



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 45, No. 49

### COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, Jan. 6, a total of 95 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials. That number is up 10 from the week ending Dec. 17. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 3,366 confirmed cases in 77089, 510 are active, while 2,813 have recovered from the virus. To date, 43 from the ZIP code have died from the disease – up from the *Leader's* last reporting.

In 77075, 335 of the 2,473 confirmed cases remain active, while 2,113 recovered. A total of 25 from the ZIP code died – up two from the previous reporting.

Of the 2,623 confirmed cases in 77034, 295 remain active, while 2,301 have recovered from the disease. To date, 27 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease – an increase of four from the previous reporting. According to Harris County Public Health officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Countywide, there are 247,458 total confirmed cases. Of those, 209,306 have recovered from the disease, while 35,477 cases remain active. A total of 2,658 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within both the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Reources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Reources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus).

### Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Scarsdale to IH 610 nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Jan. 9.

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. All southbound mainlanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96 to FM 518 from 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, through 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 11. All traffic will be detoured onto the southbound frontage road allowed to re-enter at Holland Road. The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

### COVID testing sites named

Gov. Greg Abbott announced the Texas Division of Emergency Management has secured an extension of four Community Based Testing Sites in Houston and Harris County through Sunday, Jan. 31, or until the sites reach maximum capacity of conducting 50,000 COVID-19 tests.

"These federally funded testing sites play a crucial role in our ongoing efforts to combat COVID-19 in the Greater Houston community," said Abbott.

The nearest testing site to South Belt is San Jacinto College Central, 8060 Spencer. Other COVID-19 testing sites include:

**City of Houston**  
Houston Community College North Forest, 6010 Little York Road, and Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Drive.

**Harris County**  
Katy Park, 24927 Morton Road in Katy. For details, visit [www.covidtest.tdem.texas.gov](http://www.covidtest.tdem.texas.gov).

### City to pick up heavy trash

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Jan. 14 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Jan. 15 (second Friday of the month). Due to increased volume associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, city collection crews may run behind schedule. January is for tree waste only. For additional information, visit [www.houstonx.com/solidwaste/treewaste.html](http://www.houstonx.com/solidwaste/treewaste.html) or call 311.

### Ellington recycling Jan. 9

The City of Houston will hold its monthly recycling program at Ellington Airport Saturday, Jan. 9 (second Saturday of the month), from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A joint endeavor between the city's Solid Waste Department and Compucycle, the collection program is now contactless due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are asked to wear masks when speaking to staff and place all items to be recycled in the trunk of the vehicle to ensure no direct contact is made.

Items accepted include computers, routers, laptops, power cords, UPS, cellphones, VCRs, scrap metal/wire, monitors, hubs, printers, cables, servers, DVD players, cable boxes, inkjet cartridges, TVs (CRT/LED) up to 27 inches and flat screens up to 50 inches, mice and keyboards, switches, fax machines, telephones, toner cartridges and copiers. No batteries, oil, anti-freeze, or paint will be accepted at this recycling event. If one wishes to recycle those materials, they may be taken to a City of Houston Environmental Service Center for appropriate handling. For information, call 311 or visit [www.houstonx.com/solidwaste/depositories.html](http://www.houstonx.com/solidwaste/depositories.html).

### Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from SH 288 to the Gulf Freeway daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, Jan. 9.

At least one northbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Vista daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, Jan. 9.

# COVID-19 vaccination difficult to obtain

Local officials have begun to rollout the community's initial COVID-19 vaccination plan, but the process has been met with multiple complications, as the amount of product is very limited and the procedure is in high demand.

**Local issues**  
The South Belt area's first public COVID-19 vaccination distribution effort, held by Harris County Saturday, Jan. 2, at San Jacinto College Central, was fraught with multiple problems, including shortage of supplies, traffic congestion and long wait times. Despite Harris County publicizing the program as lasting from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., the event came to a halt at 2:30 p.m., as supplies were depleted. One *Leader* staff member who had a 1:50 p.m. appointment was turned away after waiting in line for more than an hour.

At a function held the previous day for the community at a Baptist church in Clear Lake, attendees were met with similar issues. (See editorial Page 2.)

**State of Texas**  
The State of Texas' vaccination plan called for first providing the vaccine to frontline health care workers, Phase 1A, then to elderly residents and those with underlying health issues, classified as Phase 1B. According to state officials, this process will prioritize people who are at the greatest risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19. More than 70 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Texas have occurred in people 65 and older, and scientific evidence shows that adults of any age with certain medical conditions have an increased risk of hospitalization and death if they get sick with COVID-19.

At a meeting Dec. 17, the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended vaccinating diverse groups in Phase 1B of vaccine distribution to limit the loss of life from COVID-19 and help reduce the burden on the state's hospitals. Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner John

Hellerstedt, MD, has approved that definition. "The focus on people who are age 65 and older or who have comorbidities will protect the most vulnerable populations," said Imelda Garcia, EVAP chair and DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services. "This approach ensures that Texans at the most severe risk from COVID-19 can be protected across races

and ethnicities and regardless of where they work." The state is currently in Phase 1A of vaccine distribution, which includes residents of long-term care facilities and front-line health care workers. With an estimated 1.9 million Texans in those groups, it will likely be at least a few weeks before a transition to Phase 1B occurs. The tim-

Continued on Page 2

## Scarsdale Perry's closes after 40 years

Perry & Sons Market & Grille on Scarsdale Boulevard recently shuttered its doors after serving the South Belt community for more than 40 years.

At press time, it was unclear why the business closed. Multiple phone calls to Perry's headquarters went unanswered. The announcement came at the same time the rental contract was up for its 5-year renewal. It is believed that due to the virus and problems with restaurants, management made a financial decision not to commit to a new lease.

Opened by Bob Perry in 1979, the neighborhood institution was originally just a butcher shop, before expanding in 1986 to also offer dining.

Perry's son, Bobby Perry, took over running the operation when his father retired in 1989.

In 1993, Perry's other son, Chris Perry, opened the family's first full restaurant, Perry's Steakhouse & Grille, located on Bay Area Boulevard. There are now 20 total locations nationwide, plus a Perry & Sons Market & Grille located in Friendswood.

Other Perry siblings, Concetta and Jacqueline, have also worked at the shop over the years.

Concetta encourages South Belt residents to continue supporting the family business at its Friendswood location.

"Please come to our Friendswood location," she said. "We have everything the Scarsdale location had and some more."

A Perry's Steakhouse & Grille location at Baybrook Mall also remains open.

## Monday night fire in South Belt



A recreational vehicle caught fire Monday, Jan. 4, while parked at a residence on Carmalee near Beltway 8 and Blackhawk. Two dogs and a pet bird were killed in the blaze. The fire could be seen from several miles away, leading many to believe it was larger than it actually was. Despite a large loss of personal property, no humans were injured in the blaze. Multiple Houston Fire Department units responded to the incident. Photo by Duy Vo

## Swearing in at midnight New Year's Eve



Harris County Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado (left) is shown above swearing in Jerry Garcia (center) as the new Harris County Precinct 2 constable. The swearing-in took place at midnight New Year's Eve. Garcia replaced outgoing Constable Chris Diaz, who had held the seat since 2012. Shown above holding the Bible is Jerry's wife Olga holding the family Bible. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Constable Garcia takes office

Jerry Garcia was recently sworn in as the new Harris County Precinct 2 constable, replacing Constable Chris Diaz, who had held the seat since 2012.

The new constable said he plans to hit the ground running upon taking office by establishing a more solid rapport with the South Belt community.

"I would like to bring back integrity and a positive culture within the constable's office," Garcia said. "I would like to implement proactive patrol visibility to deter criminal activity in our communities. Establishing a mental-health unit and a Citizens Outreach Team is a top priority of mine to provide citizens with quality service. There is currently a disconnect with the constable and the residents of South Belt. As a South Belt resident I am already connected and engaged."

Garcia feels that his lengthy law enforcement experience will also help in this regard.

A 23-year resident of the South Belt community, Garcia most recently served as a lieutenant for the Harris County Precinct 3 constable's office. A 21-year law enforcement officer, Garcia had previously served with the Harris County Precinct 2 and 5 constable offices.

During his career, Garcia has worked on both the criminal and civil sides of law enforcement. He is also a longtime member of St. Luke's Catholic Church and local youth soccer coach. Garcia said he'll also tackle the issues of local homelessness and traffic accidents.

"Major issues affecting the South Belt community are the lack of patrol visibility, homelessness encampment issues, the rise in criminal activity and traffic enforcement," said Garcia. "I have received numerous concerns from our citizens in regard to traffic violations, major accidents within the South Belt area and the lack of proactive visible patrol activities."

## Dec. 17 gas station robbery investigated

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man at a gas station in the 11000 block of Fuqua at Sabo that took place about 4:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 17.

The victim, Jamal Phillips, 21, was transported to an area hospital in critical but stable condition.

According to police, Phillips was at the above address when a white sedan pulled up and parked next to him. An unknown male exited the passenger side of the vehicle and approached Phillips, who

was in the driver's seat of a black, four-door truck. The suspect then backed away from Phillips, pulled out a pistol and fired multiple shots into the vehicle, striking Phillips. The suspect fled the scene in the white sedan. Paramedics transported Phillips to the hospital.

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

## City hosting Christmas tree recycling

The City of Houston recently kicked off its 29th annual Christmas tree recycling program.

The program encourages residents to recycle their trees, rather than disposing of them in the trash. The city turns the trees into mulch that it sells and uses to maintain city hiking trails. Approximately 750,000 tons of trees have been recycled since the program began, officials said.

"Holiday trees may have been one of the original recyclables," Mayor Sylvester Turner said at

the kickoff of the program, in which city crews cut down the official Christmas tree outside City Hall. "They provide beneficial reuses in several natural areas which benefit all of us."

This point was reinforced by Houston Solid Waste Management director Harry Hays.

"It can be used as fertilizer, it can provide a great winter blanket for the yard, or for the flower bed," said Hays. "It is the first step, what do I

Continued on Page 8

## A look at 2020 in rearview mirror

Another year has passed, and the *Leader* staff would like to reflect on the more important stories of 2020, including both the highs and lows of an unforgettable year. While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was undoubtedly the biggest story of the year, there were several other significant events that took place as well. Due to space limitations, the year in review will be continued in the Jan. 14 edition. See Page 6 for the 2020 sports year in review.

**Jan. 9**  
One man was fatally shot and another injured Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the 11800 block of Algonquin near Scarsdale. Jesse Perez, 24, was pronounced dead at the scene. A second man, 22, was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. Police said Perez was shot inside his apartment, while the second victim, a neighbor checking on the commotion, was shot in an adjacent hallway as the suspect fled. Javon Chatman, 22, was later charged with capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

**Jan. 16**  
Pasadena ISD announced its 2020 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees, adding 10 names to its roster, including five athletes, three coaches, a family and one team. Inductees included Charlie Goehring – track and cross-country coach (1971-

2007); T.J. Mills (deceased) – football coach (1977-2005); Wilburn Raby – track coach (1952-1980); Steve Prentice – swimmer, South Houston (Class of 1970); Bryan Willingham – football, Pasadena (Class of 1971); Ron Schroeder – golf, Sam Rayburn (Class of 1975); Marlen Esparza – boxing, Pasadena (Class of 2007); Bo Snelson – football, Pasadena Memorial (Class of 2009); Snelson family, including Billie (deceased), and her two sons John and Andy; and Dobie Girls Softball Team, 1993 state champion. Originally scheduled to take place April 4, the induction ceremony was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Jan. 23**  
San Jacinto College agreed to participate in the Harris County Promise program, a collaboration between SJC and Pasadena ISD that allows many local students to attend the school at no charge. The program is open to current graduating seniors from Dobie, South Houston and Rayburn high schools. Officials are hoping to later expand the Promise program to the remaining Pasadena ISD high school campuses. The Promise program is available to all resident seniors, regardless of high school GPA or income. Eligible seniors who become Promise Scholars 3

Continued on Page 3

## Gov. appoints Jack Cagle to task force

Gov. Greg Abbott recently appointed former South Belt resident and Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle to the Task Force on Disaster Issues Affecting Persons Who Are Elderly and Persons Who Are Disabled.

The task force will study methods to more effectively accommodate persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities before, during and after a disaster or emergency evacuation. The appointment will expire Feb. 1, 2025.

A 1979 Dobie graduate, Cagle has served as Precinct 4 county commissioner for Harris County since 2011. He was re-elected in 2014 and again on Nov. 6, 2018.

As commissioner, Cagle represents nearly 1.3

million residents and manages a staff of 433 employees with a Precinct 4 budget of \$283.5 million. He has spent 30 years working with and serving the citizens of Harris County Precinct 4 as an attorney, elected judge and now county commissioner.

As a member of Commissioners Court, he has also been selected to serve as a representative on the board of the Houston-Galveston Area Council and on the board of directors of the statewide Public Power Pool.

Until his appointment to Commissioners Court, Cagle served 11 years as a Harris County civil court judge. Harris County voters elected him to the

Continued on Page 8

## Stover home burns on Christmas

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day in the 10800 block of Stover in the Beverly Hills subdivision. Firefighters arrived on scene within three minutes to find smoke coming from the attic and eaves of a one-story home and made a fast attack against the blaze.

The occupants had safely made it out of the home prior to HFD's arrival.

The crews quickly extinguished the fire without having to ventilate the roof.

HFD Arson investigators were requested to determine the cause and origin of the fire. At press time, the blaze was still under investigation.

According to HFD officials, there was approximately \$18,500 worth of damage. An estimated \$85,000 worth of property was saved, officials said. There were no reported injuries.

Firefighters from Stations 70, 26, 36, 71, 52, 93 and 24 responded to this incident. The Houston Police Department was also on the scene.

## City begins programs to improve parks

Houston City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin recently announced Free-way Manor Park in the Edgebrook community was selected to be renovated as part of the city's 50/50 Parks Partners Initiative.

To launch the program, Mayor Sylvester Turner has challenged 50 companies to join a citywide coalition driving improvements to neighborhood parks.

According to city officials, public and private investment in the development and improvement of Houston parks, greenways and public spaces has solidified Houston's national reputation as a green space leader. Signature parks such as Memorial Park, Hermann Park, Discovery Green, Emancipation Park, Levy Park, MacGregor Park, and the Bayou Greenways 2020 initiative have

transformed the city.

The work to uplift neighborhood parks, however, is just beginning, Turner said.

"Green space is vitally important," Turner said. "You cannot have a complete city without having the green space and the parks that go right along with it."

Led by the Office of the Mayor, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Greater Houston Partnership and Houston Parks Board, 50/50 Park Partners will improve Houston's neighborhoods, one park at a time. By becoming a Park Partner, one can help drive positive social, environmental and economic change.

The 50/50 Park Partners initiative brings together 50 private businesses through mone-

Continued on Page 8

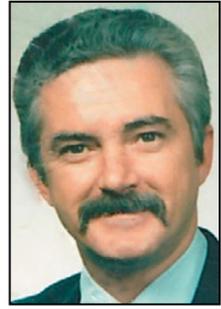
# Deaths

## Norma Jean Strange

dren Kiya Phares, Michael Phares and wife Candice, Matthew Phares and wife Ashley, Roy Herod Jr. and wife Crystal, Kindra Green and husband Robert, Nathan Herod and Caleb Herod; and nine great-grandchildren.

The visitation was Wednesday evening, Jan. 6, 2021, and the funeral service will be Thursday, Jan. 7, at 10 a.m. in the chapel at South Park Funeral Home, 1310 N. Main St. in Pearland. COVID guidelines for social distancing will be observed. Facial masks will be required.

## David Lynn Carter



Former South Belt area resident of 23 years, David Lynn Carter, 72, of Pearland died Dec. 29, 2020, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was born Dec. 9, 1948, to Louis David Carter Jr. and Dora Carter in Beaumont. After attending French High School, he joined the fight to aid the U.S. in Vietnam as an aircraft and helicopter mechanic.

In 1973 David moved to southern California and met his life partner, Kathleen. David and Kathy raised two children, Kelly McClinton and Rebecca Carter. David continued in the aviation industry (A&P) for 30 years. After retiring from aviation in 2007, David spent his time working for Fishing Tackle Unlimited repairing fishing reels, fishing whenever he could, and spending time with his loved ones.

David was predeceased by his parents and his fishing buddy James Babbitt.

He is survived by his wife; son Kelly; daughter Rebecca; brothers Gary Carter and Dale Carter; and sisters Suzanne Brown and Judy Wing.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road.

## Roma Jones



Roma Jones, 81, died Dec. 22, 2020. She was born in DeRidder, La., Dec. 10, 1939, to parents TJ Davis and Ila Mae West, who are now deceased. She is survived by Richard Jones, her husband of 62 years.

She is also survived by her son Allen Jones and wife Shannon and grandson Keelan of Arvada, Colo.; son Stephen Jones and grandson Davis of Centennial, Colo.; sister Patsy Harman of Baytown, Texas; as well as numerous aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Roma was a longtime South Belt resident who was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She worked at United States Steel and Mid Valley Pipeline. As a member of Sagemont Church, Roma loved Jesus with all her heart and found her purpose in his grace. She was a member of the Back to the Future Sunday school class. Her favorite seat in Sunday school was on the front row of the class and she attended weekly until her health no longer allowed.

Her heart belonged to Jesus and her two grandsons. She loved watching her grandsons grow up to be the fine young men that they are now. She attended University of Houston sporting events which she loved and supported with all her spirit.

A memorial service will be arranged at a later time and her ashes will be spread in the Rocky Mountains. In lieu of customary remembrances, donations may be made to Sagemont Church youth building fund in her name.

## Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the Leader style.

# Publisher's Opinion

## COVID vaccinations a problem

Happy New Year to all! Late at press time, the Leader learned some of the reasons for problems with the COVID vaccinations.

Apparently, the city and county are getting very limited amounts of the serum. On top of that, the county, and possibly the city, has not been limiting the number of people who get registered and line up for the shots.

While they are getting serum for 100 to 300 vaccinations, they are not limiting the number of people who, in the case of the county are getting appointments, and in the case of the city, are just showing up at the sites.

This would work if you did not have more people interested in the vaccination than the supply.

That is clearly not the case. The demand is much higher than the supply.

The city and county officials managing vaccinations need to be better organized. In the meantime, I am concerned about making sure South Belt residents who want the vaccination, get it.

I am currently in contact with county officials to see about setting up a series of vaccination events in the community.

I am sure we have many people who can help get this accomplished.

I know there is a need since I have heard from many residents already.

One big concern is our senior population who has pretty much found themselves confined to home.

This will not be easy, but with the help of county and city officials, we should be able to get it done. Please keep up with the Leader for further information.

Marie Flickinger, Publisher

## Vaccinations posing problems

Continued from Page 1

ing will depend on the amount of vaccine provided to Texas and the uptake of vaccine among the priority populations.

The Phase 1B priorities listed include:

- 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.

The full EVAP will continue to meet and make recommendations about the prioritization of additional groups for the COVID-19 vaccine. For additional information, visit [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/evap-phase1b.pdf](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/evap-phase1b.pdf).

Following the arrival of additional COVID-19 vaccines from the state, Harris County Public Health is now in the process of administering doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to eligible Phase 1A individuals.

On Dec. 23, the Texas Department of State Health Services delivered 3,000 doses to HCPH to support county efforts to vaccinate eligible recipients who may not already be served by the first round of the Pfizer vaccine.

As part of this process, HCPH has been working to notify local partners who support eligible Phase 1A individuals and is already providing vaccinations to health care staff. Phase 1A individuals consist of health care workers, staff and residents at long-term health care facilities who are at high risk of developing complications from COVID-19, followed by first responders. At this time, COVID-19 vaccines are only being provided by HCPH to individuals in phase 1A through HCPH's contacts with relevant groups and institutions. As additional vaccines become available and additional groups are cleared to receive the vaccine, HCPH will promptly notify those groups and provide information to the general public, when relevant, on how to get vaccinated.

**Moderna Vaccine**  
The FDA has authorized the emergency use of the

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older under an Emergency Use Authorization. The Moderna vaccine being administered by HCPH requires a second dose from the same manufacturer four weeks after getting the first one. The vaccine is fully effective to 1-2 weeks after getting the second dose.

**Key facts of the vaccine**  
Receiving the vaccine is voluntary. HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

One cannot contract COVID-19 from the vaccines offered in the U.S. because neither contain live virus that causes COVID-19. Having symptoms like low-grade fever and soreness in the arm after getting a vaccine is normal. However, individuals should not develop COVID-19 symptoms such as loss of taste/smell, coughing and shortness of breath. If one should develop these symptoms, they should get a COVID-19 test to ensure they don't have the virus.

Those who receive a vaccine should continue to wash hands frequently, socially distance themselves from others who don't live in their household, wear a facemask and get tested anytime they feel they have been exposed. Testing is free at all HCPH sites. HCPH continues to urge members of the general public to cancel all gatherings and to get tested. County testing sites continue to remain open and are providing free testing with no insurance required. To sign up, visit [ReadyHarris.org](https://ReadyHarris.org).

For additional information about the vaccine and continued updates, visit [hpcph.org](https://hpcph.org).

**City of Houston**  
Mayor Sylvester Turner authorized the Houston Health Department opened the city's first free COVID-19 vaccination clinic Saturday, Jan. 2.

The clinic expanded vaccine access to the general public at high risk of severe illness and death from coronavirus disease. To make an appointment to receive the Moderna vaccine, residents should call the health department's COVID-19 call center at 832-393-4220 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The call center will provide the location and appointment time for each person who registers to be vaccinated. Houston Health Department staff will screen people

when they first drive into the clinic premises, direct them to a secure area to receive the vaccination and monitor them for any adverse reaction for 15 minutes.

The State of Texas' Phase 1B distribution plan prioritizes people 65 and older and people 16 and older, who have at least one chronic medical condition, putting them at increased risk. Note: The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for persons 18 years of age and older in the U.S. population under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization per CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

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

Medical conditions placing people at high risk include cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart conditions, solid organ transplantation, obesity and severe obesity, pregnancy, sickle cell disease, and type 2 diabetes.

Frontline health care workers are also eligible for vaccination as part of the Phase 1A distribution that began in mid-December.

The health department's current daily capacity is 750 doses per day. The COVID-19 call center schedules appointments in the order in which vaccination requests are received.

During the program's first day, the city distributed more than 1,000 doses of the vaccine to citizens qualifying as Phase 1A or 1B under the state's guidelines.

The Houston Health Department will announce additional free vaccination opportunities as supply increases. Many medical providers offer a vaccine based on availability.

People who qualify should contact their medical provider or use the Texas Department of State Health Services' online map to find and call vaccine providers.

Additional information about COVID-19 vaccines, including safety and efficacy, is available at the Houston Emergency.org/covid19.

Turner received the vaccination Monday, Jan. 4.

For additional information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [HoustonEmergency.org/covid19](https://HoustonEmergency.org/covid19).

## PISD has free meals for school year

Pasadena ISD will continue to offer free breakfast and lunch to students for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

The program offers free meals to all Pasadena ISD students, regardless of their family income or participation in face-to-face vs. virtual instruction.

For curbside meals, any child 18 and under can receive a meal.

While children do not need to be enrolled in Pasadena ISD to receive the meals, certain requirements must be met.

For additional information about free lunch and

breakfast, as well as curbside meal distribution requirements, locations and times, visit [www.pasadenaisd.org/about/news/current\\_news/free\\_meals\\_to\\_students\\_?fbclid=IwAR08PscqITgn7xYU9JdtuEXTxhTWA8i83izDQJaQTQ2m32yJj-iHh7M](https://www.pasadenaisd.org/about/news/current_news/free_meals_to_students_?fbclid=IwAR08PscqITgn7xYU9JdtuEXTxhTWA8i83izDQJaQTQ2m32yJj-iHh7M).

## Elected officials share their words

### Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin looks to future of 2021

Dear District E Residents,

Now that 2020 is in our rearview mirror, I look forward to working with my City Council colleagues in 2021 and celebrating, for the first time in Houston City Council history, a female majority on City Council. I'm happy to welcome my newest neighbor on the floor, Council Member Tarsha Jackson, who was sworn in just before Christmas. The new year brings an upcoming Texas Legislative Session and I look forward to standing for my District in support of legislation to reduce the impact of future flooding, increase the City's resiliency, and improve the City's accountability of developer's entering our communities. I remain committed to pursuing meaningful stormwater drainage and flood mitigation projects as well as improving pedestrian safety within District E.

Heading into the New Year, Lake Houston residents have been reminded that with our rain event earlier this week, the District E office remains diligent in lake lowering procedures when more than three inches of rain is predicted in our watershed. The City of Houston began lowering Lake Houston six inches on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 30 in

advance of severe storm threats that entered our region. Our goal is to end each rain event with the lake as close to full pool as possible, which is a level of 42.4 ft. Lake levels can be monitored by visiting the Coastal Water Authority website. This strategy of lake lowering will continue until the completion of the Lake Houston Dam Spillway Improvement Project, which due to delays is expected to be completed in 2023.

In the same vein of hurricane preparedness, I have remained actively engaged with representatives in the Clear Lake and Bay Areas regarding storm surge protection, submitting my letter of support signed by several of my City Council colleagues for the Coastal Texas Study, last month. I am thankful to represent District E which is comprised of residents who are resilient, engaged, and educated. Without your constant support and participation in public comment periods, District E would not be as far ahead, of other parts of the City, as it is as far as projects and plans to prepare for future disasters.

As always, thank you for your support and I look forward to continuing to serve you during this new year.

## 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](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.

### 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](https://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](https://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](https://www.houstonlibrary.org) to find virtual programs and digital resources. For more information, visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](https://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.hcpnl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.

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.hcpnl.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 HCPNL Wi-Fi service with HCPNL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpnl.net](https://www.hcpnl.net).
- Attend an HCPNL 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 HCPNL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPNL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpnl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPNL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpnl.net>.

Thursday, Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) virtually for family fun. Parents are encouraged to participate to facilitate interaction. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome to join virtually. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpnl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation. #toddlertime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountypbl #HCPNL

Friday, Jan. 8, 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 on Facebook and Instagram.

Friday, Jan. 8, 5 p.m. Is it wrong to watch so much anime? Episode 10: Winter 2021 Preview. What are you watching this winter 2021 season? Find out what our picks for this next season are going to be and explore a few choices you might have not known were coming out. This video will be on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #anime #animefan #man ga #otaku #animelove #harriscountypbl #HCPNL

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) Families with children of all ages are welcome! This program will be on Facebook Live and can be found at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary#storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountypbl #HCPNL

Tuesday, Jan. 12, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Contact [tanner.adams@hcpnl.net](mailto:tanner.adams@hcpnl.net) for details.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1 p.m., Spanish storytime with Jason Cruz. The video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

## South Belt Graphics & Printing

One stop for all your printing needs

- Business Forms • Business Cards • Custom Letterheads & Envelopes • Wedding Invitations • Thank You Notes • Menus • Directories and much more!

11555 Beamer 281-484-4337

## Blairs win Yard of the Month



Congratulations are in order for Dolores and Henry Blair for winning the Sagameadow HOA Yard of the Month award for the December holiday season. Their front yard on Sagespen features colorful decorations. Especially attractive is the handmade locomotive designed for the children in their family. Snowmen and light decorations signal the Christmas season. The oak and magnolia trees bring enough shade during the summer months. Hedges frame the well-manicured lawn. The neighborhood benefits from the Blair couple sharing their wonderful yard. For those interested in becoming a member of the Sagameadow Beautification Committee, email [beauty@sagameadow.org](mailto:beauty@sagameadow.org). For more information, visit [sagameadow.org](https://sagameadow.org).

## Community goes INSIDE CCISD

For more than 10 years, INSIDE CCISD has provided a unique opportunity for parents and community members to learn about the Clear Creek Independent School District.

Through Lunch & Learn meetings, participants meet

district leadership and staff to become familiar with INSIDE CCISD's infrastructure, programs and services, and exchange ideas about the challenges and opportunities for improvements.

Each month, INSIDE classes meet at district sites to have a firsthand look at key programs.

Following CDC, state, local and district safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, INSIDE participants and CCISD staff will meet virtually ("INSIDE 360") until school visits can resume.

INSIDE CCISD graduates are challenged to become leaders and advocates for the district, to volunteer for ser-

# Church Directory

Attend the church of your choice

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

**South Belt Graphics & Printing**

One stop for all your printing needs

- Business Forms • Business Cards • Custom Letterheads & Envelopes • Wedding Invitations • Thank You Notes • Menus • Directories and much more!

11555 Beamer 281-484-4337

**South Belt-Ellington Leader**  
— The Voice of Community-Minded People —  
11555 Beamer 281-481-5656  
E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)  
Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

## South Belt donates to annual toy drive



Students and staff members at South Belt Elementary joined other area schools to participate in the *South Belt Leader* toy drive for needy children. They collected new unwrapped toys to help spread the season's festive spirit. Shown, left to right, are Alicia Sypien, Lakitha Green, counselor; London Rodriguez; Aubrey Hernandez; Corbyn Garland; Noah St. Ange; Warren Nedd; and Elizabeth Carling.

## Frazier provides toys for Leader drive



Students and staff members at Frazier Elementary participated in the *South Belt Leader* toy drive. Shown holding donated toys are, left to right, (front row) Esly Gonzalez; Alyssa Gomez; Julianna Garcia; (middle row) Sofia Contreras; Mia Martinez; Noah Martinez; (back row) and Janelle Wiley, first-grade teacher.

## CCISD seeks substitutes

The Clear Creek Independent School District is searching for dedicated instructors to meet the goal of hiring 1,500 substitutes for this school year.

"Substitutes are able to continue the quality instruction and daily routines for students when a teacher is unable to be in the classroom," said Dr. Britani Moses, CCISD director of human resources. "Students remain engaged and involved in learning." That is exactly why Donada Fortner decided to apply for a long-term substitute position at League City Elementary teaching second grade classes.

"My favorite part of this job is seeing the light come on," said Fortner, who is in her second year as a substitute. "Whether I am in a class for a day or a month, I find it fulfilling when I am able to help a child gain understanding and grow as a learner."

Fortner is choosing to support classrooms in CCISD while currently pursuing her teaching certification. She solidified her passion for education while living in China for six months teaching English to young learners.

A substitute possesses many talents including versatility, flexibility and selflessness, to name a few. What sets CCISD apart from other districts is the training, work structure, safety protocols in place and the commitment to treating substitutes like full-time employees.

The district is also one of only two Houston-area public school districts to be named to Forbes Magazine's 2020 list of America's Best Employers in Texas. "We have a systematic approach so that when subs select a job, they feel confident in their responsibilities," said Dr. Casey O'Pry, assistant superintendent of human resources. "CCISD has a well-established training program for qualified candidates who do not possess formal training in instruction. "We value them and invest in preparing them to be in the classroom and hope they feel that sense of satisfaction that they are making a difference."

The 2020-2021 school year has provided its own challenges for teaching during a pandemic. However, staff members have risen above the challenge and have seam-

**More discounts.**

State Farm® offers more discounts to more drivers.

**Get to a better State®.**

Get State Farm.  
CALL ME TODAY.

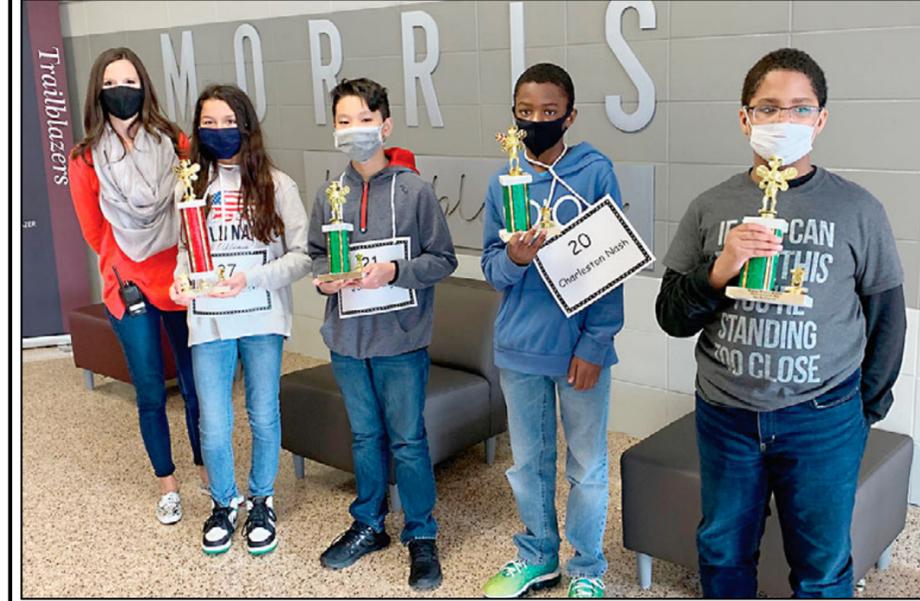


**Cynthia Beecher, Agent**  
11705 S Sam Houston Pkwy East • Houston, TX 77089  
Bus: 281-464-2422  
cynthia.beecher.qwne@statefarm.com  
M, T, W, Th, F 8:30am to 5:00pm  
Sat 9am-11am  
After Hours by Appointment



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

## Morris announces spelling bee winners



The staff at Morris Middle School recently celebrated their spelling bee winners. Proudly displaying their awards and shown with Allison Lewallen, principal, (far left) are, left to right, sixth-grader Jillian Mikulski, advancing to the district spelling bee in February as Overall Winner; sixth-grader John Dang, placing as first runner-up; sixth-grader Charleston Nash, placing as second runner-up; and sixth-grader Elijah Jasmine, placing as third runner-up.

## Looking at 2020 in rearview mirror

**Continued from Page 1**

ceive up to three years of guaranteed tuition and fees, assistance with books and additional support to help them complete their degrees. In order to keep the scholarship, students must attend full time (12 hours per semester) during fall and spring semesters, continue to complete FAFSA or TASF applications, and earn at least a 2.0 GPA. Students in the program have up to three years to complete an associate degree or other recognized credential.

**Jan. 30**

San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer was presented the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's prestigious Quasar Award at the group's annual Quasar Award banquet Jan. 24. BAH-EP President Bob Mitchell praised Hellyer's efforts for building and maintaining a skilled workforce that is fundamental to the economic well-being of the region.

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees approved an agreement providing for the relocation of the future Thompson Intermediate campus to a site less contentious than its initial nearby location. Initially planned to be constructed on Highland Meadows Drive near the Green Tee Terrace subdivision, the new campus is now scheduled to be built on Riverstone Falls Drive near Hughes Road. The original site had been met with opposition from residents of both the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek and Green Tee Terrace subdivisions. The new campus, which will permanently replace the original Thompson campus on Sagedowne Lane, is expected to open August 2021.

**Feb. 6**

Dobie High School announced its 2020 Hall of Honor inductees. Five individuals were recognized, including four graduates and one faculty member. Honorees included Houston Police department Sgt. Chris Brewster, Class of 2006; baseball player Shane Nance, Class of 1996; security analyst Joe Olivarez, Class of 1984; U.S. Army veteran Sgt. First Class James Daigle, Class of 1983; and former faculty member Rhonda Foster. An induction ceremony was held at the school Feb. 21.

**Feb. 13**

A softball coach and hitting instructor with ties to the South Belt community was arrested in Brazoria County by Pearland police Feb. 13. Carlos Morgan, 59, was charged with indecent assault after allegedly touching an underage female player in an inappropriate manner. Morgan had reportedly coached and instructed several girls connected with the local softball community and Dobie High School.

**Feb. 20**

Houston firefighters responded to a fire at an apartment complex in the 10700 block of Fuqua Feb. 15. Two units were damaged in the blaze. The American Red Cross was called to assist the families. No injuries were reported. Arson investigators determined the fire to be accidental in nature.

**Feb. 27**

Stacey Barber, Beverly Hills Intermediate principal, was named Pasadena ISD Secondary Principal of the Year. A graduate of Southwestern Texas State University (now Texas State University) and the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Barber began her career with Pasadena ISD in 1999 as a special education teacher at Beverly Hills. Over the next 21 years, she went on to hold the positions of peer facilitator and assistant principal. In 2013, Barber began in her current position as the principal of Beverly Hills Intermediate. Valorie Morris of Teague Elementary was chosen as Pasadena ISD's Primary Principal of the Year.

**March 5**

The results from the March 3 primary elections were tallied, with the hotly contested race for the Democratic nomination in the race for the position of Precinct 2 constable headed to a May runoff. Incumbent Chris Diaz received 35 percent of the vote to challenger Jerry Garcia's 39 percent. The race had proven to be controversial, as a second candidate also named Jerry Garcia – the cousin of Diaz's wife, Jacinto City Mayor Ana Diaz – also appeared on the ballot, causing confusion among voters. Despite withdrawing from the race, the second Garcia still received 9 percent of the vote (1,347 votes), roughly on par with legitimate challenger George Coffney Jr. and ahead of Alberto "Bert" Rivera, who received only 7 percent. Even if the scores of both Garcias were combined, however, it would have still been just shy of the 50-percent threshold needed to circumvent a runoff. The winner of May's Democratic runoff election faced Republican Daniel Vela in November's general election.

Dobie High School senior Cameron Tobias excelled at the state Academic Decathlon championship, held in San Antonio Feb. 28 through March 1, taking home gold medals in essay and social sciences and silver medals in economics and literature at the varsity level. This capped a successful competition season for Tobias, who also came in overall first place varsity at the district and region competitions.

**March 12**

While there were no known local cases of COVID-19 yet, city officials and South Belt residents began to take precautions to prevent the disease from spreading. Fears of the virus caused a shortage at area stores of supplies, such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper and water, as many residents prepared for the worst. On March 11, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner issued an emergency health declaration and announced that all city events would be canceled until further notice, including the remainder of the 2020 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Schools remained open, as officials further monitored the situation.

The Clear Creek ISD board of trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Sharon Lopez as the new principal of Clear Brook High School. She took over for Dr. Michele Staley, who was named as CCISD's new executive director of special services. Lopez returned to Clear Brook High School, where she previously served as an assistant and associate principal for eight years. She was currently the principal of Seabrook Intermediate.

This was her 21st year as an educator and 11th year in CCISD. She earned a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology from Sam Houston State University; a Master of Science in educational management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake; and a doctorate in education from Texas A&M University.

**March 19**

Fears over the COVID-19 pandemic continued to worsen, forcing the closures of local schools, businesses and social gatherings. Three days after declaring COVID-19 a national emergency, President Donald Trump offered the following guidelines to slow the spread of the potentially fatal virus: avoid gathering in groups of 10 or more people; start homeschooling if possible; avoid discretionary travel; and refrain from visiting bars, restaurants and food courts. Trump also recommended that citizens practice social distancing for at least 15 days, allowing 6 to 10 feet of space between individuals. These protocols were reinforced by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who on March 16 made a similar announcement, ordering that all city restaurants, bars and nightclubs be closed for at least 15 days. Restaurants were to offer only takeout, pickup and delivery options until further notice. Both Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD announced they would close all operations through April 10.

**March 26**

While there were still no known COVID-19 cases in the immediate South Belt area, fears over the virus continued to grow, as there were now 134 reported cases in Harris County, including 55 in the City of Houston. The Houston Health Department on March 20 opened its first of four drive-thru testing centers. The site was initially available to only first responders with symptoms, before opening up to residents 65 or older with symptoms. With school now out, the city and local school districts began to provide free meals to area youths at local parks and campuses. Memorial Hermann Health System modified its visitor policy by reducing the number of visitors per patient, limiting visitation hours and implementing workforce screening. Harris County closed all of its offices, including the annex located at Scarsdale and Beamer, until further notice.

**April 2**

The first known COVID-19 cases were reported in the South Belt community, with incidents being reported from local stores and a METRO bus line associated with the area. San Jacinto College's May 15 commencement ceremony was postponed until further notice.

**April 9**

During its online service Wednesday, April 8, Sagemont Church announced that Dr. Matt Carter would be coming to the area church "in view of a call" on Sunday, May 17. If accepted, the new pastor would replace the founding pastor, Dr. John Morgan, who served Sagemont faithfully for 53 years.

Morgan had announced the previous year that he would be stepping down. Longtime South Belt resident and Sagemont teaching pastor, Dr. Freeman Tomlin, had been delivering the church's primary sermons since Morgan's retirement, while executive pastor, the Rev. Chuck Schneider, filled in as interim senior pastor.

Carter is the founding pastor of Austin Stone Community Church which began in 2002. During his tenure, the church grew from a core team of 15 people to more than 8,000 weekly attendees spread over six campuses and with a budget in excess of \$24 million. Carter holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry in Expository Preaching from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Carter assumed the position in June.

**April 16**

While the exact number of reported COVID-19 cases remained unclear, there were between 60 and 100 known cases in the South Belt area, including ZIP codes 77089, 77075 and 77034.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office now announced that 91 employees had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, most of whom worked in the Harris County Jail.

**April 23**

Gov. Greg Abbott held a press conference Friday, April 17, in which he issued three new executive orders to begin the process of reopening the state of Texas, while revising hospital capacity and certain social distancing guidelines. Within the orders, select activities and services that posed minimal threat of spreading COVID-19 were allowed to reopen using a "retail-to-go" model; certain restrictions on surgeries were loosened; and schools were to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

The results from the Sagemeadow maintenance committee's April 18 board election were tallied. In the race for vice chair, Carlos Lopez Jr. defeated challenger Mariana Guzman, receiving 69 percent of the vote to Guzman's 31 percent. Marie Rose handily won the contest for treasurer, as she only faced write-in candidates. Rose received 92 percent of the vote, while write-in candidates received 8 percent of the vote.

**April 30**

A 20-year-old man was taken into custody early Saturday, April 25, after allegedly shooting his mother to death at their home in the 10100 block of Sagedale. Deputies from the Harris County Sheriff's Office and Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office responded to the incident at approximately 12:20 a.m. According to investigators, the son and his 37-year-old mother were in a verbal argument when, at one point, the male went outside to retrieve a gun from a car, came back inside the house and shot his mother multiple times. Theresa Winters was pronounced dead at the scene. Winters' son, Jacob McMurrugh, was apprehended and later charged with murder and booked into the Harris County Jail. Investigators said elderly relatives, ages 91 and 96, were also inside the residence at the time of the incident. Winters was a longtime South Belt resident, attending both Thompson Intermediate and Dobie High School.

The Harris County Flood Control District began construction on two new stormwater detention basins in the Clear Creek watershed. Funded by the 2018 bond program, the new basins will provide safe storage for more than 566 million gallons of excess stormwater. Construction started in mid-April on the final phase of the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin, located near the Beamer Ditch at Beamer Road and South Fork Boulevard. Construction also began on the Dagg Stormwater Detention Basin on Clear Creek at Dagg Road near Christina V. Adair Park. Both basins were part of a \$16.9 million construction contract awarded by Harris County Commissioners Court Jan. 28, 2020.

**Continued next week.**

## Melillo donates to community



Students and staff members at Melillo Middle School participated in the *South Belt Leader* toy drive. The school collected food and toys for the annual event. Shown above are, left to right, Kelly Jurek, science instructional coach; Jenny Vann, ELAR instructional coach; and Diane Wheeler, Melillo principal.

**Advertise in the Leader!**  
Call 281-481-5656

## Atkinson staff dons school gear for telethon



Atkinson Elementary teachers recently donned their PISD alumni gear in support of the Pasadena ISD's Back 4 the Future Virtual Telethon. Shown in alumni gear from their respective PISD high schools are, left to right, (front row) Amber Newman, Andrea Fox, (middle row) Tracy Nguyen, Mandy Ramirez, Stephanie Quintana, (back row) Jennifer Youngblood, Mykayla O'Connor and Andrea Luna.

## Frazier hosts spelling bee



Eleven students participated in the Frazier spelling bee Dec. 10. These students worked hard preparing for the spelling bee and did a fantastic job. Left to right (front row) are Alexander Buntaer, Marius Winston, Alexandria Arnes, (middle row) Addisyn Castorena, Neveah Bumgarner, Emma Ponce, Christian Orellana (back row) Emily Armenta, Aylinn Chavez, Carlee Guerrero and Emma Gurrusqueta.

## South Belt Elementary announces December VIPs



South Belt Elementary VIP students for the month of December were chosen by their teachers, based on their ability to display the character trait of the month - honesty. Shown are, left to right, (first row) Madilyn Davis, Giovanni Atkins, King Scott, Bentley Phan-Do, Dominic Hernandez, Rhett Sullivan, (second row) Melanie Charles, Luke Burch, Michael Barry, Alex Hinojosa, Avery Thomas, Madelyn Rangel, Benjamin Garcia, (third row) Josiah Salazar, Alaina Melchor, Maximus Ochoa, Daniel Velasquez, Presley McMurry, Drake Hughes, (fourth row) Nate Molina, Andrew Strong, Trey Capers, Warren Nedd, Mario Monsivasis, (fifth row) Jayda Lasker, Aaron Guillen, Humberto "Levi" Gallegos, Brock Bernard and Maddison Campos. Not shown are Avaian Aguilar, Alessandra Cervantes, Jesse Deleon, Jase Garcia, Isabella Robinson, Jason Rus and Pete Silva.

Photo by Lakitha Thomas, counselor

## Frazier names winners



Congratulations are in order to the winners of Frazier Elementary's spelling bee. Runner-up fourth-grader Marius Winston (left) and fourth-grader Alexandria Arnes are recognized for their labor of study.

## Remember When

**40 years ago (1981)**  
Dobie High School assistant head varsity football coach Don Cole announced his resignation.

Firemen from the Sagemont station of the Houston Fire Department responded to 13 fire calls and nine ambulance calls in a seven-day period.

**35 years ago (1986)**  
Cokesbury United Methodist Church was sold to the Catholic Diocese of Galveston/Houston for \$365,000.

Dr. Ruede M. Wheeler of La Porte was appointed to the San Jacinto College Board of Regents to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Dr. William Davison.

**30 years ago (1991)**  
Dobie High School's junior varsity cheerleading squad won first place the United Cheerleaders Association Southwest Competition in San Marcos. They also earned a bid to the National Championships in Orlando in February.

South Belt area residents opposed to the Brio Superfund toxic waste site continued fighting on several fronts throughout the year. At the top of the list was the proposed Consent Decree, closely followed by attempts to transfer children from Weber Elementary School and the need for a comprehensive health study.

South Belt resident Jennifer Carter went on a cruise with The New Kids on the Block. During the trip she got to meet the performers.

**25 years ago (1996)**  
Dobie sophomore Lindsey Morris was crowned Miss Teen Pasadena Go Texan.

An estimated 80 percent of the area would have to change phone numbers if the Public Utilities Commission approved the alternate geographic split plan.

**20 years ago (2001)**  
Clear Brook City Munic-

ipal Utility District voted on a fire district for Sageglenn, Woodmeadow, Highland Meadows, Meadows of Clear Creek and Estates of Green Tee subdivisions.

Pearland residents spoke against the connection of Scarsdale Boulevard and Yost during a public meeting.

**15 years ago (2006)**  
South Belt Rep. Tom DeLay announced he would resign his position as House Majority Leader.

Riverstone Ranch resident Tammy Burback celebrated the 108th birthday of her great-grandmother Gertrude McCarthy in Pasadena.

Both PISD and CCISD announced intentions to seek a waiver for classroom instruction to begin earlier than the state-mandated date. According to state law at the time, without a waiver, classes could not start earlier than the week in which Aug. 21 fell. The law was later changed so schools could not start sooner than Aug. 27.

A 144-acre tract of land south of Dixie Farm Road officially became part of the conservation project mitigation plan for the Brio Superfund Task Force.

**10 years ago (2011)**  
Former House Majori-

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

Priest sentenced DeLay to a three-year term on conspiracy and accepted 10 years of probation in lieu of a five-year prison term on the money laundering charge. DeLay faced up to life in prison. He was released on a \$10,000 bond and began seeking to overturn the conviction.

**5 years ago (2016)**  
Hundreds of friends and colleagues gathered Tuesday, Jan. 12, to bid farewell to outgoing Pasadena Independent School District Superintendent Kirk Lewis. Originally from Ropesville, near Lubbock, Lewis received his bachelor's in advertising/public relations from Tex-

as Tech in 1976. Following this, he attended the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where he received a master's in education futures in 1983. Lewis advanced to earn a doctorate in education leadership from Lamar University in March 2008. Lewis began at PISD in 1986 as administrative assistant to the superintendent, responsible for communications and policy development. He was promoted to executive director for communications and community relations in 1995 and to deputy superintendent for administration, public relations and governmental affairs in 2001, before being

promoted to superintendent in April 2006.

**1 year ago (2020)**  
One man was fatally shot and another injured Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the 11800 block of Algonquin near Scarsdale. Jesse Perez, 24, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A second man, 22, was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. Police said Perez was shot inside his apartment, while the second victim, a neighbor checking on the commotion, was shot in an adjacent hallway as the suspect fled. Javon Chatman, 22, was later charged with capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

**BO CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
Best wishes to Leader staffer Bo Bolen who celebrates a birthday Thursday, Jan. 7, from friends and the staff at the South Belt Leader.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KRISTEN!**  
Kristen Giles celebrates her 21st birthday Jan. 13. Her parents, Tracy and Jim Giles, grandparents Bobby and Kenneth Griffin, and brothers Cody and Aaron and wife Ashley and sons Jaxson and Jace Giles extend their best wishes for a wonderful birthday. Kristen is a Dobie graduate.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 7 through Jan. 13, 2021.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Birthday greetings are sent to Pamela Valdez Jan. 8. Send a humorous birthday greeting Jan. 13 to Mildred Rojas.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Join in the birthday fun Jan. 10 with Breana Grullon.

**Bush Elementary**  
Give a birthday shoutout Jan. 9 for Vicki Sheppard. Tawana Dockery enjoys a birthday Jan. 10. Light the candles Jan. 11 for a celebration for Cynthia Covarrubias.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles Jan. 8

for Christine Grazioli. Nancy Guerra celebrates a birthday on Jan. 10. Alma Hernandez and Maria Lozano celebrate a happy birthday Jan. 13.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Join in the birthday celebration Jan. 2 with Rosy Gonzalez.

**Meador Elementary**  
Enjoy a slice of a double-layer cake Jan. 11 with Tara Merida and Anne Hamilton.

**South Belt Elementary**  
Remember to wish Cynthia Gomez a happy birthday Jan. 9.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Jan. 10 is the day for a double-layer birthday cake for Jessica Adamek and Crystal Taylor.

**Roberts Middle School**  
The day for a party for Ha-Bang "Susie" Nguyen is Jan. 7.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Send a birthday greeting Jan. 11 to Kacey Peterson. Martha Garcia enjoys a birthday Jan. 12.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Special birthday wishes are sent to Tiffany Nelson Jan. 10.

**Dobie High**  
John Stovall marks a birthday Jan. 7. Light the birthday candles Jan. 9 for Brianne Sisson. Enjoying a birthday Jan.

10 is Camille Calo Widaski. Jan. 11 is the day for a party for Stacy Thomas. Send a birthday greeting Jan. 13 to Audrena Soto.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Jan. 7: Michael Lake, Kathi Kemp, Sherry Crawford, Meagan McMurry, Jessica Sellers, Bob Townley, Larry Shewell, Jason Cox, Brian Gallagher and Diane Gonzalez; Friday, Jan. 8: Brad Muecke; Saturday, Jan. 9: Jennifer Gonzalez, Mary Meyer, Jill Rea, Mike Escobedo, Monette Falzon, Cecelia Faske and Holly Lyons; and Sunday, Jan. 10: Jennifer Murillo, Roy Gunter and Caron Cantu; Monday, Jan. 11: Kelly Cavazos, Myles Barkman, Amy Villareal, Kathleen Wenzel, Deirdre Davis and James Mouton Jr.; Tuesday, Jan. 12: Rosalind Vela, Troy Vessel, William Carpenter, Jose Pena, Barry Francis and Tammy Overstreet; and Wednesday, Jan. 13: Scott Langefeld, Claire Mules, Gregden Martin, Betty Shamblin, Jessica Hynes, Joseph Farrias and Shane Poynter.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations, 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.



## Over The Back Fence by Alexis

## Family is why WE DO IT ALL.



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

**Ann Brannen, Agent**  
107 Landing Blvd  
League City TX 77573-3461  
Bus: 281-332-0568  
ann.brannen.b4sq@statefarm.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM INSURANCE STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Six-time champ Dobie opens with win; expectations high

Six consecutive district championships to its credit, the Dobie varsity boys' soccer program is far from ready to rest on its successes of the past.

Instead, with the reigning Goalkeeper of the Year back in Eris Acosta, leading scorer Isaac Cortez up top and a couple of potential key pieces added, this 2021 could very well add to the program's legacy.

Heading into the Jan. 7-9 Pasadena ISD Cup at Veterans Stadium, the Longhorns already own an impressive 4-1 road victory over Texas Association of Soccer Coaches pre-season Region III ranked Strake Jesuit.

Dobie senior Gerardo Martinez scored twice, and Cortez and freshman Jahir Arias also found the

net. Cortez and Arias delivered assists, as did Jonathan Torres and J.P. Rodriguez. It's just one win, and the Longhorns have plenty of seasoning to get it prior to the Jan. 26 District 22-6A opener at Channelview, yet Longhorns' head coach Justo Manrique is pleased.

"I think we really benefited from the four scrimmages before the opener, and then we went out and played very well against Strake," Manrique said, adding that it was particularly nice to take down a Strake program that knocked the locals out of the playoffs in the area round in 2019.

"We have some solid guys back with Eris in the goal, Isaac and some of

the others, and Gerardo has a chance to be special. The freshman, Arias, is here for a reason, so we will see."

The Longhorns will now try to defend their PISD Cup championship as they take on Alvin, Foster and Clear Creek in pool play before the trophy round comes after lunch Jan. 9.

Manrique is also looking forward to seeing how the team fares Jan. 14-16 at the Humble ISD Showcase with matches ensured against The Woodlands, Nimitz and La Porte, but the key is to be ready for district action as the Longhorns go for No. 7.

"The reality is all of us are doing our best to navigate the protocols (COVID-19) and stay as safe as possible while also trying to win games,"

Manrique said. "I've been very proud of the kids to this point. Through it all, so far we have managed pretty good on all fronts."

The 2020 team went 16-1-4 overall with the 22-6A title in its pocket but did not get to compete in the postseason. So it's not about overall records anymore - one loss is tough to top - so it's about what happens in the postseason. "The goal is always to push it as far as you can," Manrique said, remembering a run to the 2017 state semifinals.

"We've had some talented teams, and this one has a chance to be pretty good, but you still have to play the games one at a time."

**Dobie girls start fresh**  
The Dobie varsity girls' team began its season Jan.

5 with a fresh look, literally.

First-year varsity girls' head coach Monika Rivera



Dobie junior Eris Acosta (1) got the win as the Longhorns defeated Strake Jesuit 4-1 Dec. 29 in their 2020-2021 opener on the road. Now Acosta, the 22-6A Goalkeeper of the Year a season ago, will lead the Longhorns into action at the Jan. 7-9 Pasadena ISD Cup. Photo by John Bechtel

Mackey, a former standout in the program, takes over after previously heading the junior varsity ranks.

Victoria Chu, with nine goals as a junior and 17 more as a senior to lead the program in back-to-back seasons, has graduated.

So has Taiya Mitchell, one of the Houston area's top defensive players during a brilliant four-year varsity career that included consecutive 22-6A Defensive Player of the Year awards.

She's now playing at the University of Houston, where the season has been delayed until this spring at the earliest.

The team figures to get scoring from sophomore Karen Hernandez, whose eight goals as a freshman had her second on the team.

The Lady Longhorns also figure to lean heavily on third-year goalkeeper McKenzie Rankins, who has had an outstanding career to this point. The Lady Longhorns had climbed

very close to a postseason berth in 2020 before the pandemic halted play prior to the playoffs.

Former Dobie varsity girls' soccer coach Bry-

an McDonald, also a Dobie graduate, is now the varsity boys' head soccer coach at Ridge Point High School after taking that role last summer.



**Toni Muse**  
Moving Families For 30 Years!  
**GREEN AND ASSOCIATES**  
REALTORS®

*Happy New Year!*

This is a great time to move up or downsize! Low interest rate! If I can help, give me a call. Let's talk real estate, commissions, time frame!

**281-389-6519**

★ Five Star Realtor ★  
Texas Monthly magazine

**Pasadena ISD Cup**

*Dobie boys vs. Alvin*  
Thurs., Jan. 7, 2 p.m.

*Dobie boys vs. Foster*  
Fri., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.

*Dobie boys vs. Clear Creek*  
Sat., Jan. 9, 8 a.m.

**All matches at PISD Veterans**

## Clear Brook, Dobie basketball programs heating up as district races get started

Headed to the second week of the new year, the state's high school district

basketball races are in full swing, and things seem to be going very well for the Clear Brook and Dobie squads.

**Brook boys still perfect**  
If there is such a possibility, the Clear Brook varsity boys' basketball team sneaked up on some foes a season ago, winning 26 games overall and pushing regional power Summer Creek to the brink before falling in the area playoff round.

Could the Wolverines carry over that momentum? How about a 13-0 start to the 2020-2021 season, complete with District 24-6A wins over Clear Creek (75-64) and Dickinson (55-49) to open league play.

The Wolverines went up against Clear Springs Jan. 5 after press time

and are now set for a first-place clash at Clear Lake Jan. 12, at legendary Krueger Field House on the campus of Clear Lake High School.

**Lady Horns now 10-4**  
Similar to the Clear Brook boys, the Lady Longhorns of Dobie are doing quite well for themselves as a five-game winning streak heading into a Jan. 5 matchup with Pasadena has the locals on a roll.

There's little doubt the first goal for this team was winning the District 22-6A crown, and so far, so good. At 3-0 to this point, the Lady Longhorns have an average margin of victory of just under 40 points with a key game at Deer Park coming Jan. 8.

It's early on, but now at

10-4 overall with impressive nondistrict wins over Summer Creek and Goose Creek Memorial over the break, the Lady Longhorns are looking more and more like the team to beat within the league.

**JFD boys on upswing**  
First-year head coach. Essentially an all-new varsity roster. Very little pre-season preparation work allowed.

There were plenty of reasons to expect a bit of a slow start from the Dobie varsity boys' basketball team. And frankly, a 24-8 start ensued.

Since that time, however, the Longhorns have won four straight heading into a key Jan. 6 matchup against a 7-4 Pasadena team that seems intent on chasing a playoff berth.

The Longhorns handled Channelview 68-41 to open league play and suddenly appear to be coming together nicely under head coach Franklin Paul.

**Brook girls in hunt**  
Clear Springs is the multi-year defending champion in District 24-6A play.

At 15-3 overall, the Chargers are the frontrunners for now until proven otherwise, but teams like Clear Brook aren't far behind.

First-year head coach Warren Brooks has the Lady Wolverines at 2-1 thus far in 24-6A with a Jan. 8 matchup at Clear Springs.

**Dobie boys host Pasadena**  
Fri., Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

**Dobie girls at Pasadena**  
Fri., Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

**Brook boys host Clear Springs**  
Fri., Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

**Brook girls at Clear Springs**  
Fri., Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

## SBHLL continues online registration

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has opened online registration for the upcoming 2021 spring season.

League officials have noted that all those who register now will be considered to be on a waiting list as registration fees will not be collected until final 2021 playing site details are finalized.

Still, families of players are encouraged to register sooner than later.

In addition, the players' required fundraiser/raffle cost of \$50 is included within the registration fee in order to allow for easier collection.

The 2021 registration fees are \$175 per player in the junior t-ball division, \$250 per player in the t-ball division, \$265 per player for coach pitch action, \$270 per player in the minor division, \$275 per major division player and

\$300 per player for those in the league's junior/senior division.

Those who wish to register their youth for the Challenger (reserved for those with disabilities) may do so free of charge.

To register conveniently online, visit the link at <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=936764>.

At present, the SBHLL home playing complex at El Franco Lee Park remains closed to team activities such as baseball, softball, soccer and football due to coronavirus concerns.

SBHLL will continue to monitor the playing site situation in the coming weeks and could also consider alternative playing locales.

For additional information or assistance, reach out to SBHLL@hotmail.com.

**Spring Baseball**  
**BayAreaTexasBaseball.com**  
**League Play**

Ages 3\* through 18 \*Must turn 4 before Sep 2021

Register online NOW at **BayAreaTexasBaseball.com**

Fee includes: Jersey, Pants, Cap, Socks, Belt

**Early-Teen Special \$100**  
Ages 3 thru 18 \$100 to \$200

Bring a friend and play on the same team.

2351 Clear Lake City Blvd  
All games played here

14500 Village Evergreen Trail  
Bay Area Dad's Club Fields

Born Jan 1, '06 thru Aug 31, '08

Walk-in Registration Saturdays:  
Dec 19, Jan 9, 16, 23  
10 AM to Noon

or Wednesday:  
Jan 20  
6 PM to 8 PM

LATE REGISTRATION continues online while openings exist

See website or e-mail [FDonaghe@aol.com](mailto:FDonaghe@aol.com)

**TEXAN BANK IS A SBA APPROVED LENDER**

CALL US TODAY TO APPLY FOR THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

**Texan Bank CARES**

**TEXAN BANK**  
BANKING TO THE N<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE.  
Houston • Friendswood • Clear Lake  
Sugar Land • River Oaks

**(281) 276-1800**  
WWW.TEXANBANK.COM

Member FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**BURGER C&D SHOP**

**Celebrating Our 38<sup>th</sup> Year**  
Our Burgers are the Original "Old Fashioned" Hamburgers.

**281-481-1491**

Special Hours 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Dine in, Drive-thru, Phone orders or Delivery

**ENTIRE MENU SERVED ALL DAY**

**Brown Bag Special**

**2 Hamburgers \$9.99**  
**2 Fries**

281-481-1491 10606 Fuqua

**The Sold Team**  
281-464-SOLD

**More Buyers. More Sellers. More SOLD.**

**#1 in South Belt.**  
**Interest Rates Are At Historical Lows!**  
**And So Is Inventory-We Need Your Home!**

**281-464-SOLD (7653)**

Sandra Yandell, Broker Associate  
Laura Yandell, Sales Associate

**Top Realty**

★**NEW! Sageglen** - Beautiful 4-2-2 with new flooring, fresh paint throughout, both formals, vaulted ceiling in living room, gated driveway! Won't last! #MAR

★**NEW! Pearland-Briarcliff** - 1000 sq ft, huge study and game room, new carpet and flooring, new paint, huge kitchen, den with fireplace. #JAN

★**NEW! Sageglen** - Charming 4-2-2, hardwood flooring, new windows, formal dining, huge den. #SGI

★**NEW! Friendswood** - Stunning 3-2-2 on huge picturesque lot! Newly updated kitchen, dining, huge game room, FISD! #GLEN

★**NEW! Pearland** - Beautiful Mediterranean style 4-3-5-2, built in 2015, study, dining, game room, chef's kitchen, soaring ceilings! #EDEN

★**NEW! Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek** - Beautiful 4-2-2 with huge island kitchen, granite, tiled floors with upgrades, covered patio! #VIN

**Kwik Kar**

**LUBE • AUTO REPAIR CARWASH**

Now Hiring Cashiers, Car Wash Personnel & Lube Technicians

Mon. - Sat. 8am - 5pm  
Sun. 9am - 5pm

No need to wait shuttle service now available!  
\*\*shuttle service only available within a 5 mile radius\*\*

**\$10 Off Auto Alignment**  
With coupon only. No reproductions. Not valid with any other discount.

**11210 Scarsdale (Between I-45 & Bearner)**  
**281-484-5945**

**Now Offering A Full Line Of Exterior Washes "Wash & Go in under 5 min."**

<b>The Works Includes \$20</b> • Island Breeze LAVA Carnauba Wax • Underbody Rinse • Wheel Cleaning (By Hand) • Clear Coat Protectant • Tire Shine (By Hand) • Hand Drying	<b>Wheels &amp; Tires \$13</b> Includes "Shine & Polish" Plus • Rain-Guard • Tire Shine (In Tunnel) • Clear Coat Protectant	<b>Shine &amp; Polish \$10</b> Includes "Express Exterior" Plus • Tri-Color Wax • Wheel Cleaning (In Tunnel) • Underbody Rinse	<b>Express Exterior \$6</b> • Wash • High Velocity Drying (In Tunnel)
--	---	--	---

**\*MONTHLY UNLIMITED WASH PLANS (PER VEHICLE)**

**Full Service Oil Change \$29.99**

Includes our 16 point inspection - Oil Change (Up to 5 Quarts Conventional Oil)  
• Install New Oil Filter • Check & Fill Transmission Fluid • Check & Fill Windshield Washer • Check PCV Valve  
• Complete Chassis Lube • Check Air Pressure in all Tires • Vacuum Interior • Check Radiator Overflow Reservoir  
• Check Brake Fluid • Check Gear Boxes • Check Air Filter & Cabin Filter • Check Belts  
• Check & Fill Power Steering Fluid • Check Battery Fluid • Check Breather Element • Check Wiper Blades

Up to 5 Qts Conventional Motor Oil - 16 Point Check • With coupon. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Expires 1/29/21.

**FREE Car Wash**

# 2020 sports year that was - in review

The 2020 sports scene in review, such as it is, perhaps is something that will ultimately be relished despite all of the games, results and both team and individual experiences lost.

The year started out well enough as the Dobbie varsity boys' soccer team put together a 16-1-4 run that included a sixth consecutive district championship. In fact, the Longhorns claimed their sixth straight dating back to 2015 just days before things came to a halt.

Yet who knows how the soccer playoffs would have played out in the end? Clearly, the hope was that things would eventually get back to normal. But as March turned to April and then May came, it was clear the 2019-2020 sports scene had ended.

As it was, Dobbie senior

Eli Donaho was named the District 22-6A Most Valuable Player, and luckily the Longhorns did secure that sixth 22-6A championship just days before the stoppage and will now open play early next month as one of the top programs in the Region III ranks.

Literally, changes were being made everywhere. Last spring, Dobbie principal Franklin Moses even made his own coaching changes where necessary.

Longtime Dobbie varsity boys' basketball head coach Kevin Cross resigned his position in order to spend additional time with his family and is now the school's golf coach.

Franklin Paul is now the Longhorns' first-year varsity boys' basketball coach. Monika Mackey, who once played soccer at Dobbie, is now the Lady

Longhorns' soccer head coach.

Yes, at long last there was movement toward action in the 2020-2021 school year. And it's already been a fun start.

As the pandemic gripped the world, it became increasingly apparent that the fall sports schedule might indeed be compromised.

High school football, volleyball, cross-country and team tennis schedules were set and then reset. The University Interscholastic League, excited about its 100th high school football season, pressed on with plans to proceed and did so.

Credit went to Alberto Campa with doing his part to practice social distancing as he and his Dobbie teammates, including the Lady Longhorns, took part in the opening week of the

cross-country season Sept. 11 at La Porte's Northwest Park.

Campa, a state qualifier in 2019 and one of the region's top returning seniors, ran away from the pack in the Division I 3,200-meter run, cruising to the win at 9 minutes, 54 seconds.

Dobbie senior Amari Singleton also picked up where she left off a season ago, grabbing the third overall spot in the Division I 3,200-meter varsity girls' event at 12:25.

Teammate JoJo Olivares was fourth in the same event at 12:26. The Lady Longhorns' Grace Castaneda just missed a top 10 slot, settling for 11th at 13:18.

The wins proved hard to come by for the Clear Brook varsity volleyball team, while Dobbie earned itself a win over Spring to gain some momentum during opening-week ac-

tion later in September.

Clear Brook, going up against three legitimate playoff-worthy programs, went winless in matches against Pearland, Kingwood and Friendswood.

Dobbie, meanwhile, also dropped matches to Baytown Sterling and Shadow Creek before topping Spring in four games as part of the first week.

On opening night, Clear Brook fell at Pearland 25-11, 25-7, 25-21 as the locals went with a vastly new lineup compared to that of its 2019 district championship squad that was senior-dominated.

The Lady Wolverines then fell to Kingwood by a 26-24, 25-16, 25-19 count.

Against defending Class 5A Region III champion Friendswood, the Lady Wolverines were on the short end of a 25-17, 25-13, 25-16 score.

As for Dobbie, the Lady Longhorns took the opening set in the season opener at Baytown Sterling at 25-23, but the Rangers went on to sweep from there at 25-23, 25-14, 25-16.

At Shadow Creek, the Lady Longhorns were swept in a loss at 25-18, 25-16, 25-21.

But Dobbie, gearing up for District 22-6A play, got 10 kills from senior Victoria Thomas in a 21-25, 25-16, 25-15, 25-21 victory over Spring.

Dobbie's opening-night 39-28 varsity football victory over Jersey Village won't find its way into an art gallery for its overall beauty and mastery, but in the world of high school football it was a quality win over a worthy foe, getting the Longhorns off to a 1-0 start Sept. 25 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

For Dobbie, the stars were front and center in this one as the offense racked up 540 total yards, led by quarterback Cameron Gray's 275 yards through the air as he completed 11 of 17 for a pair of touchdowns.

Gray, last season's Newcomer of the Year in District 22-6A, also led the Longhorns with 83 yards rushing on 14 carries as he accounted for nearly 360 yards of offense.

Senior wide receiver Jeremiah Ballard didn't score, but that's about the only thing Jersey Village kept him from doing as the big-play threat had four grabs for 100 yards.

Host La Porte did its share of bragging after claiming the team championships in both the varsity boys' and girls' divisions, but Dobbie's Campa again dominated as he led his contingent at the Bulldog Cross-Country Invitational in La Porte.

Campa cruised to his third straight win this season, covering the 5K course at 16 minutes, 10



The Dobbie varsity girls' cross-country team claimed its first district championship as a team in decades as the group produced a 2-3-4-6-7 finish at the District 22-6A Championships at the Jimmy Burke Center in Deer Park. Members of the team are, left to right, Jocelyn Olivarez, Amari Singleton, Isabella Padilla, Karisa Hernandez, Ashlee Garcia, Kayla Lobo and Grace Castaneda, who led the group with her second-place overall finish. The Region III Championships were held in Huntsville.

seconds. Dobbie coach Mo Hickman said at the time that Campa appeared to be on track, as if that is possible in a COVID-19-affected season.

"Alberto is running well and getting stronger every week," Hickman said. "16:10 is a good time, even as the 'race part' of this one was over with well over 1,000 meters to go."

Sophomore Adrian Castillo ran for a score and also reeled in a touchdown pass as Clear Brook built a big lead and then held off host Texas City Sept. 25 at Stingaree Stadium.

It went down as a successful debut for first-year Wolverines' head coach John Towels III, who arrived in Friendswood in February after back-to-back 6A Division I state title games with Duncanville as that program's defensive coordinator.

The sophomore Castillo had 12 carries for 52 yards and also caught a 42-yard scoring pass from quarterback Cameron McCalister as the Wolverines built a 27-7 lead and then substituted freely in the late stages.

Lutheran South Academy receiver Joel Hutchins turned in one of the top performances of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools football season as he had 10 catches for 327 yards and four touchdowns in the Pioneers' rout of St. Joseph.

Coming up with a true team effort, the Dobbie varsity volleyball team grabbed sole possession of second place in the District 22-6A standings with a four-set win over rival Pasadena Memorial at Dobbie.

The locals then swept past Sam Rayburn at Rayburn for their fourth win in five tries within league action. Deer Park, a first-round winner over Dobbie via three-game sweep, sat

at 5-0 in the first half.

In the battle for second in the standings, the Lady Longhorns got a tremendous overall performance from setter Natalie Onozie and a team-high 17 kills from Victoria Thomas for the 27-25, 22-25, 25-22, 25-22 win.

Alayna Gonzalez and Maya Scott chipped in with nine kills apiece and Cadie Masterson added 18 assists.

Onozie wound up with 28 assists, 14 digs and 10 kills in the victory.

Four overall turnovers. A quick 21-0 deficit in the first quarter. Just an overall shockwave delivered by Clear Falls out of the gate.

It all added up to send the upstart Clear Brook Wolverines to their first loss, a 28-0 shutout defeat to Clear Falls that did its part to sour Brook's homecoming festivities at Challenger Columbia Stadium in Webster.

The Knights ran out to a quick 21-0 lead and used four turnovers in the game to subdue the Wolverines' scoring chances.

Forget about the opponent. Until there was a reasonable solution as to just how to slow down Dobbie's offensive attack, the Longhorns had to be the favorites to win the District 22-6A football championship.

Another 500-plus yards of offense. Five rushing touchdowns from senior Jonathan Baldwin, giving him 13 through four games.

Five catches for 55 yards from the district's leading receiver Jeremiah Ballard.

Another 118 yards passing and 60 yards rushing from quarterback Cameron Gray.

It was all too much for South Houston as the Longhorns rolled to a 48-7 victory over the Trojans Oct. 22 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

The 2020-2021 basketball season got off to a sol-

id start for the Clear Brook and Dobbie programs as both scored wins in their respective openers.

Dobbie outscored visiting Friendswood 25-14 in the third quarter and held off the Lady Mustangs late during a 51-46 victory Nov. 6.

A day later, head coach Warren Brooks made his debut with the Lady Wolverines of Clear Brook as the locals scored a home win over Crosby by a 46-34 count.

Senior Parker Burris had a game-high 23 points for Clear Brook, making good on 3 of 5 three-pointers and making all eight of her free throws.

Teammate Amanda Benjamin had nine rebounds in the game as the locals delivered some positive results to build upon. Stringing together a 9-9 overall record, a second-place finish in District 22-6A and an eventual area playoff round appearance will no doubt go a long way toward a fulfilling team tennis season for the Dobbie squad.

The truth is that Longhorns' head coach Manuel Moreno Jr., like many of his coaching peers regardless of fall season sport, was merely hoping to squeeze in some semblance of a season for his players.

To be able to complete the albeit abbreviated campaign and see the postseason play out in full to this point truly is, well, a bonus.

"I'm very happy for the kids and also proud of the way they stuck together and followed all of the safety protocols (necessitated by coronavirus concerns) as best they could every day to allow us to have a season," Moreno said.

"To be honest, it was and has been a day-to-day thing. You never knew when and if you were going to get the notice to shut it down.

"In that respect, we have

to be very happy that we were able to make it this far this fall."

The storybook ending of a season did not come the way the Dobbie cross-country program hoped it would after the Longhorns' memorable 2020 run came to a close Nov. 10 in Huntsville.

Campa, bidding to reach the state meet for a second consecutive season, saw his effort fall roughly three seconds short of advancement.

The disappointment for the Lady Longhorns actually began well before the regional meet as COVID-19 affected the program just prior to the biggest event of the season.

Seniors Grace Castaneda and Jocelyn Olivarez, the second and third overall finishers at the District 22-6A Championships, did not run at regionals, as senior Amari Singleton ended her stellar career with a 53rd-place finish to lead Dobbie.

A 10-year wait between district titles is over after the unbeaten Dobbie Longhorns blanked Sam Rayburn 53-0 Nov. 19 to claim the District 22-6A championship at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Dobbie last won a district title as part of the Class 5A ranks, going 8-2 overall with a late-season win over Deer Park to claim the trophy.

Lutheran South's football season came to an end Nov. 20 at home against Brownsville St. Joseph, with the visitors winning a wild 56-48 first-round playoff game, but it didn't come without a record-setting performance.

Pioneers' senior quarterback Luke Harrison rushed for a program-record 373 yards in the game, giving his team a chance to win until the very end.

Harrison has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at the University of Texas at Austin.

## LSA football scores district, state honors

Four Lutheran South Academy football players were recognized by the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools as all-state performers, and there were plenty of Pioneers in on the action as all-district award winners were announced.

Senior receiver Joel Hutchins, who during the 2020 season set a school record for reception yards in a single game, was a TAPPS first team all-state selection at receiver.

Hutchins' single-game receiving yards total of 327 broke a school record that had previously been held by his brother, Kyle Hutchins.

Pioneer defensive back Cade Goldstraw picked up honorable mention all-district status, and Luke Harrison was an honorable mention all-stater as a

punter while scoring all-state academic honors.

Harrison, a three-year starter at quarterback for the Pioneers, set a school record for single-game rushing yards against Brownsville St. Joseph in the playoffs with 373.

Pioneers' offensive

Nicholas Hatch was an academic all-state honoree. Meanwhile, Harrison (quarterback), Hutchins (receiver), Michael Purdom (linebacker) and Goldstraw were first team all-district selections.

Pioneers' offensive

lineman Connor Hanson, kicker Nicholas Hatch, defensive lineman Josh Gomez and defensive back Tyler Ehlinger were named to the all district second team as the Pioneers combined for a 3-5 overall record.

## Pioneer VB takes postseason awards

Freshman Alexa Fernandez of Lutheran South Academy was a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools first-team all-state selection after leading the Pioneers to the 5A regional quarterfinal playoff round.

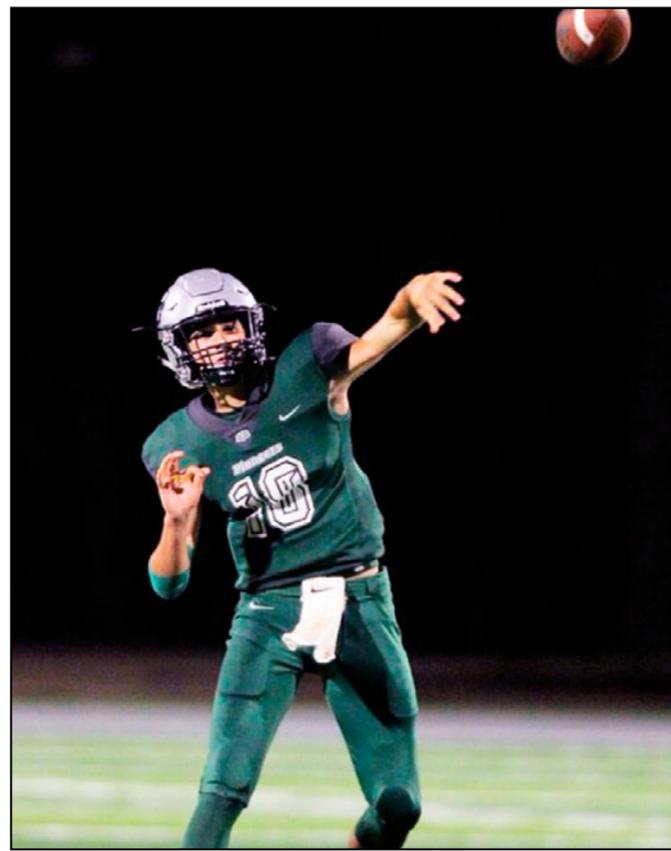
Fernandez led LSA with 268 kills this season as the team went 13-7 overall.

Junior setter Lily Psencik was a second-team all-state pick after registering 436 assists.

LSA's first-team all-district picks were Fernandez,

Psencik and Lauren Schellstede, with Psencik and Schellstede also earning academic all-state honors.

Senior Kiersten Lin with 330 digs and Haina Pink with 81 kills and 24 total blocks, were second-team all-district selections.



At right, Lutheran South Academy senior quarterback/punter Luke Harrison turned in a record-breaking season for the Pioneers in 2020. In what turned out to be his final game with the program, Harrison rushed for a school-record 373 yards in a 56-48 playoff loss to Brownsville St. Joseph. Following the season, Harrison was named the Offensive Player of the Year districtwide and then scored All-State honorable mention accolades as a player as well as Academic All-State honors for his work in the classroom. Harrison, a member of LSA's 2019 state championship baseball team, has signed his letter of intent to attend the University of Texas at Austin as a pitcher.

# CALENDAR

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

**NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club** - Although the bridge club is currently closed visit <https://aclunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for details of online games that can be played or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com).

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

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

**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 the calendar.

**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)** - Women's Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church. Call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**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](http://www.hascona.com) or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All in-person events are canceled at this time. All services will be performed online.

Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday service at 9:30 a.m. at <https://zoom.us> with the Meeting ID 917 102 8979 and the Passcode 18csh1818. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-friday.html>. For the general 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 Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For more information, 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 9

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.

**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 10

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 11

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

**TRIAD meeting** - Madison Jobe Senior Center, 1700 East

Thomas St., in Pasadena on the third Monday. Meetings start timely and teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, scams, fraud, etc. Police officers and sheriffs may be in attendance. Free. Refreshments served. For details, call 713-477-0175.

**Toastmasters** - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters #05324194 is virtual at <https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/>. To be a guest, 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's notice.

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

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**CCART** - The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers meets the second Tuesday, monthly, Sept.-May. Bay Area Community Center, 5002 NASA Parkway in Seabrook near Landolt Pavilion. Texas-retired school employees from surrounding school districts welcome. Annual dues are \$50.

**Tri-County Republican Women** - Meetings are at Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch available for \$15. Exact cash or a check requested. To RSVP, visit <https://trcwx.org/> or call Susan Hooper at 832-723-7671.

**AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**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](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for information.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

**Rotary Club of Pearland** - See Thursday's notice.

**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](http://aglownet.org).

**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South American Business Women's Association- Meetings are held January - November at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland, TX 77584. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit [www.seen-abwa.org](http://www.seen-abwa.org).

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.

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

**Narcotics Anonymous** - See Thursday's Women's Group.

# SERVICE

Attention advertisers, make your ad stand out with color. Call 281-481-5656 for information. Participants will be limited to 10, so call soon if you want included.

## South Belt AIR & HEAT INC.

Serving your neighborhood since 1982.

**CALL FOR HEATING INSPECTION**

Free Estimates on New Equipment

*American Standard*  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

100% Financing to Qualified Buyers

**281-484-1818 4403 F.M.2351**

**GET IT TODAY!**



TACLB26543E

### ANY SEASON TERMITE & PEST CONTROL, LLC

Residential & Commercial  
TRUSTWORTHY and RELIABLE

Providing environmentally friendly services with your children and pets' safety in mind.



Jimmie Sue Orth, Owner  
Richard (Dick) Orth, Operator  
B.S. Chemistry, Trinity University

**281-484-6740**

Family Owned and Operated Since 1984

### J&M SERVICE CO.

A Complete Service Company  
Since 1983

Specializing in Bath & Kitchen Remodels

- ★ CERAMIC TILE
- ★ TUB & SHOWER
- ★ WOOD FLOORS
- ★ CONVERSIONS
- ★ GRANITE
- ★ MEET ADA STANDARDS
- ★ CULTURED MARBLE
- ★ SAFETY GRIP BARS
- ★ PLUMBING
- ★ COMPLETE REMODELS

**281-235-8073**

REFERENCES AND PROOF OF INSURANCE ON REQUEST  
Free Estimates

### LEWIS CONSTRUCTION

www.YourCompleteHomeCare.com

We have been Same Name & Phone Number Since 1991

- Painting Interior & Exterior
- Additions - Kitchens
- Bathrooms - Garages
- Siding All Types - Floors
- Conversions - Patios - Fences
- Concrete - Carpentry Work

If you want a Quality Job, we are the ones for you  
Owner: Myron Lewis

### Triple M Plumbing

**281-484-4777**

Cell 281-455-1175



**Melvin D. Glover III**

Master License # 8069

### R.B. GARAGE DOORS

Garage Door Experts • 20 Years Experience  
Affordable Prices • Free Estimates

- \*Replace Garage Doors
- \*Garage Door Openers
- \*Crashed Door Resets
- \*Lube, Tunes & Springs

**ROGELIO 832-755-5245**

www.rbgaragedoorsHouston.com  
rbgaragedoors@gmail.com  
•Genie •Craftsman •Lift Master •Chamberlain

### A/C & Appliance Repair

- Former Sear's Technician
- Insured & Licensed (TACLA44251C)

**713-505-7534**

### GULF TEX REMODELING

Residential & Commercial • Insured

- Kitchens • Baths • Plumbing • Painting • Sheetrock • Flooring
- Patios • Concrete • Fences • Commercial Design & Build Out

Serving Houston for over 25 years

Flood Disaster Specialist **832-891-4610** Free Estimates

### BOOKKEEPING

**Cynthia L. Veters, CPA**

Individual-Corporate-Partnership & Estates

- All Tax Preparations
- Financial Statement Preparation
- Monthly Accounting Services
- Individual & Business Tax Planning
- Payroll & Other Related Services

**281-481-4184**

### G & F APPLIANCE REPAIR



We service all major home appliances. Our Professional Technicians will provide you with service you can trust.

**MENTION THIS AD AND SAVE \$10**

**281-650-4777**

SAME DAY SERVICE

### After Hours Plumbing Service

Commercial, Industrial & Residential  
Sewer • Water Heaters • Drains  
Leaks • Water • Repairs • Gas

**\$50 OFF Any Service w/coupon**

Free Estimates - MPL#41513 - Hablo Español  
Military, Law Enforcement & Senior Discount  
www.afterhoursplumbingservicehouston.com

**832-715-6441**

### JT Garage Door Systems

Free Estimates Repair, Replace, Install  
Over 20 Years of Experience  
Contact Jason Teel  
**281-991-7697**

### Primary Plumbing Services

COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL

**713-643-7228**

Ruben Muñoz - MPL 17449

### ELLIOTT'S REMODELING

A Full Service General Contractor

- EXTERIOR/INTERIOR
- BATHS / KITCHENS • ROOM ADDITIONS
- PAINTING • FLOORING • SHEETROCK WORK
- SIDING • ROOFING • CONCRETE • FENCES
- GARAGE CONVERSION • INTEGRITY
- COMMUNICATION • QUALITY

**281-487-2234** REFERENCES • 30+ YRS. EXP.

**I. ZERMEÑO PLUMBING**  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
**832-896-9360**  
Ismael Zermeño RMPL 40258 tzplumbing09@yahoo.com

- WATER LEAKS
- WATER HEATERS
- SEWER STOPPAGES
- WATER RE-PIPING
- LEASE SPACES
- CAMERA INSPECTIONS

### A & M PAINTING

- PAINTING INTERIOR/EXTERIOR • REMODELING • SHEETROCK
- TAPE & FLOAT • DEMOLITION • HAULING • FENCES
- CARPENTRY • PRESSURE WASHING

**Alvaro Bravo 281-642-2939** Free Estimates

## Advertise in the Leader!

### Morgan's Janitor Service



Complete Building Maintenance

Floor Stripping & Waxing

One Time Jobs or Contracts

Insured and Bonded

**281-485-4341**

Member South Belt-Ellington Chamber

**ELECTRIC**  
REPAIRS & INSTALLATIONS  
40 Years Experience  
• Free Estimates  
• Senior Citizen Disc.  
• No Service Charge  
• Res./Comm.  
• Master Electrician  
• Insured  
• TECL #1246  
**281-484-8542**  
LOW PRICES HIGH QUALITY  
We accept most major credit cards.  
SAGEMONT ELECTRIC SVCS.

Support  
Leader  
Advertisers

### Garage Door Problems?

Call

**Big Edd's**

Serving Houston & Surrounding Areas Since 1979

Repair/Replacement 281-480-8898  
Garage Doors & Openers 713-784-4238

## A-BETTER PLUMBING

Complete Home Residential Service Plumber

**CALL TODAY FOR SPECIALS**

A-Rated on Angie's List

**281-692-1684**

**PAR 5 ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION**  
(844) PAR-FIVE  
South-Belt area owned and operated  
Residential & Commercial Roofing  
Complete Interior & Exterior Home Remodeling  
GAF Certified  
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING  
Fully Insured & Bonded - Always Free Estimates!  
**844-727-3483**  
cmaricle@par5roof.com  
www.par5roof.com

Support LEADER ADVERTISERS  
**281-481-5656**

**WINNER BEST ROOFING COMPANY IN BAY AREA**  
Call Now!  
**TEXAS TOP**  
Roofing & Siding  
5 Year Labor Warranty  
Kevin Dalley '76 Dobie Grad  
Chris Dalley '79 Dobie Grad  
• Vinyl  
• Hardi Board Siding  
**281-481-9683**  
REPLACEMENT & STORM WINDOWS

**BONANZA AIR & HEAT\***  
**281-922-5665**  
It Is Time For A Furnace Checkup!  
Someone You Can Trust • NEVER A SERVICE CALL CHARGE  
We Service ALL Makes & Models • We Honor Competitor Coupons  
It's not too soon! Beat the rush!  
**WINTER CHECK-UP TIME!**  
Financing Available  
TACLB002755C  
\*Preferred Air of Houston LLC dba

**\$200 OFF FOUNDATION REPAIR OR SEWER REPAIR**  
(on jobs \$2,500 & up)  
Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per house.  
**FOUNDATION REPAIR UNDER SLAB SEWER REPAIR HOUSE LEVELING**  
**Allied Foundations**  
**281-479-5247**  
FREE ESTIMATES

**South Belt Graphics & Printing**  
No Job Too Small!  
Now printing small-quantity orders!  
Call For Information 281-484-4337



## CLASSIFIED FOR WHEN LIFE BRINGS YOU A SHOCK OR TWO!

Our Classifieds will give you a wide selection of professional service people who advertise there. You can compare and choose from among them in the SERVICES columns and be ready for anything shocking ahead!

The Classifieds - read them and use them; They're there when you need them!

**281-481-5656**

## LEADER READERS

25 Words - \$8 for 1 week -  
3 Weeks - \$21; Business:  
25 Words - \$10 for 1 week  
• 3 Weeks - \$27

## HELP WANTED

### Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

Is seeking experienced full time and part time CNAs, CMAs, RNs and LVNs. If you want to work in a dynamic and fulfilling team environment, then Baywood Crossing is for you.

We offer competitive pay rates and benefits.

Please stop by and complete an application at 5020 Space Center Blvd., Pasadena OR give us a call at (713) 575-1800



### COMPUTER

COMPUTER REPAIR. South Belt Area. Free Estimates. New Computers For Sale. Deal with a Technician, Not a Salesman. Call Harry 713-991-1355. 1-28

### GARAGE SALE

11118 LINDEN GATE DR. Fri. & Sat., Jan. 8 & 9, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Toys, household decor, DVD movies, children & adult clothes/shoes, costume jewelry, Christmas/Halloween decor, baseball/softball items and make-up. 1-7

### HELP WANTED

PIZZA HUT @ 10904 Scarsdale is hiring cooks, cut tables and wing-

streets. Call 281-484-0111 or apply at restaurant. 1-21

### REAL ESTATE

HOME FOR RENT. 10930 Twig Dr. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. \$1,400/month and \$1,400 security deposit. Call 832-741-2241. 1-7

### SERVICES

CARPENTER/HANDYMAN. Light electrical, plumbing & painting, replace/repair. No Job Too Small. Robert 281-948-8887. 1-21

### HANDYMAN.

Exterior painting, wood fences, pressure washing, gutter cleaning, landscaping and mulch. Affordable prices. Free estimates. 832-406-0183. 1-14

PRESSURE WASHING! Free Estimates. Call Scott and Sons at 979-235-0645. House, driveways, sidewalks, boats, R.V.'s, etc. Time for cleaning. Free Estimates! 1-14

Let the Leader help with your advertising.

Call 281-481-5656

## LAWN & GARDEN

### Arbor King Tree Service

- Tree Removal • Tree Topping • Trimming
- Thinning Out • Elevating • Stump Grinding
- Emergency Storm Damage

Free Estimates  
South Belt Resident **832-660-3622** We will work with you

**ADRIAN'S TREE SERVICES.COM**  
**713-501-0184**

LICENSED, INSURED, AFFORDABLE  
• FREE ESTIMATES •  
Professional Trimming, Shaping, Removal

Join us on Facebook!



# Houston begins programs to improve parks

Continued from Page 1

tary contributions, in-kind support, ideas and volunteers for improvements to 50 neighborhood parks. The heart of 50/50 Park Partners is the creation of long-term relationships for sustained impact between businesses, communities and parks, improving the quality of life for Houstonians for decades to come.

To strengthen this innovative public-private partnership, the City of Houston, through the Parks Dedication Fund, has committed a multi-million-dollar contribution. According to city officials, public and private investment in the development and improvement of Houston parks, greenways and public spaces has solidified Houston's national reputation as a green space leader. Signature parks such as Memorial Park, Hermann Park, Discovery Green,

Emancipation Park, Levy Park, MacGregor Park, and the Bayou Greenways 2020 initiative have transformed the city.

The work to uplift neighborhood parks, however, is just beginning, Turner said. "Green space is vitally important," Turner said. "You cannot have a complete city without having the green space and the parks that go right along with it."

Led by the Office of the Mayor, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Greater Houston Partnership and Houston Parks Board, 50/50 Park Partners will improve Houston's neighborhoods, one park at a time. By becoming a Park Partner, one can help drive positive social, environmental and economic change.

The 50/50 Park Partners initiative brings together 50 private businesses through

monetary contributions, in-kind support, ideas and volunteers for improvements to 50 neighborhood parks. The heart of 50/50 Park Partners is the creation of long-term relationships for sustained impact between businesses, communities and parks, improving the quality of life for Houstonians for decades to come.

To strengthen this innovative public-private partnership, the City of Houston, through the Parks Dedication Fund, has committed a multi-million-dollar contribution.

The program will be based on the following three principles:

- Park equity: Neighborhood parks are selected and improved based on need and citywide distribution.
- Community engagement: Improvements, projects and volunteer support are responsive to the community and focus on existing parks.
- Long-term Sustainable Impact: The 50/50 Park Partners initiative provides a multi-year investment, starting a long-term partnership between businesses, neighborhood parks and the com-

munity.

## 50/50 Park Partners framework

The 50/50 Park Partners program has been designed to create both business and social value in countless ways, maximizing the impact of becoming a Park Partner.

The 50/50 Park Partners framework provides an opportunity to play a leadership role in supporting neighborhood parks and their surrounding communities across Houston, catalyzing the process of reinvigorating an under-resourced park. The coalition of Park Partners, the City of Houston, Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Houston Parks Board will determine a coordinated process for park improvement and design focusing on close collaboration with local communities.

Financial support from Park Partners will be held by Houston Parks Board in a centralized and coordinated fund to deliver maximum impact.

Project funds will be invested based on priorities of need and distributed citywide across the identified neighborhood parks.

borhood parks.

A virtual meeting on the Freeway Manor Park project is expected to take place in late February or early March.

For additional information on the 50/50 Park Partners program, visit [houstonparksboard.org/donate/5050-park-partners](http://houstonparksboard.org/donate/5050-park-partners).

# Houston recycling trees

Continued from Page 1

have and how can I reuse it?"

City residents have two options in which to recycle their Christmas trees. The first option is to place the tree on one's curbside during the city's regular heavy trash pickup days. City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Jan. 14, (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup on Friday, Jan. 15, (second Friday of the month).

The second option is to take one's Christmas tree to one of 25 recycling sites across the city. The closest location to the South Belt area is the Ellington Airport Recycling Drop-off, located at SH 3/Old Galveston Road at Brantley Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To see a complete list of recycling sites, visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/tree2021.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/tree2021.html).

All tree bases, lights, ornaments and tinsel should be removed. Flocked trees cannot be recycled. The program will continue through Tuesday, Jan. 26.

# Project Linus donates blankets again



Project Linus is a national nonprofit that delivers handmade blankets to children in local hospitals, child abuse centers, and other facilities where a child might feel anxious or unsafe. Since 1996 the Houston chapter has distributed more than 21,000 blankets. As they have done in previous years, Peggy Wills and Linda Henshaw both members of the Project Linus Houston Chapter delivered a massive number of blankets for the Leader's annual food and toy drive. Blankets of all sizes and designs were made for the community. Prior to COVID the nonprofit met twice a month at Kirkwood South Christian Church, but the program has since been on hold until further notice. For additional information visit, <http://www.projectlinus.org>.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

## NOW OPEN - Covid-19 Precautions in Place

Call the Office for your appointment  
Specializing in Personal Injury Cases



Barry Burleigh, D.C.  
Chiropractor

(281) 481-1623  
[www.burleighchiro.com](http://www.burleighchiro.com)



11700 Beamer Rd.  
Houston, TX 77089

## Confused about Medicare? (Who isn't!)



Denise Burleigh  
Licensed Insurance Sales Agent

11700 Beamer Road (Inside Burleigh Chiropractic)  
(832) 517-3976 • email [cdb63@att.net](mailto:cdb63@att.net)



FREE NO Obligation Consultations

## The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers will hold its January meeting, virtually Jan. 12, 2021. The CCART gathering will be facilitated via Zoom and will begin at 10 a.m. The group will have a guest speaker from Barnes and Noble. The presentation given by Belinda Henry will be "Health Tips for the New Year."

Remember to renew membership with CCART. The annual dues is \$50. For membership renewal forms and instructions, visit the Facebook site at ClearCreekART or type in Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers. Interested persons may also request information by sending an email to [1986ccart@gmail.com](mailto:1986ccart@gmail.com).

## Free Green Thumb Gardening talk set for Jan. 11

Green Thumb Gardening will host a lecture "Pruning Basics" by Harris County Master Gardeners with Houston Community College on Jan. 11 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This presentation is a free virtual lecture. Register early at [hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops](http://hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops).

# Governor appoints Cagle to state task force

Continued from Page 1

bench countywide in 2000 and re-elected him in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

As judge, Cagle consistently earned high ratings from the Houston Bar Association and received numerous awards from legal,

business, political and community groups.

Twice recognized as Judge of the Year by law enforcement groups, Cagle was also recognized by the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston and served as an officer in the

Association of Women Attorneys.

He was elected by his peers to be administrative judge for the County Civil Courts and as president of the Texas Association of County Court at Law Judges.

Cagle is a graduate of Rice University with triple majors in economics, history and managerial studies, as well as a graduate of Baylor Law School.

He and his wife Janet have three children: Richard, Victoria and Elizabeth.

# Melillo donates to toy drive

Melillo Middle School did a fantastic job collecting food and toys for the South Belt Leader food and toy drive. This is a tradition at Melillo since opening 13 years ago. The staff have always showcased their hearts that care and hands that serve to support the South Belt community collection. The homeroom that brought in the most donations was Nicole Ram's fifth-grade class.

Staff members also came together to donate more than 200 items to Kayne Schafroth's class in loving memory of her son, Jaymeson Tanner Haley (Jaymo), who died in early 2020. The school wanted to honor Schafroth's commitment to Melillo students and spread some holiday cheer.



Shown are Debbie Bass, left, and Kayne Schafroth, both of whom are sixth-grade teachers at Melillo Middle School.



Above is the class with the most toy donations. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Darryl Smith; Lilly Benavides; Danica Titus-Williams; Eliza-beth Cervantes; (back row) Cameron Ramos; Alyzza Hernandez; Nicole Ram, fifth-grade teacher; Miguel Galan; Julian Nava; and Aubrey Kelly.

# San Jacinto Your Success

SPRING CLASSES BEGIN JAN. 19

APPLY, REGISTER, AND PAY ONLINE AT

[WWW.SANJAC.EDU](http://WWW.SANJAC.EDU)

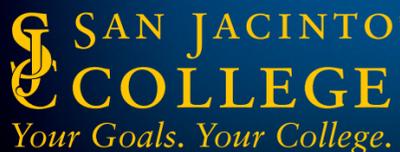
CENTRAL CAMPUS  
8060 SPENCER HWY.  
PASADENA, TEXAS 77505

NORTH CAMPUS  
5800 UVALDE ROAD  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77049

SOUTH CAMPUS  
13735 BEAMER ROAD  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77089

MARITIME CAMPUS  
3700 OLD HWY. 146  
LA PORTE, TEXAS 77571

GENERATION PARK CAMPUS  
13455 LOCKWOOD ROAD  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77044



281-998-6150 | [sanjac.edu](http://sanjac.edu)

The San Jacinto College District is committed to equal opportunity for all students, employees, and applicants without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, genetic information, marital status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The following College official has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the College's non-discrimination policies: Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, 4624 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, TX 77504; 281-991-2659; [Sandra.Ramirez@sjcd.edu](mailto:Sandra.Ramirez@sjcd.edu).

Your Goals. Your College.