

Holiday schedule set

Clear Brook City MUD will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020, and Friday, Nov. 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will reopen Monday, Nov. 30, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru window side of the building. NO CASH will be accepted in the drop box.

CBCMUD trash pickup
Residents living in Clear Brook City MUD who receive trash services on Thursday will NOT have trash pickup on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 26. Regular services will resume on Monday, Nov. 30.

Residents who receive trash services on Friday will have regular pickup on Nov. 27. All trash must be at curbside no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup.

Leader to close for holiday
The Leader office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 25, through Friday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holidays. The Thursday, Nov. 26, edition of the Leader will be available Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Area COVID deaths increase

At press time Wednesday, Nov. 18, a total of 74 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials. That number is up four from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials. Of the 2,348 confirmed cases in 77089, 207 remain active, while 2,109 have recovered from the virus. To date, 32 from the ZIP code have died from the disease – up three from last week.

In 77075, 146 of the 1,735 confirmed cases remain active, while 1,567 have recovered. A total of 22 from the ZIP code have died – no increase from last week.

Of the 1,968 confirmed cases in 77034, 154 remain active, while 1,794 have recovered from the disease. To date, 20 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease – an increase of one from the previous week. According to Harris County Public Health officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Countywide, there are 175,959 total confirmed cases. Of those, 159,737 have recovered from the disease, while 13,847 cases remain active. A total of 2,364 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/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

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 Tuesday, Dec. 8.

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.

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Greenshadow to SH 225 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 9.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound 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.

At least one lane of the northbound and southbound entrance ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 and exit ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

Two alternate lanes on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The northbound connector ramp from the Gulf Freeway to the IH 610 South Loop, along with one inside lane, will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31. At least two alternate main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The northbound and southbound entrance ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street and the northbound and southbound exit ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

Mount Olive garage sale

Mount Olive Lutheran Church will hold a Community garage sale Nov. 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 10310 Scarsdale in the parking lot.

Drive-thru turkey drive

In appreciation to service members, the Houston Texans, USAA and USO Houston will provide Thanksgiving turkeys and all the fixings to military families in a drive-thru event.

The Texans will have goodies for the whole family to enjoy. Texans cheerleaders, TORO, Legends, a DJ and more will participate to bring a little cheer to the service members at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base.

Families are encouraged to create "thank you" signs for the Texans/USAA and USO Houston along with decorating their vehicles. The family with the most cheer will be contacted and shipped a prize.

The event will be held Nov. 19 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base.

If one is interested or has a service member that may be interested, one should direct them to register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/texans-touchdowns-turkeys-presented-by-usaa-tickets-128679528935>. All participating families need to register and have access onto Ellington Field.

South Belt community honors Sgt. Sean Rios

The South Belt community this week served as host for the memorial services of fallen Houston Police Department Sgt. Sean Rios, who was killed during a shootout Monday, Nov. 9, while off-duty in North Houston.

While Rios was not from the immediate area, all aspects of his final arrangements, headed by Peevey Funeral Home, were centered in the South Belt community, with visitation taking place Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Sagemont Church and the funeral services taking place Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Grace Church Houston.

Rios' family reportedly chose Peevey to arrange services because of a positive experience they previously had with owner Phillip Peevey, who then ran Niday Funeral Home. Peevey subsequently made arrangements with the local churches. Grace Church Houston has routinely served as a funeral space for fallen police officers and firefighters in recent years.

While Tuesday's visitation was open to the public, Wednesday's funeral service was reserved for only family, friends and fellow HPD officers, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The memorial service unofficially began the previous Thursday morning when Rios' body was transported from the coroner's office in Houston to Peevey Funeral Home on Beamer near Scarsdale. Approximately 100 Houston Police Department vehicles escorted Rios' hearse, while an HPD helicopter hovered above and hundreds of South Belt

residents watched and waved in support.

Tuesday's visitation services began with another police escort, this time transporting Rios' body two miles from Peevey Funeral Home to Sagemont Church. Upon arrival, Rios passed through an HPD wall of honor erected at the church's main entrance.

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Residents upset about water bills

The Leader has received several complaints in recent weeks about area residents receiving water bills that are significantly higher than normal, despite no significant rate increases.

Many local homeowners have taken to social media to share their experiences and to air their grievances.

Nextdoor app user Ashley Wilson prompted a lengthy discussion Wednesday, Nov. 11, after posting a photo of her most recent water bill for \$528.62 on the social media platform.

"I've been in this neighborhood over a year and have never seen a water bill this high," posted Wilson, a Clearview Village resident. "Any-

one else ever go through this? And I thought \$175 last month was high."

At press time, the online thread had generated nearly 150 responses – many from other users who have experienced similar problems, while others messages offered tips and suggestions.

Dozens of Nextdoor users shared Wilson's concerns, saying their bills have also been higher than usual in recent months, despite their usage remaining roughly constant.

"I thought it was just me," said Nextdoor user Pam Navarre of Scarsdale. "I have been here over 40 (years). Mine was \$180 last month and

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City OKs computers for those in need

Houston City Council recently approved an \$800,000 program to provide computers to low-income Houstonians.

Mayor Sylvester Turner's Health Equity Response Task Force has partnered with Comp-U-Dopt, a nonprofit that provides technology access and education to underserved youth, to distribute up to 1,900 computers for free to qualifying applicants from now until Dec. 30.

"The pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital access particularly in our vulnerable communities," said Turner. "This program will help provide families with the electronic and digital means to get critical information, access

telehealth programs and online services, and participate in remote working and learning opportunities."

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

To qualify for the Computer Access Program, applicants must reside in the City of Houston and meet two additional sets of criteria. First, they must demonstrate that their total household income prior to February 2020 was lower than 80 percent of the area median income. Second, they must be a member of one of the following groups:

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COVID suspends jury trials until 1-31-21

Due to changing circumstances regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage the health and safety of the public and court staff members from the spread of the COVID-19, the City of Houston Municipal Courts Department has extended the suspension of all jury trials and jury duty through Jan. 31, 2021, in conjunction with the Texas Supreme Court's Order. The court remains open for all other proceedings.

If members of the public are experiencing symptoms similar to COVID-19, they should contact a health care provider and not come to court. Once cleared by a physician, individuals may visit any City of Houston court location to speak with an annex judge to reset a case. Masks/facial coverings must be worn at all times within the courthouse facility. Temperatures will be taken before entry is granted.

For continued updates on all court locations

and hours of operation, visit the Municipal Courts website at www.houstontx.gov/courts.

If one's jury trial was scheduled from Sept. 1, 2020, to Jan. 31, 2021, resets will continue to be given in person at all City of Houston court locations. The resets began Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, and will continue through 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021.

For information on all court locations and hours of operation, visit the Municipal Courts website at www.houstontx.gov/courts. It is important to note that if an individual fails to reset their case(s) when Municipal Courts resume operations, an arrest warrant may be issued.

For additional announcements and information, call the City of Houston Helpline at 311, or 713-837-0311 if outside of the City of Houston, or visit the Municipal Courts website at www.houstontx.gov/courts.

County seeks door-to-door blood tests

In an effort to better understand how many people in Harris County may have already been infected with COVID-19, officials with Harris County Public Health will be conducting a survey of randomly selected homes.

The survey will identify people infected in the past with COVID-19 by the presence of antibodies, proteins the body's immune system makes to fight infections. County residents agreeing to participate in the survey will be tested for the presence of these antibodies.

HCPH outreach teams will be in different county areas through Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., visiting randomly selected homes seeking residents willing to participate in the survey.

Only homes approached by the teams are eligible to participate, and participation is voluntary. The outreach teams will be identifiable by wearing yellow vests, and they will be carrying identification cards.

Participants will be asked to provide answers to survey questions and provide blood samples that will be tested for the presence of antibodies. Once completed, the survey will assist policymakers and health experts understand how vulnerable the community remains to the virus, and how frequently asymptomatic or mild cases occur.

According to HCPH, the survey is intended

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South Belt pays homage to Sgt. Rios



Community members paid their respects to the fallen HPD officer, Sgt. Sean Rios, as his procession made its way through South Belt to Peevey Funeral Home. Shown above South Belt residents Rosa Graham (left) and husband Don Graham honor the fallen HPD officer by holding the U.S. flag. Behind them are the HPD mounted patrol saluting their fallen comrade. See more photos on Page 8.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Daytime armed robbery at Shell

The Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office is investigating an aggravated robbery that took place early Friday, Nov. 13, at the Shell station in the 10900 block of Scarsdale at Beamer.

The incident occurred at approximately 7 a.m. According to investigators, an unknown male suspect entered the store, approached the clerk and produced a handgun.

The man then forced the clerk behind the counter and took an undisclosed amount of money from the register.

The suspect then fled the location in an unknown direction. No one was injured.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the constable's office at 713-477-2766.

Male charged with Riverstone murder

A grand jury has indicted the suspect accused of fatally shooting former Dobie student Marquis Branch Monday, Oct. 19, in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision. Keith Dwayne Watson, 20, was charged with felony murder.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, deputies with the Pct. 2 Constable's office responded to shooting at a residence in the 11400 block of Bandera Valley at approximately 7:30

a.m. Upon their arrival, deputies discovered the victim, a 21-year-old black male, unresponsive from an apparent gunshot wound. EMS transported the male by ambulance to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Deputies spoke with several occupants who were present inside the residence at the time of the incident and learned the victim, who is the

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Safety COVID tips for holidays

The Houston Health Department encourages everyone to limit in-person holiday gatherings to only household members to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent another surge this winter.

People who attend a holiday gathering with people who don't live in their home need to consider avoiding non-household members for 14-days before and after the event.

"We should all be thankful for our health this holiday season and remember those affected by the virus. I encourage everyone to make a few more sacrifices to keep our families and friends safe from the spread of COVID-19," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "This virus thrives on gatherings and will take advantage of holiday festivities to sicken our loved ones and further spread in our community.

Although the holidays will look and feel different this year, making smart choices could save the lives of the people you love."

Video calls to family offer the opportunity to interact with friends and family during holiday events without the risk associated with in-person gatherings.

Participating in outdoor gatherings is safer than indoor events but attendees still need to practice social distancing and mask-wearing is needed for interactions with non-household members.

"While there isn't a way to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19, we can significantly reduce it," said Dr. David Perse, chief medical officer for the City of Houston. "If you must gather, you and

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Abandoned house still a problem

An abandoned Sagemont house has drawn the ire of nearby residents and community leaders who see the property as a safety hazard and say local officials have done little to help rectify the situation.

According to Kay Barbour, Sagemont Civic Club president, the house, located in the 11300 block of Sageheather – has been vacated since Hurricane Harvey in September 2017. Barbour said, however, that complaints about the house date back approximately 17 years.

A primary concern is the house's swimming pool, which is now accessible, as there is no longer a fence. According to Barbour, the fence has been down since Hurricane Ike in September 2008. The pool is also now contaminated.

"The swimming pool is green," Barbour said.

Adding to the problems, the land under the swimming pool has shifted, lifting the pool out of the ground and causing the house to cave in toward the pool. Barbour said the home's garage is in danger of collapsing. The civic club president further said the shifting could also possibly affect the neighboring residences.

Barbour said the damage is so extreme that a city inspector refused to enter the structure last year because it was so unsafe.

Civic Club officials said efforts to secure the residence, however, have proved fruitless with both the city and the county.

"We've reached out to the Department of Neighborhoods and the Health Department," Barbour

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Abandoned house safety hazard



Shown is the abandoned house located in Sagemont that has captured the attention of nearby residents and community leaders. The house, which has been vacant since 2017, has been declared a safety hazard by the City of Houston.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Area Peevey Funeral Home scene of arrangements for 2 policemen

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Wednesday's funeral service was followed by a full rendering of police honors outside the church along the Gulf Freeway.

To make the funeral service public, it was live-streamed by Grace Church Houston and KXLN-TV Univision 45.

At press time, the exact details surrounding Rios' shooting remained unclear.

One suspect, Robert Soliz Jr., 24, is charged with murder in the 179th State District Court. A second male, described by police as a person of interest, is wanted in connection to the shooting. The second man was driving a black Chevrolet pickup truck and seen speaking with Soliz after the shooting.

According to police, the incident took place around 1:30 p.m. in the 7900 block of the North Freeway (I-45 North).

Patrol officers were dispatched to a shooting in-progress call on the northbound service road at the above address. Officers arrived and found a Kia Forte abandoned on nearby Stuebner Airline and a male, later identified as Rios, with a gunshot wound inside a nearby hotel.

Witnesses came forward and claimed that two Hispanic males had a confrontation with a male in the Kia Forte, also later identified as Rios. Witnesses told officers the driver of the Kia and the driver of the Mercedes fired shots at each other. The witnesses claimed one of the Hispanic males fled the scene in a light blue Mercedes, while the other male fled in a black Chevrolet truck.

Rios was pronounced dead at the hotel in the 7700 block of I-45 North.

Officers canvassed the area and located the blue Mercedes and developed Soliz as their primary suspect. Soliz was taken into custody during a traffic stop the following afternoon on Tuesday.

Nov. 10, and charged for his role in the shooting.

Rios' role in the shooting, however, remains unclear.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said, based on 911 calls, there was a "high probability" that Rios, who was driving his personal vehicle to his afternoon shift, had tried to intervene in a road-rage shooting involving Soliz.

Soliz's private attorney, Paul Looney, has countered by asking that an independent investigation into the matter be conducted by either the Harris County Sheriff's Office or the Texas Rangers.

Rios was sworn in as an HPD officer in February 1996 and assigned to the Airport Division.

Anyone with information on the identity or whereabouts of the wanted person of interest is urged to contact the HPD Special Investigations Unit at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

He died peacefully while surrounded by his family.

Thomas, or Gene as he was known by his friends, was born in Webster Dec. 20, 1977, to Todd and Sarah Young.

He graduated from Dobbie High School in 1996. He continued his education at the University of Houston where he pledged Sigma Nu and earned his bachelor's degree in business.

In 2012, he joined the Houston Police Department, graduating from the academy with Class 2013, where he served as president.

Gene proudly worked on patrol at the Southeast Station. Throughout his career, he worked as a trainer to help young officers to be the best they could be.

In April 2020, he was promoted to sergeant and moved to the Eastside Station. His dedication and love for his brothers and sisters in blue was undeniable.

Gene never met a stranger and was always there for anyone who needed him. His friendships were unconditional and never wavered.

During his time with Sigma Nu, he began his cook-off career with Frontier Fiesta which continued throughout the rest of his life.

He was a member of the Law Dawg Cookers for eight years where he enjoyed participating in the South Belt Spectacular Cook-off.

Beginning in 2003, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo became a big part of Gene's life. He served as a

volunteer for Rodeo Express and worked as a committee member. In the last few years, he progressed up to a coordinator of 2009.

However, his greatest treasure was his family. He married his high school sweetheart in 2002. Gene took pride in the academic excellence of his two sons and their athletic endeavors.

He was blessed with a baby girl in 2019. She brought him such joy throughout this last year.

Gene was preceded in death by his beloved father Todd Young.

Gene is survived by his wife Kathy Young; and his three children Thomas Jr., Owen and Peyton; his mother Sarah Young; his brother Chase Young; his brother Clint Young and wife Jessica; his nephews Caleb and Todd; and his uncles Hank and John Young.

The memorial service will be held Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, at Peevey Funeral Home at 7 p.m.

The visitation will begin at 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to assist the officier.com.

Elizabeth Allene Pulley Skinner, 90, died peacefully Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8, 2020, in the presence of her loving family.

She was born April 12, 1930, to William H. Pulley Sr. and Myrtle Ross Pulley.

She is survived by her brother Edward Pulley; and children Philip Skinner (Carla Merrill, fiancee), Susan and husband Gerald Livingston, Nancy and husband Mike Allen and Cassandra St. James.

Also feeling her loss are nine grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She loved baking for those she loved, doing needlework and tending to flowers.

A graveside service will be held Nov. 20, 2020, at 10 a.m., at Houston Veterans Cemetery.

The family of Elizabeth says the memory of her life will be a blessing to them forever. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Elizabeth's memory to the Abundant Life Church building fund, 200 W. Mink St., Willis, TX 77378.

Petra Nicholas, 79, beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend died unexpectedly Nov. 10, 2020.

Petra, as she was known to her family and friends, was born on the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico Dec. 13, 1940, to Jose and Petra Medina. On one fateful trip to Texas, she met a man who swept her off her feet—Leonard Nicholas.

They were married in Puerto Rico Oct. 24, 1964. Petra lived a full life as a devoted wife, mother, floral designer, church volunteer, and finally, dotting grandmother (abuela).

Petra was a founding member of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, where she spent more than 40 years living Christ's calling to be his hands and feet on earth. She volunteered her time and talents with various ministries, especially those that helped the elderly, helpless and less fortunate. She was a longtime member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

As any native Puerto Rican will attest to, Petra loved a good party, and had many funny stories of being a beautiful, young, single woman on a tropical island — so she was always helping the Celebration committee at St. Luke.

Petra had a zest for life that translated into a love of travel, whether it be road trips all over the southern U.S. with Leonard and the kids in the family station wagon, renting the RV to head to the mountains of New Mexico, hopping on planes to Europe or sailing the seas in style.

She loved it all and never met a stranger. Her penchant for talking to anyone and everyone embarrassed her young kids to no end. Little did they know they would turn out the same way. Her daughters treasure the memories of her years as their Girl Scout troop leader.

She made sure her girls were exploring, learning, creating and enjoying their childhood. Even though she was working as a floral designer when her son was young, she made sure he was given the opportunity to travel and she saw to it that he was involved in sports so that he could find his passion. When she saw his love of computers, she supported him wholeheartedly.

Petra is survived by her husband of 56 years, Leonard Nicholas; children Eileen Nicholas, Suzanne and husband Jason Levy and Kevin and wife Danielle Nicholas; grandchildren Jessica and Nicholas Levy; sisters Gloria Konig, Mercedes and husband Orestes Arroyo and Elba Medina; sisters-in-law Eneida Cano and Justina Medina; and an extended family of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding her in death are her parents; brothers Harry, Miguel and Cheo Medina; and brother-in-law Charles Konig.

The recitation of the rosary was held Nov. 18, 2020, followed with a funeral service at Clayton Funeral Home in Pearland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's choice on behalf of Petra.

The family fondly remembers her as Petra, mom, hermana and Titi and express how much they love and miss her and believe she's having a party in heaven with her parents and brothers.

Thomas Eugene Young



On Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020, Thomas Eugene Young, died after his long battle with esophageal cancer.

He died peacefully while surrounded by his family.

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He graduated from Dobbie High School in 1996. He continued his education at the University of Houston where he pledged Sigma Nu and earned his bachelor's degree

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In 2012, he joined the Houston Police Department, graduating from the academy with Class 2013, where he served as president.

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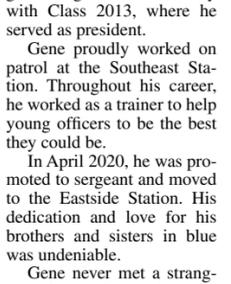
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City OKs \$800,000 for computers

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ic has exacerbated the gap between those with digital access and those without.

For people without digital access that have remained homebound or are limiting their interactions in public places, they risk becoming isolated from others and from crucial opportunities, like job applications or assistance programs.

While there are similar technology access programs for families with school-age children, the H.E.R. Task Force technology access subcommittee identified that there were critical groups that were being overlooked.

"This is more than just a computer for these individuals and families. This is a pathway to opportunity,"

said Jesse Bounds, chief innovation officer and a leader of the mayor's H.E.R. Task Force.

"We are providing the tools for these families to unlock their potential and do so safely from the comfort of their homes during the pandemic." The computers will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Because these groups may not have access to digital ads or articles, the H.E.R. Task Force is encouraging Houstonians to refer the program to loved ones or friends who might need assistance. For more information or to apply, visit www.computeraccessprogram.org or call 888-469-8365.

and people of color are being shut out of billions of dollars in contracts."

The newly adopted framework for MWBEs follows the release of an extensive Disparity Study, which showed that MWBEs receive only 9.1 percent of Harris County contracting dollars despite representing a third of the available market.

The policy adopted by Commissioners Court will enact changes to the county contracting process to ensure greater participation of MWBEs.

"What you will gain from the MWBE programs and policy, I believe, are the quality businesses that you can then rely on to create an equitable engagement and investment in these businesses through their work through local, state

and federal government contracting," said Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. "And MWBE policies effectively help train and energize the small business community."

"We are offering a long-term solution to significant racial disparities across all industry sectors in the Harris County marketplace," Ellis said. "And as we face a deepening economic crisis, which is falling hardest on women and people of color, this policy could not have come at a more opportune time. I look forward to seeing this new policy implemented, and most importantly, to seeing small businesses, entrepreneurs, and job seekers in Harris County benefit from this program."

The Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program Policy, prepared for the county by Colette Holt & Associates, calls for providing MWBE firms information and technical assistance related to county contracting practices and procedures, bid specifications and other support to assist those firms to succeed and successfully compete for county contracts. Once established, the policy will set an overall annual aspirational goal of awarding at least 30 percent of county contracts and associated subcontracts to MWBEs.

"We are setting aspirational goals. At least 30 percent is what it says. But these aspirational goals can be an inspiration. When people are aware that they may have opportunities, they will seek opportunities," said Congressman Al Green. "So I'm pleading with you to please let's set the goal. And let us do it right away. I know that there is always time to delay. But it has been quite a while. And I think we are all convinced that this is long overdue."

The framework provides the basis for a MWBE Program to be administered by the Office of Economic Equity and Opportunity.

PISD celebrates College Week

Students and teachers from around Pasadena ISD are gearing up to celebrate College Week, Nov. 16-20.

The purpose of this annual week-long celebration is to encourage students to take an interest in attending college.

This year, due to COVID-19, one of the week's major events, College Night, was held virtually on Nov. 17.

In a typical year, the event, hosted by Pasadena ISD and Deer Park ISD, attracts hundreds of area students. Col-

lege Night gives students an opportunity to talk with representatives from more than 80 colleges and universities to help them get a jump start on planning their future.

Individual campuses will also be joining in the fun. For College Week at Pasadena High School, students can win prizes for participating in various college-related activities such as completing a college application, completing a FAFSA form and participating in themed dress-up days.

Ellis pushes forward on economic equity, opportunity in county

The need to address disparities in wealth, income, and economic opportunity has never been clearer than during this pandemic. For Harris County, ensuring that minorities, women and other historically disadvantaged groups have equal access to economic opportunity is a top priority.

On Nov. 10, Harris County passed a framework for the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Program, presented by Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

"The results of our disparity study were very clear—our county has a serious problem when it comes to offering economic opportunities to MWBEs," said Ellis. "By not having an equitable system for contracting, small businesses

and people of color are being shut out of billions of dollars in contracts."

The newly adopted framework for MWBEs follows the release of an extensive Disparity Study, which showed that MWBEs receive only 9.1 percent of Harris County contracting dollars despite representing a third of the available market.

The policy adopted by Commissioners Court will enact changes to the county contracting process to ensure greater participation of MWBEs.

"What you will gain from the MWBE programs and policy, I believe, are the quality businesses that you can then rely on to create an equitable engagement and investment in these businesses through their work through local, state

and federal government contracting," said Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. "And MWBE policies effectively help train and energize the small business community."

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Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *Neighbors* app posted a video of a suspect jogging from one driveway to another driveway looking in vehicles to see if they were locked. The suspect wore black pants and a black hoodie, white shoes and a mask. He was carrying a flashlight. Another suspect across the street was doing the same thing. The incident happened Friday, Nov. 13, at 2:19 a.m., on Kirkway Drive. This post was also shared on other social media groups.

A member of *Southbelt/Sagemont Crime Alert* Facebook group posted a video of a person that entered the member's vehicle. It is not mentioned what was taken or if the vehicle was actually broken into or if the door was left unlocked. The incident happened Friday, Nov. 13, at 1:21 a.m., on Kirkbriar Drive.

A member of *People of Sagemont 2* posted a video of

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

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

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; 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 HCL 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

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 #HCPLphotoclub 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.

Thursday, Nov. 19, 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

SB Elementary shows appreciation on Veterans Day



First-grade students at South Belt Elementary made a mural of “hands joined” to make a “Thank You” banner and dressed in military fatigues to show their appreciation of veterans. Shown are, left to right, coach Dan Frazier, U.S. Air Force veteran; Emma Hernandez; Kennedy Watson; Dominic Mendoza; Gabriel Babb; Ezekiel Infante; Travis Tran; Nick Hinojosa; and Alex Hinojosa. Photo by Anh Ton

County seeks door-to-door blood samples

Continued from Page 1

to meet the following goals:
 —Understand what caused COVID-19 to spread in certain areas.

—Understand the method of COVID-19 transmission in Harris County.

—Understand how the method of COVID-19 transmission and infection rates differ among communities.

—Determine the effective-

ness of containment strategies that have been utilized during the pandemic.

—Identify the percentage of Harris County residents infected with COVID-19 with no symptoms.

—Improve public health messaging to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

“This survey is a very important way that local residents can help public health

workers fight this virus,” said Umair A. Shah, M.D., MPH, HCPH executive director and local health authority for Harris County. “By finding out how widespread the illness is, we can develop strategies that will help us control the spread of COVID-19,” said Shah.

Antibody testing, which uses blood samples to detect the presence of antibodies in the blood, is different than the

nasal swab tests health care providers commonly use to detect active infection. Antibody tests can be done with people who do not currently have symptoms to find out if they have had the virus in the past.

Partners for this initiative include Katherine B. Ensor, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Health Department and the U. S. Centers for Disease Control.

Residents upset about city water bills

Continued from Page 1

\$258 this month.”
 A similar experience was shared by Nextdoor user Isabel Banchik of Bella Vita.

“I’ve been running \$275-300 per month, which I think is outrageous,” wrote Banchik.

Several of the online responders suspected Wilson — and others on the post — might have a leak somewhere in their respective water system that might account for the massive in-

crease in costs.

“You might want to look into you may have a leak,” wrote Dawn Schlosser of Scarsdale. “Make sure that all water is turned off and check your meter. I had a toilet that constantly would run or the flap got stuck, which resolved the problem.”

This sentiment was echoed by Nextdoor user Jinny Trout of Sagemont.

“Read your meter and check with (your) bill,” Trout said. “Call the city

and dispute it if the readings doesn’t look right. I had a \$1,400 (bill) last Dec. It didn’t get resolved till June.”

Others online, however, said that disputing a water bill with the city can be an uphill climb.

“My parents had a \$14,000 bill a couple years ago,” said Amanda Fraga of Gulf Palms. “They ended up paying about \$10,000 because my dad got tired of disputing it with the city. They weren’t willing to work with them.”

South Belt residents who feel their water bills are higher than normal may want to hire a plumber or call the city or their local utility district for an inspection.

Residents living within the city limits are encouraged to call 311 or visit www.publicworks.houstontx.gov.

Residents living in unincorporated parts of the county are urged to contact their local municipal utility district.

Better. Together.



**WASH HANDS. WEAR A MASK.
 SOCIAL DISTANCE. GET TESTED.**

We are better when we all do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Together, we can put Houston on the road to recovery. Thank you for making H-Town BETTER TOGETHER.

houstonhealth.org

JFD Cheerleaders of the Week



Dobie High School has named its Cheerleaders of the Week. Shown are juniors Jaelan Sherman (left), daughter of Nicole and Donald Sherman and Madisyn Brown, daughter of Tisha Brown and Donavon Perry.

San Jacinto College recipient of Texas Success Center Grant

The Texas Success Center has awarded eight East Texas community colleges, including San Jacinto College, with a \$960,000 grant from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation to scale essential practices of Texas Pathways.

The Texas Pathways model is an integrated, systemwide approach to student success based on intentionally designed, clear, coherent and structured educational experiences, informed by available evidence, that guide each student effectively and efficiently from the selection of their high school degree program to their point of postsecondary entry through to attainment of high quality credentials and careers with value in the labor market.

San Jacinto College will receive \$210,511 for its work, which includes targeting students in corequisite gateway courses of mathematics and English to experience improved completion and retention rates through collaborative support from specially trained faculty, embedded advisors, retention specialists and academic tutors.

The college intends to do this by moving its I-Connect Centers and Student Success Tutoring Centers to the same check-in system used by other departments and training staff to use the software, assigning an academic advisor to three math and three English sections per campus, training faculty in the "Advise" early alert system, training faculty and tutors in academic coaching, providing equity-focused professional development, and training faculty and retention specialists in data literacy.

"We know that our students need support from before they come to our classrooms until the time they walk the stage at graduation," said Dr. Laurel Williamson, San Jacinto College Deputy Chancellor and College President. "We are grateful to the T.L.L. Temple Foundation for including San Jacinto College in this grant so that we can help those students who may not be completely prepared to succeed in completing their certificate or degree."

The T.L.L. Temple Foundation has made education a top priority as an effective tool in fulfilling its mission to break the cycle of poverty and build a thriving rural East Texas. Through the foundation's generous support, East Texas community colleges, which are deeply committed to improving student success, will receive additional support to scale Texas Pathways reform strategies aimed at improving student socioeconomic mobility through clear postsecondary paths to careers with family-sustaining wages.

"We are very fortunate to have wonderful funding partners like T.L.L. Temple Foundation, that are willing to invest in this important work," said Dr. Cynthia Ferrell, vice president of the Texas Success Center. "The Texas Success Center is so impressed by our colleges' commitment to implement Texas Pathways, and we are excited to continue working with these East Texas colleges."

The following eight East Texas colleges have been awarded funds to support the scaling of Texas Pathways practices:

- Kilgore College.
- Lee College.
- Northeast Texas Community College.
- Paris Junior College.
- San Jacinto College.
- Texarkana College.
- Trinity Valley Community College.
- Tyler Junior College.
- "Community colleges play a critical role in educating our future workforce," said Dr. Wynn Rosser, president and CEO of the T.L.L. Temple Foundation.
- "Investing in Texas Pathways will ensure more East Texans succeed in college and that our region thrives economically," said Rosser.

Black belts teach self-defense

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.

Avoiding COVID during holidays

Continued from Page 1
your group must plan ahead and commit to restricting con-

tact with anyone outside your household for 14 days before and after the gathering."

Shoppers should avoid crowded stores, including during busy Black Friday sales, city officials said. Instead, residents should consider online shopping, curbside pickup and home delivery. People should also plan to shop during less crowded times of day, wear a mask, social distance and bring hand sanitizer. People who may have COVID-19, are experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell and diarrhea or were exposed to someone who tested positive should not spend any time with other people or leave their homes unless they need medical care.

The Health Department urges Houstonians to continue to mask up, social distance, wash hands and get tested to prevent the spread of COVID-19. People can visit houstontx.gov or call 832-393-4220 to find a nearby free testing site.

Roberts Middle School names Aviators of the Month



Fred Roberts Middle School officials recently announced their Aviators of the Month. These students were selected by their teachers as those who consistently demonstrate positive character, academic achievement and great behavior. Shown are, left to right, (front row) sixth-grader Syed Alijafri, fifth-grader Jesiah Acevedo, (back row) fifth-grader Emma Olvera and sixth-grader Adeliz Barahona.

PISD Ed. Foundation to host 'Back 4 the Future' virtual telethon, Dec. 8

The Pasadena ISD Education Foundation is taking a blast to the past for the future of students during its first-ever "Back 4 the Future" virtual telethon, December 8, 2020. The event will raise funds to provide mini-grants for teachers, student scholarships, support for virtual learning, district-wide COVID-19 relief and more.

Organizers are hoping to raise \$250,000 to support Pasadena ISD students and teachers during its giving period, starting December 1 through December 8. The event's grand finale will be live-streamed from noon to 8 p.m. on the final day of giving, December 8.

The virtual event will feature live entertainment from students and staff to community members and alumni.

"Like 'Back to the Future,' our telethon will travel back through the decades to celebrate the history of Pasadena ISD, our schools, education foundation, famous alumni and more," said Cristina Womack, past president of the PISD Ed. Foundation.

The telethon is being hosted in lieu of the Foundation's annual Prize Parade fundraising event, in which teachers were awarded mini-grants to enhance student learning. The Prize Parade annually raised nearly \$200,000.

This year, program orga-

nizers are optimistic that they will not only be able to meet their annual goal, but surpass it partly due to the accessibility of the giving process, which will be exclusively based online through the telethon website.

"The 2020 school year has been wrought with many challenges. Due to COVID-19, the way we previously raised funds to enhance our educational programs suddenly became obsolete. We have been forced to open our minds and creatively think of ways to be able to meet some of our financial goals," said Cheri Hutcherson, Pasadena ISD Ed. Foundation president.

"Collectively, we came

up with the idea to create a telethon and perhaps involve a greater segment of our community than has been previously involved. We are excited about the possibilities of this new effort and hope you will join us in helping to meet our annual goal, so that we may continue to support our students and teachers."

If you are interested in becoming a donor, please visit the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation website: <https://www.pasadenaisdfoundation.org/donate> or email the Ed. Foundation at foundation@pasadenaisd.org.

The link for virtual live event will be available in the near future.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)

San Jacinto College South planned a formal dedication and open house for its W.L. "Levi" Smallwood Health and Physical Education Building with an open house to follow.

The president of the corporation developing a 192-acre complex at Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway said that since the 1979 floods in the area, his company would be spending approximately \$1 million on flood-control measures for the complex.

Trustees of the Clear Creek Independent School District started receiving bids for expansion of the parking lot at Clear Creek High School.

Firemen from the Sagemont station of the Houston Fire Department responded to two fire calls and six ambulance calls over the past week.

A Scarsdale couple was robbed as they left the Best Products store on Kingspoint. Two men with guns came up behind the couple as they were getting into their car at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The W.J. Liquor Store in the Kroger shopping center was broken into, and an undetermined amount of liquor

was stolen. The burglars gained entrance to the store by throwing a rock through the plate glass window.

J. Frank Dobie High School placed an unprecedented eight students in the All-State Orchestra.

35 years ago (1985)
Quarterback John Evans threw a four-yard touchdown pass to Johnny Bolen with 51 seconds left in the game to give the Dobie Longhorns a come-from-behind 20-17 victory over the Aldine Mustangs in the second round of 5A football playoffs in the Astrodome.

The bridge on Kingspoint between Kingsplace subdivision and Atkinson Elementary was set to be closed for seven to 10 days for a new bridge to be constructed by the City of Houston Department of Public Works' bridge division. They were replacing the 18-foot-wide structure with a 24-foot-wide bridge with a pedestrian walkway along one side.

Shawn Phelan, a fourth-grade student at Atkinson Elementary, would appear in Houston Grand Opera's version of *Faust* at Jones Hall. Phelan is the son of Bonnie Phelan and the grandson of Beverly Siscoe.

Fire and medical crews from the Houston Fire Department extinguished a fire at St. Luke's Catholic Church.

30 years ago (1990)
The South Belt dancers from Bonnie Siscoe's Dance Studio and Kirkwood Dance Studio were invited to make their first joint debut as the Foley's Tap Dancing Shopping Bags in the 41st Foley's Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Houston.

Fourth-grade students Michael McCormick and Charla Jones were recognized as Genoa Elementary's Punt, Pass and Kick winners.

Seven Dobie High School choir members earned top-10 spots section on the All-Region Mixed Choir. Included were Valerie Bruce, Zach Bruton, Toby Fortenberry, Teri Gadd, Christi Grizzoffi, David Hudspeth and Margie Wiedner.

Burnett Elementary fourth-grade student Robert Espinoza won the district title in the Pasadena Independent School District's Punt, Pass and Kick contest.

25 years ago (1995)
Stuchbery Elementary School earned the national H.O.S.T.S. (Helping One Student to Succeed) quality

assurance award for mentoring at-risk students.

The Dobie High School marching band, under the direction of Ken Wright and Walt Sparkman, placed in the finals of 32 bands at the Sam Houston State Marching Contest. Drum majors Steven Wells, Ryan Glendy and David Ngo were chosen for first place.

Frazier Elementary was one of three schools in the greater Houston area to receive a certificate from Houston Mayor Bob Lanier on Texas Recycles Day for its exemplary participation in the Champion Paper Retriever.

10 years ago (2010)
One man died and another was injured when their sport utility vehicle rolled over after hitting a pickup truck at 1550 Dixie Farm Road near Abrago about 2:30 a.m. The driver of the SUV, 27-year-old Christopher Watkins of Webster, died at the scene, while his 31-year-old passenger was taken to Ben Taub General Hospital in serious condition. According to police, Watkins was traveling west on Dixie Farm Road when he attempted to pass a Nissan Frontier. Watkins reportedly struck the pickup and lost control of his vehicle, which then rolled over, throwing both him and his

passenger from the SUV. The pickup driver was not injured.

It was announced that Houston City Councilman Mike Sullivan would no longer oversee the city's redistricting process. Houston Mayor Annise Parker said the redistricting process would be managed by all of the City Council rather than the Special Ethics and Council Governance Committee on Redistricting and Term Limits, which Sullivan chaired.

5 years ago (2015)
City Council voted to approve a \$3.4 million contract to equip Houston Police Department officers with body cameras. District D Council Member Dwight Boykins, who represents much of the South Belt area, led the charge among his colleagues in pushing for the measure. Prior to the Council vote, Boykins hosted a roundtable on the issue with community members, HPD Chief Charles McClelland, NAACP members, a representative from the mayor's office, council members Michael Kubosh and C.O. Bradford and James Nash, pastor. The measure passed with an 11-4 vote, with District E Council Member Dave Martin, who also represents the South Belt area, also voting in favor of it. Council members Mike Last-er, C.O. Bradford, Michael Kubosh and Brenda Stardig are all on record as being supportive of body cameras but voted against the measure out of concerns that community groups had not had significant input and that the policy for storing the video data had not yet been finalized.

1 year ago (2019)
Dr. John D. Morgan, senior pastor of Sagemont Church, delivered his last regularly scheduled sermon Sunday, Nov. 24. A 1959 Pasadena High School graduate, Morgan transformed the once-small Sagemont ministry into one of the largest and most influential faith institutions in the state. Under Morgan's direction, Sagemont was a frequent partner with local schools and other entities and has served as a headquarter for the American Red Cross during storms and other emergencies, and

15 years ago (2005)
Within a 10-day period, two South Belt businesses were raided for conducting illegal gambling operations. A total of 64 machines and approximately \$24,000 in cash was recovered from Jimmy Chang's gameroom on Scarsdale and Dorado's gameroom on Hughes Road. Eight customers at Jimmy Chang's received citations for gambling.

Tax rates for local MUD districts were compared in response to a letter the *Leader* received from Sageglen resident John Hoover.

20 years ago (2000)
Gilbert Aguilar was named Pasadena Independent School District Distinguished Citizen.

City of Houston OK'd a variance regarding streets into Rainbow Valley in response to opposition from residents.

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital medical personnel saved an injured duck.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

TONI CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Wishes for a special birthday are sent to longtime resident and Realtor **Toni Muse** who enjoys a birthday Friday, Nov. 20, from friends and the *Leader* staff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DONNA!
Donna Whitted celebrates a birthday Monday, Nov. 23. Best wishes are sent to her from husband **Gary**; children **Heather** and husband **Richard Williams**, **Jacob** and wife **Amber Whitted** and **Aaron Whitted**; grandchildren **Riley** and **Kinley Whitted** and **Bryce** and **Pressley Williams**; and mother **Frances Vaigura**.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Nov. 19 through Nov. 25, 2020.

Bush Elementary
Gilberto Garza marks a birthday Nov. 21. Sing a birthday song Nov. 22 to **Maria Montelongo**.

Frazier Elementary

Send a happy birthday greeting Nov. 24 to **Pat Singletary**. Blow out the birthday candles for **Cathy Silas** Nov. 25.

Genoa Elementary
Sing a birthday tune Nov. 21 to **Macarena Araujo**. Send a birthday greeting Nov. 23 to **Carrissa Enriquez**.

Moore Elementary
Lily Sanchez enjoys a birthday Nov. 23.

South Belt Elementary
On Nov. 21, **Laurie Weathers** is wished a happy birthday.

Melillo Middle School
Send birthday greetings Nov. 24 to **Jennifer Wicks**.

Roberts Middle School
Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Jessica Borden** Nov. 19.

Thompson Intermediate
Cheers for a happy birthday are sent Nov. 25 to **Kristen Newton**.

Dobie High
Join in the birthday fun Nov. 20 with

Clinton Hopper. Blow out the candles for **Juliet Weigand** who enjoys a birthday Nov. 25.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Nov. 19: **Jennifer Cook** and **Albert Craft**; and Friday, Nov. 20: **Thomas Marks**, **Tim Hasse** and **Sica Marcello**; Saturday, Nov. 21: **Jennifer Huggins** and **Edie Mari**, Sunday, Nov. 22: **Gene Perez** and **Sheri Jennings**; Monday, Nov. 23: **Linda Greuter**, **Dorlene Salas**, **Monika Patterson**, **Johnny McNeil** and **Don Doss**; Tuesday, Nov. 24: **Rhonda Baird** and **Santiago Gonzalez**; and Wednesday, Nov. 25: **Keith Brown**, **Karen Allen**, **Susan Hansen**, **Jeff Sconyers** and **Jennifer Ross**.

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.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Unbeaten Longhorns on brink of title, top Division I seeding

Unbeaten Dobie is a win over Sam Rayburn away from ending a 10-year district-championship drought after a 52-7 statement victory over Memorial that also allowed the Longhorns to retain possession of the Battle of the Beltway trophy Nov. 12 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

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

and-score of a fumble by senior defensive end Gerard Joseph, led to a 28-0 lead after a quarter of play as the Longhorns went on to the dominating win to remain unbeaten this season at 7-0.

While the Longhorns will likely still need a win over Channelview in their 22-6A finale next month to seize sole possession of first place, the locals can ensure at least a share of

the crown and lock up the top Class 6A Division I playoff seed out of District 22-6A with a win over the Texans Nov. 19.

Two Maverick turnovers in the first quarter, including a 43-yard scoop-

With that win will also come the chance to host a bidistrict playoff game, likely at Veterans Stadium, against either North Shore or Atascocita of District 21-6A.

Longhorns inching closer to their first league title since 2010, but issues arrived early and often for the Mavericks.

and two plays later, quarterback Cameron Gray went up the middle for a touchdown. Alejandro

Vigil's conversion kick made it 7-0 just a minute, 37 seconds into things.

On the Longhorns' second possession, Gray got loose for a 17-yard run on a second-and-14 play and then zigzagged his way

through the Mavs' defense for 44 yards and a touchdown with 5:03 left in the quarter.

Joseph's 43-yard scoop-and-score fumble return made it 21-0 as Joseph celebrated senior night in style, and Gray's 4-yard scoring pass with :29 left in the quarter gave the Longhorns a commanding

Continued on Page 6



Dobie vs. Rayburn
Thurs., Nov. 19
Veterans, 6 p.m.

At left, Dobie quarterback Cameron Gray (9) avoids Memorial's Kaiden Griffin (18) on his way to a 7-yard scoring run less than two minutes into the game as the Longhorns went on to rout the Mavericks 52-7 Nov. 13 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The Longhorns can secure at least a share of the 22-6A crown with a win over Sam Rayburn Nov. 19.

Photo by David Flickinger

No storybook ending comes; JFD cross-country misses state

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

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.

with a 53rd-place finish to lead Dobie.

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

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

Make no mistake, Dobie held no grandiose illusions of reaching state as a team, but competing a final time as a full team would have been nice.

mile course at the Kate Barr Memorial Park in Huntsville to lead the Lady Cougars to the team title with a low score of 60.

From a team standpoint in the 6A girls' division, the Cinco Ranch duo of Sophie Atkinson (overall champion at 17:04.30) and Heidi Nielson (17:41.10) went 1-2 over the three-

Strake Jesuit was second with a total of 75 as both of those teams automatically advanced to state.

After Singleton, the Lady Longhorns had sophomore Ashlee Garcia

Continued on Page 6

Dobie, Brook boys win openers on hardwood, JFD girls start strong

It was a memorable debut for Franklin Paul as the first-year Dobie varsity boys' basketball coach guided the Longhorns to a victory over La Porte Nov. 3 at Phillips Field House.

ketball team opened its season with a big win, and the Dobie varsity girls won three games to get things going before running into some trouble against defending Region III champion Cy-Creek.

varsity girls won their opener for first-year head coach Warren Brooks and then went 2-1 overall over the first week.

and never really got rolling, but I was happy with how we fought and played hard. Just too many missed shots and turnovers. I feel like we will continue to get better as the season

Brook boys get win

Brook varsity boys' basketball program seems ready to pick up where it left off.

Marcus Millender added 18 points, five assists and four steals as the Wolverines opened the season with a 71-60 home win over Strake Jesuit Nov. 15.

improvement to address, such as defensive rebounding and offensive efficiency."

then wound up with the 11-point win. The Dobie varsity girls were 3-1 entering play Nov. 17 with wins over Friendswood, Dickinson and North Shore before a loss to defending Region III champion Cypress Creek.

Upcoming Hoops Games
Friday, Nov. 20
Dobie girls host Pearland, 7 p.m.
Brook girls host Alvin, 7 p.m.
Brook boys at Porter, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21
Dobie boys host Dekaney, 1 p.m.

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Garcia, Jackson pace JFD
Damian Garcia poured in 29 points and Jaylon Jackson threw in 13 points and 15 rebounds as the Dobie varsity boys got past La Porte 77-71 in the 2020-2021 opener for both programs Nov. 13 at Phillips Field House.



Freshman point guard Waymon Hayes had 10 points and 11 assists. Brook opens with win.

Less than 24 hours later, the Longhorns were not nearly as sharp in a 56-49 loss to Dickinson.

rolls on."

Junior Kemo Millender exploded for 30 points and seven rebounds and

Tosh Lyons was big for the winners, going off for a double-double with 10 points and 10 boards while blocking a pair of shots inside.

"We played very well at times, Clear Brook head coach Nathan Janak said.

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"I was impressed with our effort on defense and the ability to get it done on the offensive end against La Porte," Paul said.

At right, Dobie's Jaylon Jackson (4) slams home two of his 13 points in the game as he helped the Longhorns to a win over La Porte Nov. 13 at Phillips Field House to give first-year head coach Franklin Paul a W in his debut. Jackson also had 15 rebounds in the game. Dobie also got a game-high 29 points from Damian Garcia.

Against Dickinson, we were flat the entire game

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Dobie earns 2nd seed Lady Longhorns draw Atascocita

A second-place seed secured, the Dobie varsity volleyball team is set to begin the postseason against former league foe Atascocita.

Deer Park.

The two teams successfully matriculated their district schedules well, with Dobie going 10-2 overall with two losses to eventual District 22-6A champion

KeKe Robinson had 121 kills and 72 total blocks to anchor things in the middle, and Alayna Gonzalez had 103 kills for the regular season.

6A Volleyball Bidistrict Playoff
Dobie (14-9, 10-2) vs. Atascocita (15-6, 9-3)
Thurs., Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Phillips Field House, Pasadena

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Longhorns stay unbeaten, routing Memorial

At left, Dobie's Antonio Lopez (left) and Gabriel Chambliss combine for a sack of Memorial's Luke Giron as the Longhorn defense allowed a single touchdown in a convincing win No. 13. Photo by David Flickinger

Continued from Page 5 lead. Gray hit Jonathan Jean with a 15-yard touchdown pass with 3:33 remaining in the half, and Vigil's 29-yard field goal allowed for a 38-0 lead at halftime. In the second half, Jeremiah Ballard caught his eighth touchdown pass of

the season, this one from Baldwin. Jalen Baldwin, the sophomore level brother to Johnathan, scored on a 4-yard run to close out the scoring. Memorial's lone touchdown came late in the third quarter as former Dobie player Luke Giron

passed for 40 yards and a touchdown to Colby Taylor. The heavy lifting is done for the Longhorns, and the league title is all but a lock. Dobie head coach Kevin Bernethy is obviously pleased with his team's progress, yet getting better

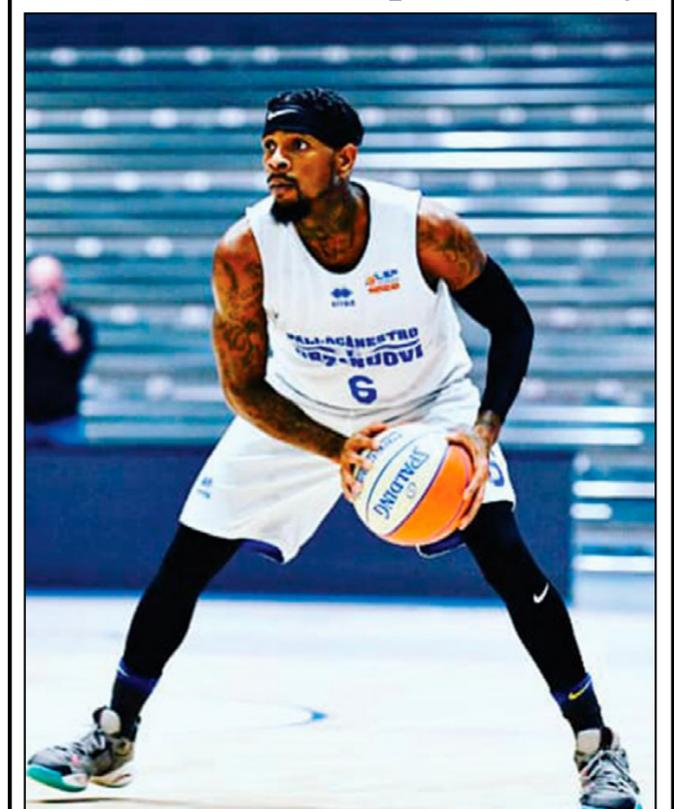
each day remains the goal. "With COVID, we are just focused on coming together as a team, playing for one another and working to get better every day," he said. "I was very proud of the guys in that we were able to execute exceptionally well in all three passes and

come away with a big win. We are pleased with where we are, but really we just have to focus on each day and getting better." After taking on Rayburn Nov. 19, Dobie will be off until closing the season Dec. 4 at Channelview. Dobie will play only nine games in 2020.



South Belt football predictions	Troy Leland	John Bechtle	Eli Tanksley	Toni Muse	Emory Gadd	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie vs. Rayburn	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Clear Brook vs. Clear Springs	Springs	Springs	Springs	Springs	Springs	Springs
South Houston hosts Channelview	Channelview	Channelview	Channelview	South Houston	South Houston	Channelview
Shadow Creek at Dawson	Dawson	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Dawson	Shadow Creek	Dawson
Friendswood at Galveston Ball	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood
Woodlands hosts Conroe	Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands	Woodlands
Tomball Memorial hosts Klein Collins	Tomball Memorial					
Humble vs. Kingwood	Kingwood	Humble	Humble	Humble	Humble	Humble
Beaumont West Brook at Summer Creek	BWB	BWB	BWB	BWB	BWB	BWB
Clear Falls at Brazoswood	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls
Last week's record	8-2	7-3	8-2	5-5	8-2	7-3
Season record	55-19	57-17	51-23	48-26	54-20	50-14

Brook's Miles a captain in Italy



Clear Brook High School graduate Anthony Miles has been named captain of his Agribertocchi team of Orzinuovi, Italy as he begins his ninth professional season overseas this month. At one time the all-time leading scorer at Clear Brook, Miles went on to excel collegiately at Lamar University and now has enjoyed an extensive professional playing career overseas.

Dobie's run at regionals ends

Continued from Page 5 in at 21:47.10 for 79th place, and junior Izzy Padilla was 84th after crossing the finish line at 22:03.30. Senior Karisa Hernandez ended her fine season 90th at 22:23.80, and Kyla Lobo, who will represent the next wave at Dobie, ended her freshman season 92nd at 22:27.20. Karen Hernandez, a junior, registered a time of 23:43.60 for 113th place. As for Campa, his dominating run this season, which included a 22-6A ti-

tle in relative easy fashion, but it wasn't to be. Region III team champion Atascocita and runner-up Strake Jesuit advanced five qualifying runners to state, and the next top 10 finishers also moved on. In the end, Campa was in at 16:02.40 for 22nd place overall, his time leaving him less than three seconds out of a state berth. Dobie's Jhancarlos Carpio ended his career with a proud effort of 17:03.10 for 60th place. Clear Brook junior Mat-

thew Trevino was 30th in a time of 16:17.90. "Berto came out and ran the first mile in a fast time, but the course there in Huntsville can really challenge you. "This was really just the second time or so that he had been challenged by obviously a lot of top runners. "I know he is disappointed to not advance, but it was a tough course."

BAFL postseason to begin in December; Rice the goal

The Sagemont Cowboys' senior and sophomore division teams are among those looking to make their way to Rice Stadium beginning next month. The Bay Area Football League playoffs are set, with the quarterfinal eight-team first rounds beginning Dec. 5. The semifinals

come Dec. 12, with BAFL's Super Bowl round happening Dec. 19 at Rice Stadium. In the first round, the Cowboys have secured the No. 2 seed in the senior division at 7-1 overall and will face the host Alvin Raiders (4-4) Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. The Cowboys' sophomore team, also 7-1 overall, will go

against the Magnolia Park Sharks Nov. 5 at 3 p.m., with the Pasadena Panthers hosting that round. The Southbelt Dolphins' freshman team went 4-4 to grab the No. 7 playoff seed and will go against the Pearland Texans (7-1) Dec. 5 at Santa Fe. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m.

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.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club – Although the bridge club is currently closed visit <https://aclblunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for details of online games that can be played or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 7 a.m.
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.
 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.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
 6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society – Meets in a virtual webinar format. Virtual attendees need to register for each webinar session. Visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org. There will be no meeting in the month of December.
 7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom – Due to the current health situation, all in-person synagogue events are canceled. The synagogue is closed until further notice. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. service on a computer, tablet or smartphone by using the GoToMeeting app and accessing the link <https://www.gotomeet.me/cshonline> with the access code 471-821-285. For those who don't have a computer, services may be accessed by calling (+1)-571-317-3122. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-online-service.html>.
 7 p.m.
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 available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
Alcoholics Anonymous – meeting at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
 7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's AA notice.
 9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom – See Friday's 7 p.m. notice.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters – The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has virtual meetings at <https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/>. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access to the virtual meeting platform. For more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.
 7 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 4, 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention – Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information.
 8 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For additional information, call 281-484-9243.
THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday, Nov. 20, notice.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
 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 www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>.

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Photos by Marie Flickinger

The funeral procession for Houston Police Sgt. Sean Rios, who died in the line of duty Nov. 9, caravanned through the heart of South Belt on its way to Peevey Funeral home on Beamer Road. Shown above is Rios draped with the U.S. flag arriving at the funeral home.

Photos by Marie Flickinger



Houston Police Department vehicles escorted the hearse carrying the body of Sgt. Sean Rios Thursday, Nov. 12, from downtown Houston to the Peevey Funeral Home on Beamer Road. Above, HPD officers gather outside the funeral home after the motorcade arrived from the Harris County Medical Examiner and Coroner's office. A public visitation was held Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Sagemont Church. The private funeral service was held at Grace Church Houston Wednesday, Nov. 18.

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Approximately 100 police officer vehicles were included in the funeral procession. Shown above are some of the vehicles that participated. Below are the officers who were included in the procession and the salute of Rios' body as it entered the funeral home.



Keith Dwayne Watson charged in Riverstone murder

Continued from Page 1
estranged husband of a female occupant inside the home, along with two other suspects,

forced their way into the residence and assaulted the wife and her new boyfriend. During the assault, a male

occupant, who was visiting and sleeping in an adjoining bedroom, retrieved a rifle and shot the victim. The two male suspects, one adult and one juvenile, were detained at the scene for questioning.

Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide and Crime Scene Investigators responded to the scene and conducted an investigation. Homicide investigators interviewed

both suspects and upon completion, all known facts were presented to the Harris County District Attorney's Office. After review, the HCDA Office advised the investigation

would be referred to a Harris County Grand Jury.

The grand jury subsequently chose to indict Watson, who is currently booked into the Harris County Jail.

Action being taken on abandoned house

Continued from Page 1
said. "The city hasn't done anything about it."

The homeowner was a no-show at a January 2019 city hearing, leading to a fine being assessed for failure to complete necessary repair work.

Barbour further said there are signs of people coming and going from the residence. The property has flooded multiple times, yet no repairs have been made since Harvey.

At press time, a sign had been posted on the front door of the residence from Harris County stating the home was being foreclosed due to back taxes, but it remained unclear what, if anything, would be done to secure the residence and the surrounding houses.

"It's in limbo," Barbour said.

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