

# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 44 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, December 17, 2020 Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com www.southbeltleader.com Vol. 45, No. 47

### Holiday schedules set

**South Belt-Ellington Leader**  
The Leader will be on a holiday schedule from Friday, Dec. 18, through Monday, Jan. 4. The last issue of 2020 will run Thursday, Dec. 24, and the first issue of 2021 will run Thursday, Jan. 7. There will be no Dec. 31 edition. Items for publication may be sent to mynews@southbeltleader.com. Emergencies may be directed to Marie Flickinger at 281-948-2714.

**Clear Brook City MUD office**  
The offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, in celebration of Christmas. They will reopen Monday, Dec. 28, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

**CBC MUD office New Year schedule**  
The offices of CBCMUD will be closed Friday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. They will reopen Monday, Jan. 4, at 8 a.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box located on the drive-thru side of the building. No cash will be accepted in the drop box.

**CBC MUD trash service**  
Residents living in CBCMUD who have trash service on Thursday will have regular service Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, and on New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31. All trash must be curbside no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup. Residents living in Clear Brook City MUD who receive trash services on Friday will not have regular pickup Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, or on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. Regular services will resume the following Tuesday, Dec. 29, and Jan. 5, 2021, respectively. All trash must be curbside no later than 6 a.m. on the day of pickup.

**Kirkmont Utility District**  
The trash pickup service for Kirkmont MUD, will not be affected for Christmas or New Year's since the trash is scheduled for Wednesdays and Saturdays.

**Sagemeadow Utility District**  
MUD Sagemeadow, 10755 Hall Road, will have trash pickup Tuesday, Dec. 22, and Dec. 29 only. There will be no trash service Christmas, Dec. 25, or New Year's, Jan. 1, 2021, both of which fall on Friday.

**City of Houston**  
The City of Houston Solid Waste Department will maintain its normally scheduled pickup service Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24. Residents who are normally serviced on Fridays will have their pickup Christmas Day, Dec. 25, moved to Saturday, Dec. 26. Residents serviced on Thursdays will also have their trash picked up on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, while residents serviced on Fridays will have their New Year's Day service rescheduled for Saturday, Jan. 2. For more information, call 311 or visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/holiday.html.

**COVID numbers continue**  
As of Wednesday, Dec. 16, a total of 85 South Belt residents had been confirmed dead from COVID-19, according to Harris County officials. That number is up one from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials. Of the 2,850 confirmed cases in 77089, 365 remain active, while 2,446 have recovered from the virus. To date, 39 from the ZIP code have died from the disease – no increase from last week.

In 77075, 207 of the 2,077 confirmed cases remain active, while 1,847 have recovered. A total of 23 from the ZIP code have died – up one from the previous week. Of the 2,300 confirmed cases in 77034, 235 remain active, while 2,042 have recovered from the disease. To date, 23 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease – no increase from the previous week. According to Harris County Public Health officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Countywide, there are 210,362 total confirmed cases. Of those, 183,315 have recovered from the disease, while 24,491 cases remain active. A total of 2,541 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

**Beltway closures planned**  
At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 22. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 23.

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

**SH3/Old Galveston closure**  
SH 3/Old Galveston Road from Landolt Street to Clear Creek/Harris-Galveston county line in Webster will be intermittently closed daily from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 18. This will be a complete closure of all northbound and southbound lanes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The closures are associated with 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.

## Carjacker killed by Pasadena police on Sabo

An alleged carjacker was fatally shot by Pasadena police around 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, following a chase on Sabo near Fuqua. Michael Anthony Dilbeck, 34, was pronounced dead at the scene. Dilbeck was reportedly from the Edgebrook area.

According to investigators, the incident began earlier that morning when the suspect reportedly stole a black Cadillac Escalade from the 9800 block of Blackhawk near Beltway 8 at gunpoint. (See related story on this page.)

Following the robbery, the vehicle's OnStar security system tracked the SUV into Pasadena, alerting the city's police of its location at approximately 3 p.m. The OnStar system then shut down the vehicle to allow police to get to its location.

When police arrived at the scene, however, Dilbeck then held a gun to his own head, prompting officers to back off, as the male proceeded to get into another nearby vehicle, a Ford F-150 pickup truck, which already had the keys in the ignition.

The suspect then led Pasadena police on a chase along the Gulf Freeway – sometimes going in the opposite direction of traffic – before exiting onto Fuqua. As the fleeing man approached Sabo, he

was pinned in by multiple law-enforcement units. According to investigators, the suspect then brandished a handgun and was shot multiple times by four Pasadena police officers.

Police said Dilbeck struck several other vehicles during the pursuit. No injuries were reported.

South Belt resident John King witnessed the incident firsthand.

"I was present at the shooting and believe that I was the only civilian witness," said King, a former Harris County sheriff's office detention officer. "I noticed Pasadena police vehicles with flashing lights chasing a white vehicle southbound on Sabo Road directly past me while I was on the sidewalk, so I stepped on the median for a better view after they passed me. I then observed flashing lights coming back so the driver must have made a U-turn to get away from law enforcement. The driver then attempted to make another U-turn at Kirkhall Drive, but the vehicle was rammed multiple times by law enforcement, which initially pushed it forward to continue the turn. I thought the culprit was going to get away or make a run for it into my lap; therefore, I mentally prepared to defend myself until police

opened fire on the culprit inside the vehicle with me just 40 feet away. I was then ordered to go home."

The officers involved in the shooting are being placed on administrative leave during the investigation.

No officers were injured in the incident. Pasadena ISD police assisted during the violent incident by blocking access to nearby schools in the area, including Meador Elementary and Beverly Hills Intermediate.



More than 45 emergency vehicles filled Sabo Road in a five block area Monday afternoon when a carjacker was shot and killed in his vehicle after a chase that involved Pasadena police and Houston police. Four officers from Pasadena shot the carjacker who died at the scene. Photo by Marie Flickinger



Four Pasadena police officers were involved in a fatal shooting of a carjacking suspect around 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, following a pursuit that ended on Sabo near Fuqua. The suspect had allegedly stolen a black Cadillac Escalade earlier that morning at gunpoint from someone in the 9800 block of Blackhawk near Beltway 8. During the pursuit, the carjacker reportedly drew a handgun on himself at one point, before brandishing it toward officers. No officers were injured in the incident. Photo by Marie Flickinger

## Two area carjackings in five days

At least two armed carjackings took place in the South Belt community this past week.

The first incident took place around 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, in the 10400 block of Sageville. Precinct 2 deputies responded to find the male victim had just returned home from the gym when his Audi was stolen at gunpoint by someone driving a white Chrysler Town and Country, which was parked in the middle of the street. The van turned out to have also been stolen in the same manner in Baytown.

The suspect was described as a light-skinned Hispanic male in his mid-30s.

Just four days later around 11:15 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14, police responded to a carjacking in the 9800 block of Blackhawk near Beltway 8. In this incident, a masked suspect allegedly stole a black Cadillac Escalade with the Texas license plate ANISRE. The suspect fled the scene traveling north toward Carmalee Street.

The Leader heard unconfirmed reports of another possible carjacking taking place Thursday, Dec. 10 in the 10900 block of Kirkbrush.

## Moore students share, brighten Christmas for others



The students from Moore Elementary School opened up their hearts and shared Christmas joy with many of their neighbors through the 38th annual South Belt-Ellington Leader Christmas program. In a year that has looked bleak for many, caring for others is a valuable lesson to learn. Shown left, ready to spread Christmas joy are Nhi Banh (left) and Olivia Vela. At right in matching outfits are Jenaya Perez (left) and Alesana Salinas. See additional photos on Page 3. Photos by Angelica Moreno-Perez



## Info on how to get vaccine hard to get

**No one knows the procedure**

Seven Houston-area hospitals are among the first 23 in the state to receive COVID-19 vaccines for distribution.

Between Monday, Dec. 14, and Tuesday, Dec. 15, the first shipments of the Pfizer vaccine were received by the following area hospitals: MD Anderson Cancer Center; Texas Children's Hospital Main; LBJ Hospital; CHI St. Luke's Health; Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center; Houston Methodist Hospital; and Ben Taub General Hospital.

Texas received more than 220,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the first week of distribution, state health officials said. In all, 1.4 million doses are to be distributed statewide to 109 hospitals across 34 counties during the month of December, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. MD Anderson Cancer Center was the first Houston hospital to receive the vaccine, accepting 4,875 doses.

"These vaccines will save lives and play a crucial role in our efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and bring hospitalizations down in our communities," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a press release.

While officials said frontline health workers will be the first to receive the vaccine, the specific distribution plans remained unclear at press time. Multiple inquiries for details from the Leader to local hospitals, doctors and pharmacies were answered with, "We don't know."

State and county officials had previously indicated that nursing home residents, first responders and those with underlying issues would also be treated before the remainder of the population wishing to be vaccinated.

While the arrival of the vaccine is good news to many, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo urges residents to not become complacent against the ongoing pandemic threat.

"Even with a vaccine on the horizon, it is important for residents to know that the current distribution plans are not fast enough to make an impact on the current surge," Hidalgo said. "In just one day – yesterday (Dec. 10), we lost 3,000 people nationwide to COVID-19, including residents right here in Harris County. This week, our TMC hospital system surpassed its ICU base capacity demonstrating our health care system is under renewed strain. These trends demonstrate that we are far from through with this and we are desperately asking our community to do more. It's been a tough year, but we owe it to our frontline workers and the thousands who have lost loved ones from this virus to keep at it. We still have time to turn these trends around. Regardless of whether you have been exposed to the virus or not, now is the time to get tested and cancel and avoid holiday gatherings. There is finally light at the end of the tunnel, but we're not there yet." To find a free COVID-19 testing center, visit covcheck.hctx.net.

## Prayers answered



Workers from Galaxy Construction LLC are shown above prying in front of St. Luke's Catholic Church after recently replacing a roof for disabled veteran Angelica Gonzalez. Bese by multiple health and financial issues, Gonzalez said she had been praying for help to make the necessary repairs on her Kirkmont home. The longtime resident said the staff at Galaxy answered her prayers, making a Christmas miracle come true.

## Gonzalez gets free roof

A local construction company recently made a resident's Christmas prayer come true by replacing her leaking roof free of charge. Homeowner Angelica Gonzalez, a disabled veteran on a fixed income, said the gesture was nothing short of a miracle.

"What an answer to my overtime prayers," said Gonzalez. "It was like I had won a lottery. I am truly thankful for this wonderful Christmas miracle."

A native Houstonian, Gonzalez joined the U.S. Army in 1986 – first as a reserve for one year, before enlisting full time for four years. Shortly after signing up, she was deployed to the first Gulf War.

Upon completing her enlistment, Gonzalez attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, where she majored in chemistry with a minor in environmental science.

After working in multiple positions in the petroleum industry, Gonzalez began teaching at various spots before landing a job at Chavez High School in the Houston Independent School District, where she was awarded Teacher of the Year for the HISD East area district. Gonzalez later went on to teach chemistry at Pearland High School for four years.

Then in 2010, Gonzalez became ill with a left brain benign tumor, which caused vertigo, dizziness and balance difficulties. She received radiation and steroid treatment to reduce inflammation. Gonzalez then developed a severe case of Cushing's syndrome that was steroid-induced. After many falls, she was hospitalized at Methodist Hospital for two weeks. She had to relearn to walk and went to physical therapy for several months.

Continued on Page 3

# Publisher's Opinion

## Merry Christmas, God bless you all

It is three days before our Christmas program to help those in the community who have had an especially tough year. This year I was concerned about our program because so many of the donations come from our school kids, and many of them are not in school and/or are having a tough year also. Well, God and the South Belt community came through in flying colors. We will be helping well over 100 kids and their families with toys and food. Just as I was realizing we were short of items to give, the community, and es-

pecially our school kids came through! And the adults really have shown faith in us and our community. People come in, and give us money and don't even want their name mentioned! They are just sharing. Thank you all so much. Our staff can tell you, I spent a large part of the day in happy tears. God bless you all for caring about our neighbors. May you all have a blessed Christmas and may 2021 be much better than 2020. Check future *Leaders* for pictures.  
**Marie Flickinger**  
Publisher

## Deaths

### Glenda Hanson



Glenda Hanson, 75, died Dec. 2, 2020 after a brave battle with cancer. She was born July 31, 1945, in Rio Hondo, Texas, to Dirl and Ellen Pettit. She was also known to family members as "Mom," "Sweetheart," "Sis," "Aunt GG" and "Mammaw."

She had a passion for the church and never missed an opportunity to share the message of salvation. She spent many years ministering through music as a member of a quartet with both of her sisters. She met Cecil Hanson through the church and they married in 1964. They moved to Houston and continued sharing the gospel, singing as a duet.

Glenda loved Jesus with all her heart and found her purpose in him. She had a relentless, courageous faith. Her family witnessed her modeling this faith daily through every circumstance.

She is survived by her husband; children Stephen Hanson and wife Rochelle; daughter Christine Hanson; sisters Ruth White and husband Ronnie and Della Deschner; grandchildren Brooke, Shelby, Stephen Jr. and Lauren Hanson; and several aunts, cousins, nephews and their families.

Glenda was preceded in death by her parents.

### Gerald (Gerry) Stewart



Gerald (Gerry) Stewart, a longtime South Belt resident, died Nov. 30, 2020, at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital due to complications from COVID-19. He was born Aug. 23, 1947, in St. Louis.

At six years of age, he moved with his parents to Pass Christian, Miss., and lived there until 1969 when he and his wife moved to the Houston area. He loved his family (his wife, daughter and numerous pets). He also loved history, and he really loved ice hockey.

He was usually seen wearing a hockey jersey during cooler weather. In the 1970s, he played hockey in the position of goalie at the old ice rink in Houston. He last worked as a tax examiner for the Texas Workforce Commission before retiring.

Gerry is survived by his wife Mary; daughter Michelle Stewart; and nieces and nephews in Missouri, New York, Connecticut, Georgia and Mississippi. He will be forever loved and never forgotten.

### Mary Catherine Sims Massey



Mary Catherine Sims Massey, 79, of Cypress, Texas, died Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020. She was born Feb. 10, 1941, in Latexo, Texas, but spent most of her life in Houston, making an indelible mark on friends, family members and the community at large.

A graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School, Cathy attended the University of Houston where she was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She and her husband of 51 years, Raymond, worked together to create and run several successful businesses and were active members of the Arabia Shrine Temple. Raymond was president of the Shrine Patrol Association of North America and Cathy led the volunteers at the Shrine Hospital of Houston.

She was a member of the Blue Birds and, more recently, an officer of The Heritage First Ladies from The Heritage at Towne Lake in Cypress. She also actively volunteered by making blankets for Children of Fallen Soldiers and the Project Linus chapter.

Cathy knew the value of relationships, serving as the matriarch of a large extended family and maintaining friendships for decades, such as the Bridge Broads, a small group of women who have been playing bridge and supporting each other since 1968, and serving as the organizer of events large and small for her neighborhood, various organizations and her family.

She was predeceased by her husband, Charles Raymond Massey Jr.; her parents Martin Culbertson Sims and Bethel Aretta Parsley Sims; and her brothers Kenneth Sims and Eugene Sims. She is survived by her sister June Cook; her children Sheri and Wayne Harbour of Carrollton; Raymond and Jami Massey of Round Rock; and Lori and Roger Brissette of San Antonio; her

grandchildren Jessica and Casey Lamar, Jennifer and Brian Sheffield, Taylor and Jaimie Brissette, Drew and Kassie Harbour, Chase Massey, Colin Massey, Parker Brissette, Justin Cliffe and Tyler Cliffe; and her great-grandchildren Aubrey and Kennedy Sheffield, Lincoln and Booker Lamar and Kaden and Kayleigh Harbour.

Friends were invited to a visitation with the family Sunday, Dec. 13, at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons Funeral Home.

She will be laid to rest as her ashes are scattered along with the bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes in the same place as her husband on their family ranch in Ledbetter.

In lieu of customary remembrances, donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals in the name of Cathy Massey at <https://donate.lovetotherescue.org>.

### Edwin R. Beeker Jr.



Longtime South Belt resident Edwin R. Beeker Jr., 83, died Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. He was born in Oakwood, Texas Feb. 21, 1937, to Edwin R. Beeker and Lena Mae Connell Beeker. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Beth Janelle Beeker; daughter Carrie Lynn Beeker; sister Ella Brunelle Bell; brother-in-law Clifford Issic Bell; niece Paula Bell; and nephew Chad Bilbrey. He is survived by daughters Kimberly Beeker Street and husband Aaron of Pearland; Susan Beeker Vance and husband Mike of Pearland; grandchildren Cameron Vance, Laine Vance and Collin Vance of Pearland; sister-in-law Neva Bilbrey and husband Gene of Arlington; nephew Jay Bilbrey of Burleson; and several great-nieces and a great-nephew. Ed resided in the South Belt area for more than 55 years. He served in the Air Force early in his career. He then went to work for the Texaco IT department from which he retired in 1994. He was a devoted family man who adored his grandchildren. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, football and, most importantly, spending time with his family.

Once his grandchildren came along, he could be found regularly at baseball practice, dance recitals and baseball games. Until the last four years, he never missed a game or recital. He was a devoted husband and family man.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a favorite charity in honor of Edwin Beeker Jr.



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### Alameda Mall Hours

Dec. 19th-23rd 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. • Sun. (Dec. 20th) 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Dec. 24th 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Dec 25th Closed

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Dec. 19th-23rd 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Dec. 24th 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Dec. 25th Closed

Burlington

Dec. 19th-23rd 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.  
Dec. 24th 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Dec. 25th Closed

dd's DISCOUNTS

Dec. 19th-23rd 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Dec. 24th 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Dec. 25th Closed



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## In My Opinion

### Longtime fans keep up with Dobie Horns

Hello Gang, First of all: Congrats to Dobie football! This is the first ever unbeaten season. Hi to Marie, Dave and John. I miss all of you. Hope you are all doing well.

We have lived in New Braunfels for the past 5 years. I am 8 miles from Smithson Valley High school football stadium and love to see them play! If ever in New Braunfels please give me call 830-358-0085. Take Good Care & Merry Christmas.

### Roy & Betty Shiflett

**Publisher's note:** How great to hear from former neighbors, longtime South Belt business friends, and one of the most dedicated fans the Dobie Horns have ever had! Thanks for writing.

**Marie Flickinger,**  
Publisher

### PISD fundraiser huge success

Dear South Belt Community, The Pasadena Schools Education Foundation virtual fundraiser "Back 4 the Future of our kids" was a huge success! I am overwhelmed at the generosity of our Pasadena Schools community! Because of the generosity of so many, the Education

Foundation can continue providing teachers with programs and equipment that aid in the learning process.

Thank you to all who donated! A special thank you to Burleigh Chiropractic here in the South Belt for being a sponsor of the Telethon. If you did not have a chance to donate, there is still time (see information below). If you did not tune in to the live portion you missed an amazing 8 hours of performances showcasing the talents of our students and stories about how the Education Foundation helps our teachers help our students by providing innovative teaching tools made possible through mini-grants.

Thank you Trustees and Administrators! Our Pasadena Schools Board of Trustees and the District Administrators were at the Telethon answering the phones and helping wherever needed.

And a huge THANK YOU to the many teachers and students who gave of their time and talents to make this event possible. In this year of no performances, these folks found ways to perform safely for the Telethon! You really need to see it! View it at: <https://live.stream.com/pasadenaisd/events/9387219>

**Judy Harrison,** President-Elect Pasadena ISD Education Foundation  
To donate  
TEXT: B4TF31 to 71777  
ONLINE: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/B4TF/JudyHarrison>

## Thompson celebrates season with ugly sweaters



Stefanie Cantin, math teacher, was all smiles as she participated in the holiday event.



Showing off her "Baaaah Humbug" ugly holiday sweater while social distancing is Tanis Griffin, Thompson Intermediate principal.

In spite of the challenge of the long-term pandemic, the staff of area schools including Thompson Intermediate are keeping the holiday spirit alive, being creative during this season, while observing social-distance guidelines of maintaining physical distance and wearing face coverings.



Above, wearing a flamingo-themed ugly sweater is Kandace McMullin, a science teacher.



Cynthia Mills, a Thompson paraprofessional, poses wearing her festive holiday outfit.



Smiling under his mask and wearing a cow-themed ugly sweater is Elias Noguerras, ESL teacher.

## Moore shares gifts

Students at Moore Elementary holding toy donations, left to right, are (front row) James Rowdy; Alexia Lozano; Iker Valdez; Calvin Tran; (middle row) Maycee De Leon; Tyrie Salter; Zoe Revis; Koi Turner; Julian Cartwright; (back row) Jill Lacamu, principal; and Deedee Pitts, assistant principal. See related photos on Page 1.



## Gonzalez gets new roof donated by Galaxy

Continued from Page 1

During the next few years Gonzalez's home was damaged by multiple storms, including Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and Tropical Storm Beta in 2020. Making matters worse, raccoons had chewed a hole in Gonzalez's roof.

Despite the best efforts of relatives and volunteers

to help Gonzalez make necessary repairs, she was recently forced to reach out to professionals for estimates on the work.

Gonzalez received multiple quotes, then prayed on the matter. After hearing her story, one of the contractors – Galaxy Construction LLC – contacted Gonzalez and said they needed to do a sec-

ond inspection. During the next visit, workers surprised Gonzalez by telling her they were going to replace her roof free of charge. Galaxy employees further told Gonzalez they would also replace her rotting siding and gables.

The entire exchange was posted to Galaxy's website. "Today, the Lord has

blessed you with a brand new roof for free," said a Galaxy worker in the video. "You've given so much to society, we want to give back to you."

To view the surprise, visit galaxyconstruction.us/free-roof-given-to-veteran-in-need. See related letter to the editor in next week's Leader.

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www.stlukesatholic.com

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

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

\*Also Available on Facebook Live

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

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

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

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**Christmas at St. Luke \* Navidad en San Lucas**

Thursday, December 24 de diciembre

2pm: Christmas Eve English Mass  
4pm: Christmas Eve English Mass  
7:30PM: Misa de Noche Buena  
Livestreamed online - Transmitido en vivo en-linea

Friday, December 25 de diciembre

12:00am: Midnight Mass (English/Ingles)  
10:00am: Multilingual Mass/Misa Multilingüe

We will allow entry to as many as we can safely seat. Remember, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Permitiremos la entrada a todos los que podamos sentar con seguridad. Recuerde, la obligación de asistir a Misa los domingos y Días Santos permanece suspendida en la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston.

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church  
11011 Hall Road, Houston, TX 77089

Christmas Household Watch Party  
Join us from the comfort of your own home and watch our Christmas Masses online with your family.  
Celebración Navideña en el Hogar  
Únase a nosotros desde la comodidad de su hogar y vea nuestras Misas de Navidad en línea con su familia.

www.stlukesatholic.com  
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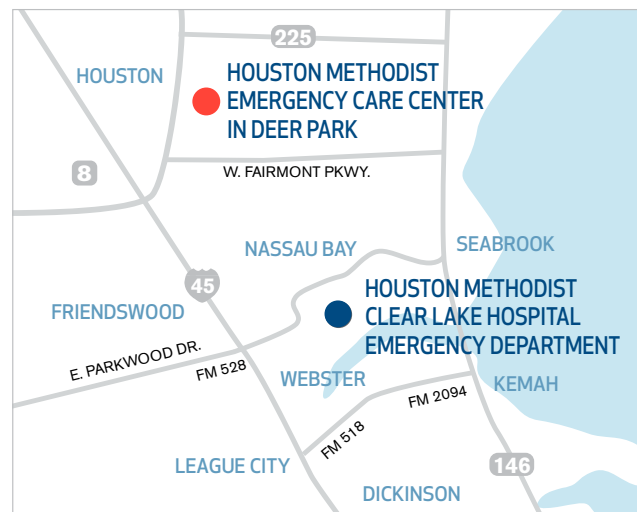
Houston Methodist Emergency Care Center in Deer Park is a full-service emergency room that offers treatment for minor emergencies as well as life-threatening ones, including:

- Board-certified emergency doctors
- 24/7/365 care
- Easy building access and free parking
- Treatment for children and adults
- Private treatment rooms
- X-ray, CT and ultrasound
- On-site laboratory

Houston Methodist has implemented additional safety precautions to ensure we provide safe and effective care to our patients. In-person and virtual appointments are available as needed.



Visit [houstonmethodist.org/er](http://houstonmethodist.org/er) to learn more.



# Remember When

## 40 years ago (1980)

Thirty winners in 10 different areas of the South Belt were awarded prizes in the McCarver Realtors annual Christmas lighting contest held Dec. 16. Each of the 10 sections judged had winners in Best Religious, Most Beautiful and Most Original categories. An appropriate yard sign was placed in each of the winners' yards.

Dec. 17, was the deadline to file for positions on the Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees. Three men, including two incumbents who filed for the three positions, were incumbent Cecil Ghormley for Position 1; incumbent Jay Neal Welch for Position 2; and attorney David West for Position 3.

## 35 years ago (1985)

The arson division of the Houston Fire Department investigated a fire which occurred in the Scarsdale Shopping Center. Most of the shops in the small center suffered smoke damage from the fire which began in Lee's Tailoring. Five fire stations, including Station 70, responded to the fire. Witnesses told firemen they heard three explosions around the time the fire occurred.

The design development phase of construction for Clear Creek Independent School District's third high school was approved by the district's board of trustees and construction was slated to begin in June 1986.

The Dixie Farm Road bridge that passed over the

Gulf Freeway would be closed for at least two months as a result of being hit by an overheight truck on the freeway.

Dobie High School's team finished second in the PISD's Academic Decathlon held at Pasadena High School. Dobie finished behind Pasadena High which won the championship for the second consecutive year.

## 30 years ago (1990)

South Belt's City Councilman Frank Mancuso was nominated mayor pro tem after the illness and death of Councilman Judson Robinson. Mayor Kathy Whitmire released the nomination.

Thompson Intermediate assistant principal Stan Honeycutt, eighth-grade science teacher Bill Saxon and sev-

enth-grade science teacher Bill Taylor camped out on the roof of the school to satisfy a promise made to students. Taylor inspired students to raise more than \$2,000 for United Way when he promised to spend the night on the roof. Thompson students met his challenge and raised close to \$2,300 in one week. In PISD, Thompson ranked first among intermediate schools and second in the district for the most money raised.

A record 23 Dobie High School band members placed at various levels at the All-Region try-out competition held at Aldine High School.

## 25 years ago (1995)

San Jacinto College regents met in closed session to discuss grade tampering allegations against chancellor

Tom Sewell.

A 31-year-old Highland Meadow resident and a 25-year-old female were found dead, each from a self-inflicted single bullet. A note written in Vietnamese was translated and revealed a suicide pact.

A medical fund was established for Sagemeadow resident Kathy Wilder for injuries she sustained after being thrown from her own van by abductors.

Beverly Hills Intermediate students and faculty mourned the death of 13-year-old Clarke Flynn. He suffered from a rare genetic defect and had been in a coma for about a week.

Dr. Tom Spencer announced his retirement effective Dec. 31 as president

of the San Jacinto College South campus.

## 20 years ago (2000)

Ten-year-old Lindsay Simpson scheduled her second heart transplant.

Gordon and Pat Berg celebrated 10 years of service with Action Ministries.

## 15 years ago (2005)

Alert neighbors and a less-than-three-minute response by Precinct 2 Constable Deputies Juan Izaguirre and Sgt. Zerick Guinn resulted in the capture of two men hiding inside a closet in a home they were burglarizing in Clear Brook Meadows.

One of four suspects charged in the capital murder-for-hire death on Luan Cong Pham pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of murder. As part of the plea bargain, Huan M. Vudoan, 18, would serve 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice but would not be required to testify against the others.

South Belt physician Dr. Mary Campbell-Fox, a 1976 Dobie graduate, was named the 2005 PISD Distinguished Alumna.

## 10 years ago (2010)

The Leader contacted the City of Houston and representatives from City Councilmember Mike Sullivan regarding the troubling northbound traffic at the intersection of Beamer Road and Beltway 8. Drivers wanting to turn left were restricted to a single lane at the traffic light before the beltway. Due to so many vehicles wanting to turn left as opposed to continuing north on Beamer, a line of vehicles repeatedly caused congestion at the intersection. The response from the city was brief, but firm that no changes to the intersection would be made.

After receiving the response, the Leader contacted Lauren Doak, South Sector manager for Sullivan, who assisted the Leader in contacting Jeffrey S. Weatherford, deputy director of the Department of Public Works and Engineering, Traffic and Transportation Division, who played a crucial role in resolving the traffic issue. Weatherford concluded that the traffic count on vehicles turning onto the beltway, as opposed to vehicles proceeding straight through the intersection on Beamer, was significant enough to warrant a change in lane markings,

which greatly reduced congestion at the intersection and made a left turn from the second-to-left lane legal. According to Weatherford, the timeline on changing the lane markings and signage was to be completed by March 2011.

## 5 years ago (2015)

The Leader's annual Christmas program was a huge success, providing assistance to roughly 70 area families in need. Several local organizations, schools, businesses and residents stepped up to the plate, making the 2015 drive the most successful in the event's history.

## 1 year ago (2019)

Votes from the Dec. 14 City of Houston runoff elections have been counted, with Mayor Sylvester Turner maintaining his position, having easily defeated challenger Tony Buzbee. Turner received 56 percent of the vote to Buzbee's 44 percent. In the District D City Council race, Carolyn Evans-Shabazz handily defeated Brad "Scarface" Jordan, receiving 62 percent of the vote to Jordan's 38 percent.

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## Over The Back Fence by Alexis



### LUCY ENJOYS A BIRTHDAY

Lucy Peterson celebrates a birthday Saturday, Dec. 19. She is wished a wonderful day from her family, especially her nine grandchildren; all her friends; and her former co-workers at the South Belt Leader.

### JOEY CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Joseph "Joey" Hayes celebrates his birthday Monday, Dec. 21. Best wishes and lots of love are sent from mom and dad, Jannie and Robert Scarberry, former longtime South Belt residents; sister Jenny (Hayes) and Josh Laney and children Brayden, Baylee and Olivia; sister Stacey (Hayes) and husband Stephen Flowers and children Kennedy, Owen and Evie; brother Austin Scarberry, wife Tiffany and daughters Jade and Lily; and brother Tyler Scarberry. Joey was a member of the Dobie High School Class of 2000 and the Longhorn Marching Band. He is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR JACKIE

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Jackie Wiess Dec. 22. "Happy Birthday to Mom Jackie Wiess from all your family and friends in Texas and North Carolina. We wish you a wonderful year full of love and happiness from your family Heidi, Louie and Kara; and your wonderful husband of 60+ years Louie Sr. plus all your grandchildren Cody, Louie, Arianna, Amelia and Jence Wiess. Have a wonderful birthday celebration! Sending love your way!" Best wishes are also sent from her many equestrian friends in North Carolina!

### ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY, JERRY!

Former Dobie principal and former Pasadena ISD board member, Jerry Speer,

enjoys a birthday Dec. 22. Best wishes are sent from family, friends and the Leader staff.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAVID!

Wishes for a happy birthday are sent Dec. 22 to David Flickinger from his wife Marie; sons Fred and wife Leslie Flickinger and David and wife Ellie Flickinger; granddaughters Kimberly and husband Matt Lipina and Courtney and husband Chris Durham and children Abigail, Jackson and Penelope; granddaughter Natalie and husband Jose Abarca and their children Kelvin Lopez and Noah, Elliana and Isabella Abarca; and sister-in-law Alexis Lochner.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESSICA

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday Dec. 16 are sent to Jessica Escobar, daughter of Leader staffer Luis Escobar, from the South Belt Leader staff.

### SCHOOL DAZE

The following personnel of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays Dec. 17 through Dec. 23, 2020.

#### Burnett Elementary

Sylvia Lazard enjoys a birthday Dec. 22.

#### Bush Elementary

Sing a birthday song to Cathy Perez Dec. 22.

#### Meador Elementary

Enjoying a birthday Dec. 17 are Omega Pena and Katia Garcia. The day for a celebration for Jill Gifford is Dec. 18. Blow out the birthday candles for Lanalisa Sinclair Dec. 20.

#### Moore Elementary

Marie Alanis marks a birthday Dec. 18. Light the birthday candles Dec. 20 for Erica Villarreal.

#### South Belt Elementary

Give a birthday shoutout to Roneasha Reliford Dec. 20. Victoria Stelmach enjoys a birthday Dec. 23.

### Beverly Hills Intermediate

Send a nice birthday greeting to Geraldine Jones Dec. 18. Birthday wishes are sent to Johna Moreland on Dec. 22.

### Dobie High

A double birthday celebration is in order Dec. 21 for Sarah Mains and Kristen Tolley. Three cheers on Dec. 22 for a happy birthday for Susan Ayala and Cheryl Sanders.

### FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

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

Thursday, Dec. 17: Joy Warneke, Dawn Watkins-Swain and Jabari Dobson; Friday, Dec. 18: Jackie Klayman, Damen Polleck, John O'Connor and Felicia Sharp; Saturday, Dec. 19: Randy Tenorio, Beckie Davidson, Kim Jones and Rene Gomez; Sunday, Dec. 20: Sally Esquivel, Lisa West and Michelle Gerbich; Monday, Dec. 21: Jimmy Thomas, Patricia O'Brien, Scott Louvier, Helen White, Christopher Lewis, Jeana Pierce, Ruth Fischer, Tara Garven and Crystal Billeri; Tuesday, Dec. 22: Jennifer Bryant and Tiffany Wennerstrom; and Wednesday, Dec. 23: Miguel Lopez, Sarah Smith and Holly Fielder.

### LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Email anniversary, vacation, congratulations announcements, etc., to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## TASCO's early advantage leads to bidistrict win over JFD

By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor

The program's first unbeaten season since 1999 and a district championship for the first time since 2010 was enough to earn the Dobie varsity foot-

ball team a home bidistrict playoff game against Atascocita.

The Eagles were obviously little impressed with any of it. Moving 75 yards in just four plays to take a quick 7-0 lead, capital-

izing on a high snap on a punt for a 13-0 lead and then closing the first quarter with another touch-

down, Atascocita led 20-0 after a quarter en route to an eventual 54-14 bidistrict round playoff victory

over the Longhorns Dec. 11 at Veterans Stadium.

While the 6-2 Eagles advanced to meet Pearland in the area round, Dobie saw its historic season come to a sudden end at 9-1, including the program's eighth straight first round playoff defeat since 2012.

With those first seven playoff defeats in the 2011 through 2015 and 2018-2019 seasons coming against current two-time defending Class 6A Division I state champion North Shore, the Longhorns figured to be ahead of the game in going against Atascocita. It just wasn't to be.

The Eagles' 20-0 lead after a quarter ballooned to 34-0 with 8 minutes, 11 seconds remaining in the second quarter as the Longhorns searched for answers.

Dobie senior Nate Wallace, who ended Atascocita's second drive of the game with an interception, stripped quarterback Gavin Session of the ball on a running play with 2:34 to go in the first half and raced 82 yards for a touchdown as the halftime margin was 34-7.

The Longhorns' Johnathan Baldwin ended an impressive drive with a 5-yard scoring run at 7:47 of the third quarter, but the rest of the scoring belonged to the Eagles.

Going into the game, Dobie figured to need an

answer for Eagles' receiver and Auburn University commit Landen King, yet it was Session who made the difference in this one.

Rushing for 195 yards and three touchdowns and tossing for three more scores, Session was continually causing issues for a Dobie defense that finished tops in the 22-6A ranks overall during the regular season.

Dobie won the pregame coin toss and elected to play defense first. The Eagles took advantage as

Session kept for 6 yards on the first play of the night and then found King down the seam for 40 yards.

Session then went for a short 2-yard gain before a 29-yard dash to the end zone gave his team a 7-0 lead just 1:03 into the game. In all, the drive covered 75 yards in just four plays.

Wallace's interception helped the Longhorns overcome a high snap and subsequent Atascocita recovery on Dobie's second offensive drive, but there

would be more trouble to come.

A high snap on a fourth-down punt eluded Longhorns' punter Jeremiah Ballard as the Eagles set up shop at the Dobie 41-yard line midway through the first quarter.

Four plays later, Session found Chase Sowell for 29 yards and a score.

Session's 35-yard touchdown pass to Sowell with 52 seconds remaining in the first quarter put the Eagles up 20-0.

Session had a 15-yard

run prior to a 22-yard touchdown pass to a wide open King down the middle for a 27-0 lead, and Session added a 26-yard touchdown run at the 8:11 mark of the second quarter for a 34-0 lead.

The Wallace and Baldwin scores got Dobie closer, but there were few answers defensively.

Meanwhile, Baldwin, a 1,000-yard rusher who came into the game averaging 14.25 yards per carry, was limited to 69 in his final game as a Longhorn. No one associated with the Dobie program wants to be reminded, but the Longhorns last won a playoff game in 2004. The Class 6A Division I field of foes since that time have simply been that good.

Once again, Dobie's graduation losses will be significant, with seniors Baldwin and Ballard hav-

ing been District 22-6A's top performers at their respective positions from a statistical standpoint.

The Longhorns' defense will also lose several key players, including 22-6A interception leader Darius Pamplin, Wallace, Keion Thompson and Jalen Hollins, in addition to Rushad Ball, lost to injury earlier this season.

Gerard Joseph, a defensive lineman, and Alexander Garcia, a three-year starter, will also exit. Standout place-kicker Joshua Hernandez has also played his final game.

Twenty-seven players from the Longhorns' playoff roster against Atascocita are set to return, and while it may be difficult to imagine today after another playoff loss, this Dobie program is the holder of the 22-6A championship, and 2021 holds plenty of promise.

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Dobie's Johnathan Baldwin (10) wound up with nearly 1,100 yards rushing this season after a 69-yard effort against Atascocita in the bidistrict playoffs. On this play, Baldwin slipped past Samu Taumanupepe (99).

Photo by David Flickinger

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## CB boys stay perfect; JFD girls coast by SR

The District 24-6A varsity boys' basketball race won't start until Dec. 22, but the Clear Brook Wolverines have already made a big statement.

A 40-38 win over Deer Park Dec. 11 kept the Wolverines unbeaten this season at 10-0 as head coach Nathan Janak has seen his team emerge victorious in just about every

way possible. Meanwhile, the 22-6A crown, opened league play Dec. 11 by rolling past Sam Rayburn as a 23-2 first-quarter run was enough to get the job done.

The Longhorn boys, who begin league play Dec. 18 against Channelview, are out of the gate at 3-8.

## SBHLL continues online registration

The Sagmont-Beverly Hills Little League has opened online registration for the upcoming 2021 spring season.

League officials have noted that all of those who register now will be considered to be on a waiting list as registration fees will not be collected until final 2021 playing site details are finalized.

Still, families of players are encouraged to register sooner than later.

In addition, the players' required fundraiser/raffle cost of \$50 is included within the registration fee in order to allow for easier collection.

The 2021 registration fees are \$175 per player in the junior t-ball division, \$250 per player in the t-ball division, \$265 per player for coach pitch action, \$270 per player in the minor division, \$275 per major division player and \$300 per player for those in the league's junior/senior division.

Those who wish to register their youth for the Challenger (reserved for those with disabilities) may do so free of charge.

To register conveniently online, visit the link at <https://clubs.bluesombroero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=936764>.

mains closed to team activities such as baseball, softball, soccer and football due to coronavirus concerns.

SBHLL will continue to monitor the playing site situation in the coming weeks and could also consider alternative playing locales.

For additional information or assistance, reach out to SBHLL@hotmail.com.

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# Dobie's Moreno Jr. scores TTCA's Holly Ford accolade



Dobie High School tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. was honored virtually as the Texas Tennis Coaches Association's Holly Ford Sportsmanship Award, named in honor of the former longtime TTCA treasurer. For Moreno's part, he says it's simply a reflection of how his teams at Dobie have respected the game over the years and placed sportsmanship in high regard.

**By John Bechtle  
Sports Editor**  
Manuel Moreno Jr. has certainly collected his fair share of awards and honors over the course of a youth and high school tennis coaching career that will soon span 40 years.

For Moreno, now Dobie's head tennis coach for 22 of those years, the accolades are equal parts humbling and well-earned.

Still, he thinks of his players every time his name is called or goes up in bright lights.

Earlier this month, Moreno was the recipient of the Texas Tennis Coaches Association's first-ever Holly Ford Sportsmanship Award, which he received virtually during the TTCA's annual convention.

Ford, the former long-time head tennis coach/educator at Spring Hill High School in Longview, was also the TTCA's treasurer for a time.

She passed away earlier this year after battling an illness.

Moreno, also a long-time contributor within the TTCA, says he knew Ford and what she stood for as a leader of young men and women on the tennis court. To receive an award in her name is clearly special.

"I knew Holly for many years, and I would like to believe she would be very happy that I am the first recipient of this sportsmanship award that the TTCA so graciously named in her honor.

"It's certainly humbling

every time you receive an honor or an award," Moreno said. "But for me it's always about the kids within your program and the type of program and kids that you aspire to have as a coach.

"I just think that's what I've always been about as a head coach, someone who teaches sportsmanship above wins and losses.

"Regardless of those wins and losses, I just feel like you should respect and share the fun of competition.

"Tennis for me has always been a gentleman's sport where young men and women, of course, strive to represent themselves, their team, school and community as well as possible.

"To me, you both win and lose with class no matter the outcome. You should always acknowledge the effort and play of your opponent, and that's something I've tried to instill in my teams and players no matter where I've been."

A player first at Gal-

veston's O'Connell High School and then at Lamar University, Moreno had coaching stops at O'Connell and Clear Lake High School before landing at Dobie, where he has enjoyed a great deal of success.

While the Longhorns may lack the USTA Super-championship rated players that typically come with both years of tournament play and lessons prior to high school, Moreno loves to tell onlookers that he coaches "super" players.

Dobie may lack the overall talent of a Clear Creek, a Kingwood or maybe another regional or state contender, but it's been plenty good enough for Moreno over the years.

To him, the Dobie student-athletes have been second to none.

"Whether it's a sportsmanship award like this one or a Coach of the Year Award or something else, I'm proud of it any time they come because it represents my players and what we try to achieve and

stand for as a program," Moreno said.

"Our goal as a program is to be good teammates and to try to get the best out of our abilities.

"Beyond that, win or lose we are going to be respectful of our opponent and congratulate one another after the matches are through."

It's those beliefs and more the TTCA had in mind when it first honored Ford with an award in her honor, and also why Moreno was the first to bask in the honor.

## 22-6A Team Tennis Honors

### First Team Selections

#### Boys' Singles

No. 6 – Kyle Redmon, senior

### Second Team Selections

- No. 1 boys' doubles – Quan Dinh, senior/Hayden Lazo, senior
- No. 2 boys' doubles – Lael Martinez, junior/Brian Nguyen, junior
- No. 3 boys' doubles – Tristan Pedraza, senior/Kyle Redmon, senior
- No. 1 boys' singles – Hayden Lazo, senior
- No. 2 boys' singles – Tristan Pedraza, senior
- No. 3 boys' singles – Quan Dinh, senior
- No. 4 boys' singles – Brian Nguyen junior
- No. 5 boys' singles – Lael Martinez, junior

- No. 1 girls' doubles – Julia Bui, senior/Erica Hay, senior
- No. 2 girls' doubles – Jennifer Ho, senior/Megan Rodriguez, junior
- No. 3 girls' doubles – Tracy Tran, junior/Violet Tran, junior
- No. 1 girls' singles – Julia Bui, senior
- No. 2 girls' singles – Erica Hay, senior
- No. 3 girls' singles – Megan Rodriguez, junior
- No. 4 girls' singles – Jennifer Ho, senior
- No. 5 girls' singles – Tracy Tran, junior
- No. 6 girls' singles – Violet Tran, junior

Mixed doubles – Ashley Huynh, sophomore/William Ho, sophomore



Senior Kyle Redmon closed out his team tennis career in style with the Longhorns as he was named the first team All-District 22-6A selection in the No. 6 boys' singles slot.

## BAFL Super Bowl Championships

### Pee Wee Division

Hitchcock Red Raiders (8-1-1) vs. League City 49ers (10-0), 9 a.m.

### Senior Division

Sagemont Cowboys (9-1) vs. League City 49ers (10-0), 9 a.m.

### Junior Division

Magnolia Park Sharks (9-1) vs. Hitchcock Red Raiders (10-0), 11 a.m.

### Sophomore Division

Sagemont Cowboys (9-1) vs. League City 49ers (10-0), 1 p.m.

### Freshman Division

Pearland Texans (9-1) vs. Pearland Patriots (9-1), 3 p.m.

BAFL Super Bowl XLIV Championship Sat., Dec. 19, Rice Stadium

Tickets: \$7 per all persons; gates open 7 a.m. All attendees required to wear face covering

## Cowboys' seniors, sophs to meet unbeaten 49ers at BAFL Super Bowl



Benjamin Carter (82) and Mikey Hernandez (59) of the Cowboys' sophomore football team close in to make the stop on an Angleton Wildcat as Sagemont advanced to Super Bowl 44 with a 26-6 victory Dec. 12. The Cowboys improved to 9-1 overall and will play League City Dec. 19 at Rice Stadium.



Nolen Thomas (25) and Jaylen Felton (32) celebrated a big play during the Cowboys' Super Bowl berth-clinching 48-13 victory over the Magnolia Park Sharks Dec. 12. The Cowboys, 9-1 overall, next face unbeaten League City Dec. 19 at Rice Stadium. Photos by Britney Hernandez

## Leland captures predictions contest

Putting together a legendary second-half run of success, local Realtor Troy Leland was the winner of the Leader's annual picker's contest after an 8-2 run during the bidistrict playoffs allowed Leland to claim victory.

Leader sports editor John Bechtle held a healthy lead early on, yet Leland and others

began to narrow the gap as the weeks went on. Dobie's bidistrict playoff loss brought an end to the contest with Leland, a former Dobie place-kicker in his own right, the winner.

With an 8-2 mark in the final week, Leland finished at 86-25 for a 77.5 percentage of wins. Bechtle, meanwhile,

slipped to 6-4 in the final week and was at 84-27, just a game ahead of Longhorns' statistician Emory Gadd, who was at 83-28 following a 9-1 run during the high school playoff week.

Eli Tanksley and Debbie Vaughn tied at 79-32, with Toni Muse at 74-37 after a strong 9-1 finish.

# CALENDAR

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200. 7 p.m.

**Congregation Shaar Hashalom** – All in-person events are canceled at this time. Services will be online. Friday night service at 7 p.m. Saturday service at 9:30 a.m. at <https://zoom.us> with the Meeting ID 917 102 8979 and the Passcode 18csh1818. For members who wish to download a copy of the prayer book for the online service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/prayer-book-for-friday.html>. For the general website, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org/shabbat-online.html>. 8 p.m.

**Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** – meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles, that they are not alone, and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. For details, call 713-686-6300. 7 p.m.

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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
7 a.m.  
**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice. 7 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Toastmasters** – The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club is virtual at <https://youngprofessionalsoastmasters.com/>. To be a guest, select "contact us" button on toastmasters' home page to obtain access to the virtual meeting. For information, call Karen Nunn, 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael, 832-372-3565. 7 p.m.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 7 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930

org/meetings.html or drop in.  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
8 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243.  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21**  
Noon

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 7 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 7 p.m.

E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-661-4200.  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
7 a.m.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice. 7 p.m.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-661-4200.

**Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention** – Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit [www.bayareaturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org) for information. 8 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
7 a.m.

**AA Meeting** – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7). Noon

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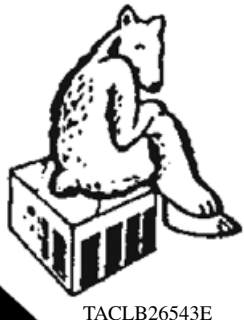
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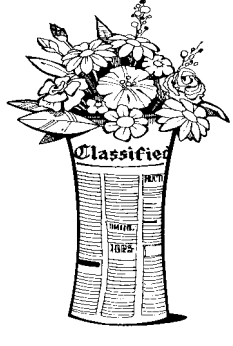
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## Local library events set

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

**Bracewell Branch Library**  
Bracewell Library, is located at 9002 Kingspoint. For information, visit [https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items\\_per\\_page=200#events](https://houstonlibrary.org/location/bracewell-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events) or for virtual programs, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/library-events> or call 832-393-2580.

**Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation**  
Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers walking or riding a bike may also pick up reserved materials. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. All overdue fines/fees will be waived through Jan. 1, 2021. To use HPL To Go:

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

**Book drop**  
The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned with no overdue fees. The library continues to provide online resources so the public can enjoy the library at home. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop. Keep those items until further notice.

**Additional resources**  
The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) under Here's What's Happening. Clicking on Free Resources for All to access the digital resources and a link to obtain a temporary card. Also, under the Here's What's Happening link, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime, provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes can be found on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft.

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

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

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

Note: Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint, will be closed Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 24 - 27, for the Christmas holiday and Saturday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

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

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

**Parker Williams "No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up"**  
- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.  
- Have a library card number and PIN handy.  
- A pickup time and instructions will be given.  
- Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.  
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.  
Curbside hours are: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

**Online services**  
Harris County Public Library will continue to offer a wide array of online services:  
- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.  
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).  
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.  
- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-Books, comics or graphic novels.  
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.  
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.  
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained at all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

All month in December. Virtual Photo Club. Join the photo club this month. The photo challenge is open, so be creative! Participants are encouraged to post online with the tag #HCPLphoto club for a chance to be featured on the social media accounts: Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

All month in December. Virtual Poetry Club. Residents may send poetry with name or social media name to the library to be featured on its social media accounts. Send an email to PW@HCPL.NET with the subject "Virtual Poetry Club." These posts will be featured on social media on Saturdays throughout the month.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Join Mr. John (John Harbaugh) and Mrs. Celeste (Celeste Plew) virtually for family fun. Parents are encouraged to participate to facilitate interaction. While this program is designed for 18 months to 4-year-olds, all children and families are welcome 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.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m. Parker Williams Book Club reads "The Art of Happiness" by the Dalai Lama and Howard Cutler. Email Tanner Adams at [tanner.adams@hcpl.net](mailto:tanner.adams@hcpl.net) for more information.

Friday, Dec. 18, 1 p.m. Draw with Me. Join Ariel Perez who tries something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow. Residents will be needing pens and markers for these videos which will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Tuesday, Dec. 22 noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1 p.m., Spanish storytime with Jason Cruz. The video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Note: Parker Williams Library, will be closed 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23 - Sunday, Dec. 27, and 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 - Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021.

# HCPH encourages residents to receive flu shots

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Harris County Public Health is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas, jurisdiction. The agency provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

Winter holidays are here and so is flu season. The flu and COVID-19 are both very contagious viruses and spread in similar ways. Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during the 2020-2021 flu season to protect oneself and the people with whom one comes in contact from the flu.

The vaccine will not protect one from COVID-19, but may keep one from getting both viruses at the same time.

HCPH has flu vaccine events throughout Decem-

ber.

Getting the flu vaccine is especially important for people in high-risk groups:

- Anyone with certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, heart disease and chronic lung disease.
- Pregnant women.
- Young children over the age of six months.
- Anyone 65 years of age and older.
- Anyone who lives with or cares for others who are at high risk of developing serious complications.

If one has not received the flu vaccine, it's not too

late! Flu season can last as late as May.

In addition to the vaccine, continue taking COVID-19 prevention measures because they can also help prevent colds and flu.

Wash hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or arm and disinfect surfaces one touches and in public, wear masks and stay six feet from others with whom one doesn't live.

While 40 percent of people infected with COVID-19 have no symptoms, for those who do, flu and COVID-19 share some of the same symptoms. Flu symptoms include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or a stuffy nose.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headaches.
- Fatigue (very tired).
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

It's important to note that not everyone will have a fe-

ver.

COVID-19 has one common symptom that differs from the flu; one may lose the sense of taste or smell.

If one is sick, since some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, one may need to be tested for the flu or COVID-19 to check for either virus.

Stay in touch with your clinic or health care provider.

Free flu vaccines are being offered to people in Harris County who don't have insurance, by appointment only.

Walk-ins are not accepted due to social-distancing guidelines.

Visit the site <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/Flu-Season/Upcoming-Events> for locations.

Make an appointment by calling 832-927-7350.

For additional information, visit [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org) and follow on Twitter @hcphtx and Facebook.

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[houstonhealth.org](http://houstonhealth.org)