

Drive-thru fish fry begins

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, will host a drive-thru fish fry Fridays through March 26, 4 to 7 p.m. in the rear parking lot. Dinner consists of a breaded USA catfish fried fillet, hush puppies, cole slaw, corn on the cob, French fries, tartar sauce and a drink. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities.

Cost is \$10. Cash and credit are accepted. All money raised will benefit KC local and community projects.

Dobie Cheer tryouts

There will be a mandatory parent meeting for parents and students on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Dobie main cafeteria. For questions, email Amber Allen at aallan@pasadenaisd.org.

COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, Feb. 24, there were 109 confirmed deaths among South Belt residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, up two from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials. Additional delays may also be attributed to the recent winter freeze, officials said.

Of the 4,834 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 364 remain active. To date, 47 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 275 of the 3,572 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 30 from the ZIP code have died, up one from the previous week.

Of the 3,690 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 225 remain active. To date, 32 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 343,573 total confirmed cases. Of those, 317,671 have recovered from the disease, while 22,649 cases remain active. A total of 3,235 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.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from SH 225 to Vista daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through March 4.

At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Spencer Highway continuously through 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 1.

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Furman to Scott Street/Fellows Road daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, March 4.

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

Gulf Freeway closures set

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 to FM 518 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31. Closures may intermittently affect two lanes of traffic and include alternate entrance and exit ramp closures.

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31.

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 1. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528.

Two alternate northbound and southbound 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 Friday, Dec. 31.

Both the northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps between IH 610 South Loop and Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Friday, 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.

Frazier offers scholarships

Frazier Elementary is offering five scholarships to graduating Dobie seniors who attend Frazier Elementary School.

Applications are available to pick up in the College Now office at Dobie and are due back to that office by March 26.

South Belt recovering from historic winter storm

Roughly one week after a historic winter storm ravaged the South Belt area, the community is slowly regaining a sense of normalcy.

At press time, nearly all power and water had been restored to area residents, and the City of Houston and local MUDs had lifted their respective water-boil notices. See related story on this page.

Despite the utility restorations, several residents experienced busted pipes and other plumbing issues, leaving them still without working water.

To address this issue, multiple local officials and organizations held events to distribute clean drinking water. See related story on Page 8.

Due to the number of people needing plumbing work done, wait times for service now often exceed two weeks, and plumbing supplies are scarce at local stores.

Both Pasadena ISD and Clear Lake ISD remained closed Monday, Feb. 22, due to problems associated with the hard freeze. Pasadena ISD was also closed Tuesday, Feb. 23, for face-to-face instruction, with the day serving as a remote-learning day only.

While March 1 was originally scheduled to be a teacher-planning day, it has now been designated as a regular school day by Pasadena ISD officials.

Curbside meals were provided for students at all of the school district's comprehensive high schools.

Both Harris County Commissioners Court and Houston City Council held special emergency meetings this past week to address the problems.

Several residents have complained about having received excessive energy bills following the

recent power outages, with some people reporting bills as high as \$17,000 for just one week of energy usage.

State Rep. Dennis Paul has pledged to address the issue with other lawmakers.

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South Belt as a winter wonderland



The South Belt community is slowly recuperating from the recent winter storm that left thousands without power or water. At press time, most utilities had been restored in the area, and local officials had lifted the water-boil notice that had been in place. Shown above from this past week is a rare view of snow on the traffic-free Gulf Freeway in front of Texas Bank. Photo by Patricia Spence

City, county establish storm relief fund

Recognizing the dire hardships created by the extreme winter weather, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo have established the Houston Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund to help the region's most vulnerable neighbors during this critical time of need.

The fund will focus on relief and recovery efforts across the City of Houston and Harris County.

"Houstonians are strong and resilient, but many were already facing hardships with the COVID-19 pandemic before the historic winter freeze. People now need help recovering from

the damage to their homes and other personal property, and this relief fund will provide that assistance," said Turner. "I am grateful to the CenterPoint Energy Foundation and others for stepping up with their incredibly generous donations. We are blessed to have good corporate citizens at this critical time, and I encourage others to support the fund to help our neighbors recover."

The distributions and grants will be made in support of the fund's charitable purposes: to provide relief efforts and recovery and to support aid to the individuals, families and communities af-

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Water boiling notices lifted

The City of Houston announced Sunday, Feb. 21, it had lifted its boil-water notice that had been in place since Wednesday, Feb. 17, due to the recent winter storm.

Customers no longer need to boil water used for drinking, cooking and making ice. Water quality testing submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has confirmed that tap water meets all regulatory standards and is safe to drink.

On Feb. 17, TCEQ required Houston Water to issue a boil-water notice for the City of Houston's Main Water System and inform customers, individuals or employees that due to conditions

which occurred recently in the public water system, the water from this public water system was required to be boiled prior to use for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

Houston Water has taken the necessary corrective actions to restore the quality of the water distributed by this public water system used for drinking water or human consumption purposes and has provided TCEQ with laboratory test results that indicate that the water no longer requires boiling prior to use as of Sunday, Feb. 21.

"The historic freezing temperatures in Houston last week caused water pressure to drop

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County urges price gouging reporting

In response to millions of area residents being impacted by the historic winter storm, Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee is urging the public to report incidents of price gouging and other consumer complaints committed by those looking to take advantage of the tragedy.

"This historic weather event is incredibly challenging for Harris County residents who are already under strain because of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Menefee. "Overpaying for necessities to survive freezing temperatures is the last thing folks need to worry about. I urge you to report price gouging on our website. We will hold businesses and individuals accountable for unfair practices."

During a declared state of emergency, the Tex-

as Deceptive Trade Practices Act makes it illegal for a business or individual to sell or lease fuel, food, medicine, lodging, building materials, construction tools or other necessities at an exorbitant or excessive price. Texas is currently in a state of emergency, and the County Attorney's Office is using reports submitted through its website to pursue actions against those that seek to take advantage of Harris County residents in these trying times.

Residents can get specific information at harriscountycityca.org/report-price-gouging. It details what information people need to provide in order to file a complaint. The HCAO will investigate the complaint and take action as appropriate.

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Effort to warm dogs causes house fire

A house caught fire around 10:20 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, in the 10000 block of Yolandita near Alameda Mall.

Firefighters arrived on scene within seven minutes to find fire coming from the rear of a two-story home. Crews found and extinguished a fire that was contained to the patio, with no interior damage to the home.

According to fire department officials, the

owner was attempting to keep his dogs warm with a light bulb plugged in with an extension cord near their dog house on the patio.

Damage was estimated at approximately \$20,000. Investigators determined the fire was unintentional.

No injuries were reported. Firefighters from stations 70, 36, 52 and 61 responded to this incident.

Dirt unloading sparks controversy



While truckloads of dirt are being removed from the old Southbend subdivision to improve drainage in the area, just down the street toward the corner of Dixie and Beamer Road trucks are bringing in dirt to raise a plot of land in front of the Brio Superfund site. It was learned by the Leader staff that while the property is in the 100-year floodplain, there was no permit issued. The owner of the property was unaware a permit was required. He is currently addressing the problem. Photo by Marie Flickinger

Biden declares area a major disaster

President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on Saturday, Feb. 20, declared a major disaster in Texas and announced that FEMA emergency aid has been made available to the state to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in areas affected by the recent winter storm.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling

1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 TTY.

Federal funding is also available to state, tribal, eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, statewide.

Federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide. Houston residents should continue to visit www.HoustonEmergency.org for updates on the city's ongoing response to the winter storm. Recovery resource information is also available.

The president's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Angelinea.

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Walgreens pharmacy burglarized

The Walgreens pharmacy located in the 9800 block of Blackhawk at Beltway 8 was burglarized around 4:15 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17.

According to Houston police, a similar burglary had previously taken place at another nearby pharmacy, prompting officers to inspect other area pharmacies, at their own initiative.

Upon their inspection, officers noticed the

drive-thru pharmacy window had been smashed out, apparently with a sledge hammer that was discovered at the scene.

Pharmaceutical drugs were found at the scene of the crime. At press time, an inventory of the pharmacy's supply was still being conducted to see what exactly was stolen.

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Coach Carlos Morgan pleads guilty

Carlos Morgan Sr., a longtime youth softball hitting instructor and club team coach with decades-long ties to the South Belt Girls Softball League, has pleaded guilty to charges of indecent assault Feb. 10 in Brazoria County.

Morgan avoided jail time with the admission of guilt but is now on probation for 24 months and must also perform 24 hours of community service and pay a \$200 fine.

Morgan, who has coached and provided youth softball instruction in both group and one-on-one

settings dating back to the 2000s, was also head coach of the club program Lady Stros for many years. He has appeared in dozens of collegiate softball scholarship-signing pictures involving players from Dobie and Clear Brook as well as other neighboring high schools. Two of his children are Dobie graduates.

Now 60 years of age, Morgan was arrested in February 2020 in Pearland on charges of indecent assault of a minor after several youths came

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Abbott sets 4 storm priorities

Gov. Greg Abbott on Saturday, Feb. 19, provided an update on the state's ongoing response to winter weather events throughout the state.

The governor laid out four immediate priorities for the State of Texas, as well as what the state is doing to restore power and water and ensure that food and fuel demands are met throughout Texas.

The first immediate priority is continuing to restore power to Texas homes. While there are no longer any residential power outages due to lack of power generation, there are still some Texans without power due to downed lines or the need

for manual reconnection. The governor assured Texans without power that local providers are working diligently to restore electricity.

The second priority is supporting local officials as they work to restore water for Texans. The governor issued waivers to cut red tape to accelerate this process. The Texas Division of Emergency Management is continuing to deliver bottled water to communities facing water shortages or water quality issues. Over 1.7 million bottles of water have been delivered to communities across the state.

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Charter school meeting still on hold

Due to the recent hard freeze, plans for the public meeting to discuss the future of the proposed charter school in Riverstone Ranch have still yet to be finalized.

To be hosted by state Rep. Dennis Paul, the event is tentatively scheduled to take place at Melillo Middle School, but no date had been set at press time. Making arrangements for the function had already proven difficult prior to the winter storm, as officials from the charter school have been reluctant to agree on specific details, often even ignoring calls from Paul's office.

Originally to be built on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the Elite

College Prep Academy - Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy, has remained half-constructed for several years, causing complaints from residents who view the property as an eyesore.

Construction of the area campus has been fraught with problems since work began on it in 2015.

In April 2019, Houston Gateway Superintendent Richard Garza, along with an IT tech from the school, was indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

See future editions of the Leader for additional information about the public meeting.

In My Opinion

O'Brien warns about testing locations

As I was driving around the neighborhood Sunday afternoon, I spotted a drive-through COVID-19 testing site in our area. I wouldn't have been suspicious if it weren't sitting at a location generally occupied by fireworks outlets around the Fourth of July and New Year's. I would just like to caution my neighbors about such operations. This on-the-corner location offered test results in 15 minutes. That's curious since many locations sometimes take several days to get the results back to you.

I have visions of people thinking that they are doing the right thing, getting tested at one of these locations, and then

spending time with an elderly relative, thinking that they are safe when they aren't.

Before you waste time and possibly money to have a swab stuck uncomfortably up your nose, please check on FREE TESTING SITES through the Harris County Health Department (<https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Information>) or the City of Houston Health Department (<https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing/>).

I checked both of these websites when I got home. There is no COVID-testing location in the SB area on Sunday, Feb. 21. In fact, all locations are shut down until tomorrow.

Stay safe out there,
Catherine O'Brien, MS, Microbiology

Elected officials share their words

Follow-up on winter storm

by Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin

District E Residents,
Once again, we have been tested in a new way and provided an opportunity to improve our response during inclement weather. The City of Houston is evaluating this most recent event and working to learn new ways the City may evolve under similar circumstances in the future.

I want to first provide a HUGE thank you to our Houston Firefighters who were on shift for days in a row working in conditions that were far beyond anything they have experienced before, with call volumes at record highs with scarce resources. Our City of Houston Police Officers are also to be commended for their long shifts, efforts, and responses to these emergencies across our vast City.

The professionalism and true grit of all our City's first responders, Houston Public Works employees and Solid Waste Management employees is unparalleled and I am thankful for their commitment to our residents. Many if not all of their own homes, families, and stations were impacted by the loss of power and water too.

Hopefully, we do not have to deal with the threats of ice or snow anytime soon. I think we have all learned the importance of preparing ourselves and our homes for all types of inclement weather. Now is a great time to replenish emergency supplies and take stock of items that may

have been missing from your emergency kits. The City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management Office has a great resource for how to assemble "shelter-in-place" kits on their website.

If any residents do not already receive Alert Houston updates, I encourage you all to take a moment right now, and go sign up online at the link provided. These updates are extremely helpful before, during and after emergency events. Another great list to make sure you are a part of is the City's Everbridge account "Citizensnet". You can sign up for those notifications at <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736728451/login>. You can see an archive of the invaluable messages at <https://www.houstontx.gov/citizensnet/>.

I know most residents are working diligently on their homes and businesses today, repairing broken pipes and homes that have flooded. If you have storm debris that needs pick up, please report it to Houston 3-1-1 to be picked up by calling (713)-837-0311. After you call in your storm debris for pick up, please follow up by emailing districte@houstontx.gov with your service request number and address.

My office will not be issuing a March Monthly Newsletter and will resume our monthly newsletter in April.

Stay safe,
Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin

Follow-up on winter storm

by State Rep. Dennis Paul

The impacts of last week's winter storm have finally left our state. As we begin the recovery process I will be doing all I can at the state level to make this process as simple as possible.

Like many of you, I spent several days without power and water and I find the current state of our electric grid to be entirely unacceptable. Please know that I, as well as the legislature, will be investigating every facet of this failure and the people and entities responsible will be held to account.

Later this week the the House Committees on State Affairs and Energy Resources will hold a joint hearing at 9 a.m. Thursday, February 25th. The hearing will feature invited-testimony to discuss the statewide electrical blackouts, contributing factors, and the response. The hearing will be available via live stream.

I encourage all who were impacted by this unprecedented situation to submit a public comment. You may do so through the House's Public Comment Portal. This is where Texans have their opportunity to publicly submit their suggestions and input on this issue.

This hearing is the first step in collecting information from stakeholders and ensuring that this never happens again.

To view the Joint Hearing on Thursday,

Feb. 25th, go to <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>.

To submit your public comment for the Joint Hearing, go to the House Public Comment Portal: <https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c450>.

If their is anything my office can do to help, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can find contact information for both my Capitol and District offices at the bottom of this newsletter.

I have heard concerns that electric customers may be receiving outrageous energy bills. The Public Utility Commission has ordered retail providers to immediately suspend all disconnection for non-payment, and Governor Abbott has stated that Texans will not be on the hook for these outrageous bills. The PUC has provided an explanation of how the electric market works and why some customers who have elected certain varied-rate electric plans initially received these bills. You can view that information at https://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/facts/fact_sheets/elecdefacts/WinterStormPriceExplaner-FIN.pdf. Additionally, please be aware of scam calls threatening to disconnect your power for non-payment.

God Bless,
Dennis Paul
State Representative

Museum to host free day

Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with free admission Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Patrons will also receive complimentary cookies and handouts, along with a 25 percent discount on all HMH branded gifts in the Museum's store. The first 25 visitors will earn a free one-year Director level membership good for two people.

HMH opened its doors in 1996 with the goal of honoring the survivors' legacy and teaching the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy. In 2019, after a two-year expansion more than doubling in size to a total of 57,000 square feet, the new facility now ranks as the nation's fourth largest Holocaust museum and the first to be fully bilingual in English and Spanish. In becoming one of the top Holocaust museums in the country, the organization has broadened its mission as a superregional hub for Holocaust education and a national voice for human rights and social justice.

Visitors will experience the Holocaust, Young Diarists, Samual Bak and Human Rights Galleries along with Stories of Survival: Object, Image, Memory. This epic new exhibition showcases more than 60 personal artifacts brought to America by survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides. The objects featured in Stories of Survival are as everyday as a baby doll and a black suitcase and as symbolic as a young mother's cookbook and a wedding announcement, as saved by survivors from the Holocaust and other genocides around the world, including Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Iraq, Rwanda, South Sudan and Syria.

Face masks are required for all visitors ages 10 and over. Visitors in need of a face mask will be provided one. For the safety of our patrons, HMH will provide a finger glove to ensure participation but no direct touch of interactive exhibit elements.

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, is fully bilingual in English and Spanish. Located at 5401 Caroline Street, HMH is closed Mondays except Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open Tues. through Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The Museum's Legacy Café is open on weekends only. Admission is \$19 for adults; \$15 for seniors (ages 65+). AARP members and active-duty military; always free for children and students through age 18; and free to all visitors on Thur. from 2 to 5 p.m. Parking is available at the Museum's adjacent lot for \$8 for a four-hour period. Tickets are available exclusively online. For more information, visit hmh.org/visit.

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

Thompson celebrates counselors



Thompson Intermediate recently celebrated National School Counseling Week by thanking Thompson counselors Prudence Reyna (left) and Jill Butler for their hard work and dedication to Thompson students and staff.

Carlos Morgan pleads guilty

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forward to report inappropriate contact.

According to Pearland Police Department Det. Cecil Arnold, lead investigator in the case, indecent assault charges commonly result when there is an involvement of touching on the outside of clothing.

Arnold told the Leader his investigation included interviews with five verified

victims, and there were potentially many more. Currently, Arnold says there are no additional potential victims but if that should change, additional charges could come.

"The bottom line is Mr. Morgan used his position as a youth softball instructor and coach to victimize these young ladies," Arnold said, adding that in his conversations with the accused, Mor-

gan had "explanations for a lot of different scenarios."

Through his investigation, Arnold had conversations with youths from the Louisiana area as well as Pearland and South Belt. He, like many local youth softball parents in the South Belt area, believes Morgan's behavior has indeed gone on for many years.

Moving forward, Arnold said there is nothing preventing Morgan from returning to the game of softball in some capacity, but of course advises parents to simply say no. "Look, this man was supposed to provide instruction within the game of softball like swinging a bat and fielding a ball, but there were other things going on. In my opinion, no parent should ever allow Morgan to be near their child."

As for Morgan avoiding jail time, Arnold acknowledged that is not his call no matter what he believes. "All we can do is perform investigations and eventually recommend charges when we deem warranted," Arnold said. "In this case and all others, it's ultimately in the hands of the Brazoria County District Attorney's office as to how things proceed."

If anyone knows of additional victims of Morgan's, they may be reported to Cecil Arnold 281-997-4100 at the Pearland Police Department.

Water notice lifted

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throughout the city," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "I appreciate everyone's patience as Houston Water crews worked nonstop to restore the pressure and gain the TCEQ's approval to lift the boil-water notice. In the meantime, my office and partners distributed almost three million bottles of water citywide. Our community helped each other through tough times and once again showed why we are Houston Strong."

Customers should flush their water system by running cold-water faucets for at least one minute, cleaning automatic ice makers by making and discarding several batches of ice and running water softeners through a regeneration cycle.

Houston Water worked

with TCEQ to establish corrective actions necessary to lift the boil-water notice. The actions included analyzing 43 water samples from throughout the City of Houston as required by TCEQ. Test results indicated that water provided by Houston meets all regulatory standards and is safe for human consumption. On Sunday, Feb. 21, TCEQ gave the City of Houston approval to lift the boil-water notice. Water quality reports are available online at bit.ly/houwater-quality.

Local MUDs

Local municipal utility districts serviced by the City of Houston, including Clear Brook City MUD, Kirkmont MUD and Sagemeadow MUD, have also lifted their boil-water notices.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of People of Sagemont 2 of the Facebook group posted that her husband saw three guys on bikes looking around by Sagespen Lane and Blackhawk Boulevard Wednesday, Feb. 17, around 1 a.m. Other members commented and advised others to stay safe.

Another member of the same Facebook group posted that their dog was barking and when the member looked out the window they found a sweater that did not belong to them laying by the front door.

The member believes that someone was trying to see if anyone was inside the house, but the dog must have scared them away. The member states that they have been without electricity since 5 p.m. and the whole neighborhood is very dark.

The incident occurred Tuesday, Feb. 16, before midnight, on Sageroyal Lane and Blackhawk Boulevard.

Another member of the same Facebook group posted that they witnessed a man at the H-E-B gas station steal a woman's purse from the vehicle.

The member states that they honked multiple times to let the woman know, but it was too late the man drove off in a gray Nissan Altima.

The incident happened on Thursday, Feb. 18, during the day.

A member of Southbelt/Sagemont Crime Alert Facebook group shared a post that there was a dark gray vehicle with two suspicious men in black hoodies knocking on people's house doors. The member states that the police were called and other neighbors noticed the men creeping around at night. The incident happened on Sunday, Feb. 21, around 11:50 p.m., on Blackhawk Boulevard across from Bishop Park.

The member wanted to let community members be aware and to stay alert.

Winter storm . . .

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"Like many of you, I spent several days without power and water and I find the current state of our electric grid to be entirely unacceptable," Paul said in a press release. "Please know that I, as well as the legislature, will be investigating every facet of this failure, and the people and entities responsible will be held to account."

The House Committees on State Affairs and Energy Resources will hold a joint hearing at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, to discuss the matter. The event will be livestreamed at www.house.texas.gov/video-audio. To submit public comments, visit <https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c450>. See related story on this page.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TO DISCUSS BETA ACADEMY'S State Financial Accountability Rating
Beta Academy will hold a public meeting

at

4:30 p.m., March 12, 2021
Gymnasium
10929 Almeda Genoa Rd.
Houston, Texas

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Beta Academy's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

BETA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Is seeking E-Rate services for E-Rate Funding Year 2021 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

All interested vendors please visit: <https://portal.usac.org/suite/>

Form 470 Application
Number:210016284

Please see RFP at <https://erate.esc12.net/R12>

Deaths

Marianna Mangiameli Waterwall Trahan



Marianna Mangiameli Waterwall Trahan of Pasadena, died peacefully Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 after a short illness.

She was born Dec. 26, 1940, in Houston, the only child of Joseph J. Mangiameli and Leona Valenti Mangiameli.

She attended Houston Schools, and retired from Foley's (later Macys) after 40 years of service as the Almeda Mall cosmetics manager.

The family lived in the Sagemont Park subdivision from 1972 to 1993. All her children attended Dobie High School.

Marianna was a proud Sicilian-American and instilled the values of family, prayer, independence, and hard work. "Mamaw" was the family's biggest cheerleader and faithfully attended the family's baseball games, plays, recitals, graduations and dance competitions. She was the greatest cook and dearly loved hosting family get-togethers and holiday dinners. She sent a text message to her children each day wishing them a good morning and asking how everyone in the family was doing. Her family was her greatest treasure and legacy.

Marianna is preceded in death by her former husband Ernest Waterwall Sr.; her parents; grandson Seth Wa-

terwall; and godmother aunt Lena Valenti. She is survived by her beloved husband Clarence Trahan; children Debra Ferraro and husband David, Ernest Waterwall Jr. and wife Celeste, Anna Vaughn, and Phillip Waterwall and wife Melissa; her grandchildren Joseph Ferraro and wife Tamara, Gina Ferraro Thomas and husband Ovie, Anthony Ferraro and wife Jennifer, Trey Waterwall and wife Crystal, Chase Waterwall and wife Sarah, Chance Waterwall, Amber Williams and husband Jason, Angela Vaughn, Ashton Waterwall, and Phillip Waterwall II. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren Kayla Ferraro, Joseph Ferraro Jr., Jade Anderson, Zoey Thomas, Meah Thomas, Jacob Ferraro, Kynlee Ferraro, Saylor Waterwall, Willow Waterwall, Paige Fielder and Brooke Fielder.

A private service for the immediate family will be held at Forest Park Lawndale followed by interment at the Garden of Gethsemane. Her grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

A Celebration of Life for extended family and friends will be held later this spring. Donations may be made to a favorite charity in her name.

Joshua Tate Arnes



Joshua Tate Arnes left this earth too soon, at the age of 23 years, on Feb. 16, 2021. His mother is Sheryl Seidl; his birth father is Bri-

an Arnes and his bonus father is Chris Seidl.

Despite having a tender heart of gold and being adored by everyone that knew him, he lost an intermittent battle with an invisible disease: depression. Joshua, an Eagle Scout, served many years in his community as part of the leadership team at Pearland Goodwill.

Joshua was known as "everyone's friend" during his childhood at Weber Elementary and furthered his reach into the hearts of many as the family joined the South Belt-Pearland homeschool community in his sixth-grade year.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to <https://donate.nami.org/> to aid in removing the stigma of shame from mental health challenges and prevent more losses like this.

Joshua, a longtime South Belt resident, was preceded in death by his grandparents Lela and Everett Arnes. He is survived by his parents; his grandparents James and Shirley Hall; grandparents Reggie and Sharon Herms; brothers Jacob Arnes, Jady Arnes and Austin Seidl; sister Alexandria Arnes; cousin Tyler Hall; and uncles Nolan Arnes, James Hall and Larry Hall; and by countless friends.

A Celebration of Life memorial service is planned and invitations will be individually sent.

Leader obituary policy

Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. There must be a South Belt connection. Obituaries are edited to the Leader style.

Local library events set

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

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library, is located at 9002 Kingsport. For information, visit https://houstontxlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstontxlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> or call 832-393-2580.

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 4 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. 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.houstontxlibrary.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.

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

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library, is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.

The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

For tax help through AARP, call the library for an informational packet that will be distributed by the library. Patrons will be given instructions on setting an appointment after receipt of packet.

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

- 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.
- 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>.

Thursday, Feb. 25, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Take a moment in your day to have some fun and interaction with your little one or little ones. Join Mr. John Harbaugh and Mr. Jason Cruz for a virtual Toddler Time through Microsoft Teams. 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.

#toddlertime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m. Parker Williams Book Club reads "Fahrenheit 451," by Ray Bradbury. Contact the branch to reserve a copy. The book club meetings are the last Thursdays of the month over Microsoft Teams. Contact Mr. Tanner at tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information and an invite.

Friday, Feb. 26, 5 p.m. Is It Wrong to Watch So Much Anime? Episode 13: Triskaidekaphobia. What better to celebrate than to talk about superstitious and ESPer stuff? This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

#anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.
Friday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m. Draw With Me. Join Ms. Ariel Perez to try something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow! Pens and markers will be needed for these videos. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew)Families with children of all ages are welcome! This program will be on Facebook Live and can be found at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary#storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL
Tuesday, March 2, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. The video will be on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
Catholic Church
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor
Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar
11011 Hall Rd.
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)
www.stlukecatholic.com

LITURGY SCHEDULE
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.*
Sunday 1 p.m. Misa en Español*

*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

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

New Covenant Christian Church
Day Care Christian Based Child Care
Now Enrolling

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

281.481.2003
www.newcovenantchristianchurch.com
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, Tx 77089
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

South Belt celebrates 100 days of school



South Belt Elementary kindergarten students are shown in full 100th-day-of-school attire. Left to right are Mason Campos, River Hensley and Charlotte Riley.

Showing maturity well beyond their age are Nicholas Hinojosa and Alexander Hinojosa who hobbled to school with their canes and joined the celebration of the 100th day of school with students and staff on campus.

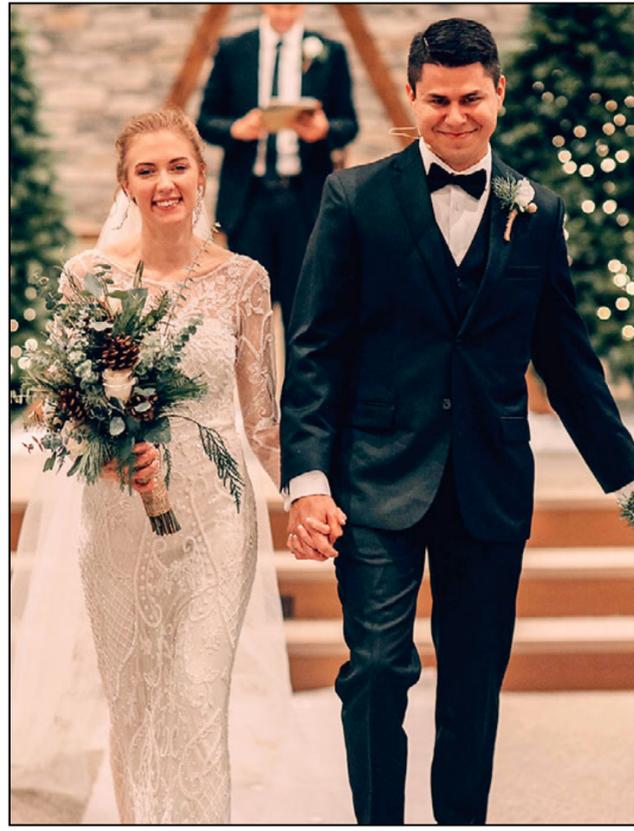


Students at South Belt Elementary recently celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up as 100-year-olds and made T-shirts that showed 100 items to wear. Shown are, left to right, (front row) Arianna Yannez, Emma Hernandez, Hailee Walker, Ava DeOchoa, (back row) Tiffani Thomason (teacher), Lynden Omoregie, Alessandra Gutierrez, Nicholas Hinojosa, Alexander Hinojosa, Ashlyn Gissendanner and Avery Thomas.



D'Monni Nava, a South Belt Elementary virtual student, is shown with his walking cane and old-fashioned suspenders. Nava didn't let virtual learning stop him from joining in on the fun of celebrating 100 days of school with his peers.

Lozano, Curtis marry



Jacob Lozano married Kristina Curtis in a double-ring ceremony Dec. 19, 2020, in Pewaukee, Wis. Lozano is a 2012 Dobie graduate, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M in 2016 and master's in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State in 2019. Curtis earned her bachelor's degree in communications from Maranatha Baptist University in 2019. Lozano is the son of Jimmy and Cynthia Lozano of Houston; Curtis is the daughter of Todd and Kim Curtis of Indianapolis, Ind. The newlyweds work and reside in Wisconsin.

CCART sets March meeting

The Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers (CCART) will hold its March meeting virtually on Tuesday, March 9. The program will be provided by Tim Lee, Texas Retired Teachers Association executive director, who will be speaking via ZOOM about the 2021 Texas legislative session and TRTA concerns. The virtual meeting will start at 10 a.m. For membership renewal forms and instructions, visit the Facebook site at ClearCreekART or just type in Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers. If one prefers, one can also request information via Gmail at 1986ccart@gmail.com. All Texas retired school employees from the area are invited. Annual dues are \$50.

Storm relief fund established

Continued from Page 1
 affected by the impact of the 2021 Severe Winter Storm Emergency in Harris County and the City of Houston. Because of the immense need in and around Houston, the fund will focus on meeting unmet needs of families that need additional help to recover, supporting nonprofits that can help with plumbing and home repairs, temporary housing and other basic needs relief. The fund is dedicated to filling the gaps that may not be met by other local and federal efforts.
 "Here in Harris County when we get knocked down we get back up, dust ourselves off and get to work right away to help our neighbors. I'm pleased to partner with Mayor Turner, the Greater Houston Community Foundation and the United Way to provide another source of support for our community," said Hidalgo. "Our region has endured multiple, concurrent disasters - from Harvey to Imelda to COVID and now a winter weather disaster. So many families were already experiencing hardship before this disaster blindsided us. This fund will lean on groups with deep experience providing recovery support to help as many people as we can, so if you're in a position to donate, please do."
 A fund advisory board will be established to lead fundraising efforts and oversee the grant making process. Dave Lesar, president and CEO of CenterPoint Energy, will serve as chair of the advisory board, which will consist of eight members: Ric Campo, Camden Property Trust; Jim Crane, Houston Astros; Bill Jackson, Harris County Precinct 4; Jason Johnson, MetroNational; Scott McClelland, H-E-B; Cal McNair, Houston Texans; Jacob Monty, Monty & Ramirez LLP; and Gretchen Watkins, Shell Oil Company. The advisory board's charge is to get money to charitable groups and entities with a focus on home repair and related relief and recovery efforts.
 The Greater Houston Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Houston have played a critical role in disaster response and recovery collectively for more than 30 years. Both organizations will jointly oversee and administer the grant distribution process with the help of a grants committee, which will include local philanthropic professionals. The Foundation and United Way are now accepting donations online at www.WinterStormReliefFund.org.
 "The severe winter weather has impacted every corner of our community and the needs are immediate and significant. I am honored to partner with Mayor Turner, Judge Hidalgo, civic and community leaders and contributors to answer the call to support our neighbors in need," said Lesar. "For CenterPoint Energy's part, Houston and surrounding communities have been our homes for more than 150 years. We are proud to support our neighbors and communities in the aftermath of this unprecedented winter weather event."
 Those impacted by the storm and needing help now can text HoustonFreeze to 898211, or for Spanish, text HoustonAyuda to 898211 (TXT211 on iPhone). When assistance is available, individuals will be contacted regarding eligibility requirements and information on how to apply. There will be a concerted effort to complement FEMA federal assistance and local officials encourage impacted families to apply to FEMA now at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov>.
 The Greater Houston Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Houston will share information about all grants publicly on the fund's website, www.WinterStormReliefFund.org and through other communications for complete transparency about the expenditure of funds.

Stuchbery Elementary celebrates Lunar New Year



Stuchbery Elementary ESL students concluded a week of celebrating Lunar New Year traditions and customs by greeting fellow students, teachers and staff Friday, Feb. 12, with Happy Lunar New Year wishes. Shown from left to right are (first row) Danh Nguyen, Brian Hua, Jackson Pham, Jaylan Tran, Kevin Vo, Jenny Pham, Ngoc Hoang, Lillian Cai, (second row) Dang Vu, Thu Nguyen, Minh Luong, Khanh Nguyen, Hai Nguyen, (third row) Anh Pham, Denise Duong, Jennifer Cai, Kim Nguyen, Peter Vo, (fourth row) Khoi Le, Jessica Tran, Allison Hua, Ngoc Huynh, (fifth row) Ngan Nguyen (teacher's aide) and Cheryl Fox (ESL teacher).

Frost Bank holds Spring Fling

Frost Bank's Almeda Financial Center, located at 9990 Almeda Genoa, invites the community to a Spring Fling on Tuesday, March 16, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The drive-thru event will feature complimentary breakfast, courtesy of Frost, and a live DJ will provide a lively atmosphere.
 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Houston and Galveston will be distributing puzzles and games for the kids.
 This event is free and open to the public.

Photography students set up photo lab



Students from both Stephanie Gobeas and Raymond Quoyeser's classes joined forces to set up a photo lab to take school pictures. The team took photos, edited them and distributed them to students and staff at Tegeler Career Center. The students who participated are, left to right, (front row) Ashley Artega, Esperanza Ramirez, Paola Herrera, (middle row) Quoyeser, Gobeas, Jolly Baiza (back row) Amauri Norris, Betsy Guajardo, Yancey Murrillo, Danielle Cannady and Jesus Hernandez.

City urges residents to report damages from winter storm

The City of Houston has begun focusing on recovery efforts and is urging residents to report residential damage caused by last week's severe winter weather. This will help the City of Houston provide an accurate summary of affected structures, which is required for the city and state to qualify for federal recovery assistance. Additionally, it will allow City of Houston staff to understand the type of help the community needs as staff coordinates local resource with area partners. Do not use the survey to request direct assistance or disaster relief. Submitting this form is not a way to receive aid. Residents should continue to report broken pipes and water mains to 311 so that Houston Public Works can isolate the leak. To keep call wait times low, report service requests to 311 online at <https://houstonx.gov/311> or via the Houston 311 app. Houston residents should continue to visit www.HoustonEmergency.org for updates on the city's ongoing response to the winter storm. Recovery resource information is also available.

HCMGA sells plants online

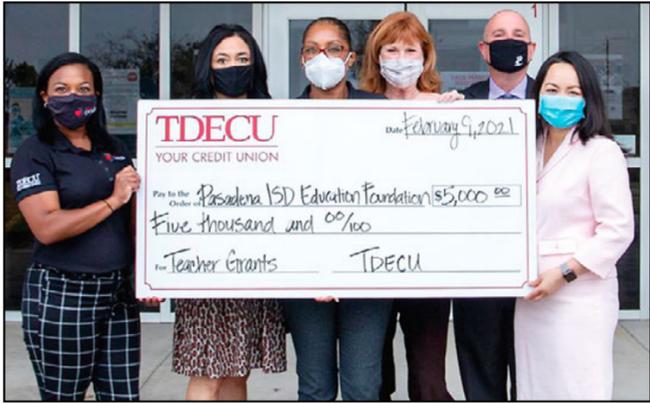
Shop for spring plants online through March 5. This sale will feature perennials, peppers, and other garden vegetables. All online sales will be with a designated pickup time. Contactless pickup will be Saturday, March 20 at Genoa Friendship Garden, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road, 77034. Orders can be placed at hcmga.tamu.edu/shop/.

City urges residents to report damages from winter storm

The City of Houston has begun focusing on recovery efforts and is urging residents to report residential damage caused by last week's severe winter weather. This will help the City of Houston provide an accurate summary of affected structures, which is required for the city and state to qualify for federal recovery assistance. Additionally, it will allow City of Houston staff to understand the type of help the community needs as staff coordinates local resource with area partners. Do not use the survey to request direct assistance or disaster relief. Submitting this form is not a way to receive aid. Residents should continue to report broken pipes and water mains to 311 so that Houston Public Works can isolate the leak. To keep call wait times low, report service requests to 311 online at <https://houstonx.gov/311> or via the Houston 311 app. Houston residents should continue to visit www.HoustonEmergency.org for updates on the city's ongoing response to the winter storm. Recovery resource information is also available.

TDECU donates to PISD Education Foundation

A representative of Texas Dow Employees Credit Union visited South Belt Elementary to present the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation a check in the amount of \$5,000 for teacher minigrants. In addition to the donation, TDECU delivered about 200 coloring books and crayons and a box of reading books in celebration of Black History Month.



Standing in front of South Belt Elementary with the donated check are, left to right, Crystal Harris, TDECU employee; Alyta Harrel, PISD associate superintendent; Noel Noble, TDECU employee; Candy Howard, South Belt Elementary principal; Troy McCarley, PISD associate superintendent; and Andrea Nguyen, executive director of PISD Education Foundation.



Shown holding the donated coloring books and colors are, left to right, Crystal Harris, TDECU employee; Candy Howard, South Belt Elementary principal; Troy McCarley, PISD associate superintendent; Alyta Harrel, PISD associate superintendent; and Noel Noble, TDECU employee.

Robotics students compete at BEST state competition amid COVID constraints

The League City Intermediate RoboCats and the Westbrook Intermediate WIRED robotics teams both qualified to compete in the 2020 Texas BEST State Robotics Competition despite restrictions in place for COVID-19.

Organizers had to revamp the game this year and offer three ways to participate: virtual only, classroom competition and multi-team (in person) competition. "Often team members had to collaborate via TEAMS meetings," said WIRED team sponsor Lisa Pfeifer. "Since the robot is machined from raw materials like PVC pipe, plywood and metal pieces, that presented unique constraints and challenges this year."

For this year's game theme, titled "Outbreak," students had to design, build and present a micro-robot, manually and autonomously, that could isolate cells deemed infected to reduce or completely negate the spread of disease. The marketing presentation, virtual exhibit booth interviews, critical design review and time trials were streamed live to the judges. "The RoboCats performed tremendous work to not only ensure their team success,

but to ensure the health and safety of all team members," said RoboCats team sponsor Mitchell Kennedy. "Through facemasks, sweat and sanitizer the team went above and beyond this season." The League City RoboCats won first place in the Engineering Drawings Award category, second place for the Robot Game category and fifth place in the Texas BEST Award category. Westbrook WIRED placed 13th in the Texas BEST Award Category.

61st annual Science & Engineering Fair results

Several months of hard work on independent research projects paid off for students who advanced to the District Science & Engineering Fair. The future scientists and engineers quickly adjusted to this year's virtual fair environment and, in the end, there were 224 secondary students and 113 elementary students whose projects placed in the 61st Annual CCISD Science & Engineering Fair awards program held virtually Jan. 28.

Sponsored by longtime Science & Engineering Fair supporter, SAIC, the 2021 fair was the first in CCISD history where an intermediate school student won a Grand Award. Brookside Intermediate's Ella Schreiter won the Jesse A. Dorrington 2021 Grand Award for her project on a wearable metronome. Last year, Schreiter placed first in the Junior Division of the Science & Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH) and was the 3M Young Scientist Lab State

Merit Winner for Texas. In the Jan. 28 video awards program, Dr. Eric Williams, superintendent of schools directly addressed the student competitors in his opening remarks. "Your passion for science and engineering shined even in an all-virtual environment this year," he said. "I wish we could call you to the stage this evening and hand you your well-deserved ribbons, medals and trophies with your family and teachers in the audience. But while this format may be different this year, our pride and heartfelt congratulations are just as sincere."

Even the judging occurred remotely for the 2021 event. Clear Creek ISD is grateful for the more than 150 volunteer judges who generously shared their time and expertise. After they received the student projects via email, judges had several days to pre-evaluate the students' work. Judges then gathered together in a virtual meeting platform for final

judging and placements. The district announced that 152 students in grades 7-12 qualified to advance to the Science & Engineering Fair of Houston. Winners were announced the week of Feb. 15. These are the 2021 CCISD Science & Engineering Fair Grand Award winners and their respective categories:

—Jesse A. Dorrington 2021 Grand Award Life Science to Brandon Moree, Clear Lake High School, for "Exploring Alternative Method for Pipeline Leak Detection." —Jesse A. Dorrington 2021 Grand Award Runner-Up Life Science to Melina Kumar, Brookside Intermediate School, for "Reducing the Risk of Diabetes: A Novel Approach for the Development of a Sensitive Glucagon ELISA." —Jesse A. Dorrington 2021 Grand Award Engineering to Ella Schreiter, Brookside Intermediate School, for "A Wearable, Silent, Dynamic Device Controlled by a Conductor's Movements."

—Jesse A. Dorrington 2021 Grand Award Runner-Up Engineering to Emmy Li, Clear Lake High School, for "Highly Porous Materials for CO2 Capture—Absorption and Desorption." —2021 iYar Fine Arts Award: Sound Music through Science—Universal Peace through Music Senior Division: Sulochana Pattabhiraman Award to Patti Corvaglia, Clear Springs High School, for "What are the best materials for the sound dampening of various frequencies found on the violin?"

—Junior Division: Pattu Rajagopalan Award to Ella Schreiter, Brookside Intermediate School, for "A Wearable, Silent, Dynamic Device Controlled by a Conductor's Movements." Clear Creek ISD also recognizes and congratulates students who committed to completing a science fair project every year of their K-12 education journey: 13-Year Sci-

ence Fair participants are Rachel Passantina, Clear Creek High School; Joelliance Langevine, Clear Lake High School; Anna Pinchen, Clear Brook High School; Muhammad Zain, Clear Brook High School; and Melvin Briscoe IV, Clear Creek High School.

For a complete list of elementary level student winners of the 2021 CCISD Science & Engineering Fair, visit <https://sef.ccisd.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=12506800&pageId=19890102>. For all secondary winners, visit <https://sef.ccisd.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=12506800&pageId=91754174>. As the opportunity to walk across the stage was missed this year, students were encouraged to instead take a photo with their earned award. Visit <https://clearcreekisd.smugmug.com/CCISD-Photos/2020-2021/2021-CCISD-Science-Engineering-Fair-Winners/> for photos of student winners.

NASA partnership allows students to send items to space

Not many can say their creation is in outer space. For CCISD students in the High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware program,

this is their norm. HUNCH is a project-based learning program in collaboration with NASA and more than 275 schools across the country.

Clear Creek High School's Metal Manufacturing Program was fortunate enough to be one of the first to partner with NASA more than 15 years ago to create crew training hardware and products that are now onboard the International Space Station.

CCHS students start with a design and oversee the whole process from manufacturing of each component to assembly and quality assurance. "They have to meet all the same requirements. They don't cut us any slack on the end result being subpar because students did the work," said Tommy Gillis, metal manufacturing teacher. "We meet all the same safety checks."

The program allows NASA to cut back on costs for personal items and tools, while giving students real-world experience with industry-standard machines.

"The HUNCH Program provides some of the machines that the school would never really be able to afford," added Gillis. Several CCISD schools also have a hand in the HUNCH program, creating items like tape dispensers, hand railing and storage lockers that are used on the ISS.

"Students often are wondering why they are learning this math and why they are learning this science," said George Kessler, program manager. "These real-world projects give them examples of where they are going to use the things that they are learning in high school." Not only are the students

supervised by NASA engineers, but some also work alongside them as interns. "Being able to work and have these parts go up to the ISS and know that you worked on something like that, is really challenging and fun," said Ethan Glass, a CCHS student and intern. CCHS serves as the hub for

the HUNCH program, acting as the last stop for final processing of the products made at various schools across the country.

This story is part of Clear Creek ISD's MaSTARminds segment. Video can views at <https://www.ccisd.net/news/mastar-minds>.

Moore names winner



Jeremy Beteta participated in the PISD Spelling Bee as Moore Elementary School's district representative. Moore officials are so proud of his hard work.

Thompson honors Teacher of the Month



Nicole Horne-Sherman was recognized as Thompson Intermediate's Teacher of the Month for January. Horne-Sherman teaches eighth grade English, Language, Arts and Reading (ELAR).

Remember When

45 years ago (1976)
Sagamont area Longhorns won the Pasadena City Championship in basketball. The boys were undefeated in 14 games.

Two area head coaches turned in their resignations — Gene McCarley, coach of the Dobbie varsity basketball team, and Bob Perry, head basketball coach at South Houston.

40 years ago (1981)
Three local law enforcement agencies joined forces to arrest five men and one woman ranging in age from 21 to 37 in connection with the kidnapping of 19-year-old Kirkmont resident Troy Milton McDonald.

Ralph David Brown was killed with a shotgun blast by the resident of a Sycamore Valley home. It was reported that Brown was apparently breaking into the home at 5:20 a.m.

35 years ago (1986)
The five-member Texas Water Commission voted unanimously to approve formation of Municipal Utility District 192 to be developed by Ayrshire Corporation.

Three brothers, all South Belt area residents, were charged with a total of 34 counts of theft resulting from alleged schemes to receive compensation from insurance companies based on phony illnesses.

30 years ago (1991)
Dobbie High School's Academic Decathlon team won second place in state competition, losing out to the first place winner by only 500 points.

South Belt resident Sandra Sanchez delivered young Jack Anthony while dad Keith Sanchez coached and listened over the telephone from the desert of Saudi Arabia.

25 years ago (1996)
Sycamore Valley homes began automated trash pickup service. Former San Jacinto Col-

lege board of regents member Charles Ray Oden rejoined the board filling the unexpired term of F.G. "Frenchie" Anders who resigned.

20 years ago (2001)
At approximately 1 a.m., in a CCISD board meeting that started at 6 p.m., Clear Creek Independent School District board of trustees agreed to "pursue a school in the South Belt area to replace the Weber school."

The Leader held an open house to celebrate 25 years in business.

Pearland City Council

officially adopted the recent road study which recommended the connection of Yost and Scarsdale boulevards.

15 years ago (2006)
Boundaries for two new Pasadena Independent School District schools were ready to be announced. Laura Bush Elementary would relieve overcrowding at Jessup Elementary. Rick Schneider

Middle School, specifically designed for fifth- and sixth-graders, would accommodate fifth-graders from Jessup, Freeman, Matthys and South Houston intermediates.

Houston City Councilmember Addie Wiseman discussed several projects affecting the South Belt in the annual Capital Improvement Plan meeting. Among the projects was the completion of the Sagemont Pool (which opened Memorial Day weekend in 2006). Improvements to Sabo, Hughes and Monroe

roads and improvements to Blackhawk Park and a replacement facility for Bracewell Library were announced.

Houston police were investigating the death of Marcus Hosea, 18, who was found dead on Kingspoint near Fuqua. A witness reported hearing a gunshot and when police arrived, they found Hosea on top of his bicycle in the roadway.

10 years ago (2011)
Following a roughly 10-day investigation, vice officers from the Harris County Sheriff's Office raided the

Lucky 7 game room near the intersection of Blackhawk and Kirkville. Sheriff deputies seized three eight-liner machines and confiscated the motherboards of 37 additional machines. The game room reportedly had 96 total gaming machines. Deputies also seized a small amount of cash.

5 years ago (2016)
The Dobbie varsity boys' basketball program advanced to the Region III Final Four for the first time since the 1994-1995 season after a 59-56 quarterfinal victory over

Hightower.

Over The Back Fence by Alexis

JIM ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Birthday greetings are sent Feb. 25 from family and friends to Jim Muecke, an Edgebrook area resident active with community volunteer work on road and drainage projects.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAROLYN!
Special birthday wishes are in order for long-time South Belt resident Carolyn Friend who marks a birthday Friday, Feb. 26. She is active in Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mother of Unity #2292.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR JANIS
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Janis Wright who celebrates a Feb. 27 birthday from the Catholic Daughters at St. Luke's and the South Belt Leader staff.

BRAYDEN CELEBRATES 19TH BIRTHDAY!
Brayden Espinosa turns 19 Monday, March 1. Lots of hugs and best wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent from proud grandparents Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents; mom Jenny (Hayes) and stepdad Josh Laney; sisters Baylee Espinosa and Olivia Moreno; uncle Tyler Scarberry; aunt Stacey (Hayes), uncle Stephen and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers; uncle Joseph Hayes; and uncle Austin, aunt Tiffany and cousins Jade and Lily Scarberry.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR YOLANDA
Best wishes for a happy birthday March 2 are sent to Consuelo Yolanda Dominguez from sons Roland J. Dominguez, MD; Capt. Richard A. Dominguez (USMC); and daughter Laura Dominguez Chan, Associate Dean of Career Development at Stanford University; as well as 11 grandchildren and three great-grand-

children. Yolanda's teaching career includes Stuchbery, Frazier and Jessup elementaries in PISD. All three children are Dobbie graduates.

MATT ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes for a happy birthday March 3 are sent to Matt Walker from friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Feb. 25 through March 3, 2021.

Frazier Elementary
Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to Brooke DuPont and Maria Munoz Feb. 27.

Genoa Elementary
Roxana Collazo marks a birthday Feb. 25. Send a birthday greeting March 3 to Mirabel Garcia.

Meador Elementary
Celebrating a birthday Feb. 28 is Linda Tije.

Moore Elementary
Enjoying a birthday Feb. 28 is Adriana Ramirez. Priscilla Nguyen-Vu was born Feb. 29 and chooses which day she will celebrate. Nayeli Rodriguez enjoys a birthday March 1.

South Belt Elementary
Break out the balloons and party favors for the March 3 birthday of Candy Howard, South Belt principal.

Stuchbery Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles Feb. 28 for Alexandra Whitted.

Melillo Middle School
Best wishes for a happy birthday March 2 are sent to Maria Gonzalez. Break out the cake and ice cream for the March 3 birthday for Desiree

Ram.

Roberts Middle School
Light the birthday candles Feb. 28 for Gladys Segura.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Michael Arroyo and Gary Warner celebrate a birthday Feb. 25.

Thompson Intermediate
Katrina Morris enjoys a birthday March 1. Remember to wish Jill Butler and Cynthia Lozano a happy birthday March 2.

Dobbie High
Sharing a birthday Feb. 25 are Kha Nguyen and Derek Rochelle. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent Feb. 27 to Rachel Rodriguez. The day for birthday cake and ice cream for Shay Woodruff is Feb. 28.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, Feb. 25: Frank Acosta, Carla Burback, Kayla Ferrell, Rene Hernandez, Kobe Ruiz-Estrada and Luciana Serrano; Friday, Feb. 26: Jimi Cebulla, Leah Williamson and Mark West; Saturday, Feb. 27: Sarah Tremont, Cindy Banhart, Miguel Villarreal, Jared Layne and Beth Northrup; Sunday, Feb. 28: Jessica Shannon, Rudy Peralez, Kim Brown and James Myers; Monday, March 1: Jacquie Farrey; Tuesday, March 2: Sunshine Lane; and Wednesday, March 3: Craig Joseph, Kelley Pennington, Mike Chuter, Francesca Cash and Jonathan Herridge.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line or "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" for a birthday by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

Self-defense, karate continue

The American Society of Karate continues self-defense and martial arts virtual courses for children, teens and adults. The self-defense classes are free and are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/askselfdef> for free virtual self-defense.

Details on additional martial arts virtual courses are at askkarate.com—Online classes—Mind Body Site. Email online@askkarate.com or call 281-571-3697 for more information.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

West Brook hoops completes sweep over JFD

Beaumont West Brook completed a 2-for-2 sweep of Dobie in bidistrict basketball playoff action as the Bruin varsity boys nipped the Longhorns 58-

56 Feb. 20 at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

The Bruins, seeded third out of District 21-6A, led the Longhorns by a dozen with about four minutes to go before Dobie tied it at 56-56 with 11 seconds left.

A West Brook lay-in put the Longhorns down by a pair, and the locals got off a shot before the buzzer that didn't fall.

"They made their run, and we made ours," Dobie head coach Franklin Paul

said. "You never want to lose, but I was proud of the guys battling until the end, really all season. We made a final push there at the end and just didn't get things to fall our way."

The Bruins who had also defeated the Longhorns in the regular season, advanced to the area round at 13-7 overall.

Dobie, which had entered the postseason with nine consecutive wins, saw its season come to a

close at 15-11.

Just eight days earlier, the West Brook girls had shocked District 22-6A champion Dobie 41-39 on the strength of a 21-4 fourth-quarter run in the same bidistrict round.

With Paul, a former West Brook assistant coach leading the Dobie program this season, the Longhorns had come together at the right time to finish second in the 22-6A standings.

Damian Garcia led the Longhorns in scoring this season and could very well go on to earn all district first team accolades for his efforts. He will need to be replaced, and senior Johnathan Baldwin will take immense athletic ability and leadership to the University of Nevada-Las Vegas to play football.

Guards Wayman Hayes and Deven Lendsey along with wing Camren Fowler figure to lead the varsity group next season. As re-

warding as 2020-2021 has been for Paul in his first season, he, like everyone these days, is hopeful of smoother days ahead.

"Hopefully, we will have some sort of usual offseason and then preseason program," Paul said.

"The kids know me now, and I know them. Everyone understands the expectations. I'm very pleased with where we are as a program. The kids battled all season through adversity."

Oilers take opener over JFD softball, 2-0

Three hundred fifty days after its last regular season game, the Dobie varsity softball team returned to the field Feb. 23 in Pearland.

But on the strength of a third-inning fielding error, the Lady Oilers plated two unearned runs en route to a 2-0 victory in the 2021 opener for both programs. The Lady Longhorns out-hit Pearlard 5 to 2 but could not break through on the scoreboard.

Dobie sophomore pitcher Marisa Perla took a tough loss despite allowing just the two hits, no earned runs and striking out seven over six innings.

Softball Aplenty at Dobie

Feb. 25 Games

JFD vs. Bridgeland, 1 p.m.

JFD vs. Kingwood, 3 p.m.

Feb. 26 Games

JFD vs. Barbers Hill, 11 a.m.

JFD vs. Cy-Lakes, 1 p.m.

Feb. 27 Games

JFD vs. Calvary Baptist, 11 a.m.

JFD vs. Katy, 1 p.m.

Clear Brook boys' basketball moves ahead

Clear Brook advanced to Region III's version of the boys' basketball playoffs with a bidistrict win over Pearland, setting up an area round rematch with Summer Creek Feb. 24 after press time.

The Wolverines used a solid defensive effort and a balanced offensive attack to down Pearland 64-53 Feb. 21 at Dawson High School, ending Pearland's season at 18-8.

The Wolverines, 22-2 overall, went up against Summer Creek in the area round, looking to avenge a 64-61 loss in the same round a season ago.

Clear Brook head coach Nathan Janak was obviously pleased with his team's performance against the Oilers.

"The kids did a great job of executing our game plan against Pearland. We knew Pearland was a very

good defensive team, so we emphasized offensive execution as a top priority. I feel we did a pretty good job at that," Janak said.

"We also wanted to speed the game up, and we did a great job of that using our full-court pressure, especially early on."

The usual suspects led the way for the Wolverines in the scoring column as Marcus Millender had 21 points and four assists.

Now, due to the weather delays last week, the Wolverines could potentially play in three playoff games in a week, with the regional quarterfinals likely Feb. 26-27.

"Last year we played Summer Creek in the second round and lost by three points," Janak recalled.

"Our players are excited about the opportunity of playing Summer

Creek again to reverse the outcome from last year. This game will definitely be up-tempo as Summer Creek also likes to use full-court pressure. We will work to take advantage of that full-court pressure with some easy scoring opportunities."

At 22-2, the Wolverines are having their best-ever overall season, and they aren't ready for things to end.

Defending champs refuse to give up crown

The six-time defending district champions may not be ready to surrender the crown just yet.

Dobie's top four scorers this season added to their stat lines and Diego Torres registered the shutout in the nets as the Longhorns downed first-place Channelview 2-0 Feb. 20 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

Along the way, the locals tightened the varsity boys' soccer standings in District 22-6A.

The Falcons defeated Dobie 2-1 in the first half of league play en route to a 5-0-1 run through the league. Even with the win, Dobie was at 4-2-0 with one fewer match played.

Set to play winless South Houston (0-6) Feb. 24 after press time, the Longhorns had the opportunity to get within one point of the Falcons with both teams having five matches to play.

With first-half losses to Channelview and Deer

Park, the Longhorns, now 10-3-1 overall in 2021, have been playing catch-up since that time. The win over Channelview was then a must if the title quest was to continue.

Jonathan Torres now has six goals and a pair of assists after notching a

goal against the Falcons. Sergio Tenchon, who also has six goals this season, produced his fourth assist, and Gerardo Martinez dished his team-high seventh assist and also has

scored four goals.

The Longhorns, who will play each of their remaining league games at Veterans Stadium, will likely need to win out in order to have a chance at overtaking Channelview.

The locals may also need some help from another team in terms of jostling Channelview's run.

But in these pandemic times, teams in each and every sport are taking things one day at a time. No sense looking ahead any further.

As things look currently, the Longhorns have to like what they see.



At right, Dobie junior forward Isaac Cortez (10) heads a ball forward during first-half action of the Longhorns' big 2-0 victory over 22-6A leader Channelview Feb. 20 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Cortez scored his team-leading 14th goal in the game. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

Track and field teams slow out of the gates

Poor weather has prevented the Dobie track and field programs from getting out of the blocks to this point in the season, but that is about to change.

The Dobie varsity boys' and girls' squads will attend the Bayshore Olympics Feb. 26 in La Porte as the road to the District 22-6A Championships begins.

The Longhorns have

seen three possible meets canceled to this point, including the Pasadena ISD-sponsored Brown Relays, which did not go off as scheduled due to inclement weather.

The Clear Brook program, able to compete just once this season, are set to host the second installment of the Wolverine Relays Feb. 26 as the region hopes for better weather.

Tracksters off and running

Dobie at Bayshore Olympics
La Porte High School
Brook hosts Wolverine Relays
Clear Brook High School
Both meets Fri., Feb. 26

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JFD girls endure layoff



Freshman midfielder Kelly Flores (20) and her Dobie varsity girls' soccer teammates were sidelined 12 days before returning to action Feb. 24 after press time against South Houston. Dobie is 2-3 in District 22-6A play. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

San Jacinto teams eye return to action

After a bit of a lull in the action, San Jacinto College's nationally-ranked softball and baseball programs are itching to get back to action.

Unranked to open the 2021 season, the women's softball program on the South campus has now reeled off nine straight wins.

With the run of success, the Coyotes are now up to No. 16 in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association Division poll at 14-3 overall.

Out of action since Feb. 9 due to weather, San Jacinto owns a team batting average of .408 as Alex Uresti leads the way at .520, while Jules Garcia is at .518 and has swiped 11 bases, tied for fourth nationally.

Uresti has 19 runs batted in, which is fourth-best in the nation, and her 12 stolen bases is a national third-best.

Abby Forrester is hitting .435 with 18 runs batted in, and Tabby Burnett hits .477 at present.

Cat Cavazos, the team's top returning pitcher, is 6-1 with a save and has pitched to a 3.33 earned run average, and Roni Grofman is now 4-2 with four complete games and a 3.95 ERA.

Poor weather has also kept SJC's North campus-based baseball programs in the dugout since Feb. 6.

The Gators, ranked 12th in the NJCAA Division I preseason poll, have won four straight games to get to 8-3 overall.

Mason Lytle is hitting .465 early on, while Harold Coll is at .400.

Pitcher Thomas Burbank has pitched 15 innings without allowing an earned run, and Evan Vanek has pitched to a 0.93 ERA over 9 2/3 innings of work.

Wallace deserves the credit

The *Leader* would like to extend a special thank you to Gloria Wallace, who provided the Dobie varsity football scholarship signing pictures that appeared in the Feb. 18 issue on Page 6.

The Longhorns were honored to have nine of their senior players, including Wallace's son, Nate, sign letters of intent to continue their educations and playing careers collegiately beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year.

Dobie head coach Kevin Berneathy expects additional signings as the spring progresses.

Organizations cut their minor league systems from five teams, in most cases, to now four. Hundreds of minor league players were simply released.

Yet Julks is still standing. "I'm trying to use this experience as a positive and make sure some good comes out of it," said Julks, who saw his age 24 season disappear last summer.

"Off the field, I went back to school and took some classes, and I've also taught some (baseball) lessons, which I believe has helped me with my game. I've just tried to do a lot of things to stay involved with the game."

Julks said aside from conversations with strength and conditioning or training staff, contact with players' organizations has been minimal.

It's no one's fault for any of this, but many minor leaguers have been left to sink or swim.

"At the end of 2019, the organizations had discussions with me about things like hitting for more pop, putting more balls in the air and things like that," Julks said.

"Of course as a player you always want to improve on all aspects of your game. But that's not always that easy.

JFD baseball to tourney

Feb. 25 at Friendswood
JFD vs. Friendswood, 10 a.m.
JFD vs. Clements, 12:30 p.m.

Feb. 26 at Clear Falls
JFD vs. Clear Falls, 12:30 p.m.
JFD vs. Pearland, 3 p.m.

Feb. 27 at Alvin
JFD vs. Alvin, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 8
Dobie at Clear Brook, 6 p.m.

District 22-6A opener
Dobie hosts Channelview
March 16, 2 p.m.

Wolverines hit La Porte

Feb. 25 at Deer Park
CB vs. Magnolia, 9 a.m.
CB vs. Deer Park, 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 26 at La Porte
CB vs. Port Neches-Groves, 4:30 p.m.
CB vs. La Porte, 7 p.m.

Feb. 27 at Deer Park
CD vs. Huffman, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 8
Clear Brook hosts Dobie, 6 p.m.

District 24-6A opener
Clear Brook hosts Clear Lake
March 16, 6 p.m.

Pleasants enjoys career day at Louisiana State



Dobie Class of 2019 graduate Taylor Pleasants saw her 2021 season with the Louisiana State University softball program get off to a rousing start as she hit the Tigers' first home run of the season. Pleasants, widely considered Dobie's all-time best offensive player over the course of four varsity seasons, was one of the top-performing freshmen in the nation in 2020 before the pandemic halted play. With her freshman playing status reinstated for 2021, Pleasants has been hitting second and playing shortstop for LSU, currently ranked eighth nationally. She turned in a career day Feb. 21 against Liberty University as part of a tri-team event at the University of Alabama in Tusculosa. In an 8-5 win over Liberty, Pleasants was 3 for 4 with two home runs and six runs driven in. LSU dropped the finale to Alabama as the fifth-ranked Tide swept No. 8 in two games.

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Giron, Scots repeat as champions



Dobie High School graduate Jade Giron (2) had 17 points, eight rebounds and five steals to lead 21st-ranked Lyon College to its second straight American Midwest Conference championship following a 66-39 victory over Harris-Stowe State Feb. 20 at Batesville, Ark. The Fighting Scots, 10-1 overall this season, began the AMC postseason tournament Feb. 26 after press time. Giron, a junior, has been the Scots' top performer this season, with team highs of 20.8 points and 8.4 rebounds per game to go with team bests of 64 assists and 28 steals.

Sports notes, news items

Hall of Fame scholarship applicants sought

Pasadena ISD high school students are encouraged to apply for the PISD Athletics Hall of Fame scholarship award, presented annually to deserving students.

Sponsored by the PISD Education Foundation, the scholarship award will be presented later this spring. The deadline to submit applications for the two scholarships totaling \$2,500 each to one deserving male student and one female student is March 26.

To access the application, visit www.pasadenaisd.org, choose departments, choose athletics and then choose hall of fame scholarships 2021. For more information or help with accessing the scholarship online, call 713-740-0838.

Harris scholarship fund accepting donations

Barry E. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund co-founder Shane Brown is accepting donations to help fund the 2021 scholarship that will be awarded to a deserving Dobie High School student in May.

The fund is in honor of Harris, who was a longtime educator at Dobie High School and supporter of Pasadena ISD athletics. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 65 due to complications from cancer.

Class of 2021 Dobie High School seniors may now apply for the Barry E. Harris Scholarship by visiting the College Now tab located on the J. Frank Dobie High School website. The deadline to apply is March 27.

Lajaunie tennis tourney seeks funds

Event organizers are busy with early plans for the 10th annual Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund tournament, with 2021 fundraising efforts underway.

While the 2020 event did not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Lajaunie fund awarded two youth scholarships as well as six others to deserving Dobie High School senior tennis players.

As for 2021 fundraising efforts, those are being accepted both on the Lajaunie tournament site on Facebook at Darren Lajaunie Scholarship Fund as well as www.DLTennisScholarships.com.

For additional information on donations or tournament sponsorship opportunities, call tournament founder Camille Lajaunie at 281-480-6933.

Despite layoff, Julks confident in MiLB restart; Corpus aims at May 4

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor

Corey Julks is one of the thousands of minor league baseball players who have essentially seen their livelihoods put on hold during the now year-long coronavirus pandemic, yet he is keeping a positive perspective.

The Clear Brook High School graduate was a 2017 seventh-round draft pick of the hometown Houston Astros out of the University of Houston.

Since signing with the Astros' organization following the June amateur draft in 2017, Julks went to work climbing his way up and through the Astros' minor league pipeline.

In 2019, the last time a minor league baseball season was held, Julks, a right-handed hitting outfielder, split time between High-A at Asheville and AA Corpus Christi, hitting .256 for the year with minimal power numbers.

Since that time, baseball as a whole has largely been in a holding pattern.

While the MLB season was delayed once and then again, the minor league landscape simply faded.

The 2020 amateur draft was limited to just five rounds and very well may be limited to five again for 2021.

"There are plenty of cages, but to work on defense you need to be out there on the field seeing the live baseball come off the bat and things like that. It's definitely a little more challenging."

The time away from the game has also reinforced Julks' goals as he heads into 2021, whenever things get going at the minor league level.

He turns 25 this year, and his love of the game of baseball is as great as ever. "I've played baseball my whole life, so it's been tough," he said.

"But instead of looking at it as time lost, I'm just excited to get things going."

MLB last week announced start dates for the minor league baseball season, as the Astros' AAA affiliate in Sugar Land will get started April 8 on the road. The season will encompass 142 games in all. At AA Corpus Christi, where Julks is expected to begin the 2021 season, opening day is May 4 as the Hooks begin things on the road in San Antonio. The AA and Class A season are currently slated to include 120 games.

The Astros' AAA affiliate is now essentially in the backyard at Sugar Land, but Julks feels like he is most likely destined

for his 2021 season to begin at AA Corpus Christi. But again, it's all good.

"The goal for 2021 is definitely to get to Sugar Land or above," Julks said.

"As a player you just want to be able to do the things consistently that are going to get you a look in Houston or at least im-

prove your stock. Overall, I feel good, and I'll be ready when we go."

Major League Baseball has now set tentative plans for the start of the minor league baseball season, so the season is likely to be contested in some form. Julks promises to be ready when the time comes as his career resumes.



Clear Brook High School graduate Corey Julks, a 2017 seventh-round draft choice of the Houston Astros, is looking forward to resuming his career with the organization after the entire 2020 minor league campaign was lost to the pandemic.



Corey Julks is expected to begin the 2021 regular season with the Astros' Class AA affiliate in Corpus Christi. MLB last week announced the AA and A seasons will begin May 4 with the Hooks playing on the road in San Antonio. Photos courtesy of Corpus Christi Hooks

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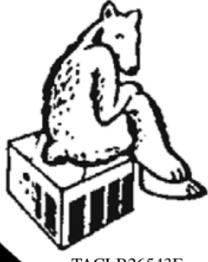
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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html.
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - The club is currently closed. For additional information, visit <https://aclblunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for games or email at jpochsner@aol.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bldg. room 4, 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.
TUESDAY, MARCH 2
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
Narcotics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's noon notice.
Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets the first Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program begins at 7 p.m. Visit www.facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild or call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 for information. Visitors may attend two meetings free.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Details are on Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under calendar.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are online. Join the 7 p.m. Friday or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service and visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/calendar> and click on calendar link. For details, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>.
8 p.m.
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
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.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html> for more information.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society - Meets either online in a virtual webinar format or at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing prior to 7 p.m. in-person meeting. Virtual attendees need to register for each webinar session. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28
8 p.m.
AA - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.
MONDAY, MARCH 1
10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details or visit <http://www.houstonalananon.org/meetings.html>.
Noon
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets on a virtual site at <https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/>. To be a guest, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access. For more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.
7 p.m.

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7 p.m.

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7 p.m.

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25 Words - \$10 for 1 week
• 3 Weeks - \$27



Two-alarm fire extinguished



Houston firefighters responded to a two-alarm townhouse fire around 2:40 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the 13000 block of Nyack. According to fire department officials, firefighters arrived on scene to find heavy fire coming from a townhouse and made a defensive attack. A second alarm was requested. The crews extinguished the fire and contained it to the unit of origin with minor damage to a nearby unit. Damage was estimated at \$115,000. Firefighters were able to save approximately \$400,000 in damage. The cause of the fire was under investigation at press time. No injuries were reported. Firefighters from stations 93, 70, 29, 72 and 94 responded to this incident.

Photo by Claudia Cubos

Abbott sets 4 storm priorities

Continued from Page 1

The third priority is ensuring Texans have the food and supplies they need. The governor noted that he has already suspended some regulations relating to commercial vehicles, which will speed the delivery of food and other resources to communities across the state.

The fourth priority is helping refineries get back up and running to provide Texans with the fuel they need. Abbott spoke with oil and gas leaders Saturday to see how best to achieve this objective.

"Thanks to the efforts of linemen, plumbers, first responders, truckers, farmers, ranchers, grocery store workers, refinery workers and more, we continue to make tremendous strides to overcome the challenges of the past week," said Abbott. "We know that this past week has been challenging for far too many Texans. Our state agencies are working around the clock to restore power and water, and to ensure Texans have food and supplies. I want to reassure the people of Texas that we are using every tool at our disposal to help those in need. We have overcome challenges in the past, and we will overcome this challenge together."

For winter weather resources, including a map of warming centers and ways to help Texans in need, visit open.texas.gov/winter.

SNAP storm benefits announced

Gov. Greg Abbott on Sunday, Feb. 21, announced the Texas Health and Human Services Commission received federal approval to allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to use their food benefits to purchase hot foods and ready-to-eat meals due to impacts from the severe winter storm.

"As we continue to recover from this winter storm, the state is ensuring that Texans in need have access to hot food to feed their families," said Abbott.

"I thank our federal partners at the U.S. Department of Agriculture for approving this waiver."

This sentiment was shared by Wayne Salter, HHS Access and Eligibility Services deputy executive commissioner.

"We're doing everything we can for Texans who were affected by this extreme winter storm," said Salter. "These added federal flexibilities will go a long way in helping SNAP clients feed their families."

SNAP recipients can now use their benefits for hot foods and ready-to-eat foods, such as rotisserie chicken or grocery store deli foods, at retailers that accept SNAP anywhere in the state.

HHSC received federal approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. The waiver allows SNAP recipients to purchase these ready-made foods with their Lone Star Cards through the end of March.

Additionally, Texas received federal approval Feb. 19 to allow SNAP recipients to apply for replacement benefits for food lost or destroyed due to the severe weather.

Administered by HHSC, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately 1.6 million eligible, low-income families and individuals in Texas.

Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at YourTexasBenefits.com or use the Your Texas Benefits mobile app to manage their benefits.

To find local resources in specific areas, such as food or shelter, call 211 and select option 1.

Mayor pro tem distributes water



Mark Mitchell, the South Sector Manager for Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin distributed cases of drinking water to area residents last Friday at Ellington Field. The activity was triggered by the need to boil water due to possible contamination. The boil water directive has since been lifted. Mitchell is a former South Belt resident and Dobie high graduate.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Area schools recognized

Bondy Intermediate School and Milstead Middle School have been named Texas Schools to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform and the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Bondy and Milstead join nearly 50 campuses in the state of Texas that have been selected for the designation since the program started back in 2011.

Principals Roneka Lee

of Bondy Intermediate and Scott Pollack of Milstead Middle shared their sentiments about the recognition.

"I am thrilled that Bondy has received this prestigious designation," said Lee. "This honor is a direct reflection of the incredible work of our students and staff. It is our commitment to do #WhatEverItTakes for the students of this community."

Pollack said, "I am so proud of all of the hard work by our amazing students

and staff. This recognition is a result of their dedication to ensure our students are learning each and every day."

Schools are selected based on academic achievement, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organizational structure and processes.

The selection process involves the completion of a rigorous application that requires schools to demonstrate academic growth and achievements, in addition to ensuring the needs of all students are met.

After the applications were submitted, the Schools to Watch site team visited Bondy and Milstead in January to observe classrooms and conduct interviews with their respective school communities. "We were honored to have them visit our campus and meet with some of our wonderful students, parents and teachers," Pollack said.

Both campuses will be recognized as Schools to Watch for a three-year period. After the third year, they must demonstrate continued progress on specific goals in order to be redesignated.

Bondy Intermediate and Milstead Middle will be honored during the Virtual Making Middle School Matter Symposium, hosted by TASSP, March 1-2. They will also be honored at the Virtual National Forum Schools to Watch conference in June.

"Thank you to Schools to Watch for recognizing the rewarding work of our teachers, the endearing support of our district and community and the passionate enthusiasm for learning from our students," said Lee. "We are #BondyProud and #PasadenaISDProud."

Dobie DECA students qualified for state

Congratulations go to J. Frank Dobie High School DECA students. These students qualified for the state DECA competition this year. State competition started Feb. 8. The submission deadline was pushed back to Feb. 22 due to the winter storm. The competition was virtual.



Aaron Sargent



Jahir Reyes



Julio Torres



Justus Vela



Lizbeth Rodriguez



Michael De La Garza



Sebastian Cruz



Sindy Puerto



Xavier Musquiz

City of Houston distributes bottled drinking water to community

Mayor Sylvester Turner joined city employees and community volunteers to distribute bottled water Friday, Feb. 19, at Delmar Stadium. The massive distribution assisted families struggling due to historic cold temperatures, frozen pipes, water leaks and the city's boil water notice.

Volunteers handed out one million water bottles to people during the drive-thru distribution in addition to senior centers and city council member districts throughout the city.

The mayor thanked everyone who helped make the distribution possible, including Houston Public Works employees who assisted in setting up the distribution site, the Mayor's Office of Special Events, the Mayor's Health Equity Response Task Force and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. HPARD redeployed over 50 employees and vehicles to deliver pallets and assist with the distribution to the public.

"This past week has been a major event that disrupted many lives," said Turner. "As the lights come back on and water pressure goes up, we want to be sensitive to the fact that many families will be in crisis mode for weeks and months to come. We have to be very focused on doing everything we can to assist families within our city. Until the least of the people in our city recover, we are still not yet fully recovered."

partnering with CrowdSource Rescue to deliver bottled water to people with disabilities who don't have access to reliable transportation.

To sign up for delivery, visit crowdsourcerescue.org/freeze.

District E Houston District E City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin also held a pair of bottled water distribution events, including one Friday, Feb. 19, at the Ellington Airport/Clear Lake Neighborhood Recycling Center and another event Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Exploration Green parking lot in Clear Lake.

Recipients were limited to one case of bottled water each.

The drive-thru event was contactless, and all appropriate COVID-19 safety precautions were taken.

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Disaster area declared

Continued from Page 1

Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Collin, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Falls, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hood, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Kaufman,

Kendall, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rockwall, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson and Wise counties.

Walgreens burglarized

Continued from Page 1

Investigators said the crook(s) entered and exited the store through the broken drive-thru window.

According to police, the business's power was off at the time of the incident, limiting surveillance footage.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

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