



South Belt-Ellington Leader

44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Chamber hosts blood drive

The South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will host a community blood drive at its office, located at 10500 Scarsdale Blvd., Thursday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, the event will provide all donors a free COVID-19 antibody test and a pair of hero socks.

Appointments and masks are required. To make an appointment, visit www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_scheduled/315715.

For additional information, call the chamber at 281-481-5516.

COVID numbers improve

At press time Wednesday, Sept. 9, a total of 30 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials.

Of the 1,294 confirmed cases in 77089, 210 remain active, while 1,072 have recovered from the virus. To date, 12 from the ZIP code have died from the disease – up one from last week.

In 77075, 239 of the 1,122 confirmed cases remain active, while 944 have recovered. A total of 11 from the ZIP code have died – also up one from last week.

Of the 1,333 confirmed cases in 77034, 274 remain active, while 1,052 have recovered from the disease. To date, seven residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there are 112,039 total confirmed cases. Of those, 96,719 have recovered from the disease, while 13,847 cases remain active.

A total of 1,471 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus. (See chart Page 8.)

Graduation issues available

Extra copies of the *Leader's* high school graduation issue, published 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, Oct. 8.

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, Oct. 8.

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.

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Kirby daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, Oct. 5.

At least one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Kirby nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, Sept. 21.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Scarsdale to Broadway/Park Place nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Sept. 12.

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.

Thousands return face-to-face in PISD, CCISD

Thousands of Pasadena ISD students returned to their home campuses Tuesday, Sept. 8, for face-to-face instruction.

"We are proud of the work our administrators, teachers, and staff have put into bringing our students safely back into our buildings," said Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD superintendent. "The health and safety of students and staff is always our top priority in Pasadena ISD. We have

safety protocols in place and will continue to review and adapt as needed. We all must do our individual part to stay safe.

"As we opened our doors today for face-to-face instruction, it was wonderful to see the students' excitement and hear their laughter which has been missing in our hallways for far too long. We want to thank our parents and community for their continued support. Welcome back to an

award-winning year in Pasadena ISD." The remainder of the district's students will continue learning from home until they feel safe returning to campus.

Clear Creek ISD took a staggered approach to in-person instruction, with students being phased in from Aug. 31 to Sept. 14. Like with Pasadena ISD, students who opted to study from home can continue to do so.

Approximately 65 percent of Pasadena ISD students have selected to continue learning virtually from home, district officials said. Clear Creek ISD officials said only around 40 percent of its students opted to continue doing so.

According to local administrators, everything went well, all things considered. "It went great," said Wendy Wiseman, Frazier principal. "Everything went really smoothly. There were no issues whatsoever."

According to Wiseman, approximately 55 percent of Frazier's students (225 pupils) have chosen face-to-face instruction.

The principal further noted that Frazier students strictly followed all safety protocols in place.

"We needed this. All the kids were smiling – or at least appeared to be smiling from behind their masks. This is exactly what we needed."

Atkinson officials echoed this sentiment but said in-person attendance was down from what was expected, according to parent surveys.

"It went pretty smoothly, but we didn't have as many kids as we thought we would have," said Richard Whittaker, Atkinson math coach, noting that only around 100 of the 185 expected students showed up for class Tuesday. The coach speculated, however, that the Labor Day holidays may have played a role in the attendance lag.

Whittaker said the vast majority of students followed established safety guidelines, with the possible exception of some of the younger pre-K students.

The coach said, however, that everyone was glad to be back at school.

"All were happy to be there," Whittaker said. "For the first time in a long time, not a single person cried. Everyone was smiling and in a good mood – at least from what you could see through their masks."

Brookside Intermediate Principal Shannon Simonds shared a similar story.

"The looks on their face when they got off the bus, you can see the smiles in their eyes," Simonds said in a video posted to Clear Creek ISD's website. "And the same with our staff."



Salazar collects masks for students

Terri Salazar, Title One aide for Atkinson Elementary, asked her friends and family via Facebook so she could purchase enough masks to ensure that every student in the face-to-face learning would receive a mask. Terri's goal was quickly accomplished and she will be giving the masks to the teachers to hand out to the face-to-face students.

Photo submitted by Karen O'Connor

HPD-CL doing weekly cleanups

The Houston Police Department Clear Lake Division and South East Differential Response Team (DRT) units are working alongside the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management COVID-19 Cleaning Unit to perform weekly underpass cleanups along the Interstate 45 corridor.

The weekly cleanups will be from Monroe Road to El Dorado Boulevard. On July 23, this team removed approximately 3.53 tons (7,060 pounds) of trash and debris from the homeless

encampments. Additional cleanups have been completed at I-45 and Uvalde along with requests for assistance to complete a cleanup behind the Fitness Connection located on Gulf Freeway. These cleanups will continue to occur along the I-45 corridor on a rotational basis.

District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin extends his thanks to those working on the front lines to help the cleanup during the ongoing pandemic.

Sagemont Church helps Laura victims

Sagemont Church is providing relief to individuals who were impacted by Hurricane Laura.

"Our neighbors in East Texas and Louisiana experienced tremendous devastation during Hurricane Laura," a post on the church's Facebook page read. "We want to be living proof of a loving God and assist them in the recovery process. We are coordinating with state and local Southern Baptist organizations to provide help in these

locations as well as financial and material resources from afar."

Church volunteers have set up a home base for relief efforts in the East Texas city of Orange, according to Jason Ryan, Sagemont Church communications director. From there, they are coordinating actions with the Southern Baptist group, which already has an established relief network

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9/11 Heroes 5K run set for 2 months

This year's 9/11 Heroes Run will take place virtually, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With events around the world being held on or around Sept. 11, the virtual Houston event began Sept. 1 and will continue through Nov. 1.

Traditionally held at Ellington Airport, the event will provide an opportunity for families and individuals in one's community to honor local veterans, their families and first responders

by running wherever the participant feels safest.

Founded in honor of 1st Lt. Travis Manion, who gave his life while serving in Iraq in 2009, the Travis Manion Foundation assists American veterans and the families of the fallen in addition to organizing a number of charitable initiatives, including the 9/11 Heroes Run.

The 9/11 Heroes Run is more than the race, Continued on Page 3

HCFCD virtual meeting Sept. 10

The Harris County Flood Control District will hold a virtual Community Engagement Meeting for the South Shaver Stormwater Detention Basin Thursday, Sept. 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to inform residents about the status of the South Shaver Stormwater Detention Basin and share project information with residents.

The South Shaver Stormwater Detention Basin focuses on providing additional stormwater detention in support of flood damage reduction in Sims Bayou Watershed. This project will be funded with bonds approved by Harris County voters on Aug. 25, 2018. Community engagement is an important component of the bond program, and resident participation is encouraged.

The meeting will begin with a brief presentation to share project updates, followed by a moderated Q&A session with Flood Control District team members. Residents will be able to submit questions and comments throughout the presentation. Any comments not addressed during the Q&A session will receive a response after the event.

A recorded version of the meeting will be available on the Flood Control District's website and YouTube channel after the event. Residents may join the virtual meeting online at PublicInput.com/SouthShaver or by phone at 855-925-2801 with Meeting Code: 8244.

For all other questions, contact the Flood Control District at 346-286-4000 or fill out the comment form online at www.hcfcd.org/C10.

Suspect arrested in woman's murder

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a woman found Aug. 5 in the parking lot of the Sagemont Park Community Center in the 11500 block of Hughes Road near Beltway 8.

The suspect, David W. Ellison, 39, has been charged with murder in the 248th State District Court. He is accused in the death of Brooke Ash-

ley Flores, 28, who died at the scene.

Both parties are reportedly from southwest Houston.

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CCISD on America's Best list

Forbes Magazine has named the Clear Creek Independent School District to its second annual rankings of America's Best Employers by State.

Of the list of top 100 workplaces in Texas for 2020, CCISD is one of only two Houston-area public school districts to be included.

"Clear Creek ISD is a leader in recruiting and retaining top talent from across the country,"

said Dr. Greg Smith, CCISD superintendent. "It comes as no surprise that the high quality of work from our more than 5,000 employees is spotlighted on a state and national level."

According to Forbes, the business partnered with market research company Statista to pinpoint organizations liked best by employees in

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HPD investigates Edgebrook death

Houston police are investigating the death of a man found around 12:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 4, in the 400 block of Edgebrook near Highway 3/Old Galveston Road.

The identity of the victim, 32, and his cause of death are pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to police, patrol officers responded to a person-down call in a convenience store parking lot at the above address and found the victim unresponsive inside a pickup truck. The officers performed CPR on the victim until

Houston Fire Department paramedics arrived and transported him to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

A witness stated he heard loud voices speaking in Spanish and then a loud banging or car door slamming prior to the incident.

At press time, there were no known suspects. Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

County documents now online

Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins on Aug. 31 announced the launch of a new e-Commerce website feature that allows the public to purchase both certified and noncertified copies of various documents.

"We understand the unique challenges our community is facing during these unprecedented times, and we are committed to maintaining essential operations and services while following the guidance of public health officials," said Hollins. "Our new e-Commerce website feature allows us to expand our online services so that

our clients can access and purchase documents without having to leave their homes."

Harris County Clerk records available online for purchase include the following categories: Animal Brands, Assumed Names, Campaign, Finance Reports, Commissioner Court Bids, Condos, Conflicts of Interest, County Civil Court, Foreclosures, Marriage Licenses, Maps, Miscellaneous Personal Records, Probate Court, Public Notices and Real Property.

The Harris County Clerk's Office tested

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Pct. 8 Constables make felony arrest

On Wednesday, Aug. 26, deputies with Constable Phil Sandlin's office were patrolling areas in and around Precinct 8 in preparation for Hurricane Laura.

As part of these patrols, units were asked to check various locations known for homeless encampments in an effort to offer individuals the opportunity to check into shelters before the storm made landfall.

While conducting one such check at Beltway

8 and Sabo Road, an area that has become known for loitering during the past year, deputies made contact with 41-year-old Mitchell Egan Homan. Although several people had vacated the area the day before when asked, Homan was not among them at the time.

He is known to frequent the surrounding area and was previously arrested by Precinct 8 deputies in April for possession of a controlled substance.

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Heavy equipment needed to clean up



It took three pieces of heavy equipment and a large truck to remove all the clothes and miscellaneous items accumulated by the most recent occupant who had set up housekeeping under Beltway 8 near Sabo Road. The clothes had come from donation boxes throughout the community. In the front part of the photo a firepit which was dug on the site can be seen. See related story this page, with pictures on Page 3 and editorial on Page 2. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Elected officials share their words

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez on helping Hurricane Laura victims

Thank you for helping us fill trailers and truckloads of nonperishable food and high-demand supplies for first responders and their families in Louisiana hit hard by Hurricane Laura.

The outpouring of support from across the county was seen as an act of gratitude to our neighbors in Louisiana that rushed to our aid and worked shoulder-to-shoulder with our agency and other public safety partners three years ago following Hurricane Harvey's devastating blow to our region.

We're on our way to make our initial delivery to those in need.

We know firsthand about what hurricanes can do and what those affected need. We also know that first responders work around the clock during disasters and are not able to take time off to care for their own families.

The first phase of our Hurricane Laura relief efforts focused on supporting those on the front lines.

When a resident from Richmond, Texas, heard about our Hurricane Laura Relief effort, he decided to drop off his own groceries. This is a testament to who we are as Texans, our community spirit and generosity.

Since last week, our deputies stepped in to help those impacted by Hurricane Laura by coordinating with the Houston Food Bank, escorting food and pharmaceutical convoys, transporting supplies in high demand, and setting up donation collection supplies.

Our friends in Louisiana helped us during Harvey. Now it's time to help them on their road to recovery.

God bless you, and may God bless the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin's September Newsletter

Dear Residents of District E,

While I know we are all thankful to have dodged the impact of Hurricane Laura what we have learned from this close call is that it is important to take every storm seriously, always preparing for the worst. Our Texas neighbors to the east and our friends in Louisiana are not as fortunate today. In response to their needs, the City of Houston has created the Hurricane Laura Relief Fund.

The Mayor's Health Equity Task Force is working with Kroger Resident Joe Kelly, Gallery Furniture owner Jim McIngvale, and the Relief Gang to coordinate "Houston's Paying it Forward." All donated items will be sent to our friends in Port Arthur, Orange and Beaumont Texas as well as Sulphur and Lake Charles Louisiana. The relief effort is accepting donations in person and online through Thursday, September 10th.

People may drop off donations at the George R. Brown Convention Center (Hall D) and Gallery Furniture from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kroger Stores will also have collection boxes at each of their Houston locations. For more information on requested supplies and how to donate, please visit: www.houstontx.gov/laura-fund.html.

This close call with Hurricane Laura has renewed the sense of urgency with our federal partners, many may have heard Sen. John Cornyn address the need for storm surge protection on the Texas Coast during a late August press conference hosted by Gov. Abbott arm in arm with Sen. Ted Cruz, Congressman Brian Babin, and Congressman Randy Weber. Currently, the City of Houston is working closely with the Bay Area Coastal Protection Alliance and Mayor of Morgan's Point, Michele Bechtel, to proactively complete a study to design and develop a set of financing options for meeting the federal funding requirements. This study will evaluate financing needs for new coastal protections across the Houston Galveston region while supporting addi-

tional resiliency improvements by capturing insurance benefits. I have dedicated \$25,000 from my Council District Service Fund to assist in financing this study which is integral in the success of a coastal protection system.

In addition to storm surge protection along the Texas Coastline, the City of Houston is reaching the end of Phase One for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Gate Improvement Project. The City of Houston at the conclusion of Phase One will submit our findings to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for evaluation and approval before funding for Phase Two, construction, can be issued. Equally as supportive as our federal partners on the southside of District E, Congressman Dan Crenshaw's efforts to bring attention and funding to the Lake Houston Area for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Gate Improvement Project. Congressman Crenshaw has been fighting for the residents of the Lake Houston area at every turn, in regard to increasing protections for life and property in our area and I could not be more thankful to have a representative of Crenshaw's caliber in our corner.

It is these strong partnerships with our federal representatives and the Texas Spirit which make these projects more than just designs. Working together across all jurisdictions of government will bring these projects to fruition.

In the near future we will be the City's District of Gates from North to South, adding gates to Lake Houston as well as gates being added to Galveston Bay to protect lives and property across our vast City. I look forward to the completion of these major projects and the peace of mind and protection these projects will bring.

As always, it is a pleasure to represent you. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your District Council Member.

Sincerely,
Dave Martin
City of Houston Mayor Pro Tem

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia introduces the Elder Abuse Protection Act of 2020

Today, (Sept. 4) Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (TX-29) introduced The Elder Abuse Protection Act, which would direct the Attorney General to establish the Elder Justice Initiative within the Department of Justice Criminal Division.

The Elder Justice Initiative would be responsible for coordinating criminal enforcement and public engagement efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target elders.

"As a former social worker, I have seen firsthand the impact that elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud can have on our seniors, one of the most vulnerable communities in our country," said Congresswoman Garcia.

"The Elder Abuse Protection Act of 2020 is a critical step in making sure that our seniors can live with dignity and respect, and that they are not the targets of scams that can seriously jeopardize their livelihoods."

This is especially important in the wake of COVID-19, which many experts say has led to a significant increase in the number abuse cases of elderly people. Congresswoman Garcia added, "Due to quarantine measures and limitations on visiting facilities and nursing homes, it has made it easier for abuse, neglect, and fraud to go undetected. We must do everything we

can to protect our seniors, the group most disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and ensure they are not the targets of these heinous crimes."

The Elder Abuse Protection Act of 2020 would:

- Make the Elder Justice Initiative a permanent office within the Department of Justice Criminal Division that would be responsible for overseeing Elder Justice Coordinators, who are assigned to each United States Attorney's Office;

- Require the Elder Justice Coordinators to evaluate training models and best practices to create publicly available materials for local law enforcement and public officials tasked with investigating, interacting with victims of elder abuse, or addressing elder abuse;

- Mandate that the Elder Justice Initiative maintain and publish information aimed at protecting elders from fraudulent schemes and include resources aimed at preventing elder abuse; and

- Require the Attorney General's Office to translate into Spanish any online resources that the Elder Justice Initiative publishes, and to post Spanish-language links that facilitate reporting of elder fraud and abuse to state and local law enforcement and help educate the public to prevent the financial exploitation of elders.

Helping kids during COVID with anxiety back to school

Back-to-school season is upon us, and this year's first-day jitters are combined with anxieties about a pandemic and the many changes it's caused. University of Houston-Clear Lake's Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling R.J. Davis offers parents guidance on how to manage their own anxieties to help their children cope.

Davis said it's vital for parents to manage their own reactions. "If adults have fearful, anxious responses to circumstances, that is communicated to the child in many ways and they'll mirror that reaction," he said. "Try to stay intentional and calm when you're discussing or hearing things that worry you, and be mindful that your reaction can be very impactful on a young child."

He added it's helpful to explain to your child that we are in a "different" time, and that isn't necessarily good or bad,

it's just different. "Try to normalize 'different.' For a while, we have to do things in an unusual way, but some things will always stay the same, like our love and support," he said. "Emphasize that things are not the same as before, and certain things must be done in another way, just for now. This will help increase your child's ability to tolerate and adapt to change, and learn flexibility."

Ensuring children know their feelings are heard is another important way to help them deal with worries. "Kids need to feel they're being heard and what they say has value, and they're not being dismissed just because they're young," he said. "Talking and 'getting it off your chest' is cathartic for kids just as it is for adults. Give kids a 'listening time' when they are encouraged to talk about their thoughts about going back to school."

Publisher's Opinion

Special "thank you" to Sandlin, TxDOT

The community owes a special thank you to two groups - Pct. 8 Constable Phil Sandlin and his staff and the TxDOT employees who aided in cleaning up the horrendous mess which was left under Beltway 8 near Sabo Road.

It took a couple of front loaders and a lot of time cleaning up the mess that was left after less than a month of the homeless raiding the various donation boxes in the community to pull out, not only clothes they could use, but anything they could retrieve from the various bins around the community.

What a shame! Community members

donate them to benefit groups, and not only are the items not going to the intended, but they are creating a tremendous mess in the community.

Along with thanking those who cleaned up the mess, a special "thank you" also goes to the Harris County Toll Road employees for having cleaned it up twice earlier this summer. I would also urge residents consider donating to groups that go by the house and pick up donated items from in front of the home. More will be in next week's *Leader*. Again, thanks to those helping to clean up our community.

Publisher, **Marie Flickinger**

Deaths

William A. "Bill" Sutton



William A. "Bill" Sutton, longtime South Belt resident, died Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020.

He was born 90 years ago in Odell, Texas, the youngest of three boys. He grew up in north Texas and graduated from Gainesville High School. He married his high school sweetheart, and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, in which he served for more than nine years as a technician with the Air Force Rescue Squadron stationed in Newfoundland, Az., and Germany.

Bill loved life and working with people. After his honorable discharge from the service, he worked as an optician technician, ordained minister and insurance salesman.

He retired in 1992 and moved to the South Belt area. He continued serving people as a Bible study leader at the Cokesbury UMC.

He taught English as a second language, for many years at Parker Williams Public Library and was also a member of the Friends of the Parker Williams Public Library for many years.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Betty Sutton.

He is survived by his children Glenna McNealy of Hesperia, Calif., David Sutton of Mount Pleasant, Texas, and Becky Hubbell of Seadrift, Texas. He is also survived by three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Eugene "Gene" Thomas Osborne



Eugene "Gene" Thomas Osborne, was born and raised in Houston. He died Sunday, Aug. 16 surrounded by his family. Gene was a longtime resident of the South Belt area for more than 50 years. He was active in the Kirkwood Civic Club as well as an avid fisherman and duck hunter. His favorite pastime was sitting on his front porch with a glass of wine and a cat in his lap.

He is preceded in death by his parents Arlo and Frances Osborne, his sister Elaine and brother-in-law Marvin Mager. Gene is survived by his wife of 45 years, Patricia; son Harlow Monk; daughter Shelley Armstrong and son in-law Larry; granddaughter Kaitlin Meadows and husband Tim; granddaughter Lexi Armstrong and granddaughter Layni Armstrong; as well as his two nieces Gina Bryan and husband Paul and Cindy Mosher and husband Rick.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the family will hold a private burial in which his ashes will be laid next to his parents. A celebration of life will be scheduled in honor of Gene at a later date.

He will be missed but not forgotten by his family, and his many friends that meant the world to him. The family has requested that any memorial contributions be donated in his memory to the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Richard Harris



Richard Harris was born to Delbert and Mitzi Harris Nov. 3, 1953, in Ogallala, Neb.

He is survived by his wife Deborah; daughter Christina and her husband Brian Richison and grandson Reed.

Early in Rick's career, he worked in law enforcement, then pursued a career in transportation.

In the last years of his life, he was a commercial roofing inspector.

Rick had a true love for animals.

He was one of a kind and will be truly missed by his family and friends.

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.

Support Leader advertisers!

South Belt Chamber holds virtual meeting

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce will have a members-only virtual event at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

The meeting presented will be "The Five Questions You Should Ask Your IT Guy," and will be presented by TexPC Solutions.

NASA Aglow names September speaker

Charity Bradshaw is a wife, mother of four, author and entrepreneur. She is the daughter of Joan Hunter and granddaughter of the late Charles and Francis Hunter.

Bradshaw is a relevant, authentic and passionate master communicator and when she teaches, she conveys the message "I can do this." Her passion is to activate and accelerate her audience into their purpose. Bradshaw compels her listeners to dig deep within themselves, tap into their potential and be all God has divinely designed them to be.

Plan to attend and expect the Lord's presence at the event. Bring a friend and be blessed. Social distancing will be honored. The event is open to the public and is set for Thursday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. until noon, at Praise Chapel, 18516 Highway 3 in Webster.

NASA Aglow is a part of Aglow International, an interdenominational organization of God-seeking women with more than 200,000 members meeting together each month through local Aglow groups in 177 countries.

For additional information, email Lorene Kelling at lorenenieto@yahoo.com.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

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

Church Directory

Attend the church of your choice

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

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

*Also Available on Facebook Live

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

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

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

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

New Covenant Christian Church

10603 Blackhawk
281-484-4230

Bill & Cheryl Hines, Pastors

We've Enlarged Our Day Care Facilities Register Now! 281-481-2003

WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

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

Nursery Available at all Services

Leader checks out social media

By **Natalie Abarca**

A member on the *Neighbor's* app posted a surveillance video of a man that was knocking on the member's door at 3 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 6, near Dixie Farm Road and Highway 3. In the video it appears that the man was on foot and with a dog.

Another member on the same app posted a picture of their puppy that has been missing since Friday, Sept. 4, on Sageset Trail Drive and Sagebluff Drive. The member states that the dogs were in the backyard and one of the pups escaped by going under the fence and has not made it back home. If anyone has information, contact the member through the post.

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a post of a man that was looking into vehicles.

The incident happened on Saturday, Sept. 5, on Sageleaf. The member states that luckily their vehicle doors were locked and the suspect was not able to take anything. Another member of the same Facebook group, posted a video of a van that was cruising the area at about 1:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 4, in the Sageriver area across from Ace hardware store. The van was driving with no lights on. The member states that the constables were called and they responded very quickly to the area.

In My Opinion

Evans-Shabazz on public safety reform

Dear Constituents, I'm pleased to announce that some of my Houston city council colleagues and I have drafted a letter to the mayor regarding policy changes we'd like to see within

the Houston Police Department. Meaningful police reform is necessary to make the department stronger, and we look forward to working with all involved parties to ensure Houston is a more safe and just city for us all.

Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz
Houston City Council
District D

Local library events set

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint, has phone service Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 7 p.m., at 832-393-2580 for information. Visit the website at https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events>.

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. (except holidays); 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, audiobooks, 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 listed is Virtual Storytime. This is provided every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except on holidays) at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes can be found on Facebook by searching Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft. Soon there will be STEM programs.

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

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, Wi-Fi service is still available by coming to the library standing/sitting within 6 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 and much more. For more information visit www.houstonlibrary.org to chat with a librarian 24/7, or how to send questions through HPL's email reference.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., is closed to the public. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for updates.

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 pickup, call 832-927-7870.
 - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
 - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
 - Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
 - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Curbside hours are: Tuesday - 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

All month long in September. Virtual Photo Club. This month's photo challenge is "The Signs of Fall," show what the early signs of fall are to you, whether a leaf newly fallen or decorations being put up. Residents are encouraged to go close in with their photo shots and post them online with the tag 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.

All month long in September. Virtual Poetry Club. Residents may send poetry to the library to be featured on its social media accounts. Send an email to PW@HCPL.NET with the subject "Virtual Poetry Club." These posts will be featured on social media.

All month long in September. Book Club: "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek," by Kim Michele Richardson. Join the Parker Williams Book Club and read a different fiction book each month. Contact the branch to reserve a copy today. Meetings are the last Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. over Microsoft Teams. Contact Tanner Adams at tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information and an invite.

Thursday, Sept. 10, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) virtually for family fun. Parents in attendance are encouraged to participate to facilitate virtual interaction. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome to join. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.

Friday, Sept. 11, 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.

Friday Sept. 11, 1 p.m. Drawing with Me. Join Ariel Perez who 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.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information.

CCISD seniors donate to feed heroes

Across the country, the Class of 2020 made many sacrifices during their last year of high school due to COVID-19. They had to figure out how to adapt to learning from home and missed important rites of passage, like dancing with their friends at prom.

Students at Clear Creek ISD's Clear Lake High School turned a missed milestone into a way to give back to the heroes fighting on the frontlines of the pandemic.

The Class of 2020 Student Class Officers, representing their senior class peers, decided to find a place to donate the \$5,000 that would have been spent on their prom.

"We thought there could be no better way to put our raised funds to good use than to lift the people who were putting themselves on the line for all of us," said Evelyn Salbilla, Clear Lake High School student council representative.

Senior Carl Ho put the group in touch with Ascend Houston, who has been working on its "Feed Your Hospital" initiative to give free meals to health care heroes.



Clear Lake High School seniors and staff members who donated prom funds to heroes fighting on the frontlines of the pandemic are shown above, left to right, Carl Ho; Yan Ru Wong; Evelyn Salbilla; Ben Cooper; Sharif Abouleish; Megan Owens; Min Thu Ta; Michelle Feng; Lucy Ma; Julie Ho, Ascend Houston board member; Linda Luong; Ethan Flores; Jeffrey Chuang; Michael Yo; Alex Lee; David Drake, Clear Lake High School principal; and Elizabeth Raska, Clear Lake High School associate principal.

Chamber donates to church relief effort



The South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce was part of the effort to provide supplies for Sagemont Church to deliver to the devastated friends affected by Hurricane Laura. Shown are, left to right, Stephanie Tanner, president of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber; chamber member Emory Gadd, associate pastor/Pastoral Care and Community Involvement at Sagemont Church; and Rex Forsythe, pastoral care minister at Sagemont Church.

Photo submitted

Sagemont Church helps Laura victims

Continued from Page 1 in the area. "We go where they tell us to go," Ryan said. A large part of the church's relief efforts involves a cook-

ing team that provides meals to both affected residents and workers.

On Wednesday, Sept. 2, the team provided 60 bris-

kets, 100 cases of water and more than 200 sandwiches.

Residents wishing to assist in the relief effort have multiple options, such as volunteering for debris cleanup, contributing monetary funds or donating supplies, such as nonperishable food items and toiletries.

Further investigation identified Ellison as a suspect in this case.

He was arrested Wednesday, Sept. 2, and subsequently charged for his role in Flores' death.

Murder suspect arrested

Continued from Page 1 vehicle and found the victim unresponsive in the back passenger seat.

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced the woman, later identified as Flores, dead from gunshot wounds.

Further investigation identified Ellison as a suspect in this case.

He was arrested Wednesday, Sept. 2, and subsequently charged for his role in Flores' death.



David W. Ellison

County documents . . .

Continued from Page 1 the new feature with a soft launch which started the week of Aug. 17. This allowed the office to obtain valuable feedback related to product usability, speed, and latency and

correct any issues before releasing it to the general public.

"This is a great accomplishment for the Harris County Clerk's Office as we continue to increase and improve online and in-person services," added Hollins. "Earlier this month, we expanded online appointment scheduling and re-opened our annex offices to provide documents that can only be issued in person - marriage licenses, birth/death certificates, and DBAs."

For questions relating to web sales, contact the Harris County Information and Public Service Department at 713-274-6390 or email ccooinfoFM@hccountyclerk.com.

For more information, visit www.cclerk.hctx.net/ or follow the Harris County Clerk's Office @HarrisVotes on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

For questions relating to web sales, contact the Harris County Information and Public Service Department at 713-274-6390 or email ccooinfoFM@hccountyclerk.com.

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Constable Sandlin, TxDOT team up to clean up homeless area

Continued from Page 1 since that time.

In May, he was found to be living under the same

overpass and had accumulated large amounts of clothing and trash.

The area was then cleaned after Homan was picked up by a friend and

relocated.

During this latest encounter, Homan was found

to have two open felony warrants for criminal mischief and possession of a controlled substance.

Deputies arrested Homan on the open warrants and booked him into the Harris County Jail, where he is being held in lieu of a \$10,000 bond.

All of the subjects who were contacted at this location over a two-day period were issued criminal trespass warnings as well.



Working to clean up the massive trash which was left by primarily one felony who had set up camp under the beltway near Sabo were, left to right, Deputy E. Rojas, Deputy T.

Craig and Constable Sandlin. Photo above shows the heavy equipment which was used to help clean up the mess which was left for the third time. Photos by Marie Flickinger

HOUSTON'S HVAC INDUSTRY CAR SHOW

COOL RIDES HOT RODS

OCT 10TH 2020

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT HPD CLEAR LAKE DIVISION'S BACKPACKS FOR KIDS DRIVE.

JOIN US OCTOBER 10TH FROM 9 AM - 1:30 PM

735 FM 1959 (Dixie Farm Rd.), Houston, TX 77034

CLASSICS & MODERN • OPEN TO PUBLIC • DOOR PRIZES • MUSIC/DJ • VOTE ON YOUR FAVORITES
\$5 PARKING JUST BLOCKS FROM THE WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIR SHOW!

HAVE A VEHICLE YOU'D LIKE TO SHOW?

General Registration - \$50 Provides school supplies for 2 children and reserves your spot in our 2nd annual car show.

Premium Registration - \$100 Provides school supplies for 4 children and reserves your premium spot in our 2nd annual car show. *Space is limited.*

V.I.P. Registration - \$150 Provides school supplies for 6 children, and reserves your premium spot, and includes an exclusive escorted V.I.P. cruise across Houston to our 2nd annual car show. *Space is limited.*

PRESENTED BY: **Hunton**

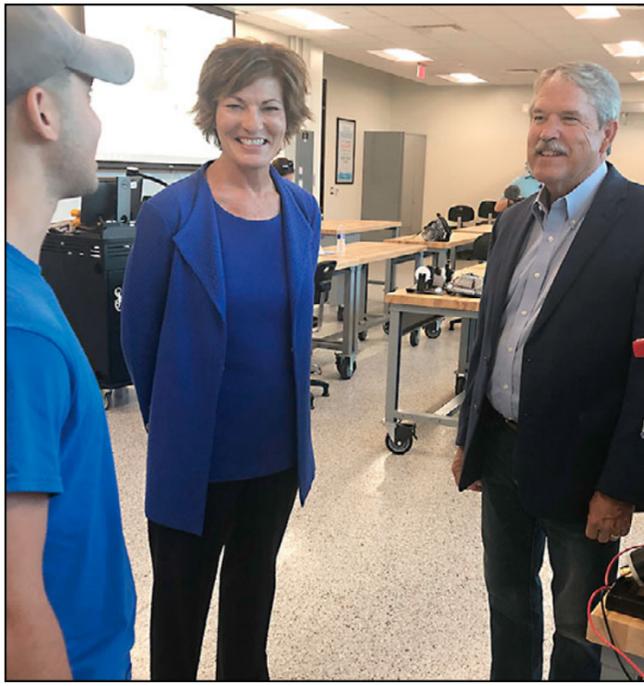
FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.HUNTONGROUP.COM/NEWS/CARSHOW

Candidate holds local food drives



Candidate for Constable of Precinct 2, Lt. Jerry Garcia, shown above, sponsored a recent food drive which was held at South Belt Church on the corner of Astoria and Beamer Aug. 29. Another food drive is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 19 in the South Houston area. See next week's Leader for more details. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Senator Taylor visits San Jac



Sen. Larry Taylor (right) recently visited San Jacinto College and is shown here with college chancellor, Brenda Hellyer and a student, Alex Guzman. Items under discussion included the newly launched Bachelor of Science in Nursing program which was supported by Taylor. Additionally, he toured the Lyondell Basell petrochemical facility to observe the operating of fall classes under the restrictions of COVID.

Photo by Teri Crawford

CHC donates backpacks to PISD students

By Kadey Heidrich
Pasadena ISD
Communications
Community Health
Choice, a local health insurance agency that provides low-cost or no-cost cover-

age to families in need, has donated 500 backpacks to support Pasadena ISD students as they head back to school. The donation by Community Health Choice was facilitated by ABC Dental.

In previous years, ABC Dental hosted the Pasadena ISD back-to-school event and Community Health Choice was one of the sponsors. While the back-to-school event may have been canceled

this year in response to the pandemic, ABC Dental and Community Health Choice have continued to find ways to help area students and their families through this generous donation.



Community Health Choice representatives are shown above with employees from ABC Dental with donated backpacks. Shown above are, left to right, Krishna Shah, coordinator of special projects; Ana L. Espinoza, community health worker; Carolina Turribi-

ates, vice president of community relations; Dr. Iraj Jabbari, president and CEO of ABC Dental; Cristina Aguirre, marketing director of Community Health Choice; and Gloria Gallegos, associate superintendent of special programs.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)

The annual Pasadena Rodeo was scheduled with numerous entertainers including Eddy Raven performing.

Several Southeast Volunteer firemen suffered from heat and smoke inhalation while fighting a fire at a Kirkwood South residence. The owners were not at home when the fire started. The cause of the fire was undetermined.

City of Houston police were investigating the case of a 25-year-old woman who was abducted from a 7-Eleven store near her apartment in the Glenbrook Valley area by four men who brought her to Blackhawk Boulevard and raped her.

The Texas Education Agency recognized Meador Elementary School's physical education program as one of the best in the state. The TEA included Meador in its Physical Fitness Demonstration Center Program for Texas Schools.

35 years ago (1985)

A group of South Belt residents representing different factions of the community appeared before the Houston City Council to express their concerns about the encroachment of pornographic establishments upon the area.

The Brio Task Force held a public meeting at Weber Elementary to announce additional water testing at and near the abandoned refinery site at 2501 Dixie Farm Road and to provide results of the most recent testings to area residents.

An economic and demographic profile of the South Belt area presented to the board of the South Belt-Elington Chamber of Commerce predicted a population growth rate of 31 percent from 1980 to 1990. The previous decade saw a population increase of 89 percent.

A Sagomont resident woke up to an unpleasant surprise when it was discovered

that during the night someone had removed 24 of 25 crotons from the yard.

30 years ago (1990)

Designs for the proposed bridge on Sageglen to cross the drainage ditch in Scarsdale was set to be submitted to the Houston traffic department. The project was planned to solicit contracts in April with construction beginning during the summer of 1991. Building the bridge would open access from Hughes Road through to Scarsdale Boulevard.

One man was killed and another injured as they attempted car repairs on the shoulder of the 15100 block of the Gulf Freeway.

25 years ago (1995)

Two teenagers were charged with five felonies for daytime burglaries that occurred in Sageglen and Sagemeadow between Sept. 9 and Sept. 19. The two were arrested, and the majority of the stolen merchandise was recovered. The 17-year-old suspect resided in the South Belt area, and the 16-year-old resided on El Camino Real but attended Clear Brook High School.

Lightning strikes severely damaged Houston Lighting & Power capabilities in the area with Dobie High School students and staff suffering the most with no air conditioning.

Pasadena Independent School District trustees voted to lower the tax rate by 2 cents - a 1.36 percent decrease. This was the first time in 20 years that taxes had decreased.

20 years ago (2000)

Justice for Jonathan, the organization founded by Jonathan Barrica's father Jaime, sponsored a garage sale and tennis tournament.

San Jacinto College District reported record-breaking registration for the fall semester.

Pasadena school district enrollment increased by more

than 700 students.

15 years ago (2005)

PISD officials were working on a program called Expectation Graduation. This program was designed to help determine why the percentage of students not finishing and graduating from high school was so high. Although the Texas Education Agency reported that 82.8 percent of students in Texas graduated, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research's data revealed that the graduation rate for the class of 2001 was only 68 percent statewide.

More than 500 students displaced after Hurricane Katrina were enrolled in PISD schools. South Belt area campuses absorbed nearly 200 new students.

10 years ago (2010)

Deputy Lance Willis arrested Glenn Biagas on charges of trespassing and assaulting a peace officer. The incident began when Willis spotted Biagas in a parking lot in the 10900 block of Scarsdale. Aware that Biagas had just been released from jail for distributing hate mail in the same parking lot the previous June, Willis told the suspect he had to leave the property. Rather than leave, Biagas, who was drinking a beer at the time, charged and attacked the deputy. A fight ensued, and Biagas reportedly punched Willis multiple times in the ribs. Biagas, 26, was subsequently apprehended and taken into custody.

5 years ago (2015)

The Rev. John Morgan, pastor of Sagomont Church, and renowned local attorney John Eddie Williams were inducted into Pasadena High School's Wall of Honor. Morgan established what would later become Sagomont Church in 1966. His original congregation consisted of 16 members. He is also well known for his "Financial Freedom" seminars, as well as seminar recordings and his book under the

same title, all of which have reached more than a million people. Morgan has served on numerous boards ranging from the chairman of trustees at Houston Baptist University to president of the Texas Baptist Pastor's Conference. In 2005, he was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Morgan attended Kruse Elementary and Jackson Intermediate before enrolling at Pasadena High. He continued his education at Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned his doctorate from Southwest Baptist University.

The founding partner of the Williams Kherkher law firm, Williams gained national stature as the lead counsel for the state of Texas in a landmark case against tobacco companies in 1995. The case eventually resulted in a \$17.3 billion settlement - at that point the largest legal settlement in American history. Williams' firm specializes in mass torts and pharmaceutical litigation. Williams played football at Baylor and graduated with a business degree. Passing up the chance for a corporate career, he decided to study law. He graduated first in his class at the Baylor School of Law and served as editor-in-chief of the Baylor Law Review. In 2002, he was honored by his alma mater as Baylor Lawyer of the Year. Ten years later, Williams was named Baylor's Alumnus of the Year for 2012-2013.

1 year ago (2019)

A man was shot during a robbery Monday, Sept. 9, in the 10500 block of Thornlea. The victim, Hugo Parra, 18, was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening wounds. According to witnesses, three suspects fled the scene following the shooting. No immediate arrests were made.

Dobie alum set to release debut book

By: Rebeca Lazo
Pasadena ISD
Communication and
Alumni department

The Communication and Alumni department would like to present a new series of stories dedicated to the many wonderful PISD alumni that continue to serve as inspirational models. Below is the second part of the series recounting how Ahmed M. Badr is living proof that no dream is ever too far from one's reach.

Badr, a 22-year-old Dobie alum, has accomplished many things throughout his lifetime and the list continues to grow as his debut book, "While the Earth Sleeps We Travel," is set to be released on Oct. 13, 2020.

"While the Earth Sleeps We Travel" is a collection of poetry, personal narratives and art from multiple displaced youth who Badr met on trips to various countries.

Badr is an Iraqi refugee who escaped his Baghdad home with his family after it was attacked by militia troops in 2006. His family escaped to Syria as refugees and eventually set foot on American soil in 2008 after receiving approval by a refugee resettlement program.

Assimilating to the U.S. was no easy accomplishment. In addition to leaving behind extended family, friends and his homeland, he had to transition to his new life as a refugee living in America.

The Badr family started their journey to the U.S. in Sioux Falls, S.D., then relocated to the Houston area. It was then that Badr would get his first experience in an American high school, enrolling at Dobie.

Badr "unpacked" his experiences and expressed them through storytelling all while creating an

avenue for others to do the same. As a junior at Dobie, he founded Narratio - a global platform that empowers youth to share their stories through different mediums.

"I think Dobie was a major place of development for me. Narratio started when I was at Dobie, and I had so many experiences there that prepared me for everything that has happened since then," said Badr.

Since Narratio, Badr has not only been able to share his story as an Iraqi refugee, but also the stories of refugee youth all across the globe.

Over the years, he has participated in various speaking engagements, even a TedTalk - teen edi-

tion where he rewrites his own narrative on the tragedy that haunted his home in Baghdad many years ago. He is also the co-founder of the multimedia installation, "Unpacked: Refugee Baggage," which recreates the homes of refugees who have been greatly affected by the war in a series of suitcases.

His work doesn't stop there. Badr traveled to Greece, Trinidad, Tobago and New York where he held workshops for hundreds of youth living inside and outside of refugee camps who shared their untold stories.

"The book is really about uplifting the voices of displaced young people and giving them the opportunity to express themselves

on the global stage...The book really wants to honor and celebrate those expressions," said Badr.

"It's not a book about individuals who are displaced. It's about the creativity of those who have experienced displacement," said Badr.

While the book was a multi-year collaborative project that required many contributions from different workshops, Badr said that collecting the stories was not the challenging part of the journey.

"Figuring out the best way to do justice to these stories in a way that allows them to come together but also stand on their own was the challenge," said Badr.

Though the global pandemic is preventing Badr

from reaching his audience outside of a screen, he plans to do a formal book tour once it is safe to do so.

"I want to reach as many individuals as possible and connect with local displaced communities in different cities," he said.

A percentage of royalties from the book will be donated to organizations supporting programs for displaced youth across the globe. "While the Earth Sleeps We Travel" can be preordered. If there's a graduate to be spotlighted, email communication@pasadenaisd.org.

Badr would like to thank the following educators at Dobie High School for their constant support and investment in his ambitions.

In his words: "It's important at that stage to have individuals who recognize the story you're telling to feel validated in your journey."

Badr expresses gratitude to Kathy Eads, AP world history teacher; Bob Daugherty, AP U.S. history teacher; Andrew Barrett, speech and debate coach and head coach; John Aguilard, former speech and debate coach; Chrystal Carrizal Limón, pre-AP English teacher; Chris Rojas, former AP government teacher; and Tracy Whatley, AP environmental science teacher; Jennifer Johnson, College Now coordinator; Bernadette Marsh, former counselor; Franklin Moses, Dobie principal; Michael Van Essen, former Dobie assistant principal and current principal at Dobie 9; Andy Kirkpatrick, former freshman algebra teacher; Nancy Schwab and Dendy Farrar, librarians; Cheramie and Clinton Hopper, former theater program directors; and Rick Burford, theater and speech and debate program.



Ahmed M. Badr introduces the Narratio Fellows at the poetry performance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Royal Assyrian Court, July 31, 2019.

Photo by Edward Grattan

Students help design face shields, donate to CCISD

As cities began putting restrictions and lockdowns in place in March due to the spread of COVID-19, Clear Creek ISD Robotics sprang into action to make a difference in their community and beyond.

The Robonauts, the CCISD districtwide high school FIRST Robotics Competition team, kept in contact through group messaging with their head coach Lucien Junkin, who works as the chief engineer for the Space Exploration Vehicle at NASA.

"We had our last competition in the beginning of March and we were supposed to go to another competition, but it got suspended because of COVID-19, so right after that we started asking the question, 'If we are going to be locked down and we know the country is in need, what can we do?'" said Junkin.

In a few weeks' time, Junkin created dozens of plastic face shield prototypes, while consulting with the students daily through messaging.

He spent countless hours

of his own time to develop the face shields to donate to first responders and medical personnel across the country and, later, the world.

Through funding from VEX Robotics, NASA, the Robonauts Booster Club and other private donors, about 100,000 masks have been manufactured by VEX since mid-April.

"It makes me super proud that our students are generous with their time," added Junkin. "There is a great future in this country when youngsters are doing this."

In July, Robonauts team member and Clear Lake High School senior Sophia Snapp devised a way to make an impact a little closer to home.

She coordinated with fellow Robonauts and the CCISD Students for Safe-

ty, a student-run campaign created to give input on the 2020-2021 school reopening plans. Snapp emailed district leaders directly to offer a donation of 1,200 face shields for students and staff.

"I just thought it was really great that I would be able to reach out to the district and be able to help people that I've never even met, just making sure that they feel safer to come to school," said Snapp.

Junkin traveled to Greenville, Texas, to pick up the unassembled shield kits provided by VEX Robotics.

The participating students will put the shields together by hand.

Find out more about the design at <https://www.vexrobotics.com/robotshields.html>.

Donations can be requested at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc>

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Bov-enlhtnbyKJ250_3yx
qCZ-AAQ/viewform.



Kat Sabo, a Clear Falls student who volunteered to help is shown above building a face shield that will be donated to Clear Creek ISD students and staff.



Piles of face shields are being assembled by Clear Creek ISD students.

CCISD recognized

Continued from Page 1 each state. The list is divided into 51 rankings - one for each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia - and was compiled by surveying 80,000 Americans working for businesses with at least 500 employees. Surveys were conducted from October 2019 to May 2020.

"What makes this accolade more special is that it

is based on the opinions and feedback from employees," said Smith. "It is an honor to be listed alongside other visionary leaders in Texas, such as H-E-B, Southwest Airlines and NASA."

For additional information and to see the full list of America's Best Employers By State, visit www.forbes.com/best-employers-by-state/#56910b90487a.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

ROSA CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY

Special belated birthday wishes are sent to South Belt Leader staffer Rosa Graham who celebrated a birthday Sept. 1 from family, friends and the Leader staff.

DAVID ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Former South Belt resident David Griffin, is wished a happy on birthday Sept. 13 from his wife Angela; sons Robert and Kenney; parents Bobby (Leader staffer) and husband Kenneth Griffin; sister Tracy and husband Jim Giles; sons Cody Giles and Aaron and wife Ashley Giles and children Jaxson and Jace; and daughter Kristen; and friends in the South Belt area.

LORETTA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday wishes are sent Sept. 16 to local businesswoman Loretta Williams Gurnell from family, friends and the staff of the South Belt Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Sept. 10 through Sept. 16, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to Kathie Teuscher Sept. 12.

Burnett Elementary

Break out the balloons and party favors Sept. 14 for Bich Do.

Bush Elementary

Blow out the candles on a birthday cake for Jeannene Gazaw Sept. 14.

Frazier Elementary

Send a birthday greeting to Becky Shelton Sept. 13. Wendy Wiseburn, Frazier principal, celebrates a special birthday Sept. 14. Join in the birthday fun Sept. 15 with Mary Tran. Marking a birthday Sept. 16 is Laura

Longoria.

Genoa Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout Sept. 13 to Denise Olson.

Meador Elementary

The day for a party for Sulma Batiz is Sept. 12. Maria Rutherford is sent a special birthday greeting Sept. 14. Arcely Jasso celebrates a birthday Sept. 16.

Moore Elementary

Sept. 12 is the day for Patricia Martinez to enjoy cake and ice cream. Light the birthday candles for Adela Moreno Sept. 15. The day for a birthday gift for Randi Howard is Sept. 16.

Stuchbery Elementary

Blow out the birthday candles Sept. 12 for Lauren Keith. Sept. 13 is the day for cake and ice cream for Jennifer Marshall. Send a happy birthday greeting Sept. 16 to Laura Longoria and Olga Uresti.

Melillo Middle School

Celebrate with party favors and birthday treats Sept. 11 for Marlene Balderas and Carla Spencer.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Break out the balloons and the birthday cake Sept. 10 for America Mendoza.

Thompson Intermediate

The day for a birthday celebration for Rosa Nunez is Sept. 15.

Dobie High

Celebrating a Sept. 10 birthday are Kellymary Cooling-Davis and Glenn Tucker Smith. Send a birthday greeting Sept. 11 to Jeffrey McKnight. Light the birthday candles on Sept. 13 for Jennifer Bland, Thomas Etienne and Erika Garcia. Blow out the candles for a four-star celebration Sept. 14

for Ginger Emshoff, Cedric Mack, Rodney Pannell and Dana Stockton. The day for a party for Domitila Canales and Ryan Peel is Sept. 15.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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

Thursday, Sept. 10: Shellie Ortiz, Veronica Adame, Robert Resendez, Emily Auffarber, Suzy Krienitz, Diane Hall, Christy Cobb and Charles Monty; Friday, Sept. 11: Kyle Patterson, Amber Edwards, Sherrie Hoxek-Vandament, Phillip Ford and Dan Sciba; Saturday, Sept. 12: Tracy Cavazos-Garcia, Rhoda Mohr, Christian Muñoz and Jessica Moore; Sunday, Sept. 13: Matthew Koska, Michelle Perez, Holly Kopoulos, Lisa Clinton, Joe Sanchez and Kathryn Nguyen-Maldonado; Monday, Sept. 14: Michele Guirero, Eric Brown, Elaine Baker, Jacob Lacadou, Julie Lakota, Tom Golightly, Michael York, Dolph Larson, Kristi Okwuonu and Mark Wood; Tuesday, Sept. 15: Dawnella Woods, Jackie Williams, Patricia Jones, Crystal McGoldrich, Kristi Ortiz, David Young, Shawn Black and Michelle Poole; and Wednesday, Sept. 16: Peter Hoth, Kairy Barkley, Jorge Sanchez, Mark Wilson, Brandy Rogers, Claude Van Court, Angela Starr, Anna Aranova and Melissa Norman.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

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

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

After six months, nearly 200 days, athletics make triumphant return

Monday, March 9. The Dobie varsity softball team met after a disappointing loss to Atascocita and talked about turning the page and playing better the next time out. Similarly, the Dobie varsity baseball team defeated Baytown Sterling Thursday, March 12 by a 5-3 count and, at 10-2-1, was looking forward to opening District 22-5A action against Summer Creek the following week. Thing is, that's essentially when the high school sports world stopped turning. As everyone knows by now, the 2019-2020 in-person, yes, in-person, is now a popular phrase, school year ended. The 2019-2020 spring sports season abruptly ended in March. Not only for Dobie but for much of the nation. Well coronavirus, that's enough. Finally, some six months and nearly 200 days since a legitimate athletic event or practice has taken place, there is a return to normalcy, if that is possible. Where to start? The Dobie varsity tennis program will begin its regular season today - Sept. 10 - as the Kingwood Mustangs visit for the 2020 opener.

Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. told the *Leader* that judging from early practices, it was easy to see that many of his Longhorns were experiencing symptoms of a long layoff, i.e. hitting balls off the frames of their racquets and the like. But subsequent workouts were better and more was accomplished. When the Longhorns don their face coverings for play, it may be hard to see the smiles, but they will be there. Dobie has a busy few days on the court as part of the 2020 restart. After going against Kingwood, the Longhorns will host Clear Creek in opening-round action of the two-day Remembering Ike Invitational. Semifinal and championship action as well as loser's bracket rounds will be played Sept. 12. Once the University Interscholastic League announced its Class 5A

and 6A plans for a start to fall athletics, Moreno got busy trying to put together a schedule. While the UIL has banned all tournament play for the fall and winter sports seasons, the Remembering Ike event will feature only two teams going head-to-head at a given location at all times. Dobie is also supposed to begin District 22-6A action Tuesday, Sept. 15, by hosting Channelview, yet there remains a chance that the Falcons will forgo fall team tennis plans over all of the coronavirus issues. If the Longhorns miss out on Channelview, Pearlland has agreed to come to Dobie for a friendly nondistrict clash. Just like that, the fall team tennis season will be underway. The Clear Brook and Dobie volleyball programs hosted tryouts along with the first day of preseason workouts Sept. 7 as that sport also got up

and running. The regular season begins Tuesday, Sept. 15, as Clear Brook travels to Pearland and Dobie is at Baytown Sterling. Clear Brook is reloading its lineup after a talent-rich senior class graduated following the District 24-6A championship season for the Lady Wolverines. Veteran Clear Brook head coach Meredith Thompson stacked the deck when she jumped on the telephone to reassemble her 2020 nondistrict schedule that, again noted, will include no tournaments. After opening against Pearlland, Clear Brook will also go against defending 22-6A champion Kingwood, a Friendswood team coming off winning the Class 5A Region III title a season ago in addition to former 21-6A champion Deer Park as well as a very good Summer Creek squad. The Lady Wolverines will play at Clear Lake Sept. 29 to begin District 24-6A play and will then host presumed 24-6A frontrunner Clear Falls Oct. 2. At Dobie, the Lady Longhorns plan to scrimmage Sept. 11, Sept. 12 and again Sept. 14 in advance of their opener at Baytown. With the vast majority of last year's team returning, the Lady Longhorns have every intention of battling Deer Park for the 22-6A crown. As with tennis, the bottom line is everyone is back on the volleyball court and ready to play "real" matches, even if that means masks will be worn. And of course there's the much-anticipated return to the football field. Perhaps for differing reasons, the 2020 season could represent a turning point for both the Clear Brook and Dobie programs. Before she exited for an administration role within Clear Creek ISD, former longtime Clear Brook High School principal Michele Staley led a hiring committee that brought in former Duncanville High School defensive coordinator John Towels III as head football coach. While he arrived back in February, Towels has been robbed of weeks of on-field off-season preparation time with the Wolverines. Yet the goal remains unchanged. Since the glory days of Wolverine football in the 90s, there has been a power shift within Clear Creek ISD as the Clear Springs Chargers regularly run the show from a district standpoint, with neighboring Dickinson also having become a bully in 24-6A. Towels knows these things, but doesn't plan to accept them. While the Wolverines are almost assured of being behind schedule in preparation due to the coronavirus, the plan is to push for the playoffs, if not the championship, this season. The Wolverines took to the playing field Sept. 7 and are aiming to go to Texas City's Stinger Stadium Sept. 25 and get a win over the Stings. The Dobie Longhorns also got started Sept. 7 with an eye on getting going Sept. 25 at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium against Jersey Village. Under head coach Kevin Bernethy, the Longhorns won nine regular season games in 2019 for the first time in 20 years. The team's next step is winning a district title for the first time in 10 of those seasons. Ironically, Dobie's last victory over Deer Park in that 2010 season brought the 22-5A crown. For 2020 in 6A, the Longhorns plan to use a victory over Deer Park en route to said elusive title. The bottom line? No matter the sport or which team wins what or doesn't for that matter, high school athletics has returned at long last. And the plan is for sports life to return to normal very soon.

Dobie tennis hosts Remembering Ike

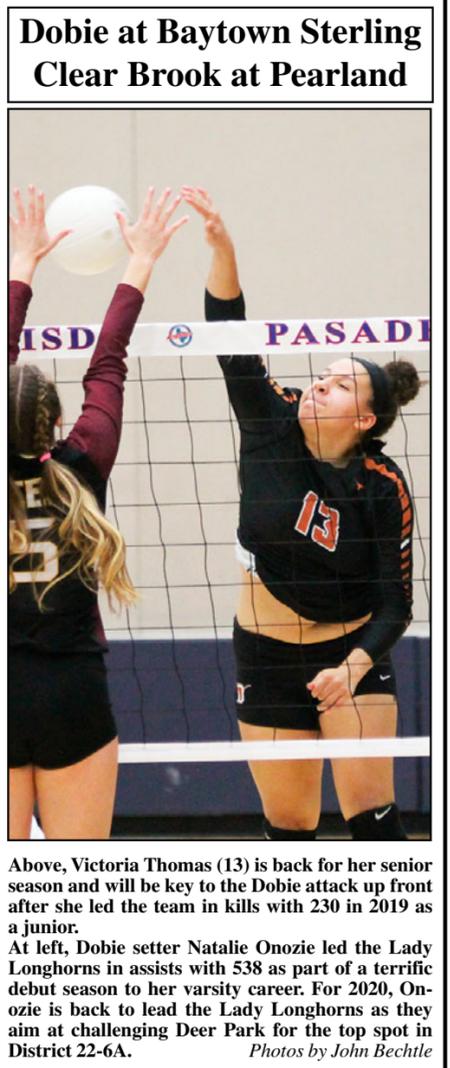
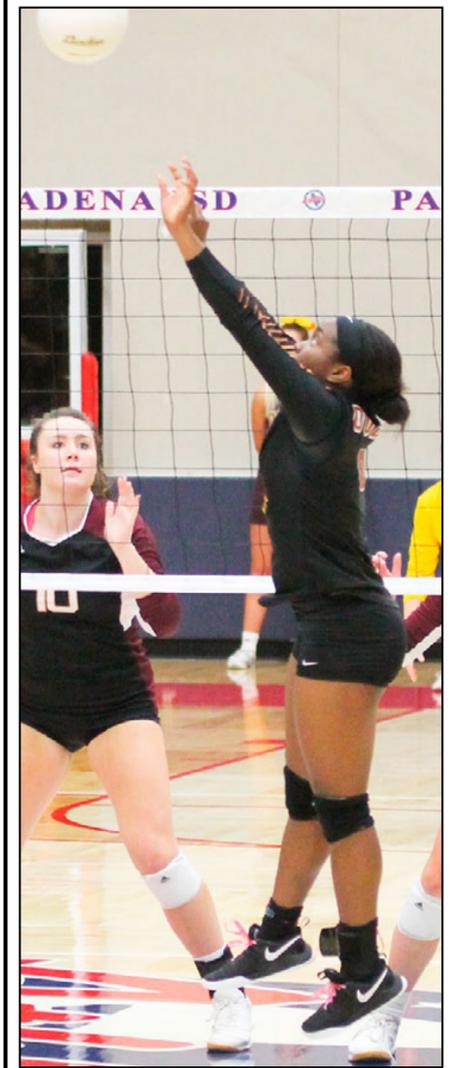
The Remembering Ike Invitational, featuring some of Region's III's top talent, will highlight opening week action as public school athletics makes a triumphant return to play. The ninth annual event was rescued for 2020 by Dobie tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr., who founded the tournament. Shortly after the University Interscholastic League announced fall sports restart dates, Moreno went to work putting together the eight-team field. Dobie hosts Clear Creek while Friend-

High school volleyball season served up Sept. 15

wood is at Clear Brook and La Porte is at Dawson. The fourth quarter-final matchup Sept. 11 shows Clear Springs at Pearlland. The UIL has banned "tournament" play for the fall but this event features nothing more than one on one matchups at separate locations, with social distancing measures utilized. Semifinal and final play as well as loser's bracket action on Sept. 12, at all locations. As for Dobie, the Longhorns will play either Dawson or La Porte in second-round play.

Dobie at Baytown Sterling Clear Brook at Pearland

Above, Victoria Thomas (13) is back for her senior season and will be key to the Dobie attack up front after she led the team in kills with 230 in 2019 as a junior. At left, Dobie setter Natalie Onozie led the Lady Longhorns in assists with 538 as part of a terrific debut season to her varsity career. For 2020, Onozie is back to lead the Lady Longhorns as they aim at challenging Deer Park for the top spot in District 22-6A. Photos by John Bechtle



Ike Tennis Opens

Clear Creek at Dobie
Fri., Sept. 11, 2:30 p.m.

La Porte at Dawson
Fri., Sept. 11, 2:30 p.m.

Clear Springs at Pearland
Fri., Sept. 11, 2:30 p.m.

Friendswood at Clear Brook
Fri., Sept. 11, 2:30 p.m.

Semifinals and finals
Loser's bracket play
Sat., Sept. 12,
8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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BAFL practices off and running

The Bay Area Football League 2020 preseason is underway as each of the league's 16 teams are now focused on opening day coming Sept. 26. Locally, the Sagemont Cowboys and Southbelt Dolphins began preseason practices Sept. 5 along with the rest of the league. Beginning Sept. 26, BAFL will embark on an eight-game regular season. As has become tradition, the Cowboys and Dolphins will meet in November to end the regular season. The three-round playoff schedule is to be determined. Opening weekend Sept. 26 will feature the Dolphins playing in Galveston against the league-newcomer Hurricanes. The Cowboys will play in Santa Fe against the Indians.

BAFL Opening Weekend

Saturday, Sept. 26

Game Times:
Pee Wee: 8 a.m.
Seniors: 9 a.m.
Juniors: 11 a.m.
Sophomores: 1 p.m.
Freshmen: 3 p.m.

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Longhorn netters return to play

Megan Rodriguez and the Dobie team tennis squad open play Sept. 10 against Kingwood at Dobie.

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Clear Creek ISD 2020 Varsity Football Schedule

Week 1

Thurs., Sept. 24, Clear Lake hosts Pasadena, Challenger, 6 p.m.
 Fri., Sept. 25, Clear Springs hosts Katy, Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Sept. 25, Clear Brook at Texas City, Stingaree, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Sept. 25, Clear Creek at Oak Ridge, Woodforest, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Sept. 25, Clear Falls at Dawson, The Rig, 7 p.m.

Week 2

Thurs., Oct. 1, Clear Lake hosts La Porte, Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 2, Clear Falls hosts Pasadena Memorial, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 2, Clear Brook at Friendswood, Winston, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 2, Clear Creek at Deer Park, Abshier, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 2, Clear Springs at Tompkins, Rhodes, 7 p.m.

Week 3

Thurs., Oct. 8, *Clear Creek hosts Brazoswood, Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 9, *Clear Lake hosts Clear Brook, Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 9, *Clear Falls at Dickinson, Vitanza, 7 p.m.
 Sat., Oct. 10, Clear Springs hosts Elkins, Challenger, 1 p.m.

Week 4

Thurs., Oct. 15, *Clear Brook hosts Clear Falls (HC), Challenger, 6 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 16, *Clear Springs hosts Clear Lake (HC), Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 16, *Clear Creek at Dickinson, Vitanza, 7 p.m.

Week 5

Thurs., Oct. 22, *Clear Falls hosts Clear Springs, Challenger, 6 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 23, *Clear Creek hosts Clear Brook (HC), Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 23, *Brazoswood hosts Dickinson, Hopper, 7 p.m.

Week 6

Thurs., Oct. 29, *Clear Springs hosts Clear Creek, Challenger, 6 p.m.
 Thurs., Oct. 29, *Brazoswood hosts Clear Brook, Hopper, 6 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 30, *Clear Lake hosts Clear Falls, Challenger, 7 p.m.

Week 7

Fri., Nov. 6, *Clear Creek hosts Clear Lake, Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Nov. 6, *Clear Brook at Dickinson, Vitanza, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Nov. 6, *Clear Springs at Brazoswood, Hooper, 7 p.m.

Week 8

Thurs., Nov. 12, *Clear Falls hosts Clear Creek, Challenger, 6 p.m.
 Fri., Nov. 13, *Clear Springs hosts Dickinson, Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Sat., Nov. 14, *Clear Lake hosts Brazoswood, Challenger, 1 p.m.

Week 9

Fri., Nov. 27, Clear Brook hosts Stratford, Challenger, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Nov. 27, Clear Springs at Katy Taylor, Rhodes, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Nov. 27, Clear Creek at Seven Lakes, Legacy, 7 p.m.

Week 10

Fri., Dec. 4, Clear Falls at Cinco Ranch, Legacy, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Dec. 4, Clear Brook at Morton Ranch, Rhodes, 7 p.m.

*District 24-6A games
 (HC) Homecoming game

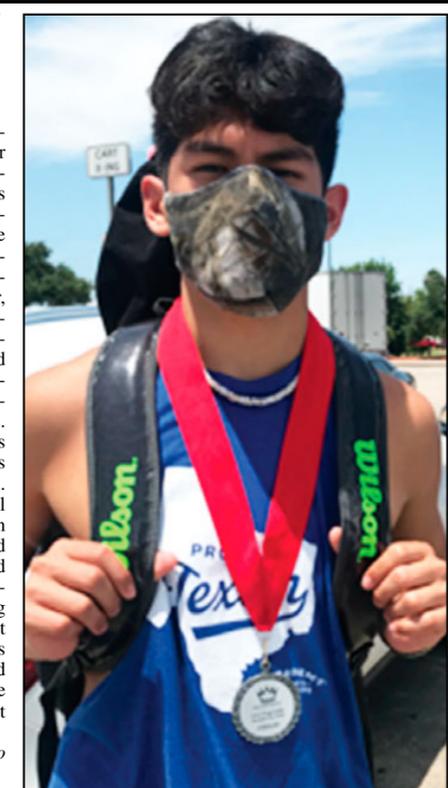
Brook hoopster Andrews signs with Quincy

Clear Brook Class of 2020 graduate Brandon Andrews (with ball) has enrolled at Quincy University in Quincy, Ill., where he will continue his education and playing career with the Hawks. Andrews was the Offensive Most Valuable Player for the Wolverines as he helped the team reach the area playoff round before a loss to Summer Creek. Andrews, who plans to study pre-med, will join a Quincy University program that competes in the Great Lakes Conference within the NCAA Division II ranks.



Martinez second at co-ed tennis tournament

Dobie varsity team tennis player and senior co-captain Lael Martinez highlighted his summer by taking second place overall in the King Daddy Sports/Racquet Pro Series at Chancellors Family Center, where he reached the final in the D draw. Martinez won quarterfinal and semifinal matches to advance to the championship final before a loss. He has now joined his Dobie tennis teammates for the fall campaign. The Longhorns will host Kingwood to begin the season Sept. 10 and will then host Kingwood Sept. 11 at Dobie to begin the Remembering Ike Invitational. That eight-team event runs through Sept. 12 and will conclude with the championship round at Dawson High School.



Courtesy photo

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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.hasconacona.com. For a list of Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

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

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.

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

Pearland Area Republican's Club - meets monthly on the second Thursday at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. For details, email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.

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/>.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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/>.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 22930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hasconacona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. Join the Friday night service online 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 or services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a prayer book copy for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html> to download.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285 or services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a prayer book copy for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html> to download.

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/> for more information.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. Join the Friday night service online 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 or services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a prayer book copy for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarha-shalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html> to download.

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>.

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC (when church is open) on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC (when church is open) on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details or visit <http://www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html>.

Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back.

Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

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

Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual! Meeting is Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., at <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, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hasconacona.com.

Sagamont Civic Club - Meetings are held the second Monday, Sagamont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

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.

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 22930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hasconacona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

Positive Interaction Program - A guest speaker is to be announced. Zoom meeting consists of police and citizens working together for safer neighborhoods. For more information about how to participate in the meeting, contact HPD Officer Richard Buitron at 281-642-3484 or richard.buitron@houstonpolice.org.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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/>.

The Community Club - meets monthly on the third Wednesday at Golden Corral, 4021 Spencer Hwy., in Pasadena. Social time is 9:30 a.m.; meeting is at 10 a.m. The club is a charitable organization of women helping the Salvation Army feed and care for homebound elderly/disabled people, children and the homeless, providing scholarships for Bridge Over Troubled Water clients. Day trips may be scheduled, followed by a guest speaker/program with fellowship and lunch. New members and guests are invited. For details, email Jmopry@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC (when church is open) on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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.

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

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

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

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PISD South Belt students in school for 1st time since 3-5-20



Nigel Hill, a Dobie High school sophomore, arrives for the first day of face-to-face instruction.



Dobie sophomore Eduardo Beltran arrives prepared for his first day of class.



Shown above are, left to right, Dobie High School sophomores Brianna Berrones and Syomi Gonzales as they pose in front of the school ready for the first face-to-face day.

A legacy of leadership

By Andrea Vasquez

It's never easy to say goodbye to the people and places you have dedicated a good portion of your personal and professional life to – a sentiment that San Jacinto College provosts Dr. William (Bill) Raffetto (north campus) and Dr. Brenda Jones (south campus) are experiencing upon their recent retirements.

Combined, they have contributed more than 55 years of leadership, counsel, and expertise. As members of the Strategic Leadership Team, Raffetto and Jones' efforts helped pass the college's 2015 bond referendum, allocating \$425 million for building renovations, technology upgrades and new building construction.

Their leadership and constant focus on student success has also led to the college receiving the 2017 Aspen Institute Rising Star Award as one of the top five community colleges in the nation and its recent third consecutive nomination as a top 10 finalist for Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and recently the Aspen Excellence and Equity in Community College Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Award.

Raffetto began his career at San Jacinto College in 1984 as the dean of student services at the south campus. Having previously served as the director of financial aid and guidance services at Temple College, Raffetto was more than familiar with being a community college administrator.

Although widely known for his great storytelling, he has also been recognized for his ability to build high-functioning teams due to his knack for growing and coaching others on their individual strengths.

"Overall, I hope that people will remember me as the administrator who had the courage to tell people what they needed to know rather than what they wanted to hear," he said.

Within his 36 years at San Jacinto College, Raffetto also served as vice president of student services, vice president of enrollment services, and provost of the north campus. During that time, he has published in various professional academic publications and represented the college among various local and state

professional organizations including serving as president of the Texas Association of Community College Deans of Students; board member of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation and the Junior College Personnel Association of Texas; president of the South Belt Rotary Club; and executive board member of the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce.

Raffetto also created the Read Across north campus program in 2015 in an effort to inspire students to enjoy reading and have access to personal books of interests. Coinciding with Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Day, the annual book drive provides free books of many genres, including children's books, donated by faculty and staff, to current students. To date, north campus faculty and staff have donated more than 7,000 books.

Upon reflecting on his years of service to the College, Raffetto says it all comes down to the people.

"I am very grateful to have worked with very smart people who are dedicated to student success and to improving the lives of others," he said. "I feel my greatest successes have been the teams I helped build in the student services

divisions. Hiring good people, having the confidence in them to let them do their job, and assisting them with their professional development has been one of the most rewarding things in my administrative career."

His retirement plans include enjoying his two grandsons and attending their soccer games and practices. He also plans to spend a lot of time reading, which has always been a big part of his life having also been a former high school English teacher.

Raffetto holds a Doctor of Education and Master of Science from Texas A&M University-Commerce (formerly East Texas State University) and a Bachelor of Science from Duquesne University.

Jones is also leaving her mark on the college's legacy of leadership. Jones began working at the college in 2001 as an adjunct professor in the business management department at central campus then later served as the program coordinator for corporate education in the Continuing and Professional Development Division.

Upon completing her doctorate, Jones served as the business division chair for instructors at four Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison

units for Lee College's Huntsville Center then served as the dean of technical and professional education at Galveston College. In 2010, she returned to San Jacinto College as the dean of business and technology where she advanced to the interim vice president of learning and in 2012 was named the south campus provost after a national search.

"Being a part of the remarkable leadership of this phenomenal organization has been one of the greatest achievements of my career," said Jones. "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 understands the importance of putting our students and their overall success at the heart of everything we do."

Throughout Jones' 19 years at the college, collaboration with industry, community, and educational partners remained one of her priorities. She was instrumental in creating Pearland ISD's Robert Turner College and Career High School and Pasadena ISD's Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School and its newest early college high school facility located on the college's south campus. Jones also championed the development of the college's biomedical clinical equipment technician program, offering students an additional pathway into the medical field and led the team that secured the college's partnership with Baylor University as one of 10 Texas community colleges chosen to be part of the Baylor Bound transfer program.

Jones also continues to be an active member in numerous community organizations, including the Clear Lake City Chamber of Commerce and the Pearland Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the Pearland Economic Leadership Council and Capella University Community College Advisory Council. Jones notes that some of her greatest successes are the students and employees she has mentored over the years. Mentorship has always been at the core of Jones' leadership DNA, and she continuously pays it forward with each one of her mentees, celebrating all of their victories no matter how big or small.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of my job has been personally serving as a mentor to some of the brightest students and employees at San Jacinto College," she said. "The students have continued their education at some of the top universities in the nation, and the employees have advanced to some of the top leadership positions in the college. It's been such a great joy to have been a part of their success, and I consider all of them legacies, not only for me but for our college who will benefit from their knowledge and leadership for years to come."

As an innovative and visionary leader, she has been recognized at the state, national, and international levels. She has received a number of awards that emphasize her dynamic leadership in higher education including the Association of Educational Office Personnel (AEOP) Boss of the Year Award; Chair Academy Idahlynn Karre International Exemplary Leader Award for global leadership in higher education; San Jacinto College Excellence Award for administration; Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society Shirley B. Gordon Award for administrative institutional support; PTK Alumni of Distinction; Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Businessperson of the Year; and Outstanding Women in Texas Government - Outstanding Leadership Award.

Prior to COVID-19, Jones and her husband had plans to celebrate their retirements by continuing to travel the world. While those plans have been put on hold, she says that they have settled for a few domestic trips. Like always, they look forward to the new adventures and what this next chapter holds.

Jones holds a doctor of philosophy in educational human resource development from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in educational administration and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Both Raffetto and Jones say that leadership, while rewarding, is not for the faint of heart, and each had some parting advice for aspiring, new and veteran leaders. "Be willing to compromise on processes, but never compromise your principles; and never lose sight of the mission of your organization," said Raffetto.

"Know when to lead and when to follow," said Jones. "Don't be afraid to acknowledge when you don't know something or when you've made a mistake. Acknowledge when you are wrong and don't have to always be right. Never get so big that you forget to be humble. Be sincere, be kind, and take time to show others that you appreciate them and the work they do."

San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer added that Raffetto's and Jones' lasting impact will help continue to move the college forward.

"Bill and Brenda have been profoundly instrumental in establishing San Jacinto College as a leader in higher education," said Hellyer. "Throughout their tenures, they have built new, innovative college programs, committed to steadfast student success, and created a culture of transformational and servant leadership."

"Their impact has led to the college being recognized as a national top ten community college and paved the way for continued excellence in academic transfer and workforce training.

"We are grateful for everything they have done for the college and wish them both a wonderful, happy retirement."

CCISD students back in school



Shown above are CCISD fifth-grade teachers, Amy Hilbert-Greene and Lauren Legge, Clear Brook High School graduate; Stacia Graham, Clear Brook High School graduate.



Shown to the left is Krysta Skyland, fifth-grade CCISD teacher.



On the right are fifth-grade teachers at Hall Elementary, distributing online-learning resources to K-5 students

Second annual car show plans underway

The second annual Cool Rides and Hot Rods car show will take place Saturday, Oct. 10, at Hunton Distribution, 735 FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sponsored by local HVAC industry leaders, the event is a fundraiser for the Houston Police Department Clear

Lake Division's Backpacks for Kids drive. All proceeds from the show will go toward the drive, which provides school supplies to area youth from the Pasadena and Clear Creek independent school districts.

The function will include music, door prizes and a chance to vote for the People's Choice Award.

The show will feature both classic and modern models will be represented. Prizes will be awarded in multiple categories.

Vehicles may be submitted in the following classes: classic car/truck; modern car/truck; classic motorcycle; modern motorcycle; and hot rod/muscle (car/truck).

Registration is open in the following options: General registration - \$50: Provides school supplies for two students and guarantees a spot in the car show. Premium registration -

\$100: Provides school supplies for four students and guarantees a premium spot in the car show. Space is limited.

VIP registration - \$150: Provides school supplies for six students, guarantees a premium spot in the show and an escorted VIP cruise across Houston to the show. Space is limited.

Due to current COVID-19 precautions, social distancing and masks will be required, as well as a thermal scan upon entry. For more information or to register, visit www.huntongroup.com/news/carshow.

Apartment by I-45 has fire

Houston firefighters responded to an apartment fire in the 1200 block of Redford near the Gulf Freeway around 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28.

Upon their arrival at The Redford apartment complex, firefighters found one unit to be on fire. Crews quickly extinguished the blaze and checked to see if it had spread to surrounding units, but it had not.

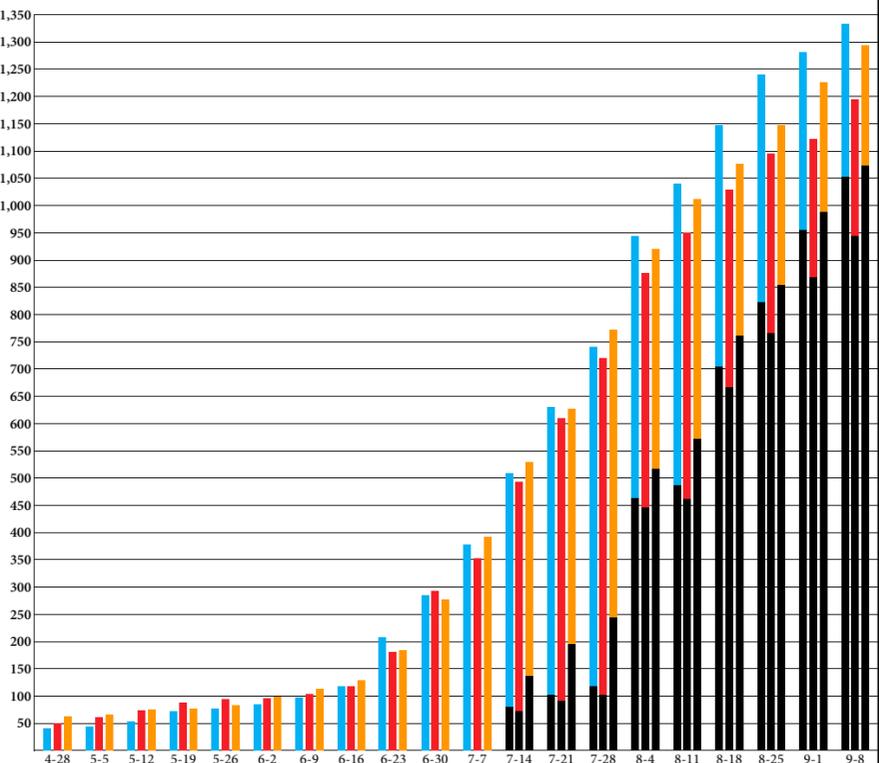
Arson investigators were called to the scene, but the fire was determined to be accidental.

Damage was estimated at \$8,000. Firefighters were able to save approximately \$49,000 in property damage.

Crews from HFD stations 26, 70, 36, 61, 29 and 70 responded to this incident.

Area ZIPs see COVID improvement

Total cases by ZIP code: 77034 77075 77089 Recoveries by ZIP code as of 9-1-20



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