

### COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, Jan. 20, a total of 96 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials – up one from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 3,983 confirmed cases in 77089, 807 remain active, while 3,132 have recovered from the virus. To date, 44 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, one more than the previous week.

In 77075, 529 of the 2,906 confirmed cases remain active, while 2,352 have recovered. A total of 25 from the ZIP code have died.

Of the 3,076 confirmed cases in 77034, 493 remain active, while 2,556 have recovered from the disease. To date, 27 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease.

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

Countywide, there are 287,753 total confirmed cases. Of those, 234,719 have recovered, while 50,234 cases remain active. A total of 2,783 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.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus).

### Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from the Gulf Freeway to SH 288 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday, Feb. 11. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Red Bluff Road to Pasadena Boulevard continuously through 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1.

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

### Gulf Freeway closures set

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

### COVID testing sites named

Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday, Dec. 30, announced the Texas Division of Emergency Management has secured an extension of four Community-Based Testing Sites in Houston and Harris County through Sunday, Jan. 31, or until the sites reach maximum capacity of conducting 50,000 COVID-19 tests.

The current round of testing began for Harris County and the City of Houston in August.

“These federally funded testing sites play a crucial role in our ongoing efforts to combat COVID-19 in the Greater Houston community,” said Abbott. “I thank the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for extending operations at these testing sites so that we can continue to detect COVID-19 in our communities, ensure access to testing and mitigate the spread of this virus.”

The nearest testing site to the South Belt community is San Jacinto College Central campus, located at 8060 Spencer Highway in Pasadena. Other COVID-19 testing sites include:

- City of Houston**  
Houston Community College North Forest, 6010 Little York Road, and Southwest Multi-Service Center, 6400 High Star Drive.
- Harris County**  
Katy Park, 24927 Morton Road in Katy.

For additional information, visit [www.covid19.td.em.texas.gov](http://www.covid19.td.em.texas.gov).

### Sagamont Cowboys register

The Sagamont Cowboys and Cowgirls will be having Returning Player registration Jan. 23 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at El Franco Lee Park.

### Police offer Explore program

The Houston Police Department Southeast Division Post 8300 is offering its Explorers program every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the HPD Southeast Patrol Station, located at 8300 Mykawa, to area youth considering a career in law enforcement.

The Explorers program provides educational training programs for young adults on the purposes, mission and objectives of law enforcement. The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within law enforcement and to challenge them to become responsible citizens.

For additional information, call HPD Officer L.E. Anderson at 346-397-1363 or email [lloyd.anderson@houstonpolice.org](mailto:lloyd.anderson@houstonpolice.org).

## Construction begins on Beamer Road ditch widening

Work has begun on the Harris County Flood Control District project to make drainage improvements along Beamer Ditch.

Construction, however, got off to a rocky start when crews accidentally broke a city water main, causing residents to have a significant drop in pressure.

The project will provide concrete lining on the area ditch from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road. The endeavor will be broken down into three phases: Phase 1 will run from Sagerock to Scarsdale; Phase 2 will run from Scarsdale to Astoria; and Phase 3 will run from Astoria to Beamer near the South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin.

## Meeting on Riverstone school

State Rep. Dennis Paul will host a public meeting in the upcoming weeks to address the future status of the controversial charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision, which has remained half-constructed for several years, causing many complaints from residents who view the property as an eyesore. The date should be released next week, when attendees from the school have been confirmed.

The function is currently set to take place at Melillo Middle School, at a time to be announced. Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell has given Paul use of the campus any Friday night through Feb. 12. See future editions of the *Leader*

## Education board election time nears

Filing for the upcoming May 1 school board elections began Wednesday, Jan. 13, and will continue through Friday, Feb. 12.

Both Pasadena ISD and the San Jacinto College District will hold elections that date. Clear Creek ISD held its board election Nov. 3.

### San Jacinto College

Three positions are up for election on the San Jacinto College District San Jacinto College District board. Up for grabs are the Position 5 seat, currently held by John Moon Jr.; the Position 6 seat, currently held by Dan Mims; and the Position 7 seat, currently held by Keith Sinor.

All three board members had filed to maintain their positions. Terms are six years.

All candidates must fill out an application and return it by email, mail, fax or in person. All application forms must be returned by 5 p.m. Feb. 12. To view candidate eligibility requirements or receive an application, visit [www.sanjac.edu/about-san-jac/board-trustees/election-information/board-election-may-2021](http://www.sanjac.edu/about-san-jac/board-trustees/election-information/board-election-may-2021).

Potential candidates may also receive an application by visiting the San Jacinto College Dis-

## Drugs, gun found in traffic stop

A traffic stop early Saturday morning Jan. 16, led to multiple criminal charges being filed.

According to County Constable Precinct 2 Jerry Garcia's office, the incident began around 1:30 a.m. when a deputy's police cruiser was almost struck by a driver making an unsafe lane change. A traffic stop was initiated, and a field sobriety test determined the female driver was intoxicated. The woman was subsequently arrested for driving while intoxicated. During the course of the traffic stop, it was discovered that

## HPD investigates freeway shooting

Houston police are investigating the shooting of a man that took place around 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the 11600 block of the Gulf Freeway near Alameda Genoa Road/South Shaver Street.

The victim, 36, suffered a non-life-threatening wound and was treated at the scene and released.

According to police, the victim stated he was entering and exiting the freeway near Fuqua when a female driver in a silver or gray BMW SUV pulled alongside him. She began cursing at him

and then reportedly shooting at him. The victim tried to drive away from the shooter, crashing into another motorist down the road. The victim suffered a minor gunshot wound to his left foot and his vehicle had been shot multiple times.

The suspect is described only as a white or Hispanic female, 28 to 35 years of age.

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

for a specific date and time.

Paul has also asked officials from the TEA to attend the meeting.

Under construction for approximately five years, work on the new charter school in the Riverstone Ranch subdivision has once again come to a standstill, frustrating many residents that have long opposed the project.

Located on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the property was set to house the Elite College Prep Academy - Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy.

At press time, it was unclear why construction

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Bridge closures and detours will be implemented when channel construction is below a bridge (Scarsdale, Astoria and Beamer

Road-eastbound).

Funding for the \$10.7 million project is to be

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Work crews from Complete Concrete working for the Harris County Flood Control District Tuesday broke a city water main, as they began construction on drainage improvements along Beamer Ditch. The incident took place between Highland Meadow Drive and Sagedowne. The \$10.7 million project will make improvements from Sagerock to near Dixie Farm Road. Work on the project is expected to take two years to complete. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## A look back at the year 2020

Continued from last week's issue

**Aug. 6**  
With the Dobie Class of 2020 graduation taking place Thursday, July 30, the area high school officially ended its most unique year on record. Pasadena ISD students were on spring break in mid-March when the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic first made its local presence known, forcing area schools to close as a safety precaution. As the virus continued to spread, students never returned to their physical campuses, forced to instead learn virtually from home.

Longtime South Belt resident and member of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department Karen Smith died from COVID-19. In addition to volunteering with the fire department, Smith also worked as a nurse for more than three decades, 22 of which were with the Medical Clinic of Houston. Smith left behind her husband Harvie and children Meghan and Christopher.

**Aug. 13**  
SWAT officers responded to an incident on Astoria Boulevard Sunday, Aug. 9, in which an individual poured flammable liquid on himself and property, threatening to ignite. Some online reports suggested the individual may have also been nude and in possession of a machete. Officers were able to de-escalate the situation and

take the individual into custody for a mental evaluation.

**Aug. 20**  
Tuesday, Aug. 18, marked the start of the 2020-2021 academic year for Pasadena ISD. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the school district provided all instruction virtually until Sept. 8. At that time, students who selected face-to-face instruction returned to their home campuses, while the remainder of students continued to distance-learn until they felt comfortable enough to return to school.

**Aug. 27**  
A fatal crash took place early Wednesday, Aug. 26, in the 7000 block of Beltway 8 near Highway 3/Old Galveston Road. According to investigators, the driver of a silver Dodge Durango was ejected from his vehicle which flipped it multiple times, killing him at the scene.

**Sept. 3**  
The South Belt community was spared the brunt of Hurricane Laura Thursday, Aug. 27, as the storm took a turn east toward Louisiana. The Category 4 storm made landfall near Cameron, La., just after midnight, bringing 150-mile-an-hour winds and a major storm surge. The hurricane was one of the strongest on record in the state.

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## HPD investigates apartment stabbing

Houston police are investigating the stabbing of a man that took place around 11:05 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the 10900 block of Tanner Park Court. The victim, Pete James, 38, was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

According to police, HPD patrol officers responded to a reported stabbing at an apartment complex at the above address. Upon arrival, they found James lying on the ground in the

parking lot. He had suffered stab wounds to the face and neck. James was then transported to the hospital by Houston Fire Department paramedics. At press time, there was no known motive or suspect(s).

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

## PISD named board of the year

By Reesha Brown  
PISD Communications  
The Pasadena ISD board of trustees has been named the Texas Computer Education Association 2020-2021 School Board of the Year.

TCEA, a nonprofit organization that supports the use of technology in education, annually presents the award to a school board that “recognizes the importance of technology in the teaching and learning process and actively promotes the use of technology throughout the district.”

according to the organization website. Superintendent of Schools Dr. DeeAnn Powell praised the school board for their continuous leadership in supporting innovative technology programs and resources in the district.

“It is such an honor and a pleasure to work with a group of individuals who are constantly putting the needs of students first,” said Powell. “This student-first mentality has resulted in the board’s continuous support of technology

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## County offers property tax options

Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by taking advantage of a payment option called “residence homestead tax deferral” and filing a tax deferral affidavit at the Harris County Appraisal District.

This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year’s appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed – but not canceled – with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.

Once the homeowner files the tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit for the deferred taxes as long as that person owns and lives in

the home. When the homeowner no longer owns and lives in the home, the deferred taxes and interest become due. If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect the deferred taxes and interest. Additional penalties are possible.

If you have a mortgage, most mortgage companies require tax payments to be current so it is important to check with the mortgage company to make sure deferring taxes does not violate the terms of the deed of trust.

“Homeowners should be sure they have applied for and received their homestead exemption. This easily can be done without cost through the Harris County Appraisal District’s website or mobile app,” said Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger.

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## Donating blood by unique transportation



John Urdiales, Ben Daley and Richard Valdez are shown at the St. Luke Catholic Church blood drive Sunday, Jan. 17. Daley had a unique way of getting to the church. He rode his segway. The church was recently recognized for their participation in the blood drive.

# Meeting on Riverstone school

**Continued from Page 1**  
 was halted, as multiple calls from the *Leader* to both the school and its attorneys went unanswered.  
 The campus has been dormant, however, for several months – well before the current COVID-19 scare.  
 This is not the first time work has stopped on the school, as construction has been met with problems since it began in 2015.  
 Contract disputes have been cited multiple times for work delays. The validity of these claims is suspect, however, as the local campus has been the target of multiple criminal investigations. Court records further indicate the school has been the target of multiple civil suits for lack of payment.  
 In April 2019, the former head of the school, along with another employee, were indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the campus.  
 Former Houston Gateway Academy Superintendent Richard Garza was charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, three counts of wire fraud and two counts of engaging in monetary transactions involving criminally acquired property.  
 Houston Gateway Academy IT specialist Ahmad Bokaiyan faced one count of conspiracy and three counts of wire fraud.  
 The pair were accused of stealing more than \$250,000. According to investigators, Garza awarded a \$280,841.85 no-bid contract in 2014 to a company owned by Bokaiyan called Hot Rod Systems to build an IT system at the new campus, even though construction at the school had yet to

begin. Bokaiyan then allegedly wired \$164,381 into Garza's personal bank account.  
 Investigators alleged that Garza used these funds to purchase a condominium and a vehicle and pay toward a home loan.  
 At the time of the indictments, it was reported that both suspects were fugitives from the law. Garza later told the *Leader*, however, this was untrue.  
 While Garza was initially suspended from duty, he is reportedly now back in his position of superintendent.  
 Following the criminal charges, the school hired a new contractor to finish constructing the new Riverstone campus, with Frost Construction replacing Crain Group as the project's general contractor.  
 While there was some initial progress made at the site, Frost's work, too, soon came to a stop.  
 A progress report on Houston Gateway Academy's website about the campus's construction appears to not have been updated since 2014.  
 After numerous failed attempts to reach the school for comment, the *Leader* reached out to local officials, including Paul, for assistance on the matter.  
 A charter school is an independently run public school that is granted greater flexibility in its operations.  
 The "charter" establishing each school is a performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, students served, performance goals and methods of assessment.  
 Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded according to enrollment levels and receive state funds on a per-pupil basis. They are tuition-free and not restricted by zoning, making

them schools of choice.  
 The new campus was to be the fourth in the Houston Gateway Academy system. At approximately 168,000-square feet, it would have been the largest – roughly twice the size of the other campuses.  
 Plans called for a three-story facility with such amenities as a band hall, natatorium, basketball gym, soccer field, full kitchen and cafeteria. The campus will have the capacity to house 1,600 students. Officials, however, estimate that only around 500 students are expected to attend the school's freshman year.  
 While the campus was to eventually serve prekindergarten through 12th grade, it was initially to be open through only ninth grade, with an additional grade being added each year as students progress.  
 Campus enrollment was projected to reach 1,600 count once the 12th-grade class has been implemented.  
 In past issues of the *Leader*, school officials touted the new campus would have features superior to its traditional public school counterparts, including smaller class sizes and mandatory drug testing – for both students and staff.  
 In multiple years, Houston Gateway Academy has been recognized for Outstanding Academic Performance by the Texas Education Agency and has received the Texas Honor Circle District Award from the Texas Comptroller's office. It has also been rated as Exemplary by the TEA multiple years.  
 Originally slated to open for the 2016-2017 school year, it remained unclear at press time when the new campus is expected to open, if ever.  
 See future editions of the *Leader* for additional information about the public meeting.

## Jason Keith Coronado



Jason Keith Coronado, 46, was born in Houston Oct. 27, 1974. He died Jan. 4, 2021. The son of Annie and Desiderio (Desi) Coronado, Jason graduated from J. Frank Dobie High School in Houston in 1993 and attended the University of Houston.  
 Jason was an extraordinary husband, father, son, brother, firefighter and friend. His survivors include wife Stephanie; sons Justin and Ryan; father; brothers Steven Coronado and wife Amy and Daniel Coronado and wife Jenny; in-laws Reno and Deloris Luxardo and Robert and Carolyn Johnston; and many loving aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his mother and grandmother Genevieve Falcon.  
 Jason was a member of the Houston Fire Department Academy Class of 1997 B. Rising to the rank of senior captain, his HFD service included assignments at stations 36, 70 and 93. He was a proud member of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association-IAFF Local 341.  
 Jason met the love of his life, Stephanie, in eighth grade. Married on June 17, 2000, in Houston, they were together for more than 30 years. Jason adored his wife and sons. His attitude was, "Anything for them." He pushed himself to be a better person for them. He strived to be an extraordinary firefighter and officer as well – for the people he served in the community and for his crews on the fire ground and at the station. Jason took a genuine interest in the men and women with whom he served at the fire station. He truly enjoyed getting to know and work with them.  
 In the eyes of his family, Jason was a hero, a protector, a healer and man of faith and a happy "fix-it" person. He was funny even when his silly jokes missed the mark. He had great taste in clothes and people; liked a bargain, a good game of golf, and most any desserts; and could make fun of himself. A loyal and faithful friend, Jason seemed to know everybody in their community. He volunteered for his sons and their friends in baseball, basketball and at school as a coach and Junior Achievement mentor. Some of the Coronado family's best times included travel throughout the United States and abroad, visiting beaches and baseball stadiums from coast to coast. Jason and Stephanie loved watching Justin and Ryan play baseball and they cherished their extended baseball family.  
 The Coronado family offers gratitude for the support of the HFD family and the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association.  
 Frank Lindsay Gibbons, 87, died Dec. 14, 2020, in Houston. He was born in Fort Worth on Dec. 30, 1932, to parents Frank M. Gibbons and Margaret Gibbons. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Thelma Gibbons; sons Gary Gibbons and wife Kathy, Lindsay Gibbons Jr., Randy Gibbons and wife Holly; and daughter Cheryl Burke and husband Buddy.  
 The family moved to the South Belt area in 1966 and moved after Hurricane Harvey.  
 Affectionately known as "Grandy" by his grandchildren, he enjoyed playing with them, reading to them

and encouraging them in all things. Frank's grandchildren include Brian Bulgier, Bruce Bulgier, Kelly Harrison, Andrea Gibbons, Jenna Montoya, Jesse Burke, Ben Gibbons, Justin Gibbons and Shawn Miller. He is also survived by 13 great-grandchildren.  
 Frank's childhood was spent mostly in Los Angeles and San Francisco with some time in St. Louis and Kirkwood, Mo. His family moved to Houston where he graduated from Lamar High School. He entered Abilene Christian College in 1951, majoring in physics with minors in Bible and math.  
 Frank and Thelma Joan Whitlow were married Aug. 29, 1954, and resided in Abilene until his graduation. He began his career in Fort Worth in 1955 working for General Dynamics, performing nuclear research. During his time with General Dynamics, he moved his small family to Oakridge, Tenn., for work at Oak Ridge Laboratories for nuclear research. Upon returning to Fort Worth the family grew to six.  
 He remained with General Dynamics until 1966 when he accepted a position with Lockheed at the Johnson Space Center where his career consisted of radiation detection. He remained at Lockheed until 1982 when he accepted a position with Eastman Whipstock where he designed instruments for directional drilling for both onshore and offshore applications. In 1990 he returned to Lockheed Martin and retired in December 2012.  
 He was certainly a family man, loved his kids, grand-

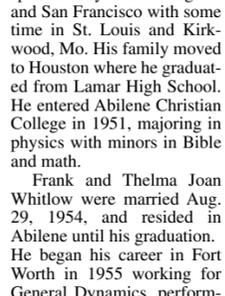
## Deaths

### Frank Lindsay Gibbons



children and great-grandchildren. He always showed his support for their interest and endeavors.  
 He loved the Lord and served as a deacon and elder at Southeast Church of Christ. He had a heart for spreading the gospel of Christ and was active in the mission programs. He served on the board of the Texas International Bible Institute, a company that prepares candidates to preach and serve the Spanish-speaking countries including Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela. The company offers campus teaching in South Houston as well as online courses.  
 A memorial service will be held Feb. 6, 2021, at the Southeast Church of Christ.

### William "Bill" Wood Sandlin



Bill was a sports enthusiast which included playing baseball and football in high school. He enjoyed coaching his children in baseball and softball. He was active in all aspects of his children's lives including Future Farmers of America with his son. Bill loved the Lord above all things and put others before himself always. Bill will be remembered for his giving heart and his unconditional love for his family. He will be missed dearly and forever in the hearts of his loved ones.  
 Services are by invitation only at Forest Park Lawndale Thursday, Jan. 21. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Wounded WarriorProject.org or HoustonHumane.org.

### 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://houstontlib.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items\\_per\\_page=200#events](https://houstontlib.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events) or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstontlib.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.  
**Book drop**  
 The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned with no overdue fees. The library continues to provide online resources so the public can enjoy the library at home. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop. Keep those items until further notice.  
**Additional resources**  
 The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at [www.houstontlib.org](http://www.houstontlib.org) under Here's What's Happening.  
 HPL is not accepting book donations at this time. Visit [www.houstontlib.org](http://www.houstontlib.org) to find virtual programs and digital resources or to chat with a librarian 24/7, or to send questions through HPL's email reference.

### Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library, is located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> or call 832-927-7870.  
 The book drop is open. No late fees will be charged during the library closure. Social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.  
**Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"**  
 – After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.  
 – Have a library card number and PIN handy.  
 – A pickup time and instructions will be given.  
 – Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.  
 – Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.  
 Curbside hours are: Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.  
**Online services**  
 Harris County Public Library will continue to offer a wide array of online services:  
 – Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.  
 – Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).  
 – Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.  
 – Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-Books, comics or graphic novels.  
 – Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.  
 – Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.  
 – Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.  
 Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.  
 Thursday, Jan. 21, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Have some fun and interaction with little ones. Join Mr. John Harbaugh and Mr. Jason Cruz for the virtual Toddler Time through Microsoft Teams. Parents are encouraged to participate to facilitate interaction. Although designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all family members are welcome to join. Sign up once with a valid email address at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.  
**#toddlertime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountypub #HCPL**  
 Friday, Jan. 22, 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, Jan. 22, 5 p.m. Is It Wrong to Watch So Much Anime? Episode 11: "Sports Anime." America is all about Sport Ball. Sports! Sports! Sports! Japan has plenty of sports anime to satisfy all your needs. From well-known sports including baseball, volleyball, and basketball to uniquely Japanese sports like Karuta or kendo, participants will get an idea of what's available for enjoyment. It'll be match point. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. #anime #animemanga #otaku #animelove #harriscountypub #HCPL.  
 Tuesday, Jan. 26, 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 #harriscountypub #HCPL.  
 Tuesday, Jan. 26, 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, Jan. 26, 1 p.m. Spanish storytime with Jason Cruz. The video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.  
 Wednesday, Jan. 26, 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](mailto:tanner.adams@hcpl.net) for details.

## Elected officials share their words

### District 129 Newsletter

By Texas Rep. Dennis Paul

Earlier this week, the 87th session of the Texas Legislature was gaveled into session. It was an honor for me to take the oath of office to serve the people of House District 129.  
 After taking the oath of office, the House elected State Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. Dade is a friend and I look forward to serving with him.  
 This session, I plan on working on several election integrity bills, as well as development of the proposed Coastal Barrier, updating our state building codes and several other topics. If you would like to track my bills or any other legislation in the 87th session, I have added instructions on how to use Texas Legislature Online below.  
 It is an honor to serve you in the Texas House of Representatives.

**State updates**  
**Revenue Estimate**  
 Earlier this week Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar released the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) which tells the Legislature the amount of taxpayer dollars available to fund various programs like public safety, education, and health care during the upcoming session which began Jan. 12.  
 The Comptroller's estimate shows that the state is projected to have \$112.5 billion in revenue available for general-purpose spending during the 2022-23 biennium. This represents a 0.4 percent decrease from funds available for the 2020-21 biennium. This decline is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused revenue collections to fall well short of what was expected when the Legislature approved the 2020-21 budget.  
 The shortfall from the previous sessions budget is estimated to \$1 billion. This estimate does not take into account the 5% reductions to the budgets of all state agency's excluding, Health and Human Services, Education and Public Safety, that legislative leaders directed last summer. A supplemental appropriations bill will be necessary to account for the budget shortfall.  
**Procedures for visit**  
 On Jan. 4 the State Preservation Board reopened the Texas Capitol. Below, you will find the operating hours and public health precautions that are being taken.  
**State Preservation Policy: Texas Capitol Building Public Hours**  
 Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday for building cleaning.  
**Public Health Precautions**  
 The public may only enter via the north door of the Capitol. COVID-19 testing is highly recommended and easily accessible on the north plaza at no ex-

pense. No personal data will be collected.  
 At this time, a mask worn over the mouth and nose is required at all times inside the building. Public visitor capacity limits will be observed and social distancing required in all public areas at all times.  
 All deliveries must be left at the loading dock. No delivery personnel are allowed beyond the loading dock or to enter through the public entrance.  
 No public tours or groups or sponsored event space will be available.  
 The following are open to the public: The Capitol Grounds are open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Capitol Visitors Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For museum hours visit <https://www.thehistoryofexas.com/visit/plan-your-visit>.  
**COVID-19 update**  
 As of now the COVID-19 Vaccine is being rolled out in phases. Currently Phase 1A and 1B are being made available to those who qualify. Phase 1A is for front-line workers and residents at long-term care facilities plus those over 65 with chronic medical conditions putting them at an increased risk for severe illness. Those individuals are currently eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.  
 Texans in Phase 1B are currently eligible to receive the vaccine as well, the guidelines for Phase 1B include people 65 years of age and older and people 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition for and increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to:  
 – Cancer.  
 – Chronic kidney disease.  
 – COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).  
 – Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies.  
 – Solid organ transplantation.  
 – Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher).  
 – Pregnancy.  
 – Sickle cell disease.  
 – Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Drive, Houston Texas, 831-393-4220, Pfizer (no Doses), Moderna Yes (10,240 Doses). Website: <https://houstontemergency.org/covid19/>  
 Harris County Department of Public Health, 713-439-6000, 2223 W Loops S., Houston, Texas. Pfizer No Doses, Moderna (Yes) (16,289 doses available). Visit <https://vacstrac.hctx.net/landing>. See more information on COVID-19 vaccine at [dshs.texas.gov/corona-virus/immunize/vaccine.aspx](https://dshs.texas.gov/corona-virus/immunize/vaccine.aspx).  
**TWIA Rate Hike struck down by insurance commissioner**  
 After encouragement from coastal members of the legislature, including myself, I am pleased to announce that the Texas Commissioner of Insurance rejected TWIA's 5% proposed rate hike. This means TWIA rates will remain unchanged.  
**How to track legislation**  
 To track legislation visit the Texas Legislature Online. You can do this by visiting <https://capitol.texas.gov/>. Once there you can create a saved search for all my bills, go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/MnuMYTLO.aspx>. If you've never set up an account here before, go to "Login" and click "New User" to set up your account. Once set up and logged in, click on "MyTLO", then "Search", then "Bill Search." In the "Author" box pull-down menu select "Paul (H-A3090)." Hit the gray "Search" button on the top-right and to see the bills I've filed this session which already have been assigned bill numbers. We have quite a few bills still being drafted, so you'll see more entries soon. Now go to the top-right and select "Save Search" and give this search a name, like "2021 Dennis Paul bills." Then, when you go to "MyTLO," go to "Saved Searches." Click "Run" on "2021 Dennis Paul Bills" and it will give you a current list of all my bills this session.

## In My Opinion

### Bill King supplies COVID update

More Indications that the Peak is Near US COVID Data Update More Indications that the Peak is Near.  
 Over the last two weeks (ending 1/16), the country's epidemic metrics began to show more evidence that we are at or very close to the peak of the epidemic in the U.S. Hospitalizations.  
 Total hospitalizations and ICU bed usage jumped in the first few days of this two-week period but then did an about-face and began declining. Both finished up at 2% for the two weeks but have declined in 8 of the last 10 days.  
 On Saturday, hospitalizations were at the lowest level since January 3. Ventilated patients fell over the last two weeks by 2%. The improvement was mostly the result of recent hot stops leveling off, allowing the continued improvement in hospitalizations in states with earlier outbreaks to begin to drag the number down.  
 We have seen head fakes on hospitalizations during this run-up before, but nothing as sustained as this. The most recent IHME model is projecting a slight increase in hospitalizations over the balance of the month before peaking in late January. After that it is forecasting a steady decline with total hospitalizations down by 90% by May 1. Fatalities Average daily reported fatalities moved up significantly from 2,411 to 3,209. Some of this increase was due to fatalities in the previous two-week period being understated due to the holidays. Nonetheless, the rate of reported fatalities accelerated through the period, with an ever so slight hint of leveling off in the last few days. I suspect that when eventually get the fatalities by actual date of death, the shape of this chart is going to change significantly.  
 The IHME model has pushed out peak fatalities to the end of this month and is projecting they will top out at approximately 3,600 per day then falling to about 200 per day by May 1. Vaccines The CDC's vaccine website showed that through Friday, 31 million of the vaccine doses had been distributed to the States and various federal agencies.  
 It also shows that only 12 million of those had actually been injected. However, there are substantial delays in the reporting coming back to the CDC, so I doubt that means much at this point. This vaccine data was not updated over the weekend, so by time you are reading this the numbers on CDC website may be higher. The most encouraging number from this site is that administered vaccines jumped by 1.1 million between Thursday and Friday. The data does not indicate when those doses were actually administered but if that pace keeps up, President-Elect Biden's goal of one million vaccines administered per day will need to be revised upward. Testing Testing rebounded by 12% after the holidays. Positive

### Rabe promotes anti-PISD building petition

Dear Pasadena ISD residents, Pasadena ISD School Board unanimously approved the design development phase of a new Administration Building at the November 17, 2020 board meeting. The current location is at 1515 Cherrybrook in District E of Pasadena. The new location is planned for Mickey Gilley Blvd across the street from the Moose Lodge, near Fairmont Parkway. The cost of this new building to taxpayers would be \$27M.  
 We are in the middle of a pandemic when students need updated laptops to learn in a virtual setting and teachers need more training and support to teach online and at the same time with students face-to-face. Funds should be allocated to provide students the safest learning environment. Furthermore, there are schools that are older than the administration building, like Pasadena HS, South Houston HS, and Sam Rayburn HS that need roof, a/c, & restroom repairs.  
 I propose that the School Board rescind their decision to move the administration building. Rather, they should vote to make the necessary repairs to the current building and keep it at Cherrybrook Ln to support and grow the community and businesses there.  
 Join me in signing a petition to say "NO" to the move of the Pasadena ISD Administration Building by going to [www.change.org/PasadenaISDAdminBuilding](http://www.change.org/PasadenaISDAdminBuilding). You can find out more about the project and its timeline in the petition. Thank you.  
 Yen Huynh Rabe

### Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca  
 Members of the *People of Sagemont* 2 Facebook group posted pictures of a car at Krogers on Beltway 8 and Beamer that is double parked, taking up half a handicap spot.  
 The vehicle shown did not have a handicap tag or plates. The members posted group to make alert to others that it is not right and an inconvenience for a person that would actually need to park in a handicap spot.  
 Another member of the same Facebook group posted a video of a group of teenage males that egged a vehicle on Sunday, Jan. 17, at 9:20 p.m., at Bridge Gate subdivision near H-E-B. They were in a white Jeep.  
 A member of *Southbelt This & That (Official)* Facebook page shared a post that the Sagemont Cowboys and Cowgirls football, drill and cheer program 2021 registration is open. In-person registration for returning players will be held Jan. 23 and 30.  
 Registration for new players will be on Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at El Franco Lee Park. For more information, visit <http://www.sagemontcowboys.com>.

## Church Directory

**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
 Catholic Church  
 Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor  
 Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar  
 11011 Hall Rd.  
 (between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://www.stlukesatholic.com)

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**  
 (Modified during COVID-19)

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

\*Also Available on Facebook Live

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

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

Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
 Children's Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
 Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.

**Public Notice**

An application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a (RM) mixed beverage permit with food and beverage certificate and a (LB) mixed beverage late hours permit by Back Porch Grill LLC. Located at 2416 Bay Area Blvd. Ste E, Houston, TX 77058/Harris County Texas.  
 Owner of Back Porch Grill LLC. is Michelle Garza.

**10603 Blackhawk**  
**281-484-4230**  
**Bill & Cheryl Hines, Pastors**  
*We've Enlarged Our Day Care Facilities*  
**Register Now! 281-481-2003**

**WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES**

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>               | <b>Wednesday</b>             |
| Sunday School • 8:00 a.m.   | Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.   |
| Worship Service • 9:00 a.m. | Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m. |

Nursery Available at all Services

**New Covenant Christian Church**

**10603 Blackhawk**  
**281-484-4230**  
**Bill & Cheryl Hines, Pastors**  
*We've Enlarged Our Day Care Facilities*  
**Register Now! 281-481-2003**

**WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES**

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Nursery Available at all Services

# PISD trustees win Texas board of the year award for technology education

**Continued from Page 1** initiatives and resources that prepare students for college and the workplace; and has transformed PISD into a robust technology-driven environment.”

TCEA made the announcement just on the heels of Board Appreciation Month, which started Jan. 1 and annually celebrates

school boards across the state of Texas for their contributions to the districts they serve.

The board was selected by a panel of judges based on an application packet that was submitted on behalf of the board. The application highlighted the board's support of the district's 1-to-1 technology initiative, Personalized Learning program and the distribution of computer devices to students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The application also included a summary of accomplishments from the past decade and supporting documents such as technology plans, school bond election materials, policy updates and a video.

The Pasadena ISD board of trustees will be recognized by the TCEA during an awards ceremony in February.

“We are so thrilled that the TCEA chose to honor our school board,” said Vickie Morgan, Pasadena ISD board president. “Our board has been committed to integrating technology into learning as a means of ensuring equal access to educational tools for all students. We want to thank Dr. Powell and her team for working tirelessly over the years to bring this vision to light.”

TCEA is a global, non-profit, member-based organization that supports the use of technology in education. Founded in 1980, TCEA has been playing a vital role in increasing technology funding and access for pre-K – 16 schools for nearly 40 years. Their 57,000-member association is led by a grassroots board of directors—all professional educators. TCEA's resources support educators in the field who are enhancing curriculum with digital tools.

## Sauceda graduates

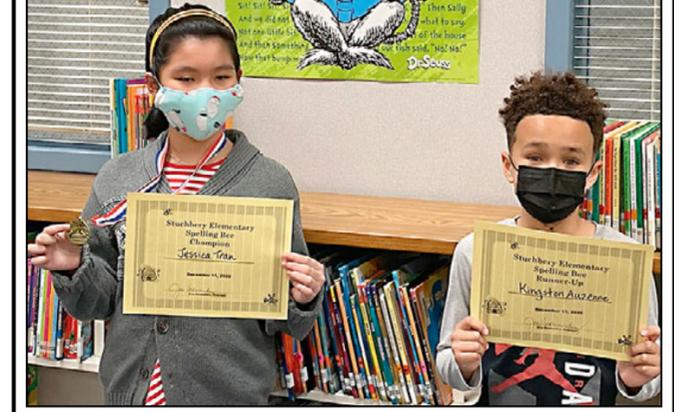


Vanessa Saucedo, an instructional aide at Morris Middle School, recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in human development and family studies from the University of Houston. Morris officials are very proud of her accomplishment.



Serving the school district are the Pasadena ISD board of trustees, left to right, Dr. DeAnn Powell, superintendent; Kenny Fernandez, member; Jack Bailey, member; Nelda Sullivan, assistant secretary; Fred Roberts, secretary; Vickie Morgan, president; Mariselle Quijano, vice president; and Marshall Kendrick, member.

## Stuchbery announces winners



Stuchbery Elementary held its annual spelling bee recently. Shown holding their certificates are Jessica Tran (left, holding medal), winner, and Kingston Auzenne, runner up. Tran will advance to compete at the district level. Both students are following in the footsteps of older siblings who also competed successfully in previous years' spelling bees at Stuchbery.

## Vaquera completes first year as teacher



Daisy Vaquera, a Morris Middle School fifth-grade math teacher, has completed her first full year of teaching. School officials are proud of her hard work and dedication.

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[www.thefamouscrab.com](http://www.thefamouscrab.com)

## BHI honor rolls named

Beverly Hills Intermediate officials announced the second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Seventh grade**  
Leonela Aguilera, Hussai Arias, Diana Armenta, Brylon Cire' Badger, Diana Abigail Bonilla, Nathaly Melissa Bonilla, Isabella Nicole Byron, Julian Alejandro Calderon Vargas and Allen Elias Campos.

Angel Rene Cano, Julien Anthony Cano, Julissa Cantu, Abrianna Alyzza Carbal, Amirah Janae Carraway, Christian Todd Castille, Zenaida Yelem Cisneros and Tiffany Marianna Contreras.

Albin Yasmil Cruzado, Jeremiah Deshaum'e Davis, Joselyn Maria Delgado, Lynn Edward Dickerson, Gizelle Denise Escobar, Andrew Tadeo Escobedo, Emily Flores and Javion Ryan Galindo.

Jordyn Bryce Galloway, Ethan Rylan Garay, Johnny Alejandro Garcia, Mark Anthony Garcia, Christopher Fabian Gomez, Angel Isaiiah Gonzales, Ryleigh Hannah Gonzalez, Ella Rose Guerra and Timothy Isaiiah Guerra.

Daniela Guerrero, Alvaro Jose Cervantes Guevara, Benjamin Gutierrez, Hao The Ha, Abbie Hernandez, Alejandro Eron Hernandez, Landen Omar Hernandez, Luis Felipe Hernandez and Bryant Khanh Ho.

Trinity Thy Hoang, Eli Zaine Jackson, Ami Lynn Johnson, Jordan Patricia Johnson, Marcus Conrad Jones, Audrina Jade Lanza, Richard Le and Francisca Anagnit Luengo Montano.

Iiana Raquel Luna, Peyton Evan Lynn, David Alejandro Martinez, Kevin Martinez, Xavier Martinez, Victor Alfonso Mejia, Jaylene Estela Melo and Isaac Orlando Mendez.

Nelson Fernando Mendez, Cristian D'angelo Monge, Nathan Lee Montez, Steven Morillo Rodriguez, Tommy Minh Ngo, Andrew Huynh Nguyen and Anthony Tan Nguyen.

Chloe Bao-Nhu Nguyen, Diana Ngoc Nguyen, Gia An Tran Nguyen, Hannah Anh Nguyen, Hoang Phu Nguyen, Minh Tuan Nguyen and Ngan Thi Kim Nguyen.

Thu Hoang Anh Ninh, Michaela Raychelle Offord, Nair Olvera Guerrero, Ryan Samuel Pacheco, Isabella Daniella Pena, Matthew Ahblaze Kills-In-Water Perez, Don Nhat Pham and Hannah Pham.

Mylan Ayleen Piedra, Cynthia Pineda, Ezekiel Alexander Portales, Austin Alan Prouse, Jereel Aaron Ramales, Mariely Rangel and Lucas Gramm Reed.

Kaitlyn Renee Resendez, Aileen Yaneli Rivera, Rachel Dahrian Rivera, Jesus David Rodriguez, Kevin Rubio, Alexander Salguero, Desiree Marie Sanchez and Jacob Alexander Sanchez.

Erik Jai Santillanes, Alejandro Saucedo, Kaitlyn Mckenzie Sherwood, Cameron Dewayne Smith Mickle, Savannah Vivianne Talavera, Aspen Kennedy Thompson and Jaiden Nathaniel Torres.

Jorge Manuel Torres, Victoria Bao Han Tran, Khang Nguyen Duy Truong, Eliud Urbina Paez and Andres Valdez, Brandon Ventura.

Theodore Conrad Villarreal, Bao Hoang-Gia Vu, Jai'ana Elise Washington, Ximena Yezpe and Yuliana Michelle Zambrano.

**Seventh-grade connect**  
Dreagon Alexander, Christina Dang, Ashley Hernandez, Norman Fabian Alba, Joselyn Galvan and Dan Nguyen.

Waleska Palacios, Lindsey Perrett, Alexander Resendiz,

## Atkinson honor, merit rolls named

Atkinson Elementary officials announced the second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Third-grade honor roll**  
David Arias, Kathryn Botello, Jayden Cevallos-Mejia, Romina Ortiz and Xavi Romero.

Elaya Rubins, Aaron Salas, Leslie Serrano and Maylen Zambrano.

**Fourth-grade honor roll**  
Edmundo Bravo, Zorion Collins, Jonathan Fonseca Jay Guerra Jonathan Leon and Jacob Moreno.

Steven Pham, Arturo Serrano, Anna Trinh, Aiden Windsor and Eli Ybarra.

**Third-grade merit roll**  
Camiah Adams, Edson Guevara, Jaythan Guzman and Noah McSween.

Diego Moreno, Aiden Ruiz, Andrase Sampson and Michael Vu.

**Fourth-grade merit roll**  
Alexander Garcia, Layla Garcia, Joseph Moore, Adrian Morris, Michael Nguyen and Lyla Saldana.

## County offers options

**Continued from Page 1**  
Exemption forms and applications can be found on the appraisal district's website, [www.head.org](http://www.head.org), under the Forms tab on the top tool bar. A homestead exemption can provide a tax savings for the property owner and will reduce future tax burdens.

For more information about deferring taxes on the appreciating value of your home, contact the Harris County Appraisal District's information center at 713-957-7800 or email [help@head.org](mailto:help@head.org). Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/).



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

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# "TAKE 2" CLASSES START JANUARY 25

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

## LSA adds esports to official sports

Lutheran South Academy (LSA) recently added esports as an official school team to their repertoire of after-school activities. The arena, which is home to the 30 members of the group, is complete with a brand new gaming arena that includes 12 ASUS gaming computers, 24" monitors, mechanical keyboards and RGB lighting.

The LSA esports team is part of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Esports League. The team has already been involved in direct competition with other schools. The esports competitions encompass many different styles of games including Overwatch, Rocket League, League of Legends, SMITE, Fortnite, Madden 21 and FIFA 21. LSA's current team competes with Overwatch.

The team practices the same way an athletic team might. They gather together after school, work on their mechanics and tactics and even watch film of earlier games. Students can gather together both in person and remotely to practice and play matches.

Players use headsets to communicate over Discord, a social chat platform that lets players create a profile and interact with other users via online messaging, voice or video chat. It also allows to have a personalized sound experience.

Adding the esports program is an example of the cutting edge and innovative opportunities that LSA has to offer in addition to a traditional high school experience.

Esports focuses on a completely new realm of competition and offers an opportunity to compete at a high level for students who have a passion for gaming.

LSA esports coaches, Jon Maxwell and Helen Peace, quoted the PlayVS article Parents Guide to High School Esports which states:

"Esports requires a tremendous amount of critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity from players to achieve and sustain success. It reaches beyond traditional sports to create an all-inclusive environment that breaks barriers."

They see the team as a place where community and competition merge.

They seek to create a friendly and welcoming environment where students will converge on their enjoyment of video games. It is their dream that the chatter and excitement of students working to improve their skills in room 105 will be heard daily after school.

After all, LSA's esports is only going to grow from here; it isn't going away.



Joshua Flory, Lutheran South Academy 11th-grade student and member of the LSA Esports team, gains expertise on computer programs.

## South Belt recognizes area crossing guard



Sebrina Johnson, a Pasadena ISD crossing guard who patrols the Riverstone Ranch and Hughes intersection rain or shine, waves at every passing car. South Belt Elementary officials say Johnson brightens the day of students and everyone she sees with the biggest smile

and happiest waves. Staff from South Belt Elementary gathered a holiday basket for Johnson to show appreciation for her dedication. Shown are, left to right, Caitlyn Frazee, Debora Edwin, Johnson, Marcy Pittman and Sarah Silva.

Photo by Anh Ton

## PISD Education Foundation wins giveaway



PISD won first place in the Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union Education Foundation Giveaway with a prize of \$2,500. Shown accepting the prize check are, left to right, Troy McCarley, PISD associate superintendent,

Dr. DeeAnn Powell, PISD superintendent; Linda Lukaszewski, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union CEO; and Julia Arceneaux, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union Business development manager.

## Thompson announces second nine-weeks honor rolls

Thompson Intermediate officials announced its second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Seventh grade**  
Julian Devery Acevedo, Blessing Abiola Akinloye, Sural Alessandra Alcorta, Shawn Andre Armstrong, Joshua Isaiiah Arredondo and Celeste Marie Arriaga.

Kendall Rae Ashworth, Makayla Elizabeth Ballard St. Romain, Alexander Lee Baumgartner, Kimberly Abigail Castillo, Ethan Nathanael Cavazos and Alonzo Pernell Chapman.

Kevin Ky Anh Chau, Ryan Ky Giang Chau, David Nicolas Contreras, Natalie Navaeh De Hoyos, Hadi Ali Elghawi, Cooper James Estes and Calvin Preston Flowers.

Helio Frausto, Kayla Denise Garcia Cortez, Emily Evgenia Golenko, Jackson Maddox Gomez, Frank Gonzales-Adame, Miranda Sofia Gonzalez and Abel Baldomero Gutierrez.

Abigail Aleina Gutierrez, Morgan Alexandria Hill, Rayne Lea-Anne Larson, Alex Anh Le, Nathan-Cuong Huy Le, Breanna Mya Lott and Sarah Isabella Massey.

Tristan Michael McKisick, Dulce Mejia Hernandez, Mehreen Mortaza Mir, Aziel Moreno, Ayden James Munoz, Jawad Naser, Quoc-Bao Ky Ngo, Daniel Duy Nguyen

and Gia Vy Nguyen.

Haley Tram Ngoc Nguyen, Jennifer Ngoc-Thu Nguyen, Minh Ngoc Nguyen, Tiffany Nguyen, Victory Chioma Nwosu, Thalia Evangelina Oddo, Jonathan Carlos Orellana Sarmiento, Tanya Jolynn Palomino and Luke Noel Penaloza.

Emyly Guadalupe Pineda, Giovanni Isaiiah Ramirez, Natalie Yvette Rangel, Jaylyn Loany Requeeno Ortiz, Leila Alejandra Reyes, Nathan Adam Rodriguez, Roger Aaron Ruiz and Julian Salinas.

Mia Bella Sudario Garza, Addison Marymckay Taylor, Lillian Rose Thomas, Parker Minhquoc Tran, Fernando Vargas, Marissa Rae Vasquez, Juan Bernardo Vega, Aidan Veitia, Hector Daniel Vela-Puerto, Leon Vu and Olivia Lauren Wheeler.

**Eighth grade**  
Lorena Elizabeth Adams, Juliana Lysette Aguirre, Rigoberto Alanis, Ariana Alaniz, Ayla Grace Albert, Manal Kamran Aleem and Jonathan Lee Alexander.

Sophia Michelle Alonso, Keiley Erin Anthony, Emma Raye Arizmendi, Jaydon Anthony-James Askew, Melanie Avalos, Ashley Sofia Barahona, Oscar Barajas and A'nyia Marie Beasley.

Lorenzo Betancourt Mejia, Lorian Betancourt Mejia, Bongalai Linda Bongfen, Da-

vid Francisco Bonilla, McKenzie Maryann Bonner and Kaylie Bui.

Stephanie Phuong Bui, Miguel Angel Caballero, Emily Jade Cano, Viviana Cantu, Joana Casas, Henna Katelyn Castillo and Paris Dominique Cervantes.

Danielle Annaya Chenier, Nathaniel Maurice Chevalier-Manlangit, Alicia Isabel Cruz, Asia Carolyn Davis, Miranda De La Rosa and Alejandro Del Villar Rodriguez.

Gyzelle Elizabeth Delgado, Kaden Psi Dillard, Kristin Thi Do, Vyvy Tuyen Huynh Do, Abril Delaluz Dosal, Kirsten Kieu My Duong, Paul Matthew Elisondo and Aniya Hope Epps.

Viviana Soleil Fernandez, Lindsey Rebecca Flores, Gabriel Edgar Fulgado, Elizabeth Christine Garcia, Brianna Garza, Lauren Gabriele Garza and Max Roland Garza.

Victoria Miranda Gomez, Alfonso Eloy Gonzales-Adame, Abel Andres Gonzalez, Gabriella Eva Gonzalez, Yazmine Yvette and Emily Nicole Grimaldo, Isabella Guajardo, Erik Julian Guerrero and Mason John Harris.

Patience Nevae' Hayes, Emily Johanna Henriquez, Teboris Christian Henry, Desere Delayla Hernandez, Emily Marie Hernandez, Leonel De Jesus Hernandez, Lillian

Rose Herte and Sophia Thien My Ho.

Lena Quynh-Anh Hoang, Marvin Antonio Jerezano, Jake Raymond Joslin, Xavier Michael Keller, Reigne Sadaie' Knoxon, Iakovos-Panagiotis Kostikoglou and Yocelyn Michelle Lagos.

Jacob Paul Lam, Kayla Tien Nhi Lam, Jaylon Ro Lasker, Michael Eugene Law, Natalia Le Goenaga, Nathan Le, Karyme Alejandra Leal and Emma Sophia Lopez.

Gabriel Borromeo Lopez, Tatiana Zhaley Luna, Gil Matheo Manzano, Mayte Marfil, Jorge Gilberto Martinez, Juel Maximiliano Martinez, Natalie Samantha Martinez and Priscilla Grace Martinez.

Rubi Citlaly Martinez, Yarety Rose Martinez, Mark Massoud, Aeriona Denise McCann, Kiana Thi McCombs, Julian Miguel Melchor, Lucius Aden Monarez and Abriana Laniece Neco.

Huy Duc Nguyen, Ny Ha Bao Nguyen, Ryan Oscar Nguyen, Trish Thuy Nguyen, Hope Noelle Ortiz, Carina Osorio Avelar, Avery Elyse Owens and Henry Alexander Pacheco-Moreno.

Angel Alexander Padilla, Jabez Nathan Rabang Palma, Emily Denice Parrish, Nikolas

Alexander Pelaez, Eric Thomas Perez, Julianne Le Pham, Tony Phan and Madison Victoria Puente.

Damian Xavier Quinonez, Ethan Isaiiah Ramirez Garivier, Naryelin Jasleni Ramirez Licona, Lilli Anna Ramirez, Nathaniel John Ramirez, Robert Trebor Ramirez, Martin Ramos and Matthew Noah Rangel.

Jayden Lawrence Reimer, Andre Reyes, Domingo Reyes, Joel Jesus Reyes, Derek Rodriguez, Emily Nicole Rodriguez and Katherine Michelle Sabillon-Velasquez.

Carlos Salazar, Justin Daniel Salazar, Luis Salazar, Isabella Rose Sanchez, Daniel Silva, McKenzie Grace Smith, Ethan Landon Snow and Pitou So.

Paris Nicole Spence, Emily Silva Stephen, Jocelyn Alyssa Stringer, Jason Ta, Olivia Dolores Tamez, Philip Tran, Tristan Phat Tran and Andrew Lee Ullman.

Arturo Daniel Vega, Yamin Alejandra Villegas Bermudez, Isaiiah Vincent Vivier, Khanh Phuc Vu Do, Megan Thuan An Vu and Sophia Vu.

Cameron Latrell Walcott, Theodore Roosevelt Washington, Ryan Demetrius White and Stephen Frank Wilson.

## South Belt announces winners



South Belt Elementary recently announced the names of their spelling bee winners. Showing off their trophies are Sofia De La Pena (left), runner up; and Myla Figueroa, first-place winner.

## Teacher of the Month



Laura Napoli, a Thompson Intermediate math teacher, was chosen as Teacher of the Month for December. School officials said Napoli was selected because she is such a team player. She is always willing to jump up and help anyone. Whether it is helping to decorate, turning in papers, or assisting with technology, she is just happy and fun to be around. She is an amazing teacher with whom it is great to work. She works hard and is dependable. She is a model team player. She is constantly collaborating with her team and doing what is best for kids. She is willing to learn new ways to teach old topics and is never afraid to ask for help if she is struggling in the classroom. She is always smiling and brings joy to everyone around her. She does a good job at gradually releasing learning to her students, teaching them to be independent learners and focusing on small-group instruction. Napoli does so much to help the math team. She is a great co-worker and she is always willing to share resources and collaborate with other teachers on strategies that may or may not be working with students.

# Remember When

**40 years ago (1981)**  
A concerted South Belt community effort brought a record number of voters to the Dobie polling place. Their efforts put three South Belt area residents on the Pasadena ISD board of trustees including John Elam, Rudy Schubert and Dr. B.J. Garner.

Dobie High School assistant head varsity football coach Don Cole announced his resignation.

The athletic director of Pasadena ISD said it was too soon to name replacements for the three football coaches who resigned from the district, although interviews had begun.

Heavy voter turnout in the Pasadena school district was a key factor in the J.D. Bruce-Dr. William Davison victory in the San Jacinto College Board of Regents election.

**35 years ago (1986)**  
The U.S. Justice Department was expected to rest its case, alleging discriminatory practices in Pasadena Independent School District.

Repair of the overpass bridge at Dixie Farm Road was expected to begin and was to be completed in time for rush hour traffic the following Monday morning.

The new officers for the Pasadena ISD board of trustees were Harvey Turner, president; Vickie Morgan, vice president; John Elam, secretary; and Carmen Orozco, assistant secretary.

Vickie Morgan became the first woman in half a century elected to the PISD board of trustees by defeating 18-year incumbent Carl Schwartz, who was seeking his seventh term to the board.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Memorial Southeast Professional Building to be connected to Memorial Southeast Hospital, also under construction, took place.

**30 years ago (1991)**  
Carmen Orozco was elected president of the Pasadena school board. Others elected were Denny Delafield as vice president, Vickie Morgan as secretary and Harvey Turner as assistant secretary.

Le Duc Nguyen, a 54-year-old market owner, was shot to death by three robbers. The three men were captured and charged with aggravated robbery.

Sageglen resident Gordon Quisenberry drowned while attempting to rescue a woman who was also drowning

in Galveston Bay. According to a Coast Guard spokesman, a 41-foot Cigarette boat cartwheeled at a high rate of speed in choppy water. Quisenberry left his boat in an attempt to save the woman and her companion. No one was wearing a life jacket.

**25 years ago (1996)**  
Dr. James Horton was named as the third chancellor in the 35-year history of San Jacinto College.

Sagemont Park's Eric Gene Reilly, 20, was sentenced to 27 years in prison after he entered a plea in the 185th District Court for the murder of Jimmy Dickson, who was killed during his 18th birthday party at his Green Tee home.

The South Belt-Ellington Leader celebrated its 20th anniversary. Formerly known as the *South Belt Press*, the newspaper was founded in February 1976 by two housewives, Marie Flickinger and Bobby Griffin.

Clear Brook senior Andrea Bahlo took first place in the 100-yard backstroke at the state TISCA meet in Austin,

after undergoing heart surgery only 11 days before the event.

**20 years ago (2001)**  
Clear Creek Independent School District parents asked for the long-promised replacement for Weber Elementary.

The State Farm Insurance office of Skip Morse was robbed. The thieves escaped with a small amount of cash and a 23-year-old wedding ring from one of the two insurance reps who were in the office.

**15 years ago (2006)**  
Neil West, longtime South Belt resident, was recognized as the Citizen of the Year at the 22nd annual South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce banquet. West was praised by Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee for his contributions to the community.

Houston police were investigating the death of J.C. Iziah Smith, 21, whose body was found floating face down in Turkey Creek. Smith, of the 11700 block of Algonquin, was found by three men who

were riding four-wheeled vehicles near the 15100 block of the Gulf Freeway. The Harris County medical examiner's office declined to release the cause and manner of death pending further study.

Richard McKay, head librarian at San Jac College's Parker Williams Library, initiated a project to preserve previous issues of the *Leader* on microfilm for posterity.

Gaby de la Cruz, 13, a former Moore Elementary student, was diagnosed with a neurological condition which affected his brain.

A stolen vehicle was recovered after a brief chase through Sagemont. Precinct 2 Deputy Constable Sgt. Zerrick Guinn chased the vehicle on Sageburrow, and when it failed to negotiate a turn, it crashed into the yard of a residence. Two juvenile occupants fled on foot but were quickly captured.

**10 years ago (2011)**  
Two local churches announced changes in leadership. After serving as pastor at Kirkwood South Christian Church for six years, the

Rev. David Fraser was set to leave at the end of February. The Rev. William "Bill" Newcomb left his position as senior pastor at Cokesbury United Methodist Church, where he had served since June 2009.

Kevin Martinez took over as captain of the "C" shift of the Houston Fire Department's Station 70 on Beamer. A 1986 graduate of Dobie High School, Martinez was a 17-year veteran of the department.

Two Dobie students were selected to the TMEA All-State Ensembles during band auditions held at Alvin High School on Jan. 8. Erik Flores on contra-bass clarinet and Chase Morris on Bb clarinet went on to represent Dobie High School and the Pasadena Independent School District at the Texas Music Educators Convention in San Antonio.

A fatal shooting took place at 8600 Theta. Ernesto Saldizar, an 18-year-old from North Houston, suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the head and was pronounced

dead at the scene. There was no known motive and no immediate arrests were made.

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital held an open house for its new Esophageal Disease Center to treat reflux and other esophageal diseases.

**5 years ago (2016)**  
Dr. DeeAnn Powell assumed the role of superintendent of the Pasadena Independent School District, replacing the outgoing Kirk Lewis. Powell began her career as an educator in 1991 when she joined the Jackson Intermediate staff as a history teacher. She was named the school's assistant principal in 1997 and principal in 2002. In 2005, she was named an associate superintendent of campus development for the district.

Houston city attorney Gene L. Locke was appointed to finish the late El Franco Lee's term as Precinct 1 Harris County commissioner. A longtime friend and counsel to Lee, Locke had previously served as city attorney from 1995-1998, general counsel

to the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority and special counsel to the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

**1 year ago (2020)**  
San Jacinto College agreed to participate in the Harris County Promise program, a collaboration between SIC and Pasadena ISD that allows many local students to attend the school at no charge. The program is open to current graduating seniors from Dobie, South Houston and Rayburn high schools. Officials are hoping to later expand the Promise Program to the remaining Pasadena ISD high school campuses. The Promise Program was made available to all resident seniors, regardless of high school GPA or income. Eligible seniors who become Promise Scholars receive up to three years of guaranteed tuition and fees, assistance with books and additional support to help them complete their degrees. To keep the scholarship, students must attend full time (12 hours) during fall and spring semesters, continue to complete FAFSA or TASFA applications and earn at least a 2.0 GPA. Students have up to three years to complete an associate degree or other recognized credential.



## Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR REBECCA**  
Dobie grad Rebecca (Heeth) Irvine enjoys a birthday Jan. 23. Best wishes are sent from her husband Steve and her father Richard Heeth of Kirkwood.

**CLAUDIA MARKS A BIRTHDAY**  
Birthday wishes are sent to Claudia Cubos who marks a birthday Jan. 23 from her family, friends and staff at the *Leader*.

**LAILA CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY**  
Best wishes for a happy birthday are sent Jan. 27 to Dr. Laila Hassan from her family, friends, office staff and the *Leader* staff.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAVID!**  
Happy birthday greetings are sent to David Flickinger, *Leader* president, on Jan. 27. David is wished a great day by his wife Ellie; daughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca; grandchildren Kelvin Lopez, Noah, Elliana and Isabella Abarca; parents Marie and David Flickinger; brother Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger; niece Kimberly and Matt Lipino; niece Courtney and husband Chris Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; and the staff at the *Leader*.

**GRIFFINS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY**  
Bobby and Kenneth Griffin mark 59 years of marriage Jan. 27. Best wishes are sent from their daughter Tracy and husband Jim Giles and grandchildren Aaron and his wife Ashley, Kristen and Cody Giles; son David and wife Angela Coffin and grandsons Robert and Kenny and wife Lacie

Griffin; great-grandchildren Ellie Griffin and Jaxson and Jace Giles; friends; and the *Leader* staff.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Jan. 21 through Jan. 27, 2021.

**Burnett Elementary**  
A celebration is in order Jan. 22 for Leticia Sanchez. Light the birthday candles on a birthday cake Jan. 23 for Lena Toole.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Jan. 26 is the day for a double-layer birthday cake for Ashley Jones and Janielle Wiley.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles Jan. 23 for Netza Lopez.

**Meador Elementary**  
Join in the birthday fun Jan. 22 for Joycelyn Webster. Remember to wish Rubi Rocha a happy birthday Jan. 24. Special birthday wishes are sent to Constance Peel Jan. 27.

**South Belt Elementary**  
The day for ice cream and cake for Deborah Edwin is Jan. 21. Give a birthday shoutout Jan. 26 to Samantha Rhodes.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Sing a happy birthday song to Kelly Schwenk Jan. 27.

**Roberts Middle School**  
The day for a celebration for Julie Lan-

ham is Jan. 27.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Send a happy birthday greeting Jan. 22 to Amber Estrada. Jan. 24 is the day for a birthday celebration for Chelsea Hughes Martinez.

**Dobie High**  
Remember Deena Delarosa on Jan. 22 with a birthday greeting. Special birthday wishes are sent to Todd Gerles.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Jan. 21: Traci Fort, Kim Saucedo, Karen Harlan, Connie Birmingham and Lisa Allen-Bragg; Friday, Jan. 22: Amber Estrada, Shad Taylor and Mitch Nordstrom; Saturday, Jan. 23: Becky Forsyth, Audi Resendez, Rodney Thiel, Wendy Gray and Bill A. Stevens; Sunday, Jan. 24: Renee Lister and Lee Balinas; Monday, Jan. 25: Berri Walker, Kristy Guzman and Xuan Loan; Tuesday, Gene Webster and Craig Green; and Wednesday, Jan. 27: Cheryl Arnesen, Nicole Crader, Raquel Jones, Derek Cooley, Donald Gillock Sr. and Solomon Ard.

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

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## SBHLL continues online sign-up

The Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League is continuing online registration for the upcoming 2021 spring season. League officials have noted that all those who register now will be considered to be on a waiting list as registration fees will not be collected until final 2021 playing site details are finalized. Still, families of players are encouraged to register sooner than later. In addition, the players' required fundraiser/raffle cost of \$50 is included within the registration fee in order to allow for easier collection. The 2021 registration fees are \$175 per player in the junior t-ball division, \$250 per player in the t-ball division, \$265 per player for coach pitch action, \$270 per player in the minor division, \$275 per major

## Second half key to races

# Lady Longhorns, Wolverine boys atop district basketball races

Heading down the stretch of the District 22-6A varsity basketball races, the Dobie girls are in control of things in search of the league's top playoff seed. Meanwhile, Dobie varsity boys' head coach Franklin Paul is confident the Longhorns still have what it takes to make a late run for the crown in the 22-6A mix. And the Clear Brook varsity boys' team is continuing its stay in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class 6A state poll at No. 23 as of Jan. 18 as the Wolverines are at 16-1 overall. The Clear Springs Lady Chargers are once again cruising in the District 24-6A varsity girls' race, but coach Warren Brooks has his Clear Brook team fighting for a postseason berth as the race intensifies. **Lady Horns rule 22-6A** The Dobie varsity girls' basketball team is rising at the right time under head

coach Jasmine Hartman as an unbeaten run in District 22-6A has the group atop the standings. Seeking their first District 22-6A crown in what is now Hartman's third season, the locals are now the team to beat with that 8-0 run within the league. **Wolverines rebound** The pressure to maintain a perfect season ended for Clear Brook as longtime rival Clear Lake escaped with a 58-57 victory Jan. 12, which ended Brook's 14-game loss-free start to begin the season. The outcome certainly tightened the District 24-6A race, but Lake has since dropped a game, as has Dickinson. So at 5-1 over the first half of 24-6A action, the Wolverines are atop things, with Lake and Dickinson at 4-2. State ranked for the first time ever within the 6A ranks, Clear Brook is 16-1 overall as the sibling duo of Kemo and Marcus Millender continue to lead the

way. The latest TABC 6A poll has the Wolverines at No. 23. Wolverines' head coach Nathan Janak knew coming into the season that his group had a nucleus returning that was capable of great returns, and the Wolverines have delivered. "The biggest thing we are working on is staying consistent. Our defense was not great at Lake (Jan. 12)," Janak said. "We allowed them to get into the paint for easy scoring opportunities and kick the ball out for open 3-point shots. "The kids have worked hard on reestablishing our defensive principles. We are also trying to continue to push the tempo offensively. We have had a lot of success playing fast and sharing the basketball. "When the kids play together and share the ball, we are tough to beat. District 24-6A is an extremely competitive district. Every game is a battle. Every team has really good players."

On the subject of really good players, the Wolverines have leaned on junior Kemo Millender with more than 20 points per game to date, and his sophomore class brother, Marcus Millender, is at 17 points per outing. "We continue to stress to our players to take one game at a time and remain focused. The kids have done a great job of that throughout the season. "They understand that the most important game is the next one we are playing. Whatever has happened previously, good or bad, does not matter. We will try and continue that approach in the second half of district play." **Dobie boys on track** Midway home in the District 22-6A varsity boys' basketball race, the Pasadena Eagles are in charge, having run the table as head coach Jason Pillow has seen the Eagles jump out to a perfect 6-0 start. Beyond that, everyone else in the district, including Dobie, has at least two losses. Heading into a Jan. 19 matchup with Memorial to close out the first half of district play, the Longhorns were still waiting for things to click, and first-year head coach Franklin Paul was confident they would. There are few excuses allowed as every athletic program has dealt with this or that, and the Longhorns are included. The Longhorns first endured a 10-day stoppage in play due to Covid-19 concerns and then lost 56-51 to Rayburn and 58-56 to Pasadena. But the Longhorns got back on track by hammering both South Houston (52-35) and then Deer Park (48-33). Two games down to Pasadena in the loss column, Paul is undeterred. **Continued on Page 6**



Dobie's Johnathan Baldwin (0) pressures Pasadena guard Kanye Ortiz (1) during the first half of the Eagles' 58-56 victory over the Longhorns Jan. 12 at Pasadena High School. With the win, the Eagles were able to finish the first half of District 22-6A play with a 6-0 mark to lead the way. Dobie, meanwhile, bounced back with two wins and was 3-2 heading into play Jan. 19. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Wolverines' Price elite within 24-6A

Senior Jaysen Price was a first-team performer at two positions as the District 24-6A football coaches released their honorees for the 2020 season following league champion Clear Falls' loss in the 6A Division II regional final. The 24-6A champion Chargers dominated the big awards as receiver/kick returner Kaleb Hymes was the league's Most Valuable Player. Springs' quarterback Luke Sampson was the league's Offensive Player of the Year, with lineman

## Upcoming Hoops Games

- Friday, Jan. 22**  
**Dobie boys host S. Houston, 7 p.m.**  
**Dobie girls vs. S. Houston, PFH, 7 p.m.**  
**Brook girls at Brazoswood, 7 p.m.**  
**Brook boys host Brazoswood, 7 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Jan. 26**  
**Dobie boys at Channelview, 7 p.m.**  
**Dobie girls host Channelview, 7 p.m.**
- Wednesday, Jan. 27**  
**Brook boys at Dickinson, 7 p.m.**  
**Brook girls host Dickinson, 7 p.m.**

## JFD boys at Atascocita

Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. Atascocita H.S. At right, despite missing the finale of the Humble ISD Invitational, Dobie senior Gerardo Martinez has been able to contribute three goals and three assists to this point as the Longhorns have jumped out to a 6-1-1 start. The Longhorns will play a final non-district match at Atascocita Jan. 22. The six-time defending district champions will then open District 22-6A action Tuesday, Jan. 26, at Channelview. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



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## Longhorn soccer out to 6-1-1 start

Two weekends down and District 22-6A play nearing, the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team is out of the gate at 6-1-1 even as it sorts through injuries and other minor details. The locals went 1-1-1 at the Humble ISD Invitational Jan. 14-16, shutting out Aldine Nimitz 4-0 before falling 2-1 to Cypress Lakes in the finale with a depleted roster. In the opener Jan. 14, the Longhorns managed a 1-1 tie against a tough Woodlands squad. Six district championships in a row, and plans for another as 22-6A play begins Jan. 26. His varsity squad off to a 6-1-1 start after two tournaments to open the season, yet Dobie head coach Justo Manrique has little choice but to remain cautiously optimistic as the season plays out. The game of soccer itself presents a more than unfair chance of injury, minor or major, each time one takes the pitch. There are always eligibility issues to be concerned with, and of course the ever-present threat of COVID-19 has changed the playing field for everyone. "Obviously, we're very pleased to be out of the gate strong, but while I

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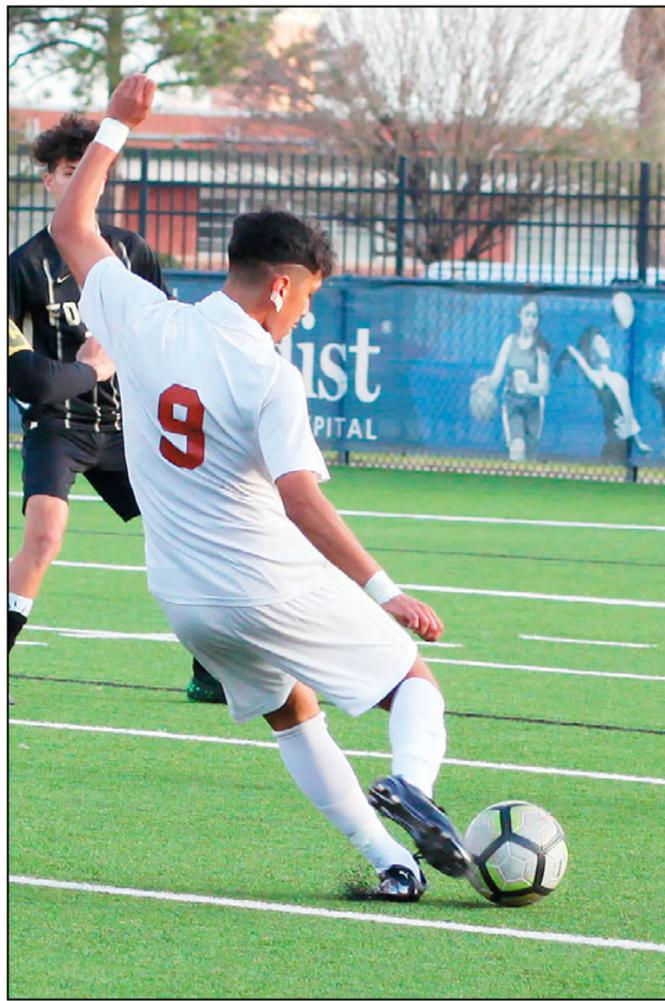
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Levani Pelaez (15) of Dobie began the season with a strong effort against Richmond Foster and continued it in the Humble ISD Invitational. The junior midfielder has two assists this season. Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Junior forward Jonathan Torres (9) has three goals and an assist to this point as the Dobie varsity boys' soccer team has gone 5-1-1 overall to this point while dealing with injuries and other issues early on this season. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

**Wolverines state ranked**

**Basketball races heat up; CB boys, JFD girls lead**

**Continued from Page 5**  
 There's no doubt Pasadena holds all the cards with its 6-0 start and just six games remaining in the race, but Paul certainly feels as though his group can make a second-half push.  
 "I still believe we can put things together and make a run at the district championship here in the second half," Paul said.  
 "We are playing with just nine guys at this point, but everybody understands their role and I feel like we should be able to do some good things coming up."  
 COVID-19 has been tough to navigate, and the 10-day layoff certainly hurt in terms of conditioning.  
 The Longhorns were not at their best in the losses to Rayburn or Pasadena, but perhaps a turnaround is near.  
 Sophomore guard Camren Fowler has stepped up in the scoring department, as has senior Damian Garcia, and the Longhorns have gotten a lift from both the physical ability and leadership of Johnathan Baldwin, and now is the time to put it all together after an 8-10 overall run to this point.  
 "The key is being ready for the playoffs and hopefully being as healthy as possible," Paul said.  
 "You want to be playing at your best when it matters the most, and hopefully we can get in a position to make some things happen."  
 Ideally, prospective 22-6A playoff contenders would like to avoid having to go against state-ranked No. 2 Atascocita and Summer Creek in the first round beginning Feb. 24-25, but at this point, it's all about getting there first.  
**Brook girls slip behind**  
 Ashlee Seymore, Tania Moody and others continue to play well, but suddenly the Lady Wolverines are in win-now mode after losses to Clear Falls and Dickinson dropped the locals out of the top four in the league.  
 With a game coming Jan. 19 against Clear Creek after press time, the Lady Wolverines stood at 3-4 as Clear Springs and Dickinson are at the top of the standings with Creek and Clear Falls not far behind as each game gets bigger and bigger.



Dobie's Gerard Joseph (31) rises for a shot while being defended by Pasadena's Kevin Juarez (10) during the Eagles' 58-56 victory Jan. 12, a decision that has catapulted Pasadena into first place in District 22-6A, with Dobie at 3-2 heading into Jan. 19 play. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

**24-6A All-District Football Selections**

- Most Valuable Player**  
*Kaleb Hymes, Clear Springs*  
**Offensive Player of the Year**  
*Luke Sampson, Clear Springs*  
**Defensive Player of the Year**  
*Zaelyn Smith, Clear Springs*  
**Newcomer of the Year**  
*Rocky Ketchum, Clear Creek*

**First Team Offense**

- QB** – Luke Sampson, Clear Springs  
**QB** – Marlon Allen, Dickinson  
**RB** – Ky Woods, Clear Springs  
**RB** – Quinn Bowen, Clear Falls  
**RB** – Ausara Allah, Dickinson  
**FB** – Jathan Caldwell, Dickinson  
**WR** – Jeremiah Ballard, Dobie, Sr.  
**WR** – Jonathan Jean, Dobie, Sr.  
**WR** – Noah Thomas, Clear Springs  
**WR** – Kaleb Hymes, Clear Springs  
**WR** – Jarell Simpson, Dickinson  
**WR** – Jaysen Price, Clear Springs  
**WR** – Luke Vidal, Clear Falls  
**TE** – Donovan Green, Dickinson  
**OL** – Branson Winter, Clear Springs  
**OL** – Jacob Wilson, Clear Springs  
**OL** – P.J. Williams, Dickinson  
**OL** – Canon Boone, Dickinson  
**OL** – Micah Barnett, Dickinson  
**OL** – Holden Jones, Clear Creek  
**OL** – Michael Hosler, Clear Falls

**First Team Defense**

- DL** – A.J. Mares, Clear Creek  
**DL** – Jaelyn Smith, Clear Springs  
**DL** – Evan Page, Clear Falls  
**DL** – Mallory Tate, Dickinson  
**DE** – Jake Farree, Clear Springs  
**DE** – Christian Cardenas, Clear Springs  
**DE** – Keith Cooper, Dickinson  
**ILB** – Cameron Reffells, Clear Springs  
**ILB** – Tyree Woods, Dickinson  
**OLB** – Troy Brown, Clear Springs  
**OLB** – Kevin Biggers, Clear Springs  
**OLB** – Daqari Tuckson, Clear Creek  
**Safety** – Errion Brow, Clear Springs  
**Safety** – Michael McBride, Clear Springs  
**Safety** – Kyron Smith, Dickinson  
**CB** – Elliott Brow, Clear Springs  
**CB** – Richard Woodley, Clear Springs  
**CB** – Julian Humphrey, Clear Lake  
**K** – Xander Fraga, Clear Springs  
**P** – Dylan Foster, Clear Springs  
**Returner** – Jaysen Price, Clear Brook

**Second Team Offense - Brook**

- OL** – Quinten Effinger  
**QB** – Cam McCalister

**Second Team Defense - Brook**

- DT** – Isaiah Hunt  
**DE** – Kam'rin DeVault  
**CB** – Colby McCalister  
**Safety** – Daevian Willis

**Cortez leads way with 8 JFD soccer out to quick start; goal-scoring is a shared effort**

**Continued from Page 5**  
 feel like we could have maybe dropped a goal and perhaps fallen to the Woodlands, I also feel like we let it slip away against Cy-Lakes.  
 "We were playing without a couple of our key guys, but that's not going to be an excuse that any of us can use this season."  
 Manrique says the Longhorns have not yet played a match at full strength roster-wise whether it be health or otherwise.  
 Dobie, he says, will not have everyone available at a Jan. 22 nondistrict matchup with Atascocita, and he's unsure beyond that.  
 It is important to remember that these are high school athletes and their privacy should be protected, but the Dobie boys' soccer program is surely not alone in needing to be both proactive and cautious about the coronavirus issue that has gripped the world. Dobie has also had injuries, and then there are yellow and red card concerns as well. Every time he turns around, Manrique said, it's one thing or another.  
 "I really like the makeup of our team and believe that we can be special on the field, but it's also a situation where we have to take it one day at a time and see who is out there for practices and then for games.  
 "Everybody is dealing with the same thing, but that's why it's so difficult to plan ahead."  
 Coming off a dominating run at the Pasadena ISD Cup that included a 20-0 edge in goals-scored and a 4-0 record, the Longhorns were looking to keep up their momentum in Humble.  
 In the Jan. 14 opener against The Woodlands, Sergio Tenchon scored the Longhorns' goal on an assist by Jahir Arias in the 1-1 tie.  
 A day later, Dobie blanked Aldine Nimitz as Isaac Cortez had pair of goals and Arias and Jordi Garcia also scored.  
 Levani Pelaez, Tenchon and Nathaniel Delgado had assists in the shutout win, with JFD goalkeeper Eris Acosta earning the victory.  
 Against Cy-Lakes, Dobie's goal came from Tenchon on an assist from Cortez as the Longhorns closed out with the loss.

**Dobie graduate Giron nets career high at Lyons College**



Jade Giron is off to a terrific start as she begins her senior season with the women's basketball program at Lyon College, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics program in Batesville, Ark. The Dobie graduate had a career-high 33 points on 12 of 18 shooting as she helped the Fighting Scots to a 68-52 victory over host Hannibal-LaGrange in the American Midwest Conference opener for both teams Jan. 7. Giron, a four-year varsity starter at Dobie, made 4 of 6 three-point tries and added nine rebounds, six assists and four steals as part of her big night. Lyon College began the 2021 season ranked 23rd nationally with Giron, the 2019-2020 AMC Newcomer of the Year, set to lead the way. At press time, Lyon College was 4-0 on the season, with Giron averaging 18 points and just over nine rebounds per game. As a junior, Giron averaged 11 points and nearly five rebounds per game. A four-year varsity starter at Dobie, Giron was part of back-to-back District 22-6A championship teams. Photo courtesy of Lyon College Athletics

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# SUPPORT LEADER ADVERTISERS

# CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

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

7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or visit https://nastuff.com/

Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are online. Join the 7 p.m. Friday or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service and visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org/calendar and click on calendar link. For details, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html.

8 p.m. Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

9:30 a.m. Congregation Shaar Hashalom - All services are online. Join the 7 p.m. Friday or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service and visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org/calendar and click on calendar link. For details, visit https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html.

8 p.m. AA - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

10 a.m. Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details or visit http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.

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

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

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

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

7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. 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.bayarea turningpoint.org for information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

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

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

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

7:30 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.

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

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

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

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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 Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21**  
7 a.m. AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit https://aahouston.org/meetings/.

7:30 a.m. Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Details are on Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under calendar.

9:30 a.m. NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse - Second Thursday, 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.

11:30 a.m. ABWA - Southeast Express Network - American Business Women's Association at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd, Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women and guest speakers. Women of all ages/occupations invited. Bring business cards. For details, visit www.seen-abwa.org. Reservations appreciated.

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

7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 or visit https://nastuff.com/.

11:30 a.m. Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center  
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# Taking a look back at the most unusual year of 2020

Continued from Page 1

On Aug. 31, Harris County Precinct 2 deputies responded to a call in the 11500 block of Sageperry, where a drive-by shooting had taken place. According to deputies, multiple rounds had been fired into the residence, but no injuries were reported. No immediate arrests were made.

Two people were shot Friday, Aug. 28, in a road incident on Fuqua near the Gulf Freeway — one of

whom was an 8-year-old boy.

According to police, the incident began when a family was pulling out of the Taco Bell in the 11100 block of Fuqua and almost struck another vehicle that was reportedly driving with its lights off. After the two cars almost collided, the drivers had a verbal altercation, before speeding to the east on Fuqua. As the family approached North Featherwood Drive, the driver of

the second vehicle opened fire, striking two of the passengers.

A woman sitting in the passenger seat was shot in the shoulder, while the child was shot in the shoulder and thumb. The two were transported to the hospital and were expected to be OK.

**Sept. 10**  
An alleged robber was fatally shot around 10 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, at an apartment complex in the 10100 block of Windmill Lake Boulevard. The male shooter, 21, also suffered a gunshot wound and was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. According to police, the victim had just parked his vehicle when the suspect approached him with a pistol and demanded his keys. While still holding him at gunpoint, the suspect allowed the victim to remove some personal items from the vehicle. At this time, the victim was able to retrieve his own gun, and fearing for his life, turned it toward the suspect.

Both individuals exchanged gunfire and each was struck at least once. The victim was able to run away and call 911. Paramedics responded to the scene and

transported him to the hospital. Officers found the suspect a short distance from the robbery scene, where he was pronounced dead. No charges were immediately filed.

**Sept. 17**  
Pasadena ISD was one of only two school districts in the state of Texas to be recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work. Only 24 school districts throughout the country and Canada were selected for this prestigious honor.

Frank Braden, former Dobie principal, died Sept. 14 at the age of 86. Braden served as principal of Dobie from 1979 to 1986, at which time he was promoted to the position of Pasadena ISD assistant superintendent. In addition to serving as principal at Dobie, Braden also served as principal at Thompson Intermediate

from 1972 until 1974. Previous to that, Braden served as assistant principal at Beverly Hills Intermediate. Braden graduated with his Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University in 1959 and received his ME from the University of Houston in 1963. In 1959, he began his career in PISD as a teacher and a counselor at San Jacinto Intermediate.

In 1964 he was transferred to Beverly Hills and then served as assistant prin-

incipal at Pasadena High from 1969 until 1972, when he became Thompson's principal. Braden also served as PISD director of transportation from 1974 until coming to Dobie in 1979. Braden served as Dobie's second principal, replacing Allen Sory, who served as Dobie's first principal.

**Sept. 24**  
Gov. Greg Abbott on Sept. 17 held a press conference outlining new regulations related to the state's

efforts to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During the event, the governor issued executive orders expanding occupancy levels for restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums and libraries and reauthorizing elective surgeries for a majority of the state of Texas. The governor also announced new guidance related to visitations at nursing homes and long-term care facilities across the state.

Tropical Storm Beta hit the South Belt area hard, causing extensive flooding in the community. The storm made landfall Monday, Sept. 21, over the Matagorda Bay Peninsula, before being downgraded to a tropical depression the following day. Despite Beta

having sustained winds of 40 mph, it was the storm's slow speed and pockets of heavy rain that had the most impact locally.

While the storm produced rains in the area for roughly 48 hours, by far the most precipitation was received on Monday, with some parts of the South Belt community reporting as much as 12 inches of rain. Street flooding, however, continued well into Wednesday in some parts of the community.

**Oct. 1**  
A 21-year-old son fatally shot someone assaulting his parents early Friday, Sept. 25, in a parking lot near the Gulf Freeway at Fuqua. According to police, the incident began when a man got into an altercation with a couple inside a bar at the above address. The couple

then left the establishment and were waiting for their son outside at his car when the suspect pulled up in his vehicle. The suspect, reportedly in his 30s, exited his car, approached the couple and began assaulting them. The son witnessed the assault and, fearing for their lives, discharged his personal firearm, striking the suspect.

The gunshot also struck the female, who was fighting off the assailant, after he had reportedly knocked her husband unconscious. The suspect was transported to Clear Lake Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The woman was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. The male shooter was not injured. No charges were immediately filed.

Continued next week

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## Elections begin...

**Continued from Page 1**  
cations by visiting the Pasadena ISD Administration Building, 1515 Cherrybrook Lane, Accountability and Compliance Election Office, Room F-6, Pasadena, TX 77502. Office hours are weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., except on the deadline date, in which the office will remain open until 5 p.m.

## BHI honor rolls for second nine-weeks

**Continued from Page 3**  
Christina Rodriguez and Audrey Volper.

**Eighth grade**  
Diego Aguilera, Abigail Miranda Alvarez, Jadelynn Elizabeth Alvarez, Kael Arredondo, Daniel Banda, Sofia Lauren Banda and Neveah Jamie Ben-Smith.

Mia Leonor Campos, Mikeria Nichole Carraway, Aiden Nathan Carrillo, Thomas Armando Castelan, Victor Manuel Chapa, Kobi Armani Conaway and Avangelina Ilana Cosse.

Eduardo Cuevas, Khaden Lebronne Davis, Anthony Thien Dinh, Eduardo Dominguez, Samuel Itzhak Errasti, Sarah Bethany Espinal, Bethany Alessandra Espinoza and Emir Jonathan Espinoza.

Garcia, Aldemy Joselin Garza, Alexandra Michelle Gomez, Freddie Gonzales and Valerie Gloria Gonzales.

Jacqueline Gonzalez, Javier Angel Gonzalez, Ke'myra Evone Green, Emaly Gutierrez, Kianna Nicole Harris and Ashley Hernandez.

Juan Armando Hinojosa Vasquez, Ruben Elijah Hinojosa, Halaina Renee' Hobbs, Shalaci Renee Hollis, Heaven Noel Jackson, Zoey Angelman and Melanie Carolina Jaramillo Zamora.

Christopher Sanders Jones, Abigail Elaine Koplin, Alexander Adelaido Lara, Christopher Eduardo Lopez, Fernando Lopez, Mia Jaqueline Lozano and Bobby Maldonado.

Brissa Nohely Marroquin, Katlyn Micaela Martinez, Leyla Mirayahmartinez, Joy Emanuella Menahem, Daniela Paola Mendoza,

Eric Mendoza and Miguel Alejandro Mercedes.

Isabella Grace Monita, Diego Montelongo, Danilo Alexander Moran, Jeshua Louis Moreno, Gisele Yliana Morgan, Shazia Sofia Mustapha and Aiden Cy Narcisse.

Charles Edward Nash, Rileigh Ngoc Nguyen To, Elaine Minh-Khanh Nguyen, Elvis Hoang Nguyen, Kristi Ngoc Nguyen, Linda Doan Nguyen, Thuy Ngoc Bich Nguyen and Diego Omar Nunez.

Sophi Laren Ontiveros, Angelina Castillo Paquinto, Diana Linda Pena, Jashara Danae Pendleton, Jacqueline Hailey Peralta, Michelle Pham and Khanh Kaitlyn Kieu Phan.

Isabelle Pichardo, Ileen Gisell Preza, Tahllon Aubree Provost, Gabriella Alana Ramirez, Tariq De Anthony Riley, Marcelo Ivan Rios and Alianna Salena Rodri-

## Ditch work starts

**Continued from Page 1**  
split between the county and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The county's portion of the funding was approved by voters in 2018, as part of a \$2.5 billion bond package.

The Beamer Ditch project, also referred to as the C-03 or Mud Gully Project, is just one of many bond projects related to the 2018 bond referendum that are connected to the local Clear Creek watershed.

At least four projects are directly tied to the watershed, and more than \$40 million has been allocated toward the endeavors. Federal funding accounts for approximately \$7.4 million toward local endeavors.

For additional information on the Mud Gully Project, visit [www.hcfd.org/Find-Your-Watershed/Clear-Creek/C-03-Mud-Gully-Beamer-Ditch](http://www.hcfd.org/Find-Your-Watershed/Clear-Creek/C-03-Mud-Gully-Beamer-Ditch).

**Eighth-grade connect**  
Giselle Ayala, Kahlna Chahayed, Brenden Foxx, Nia Jackson, Erron Jones, Bruce Nguyen, Xavier Sanchez and Austin Silva.



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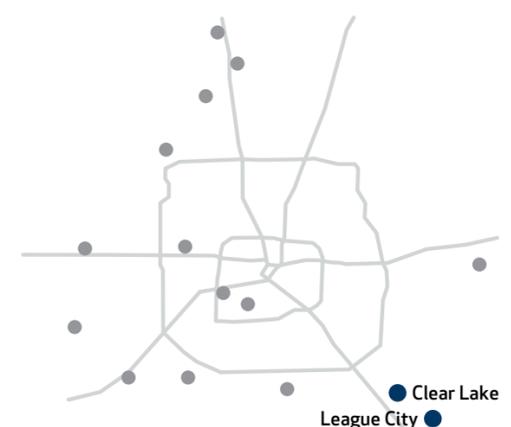
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