



South Belt-Ellington Leader

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Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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COVID numbers decrease

While the overall number of local COVID-19 cases has remained roughly stagnant compared to the previous week, the number of reported cases in ZIP Code 77089 has reduced sharply this past week.

Additionally, the number of individuals throughout Harris County who have recovered from the coronavirus has also increased significantly during the same time period.

As of Wednesday, Aug. 19, ZIP code 77089 had 1,076 confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to Harris County Public Health officials. That figure is 65 higher than the 1,011 count reported on Wednesday, Aug. 12.

In ZIP code 77075, county officials are now reporting 1,029 known cases. This number is 80 higher than the 949 cases reported the previous week.

County officials are now reporting 1,147 cases in ZIP code 77034, up 107 cases from last week.

In all, there are currently 93,872 known cases in Harris County, an increase of 6,367 from last week. Of those, 28,074 remain active, down 8,039 from last week. A total of 64,723 have recovered from the virus in the county, an increase of 14,258 from the previous week. To date, 1,073 have died from COVID-19, up 148 from last week.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus. (See related chart this page.)

Construction on Highway 3

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on Highway 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed from Clear Creek/Harris-Galveston county line to Alameda Genoa Road daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday, Aug. 31.

At least southbound lane on Highway 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed at Winkler daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, Aug. 30.

Graduation issues available

Extra copies of the *Leader's* high school graduation issue, published on Aug. 6, are available at the newspaper office, 11555 Beamer.

The special edition includes graduation information for Dobie, South Houston, CTHS, and Pasadena Memorial high schools.

Beltway closures planned

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. through Thursday, Sept. 3.

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

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from San Augustine to Red Bluff continuously through 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

At least one lane of the northbound and southbound entrance ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 and exit ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

Two alternate lanes on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least one alternate main lane and one frontage road lane on both the northbound and southbound sides of the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, Sept. 30.

There will be a total closure at the southbound IH 610 connector ramp at the Gulf Freeway through 5 a.m. Monday, Sept. 28.

The northbound connector ramp from the Gulf Freeway to the IH 610 South Loop, along with one inside lane, will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

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

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

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

10 years later, charter school still not open

Under planning and construction for 10 years, work on the new charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision has once again come to a standstill, frustrating many residents that have long opposed the project. (See related editorial, Page 2.)

Located on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the property is set to house the Elite College Prep Academy - Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy.

At press time, it was unclear why construction was halted, as multiple calls from the *Leader* to both the school and its attorneys went unanswered. The campus has been dormant, how-

ever, for several months - well before the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Contract disputes have been cited multiple times for work delays. The validity of these claims is suspect, however, as the local campus has been the target of multiple criminal investigations. Court records further indicate the school has been the target of multiple civil suits for lack of payment.

In April 2019, the former head of the school, along with another employee, were indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing

hundreds of thousands of dollars from the campus.

Former Houston Gateway Academy Superintendent Richard Garza was charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, three counts of wire fraud and two counts of engaging in monetary transactions involving criminally acquired property.

Houston Gateway Academy IT specialist Ahmad Bokaiyan faced one count of conspiracy and three counts of wire fraud.

The pair were accused of stealing more than

\$250,000. According to investigators, Garza awarded a \$280,841.85 no-bid contract in 2014 to a company owned by Bokaiyan called Hot Rod Systems to build an IT system at the new campus, even though construction at the school had yet to begin. Bokaiyan then allegedly wired \$164,381 into Garza's personal bank account.

Investigators alleged that Garza used these funds to purchase a condominium and a vehicle and pay toward a home loan.

At the time of the indictments, it was reported that both suspects were fugitives from the law. **Continued on Page 4**

Riverstone school 10 years later . . .



After years of on-again, off-again construction, the planned Houston Gateway Academy again has apparently been abandoned by workers and spokespersons. The project has resorted to radio silence. The *Leader* has requested Texas Rep. Dennis Paul check into the project. *Photos by Marie Flickinger*



BAHEP features ISD superintendents

Superintendents from five local school districts convened Thursday, Aug. 13, for a virtual meeting hosted by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership to address the reopening of area schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Titled "Reopening Our Schools: the Issues, the Options and the Decisions," the meeting featured Dr. DeeAnn Powell, superintendent, Pasadena ISD; Dr. Greg Smith, superintendent, Clear Creek ISD; Carla Voelkel, superintendent, Dickinson ISD; Dr. Walter Jackson, superintendent, La Porte ISD; and Thad Roher, superintendent, Friendswood ISD.

Pasadena ISD's Powell reported that Pasadena ISD has an enrollment of 53,000 students with 8,500 employees. Pasadena ISD serves most of Pasadena, all of South Houston, the South Belt part of Houston and a small part of Pearland. Through surveys, Pasadena ISD found that 65 percent of parents feel more comfortable with online learning, with the remaining 35 percent choosing

face-to-face instruction. All students began virtual instruction on Aug. 18. Pasadena ISD's goal is to resume face-to-face instruction on Sept. 8.

"We have safety plans just like everyone else, which are on Pasadena ISD's website," Powell said. "It keeps changing, improving and evolving, as we get more guidance and information. We, of course, will be requiring masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer. There have been all kinds of purchases that have been made. Our budgets have been hit hard by COVID. The board was very generous and purchased over \$4 million in computers. We're a one-to-one district now pre-K through 12, and that wasn't the case when we left on March 6. We are working hard to get ready for our students. Our staff came back on Aug. 10, and we're working to make sure that safety is priority number one just like it is for everyone." **Continued on Page 8**

PISD opens Aug. 18; CCISD Aug. 24

Pasadena ISD students returned to school Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, all students will study virtually from home through Sept. 8. At that time, all students who have opted for in-person instruction will return to their home campuses, while all others will continue to study from home.

All students have been provided electronic devices on which to complete their assignments.

Even though students are distance-learning, they will be required to participate in live-time and complete all assignments in a timely manner.

Meals will continue to be provided to students until further notice.

For additional information, visit www.pasadenaisd.org.

Clear Creek ISD
Clear Creek ISD will start the following week on Monday, Aug. 24. Like Pasadena ISD, Clear Creek will also begin with virtual-learning only.

For students who selected in-person instruction, the school district will begin in-person studies Aug. 31, with pupils being phased in through Sept. 14.

Clear Creek ISD also plans to provide meals to students who choose to study from home.

For additional information, visit www.ccisd.net. See related back-to-school BAHEP story on this page.

City addresses health risks for homeless

The City of Houston is addressing public health risks associated with homeless encampments during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Sylvester Turner announced Thursday, Aug. 13, during a tour of a cleanups along the Gulf Freeway.

The South Belt area has been a hot spot for such encampments, located primarily near the intersection of the Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8. Other concentrations can be found near the Edgebrook, Fuqua and Scarsdale intersections on the Gulf Freeway.

Council Member Robert Gallegos, Solid Waste director Harry Hayes and Marc Eichenbaum, director of the mayor's homeless initiatives, joined the mayor to observe workers collect and remove trash from the area underpasses. **Continued on Page 4**

Since April, the Solid Waste Management Division has worked with city council members and community groups to identify locations and conduct weekly debris removal of more than 70 sites around freeway underpasses and other infrastructure.

On June 17, City Council approved the purchase of special COVID cleaning equipment, including six pickup trucks/trailer combinations and two rear loaders for heavy material. The COVID-19 cleaning consists of removing trash, shopping carts and abandoned furniture and power washing areas, to protect the community's health and safety.

The mayor stressed that all COVID-19 cleanups follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

2-year Beamer ditch project announced

Harris County Flood Control District officials held a virtual meeting Tuesday, Aug. 18, to update the community on the status of the long-awaited Clear Creek project.

Aimed at increasing storage capacity and alleviating area flooding, the Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Management Project will eventually make channel improvements from Highway 288 to Galveston Bay.

Partners include HCFC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston County, Brazoria County, the City of Houston and the City of Pearland.

Tuesday's meeting focused on the local portion of the endeavor, which is referred to as the

Mud Gully Channel Conveyance Improvement Project.

Also called the Beamer Ditch Project and C-03, the Mud Gully project will extend existing concrete channel lining approximately 4,200 feet (0.8 mile) downstream along Beamer Ditch, from Sagerock Drive to Beamer Road, near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin.

Work will be divided into three phases. Phase 1 will run from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 will run from Scarsdale to Astoria; and Phase 3 will run from Astoria to Beamer near Dixie Farm Road. **Continued on Page 2**

Jones reflects on SJC South career

By Jay Do
San Jacinto College's South campus provost will be retiring Aug. 31. The staff bids farewell to a longtime member of its Strategic Leadership Team as Dr. Brenda Jones steps down from her post as provost and into retirement.

A lifelong Houstonian, Jones earned an associate of art, associate of applied science and an Associate of Science from Lee College, before attaining a Bachelor of Science in business administration and management and a Master of Science in educational administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Jones went on to pursue her doctorate in educational human resource development from Texas A&M University.

An experienced educational leader, Jones served community colleges for more than 17 years.

Prior to her tenure as provost, she served as program coordinator for the central campus continuing and professional development division and as an adjunct business professor. She joined the south

campus in 2010 as the dean of business and technology, and was named its interim vice president for learning in 2012. After an extensive college-wide administrative reorganization and an exhaustive nationwide search, Jones was named one of three campus provosts.

Jones took on an incredibly active role as one of the south campus' three provosts.

Together with her colleagues, Jones' first major change was the restructuring of the departmental chair roles at the college that has yielded tremendous results in providing the faculty with the full-time support that they require.

Jones has also been heavily involved in various bond building initiatives, aimed at developing and strengthening the college's relationship with the communities that it serves.

"As a result of these initiatives and the overwhelming support of our community, we've been able to deliver some phenomenal buildings such as **Continued on Page 8**

South Belt post office problems not new

While disruptions in the U.S. Postal Service have been making national headlines recently as it pertains to mail-in elections, the complaints are nothing new to South Belt residents who have been experiencing issues for years.

Problems with local USPS delays date back to at least 2015.

Sagemeadow resident Sandra Yandell is one of many in the area who has been raising the issue about poor postal service for several years.

As a local real estate agent, Yandell relies heavily on her mail, and irregular service can have a negative impact on her business.

"I've lived in the same house for 40+ years, and I've never had a problem until about six

months ago," Yandell told the *Leader* in a 2016 interview. "Some days it will come at 7 a.m., and some days it won't come until 9 or 10 p.m. Some days it doesn't come at all."

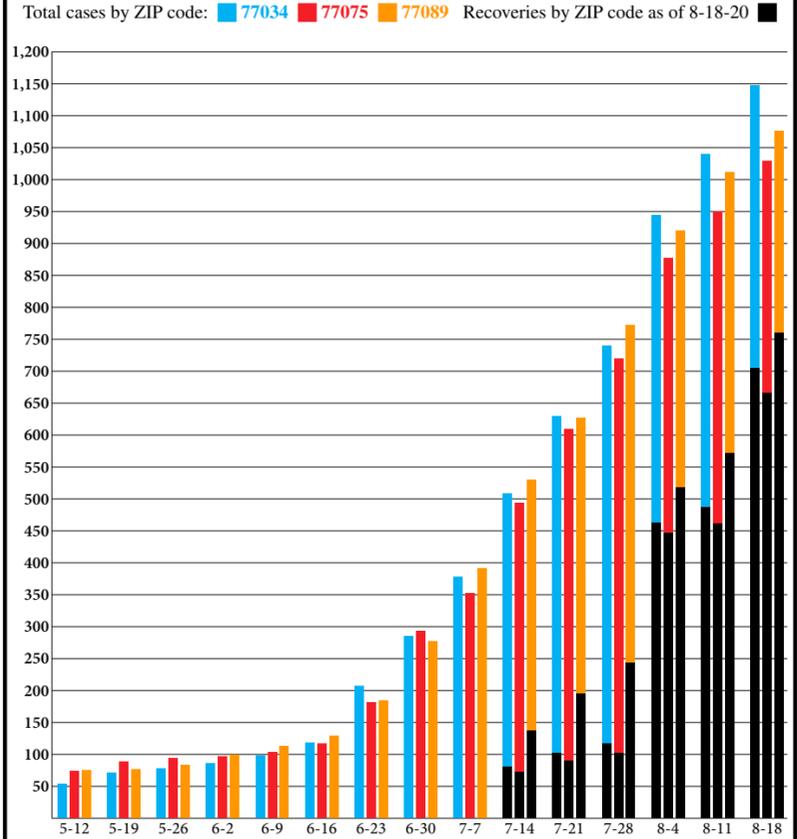
Frustrated with her substandard mail service, Yandell staged a one-woman sit-in at the U.S. Post Office branch on Alameda Genoa near Windmill Lakes in January 2016.

Yandell jokingly compared the incident to a similar protest she staged in the 1960s.

"It did about as much good as when I sat in against the Vietnam War," Yandell said. "Both times were unsuccessful."

Yandell is not alone, however, as fellow real **Continued on Page 2**

Area ZIPs see COVID improvement



Publisher's Opinion

It is way past time!

It is understandable that when businesses, governmental agencies, etc., have problems, beyond their control, you must be a bit patient while a solution gets worked out. (See related story, Page 1.)

But it is way past time to be patient with those responsible for building the school in Riverstone. It was 10 years ago the Clear Brook City MUD was contacted by the school with their idea of building the facility.

I understand they have had lawsuits with contractors and employees have been accused of taking funds, but guys, it has been 10 years. Come on. You have other schools, in good standing with the community, but you have blown it with this school and this community.

Not only is the school not getting built, you have gone to radio silence with the community.

I have personally called your office at least 30 times; I have called the attorney, Bob Wynne at 281-813-8959 (who you told me was in charge of all communication) at least 10 times. Never have gotten a return call or any response.

You owe the community which you have trashed with your half-built facility some kind of explanation. In fact you owe the community much more than that; you

should either complete the facility, or maybe we will all be better off if you just tear it down and resell the property!

One of last year's contractors was seen just covering up the walls that had mold on them. In other words, instead of cleaning off the mold, it was just covered up.

What parent in their right mind is going to want their kids going to a school that has mold hidden inside the walls? When it was pointed out that this should have never been done, the contractor continued the harmful process.

I do believe, in the long run, the best thing to do is to tear down the facility.

But at a minimum, you should be communicating with the community. Not only are you doing the local paper that way, you are treating others, including the local HOA the same way.

That is why I have asked for assistance from Rep. Dennis Paul.

As a charter school, you are under the jurisdiction of the state TEA. I am sure they have no idea what a bad job you are doing. It is time they find out.

It is time you do the right thing for this community. In fact it is way past time — about eight years past time.

Marie Flickinger, publisher

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Branch Library is located at 9002 Kingspoint. The phones are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 7 p.m., at 832-393-2580 for information.

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation administration at 832-393-2222. All overdue fines/fees will be waived through Jan. 1, 2021.

To use HPL To Go:

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

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

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

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

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, Wi-Fi service is still available by coming to the library standing/sitting within six feet of the building. A password is not needed. Go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi and connect to HPL — Public.

HPL appreciates book donations, but is not accepting them at this time. The library staff requests that donations do not get placed outside library buildings, or at the book drops.

Visit www.houstonlibrary.org to find virtual programs and digital resources including e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming music and videos, online learning, online tutoring, how to chat with a librarian 24/7 and much more.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Although Harris County Public Library locations remain closed to the public, updates are found on the website.

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. The library social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. Call 832-927-7870 for additional information.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up" is up and running!

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pick-up, call 832-927-7870.
- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
- A pick-up time and instructions will be given.
- Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Curbside hours are: Monday — Thursday, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 p.m. — 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

- Harris County Public Library will continue to offer a wide array of online services:
- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check your account to renew loans or request books.
- e-Books, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive.
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

Parker Williams schedule of events this week

Thursday, Aug. 20, at 10:30 a.m. Toddler Time Out. Are patrons ready for a time out? Not the bad kind, but a moment to enjoy a book and some activities with John Harbaugh. Join the library virtually for the family fun on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Friday, Aug. 21, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez as the library tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Residents will be needing pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Friday, Aug. 21, 5 p.m. Is it wrong to watch so much anime? Join Jason Cruz and John Harbaugh as they talk about the wrap-up of the summer anime season. Find out their thoughts. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Saturday, Aug. 22. Virtual Photo Club. This month's photo challenge is "Abstract." Residents are encouraged to go close in with their photo shots and post them online with the tag #HCPLphotoclub for a chance to be featured on the library's social media accounts: Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Aug. 25, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on social media.

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 4:30 p.m., ages 4 — 12 Yoga Story Time. A peaceful time for children to learn mindfulness through story, song, breathing and light movement virtually with Celeste Plew. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 1 p.m. Spanish Storytime with Jason Cruz. A different story will be available at 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 3:30 p.m. Ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Email tanner.adams@hcpl.net for information.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca
A member of People of Sagemont 2 Facebook group posted a video of two suspects that stole items from inside the member's vehicle. The incident happened Wednesday, Aug. 12, on Sagedowne Lane. The member states that she forgot to lock her vehicle. This was cited as the reason the suspects were able to get in her vehicle easily.

Another member on the same Facebook page posted a suggestion to the community, due to many posts in the community that vehicles are being broken into. The member states that they set an alarm in the evening and when it goes off to use it as a reminder to make sure one's vehicle is locked and one should keep it as a daily reminder. The member understands that sometimes one forgets when one gets home, but with the reminder before going to bed it avoids easy access into the vehicle.

On the same Facebook group another member posted a video footage, to see if anyone recognizes the suspects in the video. The incident happened Sunday, Aug. 16, at 11:30 p.m., in the Wood Meadows neighborhood. The member states that one of their vehicles was left unlocked and the suspect was able to get in. The only thing taken was a debit card and a member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group posted photos of an individual that is scamming people in the area. The per-

Marjorie Beth Moore



Marjorie Beth Moore, 87, died peacefully Monday, Aug. 3, 2020. She was born Nov. 23, 1932, in Houston to Robert and Matilda Phillips.

She had been a member of the United Genoa Methodist Church since Jan. 2, 1944. She graduated from Pasadena High School in 1951, and then met the love of her life, John Alvin Moore, whom she married April 7, 1951. The couple had three children, Debra, Gary and John, to whom Marjorie was devoted and her every thought was always centered around her family.

Marjorie was blessed to have found her soul mate in her husband in such a way that some would call fate. It was at the downtown Houston bus stop waiting to travel to the Ellington Field stop, when they met and their journey officially began. John kept a conversation with Marjorie for the entirety of the ride, holding her back delicately as the bus took off. Following those conversations John walked Marjorie home. Later on as they sat on the porch swing, John had a certain feeling within himself that this would soon be more. Moments after, he asked for her telephone number, without knowing that decision would change their fate forever.

Marjorie, also known as Nana, had her playful side. The immense amount of joy and love her grandchildren brought her created valuable memories for everyone she embraced, such as gathering the children around to play on the floor. Due to the great depths of her heart and the desire to please the ones she cared for, Marjorie never missed an opportunity to have loved ones visit.

Marjorie was a loving, generous and gracious woman. She had a way of making everyone who walked through her door feel loved. She had open arms for any member of the family, regardless of the circumstance.

Marjorie found the good in every human; her heart held no judgment. She was tender, yet lively; her youthful side allowed the people closest to her, such as her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to view her as not only a mother figure but also a friend. They will always treasure her deeply in their hearts.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Geraldine Collins. She is survived by her sister Rose Mary Brightwell; her husband Debra Jean Waters and husband Keith; son Gary Wayne Moore and wife Brenda and son John Alan Moore and his wife Genie. She is survived by six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life was held Tuesday, Aug. 11, at South Park Funeral Home in Pearland. Interment followed at South Park Memorial Park.

Orvilla Irene Sherer



Orvilla Irene Sherer (nee Keller) died peacefully Aug. 5, 2020, in Houston.

She was born in Centre, Kan. on Jan. 23, 1944, to Emma (nee Keller) and Barney Brock. She was a caring mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She enjoyed spending time with her two sons and their families. She valued family; she made annual trips to visit her family in Kansas during which time she would spend the week visiting with relatives, shopping, and playing (and winning) the family's favorite card game. She was a relentless card player, "deal" finder and a creative crafter.

She was known as "Mawmaw" by her grandchildren and doted on them often. She left all knowing the value of a hand-written thank-you note and the importance of bringing a homemade dish to a gathering.

She was also a dedicated employee and worked

Deaths

at GB Tech and Lockheed Martin in the engineering lab for most of her career. She enjoyed her work and the meaningful contributions she made to aeronautic engineering. She worked full time, even while undergoing chemotherapy and a variety of other health struggles, until her retirement.

Orvilla was preceded in death by her parents, brother Melvin Porter and nephew Kelly Porter.

Orvilla is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, David and Shellie Sherer of Friendswood; son and daughter-in-law Wesley and Keri Sherer of Friendswood; grandchildren Krista and (Adam) Kelley, Korie Sherer (Matt Jones), Brianna Sherer, Brice Sherer, Lexi Sherer, Cymon Sherer, and Griffin Sherer; and great-grandchildren Emma and Landon Kelley.

She will be greatly missed by her siblings Marian (Vernon) McCauley, Debra Brock, Larry (Teresa) Brock and Kevin Brock (Diane Glenn); and sister-in-law Schenena Porter. She is also survived by her aunts Eva Carnegie, Elveta Keller and Edweena (Ron) Warford and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; love leaves a memory no one can steal." - Anonymous

Barbara Ruth Monfort



Barbara Ruth Monfort, 88, died July 25, 2020. She was a 52-year resident of Sagemont. Born Nov. 15, 1931, in Houston, she was the daughter of the late George H. Cunningham and Loraine (Helton) Cunningham. She graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School.

After 24 years at American Flow Measurement Co., she retired in 1994. She en-

joyed traveling and spending time at their beach home in Galveston with some of her most rewarding times volunteering more than 32 years at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital.

Preceding Barbara in death was her beloved husband of 43 years Armand L. Monfort; son Kenneth Monfort; infant grandson Jacob Monfort; and sister and brother-in-law Doris and Bill Carmical.

Those left to mourn her passing are her daughter Karen Kerr and husband Michael; son Kevin Monfort and wife Dorothy Barnett; grandson Marcus Bishop and wife Krista; granddaughters Jennifer Gottselig and husband Christopher, Julia McCord and Kimberly Monfort; daughter-in-law Terri Monfort; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Barbara was a devout Christian and a member of South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena. Services were held at Forest Park Lawn-dale Funeral Home, Saturday, Aug. 8.

N.K. Shankar



N.K. Shankar was taken home by his Lord and Savior Aug. 11, 2020. He was born in Kolar, Bangalore, India, May 24, 1931, to Dr. N. Krishna Rao and mother Sitamma. As a young man, he attended college where he obtained an electrical engineering degree at an early age. This accomplishment was followed by studying at the University of Rochester for graduate studies in physics which brought him to the U.S. from India. While at U of R, he met his wonderful, adoring and loving bride-to-be who became his wife of almost 56 years, Diana R. Shankar. After his studies, he pursued a career in optics at Bausch and Lomb. In 1967, N.K. moved to Houston where he worked as an optic engineer on the Apollo Missions at NASA until 1972. One of his many accomplishments included being the lead scientist during the solar eclipse of 1972. His career path then took him into the petrochemical industry where he worked in various positions at DOW Chemical, Bechtel and, finally, with M.W. Kellogg where he ended his career as the global project manager in the FCC Group.

N.K. will be forever remembered as a kind, gentle, loving, and dedicated husband, father and friend. His dedication to his family, friends and work were impeccable and his accomplishments are too many to mention. His love for the Lord was beyond measure and he made sure to vocalize the word of God continuously to whomever he met. His unfettered love for Christ permeated throughout his words and actions. His continual pursuit of biblical knowledge was carried out every day with reading biblical literature and books until his death. He pursued his faith with perseverance and love for the Lord. His love for his family and friends were demonstrated by his faith.

He is survived by his loving wife, Diana R. Shankar; daughter Sheela Sledge and

son-in-law Stephen Sledge; grandchildren Tyler, Hayley and Ashley Sledge; his second daughter Sharon McCaskill and son-in-law Greg McCaskill and grandchildren Kason, Maxwell, Kirby, and Garrett McCaskill. He is also survived by his son Sunjay C. Shankar and daughter-in-law Gera Shankar and grandchildren Gavyn and Gracey Jo Shankar; his surviving sister Kantha and her late husband Judge R.N. Murthy; and his sister-in-law Lakshmi Rao.

In addition, he is survived by his niece Dr. Poorinma and husband Matt Krishnan; cousins Dr. Prabhu and Dr. Umma Prabhakar Rao, Dr. Suresh Rao, Ramesh Rao, Radhakrishna and Dr. Vijaya Radhakrishna, Nagesh and Padma Radhakrishna and Dr. Viswanath and Dr. Prem.

Our warm felt gratitude for Dr. Ramesh Patel, cardiologist who lovingly gave N.K. professional care over the many years. N.K. truly adored and cherished their friendship and considered him as family.

He also had many close friends who were considered family, especially Ganesan and Janaki Iyer along with their children Dr. Nick Iyer, Padma and Ramesh Iyer and families.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21, 2020, at Niday Funeral Home, with visitation one hour prior.

Interment will follow at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Theodora Marlene Cook



Theodora (Teddi) Marlene Cook was called home by Jesus Aug. 15, 2020. She was born Nov. 14, 1955, in Chicago, Ill., and moved to Texas as a child. Teddi was one of 8 girls born to Ted and Birdy Cook.

Teddi was a nurse for more than 30 years, serving as an LVN and earned her RN in 2006. She spent her career as a nurse and caregiver at various hospitals and other facilities throughout Houston. She was a resident of the South Belt area for many years. Teddi was a devoted mother, granny and nurse.

Teddi was preceded in death by her father Ted Cook and mother Birdy Cook; sisters Diane Wyrick, Judy Jackson, Lorrie Jones and Billie Cook. She is survived by her daughter Nikki Baker; son Ted Baker and wife Ashley; grandchildren Tyler Arcozo, Alexis Shedlock, Jacob Linkey, Colton and Ethan Baker; as well as her sisters Treva Dean and Betty Burson. Teddi is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at Niday Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions in Teddi's name to the COPD Foundation at copdfoundation.org or a local ASPCA.

Kim I.

McCandless

Kim I. McCandless, 65, died Aug. 10, 2020. He was born Dec. 19, 1954. His greatest passions were spending time with his grandchild-



dren, motorcycling, fishing, photography and astronomy.

He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years Johelen daughters Heidi Delk and husband Chanley of Midland and Elizabeth Kinnean and husband Eric of Dickinson; and grandchildren Toby Delk, Mason Delk, Lauren Welsh, Jordan Kinnean and Zaden Kinnean.

Friends were cordially invited to the viewing and visitation with family members Tuesday, Aug. 18, at 9 a.m., with a memorial service following at the Jeter Memorial Funeral Home, 311 North Friendswood Drive in Friendswood, with the Rev. Mike McVey officiating.

Condolences may be sent to the McCandless family in care of Jeter Memorial Funeral Home at www.jeterfuneralhome.com.

Catherine (Kitty) Averitt



Catherine (Kitty) Averitt, 88, died peacefully at home Aug. 8, 2020.

A longtime South Belt resident, she was well-known in the local Girl Scout community as a troop leader, cookie chairman, mentor, song leader, rope maker and expert campfire builder. Generations of girls in the South Belt area made new friends and kept the old as a result of time spent in her Girl Scout troops.

Born in Talladega, Ala., to parents Horace and Clara Bell Tucker, Kitty worked as an eye-surgery nurse in Florida and Texas. It was during her training at St. Joseph's Hospital in downtown Houston that young Charlie Averitt came into the emergency room for treatment from a fishing accident and was immediately captivated by the young nurse. Kitty and Charlie married in 1953 and made their home in South Belt, where they raised their daughters.

Kitty was so famous for her cooking that her recipes now all bear her name: Kitty's Brownies, Kitty's Coconut Cake and Kitty's Dressing. Her cooking was legendary, and all manner of people and pets were the happy recipients.

She was preceded in death by her parents and younger brother Larry Tucker, all of Pensacola, Fla.; and her husband. She is survived by her sister Callie Bonifay of Pensacola; daughters Kim Averitt of Houston; Caren Hansen and husband Gary of San Jose, Calif.; and granddaughter Emily Averitt-Cleveland of Houston.

Those wishing to honor Kitty's legacy of service to others are invited to make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association at Kitty's Memorial Tribute page at <http://act.alz.org/goto/kitty>.

Ditch undergoes 2 year improvement

Continued from Page 1

Construction is expected to take approximately 615 days, taking place from winter 2020 to fall 2022. Phase 1 construction is set to go from winter 2020 to fall 2021; Phase 2 construction will take place from fall 2021 to spring 2022; and Phase 3 construction will continue from spring 2022

to fall 2022.

Cost is expected be around \$10.7 million, which is to be shared approximately 50/50 by the Flood Control District and the Corps of Engineers.

Public input and comments on the project will be accepted through Sept. 5. To submit a comment, visit publicinput.com/MudGully

or call 855-925-2801 and use Meeting Code 9734.

For additional information on the Mud Gully Project or to view a video of Tuesday's meeting, visit www.hcfd.org/Find-Your-Watershed/Clear-Creek/DC-03-Mud-Gully-Beamer-Ditch.

See next week's *Leader* for additional information.

Post office problems longtime issue

Continued from Page 1

estate agent Troy Leland has also experienced problems for years. "You never know when it's going to come," Leland told the *Leader* in February 2018. "And when it does, it's often after dark."

Also a Sagemeadow resident, Leland and approximately 50 of his neighbors filed a

petition with the postal service to make a formal complaint. Again, however, his efforts proved fruitless. "It's still erratic," Leland said at the time.

The *Leader* reached out to the Windmill Lakes USPS branch for comment and was told by officials that recent delays were not attributed to the local post office but rather the

primary sorting hub.

Post office officials further said the Windmill Lakes branch is currently part of a pilot program to evaluate the office's efficiency.

At press time, the four-week program had completed its third week. USPS officials would not elaborate on the details of the pilot program.

Learn self-defense!

In light of recent multiple muggings and assaults in the South Belt area, free online classes of self-defense are being taught by the American Society of Karate for teens and adults (ages 13-80).

These classes are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the comfort of one's home. No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. To preregister, visit <https://ring.centr.al/2XpnhWj> and fill out a short form. For details or additional information on martial arts classes, visit www.AskKarate.com, email Online@AskKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Chamber meets virtually

On Thursday, Aug. 20, at 11 a.m., the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will have a "Members Only" event via Zoom. The meeting will cover "Protect-

ing Yourself from Cyber Attacks, Security Threats and other Fraud," and will be presented by Texan Bank.

Leader obituary policy

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

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LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil		5:30 p.m.
Sunday		10

Powells celebrate 50th anniversary



Happy anniversary wishes are sent to James H. and Carolyn Powell who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 22. They were married in Santa Cruz, Calif., while James was stationed there while serving in the U.S. Army. He also served in Vietnam. James loves cars and motorcycles. They enjoy traveling and say they are enjoying the journey of marriage together. They have lived and raised their family in the South Belt community since 1975. Although Carolyn said she has seen many people come and go in the neighborhood, she loves it here. They have one son, James H. Powell II, who is a Dobie High School graduate. Plans for a celebration are still in the works, but the couple are thankful to be in good health. Carolyn said they are happy to still be able to cut their own grass and wash their own cars.

Accident leads to burglary charges

On Aug. 14, 2020 at approximately 11:09 p.m., Precinct 8 Sgt. C. Hulsart drove up on a two-car crash in the 6700 block of the E. Sam Houston Parkway S. service road.

As Hulsart was pulling up, he noticed a Hispanic male wearing all black in the grass line walking away from a fence.

The male was placing items in tall grass next to an ice chest.

As Hulsart began to investigate the crash, the occupants, identified as 24-year-old Genesis Rodriguez

and 25-year-old Martin Martinez, stated that they had stopped due to a flat tire when they were struck from the rear by another vehicle. Hulsart noted that there were no flat tires on their vehicle.

When secondary deputies arrived, Hulsart located the items that he observed Martinez attempting to hide.

The items consisted of two large industrial grinders, several other cordless tools and chargers.

Hulsart then located a freshly cut hole in the fence that was just adjacent to the crash which surrounded Enterprise Products Facility. Sgt. T. Gossett made contact with Enterprise staff and

they identified several offices and store rooms that had been burglarized.

These offices belonged to Birdwell Industries and Alliance Tank Services who are contractors for Enterprise Products.

During the investigation, it was determined the vehicle was being driven by Rodriguez and was not actually disabled as the pair reported.

Rodriguez stopped the vehicle in a moving lane in order to pick up Martinez and the stolen property and it was at that time their vehicle was rear-ended.

At the time of the crash, there were three small children in the vehicle as well; ages 3, 4 and 6 years old. It was also learned Rodriguez was out on bond for aggravated robbery, child endangerment and abandonment of a child with no intent to return. He was wearing an ankle monitor as well.

It was also learned that after the crash, Rodriguez and Martinez approached the driver of the car that hit them and demanded money by intimidation and ultimately took \$26.

Martinez was found to have \$26 in his possession. It is also believed that Rodriguez and Martinez were communicating via two-way radio during the burglary.

Deputies J. Toliver and D. Webber continued with the investigation and representatives from Enterprise Products, Birdwell Industries and Alliance Tank Services were able to recover the stolen property.

Overall, the items recovered included four laptop computers, two iPhones, two 7" grinders, one cordless grease gun, one welding helmet, three cordless drills and miscellaneous accessories.

Also recovered were the cutters used to enter the property as well as the two-way radios.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted charges for Burglary of a Business on Rodriguez and Martinez.

They were arrested and booked into the Harris County Jail where Rodriguez is being held on a \$75,000 bond and Martinez is being held on a \$2,000 bond.

The three children were released to a relative.

The children and the driver of the other vehicle were uninjured.



Genesis Rodriguez



Martin Martinez

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Diazes celebrate 30 years



Happy anniversary to Sagemont residents Miguel and Lydia Diaz who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Aug. 10. Due to COVID-19 they celebrated the event at home this year. The couple met in 1988 while both were employed with Kroger. Two years later they were married in a small ceremony at Lydia's parents' home. The couple, both from previously broken marriages with children, said marriage was hard from the beginning but God's plan is always best. They are enjoying being empty nesters but love their family. They have four daughters, Tabbatha Diaz Legares, Naomi Diaz Aguilar, Lydia Diane Miranda and Rebeca Diaz Teahuitzil and five grandchildren, Aden Miranda, Owen Miranda, Elijah Legares, Talita Legares and Andrea Legares. (This anniversary announcement is a surprise to Lydia from her husband.)

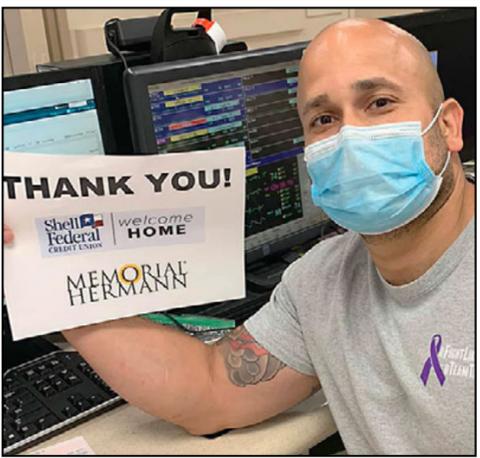
Shell Federal Credit Union delivers meals to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital



Shown delivering meals is Reyna Lara, Shell Federal Credit Union Business Development officer. In the lower right photo are Ashley Martinez (left), Business Development officer, and Lara teaming up to deliver the meals.

Recently Shell Federal Credit Union donated and delivered 50 lunch boxes from Chick-fil-A to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital as a small token to health care workers for their continued dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shown at right is Marco Estupinan; MHSE registered nurse expressing gratitude to Shell Federal Credit Union for the meals. Below are, left to right, Cody Menzies, Brittany Hester and Megan Girafalos showing signs of appreciation.



HFD reminds residents of simple tips to keep safe, healthy during hot weather

With today's heat advisory, seeing possible heat values up to 110 degrees, the Houston Fire Department reminds residents about the importance of taking safety measures when outdoors to avoid heat-related medical emergencies, this also includes making sure caregivers "look before they lock" for children and pets left in vehicles.

Before conducting outdoors activities and feeling thirsty, drink plenty of water and electrolyte-replacement beverages.

Avoid beverages or food sources with caffeine, alcohol or large amounts of sugar because these can actually result in the loss of body fluid.

Most popular sodas contain high levels of sugar and should be avoided when conducting strenuous activity. Avoid drinking alcohol the evening before conducting strenuous exercise as alcohol increases.

Conduct outdoor work or exercise in the early morning or evening when it is cooler. Individuals unaccustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment need to start slowly and gradually increase heat exposure over several weeks. Take frequent breaks in the shade or in an air-conditioned facility.

A wide-brimmed, loose-fitting hat that allows ventilation helps prevent sunburn and heat-related emergencies.

A tight-fitting baseball cap is not the best choice when conducting strenuous outdoors activities. Sun-

screen also helps protect injury from the sun's rays and reduces the risk of sunburn. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing that permits the evaporation of perspiration. Do not leave children, senior citizens or pets unattended in a vehicle.

Common heat-related medical emergencies include: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Heat cramps are muscle pains or spasms that typically occur in the abdomen, arm, and legs in association with strenuous activity. If one has heart problems or are on a low sodium diet, get medical attention for heat cramps.

If medical attention is not necessary, take steps including:

- Stop all activity, and sit quietly in a cool place.
- Drink clear juice or a sport drink.
- Do not return to strenuous activity for a few hours until after the cramps subside because further exertion may lead to heat exhaustion or stroke.
- Seek medical attention for heat cramps if they do not subside in one hour.

Heat exhaustion is the body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt contained in sweat. Signs include profuse sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, a weak-but-rapid pulse and fainting.

The skin may be cool and moist. If heat exhaustion is untreated, it may progress to heatstroke.

Heatstroke occurs when the body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating system fails, and the body is unable to cool down. Body temperature may rise to 106° F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heatstroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given. Heatstroke symptoms include an extremely high body temperature (above 103° F, orally), red, hot and dry skin (no sweating), rapid and strong pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion and unconsciousness.

"Look Before You Lock"

Children being trapped or left inside cars can result in heat exhaustion or heatstroke, leading to permanent disability or death in a matter of minutes. Heatstroke, also known as hyperthermia, can cause shock, seizures, irregular heartbeat, heart attack and damage to the brain, liver and kidneys.

National statistics indicate that even on "mild" days or if the window is "cracked," the inside of a vehicle can reach nearly 120 degrees. And remember children are more sensitive to heat, causing heatstroke. HFD recommends that parents and caregivers place their purse, phone, computer or wallet in the back seat as a reminder that they have a child in the car. Caregivers can also keep a stuffed ani-

Limited visitation at care facilities

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission recently announced limited visitation rules for nursing facilities and long-term care facilities. HHSC is also issuing enhanced emergency rules requiring additional actions by nursing facilities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

"This is a rapidly evolving situation and we are constantly assessing what actions are necessary to keep residents and staff safe in these facilities," said Phil Wilson, Executive Commissioner, Texas HHSC. "By following these procedures and rules, facilities can more effectively prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help us achieve our shared goal of reuniting residents with their families and friends."

"Access to family and loved ones is an important part of every resident's health and well-being, which is why this policy shift is a move in the right direction for some of our most fragile Texans," said Sen. Lois Kolhorst (SD-18), Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

"Today's announcement is a critical first step for every person in a long-term care facility and their loved ones," said Rep. James Frank (HD-69), Chair, Texas House Committee on Human Services. "This decision underscores that state leaders recognize the need to balance the emotional and physical health impacts of isolation against the serious dangers that COVID poses to these vulnerable Texans."

Nursing facilities

For the health and safety of facility residents and staff, public visitation is limited to outdoor visits only. Physical contact between residents and visitors is not permitted. Additional conditions a facility must meet to conduct limited outdoor visitation include:

- No confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in staff in the last 14 days.
- No active positive cases in residents.
- Any facility previously experiencing an outbreak that has fully recovered must be adequately staffed and following adequate infection control procedures.
- Facility staff are being tested for COVID-19 weekly.

Further guidance on limited nursing facility visitation rules, which include window visits and vehicle parades, will be posted on the HHSC COVID-19 provider web page.

Emergency rule enhancements

Enhanced emergency rules for nursing facilities include:

- Each facility must have a COVID-19 response plan that includes designated staff to work with cohorts of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, and staff should not change designation from one day to another, unless required to maintain adequate staffing for a cohort.
- All nursing facilities must screen all residents, staff, and people who come to the facility in accordance with specified criteria, and each resident must be screened at least three times a day for signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Each facility must have plans for obtaining and maintaining a two-week supply of personal protective equipment and resident recovery plans for continuing care when a resident recovers from COVID-19.
- The full emergency rules will be posted on the HHSC COVID-19 provider web page.
- The latest guidance for nursing facilities is posted at <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/nursing-facilities-nf>.
- Texas HHSC continues to investigate all long-term care facilities in the state that report one or more positive case of COVID-19, as well as coordinate closely with local, state and federal health authorities.
- For additional information about how HHSC is helping Texans visit the HHSC website.

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Site of Shops at Blackhawk



A new development named Shops at Blackhawk will soon be completed at Beltway 8 and Blackhawk Boulevard, adjacent to H-E-B. The development will lease 14,449 square feet of retail space and will also have 2.6 acres for sale. The real estate agent demographics suggest about 70,894 cars per day travel Beltway 8 in this area and 10,686 cars per day drive on Blackhawk Boulevard. Statistics also suggest that in a 5-mile radius of the property there is a population of 222,194 people with an average household income of \$71,716. The new shopping strip will also accommodate 74 parking spaces with the ability to add more.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Charter school at standstill

Continued from Page 1
Garza later told the *Leader*, however, this was untrue.

While Garza was initially suspended from duty, he is reportedly now back in his position of superintendent.

Following the criminal charges, the school hired a new contractor to finish constructing the new Riverstone campus, with Frost Construction replacing Crain Group as the project's general contractor.

While there was some initial progress made at the site, Frost's work, too, soon came to a stop.

A progress report on Houston Gateway Academy's website about the campus's construction appears to not have been updated since 2014.

After numerous failed attempts to reach the school for comment, the *Leader* has reached out to local officials, including state Rep. Dennis Paul, for assistance on the matter.

A charter school is an independently run public school that is granted greater flexibility in its operations in return for greater accountability for performance.

The "charter" establishing each school is a performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, students served, performance goals and methods of assessment.

Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded according to enrollment levels and receive state funds on a per-pupil basis. They are tuition-free and not restricted by zoning, making them schools of choice.

The new campus will be the fourth in the Hous-

ton Gateway Academy system. At approximately 168,000-square feet, it will also be its largest - roughly twice the size of the other campuses.

Plans call for a three-story facility with such amenities as a band hall, natatorium, basketball gym, soccer field, full kitchen and cafeteria. The campus will have the capacity to house 1,600 students. Officials, however, estimate that only around 500 students are expected to attend the school's freshman year.

While the campus will eventually serve prekindergarten through 12th grade, it will initially be open through only ninth grade, with an additional grade being added each year as students progress. Campus enrollment is projected to reach 1,600 count once the 12th-grade class has been implemented.

In past issues of the *Leader*, school officials touted the new campus will have features superior to its traditional public school counterparts, including smaller class sizes and mandatory drug testing - for both students and staff.

In multiple years, Houston Gateway Academy has been recognized for Outstanding Academic Performance by the Texas Education Agency and has received the Texas Honor Circle District Award from the Texas Comptroller's office. It has also been rated as Exemplary by the TEA multiple years.

Originally slated to open for the 2012-2013 school year, it remained unclear at press time when the new campus is expected to open, if ever.

Huston catches big fish



Catching the fish of a lifetime in Galveston Bay Aug. 5 was a proud moment for longtime South Belt resident Danny Huston. Weighing in at 8.2 pounds, the speckled trout measured roughly 27.5 inches long and 8.5 inches in girth, according to Huston. The fish put up quite a fight before succumbing to the catch.

Huston catches fish of a lifetime

Longtime South Belt resident Danny Huston caught the fish of a lifetime Wednesday, Aug. 5, in Galveston Bay, landing an 8.2-pound speckled trout. According to Huston, the fish measured roughly 27.5 inches in length and 8.5 inches in girth.

The catch was unexpected for Huston, as he hadn't planned to even be fishing at that spot at that time but had been somewhat forced to wait around after his boat had stalled out and he was waiting for a tow back to land at the time.

"So, if it wasn't for the boat breaking down, I wouldn't have been fishing at that time of day," Huston said. "But since it broke down and I had to wait for the tow boat to get there, that's when I caught the fish."

Huston further said the catch occurred using his last piece of live bait. "Yeah, it was the very last bait that I had. I had about six bags left and they were all dead, and it was my last live mullet," Huston said. "And we could see the tow boat coming from about three to four miles away, so it was the last cast of the day."

Huston said the massive fish put up quite a struggle, lasting approximately 10 minutes. "He was a fighter," Huston said. "He fought until the end."

Huston said he is grateful for the experience and attributes it largely to the teachings of his recently deceased father, Dave Huston, who also served as a tow boat operator.

"Most people will go their whole life without catching an 8-pound trout," Huston said. "I would have never had that experience without what my dad had taught me."

City addresses health risks

Continued from Page 1
lines, and SWMD employees respect the personal property of people living in the homeless encampments.

"Our crews have been out here talking to the people living in the encampments," Turner said. "They know we are not just trying to move them just for the sake of moving them. We want to treat them with the dignity and respect they rightfully deserve. Just because you are homeless doesn't mean you need to be living in unsanitary conditions."

This message was reinforced by Hayes.

"Managing public health while mitigating community spread of COVID-19 is a critical pandemic response mission of the Solid Waste Management Department," Hayes said. "Our workers understand the importance of

their role and duties to maintain a safe and healthy city for all residents, regardless of their life status. Just as in other disaster response and recovery missions, Solid Waste Management employees are on the front line providing critical public services."

Eichenbaum stressed the need for sanitation among the homeless communities.

"Improving the sanitation at these locations is just part of our multi-prong response to prevent the communal spread of COVID-19 within and outside of our at-risk, homeless population, including the distribution of masks and sanitation supplies, placement of handwashing stations, a specialized homeless testing program, and an overnight facility for those who need to quarantine or isolate and lack the means to do so," said

Eichenbaum. The city plans to continue the COVID-19 cleanups through the end of the year. Turner stressed, however, that his primary goal is to provide permanent housing for people living on Houston streets.

"Over a month ago, we announced a \$65 million partnership with the county to house about 5,000 people over the next two years," Turner said. "We plan to transition some of the homeless on our streets now and put them into permanent supportive housing."

Fatal crash near El Dorado investigated

Houston police are investigating a fatal crash that took place around 1:55 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, in the 17300 block of the Gulf Freeway near El Dorado Boulevard.

The identity of the female victim, 73, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at press time.

According to police, the victim was driving a black Hyundai Accent at a high rate of speed on the northbound service road at the above address.

The driver of a tractor-trailer truck, also traveling north on the frontage road, stated he felt someone strike the rear of his truck prior to the accident.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and transported the victim to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, where she was pronounced dead.

The driver of the 18-wheeler was determined not to be impaired and was questioned and released. The investigation is continuing.

Turner on rental aid

Mayor Sylvester Turner reminds Houston residents about the city's rental assistance program to help those experiencing financial challenges as a result of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"People simply need help, and we want to do everything we can to provide them with some help until we can get through the COVID-19 crisis," Turner said.

The \$20 million City of Houston program is funded with \$15 million from the Cares Act and \$5 million private donations. Turner thanks the Houston

Endowment (\$2 million), United Way/Greater Houston Community Foundation COVID-19 Relief Fund (\$1 million), McNair Foundation (\$1 million) and the Kinder Foundation (\$1 million) for their generous support during the current health crisis.

Residents may apply for assistance beginning Monday, Aug. 24, to be eligible for up to \$2,112 rental assistance.

For more information, visit HoustonRentAssistance.org or call 832-390-2018.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)

Members of the Dobie High School Lariatettes drill team were scheduled both locally and nationally for the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon. Lariatette Dina Jackson was set to travel to Las Vegas with sponsor Peggy Moree to present Jerry Lewis a check for approximately \$75,000, which was the amount earned by the Houston area's drill team kick-a-thon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association held in the Astroarena.

Trustees of the Pasadena Independent School District approved a 20 percent hike in employee health insurance premiums. They also approved completion of Moore Elementary at the meeting.

Approximately 200 residents of the Scarsdale subdivision evacuated their homes one morning when a new Exxon natural gas line located in the Alcott field on Choate Road developed a leak.

Houston area investigators reported that a short circuit in the aluminum wiring was the cause of a fire that destroyed a home in the 11100 block of Sagecrest. The owners of the home were on vacation at the time the fire occurred.

35 years ago (1985)

Pasadena Independent School District employees honored new school superintendent Dr. Lon Luty with a standing ovation during his first appearance before the district employees in the Phillips Field House.

Figures were released by San Jacinto College South after regular registration showed an increase in enrollment of 163 students over the previous year. Enrollment stood at 3,588, but that number was expected to increase after late registration.

Area sports organizers were disappointed that plans for a youth sports complex on Dixie Farm Road had been squelched, but a county official said plans were only delayed.

Tommy Baccaro, a 20-year veteran of Pasadena ISD, was named the new principal of Beverly Hills Intermediate.

30 years ago (1990)

Plans to build a South Belt area adult probation office for Harris County did not get off the table because of anticipated resident opposition to the proposal.

Clear Brook High School was scheduled to begin the school year with its first senior class.

Pasadena ISD board of trustees eliminated all smoking within any district-owned building. The ban prohibited staff, teachers and visitors from smoking inside buildings and district-owned vehicles.

In recognition of their winning the World Series, the South Belt Palomino baseball team, their parents, friends and fans were invited to a Houston City Council meeting.

With one year completed on his three-year contract, Pasadena ISD superintendent Dr. Larry Vaughn received a one-year extension. He also received a 5 percent pay increase to his \$92,000 salary.

25 years ago (1995)

The 11th annual South

Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce Banquet was set to be held at the Hobby Holiday Inn on the Gulf Freeway.

Texas Commerce Bank-Alameda Genoa held an open house to mark its 25th birthday. The bank began as Alameda-Genoa Bank.

A religious rights candidate who lost his 1992 bid for the Pasadena school board dropped his lawsuit against the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*.

The president of South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, speaking at a CCISD board meeting, urged trustees to proceed with a replacement school for Weber Elementary School.

20 years ago (2000)
Pasadena Independent School District learned from the Texas Education Agency that the district would not receive the hoped-for state funding for the year for facilities approved in February's \$199.05 million bond election.

Natasha Butler went into labor in the registration line at San Jacinto College.

Sageglen resident Sandra Kaye Hayes, 42, died from choking on a watermelon seed.

Anthony "Tony" Chapin died as a result of a hit-and-run car incident.

15 years ago (2005)
Ruth Young, a nine-year-old Frazier Elementary student, was killed as a PISD school bus ran over her.

Young was walking her bicycle across Hughes Road at Sageburrow when the bus pulled out. The driver said he never saw her or her bike. A

controversy regarding the hiring of the bus driver ensued after an official in the district office changed the driver's official records from not eligible for hire (due to criminal history) to eligible. The case went to the grand jury and the driver was charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Community leaders were anxious to hear results from the Base Realignment and Closure committee. Ellington Field appeared on BRAC's list of bases to be affected.

The library at Elmer Bondy Intermediate was renamed to honor its former principal, Tommy Baccaro. The new name would be the Thomas D. Baccaro Learning Resource Center.

Deputies from Precinct 2 conducted a warrant sweep in the South Belt area. Four arrests were made, two of those for felony warrants.

10 years ago (2010)
A former Dobie student was found dead by his father in the 9900 block of Southport Drive near Keese Drive at approximately 10 a.m. Patrick Carver, 18, had reportedly been shot multiple times. According to police, items were missing from the home, but they had not determined a motive at press time.

Dobie High School was temporarily placed under lockdown. According to Pasadena Independent School District's communications department, the incident stemmed from a domestic dispute, with a wife showing up at Dobie with concerns about her husband. A school official said the school was placed under lockdown as a precautionary measure with all students still on campus being told to remain indoors.

Neighboring Moore Elementary was also being watched by PISD police. The lockdown was lifted about 6:15 p.m. when police deemed the campus safe.

A South Belt resident was arrested after allegedly exposing himself to a female employee at a local fast food restaurant. According to officials, a male customer ordered a soft drink while parked at the establishment. When a female carhop attempted to serve the customer, he was reportedly exposed and gratifying himself.

The Wells Fargo bank on Beltway 8 near the Gulf Freeway was robbed. According to FBI officials, a lone suspect entered the bank with a silver revolver and announced his intention of robbing the establishment. Before leaving the bank, the suspect fired a single warning shot, but no one was struck. As the suspect left the bank, he carjacked a vehicle from a bank employee who was just arriving at work.

5 years ago (2015)
Enrollment at Dobie High School topped 4,000 students, as Pasadena Independent School District classes

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ISABELLA TURNS 9

Happy birthday hugs and kisses are sent to Isabella Cisneros who is turning 9 years old Sunday, Aug. 23! Her family says, "We can't wait to celebrate you on your special day! With lots of love from your loving parents Michael and Carolyn Cisneros, grandparents Vivian and Lupe Cisneros (longtime South Belt residents), grandparents Leo and Lydia Gaytan and all your aunts, uncles and cousins!! We love you so much!"

MARY ELLEN ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Wishes for a wonderful birthday are sent to Mary Ellen Morgan Aug. 23 from her husband, Larry, son Tommy, daughter Elizabeth Echols, son-in-law Tim Echols, grandson Justin Echols and the *Leader* staff.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Aug. 20 through Aug. 26, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary

Rosa Quintana celebrates a birthday Aug. 25.

Burnett Elementary

Share a slice of birthday cake with Romona Dawson Aug. 22.

Bush Elementary

Give a happy birthday shoutout Aug. 20 to Byanka Padilla. Aug. 22 is the day for a

celebration for Agatha Candappa.

Sing a chorus of a birthday song Aug. 25 to Marie Marler.

Genoa Elementary

Enjoying a birthday Aug. 22 is Elena Pantoja. Send a happy birthday greeting Aug. 23 to Steven Sawyer.

Meador Elementary

Break out the balloons and party favors Aug. 24 for Kim Cowan.

South Belt Elementary

Light the birthday candles for Phillis Christeson Aug. 22.

Stuchbery Elementary

Celebrating a special birthday Aug. 20 is Tracy Duron. The day for a birthday party for Cory Klein is Aug. 21. Lauren Palos for an Aug. 22 birthday. Having a memorable birthday celebration Aug. 23 is Cristina Rodriguez.

Melillo Middle School

Celebrating a birthday Aug. 22 is Maria Diaz.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send a birthday greeting Aug. 23 to Ellen Murphy.

Thompson Intermediate

On Aug. 21, blow out the birthday candles for Sophia Medrano. The day for a cake for Bertha Izaguirre is Aug. 22.

Dobie High

Cindy Mutz marks a birthday Aug. 21.

Aug. 25 is the day for cake and ice cream for Diane Bledsoe.

Celebrating a birthday Aug. 26 is Issac Goudeau.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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

Thursday, Aug. 20: Rachel McClure, Claire Speck, Raymond Jackson and Todd Nathans; Friday, Aug. 21: John Linares, Kip Ledgerwood, Gabrielle Loya, Brandi Washer and Leticia Gonzalez; Saturday, Aug. 22: Pat Gonzales, Monica Castro, Kassi Richardson, Herman Garcia, Chrystal Sulak, Janie Chapa and Bill Edwards; Sunday, Aug. 23: Viv Castillo, Mary Miller, Jim Kunkel, Shelly Rivera, Mary Westahl and Patti Parker; Monday, Aug. 24: Mike Justice, Sammie Mejia, Yessica Musquiz, Alyssa Keller and Amber Burda; Tuesday, Aug. 25: Bubba Zapalac, Andrea Moorehead-Ford and Jesse Saenz; and Wednesday, Aug. 26: Arlette Jarmon, Marci Chiovaro, Fred Manly, Stephanie Mayo and Rick LaMantina.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Fall sports athletic schedules, plans take shape

Subject to change as companies almost every fall sports announcement these days, yet there is little doubt that plans are in place for a robust return to action some six months since the last live event played out.

When the University Interscholastic League laid out its latest round of eligible start dates for the respective fall sports back on July 21, athletic administrative staffs and coaches went to work to best assemble something tangible for a

regular season.

So far, so good. And it would seem that barring a significant shift on the coronavirus front, public school athletics will indeed see action this fall.

High schools within Clear Creek ISD, including Clear Brook, had a couple of weeks earlier returned to either strength and conditioning and/or sport-specific training, and programs within Pasadena ISD were allowed to return to sport-specific training as

of Aug. 10, all with strict COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

The UIL has stated that high school cross-country and team tennis programs may begin their regular seasons as of Sept. 7, while Sept. 7 is the preseason workout start date for football and volleyball programs. Needless to say, everyone at Clear Brook and Dobie is set to go.

Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. began pre-season hit-a-round workouts with his team Aug. 17, and the Longhorns will again begin training Aug. 24, beginning at 4 p.m. at the school courts on the main campus.

Moreno has also invited former two-time District 22-6A Kingwood to take on the Longhorns Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. as the two teams begin the abbreviated fall team tennis season.

Moreno has also pulled together eight top programs from across the area, including Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Clear Springs, Dawson, Friendswood, La Porte and Pearland for the 2020 Remembering Ike Invitational Sept. 11-12.

Yes, tournaments are banned, but this particular event will feature only one team versus one team at four different sites Sept. 11, with one team versus one team action continuing Sept. 12 at four locations. The championship final will be held Sept. 12, at Dawson, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Moreno has also announced dates for the all-important District 22-6A race, with the Longhorns in line to host Channelview Sept. 15, at 2:30 p.m.

Volleyball programs will be next to resume action, as Clear Brook will travel to Pearland Tuesday, Sept.

15, for a series of matches against the Lady Oilers.

That same night, Dobie is in line to play a series of

matches at Baytown Sterling as the 2020 season will officially be off and running.

Volleyball tournament play is frowned upon this fall, make that banned, but Clear Brook will stay busy

by playing a total of five nondistrict matchups and 12 more within District 24-6A for a total of 17. The Lady Wolverines will compete on Saturday four times, including three in district play that will be the second matches of back-to-backers (Friday and Saturday).

Football game dates were "formalized" Aug. 14, and Dobie will return to action Friday, Sept. 18, with a scrimmage against Clear Springs at Challenger Stadium in Webster.

The Longhorns will then open the 2020 regular season Friday, Sept. 25 against Jersey Village at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium.

Dobie will also have nondistrict games against Bellaire and Fort Bend Bush before beginning District 22-6A action Friday, Oct. 16, at Channelview. The Longhorns will also have an additional nondistrict date against Willis.

Of course, pre-season workouts on the football field will begin Sept. 7, and since spring workouts across the state were canceled in April and May, there is and will be a lot of ground to cover when things get going.

There is no official word as of yet on when and at what meet the Dobie cross-country program will begin, but things can get started as soon

as Sept. 7. And with 2019 state qualifier Alberto Campa looking to make the most of his senior season along with top senior girls' runner Amari Singleton, the Longhorns are no doubt itching to get started.

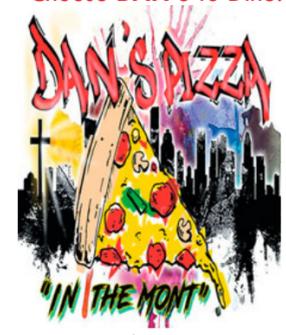
There are also plans in place for the intermediate school football and volleyball seasons to be played, even if the schedule must be shortened.

In-person classes within Pasadena ISD are currently set to begin Tuesday, Sept. 8. There is a required 11-day acclimation period at the intermediate school level in any school year.

For now, the respective intermediate football and volleyball seasons are set to begin in late September. All the above information is, of course, subject to change.

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The Dobie football program has shuffled the deck a bit due to the coronavirus pandemic and will now open the 2020 regular season Friday, Sept. 25 against Jersey Village in a 7 p.m. contest at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium. The Longhorns will also go against Bellaire and Willis on the road and Fort Bend Bush at home during nondistrict play. Head coach Kevin Berneathy (above) will have his program opening pre-season workouts Sept. 7.

AVA has tryouts as season nears

The Absolute Volleyball Academy of Texas has continued club tryouts for its 2020-2021 season Sundays from noon to 1 p.m. at its facility in Dickinson until all teams are full. The facility

is located at 451 Spruce St. in Dickinson. AVA's current team openings are for incoming fifth- through 10th-graders. Players may register for the tryouts at avatexas.com. Direct any questions to

info@avatexas.com. AVA will be moving into a new eight-court indoor facility that includes eight outdoor sand courts in early September. Its location will be 380 Green Wing St. in

Webster. For more information about AVA, visit www.avatexas.com/missionstatement; www.avatexas.com/philosophy; or www.avatexas.com/aboutava.

LSA readies its 2020 football schedule

Aiming at another deep run in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools football playoffs, the Lutheran South Academy football program has reset its 2020 schedule to include a scrimmage and seven regular season games.

The Pioneers went two rounds deep in 2019, winning nine overall games. But the program has since incurred big losses via graduation, with just three starters back on defense. Nonetheless, the Pioneers have high hopes of unseating district champion Second Baptist this season as head coach Don Justice again leads the way.

It all gets started Sept. 18 as the Pioneers host Cypress Lutheran in a scrimmage on campus at LSA. The regular season gets going Sept. 2 as Lutheran South hosts St. John. Other highlights on the Pioneers' schedule include the much-anticipated tussle with Second Baptist,

which comes Oct. 23 at Second Baptist. Lutheran South's homecoming game is its finale - Nov. 13 - against Frassati. For a look at LSA's full schedule, see Page 6.

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Lady Wolverine volleyball lines up tough schedule post delay

Looking to continue the momentum gained by virtue of a regional quarterfinal playoff appearance in 2019, the Clear Brook varsity volleyball program is again facing the stiffest of challenges in 2020.

Head coach Meredith Thompson called only the big names as she worked quickly to secure the Lady Wolverines' non-district schedule as soon as the UIL gave the all-clear while operating day-to-day.

If the UIL's post-pandemic planned schedule goes off as planned, Clear Brook will begin the COVID-19 shortened campaign Sept. 15 at Pearland and will then Sept. 18 host Kingwood, which dominated District 22-6A play with a pair of league championships over the previous two seasons.

The Lady Wolverines will also take on Class 5A Region III champion Friendswood as well as Deer Park and Summer Creek. In five overall nondistrict outings, Brook will face three defending district champions. All five opponents were part

of the 2019 playoffs. Clear Brook is coming off one of its best seasons in program history, including a first-ever district championship via an 11-1 record within the previous District 24-6A alignment. The Lady Wolverines will begin 24-6A action Sept. 29 at Clear Lake. Including Clear Brook, the usual title contenders figure to be Clear Falls, Clear Springs and Clear Creek while Dickinson and newcomer Brazoswood are also in the mix.

Clearly, Thompson is banking on her squad being plenty ready for District 24-6A play after facing off against the five playoff contenders early on. See Clear Brook's full schedule on Page 6.

Waddell makes MLB pitching debut



Clear Lake High School graduate Brandon Waddell, son of 1980 Dobie graduates Terrie and Charles Waddell, made his major league debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates Aug. 14. Coming into the game against the Cincinnati Reds in relief, Waddell allowed a run on two doubles but also struck out a pair. Waddell helped the University of Virginia to the 2015 College World Series title before becoming a fifth-round draft choice of the Pirates that same year.

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Former Dobie head coach Gilbreth dies at 90
 One-time Dobie varsity football head coach Buster Gilbreth died Aug. 16 at the age of 90. By the time Gilbreth arrived at Dobie prior to the 1981 season, he was a coaching legend, having won 44 consecutive games and a pair of state titles at Cuero.
 Gilbreth was at North Shore for a season before heading to Dobie for four seasons. He left Dobie following the 1984 campaign and was at Fort Bend Clements until retiring in 1990. His legendary coaching career spanned 34 seasons in all. His record was 224-94 in all. At 47-26-1, he was the Rangers' winningest head coach upon his retirement.

SBGSA has limited remaining fall ball spots
 The South Belt Girls Softball Association has extended online registration until select spots are filled in a few age groups.
 As of Aug. 16, there were openings in the 6U (ages 4 to 6), 8U (ages 7 to 8) and 10U (ages 9 and 10) divisions, and there is a waiting list for 14-16-year-old division players. To register, visit www.southbeltsoccer.com. The fee is \$60 per player.

**Lutheran South Academy
 2020 Varsity Football Schedule**

Sept. 18 Cypress Christian scrimmage
 Sept. 25 St. John
 Oct. 9 at Concordia
 Oct. 16 Victoria St. Joseph
 Oct. 23 at Second Baptist
 Oct. 30 at Fort Bend Christian
 Nov. 6 Woodlands Christian
 Nov. 13 Frassati (HC)
 (HC) Homecoming game

**Clear Brook High School
 2020 Varsity Volleyball Schedule**

Sept. 15 at Pearland, 6:30 p.m.
 Sept. 18 Kingwood, 6:30 p.m.
 Sept. 19 at Friendswood, 1p.m.
 Sept. 22 at Deer Park, 5:30 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at Summer Creek, 5:30 p.m.
 Sept. 29 *at Clear Lake, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 2 *Clear Falls, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 3 *at Clear Creek, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 6 *Brazoswood, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 9 *at Dickinson, 6 p.m.
 Oct 13 *Clear Springs, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 16 *Clear Lake, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 17 *at Clear Falls, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 20 *Clear Creek, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 23 *at Brazoswood, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 24 *Dickinson, 6 p.m.
 Oct. 30 *at Clear Springs, 6 p.m.
 * District 24-6A matches

Youth sports still waiting on park reopening decisions

While the recent trend seems encouraging for a start to both UIL and TAPPS fall sports, there remains sticking points on the youth sports level as both city and county parks remain closed to team activities.

And while Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo seemingly has lost some of her footing as it relates to whether or not Houston area schools open or remain closed for in-person learning at present, she certainly has a loud voice where it pertains to local parks.

South Belt youth soccer not registering for now

South Belt Youth Soccer Club officials have decided to hold off on fall 2020 registration as the league's playing fields remain closed due to coronavirus concerns.
 The City of Houston and Harris County officials have kept parks such as El Franco Lee Park, Beverly Hills Park and Blackhawk Park closed to athletic team activities through much of the spring and summer.
 With no word seemingly coming soon on a possible reopen date and officials still concerned about coronavirus infection rates across the area, SBYSC has made the difficult decision to pause for now.
 The league does, however, hold out hope for the fall season to be played, even if the schedule must be abbreviated.
 For South Belt Youth Soccer Club updates, visit www.southbeltsoccer.org.

El Franco Lee Park plays host to both practices and in-season games for the Sagemont Cowboys, the South Belt Girls Softball Association and the South Belt Youth Soccer Club.
 As of Aug. 17, EFLP remained closed for team activities. Ditto for Blackhawk Park, home base for the Southbelt Dolphins, and as many as 14 other playing fields for Bay Area Football League teams remain shuttered.
 BAFL currently plans to begin practices the Saturday of Labor Day weekend Sept. 5, and the regular season is set to begin Sept. 26. It could still happen, but with parks still closed, time is of the essence.
 South Belt Youth Soccer Club officials, having already lost the 2020 spring season after the park was closed months ago, have made the difficult decision to hold off on registration until more is clear as it relates to El Franco Lee Park.
 The South Belt Girls Softball Association has followed through with fall baseball registration and simply is waiting for the all-go signal in an effort to follow through with its season. The immediate future of youth sports it seems is tethered to the decisions of city and county officials as it relates to reopening measures.
 While it seems as though the older high school-aged athletes are seeing light at tunnel's end, the younger ones unfortunately wait.

Lajaunie tennis is now scheduled for Oct. 9-11

The ninth annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament will be held Oct. 9-11 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena following two delays because of the coronavirus pandemic.
 Players who have already registered and have paid entry fees will remain set to play, and registration opportunities are still available at www.DLtennis.com.
 Those previously registered but who are unable to play in October may direct email to tournament director John Thomas at jtjohnr@gmail.com for additional information.
 Those registering are asked to include a cellphone number on the entry form so as to receive up-to-date tournament details including court playing times, etc.
 The tournament provides for youth tennis camp and collegiate education scholarships for young players and honors the memory of Dobie graduate Darren Lajaunie, a tennis enthusiast who died of complications of cancer in 2011.

UIL approves Friday night live airings for 2020 only

The coronavirus pandemic truly has caused rarely before seen measures. The University Interscholastic League earlier this month followed through on its promise to allow the live airing of Friday night high school football games in Texas.
 Previously, the UIL, the state's governing body for public school extracurricular activities, only allowed such broadcasts for Thursday and Saturday events.
 Yet with in-person fan bases almost sure to be drastically limited for 2020 due to coronavirus concerns, the UIL is opening the door for more folks to be able to see Friday night action live without having to be in attendance at that event. While the exact percentage has yet to be determined for high school events, many colleges and universities have announced that stadiums will only be filled to 20-percent capacity for the 2020 season.
 Just how the live airings might come about at high school stadiums is also yet to be determined. It is a given that sideline access will be strictly restricted for this season, and fewer personnel will have pressbox availability. In most cases, the games are likely to be livestreamed via the internet. In short, there are plenty of things yet to be determined.
 How often it will be realistic for games to be aired is also up for determination. But at least the UIL has done its part and is allowing the live airings.
 It is expected that for 2021 and beyond, the UIL will return to its previous ban of live Friday night airings.

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CALENDAR

Due to the current public health situation, it is advisable to verify if meetings are still being held prior to attending. Since Gov. Greg Abbott has initiated Strike Force for the reopening of Texas some groups have resumed their meetings. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the area, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings>. For Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com. For a list of Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html.

computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, AUGUST 24
 6:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the website, <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. Young Professionals SE Toastmasters Club is committed to its member's safety during this National Emergency and will conduct virtual meetings every Monday (except holidays), effective 3/16/2020, to ensure its members continue their journey to becoming confident communicators and leaders. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on our home page menu (www.youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/) to obtain access to our virtual meeting platform. For information, call Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For additional information, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" meetings Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
 7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Virtual meeting Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Information for the event is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit the website <https://nastuff.com/>.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
 7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturdays 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/>.
 9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have access to a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.
 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 <http://www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html>.
 11 a.m.
StartSchoolLater.net (SSL) Houston Chapter - informational meeting about the link of teen sleep deprivation to depression and low academic performance. The public is welcome, 11 a.m., on the fourth Saturday at the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, call 281-229-1409. RSVP is requested.
 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" meetings Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners> or call 713-686-6300.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for information.
 7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday,

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for additional information.
 7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Virtual meeting will be held Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. For additional information for the virtual event, visit the website for the Pearland Chamber of Commerce under the calendar tab.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

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Meador Elementary teachers ready to set sail for a new 2020-2021 school year



Displaying great creativity and enthusiasm for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year are Pasadena ISD Meador Elementary teachers decked out in sailor attire, ready for incoming students. The teachers began instructing their students via online courses Tuesday, Aug. 18. The students have the option of transitioning to in-classroom instruction three weeks later on Sept. 8. Shown above are (first

row) Joycelyn Webster, Jill Gifford, Amy Clowers, Tara Merida, Ruth Osuna, (second row) Maria Gonzalez, Megan Mayes, Maria Gonzalez, Heather Cline, Beverly Bolton, Anne Hamilton, Mike Barton, Karen Barton, Heather Morales, Hannah Schaper, (third row) Filgia Norman, Cheryl Caudill, Johanna James, Connie Dumas, Tina Caudill, Kacei Hedge, Corin Culpepper, Stephanie Bounds, Mike Gill,

Kim Cowan, Paulina Rivas, Yolanda Arebalo, Miriam Reyna, Maria Rutherford, (fourth row) John Holder, Amanda Johns, Rachelle Lopez, Ana Moreno, Tiffany Jackson, Genoveva Arrona, Anastasia Riley, Judith Kelly, Tracie Nair, Celeste Skipper, Melisa Hinojosa, Sara Moore, (fifth row) Constance Peel, Lauren Riojas and Kevin Goffney.

Dr. Brenda Jones reflects on serving as San Jacinto College South provost

Continued from Page 1
 art Engineering and Technology building, as well as our new Cosmetology building," said Jones. "These new buildings are all in addition to the remodeling of various other buildings on campus that will serve our community for years to come."

Jones played instrumental roles in cultivating the successful relationship between Pasadena and Pearland independent school districts that has led to the establishment of the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School and the Robert Turner College & Career High School.

Most recently, Jones oversaw the establishment of the college's second Early College High School that serves the Pasadena Independent School District to complement the Clear Horizons Early College High School that serves the Clear Creek Independent School District.

"It has been my joy to work with the South Leadership Team and both our Clear Horizons Early College High School and Pasadena Independent School District leaders to deliver these two phenomenal early college high school opportunities for our community," said Jones.

Assuming her role amidst an unprecedented period of the college's growth, Jones was met with unique challenges that accompanied such rapid expansion. Particularly, the simultaneous construction of multiple new buildings on the South Campus in recent years raised a handful of challenging logistical concerns for Jones and her colleagues.

"Some of the challenges that the South Leadership Team and I faced when moving through the building process for the new buildings on South Campus was ensuring that we delivered quality educational facilities on time and within our allocated budget," said Jones.

"Another challenge was ensuring that we had the right people at the table to assist us in building the best facility possible to educate our students. There are so many moving parts to monitor when building new facilities and it's imperative that each aspect is addressed in a timely manner while delivering what's needed to effectively educate our students and prepare them completely for their chosen field of study."

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Although the community's shifting demographics have forced the college to continually shift and adapt to best serve the needs of that community,

"We have made removing any barrier to our students' success our top priority," said Jones. "That is evident in our numerous years of Aspen Top Educational Institution designations. What makes San Jacinto College so unique is our ability to think outside the box, be innovative, creative and noble when addressing our students' and community's needs. We pay close attention to what

the San Jacinto South Campus has been recognized time and time again as a model for local community colleges throughout the nation. Jones credits the combination of excellent students, faculty, staff and administrators that works closely with an agile and innovative leadership for that continued success.

"I have truly loved the interaction with our student body, supporting all of the activities they hosted on campus and attending conferences with these groups of students," said Jones. "One of the most rewarding aspects of my job has been my ability to serve as a mentor to some of the brightest students and employees here at San Jacinto College. The students have gone on to do some amazing things, and the employees have positioned themselves to be exceptional new leaders for our college."

It makes sense, then, that the aspect of her job that Jones will miss the most will undoubtedly be the commencement ceremonies. "To see our constituents say is important to them, and we work hard to address those concerns. They know this, and I believe this is one of the reasons that they strongly support our college and our students."

students complete their dream and position themselves to better support themselves and their families is just awesome!" said Jones. "When I see the smiles on the students' faces as I place their medallions around their neck, shake their hands and hand them their credentials at graduation is just priceless, and I will miss these ceremonies the most."

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ship Team and both our Clear Horizons Early College High School and Pasadena Independent School District leaders to deliver these two phenomenal early college high school opportunities for our community," said Jones.

"San Jacinto College has always had some of the best students, faculty, staff and administrators in the nation," said Jones. "In addition, we have some of the very best, forward thinking Board of Regents and Strategic Leadership Team members leading the college. This innovative group of leaders, along with our faculty, staff and administrators truly understand the importance of putting our students and their overall success at the heart of everything we do at the college."

For Jones, however, a career marked by distinction and accolades pales in comparison to a lifetime's joy of working with the college's students and employees.

"Beginning Aug. 24, like many school districts in the county and across the state and nation, we start with online learning which we call Clear Connections," Smith said. According to Smith, about 40 percent of CCISD's population signed up for Clear Connections, but 100 percent of the students will be utilizing Clear Connections for that week. Beginning Aug. 31, transition groups arrive. "It's so difficult that first year when going into a new facility whether it's kindergarten, sixth grade at the intermediate school or freshmen at the high school,"

Smith said. "We want to bring all of those kids in, introduce them to the facility and all of the procedures and protocols to give them a flying head start." About 10,000 students will get that flying head start. The CCISD superintendent explained that the opening schedule is planned over a two-week period rather than one week based on advice from health officials in Galveston County. Effective Monday, Sept. 14, the 60 percent of the students who signed up for brick-and-mortar classes will begin instruction. The remaining 40 percent will continue online with the Clear Connections program. "We're excited," Smith said. "We feel confident that we have the protocols and procedures in place. We have a 238-page standard operating procedure booklet that we'll be walking through with all of our employees over the next three weeks. We are requiring masks unless there is some medical reason that prevents it. We're also requiring everyone to do a health screen check every morning before they come to school." To view the entire meeting, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTs_SDj-sSY.

Dr. Jones to retire

San Jacinto College South campus provost Dr. Brenda Jones will be retiring Aug. 31. She has served community colleges more than 17 years, filling the positions of program coordinator for the central campus continuing and professional development division, adjunct business professor, dean of business and technology of the south campus and interim for vice president and learning. She has had a very active role as one of three campus provosts, executing her job with her priorities of excellence and financial acumen. With much gratitude, the San Jacinto College staff bids farewell to this longtime member of its Strategic Leadership Team.



Photo by Andrea Vasquez

CSH hosts High Holy Days
 Congregation Shaar Hashalom is hosting a virtual event. Titled "Spirituality for the High Holy Days during COVID," the event will be Sunday, Aug. 23, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Visit <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/713292509>. Use access code 713-292-509. Email Sandy at adulged@shaarhashalom.org for additional information.

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