



### 5th Annual Southside Place Winter Wonderland Carnival Benefiting Fire Truck Park

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., rain or shine! The 5th Annual Southside Place Winter Wonderland Carnival is a fantastic way to have fun and raise money for a great cause. All proceeds benefit The Southside Fire Truck Park Fund.

Bring your mittens to the park grounds to play in the huge pile of snow. There will also be carnival games, inflatables, a mechanical bull, a rock climbing wall, face painting, a balloon artist, and confetti eggs. Plus, don't miss the food, Kona Ice, shopping bazaar, silent auction and John Daugherty Realtors' photos with Santa!

For more information, contact Melissa Byers at (917) 375-0001 or Alyson Haas at (512) 423-8328.

### West University Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

On Monday, December 5, at 5:30 p.m., come get into the holiday spirit with the 28th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The City of West U. will herald in the season by lighting the city Christmas tree.

Bring your camera and come to the front of the Community Building, 6104 Auden. The activities will start at 5:30 p.m., and the ceremony of lighting the tree will start at 6 p.m. Santa will be available for photos at the end of the ceremony. For more information call the Recreation Center at (713) 662-7420.

## Bissonnet Reconstruction Moves Toward Completion

After over a month of inactivity on the Bissonnet Reconstruction Project between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway due to a contractor dispute, work is now moving extremely quickly.

While the project will ultimately run west to Buffalo Speedway, the Upper Kirby District has brought in a new contractor to restore the impacted lanes and driveways along the north side of the road and complete the southern half of the Kirby/Bissonnet intersection. The goal is to get all lanes and driveways open and unobstructed in December.

The contractor has been moving fast and may have already poured concrete on Bissonnet from just east of Kirby to just west of Dincans by the time of publication. That means that crews will be able to begin curb work and driveway reconstruction next week and could have the roadway open to traffic before Thanksgiving.

Once the westbound lanes have been opened, workers will continue — over the weekends only — to restore the southern half of the Kirby/Bissonnet intersection in segments. During this time, crews will mobilize in the intersection between the end of rush hour on Fridays and reopen the intersection by the start of rush hour on Mondays over several weekends leading up to the December holiday break.

At this pace, Bissonnet and Kirby will be unobstructed for the holiday season, the Houston Marathon in January and the Super Bowl activities in early February. At that point, the remainder of the project will be completed to include storm work on the north side of the roadway west to Buffalo Speedway, concrete work on the south side of the roadway between Buffalo Speedway and Kirby and sidewalk and pedestrian enhancements through the duration of the project.

## Voting for HISD Trustee Runoff Starts Tomorrow

By Anna Demmler

The runoff election for the remaining term of Harvin Moore's HISD Board of Trustees District VII seat is set.

Anne Sung and John Luman will compete for the majority vote on Dec. 10, and the winner will serve throughout the 2017 year. Visit <http://www.harrisvotes.org/> to find your election day polling location/time and sample ballot, or vote early Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or Dec. 5-6 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Early voting locations include:

- Harris County District Clerk's Office: 201 Caroline St., #420 (77002)
- Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (Galleria location): 2223 W. Loop South, 1st floor (77027)
- Metropolitan Multi-Services Center: 1475 W. Gray St. (77019)
- SPJST Lodge 88 (Heights location): 1435 Beall St. (77008)



HISD Trustee District VII includes areas surrounding Lamar HS, River Oaks Elementary, T.H. Rogers School and others.

Both candidates were asked questions on key educational issues for this important runoff election. See the interviews on page 7.

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November 29, 2016 Vol. 31, No. 27



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## RUSMP and Houston ISD Hosted First US Bebras Computing Challenge

By Alice Fisher, Director of Technology Applications and Integration, Rice University School Mathematics Project

The Rice University School Mathematics Project (RUSMP) and Houston ISD co-hosted the first invitational round of the Bebras Computing Challenge in the United States at Rice University. The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students in over 30 countries and is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing and problem solving.

During November 2015, about 7,000 Houston ISD 5th-12th grade students participated in the first round of the annual Bebras Challenge which was a 45-minute online competition consisting of 15 multiple-choice questions. Houston ISD is the number one participant nationwide in the Bebras Challenge.

The top scorers from this first round were invited to attend this year's invitational round of the Bebras Challenge held at Rice University. This event included a 45-minute online challenge, an inspiring talk by Professor Illya Hicks from the Rice University Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics, and an awards ceremony. Parents and teachers were also invited and attended a session with Eljakim Schrijvers, the Founder and Contest Director of the Bebras Challenge, who showcased several Bebras questions and highlighted the importance of computational thinking. Over 50 students received certificates of participation with the top three scorers in each of the four divisions receiving certificates and small prizes.

November's annual Bebras Challenge always takes place a few weeks before the annual Computer Science Education



Teacher Emil Augustin and student participants from T.H. Rogers School.

Week (December 7-13, this year) and the worldwide Hour of Code. Thus, the Bebras Challenge serves as impetus for more engagement and participation in the yearly worldwide Hour of Code, also a global movement whose purpose is to provide every student with the opportunity to learn computer science.

Jawad Tahiri, HISDecoded Project Manager, shared that the Bebras challenge "provides a unique opportunity to expose students to computational thinking as a fundamental way of thinking, problem solving, and understanding of people and the world around them, and also increases student engagement and interest in computer science and computational thinking which are

See Bebras page 12



The HurriCan Sisters CAN make a difference, but they need your help! Eight-year-old Isabella, six-year-old Juliana, one-year-old Audrey, and proud mother, Melissa Denena, started the philanthropic group The HurriCan Sisters in November, 2015, to help fight hunger locally. Isabella and Juliana currently attend Horn Elementary, and Audrey currently attends School for Little Children at Bellaire United Methodist Church.

Bellaire residents of five years, the HurriCan Sisters hope to “start in our little community and watch it grow,” says mother Melissa.

The sisters gather cans of food and other non-perishable items at donation points around their neighborhood. Donations may be left Dec. 1 – 15 at:

• Jami's Fine Foods, 5209 Bellaire Boulevard (77401), Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

• K&N Business Sales, 1401 Shepherd Dr. (77007), Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

• SEARCH Homeless Services, 2015 Congress Avenue (77002), Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

You may also arrange a drop time! For that, contact Melissa at mmdenena@yahoo.com, or send a message on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HurriCanSisters).

Items donated are then given to SEARCH Homeless Services – a Houston, non-profit organization dedicated to helping children, men, and women off the streets and into safe housing with a job. Learn more about SEARCH at [www.searchhomeless.org](http://www.searchhomeless.org).

“(The girls are) very aware the people we’re donating to don’t have enough money to buy food... Giving back will make them more aware of their surroundings,” says Melissa with a smile in her voice.

These young sisters are not only philanthropic, but also creative! Their name (HurriCan Sisters) came about when they noticed there were unused hurricane food supplies after hurricane season in Texas. Isabella, the oldest, is also the mastermind behind the HurriCan Sisters’ logo!

One small can of food could make a big difference to a hungry family!

## Bellaire Holds Recycling Event

The City of Bellaire and the Bellaire Environmental Sustainability Board is hosting a free Recycling Event on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Data Shredding will be on hand for secure on-site paper shredding - staples and paper clips allowed! No more than 5 bags or boxes of paper per visitor will be processed. This service is provided for the shredding of secure documents. Items such as junk mail, magazines, newspapers, etc., can and should be placed out with your regular curb-side recycling.

JD Metals will collect all types of scrap metal including old car batteries, water heaters, metal lawn furniture, stainless steel sinks, and more.

CompuCycle will collect computer equipment, radios, stereos, televisions up to 27", and more.

American Textile Recycling Service bins will be available to recycle textiles, clothing, and small household items.

There will be a convenient drive through for easy drop off. Enter off S. Rice Avenue. You can find a list of accepted items at [bellairetx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1823](http://bellairetx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1823). For more information contact Public Works at (713) 662-8170 or [pw@bellairetx.gov](mailto:pw@bellairetx.gov).

E-Mail your news and photos to:  
[MyNews@Village-Southwest-News.com](mailto:MyNews@Village-Southwest-News.com)

## CAN You Feel It ? 'Tis the Season of Giving !

By Anna Demmler

*Right - Isabella, Juliana and Audrey Denena are collecting leftover hurricane food supplies to give to SEARCH during the holiday season.*



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## Beware of Roaming “Porch Pirates”

By Anna Demmler  
“Porch Pirates” is the name given to thieves who steal packages from your doorstep.

While it’s a funny name, package stealing is not. It has increased as consumers increase their online shopping. Bellaire Police Chief Byron Holloway says online shopping is “great. Everyone does it. I do it whenever I can... It’s convenient.”

The drawbacks to online shopping, however, are an increase in packages being left unattended and being stolen. It also is attracting more thieves into your neighborhood.

“When you start your Christmas shopping, they start theirs,” says Holloway.

Thankfully, this can all be avoided with these simple tips!

- Ask your boss if you may have your packages delivered to your workplace.

- Ask a neighbor, who you know will be home when you will not, if you can send your

package to their house, or if they will watch your house for when your package is delivered.

- If your vendor offers an instructions page, let them know where the shipping company should put the package. For instance, under the bushes.

- If the company allows it, insure your package.

- If you are buying someone a gift, let them know when they should watch for it.

- Closely monitor your packages online.

If you noticed your package has not come by the due date, contact your vendor and shipping company to make sure it is not on back order and simply running late. If the vendor and shipping company confirm the package was sent on a specific date and time to a specific location, contact your local police department to tell them your package has been stolen.

Sometimes the vendor

will correct the mistake and send your item again. However, it is important to let your local police department know because “even if we don’t make an offense report, if you just call, have an officer come out, what that does is it tells us that yes, in this neighborhood we’ve got a package thief lurking. We can cruise control, and maybe link it to other things,” says Holloway.

Some Porch Pirates get creative! They will use a stolen credit card to order an item, and send it to another address to pick it up. If you

## ‘Tis the Season... Local Law Enforcement, FBA Warn That the Holiday Grinch is Waiting!

notice a package on your doorstep has your address but is not addressed to you, take it inside, and call the vendor and the shipping company to confirm they made a mistake. If they did not, notify the police of the suspicious activity, and give the package to your local police department. If someone knocks on your door asking for the package, let them know you were unsure of why it was sent to you, but that it is now at the local police department where they can pick it up.

See Pirates page 11

## Beware Online Shopping Scams

With the holiday shopping season underway, criminals are also gearing up to do a little ‘shopping’ of their own. The FBI reminds you to look out for scams designed to steal your money and personal information, especially while shopping online.

If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers often scheme to defraud consumers by offering too-good-to-be-true deals via phishing e-mails or advertisements. Such schemes may offer brand name merchandise at extremely low discounts or promise gift cards as an incentive to purchase a product.

Other sites may offer products at a great price, but the products being sold are not the same as the products advertised. Steer clear of suspicious sites, phishing emails, or ads offering items at unrealistic discounts. You may end up paying for an item, giving away personal information and credit card

details, and receive nothing in return except a compromised identity.

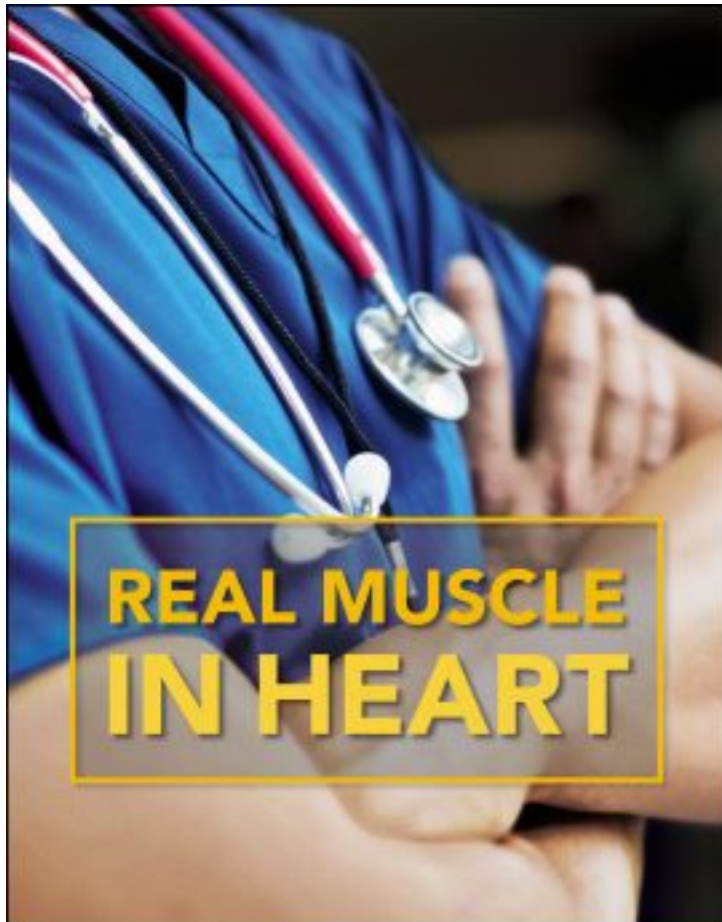
Bottom line, do not open any unsolicited emails and do not click on any links attached. Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages or social media ads that ask for personal information.

Verify any requests for personal information from any business or financial institution by contacting them using the main contact information on their official website. Log on directly to the official website for the business identified in the e-mail instead of clicking on the link provided in the unsolicited e-mail.

When shopping online, research the legitimacy of the individual or company you are purchasing from.

If you purchase or receive theater, concerts, or sporting event tickets as a holiday gift, do not post pictures of the tickets on social media sites.

See Online page 11



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# Destinations: German Christmas Concert and Reception: Flavors of the Season

Wine and Spekulatius! Feuerzangenbowle (mulled wine set aflame)! Traditional German carols and more cookies! Free to the public on Tuesday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m.

The Houston Saengerbund, Houston's oldest musical organization, will present a concert, "A German Christmas" with flavors of the season at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Midtown at 1311 Holman Street.

From its inception in 1883 until around 1900, there were over a thousand participants in German singing societies in the area. In the earliest years the Saengerbund was originally a men's chorus, and The Houston Symphony included many Saengerbund members. Today, the club features a men's and women's choir with seasoned members who proudly carry the club's musical traditions as well as younger members and scholarship students starting their musical careers. From Rice University Joanna Latini and Duke Kim among others. From The University of Houston, graduate student Raphaella Medina, recently back from a Carnegie Hall performance. The combined sound of the New Saengerbund is sweeter and clearer – just listen to the poignant rendition of *Innsbruck, ich muss dich lassen* - Innsbruck, I must leave you.

You are invited to breathe in the magic of a traditional German Christmas celebration as classics are presented in German, in English, and in Latin beginning with Praetorius' "Psallite" - Now we Sing! In addition to ensemble pieces like *Still, Still, Still, Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* and *Stille Nacht*, The Saengerbund will showcase its accomplished scholarship singers performing *Laudamus Te* from Vivaldi's Gloria, and *Suscepit Israel*, among others.



The Houston Saengerbund

To believe that there should be a winter wonderland is one thing; to sing it in German will certainly put a smile on your face. The Houston Saengerbund's motto - Komm Sing Mit Uns! – Come sing with us - will have a special meaning for the German Carol sing-a-long. Then follow the singers into the gracious parlor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church for seasonal German refreshments, some even home-made such as Christstollen and cookies. The highlight will be the Feuerzangenbowle, a hot red wine with spices. A rum soaked sugar loaf is set on fire and the caramelized sugar drips into the hot wine.

Children, grandparents, professors and students are all welcome. For questions about the concert, go to [www.houstonsaengerbund.org](http://www.houstonsaengerbund.org).

## Voices of the Spirit VI

A concert celebrating devotional music from Houston's diverse faith communities

Each year Houston Arts Alliance's Folklife + Civic Engagement program in partnership with Asia Society Texas Center shines a light on Houston's diverse cultural landscape through a concert of devotional music of selected faith communities. Now in its sixth year, *Voices of the Spirit* has yet to repeat any artists in this eye-and ear-opening lineup.

This year's program will range from the beautiful *Adhan* (Muslim call to prayer) and hypnotic Cambodian temple music to mariachi songs for the Virgin of Guadalupe and thunderous percussion evocations of Garifuna spirituality. Set for Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 4, at 3 p.m., both performances will feature the same program and take place in the Brown Foundation Performing Arts Theater at Asia Society Texas Center,

1370 Southmore Blvd.

Whether through the syn-copated beat of the drums and chorus, devotional *alabanzas* for the Feast Day of the Virgin, traditional Khmer sacred ensemble music, or a cappella intonations of the Q'uran, each religious tradition featured in the concert expresses its specific devotional perspective through a distinctive style with a long history. *Voices of the Spirit* will begin with an Islamic call to prayer by Mu'ezzin Ameer Abuhlimeh from the Da'Wah Islamic Center, followed by Mariachi Estrellas de Mexico with a repertoire of *alabanzas* in adoration of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the most important holy personage in Latino Catholicism.

The program will continue with the Neak Porn Ensemble performing the portion of their repertoire that is traditionally only per-

formed in Cambodian Buddhist temple settings. The Garifuna group, Walagante, who combine percussion, chorus and dance in a traditional spiritual invocation, will punctuate the end of the concert.

Admission is free and open to the public with reservations at [asiasociety.com/texas](http://asiasociety.com/texas), limit two per person. For additional requests, call (713) 496-9901. Unclaimed tickets will be released ten minutes prior to the event.

**Mu'ezzin Ameer Abuhlimeh**

Initially attracted to the role of Mu'ezzin by the transcendent power of the voice, Mu'ezzin Ameer Abuhlimeh continues to be inspired by the role. The Mu'adhan (pronounced "Mu'azzin" or "Mu'ezzin") is the person who recites the *adhan* from the mosque. Mu'ezzin Ameer Abuhlimeh was born in Amman, Jordan, and grew up imitating Mu'ezzin he enjoyed. He began as a volunteer at the Da'wah Islamic Center in 2002. He continues as the center's Mu'ezzin and also serves as its executive director, using his position to further understanding of the rich history and culture of Islam by establishing a library and a museum, the first of its kind in the United States.

**Mariachi Estrellas de Mexico**

One of the most important holidays in Mexico is El Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe on Dec. 12. This important religious figure is honored and celebrated every year, right before Christmas, and has become a special and joyous occasion in Mexican communities

See *Voices page 11*

### December Classic Movie

The Bellaire City Library, 5111 Jessamine, is presenting a delightful seasonal comedy as its December Classic film. Abounding with holiday appeal, this month's selection is *Come to the Stable* set in post WWII New England. The 1949 film was nominated for seven Academy Awards and a Golden Globe.

The super-star trio heading up a multi-star cast include Loretta Young and Celeste Holm as French nuns on a mission to build a children's hospital, and Elsa Lanchester as their reluctant aide. Hugh Marlowe is notable as their frustrated songwriter neighbor.

The movie will be shown on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 1-3 p.m. For more info call Terri Mote, Reference Librarian, at (713) 662-8166.

## At the Movies with Martin Duran



### "Moana"

Disney's 56th animated feature film, "Moana" (PG), was inspired by the folkloric cultures of the Pacific Islands.

Set on the Polynesian island of Motunui, the title character (voiced by newcomer Auli'i Cravalho) is the daughter of the tribe chief. When her village is in danger, she embarks on a quest to locate a fabled island to restore balance. At her side is the demi-god Maui (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson). "Moana" is largely computer animated with a hint of hand-drawn animation. Overall, it looks great: colorful, vibrant. The hand-drawn sequences jump out and are literally a feast for the eyes.

Veteran directors Ron Clements and John Musker ("The Little Mermaid," "Aladdin") have whipped up a frothy, fun, exciting and funny film that will entertain youngsters and the young at heart. I wasn't bored once!

Vocal talents are fine. Songs are easy forgettable, however. ★★ (out of four)

### "Bad Santa 2"

If done right, humor aimed at adults can be quite funny. In 2003, I laughed throughout the naughty and not so nice "Bad Santa."

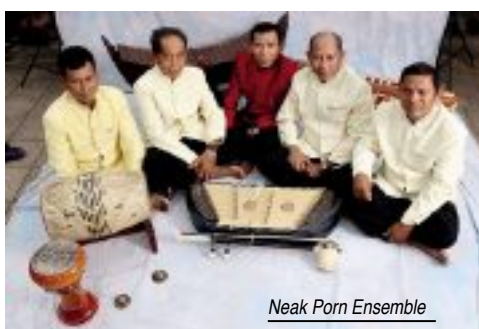
Now more than a decade later we have "Bad Santa 2".

Billy Bob Thornton returns as Willie and Tony Cox is once again Marcus. They team-up to rob a Windy City charity on Christmas Eve.

New screenwriters and director have spelled disaster.

"Bad Santa 2" is just plain lazy. It tries to outdo the original in terms of naughtiness but the material and situations are just not funny. Saying four-letter words or seeing gross-out humor doesn't add up to much if there isn't some thought behind it

Skip! ★



Neak Porn Ensemble



## You are Invited to Christmas



The story of a live radio broadcast from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where the characters receive a modern-day lesson in giving and receiving.

**In the Sanctuary  
Friday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.**

You are also invited to a dinner before the play at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**The Cost for the Dinner is \$10  
Tickets Must be Purchased  
by December 5.**



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## Organists Offer Free Reflective Concerts

Falling just before Christmas, the season of Advent is a time of contemplation and introspection. While the pipe organ is often associated only with being loud, Rick Erickson and Christopher Holman, the organists at Christ the King Lutheran Church, will show a different side of the king of instruments with a series of 30-minute organ recitals every Friday at 12:15

p.m. from December 3–17.

"Don't get me wrong, we'll have some loud music too!" says Holman. "But we want these programs to let people take a break from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season and relax with some nice music in Christ the King's meditative space." Audiences are also welcome to bring a brown bag lunch; water will be

provided.

The instrument at Christ the King Lutheran Church, commonly referred to as the "Bach Organ," was built by Fritz Noack in 1995, and was closely modeled after the eighteenth-century organs that Johann Sebastian Bach played. Erickson and Holman will perform, music by Bach of course, but also works by Mendelssohn, Buxtehude, and other lesser-known composers that were well-known in Bach's day.

Christ the King is located at 2353 Rice Blvd. at Greenbriar.

## Share some Holiday Cheer at Breakfast with Santa in Hermann Park!

Come to Hermann Park on Saturday, December 10, at 8:30 a.m. for a special breakfast and train ride with Santa. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. The event includes breakfast, train ride, and special gift from Santa. After breakfast attend the Holiday Party in Kinder Station at 10 a.m. with face painting, crafts and more!

Adult breakfast includes scrambled eggs, biscuit with country gravy, choice of bacon or turkey sausage, choice of apple juice, orange juice, coffee, or tea; kids' breakfast includes pancakes; choice of bacon or turkey sausage; choice of pastry, juice box.

Visit [www.hermannpark.org/calendar/breakfast-with-santa/](http://www.hermannpark.org/calendar/breakfast-with-santa/) to make reservations.

## "All Things Wonderful: A Holiday Market"

Houston's Friends of Down Syndrome invites the public to a festive afternoon of shopping from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Down Syndrome Academy, 5200 Mitchelldale, Suite D4, Houston. Featuring an array of vendors, refreshments and gifts made by our very own Down Syndrome Academy students, you can do your holiday shopping for friends, family and teachers while also helping Friends of Down Syndrome. For more information on the market or Friends of Down Syndrome, call (281) 989-0345 or e-mail [rosarocha08@att.net](mailto:rosarocha08@att.net).



**Join Us for Breakfast  
Thursday, December 15  
at 7:30 a.m.**

**Guest Speaker:**  
Bellaire Police Chief  
Byron Holloway



**Charlie's Bar-B-Que**

4803 Bissonnet, Bellaire  
Advance: Members \$14, Non-Members \$16  
At the Door: \$18  
For Reservations, visit: [bellairebiz.org/events/](http://bellairebiz.org/events/)



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[www.thevillagefirefly.net](http://www.thevillagefirefly.net) Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sun Noon-5 p.m.

## Advent Message Series Home for the Holidays

**Dec. 4** Children  
**Dec. 11** Lessons and Carols  
(8:30 am and 10:50 am)  
**Dec. 18** Gifts  
**Dec. 24** When Home Hurts  
**Dec. 25** The Blueprint -  
One Service at 10:00 am



**Sunday Worship Services**  
8:30 am Traditional  
10:50 am Contemporary  
10:50 am Chinese (Mandarin)

## Join Us for Worship on Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Traditional with Children's Message  
5:30 pm Contemporary & Chinese 7:30 pm Traditional



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[www.faithbellaire.org](http://www.faithbellaire.org)

## WEST U METHODIST'S ANNUAL GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY!



**Sunday, December 4 | 6 pm**  
On the Front Lawn | Streetside Seating  
Music, live animals and actors

After Performance  
All-Community Party with Food Trucks,  
Petting Zoo, Camel Pictures, and a  
Happy Birthday Jesus Party for Children  
Raindate Sunday, December 11

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
4pm • 6pm • 8pm

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## Schwartz

Robert (Bob) Jay Schwartz passed away November 19, 2016, in Houston, Texas. Bob was born March 23, 1929, in Houston, Texas to the late Dr. Abel and Ella (Abrams) Schwartz.

He graduated from Lamar Senior High before attending Rice University, where he received BSEE and MSEE degrees. He served on active duty during the Korean War with the Marine Corps Reserve as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., and Captain. After the war, Bob moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the government.

There he met and married Miriam Cloder, the love of his life. Their son, Jeffrey, was born the following year. They later moved back to Houston, where their second son, Steven, was born.

Bob was very active in civic affairs. He was President of the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Israel, President of the local chapter of the IEEE Geophysical Section, President of the Marilyn Estates Association, President of the Brays Bayou Association, and Corresponding Secretary of the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy. The Schwartz Gazebo at the Willow Waterhole Greenway was recently named in Bob's honor for his dedicated service to the community. His name also appears on 14 patents.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Miriam Schwartz. Bob is survived by his sons, Jeffrey Schwartz and Steven Schwartz (Julie); grandchildren Kylie and Dylan; sister Aileen Gugenheim (Milton); brother William Schwartz (Barbara), as well as numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.

Private Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery (Beth Israel Garden). Memorial Service was at Temple Beth Israel.

## Legal Advice for Veterans

The HBA's Veterans Legal Initiative (VLI) provides free legal services to veterans throughout the year, in Harris County and in many surrounding counties, thanks to grants from the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, the Houston Bar Foundation and the Texas Veterans Commission. The VLI hosts a clinic at the DeBaakey VA Medical Center every Friday, from 1-5 p.m., and sponsors Saturday clinics at VA Outpatient Clinics in Galveston, Conroe, Richmond, Tomball, and Lake Jackson, among other locations.

Legal issues may include family law, wills and probate, consumer issues, real estate matters and tax law, as well as disability and veterans benefits.

For more information on the VLI, contact the Houston Bar Association at 713-759-1133 or visit [www.hba.org](http://www.hba.org).

## Constables File Charges on Thieves Preying on Elderly

Last week the Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office warned residents about a team of thieves who stole jewelry, money and other items from inside homes after luring elderly residents outdoors to discuss supposed tree-trimming or construction projects in their backyards. In reality no such work was taking place or even planned.

The "workers" were thieving scammers who were just trying to get the resident to walk out of their homes without locking all of their doors. In each case, with one thief doing his act in the backyard, another slipped into the residence and took jewelry, money, etc.

Precinct 1 Deputy Constables filed burglary charges in three such cases against John Thompson, 40, and Paul Frank 42, and Sonny Frank 57.

Pct. 1 Constables Office contract patrol deputies in Shepherd Park Plaza and Garden Oaks did excellent work on this case. They believe that the people charged are responsible for most if not all of these scams in northwest Houston, Braeswood Place, Tanglewood and beyond.

An alert resident took a photo of a truck used by the scammers last week. Deputies used information in the photo to track down the scammers. Deputies will continue to investigate and may be able to file additional charges.



John Thompson



Paul Frank



Sonny Frank

*These men have been charged with crimes that bilked the elderly.*



## AARP Chapter 4418

On Thursday, December 1, at 1 p.m., AARP Chapter 4418 will enjoy the music of the Lovett Elementary School Hand Bell Choir. These young people will help kick off the Christmas season with some old favorite Christmas carols.

Everyone over 50 is welcome. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, and refreshments are served following the meeting.

Join the group on Monday, December 5, for a tour of Moody Garden's Festival of Lights and enjoy a bountiful buffet. Fee: \$25, includes buffet. Bus leaves at 3 p.m.; board bus at 2:45 p.m. For more information, call Martha Lee at (713) 666-5858.



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# Candidates & Issues: HISD District VII Trustee

## Anne Sung

**Public service is a calling. What made you want to serve on the HISD Board of Trustees?**

I'm interested in serving on the Houston's Board of Trustees for the same reason that I was a classroom teacher, and that I now continue to work in education at a non-profit. I have benefited from the public education system. I'm a product of Houston ISD's schools. I have had tremendous opportunities in my life because of the education I got. I'm very passionate about making sure every kid gets a quality education.

I've seen how sometimes decisions made in our district can be wonderful for students and can also be very harmful for students. I feel called to bring my experience working in schools and working in our community to our Board so we have people on our Board who really knows how schools can be successful, and can make decisions with that in mind.

**What is the most important issue in this election for you?**

The most important issue to me is the quality of education students are getting in their schools. Making sure schools are organized so students and teachers can focus on learning and on teaching, so teaching and learning can be as high quality as possible.

**I understand you would like HISD to move away from standardized testing, and go towards a stronger curriculum. Could you tell me why you'd like to see that shift, and how, if elected, you plan on working with the Board to ensure that?**

I agree with our new Superintendent, Richard Carranza, when he says the pendulum has flown too far towards standardized testing. It's picking up far too much of our time in school, not just standardized testing itself, but the practice tests for the standardized tests, and all the preparations for those practice tests that are preparing for the standardized tests. I think the best preparation for students for success in life is quality teaching and learning. If we do that, standardized tests will come out okay.

If we put the emphasis back on helping students really become masters of the curriculum and really develop critical thinking schools.

What employers I work with are looking for, graduates of high schools and of colleges, are: creativity, critical thinking, and education. Those kinds of skills can be promoted and developed in all of our classes, and should be.

While there's not specific rich curriculum that I'm pointing towards, there are certain qualities we can look for as markers for a rich curriculum that is helping students learn as much as they can in schools. That's what I'm promoting. It's not a particular curriculum, but if we take the approach to education that says let's begin with the end in mind, let's make sure our students are learning as much as they can in school, not just to pass a test, but to develop the critical thinking skills and knowledge they will need to be successful beyond school in college and in life.

**You said you'd like HISD to consult with finance and auditing professionals to ensure HISD is properly using their money. Is there a program you feel is being given too much money, or maybe too little?**

We have had in Houston ISD, for example, the Apollo program, which is a very expensive, failed program that instead of raising standards at schools that need help, it actually lowered standards and led to many students choosing to leave struggling schools. Some Apollo schools closed. That is an example of a very expensive program in HISD that didn't make sense. It was apparent after the first year it wasn't working out. We need to evaluate programs in HISD before they begin and also as it proceeds to make sure we can be improving qualities as we go along and not continue spending money on programs that aren't successful.



Anne Sung

([www.houstonisd.org/apollo20](http://www.houstonisd.org/apollo20).)

The other big issue is of course our bond. Which is not academic, but again I think it is an example of where we have spent a great deal of money on HISD and perhaps not have the controls in place to make sure our spending was responsible.

**You want to expand early childhood education. I know you are for a full-day of pre-kindergarten, and also for mandated recess. Are there any other issues in early childhood education you'd like to change if elected a Trustee?**

To me those are separate things: the recess and early childhood education. I do support early childhood education. All the research that we know says that it is absolutely closing the gap and readiness for school between students of higher and lower economic status. I think our district needs to do as much as we can to promote early childhood education, and make sure we offer full day pre-k, which we do. That is something we currently do, and I'd like to see continue.

As far as recess goes, the research is very clear. In elementary schools, children learn more and they have fewer disciplinary issues if they have recess. I think the move to limit student activity is short-sighted. You might get a little bump in the verse of one week if you keep kids inside, and have them studying for an extra hour instead of playing. But in the long term, it's not beneficial to learning or to the health of children.

## John Luman

**Public service is a calling. What made you want to serve on the HISD Board of Trustees?**

I've done a lot of public service over the years. When Harvin recently said he was stepping down, we started discussing the education we've been involved with in schools. My wife has been very involved with a lot of the education around town here, different programs. We started talking about it, and thought it would be a good idea to do it. Time to come out of the political world and into the political fire, if you will. I've been around politics for quite a long time, and thought this would be a good opportunity to represent the kids, represent the district, and take over where Harvin left off.

**What is the most important issue in this election for you?**

I think accountability. Making sure there's enough money being given to neighborhood schools. Partnerships with businesses and making sure there's enough certificate type programs to make sure kids who don't go to college go into the workforce with the tools they need.

**There has been more and more talk about changing standardized testing. I understand you are for standardized testing because it measures a student's and a teacher's process, but you would like to see different versions. Could you tell me a little bit more on that?**

I'm an advocate of teacher compensation being based more on metrics and how kids are doing than tenure based. I don't believe we need more testing. I think we've had our fair share of standardized testing over the years. I think we need to be focused on the testing that shows kids are progressing from the beginning of third grade to the end of third grade, as an example. I think it's fair, like in every other business, to hold teachers accountable for how they're doing. How do we know as taxpayers and parents whether our kids are progressing along or not unless we tie student achievement to the teacher?

**I understand you are an advocate for a zero based**

**budget. Can you tell me what action you would take, if elected, to re-allocate tax payer's money within the budget?**

I think we're kind of in an upheaval right now with the Robin Hood\*, and having to send money to Austin. I know that it got voted down, but I saw a headline that we received our notice of detachment, so I think we need to go in and really scrub the budget and see where we can trim if necessary, which probably is necessary, instead of where we are in the budget. We're in the business of getting money to the schools and educating kids. If there's bloat in there, we need to go in and get rid of the bloat, and pass the savings on down to the schools and the kids.

(Proposition 1, also referred to as the Recapture, would have sent \$162 million in local property-tax dollars back to the state government. Prop. 1 was voted down by local residents. For more information, visit [www.houstonisd.org/recapture](http://www.houstonisd.org/recapture).)

**Are there certain programs you feel have been given too much money and might not be as effective as they should be?**

No... I think it is a job for all of us on the board to sit down and analyze together. Be honest and fair, and say look this one's not working.

**I understand you are in favor of partnerships with businesses to teach students about vocational schooling, if they choose to not go to college. Could you tell me how, if elected, you plan on working with the Board to ensure that?**

Statistically, it's not dramatically different than when I was younger coming out of high school. About 75% of kids that graduate do not go on to a four year college. They enter the workforce. Being able to have them have skills, whether it's computer or programming that local businesses help with, or be-



John Luman

ing an electrical contractor and learning those types of skills, we need involvement. I know there are businesses letting schools know what they need and helping out. I think that'd be a great partnership for HISD and the local economy.

## Lovett Named One of The Best

Lovett Elementary has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. Lovett Elementary is one among 279 public and 50 private schools receiving this honor.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are on education's cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices from professional learning communities and project-based learning to social and emotional learning and positive behavior systems. Schools are nominated by the state department of education and then complete a comprehensive application about school practices. Schools may be nominated as Exemplary High Performing—among the top schools in a state—or Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing—schools making the fastest progress in their state in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

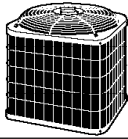
Principal Dawn Thompson and Assistant Principal Heather Gaines represented Lovett Elementary at a two-day awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., where they shared best practices and celebrated their hard-won achievements.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be accepted by the City Clerk of the City of Bellaire, Texas, until **10:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 14, 2016**. All proposals will be publicly opened and read on that date at 10:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter in the Council Chamber, First Floor of City Hall, 7008 S. Rice Ave., Bellaire, Texas 77401-4411, for the purpose of furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment and to perform all work for the construction of the following project:

### BID NO. 17-003 RENWICK GROUND STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT

The City of Bellaire is requesting bids for the Renwick 1,000,000 Gallon Ground Storage Tank Rehabilitation. The project includes the rehabilitation of the interior and exterior of an existing 1,000,000 gallon steel potable water ground storage tank and associated work.

It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to ensure that the bid is actually in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Bellaire, Texas, prior to the expiration of the time and date above first written. The City's official clock for purposes of recording receipt and acceptance of bid documents is located in the City Clerk's Office. Bids may be mailed or delivered by hand or common courier. Bid envelopes should include the following notation: **Do Not Open in Mail Room - Bid No. 17-003 Enclosed.**

Each bidder is required to submit a cashier's or certified check issued by a bank satisfactory to the City of Bellaire, or bid bond from a reliable surety company, payable without recourse, to the order of the City of Bellaire, in an amount of not less than 10% of the total amount of the bid submitted as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute all necessary bonds within 10 days after notice of award of the contract to him.

It shall be each bidder's sole responsibility to inspect the site of the work and to inform himself or herself regarding all local conditions under which the work is to be done. It shall be understood and agreed that all such factors have been thoroughly investigated and considered in the preparation of the bid submitted.

Continued on next column

## LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous column

A pre-bid conference will be held on **December 7, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** in the City of Bellaire's Council Chamber located on the First Floor of City Hall, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas 77401-4411.

Bid documents may be obtained from **www.CivcastUSA.com**, search City of Bellaire, Harris County. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and bid documents for this project. There is **NO** charge to view or download documents.

The City of Bellaire reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all technicalities, and to accept any bid that it deems advantageous to it. Each bidder agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the City of Bellaire, Texas, and its respective employees, arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation, or recommendation of any bid.

The City of Bellaire is subject to the *Texas Public Information Act*, a state law, which may require the City to make the information provided in response to this bid available to the public upon request.

Tracy L. Dutton, TRMC  
City Clerk  
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#### Pirates from page 3

Things to look out for:

- A person wearing clothing out of the ordinary from what your neighbors wear.
- Cars driving slowly, and possibly reversing. If the thief/thieves notice an easy-grab, they will quickly jump out of their car and grab what they see at the doorstep.
- A car parked haphazardly. If the parking job looks rushed (possibly parked crooked and horizontally at the end of a driveway) the driver may be a thief wanting a quick getaway.

Packages are stolen when there is easy access for criminals. Avoid leaving valuables in your car in plain sight as you shop for the holidays, and keep your purse close to your side.

"People are busy, they're not paying attention," says Holloway. "They're walking through parking lots, they're fumbling with their keys, so they're subject to thefts and robberies."



#### Online from page 3

Fraudsters can create a ticket using the barcode obtained from the photo and resell the ticket. Protect ticket barcodes as you would your credit card number, and never display them on social media.

Check your credit card and bank statements regularly to make sure no fraudulent charges have been made to your account.

Secure your banking and credit accounts with strong and different passwords, as well as all your other accounts that contain anything of value, such as: rewards accounts, online accounts that save your payment information, or accounts containing your private, personal information.

If you suspect you've been victimized:

- Contact your financial institution immediately upon suspecting or discovering a fraudulent transfer.
- Contact law enforcement.
- Request that your bank reach out to the financial institution where the fraudulent transfer was sent.
- File a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov), regardless of dollar loss.

#### Voices from page 4

throughout Houston.

Many legendary artists have recorded and dedicated *alabanzas* (songs of praise) to the Virgen de Guadalupe. Every mariachi group worth its salt has these traditional songs in its repertoire. Mariachi Estrellas de Mexico is no exception. Led by Arturo Torres, and formed in 2000, Mariachi Estrellas de Mexico is full of seasoned mariachi musicians who come from a long line of mariachi professionals from their respective families.

#### Neak Porn Ensemble

When a pair of friends of Houston's Khmer Kandal community met in 1983, one played the *khim* and the other the *tro*. They started playing music together with other musicians in 1986. Their popularity within the Khmer Kandal community grew via their performances at the Texas Cambodian Buddhist Temple, at weddings, and other auspicious ceremonies.

Eventually their repertoire grew, and the present incarnation of the group was established in 2005. The instrumentation consists of a *tro* (fiddle), *khim* (hammered dulcimer), *skor* (barrel drum), *thon* (snake-skin drum), *krapeau* (three-string zither), *roneat* (xylophone) and *ching* (chimes). Using these instruments, they create layered harmonies and hypnotic melodies that are central to most traditional Cambodian gatherings.

#### Walagante

Started in 2014, Walagante evolved from a group of friends from Honduras. Many of the key members of the group either participated or had family members who were a part of the Ballet Nacional Folclorico de Honduras. Many members of the Garifuna community in Houston hail from Honduras. They are Afro-Caribenos and often tri-lingual speaking Garifuna, Spanish and sometimes English. The music they play is mainly sung in Garifuna.

For them, music is a major aspect of ancestor veneration and connects the Garifuna with their ancestral roots. The *primero* (tenor drum) is used to embellish and excite, while the *segunda* (bass drum) keeps time and drives the music. Much like blues music, Garifuna music expresses emotional content,

and is widely known for *punta* and *parranda* music.

The concert will focus on the *Fedu*: a traditional annual celebration that takes place towards the end of the year and welcomes the New Year. The *Fedu* incorporates dance, drums, chanting, food,

and *gifiti* (herbed liquor). Displaying a clear African heritage, *Fedu* music for dancing is composed of rhythmic themes performed by three drummers with alternating call-and-response chanting.



University of Houston choreographer John Beasant teaches Episcopal High School students an original work in preparation for the fall dance concert "Make a Scene-Dance!" at the Underwood Theatre on campus, December 2-3, Friday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

## Please Donate a Gift to CCSC's Jingle Bell Express

More than 2,500 low-income children will receive gifts and a holiday meal through Christian Community Service Center's Jingle Bell Express 2016, and you can be part of that joy.

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by sharing your blessings with others: Donate new unwrapped toys and new children's books for children up to age 15 through Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Consider giving one or two primary gifts rather than several stocking stuffers.

For more information, email Cathy Brown at [seasonal@ccschouston.org](mailto:seasonal@ccschouston.org).

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# Tight Game Ends Lamar Texans Playoff Run

Photo and Story by  
Elaine Matte Mut

They say 'the devil's in the details' and that was the case for the heartbreaking 27 to 28 loss in the Houston Lamar Texans' 3rd round playoff game against Atascocita.

Lamar's stats tell the story of a superior talent – nearly 5 times the rushing yards, 11 more first downs, a higher pass completion percentage, and nearly twice the total yards. But penalties for Lamar and a few key defensive plays by the Eagles ultimately ended the Texans' stellar playoff run.

The game looked evenly matched at the outset, as the Eagles' touchdown in the first quarter was answered by Lamar's Al'Vonte Woodard (#4) late in the 2nd quarter. His 10-yard pass reception TD from QB #11 Owen Holt and Will Fallon's extra point kick tied the game at 7-7. Lamar again gained momentum in the 3rd quarter as the Texans moved the ball to scoring range and Ta'Zhawn Henry (#1) ran in 2 yards for a touchdown. Then 3 minutes later Denzel Davis

(#10) took a 38 yard pass from Owen Holt to the end zone and Fallon's extra points put the Texans up 21-7. But Atascocita scored again just seconds later with a 74 yard passing touchdown. Lamar

opened up the 4th quarter by again moving the ball into scoring position and Ta'Zhawn Henry ran in a 1-yard touchdown. Atascocita blocked Lamar's extra point attempt which proved critical to their success. The Eagles scored again a few minutes later, pulling them closer to Lamar 27-21. Then, with 3 minutes left in the game, Lamar was in possession but Holt's pass was intercepted for a 46 yard return and the Eagles took the lead 28-27. Lamar had just under 3

minutes to score, but hopes were dashed when the Eagles recovered a fumble and were able to hold possession until the clock ran out for a 28-27 win.

Still the Texans have much to celebrate regarding this season, with an outstanding record of 11-2. Despite their impending loss of several key seniors, including star QB Owen Holt, to graduation, Lamar's depth is strong and they will be ready for another stellar season next year in 2017.



Lamar QB Owen Holt proves he can do it all, not only completing 21 of 27 passes, but rushing 35 yards in the game.

## Donations for Seafarers' Ministry

First Christian Church's Disciples Women's Ministries asks that you support its ministry of the Houston International Seafarers' Center at the Port of Houston by donating items for the Christmas boxes that are given to the seafarers that visit the port during the holidays.

Each year approximately 11,000 Christmas boxes are given as gifts to visiting seafarers. Some donation ideas: disposable razors, small shampoos, pens, decks of cards, hard candy, gum and postcards. No perishable items, please. All donations are due by December 18.

Donations may be brought to First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset. Call (713) 526-2561 for information.

## Bebras from page 1

indispensable in preparing students for in-demand, highly-paid career opportunities in computer science." RUSMP Director, Anne Papakonstantinou, added that "RUSMP was proud to be able to partner with Houston ISD to promote such an important international event for Houston-area students and their parents and teachers."

The Houston ISD schools represented at the event at Rice were Carnegie Vanguard High School, Clifton Middle School, Eastwood Academy, Garden Oaks Montessori Magnet, Herod Elementary School, Horn Elementary, Pershing Middle School, Roberts Elementary, Sharpstown International High School, T.H. Rogers School, and Young Women's College Preparatory Academy.

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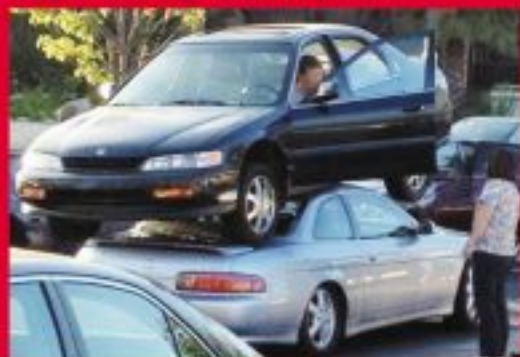


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