

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Pasadena Boulevard continuously through 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21. At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from US 90/South Main Street to the Gulf Freeway nightly from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Jan. 16.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 to FM 518 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31. Closures may intermittently affect two lanes of traffic and include alternate entrance and exit ramp closures.

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31.

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

K of C hosts blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 is hosting a blood drive in the Social Hall at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, Jan. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. COVID-19 protocols including masks and social distancing are observed. Get an appointment online. Drop-ins are welcome and will be assigned the next available appointment. For information, call Val Comeaux at 713-582-5358.

Kirkmont HOA fees due

The *Leader* has been asked to remind Kirkmont 1 HOA residents their annual assessment dues are to be paid by Jan. 31, to avoid fees. For questions, email accountants@goodlifehoa.com.

Sagemeadow meeting set

The Sagemeadow Homeowners Association will hold its annual business meeting, Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. For public safety, the meeting will be held primarily online, using virtual meeting resources.

For meeting agenda, handouts, and login information, visit <https://sagemeadow.org/annualmeeting>. All Sagemeadow homeowners and residents are urged to attend. For any questions, email info@sagemeadow.org or call and leave a message at 832-377-0847.

Gardens Pop Up Shop set

The Gardens Pop Up Shop recently held during the Christmas season will continue in 2021. The Pop Up Shop will be held monthly on the third Sunday of every month (weather permitting) in the parking lot of The Gardens, 12001 Beamer. The first event of 2021 will be Sunday Jan. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Currently, booths are being offered to vendors and small businesses at no cost. Join The Gardens Pop Up Shop Facebook group or call Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545 for info.

Pet saved in house fire

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, in the 700 block of Gilpin in the Edgebrook area.

Firefighters arrived on scene to find a house on fire and began an offensive attack. A primary search was completed, and the roof was ventilated. Power lines were also down in the back yard, and the power company was requested.

The crews extinguished the fire and rescued a pet from the garage. A resident received minor burns while attempting to rescue the pet and was transported to the hospital. The resident reported having problems with an outdoor refrigerator, and when they returned to the home after leaving for about 20 minutes, it was on fire.

Arson investigators determined the fire was unintentional. Damage was estimated at approximately \$205,000. Roughly \$5,000 in property was saved, officials said.

Firefighters from Stations 23, 26, 70, 36, 29, 24, 61 and 94 responded to this incident.

COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, Jan. 13, a total of 95 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials — no increase from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 3,676 confirmed cases in 77089, 650 remain active, while 2,983 have recovered from the virus. To date, 43 from the ZIP code have died from the disease.

In 77075, 404 of the 2,654 confirmed cases remain active, while 2,225 have recovered. A total of 25 from the ZIP code have died.

Of the 2,802 confirmed cases in 77034, 331 remain active, while 2,444 have recovered from the disease. To date, 27 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease.

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

Countywide, there are 266,525 total confirmed cases. Of those, 221,450 have recovered from the disease, while 42,350 cases remain active. A total of 2,708 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-1-Coronavirus

COVID vaccinations available, still scarce

While supplies are limited, local officials have continued to roll out COVID-19 vaccines to qualifying area residents. The *Leader* is currently working with city and county officials to supply South Belt residents with vaccines.

State of Texas

At a press conference Tuesday, Jan. 12, Gov. Greg Abbott touted the state's vaccination efforts to date, but said plans call for speeding up the process, as more supplies become available. In three and a half weeks, Abbott said the state distributed more than 1.5 million doses. Of those, 802,507 had been administered as of Jan. 11. The governor said for each week of January, the state should receive 310,000 first doses and up to 500,000 set as the second doses of the vaccine. The supply will depend on the federal government, Abbott said.

For more information, visit www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx.

Harris County

Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, working in coordination with Pasadena ISD, is currently administering COVID-19 vaccines at Veterans Memorial Stadium, located at 2906 Dabney Drive in Pasadena.

These vaccines are provided by HCPHES and are available to designated members of Tier 1A and Tier 1B and/or those meeting the following criteria:

People 65 years of age and older.
People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that

causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies, solid organ transplantation, obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m² or higher), pregnancy, sickle cell disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

To receive a vaccine, HCPHES requires an appointment, created online, that generates a QR code which must be brought to the site to be scanned.

To see a complete list of county vaccination sites, visit <http://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=91ac7fb5e5fd47e7ad44cfe4a05920a>.

For more information on the county's response efforts, visit publichealth.harriscountytx.gov.

City of Houston

While the City of Houston also rolled out its vaccination program beginning Jan. 2, it has presently stopped accepting registrations, as officials said all current doses have been accounted for through the remainder of the month.

"We are working efficiently to vaccinate eligible frontline employees and vulnerable Houstonians," said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

"The virus has taken a toll, especially among the elderly and black and brown communities."

The vaccine is our best shot to help prevent people from getting sick and potentially suffering severe consequences."

Like the county's vaccination program, the city's

87th legislature underway

Texas' 87th legislative session began Jan. 12, and will continue through May 31. Members of the state's House and Senate began filing bills Nov. 9 for the biennial session.

With the state facing a nearly \$5 billion deficit, lawmakers have indicated they might be willing to embrace new so-called sin taxes, rethinking existing laws on gambling and marijuana.

Gambling

HJR 26: This House joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the casino gaming in certain coastal areas. Regulators would be able to "award to applicants not more than nine casino gaming operator licenses at locations ... within 200 miles of the Gulf of Mexico."

The amendment has been pitched as a way to combat climate, as funds derived from casino gambling would be used for residual windstorm insurance coverage and catastrophic flooding assistance in those areas.

Additionally, the resolution would authorize the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas to conduct casino gaming through an agreement with the state.

The legislation would legalize casino games, which would be defined as "any game of chance, including a game of chance in which the outcome may be partially determined by skill or ability, that involves the making of a bet."

If passed, all operations would be under the control of the Texas Lottery Commission. The legislation would allow anyone 18 and older to play casino games.

The state would collect an 18 percent tax on all gross gaming revenue. Experts suggest the bill could generate approximately \$18 billion per year, if approved. HJR 26 would put casino gambling up to Texas voters in November 2021.

Marijuana

According to the Texas Tribune, more than a

Continued on Page 8

COVID-19 hits Sagemont Church

Due to a spike in known COVID-19 cases at Sagemont Church, services recently returned to online only, as church officials deemed in-person gatherings a possible safety concern.

"Because we have seen a rise in COVID cases and quarantines among the church staff, in an effort to keep our church family healthy, we will be moving our worship services to our online platforms for Sunday, Jan. 10," Sagemont Church posted on its Facebook page.

Both Sagemont's 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services were livestreamed at sagemontchurch.online.church, Facebook, YouTube and the Sagemont Church mobile

app and TV apps for AppleTV and Roku.

Sagemont's iCONNECT Bible Studies were also cancelled for the week.

This marked the second time the area church has gone virtual out of safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Multiple social media users criticized the church for not enforcing mask and social-distancing guidelines.

At press time, it was unclear when in-person church services would resume.

Future announcements will be made via email and social media.

HPD, airport carjacker in shootout

An alleged carjacking suspect was shot by Houston police during a shootout early Monday, Jan. 11, on Airport Boulevard near Telephone Road following a traffic stop.

According to investigators, the incident began around 12:45 a.m. when the suspect reportedly carjacked a black Mercedes-Benz from a gas station near Telephone Road and Beltway 8. Police

said the owner of the vehicle had left his wife and child in the car, as he went into the store. That's when the suspect allegedly approached the car and forced the woman and child out at gunpoint, before taking the vehicle and heading north on Telephone Road at a high rate of speed.

Houston police officers spotted the speeding

Continued on Page 8

Update on area recreational vehicle fire

The Houston Fire Department has released additional information regarding the recreational vehicle that caught fire the evening of Monday, Jan. 4, while parked at a residence in the 9400 block of Carmalee near Beltway 8 and Blackhawk. Arson investigators determined the blaze was caused by an exploding propane tank and was unintentional.

According to officials, HFD firefighters arrived on scene to find an RV totally involved on fire near a home. Crews worked to extinguish the fire and

protect the nearby home from catching fire. Bystanders were evacuated from the scene. A primary search was completed, and the fire was quickly knocked down. The RV was a total loss and the home had charring on the ridge board.

Two dogs and a pet bird were killed in the blaze. No humans were injured in the blaze. Fire department officials estimated damage at \$85,000.

Firefighters from stations 26, 29, 70, 52, 36 and 61 responded to this incident.

Judge Delgado begins 6th term



Judge Jo Ann Delgado was recently sworn in for her sixth term as justice of the peace for Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1. A South Belt resident, Delgado made history as the first Hispanic female to hold the office of justice of the peace in the county. Delgado brings to the bench more than 40 years of Justice Court and County Court administrative experience.

New constable group working hard



Constable Pct. 2 officers are off to a busy start in 2021 with major arrests in the area by the new leadership. (See story on this page.) Some of the staff of Constable Jerry Garcia shown here shortly after the constable was sworn in at midnight, Jan. 1, by Judge Jo Ann Delgado are (left to right) Cpl. Vance Britt, Sgt. Paul Rodela, Sgt. Claudia Arellano, Cpt. Marcus Anderson, Lt. Zerick Guinn, Garcia, Asst. Chief Deputy Manuel Quintanilla and Chief Deputy Jerome Moore.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

2020 year in review continues

May 7

Susie Haas, science teacher at Thompson Intermediate, was named Pasadena ISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year. Julia Montes, South Belt resident and literacy peer facilitator at Mathys Elementary School, was named Elementary Teacher of the Year. For their efforts, each teacher was presented a gift basket from the Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union. Further, Bayway Auto Group provided each Teacher of the Year recipient with a vehicle for their personal use throughout the summer.

May 14

To boost morale among graduating seniors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dobie High School held a drive-thru parade at the area campus Wednesday, May 13, as students picked up their caps and gowns for graduation. Students/parents entered through the back parking lot, where they were greeted by staff holding signs and cheering them on, before proceeding to the front parking lot to claim their caps and gowns.

A robbery took place at an abandoned home in the 11400 block of Sagedowne. Three young

adults (two females and one male) were held at gunpoint by three men. The three victims were robbed of the personal belongings, along with their vehicle, which also contained a gun. The vacant house, which was easy to access through open windows, had reportedly long been a gathering site for youths and vagrants.

A family disturbance call Thursday, May 7, in the 11600 block of Sagemont led to multiple felony charges. Upon their arrival, Precinct 2 deputies were informed by the caller that her son had assaulted her daughter. The suspect possessed an AR-15 rifle and had reportedly threatened his sister with harm. The suspect fled the location prior to deputies' arrival and was located in the nearby area driving an unauthorized vehicle. During the vehicle stop, a loaded AR-15 rifle and handgun were spotted in plain view inside the car, with the handgun being reported as stolen. Brett Gilliam was subsequently apprehended and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

Continued on Page 8

Constable Garcia making area arrests

Newly elected Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia has hit the ground running, with his department making multiple serious arrests since he took office earlier this month.

Armed robbery

An aggravated robbery Jan. 2 occurred at the Walgreens located at Scarsdale and Beamer. According to investigators, the incident began around 12:15 p.m. when a white female suspect entered the store and placed a box cutter to the abdomen of the store manager and demanded money from two cash registers.

While exiting the building, the suspect then approached a customer in the parking lot, demanding the keys to his vehicle. The suspect was unsuccessful in this attempt, as the customer safely ran away.

Precinct 2 deputies arrived on the scene quickly to find the suspect leaving the parking lot. The suspect, Mary Snyder, 41, from the Bellfort area, was apprehended and charged with robbery.

All money was returned to the Walgreens. Garcia said he has placed more deputies on area streets to increase safety.

"Our deputies are working very diligently to protect you and your family," Garcia said. "Stay safe and God bless you all."

Drug bust

A Jan. 2 South Belt traffic stop recently led to multiple drug and gun possession charges being filed.

According to officials from newly elected Harris County Precinct 2 Jerry Garcia's office,

Continued on Page 2

65+ may postpone property taxes

Texans who are age 65 or older or who are disabled as defined by law may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit at the Harris County Appraisal District office.

Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred — but not canceled — as long as the owner continues to qualify for the exemption. Taxes accumulate with 5 percent interest per year. The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the homestead if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old when the deceased spouse died.

"Homeowners who are 65 or older or disabled also should be sure they have applied for and received the appropriate homestead exemptions. These exemptions will reduce future tax burdens,

and the tax savings from homestead exemptions are theirs to keep," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. "In December, the appraisal district mailed postcards listing the homestead exemptions the property owner has and encouraging them to contact us if they are eligible for one additional exemption because of a 65th birthday or becoming disabled."

A filed tax deferral affidavit keeps homeowners from losing their homesteads because of delinquent property taxes. A pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien will also cease as a result of filing a tax deferral affidavit. In addition, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes once an affidavit is filed. There are no penalties on delin-

Continued on Page 4

Jan. 6 shooting goes to grand jury

The fatal shooting of a male that took place about 8:25 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, in the 2100 block of Theta Street near Edgebrook will be referred to a Harris County grand jury, Houston Police Department officials said. The identity of the deceased, 39, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to investigators, patrol officers responded to a person-down call at the above address to observe the male lying unresponsive in the yard, suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. Houston Fire Department paramedics arrived on the

scene and pronounced him dead at the scene. According to the homeowner, he heard a loud noise outside and observed the male breaking into his truck, which contained work equipment. The homeowner told investigators that he went outside in order to stop the theft of his property and fired one shot, fatally striking the male.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477). At press time, no charges had been filed in the case.

Constable Garcia fighting crime

Continued from Page 1

During the investigation, deputies recovered a loaded .38 caliber handgun from the driver, which was on his person. They also recovered 11 individual bags of marijuana weighing in excess of one pound, a loaded .45 caliber handgun and an AR-style pistol with another 75 .223 rounds, all inside the vehicle.

The suspect, Edward Pittman, 21, who lives near Beltway 8 and Telephone Road, was subsequently arrested and charged with felony possession of marijuana, as well as a misdemeanor charge of unlawfully carrying of a weapon. Deputies also seized more than \$2000 in cash.

Prostitution
Acting on complaints from the community about prostitution in the Hobby Airport area, Precinct 2 deputies were proactively patrolling the 7900 block of Bellfort

when they encountered two female suspects. Upon questioning the suspects, deputies found each of them to have open arrest warrants in Harris County, and both women were subsequently arrested. The two females were arrested for two open misdemeanor prostitution warrants and a felony assault on a peace officer warrant. One female was found to be in possession of a controlled narcotic and was also charged with felony possession of a controlled substance.

A post on Garcia's Facebook page said the women will be offered help and also warned potential prostitution customers of the increased police presence.

"Harris County Constable Precinct 2 Jerry Garcia heard your community concerns, and after taking office, has assigned patrol units to address a long issue of prostitution complaints in the Hobby Airport Area," the post said. "The women are offered

help. Johns stay away! You are the real problem. We are coming after you too!"

Home Depot theft
A South Belt resident was arrested Wednesday, Jan. 7, for stealing roofing supplies from the Home Depot in the 11800 block of Dickinson Road near Beltway 8 and the Gulf Freeway.

After being dispatched to the area store, a traffic stop was conducted on the suspect near I-45 and Howard. The suspect, Matthew Aya, was in possession of approximately \$500 in stolen roofing materials. According to Home Depot officials, Aya, 38, who lives on Beamer near Hughes, is possibly responsible for \$128,000 in losses. This will be further investigated for additional criminal charges, Precinct 2 officials said.

Frank Timothy Castro



Frank Timothy Castro, 43, died suddenly the morning of Jan. 1, 2021, in Spring.

Tim, as he was known by his family and friends, was born in Clear Lake Jan. 22, 1977, to Frank and Debbie Castro, lifelong residents of the South Belt community. He graduated from Dobbie High School in 1995. He continued his education at University of Houston-Clear Lake where he earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology.

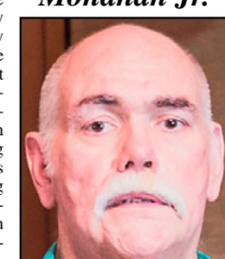
Shortly after completing his studies at UH-Clear Lake, Tim moved to Spring, where he began working in the insurance business as an insurance agent with the American Automobile Association (AAA) then moved to an agent position with SIG/F&M Insurance Group in The Woodlands. Tim had a unique way of forming relationships and never met a stranger who didn't soon become a friend. He was able to make anyone laugh with his creative sense of humor and his ability to turn any moment into fun. He enjoyed good conversation along with hosting his family and friends for holidays and other celebrations. He was the 'glue' for his family.

Tim also enjoyed playing tennis and other indoor/outdoor games including cornhole. He was very competitive, even though most of the games played were family friendly. Tim's two sons Coby and Cameron Castro were the joy of his life. Tim took great pride in their accomplishments. He enjoyed their childhood athletic endeavors even serving as their coach in flag football and soccer. He was very involved with ensuring they achieved academic success and was not afraid to push them to excel in their endeavors.

Outside his spare time spent with family and friends, Tim also volunteered to work events for Spectrum, a catering, concession, and special events service company. Events he volunteered to work included the Houston Open, Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival and KAABOO Del Mar, to name a few. He loved music, and it was a challenge to play Song Quiz against him because he was unbeatable. For that matter, he was amazing at any trivia game.

Looking forward to wed in April, 2021, Tim is survived by his fiancé and soon-to-be stepson, Christina Lopez and Braeden Lopez, respectively; his two sons and their mother Andrea Castro; his parents Frank and Debbie Castro; his brother Joseph Castro, wife Rachel and their children Garrett and Vivienne; his brother Daniel Castro and wife Joanne; and his brother Toby Castro. Tim was preceded in death by his grandparents Frank and Hilda Castro of Pasadena and James and Joyce Koplin of South Belt. Visitation was held Jan. 11 at Forest Park - The Woodlands. A private service and burial followed visitation.

Lawrence Earnest Monahan Jr.



Lawrence Earnest Monahan Jr. "Larry," 66, died Friday Jan. 8, 2021, in Houston. He had battled multiple myeloma since being diagnosed in February 2020. He was a native Houstonian born Nov. 23, 1954, to Lawrence Earnest Monahan Sr. and Jack "Jackie" Helen McKinney Monahan. Larry grew up and always lived in Southeast Houston never moving more than 10 miles from where he was born.

Coming from a disciplined household, Larry was taught respect from a young age. His father who was a marine, a principal at C.E. King High School and deputy superintendent of Sheldon ISD took him to every district function. His mother was a nurse and he inherited her caring and giving spirit. He attended Ross Sterling High School and played varsity football.

Larry was a dedicated worker in Pasadena refineries several years before he worked his way up to plant operator at Lyondell. He was known to take many extra shifts, often working 16-hour days.

On his days off he enjoyed taking his boat, the "Nutty Buddy," out in Galveston Bay

to fish for the "Texas Trifecta": speckled trout, redfish and flounder. He always looked forward to his vacation time each summer when he took the family on trips to South Padre Island and fished in Port Isabel. His other hobbies included listening to live music, especially blues, and watching his local sports teams, the Oilers, the Texans, the Astros and the Rockets. He loved everything

about the great state of Texas. Larry was preceded in death by his parents and uncle Clarence Henry Monahan.

Larry is survived by his son Lawrence Ethan Monahan and his wife Ashley Monahan; as well as Ethan's mother Revonda Jean "Jeanie" Monahan.

Family always remained his number one priority. His son Ethan was his pride and joy. He was full of knowledge

and wisdom and was always willing to share it. His spirit, strength, and wisdom will always be remembered.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, Jan. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m., at South Park Funeral Home, 1310 N. Main Street in Pearland.

The funeral will be held Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m., at the same location, followed by a graveside service.

In My Opinion

Jackson comments on Cruz, Twain

It is a matter of record that Ted Cruz became a senator, and rightly so, because of good math: he received a higher percentage of the votes than did his opponent.

This is not meant as a rebuke of Sen. Cruz, who is undoubtedly a very learned man, but rather as a reminder that words have power and power can do good or ill, thus they should be chosen carefully. Rather, this is about the problems of some information being disseminated to the public at large.

Years ago Mark Twain told us "There are three kinds of lies; lies, damned lies, and statistics."

On Jan 6th, TX Sen. Ted Cruz offered the following statistics as justification for an investigation of a "rigged" election. He said:

1) "... it is a reality for nearly half (italics mine) the country" believes the election was rigged and Trump won.

2) "...39% of Americans... 31% of Independents... [and] 17% of Democrats believe the election was rigged.

So what could we take from these statistics? We could assume that:

1) more than half the people believe the election was not rigged and Trump lost, and therefore

2) ... 61% of Americans, 69% of Independents, and 83% of Democrats believe Biden won fairly.

Irrespective of intent; We would do well to check any information offered us, only because bad information too often leads to wrong conclusions.

Perhaps today Twain might say, 'There are four kinds of lies; lies, damned lies, statistics, and alternative facts.'

Ed Jackson

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library
Bracewell Library, is located at 9002 Kingspoint. For information, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library/items_per_page=200/events or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> or call 832-393-2580.

NOTE: Bracewell Library is closed Monday, Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

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

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

Additional resources
The Houston Public Library 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. Clicking on Free Resources for All to access the digital resources and a link to obtain a temporary card. Also, under the Here's What's Happening link, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime, provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes can be 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 robust collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog to determine if a previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading the e-book or audio book are on the site.

All due dates for existing borrowed materials will be extended through the closure period. Until further notice, no new late fees and fines will be assessed during the closure period, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, Wi-Fi service is still available by coming to the library standing/sitting within 6 feet of the building. A password is not needed. Go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi and connect to HPL - Public.

HPL is not accepting book donations at this time. Visit www.houstonlibrary.org to find virtual programs and digital resources. For more information, visit www.houstonlibrary.org to chat with a librarian 24/7, or to send questions through HPL's email reference.

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

NOTE: Parker Williams Library is closed Monday, Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"
After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
 - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
 - Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
 - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Curbside hours are: Monday - 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
Harris County Public Library will continue to offer a wide array of online services:

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.
 - Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
 - Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
 - Check 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. 14, at 4:30 p.m. Anime Club shows "Discord." Join Jason Cruz and John Harbaugh on the Discord Anime Channel for a discussion of the last season of "Attack on Titan." To join, email john.harbaugh@hcpl.net to be added to the channel. #anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Friday, Jan. 15, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez who tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Residents will be needing pens and markers for these videos which will be featured at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) This program will be on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, noon. Drawing with Ms. Ariel (Ariel Perez). Get creative juices flowing and grab some markers or crayons for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers, and letters! This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m. "Nevermore: Poe and His Works." "The Raven," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and the "Cask of Amontillado" are just a few of the short stories from Gothic author Edgar Allan Poe. Learn more about the man and his works on his birthday, Tuesday, Jan. 19. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #edgarallanpoe #horror #theraven #poetry #books.

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 5 p.m. Virtual Teen Advisory Board. Looking for a way to volunteer? Need to get some hours in for National Honor Society? For an invitation to the Microsoft Teams meeting or more information, email john.harbaugh@hcpl.net. #volunteer #volunteering #community #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Meador's Winter Wonderland

Meador Elementary students and staff were surprised with a Winter Wonderland on Dec. 17 with a load of 40,000 pounds of ice. The ice was delivered with a snowmaker, sleds and a slide for the students and staff to enjoy. It was a wonderful day filled with snow angels, sledding, snowballs, snowmen and big smiles.



Kindergarten students enjoy the surprise snow day. Left to right are (front row) Natalie Maldonado, Emily Munoz, Freya Teniente, (back row) and Beverly Bolton (Meador principal).



Kindergarten student Parker Bounds is shown making a snow angel.



Shown enjoying the ice by sledding down the slide is Sophia De Jesus-Bustillos, a fourth-grader.



Meador teacher Mike Gill enjoys sledding with Ismael Guzman, a PPCD student.



Akacia Rose (left) and Faith Jimenez, both pre-K students, are enjoying the day by building little snowmen together.

Meador names honor rolls

Meador Elementary officials announced second nine-weeks honor, merit, recognized and bug roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

First grade Recognized roll

Issa Meza, Melany Fernandez, Alana Rivas, Jimena Torres, Cameron Escobar, Terrance Morris, Azariah Rios, Jaylene Vazquez and Elijah Williams.

Alexander Zarate, Ricky Flores, Brielle Kay, Travis Lance, Janessa Murray, Julia Nguyen, Parker Smith, Jessenia Salazar, Ellie Bacot and Gwen Bounds.

Anthony Bui, Aires Holmes, Bella Nguyen, Quynh Nguyen, Zoey Robledo, Ava Rodriguez, Joseph Moreno, Andrew Salazar, Adaylin Renteria and Bethany Cabriales.

First grade Bug roll

Gerardo Garza, Luzdary Santos, Marieli Teniente, Alexa Varela, Daniel Chavez, Samantha Arias, Isabella Cedillos and Genesis Chirinos.

Jose Jimenez, Cameron Escobar, Travis Lance, Jessenia Salazar, Denia Gonzalez, Carter Lightfoot, Gracelynn Corrales and Luke Savala.

Second grade Recognized roll

Aleishmarie Aponte, Genesis Gonzales, Natalie Mai, Alyssa Rios, Eleena Breigheith, Rosalie Longoria, Arianna McCallum, Renesmee Nanez and Tyler Nguyen.

Francisco Robledo, Savannah Morales, Ashley Qujada, Kyngston Vaughn, Jaelyn Avila, Giselle Cammack, Arleth Garcia and Autumn

Gonzales. Kendal Lynsky, Skyla Wells, Makayla Hernandez, Adam Tiscareno, Pablo Martinez, Gael Lopez, Oscar Barrera, Emily Reyes, Brenda Mendez and Eliannys Fuentes.

Second grade Bug roll

Guadalupe Berrone, Ivan Estrada, Elizabeth Garza, Alize Laijas, Rashidul Rahat, Kyla Robinson, E'Mani Austin and Francisco Robledo.

Elijah Rodriguez, Lamarelle Times, Imri Navarro, Mary Morris, Liliana Garcia, Lucy Le, Autumn Gonzales and Arleth Garcia.

Emily Reyes, Sofia Teniente, Brenda Mendez and Eliannys Fuentes.

Third grade Honor roll

Diana Alvarez, Isabella Fernandez, Timothy Craig, Arleny Maldonado, Sophia Mancuso, Ibrahim Masoom, Sophia Ramos, Isabella Rios and Emryiah Groves.

Alejandro Lopez, Melanie Rico, Alannah Calzada, Londyn Daniel, Ethan Mancillas and Omar Jimenez.

Giovanni Vanturella, Blake Gonzalez, Myrion Davis and Jasmine Alvarado.

Bug roll

Alejandro Lopez, Miguel Perez, Roselin Aleman, Giancarlo Garcia, Valeria Martinz, Melanie Rico, Elvis Urena and Paulina Arrendondo.

Layla Guerra, Hannah Hernandez, Natalie Montalvo, Daniel Denova, Natalia Estrada, David Garza and Parker Hladys.

Denim Holman, Omar

Jimenez, Chandler Schlueter, Ke'ariyanna Johnson, Aneya Knight, Skylar O'Rourke, Eduardo Roblero and Sophia Salas.

Aiden Saucedo, Giovanni Vanturella, Billy Truong, Vance Smith, Sedrick Phillips, Abigail Mosley, Charles Lacy and Emryiah Groves.

Daria Gonzalez, Ethan Espinosa, Myrion Davis, Aya Bahar, Jaelyn Alvarez and Jasmine Alvarado.

Fourth grade Honor roll

Carolyn Erazos, Annabelle Rodriguez and Azul Pineda.

Alyssa Picarro, Gregory McNeil, Joseph Nguyen, Jeremy Pendleton, Paige Hladys and Alexa Guevara.

Bug roll

Isaac Figueroa, Antonio Garza, Joshua Lobo, Madelin Matute, Angel Mendez, Elian Moreno, Angelo Polito and Regina Saucedo.

Flor Vasquez, Gabriela Torres, Sebastian Gonzalez, Xavier Davis, Phoebe Schlueter, Morgan Lewis, Roman Salinas and Hazael Benitez.

Milan Johnson, Diamonique Burton, Evanie Carreno, Cesar Gonzalez, Kenberly Jones, Alexis Ruiz, Daniel Savala and Andres Maldonado.

Danyella Gore, Sophia DeJesus, Ruby Jasso, Kelis Love, Emmanuel Martinez, Tanveer Masoom and Aaliyah Benoit.

Derek Broadwell, Ronni Gary, Faith Guajardo, Christopher Nunez, Graciela Preza Cardoza and Fabian Rodriguez.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group posted that he was driving through Green Tee Friday, Jan. 8, at 5:15 a.m., and encountered a dark gray Toyota Camry (not sure of make) with it's hazard flashers on driving very slow. The member states that when he passed it he stopped and turned around and began to follow the vehicle. The member stated that the vehicle would go from one side of the street to the other, so the member hesitated to follow too closely, but observed the vehicle as it left the neighborhood and drove onto Scarsdale and turned left, heading toward Beamer and then sped away. The member states he is sure they were scoping the neighborhood, but did not get close enough to get a license plate number. The headlights were defective on the car, the right one was yellowish and the left one was white.

A member of the same Facebook group shared a post that this past week an aggravated robbery occurred at the Walgreens located at

Scarsdale and Beamer. For more information, see related story on Page 1.

A member of the same Facebook group shared a post that deputies in the South Belt area conducted a traffic stop in the 9900 block of Sagemill Drive. This traffic stop led to an arrest of the driver for felony possession of marijuana, as well as a misdemeanor charge of unlawfully carrying of a weapon. For more details see related story on Page 1.

A member of *Southbelt/Sagemont Crime Alert* Face-

book group shared a post and pictures of two individuals that broke into a vehicle and stole the purse and other items from the vehicle and used the victims debit card at a nearby Target store in the area. The incident happened Monday, Jan. 4, at the Southbelt Hike & Bike Trail.

Church Directory

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

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

*Also Available on Facebook Live

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

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

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

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

New Covenant Christian Church

10603 Blackhawk
281-484-4230

Bill & Cheryl Hines, Pastors

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

WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

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

Nursery Available at all Services

PISD celebrates school board recognition month

January is School Board Recognition Month and Pasadena ISD is joining 1,024 school districts throughout the state of Texas in celebrating the contributions of the district's seven-member board, Dr. DeeAnn Powell superintendent of schools, announced Tuesday, Jan. 5. "Our school board members are volunteers who work tirelessly to make decisions with the best interest

of our district, students and staff. Their goal is always focused on the future success of the children in our district," Powell said. "Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do." Recent achievements of the board of trustees and Pasadena ISD include: - Top 5 Honor Board in

Texas, 2019. - TCEA's 2021 School Board of the Year. - TAEA District of Distinction, 2020. - Pasadena ISD named Model PLC School District. - 13 Pasadena ISD campuses named Gold Ribbon Schools. Board members serving Pasadena ISD are Vickie Morgan, president, 35 years of service; Mariselle Quija-

no, vice president, 12 years of service; Fred Roberts, secretary, 28 years of service; Nelda Sullivan, assistant secretary, 28 years of service; Jack Bailey, member, 11 years of service; Kenny Fernandez, member, six years of service; and Marshall Kendrick, member, 32 years of service. "It's more important than ever before that communities support public education so that today's students are prepared to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow. "Please take a moment and tell school board members 'thanks for caring about our children and giving so much to our community.' Let them know we support them and that their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated," Powell said.

Meador gets visit from Santa



Santa and his helpers visited Meador Elementary classrooms and delivered candy canes and a face mask to every student.

Greeting students were, left to right, Luna, Merida's dog; Tara Merida, counselor; Beverly Bolton, principal; Santa; and Amy Clowers, assistant principal.



Saying hello to third-grade virtual students are, left to right, Beverly Bolton, Meador principal; Santa; and Megan Mayes, third-grade teacher.



Looking festive in matching T-shirts, Meador first-grade teachers posing for a photo, are, left to right, Heather Morales, Jan Arzona, Kim Cowan, Paulina Rivas-Lopez and Anne Hamilton.

Dobie gathers donations for toy drive



J. Frank Dobie students and teachers donated toys to the South Belt Clinton Hopper, assistant principal; Ambreon Jones, student; Deaira Jackson, student; Viet Nguyen, student; Robert Montano, student; Lauren Calderaro, assistant principal; and Keley Davis, counselor.

Burnett announces spelling bee participants



Burnett Elementary School staff recently celebrated the participants of their spelling bee. Showing off their plaques and/or medals are, left to right, (front row) Liany Zarazua, spelling bee winner; Michael Rentas, runner-up; (middle row) Julissa Zuviri, Vannezia Diaz, Malaika Farr, Ian Silguero, Phenix Gomez, Aiden Gwosd (back row) Abedal Abedrabbo, Emily Gonzales, Nawaf Sharif, Miguel Villegas and Sayuli Ramirez.

Photos submitted

PISD finance team earns perfect score

The Pasadena Independent School District Finance Department has earned a perfect score of 100 by the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas for the first time since the Texas Education Agency changed the indicators in 2015-2016. FIRST ratings are based on 14 financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures, the accuracy of a district's financial reporting and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses as determined by an external auditor.

"I am extremely proud of our Finance Department for all their work and dedication to excellence," said Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD superintendent of schools. "We have an outstanding team who works extremely hard each and every day for our school district."

The CAFR is an annual external audit that is judged by a team of GFOA panelists who annually review

in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for their Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting that an organization can receive.

Both recognitions were awarded based on financial reporting and governmental accounting for the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 2019.

Burnett spelling bee winners



Spelling bee winners shown holding their trophies are (front row) Liany Zarazua (left), first-place winner, and Michael Rentas, runner-up. Supporting their efforts are (back row) Jae Lee, Burnett principal, and Eric Snell, reading coach.

Former struggling student turned proud graduate

By Kadey Heidrich Pasadena ISD Communications Shantel McNeal is a recent Community School graduate. Similar to many students, after facing instability in her home life, McNeal was faced with adult responsibilities, followed by the need to make choices for her future. Prior to enrolling in a Community School, McNeal attended one of the district's traditional high schools, but soon found that the combination of a tough situation at home and an increasing workload at school, led her to experience an increase in stress and consider other options for completing her high school education.

McNeal described the events that led her to Community School and why she recommends the program to others. "What led you to Community School?" "I was really struggling at my old school. I had my credits and was making

B's and C's, but I was still struggling. I had problems with some of the teachers and students, on top of problems at home. With every progress report, I felt pressure building on me. At Community School they pressure you, but it's positive because you know they care about you. I also chose Community School because I felt like I needed to start my life and get things going. I didn't want to wait until May to graduate. "So, this summer before school started, I called Ms. Elliott, a counselor at my old school. She told me about the program here and has been a constant in my transition from my old school to Community School."

relationship with them, you can tell they care about you. "It's like a family here, they always have my back. They wanted to get to know me, they want to get to know everyone who comes here. Ms. Capra (the principal) knows everyone here. Past students will come back to Community School to say hi and talk about their lives. "Ms. Jocelyn with the McKinney-Vento program has also helped me a lot. She helped me stay on track with my work. She made sure I completed my work on time!" (laughs) Do you recommend Community School to others? "Yes, I have recommended Community School to so many people, I've lost count. I have friends who are considering dropping out and I tell them about the program here. It lets you work independently and at your own pace. I like that it is like a small school experience. Sometimes it can get overwhelming when there are a lot of other kids around. This way, there is more of a focus on you. Once they hear about the program, a lot of my friends are like, 'sign me up!'"

What do you want students who are considering Community School to know? "They're going to love it here! The relationships you build here, you can tell people care about you. They want to help mold you into who you want to be. "They help you transition to the adult stage and teach you how to think about what's next. For example, if you have to miss school for any reason, they expect you to call like you would at a job. Even if you think you're going to be tardy, you need to call. It's important because it helps prepare you for work. What do you think your life would have been like if you hadn't graduated?



Shantel McNeal

CCISD bus drivers commit to safety



CCISD bus drivers took a break from training to pose for a photo. Left to right are Razzmon Williams, Rita Kenney, Karina Aranda and Derrick Prudhomme who have taken the additional training.

Clear Creek ISD recently hosted a Bus Driver Academy through a partnership with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). A total of 19 participants from across the region, including four from CCISD, signed up to further their knowledge and safety procedures when transporting students.

"It's important to for our drivers/trainers to always be learning and pass it on to other bus drivers in training and all drivers within transportation," said Perry Pierson, CCISD safety and training manager. "The way I see it, it helps us stay fresh and focused as we transport the most important cargo - our students."

According to TEEX website, the 30-hour school bus driver instructor course provides school districts with an opportunity to use of their own qualified drivers as behind-the-wheel instructors.

"During the training, the TEEX instructors set up different scenarios, including obstacle courses and how to tend to someone who may be experiencing a heart attack," said Pierson. "So, these are very unique things being taught through the program with the safety of our students at the forefront."

After completing the training, the drivers not only receive a specialized wealth of knowledge to bring back to their peers, but it also counts toward their certification with the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation.

"I think it is very important for bus drivers to continue learning new and inventive methods," said Derrick Prudhomme who has been a bus driver in CCISD for the last 18 months. "I see myself using the new procedures we were taught by the TEEX trainers when driving."

If you are interested in becoming a bus driver in CCISD, visit www.ccisd.net/drivethefuture.

65+ may postpone property taxes

Continued from Page 1
 require that property taxes be paid currently," Altinger said.
 All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer qualifies for the exemption.
 If the tax debt remains unpaid at that time, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.
 For additional details about property tax de-

ferral, contact the Harris County Appraisal District's information center at 713-957-7800 or email help@hcad.org. Information may be found online at www.hcad.org by keying in "tax deferrals" in the search bar at the top right of the screen. Information also is available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

San Jac to offer COVID-19 workshop

On Jan. 21 San Jacinto College will be offering a Zoom Workshop focusing on stress management and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Zoom will be from noon until 1 p.m. This is a free workshop. Register in advance using the link at <https://sanjac.zoom.us/j/90811111111>.

Pasadena Little Theatre shows "Love Letters"

As a pre-Valentine's gift to patrons, Pasadena Little Theatre will show "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney and directed by Gregory R. Brown Jan. 15 through Jan. 31.
 Patrons will follow Melissa and Andy's relationship through letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences.

As the actors read the letters aloud, what is created is an evocative, touching, frequently funny but always telling pair of character studies in which what is implied is as revealing and meaningful as what is actually written.

Prices for seniors and students are \$12, regular and online are \$15 and tickets are \$18 at the door. For more information, visit www.pasadenalittletheatre.org.

Growing with plants, nature hosts youth event

Growing with Plants and Nature will host a family-friendly, 30-minute presentation "Winter Gardening" by Candy Friday and Julee Jackson Jan. 19 at 10 a.m.
 The discussion will focus on reasons for gardening and suggestions on what can be done in winter. Registration is required by email at ogd.harrishort@gmail.com.

Free Green Thumb talk presented Jan. 19

Green Thumb Gardening will host the lecture "Pruning Basics" by Harris County Master Gardeners with the Harris County Public Library System Jan. 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
 This is a free virtual lecture and no preregistration is required. Watch via Facebook Live at [facebook.com/harriscountypylive](https://www.facebook.com/harriscountypylive).

"Gardening on the Gulf Coast" lecture Jan. 20

The "Gardening on the Gulf Coast" lecture will be held Jan. 20 at 10 a.m. The presentation is "House Plant Maintenance and Identification" by Paul Winkski, Texas A&M AgriLife county extension agent-horticulture in Harris County. This will be a free virtual lecture, registration required through Eventbrite at [gardeningonthegulf.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Home Grown Lecture set for Jan. 21

Home Grown lecture will be held Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. The presentation will be "Soil Testing" by Shannon Dietz, Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources. This will be a free virtual lecture. Registration is required through Eventbrite at [homegrown2021Q1.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Bay Area Genealogical Society meets Jan. 29

On Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, Bay Area Genealogy Society's general meeting will be held at 7 p.m. The speaker is Diana Elder presenting, "The Family Search Catalog: A Researcher's Best Friend." The Family Search Catalog holds references to billions of records, one of which might answer your research question. Learn how to use the catalog to find valuable unindexed records and new collections to search. Discover how to navigate the search features of the catalog and how to use each to your advantage.

Diana Elder is an accredited genealogist professional, author and speaker with eighteen years of research experience and holds a credential for genealogy research through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen). Her area of expertise is the United States Gulf South Region which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Check out the topics and links to access meetings on www.TxBayAreaGen.org. For more information, call Kim at 281-992-2636 or email newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org.

Black belts start self-defense in February

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

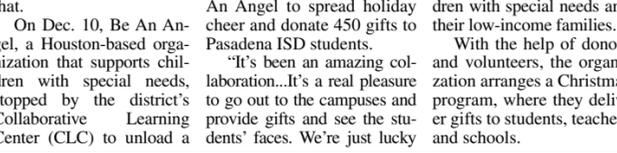
These classes will start in February. No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. Details will be provided in a future issue.
 For additional information on martial arts classes, visit www.AskKarate.com, email OnLine@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

Be An Angel donates to PISD special education programs

By: Rebeca Lazo Pasadena ISD Communication
 It has been said that angels can perform miracles during the holiday season and the Special Education Program (SPED) at Pasadena ISD can surely attest to that.
 On Dec. 10, Be An Angel, a Houston-based organization that supports children with special needs, stopped by the district's Collaborative Learning Center (CLC) to unload a

16-wheeler full of gifts to be distributed to students in special education. Throughout the day, SPED employees packaged the gifts and distributed them to students at each elementary school.
 The SPED program reunites each year with Be An Angel to spread holiday cheer and donate 450 gifts to Pasadena ISD students.
 "It's been an amazing collaboration...It's a real pleasure to go out to the campuses and provide gifts and see the students' faces. We're just lucky

that the Be An Angel program includes Pasadena ISD in their gift delivery," said John Salinas, behavior analyst for Special Education.
 Be An Angel is a Houston-based nonprofit organization that provides gifts during the holidays to children with special needs and their low-income families.
 With the help of donors and volunteers, the organization arranges a Christmas program, where they deliver gifts to students, teachers and schools.



Taking a photo break are volunteers, left to right, (front row) Kimberly King, Lance Donaho, (back row) John Salinas, Calandra Salter, Hillary Woest, Kathryn Higginbotham-Jones, Anita Francis, Carlos Torres, Sean Mills and Ross Ernst.



Loading a vehicle with gifts are left to right, Hillary Woest, Shelly Tillman and Lance Donaho.



Hauling out a large number of bags of gifts for delivery is Anita Francis.

Melillo names honor roll

Dixie Melillo Middle School officials announced second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

Fifth grade
 Affan Kamran Aleem, Isaiah Ambriz, Xavier Arizmendez, Joshua Barboza, Aja Ai'uyina Breaux, Abigail Marie Brooks, Jayden Cabrera, Ely Maximiliano Cantu, Aileen Regina Castillo and Diana Chicas Lopez.
 Madison De Santiago, Lilianna Escudra, Emily Isabell Espinoza, Chloe Mae Evans, Andres Julian Franco, Yvette Loreto Franco, Sebastian Garza, Gracie Y Giang and Samuel Isaias Gonzales.
 Trinitee Hines, Rya Hurd, Nikolai Ibarra, Jady Marie Jaso, Caleb Johnson, Miguel Johnson, Crysta Helena Keim, Nina Avani Lowtan, Isaijah Machado and Angela Nora Mena.
 Makayla Nicole Mendez, Luke Gabriel Monford, Joshua Jonathon Montes, Montoya, Janie Douglas Moreno, Neveah Moreno, Alizae Alina Munoz and Hailey Naughton.
 Ngoc Bao Ngo, Thien An Nguyen, Starling Oviedo Ayala, Heidi Dayana Padron, Trinity Pafford, Jacob Perez, Nydia Proa, Earon Ramirez Garivey, Gabriela Ramirez and Osvaldo Ramirez.
 Shailla Genesis Rivera, Alayna Rodriguez, Lexi Marie Rodriguez, Makayla

Rodriguez, Mariana Rodriguez, Lilianna Salazar, Taylor Ann Scott and Pedro Serrano.
 Emiliano Servin, Bella Jordan Sherwood, Devin Ja-maal Smith, Brianna Bella Soto, Luke Stacey, Daniella Bolen Tamayo, Alec Tameg-non, Savannah Tellez and Danica Titus-Williams.
 Ca Vo Thien Tran, Ethan Augustino Tran, Khoa Anh Tran, Isaac Alexander Verdin, Johnathan Villela, Minh Gio Vo, Hyrum Wheeler, Ethyn Ybarra and Saniyah Young.
Sixth grade
 Aiden Lorenzo Aguilar, Steven Alexander Aguilar, Deacon Akinsola Akinloye, Reemas Alazeh, Isabella Hila Allen, Judith Andrade and Kaleigh Olivia Antoine.
 Daniel Blas, Adelle Bongkisheri Bongfen, Alyssa Cabrera, Jasmine Cabrera, Thomas Diego Canil, Mas-simo Carrasco, Barbara Alana Chapa, Javier Chavez, Jayvian Chavez, Yanelli Contreras and Mia Creekmore.
 Mariah Davis, Aidan Michael De La Rosa, Charles De La Rosa, Elizabeth Tam-an Dinh, James Duncan, Emma Grace Espino, Court-lynn Fletcher and James Ed-ward Fortson.
 Kareli Garza, Romeo Rehan Gill, Ezequiel Uri-el Gonzalez, Dezirae Hall-Garner, Vivian Vy Kha Giang, Julian Hernandez, Julio Hernandez, Kingston Hernandez, Prince Hill and

Alexia Ai My Hoang, Chelsea Hua, Brian-na Huesca, Julian Gabri-el Jimenez, Marina Mar-tha Kostikoglou, Duy Thai Lam, Anthony Tran Le, Huy Minh Le, Sheyla Le and Genesis Adriana Leal.
 Leyla Magdalena Limon, Aubrey Lugo, Allyson Bella Marquez, Alexis Martinez, Miah Rose Martinez, Dylan Ashton Mohwinkel, Morgan Olivia Momie, Evan Mason Mora and De Yanih Donray Moses.
 Alena Moya, Hay-ly Nguyen, Justin Khang Nguyen, Nicholas Ngu-yen, Ijeoma Claudia Nmezi, Louisa Safor Obah, Lilly Irene Oliva, Ariel Natalia Ortiz, Nathaniel Padilla, Nikhil Patel and Nevaeh Celeste Perez.
 Jonny Dat Pham, Cullen Dwayne Ponder, Andrew Lee Posey, Kendrick Di-malanta Ramos, Jeremy Ed-ward Rangel, Olivia Razo, Ana Sophia Reyes and Ju-lian Alexander Ricks.
 Aubrey Elle Rodriguez, Nelson Rodriguez, Christo-pher Rubio, Julius Salazar, Eduardo Sanchez, Manuel Ray Sanchez, Sophia Sauc-da, Alyza Analiece Silva, Persophone Sorja, Jayda Ol-ivia-Faith Stewart and Aiden Robert Teran.
 Anne Nhu Tran, Samantha Hazel Trevino Suri Valles, Emmanuel Vasquez, Faith Vasquez, Jabari Ven-son, Angelina Kim Vu, Jaya Yadav and Alexia Ann Zamora.

CCISD's 39th annual livestock show, online sale underway

Clear Creek ISD FFA students will still have the opportunity to safely show and sell their agriculture projects through the 2021 CCISD Livestock Show and Online Sale, now through Jan. 20, 2021.

For 39 years, the CCISD Livestock Show has signi-fied the culmination of countless hours of work and dedication by CCISD FFA students caring for their animals and developing agriculture projects in the hopes of being named the Grand Champion in their category.
 In 2021, their passion and commitment remains un-changed. What has changed is the ways in which the CCISD community may be a part of the tradition in light of COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Parents and community members will have the ability to watch students show their animals and projects via livestream and make purchases, sponsor or do-

nate to the program through a user-friendly online store.
 "Although we know our students will miss the in-person live auction this year, the excitement is building for the opportunity for each to demonstrate the results of their hard work during an unconventional season," said CCISD Career and Technical Educa-tion Program Manager JT Buford.
 "I know I speak for their parents and teachers when I express how proud we all are of the tenacity and grit each has demonstrated over the past several months."

Online sponsorship and animal sale are available at the following site, <https://ccisd.revtrak.net/ccisd-livestock-show/#/list>.
 The schedule for the 2021 CCISD Livestock Show Livestream through Jan. 20, 2021, includes:
 - Tuesday, Jan. 19, 5:30 p.m.: Swine Show.
 - Wednesday, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.: Agricultural Mechan-ics Judging.
 - Wednesday, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.: Rabbit Show, immedi-ately followed by the Poultry Show, with a 30-minute intermission following each species; Lamb Show, Goat Show, Steer Show and Heif-er Show.
 The online sale closes at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20.

FFA members commit to early morning and late afternoon feedings in the CCISD Agricultural facilities, learning showmanship practices, and a long season of character-building mem-ories.
 The sponsorship and sale of animals and projects supports the year-long invest-ment students make into their projects starting with the initial purchase of the animal.
 FFA member expenses range from \$300 to \$3,500, depending on the species or category of agriculture project to which the student has committed.
 There are several ways the community can reward and support the work and education of CCISD FFA students:

- Donate: Make a general donation to the 2021 CCISD Livestock Show and Online Sale "Add on" an Amount: Add a donation to an individual FFA student(s).
 - Sponsor: Sponsor a specific animal or agricul-ture project.
 - Purchase: Purchase a specific animal.
- Each of the above options is described in more detail on the official 2021 CCISD Livestock Show and Online Sale website at www.ccisd.net/livestockshow which includes a direct link to the online store.

Remember When

40 years ago (1981)
 Approximately 40 resi-dents attended the first open meeting of the South Belt Crime Watch Association.

South Belt area residents elected to the Pasadena In-dependent School District were Harvey Turner, board president; Sam Hawkins, vice-president; and Rudy Schubert, assistant secretary.

35 years ago (1986)
 Dale Atkinson, personnel services consultant for the Texas Association of School Boards, told the Pasadena board of trustees that the district was paying "flatly above average" and that teacher salaries were among the highest in the state.

The South Belt Coalition elected its steering commit-tee which established its list of goals for 1986, including the expediting of cleanup of the Brio Refinery site off Dixie Farm Road.

30 years ago (1991)
 Bobie High School ju-niors taking the exit Texas Assessment of Academic Skills tests surpassed the state average on all three portions and had 79 percent of students pass all the tests. The TAAS replaced the Texas Education Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS). The TAAS had more empha-sis on comprehension and reasoning, divided into three sections: writing, reading and math.

Federal Judge David Hitt-ner refused to sign the Brio Consent Decree or make a decision on a court master or legal motions until he received more information and legal clarification. The judge's ac-tion only postponed the ques-tion over whether or not an incinerator would be built at the Brio Superfund site.

Three Motorola walk-ie-talkie radios disappeared from the front of the Hughes Road fire station. The radios were left at the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department by a delivery ser-

vice. All the crew members were out on a run, so nobody signed for the radios, which were estimated at approxi-mately \$1,500 each.

25 years ago (1996)
 Dwayne Myles, a Beverly Hills eighth-grader, was playing around at the beginning of a second period P.E. class and ran and jumped up to touch the rim of a basketball goal. He was laughing about touching the rim, and then collapsed.

Pearland residents living near Yost Road presented City Council with a petition

signed by 400 persons who opposed connecting Yost with Scarsdale.

20 years ago (2001)
 At one of the more festive banquets the chamber had sponsored, Terry Felton, manager of Almeda Mall, turned the president's gavel over to Johnny Carmona of Sam's Club.

Judy Harrison was honored by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year.

15 years ago (2006)
 CCISD trustees studied growth in the area to pre-

pare for additional school facilities. The district had experienced its enrollment increasing by about 1,000 students per year, but a study by MetroStudy suggested the area would serve 52,000 stu-dents by the year 2020.

Moore Elementary Prin-cipal Pat Granger was named the PISD Region IV Eleme-ntary Principal of the Year.

Sageglen resident Bran-don Guillory, 22, was killed in a one-vehicle accident on Beltway 8 near the Genoa Red Bluff toll plaza. Guillory lost control of his truck and

struck a wooden light pole. Seven former South Belt residents ran the 2006 Ar-amco Houston Half Mara-thon in honor of the Todd Krampitz Foundation. One of the runners in the event, which focuses on increasing the awareness of the impor-tance of blood, marrow, tis-sue and organ donations, was Krampitz's widow, Julie Pistone Krampitz.

10 years ago (2011)
 Action Ministries celebrated its 20th anniversary. The nonprofit organization, run by South Belt residents

Gordon and Pat Berg, is devoted to serving the needy in the community and beyond. What began as a two-person operation has now evolved into an army of several hun-dred volunteers. The Bergs celebrated the organization's anniversary at a banquet at The Gardens.

The 15th annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off's new organizers began making plans for the event to be held in May. The fundraiser is the major contributor to the Fourth of July fireworks display at El Franco Lee Park

each year.

5 years ago (2016)
 Dobie High School an-nounced its fourth class of Hall of Honor inductees. Inductees included banker Robert E. Marling Jr. (Dobie Class of 1974), research scientist Dr. Mark Yandell (Class of 1983), the Rev. Sean Horrigan (Class of 1984) and Harris County Constable Phil Sandlin (Class of 1987) who were honored at an induction ceremony at the high school. The late Carole Stockinger, a longtime English teacher at Dobie, was also inducted.

1 year ago (2020)
 The South Houston High School Theater presented "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" in the campus auditorium Thursday, Jan. 30, through Saturday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. each night. General admission tickets were \$10.

The American Society of Karate began its 2020 classes for free self-defense and martial arts for teens and adults (ages 13-80) Friday evening, Jan. 17, at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road.

A house caught fire Thurs-day, Jan. 9, in the 11300 block of Sageway. Firefight-ers arrived on scene around 7 p.m. to find light smoke coming from a residence. A fire was found in a closet and crews began an offensive at-tack, quickly controlling the blaze. Arson investigators determined the fire was acci-dental in nature.



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 53 years.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MARY
 Best wishes to Mary Clark who enjoys a birthday Wednesday, 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.
FLICKINGERS MARK ANNIVERSARY
 Marie (Leader publisher) and husband David Flickinger celebrate 59 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 Lipino and Courtney Durham and husband Chris and their children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; grand-daughter Natalie Albarca and husband Jose and children Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Eliana and Isabelle Albarca; and their friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
 The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 14 through Jan. 20, 2021.

Atkinson Elementary
 Sing a happy birthday song to Katy Fielder Jan. 20.

Burnett Elementary
 Light the birthday candles on a birthday cake Jan. 14 for Jocelyn Chavez.

Bush Elementary
 Blow out the candles on a triple-layer cake for Jacqueline Breed, Esmeralda Guerra and Maria Villanueva.

Frazier Elementary
 Cecilia Ramirez enjoys a birthday Jan. 15.

Genoa Elementary
 Remember to wish Luz Salazar a happy birthday Jan. 16. The day for a party for Mary Helen Ramirez is Jan. 17.

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

Moore Elementary
 Sandra Rodriguez celebrates a birthday Jan. 19.

South Belt Elementary
 Join in the birthday fun Jan. 19 with Linh Moore.

Stuchbery Elementary
 Send a special birthday greeting Jan. 19 to Charlene Provence.

Roberts Middle School
 The day for a celebration for Debbie Mc-Kelvey is Jan. 14.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
 Remember Irene Flores on Jan. 16 with a special birthday wish.
Thompson Intermediate
 Melinda Harrison enjoys a birthday Jan.

15. 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. A birthday is enjoyed by Deborah Scheffer Jan. 17. Enjoy a slice of birthday cake with Remi Yusuf Jan. 18. On Jan. 19, a birthday is celebrated by Cathy Meek.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
 Thursday, Jan. 14: Tracy Oliver, Laurie Lynn, Tiffany Defreitas and Louis Casas; Friday, Jan. 15: Denise Montano, Patrick Lesley, Heather White, Cody Fountain and Barbara Bennett-Northern; Saturday, Jan. 16: Rachel Perez, Heidi Ferguson, Troy Merkall, Samesia Bass-Hamlett, Kimberly Dann-Mandy, Dana Willis and Lisa Pennington; Sunday, Jan. 17: Scott Greene, Tiffany Juarez, Donald Adams, Katherine Macias, Carla Parker, Jodie Lawson and Kevin Jasso; Monday Jan. 18: Charlie Boldt, Theria Malone, Lynn Carnes, Dwight Baker and Theresa Touchette; Tuesday, Jan. 19: Janet Thompson, Lisa Gates, Grace Lazo, Brenda Mahoney and Lori Watts; and Wednesday, Jan. 20: Jeremiah Orsak, Stephanie Johnson, Mary Belz and Mark Roden.
LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
 Email anniversary, vacation, congratulatory, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, put "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

22-6A champion Dobie sweeps all-district top football honors



Senior Johnathan Baldwin (10) executed the plan well in 2020, seamlessly shifting from safety to running back for the Longhorns, where he dominated en route to winning Most Valuable Player honors. He was second in the league in rushing only because he was limited to 71 carries, gaining 1,012 yards for a 14.5-yards per carry average. He also scored 17 touchdowns on the ground.



Dobie junior quarterback Cameron Gray (9) was one of the Houston area's top dual threat signal-callers as he was named the 22-6A Offensive Player of the Year. The second-year quarterback completed 92 of 136 passes for 1,563 yards and 18 touchdowns against just four interceptions. Gray also rushed for 463 yards and another four touchdowns scored.



Longhorns' senior defensive lineman Gerard Joseph (99) controlled things up front, using his size and mobility to dominate at times. He was named the District 22-6A Defensive Player of the Year after pacing a defensive unit that allowed just 56 points in six games. He led the Longhorns with 4 1/2 sacks and nine tackles for loss.

Photos by David Flickinger

JFD softballers decide

It's already been a busy offseason for the Dobie softball program as the first official day of pre-season practice is near - Jan. 22. University in San Antonio. Benitez will take her talents to Lamar State College-Port Arthur and Longoria has announced that she has chosen Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. The Lady Longhorns stood at 14-4 overall a season ago before the coronavirus shutdown.

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Unbeaten Longhorns win Pasadena ISD Cup

Putting together an impressive 20-0 cumulative score against four opponents, Region III power Dobie cruised to the Pasadena ISD Cup boys' soccer tournament championship Jan. 7-9, sending a definitive message along the way. There may be those who debate the level of competition as two of the Longhorns' four opponents are Class 5A programs. But the fact is Dobie clearly dominated. And counting a 4-1 win over Strake Jesuit to begin the season, Dobie has now outscored five foes by a combined 24-1, with 11 different players finding the net. With six consecutive district titles to its credit, Dobie cannot deny what the end goal of the season will be. This group would love to repeat the Region III championship of 2017 and then some. Lofty goals like those will have to wait for now, but Dobie head coach Justin Manrique is thrilled with what he has seen to this point. Dobie repeated at the PISD Cup winner with an easy 4-0 win over Hightower as Isaac Cortez, the team leader with six goals, had a goal and an assist. Daniel Blanco, Jonathan Torres and Jordi Garcia also scored goals as Dobie improved to 5-0 this season ahead of a Jan. 14-16 appearance at the Humble ISD Invitational, where matches against The Woodlands, La Porte and Aldine Nimitz await.

The Longhorns had closed out pool play earlier in the day with a 4-0 victory over Richmond Foster, with Jahir Arias scoring a goal and assisting on another. Cortez scored twice, and Blanco also tallied. Assists came from Deiby Cortez, Oscar Medrano and Jean Arreguin. Against Clear Creek Jan. 8, six different players netted goals, led by Arreguin with a pair. Alejandro Vigil, Cortez, Torres, Gerardo Martinez and Nathaniel Delgado also scored goals. Junior goalkeeper Eris Acosta hasn't faced a barrage by any means to this point, but the fact that he has surrendered just one score to this point surely means he is playing well. Five different players scored goals as Dobie controlled things from start to finish in a 5-0 win over Alvin to begin PISD Cup play Jan. 7. Cortez and Sergio Tenchon had goals and also assisted on scores, and J.P. Rodriguez, Arias and Torres also found the nets. Acosta faced little traffic in the nets as he registered the win. It was the 2020-2021 season opener for Alvin, head coached by former Clear Brook graduate and varsity boys' soccer player Chris Stromeier.



Dobie's Isaac Cortez (10) leads the way with six goals as the Longhorns have outscored five opponents thus far in 2020-2021 by a 24-1 count. Cortez has tallied the six goals to go with three assists. Dobie is now 5-0 overall after winning the Pasadena ISD Cup championship Jan. 7-9.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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High school hoops takes shape locally. Eight straight wins, including six in District 22-6A play, has the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team in first place and in control of its destiny as the second half of league play begins. Meanwhile, the Clear Brook varsity boys' team was looking to remain undefeated with a crucial game coming at Clear Lake after press time Jan. 12. Want more? The Clear Brook varsity girls' team neared the end of the first half of District 24-6A action at 3-2 while in search of a playoff berth in head coach Warren Brooks' first season. And the District 22-6A varsity boys' basketball race was set to resume Jan. 12 after coronavirus issues halted action, with Dobie not having played since

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High school hoops takes shape locally

Eight straight wins, including six in District 22-6A play, has the Dobie varsity girls' basketball team in first place and in control of its destiny as the second half of league play begins. Meanwhile, the Clear Brook varsity boys' team was looking to remain undefeated with a crucial game coming at Clear Lake after press time Jan. 12. Want more? The Clear Brook varsity girls' team neared the end of the first half of District 24-6A action at 3-2 while in search of a playoff berth in head coach Warren Brooks' first season. And the District 22-6A varsity boys' basketball race was set to resume Jan. 12 after coronavirus issues halted action, with Dobie not having played since

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22-6A All-District Football Selections

Most Valuable Player

Johnathan Baldwin, Dobie, Sr.

Offensive Player of the Year

Cameron Gray, Dobie, Jr.

Defensive Player of the Year

Gerard Joseph, Dobie, Sr.

Newcomer of the Year

Kam'ron Webb, South Houston, Fr.

Utility Player of the Year

Kolbey Taylor, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

Coach of the Year

Kevin Berneathy, Dobie

First Team Offense

QB – Luke Giron, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

RB – Trevion Williams, Dobie, Sr.

RB – Alex Argueta, Deer Park, Jr.

RB – Christian Vega, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

WR – Jeremiah Ballard, Dobie, Sr.

WR – Jonathan Jean, Dobie, Sr.

WR – Chris Shelvin, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

WR – Timothy Nash, Channelview, Sr.

WR – David Banion, Channelview, Sr.

TE – Jaylin Griffin, Dobie, Sr.

FB/HB – Gavin Howard, Deer Park, Jr.

OL – Edward Lara, Dobie, Jr.

OL – Dakarey Ramsey, Dobie, Jr.

OL – Ethan Alvarado, Deer Park, Jr.

OL – Kalab Addison, Deer Park, Sr.

OL – Ivan Robles, Pasadena Memorial, Jr.

First Team Defense

DL – Je'lin Samuels, Sam Rayburn, Sr.

DL – Aidan Granger, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

DL – Hayden Pruitt, Deer Park, Sr.

DL – Kaden McGee, Sam Rayburn, Sr.

ILB – Alexander Garcia, Dobie, Sr.

ILB – Adrian Tamez, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

ILB – Fidel Vizcaino, South Houston, Sr.

OLB – Jalen Hollins, Dobie, Sr.

OLB – Luke Moye, Deer Park, Sr.

OLB – Giovanni Jaso, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

Safety – Nate Wallace, Dobie, Sr.

Safety – Damontrion Buchanan, Channelview, Jr.

Safety – Marqualyn Anthony, South Houston, Sr.

CB – Darrius Pamplin, Dobie, Sr.

CB – Keion Thompson, Dobie, Sr.

CB – Cleveland Tucker, Pasadena Memorial, Jr.

K – Gustavo Tejada, Deer Park, Sr.

P – Cameron Murray, Pasadena, Fr.

Returner – Kolbey Taylor, Pasadena Memorial, Sr.

Deep Snapper – Morgan Dozier, Deer Park, Sr.

Second Team Offense - Dobie

RB – Razzmon Williams, Sr.

OL – Joseph Hinojosa, Sr.

FB/HB – Trajan Davis, Jr.

Second Team Defense - Dobie

DL – Jared Dorantes-Adame, Sr.

S – Ryan Saxton, Jr.

Returner – Ryan Saxton, Dobie, Jr.

More 22-6A Dobie all-district top football honors



At left, Dobie tight end Jaylin Griffin (86) helped the Longhorns to an unbeaten season not only with solid blocking up front but also with nine catches for 235 yards and a pair of touchdowns on his way to 22-6A first-team tight end honors.



At right, Jonathan Jean (13) of Dobie put together a terrific final season as he garnered District 22-6A first-team accolades at receiver with 18 grabs for 273 yards and four touchdowns.

Photos by David Flickinger



At left, Dobie three-year starter Jeremiah Ballard (81) saved his best for last, leading the 22-6A ranks in receptions (35), yards (706) and touchdowns (10) on his way to 22-6A first-team receiver honors. Ballard also combined with quarterback Cameron Gray on a school-record 99-yard touchdown pass and reception.

At right, Dobie running back Trevion Williams (23) had a big senior season for the Longhorns as he was ultimately named to the District 22-6A first team for his efforts.

Photos by David Flickinger



Edward Lara (73) of Dobie manhandled opposing defensive fronts this season as he helped lead one of the Houston area's most explosive offenses. Lara was, therefore, an easy choice as an all-district first team offensive lineman.

Photo by David Flickinger



Keion Thompson (3) of Dobie took advantage of his starting role in the Longhorns' secondary with an interception and 10 pass breakups as he was a 22-6A first-team selection at cornerback.



Dobie varsity football head coach Kevin Berneathy guided the Longhorns to their first district championship since 2010 and their first unbeaten regular season since 1999 en route to being named the 22-6A Coach of the Year.



With Dobie averaging nearly 500 yards per game offensively, junior Dakarey Ramsey (66) was one of the forces up front as he was named to the District 22-6A first-team offensive line.

At right, senior safety Nate Wallace (6) stepped up big for the Longhorns in 2020 as a full-time starter as he was a solid tackler and also added four interceptions, including one that he returned for a touchdown. His outstanding season included 59 total tackles, nine passes broken up, another nine tackles for loss and two forced fumbles.

Photo by Gloria Wallace



First team all-district accolades were in line for Dobie senior defensive back Jalen Hollins (21) as he excelled on the backside of the team's defense.



Senior defensive back Darrius Pamplin (12) was an easy choice as a first-team all district performer as he led the District 22-6A ranks with five interceptions and seven pass breakups. He also contributed heavily in the punt return game for the Longhorns.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

Dobie All-District Honorable Mention

OL – Mohamed Elghawi, Jr.

OL – Richard Gary, Jr.

RB – Jalen Baldwin, Soph.

WR – Joshua Rodriguez, Jr.

DL – Amar Lewis, Sr.

LB – Gabriel Chambliss, Jr.

Kicker – Joshua Hernandez, Sr.



Three-year starter Alexander "A.J." Garcia wound up his terrific career at Dobie with first-team all district honors in District 22-6A as he led a unit that surrendered just 110 points in nine overall regular season games, including just 56 points in six league games. Garcia had 52 tackles as a senior.

Photo by Gloria Wallace

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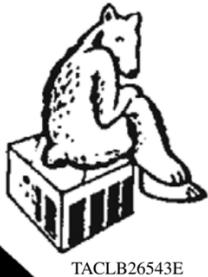
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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.

NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - Although the bridge club is currently closed, visit <https://aclunitt174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for details of online games that can be played or email the director at jpochnsr@aol.com.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

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

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

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

ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South American Meetings are held January - November at Big Horn Bldg, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with business women and guest speakers. All women are invited. Bring business cards. Reservations requested. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For info, call 713-686-6300.

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday.

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All in-person events are canceled. Join Friday service at 7 p.m. or Saturday service at 9:30 a.m. at <https://zoom.us> with the Meeting ID 917 102 8979 and Passcode 18csh1818. To download prayer book for online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-friday.html>. For the website, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday.

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For info, call 281-484-9243.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Al-Anon Deer Park - In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 or visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html>.

AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual at <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com>. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access to the virtual meeting platform. For more

information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners See Thursday.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday.

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For info, call 281-484-9243.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday.

Rotary Club of Pearland - See Thursday.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.

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

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Taking a look back at the most unusual year of 2020

Continued from Page 1
May 21

On Sunday, May 17, Sagemont Church members called Dr. Matt Carter with a 99.6 percent vote of affirmation as the church's second lead pastor in its 54-year history. Carter and his wife, Jennifer, and their family came to Sagemont from Austin, where they founded The Austin Stone Community Church. That church grew to more than 7,500 in weekly attendance on six campuses since its beginning in 2002. The call to Carter followed the retirement of Sagemont's founding pastor Dr. John D. Morgan, who stepped down from the pulpit in late 2019.

A fatal motorcycle crash took place in the 10700 block of Fuqua about 3:45 a.m. Monday, May 18. According to police, the victim was operating a white

Kawasaki EX6 motorcycle traveling east at the above address when he struck a curb at the westbound entrance of an apartment complex and went up onto the sidewalk. The motorcycle then struck a pole and a tree, before coming to a stop on the sidewalk near the east gate of the complex. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced Jose Alonzo Gutierrez, 25, dead at the scene. No other vehicles were involved in the crash.

May 28
The annual South Belt 4th of July parade was canceled out of COVID concerns. This marked the second time in the parade's 33-year history that the event was canceled, as the 2018 parade was rained out.

At a press conference Thursday, May 21, Harris County Judge Lina Hi-

dalgo announced she was extending the Stay Home, Work Safe order until at least June 10.

June 4
A South Belt resident was fatally shot May 15 at a Spring-area motel during a robbery attempt, in which he was the alleged suspect. Jesse Jackson, 24, was pronounced dead at the scene. A 2014 Dobie graduate, Jackson played football, basketball and track at the area high school.

June 11
Three top employees in Harris County Constable Precinct 2 Chris Diaz's office were suspended from duty Wednesday, June 10, for alleged misconduct. The incident in question took place Jan. 29, when Precinct 2 officers allegedly removed tenants from a property in South Houston without due process.

June 18

Former South Belt resident Daryn Edwards was promoted to assistant chief in the Houston Police Department. A 1984 Dobie graduate, Edwards was promoted to assistant chief of HPD's Organizational Development Command. At this position, Edwards is responsible for overseeing the recruitment, hiring and training of officers and civilian employees.

San Jac College was named as one of 10 finalists for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges. Awarded every two years since 2011, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions that achieve strong student outcomes across key areas: teaching and learning; degree completion and success-

ful transfer to four-year institutions; success in the workforce; and equitable outcomes for diverse student groups. This marked the third time the area college had earned the honor.

June 25
The annual South Belt Fourth of July fireworks show at El Franco Lee Park was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This marks the second time in the event's 32-year history the display has been called off, as it had previously experienced a rainout. The annual South Belt 4th of July parade was also canceled out of social-distancing concerns. This marked the second time in the parade's 33-year history that the event had been canceled, as the 2018 parade was rained out.

A 24-year-old man was shot in the face during an altercation with an unknown male at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of the Gulf Freeway near Edgewood. The victim was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. No immediate arrests were made.

July 2
Dr. Greg Smith, Clear Creek ISD superintendent, announced he would retire Dec. 31. The decision to retire was made five years prior when Smith signed his final contract, informing the board at the time of his intent to close out his 40-year career in education.

A man was arrested on multiple charges following a shooting June 30 in the 10600 block of Sagetrail. According to investigators, the incident began when the suspect, Santiago Fernandez, approached two black males accusing them of being part of the Black Lives Matter movement, before following them home and opening fire, missing them. Moments after the shooting, a third individual emerged from the Sagetrail home, and Fernandez again drove by the residence, shouted racial slurs at the woman, before pointing a gun at her and driving away. Given a description of the suspect's vehicle, deputies located Fernandez's car at a nearby residence in the 10500 block of Sageberry. He was subsequently arrested and charged with three counts of aggravated assault.

July 9
There was a sharp increase in the number of local COVID-19 cases, with ZIP code 77089 reaching 100 new cases per week for two consecutive weeks. ZIP code 77075 had similar figures. The South Belt community suffered its first COVID-related deaths, with two 77089 residents dying from the virus. Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases. The governor also issued a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of more than 10 people and making it mandatory that people cannot be in groups larger than 10 and must maintain six feet of social distancing from others. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department closed all 19 community centers that had been serving as Summer Enrichment Program locations.

July 16
The results from July 14 primary runoff elections were announced. In the race for the position of Harris County Precinct 2 constable, challenger Jerry Garcia squeaked out a victory over incumbent Chris Diaz, receiving just 229 more votes. Garcia went on to face Republican Daniel Vela in November's general election. In the contest to fill the U.S. House District 22 representative seat being vacated by Rep. Pete Olson, Troy Nehls handily defeated Kathaleen Wall. Nehls went on to face Democrat Sri Preston Kulkarni in November's general election.

Both Pasadena ISD

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

Two fatal accidents took place on the Gulf Freeway, one involving a pedestrian and one involving a motorcyclist. A female pedestrian was killed July 13 while attempting to cross the Gulf Freeway on foot

near Beltway 8. A male was killed in a motorcycle crash on the Gulf Freeway near Dixie Farm Road.

July 23
With the number of COVID-19 numbers still continuing to climb, local officials altered their positions on reopening area schools in the fall. As for Pasadena ISD, the school district pushed back in-person instruction until the second week of September. Clear Creek ISD approved a modification to the 2020-2021 academic calendar to provide a gradual transition of students back into

schools. San Jacinto College moved its spring commencement online.

The ceremony was originally postponed from May to August due to COVID-19, before being switched to take place virtually.

July 30
Longtime South Belt resident Chuck Tylka retired as chief of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department after serving 45+ years with the organization. Tylka was replaced with longtime SVFD member David Cino.

While not an original member of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, Tylka ranked third in seniority at the time of his retirement, behind only founding members Ed Baker and Jerry Terrell.

An active member of the South Belt community, Tylka also serves on the boards of the Clear Brook City MUD and Sageglen HOA, where he continues to serve. Tylka will also continue his work with the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, of which he is a primary organizer.

Continued next week

Legislature readies to convene for 2021

Continued from Page 1

education organizations recently sent a letter to Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath, urging them not to cut school funding next year.

"School districts across the state have experienced extreme declines in student enrollment during the first semester, and school leaders anticipate the same during the upcoming spring semester until the virus is slowed and the majority of Texans are vaccinated," the letter read. "Budget cuts will be inevitable, resulting in the lay-off of some teachers and other essential school personnel at the worst possible time."

Nearly 200 bills regarding education have already been filed. Proposed bills related to school finance include the following:

HB 586: Introduced by Rep. Sheryl Cole (D), this bill provides for the creation of a state financing program administered by the Texas Public Finance Authority to assist school districts with certain expenses.

HB 334: Introduced by Rep. Gary Gates (R), this bill aims to find funding for career and technology programs in public schools.

Bettencourt files bill against Ellis

SB 252: Introduced by Sen.

Paul Bettencourt (R), this bill would strengthen code to allow a public servant to be charged with abuse of official capacity when violating the public interest by storing non-government personal property, including art work, at government expense without the public's benefit.

The bill is filed, in part, due to the well-publicized event of Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis storing African artwork in a publicly funded warehouse.

"We cannot allow elected officials to store private property of unknown origin, install high-tech security and pay for parking lot improvements with hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars, that we know, and this must be stopped," Bettencourt said in a press release.

"This is an intolerable situation to taxpayers, and it must be resolved by action from either the District Attorney's office, or if this bill passes, by the Attorney General's office."

Currently, the Texas Penal Code provides criminal penalties for the misuse of public property by public servants. SB 252 amends this section of the code by allowing the Texas Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction in cases that arise from this misuse without receiving local county consent to prosecute. Punishment for such abuses could range from a Class C Misdemeanor for property valued under \$100 all the way up to a first-degree felony for property valued at more than \$300,000.

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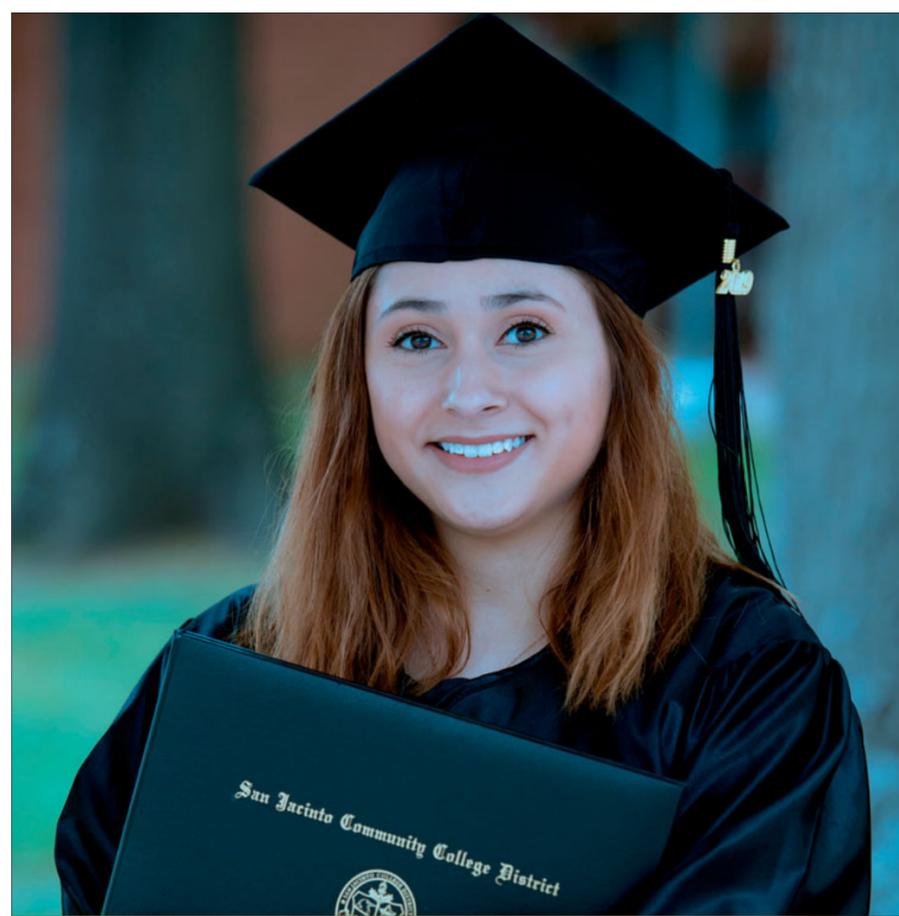
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HPD shoots carjacker

Continued from Page 1
vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. Once stopped by police, the suspect reportedly got out of the vehicle and began firing at officers. An officer fired back, striking the suspect and bringing him down.

The suspect was transported to Ben Taub Hospital in serious condition.

No other serious injuries were reported. The investigation was ongoing at press time.

The suspect, Danielle Pope, 28, was charged with six felony counts: two counts of aggravated assault against a public servant, three counts of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon and one count of felon in possession of a weapon. All charges are filed in the 174th State District Court.

At press time, he remained hospitalized.

As is customary in HPD officer-involved shooting incidents in the city limits, this case is being investigated by the HPD Special Investigations Unit, the Internal Affairs Division and the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

Other proposed legislation

Other notable pieces of proposed legislation include the following:

HB 88 and SB 161 (also known as the George Floyd Act): Written and filed by members of the Legislative Black Caucus, the bill would overturn qualified immunity, meaning victims of police brutality are able to use the civil court system to seek justice. The bill would also require officers to render aid to anyone hurt by police, as well as intervene if a fellow officer is making a Civil Rights violation.

— HB 52: This bill relates to the creation of certain criminal offenses concerning firearm sales at gun shows, authorizing a fee.

— HB 36: This legislation relates to abolishing Confederate Heroes Day in the state.

— HB 60: This bill relates to an increase in the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

— HB 55: This proposed legislation relates to the carrying and possession of a concealed handgun by a school marshal.

— HB 69: This bill relates to prohibiting abortion at or after 12 weeks post-fertilization.

— SJR 15: This Senate joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment requiring the state to expand eligibility for Medicaid to certain persons under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

School funding

With the state's looming budget problems associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, public school