



South Belt-Ellington Leader

45 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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COVID vaccine drive-thru

Crossroads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd., will be used March 13 for drive-thru COVID-19 vaccines, to be administered through Mitchell Rx pharmacy. Those who qualify under Phase 1A and 1B are eligible and must register. To schedule an appointment, call 888-341-6911.

Drive-thru fish fry continues

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall, is hosting a drive-thru fish fry Fridays through March 26, 4 to 7 p.m. in the parking lot. Dinner consists of a breaded USA catfish fried fillet, hush puppies, corn on the cob, fries, tartar sauce and a drink. Baked fish fillets are available in limited quantities. Cost is \$10. Cash and credit accepted. Money raised will benefit KC local and community projects.

South Belt hosts blood drive

On Sunday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. South Belt Church is hosting a blood drive by MD Anderson. All those making a successful donation will be screened for COVID antibodies (results emailed in a week). Anyone who has taken a COVID vaccine is eligible to donate blood.

With COVID-19 still here and the need for blood continuing, the community is encouraged to donate to help avoid blood shortages. The safety of the donors and staff has been considered and the institution has developed COVID-19 precautions. Masks are provided, temperatures are taken and social distancing is observed in the donor coach. To schedule an appointment, visit <https://ti.nyurl.com/sbelt0321>.

COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, March 10, there were 114 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. Of the 5,080 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 259 remain active. To date, 49 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 132 of the 3,678 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 32 from the ZIP code have died, an increase of two from the previous week.

Of the 3,775 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 117 remain active. To date, 33 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

According to Harris County Public Health officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues. County-wide, there are 360,421 total confirmed cases. Of those, 343,405 have recovered from the disease, while 13,604 cases remain active. A total of 3,394 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 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. through Sunday, March 14. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Red Bluff continuously through 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 12.

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. 31. 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.

Schools, businesses slow to drop required masks

While Gov. Greg Abbott signed an executive order Tuesday, March 2, lifting the state's mask ban, area schools and several local businesses will still require them or at least encourage their use. (See related story on Page 8.)

Local schools

Both Pasadena ISD and all students and staff are relying on guidance from the Texas Education Agency and local county health officials.

Paul's meeting on school March 26

The long-awaited public meeting to discuss the future of the proposed charter school in Riverstone Ranch has been scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. Friday, March 26, at Melillo Middle School, located at 9220 Hughes Road.

Hosted by state Rep. Dennis Paul, the event has been delayed multiple times, as officials from the charter school have been reluctant to meet. Paul has, however, extended an invitation to school leaders and their attorneys to attend.

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.

"The current state of Houston Gateway Academy-Riverstone Campus is unacceptable," Paul said. "I have reached out to their representatives for a private meeting and have not received a response. I find this incredibly disappointing and hope that they choose to accept my invitation to our public meeting. It is very important that the residents of the Riverstone Ranch community hear from the school on their future plans." Construction of the area campus has been marred 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.

Nurse arrested on felony forgery

Former Morris Middle School nurse Syndey Golden was arrested Friday, March 5, on felony forgery charges.

Golden was arrested by Pasadena ISD Police Department and charged with a third degree felony offense of forgery of a government instrument.

According to Pasadena ISD officials, the arrest came after a thorough and extended investigation.

Golden was hired to start the 2020-2021 school year and was only on campus for 10 days.

Police release more info on shooting



Derrick Hayes

More details have emerged in the double homicide that took place Tuesday, March 2, in the 11100 block of Cayman Mist Drive near Beltway 8 and Blackhawk.

Houston police officials have identified the gunman as Derrick Hayes, 35. (Working from secondary sources, the *Leader* incorrectly

identified the suspect as Eric Hays in the initial March 4 story.) HPD identified the two victims as Bryce Alexander, 15, and Carmen Hayes, 71 (incorrectly identified as Carmen Hays in the March 4 edition of the *Leader*.) Alexander was a former Dobie student of Dobie9, dropping out earlier this year. (At press time, police were not releasing more information.)

The suspect, Derrick Hayes, is charged with capital murder, aggravated assault of a family member and felon in possession of a weapon in the 262nd State District Court.

Memorial sets vax opportunities

As part of its role as a state-designated COVID-19 vaccination distribution hub, Memorial Hermann Health System is proud to announce the launch of a digital COVID-19 Vaccination Request Form. Eligible members of the community can now use this online tool to register for the opportunity to receive a COVID-19 vaccine from Memorial Hermann.

In Texas, vaccination is currently available to

the state's Phase 1A and 1B priority groups, as well as to those who work in school and/or child-care operations as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Once the online request form has been completed, individuals will be placed on a waitlist for future appointments at Memorial Hermann's vaccination clinics. Registered individuals who

HPD investigates bar shooting

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man that took place outside a bar around 11:55 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, in the 12000 block of the Gulf Freeway.

The victim, Marco Garcia, 25, was transported to an area hospital in critical condition.

According to police, Garcia and his girlfriend were inside the Ojos Locos Sports Cantina located in the Alameda Mall parking lot when an

argument involving three unknown males and their friend became physical. When Garcia tried to intervene, the suspects turned their attention to him and his pregnant girlfriend.

While in the parking lot, Garcia and his girlfriend got into their vehicle and attempted to leave the area when they were shot at by a suspect armed with a rifle.

Panama City continues 'helping' partnership with South Belt

A group of Pasadena ISD educators recently teamed up with a Florida radio personality to host a water distribution event at Beverly Hills Intermediate for families still affected by the recent hard freeze.

Spearheaded locally by Adriana Robinson, Dobie9 assistant principal, the charitable function was held in cooperation with a Panama City Beach, Fla., disc jockey named Dr. Shane, a relative of Robinson's husband.

Panama City donates water to South Belt schools



An 18-wheeler traveled from Panama City, Florida to Beverly Hills Intermediate to pay it forward and deliver pallets of water to South Belt families recovering from the winter storm. The water was donated by radio personality Dr. Shane with iHeartRadio's 92.5 WPAP and his generous listeners. In 2017, Dr. Shane donated an 18-wheeler full of food to the South Belt community. Fast forward to 2021 and he did it again, only this time with water. Pasadena ISD and the South Belt community thank Dr. Shane for his generosity. Shown above are, left to right, Alyta Harrell, PISD associate superintendent for campus development; Ashley Collier, BHI assistant principal; Adriana Robinson, Dobie9 assistant principal; Stacey Barber, BHI principal; and Travis Regner, BHI assistant principal. Photo by Reesha Brown

Timmons endures storm with strangers



Former South Belt resident Chelsea Timmons (right) recently made national headlines after she became stuck at an unknown couple's house while delivering food to them in Austin during the recent hard freeze. A 2007 Dobie graduate, Timmons stayed at the house for five days due to the icy road conditions. Online chronicles of the story went viral, with the incident being reported on CNN and "The Daily Show" with Trevor Noah. Pictured above with Timmons are homeowner Doug Condon and his wife, Nina Richardson. (See related story on Page 2.)

Firefighters respond to 3 area fires

Houston firefighters responded to three separate fires in the South Belt area recently.

At approximately 8:05 a.m., firefighters responded to a fire at an automotive sales dealership in the 11300 block of the Gulf Freeway near Alameda Genoa/South Shaver Street on Feb. 23.

Firefighters arrived on scene within seven minutes to find dark smoke coming from the door way of an auto sales dealership building. The fire was found in a bathroom with no fire

spread to other parts of the building. Crews extinguished the fire and noted soot throughout the entire building.

The manager stated that when he arrived, the building was secure and left the way it was when it was closed the previous day.

According to fire department officials, there was approximately \$12,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save roughly \$1.2 million in

Governor sets plan to work with ISDs

Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Education Agency announced Thursday, March 4, the state will provide a "hold harmless" to Texas school systems for the rest of the 2020-2021 academic school year only.

This means funding will be made available to school systems in Texas that have seen enrollment and attendance declines because of the COVID-19 pandemic, as long as they maintain

COVID vax waitlist expanded

The Houston Health Department recently expanded its COVID-19 vaccine waitlist to all age groups eligible for vaccination under the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria. The waitlist is used to schedule the department's allotment of appointments at the FEMA community vaccination center at NRG Park and its other vaccination sites.

Phase 1A of the state's criteria focuses on front-line health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities. Phase 1B focuses on people 65 and older and people age 16 and older with medical conditions that put them at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

People who meet the criteria can register for the waitlist online at HoustonEmergency.org/covid19. Registration is also available by phone to people age 60 and older through the Area Agency on Aging at 832-393-4301. People with

Fun Run March 27

Texas Oral and Facial Surgery is proud to present the 8th Annual Ima's Home for Children 5K Run/Walk & Kids 1K on March 27 at 9 a.m. It will be held at 9901 Windmill Lakes Blvd, just west of Alameda Mall.

The entire event will take place on the parking lot where Life Church holds services, since it is a safe and secure environment.

Ima's Home for Children, located Northwest of Manila, Philippines, became the vision of lead

Update on mystery of the gift of roses

The mystery man who recently delivered flowers to the houses of strangers during the hard freeze has been identified.

Residents of Sagetrail, where the gifts were distributed late Wednesday, Feb. 17, told the *Leader* the good Samaritan was Michael Brett - also a resident of the area street.

The act of kindness was first reported to the *Leader* by longtime Sagetrail resident Joyce Shannon. According to Shannon, dozens of flowers were left on the doorsteps of houses on her block near Hughes Road during the dead of night.

The flowers were all tagged with a label from Bloom Haus, a brand associated with Kroger. Shannon suspected the gesture was inspired in part by a possible excess of flowers leftover from Valentine's Day, as this year's holiday was mar-

Timmons makes national news

A former Dobie student recently made national headlines after she found herself stranded with strangers for five days while working in Austin during the recent historic freeze.

A 2007 graduate, Chelsea Timmons was delivering groceries for H-E-B when icy conditions caused her vehicle to get stuck at the house of what was to be her last customer for the day Sunday, Feb. 14.

After multiple attempts calling tow trucks and taxis/ride-sharing services for assistance proved fruitless, Timmons' customers offered to let her stay the night.

"These people let a complete stranger stay the night," Timmons posted on her Facebook page. "Not only that, but they cooked me a steak dinner. Definitely not how I imagined my Valentine's Day."

One night soon turned into five, as the freezing conditions failed to improve.

Timmons chronicled the event on her Facebook page.

"Their home still has water and power so we are clean and warm," Timmons posted. "They have groceries (I know, I delivered them) so we are fed. How amazingly blessed am I right in this moment?"

It turned out Timmons would have been without water and power had she made it back to her own home.

"Me being stuck here actually turned into a better situation than if I had made it home," Timmons said in a video posting. "I definitely ate a lot better here than if I'd actually made it home. So, I'm so grateful for these two and grateful that they were not only able but willing to let a stranger into their home and keep me safe, warm and fed and made me feel comfortable and made me feel part of the family. And that's something that you really just don't see."

To show her gratitude to the couple for taking her in, Timmons baked them a coc-

nut cake.

Timmons' mother Arnetta Timmons is also grateful for the generosity of the strangers.

"This is a story of ultimate human kindness," her mother said. "I am always worried when my daughter Chelsea Timmons travels as it is, so I am forever grateful to these strangers (guardian angels) who invited her into their home, without hesitation, during a pandemic, when her vehicle got stuck in snow."

The story of Timmons' experience went viral, being shared by multiple local news outlets, as well as CNN, *People Magazine* and "The Daily Show" with Trevor Noah.

Timmons is still soaking in everything that has happened.

"I can't believe everything that has happened," Timmons posted on her Facebook page. "(I'm) beyond grateful that I have been able find comfort with strangers during this unprecedented winter storm." (See related photo Page 1.)

Update on mystery of the roses

Continued from Page 1 red by the historic freezing conditions.

Shannon's suspicions were confirmed when Brett said he had indeed found the flowers discarded behind the Kroger at Beltway 8 and Sabo and didn't want to see

them go to waste.

Brett, along with a couple friends, collected the items — some even including glass vases — packed them into his truck and distributed them to his neighbors, even had-delivering them to at least one individual in person.

A few of the flowers went unclaimed, as some residents were displaced due to the winter storm. With their permission, Shannon collected the items and gave them to a friend of hers who is currently suffering from cancer.

Area plans slow to drop masks

Continued from Page 1 protocols."

Grocery stores
Several area grocery stores will also continue to enforce the mask mandate, including H-E-B, Kroger, Aldi, Target and Fiesta.

"Though statewide policy has changed, our store policy has not," a statement from H-E-B read. "We will continue to ask shoppers to be masked while in our stores. Additionally, we will still require all our partners and vendors to wear masks while at work."

Food Town will continue to require all employees and vendors to wear masks and encourages all customers to also do so while practicing social distancing. A similar position was taken by Kroger. "Although the statewide mask mandate has been

lifted in Texas, to ensure the safety of our customers and associates, Kroger will continue to follow health and safety guidelines recommended by the CDC by requiring all associates in our stores to wear a mask," a statement from Kroger read. "We encourage all customers visiting our stores to continue to wear a mask to protect themselves, those around them and our associates. We remind those who can't wear masks that we offer low touch or no touch pickup and delivery services."

Aldi also released a similar statement.

"For the health and well-being of the communities we serve and for the protection of our employees, we will maintain our current nationwide policy requiring all employees and customers to wear a

face covering when shopping in our stores," the Aldi statement read. "We will continue to assess any new guidelines issued by the CDC and will keep our customers informed of any future changes."

Retail store Target will also continue to enforce the mask mandate.

"We require guests to wear masks or face coverings in all of our stores, except for guests with underlying medical conditions and young children," a statement from Target read. "We also require all store team members to wear masks at work and have provided them with reusable and disposable masks. Those who have been vaccinated for coronavirus are still required to wear a mask and follow all social distancing guidelines, in line with current CDC guidance."

PISD nurse arrested for forgery

Continued from Page 1 school days, officials said.

"While the district has been unable to authenticate the licensure and education records Ms. Golden provided to obtain employment, the district's Health Ser-

vices Department has performed a thorough review of the documented care provided by Ms. Golden and concluded that district protocols related to student care were followed," a letter to Morris parents read, in

part. "The campus will continue to cooperate with police and other governmental agencies during the ongoing prosecution of this case and will provide additional information to you as authorized."

Frazier offers scholarships

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

Governor working with ISDs

Continued from Page 1 or increase current levels of on-campus attendance.

Districts will be funded on attendance in line with projections made prior to the public health crisis. This will ensure that school systems in Texas can retain their teachers for the 2020-2021 school year for whom they originally budgeted. This final semester of hold harmless means districts have been held harmless for three consecutive semesters — spring semester of the 2019-2020 academic year and the entirety of the 2020-2021 academic year.

"As more districts return to in-person instruction, we are ensuring that schools are not financially penalized for declines in attendance due to COVID-19," said Abbott. "Providing a hold harmless for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year is a crucial part of our state's commitment to supporting our school systems and teachers and getting more students back in the classroom."

A similar position was taken by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. "My goal is to get all of our students back in the classroom and this hold harmless funding will ensure our public schools can complete the school year and continue to bring students back to campuses for in-person learning," said Patrick. "As always, we are grateful to those teachers across the state who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic to keep our students on track."

students back into the classroom or in-person instruction and fully funding our schools — despite challenges that occurred as a result of COVID-19," said Phelan. "I fully support the decision to provide necessary funding and maintain our commitment to Texas schools."

The governor was joined by local lawmakers in his announcement. "The legislature was already dedicated to fulfilling the commitments made in House Bill 3 from last session," said Sen. Larry Taylor. "The financial stability provided by this hold harmless will further support our schools in their efforts to help our students meet the challenges brought on by COVID-19."

This sentiment was shared by Rep. Harold Dutton. "It would be an understatement to say that Texas families have been negatively affected by the COVID environment," said Dutton. "And perhaps those most affected have been our public school students who have had to educate remotely or not at all. Texas should do everything possible to get these students back to school but school districts must not be penalized financially for the absence of these students. That is why this hold harmless provision is a financial must for Texas school districts."

Data has shown throughout the COVID-19 pandemic that schools are safe, state officials said. School systems in Texas must follow public health guidance issued by TEA, which establishes a variety of effective virus mitigation

strategies for schools. Based on this guidance, school districts are widely employing a range of measures including masks, screening practices, improvements in ventilation, the use of rapid COVID-19 tests, and improved hygiene procedures. Additionally, all Texas teachers and school staff are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas.

In normal times, schools are funded based on the students enrolled and the daily attendance on campus. This year, TEA prioritized flexibility to ensure essential funding support for school systems, by providing full funding based on daily attendance, whether the attendance was in-person or remote. The hold harmless, which was previously provided in the first semester of the school year, allocates funding above the statutory guaranteed level of funding for students who are not enrolled, or for students who attend (even if remotely) less frequently. For the current second semester, it is being provided as long as on-campus attendance participation rates do not decline or those rates otherwise remain high (at least 80 percent).

TEA has published on its coronavirus resource website documents that note the baseline on-campus attendance participation rates of every Texas school system in the fall of 2020.

More details on the specifics of the hold harmless calculation can be found in TEA's Attendance and Enrollment Funding FAQ at tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SD-2020-21-Attendance-and-Enrollment.pdf.

Publisher's Opinion

We need to have some happy news!

I am not sure about our readers, but sometimes I find it hard to keep a happy face. I am generally an upbeat person, but the last year has not been easy on anyone. I love people and enjoy working with all the different groups in the community.

One of the things I have wanted to do is print some happy news in the *Leader*.

While the COVID news is necessary, reading it does not make our readers feel better.

Last week I told James (Bo) Bolen, who writes most of our front page, that I wanted some happy news.

We found out Franklin Moses had been named Secondary Principal of the year, and then we had the story about Joyce Shannon the woman who, along with some of her neighbors, found roses anonymously left at her front door. (See update on this story on Page 1 in this week's issue.)

We thought finally some good news and

a paper we would look forward to putting out for publication.

That was until Tuesday, when we got word of the double murder. So much for wanting mainly good news!

We are hoping some of you will be willing to share some good news with us and help brighten spirits as we struggle through what is our current normal.

I do believe that most of us are much better off than many others and thank God daily for the blessings he has given me, but look forward to days more like they used to be — when I could give good friends a hug and not worry about wearing a mask.

But in the meantime, if you have any happy news you would like to share, please do so. We all can use it!

Email your happy news to mynews@southbeltleader.com.

Marie Flinkinger
Publisher

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 Kingspoint. For information, visit https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.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.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. All overdue fines/fees will be waived through Jan. 1, 2021. To use HPL To Go:

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

Parker Williams Library

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

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

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

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
 - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
 - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
 - Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
 - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Curbside hours are: Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Online services

- 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, March 11, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join John Harbaugh and Jason Cruz virtually for family fun. Parents are encouraged to participate. Designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, but all children and families are welcome to join. Sign up once at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation. #toddlertime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Thursday, March 11, 4:30 p.m. Discord Chat. The library's Anime Club has morphed online. Join Jason Cruz and John Harbaugh on our Discord Anime Channel for a discussion about how the new Winter 2021 season is going. To join in, email John at john.harbaugh@hcpl.net to get added to the channel. #anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Friday, March 12, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez who tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Residents will need pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Friday, March 12, 5 p.m. Is It Wrong to Watch So Much Anime? Episode 14: Makoto Shinkai's Movies. Interesting. Emotional. Charged. Three words that we can use to describe the works of director Makoto Shinkai's films. Join Jason Cruz and John Harbaugh and dive deeper into Shinkai's works. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Sunday, March 14, 1 p.m. Pi (π) Day! 3.14 Join Tanner and John as they teach you how to make a pizza pie from scratch for Pi (π) Day! This video featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) This program will be on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Tuesday, March 16, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, March 17, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Tanner Adams online. No prior experience is required. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for details.

Wednesday, March 17, 5 p.m. Virtual Teen Advisory board. Looking for a way to volunteer? Need to get some hours in for National Honor Society? Join Mr. John Harbaugh. For an invitation, email john.harbaugh@hcpl.net. #volunteer #volunteering #community #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

How to apply for FEMA storm aid

Texas with uninsured losses should apply for FEMA Individual Assistance immediately. Residents whose homes are insured should file insurance claims prior to applying with FEMA at www.disasterassistance.gov. Select "Apply Online." Select the cause of damage as snow/ice. Insured people who are applying for disaster assistance must file a claim with the insurance company as soon as possible. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for insurance covered losses. If insurance does not cover all damage, one may be eligible for federal assistance.

FEMA's Individual and Household Assistance program is not a substitute for insurance and may not pay for all losses caused by a disaster. If it is not possible to register online, call 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585) from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Those who use a relay service such as a videophone, InnoCaption or CapTel should update FEMA with the specific number assigned to that service. When applying for assistance, have the following information readily available:

A current phone number; address at the time of disaster and address where applicant is staying and Social Security number, general list of damage and losses, and, if insured, the insurance policy number, and the agent or company name.

Disaster assistance may include financial for temporary lodging and home repairs, low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration to cover uninsured losses, and programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

For eligible homeowners and renters in designated county, assistance may include: Property: FEMA may assist with the repairs to burst pipes

and disaster-damaged heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning, refrigerators and stoves.

Other repairs that may be covered include: Disaster-related damage to electrical, plumbing or gas; leaks in a roof that damage ceilings and threaten electrical components disaster-damaged subfloor in essential occupied parts of the home, and disaster-related broken windows; lodging expense reimbursement: DR-4586-TX only. Survivors who incurred uninsured lodging expenses due to utility outages only and did not have disaster-related damage to their home may now be eligible for reimbursement. The standard period is from Feb. 11- Feb. 28.

Rental assistance: Funds to rent housing for those whose homes were made uninhabitable by the disaster.

Personal property assistance: Funds to repair or replace essential uninsured disaster-damaged personal property, including property damaged by burst pipes.

Miscellaneous items: Funds for certain items purchased due to the disaster. Reimbursement for generators is limited to a generator purchased during the event by the applicant to power medically required equipment after a utility outage.

Transportation assistance: Funds for primary vehicles damaged by the disaster, including damage from fallen trees, power lines or vehicle accidents caused by unsafe driving conditions.

Medical and Dental assistance: Funds for uninsured medical and dental needs or losses caused by the disaster, such as medically required items damaged by burst pipes or medical treatment needed due to exposure to below freezing temperatures.

Child Care assistance: FEMA can reimburse child-

care as a result of increased financial burden to care for children aged 13 and younger and/or children up to age 21 with a disability who need assistance with activities as defined by federal law.

Volunteer organizations across Texas may have programs or additional resources to assist one if one has immediate needs. Call 211 Texas.

FEMA cannot reimburse for food loss.

FEMA does not help with energy or other utilities. Residents seeking assistance are urged to contact their utility company for payment plans or deferred payment options.

FEMA does not cover insurance deductibles. However, when insured disaster-caused damage is less than the deductible, FEMA may provide assistance to help with the applicant's needs. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits covered by insurance so one must provide information from insurance claim to determine eligibility for assistance from FEMA.

For information, visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4586>.

Shots available through Memorial

Continued from Page 1

Continued eligibility for vaccination will be selected at random and notified when appointments become available. A link to schedule the vaccination will be sent via text message and/or email based on the communication preferences entered when completing the request form.

Memorial Hermann will make appointments available based on vaccine supply and will prioritize vaccine distribution in accordance with guidance from the Texas Department of State Health Services. See below for descriptions with more detail on current

qualifications.

Those who qualify and are interested in completing Memorial Hermann's COVID-19 Vaccination Request Form are invited to sign up at <https://www.memorialhermann.org/services/conditions/coronavirus/texas-vaccine-hub>.

Phase 1A: Frontline healthcare workers, long-term care facilities, EMS 9-1-1, Home Health, outpatient, medical clinics, ER/urgent care, pharmacies, last responders, school nurses and phase 1B, individuals 65 years of age and older and individuals 18 and older who have at least one chronic medical condition that

puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19 as defined by the state's Phase 1B criteria.

DHHS defines those who work in school and/or childcare operations as: teachers for pre-primary, primary or secondary schools (including Head Start and Early Head Start programs); staff at pre-primary, primary or secondary schools (including Head Start and Early Head Start programs); bBus drivers for a pre-primary, primary or secondary schools (including Head Start and Early Head Start programs); and staff at licensed childcare providers.

John (Johnny) Allen Lee Jr.



John Allen Lee Jr., aka Johnny, Henny or Dad to his family and friends, passed from this life Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021. At the time of his death he was residing at the Evening Star Personal Care Facility in Alvin. He was 72 years old, five days short of his 73rd birthday.

He was born Feb. 15, 1948, in Galveston to parents Joan Goode Lee and John Allen Lee Sr. He grew up in San Leon, Texas. His childhood consisted of friends, sports, teasing his sister, riding his motor scooter, fishing and hunting. Johnny's parents loved to fish and hunt and they passed that love to him. The family would go fishing or hunting every chance they got. It did not matter for those who wanted to go or not, they were going. Johnny even spent one summer running his own crabbing business. He used an inner tube to travel from trap to trap and sold his daily catch to the old Jimmy Walker's restaurant in Kemah.

He attended Dickinson High School and, with his academics, he excelled in football and baseball. Johnny loved to tell the story of hitting a foul tip off Alvin's pitcher, Nolan Ryan. In 2009 he was placed on the Dickinson Athletic Wall of Honor. After high school, he was awarded a football scholarship to Lamar Tech in Beaumont along with one of his best friends Barry Lussier. Football dorm rooms were assigned alphabetically, three players to a room. Lee and Lussier were assigned to room with Bob Lakin. The three L's remained close friends long after their college playing days ended.

After college, Johnny became an educator, a coach, and ended his career at Dobie High School in the Pasadena ISD as an assistant principal. While he loved sports, he always knew the importance an education has on a student's life. Throughout his career he spent years teaching and coaching in several school districts in the Houston area. He enriched the lives of hundreds of students.

Early in his career while working at O'Connell High School in Galveston Johnny met and worked with Steve Jamail. They became close friends and began working together again at Dobie High School. They both retired in 2012 — full of Dobie pride. They remained close friends for the remainder of Johnny's life. Steve was present with Johnny and his family when he passed.

After retirement, Johnny continued his work at San Jacinto Community College. He spent many years working for the weekend college program helping students return to col-

lege and still work full-time jobs. In addition to his work at the college, he had several other hobbies that kept him busy. He became a master whiskey maker, a moonshiner. No one could leave his house without first trying his "honey shine." As his son said "it could be 9 a.m. and if someone were leaving he would offer them a shot of shine."

He became a self-taught chef. He would watch cooking shows, memorizing the ingredients and steps, so he could surprise his family at the end of the day. It was wonderful to come home from work to one of his delicious meals. Sometimes he was even able to incorporate ingredients from his own garden. He looked forward to the first Monday of each month so he could eat lunch and visit with the "lunch bunch," his friends from Dickinson High School. He enjoyed fishing whenever he could find the time. He was always ready for his family's yearly vacation in Rockport, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law Paul Michael Stark.

He is survived by his wife Cathy Lee; son and daughter-in-law John and Alex Lee; sister and brother-in-law Susie and Thomas Grubbs; sister and brother-in-law Rita Kay and Douglas Rawlings; mother-in-law Patti Stark; and brother-in-law Mike Stark. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Johnny loved his family and friends who will miss him dearly.

His family and friends will celebrate his life at a later date.

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to Darla Hall and the staff of special caregivers at Evening Star Personal Care Facility. They loved and cared for Johnny like he was a member of their own family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Evening Star Personal Care Facility, 2960 Rowan Burton Road, Alvin, Texas 77511.

Louise Britain



Louise Britain, 95, of South Belt/Rainbow Valley, died peacefully of natural causes at her home Feb. 22, 2021, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born July 4, 1925, in Houston and graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School.

In 1941, she met Fred Britain Jr. The couple wed in 1945 and were blessed to have five children.

Louise dedicated her life to being a loving and wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She found joy and happiness through her many years with her growing family and she made it her mission to im-

prove their lives. She was passionate about cooking, gardening and sewing and, when she wasn't filling her home with love and kindness, she was known by many in the Kirkwood area as a dedicated Avon representative for 25 years. The community will miss her dearly.

Louise was predeceased by her husband in 1990; daughter Karen Elkins in 2020; and grandson Michael Perry in 2014. She is survived by her children Terry Britain and wife Lani, Thomas Britain, Kristi Lewis and husband Bryan, and Kenlynn Perry; grandchildren Troy Britain and wife Kathy, Kindra Pizarro and fiancé Ernie, Bill Elkins, Kelly Elkins-Welch, Laura Downey and husband Heath, Julianne Urban and husband Shane, Jay Britain and wife Tiffany, Jonathan Lewis, Nicholas Perry and wife Jessica, Christopher Perry and wife Lauren, Andrew Perry and partner Mark, Zachary Perry and wife Cheyenne; and 17 great-grandchildren.

There will be a funeral service and Celebration of Life Friday, March 12, 2021, at 2 p.m. at South Park Funeral Home, 1310 N. Main St., Pearland.

Leslie C. Phillips



Leslie Cornelius Phillips, 84, went home to be with his Lord Feb. 27, 2021. He was born Aug. 24, 1936, to parents Dorothy E. (Farr) and Leslie Phillips in Luling, Texas.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his son Larry Phillips; his brother Hugh H.

Double shooting . . .

Continued from Page 1
According to police, investigators responded to a double murder scene at a residence at the above address and were advised by family members that the suspect, Hayes, was missing from the house and possibly armed. Some family members took it upon themselves to track down Hayes following the shooting. They caught up with him at Academy Sports near Edgebrook. When the family located Hayes and attempted to detain him, the suspect tried to shoot his uncle but did not strike him. Investigators questioned Hayes, and he was arrested and charged with three felonies in this family violence case.

COVID shots expand

Continued from Page 1
disabilities can call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 832-393-5500. Anyone else needing registration assistance can contact the COVID-19 call center at 832-393-4220. The waitlist was previously open to people age 65 and older and people age 60 and older with chronic health conditions. The expansion ensures more community members who are eligible will have access. The NRG Park vaccination site fully opened Feb. 24. It will fully vaccinate approximately 126,000 people by serving 6,000 per day seven days per week for three weeks before transitioning to second doses for three weeks. The Houston Health Department schedules 3,000 people per day for vaccination at the site. Harris County Public Health also schedules 3,000 appointments per day at the NRG Park site. Criteria and registration for the Harris County waitlist is available at vacstrac.hctx.net/landing or by calling 832-927-8787. The health department will continue prioritizing people from its high-risk ZIP codes when scheduling appointments. Houston's high risk ZIP codes are geographic areas with people more vulnerable to severe COVID-19 illness as identified by positivity rate, underlying health condition, economic and social data.

Johnson & Johnson vax

The Houston Health Department has opened a new waitlist for its initial allotment of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The department's original vaccine waitlist is for Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which require two doses. Both waitlists are available at HoustonEmergency.org/covid19 and are open to all age groups eligible for vaccination under the Texas Department of State Health Services criteria. The waitlists are used to schedule the department's allotment of appointments at the FEMA community vaccination center at NRG Park and its other vaccination sites. Waitlist registration is also available by phone to people age 60 and older through the Area Agency on Aging at 832-393-4301. People with disabilities can call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 832-393-5500. Anyone else needing registration assistance can contact the COVID-19 call center at 832-393-4220. The Houston Health Department received half of a 12,000-dose allotment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on March 2 and began administering it at Bayou City Event Center and its other vaccination sites on March 4. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not being provided at NRG Park.

100th day of school celebration at Meador

Meador Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school Feb. 11 with a 100th-day parade and other fun activities.



Shown above is Daniel Chavez who was named 100th-day king of first grade.



Shown above are pre-K students with 100th-day hats, Dania Gonzalez (left) and Z'nyla Brown.



Shown above are first-graders stacking 100 cups. Left to right, Jessica Trevino, Thi Yen Trang Hoang, Drayah Brown and Bonni Murillo make a cup pyramid as tall as some students.



Shown above is third-grader Daniel Denova (left) with his teacher Kacie Hedge.

UHCL safety set

In response to Gov. Abbott's issuance of Executive Order GA-34, which goes into effect March 10, the University of Houston-Clear Lake takes the health and safety of its students, staff, and faculty very seriously.

As such, the university is seeking additional guidance on how this executive order will impact campus safety measures and health standards.

All existing safety protocols will remain in effect at all UHCL locations until further clarification and guidance is obtained. Get updates at www.uhcl.edu/health-alert.

University of Houston-Clear Lake offers more than 90 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and three doctoral programs, from its four colleges, formerly known as schools, which include the College of Business, College of Education, College of Human Sciences and Humanities, and College of Science and Engineering.

In 2011, the university gained approval from the state to add freshman- and sophomore-level courses to its roster and welcomed its first freshman class in fall 2014. For more information about the university, visit <http://www.uhcl.edu>.

To find more UH-Clear Lake news, visit UH-Clear Lake's newsroom, <http://www.uhcl.edu/news>, or follow UH-Clear Lake on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/UHCLClearLake>, and Twitter, <http://twitter.com/UHCLClearLake>.

Spelling bee winner



Frazier Elementary staff congratulates fourth-grader Alexandria Arnes on her third-place finish in the recent district spelling bee. Arnes won Frazier's spelling bee in December and moved on to represent Frazier at the district level. School officials are very proud of her.

Determination letters aid disaster answers

Anyone who received a letter from FEMA that says they're ineligible for help or that there is "no decision" should read the letter carefully. FEMA may need additional information from one to continue processing their application. If one has insurance and is applying for federal assistance, they must file a claim with their insurance provider. If applicable, provide a copy of the insurance settlement approval or denial letter. A few common reasons for being determined ineligible or receiving "no decision" include:

- They are insured. They should provide a copy of their insurance settlement approval or denial letter to FEMA. If their insurance settlement is insufficient to meet their disaster-related needs, they may be eligible for federal assistance. Contact FEMA to provide any additional information or documentation.
- No communication with FEMA. If one missed an inspection and did not follow up with FEMA, their assistance could be affected. Be sure that FEMA has one's contact information. If one is unable to meet with an inspector as planned, let FEMA know.
- One's home is safe to occupy. FEMA housing assistance typically only covers costs to make one's home habitable. Damage to nonessential space, landscaping or spoiled food is not covered by FEMA grants.

Anyone who has questions or needs to speak about their eligibility status, should call 800-621-3362, open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Multilingual operators are available. Applicants can appeal a FEMA determination. To do so, one needs to submit supporting information along with a letter describing in detail the reason (or reasons) they are appealing. One should include one's full name, FEMA application number and disaster number, predisaster primary residence address and current phone number and address on all submitted documents. One can find the application and disaster number printed on page of their determination letter. One can submit an appeal and any associated documentation by:

- Uploading the documentation online at disasterassist.tance.gov.
- Mailing one's documents and letter within 60 days of receiving a determination letter to the address below. The letter with accompanying documents should be postmarked within 60 days of the date on one's letter from FEMA regarding their eligibility. The mailing address is: FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055. Information can be faxed to 800-827-8112. Survivors should register online at disasterassistance.gov. If one cannot register online, call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585). Those who use a relay service such as a videophone, Innoception or CapTel should update FEMA with their specific number assigned to that service. FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If one has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available. (Press 2 for Spanish.) Follow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/FEMARegion6>.

Frazier names Dreambox Champs

Frazier students were recently awarded certificates for being Dreambox Champs for the months of December and January. Dreambox is a math computer program that the students can use both at home and in the classroom that teaches various math skills in a fun game-like format. Each month the student in each class who has completed the most lessons is recognized with a certificate.



Aurora Aguinaga completed 117 lessons.



Mia Amaro completed 6 lessons.



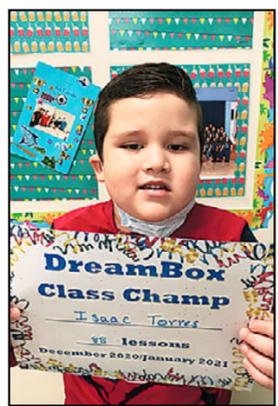
Luke Stephens completed 64 lessons.



Liam Palacios completed 44 lessons.



Alexander Boone completed 161 lessons.



Isaac Torres completed 88 lessons.



Yaritza Umana completed 72 lessons.



Lucy Bedolla Santos completed 32 lessons.



Kevin Pham



Jude Arizaga completed 12 lessons.



Roger Pererira completed 27 lessons.



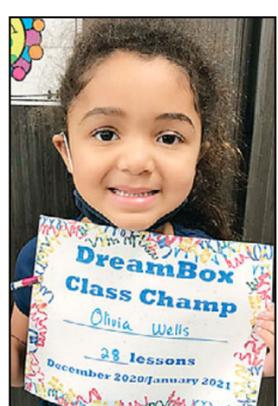
Victoria Rodriguez completed 71 lessons.



Luke Irizarry completed 65 lessons.



Marie Sanchez completed 64 lessons.



Olivia Wells completed 28 lessons.



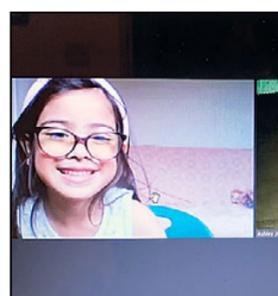
Kobee Rodriguez completed 46 lessons.



Mauricio Amaya completed 70 lessons.



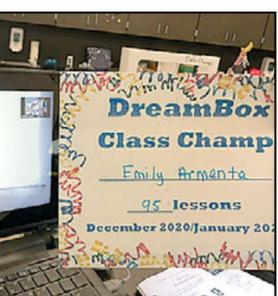
Emare Washington completed 25 lessons.



Orzorah Herrera completed 107 lessons.



Emily Armenta completed 95 lessons.



Left: Miguel Armenta completed 50 lessons.



Right: Sebastian Galan completed 40 lessons.



Left: Miguel Armenta completed 50 lessons.



Right: Sebastian Galan completed 40 lessons.

Meador celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday

Meador Elementary School celebrated Read Across America the week of March 1 to promote reading and to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Each day was a different theme with students and staff dressing as Dr. Seuss characters and a Dr. Seuss book was read aloud to the students.



First-grader Bonni Murillo wears a creative mask on Lorax Mustache Day.



Pre-K student Galilea Torrez has a perfect outfit for Cat in the Hat day.



Principal Beverly Bolton reads "The Cat In The Hat" to the students.



Second-grader Eliannys Fuentes and kindergarten sibling Samuel Fuentes made personalized masks on Lorax Mustache Day.



First-grader Joseph Moreno gives a big smile behind his mask.



First-grader Maximus Rivera poses on Lorax Mustache Day.

Burnett celebrates Go Texan Day



Burnett Elementary students celebrated Western Heritage last week as they geared up in their favorite hats and shiny boots.

Shown left sporting their western wear are, left to right, Kevin Aguilar, Vince Depaz, Dylan Canales, Angel Castillo, Diego Mejia and Daniel Prado.



Shown above are Eiza Hernandez (left) and Helen Elizalde.

At left, donning western attire are, left to right, Zae'Vion Lee, Sebastian Gonzalez, America Cabrera, Adriel Castillo, Mateo Rubio and Dara Martinez.

HOSA CTHS students advance



Two CTHS students in the EMT program advanced to the state HOSA competition both coming in third place. Shown above are Kadence Medina (left) and Fernanda Estrada.

Fun run March 27

Continued from Page 1
To register for the 5K run, visit www.imashome.com after riding through Manila and seeing just a portion of the 400,000 street children hungry and homeless. His passion and burden led to the creation of this facility named for his mother, Imogene Kilgore.

This facility is in its eighth year of operation and currently houses more than 118 children who are also clothed, educated and given medical care by a loving, trained staff.

To learn more about Ima's Home, visit <https://www.imashome.com>.
To register for the 5K run, visit www.imashome.com after riding through Manila and seeing just a portion of the 400,000 street children hungry and homeless. His passion and burden led to the creation of this facility named for his mother, Imogene Kilgore.

ASK offers self-defense

The American Society of Karate offers free self-defense classes. No previous self-defense or martial arts experience is necessary. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/askselfdef> for free virtual self-defense.

Firefighters respond to three area fires

Continued from Page 1

The cause of the fire was still under investigation at press time.

No injuries were reported.

Firefighters from stations 26, 70, 61, 93 and 24 responded to this incident.

Later that day around 7:20 p.m., a house caught fire in the 10800 block of Heathercliff near Fuqua and Monroe.

Firefighters arrived on scene within six minutes to find smoke coming from the front door of a one-story house.

They made an offensive attack and conducted a primary search. The fire was

found and quickly knocked down.

The residents had been cooking when the oven caught fire. They were able to remove the burning food; however, the fire had spread to the surrounding wood trim.

The home was not livable and the family stated they had somewhere to stay.

Firefighters helped the occupants remove some of their belongings and advised them to have an electrician check the home before they turned the power back on.

Firefighters also evaluated one resident on scene to ensure they were not injured.

According to fire department officials, there was approximately \$30,000 in damage. Firefighters were able to save roughly \$180,000 in property.

The fire was determined by investigators to be unintentional.

No injuries were reported.

Crews from stations 52, 26, 70, 61, 29 and 24 responded to this incident.

Houston firefighters responded to an apartment fire around 2:55 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in the 10300 block of Bessemer near Fuqua and the Gulf Freeway.

According to fire department officials, firefighters arrived on scene within three minutes to find light smoke

coming from a house.

They entered the home and began an attack on the fire. The power was cut, and crews pulled the ceiling.

After the fire was extinguished, investigators said it appeared that an electrical failure caused by a faulty wire in direct contact with metal piping caused the fire. The fire determined to be unintentional, caused failure of equipment or heat source.

The blaze caused approximately \$3,000 in damage.

Firefighters were able to save roughly \$139,000 in property.

No reported injuries.

Firefighters from stations 26, 70, 29, 52 and 61 responded to this incident.

The city of Houston's Office of Emergency Management made residents aware of the ability to register for assistance in case of a hurricane evacuation.

The Thompson Intermediate Academic Team defeated the Beverly Hills Academic Team to earn the top place in PISD. The Thompson team advanced to the National Academic League.

A local convenience store on Hughes at Beamer was caught selling alcohol to minors for the second time during a sting coordinated by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Clear Brook High School presented an alcohol-related simulated traffic accident

alongside the campus. Five seniors portrayed victims of a DWI accident in the presentation of "Shattered Dreams."

10 years ago (2011)
An arrest was made in the fatal shooting of David Davila. Jorge Alaniz, 28, was charged with murder in the 177th Criminal District Court.

Following a two-year investigation, deputies from the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's office arrested five suspects in connection with as many as 20 possible local home burglaries. Marcus Dejean, 18; Deron Waines, 18; Tierre Williams, 18; Adrian Lewis, 19; and Jeremy Karnes, 18, were all charged with burglary of a

habitation. The suspects were reportedly tied to burglaries in the 8800 block of Chelsea Brook, the 10300 block of Sagevale, the 10300 block of Kirkvale, the 11600 block of Grapewood, the 10100 block of Holly Vine and the 11400 block of Sageking.

5 years ago (2016)
The Pasadena Independent School District officially dedicated the new Marshall Kendrick Middle School Tuesday, March 8. Named in honor of longtime PISD board member Marshall Kendrick, the campus, located at 3000 Watters Road in Pasadena, opened the previous August.

1 year ago (2020)
While there were no

Remember When

45 years ago (1976)

The Sagemont Spurs girls' soccer team from the South Belt area represented the Bay area conference in the State Playoffs in San Antonio.

Sagemont Civic Club voted to spend \$1,000 on various community projects including sponsoring two Little League teams, a scholarship and a donation to the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department.

40 years ago (1981)

The Sagemont station of the Houston Fire Department received an 18-foot flood rescue boat. The air Gator boat was purchased for approximately \$12,000.

Herbert J. "Bo" Brown told police he heard shots upon arriving home from his job at approximately 1 a.m. when he discovered his sister Suzanne, 21, holding a gun in their parents bedroom. He told police that both of his parents had been shot by Suzanne and he wrestled the gun away from her before she went into the kitchen and got a knife with which she began stabbing him. According to police, Bo then shot his sister in self-defense and she died of chest wounds.

35 years ago (1986)

Mandy Schubert, daughter of Rudy and Jennie Schubert, was selected as deputy corps commander for her senior year, the highest rank ever bestowed on a female cadette in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadettes.

A group of fourth-graders at Weber Elementary hoped to change the "rules of war" by convincing state and federal government officials to rejoin the battle to obtain the Alamo flag which was housed in a museum in Mexico City.

30 years ago (1991)

For the first time in seven years, people could actually see construction progress of 400 feet on the extension of Fuqua from Palmhill to State Highway 3.

Students at Beverly Hills Intermediate School found

themselves with a new schedule type that allowed students to take eight courses instead of seven.

25 years ago (1996)

The Environmental Protection Agency began testing Clear Creek for Brio-related toxic chemicals.

A car crashed through the kitchen of Mrs. Eddy Abajue demolishing a table and chairs at which she had been sitting just minutes earlier.

20 years ago (2001)

Thompson academic team advanced to nationals for the ninth consecutive year.

Olympic gold-medalist Christa Williams helped honor the TCB all-stars that won a national title.

Thompson increased se-

curity with metal detectors following the discovery of a written threat.

Three fifth-grade and one fourth-grade Burnett Elementary students went to the district's guidance center as the result of an altercation. Three of the four involved were carrying weapons.

Department of Public Safety officers solved the mystery of the cause of Drill James (DJ) Purifoy's death. According to troopers, Purifoy and his friends began an argument on the ferry. Purifoy walked off the ferry before it left Bolivar when a motorist from Katy hit him. The driver turned himself in after being identified.

15 years ago (2006)

favoring March 16 for Tiffany Aldridge.

Burnett Elementary
Light the candles on a double-layer cake for Hong Doan and Maria Ruiz on March 15.

Frazier Elementary
Blow out the candles March 15 for Mirtha Hernandez.

Genoa Elementary
The day for a party for Veronica August is March 13.

Meador Elementary
Remember to wish Hannah Schaper a happy birthday March 11. Bring out the party favors and balloons for Marissa Nevarez March 13. Myriam Garcia celebrates a birthday March 14.

Moore Elementary
Join in the birthday fun March 15 for Esmeralda Chacon.

Melillo Middle School
The day to celebrate with a cake and ice cream for Troy Ralls is March 14.

Roberts Middle School
Enjoying a special birthday March 14 is Crystal Polo.

Thompson Intermediate
Give a birthday shoutout March 12 to Elida Torres.

Dobie High
Adrian Amador and Sandra Rodriguez share a birthday March 12. On March 14,

triple birthday wishes are sent to Robert McGuill. Blow out the birthday candles March 16 for Clara Ullman. Birthday greetings are sent to Karrie Valerio who celebrates a birthday March 17.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS
Thursday, March 11: Raquel Loya, Michael Martinez, Jesus Romero and Irma Manriquez; Friday, March 12: Debbie Clark, Maria Riojas, Debbie Johnson and Heather Murphy Burris; Saturday, March 13: Matthew Hanks, Heidi Delk, Shane Terry, Sharon Jobe, Max Hernandez and Becky Gilley; Sunday, March 14: Allison Weatherly, Chris Williams, Curtis Scope, Ron Shafer and Angeliq Garcia; Monday, March 15: Teri Posey, John Dies, Renee Guillot-Rodriguez, Jeanne Cook, Christopher Lozano and Melissa Robinson; Tuesday, March 16: Brandy Pimental, Kelly Cobble, Nathan Lewis and Nikki Pullin; and Wednesday, March 17: Nickole Chapman, Yvonne Russell, Sherri Goleightly and Larry Morgan.

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



EVIE TURNS SEVEN!
Stacey (Hayes) and Stephen Flowers of League City celebrate the seventh birthday of their daughter, Evelyn "Evie" Faith Flowers, on Thursday, March 11. Proud grandparents are Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents, and Karen and Mike Flowers of Dickinson. Sharing in the celebration are big sister Kennedy; big brother Owen; aunt Jenny (Hayes) Laney Scarberry; uncles Joseph Hayes and Austin and Tyler Scarberry; and cousins Brayden and Baylee Espinosa, Olivia Moreno and Jade and Lily Scarberry. Stacey is a 2005 Dobie High School graduate.

LARRY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY
Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Friday, March 17, are sent to local businessman Larry Morgan from his wife Mary Ellen, family, friends and the Leader staff.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays March 11 through March 17, 2021.

Atkinson Elementary
Sing a verse of a happy birthday song March 11 to Donna Koonce. Remember to wish Manuela Juarez a happy birthday March 15. Break out the balloons and party

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a (Mix Beverage Permit and FB by TFC Seafood LLC dba The Famous Crab Cajun Seafood N' Oyster), to be located at 12130 Dickinson Rd, Houston, Harris County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Raymon Lin, Wei Zheng.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

At 9-4, Lady Longhorns pass eye test as 22-6A top contender

By John Bechtle
Sports Editor
Nine wins in 13 overall

games. A 6-0 victory over Channelview to open District 22-6A play, featuring

a no-hitter from sophomore Marisa Perla.

The Dobie varsity softball team has certainly looked the part of front-runner through the opening three weeks of the season, and now comes the uninterrupted chance to prove it.

The Lady Longhorns went up against Pasadena March 9 after press time and will now head to Deer Park March 12 for what figures to be a battle of top contenders. Game time is 7 p.m.

To this point in the season, it's hard to imagine the script playing out any better for Dobie than it has.

Perla and junior teammate Karlie Barba have become a solid 1-2 pitching punch in either order, and both have been forces at the plate.

Head coach Robin

Rackley has also watched as a senior-driven lineup has delivered again and again to this point.

Angleton's Bree Dent scattered five hits and allowed just one run March 4 as the Wildcats defeated Dobie 4-1 as part of

the Sienna Classic at Dobie, and Brazoswood's Preston Tanner struck out nine over six innings in a 4-0 shutout a day later, but Dobie won three other games by a combined score of 30-6 in getting to 9-4 overall.

Dobie's strong overall week began March 2 as Perla no-hit Channelview on the road as Dobie won the 22-6A opener 6-0.

The Lady Longhorns banged out 11 hits overall and got a two-run homer from Karlie Barba to go

with a solo shot from Bella Perez to pave the way.

Barba drove in four runs in the game, and Jasmin Benitez had two hits including a triple and scored a pair of runs. Ashley Napper also had 2 hits.

Continued on Page 6

Team now 15-4 After 22 days, SJC hits field

Sophomore pitcher Cat Cavazos dazzled in wins over Tyler and Paris as the San Jacinto College softball team went 2-2 to jump-start its season.

Due to COVID-19 concerns in addition to a winter storm that hindered travel, the Coyotes went 22 days without playing a game.

Now, the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I 14th-ranked team is eyeing a strong push in conference play.

The Coyotes returned to action March 3 in a doubleheader against Tyler as the Apaches took the opener 6-1 on the South campus.

Tyler pitcher Ryleigh Denton went six solid

innings, allowing just three hits as the visitors won the opener.

Cavazos then tossed a one-hitter in the 1-0 nightcap win for the locals as she fanned 10.

Tabby Burnett doubled twice for San Jacinto and scored the game's lone run on a run-scoring double by Lexi Saenz.

In a 9-0 win over Paris March 5, San Jacinto scored four runs in the first inning as Tamera McKnight was 3 for 3 with two runs scored and five more batted in.

Cavazos went five innings for the victory, allowing just two hits and striking out nine.

Paris won the second game 8-0 as San Jacinto slipped to 15-4 overall in 2021.

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At right, Dobie sophomore pitcher Marisa Perla (11), shown in action during the March 4-6 Sienna Invitational at Dobie, got the Lady Longhorns off and running in District 22-6A play March 2 at Channelview with a no-hitter against the Falcons. Now, Perla and Dobie will turn their collective attention to Deer Park March 12 at Deer Park.
Photo by Gloria Wallace



JFD boys' soccer surges toward another crown

It may very well be that Channelview will lead the District 22-6A varsity boys' soccer race most of the way - until Dobie wins the championship on the final day of the regular season.

Heading into March 9 action after press time, Channelview in fact held a one-point lead over the Longhorns.

Title Hunt
Dobie boys vs. S. Houston
Fri., March 12
Veterans, 6:30 p.m.

Trouble is for Channelview, the Falcons had just one more game remaining against South Houston March 9.

A win would give the Falcons 28 points to close out the regular season at 9-2-1.

As for Dobie, the Longhorns had a March 9 game against Rayburn to be followed by a March 12 close-

er against South Houston. The Longhorns, already winners of seven straight,

will likely need to win their final two matches in order to secure a seventh

straight District 22-6A crown, but the bottom line is it's reachable.

Now 14-3-1 overall and 8-2-0 in league play, the Longhorns inched a step closer March 5 with a 3-1 win over Pasadena Memorial.

Isaac Cortez had a goal and an assist as the ju-

Continued on Page 6



Dobie senior forward Gerardo Martinez (99) has contributed five goals and a team-high 10 assists as the Longhorns' varsity soccer team rolled to seven straight league wins heading into play March 9.
Photo by Donna Alsdorf

JFD baseball wins three; GCISD tourney is next

The Dobie varsity baseball team hopes to gain more momentum with an appearance at the Baytown Invitational March 11-13 after winning three of four at the Pasadena

ISD tournament. The Longhorns entered play at the Pasadena three-day event with an 0-6 record but bounced back with wins in three of four of four at the Pasadena

Continued on Page 6

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JFD vs. Episcopal
March 12, 10 a.m., Lee H.S.

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Davis twins ready to pace Lamar University during spring campaign

By John Bechtle Sports Editor
 Their college football journey began in the fall of 2017 at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Mo., but Dobie High School graduates Jacoby and Jeremy Davis have now settled in nicely at Lamar University in Beaumont.

Both looked to contribute this spring season as the Cardinals began an abbreviated 6-game Southland Conference schedule earlier this month. Lamar will transition to the Western Athletic Conference this fall during the regular 2021 season, and the Davises are committed to that campaign as well before determining what the future holds. Looking back at the spring prior to their graduation from Dobie in 2017, the Davis twins were part of a large group of seniors choosing to play college football.

Back then, Jeremy, who had been the Longhorns' starting quarterback as a senior, still had his sights set on the signal-caller position despite drawing a decent amount of interest as a tight end at the college level. Meanwhile, Jacoby, stuck at receiver both at Dobie and heading into the college ranks. The Davis duo chose Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, where Jeremy caught 11 passes for 120 yards and four touchdowns as a tight end and Jacoby earned time at receiver. After two seasons, it was simply time for a change of scenery and perhaps a move closer to home.

Now at Lamar after a redshirt season and a postponed 2020 fall season stalled by the coronavirus, Jacoby and Jeremy now make up a large portion of the Cardinals' tight end room. "There's been a lot of excitement out there on the field, particularly after not being able to play in the fall," Jeremy said. "Everybody is just looking for the chance to contribute to the success of the team and do whatever we can to win games."

Jacoby, who has gained weight as part of a shift to tight end, echoed some of his brother's sentiments, adding, "Just having the chance to be out there on the field contributing is all any of us want. Regardless of who plays when, it's all about making something positive happen when you are out there."

Former longtime members of the Southbelt Dolphins youth organization before playing at Beverly Hills Intermediate and then Dobie, the Davises understand the gridiron grind will end sooner or later, but they are focused on the here and now. Jeremy has spent a good portion of the preseason as the starter at tight end, with the Cardinals employing their tight ends in hybrid roles, frequently aligned off the ball along the line of scrimmage. Lamar University media has identified Jeremy as a solid blocking tight end, yet he aims to be much more.

Jeremy said first-year Lamar head coach Blane Morgan and his staff have instituted a series of plays predicated on getting Davis, 6-foot-5, 240 pounds, the football. "If the team needs me to block, that's what I'll do," Jeremy said. "But when I get the ball in my hands, I'm also looking forward to making plays."

Following this mini six-game run in the Southland Conference, Lamar University will then shift to the WAC this fall. Also this fall, the Davis twins plan to complete their degree studies. Jacoby is in a general studies program with an emphasis on business, while Jeremy is well on his way to a physical education degree. "We just enjoy the family culture here," Jacoby said. "Really, there's a bunch of younger guys in the program, so we just try to show the way with some of our experience."

"There's obviously a big focus on academics, and Jeremy and I understand that balance between academics and football. It's been good here at Lamar, and we're just ready to get back out there on the field."

HTX 8-under Hustlers are first at Sugar Land



The South Belt-based 8-under HTX Hustlers took first place at the March Mayhem Invitational in Sugar Land in their first outing as a select team. Members of the team include, left to right, (front row) zzy Rocha, Madeline Herrera, Zoie Escobar, Chloe Vasquez, Emma Hernandez (middle row) Sophia Garza, Khloe Williams, Sophia Nava, Victoria Tamayo, Mila Elizondo, Ciara Frias, Mandy Hall (back row) coaches Danny Garza, Dee Escobar and Aaron Vasquez.

Hustle 6U wins crown

At right, the South Belt Girls Softball Association's 6-under Hustle went undefeated to win the tournament championship at the South Houston Girls Softball Association's Invitational. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Emma Hinojos, Charlyze Nunez, Elizabella Echegoyen, Avery Romero, (back row) Addison Hampton, Kamila Martinez, Annabelle Trevino, Audrey Torres, Taylor Henderson, Mykah Gibson and Montse Villa.



Waddell enters UVA baseball hall; now with Minnesota Twins



Brandon Waddell, son of Dobie graduates Terri (Birdsong) and Charles Waddell, was inducted into the University of Virginia baseball Hall of Fame earlier this year. A left-handed pitcher now in the Minnesota Twins organization, Waddell pitched in two College World Series runs with the Cavaliers, including the 2015 championship season for the program. Waddell made five CWS starts, with Virginia 5-0 in those starts. He went 6-1 with a 2.34 earned



run average in 11 career NCAA tournament starts over the 2013 through 2015 seasons. He ranks seventh in UVA baseball history in both career wins (21) and strikeouts (246). Now 26, Waddell made his MLB debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2020 and has since landed in the Minnesota Twins organization. Above, Brandon Waddell (second from left), is shown with his mother, Terri (Birdsong) Waddell; his father, Charles Waddell; and his sister, Samantha Waddell. Photos courtesy of Samantha Waddell



Dobie graduates Jacoby (left) and Jeremy Davis are enjoying the 2021 spring season at Lamar University, where Jeremy has caught five passes for 28 yards and a touchdown through two games.

Dobie boys' soccer closes in

Continued from Page 5
 nior now has a team-high 20 goals and has added eight assists. Jean Arrequin and Jordi Garcia also scored for the Longhorns, who are, quite simply,

rolling. Gerardo Martinez had his team-best 10th assist against Memorial and also has five goals, and Torres has eight goals and three assists.

Yes, the Longhorns must still finish the deal, but the odds are on their side after the seven wins and all 21 of a possible 21 points over that stretch. It's called taking control.

Longhorn baseball wins 3

Continued from Page 5
 games to get rolling. Coming up big in a pair of games March 4 at Dobie, the Longhorns first punished First Baptist 13-0 and then turned back Houston Austin 17-0. Christian Padua came up big for the locals in the win over First Baptist, going five shutout frames and allowing just two hits while striking out seven and walking none. Juan Estrada was 2 for 4 with two runs scored and three driven in, and Noah Torres had a hit, scored twice and batted in another.

er. Mikey Torres knocked in a pair of runs, and Jacob Perez and Colton Cox were both 1 for 2 with a run scored and two driven in. Gavin Carrillo, Noah Torres, Mikey Torres and Estrada all drove in three runs each as the Longhorns handled Austin. Noah Torres went three innings on the mound for the victory. Manuel Contreras was the pacesetter in a 5-1 win over Baytown Sterling March 5. Contreras started on the mound and went 5

2/3 innings, scattering six hits and giving up just the one earned run. Contreras also had a hit, scored a run and drove in another. Ryan Saxton and Perez doubled, with Saxton 2 for 2 with two runs scored and Perez with an RBI. In the tournament finale at Dobie March 6, MacArthur's Ryan Dollar tossed a no-hitter and struck out nine in a 5-1 win over the Longhorns. Dollar also went 2 for 2 at the plate and knocked in a run to lead the Generals' win.

Lady Horns out to 9-4 start

Continued from Page 5
 As for Perla in the circle, she threw 97 total pitches, fanning four and walking a pair. Moving ahead to the Sienna Classic over three days March 4-6 at Dobie, Dent surrendered a triple to Karlie Barba and a double to Perla but otherwise was in control for the Wildcats in the 4-1 win. Later in the day, Dobie fell behind early as Klein Collins enjoyed a three-run first inning, but the locals rallied with four runs in the third and three more in the fourth en route to an 8-5 win.

Karlie Barba had a two-run triple, and Yessenia Pena, Perez and Perla doubled. Benitez was 2 for 3 with a run scored, and Barba drove in three runs and scored a pair. Perla went 2 for 3 with two runs batted in, and also earned the pitching win. Hailey Henderson drove in four runs and Gabby Galvan doubled twice as the Lady Longhorns ran past Humble 12-0 to begin March 5 action. Sandra Quiroz-Catalan was terrific in the circle, going the first three frames

for the win. Unfortunately, the day ended with Brazoswood's 4-0 win. In the event finale, Dobie cruised past Cy-Fair as Leslie Longoria had two hits and scored a pair of runs. Aliyah Barajas was 2 for 3 with three runs driven in, and Benitez had two hits and drove in four runs. Galvan scored three runs. Perla, who pitched four innings for the win, also had two runs batted in. Now comes a key 22-6A battle with longtime rival Deer Park as the top contenders begin to rise above.



Dobie third baseman Colton Cox (17) has come through in a big way of late as the Longhorns have won three of four games after starting the season at 0-6. Now, the Longhorns are headed to Baytown for a three-day tournament beginning March 11. Photo by Gloria Wallace

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It is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings>; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for AA-Anon meetings, visit <https://www.houstonanon.org/online-meetings.html>.

NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - The club is currently closed. Visit <https://aclunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for games or email jpochsner@aol.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

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/>.

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.

NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For details, call 281-910-1971 or visit aglownet.org.

ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association-South American Business Women's Association- Meetings are at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. Reservations appreciated. Visit www.seen-abwa.org.

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church. Call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

Pearland Area Republican's Club - Pearland Church of Christ Annex, 2217 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. For details, email pearlandarearepublicanclub@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PARCTX.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

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

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All in-person events are canceled at this time. All services will be performed online. To join the 7 p.m. Friday night service or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, email President@Shaarhashalom.org to get the link.

Serenity Now AA-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn AA-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 additional information, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

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

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.

Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addicts, First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787. Visit <https://www.houstonanon.org/online-meetings.html>.

AA - CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

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://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. To be a guest, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access. For additional information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

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 16

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - CrossRoads UMC meeting. See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

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

Rotary Club of Pearland - See Thursday's notice.

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

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group. See Thursday's notice.

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Florida sends water in ongoing assistance partnership

Continued from Page 1
ing from the freeze," Robinson emailed fellow Pasadena ISD administrators Tuesday, Feb. 23.

"The donations are coming from the extremely giving listeners and citizens of Panama City Beach, Fla., who donated to a drive hosted by radio personality Dr. Shane with iHeartRADIO's 92.5 WPAP."

The partnership had worked together before back in 2017 following Hurri-

cane Harvey when Shane and his listeners donated an 18-wheeler full of supplies for local flood victims.

This generosity was reciprocated the following year in 2018 when Robinson organized a local drive to collect an 18-wheeler full of supplies to transport to Florida to aid victims of Hurricane Michael.

"It's been a really neat 'full circle' situation," Robinson said.

While the truckload of

bottled water was headquartered at Beverly Hills Intermediate, it was made available to students throughout the district who were in need.

Police investigate . . .

Continued from Page 1
The suspect fired multiple shots, striking Garcia in the neck, back and head.

Paramedics transported Garcia and his girlfriend to a hospital.

The girlfriend was not struck by the gunfire.

The unknown suspect(s) were seen in a maroon Ford F-150 pickup truck.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to call HPD Major Assaults and Family Violence Division at 713-308-8800 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

"When I got the call about the donation coming our way, I reached out to all of the South Belt-area principals to let them know it would be coming," Robinson said. "We opened it up to all South Belt area schools within the Dobie feeder pattern first, but it was such a large donation, that we've now extended it to the remainder of the district."

"A team of volunteers assisted in unloading the cases of water. Shout-out to Team BHI for unloading everything," said Robinson.

"The truck driver was trying to get a little shut eye before getting back on the road; however, his nap was cut short. He laughed saying, 'I make a lot of deliveries around the nation and they don't unload anything like BHI.'"

Robinson encourages residents to show their gratitude to Dr. Shane, his crew and the residents of Panama City.

The radio station's handle is @925WPAP and its Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/Drshane925>.

Meador wears "I survived Snovid '21" shirts



Meador Elementary staff members recently wore their #TexasStrong T-shirts that read "I survived Snovid '21'." Shown above are, left to right, (front row) Omega Pena, pre-K aide; Amy Clowers, assistant principal; (back row) Hannah Schaper, pre-K teacher;

er; Anne Hamilton, first-grade teacher; Constance Peel, kindergarten teacher; Maria Rutherford, pre-K teacher; Ruth Osuna, pre-K teacher; Beverly Bolton, principal; and Tara Merida, counselor.

Photo by Tara Merida

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Spellman chosen



Thompson Intermediate congratulated Shaurice Spellman as Teacher of the Month for February. According to her peers, Spellman delivers art lessons that engage her students, arriving early and staying late. She exudes much passion in her lessons throughout the day - it's even evident in the hallways!

Brook debate better than all the rest

Though COVID and quarantines have tightened the reins on many activities this year across the country and have caused schools to adapt in all areas, Clear Brook's Speech and Debate team has met the challenge and exceeded expectations for such a trying year.

The speech and debate team at Brook has once again bested all other Clear Creek ISD teams in the number of state qualifications and number of students who have qualified to attend the first Virtual Texas Forensic Association Speech & Debate Tournament.

Lincoln Douglas Debate students Sarvesh Subramanian, Isaiah Hall, Danil Merchant and Michael French all seized the gold by qualifying for the state meet and emerged victorious in debating topics including the banning of lethal autonomous weapons, a federal jobs guarantee and compulsory voting.

In addition to Lincoln Douglas Debate successes, team president Sarvesh Subramanian crossed over into a relatively new style of debate on the circuit - World Schools Debate.

The team of five in this event which included Zahra Virani, Nathan Lee, Misbah Aziz and Safa Prasla also qualified for the annual state

tournament. While debaters did well this year, so did those who err more on the creative side of the activity of speech and debate.

Team members Zahra Virani, Safa Prasla, Misbah Aziz, Muhammad Zain, Jyothi Manoj, Sophie Nguyen and Aqsa Babar all qualified in an event known as Informative Speaking in which students are given the chance to educate an audience on a topic they feel is important and often overlooked.

In addition, junior Annantra Sijo became the first in Brook's history to qualify in Dramatic Interpretation, a new event for Clear Brook. Sijo performed "The Last Promise" by Mia Karr in which she acted out the interplay between a daughter and her abusive father who tries to change into the loving dad she always hoped he could become.

As Clear Brook students prepare for their upcoming state tournament just prior to spring break, they are looking forward to another exciting year and, hopefully, get back to brick and mortar tournaments in the next year.

Interested students are encouraged to sign up for course #1611 or email mrrt ledg@ccisd.net for more information.

Governor's message triggers controversy

Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order lifting the mask mandate in Texas and increasing the capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100 percent took effect Wednesday, March 10.

"With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," Abbott said at a press conference Tuesday, March 2.

"We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent. Make no mistake, COVID-19 has not disappeared, but it is clear from the recoveries, vaccinations, reduced hospitalizations, and safe practices that Texans are using that state mandates are no longer needed. Today's announcement does not abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it is a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others. With this executive order, we are ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny."

During his remarks, the governor discussed the incredible advancements that Texas has made that allow the state to open fully and lift the mask mandate - noting the increase of vaccines. Nearly 5.7 million vaccine shots have been administered to Texans, and the state is now administering almost one million shots each week. By Wednesday, March 10, about 7 million shots will have been administered in Texas and more than half of seniors in Texas will have received a vaccine shot. By the end of March, every senior who wants a vaccine should be able to get one. The vaccine supply continues to increase so that more and more Texans will soon be eligible to receive a vaccine.

The governor noted that Texas has a surplus of personal protective equipment and can perform over 100,000 COVID-19 tests a day. The state has invested in a variety of antibody therapeutic drugs that have kept thousands of Texans out of hospitals. Texans have also adopted daily habits that reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and infection. More than 2.5 million Texans who were lab-confirmed for COVID-19 have recovered since the beginning of the pandemic, and experts note the total number of Texans who have recovered from COVID-19 is likely 4-5 times that amount.

The number of active COVID-19 cases is the lowest since November - meaning more Texans are recovering from COVID-19 than contracting it.

This executive order rescinds most of the governor's earlier executive orders related to COVID-19. Businesses may still limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols at their own discretion.

If COVID-19 hospitalizations in any of the 22 hospital regions in Texas get above 15 percent of the hospital bed capacity in that region for seven straight days, a county judge in that region may use COVID-19 mitigation strategies. However, county judges may not impose jail time for not following COVID-19 orders nor may any penalties be imposed for failing to wear a face mask. If restrictions are imposed at a county level, those restrictions may not include reducing capacity to less than 50 percent for any type of entity.

The move was met with

harsh criticism from local Democratic leaders.

"Taking away critical public health interventions that we know are working won't make our community safer, nor will it hasten our return to normalcy," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "Quite the opposite, every time public health measures have been pulled back, we've seen a spike in hospitalizations. If we start the climb now, we'd be starting from the highest starting point ever when it comes to our hospital population, an unacceptable and dangerous proposition. With the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, we're inching closer to the finish line of this pandemic."

Now is not the time to reverse the gains we've worked

so hard to achieve. At best, today's decision is wishful thinking. At worst, it is a cynical attempt to distract Texans from the failures of state oversight of our power grid."

This sentiment was shared by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "This is the wrong direction," said Turner, noting that Abbott's announcement came on a day the City of Houston reported 408 new positive cases and five additional deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turner further called Abbott's decision to lift the statewide mask mandate "disappointing and disheartening."

"The governor is wrong to rollback the statewide mask order," Turner said. "The decision is not supported by

most medical professionals, science and data. The Texas Legislature must speak up, and the people of Texas must hold their leaders accountable."

Before Abbott's announcement, Turner and Hidalgo sent the governor a letter urging him not to lift the mask mandate.

"Masking requirements have allowed many small businesses to remain open and their employees to return to work," the letter read. "The mask order has allowed more students to return to in-person learning and has better protected them, their teachers and school staff."

Despite the new executive order, Turner said the city plans to still enforce its mask mandate in city-owned ven-

ues and buildings.

"For people visiting all city venues and all city employees, you are still obligated to wear the face mask," Turner said. "If you are going to the library or the George R. Brown Convention Center, you will still be obligated to wear the mask. The governor's decision is a step in the wrong direction. It does not make any sense unless the governor is trying to deflect what happened two weeks ago during the winter storm. It was a statewide system failure."

To view the governor's executive order, visit open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/openTexas/EO-GA-34-opening-Texas-response-to-COVID-disaster-IMAGE-03-02-2021.pdf.

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