady Longhorns' youth volleyball camps July 20-22 at the school.

Session I, open to students entering the third through sixth grades as of the 2021-2022 school year, runs from 9 to 11 a.m. each day, while Session II is open to those entering the seventh and eighth grades and runs daily from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The July 26-28 morning session camp runs from 9 a.m. to noon each day and is reserved for those entering the 10th through 12th grades, while incoming freshman students will attend the afternoon session from 1 to 4 p.m.

Those who preregister online may pay \$50 cash on the first day of the camp. For additional details, direct email to Sexton at dsenton@pasadenaisd.org.

SBYSC registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is continuing online registration for the fall 2021 season.

Families may visit the league website at www.southbeltsoccer.org to take advantage of this opportunity. Only credit or debit cards will be accepted as forms of payment. All registered players will receive a uniform, which includes jersey, shorts and socks. Parents will be required to provide shin guards, a ball and cleats.

The discounted fees are \$100 per under-4 through under-8 players, \$120 per under-9 and under-10 players, \$140 per under-11 and under-12 players and \$160 per under-13 through under-19 players.

Those signing up online from July 1 to July 31 will see a \$20 fee increase, which jumps to a \$40 increase for those registering Aug. 1 through Oct. 31.

Brook youth volleyball camp

Clear Brook varsity volleyball head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff will host the 2021 Lady Wolverines' Youth Volleyball Camp July 26-29 at the high

school.

The sessions will welcome all students entering the third through ninth grades as of the 2021-2022 school year.

Session I runs from 9 a.m. to noon at \$100 per student and is open to ninth-grade as well as eighth-grade players with previous competitive play experience, while the \$90 Session II welcomes sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade beginning level players from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Session III is open to third- through fifth-grade students, is \$75 per student and runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Online registration can be found at www.clearbrookvolleyball.org. For more information, direct email to Thompson at mthomps1@ccisd.net.

Wolverines' youth football camp

Clear Brook varsity football head coach John Towles III and his staff will host the 2021 Future Wolverines' Youth Football Camp July 26-28 at the high school.

The sessions will welcome all students entering the fifth through eighth grades as of the 2021-2022 school year.

The all-inclusive session runs from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at \$60 per student. The stated goal of the camp is to provide young athletes an opportunity to improve fundamentals in a fun, exciting and safe environment.

Each athlete will be given the opportunity to learn the basic skills required to be successful in football through position-specific instruction. Staff will also emphasize proper tackling techniques as required by the UIL.

In addition to teaching football skills, the staff will also teach the core values of the Clear Brook Wolverines.

Online registration for the camp is currently being accepted at <https://forms.office.com/r/LDUNGmzx>.

Clear Brook will begin preseason incoming freshman workouts Aug. 2, and varsity and all other subvarsity level workouts begin Aug. 9. The Wolverines open the regular season hosting Texas City Aug. 26.

JFD netters sign letters collegiately

At right, three Dobie High School Class of 2021 graduates and Longhorn varsity boys' basketball players signed letters of intent to continue their education and playing careers collegiately. The signees included, left to right, Kentavious Dixon (Denmark Technical College, Denmark, S.C.); Damian Garcia (Concordia University, Austin, Texas); Dobie varsity boys' basketball head coach Franklin Paul; and Jaylon Jackson-Curvey (Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla.). The trio helped Dobie to a 9-3 second-place finish in District 22-6A play last season.



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NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - now open. Activities scheduled daily. Visit <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/> for face-to-face and virtual games. Email jpochsner@aol.com for more information.

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.

3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Singles Club - monthly dance at 3:30 p.m. at the VFW Lodge Post 6378, 5204 Hwy 3, in Dickinson. All area singles are invited to attend. Bring party snacks to share. Cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For details, call 281-470-2750 or 281-337-3112.

7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night service or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - meets at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JULY 17
7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 18
2 p.m.
Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except

Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Meets at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, JULY 19
10 a.m.

Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for more information or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/>.

6 p.m.
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details.

New Directions Singles - Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Grant at 281-814-4750.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has resumed meeting at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

7 p.m.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For additional information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617.

AA - St. 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 for more additional information.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21
7 p.m.

NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

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THURSDAY, JULY 15
7 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (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/> for more information.

7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays 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 the Chamber of Commerce website under calendar.

Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for additional information. Meets Mondays - Thursdays at noon.

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

FRIDAY, JULY 16
11 a.m.
Genealogy Group - The Parker Williams Genealogy group meets at the library, Beamer at Scarsdale. The public is invited to attend. For additional information, email Liz Hicks at erootrot@usa.net.

Noon
Hometown Heroes - Ballroom dances

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9-9
FOR SALE. One plot at Earthman Resthaven Cemetery on I-45 North. Sec. 5A, Lot 14C, Space 5. Stacking allowed. Value \$4,495, selling for \$3,000. Call 713-991-3679. 7-22

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Houston Police area PIP meetings continue

Continued from Page 1
 police department before a crime occurred in their neighborhood. From this idea came the concept of the Positive Interaction Program, or PIP.
 A police agency can be very confusing to most citizens. The Positive Interaction Program holds monthly PIP meetings featuring speakers from different divisions (Burglary and Theft, Homicide, K-9, Helicopters, etc.) explaining how their division operates. This is done so citizens will know what to expect, should they ever need the police. The de-

partment was not sure how citizens would react to coming to a police station once a month for a presentation on a different division. So, the Positive Interaction Program was started as a pilot project in only one police station. The program has proven to be an overwhelming success, with 30 PIP groups now holding monthly meetings. The Clear Lake Division, which encompasses the South Belt community, holds its meetings the third Tuesday of the month.
 For a full list of PIP meetings, visit www.houstontx.gov/pip/divisional.htm.

Chief's Citywide PIP
 There is also a monthly Chief's Citywide PIP meeting held downtown at 1602 State Street the second Tuesday of each month.
 The meetings will feature a presentation from a different police division or law enforcement agency each month. One may hear what a judge, district attorney, state prison warden or a county boot camp director has to say about what they are doing to fight crime.
 Residents will get a chance to meet the officers who patrol their neighborhood and get to know them on a first name basis. One can even hear from the captain of their sub-station.
 Each month a different person is chosen to ride with a police officer on an actual tour of duty. At the next month's meeting, attendees will get to hear from the "citizen-rookie" about his or her experience.
 Crime statistics are given out at the end of each monthly meeting.
 There are several categories of crimes listed, each including the date, time, block address and type of location where the crime occurred. The crime statistics are also available on the internet.
 After each formal meeting, a second, informal meeting is held (usually with refreshments). PIP attendees will have an opportunity to talk to other citizens who attended the meeting and may find they have a lot in common and even exchange ideas on how to help solve one's neighborhood problems.
 Lots of other things happen at PIP meetings: citizens give crime tips, members may collect food for the hungry in their community or raise money for scholarships, the PIP group may honor an officer for outstanding work in the area, and being invited to a meeting with the chief is not uncommon. One must be a member of a division PIP group to be eligible to attend the Citywide PIP meeting.
Interpretation, captioning
 The Chief's Citywide PIP meeting is streamed live with sign language interpretation on HPD's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/houstonpolice. Real-time captions are available at: www.streamtext.net/player?event=CitywidePIP.
 For more information, contact Citywide PIP Coordinator, Officer James Sobota, at 713-

308-9079 or James.Sobota@houstonpolice.org.
PIP growth
 Since the pilot program of PIP in 1983 at one sub-station, it has grown considerably.
 There are now 30 PIP groups that meet every month throughout the city. Not all are civic association PIPs. There are now apartment, business and school PIPs. There is even a PIP for the deaf and hard of hearing. Some PIP groups meet during lunch, some at night, and one even has a breakfast meeting. All have the same purpose: to learn more about their police department.
Statement of purpose
 The education of the citizens of Houston on how their police department functions is essential to the PIP program. Once a citizen understands how the police department does its job, that citizen can better relay to the police department their neighborhood needs.
 The free flow of information and ideas gives both parties a better understanding of each other's needs and expectations. This fosters trust and friendship between citizens and the police department that serves them. Cooperation between the Houston Police Department and the citizens is imperative in the reduction of crime and enhancing the overall quality of life in their neighborhoods.
 For additional information on HPD's Positive Interaction Program, visit www.houstontx.gov/pip.

CCISD teachers named top educators



Shown is Lisa Prekosovich from Falcon Pass Elementary. Shown is Andrea Newby from Bayside Intermediate.

Two Clear Creek ISD teachers are in the running to be named as top educators in the region.
 Lisa Prekosovich from Falcon Pass Elementary and Andrea Newby from Bayside Intermediate were selected as the elementary and secondary finalists in Region 4's Teachers of the Year program.
 They are amongst the top five nominees chosen in each

category for serving and modeling instruction excellence.
 "We are proud to have both of these exceptional educators represent Clear Creek ISD at the regional level," said Dr. Eric Williams, superintendent. "They reflect the hard work and heart of all CCISD teachers, especially in this most challenging year."
 As a second-grade teacher, Prekosovich incorporates character education into her classroom by encouraging intentional discussions with her students and building aware-

ness of the needs of others. Prekosovich has been with CCISD for 24 years.
 Newby, who has been with the district the past three years, is an advocate for immersive, hands-on learning experiences and created a marine science elective for students in eighth grade.
 The two regional winners will be announced on Aug. 16. The sole finalists for each category will move on to the Texas Teacher of the Year selection process facilitated by the Texas Association of School Administrators.

Man in wrecker steals converters

Continued from Page 1
 bly be back."

Anyone with any information on these cases is urged to contact the Precinct 2 Constable's office at 713-477-2766.

Theft prevention tips

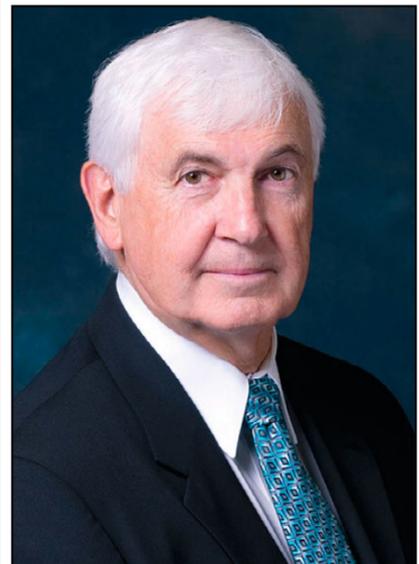
Catalytic converter theft has become a growing problem nationwide. Thefts of the converters in Houston so far in 2021 have increased by 300 percent compared to the same time period last year. The converters contain precious metals and can be stolen from a vehicle in less than two minutes.
 While any vehicle with a catalytic converter is susceptible, there are six models of vehicles most often targeted:

- Toyota Tundra.
 - Toyota Prius.
 - Toyota Tacoma.
 - Ford F-250.
 - Honda Element and CRV.
- Sgt. Tracy Hicks of the Houston Police Department Auto Theft Division said that while that such thefts take place at all times, daytime incidents are surprisingly more

common.
 "Thefts are happening day and night, but most seem to happen during the day in crowded parking lots with lots of noise to cover up the noise of removal of the converters," said Hicks.
 Victims are often shocked when told the cost of replacing a stolen converter.
 Repairs can cost anywhere from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for some vehicles, some of which have as many as four catalytic converters.
 Due to the rise in converter thefts across the country, back order on these parts can be more than three months.
 Residents are urged to follow these prevention tips to help lessen chances of becoming a victim of such a theft.

- Install a skid plate or large cover to the bottom of one's vehicle.
- Upgrade car alarms to activate when the vehicle is jacked up on one side.
- Use aftermarket products like straps or wire cages that make it more difficult for the converter to be cut off.
- To view Hicks demonstrate visit the Houston Police Department's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTaS4IL0pWw.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Use garages when possible.
- Etching one's VIN or license plate into converters.
- Use bright high-temp paint (lets police know converter has been marked).

Kendrick named president



Pasadena ISD elected its board of trustees officers for the 2021-2022 school year. Marshall Kendrick, shown above, was named president. The board positions for the rest are Vickie Morgan, vice president; Kenny Fernandez, secretary; Nelda Sullivan, assistant secretary; Crystal Davila, member; Paola Gonzalez Fusilier, member; and Casey Phelan, member.

Bui named principal

Continued from Page 1
 in the education field. In 2001, I made a very tough decision to leave medical school and entered the master's program at Trinity University, in which I was able to serve as a teacher intern for a full school year. I found my passion in education. I was able to work with kids, build long-term relationships with them and share my experience and love for science. And I was having fun while doing it."

While he has no children of his own, Bui is a licensed foster parent and has fostered a total of seven children. Bui said he has built strong bonds with the South Belt communi-

ty during his time at Melillo.
 "In my 13 years as assistant principal at Melillo Middle School, I believe that I have built strong relationships with the families in the South Belt community."
 Bui looks forward to serving in his new position of principal at Atkinson.
 "I want Atkinson Elementary to continue to be a safe learning community for our students, staff and their families," said Bui. "I am excited about joining the Atkinson family and look forward to meeting all of the students and parents during our various school family events in this upcoming school year."

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