

## A special thanks to all our Veterans!

45 years of covering South Belt  
Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

Vol. 46, No. 41

### St. Luke's honors veterans

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall, invites all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces to attend its annual Veterans Day Blessing Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. There will be a lunch for veterans and their families in the social hall after the ceremony sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

### Storage facility burglarized

There has been a rash of burglaries at the CubeSmart Self Storage, 10030 Blackhawk near El Franco Lee Park. According to investigators, there have been three burglaries in the last week and 19 total over the past year. Investigators said surveillance footage is of poor quality and of little use. Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the Precinct 2 Constable's office at 713-477-2766.

### Sagemont meeting reset

Due to efforts in restructuring of the Sagemont Maintenance Fund, the special meeting scheduled for Nov. 16 has been canceled. The annual meeting of members will be held the first Tuesday in March 2022. An election of committee/director(s) will be held at that time.

### Sageglen to meet Nov. 15

Sageglen Community Association will hold its next homeowner meeting Monday, Nov. 15, at the Sageglen Community Building, 11610 Sageglen, beginning at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### Kirkmont 3, 4 meeting set

Kirkmont 3 and 4 will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. in the Kirkmont MUD building parking lot, located at 10102 Blackhawk Blvd. All homeowners/residents of Kirkmont Sections 3 and 4 are encouraged to attend. The 2022 annual maintenance fees and deed restrictions will be discussed, and board members will be elected. Homeowners attending the annual meeting may be eligible for a discount on their 2022 maintenance fees. Call Alfredo Huerta at 832-283-4895 with any questions.

### Sagemeadow holds meeting

The Sagemeadow HOA, with support from the Sageglen, Clear Brook Meadows, Kirkwood South, Kirkwood, Sagemont and Rainbow Valley HOAs, invites all interested South Belt homeowners to a Harris County property tax workshop Thursday, Nov. 18, beginning at 7 p.m.

The workshop will be held during Sagemeadow's monthly association meeting at The Gardens - Houston, 12001 Beamer. Sagemeadow residents are encouraged to attend for updates. Copies of the agenda will be available at the door but may also be found online at [sagemeadow.org/calendar/monthly-hoa-meeting](http://sagemeadow.org/calendar/monthly-hoa-meeting).

The food truck, Hearsay On The Go, will provide food for purchase outside The Gardens from 6 to 9 p.m. There will not be a December meeting, but monthly meetings will resume in January.

### Ellington e-recycling set

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department's monthly electronic recycling event will take place Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Neighborhood Recycling Center at Ellington Airport from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment. Items accepted are PCs, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cellphones, PDAs, tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras.

The collection events take place the second Saturday of each month. For additional information, visit [www.houstonwaste.org](http://www.houstonwaste.org) or call 311.

### COVID cases decrease

As of Wednesday, Oct. 27, there were 228 reported South Belt deaths due to COVID-19, up four from the previous week. Reporting of COVID deaths, however, may be delayed by officials.

Of the 7,676 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 181 remain active, down 79 from the previous week. To date, 93 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up three from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 210 of the 5,836 confirmed cases remain active, down 69 from the previous week. A total of 65 from the ZIP code have died.

Of the 5,920 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 212 remain active, down 61 from the previous week. To date, 70 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up two 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 have been 573,925 confirmed cases. Of those, 550,733 have recovered from the disease, while 17,039 cases remain active. A total of 6,119 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

### Beltway closures planned

The eastbound exit ramp from Beltway 8 to SH 3/Old Galveston Road will be closed until further notice.

The connector ramps from Beltway 8 to Interstate 45N and I-45S will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11, and Friday, Nov. 12. Expect delays.

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Kirby Drive to Bellfort daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Monday, Nov. 22.

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. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 7.

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

## PISD breaks ground on new Thompson campus

Pasadena ISD officially broke ground on the new Thompson Intermediate campus at a ceremony held at the school site Thursday, Oct. 28.

To be located on a 21-acre plot of land on Hughes Road near South Belt Elementary, the new 178,000-square-foot campus was approved

by voters in 2017 as part of a \$135 million bond referendum.

Drymalla Construction Company was awarded the \$39.5 million contract to construct the new campus.

Originally to be constructed on Highland



### New Thompson work begins

Pasadena ISD officials broke ground on the future Thompson Intermediate campus Thursday, Oct. 28. The \$39.5 million campus project is part of a voter-approved 2017 school bond issue. Located in the 8700 block of Hughes Road near Melillo Middle School, the 178,000-square-foot replacement school will be able to accommodate 1,200 students, roughly 200 more than Thompson's current enrollment. The school's existing campus suffered extensive flood damage during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The new campus is expected to open in August 2023. Shown to the left at the ceremony are Thompson principal Tanis Griffin (left) and Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell.

## State, MUD election results tallied

Meadows Drive in the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek subdivision, the project was met with opposition from residents of both the Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek and Green Tee Terrace subdivisions, the two neighborhoods which would have bordered the campus.

Some Riverstone Ranch at Clear Creek residents felt the proposed location presented a safety hazard, as it was to be located deep within the subdivision, with the school's only entrance be-

ing within a 90-plus-degree curve with limited sight of oncoming traffic in both directions.

Green Tee Terrace homeowners further complained that the initial site of the campus would have generated additional traffic in their community.

To rectify the problem, Pasadena ISD officials proposed a land swap with Meritage Homes, the developer in the area surrounding the school.

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## State, MUD election results tallied

### Sagemeadow MUD bond, all 8 state amendments pass

Voters took to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 2, to decide a number of municipal elections, as well as whether or not to add eight amendments to the state Constitution.

#### Sagemeadow MUD

Sagemeadow residents voted overwhelmingly in favor of a \$25 million bond measure.

The language on the ballot read as follows: "The issuance of \$25,000,000 in bonds and the levy of ad valorem taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds (water, sanitary sewer, drainage, and storm sewer, organization, and administration)."

According to Harris County records, 65 percent of voters favored the measure (215 total votes), while 35 percent opposed it (114 votes).

#### State amendments

Texas voters on Tuesday, Nov. 2, passed all eight amendments to the state Constitution.

#### Proposition 1

This amendment allows charitable raffles at rodeo events by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. Unauthorized raffles can be considered illegal gambling under Texas law.

The proposition was approved by 84 percent, with 1,242,625 people voting for it, and 239,783 people voting against it.

#### Proposition 2

This amendment authorizes counties to issue bonds or notes to raise funds for transportation

and infrastructure in underdeveloped areas. Cities and towns already have the authority to fund projects with this financing method.

The proposition was approved by 63 percent, with 931,453 people voting for it, and 544,834 people voting against it.

#### Proposition 3

This amendment bans the state from prohibiting or limiting religious services, including those in churches and other places of worship.

The proposition was approved by 62 percent, with 925,447 people voting for it, and people 557,093 voting against it.

#### Proposition 4

This amendment requires candidates to have 10 years of experience practicing law in Texas to be eligible for election to the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals or a Texas court of appeals. Currently, the law requires 10 years of experience but allows for out-of-state experience. Also, candidates running to be a district judge would be required to have eight years of experience practicing law in Texas, up from the current requirement of four years.

The proposition was approved by 59 percent with 845,030 people voting for it, and 592,585 people voting against it.

#### Proposition 5

This amendment allows the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to have oversight of

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## San Jacinto College nominated for prestigious Aspen Prize

This week, the Aspen Institute named San Jacinto College one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

The colleges selected for this honor stand out

among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

The 150 eligible colleges have been invited to submit data and narratives as the next steps in an

intensive data and practice review process, culminating in the announcement of the prize winner in spring 2023.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the Aspen Institute for the work that we do here at San Jacinto College supporting our students as they complete their workforce credential, certificate or associate degree," said San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "We know that what we do in our community to help fill workforce gaps and to get students on a path to completing their degree is making a difference for our students and their families, as well as for

our region's economy. On behalf of our board of trustees, and our students, faculty and staff, I thank the Aspen Institute for considering San Jacinto College for this prestigious award."

San Jacinto College is one of eight Texas community colleges to be among the 2023 Top 150 finalists.

The Aspen Prize spotlights exemplary community colleges in order to elevate the sector, drive attention to colleges doing the best work, and discover and share highly effective student success and equity strategies. Since 2010, Aspen

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## County now offers all vax boosters

Harris County Public Health now offers all COVID-19 vaccine boosters doses available for qualifying fully vaccinated residents.

Eligible residents include those who completed their two-dose mRNA vaccine series (Pfizer or Moderna) at least six months ago and anyone who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago. Eligible fully vaccinated residents can get a booster dose of the vaccine of their choice.

All COVID-19 vaccines provide strong protection for most people. A booster vaccine in an

additional dose given after the protection provided by the original series has begun to decrease over time. The Pfizer booster helps certain groups of people maintain their level of immunity longer.

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their primary series:

- 65 years and older.

- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings.

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## Police search for teen shooting suspects

Houston police are searching for three teens after a nonfatal shooting during a robbery early Wednesday, Nov. 3, in the 9900 block of Alameda-Genoa Road near Windmill Lakes Boulevard.

According to police, the incident began around midnight at a laundromat at the above address when the 19-year-old victim and his girlfriend were loading clothes into their vehicle and they were approached by a group of male juve-

nile teens.

Police said the teens demanded the man hand over his cellphone, and when he refused, they stole it from him. They then walked off.

According to investigators, the victim then got in his vehicle and started following the suspects. One of the suspects then allegedly fired at the victim, striking him in the lower body.

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## State extends emergency SNAP benefits

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday, Nov. 2, announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission is providing more than \$310 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of November 2021.

The allotments are expected to help more than 1.5 million Texas households.

"Our continued investment in emergency SNAP benefits has ensured Texas families can put food on the table throughout the COVID-19

pandemic," said Abbott. "Thank you to HHSC and USDA for ensuring these resources reach Texans across the state."

A similar sentiment was shared by Texas HHS Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter.

"We are proud to be able to help Texans get nutritious food for their families and have peace of mind as they celebrate the holiday season together," said Salter.

HHSC received federal approval from the U.S.

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## City gives 1,000th in-home vaccination

The Houston Health Department recently vaccinated its 1,000th person against COVID-19 in the comfort of their own home.

The in-home vaccination program, launched in March by the department's Harris County Area Agency on Aging, brings vaccine and qualified medical professions directly to homebound people in Harris County.

The 1,000th client is Clifford Faggans, a 70-year-old black male who has mobility issues that require the use of a wheelchair. He, like other people served by the program, are homebound and unable to make it to a vaccination site.

Faggans received his first dose of the Moderna

vaccine and has an appointment for his second dose to be administered in his home.

"I think the vaccine program is a very good thing and very helpful," said Faggans. "I am an amputee, and when I need to get around to do anything, I need my scooter. So, when I was told that I could get my vaccine from this program in my home I thought it was great not having to travel and wait in the long lines."

People ages 60 and older are at increased risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19. As of Oct. 22, 71 percent of COVID-19 deaths among Houstonians are people ages 60 and older.

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## 1,000th in-home vax administered



The Houston Health Department recently administered its 1,000th in-home vaccination through a county program. Clifford Faggans (left) is shown above receiving the 1,000th dose from Bibiana Nwora, RN, Houston Health Department, from the comfort of his own bed. Launched by the Harris County Area Agency on Aging, the in-home vaccination program is available to qualifying people.

# In My Opinion

## Help vote "Best of" for senior facilities

From Best Senior Living to Best Recipe Care, Senior Resource Guide's annual Readers' Choice Awards recognizes exceptional businesses and people in the senior care industry. Voting for 2021 officially opens on Monday, October 18 and closes on Friday, December 10. With 40 different categories, the coveted "Best of" title will be awarded to the organizations that have made an impact and are doing great things for seniors, caregivers and their families.

The Park at Bay Area provides excellent care for our surrounding Seniors in offering top level Senior Care expertise.

Being recognized for "Best of Assisted Senior Living" of 2021 would mean the world to our facility as we continue to improve our services to our Seniors. Baywood Crossing Rehabilitation & Healthcare needs your support to claim the "Best of Skilled Senior Living" title! Baywood Crossing strives into leading the industry in providing the best quality nursing care & rehabilitation services for our surrounding community. Being voted "Best of Skilled Senior Living" would be an honor and privilege for being able to "SERVE" those who need us. Help us earn this coveted distinction by voting for us daily Oct. 18 through Dec. 10: <https://srgserv.com/bestof/houston>.

Darcy Whatley

## CCISD decreases COVID rank

Citing improved COVID active case trends within the district and surrounding communities, Clear Creek ISD announced it will move from Stage 3 Mitigation to Stage 4 Monitoring on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021. In Stage 4 Monitoring, face coverings are recommended indoors for those unvaccinated as previously advised by the CDC, cleaning protocols are maintained, and there are no restrictions for school activities with one temporary restriction.

The temporary restriction applies to visitors for breakfast and lunch until Jan. 4, 2022.

The school district will continue to social distance in all elementary cafeterias until Jan. 4, 2022, and then designate certain areas for social distancing.

This temporary restriction will allow families who choose to have their children vaccinated to complete the five-week process. "When school resumes following the winter break and if COVID-19 conditions continue to keep us in Stage 4, parents will be permitted to join their children for breakfast or lunch," said Dr. Eric Williams, superintendent of schools. "We know this is a treasured tradition in our school district and we look forward to resuming this practice. I appreciate the patience and support from our families during this time."

In these situations, as in the past, students will be seated with their parents in a designated area and not among the general student population. Additionally, the school

district revised its Health Mitigation Protocol to be explicit regarding when conditions warrant moving up or down a stage. "The basic philosophy underlying the protocol remains unchanged in that we will adjust mitigation measures based on conditions in our district and community," said Williams.

The revised Health Mitigation Protocol has received the support of the CCISD School Opening Committee, the CCISD board of trustees, and the Galveston County Health Authority.

Clear Creek ISD will be hosting a livestream to discuss these changes as well as other COVID-19 related topics on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 1 p.m.

The livestream and play-back recording will be available at [www.ccisd.net](http://www.ccisd.net).

## Local library events set

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

### Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is now open and located at 9002 Kingspoint. For library information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon - 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays. Visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> for more library events.

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m. Outdoors storytime for all ages. Plan to enjoy a good story at Bracewell in the fresh outdoors, weather permitting.

### Parker Williams Library

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

The book drop is open. Social media links are found at 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, park in one of the two parking spots reserved for curbside holds.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

Thursday, Nov. 11, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Take a moment to have some fun and interaction with the little one or little ones. Join John Harbaugh and Jason Cruz for a virtual Toddler Time through Microsoft Teams. Parents are encouraged to participate to facilitate interaction. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome to join virtually. Sign up once with a valid email address online at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> to get a weekly invitation.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time. Join John Harbaugh for a program on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 3 p.m. Thanksgiving Craft-to-Go. Pick up a Thanksgiving craft from the library in preparation to make a Paper Turkey Centerteece. This project is fun for families and children to create a centerpiece for the holiday season. (This is not an in-person program.)

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m. Bilingual Vietnamese Storytime with Kathy Pham. Visit Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary for singing and fun in English and Vietnamese.

Wednesday Nov. 17, noon. A Day at the Pow Wow! Celebrate Native American Heritage Month by learning about the culture. Join Ariel Perez for a day at the Pow Wow, seeing delicious food, watching the traditional dancers in all their regalia and browsing the stands. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

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

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 5 p.m. Virtual Teen Advisory Board. Looking for a way to volunteer? Need to get some hours in for National Honor Society? For an invitation to the Microsoft Teams meeting or for more information, email John Harbaugh at [john.harbaugh@hcpl.net](mailto:john.harbaugh@hcpl.net).

## Knights schedule blood drive

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 has scheduled a blood drive Sunday, Nov. 21, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit [www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/324002](http://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/324002). For help or more information, contact Stefanie Villafana at [svillafana@giveblood.org](mailto:svillafana@giveblood.org).

## Dobie holds FAFSA drive

Dobie High School will hold a FAFSA application drive Saturday, Nov. 20, from 8 to 11 a.m. in Portable 16. This drive is for any senior student and parent/guardian to complete their needed federal financial aid application, a current graduation requirement for the class of 2022 and beyond. Students should bring their 2020 tax documents. For more information, email [alozano2@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:alozano2@pasadenaisd.org).

## Kirkwood Civic Club meeting rescheduled

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting, usually scheduled for the last Thursday of the month, has been canceled this month due to the Thanksgiving holidays.

The function has been rescheduled for the first Thursday of December, Dec. 2. The meeting will take place at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For additional information, call Ericka McCrutchon, Kirkwood Civic Club president, at 281-989-9990.

## Gulf Freeway closures scheduled

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

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31.

Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528.

At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Thursday, March 31, 2022.

At least one northbound lane and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway frontage road will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Thursday, March 31, 2022.

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

## Sandlin, Taylor attend event



The South Belt community was well represented at the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce's annual Taste of the Town event - held Thursday, Nov. 4, at the Pasadena Convention Center - with both Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Phil Sandlin (left) and state District 11 Sen. Larry Taylor (right) attending the function. Shown above with the pair is Harris County Precinct 8, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Holly Williamson, who is dressed as Wonder Woman as part of the event's superhero theme. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## PMHS culinary students win



Pasadena Memorial High School culinary students were congratulated for winning Best in America Cuisine at Pasadena's Taste of the Town event that took place Nov. 4. The students prepped and plated 1,200 spicy chicken salad crostini with tomato jam and chives and were up against local restaurants. In addition, they collaborated with the Sam Rayburn High School culinary students and created delicious desserts that won the People's Choice Award. It was a great night for the Pasadena ISD Career and Technical Education Culinary. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Adrianna Zuniga, Natalie Cantu, Christian Ibarra, Elias Banda, Jackie Mendoza, (back row) Nicole Rodriguez, Jakob Morris-Diaz, Cesar Cano and Trinity Medina.

# Deaths

## Alvin "Al" John Birsinger



Alvin "Al" John Birsinger, 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by family members Nov. 4, 2021. He was born Feb. 20, 1939, in St. Louis, Mo., to Alphons and Agnes Sedlmayr Birsinger. He graduated from Bishop DuBourg High School in 1957 and received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from St. Louis University in 1961.

After college, Al worked for the Federal Aviation Administration for two years then took a job with McDonnell Douglas (Boeing). He contributed to several space exploration projects including Mercury, Gemini, Skylab, Space Shuttle and the Space Station during his 50-plus-year career in the aerospace industry. He also found time to earn a master's degree in behavioral sciences from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Al met Marcia Suzanne Heinz in 1963 through a mutual friend. Their love of jitterbug dancing sparked a relationship that grew in strength through their common Catholic backgrounds. His practical nature complemented her energetic spirit and they married in 1964, a union that would last 55 years. They settled in St. Louis, then transferred to Houston in 1974 due to NASA's growing space industry.

Al and Marcia were founding members of the Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist. They served on the parish council, led Bible studies, and started a weekly prayer meeting. In 1998, Al earned a Bachelor of Pastoral Theology from the University of St. Thomas and in 1999,

completed the Diocese of Galveston-Houston Diaconate program. He cherished his duties as a deacon and had an unwavering faith in God. Al had a passion for family ministry, prison ministry and ACTS retreats. He connected with parishioners through his gentle and kind demeanor, witnessing, and leading by example.

Al was actively involved in the lives of his children and their interests. He coached baseball at Sagemont-Beverly Hills Little League. He helped create the Sagemont Soccer Club and was a dedicated soccer coach for several years. Al could be found attending his children and grandchildren's many sporting events, concerts, recitals, plays, musicals and award ceremonies.

Al is survived by sons, Alan (Christine) Birsinger of Houston, Gary (Michele) Birsinger of Friendswood, Ryan (Amy) Birsinger of Fulshear; daughters, Gina (Will) Kehres of Friendswood, Joy (Jeff) Marino of Friendswood, Julie Birsinger of Galveston and Linda (Joel) Arens of Friendswood. He is also survived by grandchildren Grace and Jacob Birsinger, Lindsay McDaniel, Hannah, Gabrielle and Evan Birsinger, Isabella, Athanasius, Ian, and Elliot Birsinger, Liam, Jude, Greta, and Gisele Kehres, McEwan and Cora Marino, and Jonas, Alec, Canaan, Kingston and Aurelia Arens; great-grandchildren Haydon, Braylon and Aubrielle Wells; a host of nieces and nephews; and other beloved friends and relatives. Al was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; and siblings Ronald Birsinger and Marlene Birsinger Fey.

Visitation is scheduled at Peevey Funeral Home, 12440 Beamer Road, in Houston on Thursday, Nov. 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. with the recitation of the rosary starting at 6 p.m. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road, on Friday, Nov. 12, beginning at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Project Joy and Hope, 3207 Tulip Street, Pasadena, TX 77504 or visit [www.joyandhope.org](http://www.joyandhope.org).

## Shirley Margaret Newhard



Shirley Margaret Newhard, 97, mother of longtime Southbelt resident Pat Kolar passed away peacefully Nov. 3, 2021. A native Houstonian, she was born March 13, 1924, at home on Harrisburg Boulevard to Estella and Albert McNichols. She graduated from Austin High School in 1941 and married U.S. Army Capt. Charles Newhard in 1942. They had one daughter, Patricia, who was the light of their lives. Shirley was a parishioner of Queen of Peace Catholic Church and worked at Suniland Furniture until she retired at the age of 65. The rest of her years were devoted to taking care of her family. She was often seen at the baseball fields or at Dobie events for her grandchildren.

Shirley is remembered by all as a truly loving and giving woman. "Granny" will be missed dearly by her daughter Pat Kolar and her granddaughters Shirley (Wayne) Hoyer, Julie (Miles) Voss, and Kimberly Kolar; great-grandchildren David, Stephanie and Lindsey Hoyer, Katherine, Elizabeth, and Megan Kolar, and Evan, Alexis and Margaret Voss. She was preceded in death by her husband; her son-in-law Joseph Kolar; and her grandson Stephen Kolar.

A rosary will be recited at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, with a funeral Mass following at 2 p.m.

Graveside services will take place at Forest Park Lawndale. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CatholicCharities.org.

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

The Voice of Community-Minded People

11555 Beamer 281-481-5656

E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)

Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of the Neighbors app posted that if anyone has information or saw an accident that happened at the intersection of Dixie Farm Road and McGinnis Road Sunday, Nov. 7, at 8:30 a.m. The member stated that they were hit by a guy driving a light silver Toyota truck. The guy then took off on Dixie Farm toward Interstate 45. The member filed a report but was not able to provide the license plate number.

Another member on the same app posted that two gallons of water were stolen from the five gallons that were delivered to her front door. The incident took place Saturday, Nov. 6 in Sagemont Park subdivision.

A member of People of Sagemont 2 Facebook page posted that her son was hit by a car the morning of Thursday, Nov. 4, on his way to school. The member states that her son was crossing Sageglenn Drive at Olivewood Drive. The member is seeking help locating the driver of the vehicle and if anyone has information to notify the member through Facebook.

The member later updated the status that her son is OK and that he will have a nasty bruise from the way he fell and landed on the bike and that she will be calling the constable's office to make a report. The member also stated that she did go to the intersection where the accident happened and did not see any cameras on the houses.

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## Moore students honor armed forces



Moore Elementary third-graders performed a "Salute to America" program Tuesday, Oct. 19, for students and families. Armed services members from the past and present were honored during the program. Shown above, left to right, are (first row) Simon Nguyen, Jamilyn Pham, Layla Cisneros, Robert Reyna, (second row) Celena Hudspeth (teacher), Logan Fritsch, Ryan De La Garza, Zoey Trevino, Orion Chapa, (third row) Jude Gutierrez, Camila Sanchez, Ava Carter, Adrian Sanchez, Ezekial Pena, Sheryl Munn (music teacher), (fourth row) Chase Hicks, Ava Ahmad, Justin Nguyen, Aryana Cortez and Adrian Castaneda.

## State, MUD election results tallied NARFE set for Nov. 16

Continued from Page 1

This amendment limits school district property taxes incurred by the surviving spouse of a person with disabilities who is older than 65 and has died. The surviving spouse must be at least 55 years old at the partner's time of death and still live in the home.

**Proposition 6**  
This amendment allows residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to designate one essential caregiver who cannot be denied in-person visitation rights.

The proposition was approved by 59 percent, with 852,336 people voting for it, and 586,686 people voting against it.

**Proposition 8**  
This amendment expands eligibility for residential homestead property tax exemptions to include spouses of military members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

Currently, the exemption is extended to spouses of

Proposition 7

This amendment limits school district property taxes incurred by the surviving spouse of a person with disabilities who is older than 65 and has died. The surviving spouse must be at least 55 years old at the partner's time of death and still live in the home.

The proposition was approved by 87 percent, with 1,285,384 people voting for it, and 190,109 people voting against it.

**Proposition 8**  
This amendment expands eligibility for residential homestead property tax exemptions to include spouses of military members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

Currently, the exemption is extended to spouses of

military members killed in action.

The proposition was approved by 88 percent, with 1,291,920 people voting for it, and 180,179 people voting against it.

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 941 meets the third Tuesday of the month at El Franco Lee Park Community Center, 9500 Hall Road. Both active and retired employees as well as visitors are welcome.

The next meeting is set for Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. For more information, call Roy at 713-734-1461 or the EFL Center at 281-464-9708.

## Open Garden Day scheduled Nov. 15

Harris County Master Gardeners will host Open Garden Monday, Nov. 15, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Genoa Friendship Gardens, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Tour a variety of planting exhibits and meet and talk with Harris County Master Gardeners. Plants may be purchased online at <https://hcmga.tamu.edu/shop/>.

## LMA hosts trunk or treat



Legacy Martial Arts hosted a trunk or treat for kids in the South Belt area on Saturday, Oct. 30. Many martial arts members' parents participated by decorating the trunks of their cars and giving candy to the kids. All the kids were dressed up in their favorite Halloween costumes as they received candy. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Bonnie Cubos, (back row) Master Walker (martial arts instructor) and Hailey Cubos.

## Police seek three teen shooting suspects

Continued from Page 1

The victim was crushed into a curb and went up to the median. The suspects went up to his vehicle and fired multiple shots into the car, but the bullets missed both people inside. The sus-

pects fled on foot.

Police said the victim is suspected to survive. His girlfriend was not injured.

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

## County now offers all vaccine boosters available

Continued from Page 1

Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions.

Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings.

Note: The Moderna COVID-19 booster dose is half of the dose that is administered for the primary series dose.

For individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson

COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

**Additional doses**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive an additional

dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after the initial two doses.

This includes recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection, active recipients of treatment for cancer, people taking medications that weaken the immune system, and others. A full list of conditions can be

found on the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html).

Fully vaccinated people with weakened immune systems do not get as much protection as people with healthy immune systems.

The additional dose helps boost their immunity to the level of fully vaccinated people who are not immunocompromised. Residents should contact their health care provider to find out if an additional dose or booster is recommended for them.

Additional doses and vaccine boosters are free at HCPH designated sites and vaccine appointments are not required, although they are recommended. Go

to [vacvacc.hctx.net](http://vacvacc.hctx.net) or call 832-927-8787.

To find a nearby location, visit <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/Register-for-COVID-19-Vaccine#COVID-19-Vaccine-map-dashboard>. Remember to bring one's COVID-19 vaccination card with them to receive a booster shot.

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## UHCL library renovations will boost students' productivity

The Alfred R. Neumann

Library at University of Houston-Clear Lake is near completion of a renovation project filled with innovations in technology, collaboration, instruction and research.

"We had begun planning the renovation before the pandemic started," said Vivienne McClendon Neuman, li-

brary executive director. "We had additional funds, so we are renovating and refurbishing the entire main floor of the library."

She said their overarching plan was to make the library more accessible, and above all, to give students more agency about how and where they wanted to study and learn.

The library is also adding a new presentation space, an active learning classroom, and an XR lab, all intended to be accessible and flexible.

The open presentation space in particular lends itself to "serendipitous learning."

"This means a student can serendipitously encounter something going on, like a presentation or a speaker, in this open area," she said.

"Because there are no barriers or doors, students don't have to feel intimidated about just pulling up a chair and listening. Speakers can be via Zoom or in person, and we'll have huge open monitors on the wall. We'll be able to connect seamlessly to other locations."

The Active Learning Classroom is unlike "traditional" classrooms in that the instruction librarian is not anchored to a podium at the front of the room.

"The instructor can work from a mobile device and can control everything from anywhere in the room," she said.

"We'll have monitors along the wall and the desks won't be connected to the walls, so everything is fully configurable. From a capability standpoint, this is much more than a lecture room."

Adjacent to the Active Learning classroom will be the new XR Lab, where faculty who use augmented or virtual reality headsets in class can take instruction a step further in collaboration with library staff.

"This is a place where students can come in and do their work using a headset," she said. "VR and AR are a continuum. Students can experience it, but it also creates the opportunity to create and design. There's a huge market for VR designers - it's the 'next thing' in technology. There are no limits here. The laws of physics just don't apply."

In the study areas of the library's second floor, the addition of under carpet power to the entire space frees students to sit and work anywhere they choose, instead of having to sit near an outlet along the wall. Wheeled, configurable furniture also allows students to easily transition between solo and group work.

"We think our students

enjoy the 'coffee shop' feel, to be alone but near others, where they can choose to be collaborative or study independently," she said.

The new furnishings were selected to encompass the needs of all students - including students on the autism spectrum. "We've got nooks that are enclosed, but not actual rooms," she said.

"We hope these nooks will appeal to everyone. They have a 'pressure' about them, a sense of coziness. They block out external stimulus, and they're on wheels so they're fully configurable."

The study rooms will also be technology-enhanced. Extra-large glass boards will replace blackboards, and walls will feature touchscreens.

"Many study rooms will have monitors, so that students can connect their laptop to the monitor and work collaboratively on presentations and other work. The whole second floor, students should be able to connect wirelessly. This is a major plus for students; it's no longer necessary to remember connectors. Anyone can come in and discuss PowerPoints or group projects," said Neuman.

With innovative furniture and lighting selections, McClendon said she hoped students would quickly sense the library's new vibe.

Other amenities and services include a new Starbucks' coffee machine with a huge TV streaming news reports, and a new service desk for research assistance.

"We have added more ADA-compliant space for each desk to enhance accessibility, and the research assistants will be in a glassed-in area so everyone can see that we have librarian experts available to help students with their research," she said.

McClendon said she hoped the library renovation would be complete sometime during the early part of the spring 2022 semester. New furnishings are regularly being delivered, unpacked and assembled, and new high-lights such as the research desk, circulation desk, and much more are on the way. To stay connected to the library's renovation process, visit <https://uhcl.libguides.com/renovation/renovation>.

Additional doses and vaccine boosters are free at HCPH designated sites and vaccine appointments are not required, although they are recommended. Go

to [vacvacc.hctx.net](http://vacvacc.hctx.net) or call 832-927-8787.

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Kids get in Free on Sundays!

## PARSE meeting set Nov. 16

Pasadena Area Retired School Employees will meet Nov. 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the East Harris County Activity Center located at 7340 Spencer Highway in Pasadena.

PARSE veterans will be recognized as well as deceased PARSE members. Updates on ongoing community projects will be given. For more information, email [parse.trta@gmail.com](mailto:parse.trta@gmail.com).

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## South Belt celebrates Red Ribbon Week



South Belt celebrated Good Choices Week, in lieu of Red Ribbon Week, with various activities that promote making good choices. Activities include Book Character Day - "exercising my mind with reading," Team Spirit Day - "choosing to exercise my body" and Superhero Day - "eating like a superhero."

Shown left are siblings Avery Thomas, second-grader (left), and John Thomas, kindergartener.



Shown above, left to right, are first-graders (front row) Charlotte Riley, Miabella Ledesma, Kinsley Cantrell, Micah Linder, Ethan Martinez, Ryoanne Montoya, Nina Martinez, Mia DeLeon, (back row) Kenneth Hernandez, Mason Campos, Connor Linder, River Hensley, Kaptain Scott, Arian Reyes, Miguel Bedolla and Zendaya Holiday.

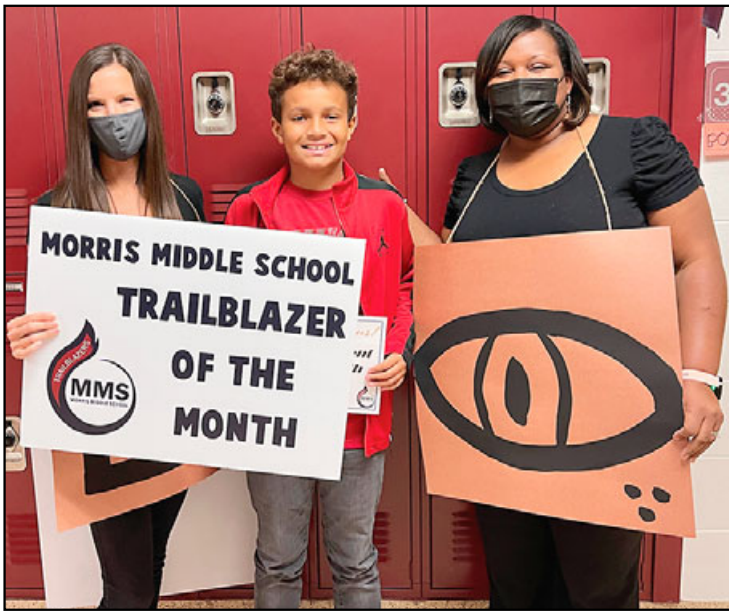


Shown above, left to right, are third-graders Breneisha Leonard, Aubrey Barajas, Makenzy Rodriguez, Angel Gil, Daniel Serrano and Jacob Gonzales.



Shown above, left to right, are teachers Kassandra Luna, Christina Herrera, Kayla Elmore, Courtney Moran, Lesley Cooper, Kellie Hodge and Margo Bravo.

## Jacques honored as Trailblazer



**Congratulations to the Morris Middle School October fifth-grade male Trailblazer of the Month, Marcus Jacques (center).** Jacques is a compassionate, respectful and friendly student to his peers as well as to his teachers. He has a smile that is infectious and can light up any room. He always strives to do his best and he never gives up. He listens when he needs to and respectfully understands the reasoning behind things. Any one of his peers would be lucky to have Jacques as a friend. The school is proud to call him a Morris Trailblazer. Shown with Jacques, left to right, are Allison Lewallen, principal, and Kim Edwards, counselor.

## Guerrero honored at Morris



**Congratulations to the Morris Middle School October fifth-grade female Trailblazer of the Month, Melanie Guerrero (center).** Guerrero has also been named her teacher's student of the week. She is a model example in all classes and academics. She is always willing to help. One can trust that Guerrero will always make the right choice and other students notice and follow her actions. Her personality is kind and reserved but is always ready to work in groups and help her teachers. Guerrero is also a kind and sweet friend. She is a hardworking student who always gives her best. She is a great peer tutor to her table. Her teachers are extremely proud of her and the school is proud to call her a Morris Trailblazer. Shown with Guerrero, left to right, are Allison Lewallen, principal, and Alex Sanchez, assistant principal.

# SNAP benefits extended longer

**Continued from Page 1**  
Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum, allowable amount of SNAP benefits to recipients based on family size and all SNAP households will receive a minimum of \$95 in emergency allotments. This additional emergency allotment should appear in recipients' accounts by November 30.

The emergency November allotments are in addition to the more than \$4.8 billion in benefits previously provided to Texans since April 2020.

Administered by HHSC, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to eligible low-income families and individuals in Texas. Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at YourTexasBenefits.com or use the Your Texas Benefits mobile app to manage their benefits.

## 1,000th in-home vax

**Continued from Page 1**  
"We saw the need in our community's elderly, disabled and veterans who are unable to drive to get a COVID-19 vaccine," said Deborah Moore, assistant director of human services for the Houston Health Department.

"We are excited Houstonians are taking advantage of the program and we will continue offering the service as long as there is a need especially with the recently-approved booster shots."

Getting vaccinated prevents serious illness, hospitalization and death; it also helps reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Those who qualify for the in-home vaccination program are any of the following:  
- 60-year-olds or older.  
- Homebound patients.  
- Disabled.  
- 79-year-olds or younger with health conditions.  
- Veterans.

The program offers Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, and provides first doses, second doses, additional doses and booster shots.

The department also offers an in-home COVID-19 testing program for the same population.

People may call 832-393-4301 to see if they qualify for the programs.

## Abbott seeks to ban "porn" in schools

**Continued from Page 1**  
ic book to which he is referring.

While Abbott's letter lacks specifics, it comes fresh on the heels of an inquiry launched by Republican state Rep. Matt Krause, in which he sent letters to certain school districts asking about a list of more than 800 books involving racism or sexuality – or more specifically, concerning LGBTQ issues or the Black Lives Matter movement.

The inquiry comes at a time when the nation is gripped in a discussion about "critical race theory" – a topic the state Legislature prohibited public school teachers from addressing this past session.

Neither Pasadena ISD nor Clear Creek ISD responded to the Leader's request for a statement on Abbott's vague letter.

To read Abbott's full letter, visit [gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/TroxellDan.pdf](http://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/TroxellDan.pdf).

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## Annual chess tournament winners named

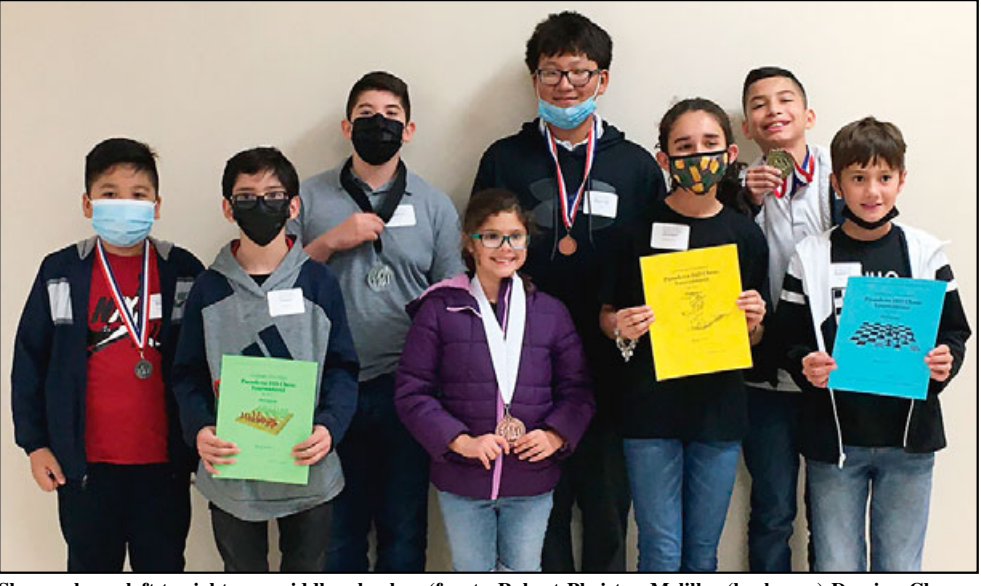
On Saturday, Oct. 30, Pasadena ISD held its 11th annual Fall Chess Classic at Beverly Hills Intermediate. In total, 231 students participated from 49 campuses, including 12 high schools, 14 intermediate schools, 12 middle schools and 11 elementary schools. Forty of the schools participating were from PISD, while 9 were from other districts.

The district's thanks go out to all the campus chess coaches and other adult volunteers who went and helped. Gratitude is also due to the scorekeepers, hall monitors and to the custodians. Likewise, to all the campus administrators and central office personnel (including Dr. Karen Hickman, Lindsey Lesniewski and Dan Hoppie) who attended to support the students.

In all divisions, each student played four games. Students received one point for each win and a half-point for each draw. The next tournament will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at BHI. See related photos on Page 8.



**Shown above, left to right, are elementary students (front row) Thong Nguyen, Genoa; Tyler Nguyen, Frazier; Suri Nguyen, Frazier; (back row) Abner Morales, Genoa; Justin Jimenez, Genoa; Carlos Martinez, Genoa; Aldo Melendez, Pomeroy; and Isabella Squier, South Belt.**



**Shown above, left to right, are middle schoolers (front row) Khai Nguyen, Morris; Daniel Alvarez, Morris; Neveah Bumgarner, Melillo; Alayna Rodriguez, Melillo; Robert Pheister, Melillo; (back row) Damian Chavez, Morris; Martin Peng, Morris; and Justin Guerrero, Deer Park Jr. High.**

# SJC nominated for prestigious Aspen Prize

**Continued from Page 1**  
has chosen to focus intensively on community colleges because they are – as First Lady Dr. Jill Biden stated at the 2021 Aspen Prize ceremony – "a powerful engine of prosperity."

But student outcomes vary enormously among community colleges, and improving those outcomes is essential to securing the nation's economic future, strengthening communities and ensuring that diverse populations experience economic mobility and prosperity.

With these goals in mind, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding achievement in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success and equity for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

"In an era of persistent inequity and workforce talent gaps, our nation's best community colleges are stepping up to deliver more degrees to increasingly diverse students so they are prepared for the good jobs waiting to be filled," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

"Leaders of exceptional community colleges understand that achieving excellence requires expanding college access and increasing degree completion, but it doesn't stop there. They are committed to ensuring that all students—including students of color and those from low-income backgrounds—graduate with the skills needed to secure a job with family-sustaining wages or successfully transfer to and graduate from a university. That same commitment that stands at the center of the Aspen Prize: to advance the goals of social mobility and equitable talent development," said Wyner.

The eligible colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. Located in urban, rural and suburban areas across 34 states, these colleges serve as few as 230 students and as many as 57,000.

Winning colleges have ranged from smaller institutions serving rural communities and smaller towns – including Lake Area Technical Institute (S.D., 2017 Prize winner) and Walla Walla Community College (Wash., 2013) – to large community colleges serving major metropolitan areas, including Miami Dade College (Fla., 2019) and San Antonio College (Texas, 2021).

The four other previous winners are Indian River State College (Fla., 2019); Santa Fe College (Fla., 2015); Santa Barbara City College (Calif., 2013); and Valencia College (Fla., 2011).

In this first round, eligibility for the Aspen Prize is based on publicly available data. Eligible colleges must show strong and improving student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer and equity. Nationwide, 15 percent of community colleges (150 of the approximately 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide assessed for the prize) have been invited to apply – the full list can be accessed on the prize homepage at [higher.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/](https://higher.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/).

The next steps in the process include:  
- Selection of the top 10 finalists by an expert panel of 15 experts in community colleges, higher education and workforce training, to be announced in spring/summer 2022.  
- Fall 2022 site visits to each of the ten finalists during which the Aspen Institute and partners will collect additional information, including employment and earnings data and insights about promising practices.  
- A distinguished jury will meet and make award decisions in the first quarter of early 2023.  
- Announcement of the Aspen Prize in late spring 2023.

For a full list of the top 150 eligible institutions and to read more on the selection process, visit the Aspen Institute website at <https://higher.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>.

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1976)**  
Billy Burge of Ayrshire Corporation announced that company's plans for a joint venture with Farm and Home Savings. The project was the development of a subdivision located near the intersection of Beamer and Choate Road consisting of approximately 500 acres. The subdivision would become Sagebend.

Beverly Hills Intermediate Punt, Pass and Kick winners Ryan Cooner and Stephen Ben were to represent the school at Memorial Stadium in the Pasadena Independent School district competition. Wesley Shere, Joe Slack and Robert Arrizola represented Frazier Elementary.

The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department made 16 responses to calls in the unincorporated areas of the county during October 1976.

**40 years ago (1981)**  
The Dobie High School band was selected as one of the top two 5A bands in the region at University Interscholastic League competition. This won the band a trip to participate in the state high school band competition in Austin.

The South Belt area became part of the newly created Precinct 1, which was composed of 64 percent minorities. The redistricting plan to create the first minority precinct in Harris County history was expected to be challenged in court.

**35 years ago (1986)**  
Nicole Ard was named Dobie's homecoming queen during the Dobie and North Shore football game.

The Pasadena Independent School District released the results of teacher appraisals. Of 109 teachers evaluated, 48 received a "clearly outstanding" rating.

**30 years ago (1991)**  
Clear Creek Independent School District officials were searching for legal assistance to recover the financial losses they expected when they closed Weber Elementary due to the Brio Toxic waste site.

A clerk at the Stop-N-Go located on Hall Road at Beamer was shot in the leg during a robbery.

January 2007, approximately 51 days.

A Clear Brook City MUD election to authorize \$42.4 million in bonds passed by more than a 4-to-1 margin.

Work began on a \$21,298,652.42 contract to widen Dixie Farm Road to four lanes. A later contract was to follow to widen the roadway from FM 518 to SH 35.

An incident which began as a criminal mischief complaint resulted in a chase through Harris County and a local deputy constable being accidentally tased by a deputy sheriff during a scuffle with the suspect.

Leigh Ledford, former Beverly Hills Intermediate orchestra director died Nov. 7 of ovarian cancer in Boise, Idaho. Ledford's lifelong dream was to take her students to the Midwest Conference, an annual showcase of talent and lead them in a performance. The students achieved her dream by performing in Chicago. The performance, dedicated in her honor, received a standing ovation lasting more than five minutes.

J. Frank Dobie agriculture science students won more than 20 auction spots at the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo and earned more than \$80,000 combined.

The J. Frank Dobie Choral Department presented its annual fall show and fundraiser, "Cabaret."

Dobie seniors Jourdan Simmons and Victoria Chavez were crowned Dobie High School's homecoming king and queen during a game against South Houston.

**10 years ago (2011)**  
The Nov. 8 elections were held, with the Pasadena Independent School District bond easily passing and most City of Houston incumbents, including local councilmembers Mike Sullivan and Wanda Adams, maintaining their positions. The \$270.1 million bond would provide funding for several projects, including a new career and technical high school, three new middle schools and five replacement campuses for existing schools.

Former South Belt resident Jeff Larson, 43, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges involving misappropriation of funds from the Houston Police Officers' Union and was placed on deferred adjudication for 18 months and fined \$500. Larson, a 1986 Dobie graduate, and his former father-in-law, Ronald Martin, 51, were accused of bilking more than \$100,000 from the union, where they previously served on the board as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

**5 years ago (2016)**  
Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Chris Diaz easily defeated Republican challenger Daniel Vela Tuesday, Nov. 8, taking home 65 percent of the vote. This marked the second time Diaz defeated Vela for the position.

A suspect was arrested after allegedly groping multiple women at area stores. Christopher Mathews, 32, was charged with attempted sexual assault and possession of a controlled substance, as he also had Kush on him at the time of his arrest. Mathews was also accused of incidents that took place at Sam's Club on El Dorado, Exxon on El Dorado and Target on Bay Area Boulevard, as well as incidents in Kemah, Texas City and Harris County Precinct 8.

**1 year ago (2020)**  
The Clear Creek ISD board of trustees unanimously named Dr. Eric Williams as the sole finalist for the CCISD superintendent position. The live announcement made Nov. 9, capped a nationwide search for a leader who embodies the characteristics that the board of trustees identified as critical, with the help of a process of community and stakeholder input. Williams previously served as the superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools, a high performing school district of approximately 82,000 students, 13,000 employees and a \$1.3 billion budget in Leesburg, Va. Williams has more than 28 years in education, spanning from a social studies teacher in Virginia and an English teacher in Brazil to a high school principal in Florida and superintendent in Virginia. Williams' educational background includes a bachelor's degree in education from the College of William and Mary, a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Boston University. He is married with two grown

## Over The Back Fence by Alexis

**DICK CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY!**  
Special birthday wishes are in order for longtime South Belt resident and local business owner Dick Orth who celebrates a birthday Thursday, Nov. 11, from family, friends and staff of the *South Belt Leader*.

**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff and personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Nov. 11 through Nov. 17.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Sing a chorus of a birthday song to Debra Lambert Nov. 11. Remember to wish Amber Newman a happy birthday Nov. 15.

**Frazier Elementary**  
Break out the birthday party favors and cake and ice cream for Gustavo Gomez on Nov. 17.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Join in the birthday celebration Nov. 11 for Deborah Miller.

**Meador Elementary**  
The day for a celebration for Ruth Osuna is Nov. 17.

**Melillo Middle School**  
Nov. 16 is the day to break out the balloons and party favors for Cassie Padgett.

**Roberts Middle School**  
The day for a party for Laura Hill is Nov. 12.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Sing a happy birthday song to Janet Hatch Nov. 11. Send a nice birthday greeting Nov. 16 to Danielle Pitre. Light the birthday candles Nov. 17 for Alma De Leon.

**Dobie High**  
Miguel Serna marks a birthday Nov. 6. Break out the balloons and party favors Nov. 7 for Monique Jackson, Michael Johnson, Jessica Morris and Tonie Noise. A double-fun day is planned Nov. 8 for Jasmine Hooker and Stephen Sutton.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
Thursday, Nov. 11: Dick Orth, Kristi Donahoe, Oliver Meili and Rodney Gersteman; Friday, Nov. 12: Mark DeVries, Janie Clark and Robin Zacks Grosso; Saturday, Nov. 13: Jane Tillery, Vicki Brinkley, Chris Herpin and Edgar Whorton; Sunday, Nov. 14: Gene Sockwell, Justin Sims, Kat Kiel, Valarie McCoy and Tracey Harnamji; Monday, Nov. 15: Larry Soto and Silvia Serna; Tuesday, Nov. 16: Stephanie Hallmark and Bobby Taylor; and Wednesday, Nov. 17: Cynthia McGowen, Donna LaRoche, Blake Robinson and Joe Jasso.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email announcements of anniversaries, vacations and graduations to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication. For birthdays, type "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject line.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES



Matthew Trevino wrapped up his historic cross-country career at Clear Brook High School by placing 28th overall at the University Interscholastic League's Class 6A State Championships Nov. 6 at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. See details on Page 6.



## 6A Div. I bidistrict FB It's Doobie versus North Shore, again

**By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor**  
North Shore at one point seven times the first-round playoff opponent over a 10-year span. A shift to Atascocita a season ago and now back to North Shore.

Any direction a program like Doobie turns, the

Class 6A Division I bidistrict playoff round has almost always involved going against a state-ranked opponent.

Doobie, which finished off the regular season with a 48-34 win over South Houston Nov. 4 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena, travels to Galena Park ISD Stadium Nov. 11 to take on the District 21-6A champion Mustangs in the opening round.

For Doobie, it's an opportunity to win a playoff game for the first time since 2004, while North Shore is looking to advance as far as possible

as a former multi-time 6A Division I state champion. Regardless of the outcome, there is little doubt as to the overall strength of the Doobie program.

With 33 wins in 42 career games as the Longhorns' head coach, Kevin Berneathy is third on the program's all-time wins list.

That 33-9 overall mark is also second-best in program history over a consecutive four-year span.

With 26 of those wins coming with Cameron Gray at quarterback, the three-year starter is the winningest signal-caller in

the 52-year run of the program.

While the Longhorns finished 8-2 this season and ultimately surrendered the 22-6A championship to Deer Park, the team has scored more points - 535 - than any other in that more-than-50-year span of play.

Doobie and South Houston had both secured playoff berths leading up to the regular season finale, but with second place and rivalry bragging rights at stake.

With the two-touchdown margin of victory  
**Continued on Page 6**

### 6A Bidistrict Doobie at North Shore GPISD Stadium Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

At left, Doobie's Emmanuel Drain (7), whose punt block led to a touchdown return late in the second half, wrestles down South Houston running back Christian Epps (5) to the ground during the Longhorns' 48-34 win over the Trojans to close out the regular season Nov. 4 at Pasadena ISD's Veterans Stadium.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## Brook seniors shine despite loss

Senior quarterback Cam McCalister had two scoring passes in the second half to finish the 2021 season as the leading passer in the District 24-6A ranks as Clear Brook closed out a 3-6 season with a 38-12 loss to play-off-bound Clear Springs Nov. 5 at Challenger Stadium.

The Wolverines won just once in six league games, but the team's passing game produced some eye-popping numbers as

McCalister, a three-year starter, completed 177 of 292 throws for 2,235 yards and 20 touchdowns, both league highs. He threw 11 interceptions over the team's nine games.

Senior running back Trent Lacy also played in his final game for the Wolverines, gaining 90 yards to finish with 725 yards on 119 carries, including eight touchdowns.

Nathan Barnett, also playing in his final game, had a 37-yard scoring re-

ception and wound up with six grabs for 90 yards, giving him 39 catches this season for 520 yards and nine touchdowns.

Building blocks for 2022? Junior receiver Michael Lewis had the most receptions in the district by a wide margin, and with a 29-yard touchdown catch against Clear Springs finished with 61 catches for 861 yards and nine touchdowns.

Defensively, the Wol-  
**Continued on Page 6**

## Lady Longhorns conclude historic season



The 2021 season came to an end for the Doobie varsity volleyball program as Kingwood scored a 25-18, 18-25, 25-23, 25-12 win Nov. 2 in the bidistrict playoffs at C.E. King High School. What a season it was as the Lady Longhorns won 25 matches, the most in program history since the 2003 squad went



28-5 en route to the regional quarterfinals. At left, senior Natalie Onozie ended her standout career with more than 1,000 assists and 500 career kills, while senior Maya Scott was one of the team's kill leaders during her final season in the program.  
Photos by Donna Alsdorf

## Gaitans lead LSA at state CC

The Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools held its all classes State Championship Cross-Country meet at the Cottonwood Creek Golf Club in Waco Nov. 1.

Sophomore Marcus Gaitan led the way with a ninth-place individual finish as the Lutheran South boys' cross-country team was third at state over the 5,000-meter course.

In the 5A division,

top overall varsity boys' champion Marcelo Parra, also a sophomore, crossed the finish line at 16 minutes, 22.60 seconds as he also led San Antonio TMI to the team championship.

With Marcus Gaitan ninth at 17:36.90, LSA also saw his brother, sophomore Matthew Gaitan, take the 22nd overall spot in a time of 18:22.90.

The Pioneers' other

qualifying scorers included junior Layton Thacker, whose time of 18:36.40 placed him 29th; freshman Easton Bettcher, in at 19:07.10 for 40th place, and senior Elijah Ward (60th in a time of 19:59.20).

In the two-mile girls' race at state, Lutheran South's Catherine Hergenrader was her team's top finisher as she clocked in at 15:22.50 for the 76th spot.

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★ **NEW! Clearbrook Meadows** - Gorgeous 5-2-2 completely updated! Both formals, kitchen, fireplace, huge game room! #KVL  
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★ **NEW! Sageglen** - Beautiful 1-2-2-2-2-2 with formal dining, vaulted ceiling in den, covered porch! #DAL  
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## Elite talent comes to Texas hoops

**By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor**  
Some of the state's top collegiate recruits as well as several of Texas' state-ranked programs will come into focus as the 2021 McDonald's Texas Invitational plays out Nov. 18-20 at eight Pasadena ISD locations as well as two more within Deer Park ISD, and there are many more winners along the way.

Proceeds from the tournament will go directly to the Pasadena ISD and Deer Park ISD education foundations, both 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax exempt entities that benefit students in their respective school districts.

Pasadena ISD Education Foundation Director Andrea Nguyen said excitement is building for many Pasadena ISD groups as the tournament approaches.

For instance, culinary students have for several seasons been involved with providing food for the hospitality rooms at the venues, providing tasty meals, refreshments and treats for visiting coaches, referees, media and other

dignitaries. Journalism students will also be busy trying to capture the perfect images of the action on the court. Literally everywhere one turns, district students will be involved in the fun.

"We're so excited for the arrival of the McDonald's Texas Invitational this year," Nguyen said.

"Not only will many great boys' and girls' basketball players be on the court showing their talents, but many students from a variety of groups will be involved to collectively make the McDonald's event be what we know will be a tremendous success."

Funds from the tournament will go, Nguyen said, to aid the district's minigrant program, which each year can include music, arts and many others that might require funding to occur.

The Pasadena ISD Education Foundation was initiated in 2003, around the same time this tournament debuted. Since then, the two have developed a relationship beneficial to all involved.

"We are so proud of the growth of the McDonald's Texas Invitational and way the event benefits so many students along the way," Nguyen said. "It's an exciting time when the

**Continued on Page 6**

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# South Belt's sports news

## Clear Brook varsity girls open with easy win

Clear Brook opened the varsity girls' basketball season with an easy 58-39 victory at Crosby Nov. 5 as Rezia Castillo led the way with a game-high 16 points. Alyssa Berry added 15 points, and Ja'Delle Major had 11 as the locals coasted to the victory.

## JFD graduate Poullard offers youth 7-on-7

Dobie graduate and former Longhorn standout defensive back Maurice Poullard is set to host tryouts for his Mike Evans Elite 7-on-7 youth football action, featuring age 6U through 15U divisions.

The tryouts will be held Dec. 5 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Sagemont Cowboys' practice field at El Franco Lee Park. The Evans league produced two national champions in 2021 and is looking for more this time around. For more information, call Poullard at 214-394-6797.

## Cowboys' freshmen headed to BAFL Super Bowl

The Bay Area Football League Super Bowl round is headed to Rice Stadium Saturday, Nov. 20 as league supremacy is decided. The Sagemont Cowboys, 9-3 overall this season, will go against the 9-2-1 Hitchcock Red Raiders in the freshman division. The Cowboys and Red Raiders will play in the final game of the day at 3 p.m. During regular-season action as part of week 6, the Red Raiders scored a tight 20-19 victory over the Cowboys.

All tickets are \$7, and there is no outside food or drinks allowed. There are no tents allowed on the premises. See more about the Cowboys in the Nov. 18 and Nov. 25 Leader issues.

## Tourney aids education foundations

Continued from Page 5  
event is in our area and other communities."






The Deer Park ISD Education Foundation was founded in 1991 to help

Deer Park ISD meet needs beyond those provided for by state support.

Over the last 21 years since inception, the foundation has awarded more

than \$1 million dollars to Deer Park ISD, which has, in turn, made a difference in the lives of thousands of students within the district.

## South Belt football predictions

					
Dobie at North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	Dobie	North Shore	North Shore
South Houston at C.E. King	C.E. King	C.E. King	C.E. King	C.E. King	C.E. King
Summer Creek at Channelview	Summer Creek	Channelview	Channelview	Summer Creek	Summer Creek
Clear Creek at Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek	Shadow Creek
Dawson at Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls	Clear Falls
Alief Taylor at Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson	Dickinson
Atascocita at Deer Park	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita	Atascocita
Clear Springs at Pearland	Clear Springs	Pearland	Pearland	Clear Springs	Clear Springs
Angleton at Friendswood	Friendswood	Angleton	Friendswood	Angleton	Angleton
Lutheran South at St. Michael's	LSA	LSA	St. Michaels	LSA	St. Michaels
This week's record	8-2	9-1	5-5	8-2	8-2
Season record	86-23	79-30	68-41	87-22	84-25

# McDonald's Texas Invitational brings star power

The star power will be on display from the opening tip until the final light is darkened as the 2021 McDonald's Texas Invitational, the state's largest and most prestigious regular season varsity boys' and girls' basketball tournament, returns to the area Nov. 18-20.

Once again, 48 boys' teams and 32 more on the girls' side of things will vie for supremacy over three days at 10 different Pasadena ISD and Deer Park ISD locations, with the Division I Gold Bracket championship games capping things Nov. 20 at Phillips Field House.

Nine Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' preseason state-ranked Class 6A boys' squads are included in the field, as are three more state-ranked Class 5A programs.

Opening-day action Nov. 18 features a trio of boys' games pitting state-ranked foes as 6A power No. 5 Clear Brook goes against No. 14 San Marcos at Dobie main; 6A No. 3 Atascocita and 5A No. 4 Katy Paetow do battle at South Houston High School and 6A No. 19 Elkins and 5A No. 12 Hightower tip off at Deer Park's Watkins campus.

The 32-program girls' field could very well provide a bit of a preview of things to come playoff time as state-ranked 6A No. 3 Converse Judson, No. 10 Summer Creek, 13th-ranked Cibolo Steele, No. 20 Spring Branch Memorial and 23rd-ranked Cy-Creek are among those vying for Division I supremacy.

Game sites for the McDonald's Texas Invitational include the six Pasadena ISD high schools (Dobie9 included), Beverly Hills Intermediate, Phillips Field House and the Deer Park ISD South and Watkins campuses. On Nov.

18, there are marquee matchups at each location: Phillips Field House: At 21-4, the Cy-Creek Cougars' boys' team played in the Region III semifinals at the Merrill Center in 2021 and will look to test their talents against state-ranked and 2020-2021 Region I champion Richardson in a 7:30 p.m. battle.

Pasadena Memorial High School: The College Park Cavalier boys, 25-4 a season ago, aim to start strong this time around with a 3 p.m. game against North Crowley, which debuts at No. 15 in the Class 6A Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' preseason state poll.

Dobie High School: An early 10:30 a.m. local matchup features Pearland and veteran Houston area coaching standout Steve Buckalew going against defending 24-6A champion Clear Brook, which has made consecutive appearances in the area playoff round.

South Houston High School: Another 10:30 a.m. clash pits Class 6A boys' power Atascocita against Katy Paetow, which sits at No. 4 in the TABC preseason Class 5A rankings. Atascocita is also the defending Region III champion.

Sam Rayburn High School: The Pearland Dawson boys fashioned a 25-6 run a season ago and return this time around to go against Spring Branch Memorial in the nightcap at 7:30 p.m.

Pasadena High School: The Lake Creek boys, winners of 44 overall games the previous two seasons and a District 20-5A title contender for 2021-2022, take on fellow Class 5A power Manvel in a 3 p.m. tilt. The Mavericks start 18th in the 5A TABC preseason rankings.

Watkins (DPSISD): Hightower, 12th in the

TABC's preseason 5A poll, goes against an Elkins boys' squad that is 19th in the 6A rankings. The excitement begins with a 3 p.m. tipoff.

South Auxiliary (DPSISD): Dobie9: Cibolo Steele, which is 13th in the preseason girls' TABC state 6A rankings, makes

the trip to the McDonald's event and takes on Pearland in a 9 a.m. game at Dobie9.

Beverly Hills Intermediate: A full day of

Division I girls' games includes TABC preseason 6A No. 10 Summer Creek going against Clear Springs in a 1:30 p.m. start as two Region III contend-

ers collide.

Visit [www.texasinvitational.com](http://www.texasinvitational.com) and choose pool and bracket play for a full schedule.

Advance sales of tour-

namment passes and individual game tickets began Nov. 1 and will run through the end of the event Nov. 20.

Tournament passes will

allow access to all tournament games over three days and are \$20.

Individual tickets are also available at \$5 per adult and \$2 per student.



Dobie sophomore special teamer Derrick Kelley (12) heads to the end zone as part of a blocked punt recovery that he returned 21 yards for a touchdown just before halftime of the Longhorns' eventual 48-34 victory over the Trojans Nov. 4 at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. At left is Dobie's Dempsey Spears (13) while Trojan lineman Sa'Von Mitchell (74) trails the action. Photo by Donna Alsdorf

## McDonald's hoops offers social media follows

There are now plenty of social media options available for fans looking to keep up with all of the action from the state's premiere high school basketball tournament, the three-day spectacular that is the 2021 McDonald's Texas Invitational.

Tickets, including three-day all-inclusive passes, remain on sale leading up to and during the tournament.

The tournament passes are \$20 each, while individual game tickets will be sold at each tournament game venue and are \$5 per for adults and \$2 per for

students with a valid student ID card.

Visit [www.texasinvitational.com](http://www.texasinvitational.com) for ticket purchase options.

For basketball fans on the go who would like to keep up with their favorite teams via social media platforms, there are several a single click or tap away:

The tournament site on Facebook can be found at McDonald's Texas Invitational Basketball Tournament; while the event's Twitter feed is at Texas Invitational 2021 and will include up-to-the-moment scores, tournament up-

dates and more as students in the district's audio visual programs will deliver the news in a rush.

Prefer TikTok? There's updates, videos and more by visiting @texasinvitational, and photos of game action and daily updates are also available on Instagram by way of the Pasadena ISD's official page at pasadenaisdtx.

As always, brackets are updated throughout the day at [texasinvitational.com](http://texasinvitational.com) as fans may track their team's progress, particularly during day two and then championship Saturday bracket action.

The event has come a long way since debuting in 1999 with 15 boys' teams and 26 total games played at four sites, with no social media platforms in play.

The McDonald's Texas Invitational is indeed the premier high school basketball tournament in the state and in many recent seasons has provided an early look at several regional and state tournament contenders in both boys' and girls' play.

The best part is there's now more social media options available at a click to keep up with all of the action.

## Longhorns to playoffs at 8-2

Continued from Page 5  
over South Houston, Dobie extended its district record of consecutive wins over Pasadena ISD opponents to 17.

And while there were 82 total points scored in the game, one could very well point to the final 7 minutes, 41 seconds of the first half as the turning point.

The Trojans led 13-7 early in the second quarter but then saw Dobie's Raynard Hall give the Longhorns a 14-13 lead following a 28-yard scoring run.

Fair enough, as the Trojans to that point had stood toe-to-toe with the Longhorns. Only at this point, the Trojans went back on offense down a point and standout sophomore quarterback Kam'ron Webb sitting out the drive in favor of Kendrick Banks, usually a receiver.

The Trojans were held to six yards as part of a three-and-out, and Dobie proceeded to travel 96 yards on 10 plays, with Gray bursting the final 52 down

the left sideline for a touchdown and a 21-13 lead with :33 left in the half.

And if the Longhorns' 96-yard drive weren't enough damage, Berneathy and his staff successfully forced a South Houston punt.

More trouble for the Trojans ensued as the Longhorns' Emmanuel Drain broke through to block the punt, with sophomore and varsity newcomer Derrick Kelley scooping up the loose ball and racing 21 yards untouched for a touchdown and a 28-13 halftime lead.

The 21 unanswered points for the Longhorns to close the first half would prove to be the difference in this one.

The Longhorns forced a turnover on downs to start the second stanza and went 44 yards in five plays with the aid of a face mask penalty as Trajan Davis went three yards for a score and a 35-13 lead at the 6:52 mark of the third quarter.

From there, Webb, who

missed just the one critical drive in the first half, scored on a 1-yard run to get the Trojans within 35-20. But Davis made it 41-20 on a two-yard run with just over nine minutes left.

And while the senior Davis heads into the post-season as the leading rusher in the district and leader in rushing touchdowns, Dobie fans also got another glimpse of the future.

Freshman running back Cameron Mathews, playing in just his second varsity game, got free and delivered a 77-yard touchdown sprint in the fourth as Dobie led 48-20 with just under seven minutes left.

Webb, who threw for three touchdowns in the game, also caught a touchdown pass and ran for another to account for each of his team's scores in the game.

South Houston is set to play C.E. King in a Class 6A Division II bidistrict playoff game Nov. 12 at Sheldon ISD's Panther Stadium.

## Wolverines wrap up 3-7 push

Continued from Page 5  
verines got a 24-6A best five interceptions from Jaylen Price, who will also return.

In the big picture, Dickinson won the 24-6A championship and has advanced to face Dawson in a 6A Division I playoff

game, while second-place Clear Springs will host Alief Taylor in a 6A Division II playoff tilt.

Clear Springs, which wound up third in the 24-6A standings, will play at Pearland in a 6A Division I game, and fourth-place Clear Creek is set to play a

6A Division II postseason game at Shadow Creek.

University Interscholastic League realignment coming in February, 2022 could bring about a lineup change in 24-6A, yet it's hard to predict much until the announcement comes in February.

## Brook's Trevino 28th at state

Matthew Trevino, the top-performing boys' cross-country runner in Clear Brook history, wrapped up his terrific career with a 28th-place finish at 15 minutes, 52.10 seconds during the University Interscholastic League's all classes State Championship Meet Nov. 6 at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

Vandergrift junior Kevin Sanchez was the 6A boys' champion at 14 minutes, 53.40 seconds over the 5,000-meter course, while Southlake Carroll was the team champion with a low of 65 points.

On the 6A girls' side of things, Flower Mound's Natalie Cook was the top overall medalist at 16:32.40 as her crew also won the team championship.

Matthew's brother, sophomore Joseph Trevino, reached the Region III championships this season and has two remaining seasons with the Wolverines.



At right, Clear Brook senior cross-country runner Matthew Trevino, already the holder of the school's best-ever 5,000-meter time, ran in Round Rock at the Class 6A State Championships and was 28th overall in the Class 6A boys' field Nov. 6.

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- No. 7 6A Clear Brook Boys
- No. 10 5A Crosby Boys
- No. 12 5A Hightower Boys
- No. 14 6A San Marcos Boys
- No. 15 6A North Crowley Boys
- No. 18 5A Manvel Boys
- No. 19 6A Elkins Boys
- No. 24 6A Tompkins Boys
- No. 1 5A Cedar Park Girls
- No. 3 6A Converse Judson Girls
- No. 10 6A Summer Creek Girls
- No. 12 6A Cibolo Steele Girls
- No. 23 6A Cy-Creek Girls

At right, Clear Brook state-bound cross-country runner Matthew Trevino (center) was treated with quite the send-off as school band members, cheerleaders, and supporting students sent him and cross-country coaches Christopher Gillis (left) and Erica Alexander off with a celebration Nov. 5 on campus. Once in Round Rock for the University Interscholastic League's Class 6A 5,000-meter run Nov. 6, Trevino clocked in at 15 minutes, 52.10 seconds for 28th place as he finished off his high school cross-country career in style.



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# CALENDAR

It is advisable to verify meeting prior to attending. For AA, <https://aahouston.org/meetings>; for NA, visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com); for AI-Anon meetings, visit [www.houstonalanon.org](http://www.houstonalanon.org).

**Contemplating suicide? Visit <https://afsp.org/> or call 800-273-8255.**

**The Humpday Dance at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E League City Parkway is open. Wednesday sessions: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. ballroom dancing (not lessons). Monday lessons: 1:30 - 3 p.m. Park activity card holders attend free. Call 281-554-1180.**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12**  
7 p.m.  
**Narcotics Anonymous** - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). Call 713-661-4200 for details.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>. 8 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - meets at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (247) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>. 7:30 a.m.  
**Rotary Club of Pearland** - Meets Thursdays at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St. or online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. See chamber website-->calendar. 9:30 a.m.  
**NASA Aglow Community Lighthouse** - Meets the second Thursday at Praise Chapel, 18516 Hwy. 3, in Webster. Call 281-910-1971. 11:30 a.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**  
7:30 a.m.  
**AA** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Nov. 11 notice. 9:30 a.m.  
**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Nov. 11. 11 a.m.  
**AI-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English)** - For women affected by an addict. Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/>. 1 p.m.  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church** - knitting class, Call 281-479-7285 prior to coming.

**ABWA - Southeast Express Network** - American Business Women's Association-South. Meets at Big Horn BBQ, 2300 Smith Ranch Rd., Pearland. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$20 cash or check). Includes networking with professional business women/ guest speakers. Reservations appreciated. Visit [www.seen-abwa.org](http://www.seen-abwa.org). Noon

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
5:30 p.m.  
**Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program in the Life Kids Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635.  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
10 a.m.  
**AI-Anon Deer Park** - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church (in back), 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Call 409-454-5720 for details. 5 p.m.  
**New Directions Singles** - Age 55+ meets for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Parkway. For details, Call 281-814-4750.  
**Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Toastmasters** - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 meets virtually except the second and fourth Mondays

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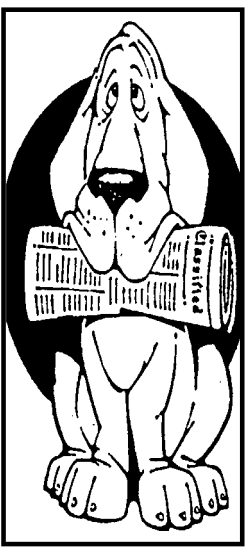
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# PISD breaks ground on new Thompson

**Continued from Page 1**  
Such a move, however, would cost the district significantly more money.

New plans call for relocating the Thompson campus to a piece of property in the 8700 block of Hughes Road in the Pearland city limits.

The current campus suffered extensive damage during

Hurricane Harvey. Following the historic storm, Thompson students were temporarily housed at Beverly Hills Intermediate for five months, while school officials and an independent committee studied the issue.

"To say I am excited would be an understatement," said Tannis Griffin, Thompson princi-

pal. "Thousands of Lions have walked the halls of Thompson on Sagedowne since opening the doors in the fall of 1972, establishing the high standards and traditions that help make Thompson the heart of the South Belt. As we approach the 50-year-anniversary of Thompson on Sagedowne, we celebrate the precious memo-

ries made and traditions established that will carry on in our new building on Hughes," said Griffin.

Construction of the new school was already underway prior to the ceremonial groundbreaking and is expected to be complete by March 2023. The school is scheduled to open in August 2023.

## Annual chess tournament winners named

On Saturday, Oct. 30, Pasadena ISD held its 11th annual Fall Chess Classic at Beverly Hills Intermediate. In total, 231 students participated from 49 campuses, including 12 high schools, 14 intermediate schools, 12 middle schools

and 11 elementary schools. Forty of the schools participating were from PISD, while 9 were from other districts.

The district's thanks go out to all the campus chess coaches and other adult volunteers who went and helped. Gratitude is also due to

the scorekeepers, hall monitors and the custodians. Likewise, to all the campus administrators and central office personnel (including Dr. Karen Hickman, Lindsey Lesniewski and Dan Hoppie) who attended to support the students.

In all divisions, each student played four games. Students received one point for each win and a half-point for each draw.

The next tournament will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at BHI. See related photos on Page 4.



Shown above, left to right, are intermediate students (front row) Carlos Albarran, Beverly Hills; Andrew Posey, Beverly Hills; Julian Trevino, Southmore; Noe Rocha, Bonnette Jr. High; (back row) Brandon Lozano, Raul Yzaguirre; Hussai Arias, Beverly Hills; John Tran, Bondy; and Richard Le, Beverly Hills.



Shown above, left to right, are high school students (front row) James Leskowitz, Clear Falls; Brendan Rehein, Deer Park; Jimmy Bui, Dobie 9; Fynnlan Ridge, CTHS; Dylan Campos, Dobie; Tristan Fuentes, Dobie; (back row) John Abou Elias, Deer Park; and Gustavo Escamilla, Pasadena.

## Jasso named a Trailblazer



Congratulations to the Morris Middle School sixth-grade male Trailblazer of the Month for October, Cruz Jasso (center). The school staff say Jasso is a great student and a joy to be around. He tries very hard to always give his best and takes pride in his work. He asks questions when needed and is very good at meeting deadlines. He is independent, a self-starter, very attentive and always helpful around the classroom. Jasso is a great role model to his peers as he is always willing to help others with any academic struggles. He is very kind, works hard and is respectful to his classmates and his teachers. The school is proud to call him a Morris Trailblazer. Shown with Jasso are Allison Lewallen, principal, (left) and Robin Cate, assistant principal.

## Hernandez honored at Morris



Congratulations to the Morris Middle School sixth-grade female Trailblazer of the Month for October, Natalia Hernandez (center). According to the staff Hernandez is a hard worker who is always offering her best. She is kind and respectful of others, while also remaining responsible by staying on top of her assignments. Every day, Hernandez arrives ready to participate in class discussions and to help her peers navigate the Summit Learning platform. There is not a day she does not greet everyone with a smile! The school is proud to call her a Morris Trailblazer. Shown with Hernandez are Allison Lewallen, principal, (left) and Jamie Otto, assistant principal.

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