

Drive-thru fish fry ends

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

COVID numbers continue

As of Wednesday, March 24, there were 123 confirmed deaths among South Belt residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, up four from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials.

Of the 5,254 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 229 remain active. To date, 53 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, up four from the previous week.

In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 122 of the 3,781 confirmed cases remain active. A total of 35 from the ZIP code have died, no increase from the previous week.

Of the 3,899 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 126 remain active. To date, 35 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, up one from the previous week. According to Harris County Public Health officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from preexisting health issues.

Countywide, there are 371,058 total confirmed cases. Of those, 354,738 have recovered from the disease, while 12,740 cases remain active. A total of 3,561 deaths have been reported in Harris County.

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

Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Furman to Scott Street/Fellows Road daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Saturday, March 27.

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 Sunday, April 4.

The westbound Beltway 8 U-turn at SH 288 will be closed continuously through 9 a.m. Saturday, March 27. The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Gulf Freeway closures set

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

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 517 to FM 518 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31. Closures may intermittently affect two lanes of traffic and include alternate entrance and exit ramp closures.

At least one northbound and one southbound lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access Road to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Wednesday, March 31. The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528. Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

Both the northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps between IH 610 South Loop and Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31. The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction and the frontage roads from two to three lanes in each direction.

Frazier offers scholarships

Frazier Elementary is offering five scholarships to graduating Dobie High School seniors who attended Frazier Elementary School. Applications are available to pick up in the Dobie College Now office and are due back to that office by March 26.

Kirkwood Civic March 25

The Kirkwood Civic Association meets on a conference call meeting March 25 at 7 p.m. The phone number is 605-475-6006; access code: 4382419. Visit the Facebook page of Kirkwood Civic Club or call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990 for more information.

Cowboys seeking cheerers

The Sagemont Cowboys are looking forward to a great season with new members and are now registering children ages 5-13 who want to dance/cheer. Registration can be done online. Email the drill director at Sagemont Cowgirls@gmail.com for more details.

2 violent area crimes may have been preventable

Bail reform in the state has been a hot topic as of late, and the issue hits close to home for the South Belt community, as two recent violent crimes in the area may have been preventable.

In early February 2021, Carnell Trotter was charged with two counts of aggressive sexual assault and one count of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon for crimes that allegedly took place the previous November at an apartment complex in the 10900 block of Beamer near Fuqua.

At the time of the crime, Trotter, 22, was out on bail for multiple felonies he committed while

already on probation.

In Sept. 2019, Trotter was convicted of felony aggravated assault in the 228th Criminal District Court. As a first-time offender, Trotter was given probation.

While on probation, Trotter was charged with misdemeanor assault, felony assault with intent to impede breathing and felony evading. All three times, Trotter was able to make bail and avoid jail time while awaiting trial.

On Tuesday, March 2, Derrick Hayes was charged with fatally shooting his grandmother and younger brother at their home in 11100

block of Cayman Mist Drive near Beltway 8 and Blackhawk.

At the time of the crime, Hayes was out on three separate bonds.

Records indicate that Hayes has a lengthy criminal history and has already been to prison twice.

Prior to the recent double homicide, Hayes already had been convicted of 11 other crimes, including aggravated assault of a family member, cruelty to animals, burglary and multiple drug and weapons charges.

Gov. Greg Abbott is pushing for state lawmakers to address the issue of bail reform this legislative session.

"The fact is Texas has a broken bail system that allows dangerous criminals to go free," Abbott said at a January press conference.

Abbott is pushing to make it harder for people with a history of violence to make bail. The governor noted the 2017 murder of state Trooper Damon Allen. The suspect in Allen's shooting death was out of jail on \$15,000 bail, despite having previous violent incidents with police.

The measure has bipartisan support, as Houston Democratic Sen. John Whitmire is a big proponent and has been working closely with the governor's office. The proposed reform is also supported by Crime Stoppers of Houston.

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Meeting on Riverstone school finally set

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

Hosted by state Rep. Dennis Paul, the event has been delayed multiple times, as officials from the charter school have been reluctant to participate in the meeting, despite multiple invitations from representative's office to attend the

event.

Originally to be built on a nine-acre site on Riverstone Ranch Road at Kirksage, the Elite College Prep Academy - Riverstone, a branch of Houston Gateway Academy, has remained half-constructed for several years, causing complaints from residents who view the property as an eyesore.

Construction of the area campus has been met

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Freeway Manor Park meeting March 30

The City of Houston will host a virtual public meeting Tuesday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the upcoming improvements to Freeway Manor Park in the Edgebrook area.

To be held on the online Zoom platform, the function seeks to receive community input on the future project.

The endeavor is part of the Mayor Sylvester Turner's 50/50 Parks Partners Initiative, in which area businesses partner with the city to renovate local parks.

Launched by Turner in January, the 50/50 Park Partners initiative brings together 50 private businesses through monetary contributions, in-kind support, ideas and volunteers for improvements to 50 neighborhood parks.

According to city officials, public and private investment in the development and improvement of Houston parks, greenways and public spaces has solidified Houston's national reputation as a green space leader. Signature parks such as Memorial Park, Hermann Park, Discovery Green, Emancipation Park, Levy Park, MacGregor Park and the Bayou Greenways 2020 initiative have benefited from such partnerships.

Turner said such landscape is necessary for a major city.

"Green space is vitally important," Turner said. "You cannot have a complete city without having the green space and the parks that go right along with it."

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Auto registration waiver ends April 14

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles recently announced the temporary waiver of vehicle title and registration requirements will end Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

The waiver was originally put in place March 16, 2020 by Gov. Greg Abbott in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The move comes shortly after a similar announcement last month that the waiver on expired Texas driver's licenses will also end on April 14.

It is not necessary to wait until the deadline to

complete any overdue transactions, as motorists have several renewal options.

Renewal options

Online: Visit www.TxDMV.gov/register or www.Texas.gov. This is the quickest and least expensive way to renew. Save \$1 by renewing online. Online renewal is available up to nine months past one's registration expiration date.

Mail: Return the bottom portion of one's registration renewal form, payment and other required information to the county tax assessor.

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PISD school board race heats up

With the May 1 local school board elections approaching, several candidates in the Pasadena ISD race have uniquely teamed up together into two separate groups.

A slate of four Pasadena ISD trustee candidates, including two longtime incumbents, have joined forces to campaign together.

Coalition members include current Position 2 trustee Mariselle Quijano and current Position 3 trustee Nelda Sullivan - the only two incumbents to file for re-election, as current Position 1 trustee Fred Roberts and Position 4 trustee Jack Bailey are not seeking re-election. Also joining the group are Position 1 candidate Noble J. Alix Jr., seeking to replace Roberts, and Position 4 candidate Casey Phelan, who is seeking to fill Bailey's vacant seat.

The group is collectively campaigning on its past experience on the board.

Led by former Pasadena High School teacher Yen Huynh Rabe, the opposing group of candidates is campaigning on its experience as educators, as all members are either current or former teachers.

Group members include Rabe, who is challenging Sullivan for the Position 3 spot; Crystal Davila, who is challenging Quijano for the Position 2 seat; and Al Bledsoe, who is running for the Position 4 spot.

Not all candidates in the Pasadena ISD race, however, are affiliated with the groups.

Paola Gonzalez Fusilier is also running in the Position 1 race against Alix; Sunil Nepal is also running in the Position 3 contest against Sullivan and Rabe; and Areef Bhuyan is also running in the Position 4 race against Phelan and Bledsoe.

Early voting will begin Monday, April 19, and continue through Tuesday, April 27.

Voters on the fence for 10 candidates



Two groups of opposing candidates in the upcoming Pasadena ISD board election have uniquely emerged as the May 1 contest approaches. One of the two groups includes incumbents Mariselle Quijano and Nelda Sullivan, along with Noble J. Alix Jr. and Casey Phelan. The second group includes educators Yen Huynh Rabe, Crystal Davila and Al Bledsoe. The race has become heated, as the two camps have been posting signs next to each other throughout the South Belt community. The above photo shows one residence which backs up to Blackhawk near Riverstone Ranch that displays signs from both groups. The resident reportedly isn't specifically backing either group but merely allowed both campaigns use of his fence. Additionally running, but not connected with a slate, are Paola Gonzalez Fusilier, Sunil Nepal and Areef Bhuyan.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

Target of state Rep. Paul's meeting Friday



The long-awaited public meeting to discuss the future of the proposed Elite College Prep Academy - Riverstone charter school will be hosted by state Rep. Dennis Paul at 6 p.m. Friday, March 26, at Melillo Middle School. The controversial school, to be located at Riverstone Ranch Road and Kirksage, has long drawn the ire of area residents, who view the half-constructed facility as an eyesore.

Photo by Marie Flickinger

City, county announce 2nd COVID dose

The Houston Health Department and Harris County Public Health recently announced its process for scheduling second doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at the NRG Park community vaccination site.

Houston Health Department

People who provided the Houston Health Department (including its Harris County Area Agency on Aging) a cellphone number during first dose registration will receive a text message with a scheduling link approximately 48 hours before Pfizer's 21-day second dose due date. People who provided a landline phone number and those who do not respond to the text message

es will be called.

People who do not hear from the health department approximately 48 hours before the second dose due date should call 832-393-4301.

The department also announced that people overdue (28 days or more) for their second dose of Moderna vaccine received at its other vaccine sites (excluding NRG Park) can email HHDCOVID19.CRT@houstontx.gov or call 832-393-5190 to schedule their second dose appointment.

Harris County Public Health

People who received their first dose of Pfizer

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Springtime events still canceled

While the state recently lifted its mask mandate and allowed all businesses to open at 100-percent capacity, several annual springtime events in the South Belt will still be canceled or drastically altered out of COVID-19 concerns.

The annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off has once again been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "We felt this was the best thing to do," said event organizer Chuck Tylka.

This marked the second time in the event's 25-year history the function has been called off, as the 2020 cook-off was also canceled due to the coronavirus.

Organized by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, the cook-off is the sole fundraiser for the annual South Belt fireworks display, which is also held at El Franco Lee Park. Tylka, who also previously served as longtime SVFD chief, said the South Belt's fireworks vendor is working with event organizers to bring a new display to the community in 2022. The South Belt Spectacular Cook-off is scheduled to resume the second or third week of April 2022, Tylka said.

The fifth annual Family Fun Fest and Strut Your Mutt event, originally scheduled to take

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Former South Belter Pollack honored



Scott Pollack

Former longtime South Belt resident and current Milstead Middle School Principal Scott Pollack was recently named Pasadena ISD's Elementary Principal of the Year.

A 1993 Dobie High School graduate, also attended Frazier Elementary and Thompson Intermediate.

After graduating from Dobie, Pollack at-

tended the University of Texas at Dallas and received a bachelor's degree in biology. He went on to earn a master's degree in education administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Pollack served as an assistant principal at Hamilton Middle School in Houston ISD until 2007 when he was named principal at Oak Forest Elementary School, also in Houston ISD. Under Pollack's direction, Oak Forest was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2010. He was named principal at Milstead Middle School in August 2011.

The honor brings things full circle for Pollack.

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City, county set \$6.3M for storm victims

The Houston Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund announced Thursday, March 11, it is investing an additional \$6.3 million in area nonprofits serving the most vulnerable families and individuals.

This follows the \$1.65 million in emergency grants distributed Monday, March 1. This latest round of grants will support vulnerable neighbors recovering from the winter storm through emergency financial assistance, home repairs and unmet needs assistance.

To date, more than \$12.7 million in donations has been pledged to the fund by generous Houston companies and individuals. "We are not wasting any time getting storm relief funding into the hands

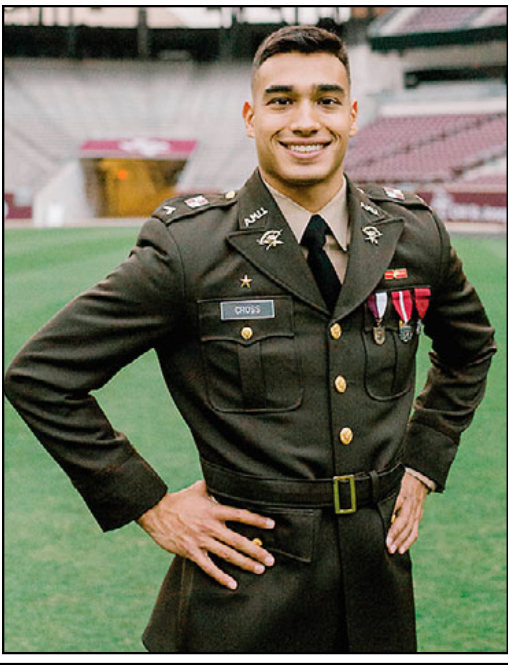
of area nonprofits who can best assist vulnerable families and individuals," Mayor Sylvester Turner said. "I am grateful to everyone who has donated to the Houston Harris County Winter Storm Relief Fund. Their generosity, combined with the work of the Greater Houston Community Foundation and the United Way of Greater Houston, continue to make a difference in the lives of those still recovering from historic freezing weather and the damage it caused in our communities."

This sentiment was shared by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

"We know life didn't return to normal the moment our electrical grids powered up," said Hi-

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Zachary Cross elected leader



Zachary Cross was elected as a 2021-2022 Yell Leader for the junior class at Texas A&M. He is the son of Stephen and Elizabeth Cross, both Dobie High School graduates. Stephen is a longtime teacher and coach of 24 years at Dobie and Elizabeth is employed at Dobie as a clerical aide. Zachary is also the grandchild of Ernest and Lynn Cross who have resided in Sagement for more than 40 years. Zachary's sister, Julie Cross, is also a Dobie graduate. The family would like to congratulate Zachary on his election.

In My Opinion

Ferdinand LaBua blasts Bailey's letter

Mr. Bailey is confused between educating children and providing community relief. He equates educating children with handing out much needed foodstuffs and water to suffering community members. He cites a laundry list of accolades and achievements for the Board and him, but Bailey did not connect the dots for the voters as to how these accolades and achievements led to quality classroom instruction. When the dust over the Board's accolades and "achievements" Bailey threw in the voters' eyes settled, the voters discover Mr. Bailey did not say anything about educating children or how these Board "achievements" worked into daily classroom instruction creating a quality education. The voters would think that of all the "achievements" listed by Bailey and garnered by the Board, Bailey could have used his editorial to show a positive result of one Board "achievement" on classroom instruction. Instead, he makes a back-handed comment on "Educators" (Bailey's emphasis) making "disparaging claims" about lies told about the Board. Bailey missed an opportunity to clear the air over "innuendos" and "disparaging remarks" posted in social media portraying as true the Board's lack of action in educating children effectively. The opposition candidates euphemistically called "Educators" (Bailey's emphasis) are the source of these "falsehoods".

What Bailey did instead in his editorial was to distract the voters from the real issues of educating children by citing social media ghosts making "disparaging claims" about the Board's not caring about children or what is best about educating children. The Board does a good job about caring for the children-to a point. While the children's nutritional needs are met, many campuses with crumbling infrastructures do not make for good dining experiences. Voters-ask your children about conditions at school.

What the Board does not do well is know what the best strategies for educating children are. Mr. Bailey in his editorial failed to disprove this point: the Board does not consider what is best for the education of the students.

Instead, Mr. Bailey opts to focus on unsubstantiated social media claims to cast a dark view of the opposing candidates, because the opposing candidates are "Educators" (Bailey's emphasis). Bailey's cryptic usage of the quote "then they will answer to us!" baffles the voters. Under what conditions was this quote made? Who is "they"? More bluntly, where is the rest of the statement? The voters feel like they missed out on an inside joke. Bailey implies educators would not make good Board members because...we voters do not know. Bailey does not explain this point, as many other long term Board members have failed to explain. Maybe their egos will not permit it. Well, naming a building after you will put it right.

There is nothing morally wrong with educators being on school boards. Educators are better suited to govern a district and are better trained to meet the changing needs of the students receiving a quality education in the rapidly changing times of the 21st century. Why would you not want educators on the Board to better prepare our children for the changing future? What corporations or large social organizations bench their top performers and let the inexperienced run the operation? You do not see that in the medical field, or the legal system, or the business world.

But aside from educating children, some neglected issues of this election are about infrastructure. Foundation cracks in walls you can put a hand in; water fountains that flow rusty for the first few seconds; rust stains in toilets after long weekends and school vacations.

This election is also about support staff (custodial staff; teacher aides, etc.) that are paid wages that put them at the bottom of the economic pyramid, just barely above the federal poverty level. Yet the Board can afford the time to find funds to

build a \$27 million Administration building. Voters, ask yourselves does the district really need to have a Board Meeting room the size of an amphitheater?

Vote for real changes to get the children better prepared for the rigorous changes in the 21st century. When you go to vote on Saturday, May 1st, remember the support staff that takes care of the little, everyday important items. Remember the teachers who are trying to master yet another education program that the Board approved without taking into consideration how to implement the program effectively. The education programs that run at cross purposes. Vote for candidates who understand from top-to-bottom educational programs; understand the financial strains on support staff to raise their quality of life; understand the importance of deep infrastructure needs, not fresh coats of paint or power-washed sidewalks.

Vote for Crystal Davila, Yen Rabe, Al Bledsoe. Thank you.

Ferdinand LaBua

Lewis gives support for some candidates

Having stability at the school board level and with the superintendent is a blessing for any school district. Consistency at the top provides a great foundation for student success. When those at the top have a heart for students and a commitment to providing a wide range of opportunities for all students, good things will happen. Such has been the case in Pasadena ISD for years.

Mariselle Quijano and Nelda Sullivan are running for re-election to the Pasadena ISD school board. They have served faithfully and well for many years.

Their leadership on the board is essential for future success. I have known Noble Alix, Jr. and Casey Phelan for years and have had the opportunity to work with them in the South Belt and Pasadena communities, respectively. I know their hearts. I know how much they care for the children of our community.

When I go to the polls in a few weeks, I will be supporting Mariselle Quijano, Nelda Sullivan, Noble Alix, Jr., and Casey Phelan for the Pasadena ISD School Board because I know they give our students and staff the best chance to continue the success our kids have experienced. I encourage you to vote for them as well. They will serve our district with commitment and passion.

Kirk Lewis
Superintendent (retired) - Pasadena ISD

Muecke shares thoughts on roads

There is much discussion, pro and con, about rerouting and rebuilding I-45. This will be a very costly project and many homes an business affected. The question is, will it really help traffic flow? People have to get to their destination, so travel is a must. But how, by car or mass transit. The design of Houston, mass transit is a problem so most choose to travel by vehicle.

I have two questions. Why in the world does everyone think Houston is the place to do business? With all the new electronics available today, most all business, like design engineering, could be spread out across the state. These areas would have less travel time, better environment and social life. Weekend travel to the cities. AND fewer new road ways. Number two, building and expanding costs money. I have mentioned to the governor and TxDOT they are missing a major vehicle travel problem. THAT IS THE DRIVER. Once a person receives a drivers license, what ever they learned, is all the education they receive. Traffic only flows by how well the drivers drive. Like entering/exiting a freeway, following, speed, attention/phones. I am told to some how teach drivers with a follow up education program, like a mandatory school, is to expensive. What? Look at the money they are spending on expanding.

Lets start down sizing Houston and TEACH drivers how to better travel the roadways we now have.

James E. Muecke

Local library events set

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

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

Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is in operation
Contactless Curbside services, known as HPL To Go, is available by appointment Mondays, noon to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 4 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. 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 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, 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.

Overdue fees will be waived through June 30, 2021. While the Bracewell remains closed, Wi-Fi service is available by visiting 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 to find virtual programs and digital resources. For more information, visit www.houstonlibrary.org to chat with a librarian 24/7, or to send questions through HPL's email reference.

Parker Williams Library
Note: Parker Williams Library will be closed Thursday, April 1, at 5 p.m. through Sunday, April 4, for the Easter holiday.

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.

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

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

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

- After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.
- Have a library card number and PIN handy.
- A pickup time and instructions will be given.
- Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.
- Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.

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

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's Drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-Books, comics or graphic novels.
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

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

Thursday, March 25, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Toddler Time. Take a moment to have some fun and interaction with the little one or little ones. Join Mr. John and Mr. Jason 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.

#toddleruntime #storytime #story #childrensbooks #reading #books #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Thursday, March 25, 2 p.m. Parker Williams Book Club representative will read "The Good Earth" by Pearl S. Buck. Contact the branch to reserve a copy today. Meetings are the last Thursday of the month over Microsoft Teams. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for more information and an invite.

Friday, March 26, 1 p.m. Draw With Me. Join Ms. Ariel to try something a little more difficult, but still fun and easy to follow! Pens and markers will be needed for these videos. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Friday, March 26, 5 p.m. Is It Wrong to Watch So Much Anime? Episode 15: "Level Up Your Live. Why live out here with the normies?" Mr. John and Mr. Jason will point to some inspiration anime that may help level up. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

#anime #animefan #manga #otaku #animelove #harriscountyp1 #HCPL.

Tuesday, March 30, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time Join Mr. John and Mrs. Celeste This program will be on Facebook Live at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, March 30, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, March 31, 3:30 p.m., ages 16 and older. Dungeons & Dragons Online. Join Mr. Tanner over Discord online. No prior experience is required. Contact tanner.adams@hcpl.net for additional information.

Moore honors shoot out winners



Moore Elementary staff congratulate their big shoot out winners who received medals. Shown above are, left to right, Jakayah Amos, Joseph Martinez, third-graders; Long Tran and Aasia Johnson, fourth-graders.

Auto waiver ends

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sor-collector.
In person: Visit the office of one's county tax assessor-collector. In many counties, in-person renewal is also available at other locations, such as certain grocery stores. Contact one's county tax office to check hours and locations.
Officials remind residents that before renewing registration, they will need first to obtain a passing vehicle inspection at the state vehicle inspection station of their choice, unless their vehicle is exempt from inspection requirements.
The expiring temporary waiver covers the following services:
Initial vehicle registration.
Vehicle registration renewal.
Vehicle titling.
Renewal of permanent disabled parking placards.
30-day temporary permits.
The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles does not issue driver licenses or state ID cards. Texans should contact the Texas Department of Public Safety at www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense for these services.

Church Directory

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www.stlukecatholic.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

Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
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Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

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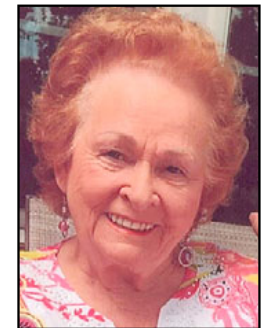
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Deaths

Mildred "Millie" Janette Whistler



Mildred "Millie" Janette Whistler, 83, died March 15, 2021, in Alvin.

She was born in Georgia Sept. 20, 1937 to Duskie and John Cannon.

She was of the Presbyterian faith.

She lived in the South Belt area since 1963.

For more than 40 years, she owned her own business selling stainless steel to the gas and oil industries.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sisters Irene Peterson, Imogene Walker, Kathleen Broach; brothers "Shorty" Russell Cannon, Howard Cannon, James Cannon and Douglas Cannon.

Mildred is survived by her sister Helen Speake; daughter Joni Moore; sons Richard Scott and wife Sheila and Timothy Scott; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, family members request that charitable donations be made to the charity of one's choice.

Martin Baxter (Sonny) Keough



Martin Baxter (Sonny) Keough, 94, died peacefully Monday, March 15, 2021, surrounded by the loved ones of his immediate family.

A multigeneration native of Houston, he was born Feb. 15, 1927, and grew up in the Heights area.

During his upbringing, he was affectionately known to family and close friends as "Sonny" - a tradition carried down to the time of his passing.

He grew up during the years of the Great Depression, was a 1944 graduate of John H. Reagan High School and participated during the final months of WWII by serving as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy.

Following his service to country, he attended the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now known as Texas A&M University) where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering as a member of the class of '48.

His professional career began in the oil industry where he worked as an engineer for Texaco, followed by a period of employment with Texas Metal Fabricating Co. in Houston. In the early 1960s, he joined the Boeing Co. in New Orleans, La., where he worked as a NASA contractor on the Saturn project and gained experience with the nation's manned space flight program that would advance him through the rest of his career.

It was also while there that he met and married a young Loretta Purin. The two re-

mained married for 55 years until the time of his recent passing.

In 1965, he joined NASA where for the remainder of his career he worked in various engineering and managerial roles at the Johnson Space Center in Houston supporting projects vital to the national manned space interest.

This included the Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz and Space Shuttle programs. He retired in 1995 after 30 years with NASA. He was a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas. Aside from his professional accomplishments he will be remembered as a solid family man - husband, father and grandfather - who walked a straight line through life.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and he and wife Loretta have been longtime parishioners at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church in Sagement. He was always present in the lives of his four sons as they grew into adulthood providing direction and taking an active interest in the arc of their lives.

He was preceded in death by his parents Mathew and Zula Keough; sons David and Kyle Keough; sister and brother-in-law Barbara Jean and Hilmar Havemann, and nephew Lee Havemann. He is survived by his wife; sons Scott Keough, Patrick Keough, Ryan Keough and wife Renee Kikta; grandchildren Case and Kylie Keough; as well as his nephew Luke Havemann and niece Lucy Havemann.

A funeral service will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. followed by a graveside interment March 27 at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home, 6900 Lawndale Ave. Arrangements will include visitation and viewing in the Chapel of the Angels from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. followed by a recitation of the rosary led by the Knights of Columbus and a eulogy.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the VFW at www.vfw.org.

Leader obituary policy
Obituaries submitted to the Leader are published free of charge. They are edited to conform to the Leader style.

Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *People of Sagement* 2 Facebook group who had an encounter with a Hispanic lady that came to their door shared a post. The story said a lady who had a black Cadillac with no license plate told the member they owed her money. The incident happened Wednesday, March 17.

A member of the Neighbor's app posted a video that a Ford 250 was stolen Friday, March 19, at 3:57 a.m., in Highland Meadow subdivision. The member states that the video showed the people

were in a maroon Chevrolet Suburban.

A member of the *Next-door app* posted that they had lost a brown wallet with identification for Benjamin Hart and requested the finder to contact the member. The member states that the wallet was either lost at the gate at Windmill Landing Apartments or at H-E-B on Blackhawk Boulevard.

Another member of the same app posted that their truck was stolen three weeks ago from the front of their

house in the Kingspoint/ Kirkwood area on a Saturday night while they were sleeping.

The truck was found and the police informed them that there has been a surge in thefts of 4x4 2500 pickup crew cabs, specifically because the trucks are being used for trafficking people into the United States. The member states that his truck was a total loss because it was driven through fences and shrubs at night on a ranch in south Texas. The member advises others who own a truck of this type to be careful.

Meeting on school set

Continued from Page 1
with problems since it began in 2015, with work being completely halted on multiple occasions.

At least three contractors have worked on the campus, and the school is currently seeking another new contractor to complete construction of the facility.

Court records indicate the school has been the target of multiple civil suits for lack of payment of previous contractors. The campus has also been the target of multi-

ple criminal investigations.

In April 2019, Houston Gateway Superintendent Richard Garza, along with an IT tech from the campus, was indicted on multiple federal charges, accused of stealing more than \$250,000 from the school.

While Garza was initially removed from his post, he was later reinstated.

Multiple attempts from the *Leader* to reach the charter school officials have gone unanswered for several weeks.

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Goeman wins contest with area photos

Longtime Sagemeadow resident Mark Goeman recently took home both first- and second-place honors in a photography contest hosted by *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine for submitting landscape photos captured in the South Belt area.

Titled "In the Wildhood," the contest, which appeared in the January/February 2021 edition of the magazine, featured several categories with more than 7,400 entries.

Goeman claimed first place in the "Bodies of Water" category for his photo (right) taken from the Scarsdale bridge that crosses over Clear Creek. He was runner-up in the "Blooming Plants" category for his photo taken along the Clear Brook City MUD Hike and Bike Trail near the north entrance adjacent to the Riverstone Ranch subdivision.

A fourth-generation Texan and native Houstonian, Goeman first found his passion for photography in the 1980s when he purchased a 35mm Nikon SLR camera.

"From the first photograph, I knew it would become a lifelong pursuit," said Goeman. "Creative vision comes from seeing with an open heart and mind. My focus is capturing the ordinary things we see every day in an extraordinary way and inspiring others to see more deeply those things right in front of us."

To see a digital copy of the magazine with the featured photo, visit <https://cloud.3dissue.com/28/70/1051/JanFeb2021/index.html?r=17>.

To see more of Goeman's photos, most of which were taken in the South Belt area, visit www.grstudios.com.



Mark Goeman placed first with a photo of the Clear Creek ditch taken from the Scarsdale bridge.

BHI earns UIL concert trophy



The Beverly Hills Intermediate Orchestra earned superior ratings from all the judges at this year's University Interscholastic League concert and sight reading evaluation. The students did an incredible job through all the incredible obstacles. Shown above are, left to right, (first row) Elaine Nguyen, Joelle Jagdeo, Christopher Sanchez, Nathally Bonilla, Savannah Talavera, (second row)

Michelle Pham, Victoria Tran, Isabella Pena, Hannah Nguyen, Matthew Perez, Diana Nguyen, (third row) Ana Payne (director), Theodore Villareal, Khalina Chahayed, Hussai Arias, Mia Campos, (fourth row) Bryan Anderson, Leonela Aguilera, Anthony Dinh, Jai'ana Washington, Angel Cano and Sandra Shaffer, director.

Photo by Stacey Barber

South Belt's Pollack named top elementary principal

Continued from Page 1

"I've always been drawn to the school district," Pollack said. "I got a great education there."

Pollack was humbled by the recognition, giving credit to his colleagues.

"I work with a great staff and a great district," Pollack said. "We just strive to do what's best for the student."

Pasadena ISD Superintendent Dr. DeeAnn Powell praised Pollack's performance as principal.

"Scott Pollack is an amazing leader, who strives daily for the success of all students at Milstead Middle School," Powell said. "The campuses success as a nationally recognized Model PLC campus is only one example of how Mr. Pollack's leadership has

transformed Milstead into a high performing campus. Congratulations to Mr. Pollack for being named Pasadena ISD Elementary Principal of the Year."

A similar thought was shared by Pasadena ISD Assistant Superintendent Rhonda Parmer.

"Scott is quiet but determined," Parmer said. "He is a collaborative leader and empowers others. He builds capacity in others by teaching them and having high expectations. His students overcome many societal challenges and continue to succeed year after year. Every teacher serves on multiple committees to solve and prevent problems and to work proactively to ensure all students make growth.

His school is generally open to visitors who seek to learn the structures which lead to a successful school, including engagement from all stakeholders. The parents love him and the teachers trust him. His school has earned national recognition as a PLC Model School for two years and TEA recognition with 4+ star ratings over the past five years. His school sponsors Brighter Bites to assist in the community, hosts a community Autism Walk annually and students participate in numerous service projects throughout the school year."

Pollack was also widely praised by his co-workers. "Scott is a gentle giant who has transformed Milstead and created a high functioning campus with systems

in place to insure student success in three environments; blended, Personalized Learning and dual language," said colleague Marsha Jones. "Scott was the first campus in our district to achieve nation Model PLC Campus status. In addition, while Scott is quiet, he leads with strength and has built a strong base and leadership at Milstead."

Milstead co-worker Karen Hickman shared this position. "Milstead has achieved maximum distinctions, positive PL work and is a nationally recognized PLC Model School," Hickman said. "Mr. Pollack is quiet and humble and just gets the job done. Folks love working for him."

Franklin Moses, Dobie principal was named Pasadena

ISD's Secondary Principal of the Year.

Memorial gets maternity award

Several Memorial Hermann Health System hospitals were recently named Best Maternity Care Hospitals by *Newsweek*.

This designation is part of *Newsweek's* Best Health Care series, which relies on data from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit organization that reports the quality and safety of health care facilities in the United States.

"This recognition is a testament to the great team work, high quality care and commitment to patient safety that makes Memorial Hermann a great place for pregnant women," said Victoria Reagan, M.D., vice president, Women's and Children's Service Line at Memorial Hermann.

Out of a total of 217 hospitals from across

the country, Memorial Hermann had eight facilities named to the list, including:

– Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital, Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital, Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital and Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital.

Hospitals which were selected fully meet Leapfrog's very strict standards for excellence in maternity care which includes strong quality improvement efforts to decrease early elective deliveries, episiotomy, cesarean delivery in low risk women and newborn bilirubin screening.

City, county announce 2nd dose

Continued from Page 1

er's vaccine at NRG Park through Harris County Public Health will receive a phone call or a text/email the day before the second dose due date.

People will be able to schedule their second dose either the following day, or in the next three consecutive days.

For additional information, call the HCPH Vaccine hotline at 832-927-9797.

General information
Residents should remember to bring the vaccine card

provided when the first dose was administered and present the QR code upon entry to the NRG Park Yellow Lot, Gate 16, 9036 S. Main Street.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines both require two doses for maximum protection.

Those who received a first dose of the Pfizer vaccine need to get a second dose three to six weeks later, and those who received a first dose of Moderna's vaccine need to get a second dose four to six weeks later.

The second dose must be

from the same vaccine manufacture as the first dose and it's preferable to get it from the same provider.

The vaccination site at NRG Park that is FEMA-supported opened March 15 with capacity to fully vaccinate approximately 126,000 people by serving 6,000 per day seven days per week for three weeks before transitioning to second doses for three weeks.

Both departments used their waitlists to schedule appointments for the drive-thru site.

Springtime events still canceled

Continued from Page 1

place late March at Clear Brook City Park, has also been canceled due to the pandemic.

This marked the second year the function, hosted by the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce and the Clear Brook City MUD, has been canceled due to the safety concerns.

This year's Harris County Easter egg hunt – set to take place from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at El Franco Park, located at 9400 Hall Road – will be a drive-thru function

due to COVID-19 fears.

Last year's event was canceled out of safety concerns.

Now in its 30th year, the event will be hosted by Precinct 1 County Commissioner Rodney Ellis; Precinct 2, Place 1 Justice of the Peace Jo Ann Delgado; and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia. The Clear Brook City MUD is also co-hosting the function.

Event organizers said 1,000 bags of candy will be available to area children. The Easter Bunny will also be present at the function,

organizers said.

Out of health concerns, the event will include just one entrance and one exit. All COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place.

The annual South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce banquet, which is usually slated to take place each spring, has also been put on hold out of safety concerns.

This marks the second year the function has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as last year's 36th annual event was also canceled.

CCISD students awarded for safety plans



The CCISD Students for Safety with their teachers from various high schools are shown, left to right, (front row) Esther Jin, Clear Springs; Sophie Snapp, Clear Lake; Sarayu Parthasarathy, Clear Brook; Zahra Virani, Clear Brook; (back row) Aaron Troyer, Clear Lake assistant principal; Surya Chinnappa, Clear Lake; Adam Colman, Clear Lake; and Christina Cavaliere, administrative intern at Clear Lake.

A group of Clear Creek ISD high school students who worked to create guidelines for CCISD's safety reopen plan have been recognized by the Texas School Safety Center's School Safety Spotlight Program. The program promotes "schools, districts and individuals that foster education and learning through safe and secure campuses." Nominations are reviewed based on criteria, such as knowledge, creativity and originality, engagement, impact and evidence-based practices.

Over the summer, as CCISD district leaders tirelessly met in virtual meetings, visited campuses and mapped out a way to open schools for the 2020-2021 school year, the group of students, known as the CCISD Students for

Safety, began doing their own research.

The Students for Safety examined reopening guidelines and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Harvard School of Public Health, in addition to brainstorming their own ideas for safety throughout each school building.

"It is heartwarming to see students care about the safety of others and responding through our campus core values," said Aaron Troyer, Clear Lake High School assistant principal, who nominated the students. "Their dedication to providing the safest environment possible was seen throughout the entire process."

Throughout the course of several weeks, the students

met with district and campus leadership and created plans for one-way hallways, classroom seating arrangements and lunch seating that were designed to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

The group continues to work with district leadership to share their concepts and talents. In September, some of the students put together and donated face shields to the district.

Freeway Manor Park improvements plans discussed

Continued from Page 1

Led by the Office of the Mayor, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Greater Houston Partnership and Houston Parks board, the 50/50 Park Partners program is based on the following three principles:

– Park equity: Neighborhood parks are selected and improved based on need and citywide distribution.

– Community engagement: Improvements, projects and volunteer support are responsive to the community and focus on existing parks.

– Long-term sustainable impact: The 50/50 Park Partners initiative provides a multi-year investment, starting a long-term partnership between businesses, neighborhood parks and the community.

50/50 Park Partners framework

The 50/50 Park Partners program has been designed to create both business and social value in countless ways, maximizing the impact of becoming a Park Partner.

The 50/50 Park Partners framework provides an opportunity to play a leadership role in supporting neighborhood parks and their surrounding communities across Houston, catalyzing the process of reinvigorating an under-resourced park.

The coalition of Park Partners, the City of Houston, Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Houston Parks Board will determine a coordinated process for park improvement and

design focusing on close working collaboration with members of the local communities.

Financial support from Park Partners will be held by Houston Parks Board in a centralized and coordinated fund to deliver maximum impact. Project funds will be invested based on priorities of need and distributed citywide across the identified neighborhood parks.

For more information on the 50/50 Park Partners program, visit houstonparksboard.org/donate/5050-park-partners-community-engagement.

To register for the Freeway Manor Park meeting, visit zoom.us/j/911111111111 or register at www.houstonparksboard.org/5050-park-partners.

After registering, a confirmation email will be sent with a link to join the meeting, as well as call-in information to join the meeting by phone.

After the meeting, a recording of it will be posted on the community engagement webpage in English and Spanish at link.edgepi1ot.com/s/8f81de55/Kg3oYKvUkuftXFDQHM. B Q ? u = https://houstonparksboard.org/donate/5050-park-partners-community-engagement

Residents may submit comments and questions to info@houstonparksboard.org. A survey will be shared during and following the meeting. Participating residents are urged to respond.

Dobie colorguard participates in competition



Dobie Longhorn's 2021 Winterguard group participated in the Texas ColorGuard Circuit. The competition took place at Turner High School March 13. Shown above, left to right, (front row) Chris Cantu, Paul Vu, (back row) Anthony Jones (assistant director), Trinity Tucker, Elezabeth Torres, Destiny Wilson, Penny Hernandez, Jennika Lim-Tom and Michael Acosta (director).

Photo by Suzette Torres

Crimes preventable through bond adjustments

Continued from Page 1

"The ramifications of bail reform have taken its toll on the citizens of Harris County, many who have paid the ultimate price with the loss of their life," said Andy Kahan, Crime Stoppers Director of Victim Services. "We applaud and will be fully supporting Gov. Abbott's proposed legislative strategies related to the issues regarding bail reform. Crime Stoppers of Houston wants to make it perfectly clear: We support misdemeanor bond reform."

"What we don't support is when public safety is placed at a higher risk when

career habitual offenders are continuously released back to the community only to re-offend time after time again."

In March 2020, Kahan began tracking defendants charged with murder who had been released on multiple felony bonds, bond forfeiture and/or a personal bond.

A compiled list posted on the group's website Jan. 21, 2021 indicated there were 90 such defendants.

At least nine more such homicides have been committed since, however, as the two deaths caused by Hayes – Carmen Hayes, 71, and Bryce Alexander, 15 – were

reportedly the 98th and 99th such murders, according to local advocacy groups.

To follow Crime Stoppers' tracking of the incidents, visit [crime-stoppers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Bond-Reform-Victims-Report-as-of-1-2021.pdf](https://www.crime-stoppers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Bond-Reform-Victims-Report-as-of-1-2021.pdf).

Genoa's Dr. Seuss week

Genoa Elementary staff members and students celebrated Dr. Seuss the week of March 1, by dressing up in their favorite Dr. Seuss hats and clothing.



Mirayah Sanchez

Camila Arredondo

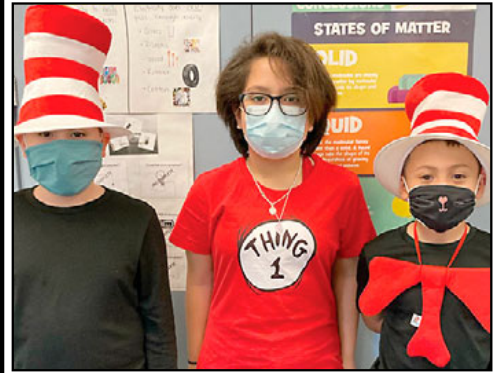


Natalia Delacerda

Melanie Sandoval



Shown above, left to right, Lauren Davis, Lucero Gonzalez and Brenda Mendoza show off Dr. Seuss attire.



Above, left to right, Bryan Duran, Glorianne Vazquez and Bryan Valadez enjoy dressing up for the week.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

Champions begin quest

A two-year wait to return to the postseason for the Dobie varsity boys' soccer program comes March 26 as the seven-time running District 22-6A champions take on Kingwood at Deer Park ISD's Abshier Stadium.

on the season, including 10-2-0 in league play, hope to return to Abshier Stadium in April for the Region III Final Four.

JFD's Rivera lands 22-6A MVP honors

At right, Victoria Rivera led the Lady Longhorns in scoring during the 2020-2021 season as she reeled in District 22-6A Most Valuable Player honors. Winning 14 consecutive games down the stretch, Dobie went 12-0 in District 22-6A play as Rivera helped control the action. A junior, the heavily recruited Rivera will return in 2021-2022 as the Lady Longhorns will again be the league title favorites. Rivera's play certainly went a long way in helping the locals win 19 games overall, but all-district first teamers Gwendlyn McGrew, Kendall Brown, KeKe Robinson and Jacque Giron also helped out. See more on those players as well as Dobie's All-Academic Team nominees on Page 6.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



Dobie softball in play

Having faced Memorial in a key District 22-6A matchup March 23 after press time, the Dobie varsity softball team will get a big dose of playoff-level action March 25-27. Pearlard High School and Manvel High School will host the three days of play as the Lady Longhorns go against Friendswood, Clear Lake, Manvel, Alvin and St. Agnes in that order.

Softball Tourney Time

- JFD vs. Friendswood**
March 25, 11 a.m., Pearland H.S.
- JFD vs. Clear Lake**
March 25, 1 p.m., Pearland H.S.
- JFD vs. Manvel**
March 26, 9 a.m., Manvel H.S.
- JFD vs. Alvin**
March 26, 11 a.m., Manvel H.S.
- JFD vs. St. Agnes**
March 27, 10 a.m., Pearland H.S.

Bidistrict Soccer

JFD boys vs. Kingwood
March 26, 7 p.m., Deer Park H.S.

JFD girls vs. Kingwood
March 26, 5:30 p.m., Summer Creek H.S.

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Longhorns sweep Falcons, unbeaten in 22-6A

Dobie scored an important series sweep over Channelview in District 22-6A play, building a 10-6 lead after two frames en route to an eventual 14-10 victory March 19 at Channelview.

The Longhorns improved to 3-0 in the 22-6A varsity baseball race as Ryan Saxton, Noah Torres and Colton Cox keyed a 14-hit attack with three hits each.

Christian Medina had two hits and knocked in three runs as the Longhorns held off the Falcons for the two-game sweep.

Torres beats Falcons
It was little secret that Noah Torres entered 2021 with as important a role as any other player on the Dobie varsity baseball team.

Now, through the first two weeks of District 22-6A action, Torres has indeed shown his importance.

The senior went the distance for the second straight start, fanning 11 as part of a complete-game effort as the Longhorns edged Channelview 5-4 March 16 at Dobie.

Saxton walked off the Falcons with a game-ending single in the bottom

of the seventh inning as Dobie stayed unbeaten in league play.

Christian Medina drove in three runs, and Mikey Torres and Jacob Torres

scored twice each for the winners.

Juan Estrada doubled and went 3 for 4 as the Longhorns kept pace with Deer Park for the 22-6A

lead. It's early in the District 22-6A race, but it's soon enough to separate the contenders from the pretenders.

Until further notice, it's Deer Park, Dobie, Memorial and Channelview, followed by the others.

Obviously, the Longhorns' sweep of Channelview has the locals in a great position.

The Longhorns return to District 22-6A action March 30 and April 1 with consecutive outings against Pasadena.



Noah Torres has given the Longhorns a huge boost to start District 22-6A action, tossing complete games against South Houston and Channelview and running his overall record on the mound to 3-0.
Photo by Gloria Wallace

Brook baseball tops CC, gets 2 of 3 to start 24-6A

Ben Cogdell allowed a hit in 3 1/3 innings of scoreless relief as Clear Brook won for the second time in three 24-6A outings, dropping Clear Creek 6-1 March 20.

A five-run third inning was the key for the Wolverines, who bounced back from a loss to Clear Falls a day earlier.

Landon Hunt and Ryan

Dolezal had two hits each, and Mateo Cortez had a two-run single. Christian Whitehead doubled and knocked in a run.

Cogdell was big for the Wolverines, allowing just one hit and fanning four to get the win.

Three Brook pitchers combined to allow just four hits to the Wildcats.

Continued on Page 6

Lajaunie tennis April 30-May 2

The 2021 Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament, celebrating its 10th year, will be held April 30 through May 2 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena.

Proceeds from the event annually provide collegiate academic as well as youth tennis training funds to deserving youths. Register now at myutr.com/events/46164 as entry deadline is April 16. See more details in the April issues of the Leader.

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• Tire Shine (In Tunnel)
• Clear Coat Protectant
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22-6A champion Dobie lands all-district hoops honors

Fourteen consecutive wins to close out the regular season, including 12 in District 22-6A play to complete an undefeated championship run.

There was plenty to get excited about during the Dobie varsity girls' basketball season. The fourth-quarter slip against Beaumont West Brook in the bidistrict playoffs aside, the Lady Longhorns were one of eight league champions in Region III.

In her third season as head coach, Jasmine Hartman guided the Lady Longhorns to a 19-5 overall record, and her players were appropriately honored following the season as the league's respective head coaches made their all-district picks.

A first-team all district performer as a sophomore last season, Dobie's Victoria Rivera took her game to another level as the junior was named the Most Valuable Player of District 22-6A.

And Rivera will now have a full off-season to work in tandem with teammate Gwendlyn McGrew, who as a freshman was named the Newcomer of the Year in the district as she splashed on the varsity landscape with a well-rounded set of skills.

Add to the mix District 22-6A first-team performer KeKe Robinson and Kendall Brown, both seniors-to-be, and Jacque Giron, a first-teamer as a sophomore, and the Dobie program is in great shape.

Gwendlyn McGrew, Fr.
First Team All-District, All-Academic



At left, the future of the Dobie varsity girls' program appears to be in great hands as freshman Gwendlyn McGrew (24) scored District 22-6A Newcomer of the Year accolades this season, using a blend of scoring and playmaking abilities to positively affect games.

At right, junior forward KeKe Robinson (23) again was strong in the paint for the Lady Longhorns as she helped the program claim the District 22-6A crown with a perfect 12-0 record. The three-sport standout will return next season to help lead another possible title run.

At bottom left, sophomore Jacque Giron (5), the fourth sibling in the Giron family to compete in athletics at Dobie, turned in a terrific season on the basketball court as she landed all district first-team honors in District 22-6A.

At bottom right, third-year varsity standout Kendall Brown (11) turned in a terrific all-around season on her way to all-district first team honors, and she was also a nominee on the district's All-Academic squad.
Photos by Donna Alsdorf

KeKe Robinson, Jr.
First Team All-District, All-Academic



All-District 22-6A Varsity Girls' Basketball (Dobie Honorees)

- Most Valuable Player**
Victoria Rivera, Jr.
- Newcomer of the Year**
Gwendlyn McGrew, Fr.
- Coach of the Year**
Jasmine Hartman, Dobie

All-District First Team

- KeKe Robinson, Jr.*
- Kendall Brown, Jr.*
- Jacque Giron, Soph.*

All-District Second Team

- Peyton Smith, Jr.*

Honorable Mention

- Devin Richard, Sr.*
- Vanessa Lam, Sr.*
- Aynaiya Jones, Jr.*

All-Academic Team

- Vanessa Lam, Sr.*
- KeKe Robinson, Jr.*
- Kendall Brown, Jr.*
- Victoria Rivera, Jr.*
- Peyton Smith, Jr.*
- Gwendlyn McGrew, Fr.*

Dickson postseason ready

Clear Brook junior Camryn Dickson posted a time of 24.33 seconds in winning the 200-meter dash at the Clear Falls Knights Invitational March 17 as she continues to prepare for the District 24-6A Championships coming at month's end at Dickinson. Battling extremely windy conditions, Dickson was second in the 400 at 1 minute, 00.08 seconds as Clear Falls' Kennedy Wade won the event at 57.21. As for Dickson, she was a 100-meter state qualifier as a freshman in 2019.

Jacque Giron, Soph.
First Team All-District



Kendall Brown, Jr.
First Team All-District, All-Academic



Red-hot San Jac softball moves to 25-6

Sophomore pitcher Cat Cavazos is delivering one of the top performances of the 2021 season, and a .381 team batting average has the San Jacinto College softball program flying high.

A 10-6 loss to LSU-Eunice March 21 stopped a nine-game winning streak for the locals, but little has gone wrong to this point for the Coyotes, who are now 25-6 overall.

Cavazos has now run her overall pitching record to 14-1 overall, which has her in the top spot nationally with those 14 wins. Cavazos has also struck out 104 batters to this point, which is third nationally.

The Coyotes have averaged more than eight runs per game as Alex Uresti

has hit .469, driven in 28 runs and stolen a National Junior College Athletic Association third-best 32 bases.

Tamera McKnight leads the team with 30 runs batted in, and Lexi Saenz has also driven in 28 runs and hit .333.

Tabby Burnett has also been one of the team's top producers with a .463 batting average. The Coyotes began the season unranked but have climbed to No.12 in the latest Division I poll.

In the March 21 doubleheader split against LSU-Eunice, the Coyotes won the opener 4-2 as Cavazos allowed three hits and an earned run over seven frames as she fanned nine.

McKnight led the of-

fense with a two-run homer, and Saenz was 2 for 3 with a run scored and two driven in.

San Jac is also 4-0 early on in conference play, having defeated Galveston 4-1 and 4-2 on March 20.

In the opener, Burnett was 2 for 3 with a run scored and another driven in.

CB baseball crushes Lake; Calhoun deals no-hit bid

Continued from Page 5
University of Oklahoma signee Aaron Calhoun threw 6 2/3 innings of no-hit baseball as Clear Brook opened District 24-6A action with an easy 9-1 win over Clear Lake March 16 at Brook. Calhoun was the star

for the Wolverines on this night, but the locals also got two hits apiece from Joseph Lamm and Mateo Cortez, and both players also drove in runs.

The Wolverines benefited from Clear Lake's commission of seven errors in the game.

SLL Cardinals runner-up at preseason T-ball tourney

At right, the T-ball Cardinals of the Southbelt Little League wound up second during the league's preseason tournament at El Franco Lee Park March 6. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Jacob Cantu, Javier Garza, (middle row) Aiden Adame, Zeus Perez, Joseph Santiago, Noah Abarca, Eli Ramirez, Edgar Rivera, Aiden Boyd, Rogelio Loera, Santo Carrillo (back row) coaches Donte Morris, Joshua Santiago and Harrison Richmond. The Cardinals look to carry that success into the regular season which began March 22.



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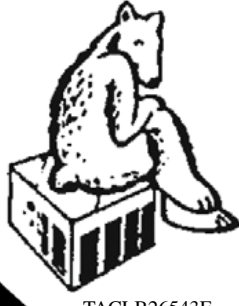
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attendees must register. Speaker: Katherine Schober presents "Help! I Don't Speak the Language: Tips and tricks for Deciphering Foreign Language Records." For information, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
7:30 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m.
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.

11 a.m.
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/> for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28
8 p.m.
AA - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, MARCH 29
10 a.m.
Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for additional information or visit <http://www.houstonalanon.org/>.

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

7 p.m.
Kirkwood Civic Association - meets on a conference call meeting. Call Ericka McCrutchon at 281-989-9990 for details. Civic club meeting conference dial-in 605-475-6006 Access Code: 4382419. Visit the Facebook page for additional information.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 Friendswood chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. Call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau 713-875-8820.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 26
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society - Virtual

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

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

7:30 a.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for additional information.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 26
7 a.m.
AA - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
6:30 p.m.
Bay Area Genealogical Society - Virtual

7 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
7 a.m.
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" See Thursday's notice.
7:30 a.m.
Rotary Club of Pearland - See Thursday's notice.
Noon
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.
7 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group. See Thursday's notice.
TOPS - See Thursday's notice.

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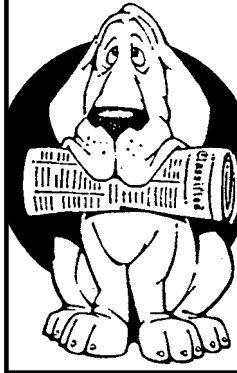
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South Houston High announces honor roll for fourth 6-weeks

Continued from Page 4

Ivan Marquez, Destiny Marshall, Alazae Martinez, Brianna Martinez, Chrystal Martinez, Luis Martinez, Alejandro Mata, Jocelynn Mata and Rosa Mayor Suarez. Treveon McGuffery, Bianca Medellin, Gloria Mendez, Isabella Mendez, Natalie Mendoza, Sa'von Mitchell, Henry Monasterio, Liliana Moncada and Victor Montalvo. Yesenia Monterroza, David Morales, Jesus Morales, Pablo Morales, Neyder Moreno Mendez, Natalia Munoz, Yurely Negron, Joe Orozco and Enrique Ortiz Guevara. Yoselin Ortiz, Emily Padron, Alec Palacios, Stefany Perez Macias, Mariah Perez, Stephanie Perez, Stephanie Peterson, Uyen Pham, Quinten Potts and Gretchen Prado Gonzalez. Carlos Quintanilla, Aracely Ramos, John Reyna, Itzel Rios Garza, Natalie Rios, Ariel Rodriguez, Jasmine Rodriguez, Kevin Rodriguez and Luis Rodriguez. Melissa Rodriguez, Patricia Romero, Claudia Salinas, Nancy Samaniego, Eric Santana Ozuna, Stephanie Saucedo, Carlos Saucedo Estrada, Clarissa Saucedo and Joseph Skinner. Edgardo Solis Rodriguez, Briza Solis, Tatiana Soto Calderas, Anthony Thomas, Emiliano Torres, Samantha Torres-Lozano, Alan Tran, Lissetre Trejo and Marco Valdez. Mitchell Valera Andrea Vasquez, Yaris Vasquez, Aldo Velasco Ruiz, Anthony Ventura, Christopher Williams, Woodrow Wilson, Lauren Wolford, Wendy Zarate and Angie-Marie Zepeda Jimenez.

Moore students receive Blue Bonnet awards

Moore Elementary's third- and fourth-grade Mighty Hawks celebrated their participation in the Blue Bonnet Awards. They read and voted for their favorite books on the Blue Bonnet list and received a trophy for 100 percent participation. Moore's librarian treated them to special blue treats!



Lourdes Guenard, librarian



Justin Ward



Shown above are, left to right, Marlee Johnson, Soren McCaig, Maite Ortega, Elise Perseval, Arturo De Hoyos, Jayden Tran and Xavier West.



Dahlia Salinas

Moore celebrates Dr. Seuss day

Moore Elementary students and staff celebrated Dr. Seuss day when they participated in Read Across America the first week of March and dressed up in their favorite hats and T-shirts. Students also had their favorite Dr. Seuss stuffed animals read a Dr. Seuss book along with them.



Amberlin Garza



Lucas Torres



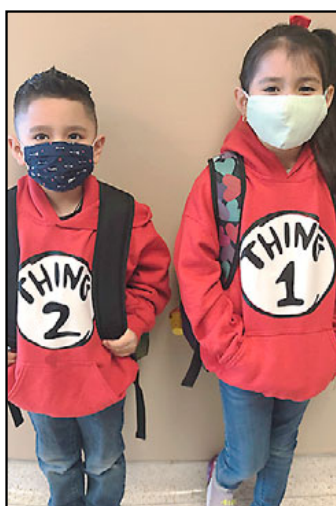
Julian Vo



Olivia Vela



Above, displaying a bright and colorfully decorated Dr. Seuss wall are, left to right, Guadalupe Hudson (art teacher), Zahriah Garza, My An Tran and Troy Vo.



Jorge and Alyssa Moreno wear matching Dr. Seuss-themed hoodies.



Wearing the Dr. Seuss "Thing" T-shirts are second-grade teachers Sara Saxon (left) and Shelly Blair.



Shown above are, left to right, Lucas Fritsch, Malachi Halzbach and Lourdes Guenard (librarian).

Winter storm funds available for victims

Continued from Page 1
round of grants was quickly deployed to trusted nonprofits who understand the needs of the communities they serve and can get resources to those who need it most," said Tony Chase, chairman and CEO of ChaseSource, LP and co-chair of the fund's grants committee. "We know the needs in our community far outweigh the available resources and urge anyone who can to support the fund to help our community recover."

Those who were impacted by the storm and reside in the City of Houston or Harris County are asked to take the following steps to be connected with available resources:

Home repair assistance
- Complete the Connective Home Repair Application at www.connectivetx.org/win-terstorm/home-repair.

For those who do not have access to technology to fill out the survey, contact the 211 Texas/United Way helpline to be connected with Alliance, who will then assist residents in the application process.

Financial assistance
- Contact the 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE to be connected with a nonprofit partner providing assistance in one's area.

Launched by Turner and Hidalgo, the fund's purpose is to support nonprofits providing relief and recovery efforts for individuals, families and communities impacted by the 2021 Severe Winter Storm Emergency in Harris County and the City of Houston. Along with disaster home repairs, the fund will support temporary housing and other basic needs relief. The fund is dedicated to filling the gaps that may not be met by other local and federal efforts. There will be a concerted effort to complement FEMA federal assistance and impacted families are encouraged to apply to FEMA now at www.disasterassistance.gov/.

The Greater Houston Community Foundation and United Way are overseeing and administering the grant distribution with the help of a grants committee, who will develop and execute a grant making strategy and approve grants to nonprofit partners. GHCF and UWGH will share information about all grants publicly on the fund's website, www.WinterStormReliefFund.org and through other communications for complete transparency about the expenditure of funds.

The foundation and United Way are now accepting donations online at www.WinterStormReliefFund.org.

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