



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

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Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### Old Galveston closure set

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on Old Galveston Road will be closed from Richey Road to FM 518 daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding Sundays) through Saturday, Oct. 31.

### The Rose holds shrimp boil

The Rose will hold its annual shrimp boil Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1 to 6 p.m. at its Southeast location, 12700 N. Featherwood Dr. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will be a drive-thru function. The goal is to raise \$50,000 to ensure all women have access to early detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. Meals are \$25 each. Attendees will also be able to purchase display signs celebrating survivors and participate in an online auction. Other activities include a car-decorating contest and an opportunity to purchase "ghost" tables and additional meals. Supporters can purchase additional tables and meals to help The Rose pay it forward by delivering meals to local frontline responders in appreciation for their efforts during the pandemic. For more information, visit therose.org.

### COVID numbers decrease

At press time Wednesday, Sept. 30, a total of 44 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials. That number is up three from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials. The COVID chart is not in this week's issue.

Of the 1,847 confirmed cases in 77089, 281 remain active, while 1,548 have recovered from the virus. To date, 18 from the ZIP code have died from the disease — up two from last week.

In 77075, 354 of the 1,390 confirmed cases remain active, while 1,021 have recovered. A total of 15 from the ZIP code have died — up one from last week. Of the 1,521 confirmed cases in 77034, 376 remain active, while 1,134 have recovered from the disease. To date, 11 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week.

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

Countywide, there are 142,315 confirmed cases. Of those, 122,635 have recovered from the disease, while 17,836 cases remain active. A total of 1,840 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

### Beltway closures planned

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

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

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from San Augustine to Red Bluff continuously through 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4.

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Kirby daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, Oct. 5.

At least one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed at Kirby nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Monday, Oct. 5.

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 lane of the northbound and southbound Gulf Freeway frontage roads will be closed from Scarsdale to Park Place nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, Oct. 3.

The northbound exit ramp on the Gulf Freeway at NASA Bypass/ NASA Road 1 will be closed continuously through 5 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least one lane of the northbound and southbound entrance ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 and exit ramp from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

Two alternate lanes on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96/League City Parkway daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The northbound connector ramp from the Gulf Freeway to the IH 610 South Loop, along with one inside lane, will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least two alternate main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The northbound and southbound entrance ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street and the northbound and southbound exit ramp from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Thursday, Dec. 31.

The closures are associated with 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.

### 2 churches bless pets Oct. 3

Two area churches will be blessing pets Saturday, Oct. 3, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi who is regarded as the patron of animals. The first will be at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road. The event will be held at 11 a.m. in the Rosary Garden for a blessing over animals and pets. Attendees will remain in their cars. If people leave their car for any reason, their pet must be in a carrier or on a leash. Masks and social distancing procedures are required while outside the vehicle. The second event will be at 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 11456 Space Center Blvd., near the former Cullen's restaurant. For information, call 281-479-7285.

## Court votes 3-2 on controversial toll road issue

Harris County Commissioners Court recently voted to create a local government corporation to manage the county's toll road system.

The move, approved 3-2 along party lines, aims to take advantage of historically low interest rates, while simultaneously freeing up funds previously tied to only transportation projects, allowing revenue to be used in other county departments.

According to statistics from the Harris County

Toll Road Authority, the proposal will save the county approximately \$60 million by refinancing the system's roughly \$2.7 billion debt at lower rates through the corporation.

Democratic proponents of the proposal said the extra funds could be used to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and flood control issues. Republican opponents pointed to the \$2.5 billion bond measure that already passed in 2018 to help with area flood projects and stressed the

need for further study on the issue.

The measure will neither increase tolls nor privatize the tollway system, as discussed in previous Commissioners Court meetings, officials said.

County Judge Lina Hidalgo supports the proposal, saying the county should "maximize every dollar."

Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle, a 1979 Dobie graduate, was one of the dissenting Re-

publican voices, suggesting that such a major decision should not be rushed.

"Because of the size of this transaction, I know that we have legal counsel and I know that we have financial advisors, but when someone goes into surgery, often times, they get a second opinion," Cagle said.

Cagle further argued that the proposal deserved proper input from the community, read-

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### 'Lake Southbend' aids drainage



The site of the future South Belt Stormwater Detention Basin was filled to its peak with rainfall during Tropical Storm Beta. While construction of the pond is not yet complete, the 100-acre basin, located near Beamer and Dixie Farm Road on the property that once housed the Southbend subdivision, still prevented millions of gallons of water from entering local roadways and homes. When the project is complete, the South Belt basin will hold more than 407 million gallons, or 1,250 acre-feet, of storm water. Photo by Kevin Dalley

### Property appraisers to visit area homes

The Harris County Appraisal District is about to begin the 2021 property valuation process by sending residential appraisers to visit neighborhoods and homes starting Oct. 1.

HCAD will have between 50 – 100 appraisers in hundreds of neighborhoods daily verifying property characteristics, changes in the neighborhood condition and other data. This information is used in the appraisal of property as of Jan. 1 of each year.

Residential appraisers will initially focus their efforts on new construction and priority field reviews.

"Correct data is essential to developing accurate estimates of value," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser. "Field inspections by our appraisers are a very important part of this process."

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

– Appraisers will never ask to enter the house

or for the property owner to accompany them to the backyard.

– Appraisers will knock on the front door to alert the resident they are on the property, identify themselves as an HCAD appraiser, and ask permission to measure the home and any other structures on the property.

– If access is denied, the appraiser will leave the property and estimate the size and characteristics from the street. If the property owner is not home, the appraiser will measure the sections of the structures that are accessible without entering a gate.

– Appraisers may appear at property owners' doors as early as 7:45 a.m., but not later than 5:15 p.m.

– Appraisers wear a blue jacket or vest with the HCAD emblem on the front and HCAD Appraiser on the back and carry an identification badge with his or her picture, name and unique appraiser number.

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### Son shoots man attacking his parents

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 had been filed at press time. The case is an ongoing investigation.

### City courts extend jury trial resets

The City of Houston Municipal Courts Department is extending the court reset period for cases scheduled during the suspension period for all jury trials in conjunction with the Texas Supreme Court's order.

In an effort to comply with social distancing requirements, the department will allow citizens additional time to get their cases reset. If one's case was scheduled from June 1, 2020, through Nov. 30, 2020, resets will be given in person only at the Herbert W. Gee Courthouse located at 1400 Lubbock on the following Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Oct. 3; Oct. 10; Oct. 17; Oct. 24; and Oct. 31.

Following Mayor Sylvester Turner's and CDC guidelines to protect the public and MCD staff from the spread of COVID-19, members of the public will be required to wear face masks/facial coverings and have their temperature taken. If the temperature is over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, the individual will not be allowed to enter the Municipal Courthouse.

Members of the public should contact a health care provider and not come to court if they are experiencing symptoms similar to COVID-19. Once cleared by a physician, individuals may come to 1400 Lubbock to speak with an annex judge to reset a case.

### Outdoor grill cause of house fires

Houston firefighters responded to a house fire around 9:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, in the 12100 block of Dumas.

According to officials, firefighters arrived on scene within seven minutes to find fire coming from the rear of a one-story home. The blaze had also spread to the side of a nearby house.

Crews were able to knock down the fire before it could get inside and in the attic of the neighboring house. A primary search was conducted on the house fire of origin and the fire was extinguished.

The garage and patio suffered the most damage. According to the owner, after an outdoor grill was used, a fire was discovered and he believed the grease from the food had started the fire.

Crews performed salvage and overhaul and made sure the smoke had dissipated. The fire caused approximately \$50,000 in damage. Firefighters saved an estimated \$110,000 worth of property.

The incident was determined to be accidental. Firefighters from Stations 71, 52, 94, 70, 61 and 29 responded to this incident.

### Roberts loses extracurricular argument

The Pasadena ISD board of trustees recently voted to allow students who opted to learn virtually this semester to participate in extracurricular UIL activities.

The state had left the controversial decision up to local school districts and parents. All other Region IV schools in the area are also expected to allow the practice.

In Pasadena ISD, the measure was passed 6-1, with board member Fred Roberts, being the lone dissenting voice.

Roberts, who brought the motion up for a vote, feels the decision sends mixed signals to students.

"I feel like if they're healthy enough to play football or play in the band, they're healthy enough to go to school," Roberts said.

While Roberts is not a staunch opponent of the district's distance-learning program, he feels it's best for students to return to campus for face-to-face instruction.

"My feeling is that it's best for students to be in the classroom," Roberts said. "Some students will do fine with virtual, but virtual learning is not the best way to get an education. When foot-

ball is over, what about your SAT scores? What about your education? The most important thing when you graduate is your education."

At the beginning of this semester, only around 35 percent of Pasadena ISD students felt safe enough to return to brick-and-mortar learning, opting to learn from home instead.

Roberts feels that it's safe for students to return to class, if proper safety measures are in place.

"My job is to educate kids and in a very safe manner," Roberts said. "I believe those children are safe in a classroom, especially if they're wearing masks and social distancing. Our schools are extremely safe. They're doing everything they can to protect the children. Our administrators and teachers are doing the best job they can."

The UIL has established its own regulations aimed at combating the spread of COVID-19, including the wearing of masks, practicing social distancing and undergoing health screenings. For additional information on the organization's guidelines, visit [www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19/2020-2021-uil-covid-19-risk-mitigation-guidelines](http://www.uiltexas.org/policy/covid-19/2020-2021-uil-covid-19-risk-mitigation-guidelines).

### COVID numbers inconsistent

While the latest COVID-19 statistics, as reported each week by the *Leader*, may appear to fluctuate significantly from week to week, the figures are the latest available to the newspaper at press time through Harris County officials.

The Houston Health Department, which works jointly with the county in updating the latest COVID-19 stats each day, has acknowledged a lag in reporting, particularly in the number of deaths and recovered.

Should a resident die outside of a hospital or not be diagnosed with COVID-19, it may take the medical examiner's office several weeks to determine the cause of death. Additionally, if deaths take place in hospitals outside the county, this can also add to delays.

Local officials have also attributed lags in reporting cases to an outdated computer system used by the state's health department, which is incapable of tracking the 60,000 or more tests reported on some days.

### Time runs out for voter registration

Time is running out for South Belters to register to vote in the upcoming Nov. 3 election. Residents have until Monday, Oct. 5, to have their registrations turned in or postmarked. To change one's name or address, a completed and signed application is also required.

To register in Texas, one must: be a citizen of the United States; be a resident of the county in which the application for registration is made; be at least 18 years old by Nov. 3; not be a current felon; and have not been declared mentally incompetent by a court of law.

Voter registration forms may be obtained online at [www.hctax.net/Voter/Registration](http://www.hctax.net/Voter/Registration) or by calling 713-274-VOTE (8683). Forms may also

be picked up in person at the Harris County Tax Office, located at 1001 Preston in downtown, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The completed forms are to be mailed to Ann Harris Bennett, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar, P.O. Box 3527, Houston, TX 77253-3527. Forms may also be returned to the downtown tax office.

Residents may also register to vote online when they renew their driver's licenses.

All absentee ballots are to be requested by Oct. 23 and returned postmarked by Nov. 3.

Early voting will begin Oct. 13 and continue through Oct. 30. For additional information, visit [www.hctax.net/voter/registration](http://www.hctax.net/voter/registration).

### Colorguard to perform at homecoming



The J.F. Dobie Band Colorguard will perform at the homecoming football game on Oct. 30. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Luci Davis, first social; Kessie Keller, Master Sgt.; Eleezabeth Torres, social president; Kendra Hopkins, second social; (back row) Chris Cantu, 3rd Sgt.; Remi Jackson, 1st Sgt.; Destiny Wilson, Lt.; Sarah Oba, Lt.; and Trinity Tucker, 2nd Sgt.

# Deaths

## Frank Braden Jr.



Frank Braden Jr. was born April 21, 1934, in San Antonio. He died Sept. 14, 2020. He was raised in Bandera, Texas, where he lived until permanently moving to Pasadena, Texas in 1959, and resided for more than 62 years. Frank, having lost his father at the age of 10, helped his mother manage their small dairy farm and home, which required him to grow up rather quickly. Despite the heavy responsibilities, Frank had a wonderful childhood and built a special relationship with his younger brother, Richard, who was under the age of one at the time of their father's death. In addition to his mother, Hattie, neighborhood friends, school teachers,

Sunday School teachers, and the men in the Bandera community helped shape his life. Frank was a cowboy. He loved riding horses spending many summers working as a wrangler at several of Bandera's dude ranches and later overseeing the corral and camp activities at Camp La Junta in Hunt, Texas. Frank evented team-roped calves in local rodeos; he was the "heeler." Frank received a community scholarship from the people of Bandera for his athletic abilities and other talents including success in track and field, playing on the football and baseball teams, serving as editor-in-chief of the Bulldog (his high school annual), singing at special events and representing Bandera High School at Boys' State in Austin, Texas. This scholarship made it possible for Frank to attend Texas A&M. He was in the Class of '56 and participated in the Corps of Cadets. As an interlude to his studies at A&M, Frank served two years in the U.S. Army. Following his service to his country, he returned to Texas A&M and completed his bachelor's degree in education. After graduation, Frank moved to Pasadena, Texas, to begin his long-standing career with the Pasadena Independent School District. At the time of

his retirement in 1992, Frank had served a total of 34 years. Having earned his master's degree from the University of Houston, as well as his Principal's Certification, he quickly advanced from his position of Texas history teacher at San Jacinto Junior High School to administration. Frank served at three intermediate schools (opened Thompson Intermediate), three different high schools (served as principal at J. Frank Dobie High School), served as director of transportation and wrapped up his tenure as assistant superintendent of secondary schools and area superintendent. Later, Frank was called out of retirement to serve a semester as interim principal at Sam Rayburn High School and served 10 years on PISD's board of trustees, twice as its president. Upon his arrival to Pasadena in 1959, Frank met Pat Walbrick, a new teacher from Wichita Falls, Texas, and the love of his life, at the Suzanne Apartments where Pasadena ISD encouraged its single teachers to reside. Many of their dates involved cookouts prior to attending high school football games. It was at Camp La Junta one summer evening when Frank, the cowboy from Bandera, asked the city girl, Pat, for her

hand in marriage. Throughout their long and happy life together, the two were inseparable. They played in neighborhood bridge groups, were members of PARSE (Pasadena Area Retired School Employees) serving in many leadership roles including president and chairman of the Tilman B. White Scholarship Committee, volunteered weekly for elementary school HOSTS programs with their latest service at Golden Acres Elementary and annually worked at PISD's McDonald's Invitational Basketball Tournament. It was the rarest of occasions to see one without the other. Frank and Pat enjoyed spending time at their house on Lake Conroe. Frank enjoyed mowing the yard and simply sitting out on the deck watching for all kinds of wildlife while enjoying the outdoors. Frank and Pat hosted family holiday get-togethers always welcoming family to spend as much time at the lake as they wished. The two enjoyed many wonderful years of marriage, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary Aug. 6, 2020. Frank and Pat have two daughters, Jean and Lisa. All four family members have enjoyed lengthy careers with Pasadena ISD. In addition to a long-standing career with PISD, Frank and Pat have attended South Main Baptist Church of Pasadena for more than 60 years. Over the years, they developed many special relationships with members of the church. The two taught Sunday school at South Main for 57 years. Frank was a deacon and served as chairman of that group two separate terms. Frank's life was one of service and loyalty. He faithfully served his Lord, living a life of integrity and high moral character imparting encouragement and joy to all he encountered. He was a faithful and loyal husband and the best "daddy" to his girls. He especially loved being "Pa" to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In addition to his loyalty to God and family, PISD and South Main, Frank was loyal to his country and his beloved "Fightin' Texas Aggies!" He positively impacted many lives over the years, especially the lives of children, through his daily example and with his smile. Frank is survived by his wife; his daughters Jean Cain and husband Dan and Lisa Davis and husband Scott; grandchildren Austin Lyles, Claire Forrer and husband Will, Braden Cain and wife Hanna, and Luke Lyles; as well as great-grandchildren Kynlee and Graham Forrer. Frank is also survived by his brother Richard Braden and wife Polly as well as several cousins and in-laws. Frank was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Hattie Braden-Brown. Services were held Saturday, Sept. 19, at South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena. A private graveside service was held at Grand View Cemetery on Spencer Highway.

She was born May 22, 1972, in Cerrito Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. She loved to cook and be a homemaker. She enjoyed caring for her children and husband. She was a dedicated mother first and foremost. She treasured her children and embraced every moment with them. She had a vivacious personality and always made people laugh. She enjoyed her life until she became limited due to her diabetes. She was a master cook and believed in over cooking. She loved when her husband joined her in the kitchen as well. She is survived by her husband, Ramiro Gonzalez, and children Sergio R. Espinoza, Cesar E. Gonzalez and Yajarra C. Gonzalez. No services will be held at this time. A GoFundMe account has been set up for the family and can be found at <https://gf.me/uy2cny>.

brother Dub Crofford; her loving husband of 55 years; and multiple family dogs (Love, Peanut and Barak). She is survived by her sister Linda Fennell; her husband Billy and their sons Ronnie, Kenneth and Wade; Dub's wife Betty Crofford and their children Jenny, Ted, Larry, Jonathan and Sally; daughters Sheryl Hoke and Lisa Creech; grandchildren Lindsey Follis, William Hoke and Mallorie Hoke; and four great-grandchildren who always brought smiles to their Mamaw. No services will be held at this time. A Celebration of Life ceremony will be scheduled in the near future. Stories about Wanda intended to provide comfort during this difficult time may be shared for the Durham family on the funeral home website at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/>.

ta Rodriguez, William Tucker Sr., Jackie Tucker and Rosie Herrera; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Michael was a student of J. Frank Dobie High School. Like most kids his age, Michael loved roaming the halls and socializing with friends. Upon asking him about his favorite class, Michael's family members are assured he would have named "lunch." Michael was an avid lover of Houston sports, especially the Texans, who he enjoyed watching and following. He was also a sneakerhead, with an impressive collection of Air Jordan sneakers. Michael loved video games, and was always willing to take on any challengers who dared step up to him. Michael was a joker, and loved hanging out with his friends and making everyone laugh and enjoy themselves. Michael loved the color blue, the color of the sky and sea. The color blue is associated with depth and stability. It symbolizes trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, faith and truth, a very fitting color choice for a young man who exhibited all of these qualities. Finally, Michael was a generous, loving and giving soul. Michael was always willing to help anyone in need. He was the type of man who would give the shirt off his back to someone who needed it more than himself. He had a sweet and gentle spirit, and was extremely compassionate. This was evident in his love for his precious dog, Onix. Michael will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him and loved him. He was

the kind of young man that anyone would be proud to call son, grandson and friend. May God receive his soul into his loving arms, where he will reside with the Lord in heaven for eternity. The family relates to Michael's passing quoting the Biblical scripture from the book of John: 11:25, "Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.' ... The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live." A visitation will be held at Peevey Funeral Home (formerly Niday), located at 12440 Beamer Road, on Thursday, Oct. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. The funeral service will be held at Peevey Funeral Home. Interment will follow at South Park Cemetery.

But as soon as I reported it, the crew came out and took care of it. How much nicer that corner looks now! Thank you, guys! Marie Flickinger, Leader publisher

## Local library events set

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

### Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint, has phone service Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 7 p.m., at 832-393-2580 for information. Visit the website at [https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items\\_per\\_page=200#events](https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events) or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events>.

### Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation

Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation administration 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 is focusing on providing electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for any resident of Texas with a temporary library card. To get a library card, visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), on the Home Page and find the heading Here's What's Happening. Under that heading, there will be three cards. The middle one is Free Resources for All. Click on the card which will go to the page that lists the digital resources available and a link to obtain a temporary card. Also, under the heading Here's What's Happening, look for the first card on the left, click on "Online Resources for Kids." One program listed is Virtual Storytime. This is provided every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes can be found on Facebook by searching Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

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

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

HPL appreciates book donations, but is not accepting them at this time. The library staff requests donations do not get placed outside library buildings, or at the book drops. Visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) to find virtual programs and digital resources including e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming music and videos, online learning, online tutoring and much more. For more information visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) to find out how to chat with a librarian 24/7, or how to send questions through HPL's email reference.

### Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., is closed to the public. Visit the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for updates.

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

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
  - Have a library card number and PIN handy.
  - A pickup time and instructions will be given.
  - Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
  - Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.
- Curbside hours are: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 p.m. - 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 your account to renew loans or request books.
  - e-Books, comics or graphic novels through OverDrive.
  - 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>.

### Parker Williams schedule of events this week

Oct 1 - Oct. 25, Virtual Costume Parade: Email Halloween costume photos Oct. 1 - 25 for the Virtual Costume Parade video Oct. 31. Email photo to [PW@HCPL.NET](mailto:PW@HCPL.NET) with first and last names with "Costume Parade" in the subject line. The photo parade will be Oct. 31. The online photo release must be filled out. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxpfgalh> for the photo release form.

All month long in October. Virtual Photo Club. Join the photo club with this month's photo challenge "Spirit of Halloween," with a new costume, a pumpkin carving or putting up decorations. Participants are encouraged to go close in with their photo shots and post them online with the tag #HCPLphotoclub for a chance to be featured on the social media accounts: Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

All month long in October. Virtual Poetry Club. Residents may send poetry to be featured on its social media accounts. Send an email to [PW@HCPL.NET](mailto:PW@HCPL.NET) with "Virtual Poetry Club" in the subject line. These posts will be featured on social media on Saturdays.

All month long in October. Book Club: "Gods of Jade and Shadow," by Kim Michele Richardson. Join the Parker Williams Book Club and read a different fiction book monthly. Contact the branch to reserve a copy. Meetings are the last Thursday at 2 p.m. over Microsoft Teams. Contact Tanner Adams at [tanner.adams@hcpl.net](mailto:tanner.adams@hcpl.net) for more information and an invite.

Thursday, Oct. 1, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) for family fun. Parents are encouraged to participate to facilitate interaction. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.

Friday, Oct. 2, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez who tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Residents will be needing pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Tuesday, Oct. 6, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 4:45 p.m. Yoga Story Time, ages 4 - 12. A peaceful time for children to learn mindfulness through story, song, breathing and light movement virtually on Microsoft Teams with Celeste Plew. Parents are encouraged to participate. All children and families are welcome to join virtually. Sign up once with a valid email address at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for a weekly invitation.

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 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. Call 832-927-7870 for additional information.

## Wanda Joyce Durham



Wanda Joyce Durham, 84, whose family says she was the most loving wife, best mother, giving grandmother and sweetest great-grandmother died Sept. 18 in Houston. She was born May 12, 1936, to William and Melba Crofford in Corpus Christi, and grew up with older brother Dub and younger sister Linda. She graduated from the University of Texas, Austin, with a Bachelor of Arts and then obtained a Master of Science from University of Houston. She did not waste any time before she married the love of her life and best friend, Billy Jack (BJ) Durham March 26, 1960.

They lived in Houston and bought their first house in 1965 in Sagemont and never moved to another home. Wanda was an excellent elementary school teacher at Garden Villas for Houston Independent School District and was proud that her students and parents always gave her praise. After an early retirement in 1995, she worked with BJ at Aramark selling souvenirs at the Astrodome for all the events and continued working Astros game when they moved to Minute Maid Park. She enjoyed shopping and had every color of clothing that one can imagine with matching shoes and always decorated the house for all holidays during the year. She played tennis until it was too much for her knees, but her most joy came from playing bridge with all her great bridge friends. She was an amazingly smart card player and expected to always win and was disappointed when she did not finish at the top. She watched all sports, but her favorite was tennis unless she was watching Alex Bregman play for the Astros. Since both Wanda and BJ were school teachers, the family traveled every summer. Their favorite destinations were a Galveston beach house, Las Vegas and one trip they were crazy enough to pack up the station wagon and travel across America for the entire summer. Wanda was preceded in death by both her parents; her

brother Dub Crofford; her loving husband of 55 years; and multiple family dogs (Love, Peanut and Barak). She is survived by her sister Linda Fennell; her husband Billy and their sons Ronnie, Kenneth and Wade; Dub's wife Betty Crofford and their children Jenny, Ted, Larry, Jonathan and Sally; daughters Sheryl Hoke and Lisa Creech; grandchildren Lindsey Follis, William Hoke and Mallorie Hoke; and four great-grandchildren who always brought smiles to their Mamaw. No services will be held at this time. A Celebration of Life ceremony will be scheduled in the near future. Stories about Wanda intended to provide comfort during this difficult time may be shared for the Durham family on the funeral home website at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/>.



Patricia Jean Bourgeois, 86 of Houston, died Sept. 23, 2020. She was born Jan. 23, 1934, in Port Arthur, to Sidney and Alice Dumatrait. Patricia was married to her husband James K. Bourgeois for 45 years until his passing in 1998.

A faithful member of her church, St. Frances Cabrini, Pat provided many meals for church functions. Pat was active in the Women's Club and the Frey Garden Club. She enjoyed traveling with her husband Jimmy and being active with her children and grandchildren.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her brother Alvin Joseph Dumatrait; and her sister Juanita Burtleigh.

Pat is survived by her brother and wife, Sidney and Carol Dumatrait; daughter Debbie Tooke; son and wife Gary and Mary Bourgeois; daughter and husband, Sharon and Kriss Dial; and son and wife, David and Nikki Bourgeois. She will be greatly missed by her 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

## Michael Ray Tucker Jr.



Michael Ray Tucker Jr. was born May 1, 2000, in Pasadena, Texas, to Aimee Herrera and Michael Tucker Sr. His family members believe he walked into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, upon his passing Sept. 27, 2020, at the age of 20.

Michael is survived by his mother Aimee Herrera and stepfather Ed Herrera; his father Michael Tucker Sr.; brothers Christopher Tucker and Joel Herrera; sisters Ava Rose Herrera, Harley Tucker and Alexis Bennett; grandparents Reyes Rodriguez, Juan-

## Rita Espinoza



Rita Espinoza, a loving wife and caring mother died Sept. 14, 2020.

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca  
A member of People of Sagemont 2 Facebook group posted a video of a person trying to steal the Chase ATM on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 5:30 a.m., near Beltway 8 and Sabo Road. Other members commented and one reported that the truck used in the video was the truck that was stolen from her parents during the night.

A member of The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert Facebook group posted at 7:50 p.m., on Sept. 26, that on Sageriver close to Hughes Road, there was a person that ran across part of the roof. The member stated that the police were looking for a black male suspect wearing a red shirt. There was a police helicopter flying overhead, searching backyards.

Another member of the same Facebook group shared a post of the fatal shooting of an assault suspect that occurred at 12810 Gulf Freeway

(southbound) Friday, Sept. 25, about 1:50 a.m. The identity of the suspect, 39, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. The male shooter was not injured. HPD Homicide Division Sgt. K. Daignault and Det. M. Perez reported that a male and his wife were involved in an altercation with the suspect inside a bar at the above address. The couple left the bar and were waiting for a third family member by his car when the suspect pulled up in his car. The suspect exited his vehicle, approached the couple and began assaulting them. The third family member witnessed the assault and, fearing for their lives, discharged his firearm striking the suspect and the woman. The suspect was transported to Clear Lake Regional Hospital, where the suspect was pronounced deceased. The woman was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. See story on Page 1.

## Publisher's Opinion

### Thanks to Harris County road crew

A special "thank you" to the Harris County Precinct 1 road crew for fixing the torn-up esplanade at Blackhawk and Kirkville. I apologize it took me so long to report it. But as soon as I reported it, the crew came out and took care of it. How much nicer that corner looks now! Thank you, guys! Marie Flickinger, Leader publisher

## Toll road center of controversy

Continued from Page 1  
Letters from multiple civic groups and chambers of commerce that expressed concern over the matter. "I think that all of them (the local concerns) could be addressed if we engaged in a process very similar to what we did when we had the \$2.5 billion bond," Cagle said of the letters. "We go out and get

some input from the community instead of making a mad rush to engage in such a large transaction, we could better serve our constituents." Fellow Republican, Precinct 3 Commissioner Steve Radack, took a more aggressive approach, accusing the Democrats on the court of siphoning funds from the toll-way system, which collected more than \$900 million this past year, to use for pet projects. "This is a money grab," Radack said. "They're going to use it to pay for things that are normally paid for via taxes." The five Commissioners Court members will serve as board members of the new corporation until replacements have been appointed.

## Property appraisers to visit homes

Continued from Page 1  
- Appraisers work from their own personal vehicle that has a magnetic sign attached identifying the appraiser as a Harris County Appraisal District employee. - Appraisers are required to enter changes in property characteristics directly into a field device before leaving

the property, and most do so while sitting in their vehicle. Their vehicle is essentially their mobile office. "While this project happens every year at this time, most people were not aware of it because they were away at work. We are notifying residents this year because more people are working from their homes," Alinger said.

To verify that the individual working in one's neighborhood is an HCAD appraiser, contact the HCAD office at 713-812-5800.

More information about appraisal can be found at [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org) under Appraisal > Residential Property > HCAD Residential Field Appraisal Facts.

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# Church Directory

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Fr. Jhon Gallo-Florez, Parochial Vicar  
11011 Hall Rd.  
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukescatholic.com](http://www.stlukescatholic.com)

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

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	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

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**WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES**

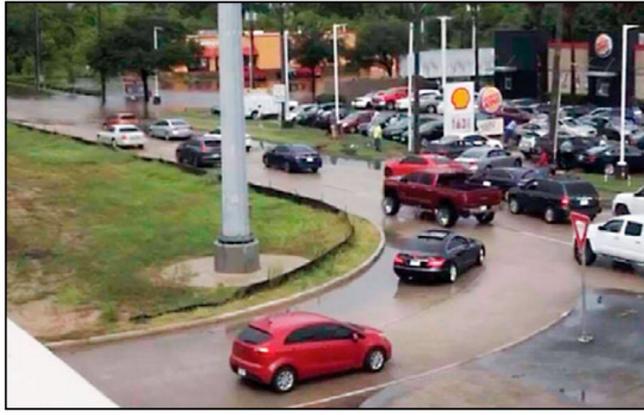
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Sunday School • 8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
Worship Service • 9:00 a.m.	Mid-Week Service • 7:45 p.m.

Nursery Available at all Services

# Tropical Storm Beta drenches South Belt

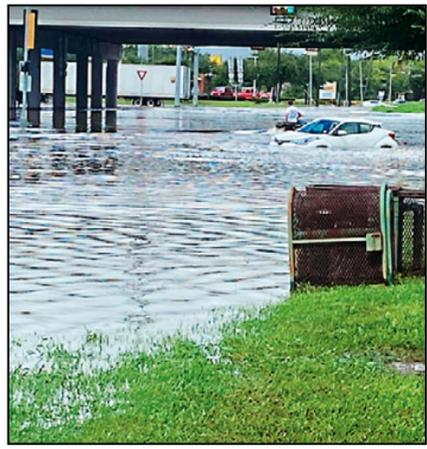


Taking a break for a photo op is Pablo Covarrubias who braved the weather to help drivers in the area. Covarrubias transported stranded motorists to dry ground after their cars were stalled and abandoned due to rising water from Tropical Storm Beta.



Vehicles are shown trying to avoid high water at Beltway 8 and Telephone Road. The vehicles parked in the nearby gas station found refuge from the floodwaters.

Shown to the right is a vehicle left in floodwaters on the Pearland Parkway/Beltway 8 intersection. An unidentified person can also be seen driving an ATV in the water.  
Photo by Tiffany Durandetto



Above, an unidentified person walks in the rain and floodwaters on Almeda Genoa Road.  
Photo by Tiffany Durandetto



Drivers above were photographed driving through high water on Sept. 22 on Sageglen Drive and Burlwood.  
Photo by Emilio De Los Santos



As roads were closed due to high water vehicles maneuvered through traffic to stay dry. The photo above shows Telephone Road near Beltway 8.  
Photo by Danny L.O. Martinez



Floodwaters are shown above at the Shell gas station on the corner of Telephone Road and Beltway 8.  
Photo by Felipe Bessouat Dominguez



The parking lot of Burlington and Target on Pearland Parkway and Beltway 8 quickly filled with water as the rain drenched the area during the storm Tuesday, Sept. 22.  
Photo by Felipe Bessouat Dominguez

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At the corner of Beamer and Hall Road the ditch was almost at capacity at 6 a.m. when the photo was taken Tuesday, Sept. 22.  
Photo by Danny L.O. Martinez



Felipe Dominguez was in the area of Pearland Parkway offering assistance to stranded drivers with his flatbed truck.  
Photo by Felipe Bessouat Dominguez



Above, vehicles are shown trying to navigate through floodwaters on Fuqua.  
Photo by Felipe Bessouat Dominguez



Floodwaters were seen on Sageglen Drive and Olive-wood Drive after the area received heavy rains from Tropical Storm Beta.  
Photo from Facebook page People of Sagemon



Drivers are shown attempting to drive through floodwaters brought by Tropical Storm Beta on Fuqua Street.  
Photo by Pablo Covarrubias

## WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The KIRK MOUNT MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 21, 2020 @ 6:30 PM. The Telephone conference call phone number is 1-800-504-4496 and the access code is 2871136. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

**FOR** the proposal: MICHAEL J. GRAZZAFFI, LONNIE L. PIQUIET,  
JEAN ANN WILLIAMS, DEBORAH CARROLL AND GORDON BEVILL, JR.

**AGAINST** the proposal: None  
**PRESENT** and not voting: None  
**ABSENT:** None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.56/\$100	\$0.53724/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ -0.02276/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-4.06428%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 149,902	\$ 161,718
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 149,902	\$ 161,718
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 839.45	\$ 868.81
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$ + 29.36
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+ 3.49752%

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

# Frazier welcomes back students



Shown above are students in Melba Donatto's kindergarten class preparing to start the day of face-to-face learning. Left to right are (front row) Adrian Puente, Nashla Pache, Ashley Aguilar, (middle row) Xavier Mesta, Santiago Saldiver, (back row) Donatto, Zlatan Puente and Edgar Ruiz.



Above, first-grader Sofia Contreras from Fernanda Jaraizo's class sanitizes her hands as she walks into the building.



Shown above, third-grade teacher Cathy Silas demonstrates the dual job of teaching students virtually as well as face-to-face simultaneously. In the classroom are students Presley Shelton (left) and Conner Ball. Bending over talking to Ball at the front of the room is Kristina Ponce, Frazier assistant principal. The students working from home are shown on the screen.

## Meador thankful for basket



Meador Elementary principal Beverly Bolton (right) and Tara Merida, counselor, would like to thank their community partner Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union for the sweet back-to-school gift basket of treats.



On the right is first-grader Jayden Rivera shown walking into the building assisted by Wendy Wiseburn, Frazier principal.

Pictured to the left are Alexa Torres (left) and Sadie West, both first-graders in Charity Boone's class. The pair were happy to be back in school with their friends.

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## Remember When

**40 years ago (1980)**  
 A TV guide which included local cablevision offerings became a regular feature of the *South Belt Leader*. Cablevision was already available in more than 500 South Belt area homes and was expected to be in operation throughout the South Belt area by the end of the year.

**35 years ago (1985)**  
 The Pasadena Independent School District opened a school information line operating 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

U.S. Postal officials denied rumors that zone 89 would be changed from the Genoa Station to the newly constructed Albert Thomas Station in Clear Lake.

Some 50 Woodmeadow homeowners were cashing long-awaited checks as a result of an out-of-court settlement of what had been coined by attorneys as the "flood case." The owners had been seeking compensation for flood damages caused in 1979 after they were told the subdivision lay outside the 100-year flood plain.

Despite coaching changes, graduation losses, a supposed lack of skilled experienced players and stronger competition from league foes, Dobie's varsity football team began the second half of its 1985 campaign as the only District 23-5A squad with an unblemished record in five starts.

**30 years ago (1990)**  
 Three adult male suspects allegedly smashed glass doors at Dobie High School causing \$20,000 in damage. According to Jerry Speer, Dobie principal, the suspects used hammers and other objects to cause the damage to the school.

Dobie High School Future Farmers of America won two grand championships along with top honors at the recent-

ly held Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo. John Rascoe's students won 38 out of 92 auction spots, more than any other high school entered in the show.

**25 years ago (1995)**  
 Cydrice Carter was chosen Dobie High School's homecoming queen, and Elin Washington was crowned king.

A program for dislocated workers, sponsored by SER, Jobs for Progress, opened across the street from San Jacinto College South. The free program was to help laid-off workers get back to work.

The issue of rebuilding or relocating Pasadena High School was discussed prior to the school bond election.

Skipper Cullison of South Belt had the opportunity to present flowers to her fourth-grade pen pal, Elizabeth Ociecka of Methuen, Mass. The two finally met when Cullison, who grew up in Matador, Mass., traveled to Boston with the square dance group.

**20 years ago (2000)**  
 Ann Morgan, 17, was crowned homecoming queen for Clear Brook High School.

Bondy Intermediate principal and former Beverly Hills principal Tommy Bacaro was honored as Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Outstanding Middle School Principal of the Year for Region 4 and PISD.

A broken 12-inch waterline caused chaos for many South Belt travelers as well as Dobie students and their parents.

Kevin Douglas Rue, 25, died during surgery after threatening police with kitchen steak knives. Rue was shot once in the neck and once in the abdomen by police.

**15 years ago (2005)**  
 Longtime community leader and volunteer Emory Gadd was named the PISD 2005 Distinguished Citizen.

A Harris County grand jury was convened for two cases regarding the death of Ruth Young, who died after being run over by a PISD school bus. The first case was expected to charge Michael Cook, 41, the driver of the bus, with negligent homicide. The second case would concern the changing of Cook's official employment records.

Sagemeadow resident Gilbert Reyna, 57, died after an accident on the hike and bike trail south of Blackhawk. Reyna was riding a bicycle and collided with a jogger. He asked that 911 be called, then passed out. He was life-flighted to Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital where he later died. According to officials, he was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

PISD trustees were in the process of selecting a candidate to replace retiring superintendent Dr. Rick Schneider. Trustees narrowed the search to two PISD deputy superintendents, Dr. Vickie Thomas and Kirk Lewis, who was pursuing his doctorate. Lewis was eventually named superintendent in April 2006.

San Jacinto College received a \$3 million federal development grant.

**10 years ago (2010)**  
 President Obama signed legislation that authorized \$58.4 billion in funding for NASA over the following three fiscal years. The move came roughly one week after Congress passed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (S. 3729) and was welcomed by employees of the Johnson Space Center, as it would provide funding for an additional manned space flight, threatening development of a new heavy-lift rocket for deep-space exploration. Obama's initial budget proposal had called for the phasing out of manned space flight, threatening 7,000 local jobs.

The 2010 Dobie High School homecoming king and queen were named at the game against Pasadena High School. Noe Rodriguez was crowned king, while Demmi Garcia was crowned queen. The Longhorns easily defeated the Eagles 50-3.

The FBI Bank Robbery Task Force asked for the public's assistance in identifying a suspect who robbed the Wells Fargo Bank located at 10225 Alameda Genoa. According to FBI officials, the man entered the bank and stood in line. When he was called up to the teller station, he presented a note which announced he was robbing the bank. The suspect then told the teller he had a gun and would hurt her. The teller proceeded to provide the robber with an undisclosed amount of cash. He was last seen walking from the bank. No one was physically hurt during the robbery. No immediate arrests were made.

**5 years ago (2015)**  
 South Houston High School unveiled its Hall of History. Spearheaded by Pasadena Independent School District alumni coordinator and 1970 South

Houston graduate Al Carter, the building has 800 square feet of floor space located on campus that preserves the school's history, from its opening in 1957 through 2010. The hall is designed in a timeline format that allows visitors to view it in chronological order. A banner across the top of the museum shows historical and cultural milestones, as they correspond with local events and school activities. More than 500 items are on display, most of which were donated by alumni. Display items include class rings, sports memorabilia, letter jackets, cheer outfits and an assortment of classic eight-track tapes, 45-rpm records and concert tickets. The museum also features three computer research stations, where visitors can further research the school's history in a digital format. A complete set of Palladium yearbooks of student newspapers are also available to view and scan. The project cost roughly \$35,000 to transform a former workroom into the new facility. More than 240 former students donated to the cause, with 1965 graduate Bob Allen being the primary donor. A star athlete, Allen was the first All-State football player from the area school. Following graduation, Allen was offered 16 scholarships, ultimately choosing to play at Texas Tech University, where he would make All-American. Allen went on to play professionally for the Philadelphia Eagles before opening several successful businesses, primarily in the concrete industry.

**1 year ago (2019)**  
 The Pasadena ISD board of trustees was recognized as the Region 4 Outstanding School Board of the Year and as a top-five school board in the state of Texas. Board members include Jack Bailey, vice president; Marshall Kendrick, board president; Kenny Fernandez, secretary; Vickie Morgan, assistant secretary; Mariselle Quijano, board member; Nelda Sullivan, board member; and Fred Roberts, board member.

Javier Martinez and Charize Tamayo were crowned Dobie High School's 2019 Homecoming King and Queen, respectively.

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## Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LAURA**  
 Birthday wishes are sent to former *Leader* staff member **Laura Benavides Scallan** Oct. 1 from the *Leader* staff.

**STACEY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY!**  
**Stacey (Hayes) Flowers** celebrates a birthday Tuesday, Oct. 6. Wishes for a wonderful day are sent from husband **Stephen**, daughters **Kennedy** and **Evie** and son **Owen**; parents and former longtime South Belt residents **Jannie** and **Robert Scarberry**; sister **Jenny (Hayes)** and husband **Josh Laney** and children **Brayden**, **Baylee** and **Olivia**; brother **Joey Hayes**; brother **Austin Scarberry**, his wife **Tiffany** and daughters **Jade** and **Lily**; and brother **Tyler Scarberry**. **Stacey** and her siblings are all Dobie High School graduates.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
 The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Oct. 1 through Oct. 7, 2020.

**Burnett Elementary**  
 Blow out the birthday candles for **Van Caroselli** and **Generra Guillory** Oct. 2.

**Bush Elementary**  
**Stephanie Tellez** celebrates a birthday Oct. 7.

**Frazier Elementary**  
 Break out the balloons and party favors Oct. 2 for **Liz Taylor**. Send a special birthday greeting Oct. 3 to **Chris Baldauf**.

**Genoa Elementary**  
 Give a birthday shoutout Oct. 1 to **Lisa Grissinger**. Join in the birthday celebration for **Imelda Barragan** Oct. 7.

**Meador Elementary**  
 Send warm wishes for a special birthday to **Nora Gonzalez** Oct. 4. The day for a cake for **Shirley Hawley** is Oct. 5.

**Moore Elementary**  
 The day for a birthday cake for **Lourdes Guenard** is Oct. 4. Join in the birthday fun for **Christina Le-Tran** Oct. 6.

**South Belt Elementary**  
 Light the candles for a birthday celebration for **Kristin Pryor** Oct. 4.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
 Send a special birthday greeting to **Jennifer Dowell** Oct. 2. The day for a birthday celebration for **Scarlett Walker** is Oct. 5.

**Melillo Middle School**  
 On Oct. 1, blow out the birthday candles for **Kellie Bishop** and **Heather Kaboutari**. **Shannon Martinez** is sent a birthday greeting Oct. 2. Light the candles Oct. 4 on a cake for **Tyler Oakes**. Break out the balloons and party favors Oct. 6 for **Buffy Davila**.

**Roberts Middle School**  
 Send special birthday wishes Oct. 5 to **Erin McBride**. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Christine "Dawn" Pellerin** on Oct. 7.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
 Light the birthday candles Oct. 7 for **Brian Thompson**.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
 Send a humorous birthday card Oct. 1 to **Karissa Guerrero**. **Cathy Broussard** enjoys a birthday Oct. 2. Give a shoutout Oct. 3 to **Mikel (Jacob) Arnold**.

**Dobie High**  
 Blow out the candles on a birthday cake Oct. 1 for **Miguel Torres**. Happy birthday wishes are sent Oct. 2 to **Rayanne Sinski** and **Charlotte Williams**. Oct. 7 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for **Justo Manrique**.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
 The *Leader* sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email mynews@southbeltleader.com with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, Oct. 1: **Amy Malone, Jeffrey Restrepo, Wendy Sattiewhite, Linda Garies, Cindy Que, Cyndee Davila, Dena Roessler, Yvonne Mintz and Rebekka Barker**; Friday Oct. 2: **Racquel Rojas, Tomeka Anderson, Diana Holbrook, Paula Smith and Lori Pytka**; Saturday, Oct. 3: **Amanda Gonzales, Thomas Chapa, Roberto Trevino and Yvonne Moorer**; Sunday, Oct. 4: **Malcomb Chambers, Audry Williamson and Michelle Almaguer-Saenz**; Monday, Oct. 5: **Deborah Helm, Nicole Nalepa, and Robin McDaniel**; Tuesday, Oct. 6: **Jennifer Garcia, Stacey Flowers, Theresa Theroux, Rick Wright and Marta Nelson**; and Wednesday, Oct. 7: **Jeanette Allen, Paul Grizzle and Marcus Lerma**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
 Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Baldwins, Dobie open with big win over Jersey Village

Dobie's opening-night 39-28 victory over Jersey Village won't find its way into an art gallery for its overall beauty and mastery, but in the world of high school football it was a quality win over a worthy foe, getting the Longhorns off to a 1-0 start Sept. 25 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena.

For Dobie, the stars were front and center in this one as the offense racked up 540 total yards, led by quarterback Cameron Gray's 275 yards through the air as he completed 11 of 17 for a pair of touchdowns.

Gray, last season's Newcomer of the Year in District 22-6A, also led the Longhorns with 83 yards rushing on 14 carries as he accounted for nearly 360 yards of offense.

Senior wide receiver Jeremiah Ballard didn't score, but that's about the only thing Jersey Village kept him from doing as the big-play threat had four grabs for 100 yards.

The way the Longhorns won is bound to have opposing District 22-6A coaches searching Hudl and the like for game tape.

In addition to Gray, Ballard and others, the Longhorns also debuted senior Jonathan Baldwin on offense, and what a first impression he made.

Kevin Beneathy's words well contribute offensively that Baldwin could very **Continued on Page 6**



Dobie's Johnathan Baldwin (10) scampers toward the end zone after breaking away from a Jersey Village defender as part of a 70-yard scoring reception from quarterback Cameron Gray. Baldwin had three scores in the game as the Longhorns opened the season with a 39-28 victory over Jersey Village Sept. 25 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Photo by David Flickinger

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## Volleyballers shift to district play

The Dobie and Clear Brook varsity volleyball teams entered district play Sept. 29 with a little less momentum than they had hoped.

Dobie's 25-20, 25-19, 25-20 loss Sept. 26 at home against Barbers Hill gave the Lady Longhorns a 2-4 mark heading into its 22-6A league opener at Channelview.

Clear Brook, battling perhaps the most challenging nondistrict schedule around the region, entered 24-6A action at Clear Lake at 0-5 after losses to perennial playoff teams Pearland, Kingwood, Friendswood, Summer Creek and Deer Park.

Clear Brook, which lost perhaps its best overall senior class ever after winning the District 24-6A championship a season ago, captured just one set in the five nondistrict losses.

## Campa goes 3 for 3; Singleton, Olivares continue to run well

Host La Porte did its share of bragging after claiming the team championships in both the varsity boys' and girls' divisions, but Dobie's Alberto Campa again dominated as he led his contingent at the Bulldog Cross-Country Invitational in La Porte.

Campa, who will take aim at Region III championships later this month with an eye on a return to the state championships, cruised to his third straight win this season, covering the 5K course at 16 minutes, 10 seconds.

Dobie's Jocelyn Olivares kept pace in her breakthrough season, finishing fifth overall at 20:24. Grace Castaneda's time of 21:38 was 13th best, and 15th place went to the Lady Longhorns' Kyla Lobo at 21:55.

Dobie's Ashley Garcia was 24th in a time of 23:17, and Abby Duron was 32nd at 23:53. Isela Munoz's time of 24:12 placed her 36th.

### Wolverines provide win in coach Towels' debut

Sophomore Adrian Castillo ran for a score and also reeled in a touchdown pass as Clear Brook built a big lead and then held off host Texas City Sept. 25 at Stingaree Stadium.

It went down as a successful debut for first-year Wolverines' head coach John Towels III, who arrived in Friendswood in February after back-to-back 6A Division I state title games with Duncanville as that program's defensive coordinator.

The sophomore Castillo had 12 carries for 52 yards and also caught a 42-yard scoring pass from quarterback Cameron McCalister as the Wolverines built a 27-7 lead and then substituted freely in the late stages.

The Wolverines' Trent Lacy opened the scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Castillo added a 2-yard touchdown run of his own in the second quarter, and the Wolverines' Zach Foster also ran for a 1-yard score.

McCalister, the team's second-year starter at quarterback, completed 14 of 25 throws for 196 yards and an interception to go with his scoring pass to Castillo.

Despite a fumble deep in Stingaree territory in the second quarter that allowed Texas City to stay within 13-7, the turning point came just after halftime as the Brook defense forced a 3-and-out fresh out of halftime and then got the 42-yard scoring play from McCalister to Castillo to open up a 20-7 edge.

The Wolverines' final scoring drive ended with Foster's 1-yard score, but McCalister went 6 for 9 on the 15-play, 80-yard drive to help secure a big lead.

Jarren Harbin, a big presence in the Wolverines' run game a season ago, this time had four catches for 67 yards. While standout Texas City running back Samaj McCall had 119 yards rushing and a touchdown, the Stings went scoreless on four separate drives inside Brook's 30-yard line as the defense stepped up when needed.

Clear Brook stays on the road Oct. 2, taking on former Class 4A rival Friendswood at Henry Winston Stadium in Friendswood.

The Mustangs will enter the game at 0-1 after a 49-21 loss to Summer Creek in Humble. Friendswood led 21-13 as star quarterback Luke Grden was 22 of 31 for 265 yards through the air with three scores but then exited with an injury.

From there, Summer Creek scored the game's final 36 points.

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# Dobie football gets offensive; program wins 2020 opener

**Continued from Page 5** in 2020, listed Baldwin as an athlete while choosing the third-year senior as the 22-6A preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

Baldwin's one-yard run into the end zone gave the Longhorns a 7-0 lead at the 7:18 mark of the first quarter.

Dobie's new-look defensive front then forced a punt with a big stop on a third-and-one play as the Falcons punted.

From there, Dobie junior quarterback Gray hooked up with Jonathan Jean, who spun away from a defender and earned a 52-yard gain.

That big play set up Hernandez's 42-yard field goal

as the Longhorns increased their lead to 10-0 with 3:04 left in the first quarter.

Baldwin burned the Falcons again midway through the second quarter as he reeled in a deep shot from Gray at the Jersey Village 30, fought free of a defender and scampered in for a brilliant 70-yards score that put the Longhorns in front 17-0.

Jersey Village quarterback Arbie Carter got the Falcons on the scoreboard with a nifty 60-yard scoring run of his own with 3:33 left, but the locals extended to a 24-7 lead as Turner broke free for 17 yards and a score with 1:51 left in the half.

The teams traded scores

in the third quarter as Jalen Baldwin added his 18-yard run, his first varsity-level touchdown, to the board.

But Jersey Village saw Carter's lofted pass to Mike Evans go for 14 yards and a score on the first play of the fourth quarter, and the Falcons then recovered the onsidest kick.

Xavier Joyce's 16-yard touchdown run with 9:37 left then got the Falcons too close for Dobie's comfort.

But the Longhorns largely played ball control from there, moving the chains and keeping the clock running.

Baldwin's late score then secured the win and sent alarm bells through the 22-6A ranks.



With teammate Jeremiah Ballard (81) celebrating behind the play, Dobie's Jonathan Jean (13) heads upfield as part of a 52-yard catch-and-run from quarterback Cameron Gray in the first quarter against Jersey Village Sept. 25 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. Jean's big play helped set up Joshua Hernandez's 42-yard field goal.

## Dobie team tennis hits stretch run as 22-6A title push comes in focus

Regardless of the outcome of his team's key District 22-6A matchup against Deer Park Sept. 29 after press time, Dobie team tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. was convinced that his group was ready to finish strong.

It's impossible to know what district newcomer Channelview would have brought to the party after the Falcons' program elected to forgo the season amid coronavirus concerns.

All along, Moreno felt his Longhorns would have to defeat 22-6A frontrunner and also Memorial to win the crown, and that's still the case.

Dobie entered its matchup with Deer Park at 3-5 overall after recent close losses to Clear Springs (10-9) and Cin-

co Ranch (13-6), but the Longhorns were 2-0 in league play.

"Really, I have felt along that it's a three-team race with us, Deer Park and Memorial," Moreno said.

"I'd have to say Deer Park is probably the team to beat, but anything can happen. We have to this point beaten the teams we were supposed to beat and then lost to some of the teams that we really had a chance to beat."

As is always the case, Dobie relies on building leads against opponents during the early portions of matches and then looks to fill in with enough singles victories.

Dobie swept the boys' doubles against Clear Springs to get off to a lead but then dropped some

close singles matches.

The same pattern played out in a loss to Cinco Ranch, but Moreno feels good moving forward.

"When we got going a month ago, the kids were not hitting the tennis ball well," Moreno said.

"Now, there's a big difference. You can see and hear the ball being struck well. The kids are really coming along well, and I expect them to finish strong."

Dobie advanced to the area playoff round in 2019 and could very well make another strong push.

Right now, the team is focused on finishing 22-6A play strong, thus building more confidence as the matches get bigger. Taking the matches one at a time is key.

# BAFL's Sagemont Cowboys dominate opening weekend

The Sagemont Cowboys provided one of the big stories as part of the Bay Area Football League's opening weekend, defeating host Santa Fe in four of five games to get out of the gate quickly during the abbreviated eight-game schedule.

At right, senior division receiver Jordan Hernandez (88) warms up during pregame activities as his group went on to defeat the Indians 56-0. In week two, the Cowboys are set to host the Pearland Texans at Dobie High School. To this point, the Cowboys' home field at El Franco Lee Park remains closed to team activities due to coronavirus concerns.



Senior division player Nolen Thomas was excited as his Sagemont Cowboys went on to defeat the Santa Fe Indians 56-0 to cap a brilliant sweep on opening weekend Sept. 26 in Santa Fe.

## Bay Area Football League Week 1 Results

Divisions	Sr.	Jr.	Soph.	Fr.	PW
<b>Cowboys</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Santa Fe</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Dolphins</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Galveston</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>

**BAFL Week 2 Sat., Oct. 3**  
**Cowboys host Pearland Texans, Dobie High School**  
**Dolphins at Pasadena Panthers**

South Belt football predictions	Troy Leland	John Bechtle	Eli Tanksley	Toni Muse	Emory Gadd	Debbie Vaughn
Dobie at Bellaire	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie	Dobie
Friendswood hosts Clear Brook	Friendswood	Clear Brook	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood	Friendswood
Dickinson hosts Ridge Point	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
Deer Park hosts Clear Creek	Deer Park	Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Deer Park	Deer Park	Deer Park
Katy Tompkins hosts Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Tompkins	Clear Springs	Clear Springs	Tompkins	Tompkins
Pearland hosts Houston Memorial	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland	Pearland
Clear Lake hosts La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	La Porte	Clear Lake	La Porte	La Porte
Texas City hosts Galveston Ball	Texas City	Galveston Ball	Texas City	Galveston Ball	Texas City	Texas City
Clear Falls hosts Pasadena Memorial	Memorial	Falls	Memorial	Memorial	Memorial	Memorial
South Houston hosts Goose Creek Memorial	South Houston	GCM	GCM	GCM	South Houston	South Houston
This week's record	6-3	5-4	6-3	6-3	5-4	5-4
Season record	6-3	5-4	6-3	6-3	5-4	5-4

# CALENDAR

**Due to the current public health situation, it is advisable to verify if face-to-face meetings are being held prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, visit the website https://aahouston.org/meetings; for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings, visit www.hascona.com; for Al-Anon meetings, visit www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html.**

**NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club** – Although the bridge club is closed at this time, visit <https://aclblunit174.org/clearlak/clean-blue-working/clearlake.html> for information about online games that can be played or email the director at [jpochsner@aol.com](mailto:jpochsner@aol.com) for more information.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1**  
7 a.m.

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill." Tuesday through Friday, 7 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/> for additional information.

7:30 a.m.

**Rotary Club of Pearland** – Virtual meeting Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Additional information for the event is on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar.

Noon

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group meets at noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. For information, call 713-686-6300.

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call the church at 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**  
7 a.m.

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

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open

meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

7 p.m.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – All in-person events are canceled at this time. Services will be performed online. Join the Friday night service at 7 p.m. or the Saturday service at 9:30 a.m. at <https://zoom.us> with the Meeting ID 917 102 8979 and the Passcode 18csh1818. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-friday.html>. For the general website, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>.

8 p.m.

**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 p.m., when the church reopens. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For additional information, call 281-484-9243 or visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/meetings.html>.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3**  
7:30 a.m.

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

5:30 p.m.

**Celebrate Recovery** – A faith-based 12-Step program, in the student center at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**  
Noon

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

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Toastmasters** – The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has gone virtual at <https://youngprofessionals.toastmasters.com/>. To be a guest at the virtual meeting, select the "contact us" button on the toastmasters' home page to obtain access to the virtual meeting platform. For

more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. Education Bldg. in room 4, at 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801.

**Survivors of Suicide Support Group** – gives coping skills in a non-threatening environment to adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. For additional information, email LynneAnnH@yahoo.com or visit [www.crisishotline.org](http://www.crisishotline.org) or call 832-416-1177.

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**  
7 a.m.

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice for details.

Noon

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

6:30 p.m.

**Bay Area Quilt Guild** – Meetings may resume the first Tuesday when the church reopens at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship is at 6:30 p.m.; meeting/program begins at 7 p.m. Visit [www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild](http://www.Facebook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild) or call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 for additional information. Visitors may attend two meetings at no charge.

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7**  
7 a.m.

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice for details.

Noon

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

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

**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](http://www.bayarea.turningpoint.org) for information.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
7 a.m.

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice for details.

7:30 a.m.

**Rotary Club of Pearland** – Virtual meeting Thursday, 7:30 a.m., online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Details are on Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.

9:30 a.m.

**NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** – Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3 in Webster. The public is welcome and encouraged to bring others. For additional information, call 281-910-1971 or visit [aglownet.org](http://aglownet.org).

11:30 a.m.

**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** – American Business Women's Association-South will have a virtual meeting Thursday, July 9, All attendees must preregister. To RSVP for the meeting and to obtain additional information, visit the website at [www.seen-abwa.org](http://www.seen-abwa.org).

Noon

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See previous Thursday noon notice.

7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM-518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For additional information, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com).

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## Harris County clerk launches new e-Commerce website feature

Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins announced recently the launch of a new e-Commerce website feature that allows the public to purchase both certified and noncertified copies of various documents.

"We understand the unique challenges our community is facing during these unprecedented times, and we are committed to maintaining essential operations and services while following the guidance of public health officials," said Hollins.

"Our new e-Commerce website feature allows us to expand our online services so that our clients can access and purchase documents without having to leave their homes," Harris County Clerk records available online for purchase include: Animal Brands, Assumed Names, Campaign Finance Reports, Commissioner Court Bids, Condos, Conflicts of Interest, County Civil Court, Foreclosures, Marriage Licenses, Maps, Miscellaneous Personal Records, Probate Court, Public Notices and Real Property.

The Harris County Clerk's Office tested the new feature with a soft launch starting the week of Aug. 17. This allowed the office to obtain valuable feedback related to product usability, speed and latency, and correct any issues before releasing it to the general public.

"This is a great accomplishment for the Harris County Clerk's Office as we continue to increase and improve online and in-person services," added Hollins.

"Earlier this month, we expanded online appointment scheduling and reopened our annex offices to provide documents that can only be issued in person - marriage licenses, birth/death certificates and DBAs."

For questions related to web sales, contact the Harris County Information and Public Service Department at 713-274-6390 or email ccoif@fom@hccountyclerk.com.

For more information, visit <https://www.cclerk.hctx.net/> or follow @HarrisVotes on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## Scholarship program seeking Texas' top youth volunteers

In this time of disruption due to COVID-19, it's more important than ever to celebrate young people making a difference through volunteerism.

Through Nov. 10, Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) executives are calling on Texas youth volunteers to apply for scholarships and national recognition through The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Texas students in grades five-12 are invited to apply for 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards if they have made meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteering within the past 12 months - virtually or otherwise. The application is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

"More than 25 years ago, we founded The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards to honor young volunteers working to meet the needs of our changing world - a mission that feels especially timely today," said Charles Lowrey, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "As life evolves due to COVID-19, young Americans are continuing to address urgent issues facing their communities, and we celebrate their service in hopes that they'll inspire others to do the same."

"While this is one of the most unusual times in recent history for American students, we know that young volunteers have a long history of rising to the challenges of the moment," said JoAnn Bartoletti, executive director and CEO of NASSP.

"Today through Nov. 10, we call on parents, educators and local leaders to join us in celebrating the young volunteers who are innovating and adapting to serve their communities, and setting an important example for their peers in the process," said Bartoletti.

The top middle level and high school volunteer from each state and the District of Columbia will be named State Honorees in February. They will receive \$1,000 scholarships, engraved silver medallions and an invitation to the program's national recognition events in early May.

In May, the program will name America's top 10 youth volunteers of 2021. Those National Honorees will receive additional \$5,000 scholarships, gold medallions, crystal trophies for their nominating schools or organizations and \$5,000 Prudential grants for non-profit charitable organizations of their choice.

Local-level honorees in each state will receive awards ranging from bronze medallions to certificates. Qualifying local honorees also receive President's Volunteer Service Awards.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created in 1995 to recognize the exemplary volunteer work of middle level and high school students. Since then, awards have been granted to more than 140,000 middle and high school students across the country at the local, state and national level.

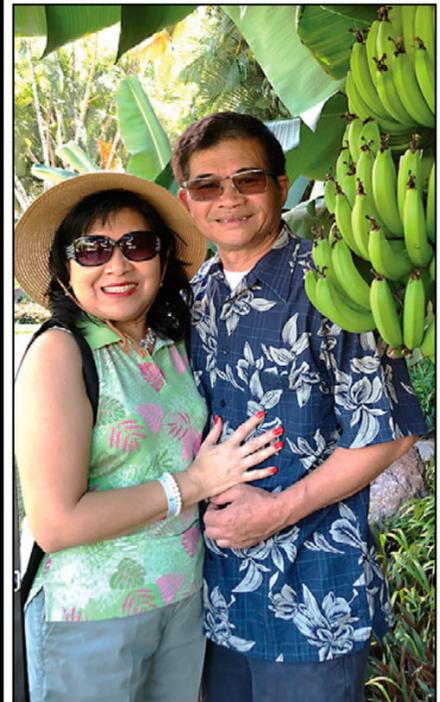
Spirit of Community programs are also conducted in Japan, Ireland, India, China and Brazil where Prudential has significant business operations.

For complete details on the 2021 program and stories of Texas' top youth volunteers from previous years, visit <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

## Tran couple vacation in Mexico!

South Belt area residents Marie and Long Tran went to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in March (before the COVID-19 pandemic) with three other couples. According to Marie, they spent most of their time on

the beach and the hotel pool. They visited a winery and an island for snorkeling. The couples also went downtown and ate street food and visited a Catholic cathedral.



Marie (left) and Long Tran pose next to a banana tree in front of their hotel.



Marie Tran on the bow of the boat as the couple traveled to a small island for lunch after a day of snorkeling.

## Bolen finalist for RONE award

Former *Leader* news editor Cheryl Bolen, the author of 44 books, is a finalist for the RONE Award for Best Regency Historical Novel of 2019. The winner will be announced at the magazine's conference Oct. 10.

Bolen's book, "Last Duke Standing," qualified for consideration by earning one of the top 21 InD'tale magazine reviews of 2019. Those 21 books were then voted upon by the magazine's readership, with seven finalists named. The overall winner will be selected by industry professionals.

"Last Duke Standing" was the third book in Bolen's "Lords of Eton" series of historical romances set in Regency England. The magazine's review cited the book as "a lovingly crafted historical novel with a deeply satisfying mystery."

The Fresh Fiction online site said the book was "an exquisitely written historical romantic suspense with very appealing characters."

Bolen has penned books in seven historical series: "The Brides of Bath" (seven books), "House of Haverstock" (five books), "Brazen Brides" (six books), "The Regent Mysteries" (four books), the "Deceived Series" (two books), "Lords of Eton" (four books) and "Pride and Prejudice Sequels" (three novellas).

In addition to her historicals, she's the author of five contemporary romantic suspense books and an award-winning World War II novel. Her books have appeared on the New York Times and USA Today bestseller lists, and she's also been an Amazon All Star author.

She's married to longtime San Jacinto College professor John Bolen (now retired). Their son James Bo, a Dobie and University of Houston graduate, has been a *Leader* reporter for 14 years, and their other son Johnny is a graduate of Dobie and the University of Texas and the University of Houston School of Law.



Cheryl Bolen

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## NOTICE OF TAX REVENUE INCREASE

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.169358 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.169358 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.178118 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for San Jacinto College District from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that San Jacinto College District may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that San Jacinto College District is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public meeting to vote on the proposed tax rate will be held on October 05, 2020 at 7:00 PM via video conference - <https://www.sanjac.edu/about-san-jac/board-trustees> - click "Watch Regularly Scheduled Meetings".

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, San Jacinto College District is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting Board of Directors of San Jacinto College District at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

**YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:**

$$\text{property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax rate as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	Erica Davis Rouse
Marie Flickinger	John Moon, Jr.
Dan Miuns	Dr. Ruede Wheeler
Keith Sinor	
Larry Wilson	
<b>AGAINST:</b>	None
<b>PRESENT and not voting:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto College District last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto College District this year:

	2019	2020	Change
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.178169	\$0.169358	decrease of -\$0.008811 OR -4.95%
Average homestead taxable value	\$119,492	\$129,366	increase of 8.26%
Tax on average homestead	\$213	\$219	increase of \$6 OR 2.90%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$106,486,390	\$110,551,109	increase of \$4,064,719 OR 3.82%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for San Jacinto College District at 713-274-8000 or [tax.office@hcf.net](mailto:tax.office@hcf.net), or visit [www.hcfax.net](http://www.hcfax.net) for more information.