

### Holiday closures scheduled

**South Belt-Ellington Leader**  
The Leader office will be closed from noon Wednesday, Nov. 24, through Friday, Nov. 26, for the Thanksgiving holidays. The Thursday edition of the Leader will be available Wednesday, Nov. 24.

**Clear Brook City MUD**  
The Clear Brook City Municipal Utility District offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26, in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays. The office will reopen Monday, Nov. 29, at 8 a.m. Check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru window side of the building.

Residents living in Clear Brook City MUD who receive trash service on Thursday will not have regular trash service pickup on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 25. Regular services will resume Monday, Nov. 29. Residents who receive trash service on Fridays will have regular services on Nov. 26. All trash must be curbside no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup.

### Kirkwood meet rescheduled

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting, usually scheduled for the last Thursday of the month, has been canceled this month due to the Thanksgiving holidays. The function has been rescheduled for the first Thursday of December, Dec. 2. The meeting will take place at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For additional information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCruteon at 281-989-9990.

### COVID cases continue

Harris County Public Health's latest COVID-19 statistics vary greatly from the previous week's. At press time, the reason for the inconsistency was unclear.

As of Tuesday, Nov. 23, county records indicated there were 240 reported South Belt deaths due to COVID-19. County statistics recorded 241 local deaths the previous week.

Of the 7,800 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 132 remain active, up four from the previous week. To date, 96 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, two less than were reported the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 114 of the 5,973 confirmed cases remain active, down 12 from the previous week. A total of 67 from the ZIP code have died, one less than recorded the previous week.

Of the 6,023 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 117 remain active, up 12 from the previous week. To date, 77 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up two from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there have been 583,972 total confirmed cases. Of those, 567,897 have recovered from the disease, while 9,579 cases remain active. A total of 6,461 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

### 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. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 7.

### Sagemont Civic meets Dec. 7

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at The Gardens, located at 12001 Beamer at Hughes Road. The meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

### Heavy trash pickup set

City residents south of Fuqua will have heavy trash pickup Thursday, Dec. 9 (second Thursday of the month). City residents north of Fuqua and west of the Gulf Freeway will have heavy trash pickup Friday, Dec. 10 (second Friday of the month). December is for junk waste, but tree waste will also be accepted. Due to a larger amount of debris being discarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, pickups may be delayed. For more information, visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste) or call 311.

### Ellington e-recycling event

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org) or call 311.

### Highway 3 closure planned

At least one northbound lane on SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed from FM 2351/Clear Lake City Boulevard to El Dorado Boulevard daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, Dec. 27.

### NASA exit ramp closed

There will be a total closure of the northbound exit ramp to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 from the Gulf Freeway through 5 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the FM 518 exit and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections, or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit, U-turn and head south to NASA Bypass or FM 528.

## COVID cases sharply decline at local schools

The number of active COVID-19 cases at local schools has dramatically declined the past few weeks, with zero cases being reported at intermediate campuses throughout the entire Pasadena Independent School District.

As a whole, Pasadena ISD was reporting 21 active cases districtwide at press time. Of those, four were at high schools; four were at middle schools; 12 were at elementary schools; and one was at the administration building.

Of the four high school cases, three were at Memorial and one was at the Lewis Career & Technical High School.

Of the four middle school cases, one was at DeZavala; one was at Roberts; one was at Kendrick; and one was at Schneider.

Of the 12 elementary school cases, one was at Bush; one was at Gardens; one was at Genoa; one was Meador; one was at Parks; one was at Pearl Hall; one was at Red Bluff; four were at South Belt; and one was at Turner.

By comparison, when the Leader last reported on the subject in the Sept. 16, 2021 edition, Pasadena ISD was reporting 218 active cases. Of those, 40 were at high schools; 50 were at intermediate schools; 37 were at middle schools; 84 were at elementary schools; three were at additional campuses; and four were at the administration building.

For Pasadena ISD's latest COVID-19 statistics, visit [www1.pasadenaisd.org/parents-students/covid](http://www1.pasadenaisd.org/parents-students/covid).

### Clear Creek ISD

At press time, Clear Creek ISD was reporting 36 active cases and 108 active quarantines.

Active cases included 28 students and eight employees. Active quarantines included 98 students and 10 employees.

Active cases are considered as individuals

who have been on a CCISD facility within 48 hours of becoming symptomatic for the virus or within 48 hours of a positive test result.

Of the 36 active cases, 14 were at high schools; eight were at intermediate schools; 12 were at elementary schools; one was at the Education Support Center; and one was at the Technology Learning center.

Of the 14 high school cases, two were at Clear Creek; four were at Clear Falls; two were at Clear Springs; three were at Clear Brook; one was at Clear Horizons; and two were at Clear Lake.

Of the eight intermediate cases, three were at Clear Lake; one was Clear Creek; one at Bayside; one was at Space center; one was at Seabrook; and one was at Victory Lakes.

By comparison, when the Leader last reported on the subject in the Sept. 16, 2021 edition, Clear Creek ISD had 642 active cases and 1,084 active quarantines.

Active cases at that time included 572 students and 70 employees. Active quarantines included 987 students and 97 employees.

Clear Creek ISD's COVID-19 numbers spiked Sept. 5, 2021, with 672 active cases being reported.

Since Aug. 1, 2021, Clear Creek ISD has had 2,696 cumulative cases and 5,465 cumulative

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### Pct. 2 deputies raid game room



Acting on numerous tips from the public, deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit recently executed a search warrant at the Shop n Save convenient store in the 12300 block of Scarsdale near Sageglen, as an investigation into the business determined it was being used as a front for illegal gambling. Deputies seized numerous gaming machines and motherboards and approximately \$8,600 in cash, believed to be proceeds from illegal gambling.

### Illegal game room raided on Scarsdale

An alleged illegal game room in the 12300 block of Scarsdale near Sageglen was recently raided by police as part of a search warrant execution.

Acting on numerous tips from the public about possible illegal activity, deputies with Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's Special Operations Unit began an investigation into the area business. After detecting suspected illegal activity at the establishment, deputies were able to secure a search warrant, which was executed on Friday, Nov. 12.

During the bust, deputies seized numerous gaming machines and motherboards, approximately \$8,600 in cash – believed to be proceeds from illegal gambling – and various other evi-

dence. No arrests were made.

According to Garcia, such game rooms often lead to much larger crimes, such as robberies and narcotics sales, putting the safety of the public in jeopardy. Additionally, the establishments do not operate on a mandated license, which allows the owners to drastically reduce the chances of winning. They often prey on the elderly who are unaware the machines are rigged.

The constable said he will remain vigilant against the scourge of illegal gambling in the community.

"If these types of businesses operate in our precinct, Constable Garcia will continue to target them and do his part in closing them down," a post on Garcia's Facebook page read.

### Commissioners, Hidalgo subpoenaed

D.A.'s office investigates controversial COVID contract

The Harris County District Attorney's Office recently subpoenaed Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and every member of Commissioners Court over the issuance of a controversial \$11 million vaccine-outreach contract this past September.

The contract was given to the one-woman firm Elevate Strategies over other entities such as UT

Health, even though its \$11 million bid was \$4 million higher, and the company scored lower on key evaluation criteria.

The firm was also found to have Democratic ties, and its founder Felicity Pereyra had worked on the mayoral campaign of Adrian Garcia, who currently serves as Precinct 2 commissioner.

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### Man found fatally shot in vehicle

Houston police are investigating the death of a man found around 2:25 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, in the 10800 block of Nellsfield Lane near Blackhawk and Fuqua.

The identity of the victim, 38, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to police, HPD patrol officers and Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to a shooting at the above address and found a pickup truck that had crashed into a tree. The victim was found unresponsive in the driver's

seat. HFD paramedics pronounced the man dead from multiple lacerations and a gunshot wound.

A preliminary investigation indicated the victim left a nearby residence in the 10800 block of Shannon Mills Lane, which is where the initial incident is believed to have occurred.

At press time, no suspects had been identified.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

### Police respond to adult fight at Melillo

An adult altercation took place outside Melillo Middle School the night of Tuesday, Nov. 16, following a band concert, prompting a police response.

Deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 constable's office and Pasadena ISD police responded to the incident and brought it to a safe conclusion.

The incident involved a custody dispute, police said. Melillo officials issued a statement to parents following the event.

"Safety is always a top priority for our Melillo families," the statement read. "We are notifying you of this incident and asking for your help by reporting anything that looks suspicious or unsafe. Thank you for doing your part."

### Scarsdale bridge reopening date unclear

Despite rumors to the contrary, the Scarsdale bridge is not reopening the last week of November, county officials said.

The Leader heard false gossip from multiple sources that the project, begun by the Harris County Flood Control District the first week of October, was finishing ahead of schedule.

While an October press release said the en-

deavor could take until early spring 2022 to complete, officials said work could be completed early, but no date has been announced.

Funded by a 2018 bond referendum, the project involves making channel conveyance improvements beneath the bridge.

For more information on the endeavor, visit [www.hcfd.org/Mud-Gully](http://www.hcfd.org/Mud-Gully).

### County: Be thankful for vaccines

Inflation and supply chain issues this year are likely to make favorite holiday foods more expensive and harder to find, but thankfully COVID-19 vaccines are here, abundant and free at Harris County Public Health sites. What a difference a year makes. Last Thanksgiving, there was no vaccine and COVID-19 was spreading

rapidly. For the entire holiday season shopping, plane travel and family gatherings were high risk for contracting the virus.

Now, everyone age 5 and older can be vaccinated. For those who haven't yet been fully vaccinated, it's not too late to protect oneself, friends

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### Fire department offers heating tips

With the temperature now dropping into the 40s and 50s, the Houston Fire Department urges citizens to be careful and follow some simple safety tips when using space heaters, fireplaces and other supplemental heating sources.

Citizens should always keep in mind that space heaters need space. The Houston Fire Department recommends the following safety tips when using supplemental heating sources:

- Make sure to have a working smoke alarm and a working carbon monoxide alarm if you use gas or a fireplace (including a wood-burning fireplace) for heating.
- Never leave children unattended in a room with a space heater. Children may also stick paper or toys in the grates of the space heaters especially gas space heaters.

- Keep all combustible materials, including at least 3 feet from the heater.
- Open face heaters should have a screen.
- Provide ventilation to prevent carbon

monoxide poisoning.

#### Vented gas-fired heating appliances

Central heating units, floor furnaces, recessed wall heaters and vented space heaters.

- Inspect annually by a qualified service technician.

- Do not use these type units without a proper vent pipe. Vent pipes must exhaust to the outside.

- If the flame is not blue, it is not burning properly. It is producing carbon monoxide, which can't be seen, smelled or tasted. Turn it off.

- Use flexible metal tubing with threaded ends to connect the heater to the gas valve. There should be a cutoff valve for the heater at the wall. Never use a rubber hose to connect a space heater to the gas valve.

- Use soapy water to check all connections and valves for leaks. Never use a match to test for a gas leak!
- Look for the American Gas Association

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### Leader thankful for Beverly Hills



Beverly Hills Intermediate students recently participated in their yearly food drive, collecting more than 5,000 items. The food will be donated to the Leader's annual Christmas program, aimed at helping local families in need during the holidays. Shown above at the area school are, left to right, (first row) Kaitlyn Resendez, Tatiana Franks, Gracie Vasquez, Juliet Maldonado, Yasmin Mendez, Ester Avila, Max Hall, Jade Hall, E'Trell O'Bryant, Jacob Solis, Angelica Damian, Guadalupe Ayala (Spanish teacher), (second row) Quyen Dang, Daisy Lopez, Leia Rodriguez, Emely Quijano, Norriecce Parks, Dr. Grant Pector (seventh-grade teacher), Gary Warner (eighth-grade teacher/departement head), Joseph Fee (eighth-grade teacher), (third row) Alejandro Hernandez, Yazmine Gaines, Christopher Sanchez, Hao Ha, Jesus Santos, Jeremiah Briscoe, (fourth row) Nathan Rodriguez, Schneider Araujon and Bao Vu. Not Pictured are Ashai Jones and Kevin Martinez.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

# Publisher's Opinion

## Muecke touts Veterans Day, Pledge of Allegiance

We just celebrated a National Holiday, VETERANS DAY. This is to honor the many thousands that served this country, many gave their life. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken many times as it should be. But how many really thought about the last few words -WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR "ALL."

The important word is "ALL." This means each and every one of us; Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, male/female, tall, short, young and old. Today all we hear is BLM, Hispanic, white and so much other. "ALL" means all of us no matter. We need to understand that "ALL" is what America is made up of. Yes, there have been difficult times, but the majority always stood up. So lets get away from all this WE STUFF and become "ALL." Think about this.

James E. Muecke



## Happy 60th Birthday Clennis Tyer

Lots of love and best wishes from family and friends.



## St. Luke the Evangelist Church

11011 Hall Rd. • stlukescatholic.com/christmas-under-the-stars

Join us for our first Christmas Under The Stars where all are invited to enjoy a joyful Christmas Concert, Hayride around the community of Kirkwood South, fun activities, delicious hot cocoa and pictures with Santa!

Sunday Dec. 12th from 5-8 p.m.

One Person \$10 • Family of 5 \$20



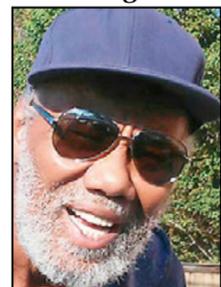
## Clearing trees for TxDOT repairs



Although many residents thought crews were recently removing a homeless encampment from the northeast corner of Scarsdale and the Gulf Freeway, contractors from the Texas Department of Transportation were actually clearing trees in order to repair a light pole so that a broken bulb could be replaced.

## Death

### Kenneth Martin Gradnigo Sr.



Kenneth Martin Gradnigo Sr. was born on July 18, 1951, to Wallace and Brigitte Beulah Leday Gradnigo of Lake Charles, La. Kenneth began his educational journey attending the Sacred Heart Catholic School and he then attended

W.O. Boston High School in Lake Charles.

Kenneth left high school and joined the U.S. Army where he received his GED and eventually an honorable discharge.

Kenneth retired from the Louisiana Department of Transportation.

He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Kenneth was a son, brother, uncle, husband, father and friend.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his children

Kenneth Martin Gradnigo Jr., Michelle Shanae Scott and Kenneth Dabionne Gradnigo, all of Houston; his only grandson Nickolaus Gradnigo; siblings Olga Gradnigo Simonet, Joseph Ronald Gradnigo (Bertha) and Mary Gradnigo, all Houston, and Patrick L. Gradnigo of Lake Charles, La.; and a host of nieces, nephews, family members and friends.

Kenneth was called to eternal rest Sept. 16, 2021. He will be missed.

### Leader Obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge.

There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the Leader style.

## Flood control strategy highlighted

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo joined local officials Tuesday, Nov. 16, to visit with flood survivors and showcase the county's worst-first strategy to prioritize flood control dollars. The meeting was held at Hutcheson Park, 5400 Lock-

wood Drive in Houston, and included an interview and video opportunity with Hidalgo; Rodney Ellis, Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 1; and Tarsha Jackson, City of Houston, Council Member, District B.

A major Kashmere Gar-

dens/Hunting Bayou project to lift nearly 4,450 homes out of floodplain by spring 2022 was discussed.

The worst-first prioritization framework launched by Hidalgo and commissioners court in 2019 utilizes a fairer process to ensure flood control projects are prioritized through a transparent process that takes into account the severity of flooding in a given location and other factors, including which communities are particularly prone to disasters and economic loss.

### NASA Aglow meeting set Dec. 9

NASA Aglow Lighthouse is holding its meeting and Christmas party Thursday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at Praise Chapel, 18516 Highway 3.

Anyone wishing to come together to enjoy the presence of the Lord is invited.

### Local library events set

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

#### Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library will be closed Nov. 25-26 in observance of Thanksgiving. Bracewell Library is located at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to come into the building to browse the collection, check out and return materials, use the library's computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m. Outdoors storytime for all ages. Plan to enjoy a good story at Bracewell in the fresh outdoors, weather permitting.

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

#### Book drop

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

#### Additional resources

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

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

All overdue fines/fees are waived through Dec. 31, 2021, retroactive to March 14, 2020.

#### Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library will close early for Thanksgiving at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 24, and reopen Monday, Nov. 29, at 10 a.m.

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

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

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.

- Have a library card number and PIN handy.

- A pickup time and instructions will be given.

- Upon arriving, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.

- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

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

#### Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.

- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).

- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.

- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.

- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.

- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.

- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

Friday, Nov. 26, 5 p.m. Is It Wrong to Watch So Much Anime? Episode 28: Black Friday Edition: "ANIME MERCH!" Jason Cruz and John Harbaugh will talk about their favorite places to buy all their favorite T-shirts, figures, gunpla, and other wonderful merch. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time. Join John Harbaugh for a program on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online and email [tanner.adams@hcpl.net](mailto:tanner.adams@hcpl.net) for information. No prior experience is required.

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of People of Sagemont 2 posted that when her niece who attends San Jacinto College approached her vehicle she noticed that the gas tank cover was open and the gas cap was missing. The member states that the guy parked next to her told her to check her gas because someone had taken the gas from his vehicle. Turns out the member's niece went from having a full tank to a quarter of a tank. The incident happened Tuesday, Nov. 16, during the day.

Another member of the same Facebook page posted videos of a male and a female who went onto the member's property and took her son's scooter and the cat carrier. The items were left outside on the driveway near the garage. The incident took place Friday, Nov. 19, during the day behind Sabo Village apartments.

Another member from the same Facebook page posted a picture of her Indian ring-necked parakeet that flew away Sunday, Nov. 21, by Astoria Boulevard and Sandyhook Drive.

A member of the same Facebook group posted photos and videos of a suspect that is seen taking a catalytic converter from a Toyota Trundra. The incident took place

Friday, Nov. 19, near Dobie High School around 1 p.m.

A member of Southbelt/Sagemont Crime Alert Facebook group shared that the Houston police are investigating the death of a man found with multiple lacerations inside a crashed vehicle Saturday, Nov. 20. The call came in about 2:30 a.m. in the 10800 block of Nellsfield Lane, not far from South Beltway 8 and Monroe Boulevard. The victim was already dead when officers arrived.

This post was shared on other social media pages. See related story on Page 1.

According to a member of the Nextdoor app, their cat was poisoned Sunday, Nov. 21. The member states that it is sad these people do things like this and advises others to watch their animals. The member believes that they might know who did this but have no proof.

Another member from the same app is alerting community members to be on the lookout for two dogs that have gotten loose on different occasions. The member states that the dogs attack the fences while they are in their backyard and have also attacked other neighbors' dogs. This incident happened in Riverstone Ranch on Colt Canyon Lane.

## HFD: heating tips

Continued from Page 1  
label and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper usage.

**Electric heaters**  
- Never overload outlets or breakers.

- Don't use extension cords for the heater. If the cord is hot to the touch, turn off the heater and unplug it.

- Electric heaters permanently installed in the wall or ceiling should have lint and dust removed regularly.

Just like a space heater, keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from a fireplace, and create a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires.

- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room.

- Never leave a fireplace fire unattended, particularly when children are present.

- Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container, and kept at a safe distance from your home.

- Make sure you open your fireplace flue, if applicable.

**Carbon monoxide**  
- Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can kill you before

you are even aware of it.

- Carbon monoxide can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, disorientation and fatigue, often mistaken for the flu.

- Have a working carbon monoxide alarm if you use gas appliances and/or a fire place (gas and wood-burning).

- When a carbon monoxide alarm sounds, ventilate the house with fresh air by opening windows and doors.

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656  
E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners



**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
Catholic Church  
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor  
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar  
11011 Hall Rd.  
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukescatholic.com](http://www.stlukescatholic.com)

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

(Modified during COVID-19)

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

Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862  
All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

## New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care  
Now Enrolling



New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

281.481.2003

[www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com)  
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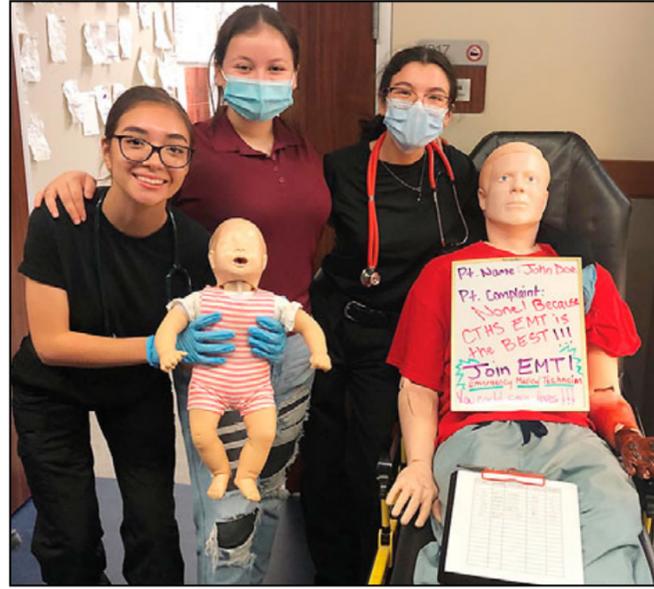
## South Belt hosts canned food drive



South Belt Elementary hosted a canned food drive from Oct. 21-Nov. 11. The families were very generous and excited about contributing to such a worthy cause, resulting in 7,000 pounds of food being collected throughout the drive. The items were donated to the City of Pasadena to help fill food pantries. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Audryna St. Romain, Ava Castro, (back row) Josiah Salazar, Ashlynn Langley, Lakitha Thomas (counselor), Dannie Nguyen, Rey Salas (City of Pasadena employee), Mariah Mendez and Madeline Herrera.

## CTHS EMT students welcome eighth-graders

Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School EMT seniors volunteered to spend Thursday night, Nov. 4, promoting the EMT program to eighth-grade students and their families. The seniors spent time discussing their class, showing off skills and teaching chest compressions and Epi-Pen basics to those who were interested. It was a great experience. Shown right, left to right, are Fernanda Estrada, Kadence Medina and Martha Pacheco.



Shown below, left to right, are (front row) Kadence Medina, Melinda Medina (EMT instructor), (middle row) Celeste Cruz, Martha Pacheco, Fernanda Estrada, (back row) Ruby Garcia, Matthew Mendiola, Ismael Garcia and Gilberto Perez.

## Beverly Hills announces second six-weeks honor roll

Beverly Hills Intermediate officials announced their second six-weeks honor roll.

### Seventh grade

Arlette Aguirre, Victor Alanis, Carlos Albarran, Kevin Alfaro, Roy Azinge, Imanol Banda, Gissell Barba, David Betancourt and Vanessa Blanco.

Brooke Bond, Charles Bruno, Reagan Cameron, Reginald Cameron, Hermallony Campos, Britny Cedillos, Briley Charles, Jacob Chavez and Sebastian Cordova.

Lenneth Cruz, Katelin Dang, Ashley De Arcos, Elizabeth Dinh, Kevin Duong, Alexandria Elisando, Carlos Faife Gutierrez, Ruben Flores and Makayla Flowers.

Diego Garcia, Matthew Garcia, Elijah Garza, Valeria Garza, Orlando Gomez, Roberto Gomez, Jady Gonzalez, Valeria Granados and Angelina Guajardo.

Jimena Gutierrez Verdin,

Deraja Harvey-Goines, Abigail Hernandez, Oniah Hernandez, Kevin Hoang, Koy Holcombe, Henry Hong, Hannah Hua and Emma Jacob.

Joshua Jamaica, Ximena Jasso Moreno, Daniel Jasso, Monica Jasso, Ashia Jones, Isaiiah Jones, Ariana Kainer, Anh Le and Huy Le.

Derica Lewis, Angel Lopez, Kelvin Lopez, Corentain Manuel, Landon Martiny, Edgar Martinez, Serina Martinez, Molly Mata, Pretty McCoy and Grace Menahem.

Yasmin Mendez, Jillian Mikulski, McKenzie Milburn, Ashley Moreno, Dayanna Najarro-Reyes, Charleston Nash, Alisha Nguyen Hoang, Duy Nguyen and Hieu Nguyen.

Huyen Nguyen, Jocelyn Nguyen, Kelvin Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Tuan Nguyen, Jeremiah O'Neal, Estefania Orellana Ramirez, Kaden Orozco and Joseph Oviedo.

Luciano Padilla, Kaitlyn Pecina, Nevaeh Perez, Vincent Pham, Andrew Posey, Angela Quinonez, Isaac Quiroga, Yamileth Ramales and Kamora Ray.

Adelyn Rincon, Marco Rincon, Leia Rodriguez, Tatiana Rodriguez, Tarvorrio Rogers, Xavier Rubalcava, Isaias Ruiz, Ethan Sampson and Ava Saucedo.

Johnathan Saucedo, Noah Serna, Faraell Sims, Ethan Smith, Jacob Solis, Jonathan Solis, Alina Sosa, Samyria Spriggs and Cecilia Suarez.

Jennifer Tan, Aiden Telliez, Ashley Teng, Marlee Tillman, Tiffani Tillman, Ja-nasia Tompkins, Ximena Torres-Zuniga and Miriam Torres De Leon.

Daniel Tran, Kaylie Tran, Alex Truong, Tuyet Truong, Payton Turner, Thomas Turbiartes and Alan Vallejo.

Ruben Vasquez, Felipe Villa Delgado, Julian Villaseñor, Tina Vo, Minh Vu, Amaya Wilson and Lily Yam.

### Eighth grade

Leonela Aguila, Dreagon Alexander, Angel Amador, Dulce Arias, Hussai Arias, Alyciana Armelin, Diana Armenta, Yarezi Arredondo and Brylon Badger.

Mikalya Bain, Aleisa Banda, Ashlee Banks, Suheyee Belman, Salah Ben Achour, Joshua Berlanga, Tanner Bo, Diana Bonilla and Demyan Borjas.

Megan Bui, Isabella Byron, Victoria Caballero, Julian Calderon Vargas, Amirah Carraway, Daniel Carrera, Daniel Chavez, Zenaيدا Cisneros and Rodriana Cole.

Tiffany Contreras, Kaileen Culpepper, Angelica Damian, Christina Dang, Kevin Dang, Jeremiah Davis, Katelyn De Leon, Josselyn Delgado and Hayden Do.

Anthony Dominguez, David Ekong, Chloe Estes, Kamilah Estrada, Norman Fabian Alba, Oliver Fabian Guzman, Guillermo Fernandez, Emily Flores and Esbeydi Fonseca.

Linnea Fonseca, Tatiana Franks, Essence Gabriel, Joselyn Galvan, Karyme Galvan, Ethan Garay, Edward Garcia, Johnny Garcia and Thomas Garcia.

Alyria Garcia-Garza, Nathaniel Gonzales, Isaiiah Gonzalez, Ryleigh Gonzalez, Ella Guerra, Daniela Guerrero, Alvaro Guevara, Hao Ha and Ashley Hernandez.

Landen Hernandez, Trinity Hoang, Dealon Hobbs-McGrew, Alexander Hofstetter, Rosa Jimenez Velasco, Ami Johnson, Jordan Johnson, Richard Le and Janiel Lebron Delgado.

Jandel Leon Ortiz, Peyton Leonard, Francia Luengo Montana, Ilana Luna, Linh Luu, Peyton Lynn, Alia Martinez, Eduardo Martinez and Kevin Martinez.

Xavier Martinez, Mark Mata, Adam Medrano, Jaylene Melo, Isaac Mendez, Cristian Monge, Alfa Montalvo, Simon Montemayor and Nathan Montez.

Zariah Morales, Steven Morillo Rodriguez, Tommy Ngo, Andrew Nguyen, Anthony Nguyen, Chloe Nguyen, Cj Nguyen, Dan Nguyen and Diana Nguyen.

Hannah Nguyen, Hoang Nguyen, Mary Nguyen, Matthew Nguyen, Minh Nguyen, Thu Ninh, Kamilah Oliva, Nair Olvera Guerrero and Sweney Onyango.

Edgar Orozco, Isabella Pena, Angelica Perez, Matthew Perez, Don Pham, Hannah Pham, Mylan Pedra, Cynthia Pineda and Ezekiel Portales.

Yatiry Portales, Jezreel Ramales, Joaquin Ramirez, James Rendon, Destiny Reyes, Kayla Reynaud, Jose Rivas, Stefany Rivera Valdez and Aileen Rivera.

Rachel Rivera, Camron Robertson, Ariana Rodriguez, Isaiiah Rodriguez, Jesus Rodriguez, Zada Romero, Jaden Rudd, Oliver Saavedra and Alexander Salguero.

Dylan Salinas, Aaron Sanchez, Christopher Sanchez, Jacob Sanchez, Erik Santillanes, Alejandro Saucedo, Naven Scott, Kaitlyn Sherwood and Zachary Staten.

Thao Ta, Savannah Talavera, Kaylanie Tran, Victoria Tran, Khang Truong, Eliud Urbina Paez, Andres Valdez and Brandon Ventura.

Theodore Villarreal, Bao Vu, Clayton Washington, Jai'ana Washington, Xandria Williams, Yuliana Zambrano and Christopher Zarate Moreno.



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MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

**Notice of Smoke Testing**  
Sanitary Sewer & Manhole Rehabilitation

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We continue to complete work on rehabilitating the existing Sanitary Sewer Service connections in your area. This work is being done to rebuild and improve the sanitary sewer systems in your neighborhood. We will be smoke testing the sewer lines beginning on approximately November 29, 2021 at 8:00 AM. Testing will be ongoing throughout December and January. This will help to identify any potential points of inflow and infiltration in the public portion of the sanitary sewer system. The contractor will place a front door hanger reminder at your home 48 hours before testing will begin in your area.

Smoke will be added to the sewer manholes. You may see white smoke coming out of your roof vents. Do not be alarmed as this is normal. The smoke is **nontoxic** and will disappear rapidly without leaving an odor. If smoke enters your house, please open the windows to allow for ventilation. The smoke will clear within a few minutes.

This process will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Workers will have ID badges on their shirts. They will be moving from house to house to get a visual of any sewer pipe leaks.

We ask that after you receive this notice, to please check to see that all drain traps under sinks and in bathrooms, washing facilities and floor drains contain water. This will include seldom used bathroom fixtures and floor drains. Please run water down the drain for a minute or two to ensure the trap is not dry.

**Should you have any other questions please do not hesitate to call our office.  
Thank you for your cooperation.**

Nerie Construction  
Adrian Gutierrez  
Assistant Project Manager  
281-996-5551 Office  
713-754-0354 Mobile  
Or email us at comments@nerieconst.com

Clear Brook City MUD  
281-484-1562 Office  
Dean Baier  
General Manager of Operations  
Or email at uscganje@cbcud.com to better assist you.

Martin "Marty" Melchor  
marty@texasolrealestate.com  
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## Dial wins Yard of the Month



Congratulations go to Shelley Dial for winning the Sagemeadow HOA Yard of the Month for October. Dial loves to set up seasonal decorations in her front yard for her grandchildren to enjoy. Like her grandmother, she loves flowers, visiting birds and butterflies. A row of pruned cassinas borders the front patio. Wedelia/Bay Biscayne creeping-oxeye, also called creeping daisy, are clipped as a ground cover. A firebush, also referred to as the hummingbird bush because of its orange-red tubular flowers, is known for attracting these tiny birds.

## Brook debate students participate in debate event

Brook Debaters, continuing their quest for state qualifications at Katy Taylor High School the weekend of Nov. 12, came away, once again, with high praise from their coaches and administrators.

In debate events, Iyad Chowdhury broke to the top sixteen at the meet, earning his first points toward his state goal.

Additionally, the World Schools Debate team comprised of Nicholas Ngo, Daniela Paul and Gabriel Torres placed third overall, which earned the team four of their needed ten points to earn a seat at the table at the state meet in San Antonio in March.

Those who specialize in speaking events were also rewarded for their accomplishments, especially in the semifinals rounds.

Making it to this round of competition were Ethan Suratt and Ayla Yoakum in Prose Interpretation, followed by Jyothi Manoj, Ha- reem Tariq, Aahil Tharani and Sebastian Velasquez in Informative Speaking.

Advancing to the final round of competition were Kaytlynn Frazier who placed first in Prose Interpretation, Isabelle Wills who placed third in Original Oratory and Aqsa Babar and Misbah Aziz who placed 5th and 3rd respectively in Informative Speaking.

At the end of the meet, the team had a total of four state qualifications and an additional six team members Aahil Tharani, Aqsa Babar, Ansantra Sijo, Sheba Joshi, Ariella Calili and Michael French who are more than halfway to their needed ten points for their state qualifications.



Brook debate students enjoyed a moment in the spotlight when they participated in the debate event the weekend of Nov. 12. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Daniela Paul, Gabriel Torres, Nicholas Ngo, Ha- reem Tariq, Ayla Yoakum, Misbah Aziz, (back row) Aahil Tharani, Jyothi Manoj, Ethan Suratt, Kaytlynn Frazier, Isabelle Wills, Aqsa Babar, Iyad Chowdhury and Sebastian Velasquez. Photo by Michael Rutledge

## South Belt students appreciate veterans



South Belt Elementary students showed their appreciation of armed forces by dressing in military garb and made a "Thank You, Veterans!" banner to honor veterans on Veterans Day. Shown above, left to right, are students Liv Pastrana, Arielle Maldonado, Charlotte Riley, Jenson Mendiola, Ezra Molina, Dominic Mendoza, Suraiya Lumpkin and Aaron Grav with U.S. Air Force veteran Dan Frazier, coach.

## Atkinson honors veterans



In honor of Veterans Day, Atkinson Elementary invited veteran family members of students to a small breakfast reception. Shown above in attendance is Lyric Turner in Tracy Nguyen's fourth-grade class with her grandfather, Roderick Shaw, who proudly served in the U.S. Army.

## County says to be thankful for vaccines

**Continued from Page 1**

and family to safely enjoy the holiday celebrations.

Children 5-11 can now be vaccinated with consent of their parent or guardian. They receive 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, 21 days apart. Both doses are one-third of an adult dose. Vaccine for this age group comes in a bottle with an orange cap and a label with an orange border to distinguish it from the adult dose, which is in a purple bottle.

Children 12-17 can receive two adult doses of the Pfizer vaccine 21 days apart, with consent of their parent or guardian.

For individuals who received a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their primary series:

- 65 years and older.
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings.
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions.
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings.

Note: The Moderna COVID-19 booster dose is half of the dose that is administered for the primary series dose.

For individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago. All three vaccines are very effective at preventing severe cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations.

Vaccines are free at HCPH vaccine sites, and while appointments are not required, they are recommended.

Go to [vacstrac.hctx.net](https://vacstrac.hctx.net) or call 832-927-8787. To find a nearby location, visit [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus/Regis-ter-for-COVID-19-Vaccine-map-dash-board](https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus/Regis-ter-for-COVID-19-Vaccine-map-dash-board). Parents must accompany their children ages 5-17 to be vaccinated, or children must bring a consent form signed by a parent or guardian. Consent forms are at [vacstrac.hctx.net](https://vacstrac.hctx.net).

Parents can help keep their children safe who are 4 or younger and cannot be vaccinated, by getting them tested frequently.

Testing is free at HCPH sites. Appointments are not required but are recommended.

To make an appointment or to see a list of locations, visit [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Information](https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Information) or call 832-927-7575 for locations and appointments.

## Thompson honors students of the month



Thompson Intermediate officials honored their students of the month for October. These students exemplify Thompson PRIDE. Shown above, left to right, are Blessing Akinloye (eighth-grader), Alanah Campbell (seventh-grader), Sean Arroyo (eighth-grader) and Lance Ardoin (seventh-grader).

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1976)**  
The Pasadena Independent School District offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the conviction of the individual(s) who made bomb threats to several district schools, including J. Frank Dobie.

Three local youth drill teams placed in the top four positions in competition held at Clear Creek Stadium: the Beverly Hills Fillies, the Sagemont Cowgirls and the Sagemont Knights.

**40 years ago (1981)**  
Four Dobie High School students were suspended for alleged harassment of an assistant band director. They were originally suspended for the balance of the school year; however, Dr. C. Lee Meyer, superintendent, decided to reduce the suspension until the end of the trimester.

Plans were underway for three county road-related projects. Advertising for bids had begun for a temporary hard-surface road on Blackhawk Boulevard from Southbluff to Hall Road; signal lights at Scarsdale Boulevard at Sageglen; and signal lights at Scarsdale Boulevard at Beamer.

The Sagemont station of the Houston Fire Department responded to four pumper calls and 11 ambulance calls during the week.

**35 years ago (1986)**  
Frazier Elementary had an average attendance of 98.16 percent.

Americo Morales was stopped at 1:30 a.m. by South Belt Security Alliance officers after being spotted driving in Sageglen with no headlights. An inventory of Morales' car produced cocaine valued at approximately \$9,800 and \$2,000 in cash.

**30 years ago (1991)**  
Emory Gadd, 44-year-old

methodology about new trends in middle school education.

**25 years ago (1996)**  
A 15-year-old girl was expected to be certified as an adult after being arrested for the murder of 78-year-old Maria Catalina Palomino in her apartment on Sabo Street.

San Jacinto College and University of Houston officials formalized an agreement which would provide a seamless transition for students transferring from the community college to the university.

**20 years ago (2001)**  
John "Baby J" Alexander, 17, died during a varsity basketball game at Dobie High School from an undiagnosed heart problem.

June Terry, 102, a 20-year resident of Beverly Hills, died. She had been an educator for more than 44 years, the last 23 of those in the Houston Independent School District.

**15 years ago (2006)**  
Sagemont resident and community leader Danice Oliver was chosen by the San Jacinto YMCA as its volunteer of the year.

A golf tournament was planned which would benefit South Belt resident Justin Penton-Shaulis. The 12-year-old was diagnosed with bone cancer and required multiple surgeries and chemotherapy.

Additional information released by the Harris County Flood Control District said 13 homes in Kirkmont and Sagemont qualified for buyout under the federal program.

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison secured \$21 million for Ellington Field. The money would be used for the construction of buildings to increase the field's military preparedness.

San Jacinto College South's Carol Wennagel, chairwoman of the business administration department, received the Minnie Piper Outstanding Faculty award.

**10 years ago (2011)**  
Following performance evaluations from both the state and an in-house team, Clear Creek Independent School District officials announced they intended to name the Clear Horizons Early College High School a permanent campus.

Former Dobie student Johnathan Anthony "Rock" Franklin, 22, was charged with murder and one count of aggravated assault on allegedly shooting two brothers, killing one of them. During an altercation, Xavier Rubio pulled out a knife, and Franklin allegedly produced a pistol and shot the brothers multiple times, police said. Xavier Rubio was pronounced dead at the scene. Ruben Rubio was transported to Ben Taub General Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

**5 years ago (2016)**  
The Pasadena Independent School District officially dedicated the new Nelda R. Sullivan Middle School in honor of the campus's namesake at a ceremony held at the area school. A retired businesswoman and longtime community volunteer, Sullivan has served on the PISD board of trustees for 23 years and currently serves as its president. The new campus is located on the site that once housed Queens Intermediate, where Sullivan's three children attended school.

**1 year ago (2020)**  
A top employee from Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz's office was permanently relieved of duty for his alleged role in an illegal eviction that took place in South Houston the previous January. Lee Hernandez was officially terminated from the position of chief deputy. No criminal charges were filed against Hernandez, who was reportedly allowed to leave the department with a clean work record, provided he agreed to not file a civil lawsuit against his former employer. Hernandez had been on paid leave since early June when in an independent investigation was launched into the matter. Hernandez had an annual salary of \$138,896, according to county records.



**EDWARDS COUPLE MARK 23 YEARS**  
Former *Leader* staffer Bill Edwards wishes his wife Elaine Edwards a happy 23rd anniversary Saturday, Nov. 27. Bill is hoping she will renew his contract for another year.

**JACE TURNS TWO!**  
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Jace Walter Giles who turns two on Nov. 26 from parents Ashley and Aaron Giles, brother Jaxson; and grandparents Carrie and Steve Hildreth of Pearland and Tracy and Jim Giles of Kirkwood South.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Nov. 25 through Dec. 1.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to Christina Irizarry Nov. 30.

**Bush Elementary**  
Gilberto Garza marks a birthday Nov. 21. Remember to wish Maria Montelongo a happy birthday Nov. 22.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles for Cathy Silas Nov. 25. The day for a birthday celebration for Sara Rodriguez is Nov. 28. Give a birthday shoutout Nov. 29 to Koreena Lopez.

**Meador Elementary**  
The day for a celebration for Kelly Terwilliger is Nov. 29.

**Moore Elementary**  
Enjoy a slice of birthday cake and ice cream Nov. 30 with Silvia Luna. Blow out the candles on a special birthday cake Dec. 1 for Rita Reyes.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Nov. 25 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for Melissa Brookland. The day for a party for Luz Chaidez is Nov. 26.

**Roberts Middle School**  
Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to Marissa Resendez Nov. 28.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Sing a happy birthday song to David Hastings Nov. 29.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
Cheers for a happy birthday are sent Nov. 25 to Kristen Newton. Cheers for a happy birthday are sent Nov. 29 to Amanda Carroll. Send a happy birthday wish Dec. 1 to Natasha Butler.

**Dobie High**  
Join in the birthday fun Nov. 27 with Brian McCleskey and Frank Mora. Blow out the candles for Luz Ossa and Robin Rackley who enjoy a birthday Nov. 28. Dec. 1 is the day for a double-layer birthday cake for Lawson Hartwick and Sonja Mull.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Nov. 25: Keith Brown, Karen Allen, Susan Hansen, Jeff Sconyers and Jennifer Ross; Friday, Nov. 26: Kathy Husband, Amanda Marshall, Lydia Fernandez, Glenda Dick, Trish Simmons and Gabe Gabino; Saturday, Nov. 27: Shannon Warner, Susie Hughlett, Christine Dailey, Tommy Bischof and Chris Hubenak; Sunday, Nov. 28: Sharon Wagner and Christie Fickensen; Monday, Nov. 29: Rebecca Carter, Amy Smith, Sheila Higgins, Lawanda Dyson-Lendsey and Hanh Do; Tuesday, Nov. 30: Laurie Pena, Chandra Storey, Sonia Martinez, Angela Kennedy, Kelli Lord, Kelly Allison, Patricia Shults, Keleigh Stacey and Marisol Phillips; and Wednesday, Dec. 1: Jessica Bowlin, Miles West, Damon Griffin, Kim Middleton and Melissa Ray.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations and graduations to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

## Commissioners, Hidalgo subpoenaed

**Continued from Page 1**

After the controversial news broke, the contract, originally intended to encourage residents to get COVID-19 vaccinations, was subsequently canceled by the county.

"The only thing I can say is we have always followed the law, we always follow the law and we will continue to follow the law," Hidalgo said in a statement.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office is reportedly requesting records dating back to January 2021.

At press time, it was unclear if personal testimony from Hidalgo or the commissioners would be required.

Since the contract involved federal funds, some experts suspect federal authorities may also get involved.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Brook girls bag trophy



The Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball team brought home something nice for the trophy case after taking third place overall at the Nov. 11-13 Clear Creek ISD Peggy Whitley Classic. See more on Page 6.

## Wolverines make DI Gold title game

# Richardson, Cedar Park take McDonald's crowns

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

The McDonald's Texas Invitational. The road to state starts here, say tournament organizers.

And for programs like the Cedar Park girls and Richardson boys, the 2021 Division I gold bracket champions, there is plenty of confidence that the road will lead the way to state.

Cedar Park, the defending Class 5A state champion, improved to 11-0 this season overall, cruising its way to the girls' Division I gold championship game before taking down Summer Creek 57-47 to complete a dominating performance at the McDonald's event.

Meanwhile, boys' tournament Most Valuable

Player Cason Wallace of Richardson had 23 points and the 2020-2021 state semifinalists used a 24-8 second-quarter run to get past Clear Brook 65-61 in the boys' Division II gold title game.

The back-to-back championship games Nov. 20 at Phillips Field House in Pasadena delivered an exciting finish to the McDonald's Texas Invitational, which successfully hosted 48 boys' and 32 girls' teams at 10 game sites over three fast-paced days.

Both sides of the draw delivered on its promise of both individual star power and overall team prowess.

The boys' Division I gold bracket group of semifinalists all entered

the season with preseason state rankings, with No. 2 Richardson taking down 19th-ranked Elkins 66-53 in one semifinal and Clear Brook at No. 7 edging third-ranked Atascocita 56-54.

Atascocita defeated Elkins to grab third place in the boys' DI gold bracket.

Also in the Division I boys' field, Summer Creek claimed the silver bracket title, while the bronze championship went to Fort Bend Bush.

The girls' Division I silver title was won by state-ranked Converse Judson while San Antonio Johnson claimed the bronze crown in the DI ranks.

In the boys' Division II field, Waco Midway took gold bracket honors with

5A La Porte taking top silver honors and Dulles winning at the bronze level. Division II girls' bracket championships went to Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial (gold), Deer Park (silver) and Crosby (bronze).

From a local standpoint, the Clear Brook boys were the talk of the Division I boys' field, beating an Atascocita team that has won the McDonald's event three times previously, including 2014, 2015 and 2019.

The Wolverines have advanced to the second round of the playoffs two straight seasons, losing to Summer Creek in the area playoffs both times.

The 2021-2022 campaign marks the final time

the Millender brothers, Kemo and Marcus, will play together in the same backcourt, meaning the Wolverines plan to make another deep postseason push. Beating the defend-

ing Region III champion and pushing another regional champion for four quarters is a nice start.

Year two of the Franklin Paul era at Dobie is off to a solid start as the

Longhorns won four of five games in the event to finish the first week of the regular season at 5-2.

Competing in the boys' Division II bracket, Dobie

Continued on Page 6



Clear Brook's Kemo Millender (5) pressures Pearlland guard Josh Vitela (left) during a McDonald's Texas Invitational pool play game Nov. 18 at Dobie High School. The Wolverines defeated

Pearland 52-37 and eventually advanced to the Division I gold bracket championship game before falling to Richardson, 65-61, in the final.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Marcus Millender (4), who was named to the McDonald's Texas Invitational All-Tournament Team, drives the baseline against Pearlland's Jaran Darjean (5) and Cameron Darjean (10).

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

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## State-ranked Brook leads Krueger/Carlisle

State-ranked Clear Brook heads a talented field as 20 teams in all take part in the Krueger/Carlisle Classic varsity boys' basketball tournament Dec. 2-4.

The Wolverines are the defending District 24-6A champions and are coming off a Division I gold bracket championship game appearance at the McDonald's Texas Invita-

tional Nov. 18-20. At the Krueger/Carlisle Classic, they will host Galveston Ball, Flower Mound Marcus and San Antonio Northside in pool play at Clear Brook High School and Clear Creek High School's Carlisle Field House over the first two days before bracket play completes the event Dec. 4.

Clear Falls' pool includes Fort Bend Clements, Houston Madison

and Strake Jesuit, while Clear Creek's group includes Brazosport, Heights and Texas City.

The Clear Springs Knights' foursome includes Friendswood, Lake Creek and Coppell, while Clear Lake's group holds Lake Dallas, Leander Glenn and Manvel.

On tournament trophy Saturday, Dec. 4, the Carlisle (overall championship) bracket title game is at Carlisle Field

House at 4:30 p.m., while the Krueger Bracket title game is at Krueger Field House on the campus of Clear Lake High School at 3 p.m. The Gold Bracket title game is at 3 p.m. at Carlisle Field House.

The Krueger/Carlisle Classic annually recognizes the legendary careers of Bill Krueger and the father and son duo of George Carlisle and Buddy Carlisle. Krueger won a Class 5A boys' state championship at Clear Lake High School in 1989 and at one time was the state's all-time winningest boys' head coach.

George and Buddy Carlisle were both longtime head coaches at Clear Creek High School with long strings of success.

## Dobie VB's Onozie Academic All-State



Her name already in the Dobie High School varsity volleyball recordbooks as a statistical leader in several categories, senior Natalie Onozie was also recognized for her outstanding achievements in the classroom as she was named a Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Honorable Mention selection for the 2021 season. Over her career at Dobie, Onozie wound up with 1,297 assists, 852 digs, 463 kills, 198 service aces and 75 blocks. The District 22-6A All-District selections have been decided, and the Leader will present the honorees in December.

We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family & friends!  
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# Area basketball teams excel at McD's invitational

Continued from Page 5  
got pool play victories over Cypress Ridge and Baytown Sterling, beating the Rams 59-55 and then crushing the Rangers by an 88-55 count.

Lewisville Hebron proved tough to handle in the Division II gold bracket final eight, with Hebron winning 61-37.  
But the Longhorns responded with a pair of

victories, first tripping Cy-Fair 63-62 and then topping Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial 71-59 to claim consolation honors in the bracket.  
Frank's team went up

against Westfield in a non-district game Nov. 23 after press time.  
As for the Dobie varsity girls, the locals had a tough run of things at the invitational.

The Lady Longhorns, defending champions of District 22-6A, were cast in the Division I field and lost three of four in the event.  
On the first day of play, the Lady Longhorns dropped pool contests, including a 53-42 setback to eventual gold bracket semifinalist Houston Memorial.

49-37 to North Crowley. The Lady Longhorns returned to nondistrict action Nov. 22, losing 55-40 to Dulles. Dobie went to 5-5 overall with the loss while Dulles won for the ninth time in 14 games.  
The locals will host Clear Creek Dec. 3 in a 5:30 p.m. contest at Dobie High School.



At right, Dobie guard Kendall Brown (11) pulls up for a shot with Houston Memorial's Nicki Polocheck (33) defending during pool play Nov. 18 at Dobie. Memorial went on to reach the final four in the girls' Division I gold bracket. Also in on the action is Dobie's Jacque Giron (5).  
Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Above, with Dobie varsity boys' basketball head coach Franklin Paul looking on from the sideline, Longhorn guard Chris Jones (4) looks for an opening during his team's 63-62 victory over Cy-Fair Nov. 19 at Dobie High School. The Longhorns won four of five games at the McDonald's Texas Invitational to claim the boys' Division II gold bracket consolation honor. Through the first week of the season, Dobie was victorious in five of seven games.



At right, Dobie's Kyler Thomas (0) calls out a play against Cy-Fair during the Longhorns' win over the Bobcats. Through the first week of the regular season, the Longhorns went 5-2 overall, including a 71-59 win over Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial to claim consolation honors in the Division II gold bracket.  
Photos by Gloria Wallace

Later, the Lady Longhorns found themselves on the short end of a 58-54 game against nemesis North Shore.  
In Dobie's third pool play game Nov. 19 at Dobie High School, the host Lady Longhorns defeated Clear Falls by a 46-37 count.  
The win sent the locals to the Division I bronze bracket, where Dobie fell

## Freshman Cowboys play for BAFL championship Nov. 20



The Sagemont Cowboys' freshman division Bay Area Football League squad battled the Hitchcock Red Raiders in the Super Bowl round Nov. 20 at Rice Stadium as the Red Raiders came away with the victory. The Cowboys finished the season at 9-4 overall while the BAFL champion Red Raiders were at 10-2-1. Members of the Cowboys include, left to right, (first row) Devin Hernandez, Mason Faulk, Jaxon Miller, Royce Thomas, Vic-

tor Hernandez III, Marshon Martin, (second row) Jesten Fernandez, Luke Sanchez, Eli Banda, Isaac Salgado, J.J. Guzman, Kamron Parker, (third row) Kevin Richardson, Rafael Curbeo, Brent Armstead, Kamron Mitchell, Tony Montes, Leevan Lewis, Nateese Hardge, Adrian Sanders, Kason Dillard, (fourth row) coaches Jesse Fernandez, Kelvin Nichols, Ryan Martin and Victor Hernandez.

## Lady Wolverines third overall at CCISD Whitley Classic



The Clear Brook varsity girls' basketball team got off to a rousing start this season, snagging the third-place trophy after crushing Humble. In all, the locals won six of their first seven games early on. Members of the team included, left to right, (front row) Mileka Loydrake (varsity assistant coach), Ja'Delle

Major, Liv Guerra (manager), Emily Pham, Alyssa Berry, Danielle Robinson, Rezia Castillo, (back row) Alfredo Gonzales (assistant coach), Mya Peters, Kaley Watkins, Nalani Smith, Ashley Seymore, Amanda Benjamin, Sara Mitschke, Kailyn Hitch, Tamia Moody and Warren Brooks (head coach).

## McDonald's Bracket Championship Results

<b>Boys' Div. I Gold</b>	<b>Boys' Div. II Gold</b>
Richardson def. Clear Brook 65-61	Waco Midway def. Grapevine 61-55
<b>Boys' Div. I Silver</b>	<b>Boys' Div. II Silver</b>
Summer Creek def. Tompkins 71-50	La Porte def. Cy-Ridge 63-61
<b>Boys' Div. I Bronze</b>	<b>Boys' Div. II Bronze</b>
F.B. Bush def. S.A. Clark 60-40	Dulles def. Pasadena 83-65
<b>Girls' Div. I Gold</b>	<b>Girls' Div. II Gold</b>
Cedar Park def. Summer Creek 57-47	C.C. Vet. Mem. def. Barbers Hill 41-35
<b>Girls' Div. I Silver</b>	<b>Girls' Div. II Silver</b>
Converse Judson def. Cy-Ranch 52-51	Deer Park. def. Klein Oak 52-38
<b>Girls' Div. I Bronze</b>	<b>Girls' Div. II Bronze</b>
S.A. Johnson def. North Crowley 53-41	Crosby def. Cy-Fair 46-36
<b>Girls' Div. I Consolation</b>	<b>Girls' Div. II Consolation</b>
Cy-Creek def. Clear Springs 65-34	Pas. Memorial def. S. Houston 62-38



Lady Wolverine senior Alyssa Berry collects her hardware for being named to the All-Tournament Team at the Clear Creek ISD Peggy Whitley Classic Nov. 13. Presenting the honor is CCISD Athletic Director Kirby Killingsworth.



Clear Brook freshman Rezia Castillo was honored for being named to the All-Tournament Team at the Clear Creek ISD Peggy Whitley Classic Nov. 13. Presenting the honor is CCISD Athletic Director Kirby Killingsworth.

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# CALENDAR

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

**NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club** - now open. Activities daily. Visit <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/> for face-to-face and virtual games. Email [jpochnsr@aol.com](mailto:jpochnsr@aol.com) for information. Contemplating suicide? Visit <https://afsp.org/> or call 800-273-8255.

**The Humpday Dance at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway, is open.** Volunteers Jerry and Edith Sanford teach lessons Mondays, 1:30 - 3 p.m., with a different dance rhythm each month. Park activity card holders attend free. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Call 281-554-1180 for details.

**THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25**  
7 a.m.

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

Noon  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Mondays - Thursdays.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26**  
7 a.m.

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

7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 for details.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.

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, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27**  
7:30 a.m.  
**AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

9:30 a.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See 11/26.

**Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or visit <https://www.houstonalnanon.org/>.

1 p.m.  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - knitting class. Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28**  
8 a.m.

**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - worship services Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, (Bible study, 6 p.m.); 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.; 11456 Space Center Blvd. For information, call 281-479-7285, leave message, or stop by.

2 p.m.  
**Grief Support Group** - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

5:30 p.m.  
**Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Anoa. Call 713-419-2635.

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 29**  
10 a.m.

**Al-Anon Deer Park** - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P

Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for more information or visit <https://www.houstonalnanon.org/>.

**Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call 713-472-0565 for appointment.

6 p.m.  
**Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Toastmasters** - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually except the second and fourth Mondays (in person) at <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. Visit the website for information.

7 p.m.  
**AA** - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open, 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479.

**NA** - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**  
7 a.m.  
**AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See 11/25 notice.

11:30 a.m.  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See 11/28.

Noon  
**AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1**  
7 a.m.  
**AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.

Noon  
**AA** - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

7 p.m.  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.

9:30 a.m.  
**Carmelites** - a nondenominational senior citizen (55+) social group meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 15500 El Camino Real, in Clear Lake for a time filled with fun, fellowship, coffee and bingo. No dues. Day and extended trips available. Deposits are now being taken on Carnival Western Caribbean Cruise out of Galveston, a Big Bend Motor coach trip, and a Premier Mackinac Island, the Grand Hotel & Niagara Falls trip. Call Marilyn at 713-444-6744 for more information.

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## GAT's seventh-grade A volleyball wins PISD crown



The Thompson Lady Lions' seventh-grade volleyball A team defeated the Bondy Patriots to win the Pasadena ISD tournament championship with a 25-15, 25-23 sweep. With the tournament win, the Lady Lions finished the season 9-1 overall. Members of the team include, left to right, (front row) Arianna Serna, Serenity Thomas, Brianna Chapa, Khloe Coronado, (back row) Laura Napoli (coach), Lauren Liscano, Kaylee Robles, Alyssa Goree, Unesty Williams, Alexis Martinez, Persephone Soria, Alyssa Espinoza, Kaylyn Harlan (coach) and Cimorah Roby.

## Lady Lions' 7B volleyball takes title

At right, Thompson Lady Lions' seventh-grade volleyball B team defeated the Bondy Patriots to win the Pasadena ISD tournament crown with a 28-26, 22-25, 25-20 victory. The Lady Lions finished the season 10-0 to claim supremacy across the league. Members of the team are, (front row) Isabella Swenson, Allison Walker, Jaylyn Torres, Genesis Leal, (back row) Samantha Moreno, Jazlynn Wimbush, Alynna Mariscal, Kayli Lynch, Jazalynn Randall, Miah Martinez, Madelina Medina, Yaneli Contreras, Sophia Saucedo and coach Kaylyn Harlan.



## COVID cases sharply decline at area schools

Continued from Page 1

Acting on the decreased number of active COVID-19 cases, Clear Creek ISD recently changed its monitoring protocols from Stage 3 Mitigation to Stage 4.

Under Stage 4 Mitigation, there are no restrictions for school activities, with one temporary restriction.

The temporary restriction applies to visitors for breakfast and lunch until Jan. 4, 2022. The school district will continue to social distance in all elementary cafeterias through that time. This temporary restriction will allow families who choose to have their children vaccinated to complete the five-week process.

When school resumes following the winter break and if Stage 4 conditions remain, parents will be permitted to join their children for breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria once again.

Under Stage 4, face coverings are recommended indoors for those unvaccinated as previously advised by the CDC. For the latest COVID-19 statistics from Clear Creek ISD, visit [www.ccisd.net/covid19/dashboard](http://www.ccisd.net/covid19/dashboard).

San Jacinto College Active cases also continue to decline at San Jacinto College. Out of 31,641 total

employees, the college was only reporting six total on-campus cases, during the week of Nov. 8-Nov. 14.

The average number of new cases reported daily on or off campus, was listed as 2.14.

At no time in the last 30 days has there been 10 or more reported cases, on or off campus.

For the latest COVID-19 statistics from San Jacinto College, visit [www.sanjac.edu/coronavirus](http://www.sanjac.edu/coronavirus).

## Andrade honored



Melillo Middle School staff recognized Giovanna Andrade for Teacher Spotlight in October. Andrade is a sixth-grade math teacher who is continually supporting her team with new materials and utilizing small groups during enrichment. The school thanks her for all that she does for the students and staff.



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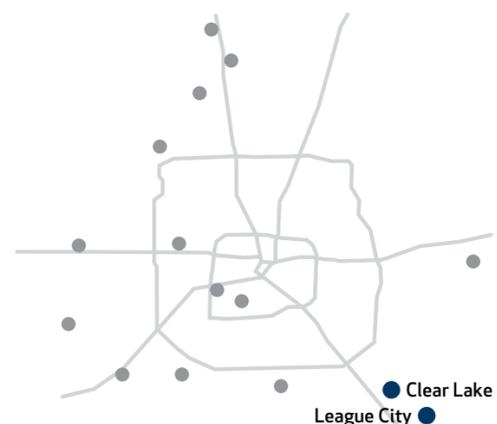
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