

Donations, families sought

Donations are currently being sought for the Leader's 38th annual Christmas program, aimed at providing food and toys to area families in need. Desired items include toys for children of all ages, nonperishable food items, paper products and cash. There is a particular need for gifts appropriate for older children and teens, such as clothing, sporting goods, makeup kits and gift cards. All gifts should be new and unwrapped. Those wishing to donate items should visit the Leader office, 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8. There is still time for residents to apply for assistance in this year's program. See related story in the Dec. 3 issue. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, multiple safety precautions will be taken by the Leader office, including no indoor visits.

Recycling at Ellington

The City of Houston will hold its monthly electronics recycling program at Ellington Airport Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A joint endeavor between the city's Solid Waste Department and Compuycle, the collection program is contactless due to COVID. Residents are asked to wear masks when speaking to staff and place all items in the trunk of the vehicle to ensure no direct contact is made. For information, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html.

Final Sunday for pop-up

The Gardens Christmas Pop-Up Shop has been extended to Sunday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot at the Gardens located at 12001 Beamer Road (weather permitting). In an effort to support local small businesses, The Gardens is offering vendor space at no cost. Application and waiver are required. There is no duplication of multilevel marketing businesses. The application is pinned to the top of The Gardens Houston Face Book page. For more information, contact Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545 or Carmen Garza at 281-481-0181. New toy and monetary donations for the South Belt Toy Drive will be accepted during the event.

St. Luke turkey leg sale

The Knights of Columbus Council 9201 at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church will hold a turkey leg and sausage on a stick sale. The sale is Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13. The event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until the food runs out. St. Luke's Catholic Church is located at 10111 Hall Road. Turkey legs will be \$9 each, sausage on a stick \$5 each, and drinks will be \$1.

Accident results in arrest

An early morning accident recently led to a felony DWI charge. Pct. 2 deputies were dispatched at 7:30 a.m. to a rollover crash at the intersection of Beamer and Dixie Farm Road to find an injured 40-year-old male, later identified as Christopher Perez of Galena Park. Perez was transported to Clear Lake Regional Medical center for treatment. While there, deputies charged him with DWI, his third one, making it a felony in Texas. Perez was later taken into custody and transported to Harris County Jail.

Kirkwood Civic meets Dec. 10

The Kirkwood Civic Association will meet on a conference call 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. The dial-in number is 605-475-6006 with access code 4382419. Visit the Facebook page of Kirkwood Civic Club or call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990 for details.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

COVID report updated

Of the 2,722 confirmed COVID cases in 77089, 319 remain active, while 2,364 have recovered from the virus. To date, 39 from the ZIP code have died from the disease - up four from last week. In 77075, 199 of the 1,999 confirmed cases remain active, while 1,778 have recovered. A total of 22 from the ZIP code have died - up one from the previous week. Of the 2,197 confirmed cases in 77034, 196 remain active, while 1,978 recovered from the disease. To date, 23 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease - up 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 200,397 total confirmed cases. Of those, 176,435 have recovered from the disease, while 21,455 cases remain active. A total of 2,492 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/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.

Failing virtual students must return to campus

The Pasadena Independent School District is requiring underperforming virtual students to return to campus for in-person instruction. The measure will begin Jan. 6 for all failing students. The Texas Education Agency has recently notified school districts they may require virtual students who are failing and/or not actively participating in class to be moved from virtual education to face-to-face instruction. In compliance with the TEA's guidance, Pasadena ISD has developed procedures for returning these virtual

students to campus. "Although every effort is made to assist virtual students who are struggling academically, many virtual students have not engaged consistently with instruction and are currently failing one or more of their courses," Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell said in a video message posted to the school district's website. "Compared with the first semester of last year, more students in PISD are struggling academically this year, and our failure rates are significantly higher for our remote learners. The

bottom line is that our face-to-face learners are outperforming their peers. We cannot continue to allow our students to fall behind and possibly face being retained." Powell is confident the measure will help struggling students catch up to their peers. "We need our students back in our classrooms where they will be more successful," Powell said. "We believe by moving forward with this change in the new year, we will be able to get all of our students on track for promotion to the next

grade level and graduation." During Pasadena ISD's second grading period, 52 percent of students (26,472 total pupils) returned to their respective campuses for in-person instruction, while 48 percent of students (24,103 total pupils) opted to continue studying virtually from home. By comparison, 45 percent of students (22,809 total pupils) opted for face-to-face instruction the first nine-week cycle, while 55 percent of

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Garcias donate to Leader Christmas program

The Garcia family is happy to be able to give to the community by donating snacks, liters of soda and a variety of canned goods to the South Belt Leader Christmas program. Shown next to the donated items are, left to right, Joann Garcia, Richard Garcia and Kaleb Garcia (front). Richard is an eighth-grader from Thompson Intermediate School and Kaleb is fourth-grader from South Belt Elementary. The family is one of many that generously donate during the holidays. Photo by Natalie Abarca

Update on Leader Christmas program

A chill is in the air, and the South Belt community is once again coming together to help those less fortunate by participating in the annual Leader Christmas program. Due to COVID, this year's program will be held outside and it is currently scheduled for Dec. 18, weather permitting. Families will be contacted by phone for their pickup time. Masks and social distancing will be required. Now in its 38th year, the program is aimed at helping families in the immediate area by collecting food and gifts. The drive began in 1982 when an anonymous man, now dubbed "The Good Samaritan," walked into the Leader office and donated a turkey dinner to be delivered to a needy family in the community. The stranger said his family had been given food when he was young and he wanted to return the favor. Participating in the drive again this year are community leader Sandy Robb and her daughter Stacey Waugh, who have selflessly volunteered hours of their time to the drive. "This is our favorite time of the year," Robb said. "We love Christmas."

The program is unique to the mother-daughter team in the fact that donated goods go directly to help local residents. "We want to help families in this area," Robb said. "This is our neighborhood." For Waugh, it's all about spreading cheer. "I hope everybody has a wonderful Christmas," she said. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in-person applications will be accepted this year. All applicants asking for help must apply by sending an email to mynews@southbeltleader.com. Applicants must email the following pieces of information: name; address; phone number; why help is needed; whether or not help has been sought elsewhere; whether or not the Leader has provided assistance before in past years, the grade level and name of school the children are attending as well as the first and last names and ages of all children. All applicants must undergo a screening process to determine the family's need. To qualify, one must be a South Belt area resident and possess one form of identification verifying their address. Those wishing to donate items should visit the Leader office, 11555 Beamer at Beltway 8.

1.4 million COVID doses head for Texas

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, Gov. Greg Abbott announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had made an initial allotment of more than 1.4 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines to the state of Texas for the month of December. These vaccines, which should begin arriving in Texas the week of Dec. 14, will be distributed to qualifying providers across the state who will administer these immunizations based on the Vaccine Distribution Principles developed by the state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. Additional allotments may be made later this month

for December. Also, increased allotments are expected in January and the following months. "The state of Texas is already prepared for the arrival of a COVID-19 vaccine and will swiftly distribute these vaccines to Texans who voluntarily choose to be immunized," said Abbott. "As we await the first shipment of these vaccines, we will work with communities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19." At press time, it remained unclear what local providers, if any, would be distributing the vaccine.

CCISD holds successful fundraisers

A pair of recent fundraisers for the Clear Creek Education Foundation raised more than \$121,500. **Smith Roast & Toast** The Clear Creek Education Foundation hosted a virtual Roast & Toast event honoring outgoing CCISD Superintendent Dr. Greg Smith Thursday, Nov. 5, via Facebook Live. Handpicked by Smith, the three roasters included Dr. Laura DuPont, Dr. Glenn Freedman, and Gail Love. "It was such an honor to pay tribute to Dr. Smith who so willingly, once again supported the foundation's efforts to raise funds," said Katy Bastedo, CCEF chairman. "He's such a good sport,

which made this event so entertaining, meaningful and worthwhile." The event was a great success, raising more than \$90,000 for the foundation. "So many in our community stepped up to support the foundation and raise the funding needed to support CCISD programs for students and teachers," said Deborah Laine, CCEF executive director. "We are truly blessed and most appreciative to everyone who played a part in this success." Smith is retiring Dec. 31, after spending 13 years with the district. He is being replaced by Dr. Eric Williams

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\$10 million for small businesses set

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and the City Council recently approved \$10 million in additional funding for the City's Small Business Economic Relief Program, bringing the total allocation of CARES Act 2020 dollars used to fund the program to \$35 million. Launched in August and with an application deadline that closed in September, the program has provided grant assistance to small businesses and chambers of commerce that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant recipients have included microbusinesses with five employees or fewer and those who did not receive any financial assistance from other relief programs such as the Paycheck Pro-

tection Program or the Economic Injury Disaster Loan. "A business may use the funds for payroll, accounts payable, rent, mortgage, personal protective equipment for employees and marketing strategies, including creating an online presence and other sales alternatives," said Turner. "The City of Houston knows the pandemic has created challenges for many small businesses, and we want to help them survive until things get better." Of more than 12,000 applications received by the city, there are still 3,000 applications under review and awaiting potential funding. The maximum amount a business or chamber can receive

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Williams recognized by PISD

Throughout this season, Pasadena Independent School District staff members are spotlighting a few of the great teachers around the district for whom they are thankful. At the suggestion of Beverly Hills Intermediate, PISD is shining a spotlight on Cecillee "Julie" Williams, a seventh-grade math teacher in the personalized learning program at Beverly Hills. Williams is a hardworking and innovative teacher, striving to make sure all her students succeed. In her classroom, she pairs virtual and face-to-face students in Zoom meetings to make sure every student feels included and understands the math concepts she teaches. "Julie is making the most of these unusual circumstances and her students are thriving in spite of any obstacles they're facing," said Jennifer Teichelman, assistant principal at Beverly Hills. "We are so thankful she is a BHI Bear."



Cecillee "Julie" Williams

Homestead exemption needs verification

Homeowners with a homestead exemption should expect to soon receive a postcard from the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) in their mailbox verifying they have an exemption on their property. The appraisal district is mailing a confirmation postcard to all homeowners with a homestead exemption currently on file. Exemptions include Residence Homestead, Over-65, Disabled Person Exemptions, Disabled Veteran Exemptions, Over-55 Surviving Spouse Exemptions and Surviving Spouse Exemptions for spouses of members of the U.S. armed forces or first responders killed in the line of duty. The postcard is an annual mailing by HCAD to homeowners confirming their homeowner exemption is in place. An exemption excludes all or part of a property from taxation, so homeowners with an exemption are eligible for the tax break that exemption provides. "Homestead exemptions are one of the easiest

ways a homeowner can lower their property tax bill," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. "A homestead is generally the house and land used as the owner's primary residence on January 1." Homeowners do not need to do anything if the type of homestead exemption listed on the postcard is correct. HCAD will automatically renew their homestead exemption unless the property owner informs HCAD differently or the postcard is returned as undeliverable. If the card is returned, HCAD will cancel the homestead exemption and send the owner a letter asking them to reapply if they believe they are still entitled to the exemption. "We want to make it as easy as possible for homeowners to get the exemptions they are entitled to," Altinger said. "If all the information on the card is correct, the homeowner does not have to do anything. However, if one of the homeowners has had a 65th birthday or become disabled,

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CCISD finalizes superintendent pick

The Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees unanimously approved Dr. Eric Williams as the next superintendent of the school district. In June Dr. Greg Smith, longtime CCISD superintendent, announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31. Williams is currently the superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools, a high-performing school district of approximately 82,000 students, 13,000 employees and a \$1.3 billion budget in Leesburg, Va. Williams has more than 28 years in education, spanning from a social studies teacher in Virginia and an English teacher in Brazil to a high school principal in Florida and superintendent in Virginia. "He is an outstanding leader with demonstrat-



Dr. Eric Williams

ed integrity, demonstrating a long track record of instructional and student success," said Dr. Laura DuPont, CCISD board president. "His work demonstrates a mature, strategic, thoughtful and innovative systematic approach to addressing all types of issues that arise in a school district. This includes a strong use of data-driven decision making. He is very clearly visible in his work and approachable and works to develop individuals as well as grow high-performing teams." With the assistance of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Clear Creek ISD conducted a nationwide search to find the right candidate to lead Clear Creek ISD in 2021 and beyond. Williams was named the lone finalist Nov. 9. Due to Texas law, the board had to wait 21 days before taking a final vote. Williams will be joining the CCISD team Jan. 18. "I look forward to working with the CCISD board and the larger community to build upon the excellence and innovation here," said Williams. To learn more about Williams, visit ccisd.net/cms/one.aspx?pageId=94950297.

Map shows where appraisers working

Residential property owners in Harris County now have access to a new tool to see if appraisers are working in their area as the appraisal district conducts on-site inspections during the 2021 property valuation process. The Appraiser Field Operations Map identifies neighborhoods throughout the county where appraisers are scheduled to work. Users can either use the Zoom feature to isolate areas of interest or use the search feature to enter a specific address. "The map brings a new level of safety and peace of mind to property owners and our appraisers,"

said Roland Altinger, chief county appraiser. "With more people working from home and a higher awareness of strangers in the neighborhood, the map lets homeowners check if the person coming up to the house is likely working for the district." The online map is updated once a day and can be found at head.org under Maps > Field Operations Map. The map will provide the general neighborhoods where appraisers are scheduled to work that day but will not identify their exact locations or specific accounts to be inspected.

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Memorial revises visitor policy

Memorial Hermann Health System has further modified its visitor policy in an effort to protect its patients, workforce and the community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Dec. 3, Memorial Hermann moved to a virtual visitation policy for patient families and friends and no longer allows in-person visits, with a few exceptions, until further notice. This policy modification applies to all Memorial Hermann facilities. As COVID-19 cases in the Greater Houston area continue to rise, MHHS officials believe this difficult decision is necessary to protect the

health of everyone as the pandemic continues to evolve. There will continue to be very limited compassionate exceptions - included below - to the no-visitor policy. These visitors will be required to clear a health screening before entering any facility and wear a Memorial Hermann-provided mask at all times. Exceptions may vary by location. These exceptions include the following: - One adult (18 and older) visitor for laboring women. - One adult visitor (parent or guardian) for pediatric patients.

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In My Opinion

Albert Martinez family sharing Christmas

A huge thanks to Marie, the staff at the South Belt Leader and all of the neighbors who donated in the past years, you all have saved our Christmas more than once!

This year we are in the position to return the loving, kindness that was

shown to us! We have 2 gifts for teenagers (1 boy and 1 girl).

I was hoping to drop by Tuesday around 4 to drop them off, will someone be there to receive them? Kind regards,

Albert and Rainbow Martinez
Publisher's note: Yes, we will and thank you so much. This is my favorite type of story, our program helping people who later return the favor by helping others.
Marie Flickinger

Elected officials share their words

Dear Residents of District E, I hope each of you had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends. Given this trying year, I reflect back on our many blessings, I can't help but be thankful for the opportunity to serve District E.

I am grateful to have met the people I have, to work on a daily basis with my colleagues around the council table, and to be involved in the many exciting projects and developments underway across the district.

From Kingwood to Clear Lake, there are multiple developments in the works that will enhance the quality of life for residents and generate a significant economic impact.

We look forward to bringing more news about these projects and developments af-

ter the first of the new year.

I also want to congratulate each of the individuals that were re-elected or newly elected last month that will also serve the constituents of District E. I look forward to working with each of them on many levels.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Please note that our council office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve and Friday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day as well as on Friday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day for my staff to spend time with their families.

We will be anxiously waiting to respond to your calls and emails when we return to the office on Jan. 4.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!
Sincerely,
Dave Martin
Mayor

CCISD holds successful events

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Eric Williams. See related story on Page 1.

Topgolf tournament
The Clear Creek Education Foundation hosted its fifth Annual Alumni and Friends Topgolf Tournament recently.

Despite multiple setbacks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament was a great success, raising \$31,500 for the foundation. "After postponing this event multiple times amid much uncertainty, it was incredible to

see the community continue to support the foundation," said event chairman Traci Dvorak. "Because of this support and the incredible teachers in Clear Creek ISD, learning and innovation has not stopped during this pandemic."

College closed for winter break Dec. 19 - Jan. 3

San Jacinto College will be closed Dec. 19 - Jan. 3 for the winter holidays. No classes will be held. Classes and normal business hours will resume on Monday, Jan. 4.

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

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

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library, 10851 Seardsdale Blvd., is closed to the public. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870 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 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

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

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

All month long in December. Virtual Photo Club. Join the photo club with this month's photo challenge "TBD" - show everyone! 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 long in December. Virtual Poetry Club. Residents may send poetry with name or social media name 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 throughout the month.

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

Friday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez who tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Residents will be needing pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Friday, Dec. 11, 5 p.m. Is it wrong to watch so much anime? Join Jason Cruz for Episode 6: "Light Novel Adaptations." This video will be on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m. Yoga Story Holiday Stress Reduction Through Meditation with Daya Sharma.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 4:45 p.m. Yoga Story Time, ages 4 - 12. A peaceful time for children to learn mindfulness through story, song, breathing and light movement virtually on Microsoft Teams with Celeste Plew. Parents in attendance are encouraged to participate. All children and families are welcome to join virtually. Sign up once with a valid email address at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for a weekly invitation.

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

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. Virtual teen advisory board. Looking for a way to volunteer? Need to get some hours for National Honor Society? Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) on Wednesday. For an invitation to the Microsoft Teams meeting, email john.harbaugh@hcpl.net. #volunteer #volunteering #community #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

— The Voice of Community-Minded People —

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Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

Publisher's Opinion

A few words on a couple of topics

I know it is a very busy time of year, but I do want to comment on a couple of things this week.

First of all, thanks to all who have donated to our annual Christmas program. Beverly Hills Intermediate got us off to a great start with canned goods and food staples.

A special thanks to M & D Ace Hardware and their customers. M & D collected money for our program and gave us a check for just over \$1500. This will go a long way in food gift cards for our Christmas families.

A lady came into our office this week and gave our receptionist eight \$20 bills for the program, and wanted to do this anonymously. I didn't even get a chance to thank her. Hopefully she will see this and know she is appreciated.

Thanks, also, to the people who have received gifts for their families over the years

and are now sharing in the giving. And thanks to those who will share before we are done.

On another topic, I have been very concerned about the education our youth are getting due to COVID.

I know faculty and administrators, as well as most parents, and many students are working hard to keep up. But I also know that many of the virtual students are not keeping up for various reasons, and one important reason is the lack of motivation.

This virus has done a lot of damage, so we won't totally understand for some time to come. Consequently, I am happy to see PISD is facing the problem head-on to help our area kids. (See story Page 1.)

Thank you for not taking the easy way out!

Marie Flickinger,
Publisher

PISD working for student success

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students (24,103 pupils) selected to study from home.

At press time, it was unclear how many students would be affected by the change.

Parents may request a meeting with campus administrators to discuss the decision and the specific reasons for it.

Parents may also appeal the decision if their child has an underlying medical condition as outlined by the CDC. Upon review, the appeal may be granted to continue virtual learning. To appeal a case, visit www.pasadenaisd.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=37378474.

The school district sent out a letter to parents Friday, Dec. 4, notifying them of the change.

"Your virtual student is currently in danger of failing one or more subjects for the fall semester," the letter read. "Our campus has put forth every effort to ensure the necessary supports are in place for all virtual students to be successful; however, your child continues to struggle academically."

The letter further thanked parents for their cooperation

during this challenging time.

"We appreciate your continued partnership as we work together to identify the best possible educational experience that will enable your child to achieve academic success even in the midst of this pandemic," the letter stated.

Despite the challenges, Powell is confident that struggling students can get back on track.

"Working together, we know that we can have a safe and successful second semester, as we continue to make the best out of a very difficult year."

Time to renew tax exemptions

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they may be eligible for one additional tax exemption and, if that's the case, they should contact our office.

"Similarly, if they have sold the home or established a different primary residence, they need to contact us so we can cancel the exemption."

A change in ownership also includes the death of an owner or the transfer of ownership through divorce proceedings. If either event

has occurred during the year, the survivor or new owner should contact the appraisal district. Not reporting changes could mean substantial tax penalty liabilities later on.

Homeowners who have recently turned 65 or have qualified for disability under Social Security should also contact the appraisal district and apply for the additional exemption available to over-65 or totally disabled individuals. They easily can do

this by submitting the form on the HCAD website or using the HCAD mobile app.

For more information on homestead exemptions, over-65 exemptions, disabled person exemptions and disabled veteran exemptions, call the HCAD Information Center at 713-957-7800, or go to the district's website at www.hcad.org where exemption information and applications are available under the Forms tab on the top tool bar.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound and one southbound Belt way 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, Dec. 20.

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, Dec. 20.

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

12 days of Christmas at Thompson



Celebrating 12 days of Christmas are, left to right, Tanis Griffin, Thompson Intermediate principal and Betty Minter, Thompson Intermediate executive secretary. Students and staff spent the day listening to music during lunch, decorating classroom doors and participating in wearing festive attire.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of the Neighbor's app posted a video of a woman who walked up to the member's front door and took the member's package on Sunday, Dec. 6 in Sagemeadow subdivision.

A member from the Nextdoor app posted a man was attempting to break into cars Monday, Dec. 7, between 1:15 and 1:30 a.m. The member

states their son arrived home and the surveillance camera was on. The son came into the house and closed the garage, then the member walked back to their room and saw the TV screen to see someone pulling on the vehicle's door handle.

The member states that they started beating on the window and scared off the guy. The man was described as slim and was wearing light colored pants/

jeans and a cap. The member could not tell his ethnicity. The member rewound the video and saw that the man crossed the street, pulling on vehicle door handles. The local police were contacted. The member suggests that everyone lock their car doors and stay aware of their surroundings, and to especially pay close attention to cars or individuals that are new to the neighborhood.

Johnson top teacher



Congratulations to Karissa Johnson, a Thompson Intermediate pre-AP seventh-grade math and Algebra teacher. She was nominated by Thompson teachers. Among the reasons she was selected are that she is a very supportive co-worker who is always willing to help with anything her fellow teachers need - even door decorating. Johnson always looks out for the best interest of her students and does her best to ensure that her assignments and lessons are engaging for her students. She works hard so her students still enjoy their lessons, even with the interaction limits faced by COVID. She is always willing to listen and talk through things to find solutions and is available to help with technology.

Food Town working with area

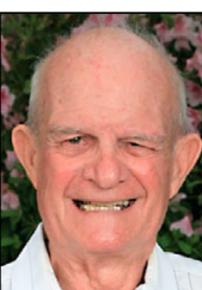


Partners working for improved area security are, left to right, James Nesbit, Food Town vice president, store development; Todd Webb, Food Town store manager; Cecilia Ganje, general manager of administration for CBCMUD; and Joey Palacios, Food Town supervisor. Ganje requested the store put in higher grade security cameras, and the management agreed. Ganje said the whole community needs to work together to keep the area a great place to live and do business.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Deaths

Hardie Barnett Matthews Jr.



Hardie Barnett Matthews Jr., 93, died Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, in Webster. He was born in El Paso April 23, 1927, to parents Hardie Sr. and Emma Matthews, both of whom have preceded him in death.

He is survived by daughter Anette D. Monroe and husband Ron Monroe and son David D. Matthews Sr. and wife Donna Matthews; and stepchildren Barbara Watkins and her husband George, Joanne Eagle and her husband Steve, John Eagle and his wife Jeanne, Patricia Eagle and Donna Rankin. Hardie's grandchildren include Katherine Monroe, Amanda Monroe, Andrea Coblentz, Chelsea Hale, Nicole Matthews, David Matthews Jr. and Joshua Matthews; and step-grandchildren Matthew Hausler, Nathan Hausler, Sarah Pool, Brian Watkins, Jennifer Murphy and Ryan Murphy.

Hardie is also survived by numerous great-grandchildren McKenzie Mandani, Aubrey Matthews, Reid Matthews, Cheyenne Matthews, Andrew Monroe, Lilly Hale, Lincoln Hale, Natalie Coblentz, Noah Cob-

Jared Paul Baronet



blentz, Jett Hausler, Alexandra Rankin, Blake Watkins, Rachel Pool, Lauren Dunne, Ashlynn Riddlehoover, Luke Murphy, Dex Murphy, and Griffin Murphy; and numerous family and friends.

Hardie earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Technical University and attended some 21 universities over his many years of adult life. He married Doris Elaine Blumberg Oct. 26, 1957. He obtained his teaching certification from Sul Ross University and advanced to become a teacher for the U.S. military in Germany where he and his wife adopted their two children Anette and David.

Hardie was married a second time in his life to Sybil Blanche Eagle and remained married until her passing in 2017. He taught at Pasadena High School for 13 years.

Serving proudly in World War II as a corporal with the 4th Army in Europe and in the Korean War with the 8th Army, Hardie was honorably discharged from the Army in 1952.

He enjoyed many interests over the years, none more than creative writing. He was an active member of the Pasadena Writers Club and of the Toastmasters organization.

He even went as far as to write his own book titled "Henry's New Life." Having a devout love for God, Hardie was a member of the St. Christopher Episcopal Church in League City. He will most be remembered for his unique sense of humor and his utmost love for his family.

Funeral services were held at Crowder Funeral Home in Webster Thursday, Dec. 3.

The beloved son of Barry and Sharon Baronet, Jared Paul Baronet, 49, died peacefully after a battle with cancer Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020.

He grew up in the South Belt area and graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in 1989. He attended San Jacinto College and Houston Community College. He worked as a certified welding inspector and had a passion for designing and building metal art and furniture. Growing up, he played little league baseball and football. He attended many Astros games and became a loyal Astro fan. He loved going to the games and collecting Astro memorabilia.

He is survived by his son Tyler Paul Baronet; grandchildren Kanyon Michael Paul Baronet and Alice Marie Baronet; his parents; sister Paula Nicole "Nicki" Baronet; his aunt Mary Carroll; uncle Michael Carroll and wife Julie; uncle Jory Baronet and wife Jane; niece Avery Ryanne Reeder; nephews Noah Gregory Reeder and Maxwell Reeder; and numerous cousins.

A graveside service was held Dec. 8, 2020, at Rosewood Memorial Park in Humble.

Pasadena Little Theatre hosts "Christmas Belles"

From the writers of last season's "A Doublewide, Texas Christmas" Pasadena Little Theatre presents "Christmas Belles," a comedy of Christmastime in the small town of Fayro, Texas, where the Futrelle sisters (Frankie, Twink and Honey Raye) are not in a festive mood. A cranky Frankie is weeks overdue with her second set of twins. Twink, recently jilted and bitter about it, is in jail for inadvertently burning down half the town. Hot-flash-suffering Honey Raye is desperately trying to keep the Tabernacle of the Lamb's Christmas program from spiraling into chaos.

Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. now until Dec. 20. Ticket prices are \$15-single; \$12-seniors/students; and \$18 at the door. T

Those unable to attend in person may purchase a link for \$10 to view the production privately at any time on a device Dec. 18 - Dec. 20. Visit pasadenalittletheatre.org or call 713-941-1758 for details.

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Nursery Available at all Services

Violinist teaches Morris students virtually

Morris Middle School orchestra students recently had the opportunity to receive lessons from Grammy award-winning rock violinist, Haydn Vitera, as part of an ongoing partnership with Electrify Your Symphony, an educational company that showcases alternative styles in orchestra classrooms.

Vitera, a multitalented instrumentalist who has performed with artists including George Strait and Stevie Wonder, had planned to host a concert at Morris back in May; however, due to COVID-related closures, the concert was postponed.

The lesson, arranged by Morris orchestra directors Laurie Arnold and Lisa Russell, took place Nov. 10.

Orchestra students tuned in to a Zoom call with Vitera as he played his six-string electric Viper violin. During the lessons, Vitera instructed the students in new bow and string techniques, as well as choreography. "All of the kids were up and moving and playing to a new beat," said Russell. "They also learned the all important 'Bow to the

Sky' pose in which all rock orchestra songs are ended." After all the lessons have been completed, Vitera and students will be performing in a professionally edited and choreographed video produced by Electrify Your Symphony.

Each student will create and submit individual videos for a final production video of "Hunters of Avatar." "We will have plenty more to share as this is a long project and partnership with our

school," said Russell. Additionally, as part of Electrify Your Symphony's partnership with Morris, Vitera performed a virtual concert for the families of Morris orchestra students Nov. 16.



Morris MS orchestra students attended lessons virtually through Zoom with Haydn Vitera. The lesson was arranged by Morris orchestra directors Laurie Arnold and Lisa Russell. Shown following along with the lesson is Matthew Dunn, a sixth-grader.

CT Christian Academy receives donations

The Rev. Richard Vega, founder of At His Feet Ministries, delivered thousands of dollars in school supplies recently to five area schools. CT Christian Academy, Mae Smythe Elementary, Young Elementary, Gar-

field Elementary and Fisher Elementary were among the schools selected to receive the donations. Vega said "We know 2020 has been hard on everyone, but we cannot let the educators stress about supplies. We understand this has been the hardest year ever. We love all educators and thank you for trying to teach this generation and not lose this generation." Dr. Christina Harris, CT Christian Academy Head of School found the donations to be a blessing for the new-



Standing behind the large donation of school supplies are Dr. Christina Harris (left), CT Christian Academy Head of School and the Rev. Richard Vega, founder of At His Feet Ministries.

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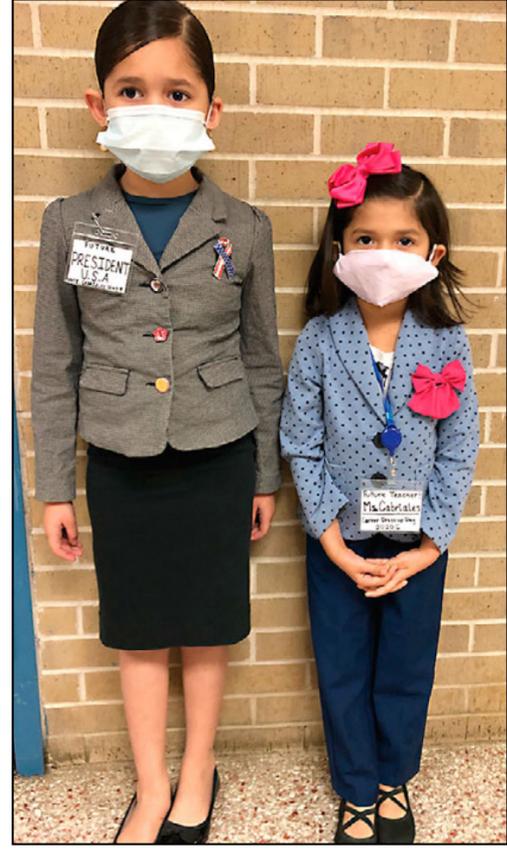
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Meador celebrates College & Career Week



Prekindergarten students Yessica Moreno (left) chose her career as a nurse and Galilea Rodarte dressed as a police officer.

Meador Elementary School students hosted their annual College & Career Week Nov. 16-20 to promote college awareness and create a college-going culture at an early age. Students wore college shirts and had a career dress-up day parade. During the week the young participants enjoyed learning information about colleges and careers.



Siblings Bethany Cabriales (left), a first-grade student, is dressed as the future president of the USA and kindergartener Lucia Cabriales is dressed as a teacher.



Third-graders Emyriah Groves (left) chose a career as a surgeon and Jasmine Alvarado dressed in a baker's apron and brought a mixer and cookies to indicate her career choice as a baker.

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Milstead celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

The coronavirus pandemic may have changed quite a few things for schools in Pasadena ISD, but faculty members at Milstead Middle School were determined to continue the campus' annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration and program.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which started Sept. 15 and lasted through Oct. 15, recognizes and pays tribute to the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States. "Here at Milstead Middle, we celebrate

Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing the many accomplishments of Hispanic Americans and the diverse nationalities of our community," said James Kelley, a fifth- and sixth-grade social studies teacher at Milstead. As part of

the celebration this year, hallways were decorated with student artwork depicting notable figures of Hispanic heritage including Frida Kahlo, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Cesar Chavez, along with flags from Hispanic



The door to James Kelley's classroom displays hand cutouts featuring the student's name and career goals.



Artwork of Frida Kahlo by a student in Jennifer Okay's sixth-grade advanced art class was also on display through the hallways.

and South American countries.

In Kelley's class, students placed cutouts of their hands on the classroom door. The cutouts, featuring the student's name and career goals, were placed next to famous Hispanic figures to send the message that they, too, can become leaders or as Kelley calls them, "World-Changers."

"We are always looking for innovative ways to inspire and encourage our students," said Kelley. "By promoting a sense of community, we are able to hold true to our 'rise up' motto." Each day during Hispanic Heritage Month, students in social studies classes watched videos to learn about Hispanic leaders in government, civil rights and their community.

On the last day of the month, the students received a surprise video recorded for them by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "We wanted to include her," said Kelley. "The students see her on the news making a difference in the community."

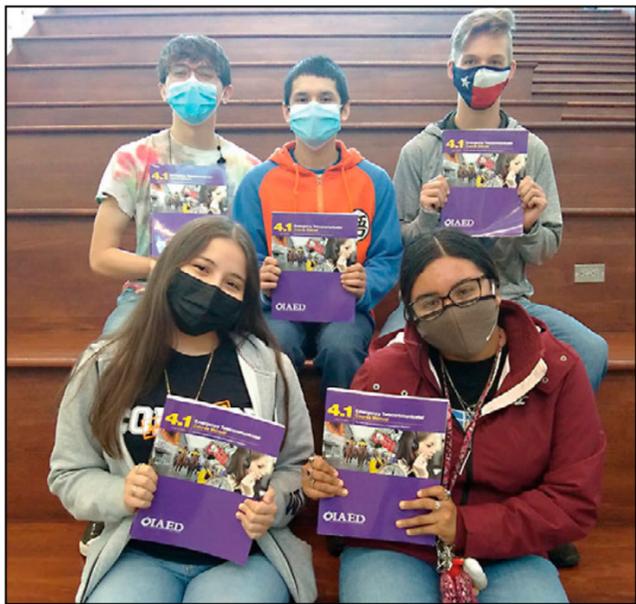
During the video, Hidalgo encouraged students to follow their passion when looking to their future and to consider a career in public service. "As you chart your path through middle school and high school and beyond, think about connecting your interests to work in government, in public service," said Hidalgo.

CTHS seniors earn certification

All 27 senior criminal justice students at the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School passed their dispatch certification exam, both virtually and face-to-face. They now hold International Academy of Emergency Dispatch certifications.



Seniors shown holding their course manuals are, left to right, (front row) Zenaida Castillo, Lizbeth Pineda, (back row) Hermione Vilchis, Bryan Mata and Melanie Rojas.



Seniors were smiling behind their masks as they passed their dispatch certification exam. Left to right are (front row) Kelly Velasco, Vianca Valles, (back row) Cameron Hawn, Charles Sigala and Ethan Ayala. Not shown are Melissa Escobar, Yahir Serna, Andres Gallegos Molina, Emma Gonzalez, Arturo Salazar, Sydney Stauffer, Jakayla Gary, Jessica Salazar, Christopher Olvera, Xavier Vargas, Abigail Castillo, Nailea Cerda, Fattima Charles, Frederick Quezada, Xavier Ramirez, Axel Solano and Alberto Trevino.

CTHS students win at HLSR

By Kadey Heidrich

After much anticipation, the results of the 2020 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Industrial Craft competition were recently announced, with CTHS students earning Best Presentation and Best Overall Project for the competition.

The students competed against teams from seven school districts, each tasked with creating a project to be presented at the HLSR.

Pasadena ISD's winning entry was a BBQ pit/smoker that included a table, storage for wood and lights, along with a windmill, all assembled and painted on a skid.

Students began working on the project in September 2019 and had planned to show it in March 2020. However, the HLSR was canceled days before the showing due to COVID-19 pandemic-related concerns.

The idea behind the competition, the first of its kind for the HLSR, was to promote the development of skills in industrial construction and to emulate live work.

By participating, students were given an opportunity to create a project in collaboration with several Career and Technical Ed-

ucation pathways including auto collision, construction, electrical, IT and welding.

Prior to starting work on the project, students were required to complete a safety orientation training provided by S&B Engineers and Constructors.

After the training was completed, students in each

pathway were assigned tasks to complete, some of which required students to adhere to detailed blueprints and guidelines.

S&B Engineers and Constructors also assembled the competition's committee roster that included local companies like Turner Industries, ISC Constructors,

Performance Contractors and Force Corp. Each contractor was assigned to serve as a mentor for a school district, with Turner Industries serving as the mentor to Pasadena ISD students.

While Turner and other mentors were prohibited from working on the project, they provided students with

support and answers to any questions they had.

"I am so proud of our students and instructors," said Tanya Hagar, executive director of Career and Technical Education for Pasadena ISD.

"This project was a major undertaking and definitely forced our students to col-

laborate, stretch their skill level, and think outside the box. It was as hands-on, real world as it gets."

Many students participated in the project, however, only eight were given the honor of taking part in the winning presentation team.

The group of students included Eduardo Campuzano, welding, Class of 2020; Jehovany Gomez, welding, Class of 2020; Lilianna Garcia, welding, Class of 2020; Josue Vazquez, welding, Class of 2021; Alexis Flores, IT, Class of 2020; Felipe Pena, electrical, Class of 2020; Victor Avila, construction, Class of 2020; and Bryan Elias, construction, Class of 2020.

"As a former welding teacher, I know how difficult this project was to take on," said Ezequiel Garcia, CTE business partner liaison for Pasadena ISD. "I am proud beyond words when I look at the final product."

After the project was completed, CTHS decided to donate the completed project to the Houston Fire Department Val Jahnke Training Facility.

The facility is a long-time business partner and provides support for many of the district's CTE courses.



Shown with their awards are, left to right, Jehovany Gomez, CTHS graduate; Josue Vazquez, CTHS senior; and Eduardo Campuzano, CTHS graduate. Photo submitted

HFD urges safety using heating devices

With the freeze warning for Harris County that was issued Dec. 1, the Houston Fire Department urges residents to be careful and recommends following some simple safety tips when using space heaters, fireplaces and other supplemental heating sources.

Any shift away from the exclusive use of central heating presents an increased possibility for fire.

Residents should always keep in mind that space heaters need space.

Houston Fire Department recommends the following safety tips when using supplemental heating sources:

- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm.
- Never leave children unattended in a room with a space heater.
- Use caution with children who may knock over space heaters, or stick paper or toys in the grates, especially of gas space heaters.
- Keep all combustible materials, including oneself, at least three feet from the heater.
- Make sure open-face heaters have a screen.
- Provide ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide

poisoning.

Vented gas-fired heating appliances tips

Tips for central heating units, floor furnaces, recessed wall heaters and vented space heaters include:

- Inspect annually by a qualified service technician.
- Use units only with a proper vent pipe. Vent pipes must exhaust to the outside.
- Turn off heating device if flame is not blue, since it is not burning properly, but may be producing carbon monoxide, which can't be seen, smelled or tasted.
- Use flexible metal tubing with threaded ends to connect the heater to the gas valve. There should be a cut-off 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 label and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper usage.

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. Lint and dust will burn.

Fireplace safety: National Fire Prevention Association

According to the NFPA, while fireplaces often conjure up images of warmth and comfort, they also represent a source of home heating fires.

Creosote, a sticky, oily, combustible substance created when wood does not burn completely, rises into the chimney as a liquid and deposits on the chimney walls

and plays a role in nearly one-fourth (23 percent) of all home heating fires each year.

- 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.
- Make sure the fireplace flue is open, if applicable. There have been several fires recently because residents left the flue closed.

Registration open for spring 2021

San Jacinto College registration for the spring 2021 session is open until Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021.

For additional information, contact the campus business office at 281-998-6150.

San Jac fall commencement set

Join San Jacinto College fall graduates for a virtual ceremony Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. streamed live on YouTube.

Eligible graduates have been invited to submit a photo and all graduates' names will be read.

For additional information, visit sanjac.edu/commencement-ceremony.

Nguyen wins virtual spelling bee



Haley Nguyen, a Thompson Intermediate seventh-grader, won the first online spelling bee and will advance to the district competition.

\$10 million for small business set

Continued from Page 1

from the SBERP is \$50,000. To date, the average grant amount approved has been \$29,228.

The application deadline is not being extended.

"There are so many more small businesses in need of assistance, and our goal has always been for this program to make the most impact and to reach as many people as possible," said Marsha E. Murray, director of the Office of Business Opportunity, whose

office worked to develop the program. "With the extra funding, more small businesses can remain open and pay their employees through the New Year."

This additional allocation of CARES Act dollars is set to be awarded by the end of December 2020 using a weighted scoring matrix that will be used to ensure the equitable distribution of grant funds. SBERP applications are prioritized based on several factors, including geography, employ-

ment, access to capital challenges, years in business and demonstrated resiliency.

The first half of the funds will be awarded upon grant approval, while the second half will be given after completion of the Recovery and Resiliency component of the program. This component is meant to ensure businesses that receive grant funds have a higher likelihood of surviving the pandemic. For more information, visit cityofhouston-sberp.org.

Remember When

40 years ago (1980)
Houston Lighting and Power Company performed routine maintenance in the Sagemont-Kirkwood area that caused power to be turned off and on during the maintenance. According to HL&P's A.C. Czigán, the work had been ongoing all year and was expected to continue until June 1981. The power disturbances lasted anywhere from 10 minutes to two hours, but were usually 45 minutes in length. Letters were sent two to four weeks in advance of the event, notifying residents. However, if residents had a business computer, they were instructed to call the phone

number on the notification letter and request someone knock on the door a few minutes before the electricity was to be shut down.

35 years ago (1985)
The Thompson Intermediate twirlers Susan Richter, Michelle Andrews, Jeanie Bland and Laura Hayes, earned a rating of I at the twirling competition at Sam Rayburn High School. They scored a I on their ensemble and each earned a I for solo routines.

Lori Sittion of Sageglen, a freshman at Clear Creek High School, was selected to play spring bass in the Texas Music Educators Association

All-State Orchestra in San Antonio.

30 years ago (1990)
During a maintenance operation at the Motco Superfund hazardous waste incinerator in Texas City, toxic chemicals caught fire. Although toxic fumes were released, no alarm was sounded nor was the community alerted. A spokesperson for Motco Trust (the PRP group) said they considered the incident minor and were not required to notify anyone except the Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas.

Once again, the Dobie High School Academic Decathlon ran away with the

district competition. Dobie students collected 56 individual awards and also took first place in the Super Quiz.

25 years ago (1995)
Michelle Baker, 9, was the winner of the Christmas card design chosen for the South Belt Graphics and South Belt-Ellington Leader Christmas card. She received a check for \$25.

The Larry Land residence at 9918 Sageroyal was a winner in the South Belt Chamber of Commerce Christmas decorating contest.

The Civil Rights Division of the Harris County District Attorney's office, Houston Police and Pearland Police

Department's internal affairs division were investigating the shooting of South Belt resident Melvin Hernandez, 37, by a Pearland police officer. The shooting at Hernandez's residence occurred after the officer, Lynn Holleman, tried to arrest Hernandez, who was a suspect in the earlier theft of a single beer from a Diamond Shamrock convenience store in Pearland.

Dobie junior soccer player Carolyn Nedderman ranked as the Lady Longhorns' top all-time scorer with 84 goals and was voted to the Houston Chronicle's All-Greater Houston first team.

20 years ago (2000)

The bentonite slurry wall, which extends 6,000 linear feet around the Brio Superfund Site, was completed.

McDonald's opened its newest, 1,800-square-foot location on Astoria.

15 years ago (2005)
Precinct 2 Deputy Constable Sgt. Zerrick Guinn warned South Belt residents to be alert during the holiday season. Guinn asked residents to watch for unusual persons or vehicles or anything out of the ordinary.

The city of Houston amended its parade policy to allow more than one parade per day. The annual South Belt Fourth of July parade almost fell victim to the ordinance at times, and had to be classified as a mobile parade so it could be held on July 4 and not conflict with other parades that same day. The amended ordinance allowed as many as four parades on a single day.

PISD announced it would apply for a waiver for classes to start Aug. 10. Classes usually would start the Monday in which Aug. 21 falls.

10 years ago (2010)
The 28th annual South Belt-Ellington Leader Christmas program was a huge success, with many in the community generously donating food, toys and cash to ensure that more than 60 needy families in the area had a happy holiday.

5 years ago (2015)
The results from the City of Houston's Dec. 12 mayoral runoff election were tallied, with state Rep. Sylvester Turner narrowly defeating businessman Bill King. Turner received 51 percent of the vote to King's 49 percent.

A 15-year-old juvenile was arrested Dec. 11 for the Dec. 3 armed robbery of a Pizza Hut delivery driver. The unnamed male was charged with aggravated robbery. Police said the teen is a suspect in multiple

other recent armed robberies. The investigation is ongoing.

1 year ago (2019)
Houston Police Department Sgt. Christopher Brewster, a former longtime South Belt resident, was killed in the line of duty Saturday, Dec. 7. According to investigators, Brewster, 32, was responding to a domestic disturbance call around 5:45 p.m. in the 7400 block of Avenue L when a male suspect shot him multiple times. He was transported to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. A 2006 Dobie graduate, Brewster graduated from the Houston Police Department Academy in November 2010. In his nine years of service, he was assigned to the Southeast Patrol Division, Gang Division and Major Offenders Division. He was promoted to sergeant in February 2019 and was assigned to the Eastside Patrol Division. Arturo Solis, 25, was charged with capital murder of a police officer in the crime.

Former South Belt resident Thi Nguyen hosted her third annual Christmas festival for local students, this year being held at Dobie High School Saturday, Dec. 7. An online toy blogger known to many as Princess T, Nguyen was inspired to host the yearly event after local residents helped her family following the May 2000 death of her sister Jennie Nguyen.

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Best wishes are sent to David Flickinger, South Belt Leader president, and his wife, Ellie, who celebrate their ninth wedding anniversary Dec. 10 from daughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca; grandchildren Kelvin Lopez and Noah, Eliana and Isabella Abarca; parents Marie and David Flickinger; brother Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger; niece Kimberly and husband Matt Lipina; niece Courtney and husband Chris Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; aunt Alexis Lochner; and the Leader staff.

KENNEDY ENTERS TEEN YEARS!
Kennedy Flowers turns 13 years old Tuesday, Dec. 15. Best wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent from brother Owen, sister Evie, parents Stephen and Stacey (Hayes) Flowers, grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry (former longtime South Belt residents), uncles Tyler Scarberry, Joey Hayes, and Austin and wife Tiffany and daughters Jade and Lily Scarberry; aunt Jenny (Hayes) and husband Josh Laney, and children Brayden, Baylee and Olivia. Kennedy's mom is a Dobie grad.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESSICA
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Dec. 16 are sent to Jessica Escobar, daughter of Leader staffer Luis Escobar.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 10 through Dec. 16, 2020.

Atkinson Elementary
Join in the birthday fun with Richard Whittaker Dec. 14.

Bush Elementary
Sing a happy birthday song to Jennifer Marquez Dec. 16.

Frazier Elementary
Elana Contreras enjoys a birthday Dec. 13. Light the birthday candles for Maria Vazquez Dec. 14. Send a special birthday greeting Dec. 15 to Kristina Ponce.

Genoa Elementary
Remember to wish Judi Rinehart a happy birthday Dec. 12.

Meador Elementary
Marking a birthday Dec. 12 is Filgia Norman.

Moore Elementary
Send a special birthday greeting Dec. 10 to Sheryl Munn. Light the birthday candles Dec. 15 for Bobbie Bashinski.

Stuchbury Elementary
Give a birthday shoutout Dec. 16 to Kevin Albert.

Melillo Middle School
Best wishes for a great birthday Dec. 11 are sent to Sandra Medina. Dec. 15 is the day for a birthday celebration for Sheri Richardson.

Roberts Middle School
Sing a happy birthday song Dec. 11 to

LaShondra Evans. Celebrating a birthday Dec. 12 is Hector Del Rio. Send a warm birthday wish Dec. 13 to Mary Klein.

Dobie High
Carmela Swinnen celebrates a birthday Dec. 10. Michael Parker marks a birthday Dec. 11. Enjoying a birthday Dec. 12 is Faryal Shaukat. Three cheers for a great birthday are sent Dec. 13 to Courtney Dixon, Philip Foster and Loan Peabody. Dec. 15 is the day for a birthday celebration for Matthew Park.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Dec. 10: Carmela Swinnen, Rebecca Swartz, Henry Rubio, Betsy Urschel, Sherri Lindsey, Alexis Bursiaga, Yvette Johnson-Lightfoot and Jason Manriquez; Friday, Dec. 11: Kara Toro, Robert Summers, Sandra Medina, Amanda Meili and Robert Royal; Saturday, Dec. 12: Carolyn Sternes-Ontiveros, Joe Lewis, David Rojas Sr., Pepper Lowe and Diane Lakits Black; Sunday, Dec. 13: Ryan Tucker, Dustin Cochran and Mike Stacey; Monday, Dec. 14: Pedro Gutierrez III, Kay Wood and Melissa Duncan; Tuesday, Dec. 15: Cheryl Park, Ryan Rushing and Rita Tornaben; and Wednesday, Dec. 16: Kamisha Dennis, Tamara Spencer and Adam Garcia Sr.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email events to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, note "Friends Celebrate Birthdays."

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Undefeated season secured, 22-6A champs look to TASCO

Having cemented itself firmly into storied history of the program status with a 9-0 regular season finish and a first-ever Class 6A district championship, the Dobie Longhorns want more as they host the Atascocita Eagles Dec. 11 as the Class 6A Division I football playoffs kick off at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

Dobie, having already secured the top seed in the Division I bracket prior to the final week, earned an unbeaten regular sea-

son for the first time since 1999 after scoring a program-best 72 points in an eventual 72-21 win at Channelview Dec. 4.

On the same night, Atascocita went the extra mile to defeat Beaumont West Brook 47-46 in overtime.

With the win, the Eagles finished the regular season at 5-2, with their losses coming to state powers Allen and North Shore.

Dobie, quite simply, is in the midst of its best three-year stretch of foot-

ball, having won 25 of its 29 regular season games since head coach Kevin Berneathy's arrival prior to the 2018 campaign.

The Longhorns' 2018 and 2019 seasons ended with bidistrict losses to eventual Division I state champion North Shore.

This time around, the Longhorns' District 22-6A championship allowed them to avoid North Shore. Instead, the consolation prize is Atascocita.

Dobie has gone without a playoff win since the 2004 campaign.

That year, the Tommy Kaiser-coached Longhorns won a pair of post-season games before losing to current NFL quarterback Andy Dalton's Katy Tigers in the Astrodome in the Class 5A regional quarterfinals.

Since that time, the Longhorns have gone against Beaumont West Brook once (2010) and North Shore a total of seven times in the bidistrict round, all ending in losses.

Now comes Atascocita, and while a defeat of the Eagles would be considered huge, the Longhorns appear to be positioned about as well as ever to get the job done.

Longhorns' running back Johnathan Baldwin and quarterback Cameron Gray were the two most dynamic players in the District 22-6A ranks this season.

Baldwin went for 130 yards rushing on just six carries, including a pair of touchdowns to lead the whalloping of Channelview.

With 1,012 yards rush-

ing on just 71 total carries, Baldwin finished second league-wide in yards gained on the ground but averaged an otherworldly 14.25 yards per attempt and scored 17 touchdowns.

Gray, doing his part within an offense that has averaged more than 500 yards per game, completed 92 of 136 for 1,563 yards and 18 touchdowns against just four interceptions.

Gray also has done his share of damage in the ground game, rushing 60 times for 463 yards and four scores.

Receiver Jeremiah Ballard takes a back seat to no one in his position group and Jonathan Jean is pretty good, too.

Ballard has a District 22-6A-high of 35 grabs

for 706 yards, including 10 for touchdowns. He and Gray also hooked up on a school-record 99-yard scoring pass earlier this season.

There are others to be wary of if you're Atascocita heading into the bidistrict matchup.

Defensively, Baldwin is a true safety when all is said and done, and will certainly factor in on that side of the football.

There are other standouts, with Darrius Pampin with a league-best five interceptions, A.J. Garcia, Ryan Saxton, Nate Wallace and Torik Aigebion all coming up with turnovers against Channelview in the regular season finale.

As for what to expect from the Eagles offensive, it's about containing

hybrid tight end Landen King, who has committed to Auburn University as one of the nation's top-rated tight ends.

King led all of District 21-6A this season with 41 catches for 572 yards and six touchdowns over seven games.

King will be catching passes from Eagles' junior quarterback Gavin Sessions, who passed for 1,808 yards with 15 touchdowns and also led the team in rushing with 580 yards.

Perfection comes

COVID-19 issues not related to Dobie prevented the Longhorns from playing 10 games this season, but the locals were plenty happy to settle for a perfect 9-0 mark after punishing Channelview 72-7



For the first time in 10 seasons, the district championship trophy resides at Dobie after the Longhorns completed a 9-0 regular season with a 72-21 defeat of Channelview Dec. 4.

DI Bidistrict Playoffs
Dobie Longhorns host Atascocita Eagles
 Fri., Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
 Veterans Stadium, Pasadena

Cowboys make waves as Bay Area Football League playoffs open

At right, Sagemont Cowboys' senior division players, from left, Jayden Felton (32), Jordan Hernandez (88) and Jayden Arispe (28) line up at receiver during the Cowboys' easy 48-6 victory over the host Alvin Raiders Dec. 5 in Alvin. The Cowboys, now 8-1 overall, this season, are headed to the Bay Area Football League semifinals Dec. 12 at the home field of the Magnolia Park Sharks, Memorial Baptist Church, at 6901 Fairmont Parkway. Kickoff is at 1 p.m. The Cowboys' sophomore division team, a 32-0 first-round winner over the Pearland Patriots, will be in action at 3 p.m., against Angleton. See more on Page 6.



Photo by Brittney Hernandez

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At right, Clear Brook varsity baseball standout Aaron Calhoun (seated) will join the University of Oklahoma baseball program beginning in the 2021-2022 school year after signing a letter of intent with the Sooners last month. Those with Calhoun at the signing included, left to right, (standing) Wolverines' varsity baseball assistant coach B.J. DuRant, Clear Brook principal Dr. Sharon Lopez and Wolverines' varsity baseball head coach Gene Flores. Calhoun will pitch his senior season later this spring with the Wolverines.



For Calhoun, it's Boomer Sooners

Aaron Calhoun is solely focused on helping his Clear Brook varsity baseball team return to the postseason later this spring, yet it would be hard to blame him if his mind were elsewhere.

A Wolverine for now, Calhoun, a hard-throwing right-hander, is also one of the newest members of the Boomer Sooners nation after inking a letter of intent last month.

The collegiate recruiting process can be fraught with hits and misses, and decisions that affect one's next four to five years of both life and playing career must be carefully calculated. Yet, for Calhoun, it was OU just about from the start.

"I just really gained a trust for the coaches, the system and the players already there," Calhoun said.

"It's a prestigious program with a great run of success, and I'm proud to be joining them."

One of nine pitchers included in the Sooners'

2021 recruiting class, Calhoun was a 2019 all-district performer as a sophomore, tossing to a 3.79 earned run average with 47 strikeouts in 48 innings.

He fanned another 14 in 12 2/3 COVID-19 season shortened innings last February and is the state's No. 9 ranked prospect according to Perfect Game.

Calhoun sports a low 90s fastball consistently at present and uses his curveball as an "out" pitch.

After the 2020 season was halted, Calhoun has since spent much of his time refining his repertoire at home, where he uses nets and mattresses to throw into, along with weights and other gadgets.

For 2021, Calhoun says he's ready to help guide the Wolverines a long way.

"I feel really good about our entire team and the make-up of the group," Calhoun said.

"I have no doubt that we can be really good. I'm excited about heading to Oklahoma, but we have

some goals we want to achieve this spring. I think we are set for a great year when the time comes."

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Longhorns face Atascocita

Continued from Page 5
 Dec. 4 at Channelview ISD's Maddry Stadium.
 With the win, Dobie earned sole possession of its first district championship since 2010.
 The Longhorns scored the game's first 21 points before the Falcons got within 21-7. But Dobie then reeled off 51 straight points to set a new high-water mark in program history with 72.
 The stars were aplenty for Dobie. Gray had 41-yard touchdown passes to both Ballard and Jean, and added a 46-yard scoring run as part of a big night.
 Trajan Davis had three rushing touchdowns in all, covering 16, eight and three yards, and Trevion Williams opened the scoring with an early 3-yard run.
 Jean had the touchdown catch and added a 6-yard scoring run, and Baldwin had the big 88-yard scoring dash and also found the end zone from 15 yards out. Senior placekicker Joshua Hernandez converted each of his 10 PAT tries, and the Longhorns also recorded a safety in the record-setting scoring performance.
 "I'm just extremely proud for the kids and proud for our coaches, because it's obviously something that we have all worked hard for."
 "(Against Channelview) I was excited to see that our guys did a great job of not worrying about who the opponent was and just going out there, playing hard and getting the job done."
 "Winning the district championship is like a breath of fresh air. You set a goal of what you'd like to achieve at the start of the season, and obviously that was a goal we had. But you still have to go out there and get the job done."
 "We have gone out there and performed each week to the best of our abilities. And, I feel like we have gotten better every week as we've gone along. That's always one of our goals, so we're obviously proud of the guys for executing the plan."
 And of course, now the focus shifts to Atascocita, a program that is as solid as they come. But Dobie will be ready, Berneathy promised.
 "They've got some very talented football players, but we have a lot of talented football players, too," Berneathy said.
 "I think it will come down to the team that makes the fewest mistakes and who executes the best will come out on top."
 "I know our guys will be ready to play and welcome the opportunity. We need to go out and execute as well as possible."
 "We all know what's at stake. This is another chance to go and extend our season with a big-game performance. The kids are excited."

Sagemont-Beverly Hills opens online sign-up

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League has opened online registration for the upcoming 2021 spring season.
 League officials have noted that all of those who register now will be considered to be on a waiting list as registration fees will not be collected until final 2021 playing site details are finalized. Still, families of players are encouraged to register sooner than later.
 In addition, the players' required fundraiser/raffle cost of \$50 is included within the registration fee in order to allow for easier collection.
 The 2021 registration fees are \$175 per player in the Jr. T-ball division, \$250 per player in the T-ball division, \$265 per player for coach pitch action, \$270 per player in the minor division, \$275 per major division players and \$300 per player for those in the league's junior/senior division.
 Those who wish to register their youth for the Challenger (reserved for those with disabilities) may do so free of charge.
 To register online, visit the link at <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=936764>.
 At present, the SBHLL home playing complex at El Franco Lee Park remains closed to team activities such as baseball, softball, soccer and football due to coronavirus concerns.
 SBHLL will continue to monitor the playing site situation in the coming weeks and could also consider alternative playing locales.
 For additional information or assistance, reach out to SBHLL@hotmail.com.

Wolverines fall to Morton Ranch 31-13

First-year Clear Brook varsity football head coach John Towels III saw his debut season end at 4-6 overall as Morton Ranch built a 28-0 lead and wound up with a 31-13 win at Rhodes Stadium Dec. 3.
 The Wolverines began the season with a pair of nondistrict victories and then went 2-4 in District 24-6A play to fall short of the postseason. The team then finished with a pair of nondistrict losses.
 Clear Brook quarterback Cameron McCalister finished the season 149 of 291 passing for just short of 2,000 yards and 12 touchdowns against seven interceptions. A junior, McCalister is now a 2-year starter who promises to return in 2021 as the Wolverines' top option at the quarterback spot.
 But the Wolverines will lose the services of senior Jaysen Price, who had 30 catches for 602 yards and five touchdowns and also rushed for 270 yards.
 Receiver Nathan Barnett, who had 24 grabs for 471 yards this season, will come back as one of the team's top options on the outside.
 Clear Springs was the District 24-6A champion followed by Dickinson as those two teams will represent 24-6A in the Division I playoffs. Clear Falls wound up third with Clear Creek fourth as Division I representatives.

TASCO releases 2020-2021 Region III rankings

- | Preseason Region III Boys' Rankings | Preseason Region III Girls' Rankings |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Katy Tompkins | 1. Katy Tompkins |
| 2. Alief Elsie | 2. Ridge Point |
| 3. Katy Seven Lakes | 3. Brazoswood |
| 4. Dobie | 4. Katy Seven Lakes |
| 5. Strake Jesuit | 5. Houston Memorial |
| 6. North Shore | 6. Kingwood |
| 7. Cinco Ranch | 7. Atascocita |
| 8. Spring Woods | 8. Bellaire |
| 9. Deer Park | 9. Stratford |
| 10. Ridge Point | 10. Cinco Ranch |

The six-time defending District 22-6A champion Dobie varsity girls' soccer team sits at No. 4 in the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches 2020-2021 Preseason Rankings as the preseason is just days away. Deer Park, a district foe of the Longhorns this season, is at No. 9, while Ridge Point, now coached by former Dobie varsity girls' head coach Bryan McDonald, is 10th. On the girls' side of things, Tompkins has grabbed top billing. COVID-19 concerns prevented the 2019-2020 playoffs from happening.

Cowboys' seniors, sophs advance in BAFL playoffs



At left, Dominic Moya (34) of the Cowboys' senior division blocks an Alvin Raiders' opponent during the Cowboys' dominating first-round win Dec. 5 at Alvin. Also in on the play is Sagemont's Demarcus Hodges (4). The Cowboys are 8-1 overall.
 Photo by Brittney Hernandez

Jr./Fr. Division Semifinals
 Sat., Dec. 12 at M.P. Sharks
 8 a.m. — League City vs. Magnolia (Pee Wee)
 9 a.m. — Hitchcock vs. League City
 11 a.m. — Pear. Pats vs. Pear. Oilers
 1 p.m. — Magnolia vs. Pear. Texans
 3 p.m. — Magnolia vs. Pear. Texans

Sr./Soph. Division Semifinals
 Sat., Dec. 12 at Pasadena Panthers
 8 a.m. — Angleton vs. (Pee Wee)
 9 a.m. — League City vs. Angleton
 11 a.m. — League City vs. Pas. Panthers
 1 p.m. — Sagemont vs. Magnolia
 3 p.m. — Sagemont vs. Angleton

BAFL Super Bowl XLIV Championship
 Sat., Dec. 19, Rice Stadium
 Pee Wee: 8 a.m.; Sr.: 9 a.m.; Jr.: 11 a.m.;
 Soph.: 1 p.m.; Fr.: 3 p.m.
 Tickets: \$7 per all persons; gates open 7 a.m.
 All attendees required to wear face covering

South Belt football predictions	Troy Leland	John Bechtle	Eli Tanksley	Toni Muse	Emory Gadd	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie hosts Atascocita	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Atascocita
Deer Park at North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore
Dickinson at Dawson	Dawson	Dickinson	Dawson	Dawson	Dawson	Dawson
Clear Springs hosts Pearland	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Pearland	Clear Springs
Clear Creek at Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek
Clear Falls hosts Strake Jesuit	Clear Falls	Strake	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls
Pasadena Memorial hosts Beaumont West Brook	BWB	BWB	BWB	BWB	BWB	BWB
Channelview at C.E. King	CEK	CEK	CEK	CEK	CEK	CEK
Bridgeland vs. Klein Collins	Bridgeland	Bridgeland	Bridgeland	Bridgeland	Bridgeland	Klein Collins
Cypress Woods vs. Klein Cain	Klein Cain	Klein Cain	Klein Cain	Klein Cain	Klein Cain	Klein Cain
Last week's record	6-2	7-1	6-2	5-3	8-0	6-2
Season record	78-23	78-23	71-30	65-36	74-27	71-30

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://aclunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for details of online games that can be played or email the director at jpochsner@aol.com.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
 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.
 9:30 a.m.
NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse — Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) — Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For details, call 713-686-6300.
 7 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association meets on a conference call meeting at 7 p.m. Call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990 for more information. Civic club meeting conference dial-in 605-475-6006 Access Code: 4382419. Visit the Facebook page of Kirkwood Civic Club.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) — Women's Group, open meet-

ing, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting — "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
 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/>.
 7 p.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom — All in-person events are canceled at this time. All services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday service at 9:30 a.m. at <https://zoom.us> with the Meeting ID 917 102 8979 and the Passcode 18csh1818. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-friday.html>. For the general website, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>.
 8 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre — presents "Christmas Belles" a comedy of Christmastime in the small town of Fayro, Texas, where the Futrelle sisters (Frankie, Twink and Honey Raye) are not in a festive mood. Frankie is weeks overdue with her second set of twins. Twink, recently jilted and bitter about it, is in jail for inadvertently burning down half the town. Hot-flash-suffering Honey Raye is desperately trying to keep the Tabernacle of the Lamb's Christmas program from spiraling into chaos. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. now until Dec. 20. Ticket prices are \$15-single; \$12-seniors/students; and \$18 at the door. Those unable to attend in person may buy a link for \$10 to view the event privately at any time on a device Dec. 18 — Dec. 20. Visit pasadenalittletheatre.org or call 713-941-1758 for details.
 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.

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
 7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting — "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
 9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom — See Friday's notice.
 11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) — For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html>.
 8 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre — presents "Christmas Belles": See Friday's notice.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
 2:30 p.m.
Pasadena Little Theatre — presents "Christmas Belles": See Friday's notice.
 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, DECEMBER 14
 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 gone virtual and meets online at the website <https://youngprofessionalstoastmasters.com/>. In order to be an attendee at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access to the virtual meeting platform. For additional information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or call Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

7 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) — Saint Luke's 12 Step Recovery open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
Narcotics Anonymous — Vigilance Group See Friday's notice
Sagemont Civic Club — Meetings are held the second Monday, Sagemont Park Recreation Center, 11507 Hughes Rd.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
 7 a.m.
AA Meeting — "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
 9:30 a.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum — Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565.
 Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) — Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.
 7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous — Vigilance Group See Friday's notice
Positive Interaction Program — meets the third Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, 11800 Astoria, first floor staff meeting room. PIP is police and citizens working together making neighborhoods safer. Bring a friend. For information, call Officer Richard Buitron at 281-218-3900.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
 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.
Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention — Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for details.
Narcotics Anonymous — Vigilance Group See Friday's notice
 8 p.m.
AA — meeting at CrossRoads UMC See Friday's notice.

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Meador announces spelling bee winners



Congratulations are in order for fourth-grader Azul Pineda for winning Meador Elementary's spelling bee competition and runner-up Kenberly Jones, also a fourth-grader. The competition was held Dec. 1. Shown with their awards are, left to right, Jones, Kathryn Pacholi, ELA campus coach; Pineda; and Amy Clowers, Meador assistant principal. School officials remarked that all spelling bee participants did a great job.

CCISD board approves name change for pre-AP courses

The Clear Creek ISD board of trustees unanimously approved the name change of pre-AP courses to honors courses for intermediate and high school beginning fall 2021.

"The most important thing that we want our parents and students to know is that this change only impacts the name of the courses and will not impact the curriculum or expectations CCISD has established for student learning and instruction," said Glenda Holder, director of Advanced Academics and GT Programming.

"College board announced that if school districts continue to use their term 'pre-AP' for courses we would have to follow several new requirements that we feel do not align with our mission as a school district."

One of those main requirements would be that CCISD would have to follow the curriculum set forth by college board or vet curriculum through their process for pre-AP courses, which offers little to no flexibility for personalization.

The district currently develops its own curriculum for 106 pre-AP courses offered to students in sixth through 12th grades.

"We have piloted and worked through their program with our Advanced Academics students in previous years and have found it to not be as deep and robust as our current curriculum we have," said Holder.

"So, that was our number one concern, that we would end up being pushed into a curriculum that did not match our beliefs and where we feel our students are academically."

The other three requirements would be increased testing on top of local and state assessments, rules for certain grade-level designations and a fee of about \$3,000 per course, per school.

This would be an estimated charge of nearly \$300,000 annually for CCISD.

"We reached out to our District Education Improvement Committee, which is made up of parents, staff and community members, to generate a list of name ideas and gather information on these changes over the last year," said Holder.

"We then met with our parent advocacy group, CASE for Gifted Children, to get feedback from them as well to be sure we had the support of all stakeholders," said Holder.

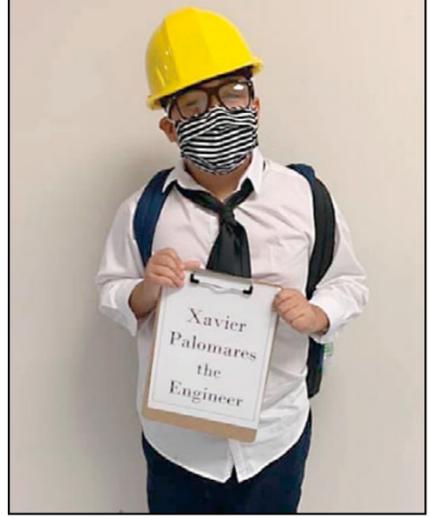
CCISD is in alignment with most other districts in the Houston area who have decided to move away from college board's pre-AP designation.

This change will not have any impact on AP courses offered to high school students through college board.

Parents are invited to join the CCISD GT Facebook group and visit www.ccisd.net/giftedandtalented for more information.

Burnett celebrates College Week

Burnett Elementary recently celebrated College Week. Students dressed as their future career choices.



Xavier Palomares, a Burnett fourth-grader, celebrated college week by dressing as an engineer.



Zoe Baldez, a Burnett kindergartener, proudly shows her walkie talkie and police badge. Baldez wants to be a police officer.



Riley Suarez, a kindergarten student, dressed as a veterinarian for College Week.



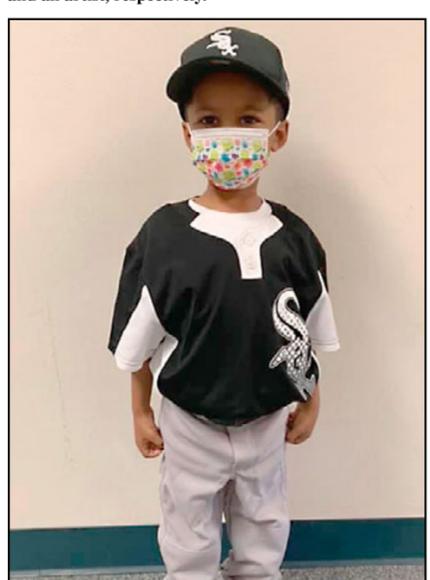
First-grader Laryssa Lucas is prepared and ready for the day, dressed as a nurse for College Week.



Siblings Vince Barron (left), fourth-grader, and Penelope Barron, kindergartener, aspire to be a soccer player and an artist, respectively.



Eli Lyons, a second-grader, celebrated College Week by showing off his military uniform.



Christopher Hodder a Burnett pre-K student, looks like a professional baseball player for College Week.



Kindergarten student Adriel Castillo wore the attire of a customs police officer, complete with his name.

Map gives location of Harris County appraisers

Continued from Page 1

HCAD appraisers are in hundreds of neighborhoods daily verifying property characteristics, changes in the neighborhood condition and other data.

This information is used in the appraisal of property as of Jan. 1 of each year.

The appraisal district has been notifying property owners of the annual property reinspection through its website and social media channels since late September.

Property owners should be aware of the following for their security and the safety of HCAD appraisers:

- Appraisers will never ask to enter the house or for the property owner to accompany them to the backyard.
- Appraisers will knock on the front door to alert

the resident they are on the property, identify themselves as an HCAD appraiser and ask permission to measure the home and any other structures on the property.

- If access is denied, the appraiser will leave the property and estimate the size and characteristics from the street. If the property owner is not home, the appraiser will measure the sections of the structures that are accessible without entering a gate.
- Appraisers may appear at property owners' doors as early as 7:45 a.m. but not later than 5:15 p.m.
- Appraisers wear a blue jacket or vest with the HCAD emblem on the front and HCAD Appraiser on the back and carry an identification badge with his or her picture, name and unique appraiser number.
- Appraisers work from their personal vehicle has a magnetic sign attached identifying the appraiser as a Harris County Appraisal District employee.
- Appraisers are required to enter changes in property characteristics directly into a field device before leaving the property and most do so while sitting in their vehicle. Their personal vehicle is essentially their mobile office.
- In addition to the map, property owners can contact the HCAD office at 713-812-5800 to verify an appraiser is working in their neighborhood.
- More information about appraisal can be found at www.head.org under Appraisal > Residential Property > HCAD Residential Field Appraisal Facts.

Memorial revises visitor policy

Continued from Page 1

- Family members for patients in hospice or supportive medicine.
- One visitor for patients receiving emergency care.
- One adult visitor for patients at the time of discharge following a surgery or procedure.
- Patients with a disability or other medical condition who need assistance communicating with staff will be evaluated for potential visitor exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
- Memorial Hermann recognizes the importance of family support in the healing process and encourages patients to have virtual visits with loved ones using mobile and personal devices during this time. iPads will be available for patients who may not have access to their own mobile or personal device. The hospital staff thanks the community for its continued support of our caregivers and each other during this trying time for the city and the rest of the world.

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JFD Cheerleaders of the Week



Dobie Cheerleaders of the Week are sophomores Leilani Moorman (left) and Giselle Valencia. Moorman is the daughter of Lisa Mendez and Eric Sanchez. Valencia is the daughter of Veronica and Armando Valencia. Both girls were selected for their hard work and dedication to the team.

Bay Area Genealogical Society meets Jan. 29

On Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, Bay Area Genealogy Society's general meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Diana Elder is the speaker scheduled for the meeting, with the presentation, "The Family Search Catalog: A Researcher's Best Friend."

The Family Search Catalog holds references to billions of records, one of which might answer your research question. Learn how to use the catalog to find valuable unindexed records and new collections to search. Discover how to navigate the search features of the catalog and how to use each to your advantage.

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

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

Don't be a victim: learn self-defense!

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

No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. All classes are taught by experienced martial arts instructors who hold black belt degrees.

As no karate classes are scheduled on Christmas break, the next scheduled class will be in January. Watch for the Leader notice. For additional information on martial arts classes, visit www.AskKarate.com, email Online@AskKarate.com or call 281-788-5930.

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