

5-month investigation ends

Harris County Pct. 2 Constable Chris Diaz met with officials from Pct. 1 Constable Alan Rosen's office Nov. 10, to discuss disciplinary actions against three Pct. 2 employees accused of wrongdoing in an eviction that took place in South Houston last January. The three employees have been on paid leave since early June. Rosen's office had been tasked with conducting an independent investigation into the matter. The incident has also been under investigation by the Harris County Attorney's office. According to sources familiar with the case, Constable Chris Diaz, in consultation with the county attorney, will decide what discipline the affected Pct. 2 employees will be given out of three options. At press time, it was unclear what those choices will be. Decisions on possible courses of action are to be made this week. See next week's edition of the Leader for more information.

St. Luke blood drive set

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church is teaming up with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center for a blood drive Sunday, Nov. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the social hall at St. Luke Church, 11011 Hall Road. Appointments can be scheduled online at https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_scheduled/295777. Walk-ins are assigned the next available appointment. The blood center requires donors to wear a mask or face covering when at a blood drive. Masks will be available upon request.

Sageglen meets Nov. 16

The Sageglen Community Association will hold its next homeowner meeting Nov. 16. Due to COVID the meeting will be held on the Sageglen Community parking lot at 7 p.m. All Sageglen residents are urged to attend.

Free COVID testing coming

Harris County Health will conduct free COVID health screenings at South Belt Church, 13100 Beamer near Astoria Boulevard, Thursday, Nov. 12, through Saturday, Nov. 14, daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Results will take approximately two to four days to receive. For more information or to see a complete listing of Harris County COVID-19 testing locations, visit publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Test-ing-Information.

COVID numbers decrease

At press time Wednesday, Nov. 11, a total of 70 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials. That number is up one from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials. Of the 2,225 confirmed cases in 77089, 416 remain active, while 1,780 have recovered from the virus. To date, 29 from the ZIP code have died from the disease - up one from last week. In 77075, 525 of the 1,690 confirmed cases remain active, while 1,143 have recovered. A total of 22 from the ZIP code have died - no increase from last week. Of the 1,918 confirmed cases in 77034, 623 remain active, while 1,276 have recovered from the disease. To date, 19 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Sunday, Nov. 22. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Sunday, Nov. 22.

Gulf Freeway closure update

At least one northbound lane and one southbound lane of the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard nightly from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, Nov. 30. The Fuqua and Beltway 8 exits will be closed during these times. Traffic exiting Fuqua may exit Scarsdale or Alameda Genoa. The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway at NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

Drive-thru food pantry set

Disciples of Christ Global Ministries, under Pastor Ramon Jones, will host a Thanksgiving drive-thru food pantry give away Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. at 550 FM 1959, Houston. Due to COVID-19 and the CDC Guidelines all attendees must remain in their vehicle. For any questions, call 832-444-6411.

Fundraiser plans for Berry

A fundraiser benefiting the family of Lisa Berry will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, from noon to 4 p.m. at Beamer's Place Bar, 12057 Beamer. Berry, the mother of Dobie High graduate Dwight Tucker III, died of organ failure Oct. 31. Services for Berry were held earlier this month. Barbecue plates will be sold for \$10 each, and silent auctions items will be available. To donate monetarily or to provide auction items, call Wendy Childs at 281-685-6135.

CCISD names sole finalist for superintendent



Dr. Eric Williams

The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees unanimously named Dr. Eric Williams as the sole finalist for its new superintendent position. The live announcement, that was made Nov. 9, capped a nationwide search that

involved community and stakeholder input. "The board is thrilled to have found an exceptional, visionary leader with a track record of innovative instructional programs and a mature and sophisticated understanding of school systems," said Dr. Laura DuPont, CCISD board president. "Dr. Williams demonstrates a genuine passion for supporting authentic learning and is recognized for his ability to develop, support and inspire the people around him." Williams is currently the superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools, a high performing school district of approximately 82,000 students, 13,000 employees and a \$1.3 billion

budget in Leesburg, Va. Williams has more than 28 years in education, spanning from a social studies teacher in Virginia and an English teacher in Brazil to a high school principal in Florida and superintendent in Virginia.

In his tenure as a superintendent, Williams has earned a reputation of being an innovative instructional leader, an effective and engaging communicator and a person with a servant heart and a student-centered mindset. He has a keen awareness

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San Jac announces 2021 plans

San Jacinto College has announced its plans for the spring 2021 semester, providing students with five different ways to learn, both in-person and online: Face-to-Face, Online Anytime, Online on a Schedule, Flex Campus, and Hands-On Hybrid.

Face-to-Face classes will occur on campus with social distancing measures in place. Face coverings are required for students while on campus and in the classroom. Online Anytime allows students to take classes online at any time. This is the most flexible of the four options, allowing students to work on coursework whenever their schedule allows, without having to come to campus.

The Online on a Schedule option also delivers coursework online, but the lectures and virtual instruction will occur at specific times on certain days, just as a typical face-to-face course would occur. Hands-On Hybrid is for the technical and ap-

plied skill courses. Most class instruction will be delivered online. Students will come to campus in small groups to complete hands-on learning and practical testing.

The Flex Campus is the college's newest, and most unique, course delivery option. This option allows students to spend some time in the classroom with an instructor, in addition to online learning. Small groups of students in each class will have the option to attend in person, following all CDC and college health and safety protocols. The remaining students will access the same coursework online. The small groups will rotate so all students in a class have multiple chances to attend in person, although it's never a requirement to attend in-person. "We are planning to offer a variety of face-to-face classes for the spring, with social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols in place, because we know that's what our students want and need."

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Houston OKs \$3 million in child care aid

Houston City Council this past week approved a \$3 million relief fund to assist local child-care centers remaining open to serve families during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Sylvester Turner's Health Equity Response Task Force will partner on the relief fund with Collaborative for Children, a local nonprofit that works to improve the quality of early childhood education and care for Houston's children. "We know many Houstonians must return to the

workplaces, but have limited care options for their children," said Turner. "This funding will allow parents to place their children in safe, high-quality child care centers while they're working." When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Collaborative for Children quickly identified child care centers as being particularly vulnerable to a public health crisis and economic downturn. The collaborative surveyed more than 700

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HPD investigates nightclub shooting

Houston police are investigating a fatal shooting that took place around 2 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at a nightclub in the 12300 block of the Gulf Freeway near Fuqua. The identity of the deceased male, 27, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. According to police, witnesses stated the male was escorted out of the Paradise City gentleman's club at the above address after starting a fight. A short time later, he returned with a gun

and pointed it at a security guard. A second security guard shot the male, striking him multiple times. Paramedics pronounced the male dead at the scene. The male's friend, who was not involved in the altercation, was also struck by gunfire and taken to a hospital in a private vehicle. The Harris County District Attorney's office was contacted and advised detectives to refer the investigation to a grand jury. No charges had been filed at press time.

CCISD election results announced

The results from the Nov. 3 Clear Creek Independent School District board election have been tabulated, with one incumbent maintaining their position and another being defeated. In the race for the position of District 2 trustee, incumbent Win Weber was handily defeated by challenger Michelle M. Davis. Davis received 53.93 percent of the vote (7,491 total votes), while Weber received 31.25 percent (4,341 votes). Additional challenger Will Stromeyer received 14.82 percent of the vote (2,059 total votes). A relative newcomer to school board politics, Davis previously worked as a clerk at both Clear Brook and Clear Creek high schools. While Clear Creek ISD elections are nonparti-

san, she campaigned as the conservative choice. Weber had previously served on the CCISD board from 2008 to 2017 and was asked by former colleagues to return last year to fill Chris Reed's unexpired term after his death. In the contest for the District 3 trustee position, incumbent Arturo Sanchez received 60.84 percent of the vote (11,999 total votes), while challenger Jason Clark received 39.16 percent (7,722 votes). Clear Creek ISD also announced its sole finalist to fill its position of superintendent being vacated by Greg Smith. See related story on this page.

St. Luke vets celebrate Veterans Day



St. Luke the Evangelist vets honored Veterans Day by getting together Saturday, Nov. 7, for a celebration. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Juan De Leon; Father Douglas Guthrie; (back row) the bearers of the various flags, Jimmy De Los Santos, Prisoner of War; Paul Foreman, U.S. Coast Guard; Matias Gonzalez, U.S. Air Force; Dominic Cantalamessa, U.S. Navy; Ivan Ontiveros, U.S. Marines; Arturo Mendoza, U.S. Army; and Joe Tristan, United States. (See additional photo, Page 8.) Photo by Marie Flickinger

City recycling program Nov. 14

The City of Houston will hold its monthly recycling program at Ellington Airport Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The recycling program is a joint endeavor between the city's Solid Waste Department and CompuCycle, the event had been placed on hold until last month because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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. To get to the Ellington recycling site from Interstate 45 and Beltway 8, drivers should

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Due to the current health crisis, the collection program is now contactless. 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, cell phones, VCRs, scrap metal/wire, monitors, hubs, printers, cables, servers, DVD players, cable boxes, ink-jet cartridges, TVs (CRT) 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

Man murdered at Kirkwren home

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is investigating a fatal shooting that took place around 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the 10100 block of Kirkwren Drive in the Kirkwood South subdivision. Deputies with the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's Office responded to the incident to find the resident, Roman Harris, had been shot by an unknown suspect(s). His girlfriend told

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The Gardens hosts Christmas shop

The Gardens Houston will be hosting a Pop-Up Shop as an opportunity for local and surrounding exhibitors and crafters to sell and display their unique handcrafted and creative merchandise. The event, to be held at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer, is Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 28 and 29. Shopping hours will be Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is open to the public. Admission is a monetary donation or an unwrapped new toy. A raffle of items donated from the vendors will also be held during the event. The beneficiary of the proceeds from admission fees and raffle ticket sales, as well as the unwrapped gifts, will be the South Belt annual

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Dobie places 3 in top 10 national speech, debate tourney



The J. Frank Dobie Speech and Debate Team was one of 187 schools from 30 states that competed in the Florida Blue Keys Tournament hosted by the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla. The three Dobie students who placed in the top 10 overall in Informative Speaking were Andrea Gonzalez, Maryam Badr and Deja Thomas. Shown above are, left to right, Andrew George Barrett, Nick Medina, David Tran, Lexi Martinez, Dougie Lawson, Jayla Betancourt, Amar Lewis, Hannah Collazos, Ryle Lawson, Jeffery Flores and Water Cayce. Dobie's notable in the event was Thomas, (see photo inset on right) who competed in the event Program of Oral Interpretation and placed third overall of 50 competitors. Deja Thomas

Dobie wins 3 top 10 spots in debate, speech tourney

The J. Frank Dobie Speech and Debate team competed at the prestigious Florida Blue Keys Tournament held at The University of Florida in Gainesville. The tournament, which hosted 187 schools from 30 states with more than 1000 student participants hosted some of the best in the country which included the Dobie Speech Team. The team had three different students place in the top ten overall in Informative Speaking including Andrea Gonzalez, Maryam Badr and Deja Thomas. The shining star though was Deja Thomas, a senior at Dobie main campus, who competed in an event called Program of Oral Interpretation, placing third overall out of 50 with her performance concerning the dismantling of societal expectations in regards to gender. Thomas who was a finalist at the Tournament of Champions held at the University of Kentucky last year and is the teams social captain advocates for all students to use their voices to make an impact on the lives of those around them.

In addition, the J. Frank Dobie Speech and Debate Team also had the honor of receiving the Good Neighbor Grant. This generous donation of \$10,000 from ExxonMobil will allow the team to continue challenging the status quo through their performances on the state and national levels. The team is incredibly thankful for the support Exxon has given them the past several years and will continue using their voices to better the community.

In My Opinion

Feral kittens in need of new home

18 years ago, 4 feral kittens came to my patio, and to prevent them from multiplying, I took them to have them altered and to get their shots. They have all lived peacefully on my patio all of these years, only leaving it to hunt for mice near my neighbor's garage. They have always been healthy, happy, and

well behaved, and eat pretty much anything I afford them. There are three females and one male.

Because I am having to move out of town, and can't take them with me, I need to find a home for them. If anyone has any information that might help me find a place for them, please call me at 281-922-6119. Thank you so very much.

Charlotte L. Callison

City funds \$3 million in child care

Continued from Page 1

child care providers who shared their immediate COVID-19 challenges and the pandemic's impact on their capacity to care for children. A quarter of the centers had closed because of the pandemic. Those that remained open suffered financial stress due to a severe drop in enrollment along with increased operating costs related to new state and federal COVID-19 guidelines.

"The well-being of our children is critical to Houston's future," said Dr. Melanie Johnson, CEO of Collaborative for Children. "These funds will eliminate early childhood education barriers that affect underserved populations. On behalf of Collaborative for Children, I commend the extensive work done by members of the H.E.R. Task Force and our city leaders to protect one of our most precious

resources -- the hearts and minds of our little ones."

The collaborative will use the \$3 million relief fund to administer childcare rental assistance stipends to its current Center of Excellence programs and additional programs identified in targeted vulnerable communities. Up to 100 local childcare centers are expected to receive assistance. "The mayor's H.E.R. Task Force has been focused on providing equitable relief and recovery to our most vulnerable Houstonians affected by COVID-19," said Marissa Aho, chief resilience officer and a leader of the mayor's H.E.R. Task Force. "Through this funding, we are able to support child care facilities' ability to continue to provide children with quality daycare so their caregivers, many of whom are essential workers, can continue to do their work with peace of mind that their

children are in a safe environment."

To qualify, a child care center must be located in identified vulnerable communities, in a child care desert, or in low-income/underserved communities. They must serve children from birth to 5 years, be directly impacted by COVID-19 causing enrollment declines or closure and be a Workforce Solutions Vendor, which means they serve families that receive childcare subsidies. If a childcare program qualifies, it will be eligible to receive reimbursement for past rental payments dating from May 2020, monthly stipends to cover the remaining rental expenses through Dec. 30, 2020, and access to business administration training modules.

The relief fund is part of the \$400 million in federal CARES Act funding provided to the City of Houston.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

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

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

Book drop

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

Additional resources

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

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

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

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

Parker Williams Library

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

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. 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 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

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

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

Parker Williams schedule of events this week: Events are virtual

All month in November. Virtual Photo Club. Join the photo club with this month's photo challenge "Appreciation," showing what is appreciated in November. Participants are encouraged to post online with the tag #HCLPhotoclub for a chance to be featured on the social media accounts: Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for details.

Thursday, Nov. 12, 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.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.

Friday Nov. 13, 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, Nov. 13, 5 p.m. Is it wrong to watch so much anime? Join Jason Cruz for Episode 6: "Light Novel Adaptations." This video will be on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #anime #animetfan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 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.

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 4:45 p.m. Yoga Story Time, ages 4 - 12. A peaceful time for children to learn mindfulness through story, song, breathing and light movement virtually on Microsoft Teams with Celeste Plew. Parents in attendance are encouraged to participate. All children and families are welcome to join virtually. Sign up once with a valid email address at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for a weekly invitation.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for details.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m., Virtual teen advisory board. Looking for a way to volunteer? Need to get some hours for National Honor Society? Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) on Wednesday. For an invitation to the Microsoft Teams meeting, email john.harbaugh@hcpl.net. #volunteer #volunteering #community #harriscountyp1 #HCPL

Call the library at 832-927-7870 for additional information.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

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E-mail: mynews@southbeltleader.com

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Publisher's Opinion

Heed what Dave Martin has to say

Below this editorial is a letter from Dave Martin, city councilman and Mayor Pro Tem. He is not only a really smart guy, but one of the good guys.

In his letter he strongly urges for area residents to submit letters of support for the Coastal Texas Study.

This may not seem urgent today, but there is no doubt in my mind that one day soon it will be urgent. When a category 4 or 5 hurricane is headed for Houston we will wish we had the wall up to protect us.

Please read Dave's message and heed

what he says and send off your letter of support.

On another topic regarding the Kirkwren shooting, hats off to the Pct. 2 Constable officers who arrived on the scene Monday night. Robert Sanchez, in spite of having the day off, came in to assist. Andre Mitchell was on a second job, but left that job to assist at the incident.

We have some good guys working for Pct. 2 and want them to know we appreciate them.

Marie Flickinger
Publisher

Elected officials share their words

Councilman Martin sends message

Dear Residents of District E,

The City of Houston has been working diligently with its civic, business, state and federal partners to formulate effective storm surge solutions ever since Hurricane Ike roared onshore in September 2008. This most recent close call, with Hurricane Laura, has renewed the sense of urgency with our federal partners. What I believe is most important here is that we identify a single path forward and focus all our energy and resources into ramping that project up and moving it forward. Texas ranked third by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for most vulnerable to Hurricanes by property value. Texas is one of the most residential, commercial, and industrial infrastructures vulnerable to coastal storm damage. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) just released the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study Draft Report (Coastal Texas Study) on Oct. 30 which is open for public comment through Dec. 14.

ACE will hold six, virtual, public meetings for comments and will require registration to participate. The first of the virtual public meetings will be held on Monday, November 16, 2020 from 11am to 1pm. Interested participants that cannot make the meetings, can submit comments by emailing coastaltexas@usace.army.mil. All comments must be postmarked by Dec. 14.

Written comments can be mailed to: USACE, Galveston District Attention: Mr. Jeff Pinsky, Environmental Compliance Branch Regional Planning and Environmental Center Post Office Box 1229 Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

It is my hope all our local representatives will submit letters of support during this comment period to the Army Corps of Engineers. Once they have provided their support for the Coastal Texas Study,

local officials should work with their federal counter parts to ensure the study is approved and subsequent projects authorized once it reaches Congress, expected in early 2021.

At the State level, we have an excellent state sponsor for the plan in the General Land Office (GLO). The GLO serves as the local advocate for coastal communities and the state-level partner with the USACE. In January, the Texas State Legislature will be continuing its work towards getting a workable plan approved for our protection.

At the Federal level, we now have a comprehensive surge protection plan that is moving through the USACE approval process. This plan provides an estimated \$2 of benefits for every \$1 spent -- making our proposed barrier system competitive as a national priority for Congressional approval and funding.

Specifically, the Legislature will be looking at advancing different funding strategies for our barrier system, including using Resilience Bonds to capture value through avoided losses. You can always expect frustration whenever you work on these large infrastructure projects like this, as they take many years to design, develop, and construct. In reality, we are closer now than ever to having a workable solution for our region. The prize is at hand, and we mustn't allow ourselves to get distracted!

It is so important for our local business and civic leaders to stay focused, vigilant, and engaged in the process to inform themselves on the opportunities we have in front of us. In turn, they can help educate their employees and organizations - and all Houstonians - on the ways we can protect our communities to make the great City of Houston an even more desirable place to live and work long into the future.

Sincerely,
Dave Martin

CCISD names superintendent candidate

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of developing the whole child and a deep belief in developing student agency and empowering all students to make meaningful contributions.

"When we nurture students' capacity for courage, collaboration, innovation and self-direction, we empower students to make meaningful contributions through careers, community service and civic engagement," said Williams. "This approach brings joy in teaching and learning."

Under his leadership, Loudoun County Public Schools opened three world-class academies in the areas of advanced technology and STEM, three computer science immersion schools in elementary education and new facilities to support exponential enrollment growth. He believes public education is key to workforce development. Williams was one of the inaugural superintendents of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools.

Loudoun County Public Schools is recognized by the Virginia Department of Edu-

cation as a District of Innovation and was named the 2018 Project-based Learning Champion District by PBLWorks. The state accreditation ratings, standardized test scores, and graduation rates also reflect the excellence of the district. Loudoun County Public Schools is praised for its effective management of rapid growth, growing by 9,000 students and 11 campuses during Williams' six-and-a-half-year tenure. The school district also consistently earns recognition for transparent, efficient budgeting and financial operations.

Academic, operational and fiscal accolades aside, the CCISD Board of Trustees were impressed with his spirit of collaboration, enthusiasm for the work ahead and a deep and visible commitment to children, relationships and community. DuPont says the transition to Texas will be seamless.

"Dr. Williams is passionate about guiding teams on a quest for excellence," said DuPont. "He establishes a culture of high expectations in every-

one around him, while also encouraging collaboration to solve hard problems. He is a listener who wants to be connected to everyone. He stands up and takes responsibility for addressing difficult issues, using a systematic approach that is grounded in listening, thinking, transparency and stakeholder engagement."

In 2019, Williams initiated an equity audit in Loudoun County Public Schools that revealed program enrollment inequities among student groups, a long history of policies and practices that inadvertently led to opportunity gaps, and a community in need of healing. Instead of filing the report on a shelf, Williams' strategic approach to problem-solving has led to positive change and a culturally responsive community.

"By working to eliminate opportunity gaps and by providing safe, empathetic, respectful learning environments, we promote equitable outcomes for every student," said Williams.

Williams' educational background includes a bachelor's degree in education from the College of William and Mary, a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Boston University. He is married with two grown children.

In compliance with Texas law, the CCISD Board must wait a minimum of 21 days from making the sole finalist announcement to making the appointment official. An official start date has not been determined. To learn more about Williams and the national superintendent search, visit www.ccisd.net/superintendent search.

Kirkwren killing . . .

Continued from Page 1

deputies they had just returned home from the store and were about to enter the house when the shooting occurred.

Harris, 28, was transported by Southeast Volunteer Fire Department paramedics to the hospital, where he died around 10:15 p.m.

Deputies allegedly located a large amount of marijuana and cash inside the residence.

A neighbor who was at the scene told the *Leader* it appeared as though Harris had

been shot three times, including once in the head. He further said a gun was found next to Harris that appeared to belong to him.

Investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide and Crime Scene units also responded to the scene and are conducting the investigation. If anyone has any information regarding the murder, they are asked to call the HCSO Homicide Unit at 713-274-9100 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

SJC gives options

Continued from Page 1

said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College chancellor. "Our students and employees have done a tremendous job in keeping our campuses safe during this pandemic. As we expand our face-to-face offerings for the spring, we know that our strong safety protocols will be more important than ever."

"I thank our entire college community for their cooperation over these past seven months. The continued cooperation of everyone will allow us to move forward with providing the learning and support systems that our students desire and need."

Registration for the spring semester is now open.

The spring term begins Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021.

All students and employees who come to campus are

required to complete a health screening questionnaire every day, wear a face covering and follow social distancing protocols. San Jacinto College will also continue to follow and adhere to guidelines from local and state health authorities as well as the Centers for Disease Control.

Student services are available to all students, both in person and online, regardless of which course modality a student selects. Services include online tutoring and advising, on-campus document drop-off, and virtual appointments for things such as admissions, career services, dual credit, financial aid, testing, veterans services and more.

For additional information about San Jacinto College's plans for the spring 2021 term, visit the San Jacinto College website at sanjac.edu/my-way.

Death

Lois Lorraine (Williams) Mills



On Oct. 31, 2020, the family of Lois Lorraine (Williams) Mills said goodbye to the one whom they considered a precious gem.

Lois was born into the parentage of Green and Clara Viola Williams July 16, 1947, in Huntsville, Texas, and spent her early years and was educated in the Coldspring Independent School District. Later, her eldest sister, Exie Lee, relocated her to Houston where she attended Kashmere Gardens High School, Texas Southern University and Prairie View University.

Early in life, Lois met Lonnie D. Mills who became her husband. Together they became proud parents of sons Keldron Bahrik Mills and Terrence Demond Mills.

Lois was reared in the

Church of God In Christ (C.O.G.I.C.). As a child she became a member of Park-hill Church of God In Christ under the leadership of Rev. E.J. Walter. As an adult she served under the leadership of Bishop R.E. Woodard Sr. and Bishop R. E. Woodard Jr. It was under this leadership she found her calling, serving as an usher. This position gave her joy, purpose and satisfaction; she served with honor. She was also an active member of the Ever Ready Circle. During her later years, Lois and her husband decided to move their membership closer to home and they joined the Sagemont Church congregation under the leadership of Dr. John Morgan and Dr. Matt Carter where she served as a greeter.

She was a prayer warrior and a strong soldier for the Lord. She would regularly give the Word for the Day in the form of scripture to her Facebook Family. Lois retired from AT&T in 2001 and settled into life at home with her family. She volunteered as a tutor to elementary school students, and when her grandchildren were born in 2006, she took great pleasure in spending time with them.

Her first love was Jesus Christ, after which came her husband, two sons and grandchildren. She always had a strong bond with her siblings, nieces and nephews, a bond that was unconditional no matter the circumstance.

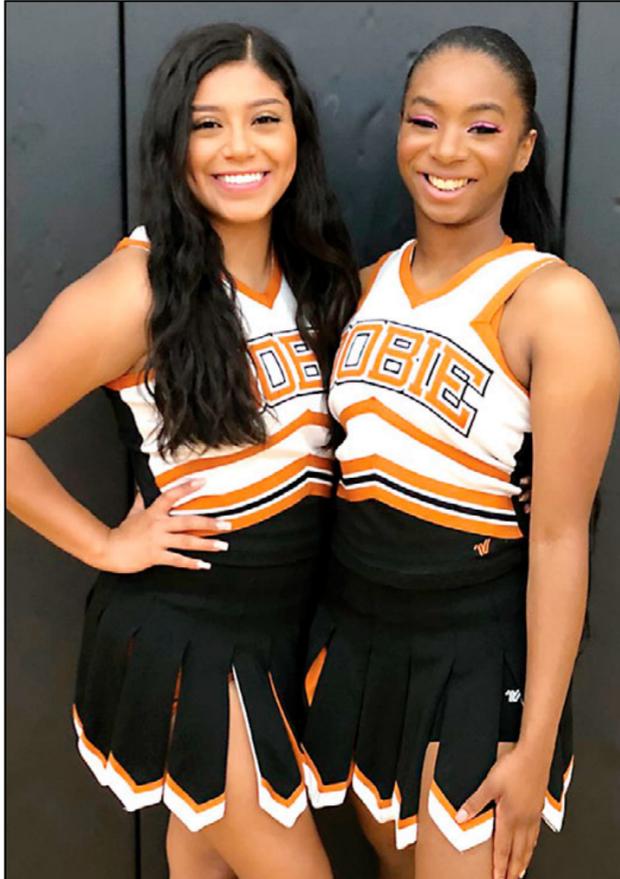
Her presence will be missed by her husband of 51 years; sons Keldron Bahrik Mills and wife Jaycee and Terrence Demond Mills and wife Sonya; grandchildren Devin Mills, Kyle Mills, Morgan Mills, Celeste Luebano, Blas IV Garza; great-grandchild Amaya Garza; and mother-in-law Geneva Franklin.

Left to cherish a lifetime of memories are siblings, her brother Radford Williams and wife Rafaela of Sacramento Calif.; sister Alice A. Walton of Sacramento, Calif.; and her sister Doris D. Clark and her husband Henry of Houston. Preceding her in death were her mother and father; brothers Lewis James Williams and Curtis Hiawatha Williams; and sister Exie Lee Williams.

Lois grew up with a host of nieces and nephews who truly shared laughter and tears and who will all miss her smiling face. She leaves behind many relatives and dedicated friends who will miss her sweet presence and uncompromised disposition.

The funeral service was held Friday, Nov. 6, at 11 a.m. at Peevey Funeral Home with visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment followed at Paradise South Cemetery.

JFD names weekly cheerleaders



Dobie High School has named its Cheerleaders of the Week. Shown are seniors Valerie Gonzalez (left) and Kimora Edwards. The parents of Gonzalez are Robert and Gracie Gonzalez and Edward's mother is Kimberly Johnson.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *Neighbors* app posted a video of a FedEx driver delivering a package to a house and a woman that was walking around the neighborhood acting as if she lived at the home and that it was her package. The member stated that the neighbor was home so she was able to get the package before the woman took off with it. The incident happened on Friday, Nov. 6, near Sabo Road and Rambling Trail.

Another member of the same app posted that her son's truck was stolen from their

home on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 1:50 a.m., on Hughes Road and Sagehill Drive. The member states that their video surveillance shows a newer model Ford truck, dark color. The truck stolen is described as a 2002 white Chevy super cab with some rust on the roof.

Another member of the same app posted that their were several police officers at a home on Sagebluff Drive and Kirkville Drive, on Monday, Nov. 9. Other members commented and it was reported that there was a drive-by shooting and one male was shot and later died at the hospital.

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook group shared a post that a truck was stolen on Wednesday, Nov. 4, from Beck & Masten GMC South. The member stated that his truck had been at the dealership for two weeks for repairs and received a call from the dealership that they could not find the truck. The member was also told that because of the cameras being updated, there was no footage of the truck being taken. The missing truck is a white Chevy Silverado.

Church Directory

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Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukesatholic.com

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(Modified during COVID-19)

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Sunday	10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español

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Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.
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Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.	

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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

Colorguards of the Week: Nov. 1



The Dobie Colorguard honorees for the week of Nov. 1 were Chris Cantu (left) and Cassidy Idele. They were chosen for their hard work and dedication.

The Gardens hosts Christmas art, craft event

Continued from Page 1 toy drive.
The South Belt toy drive has been sponsored by the South Belt-Ellington Leader since 1984.
Through the program, families from the South Belt area who need help during the holiday season are given toys and food.
A limited number of spaces are still available. Booth space for both days starts at \$50. Call today to reserve a spot.
Visit the The Gardens Houston FaceBook page, or call or text Carmen Garza at 713-402-9887 or Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545 for information.
Booths will be arranged throughout the venue to allow for social distancing. Masks are required to be worn. No strollers will be allowed.

Burnett Elementary celebrates Red Ribbon Week



Joining in Red Ribbon Week festivities are Jae Lee (left), Burnett principal, and Daren Dibble, Burnett coach, both posing in their pajamas for the day.



Members of Keri Grayson's third-grade class who enjoyed Red Ribbon Week are, left to right, Desirae Gonzales, Natalie Delacruz, Malaika Farr, Gabby Salazar, Miracle Nwosu, Grayson, Marco Botello, Abedal Abedrabbo and Emily Garrison.

Dobie names 2020 Colorguard officers



Dobie High School has named its 2020 Colorguard officers. The following officers are shown, left to right, (front row) Kendra Hopkins, Luci Davis, Elezabeth Torres, (back row) Destiny Wilson, Sarah Oba, Trinity Tucker, Kassie Keller, Chris Cantu and Remi Jackson.



Burnett Elementary student England Turner stopped to pose for a photo with colorful wacky hair in Lisa Orr's third-grade class.



In Amber Rost's pre-K class, aide Sonia Fonseca (far back, center) is seen with students who lined up for some Red Ribbon Week festivities. Posing, left to right, are (front row) Eddie Guerra, (back row) Mateo Martinez, Jade Miller, Abigail Quintero, Damien Herrera, Alton Caldwell, Christopher Hodder and Anthony Aguilar-Brooks.



Showing off their wacky hair are Nayeli Delacruz (left) and Brooklyn Bailey.



Haley Emery and her third-grade class members hide smiles behind their masks during the festive week. Shown are (front row) Michael Rentas, Zandaley Serrano, Craig Robertson, Zarra Kamal, Emily Gonzales, (back row) Chloe Escobar, Jaeliana Espinoza, Ariana Infante, Emery, Cheyenne Kelley and Brooklyn Alegria.

Part of our Veterans Week Celebration American Legion Post 490 is hosting a **CRAFT FAIR** Sat., Nov. 7 & Sat., Nov 14, Noon - 5 p.m. each day For more details on activities, go to <http://legion490.com>. American Legion Post 490, Inc. 11702 Galveston Road Houston, TX 77034 (across from Ellington Field)

Nov. 14 recycling set

Continued from Page 1 The recycling center will be on the left-hand side. To learn more about free recycling services as well as local recycling centers available to Houston residents, visit the Solid Waste Management Department's website at www.houston.tx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html.
take I-45 south toward Galveston and turn left onto FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road. Then proceed to Highway 3/Old Galveston Road and turn right; drive two blocks and turn left onto Brantly; go past a dock with signs to the right and turn left onto Loop Road/Broussard.

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Aubrey, good student, plays football



In addition to being a good student Aubrey McAfee (left) loves to draw, read and ride her bike. She found a new enjoyment playing football this year for the Thompson Lions. Aubrey has a twin sister that loves to irritate her but they are the best of friends. She is shown here with her mother Christi Reynolds. The Leader mistakenly referred to Aubrey as a male in last week's issue.

Colorguards of the Week: Oct. 25



Dobie Colorguard honorees for the week of Oct. 25 were Jaedyn Jones (left) and Penny Hernandez. The girls were chosen for their hard work and dedication.

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Meador celebrates Red Ribbon Week with different themes



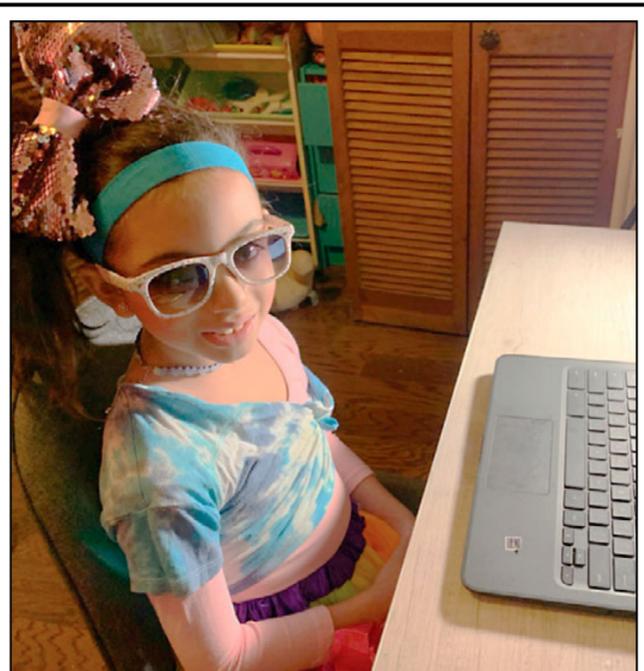
There are no bones about who is representing the Meador Elementary administration/office staff with the clear message to "Scare Away Drugs." Shown, left to right, are Katia Garcia, clerical aide; Nora Gonzalez, attendance clerk; Tara Merida, counselor; Beverly Bolton, principal; Amy Clowers, assistant principal; Johanna James, secretary; Myriam Garcia, receptionist; and Celeste Skipper, nurse.



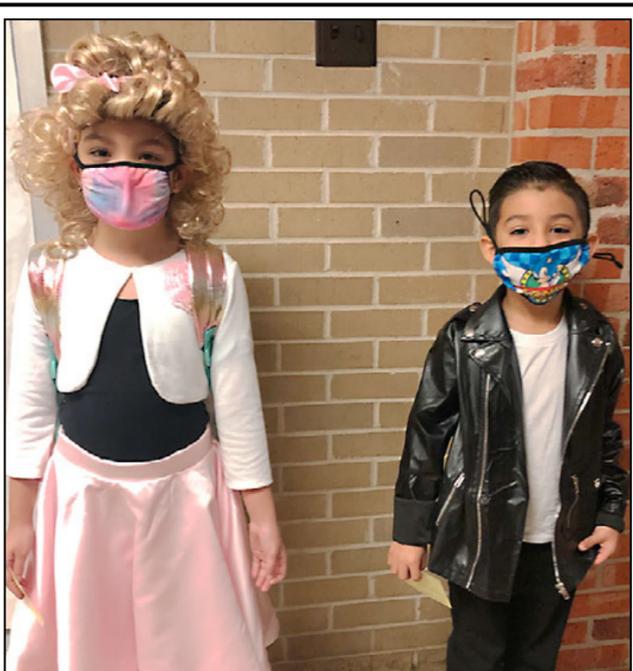
Not sleeping in their pajamas but choosing the theme to "Wake Up Drug Free" are fourth-grader Phoebe Schlueter (left) and third-grader Chandler Schlueter who bring a festive look in their bright pink attire.



Donning attire in their 1980s look and bringing the message "Drugs are Old, (but this is a) New Decade/Day" are paraprofessionals, left to right, Rubi Rocha, Lana-lisa Sinclair and Natalie Aviles.



Participating in the theme "Decade's Day at Home" is virtual student Arlthel Garcia, second-grader, who is enjoying a quiet time of study in front of her computer.



Featuring a 1950s theme of "Drugs are Old, (but this is a) New Decade/Day" are second-grader Aleishmarie Aponte Muniz (left) and kindergartener Yadrydrel Limon.



The Halloween Costume Parade was a hit with socially-distant kindergarteners Layla Almahina (left) and Christine Jimenez who chose the theme "Scare Away Drugs."

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)
Following the theft of his 5-by-8 foot American flag Saturday, Kirkmont's Odie Asscherick became determined no one would steal his new flag which he secured to a 24-foot pole with a lock and mounted a spotlight to shine on it all night. Asscherick said his original flag, which he purchased from Sears for \$35, was probably stolen the prior Saturday morning from his residence on Saget Trail.

35 years ago (1985)
The Dobie High School football team finished the regular season undefeated in 10 starts and won its first 5A playoff game in six tries, 9-7 over La Marque. Dobie would face the Aldine Mustangs in area playoff action among Region III participants in the Astro dome the next weekend. The team's latest win over the Cougars marked the school's 100th varsity football win in its 17-year history.

Work was set to begin on the upgrading, widening and lengthening of the Gulf Freeway's Fuqua and Scarsdale overpasses during the next year.

The postal contract station at Holiday Foods opened its window for business. The station offered all postal services except the mailing of international packages.

The Sagemont Cowgirls earned the top ranking at a Bay Area Football League drill team competition in League City after competing against nine other teams.

Katinka See, 5-year-old daughter of Richard and Norma See and dance student of Sonja Isham, was selected to appear in Houston Grand Opera's production of "Faust" at Jones Hall. She was one of eight children chosen to appear as supernumeraries.

30 years ago (1990)
The Texas Air National Guard started a donation collection project for all-around supplies to send to military personnel in the Middle East.

While crossing the street in the 13000 block of Beamer, a 46-year-old woman was struck by a car traveling south on Beamer. The woman was transported to Memorial Southeast Hospital by Houston Fire Department Ambulance 70.

Selena Thomas was crowned South Houston High School's homecoming queen, and Drishna Ougrah was king.

The Clear Brook Wolverine varsity football team defeated El Campo to earn a place in the playoffs in the Astro dome.

20 years ago (2000)
A storm hit the South Belt area and destroyed Central Ace Hardware's outside greenhouse.

Cynthia Pacely, 43, Daphney Babin, 24, Evelyn Terrell, 43, Joseph Ruffin, 39, Jamie Lusk, 26, and Antoinette Washington, 25, were indicted by a federal grand jury for stealing, forging and cashing checks stolen from mailboxes throughout the greater Houston area. More than \$60,000 in South Belt checks were involved.

Dobie made its fourth consecutive appearance in the 5A state football playoffs opposing Nimitz.

Dr. B.J. Garner was honored and promoted to lieutenant colonel in the 147th Medical Squadron of the Texas Air National Guard, Ellington Field.

15 years ago (2005)
Houston Police Chief Harold Hurtt was the guest speaker

at the South Belt monthly Positive Interaction Program meeting. Among his comments, Hurtt said the influx of approximately 200,000 victims of Hurricane Katrina from Louisiana had severely depleted the normal ratio of 2.3 officers per one thousand residents.

High grass was mowed along the Beamer ditch after Council Member Addie Wiseman was told of the traffic hazard it caused.

10 years ago (2010)
Jeffery Holmes was involved in a motorcycle accident at the 9400 block of Alameda Genoa. According to police, Holmes, 50, lost control of his motorcycle, struck a curb and a mailbox and rolled several times. Holmes was transported to Ben Taub General Hospital, where he died.

After organizing the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off for nine years, the mother-daughter team of Linda and Shelley Arnone officially stepped down. The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department stepped up to be responsible for organizing the yearly event which was the sole fundraiser for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display at El Franco Lee Park.

Dean Jerome Wood, 50, the man charged with the sexual assault that left 92-year-old South Belt resident Flora Ryan dead at her apartment in the 1300 block of Redford, had his charges upgraded to murder.

5 years ago (2015)
A mother was accused of stabbing her 2-month-old son to death early Nov. 17 at her apartment in the 10100 block of Windmill Lakes Boulevard near Stover. Rochelle Brown, 28, was charged with capital murder in the death of her infant son Levi Thornton-Smith. According to police, officers responded to a call on the third story of the Longboat Key Apartments around 2:30 a.m. to find the infant stabbed several times in the torso, Brown's two other children, ages 5 and 8, and Brown's adult sister were also in the apartment at the time of the stabbing. The family had recently moved to the area from Nebraska after Brown separated with the father of the baby boy. Brown's sister told investigators she was awakened in the middle of the night by Brown, who was acting erratically. Brown's sister said she was assaulted by Brown after telling her to go back to bed. Paramedics took Brown to Ben Taub Hospital for a mental and physical evaluation. After her release from the hospital, Brown was charged with capital murder.

Her other two children were placed with an aunt under the supervision of Child Protective Services.

The Houston Airport System (HAS) and NASA have entered into an agreement that will allow the new commercial spacecraft developing at Ellington Airport to tap into the federal space agency's assets and expertise, expanding the possibilities for the growing commercial spaceflight industry. Under the agreement, HAS and NASA will collaborate, providing access to a number of the unique capabilities at the Johnson Space Center, including things like safety-specific training, facilities and technology capabilities to support suborbital operations and commercial spaceflight endeavors.

1 year ago (2019)
Atkinson Elementary celebrated its 50th anniversary with a presentation at the area campus. The school first opened its doors in 1969, named after a father-and-son team of former Pasadena ISD board members, Delbert Ellsworth "D.E." Atkinson and Delbert Leroy Atkinson, respectively. Hollis Powell served as the school's first principal, holding the position for 26 years until current principal Lena Rohne assumed the position in 1995. Atkinson was one of the first three Pasadena ISD schools to have a media center in its school library and one of the first four elementary campuses in the district to have a gym.

San Jacinto College was named one of the top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

ARMANDO CELEBRATED 12th BIRTHDAY
Happy birthday wishes are sent with love to **Armando Garcia** who turned 12 on Nov. 11 from his parents **Toni and Armando Garcia**, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Nov. 12 through Nov. 18, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary
Amber Newman celebrates a birthday Nov. 15. Sing a double chorus of a birthday song to **Elizabeth Cecil** and **Nancy Vazquez** Nov. 18.

Burnett Elementary
Blow out the candles Nov. 13 on a birthday cake for **Yagaira Alaniz**. Send a warm birthday greeting Nov. 14 to **Tammy Dayrit**. Enjoying a birthday Nov. 17 is **Nohemi Garcia**.

Bush Elementary
Sing a chorus of a birthday song Nov. 14 to **Emily Vega**.

Frazier Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles for **Maria Jarazo-Gonzalez** Nov. 14. The day for a fun birthday celebration for **Gustavo Gomez** is Nov. 17.

Meador Elementary
Give a birthday shoutout for **Ruth Osuna**

Nov. 17.
Moore Elementary
Cristina Poone enjoys a birthday Nov. 7. The day for a birthday shoutout to **Frances Tardi** is Nov. 12.

South Belt Elementary
On Nov. 15, remember to wish **Tanya Hensley** a happy birthday.

Stuchbery Elementary
Moriah Borden celebrates a happy birthday Nov. 12. The day for a birthday cake for **Demetrius Robinson** is Nov. 15. Sing a double chorus of a song to **Jennifer Street** and **Perla Montemayor** who enjoy a birthday Nov. 16. **Tonya Davis** has a special birthday Nov. 17. Enjoy some birthday cake and ice cream Nov. 18 with **Gloria Reza**.

Melillo Middle School
Nov. 16 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for **Cassie Padgett**. Join in the birthday celebration Nov. 18 with a double-layer cake for **Christian McCary** and **Carol Zann**.

Roberts Middle School
Nov. 15 is the day for a party for **Kimberly Lidrbauch**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Send a nice birthday greeting Nov. 16 to **Danielle Pitre**. On Nov. 18, light the birthday candles on a double-layer cake for **Brandy Knust** and **Melanie Mauldin**.

Dobie High
Norman McIntyre enjoys a birthday Nov. 15. Nov. 16 is the day for a special cake for **Irvin Theodile**. Join in the birthday fun Nov. 18 with **Blaise Trahan**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Nov. 12: **Mark DeVries, Janie Clark** and **Robin Zacks Grosso**; Friday, Nov. 13: **Jane Tillery, Vicki Brinkley, Chris Herpin** and **Edgar Whorton**; Saturday, Nov. 14: **Gene Sockwell, Justin Sims, Kat Kiel, Valerie McCoy** and **Tracey Harnamji**; Sunday, Nov. 15: **Larry Soto** and **Silvia Serna**; Monday, Nov. 16: **Stephanie Hallmark** and **Bobby Taylor**; Tuesday, Nov. 17: **Cynthia McGowen, Donna LaRoche, Blake Robinson** and **Joe Jasso**; and Wednesday, Nov. 18: **Patrick Patterson** and **David Rendon**.

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, include "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

ASK sets karate classes

In light of recent multiple muggings and assaults in the South Belt area, free online classes of self-defense are being taught by the American Society of Karate for teens and adults (ages 13-80). These classes are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the comfort of one's own home.

No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. To preregister, visit <https://tinyurl.com/askdefense> and fill out a short form.

For additional information on martial arts classes, visit www.ASKKarate.com, email Online@ASKKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Dobie stays unbeaten at 6-0, seizes control in District 22-6A

Their oldest rival taken down in one of the program's most important games in a long time, the Dobie Longhorns will now turn their attention to Pasadena Memorial Mavericks Nov. 13 as the burnt orange continues pursuit of the District 22-6A title.

Once again, senior Johnathan Baldwin led the way for the Longhorns as he rushed for 180 yards and also threw a touchdown pass to Jeremiah Ballard as the locals defeated Deer Park 41-21 Nov. 6 at Abshier Stadium in Deer Park.

The win for Dobie ended a four-game losing streak to the Deer and, most importantly, lifted the Longhorns to 6-0 overall for the second straight season, including a 22-6A best of 3-0. The locals are now the lone unbeaten squad within the league.

Horns' Title Quest Continues
Dobie (6-0, 3-0) vs.
Pasadena Memorial (5-2, 2-1)
Fri., Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Veterans Stadium, Pasadena

Baldwin now has 710 yards rushing on just 52 carries. Ballard, who also had a 15-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Cameron Gray, now has seven scoring grabs for the season. He's produced 514 yards on 25 grabs this season.

Trevion Williams, Razzmon Williams, Gray and Jonathan Jean also rushed for touchdowns as the Longhorns have now outscored their six combined opponents by a 293-82 margin. Deer Park had previously beaten Memorial and Channelview in its

own quest for the 22-6A title, but the advantage has now shifted to the Longhorns. Dobie, which has now won 22 of 26 regular season games under head coach Kevin Bernathy, is 6-0 in consecutive seasons for the first time since the 1998-1999 campaigns.

The Longhorns might still have to wait until a post-Thanksgiving game against Channelview to claim the 22-6A crown, but a win over Memorial could certainly start the party. Deer Park hung close at times, but the Longhorns

extended a 20-14 halftime lead to 34-14 at one point before closing out things. "The goal every week is to continue to get better," Bernathy said. "I'm proud of the kids

to this point as they have executed the game plan as well as possible. I know Memorial will be a tough test for us. Coach Crocker will have them ready to play, and I really believe they are better than they were last year." It seems as though the onus is on the opposition finding a way to stop Dobie's offensive roll. No team has had an answer.

Lady Horns secure second place

A 25-22, 25-19, 25-18 victory over Pasadena Memorial has secured a second-place finish for the Dobie varsity volleyball team as the postseason nears.

The Lady Longhorns, 12-9 and 8-2 in District 22-6A action entering play

Nov. 10 after press time, handed the Mavericks a 25-22, 25-19, 25-18 loss and completed a season sweep along the way. After taking on Rayburn Nov. 10, Dobie will close its regular season Nov. 13 against South Houston and has tentatively set a Nov. 17 playoff tune-up against fourth-place Clear Lake of District 24-6A. Deer Park has gone unbeaten to this point in 22-6A play and will be the top postseason seed, followed by Dobie. The postseason is set to begin Nov. 19-21 across the state.

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Campa eyes possible return to state cross-country; JFD girls compete

There were literally no certainties entering the 2020 fall sports landscape, but there was always plenty of hope.

The Dobie High School cross-country program as a whole, therefore, just may capture best what it means to turn hope into a reality.

With its five qualifying runners grabbing second, third, fourth, sixth and seventh place overall, the Dobie varsity girls' cross-country team captured what is believed to be the first team championship at the district level in decades.

Meanwhile, senior Alberto Campa, who has already achieved as much of more than any other male Dobie runner in years, took the overall medalist crown at the 22-6A championships on the boys' side of things.



Senior Alberto Campa of Dobie continued his bid for a second consecutive state cross-country appearance as he battled the rest of the Region III field after press time Nov. 11.

Campa and teammate Jhancarlos Carpio were there to represent the JFD boys, with the girls there en masse as a team.

It's truly a tale for the ages. With good reason, there was plenty of optimism surrounding Campa

and his bid to return to state for a second straight season. That bid is still alive after his 22-6A win of 15 minutes, 41 seconds in the 5,000-meter event in Deer Park as he was simply dominant.

Yet there had to be less certainty surrounding the Lady Longhorns. Fourth-year standout Amari Singleton and junior Isabella Padilla were the big names entering the regular season, with Padilla then missing meets due to an injury.

There was less known about seniors Jocelyn Olivarez and Grace Castaneda, yet those two stepped up again and again in the team's six regular-season meets, delivering that hope for a big finish at district.

Then there was freshman Kyla Lobo, a face for the future but someone who showed enough promise to deliver big at the 22-6As.

They all did their part, as Castaneda continued a senior season that will give her years of memories, taking second place overall behind top overall medalist Norma Gutierrez of Memorial.

Olivarez, a relatively unknown commodity entering this season, grabbed

third overall, with Singleton fourth. Padilla and Lobo were sixth and seventh overall as the Lady Longhorns scored a low of 22 points, well ahead of Memorial's 42 points.

Prior to regionals, Dobie coach Mo Hickman acknowledged her team would be stepping into uncharted territory at that level, yet was excited to see the results.

"We know everybody is going to have to run a PR (personal record) to have a chance to advance at state, but that's the great thing about opportunity, that it's an opportunity. Anything can happen," Hickman said.

The same could be true for Campa and Carpio, who also recovered from injury for a sixth-place finish to advance out of district.

While Campa now has experience plus regional course knowledge on his side, the playing field promised to be much larger in Huntsville.

In 2019, Campa was 14th at the same regional

meet to get to state, and his opportunities are still endless as the postseason extends.

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Dobie welcomes annual Cowboys/Dolphins rivalry

The Sagemont Cowboys and Southbelt Dolphins will renew their years-long rivalry Saturday, Nov. 14 at Dobie High School as the eight-week Bay Area Football League season comes to a close.

The most anticipated game of the series is likely in the sophomore division, with the Cowboys currently second at 6-1 overall and the Dolphins tied for fourth place at 5-2.

The Cowboys are also second in the senior division with a record of 6-1 entering the final week

of action. The postseason within the Bay Area Football League will commence Saturday, Dec. 5.

Sagemont Cowboys host Southbelt Dolphins
 Saturday, Nov. 14
 Dobie High School - Pee Wee: 8 a.m.; Srs: 9 a.m.; Jrs: 11 a.m.; Sophs: 1 p.m.; Fr: 3 p.m.

Brook, Dobie girls' hoops win; boys' season begins

The 2020-2021 basketball season got off to a solid start for the Clear Brook and Dobie programs as

both scored wins in their respective openers.

Dobie 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.

The boys' season gets going Nov. 13-14 as first-year Dobie head coach Franklin Paul leads his varsity group against La Porte, Dickinson and Atascocita over a five-day stretch beginning Nov.

13, with all three games at home.

The Clear Brook boys, looking to challenge defending Region III champion Dickinson in District 24-6A after a 26-win season of its own in 2019-2020, host Strake Jesuit Nov. 14 to get things going.

Key returnees for the Wolverines include Kemo Millender, Marcus Millender and Zyon Little.

Upcoming Hoops Games

Friday, Nov. 13
 Dobie boys host La Porte, 6 p.m.
 Dobie girls at North Shore, 7 p.m.
 Brook girls at Pearland, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 14
 Dobie girls at Cy-Creek, 4 p.m.
 Dobie boys host Dickinson, 4:30 p.m.
 Brook boys host Strake Jesuit, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 17
 Dobie boys host Atascocita, 7 p.m.
 Brook girls at Pearland, 7 p.m.
 Dobie girls at Clear Falls, 7 p.m.
 Brook boys at Friendswood, 7:30 p.m.

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Team tennis season in the books, Dobie netters cherish opportunities

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 Dobie 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."

Based on how many Moreno-led Dobie team tennis seasons have played out previously, the 2020 group had about five weeks shaved off its season, with the regular season not getting underway until Sept. 10.

"For us, it was really the loss of all of that practice and live match playing time that was crucial to us, but the kids literally made an improvement from the first day to the second and so forth, and we got up to speed as quickly as we could."

Just eight days into the

season, the Longhorns played Clear Springs to a 10-9 finish, and while the locals wound up on the losing end, it marked what could be possible. Springs went on to defeat eventual District 24-6A champion Clear Lake.

"We played a tough schedule and went 9-9 overall, and really we had some chances to win other nondistrict matches," Moreno said.

"We lost to Deer Park but then swept the rest of district play for second place.

"While I felt confident that we were the second-best team, you still

have to go out there and do it."

Late in the season, Dobie was forced to play without Megan Rodriguez, a key player on the girls' side of things who was injured.

Other players had to step up and perhaps play up a spot here and there. They did just that. In the bidistrict playoff round Oct. 27 at Dobie, a true team effort resulted in an 11-4 victory over Summer Creek.

The season ended with a 19-0 loss to Region III No. 9 Dawson, but there was no shame in that.

"You're always happy for the seniors, and what

a great group we had this season," Moreno said.

"All of the kids represented themselves, their school and their community extremely well, and you are always happy for that. We will look back and be happy about 2020."

2020 Dobie Team Tennis All-Academic 22-6A Picks

- Erica Hay, senior
- Annette Tran, junior
- Jennifer Ho, senior
- William Ho, sophomore
- Megan Rodriguez, junior
- Charles Sanchez, sophomore
- Julia Bui, senior
- Dominic Ortiz, sophomore
- Ashley Huynh, sophomore
- Lucas Nguyen, senior
- Tiffany Tran, sophomore
- Albert Nguyen, junior
- Natalie Vo, sophomore
- Andrew Huynh, junior
- Diana Dang, sophomore
- Ryan Le, freshman



At left, Dobie girls' singles No. 1 player Julia Bui saved her best for the postseason, coming up with a decisive win over Ellie Boll by a 6-2, 6-1 count.
Photos by Maria Mata Pasadena ISD

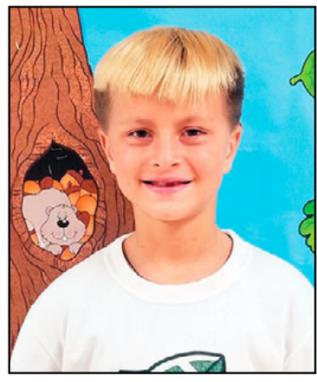


Lady Longhorns Jennifer Ho (left) and Tiffany Tran are congratulated by head coach Manuel Moreno Jr., after they cruised to a straight-set win over Summer Creek in the bidistrict playoffs, dropping just three games along the way.



The Dobie boys' doubles No. 1 squad of Quan Dinh (left) and Hayden Lazo celebrated a big 6-0, 6-2 win in their match against Summer Creek as the Longhorns were well on their way to an 11-4 decision in the bidistrict playoffs.

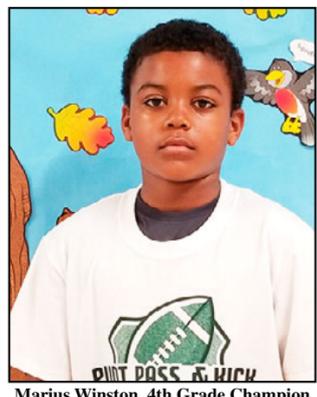
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South Belt football predictions

	Troy Leland	John Bechtle	Eli Tanksley	Toni Muse	Emory Gadd	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie vs. Memorial	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Clear Falls vs. Clear Creek	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Clear Falls
Clear Springs hosts Dickinson	Clear Springs	Dickinson	Dickinson	Clear Springs	Dickinson	Dickinson
Clear Lake hosts Brazoswood	Clear Lake	Clear Lake	Clear Lake	Brazoswood	Clear Lake	Brazoswood
Shadow Creek hosts Pearland	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Pearland	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek
Friendswood at Goose Creek Memorial	Friendswood	Friendswood	GCM	GCM	Friendswood	GCM
Texas City hosts Crosby	Crosby	Crosby	Crosby	Crosby	Crosby	Texas City
George Ranch at Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point	Ridge Point
Westfield at Dekaney	Westfield	Westfield	Westfield	Dekaney	Westfield	Westfield
The Woodlands at Grand Oaks	Grand Oaks	Grand Oaks	Grand Oaks	Grand Oaks	Woodlands	Woodlands
Last week's record	9-1	6-4	6-4	7-3	7-3	7-3
Season record	47-17	50-14	43-21	43-21	46-18	43-21

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; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonanon.org/meetings.html.

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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/>.

7:30 a.m.

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

9:30 a.m.

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.

11:30 a.m.

ABWA - Southeast Express Network – American Business Women's Association-South American Business Women's Association- Meetings are held January - November on the second Thursday of the month at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland, TX 77584, Pearland. 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.

Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group,

noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.

7 p.m.

Pearland Area Republican's Club – meets monthly at the Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. Contact: pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.

7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7 a.m.

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

Noon

AA – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.

6:30 p.m.

Bay Area Genealogical Society – Meets monthly, the last Friday, either online in a virtual webinar format or at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing prior to 7 p.m. in-person meeting. Virtual attendees must register. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

7 p.m.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom –The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services are online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with access code 471-821-285. Services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122.

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

8 p.m.

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 that are available to them. For additional 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, NOVEMBER 14

7:30 a.m.

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

9:30 a.m.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom – See Friday's 7 p.m. notice.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

5:30 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery – A faith-based 12-Step program, at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for more information.

8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous – See Sunday's notice.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10 a.m.

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

Noon

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

6 p.m.

New Directions Singles – Age 55 and older meets the first and third Mondays for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For additional information, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Toastmasters – The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual at <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the toast-

masters' 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.

7 p.m.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group – gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For additional information, email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit www.crisishotline.org or call 832-416-1177.

Narcotics Anonymous – Vigilance Group. See Friday's entry.

7 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7 a.m.

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

Noon

AA – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.

7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous – Vigilance Group. See Friday's entry.

Positive Interaction Program – meets the third Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, first floor staff meeting room. PIP is police and citizens working together making neighborhoods safer. Bring a friend. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7 a.m.

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

Noon

AA – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.

7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous – Vigilance Group. See Friday's entry.

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

8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous – See Friday's notice.

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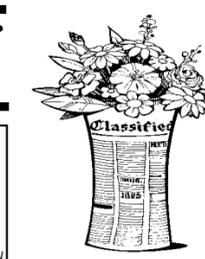
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St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church celebrates veterans



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church celebrated Veterans Day with a flag ceremony Saturday, Nov. 7, to honor all veterans who have served in time of war or peace. Shown are the St. Luke veterans in attendance, left to right, (kneeling) Ivan Capetillo, Jim Towey, Paul Foreman, (standing), Pablo Castellano, Emilio De Los Santos, John Tornabene, Jesse Longoria, Gilbert De Leon, Ruben Herrera, Jimmy De Los Santos, Dominic Cantalamessa, Arturo Mendoza, the Rev. Douglas Guthrie, Fran Sharpless, Ivan Ontiveros, Joe Dominguez, Matias Gonzalez, Jim Sharpless, Juan De Leon, Joe Tristan, Doug Orrell, James Muecke and Marlon Hulín. Not shown are Larrol Burleigh and Gilbert Ramos.
Photo by Marie Flickinger

Pasadena Memorial names homecoming king, queen



At Pasadena Memorial's homecoming game held Thursday, Nov. 5, Memorial defeated Channelview 38-46. At halftime, Abel Alfaro (left) and Briana Ibarra were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.
Photo by Krystal Olivias

County uses YMCA to help with child care

In response to the economic crisis facing the community, child care providers and families due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Harris County has awarded the YMCA of Greater Houston funding to support residents with child care and virtual learning services to help them get back to work in their communities.

This funding is a result of the Harris County Commissioners Court's unanimous vote to spend \$4.7 million from the CARES act to help families and child care centers, with \$2.9 million allocated to YMCA of Greater Houston.

The YMCA funding is solely dedicated to providing free tuition to After School and Virtual Learning Centers for Harris County residents, with priority focus on essential workers and families in need of child care assistance due to COVID-19 hardships.

If eligible, families will receive 100 percent free tuition at a YMCA After School or Virtual Learning Center program for

any school-age student between the ages of 5-12 in their household. Acceptance is based on eligibility and availability of slots. Harris County residents and families may apply for the program, as well as view eligibility requirements, at www.ymcahouston.org/child-care-assistance. Funding is available now until Dec. 31, 2020.

Since the start of the pandemic, the YMCA has been a faithful partner and helping hand in the community. While the doors to fitness activities were closed, the Y remained open and transitioned 19 centers to provide child care for more than 600 children. Additionally, YMCA staff distributed over 7.5 million pounds of critical food and resources, serving almost 750,000 individuals in need and cared for 18,000 seniors through wellness checks, comfort cards and food deliveries. The Y also devoted services to teens and immigrants.

"Standing up for people in need is at the core of our mission, and we're proud to continue the necessary work needed to help Houstonians get back on their feet," said Stephen Ives, president and CEO, YMCA of Greater Houston. "Families currently enrolled in our child care program through the funding have expressed their immense appreciation for the support they've received. Our program has been the saving grace for many and the only way families could return to work to earn a paycheck."

"The worst nightmare of any parent is not being able to protect and provide for their children," said an unidentified single mother and essential worker participating in the child care program. "COVID-19 has filled lives with unexpected change and unforeseen challenges. As an essential worker, we were unable to work remotely as we are here to serve the public. I was recently required to return to work and was faced with a hard decision: return to work to earn money or sacrifice quality child care for your child. The YMCA saved me. The Y's essential worker child care program allowed me to return to work with a peace of mind, knowing that my child was in good hands while keeping me from fear that the unexpected cost of additional child care would cause a shortfall in another area such as housing expenses."

Through the Harris County funding, the YMCA of Greater Houston has fostered a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club to provide

free child care support to families who seek services through the organization.

This partnership further expands the Y's ability to assist and reach more families during these trying times. For more information on the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston, visit www.bgclubs-houston.org/Our-Clubs.

Additionally, Fort Bend County awarded funds to the YMCA of Greater Houston to provide free tuition for After School or Virtual Learning Center child care support. Fort Bend County families may also apply now until Dec. 31, 2020, at www.ymcahouston.org/child-care-assistance. Families will be accepted into the program based on eligibility and the availability of funds.

The YMCA of Greater Houston will seek additional funding to continue offering financial assistance in 2021 to support as many families as possible into the new year.

For information regarding the YMCA's COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Program, visit www.ymcahouston.org/child-care-assistance or follow the organization on Facebook @YMCAHouston and Instagram @YMCAHouston.

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