

Major closures planned

There will be a total closure of all eastbound and westbound connector ramps from Beltway 8 to Interstate 45 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Jan. 14.

Eastbound motorists should continue east on the main lanes of Beltway 8; exit Genoa Red-Bluff; continue on frontage road to the Genoa Red Bluff intersection; then U-turn to the westbound Beltway 8 to the Interstate 45 intersection.

Westbound motorists should continue west on the main lanes of Beltway 8; exit Sabo; continue west on frontage road to the Sabo intersection; then U-turn and travel east on Beltway 8 to I-45 intersection.

St. Luke hosts blood drive

St. Luke the Evangelist, located at 11011 Hall Road, will host a blood drive Sunday, Jan. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the social hall.

Sagemeadow holds meetings

The Sagemeadow Maintenance Committee will hold its annual HOA business meeting and first monthly meeting of the new year 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemeadow residents are encouraged to attend. The agenda will be available at the door and may also be found on the group's website at sagemeadow.org/calendar/monthly-hoa-meeting close to the event. Meetings are routinely held every third Thursday of each month. For information regarding the Sagemeadow HOA, visit sagemeadow.org. General inquiries may be sent via e-mail to info@sagemeadow.org or by call/text to 832-377-0847.

Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Jan. 13 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Jan. 14 (second Friday of the month). January is for tree waste only. Due to a larger amount of debris being discarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, pickups may be delayed. For information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste or call 311.

Kirkwood holds meeting

The Kirkwood Civic Club's January meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes. Meetings are typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990.

COVID cases climb

The number of active COVID-19 cases being reported in Harris County has continued to climb for the second consecutive week, with 50,000 new cases being reported countywide each week and roughly 1,000 new cases being reported in just ZIP code 77089 each week. The number of confirmed cases in ZIP code 77089 has now reached 10,000. (See related story on this page.)

Of the 10,000 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 2,095 remain active, up 1,026 from the previous week. To date, 101 from the ZIP code have died from the disease. (The county reported 104 deaths last week.)

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 1,222 of the 7,292 confirmed cases remain active, up 571 from the previous week. A total of 70 from the ZIP code have died, up one from the previous week.

Of the 7,023 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 868 remain active, up 371 from the previous week. To date, 80 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there have been 713,291 total confirmed cases. Of those, 587,937 have recovered from the disease, while 118,515 cases remain active, up 51,024 from the previous week. A total of 6,801 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

Sageglen meeting scheduled

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its next homeowner meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, at the Sageglen Community Building, located at 11610 Sageyork. Refreshments will be served.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, March 31.

Both the northbound entrance and southbound entrance ramps from FM 518 in League City will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the entrance ramps from SH 96.

The northbound exit ramp to FM 517 in Dickinson will be completely closed until further notice. Motorists should use the northbound exit ramp to Holland/Hughes.

Two outside northbound frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from West Medical Boulevard to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Thursday, May 5.

One middle northbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to Bay Area Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Sunday, May 22.

The northbound entrance ramps from both FM 519/Main Street and FM 1765/Texas Avenue in La Marque will be completely closed until further notice. 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.

Riverstone HOA set

A board of directors HOA meeting will be held for Riverstone Ranch at 6 p.m. Jan. 18 via Zoom. The meeting ID is 2933511976: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2933511976?pwd=TEZyVHpmMmE5d3Y5YzhQa-0RkxU83Q0T09. Call in is 1-346-248-7799. All residents are urged to participate.

Local COVID-19 cases increase significantly

ZIP code 77089 reports 10,000 confirmed cases – 1,000 per week last 2 weeks

By James Bolen

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the South Belt area has increased dramatically in recent weeks, as the highly contagious Omicron variant fills the country's hospitals in a rash of infections not seen in several months.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in ZIP code 77089 has now reached 10,000 – with approximately 1,000 cases being reported each of the last two weeks consecutively.

Countywide, there were more than 118,000 active cases at press time – more than 100,000 of which were new.

By comparison, only around 35,000 were infected with COVID-19 at this time last year. Locally, there were 510 COVID-19 infections in ZIP code 77089 at this time last year.

At the national level, the United States made headlines this past week for topping 1 million active cases.

As of Monday, Jan. 3, there were around 98,000 Americans hospitalized with COVID-19, according to data from the Department of Health and Human Services.

The U.S. was reporting an average of about 1,200 daily COVID-19 deaths for the week ending Jan. 3, well below the daily average of around 3,000 for the same time last year. The death toll, however, tends to lag behind increases in infections and hospitalizations.

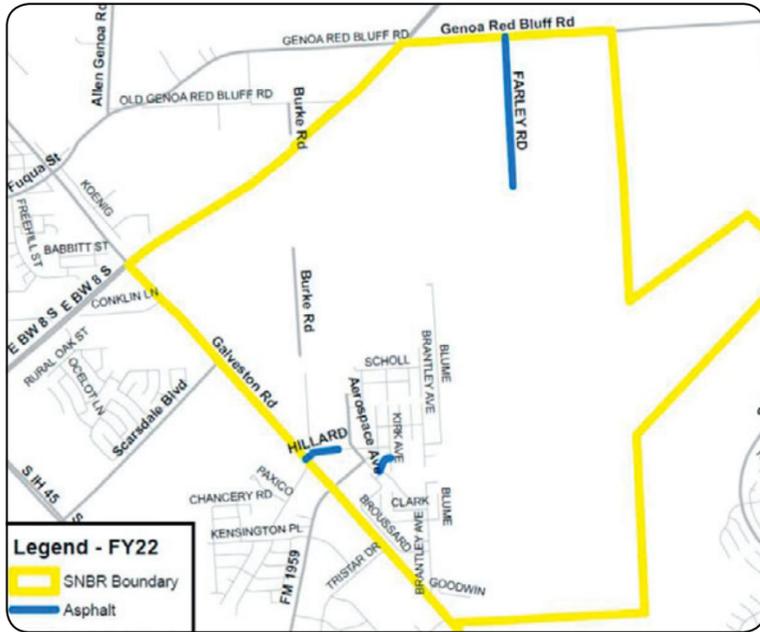
Following the holiday break, Pasadena ISD tightened its COVID-19 safety regulations and

procedures, per CDC guidelines.

"Pasadena ISD continues to monitor COVID-19 cases throughout our area and is adhering to the CDC's latest recommendations," a letter to parents read. "As a result, we are asking all students and staff to wear a face-covering while indoors, practice good hand hygiene, and follow all COVID-19 safety protocols that can be found on our district website."

The school district also has new policies for quarantining following a positive test. **Continued on Page 3**

City to repair area streets



City of Houston crews recently began a street rehabilitation project in the area near Fuqua and SH 3/Old Galveston Road. Streets to be addressed include Farley Road, Hillard Street and Fairchild Street. Construction is expected to have limited impact on residents or traffic congestion. Work is expected approximately three weeks to complete.

City begins street rehab project

Houston District D City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin would like to make South Belt residents aware of a new street rehabilitation project that began Monday, Jan. 10, in the area near Fuqua and SH 3/Old Galveston Road.

The scope of work includes rehabbing the asphalt streets of Farley Road, Hillard Street and Fairchild Street. The cost of the project is \$392,000 and is funded through the Dedicated Drainage and Street Renewal Fund. The project is a result of Mayor Sylvester Turner's Street Rehab Initiative that was launched in September 2020.

The project is anticipated to be completed in three weeks, weather permitting. Construction activities are expected to take place Monday

through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

As a result of the construction activities, be aware of flagmen and orange traffic cones that will be put in place on-site to help with traffic flow through the construction zone as the project may require a one-lane closure. Two-way traffic will be maintained at all times.

Businesses and residents will have access to driveways and sidewalks at all times and may experience an increase in noise levels due to trucks and equipment in the area. Crews will work with residents to minimize disruptions in deliveries, but delivery trucks may need to park on an undisturbed portion of the street.

For additional information, contact Martin's office at 832-393-3008 or districte@houstontx.gov.

Man, woman shot near Edgebrook

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man and a woman that took place around 4:50 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, in the 1300 block of Redford near Edgebrook and the Gulf Freeway.

The victims, Marilyn Lee Lambert, 70, and Marcus Ray Hawkins, 51, were transported to area hospitals in stable condition.

According to the Houston Police Department, officers were dispatched to a shooting call at the apartment complex at the above address and learned that three unknown black male suspects knocked on the door of the victims' apartment.

When one of the victims asked who was at the door, at least one of the suspects fired multiple shots through the door.

Lambert and Hawkins were inside the apartment and were each struck one time. Paramedics transported them to hospitals for treatment.

At press time, there was no known motive in the shooting.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Leader remembers highlights, low points of 2021

The *Leader* 2021 Year in Review is continued from the previous issue. Stories in Review to April 1 can be found in the Jan. 6 edition of the *Leader*.

April 1

More than 120 concerned residents showed up at Melillo Middle School Friday, March 26, to attend a public meeting hosted by state Rep. Dennis Paul on the future of the controversial charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision. Despite the widespread interest in the meet-

ing, however, attendees left with few questions answered since representatives of the school refused to attend. To be built on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the Elite College Prep Academy – Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy, has remained half-constructed for several years, causing complaints from residents who view the property as an eyesore. The campus has been the target of multiple criminal investigations. In April 2019, Houston

Gateway Superintendent Richard Garza, along with an IT tech from the campus, was indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing more than \$250,000 from the school. The school has also been the target of multiple civil suits for lack of payment. The school recently hired a new contractor to reportedly complete construction of the area campus.

The Texas Department of State Health Services announced that as of Monday, March 29, all adults in Texas are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccinations to everyone who fell under the Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorization to protect as many Texans as possible.

April 8

Dobie High School announced its 2021 Hall of Honor inductees, recognizing the achievements of five alumni and one faculty member. Student inductees included YouTube star T Nguyen, Class of 2007; education activist Erica Davis Rouse, Class of 1991; track star Gawain Guy, Class of 1981; and Col. William Smith,

Class of 1970. Former Dobie English teacher Barry Harris, now deceased, was the lone faculty member inducted. The inductees were formally honored at a ceremony held at the school Saturday, April 24.

A man was fatally shot around 4 p.m. Friday, April 2, while driving a black 2008 Dodge Ram pickup truck south in the 13800 block of the Gulf Freeway near Scarsdale. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced Zeferino Baeza dead at the scene. Witnesses reported seeing a white sedan driving recklessly just prior to the crash. No immediate arrests were made.

Former South Belt resident and Southeast Volunteer Fire Department member Alex Chapa was killed in an off-duty crash early Sunday, April 4, at El Dorado and SH 3. A Clear Brook High School graduate, Chapa, 24, served with the Montgomery County Fire Department at the time of his death. A police escort, led by Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office, took place along Beamer, as Chapa's body was transported to Peevey Funeral Home, where services were held. **Continued on Page 3**

BAHEP to honor Martin, Bonnen

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is excited to announce that during its annual Quasar Award Banquet, to be held Jan. 28 at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center in League City, it will honor two outstanding individuals as recipients of the 2021 Quasar Award and the 2022 Quasar Award.



Rep. Greg Bonnen

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BAHEP was unable to have the banquet last year. The group will make up for that in January with a spectacular celebration recognizing Rep. Greg Bonnen, M.D., and Houston City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin for all they have done for the Bay Area Houston region.

Bonnen

Bonnen will receive the 2021 Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence. During the 86th Legislature, he was instrumental in getting the Space Alliance Technology Outreach

Program (SATOP) and the Texas Aerospace Scholars (TAS) Program placed into the Texas A&M University system as part of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES).

For 100 years, TEES has performed groundbreaking engineering research and developed technology to address state and national problems. This provided a stable source of funding for SATOP/TAS, two very important programs, into the future.

TEES will provide STEM education expertise for the TAS Program, administered by NASA Johnson Space Center, and provide engineering expertise to SATOP, administered by BAHEP, to help small-business owners complete the development of new products at no cost to the business.

Bonnen facilitated an increase in the SATOP budget for Texas A&M University Capstone De-

Continued on Page 8

Christmas tree recycling underway

South Belt residents may recycle their Christmas trees by dropping them off at one of the city's 24 free, drop-off sites located throughout the area.

The program is currently underway and will run through Monday, Jan. 31.

Recycling Christmas trees saves taxpayers a significant amount of money in landfill space and disposal costs, according to city officials.

Christmas trees collected by the city will be given a second life by being ground into mulch that is available in bulk directly from Living Earth or available in bags at Living Earth Houston Mulch at Houston area retailers.

Trees must have all decorations, ornaments, tinsel, lights and stands removed. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.

Residents are asked to discard artificial trees

with regular trash.

The nearest drop-off site for South Belt residents is located at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport, located at Highway 3 at Brantley Road.

To get to the Ellington recycle site from the intersection of Gulf Freeway and Beltway 8, take I-45 south toward Galveston and turn left onto FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road; proceed to Highway 3/Old Galveston Road and turn right; drive two blocks and turn left onto Brantley; go past a dock with signs to the right and turn left onto Loop Road/Broussard. The recycling center will then be on the left-hand side. The location is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To see a complete listing of drop-off sites, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/press-12232021.html.

Hunt retires from Pct. 8 force



Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin (right) hosted a retirement ceremony Tuesday, Jan. 4, for Precinct 8 Deputy Robert Hunt, who is leaving the department after serving more than three decades in law enforcement. Hunt began his career with the Sheriff's Office in 1991 as a civilian jailer. He graduated the Sheriff's academy in 1993, and in 1995, he joined the Precinct 8 constable's office. Sandlin presented the deputy with a retirement plaque and shadow box in recognition of his contributions to the department. Hunt then signed off on the radio one last time.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m. Outdoors (weather permitting) storytime for all ages.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> for more library events.

Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned. The library continues to provide online resources to enjoy the library virtually. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop, but taken inside.

Additional resources

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

Houston Public Library's many free online resources and digital services are 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 collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is open. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for reopening information or the main website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library>. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

The book drop is open. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
- A pickup time and instructions will be given.
- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours are: Monday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

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 an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
- 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>.

Thursday, Jan. 13, 2 p.m. Basic Computer Classes. Learn basic computer skills in Parker Williams Classroom 2. All adults are invited.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 5 p.m. In-Person Teen Advisory Board Meeting. Looking for a way to volunteer? Go to the Teen Advisory Board Meeting in the library community room. All teens and young adults are invited.

Drive-thru demolished



The structure that formerly housed the drive-thru lanes at Chase Bank on Featherwood Drive near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway were recently demolished. The drive-thru lanes had been dormant for months, as the bank is now open only indoors across the street. Additional drive-thru lanes at the nearby Chase Bank near Sageglen Drive and Hughes Road similarly lay dormant, while the adjacent building remains open to foot traffic only.

What work remains for 2022 from Senator John Cornyn

The first year of a government completely controlled by Democrats is quickly drawing to a close. I began 2021 with this promise to Texans: to push back against Democrats' dangerous proposals when needed and to work together wherever possible. The year brought a heavy dose of both.

Despite President Joe Biden's pledge to be the deal-maker-in-chief, Democrats have unleashed a parade of partisan bills. At the start of last year, they went around Republicans to spend near-

ly \$2 trillion billed as "pandemic relief," even though less than ten percent of the funding was directly related to COVID-19 and only one percent supported vaccinations. They've made repeated attempts to seize states' constitutional power to manage their own elections and skew all future elections in Democrats' favor. And despite the fact that families are footing the bill for the highest inflation in nearly four decades, Democrats are trying to go on a nearly \$5 trillion reckless tax-and-spending spree. Fortunately, they don't have the votes to write a check that big, thanks to members of President Biden's own party joining the unified Republican opposition.

I've been clear in my fierce opposition to each of these bills, but I know that Texans did not send me to the Senate to simply vote "no." While I will continue to fight legislation that harms families, the economy, or our national security, there are plenty of issues where Republicans and Democrats can work together, and I was proud to act on those opportunities in 2021 and get critical legislation signed into law.

After years of fighting alongside advocates in Texas, including my friend Ms. Opal Lee of Fort Worth, I was proud that we succeeded in making Juneteenth a federal holiday. For generations to come, folks across the country will celebrate the significance of the day Major General Gordon Granger's troops arrived in Galveston and declared that all slaves are "forever free."

Another new law strengthens the policies and procedures for reporting missing service members. The need for this legislation became clear after the tragic murders of Spc. Vanessa Guillén, Sgt. Elder Fernandes and other service members across the country. Military instal-

lations are now required to increase security and protection protocols for reporting service members missing or AWOL, and improve information sharing with local, state and federal law enforcement if a service member goes missing. This isn't a silver bullet, but it's a big step toward preventing similar tragedies in the future.

Bills to modernize and increase staffing at our ports of entry without spending taxpayer dollars. To ensure anyone who attacks federal officers and employees serving abroad will be brought to justice. To close a loophole abused by companies fueling the opioid epidemic. To help victims of human trafficking regain their financial independence. All of these bipartisan bills I introduced were signed into law last year.

Despite the partisanship that has gripped Washington, I've found countless opportunities to get things done for Texas, but a great deal of work remains.

This past year, annual border crossings hit an all-time high, and law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations, and border communities are being overwhelmed by the scale of the humanitarian crisis. The pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in our supply chains that need to be addressed. Families are struggling to cover high costs at the pharmacy – even for medications that have been available for decades. I've introduced bipartisan bills aimed at these and countless other challenges facing our country. I hope we can make progress on those bills this year and notch even more bipartisan wins for Texas.

In 2022, I'll keep searching for opportunities to reach across the aisle on legislation. I hope my colleagues will make an effort to do the same no matter if there's an "R" or a "D" after their names.

Kick-off of the New Year from Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin

Happy 2022 everyone! The kick-off of the New Year has been a good one so far, we are preparing for a busy year in District E as we continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 while maintaining focus on public safety and improving infrastructure. This year will be filled up with increasing access to COVID-19 resources for District E residents, with the opening of testing sites in the Kingwood and Clear Lake Areas. The Kingwood Community Center has been identified as a City of Houston "Mega" site for the month of January, while we finalize a second "Mega" site location in Clear Lake that is more centrally located, we hope to have those details for distribution shortly. There is currently a regular COVID-19 testing site in Clear Lake at the University of Houston Clear Lake Campus. Here is a direct link to all City of Houston testing sites with hours of operation – <https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing/>. To learn more about COVID-19 Services and Resources visit the Houston Health Department's website.

Additionally, I have ramped up several local crime initiatives working closely with the Houston Police Department's

Kingwood, Clear Lake, and East Side divisions. In total, the District E HPD Divisions have been provided with over \$200,000 for increased patrol initiatives as well as targeted crime suppression activities. These initiatives should assist in increasing presence in District E as well as the deterrence of criminal activity. It is encouraged for residents to report incidents as they see them. "See Something, Say Something" and that can be done by calling the City of Houston's non-Emergency, in the event of non-life-threatening incidents, at (713) 884-3131. In the event of a life-threatening event, residents should always call 9-1-1.

Resident attendance at local Houston Police Department "Positive Interaction Program" meetings is also highly encouraged. Those meetings usually take place once a month. These meetings provide residents the opportunity to meet the police officers patrolling the streets daily, get updates on crime statistics, learn about area crime initiatives, and create a more open dialogue with our police force learning more about how the Houston Police Department is making a difference in your area.

Policing is not the only

component of public safety, which is why this year you will continue to see infrastructure projects throughout the community in the form of concrete panel replacements and asphalt overlays, to improve drivability within the community. Additional projects will be announced, in advance, through our office by press release and those press releases can be found online here as well as posted on my Facebook Page. The most recent completed panel replacements were completed on West Lake Houston Parkway and the most recent asphalt overlay was completed on Uvalde Rd. I think we can all agree that these improvements are greatly needed and that there is no good time for lanes closures, however, they are necessary and the crews conducting the repairs do not have a say in their schedule. I encourage you all to please be courteous drivers, obey signs, and flagmen when entering construction zones as this will help our crews stay on schedule.

Looking forward to a great 2022, please stay safe, and healthy. Lastly, to make you all aware the District E Office will be closed on Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Deaths

Florence Marie Hendrix



Florence Marie Hendrix passed away Wednesday evening, Dec. 22, 2021. Affectionately known to her family as "Mamaw" and "Grandma," she transitioned on to her new life at 95 years in this world. Her daughter and son-in-law were blessed to be by her side when she passed.

She was born in Bonham, Texas, June 5, 1926, to Howard Buren and Vera Ivanell Griffith. Florence had one sister, Joyce Zimmerman. On December 3, 1946, Florence married the love of her life, Henry "Hank" Hendrix in Mena, Ark. They had two daughters, Cheryl and Melinda.

Life would eventually take them to Shreveport, La. and then finally to Houston, where Hank retired and they enjoyed traveling. They loved antiquing with their friends and spent many years acquiring beautiful furniture and glassware. They spent many summers camping and boating with their family and friends. Florence had a very full life traveling the world with Hank and friends. Her travels took her to China, Turkey, Russia, France, Hawaii, the Caribbean, Alaska, London, Greece and Italy. She was a member of a Bunco group for more than 40 years and also a Canasta group member. She loved each one of these ladies and looked forward to being with them each month.

Florence was an avid quilter and in the 1980s, with four other owners, established a

quilt store in the South Belt area called Memories Made. She also enjoyed crocheting blankets for everyone and made some very intricate and beautiful cross-stitch designs. Florence was a member of Friendswood Methodist Church where she participated in Joyful Hearts and the quilting ministry.

Florence is predeceased by her loving husband, her sister and her daughter Cheryl Hendrix.

She is survived by her daughter Melinda Fumi and husband Craig; granddaughters Megan Garcia and husband Manny, Kelly Parker and husband Justin and Christina Ross; grandson, Erik Ross and wife, Chrissy; and great-granddaughters, Emma Parker, Charlotte Parker and Erin Allen.

A visitation for Florence was held Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Forest Park East Funeral Home with funeral services at 2 p.m. A committal service followed in Forest Park East Cemetery.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.ForestPark East-FHC.com](http://www.ForestParkEast-FHC.com).

Diana Simmons



Diana Simmons passed away Sept. 16, 2021.

She is survived by her husband Kenneth Simmons; sons Carl and David Simmons and wife, Martine; and two grandchildren. Diana participated in school activities as a homeroom mother, in fund-

raising, as little league team mom, in the church auxiliary group and voting clerk at Frazier. She was a member of Bibleway Fellowship Baptist Church.

The family would like to thank the Sagement community for their words of comfort and prayers during this difficult time.

Curtis Ray Presley



Curtis Ray Presley, age 59, of Houston, passed away Dec. 30, 2021.

Curtis was born Aug. 3, 1962 to Eugene and Louise Presley in Cocoa Beach, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his father and is survived by his mother; sisters, Brenda (Lon) Carlton of San Leon and Terry Whitten of Orangeburg, S.C.; nephews, Chris Rudd of San Leon and Riley Whitten of Columbia, S.C.; and niece, Virginia Taylor of San Antonio.

Curtis was a graduate of J. Frank Dobie High School in 1980. He enjoyed his employment at Enterprise Aviation at Hobby Airport for several years. He had a love for music, centering hugely around the 1970s and 1980s rock era and was a classic car enthusiast. He was an avid fan of Jeopardy and Judge Judy and loved the challenge of crossword puzzles. He was invaluable as a caregiver to both of his parents in their later years.

There will be a private family service to celebrate Curtis at a later date.



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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday 1 p.m. Misa en Español*
*Also Available on Facebook Live
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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Leader highlights, lows of 2021

Continued from Page 1
Friday, April 9.

April 15
Former Houston Gateway Academy Superintendent Richard Garza was sentenced to five years in prison for stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the campus. In 2019, Garza was charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, three counts of wire fraud and two counts of engaging in monetary transactions involving criminally acquired property. Houston Gateway Academy IT specialist Ahmad Bokaiyan faced one count of conspiracy and three counts of wire

fraud. The pair were accused of stealing more than \$250,000. According to investigators, Garza awarded a \$280,841.85 no-bid contract in 2014 to a company owned by Bokaiyan called Hot Rod Systems to build an IT system at the new campus, even though construction at the school had yet to begin. Bokaiyan then allegedly wired \$164,381 into Garza's personal bank account. Investigators alleged that Garza used these funds to purchase a condominium and a vehicle and pay toward a home loan. In addition to his prison term, Garza must spend three years on supervised release and pay a \$20,000 fine, as well as \$191,292 in restitution to the Texas Education Agency. Bokaiyan was sentenced in 2019 to five years probation and ordered to pay more than \$150,000 in restitution.
Dobie graduate and aspiring R&B singer Jaelyn "JaeRene" Chapman was killed in an alleged drunk-driving crash early Wednesday, April 7, on the Westpark Tollway near Fondren. Chapman had been a long-time resident of the community, going to local elementary and middle schools before attending Dobie. According to Harris County Precinct 5 deputies, Chapman, 19, was a passen-

Continued on Page 4

Jones chooses Kansas State



Deundre Jones (second from left), a member of Lutheran South Academy's state championship team last spring, will join the Kansas State University program within the Big XII after signing a letter of intent with the Wildcats. Those shown with Jones at the signing included, left to right, Andre Jones (father), LaTasha Jones (mother) and Andre Jones Jr. (brother).

Local COVID-19 cases increase

Continued from Page 1

"Following CDC updated guidelines, students and staff testing positive for COVID-19 will now isolate at home for five days," the letter to parents read. "Students who test positive while on campus will be sent home for five days from their symptom onset or test date, whichever came first. After the five-day isolation period, students may return if fever-free for 24 hours, and symptoms improve. Students returning to campus will be required to wear a face covering on campus for days 6-10."

Students should self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms daily before reporting to campus. If a student is symptomatic, they should stay home and contact their campus. Pasadena ISD will offer COVID-19 testing to those students who become symptomatic while on campus, with parental consent. Local hospitals were over-

crowded and reporting long wait times. Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital was reporting wait times of up to seven hours even during off hours.

Over the Christmas holidays, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced that she was raising the county's COVID-19 Threat Level Indicator from Level 3: Yellow to Level 2: Orange, the system's second highest threat level. According to Hidalgo, the threat level has increased due to a number of factors, including a rapid increase in new cases and positivity rate.

"Unfortunately, the Omicron variant has arrived in Harris County in full force," said Hidalgo. "These trends are understandably frustrating - especially as we close out the year with friends and family. But we can still blunt the force of this latest wave if we take action. Consider giving yourself and your family the gift of health by getting

your booster, getting tested before any gatherings of people outside of your household and wearing a mask. It could very well save your life or that of a loved one."

Due to the explosive growth of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus across Harris County, public health officials are strongly urging all eligible Harris County residents, especially individuals 65 and older, to get their booster shots as soon as possible. Residents who are not vaccinated are cautioned to do so immediately. Regardless of vaccination status, residents are urged to wear a mask and get tested if they feel ill.

Level 2 signifies an ongoing, uncontrolled level of COVID-19 in Harris County. At this level, unvaccinated residents should minimize contact with others, avoiding any medium or large gatherings and only visiting permissible businesses that follow public health guidance.

The COVID-19 vaccine and booster continues to be available at no charge for all Harris County residents. To find out more information, locations and hours, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-01-Coronavirus/Register-for-COVID-19-Vaccine.

For a complete list of indicators, guidance and related information; visit ReadyHarris.org.

CCART meeting set Feb. 8

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its February meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 8. The meetings are held at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook. The gathering will feature a presentation by Kim Randle from Houston Methodist Hospital on stroke awareness. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a social gathering for coffee. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a fried/baked chicken lunch will be served. CCART will provide the chicken and members are asked to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

Lastovica to Special O state



Clear Brook High School bowling team member Joshua Lastovica (center) has qualified for the Special Olympics state competition next month, already having excelled within the Wolverines' program for the past three years. He is flanked by Wolverine bowling coaches Roxy Casas (left) and D.J. Casas.

Atkinson honors students of the month

Atkinson Elementary announced their Eagles of the month for November 2021. The students work hard and put in effort to be role models for their fellow classmates. The school could not be more proud of what they have accomplished.



Shown is Fernando Martinez who is in Donna Koonce's pre-K class. Martinez is always willing to help others. He always holds the door open for his classmates. He will help everyone he sees.

Search for next of kin for deceased

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences is requesting the public's assistance in locating next of kin for the following deceased individuals. If one knows of these individuals or knows the family or friends, one is asked to contact its office.

- Michael Todd Williams, black male, 59 years old. Williams died at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston, Dec. 3, 2021. Call 832-927-5000 and refer to case ML21-5540.
- Marco Antonio Ramos, Hispanic male, 50 years old.
- Deborah Susan Holter, white female, 70 years old.

Ramos died in the 12000 block of Tomball Parkway in Houston, Nov. 29, 2021. Call 832-927-5000 and refer to case ML21-5540.

Holter died in the 1300 block of Silverado Drive in Houston, Dec. 9, 2021. Call 832-927-5000 and refer to case ML21-5703.

- Henry Alvarez, Hispanic male, 41 years old. Alvarez died in the 6600 block of West Sam Houston Tollway in Houston, Dec. 11, 2021. Call 832-927-5000 and refer to case ML21-5731.

Financial aid tip of the month

After completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), students can take other steps to ensure they receive as much money for college as possible, according to KHEAA.

Submitting the FAFSA is especially important for students who are expecting to receive financial aid from programs with limited funds or with early deadlines.

In the meantime, students should apply for as many scholarships as they can. Thousands of scholarships are offered by schools, companies and other organizations.

Once students submit the FAFSA, it will take several days for the application to be processed.

Students will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) that recaps the information from their FAFSA. Students should review the SAR to ensure the information is complete and accurate. If they need to make changes, they can do so at studentaid.gov under Apply for Aid.

The SAR will also be sent to each college students list on the FAFSA. Students should check with the financial aid offices at the schools to which they've applied to make sure the SAR was received and if the school requires more paperwork.

Students should also contact schools if their family's situation changes in a major way after completing the FAFSA. They may be able

to request a review from the school to see if they may qualify for more funds.

KHEAA is a public, non-profit agency established in 1966 to improve students' access to college. It provides information about financial aid and financial literacy at no cost to students and parents. KHEAA also helps colleges manage their student loan default rates and verify information submitted on the FAFSA. For more information about those services, visit www.kheaa.com.

In addition, KHEAA disburses private Advantage Education Loans on behalf of its sister agency, KHESLC. For more information, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.



Shown is Olivia Lanza who is always willing to help her classmates. She is a great citizen to her classmates. She is there to comfort classmates if they are sad. Lanza shows citizenship in her actions every day.



Shown is Janelynn Rivera who is a kind and thoughtful student who looks for the positive in all situations. She chooses to assist those around her when they need it, and helps students work through their disagreements toward positive solutions and attitudes. Rivera is a hard worker and values her own learning and does what she can to aid other students in theirs.



Shown is Sofia Guzman who is a bright and sweet young lady. She greets everyone with a smile on her face and is ready to tackle her day. Guzman demonstrates citizenship by being a kind classmate, picking up trash and helping others when they need it. She is a SOARS student (Show, Offer, Act, Respect) every day.



Shown is Diego Moreno who is respectful to his classmates and teachers. He is thoughtful and likes to help others. He has a positive attitude toward school and always brings his best self forward. He works hard to accomplish his goals and sets himself to high standards. He is honest and responsible.



Shown is Amyrie Johnson who is always ready to help wherever needed. She shows responsibility by helping keep the classroom clean. She is a great friend to all of her classmates. Amyrie shows great citizenship every day.



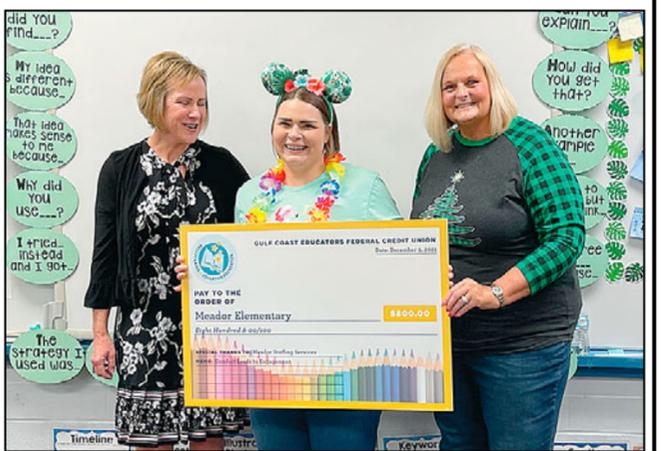
Shown is Jayden Cevallos Mejia who respects his classmates and teachers. He takes his time to complete assignments and make sure his work is done correctly. He always comes to school with a positive attitude. He is very honest, responsible, sweet and a great friend.

Meador awarded minigrants

Meador Elementary is the proud recipient of two Pasadena ISD Education Foundation minigrants. School officials thank the Special Education Department for funding their early childhood sensory grant for their PCCD classroom and are thankful for Meador Staffing Services for funding their flexible seating grant for a third-grade classroom.



Shown above, left to right, are Beverly Bolton (principal) and Kateri Angel-Williams (PPCD teacher).



Shown above, left to right, are Melinda Torrison, president/COO Meador Staffing Services; Kacie Hedge, third-grade teacher; and Beverly Bolton, principal.

Leader remembers all highlights, low points of year 2021

Continued from Page 3

ger in a vehicle traveling on the tollway around 2 a.m. when she was struck by a wrong-way driver. Four other people were reportedly inside the car at the time of the accident, three of whom were transported to the hospital in critical condition. Investigators said the wrong-way driver, Bobby James Brown, was "highly intoxicated" at the time of the crash. Brown, 32, was charged with one count of intoxication manslaughter and three counts of intoxication assault. Chapman attended Dobie being hospitalized from 2016 and 2020, when she graduated from the area high school. Chapman released an album in 2019.

April 22

Pearland City Council on Monday, April 19, approved a Conditional Use Permit that allows a 21-acre plot of land on Hughes Road to be used for a public school, paving the way for construction to begin on the new Thompson Intermediate campus. Council voted 6-1 in favor of the measure, with the lone dissenting vote coming from a member who abstained due to a conflict of interest. Originally to be constructed on Highland Meadows Drive in the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek subdivision, the project was met with opposition from residents of both the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek and Green Tee Terrace subdivisions, the two neighborhoods which would have bordered the campus. To rectify the problem, Pasadena

ISD officials proposed a land swap with Meritage Homes, the developer in the area surrounding the school. New plans call for relocating the Thompson campus to a piece of property in the 8700 block of Hughes Road in the Pearland city limit. The current Thompson campus suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Harvey. Following the historic storm, Thompson students were temporarily housed at Beverly Hills Intermediate for five months, while school officials and an independent committee studied the issue. Construction of the new \$45 million school will permanently replace the Thompson campus on Sagedowne. The school is scheduled to open in August 2023.

Dobie High School cheerleaders finished the season with a banquet celebration. Awards were presented to sophomore Sarah Salazar – Most Congenial; junior captain Damaris O'der – Longhorn Leader; sophomore Isabella Lara – Most Dedicated; and senior captain Maddy Spray – Most Versatile.

April 29

A motorcyclist was killed in a crash that took place around 12:25 p.m. Saturday, April 24, in the 13600 block of the Gulf Freeway near Beltway 8. According to police, the victim was operating a black Harley-Davidson motorcycle when he failed to control his speed while entering the southbound freeway on-ramp and crashed into a wall at the

above address. Paramedics transported Harrison Robertson, 48, to HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, where he was pronounced dead.

Dobie High School senior Nabila Munshi was awarded the prestigious National Gold Medal in the Scholastic Art and Writing Contest for her artwork titled Ornate Origins. Inspired by artist Yulia Brodskaya, the 18-inch-by-24-inch art piece was created using a technique called paper quilling, the coiling and shaping of narrow paper strips to create a design. The art of paper quilling is a tedious and detail-oriented medium and took Munshi roughly four months to complete. More than 80,000 students submitted 230,000 art and writing entries this year. But the judging committee, comprised of some of the most notable leaders in the visual and literary arts, only chose 803 students to receive the National Gold Medal award. Ornate Origins was selected for "excellence in originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal vision."

May 6

Election results from the May 1 local school board elections were tabulated, with incumbents from both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD losing seats. In the Pasadena ISD race, incumbent Nelda Sullivan maintained her Position 3 spot, while incumbent Mariselle Quijano lost her Position 2 seat. In the Position 3 contest, Sullivan handily defeated her two challengers, receiving 70.8 percent of the vote (5,047 total votes). Yen Huynh Rabe

received 23 percent of the vote, and Sunil Nepal received 6.2 percent. In the Position 2 race, Quijano received 48.4 percent of the vote to challenger Crystal Dávila's 51.6 percent. In the election to fill the Position 1 seat being vacated by Fred Roberts, Paola Gonzalez Fusilier defeated Noble J. Alex Jr., receiving 55.7 percent of the vote to Alex's 44.3 percent. In the contest for Position 4 being vacated by Jack Bailey, Casey Phelan beat out opponents Al Bledsoe and Areef Bhuyan. Phelan received 54 percent of the vote, while Bledsoe received 38.9 percent and Bhuyan received 7.1 percent.

In the CCISD election, incumbents Jay Cunningham and Jonathan Cottrell maintained their positions, while longtime board member Page Rander lost her District 4 seat. In the District 4 race, Rander received 46 percent of the vote, while the challenger bested her with 54 percent. In the District 5 contest, Cunningham received 62 percent of the vote with 1,406 votes, while Christine Parizo received 841 votes, and Keith Esthary received 10. In the At-Large Position A race, Cottrell received 48 percent of the vote with 3,264 votes, while Kevin Oditt received 2,716 votes, Michael Creedon received 568 votes, and Marlene Montesinos received 317.

May 20

Longtime South Belt resident and a 2019 Dobie graduate Justin Vega was killed in a car crash that took place about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, in the 2500 block of Genoa Red Bluff Road near Beltway 8. Vega, 19, was driving a black Chevrolet Tahoe west near the above address when he lost control of the vehicle, struck the median and crossed into the eastbound lanes of traffic. The Tahoe struck a red Ford Mustang and rolled on top of the vehicle, pushing it backward. The Tahoe then struck a black Mercedes GLS450, also traveling east on Genoa Red Bluff, and landed upside down on the median. The victim was ejected and was pronounced dead at the scene. The male driver of the Mustang, 61, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition. The female driver of the Mercedes, also 61, was treated at the scene.

One man was fatally shot and another wounded in a double shooting that took place around 1:30 a.m. Thursday, May 13, at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgemoor. Malerick Rhodes, 19, was pronounced dead at the scene, while a juvenile male, 15, was transported to an area hospital and was expected to survive his wounds. According to police, officers responded to a shooting at an apartment complex at the above address and found Rhodes with gunshot wounds inside an apartment unit. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced Rhodes dead. Officers learned a second male had also been shot and was transported by private vehicle to an area hospital. No immediate arrests were made.

May 27

Following CDC recommendations, Harris County Public Health announced that children ages 12-15 were eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Tuesday, May 18, announced she was moving the county's COVID-19 Threat Level Indicator from Level 1: Red to Level 2: Orange, the system's second highest threat level. That same day, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas – including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities or government officials – from requiring or mandating mask wearing.

San Jacinto College was named a Finalist with Distinction for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges. This marked the third time San Jacinto has earned the biennial honor since it began in 2011.

June 3

The South Belt became an area of focus in the search for a missing 5-year-old boy, as police and volunteers from Texas EquuSearch combed the area near Dixie Farm Road and the Gulf Freeway, looking for signs of the child. The body of Samuel Olson, however, was later found inside a Jasper motel room. Theresa Balboa, the girlfriend of Olson's father, was detained for questioning. Olson was reported missing from southwest Houston Thursday, May 27. Police said, however, he may have been missing for much longer. Olson was last seen by someone outside his family on April 30, when he was at school in northeast Houston. Investigators had initially focused their attention on the area around the Gateway at Ellington apartment complex on FM 1959 near Dixie Farm Road after receiving reports the child may have been there at a friend of Olson's father's girlfriend.

Morris Middle School fifth-grade science teacher Sonia Bonavita was named Pasadena ISD's 2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year. Bonavita, along with the other winners, received the honor at a luncheon hosted by Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell and the school district's board of trustees. For her efforts, Bonavita received free use of a new vehicle through the summer, courtesy of sponsor Bayway Auto Group.

June 10

The death of 5-year-old Samuel Olson was ruled a homicide, caused by blunt head trauma. Theresa Balboa, the girlfriend of Olson's father, was charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse. Balboa appeared in court Monday, June 7, where her bail was increased to \$600,000. Her bail had initially been set at \$500,000, but prosecutors said she was a possible flight risk. Additional charges may be filed once Olson's autopsy is complete, prosecutors said. At the time of the alleged crime, Balboa was already out on \$15,000 bond for reportedly choking the boy's father the previous November.

San Jacinto College announced it was offering free tuition to all graduating students in its taxing district. The move was made possible by a significant donation from an anonymous donor. The tuition program is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it kicks in only after all other grant and scholarship funding has been applied. Once all other funding sources have been applied, the remaining balance, if any, will be picked up by the anonymous donor. The unnamed benefactor reportedly made the generous donation in response to recent gains made by the college district's minority students. To stay enrolled in the 21 Forward program, a student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as determined by financial aid at the end of each semester. The San Jacinto College District includes six independent school districts, including Channelview ISD, Deer Park ISD, Galena Park ISD, La Porte ISD, Pasadena ISD and Sheldon ISD. Homeschool, private school and GED graduates in the district are also eligible. Clear Creek ISD is not located in the college's taxing district. San Jacinto College officials announced the scholarship program at each of Pasadena ISD's six graduation ceremonies to roaring applause.

On Wednesday, May 26, deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Division conducted a major narcotics operation at an undisclosed location, seizing large amounts of methamphetamine. The street value of the confiscated narcotics is approximately \$1.4 million. During the bust, deputies seized 50 kilograms of crystallized methamphetamine and approximately 10 gallons of liquid meth, which converts to around 28 kilograms of crystallized meth, for a total seizure of roughly 78 kilograms – or approximately

172 pounds. While begun in Precinct 2, the investigation led deputies to multiple surrounding areas. Several individuals were expected to be charged. This bust followed a string of recent arrests by the Precinct 2 Constable's Special Operations Division that removed hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine off the streets.

Philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett were revealed to have been the secret donors responsible for donating \$30 million to San Jacinto College, allowing the area school to provide free tuition to all graduating students in its taxing district. The donation was the largest private gift in the college's history. Scott is the former wife of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. Scott made the announcement Tuesday, June 15, in a blog post, donating more than \$2.7 billion to 286 organizations throughout the country. In her post she says, "Higher education is a proven pathway to opportunity, so we looked for two- and four-year institutions successfully educating students who come from communities that have been chronically underserved."

A woman was fatally shot early Thursday, June 17, outside a gym in the 10500 block of Fuqua near Beamer. Elsa Mikeska, 62, was pronounced dead at the scene. Houston police responded to the incident at the Life Fit Gym shortly before 5 a.m. According to police, the woman was arriving at the gym for her morning workout when a white SUV pulled into the parking lot next to her. When the victim got out of her car to walk into the gym, two male suspects exited the SUV and approached her. Police said words were exchanged before the woman ran toward the gym. At this time, a suspect fired a shot to the woman's back. The victim attempted to make it inside the gym but collapsed. Other gym members attempted to revive the woman, but it was too late. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The suspects got back into the SUV and exited the parking lot. Police said the suspects may have been trying to carjack the woman after a similar incident was reported just earlier about two miles away in the 10100 block of Freehill Street near the intersection of Fuqua and SH 3/Old Galveston Road. Police said the description of the suspects and their vehicle was the same in both crimes. Police believed there were three total suspects, traveling in a 2000 to 2007 year model white Chevrolet Suburban. No immediate arrests are made, despite heavy citywide media coverage.

The 2021 Year in Review will be continued in next week's Leader.

A man was arrested Friday, June 11, for allegedly killing his 15-year-old sister at an apartment complex in the 12600 block of South Green Drive near Alameda Genoa Road. Jaylen George, 20, is charged with capital murder. According to police, officers were dispatched to a shooting call at the above address around 12:40 a.m. and located the victim outside an apartment unit. Paramedics pronounced her dead at the scene due to a gunshot wound. The victim was reportedly a habitual runaway, and her brother had tracked her down at the apartment complex and was attempting to bring her home when the shooting took place. The female had allegedly been missing for several days. Further investigation led police to George's whereabouts, and he was arrested later Friday without incident. At the time of his arrest, George was found to have three open felony warrants. He was held without bond.

Due to space limitations the 2021 Year in Review will be continued in next week's Leader.

A body was found around

Ballroom dancing set Jan. 29

League City is sponsoring a free "New Year New You" event to introduce ballroom dancing to any newcomers on the fifth Saturday, January 29 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Hometown Heroes Park Ballroom, 1001 East League City Parkway.

An introductory lesson to Foxtrot and Rumba will be taught to newcomers by city volunteers, Jerry and Edith Sanford from 6 to 7 p.m. Dance volunteers are welcome. From 7 to 9 p.m., there will be a standard ballroom dance welcoming dancers with all levels of dancing ability from beginner to advanced to participate in this free dance. Questions may be referred to Neva@LetsDanceBallroom.org.

Attire is casual and masks are optional if one chooses. It is advisable (not essential) to wear shoes that will glide on the hardwood floor.

The Humpday Dance at Hometown Heroes Park has resumed all activities. The time has changed for the free ballroom dance from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday with no restrictions as to number of participants. All are welcome to attend. Neva and Bill Schroeder coordinate this activity for ballroom dancers. Couples and singles with limited dance experience are welcomed along with advanced dancers.

This is a free activity of the City of League City Park System and anyone with a park activity card can attend. For questions about the activity card, contact the Hometown Heroes Park office by calling 281-554-1180.

Zwiercan celebrates 10 years at San Jac

For Joseph Zwiercan, being the department chair for petrochemical/energy at the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology is more than just a job. It is a calling.

After a few years working as a first-class pipefitter and shield metal arc welder and holding other oil and gas jobs, Zwiercan could advance only so far before his lack of training and degree stopped him.

Determined to make the right decision about a degree program, Zwiercan asked a petrochemical hiring manager which college she would look for if all candidates were equally skilled.

"She said ... San Jacinto College, so I knew that's where I wanted to be," he said. Zwiercan found all the instructors came directly from industry. "They were teaching and working in the plants at the same time," he said. "I knew

that I could trust their knowledge and experience."

Zwiercan earned his Associate of Applied Science in instrumentation technology and graduated with honors as a member of PTK. His experience in industry includes new construction, contract maintenance, material and plant maintenance, operations, accounting, fire, medical, hazmat and core rescue.

Ten years later, Zwiercan's employer began downsizing due to industry moving operations and production overseas.

"I survived the first few rounds of cuts, but then I found out they were going to close my plant," Zwiercan said. "I had to put my faith in God and trust that something would be out there for me. God led me to a listing for an adjunct instructor at San Jac."

In summer 2012, he started teaching as an adjunct, and by fall, he had assumed a full-time faculty position with the instrumentation program. Three years later, he took

on a dual role as full-time instructor and department chair, ultimately becoming a full-time department chair that fall.

"I am going on nine years and will begin my tenth in 2022," he said. "I feel very blessed to work in a state-of-the-art facility with a first-class college and team."

In 2016, Zwiercan received the Texas Association of College Technical Educators Award of Excellence for his work as department chair. This award recognized San Jac's petrochemical technology programs as exemplary and innovative statewide.

"This award belongs to everyone whose efforts helped us achieve this level of recognition," he said. "The TACTE Award of Excellence means our process technology program is top-notch."

Zwiercan is a member of the Instrument Society of Automation and North American Process Technology Alliance and serves on

the Texas Education Agency for the State of Texas Energy Advisory Committee and the NAPTA Outreach Committee as the education co-chair.

In 2020, he worked with the TEA to write and develop an innovative course in instrumentation and electrical focused on high school-level career and technical education.

"I had never worked with TEA before and the entire process was unfamiliar to me," he said. "I'm proud of the work we accomplished to make this opportunity possible for high school students."

Through all of his accomplishments, Zwiercan takes the greatest pride in seeing his students succeed.

"I love sharing my knowledge with people of all generations," he said. "Seeing them get jobs in industry and progress through their careers is the best feeling. Student success is at the core of what we do, and it makes me proud to be an educator."

Remember When

45 years ago (1977)
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department experienced an increase of nearly 100 percent in responses compared to the previous year.

Nancy Gehman, of County Commissioner Tom Bass's office, instigated a study of traffic on Beamer in an effort to determine what, if any improvements should be made as the road neared completion. During one 24-hour period over 4,300 vehicles traveled the road.

40 years ago (1982)
Sageameadow residents began to pay 100 percent of the charges for their trash pickup to Texas Sanitation.

Steps were in motion to deny a building permit for construction of the proposed Kingsgarden subdivision because it could contribute to downstream flooding in the South Belt area.

Even though Dobie varsity head football coach Buster Gilbreath had been contacted for a similar position at Port Arthur Jefferson, he said he would stay at Dobie.

35 years ago (1987)
Laura Hayes, 15, a Dobie freshman, suffered from a fractured pelvis from a hit-and-run accident.

Lamont Roberts turned himself in after killing his father, Benny Roberts. According to police, Lamont had intervened in a quarrel between his parents resulting in a "physical confrontation." The son went upstairs obtained a shotgun and returned to the kitchen where he shot his father in the upward portion of the body.

30 years ago (1992)
Demolition of three structures at the Park on Fuqua began to make room for Sam's Wholesale Club on the site.

Students in the Clear Creek Independent School District scored above the state averages on every portion of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test at ev-

ery grade. Linda Wayland, daughter of South Belt Justice of the Peace Howard Wayland, was preparing for a trip to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the fourth largest city in the former Soviet Union, to teach English.

25 years ago (1997)
Dobie's Academic Decathlon won the regional championship with 45,938 out of a possible 60,000 points.

Linda Kryslar, who resided at her sister's Sageameadow home, was awakened at 3 a.m. by a barking poodle named Teddy who jumped on her. At first she knocked him away, but then she heard breaking glass. She leaped

from the bed to find a fully engaged fire engulfing their house. Kryslar woke her sister, and the two fled from the burning house.

20 years ago (2002)
Redistricting in the state Legislature led to many changes in the representation of the South Belt area. Longtime Reps. Garnet Coleman and Al Edwards, both Democrats, were left with little or no political interest in the area, while Republican Robert Talton, a Pasadena representative, gained much of the South Belt area.

Paul Kieft was shot by two young white males. They came from behind his vehicle and demanded money, and when he refused, they shot him.

Gene Paul Robertson, 29, a South Belt resident, was sentenced to 10 years of deferred adjudication and 45 days in jail after pleading guilty to manslaughter. Robertson was on trial for the murder of Anthony Chapin.

15 years ago (2007)
Two Harris County deputy sheriffs, Tommy Wilks and Bilson Espinoza, wrote at least 737 traffic tickets in just four months. The majority of the tickets came from the intersection of Dixie Farm Road and Beamer, where road construction was under-way.

David and Marie Flickinger (publisher of the *South Belt-Ellington Leader*) celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on Jan. 20.

The family of former Dobie student Dianne Hegar Helms set up a fund to help cover medical costs after a New Year's Eve automobile accident left her in a coma.

Longtime South Belt resident and former Dobie teacher Gloria Shifflet was spared injury after her car flipped and snapped an electrical pole.

10 years ago (2012)
Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was sentenced to three years in prison Monday, Jan. 10, on money laundering and conspiracy

charges. DeLay, who represented much of the South Belt area, was found guilty the previous November of illegally funneling \$190,000 in corporate donations into 2002 Texas legislative races through a money swap. That year, Texas Republicans seized control of the state legislature and redrew a number of Democratic-controlled congressional districts. DeLay stepped down as majority leader in 2005, following his indictment. State Judge Pat Priest sentenced DeLay to a three-year term on conspiracy and accepted 10 years of probation in lieu of a five-year prison term on the money laundering charge. DeLay

received 23 percent of the vote, and Sunil Nepal received 6.2 percent. In the Position 2 race, Quijano received 48.4 percent of the vote to challenger Crystal Dávila's 51.6 percent. In the election to fill the Position 1 seat being vacated by Fred Roberts, Paola Gonzalez Fusilier defeated Noble J. Alex Jr., receiving 55.7 percent of the vote to Alex's 44.3 percent. In the contest for Position 4 being vacated by Jack Bailey, Casey Phelan beat out opponents Al Bledsoe and Areef Bhuyan. Phelan received 54 percent of the vote, while Bledsoe received 38.9 percent and Bhuyan received 7.1 percent.

In the CCISD election, incumbents Jay Cunningham and Jonathan Cottrell maintained their positions, while longtime board member Page Rander lost her District 4 seat. In the District 4 race, Rander received 46 percent of the vote, while the challenger bested her with 54 percent. In the District 5 contest, Cunningham received 62 percent of the vote with 1,406 votes, while Christine Parizo received 841 votes, and Keith Esthary received 10. In the At-Large Position A race, Cottrell received 48 percent of the vote with 3,264 votes, while Kevin Oditt received 2,716 votes, Michael Creedon received 568 votes, and Marlene Montesinos received 317.

Former longtime South Belt resident and Dobie High School guidance counselor Andrea Longoria was killed in an auto-pedestrian accident the evening of Friday, April

30, during her daily walk near Northfork Drive and Bagnoli Rose Lane in Pearland. Longoria, 74, served as the school's counselor for 19 years, before retiring in 2011. She was also active in St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. The site of the crash became a makeshift memorial and included signs telling drivers to slow down. No charges were immediately filed against the 17-year-old driver.

Charges have been filed against a female driver accused of killing a cyclist early Saturday, May 8, in the 12400 block of SH 3/Old Galveston Road near FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road. Crystal Reyes, 37, was charged with intoxication manslaughter and failure to stop and render aid. Hector Mario Saldarriaga, 60, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Longtime South Belt resident and a 2019 Dobie graduate Justin Vega was killed in a car crash that took place about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, in the 2500 block of Genoa Red Bluff Road near Beltway 8. Vega, 19, was driving a black Chevrolet Tahoe west near the above address when he lost control of the vehicle, struck the median and crossed into the eastbound lanes of traffic. The Tahoe struck a red Ford Mustang and rolled on top of the vehicle, pushing it backward. The Tahoe then struck a black Mercedes GLS450, also traveling east on Genoa Red Bluff, and landed upside down on the median. The victim was ejected and was pronounced dead at the scene. The male driver of the Mustang, 61, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition. The female driver of the Mercedes, also 61, was treated at the scene.

One man was fatally shot and another wounded in a double shooting that took place around 1:30 a.m. Thursday, May 13, at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgemoor. Malerick Rhodes, 19, was pronounced dead at the scene, while a juvenile male, 15, was transported to an area hospital and was expected to survive his wounds. According to police, officers responded to a shooting at an apartment complex at the above address and found Rhodes with gunshot wounds inside an apartment unit. Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced Rhodes dead. Officers learned a second male had also been shot and was transported by private vehicle to an area hospital. No immediate arrests were made.

Following CDC recommendations, Harris County Public Health announced that children ages 12-15 were eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Tuesday, May 18, announced she was moving the county's COVID-19 Threat Level Indicator from Level 1: Red to Level 2: Orange, the system's second highest threat level. That same day, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas – including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities or government officials – from requiring or mandating mask wearing.

San Jacinto College was named a Finalist with Distinction for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges. This marked the third time San Jacinto has earned the biennial honor since it began in 2011.

The South Belt became an area of focus in the search for a missing 5-year-old boy, as police and volunteers from Texas EquuSearch combed the area near Dixie Farm Road and the Gulf Freeway, looking for signs of the child. The body of Samuel Olson, however, was later found inside a Jasper motel room. Theresa Balboa, the girlfriend of Olson's father, was detained for questioning. Olson was reported missing from southwest Houston Thursday, May 27. Police said, however, he may have been missing for much longer. Olson was last seen by someone outside his family on April 30, when he was at school in northeast Houston. Investigators had initially focused their attention on the area around the Gateway at Ellington apartment complex on FM 1959 near Dixie Farm Road after receiving reports the child may have been there at a friend of Olson's father's girlfriend.

Morris Middle School fifth-grade science teacher Sonia Bonavita was named Pasadena ISD's 2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year. Bonavita, along with the other winners, received the honor at a luncheon hosted by Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell and the school district's board of trustees. For her efforts, Bonavita received free use of a new vehicle through the summer, courtesy of sponsor Bayway Auto Group.

The death of 5-year-old Samuel Olson was ruled a homicide, caused by blunt head trauma. Theresa Balboa, the girlfriend of Olson's father, was charged with evidence tampering involving a human corpse. Balboa appeared in court Monday, June 7, where her bail was increased to \$600,000. Her bail had initially been set at \$500,000, but prosecutors said she was a possible flight risk. Additional charges may be filed once Olson's autopsy is complete, prosecutors said. At the time of the alleged crime, Balboa was already out on \$15,000 bond for reportedly choking the boy's father the previous November.

San Jacinto College announced it was offering free tuition to all graduating students in its taxing district. The move was made possible by a significant donation from an anonymous donor. The tuition program is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it kicks in only after all other grant and scholarship funding has been applied. Once all other funding sources have been applied, the remaining balance, if any, will be picked up by the anonymous donor. The unnamed benefactor reportedly made the generous donation in response to recent gains made by the college district's minority students. To stay enrolled in the 21 Forward program, a student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as determined by financial aid at the end of each semester. The San Jacinto College District includes six independent school districts, including Channelview ISD, Deer Park ISD, Galena Park ISD, La Porte ISD, Pasadena ISD and Sheldon ISD. Homeschool, private school and GED graduates in the district are also eligible. Clear Creek ISD is not located in the college's taxing district. San Jacinto College officials announced the scholarship program at each of Pasadena ISD's six graduation ceremonies to roaring applause.

On Wednesday, May 26, deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Division conducted a major narcotics operation at an undisclosed location, seizing large amounts of methamphetamine. The street value of the confiscated narcotics is approximately \$1.4 million. During the bust, deputies seized 50 kilograms of crystallized methamphetamine and approximately 10 gallons of liquid meth, which converts to around 28 kilograms of crystallized meth, for a total seizure of roughly 78 kilograms – or approximately

Over The Back Fence by Kenna

DR. JOHN MORGAN CELEBRATES
Greetings are sent to Dr. John Morgan, founding pastor of Sagemont Church, from friends and the Leader staff as he celebrates a birthday Jan. 14. Affectionately called "Brother John" by many who know him, he founded and pastored the church for more than 50 years.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MARY
Best wishes to Mary Clark who enjoys a birthday Jan. 20. Greetings are sent from her husband Chris and her friends at the Leader.

MIKE ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Mike Williams celebrates a birthday Jan. 20. Best wishes are sent for a special day from family and friends at the Leader.

RUBY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Birthday wishes are sent to Ruby Delgado. Ruby celebrates her 11th birthday on Jan. 13. Greetings are sent from her parents, Jose and Veronica Delgado; and brothers, Sebastian, Max and Xavier.

FLICKINGERS MARK ANNIVERSARY
Marie (Leader publisher) and husband David Flickinger celebrate 60 years of wedded bliss Jan. 20. Best wishes for an enjoyable day are sent to the couple from their sons Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger and Davy and wife Ellie Flickinger; sister Alexis Lochner; granddaughters Kimberly and husband Matt Lipando and Courtney Durham and husband Chris and

their children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; granddaughter Natalie Abarca and husband Jose and children Kelvin Lopez and Noah, Eliana and Isabelle Abarca; their friends; and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena ISD celebrate birthdays Jan. 13 through Jan. 19, 2022.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to Mildred Rojas Jan. 13.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Remember Irene Flores on Jan. 16 with a special birthday wish. Join in the birthday fun Jan. 18 with Travis Regner.

Frazier Elementary
Esthela Silva enjoys a birthday Jan. 17.

Fred Roberts Middle School
Light the birthday candles on a birthday cake Jan. 13 for Jorge Rocha.

Meador Elementary
Send a special birthday wish to Melisa Hinojosa who enjoys a birthday Jan. 16.

Melinda Harrison enjoys a birthday Jan. 15. **Carrie Giokas** celebrates a birthday Jan. 18. Special birthday wishes are sent to **Lauren Soto** Jan. 19.

Dobie High
Light the birthday candles Jan. 14 for **Chrystal Limon** and **Constance Ramos**. Celebrating a birthday Jan. 16 is **Jessy George**. Enjoy a slice of birthday cake with **Remi Yusuf** Jan. 18.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Friday, Jan. 14: **Tracy Oliver, Laurie Lynn, Tiffany Defreitas** and **Louis Casas**; Saturday, Jan. 15: **Denise Montano, Patrick Lesley, Heather White, Cody Fountain** and **Barbara Bennett-Northern**; Sunday, Jan. 16: **Rachel Perez, Heidi Ferguson, Troy Merkal, Samesia Bass-Hamlett, Kimberly Dann-Mandy, Dana Willis** and **Lisa Pennington**; Monday, Jan. 17: **Scott Greene, Tiffany Juarez, Donald Adams, Katherine Macias, Carla Parker, Jodie Lawson** and **Kevin Jasso**; Tuesday

SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Brook teams head 24-6A hoops standings; Dobie squads cruise

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
Back from the holiday break, the Clear Brook and Dobie varsity boys' and girls' basketball teams

picked up key wins Jan. 8 as the frontrunners in district races across the region begin to take shape.
Brook boys strike
Clear Brook head coach

Nathan Janek put together one of the most challenging schedules imaginable this season, signaling the Wolverines' desire to go for it all.

Every game night with-in 24-6A is proving to be a thrill a minute, and right now the Wolverines have served notice that the top playoff seed goes through them.

District 22-6A a season ago, losing just once to Dobie en route to the crown, with Dobie second.

of the best stories region-wide to this point with a 23-4 mark to this point, including a 5-0 run to first place in the District 24-6A standings with remaining first-half battles against Clear Falls and 12-time defending league champion Clear Springs.

won over Pasadena Jan. 8, playing for the first time since Dec. 18 after a longer than expected layoff.

Dobie has a huge game against a 17-3 Deer Park team Jan. 12 after press time.

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Fowler leads JFD to victory
At right, Dobie junior forward Camren Fowler (14) goes over a pair of Pasadena players for two of his game-high 22 points Jan. 8 as he guided the Longhorns to an 81-71 win over Pasadena in District 22-6A play as the Longhorns stayed unbeaten at 2-0 within the league while improving to 12-8 overall. Elsewhere Jan. 8, the Clear Brook varsity boys won 67-53 at Dickinson in a battle between two state-ranked opponents. The Brook varsity girls stayed atop the 24-6A standings at 5-0 with a 21-point home win over Dickinson.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf



With now 23 wins in 26 games, the Wolverines have met nearly every challenge thrown their way, including their latest. Having seen Dickinson vault over them in the latest Texas Association of Basketball Coaches state poll, the Wolverines took on the Gators Jan. 8 with first place on the line. Challenge met as the

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★ NEW! League City - Gated Community - Gorgeous 2-2-5-2 with study, remodeled bathrooms, deck, in-law house generator! #MON
★ NEW! Clearbrook Meadows - Gorgeous 5-2-5-2 completely updated! Both formals, kitchen, fireplace, huge game room! #KVL
★ NEW! SAGEGLEN - Elegant Perry Freeway home, 4-3-5-2det, game room, formal dining, island, covered in porch! #DAL
★ NEW! Sagesler - Beautiful 1-2-2-2 with formal dining, vaulted ceiling in den, covered porch! #DAL

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JFD soccer claims another cup
Another season, another Pearlland ISD Cup title as the Dobie Longhorns' varsity boys' soccer team continued its dominance of the event.
Dobie scored wins over Dulles (5-0), Goose Creek Memorial (3-1) and Heights (3-0) to claim top honors as junior forward Jordi Garcia has had four assists and a goal in the early going, getting the locals to 3-0-1 to this point in the season with an appearance at the Humble ISD Showcase coming Jan. 13-15.
In a 3-1 win over GCM, Isaac Cortez, Garcia and Ronaldo Guzman found the net as the Longhorns won a second pool play contest before waiting out a lightning delay and then easing past Heights Jan. 8 for the crown.
Dobie grad Pleasants named to USAWNT
Dobie Class of 2019 Taylor Pleasants has added another star-studded moment to her illustrious softball career as she has been named to the USA Softball Women's National Team, set to compete in the World Games July 7-17 in Birmingham, Ala.
Pleasants attended the USA Softball four-day, by-invitation tryout Jan. 2-6 in Vero Beach, Fla. before she and 17 other players from around the nation earned team berths.
Pleasants, a third-year sophomore shortstop at Louisiana State University due to the pandemic, is joined on the WNT by pitchers Monica Abbott (Tennessee), Ally Carda (UCLA), Jaielyn Ford (James Madison) and Montana Fouts (Alabama); infielders Ali Aguilar (Washington), Charla Echols (Florida) and Hannah Flippen (Utah); outfielders Haylie McCleney (Alabama) and Michelle Moultrie (Florida); utility players Janae Jefferson
Continued on Page 6

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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meeting prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous, visit <https://aahouston.org/>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com/; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/.
Know someone who's contemplating suicide? Visit <https://afsp.org/> or call 800-273-8255.
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - now open. Activities daily. Visit <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/> for face-to-face and virtual games. Email jpochnsr@aol.com.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill," Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets at 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or on Zoom. See website calendar or call 281-485-3634.
9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Meets at the Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3, in Webster. Call 281-910-1971.
11:30 a.m.
ABWA - Southeast Express Network - Meets at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland, TX 77584. \$20 cash or check for lunch. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/> meetings/imperfect-nooners. Call 713-686-6300. Meets Mondays - Thursdays.
6:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group of NA, open, 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - 7 p.m. Friday night, 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, 281-488-2923.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - meets virtually, except the second and fourth Mondays (in person), at <https://youngprofessionaltoastmasters.com/>. Call 281-467-1880.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
AA - St. Luke's 12 Step Recovery in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., Call 832-725-8479.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
11:30 a.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
2 p.m.
The National Active and Retired Federal Employees - El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Rd. Call 713-734-1461.
7 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Carmelites - meets at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake. Open to those ages 55+. Call 713-444-6744.
10 a.m.
The Community Club - meets at Pappa Yolks Grill, 5824 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. Email Jmopry@yahoo.com.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
St. Paul's Anglican Church - See Sunday's notice.
8 p.m.
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
8 p.m.
AA - Meeting. See Friday's notice.

LEADER READERS

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COMPUTER REPAIR. South Belt Area. Free Estimates. New Computers For Sale. Deal with a Technician, Not a Salesman. Call Harry 713-991-1355. 2-24
HELP WANTED
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FOUND: VACCINATION CARD for David Norton. Please call the South Belt Leader office to claim. 281-481-5656. TF
CEMETERY PLOTS
FOR SALE. Two burial plots (#5 & #6) at Grand View Cemetery on Spencer Hwy. Regular price, \$6,000 each. Selling for \$3,500 each. Call 346-342-1608. 2-17
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Dobie baseball program donates gifts to Leader Christmas efforts



The Dobie High School baseball program conducted its annual toy drive to support the *Leader's* Christmas program and played a Santa versus Elves scrimmage game in holiday attire. Shown above, left to right, are baseball players (front row) Richard Postel, Juan Salinas, Bryce Sanchez, Kael Arredondo, Juan Estrada, (middle row) Steven Oviendo, Isaac Garcia, Fernando Flores, Liam Vasquez, Coach Frank Mora, (back row) Jose Soliz, Christian Medina, Angel Garcia,

Mathew Torres, Johan Delapaz, Jordan Peralez, Andrew Saucedo, Isaiah Correa, Ellias Merced, Fernando Flores, Fabian Rodriguez, Daniel Delgado, Gavin Carrillo, Marco Ayala, Diego Gonzalez, Brandon Liceaga, Manuel Contreras, Devin Molina, Derek Martinez, Michael Montano, Omar Serna, River Carrol, Donny Cantu, Chris Garcia, Jordan Peralez, Gavin Carrillo, Christian Padua, Christian Pierce and Adrian Cazarez.

BAHEP to honor Martin, Bonnen

Continued from Page 1
 sign Projects during the 87th Legislature as well.
 Senior Capstone Design courses provide engineering students in their senior year an opportunity to collaborate on team projects sponsored by industry and apply their knowledge and skills in developing a design solution that meets the design requirements of the sponsor.
 Bonnen has been a staunch and active advocate of BAHEP in many ways, and the group is incredibly appreciative of his support.
Martin
 Martin will receive the 2022 Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence.
 He was first elected to the Houston City Council in November 2012 for BAHEP's district, District E.
 In January 2020, he was nominated as Mayor Pro Tem by Mayor Sylvester Turner and confirmed by the City Council.
 Fiscal responsibility and economic development have been his focus from the beginning.
 Martin's investment and advocacy on behalf of eco-

conomic development has been an invaluable resource for BAHEP and the entire district.
 He has endorsed many of BAHEP's initiatives including its extensive work on the Houston Spaceport, storm surge suppression/ the Texas Coastal Study, the Biggert-Waters Act, recovery efforts in coordination with FEMA, and as a traveler on BAHEP's Citizens for Space Exploration trips to Washington, D.C., just to mention a few.
 He has been influential in advancing the work of BAHEP by his active recognition of the group's efforts in the region which has, in turn, helped others to recognize and participate in BAHEP's initiatives.
 Martin has a commitment and passion for his work that is both admirable and enviable, and BAHEP is very fortunate to count on him as an ally and a friend.

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Lutheran South softball's Calhoun chooses Alvin C.C.

At right, Lutheran South Academy softball standout Hayley Calhoun (second from left) is headed to Alvin Community College to play for the Dolphins within the National Junior College Athletic Association's Region XIV ranks beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Family members with her at the signing included, from left Brandon Calhoun (father), Misty Calhoun (mother) and Trace Calhoun (brother). Calhoun will be back on the field later this month as the Pioneers begin preseason workouts in preparation for the 2022 season.



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