

South Belt-Ellington Leader

41 years of covering South Belt

Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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Memorial Day closings set

South Belt-Ellington Leader

The *Leader* will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. Normal office hours will resume Tuesday, May 30, at 9 a.m.

Clear Brook City MUD

The offices of Clear Brook City MUD will be closed on Monday, May 29. The office will reopen Tuesday, May 30, at 8 a.m. For convenience, payments may be left in the drop box at the drive-through window.

Trash collection dates set

City of Houston

There will be no City of Houston trash collection services Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day), and all city recycling centers will be closed. Residents normally scheduled for Monday will have their trash collected Tuesday, May 30, and residents scheduled for Tuesday will have their trash collected Wednesday, May 31. Normal collection dates will resume Thursday, June 1.

Clear Brook City MUD

Clear Brook City MUD residents whose trash service falls on Monday will have regular trash service pickup Memorial Day, May 29. All trash should be placed at curbside no later than 7 a.m. Residents missing their trash pickup date will be serviced Thursday, June 1. Residents with Tuesday/Friday service will not be affected.

Sagemont to honor fallen

In honor of Memorial Day, Sagemont Church will display 38,000 flags on its grounds around the 170-foot-tall cross from Sunday, May 28, through Friday, June 2. Each of the flags represents a fallen Texas soldier. On Monday, May 29, at 9 a.m., a Memorial Day service will be led by former U.S. Army Chaplain Grant Rothberg honoring 120 Houstonians who have died in recent battles. See last week's *Leader* for more information.

Gulf Freeway to close

All northbound main lanes of the Gulf Freeway from FM-518 to El Dorado Boulevard will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Wednesday, May 24, through Friday, May 26.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway from FM-528/NASA Road 1 to Fuqua will be closed daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, June 1.

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.

LSA holds summer camps

Registration is open for summer camps at Lutheran South Academy. Camps are available for art, baseball, boys basketball, girls basketball, book creator, football, forensic science, Lunch Bunch, physical education, Pioneer Power Camp, photography, Pride Camp, scuba, soccer, tennis and volleyball.

For students interested in weights, strength and agility, Pride Camps are available for students entering grades 6-8 and 9-12 in the fall. The Pioneer Power camp is for students entering grades 9-12 and is great for students in football, boys soccer, basketball, baseball and volleyball. Camp length varies depending on the camp.

Go to www.lutheransouth.org for more details and camp registration.

Beltway 8 closures set

The Blackhawk exit and Monroe entrance on Beltway 8 will be closed through Saturday, July 8. The closures are associated with the widening of Beltway 8 from Beamer to Highway 288.

Bay area quilters meet

The Bay Area Quilt Guild meets the first Tuesday of each month at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, located at 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Fellowship begins at 6:30 p.m., and the general meeting and program begins at 7 p.m. This month, the guest speaker is Silvi Sealy, and her program will be a trunk show of quilts made of Kaffe Fassett fabrics. Guests are welcome. For additional information, call Debby Benson at 713-248-8757 or visit bayareaquiltguild.org.

Holocaust survivor speaks

On Sunday, June 4, beginning at 6 p.m., Gulf Meadows Church, located at 8012 Fuqua St., will host a presentation from Holocaust survivor Irving Roth, who will speak on his World War II experiences. Having survived both Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps in Nazi Germany, Roth's heart-wrenching story is a testament of how individuals can thrive in their darkest moments. Admission is free.

Rams hold fundraiser

The Ellington Rams Youth Football, along with the cheer and drill teams will hold a barbecue fund raiser Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. till sell out at the Autozone, 1408 Spencer Highway in South Houston. Registration will also be held for new and returning members of football, cheer and drill team.

Ellington celebrates 100th anniversary

A century of aviation history – and the promise of a space-age future – were celebrated Saturday, May 20, at the 100th anniversary special event at Ellington Airport.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Aviation Director Mario Diaz were joined by other local, state and federal elected officials, as well as military and NASA leaders for the family-friendly event at the airport. Approximately 1,500 aviation enthusiasts and community members from throughout Houston enjoyed food, live music, games and aircraft displays.

When it was established in 1917, few could

imagine that the new military aviation training facility would transition into what is known as Ellington Airport today, a vital part of aviation that will enable Houston to take a lead role in the commercial space sector in the 21st century.

"Looking back, this airport has been a base of operations for not only military drills and search and rescue missions but also for dealing with natural and man-made disasters like hurricanes and oil spills," Turner said. "Now we look forward to Ellington's next century as it becomes a spaceport to provide launch support services to government and commercial space initiatives

such as spacecraft manufacturing and testing, space tourism and launching telecommunication and GPS satellites. It's exciting and an enormous economic benefit to Houston and the surrounding area, providing thousands of jobs and potentially billions of dollars in investment."

Acquired by the City of Houston in 1984, Ellington Airport now supports the operations of the U.S. military, NASA and a variety of general aviation tenants. The airport is home to the annual Wings Over Houston Airshow and is also the place where many of the astronauts from the world-renowned Johnson Space Center receive

their ongoing space training.

And since June 2015, Ellington Airport became the nation's 10th commercial spaceport, promising continued growth and even more aviation history to celebrate in the future.

"For 100 years, Ellington Airport has been on the forefront of aviation innovation," Diaz said, "from the first airplanes taking off and landing here in 1917 that were made of wood and canvas to the state-of-the-art space crafts that are now being made from high tech alloys and composites that will be launching from the new spaceport we're so proud and pleased to be building."

Turner, Mitchell honor Ellington



A Centennial Celebration was held Saturday, May 20, in honor of Ellington Airport's 100th anniversary. Approximately 1,500 people attended the event to enjoy food, music, games and aircraft displays. Shown above at the celebration are Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (left) and South Belt resident and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President Bob Mitchell. See additional photos on Page 6A.

Photos submitted

Local swimming pools set to open

Summer is around the corner, and with it comes the opening of several area pools to help South Belters beat the heat.

All local pools will be open Saturday, May 27, through Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day weekend. They will then reopen on Friday, June 2, for the duration of the summer. All area pools will be closed for cleaning on Mondays (with the exceptions of Memorial Day and Labor Day).

The City of Houston's Sagemont and Beverly Hills swimming pools will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 1 to 8 p.m.

Clear Brook Meadows' pool hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Sageglenn pool hours will be from noon through 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 1 to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Both Riverstone Ranch pools will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., except on Sundays, when hours will be from noon to 8 p.m.

Ashley Pointe's pool hours will be from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 1 to 9 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Highland Meadows' pool hours are 3 to 8 p.m.

The new splash pad at El Franco Lee Park will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. until October.

Hartwell benefit scheduled for June 3

A memorial benefit will be held for Derek Hartwell Saturday, June 3, at the Copper Top Ice House and Event Center, 1219 Walnut St. in La Marque, beginning at 2 p.m.

A longtime South Belt resident, Hartwell was killed in a motorcycle accident Saturday, Oct. 8, in the 9400 block of Blackhawk between Fuqua and Alameda Genoa.

According to investigators, Hartwell was traveling south on Blackhawk on a silver Harley Davidson around 7:35 p.m. when he struck a blue Dodge Durango SUV at the intersection of Wolcott Park Lane. The driver of the SUV had reportedly failed to yield the right of way after leaving a stop sign, police said.

Hartwell, 40, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the SUV exhibited no signs of intoxication and was questioned and released at the scene without charges.

Organizers hope to make the benefit an annual event. While this year's proceeds will go to the Hartwell family, funds raised at future events will go to other families who have lost a loved one in a motorcycle accident. Hartwell's daughters, Haven and Tatelyn Hartwell, will select the deserving families.

Future fundraisers will be scheduled to take place in May, as it is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

The benefit will feature a fun run, brisket barbecue plates, a washer board competition, raffles, a silent auction, vendors, a bike car show, a disc jockey and a live band.

Organizers are also planning a benefit fishing tournament to take place in Liverpool in October. Registration will be available at the June 3 benefit.

For additional information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1737220133258938/>.

Epperson, Miss Teen Lone Star State

Rachel Epperson was recently named Miss Teen Lone Star State 2017.

Epperson, 16, is the daughter of local State Farm Agent Thuy Epperson, who is also an organizer of the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off. The teen beauty queen made her first appearance as the newly crowned titleholder at the recent cook-off at El Franco Lee Park.

This marked her first time competing in such an event.

Held late last month in Katy, the Lone Star State Pageant is a preliminary to the United America Nationals. The event is also a Red Nose Day fundraiser to aid poverty-stricken children.

The United America pageant system recognizes females who balance education, career, family life and volunteering in their communi-

ties with grace and beauty.

A sophomore at Friendswood High School, Epperson has more than 400 hours of community service, serving as lead volunteer at Moody Gardens over the past three years, volunteering at the Galveston County Food Bank and Hope Village and serving as vacation bible school crew leader at Mary Queen Catholic Church in Friendswood. She has served as band president and is a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society and is a Friendswood High School NCA All-American Varsity cheerleader.

Epperson also earned awards for Overall Photogenic, Best Dressed and Fashion.

She will now advance to the United America Nationals, to be held June 9-11 in San Antonio.

Epperson wins beauty pageant



Rachel Epperson (right) was named Miss Teen Lone Star State 2017 at a contest held late last month in Katy. The daughter of local State Farm Agent Thuy Epperson, Rachel, 16, is a sophomore at Friendswood High School and does extensive volunteer work in the community. She also earned awards for Overall Photogenic, Best Dressed and Fashion. Shown above with Epperson are, left to right, Mrs. Lone Star State Taylor Hassen Bingham (left) and Lone Star State Director Sheila Berthelsen. Photo submitted

Welch celebrates 100th birthday

South Belt resident Agnes Marie Stolpmann Harris Welch celebrated her 100th birthday on Thursday, May 18.



Welch

Originally from Chattanooga, Tenn., Welch was born in 1917 to Joseph and Lula Stolpmann. Joseph Stolpmann and Lula Hamilton were married February 10, 1915. Welch was the second oldest of eleven children. Siblings include Helen, born 1915; Welch, born May 18, 1917; Michael, born 1918; Benjamin, born 1920; Leo, born 1922; Pauline, born 1924 (deceased 1926 of whooping cough); Nicholas, born 1925; Frances, born 1927; Genevieve, born 1930; Mary Catherine also born May 18, 1933 (Mary Catherine was Welch's 16th birthday present); and Frederick, born 1940.

Welch has three living younger sisters, Frances, 89, and Genevieve, 87, who live in Chattanooga

and Mary Catherine, 84, who lives in San Diego.

Stolpmann grandparents, Martin and Pauline, both immigrated from Germany in the 1880s. Martin was a tailor, and Pauline was a nurse/doctor and educated in Berlin. Pauline was also a midwife and delivered all except three of Joseph and Lula's children.

Welch's maternal great-grandfather, John Hamilton Sr., and his wife, Mary Powers, immigrated from Ireland. Her other maternal great-grandfather, Bernard Adams, and his wife were born in Pennsylvania. John Hamilton Sr. fought in the Civil War on both sides. After the war, he returned to the South (it is believed that he fought on Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga).

At age 19, Welch married Martin Harris Sr. Welch and Martin have one son, Martin Harris Jr. The family moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in 1943. Oak Ridge is known as "The Secret City," and was the chosen city for the Manhattan Project (home of the atomic bomb).

Welch became a widow in April 1975. After retiring from the A&P Tea Company in Oak Ridge, Welch moved to Chattanooga. In February 1978, Welch married a widower, William Welch, in Chattanooga. Continued on Page 4A.

Man dies after jumping off overpass

Houston police are investigating the death of a man and hit-and-run accident that took place around 6 a.m. Tuesday, May 23, in the 12500 block of the Gulf Freeway.

According to the police, the victim jumped off the Fuqua overpass onto the southbound lanes of the Gulf Freeway in what is believed to have been a suicide attempt. An unknown vehicle struck the victim and then fled the scene, investigators said. It is unclear whether the fall or the collision

killed the man.

At press time, the identity of the male victim, reportedly in his 20s, was pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

The incident caused extensive traffic delays for approximately three hours.

Anyone with information on the vehicle or its driver is urged to contact the HPD Hit and Run Unit at 713-247-4065 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Hurricane season begins June 1

The 2017 hurricane season will begin Thursday, June 1, and will continue through Nov. 30.

In their annual forecast, meteorologists with The Weather Channel have predicted a total of 12 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), six hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher) and two major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher) this season. Experts say this is on par with the 30-year average.

South Belt residents should plan accordingly, in the event that a major storm should strike the area.

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (OHSEM), working in conjunction with the City of Houston and the State of Texas, have issued evacuation routes for community members, should the need arise to leave town. The South Belt area, including ZIP codes 77089 and 77075, are located in what the OHSEM refers to as ZIP-Zone C.

In the case of a Category 4 or 5 storm, those residing in ZIP-Zone C are urged to evacuate

by traveling west on Interstate 10 or by heading north on Interstate 45 and highways 290 and 59.

The OHSEM warns against traveling east, as it will take evacuees closer to the coast and into the more vulnerable ZIP-Zone B.

Should the Texas Department of Public Safety issue a mandatory evacuation, contraflow operations will likely be put into effect to expedite the flow of traffic.

On Interstate 10, eastbound lanes would be reversed at FM 359 in Brookshire, just east of Sealy. The contraflow lanes will end at Loop 1604 in San Antonio.

Southbound lanes on Interstate 45 would be reversed north of Highway 242, just south of Conroe. The contraflow lanes will end at US 287 near Ennis, 40 miles south of Dallas.

On Highway 290, contraflow operations will begin just west of FM 1960. Northbound traffic from State Highway 6 will be able to turn west onto 290 contraflow lanes. Contraflow opera-

Continued on Page 2A.

In My Opinion

Join the 100 Club

As a Board member of The 100 Club, I am asking you to join with me in providing financial support for the dependents of law enforcement officers and firefighters who are killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

Sadly, we average 3 such deaths every year in our coverage area and Texas is usually in the top two states who lose the most Heroes annually.

The support provided to the dependents begins with a \$20,000 gift, usually within 24 to 36 hours of the tragedy. Then, when the time is good for the surviving spouse, we go back and do a needs assessment which is used to provide our financial support. This assessment covers all of their debt, health issues, home condition and provides funding for the children's future educational needs, whether that be for college

or trade school. Our average gift to each dependent family is \$300,000 with our goal to payoff mortgages, credit card debt, vehicle debt, and to alleviate the worry about funding for the children's future educational needs.

The 100 Club also provides life protecting equipment for law enforcement agencies. This is our proactive way to help save the lives of those who put themselves in harm's way to keep our community safe. Since our beginning, in 1953, we have provided over \$43 million dollars in support of our mission.

I look forward to you becoming a member of The 100 Club of Houston. Become a hero supporter with one of our memberships that start at only \$100 a year and help our heroes and their families. Please call the office at 713-952-0100 if you have any further questions.

Tony Silva

Texas Senate passes SB 1609

On May 17, the Texas Senate unanimously by a vote of 30-0 passed the Homeowners Religious Freedom Act, providing protection for homeowners who wish to place certain religious displays on their front door.

Too many homeowners' associations (HOAs) had adopted restrictive rules that would order the removal of religious displays on homeowners' property. SB 1609 was co-authored by Senators Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels), Sylvia Garcia (D-Houston), Don Huffines (R-Dallas), Eddie Lujan Jr. (D-Brownsville) and Van Taylor (R-Plano).

"Homeowners should be able to display religious displays on their property because they own it, and the

HOA does not own the property," Sen. Paul Bettencourt said. "Several of the most restrictive HOAs would ban any religious display by simply not allowing any materials to be displayed whatsoever. That's not right."

SB 1609's key provisions include:

- Strikes the provisions limiting the right to religious displays to the front door, prohibiting the HOA from taking down any religious display on the property;
- Removes the provision allowing the HOA to effectively ban religious displays by having control of the allowable materials, or not allowing any at all; and
- Only allows the removal of displays that are patently offensive "for reasons other

than religious content."

SB 1609's identical companion bill, House Bill 522, was heard and passed from a House committee; however, that bill died last week in the House.

"Everyone is entitled to their religious liberty, and HOAs should not be allowed to infringe upon that right," stated House sponsor Mike Schofield.

"The very basis of our constitutional rights is the principle that homeowners can express their personal beliefs on their own property," Sen. Kolkhorst said.

"The bottom line is that if someone wants to put up a manger scene, as one Senator said it, they should be allowed to do so," Bettencourt concluded.

SB 7 passes unanimously

The Texas Senate concurred on May 15 with the Texas House on Senate Bill 7 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) to strengthen educator misconduct laws in Texas and prevent educators who engage in inappropriate relationships with students from being able to jump from school district to school district without facing any consequences.

SB 7 won unanimous approval from the Texas Legislature. All 30 Senators co-authored the bill and unanimously passed it from the Senate in March, and on May 9, Representative Ken King (R-Canadian) sponsored the bill in the House and guided it to a unanimous 146-0 House vote.

Educator misconduct was one of Lt. Governor Patrick's top 10 legislative priorities during the 85th Legislative Session.

"The House and Senate both unanimously passed Senate Bill 7, making clear that this behavior of teachers preying on students for sexual relationships will not be tolerated."

"SB 7 gives TEA more tools to pursue and investigate these cases in order to

protect the integrity of the teaching profession and, more importantly, protect the students in all of the schools in Texas," said Bettencourt.

Data shows that the Texas Education Agency received 449 reported cases of inappropriate student-educator relationships from April 2015 through April 2017, which is a 6 percent increase in just a two-year period.

According to testimony before the Senate Education Committee, in some cases school districts simply quashed subpoenas and "passed the trash," allowing teachers who engaged in this misconduct to quietly transfer to another school district with no consequences rather than protecting the students in their charge.

This growing problem includes instances in local districts, such as Houston Independent School District and more around the state, but the problem is statewide, per testimony to the committee.

SB 7 has broad support from educator groups, school board groups and the education community. Key bill points include:

- Automatic revocation of teaching certificate if offend-

er receives deferred adjudication for an educator misconduct offense or any offense that would require registration as a sex offender.

- Expanding reporting requirements to include not only superintendents, but principals as well, with penalties for failing to report.
- Expanding TEA's investigative authority from intradistrict to interdistrict relationships.
- An educator's certificate may be revoked for assisting a person in obtaining employment at a school and knowing that person had engaged in sexual misconduct.

This House amendment clarifies the teacher preparation training and the specific reporting role of principals and superintendents, allows felons to be fired by school districts immediately and allows for pension revocation.

"Senate Bill 7 stops crimes against Texas children and is on its way to the governor's desk for his signature," Bettencourt stated. "SB 7 recognizes the scourge of inappropriate teacher-student relationships and is a very big step forward to stamping them out," he added as the SB 7 senator.

An evening of Jewish Americana

Following a brief Havdalah service, which closes the Sabbath, Congregation Shaar Hashalom Sisterhood and Men's Club will host an evening of Jewish Americana music with its member Joe Buchanan and the Family Band. Buchanan defines Jewish Americana as a blend of southern soul and country charm and Jewish music, grounded in the belief that there is always more room at the table.

The Jewish Americana event will take place at Congregation Shaar Hashalom on May 27, at 7:30 p.m. The congregation, located at 16020 El Camino Real in Houston, is the conservative synagogue in the Bay Area.

The entire community is invited to attend.

For more information, contact the synagogue office at 281-488-5861 or at csh@shaarhashalom.org.

Local library events set

Parker Williams Library

The following events are scheduled for the Parker Williams Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Basic computer classes are offered on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. Phone the library for information and registration details, or check the library's home page at www.hcpl.net.

Thursday, May 25, 2 p.m. Adult book discussion -- Faithful by Alice Hoffman.

Thursday, May 25, 4:30 p.m. Community Craft. Make a tulle hula skirt and learn about Polynesian dance and culture.

Friday, May 26, 5 p.m. Anime Club -- Introduction to the Classics. From crude cartoons of the 1920s to the ninth season of *Naruto* (2002), the classic anime that is available through Crunchyroll.com will be covered.

Wednesdays, Preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays, Toddler storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays, Vietnamese Learning Time. Level 2 begins at 10 a.m., Level 1 begins at 11:15 a.m. and Level 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. For more information on these programs, speak with Loc Bui.

For more information on library events, phone the library at 281-484-2036. Library hours are: Monday, 1 - 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, closed.

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, all Harris County public libraries will be closed Monday, May 29.

Bracewell Branch Library

The following events are scheduled for the Bracewell Branch Library, 9002 Kingspoint: Saturday, May 27, 10:30 a.m. Spanish computer class

Saturday, May 27, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. English learning; 12:30 p.m. Lego playtime

Tuesday, May 30, 10:30 a.m. Baby storytime; 10:30 a.m. Toddler playtime

Wednesday, May 31, Computer courses: 2 p.m. Computer Basics; 3:15 p.m. Internet Basics; 4:30 p.m. Basic Powerpoint

To register children / teens for the Houston Public Library Summer Reading program and learn about reading levels and prizes visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/summer>. Early registration continues through May 31 for teachers registering students only. General registration begins June 1.

To register for the Adult Summer Reading program visit <http://houstonlibrary.org/learn-ex-plore/library-events/summer-reading-grown-ups>. Call Bracewell Neighborhood Library for more information.

Camp STREAM is a free two-day summer program that allows students the opportunity to participate in activities relating to each aspect of STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math). For more information and to register go to: <http://houstonlibrary.org/camp-stream>.

For more information on these programs, call the library at 832-393-2580. All events are free and open to the public.

Bracewell hours are: Sunday, closed; Monday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thursday, noon - 8 p.m., Friday, 1 - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, Bracewell Library will be closed Monday, May 29.

Elected officials speak out

Gov. Greg Abbott: Hurricane season

June 1 marks the start of the 2017 hurricane season, although the season officially started in April when Tropical Storm Arlene formed over the north Atlantic.

This is the third consecutive year that a storm has formed before the official start of hurricane season.

Rep. Pete Olson: Honor those who serve

This week is National Police Week. Tens of thousands of law enforcement officers and family members from around the country converged on Washington, D.C. to honor those who've made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our communities, as did many more across the country.

I was particularly honored to have Lucy, the fiancée of fallen Pearland Police Officer Endy Ekpanya join us in Washington so we could honor his memory and recognize his service to our community. Officer Ekpanya was one of 19 Texas officers killed in the line of duty last year. He leaves behind a fiancée and young son.

As a former Navy pilot, I know what it means to put yourself in harm's way to protect our fellow Americans.

I have profound respect for ALL that do so, and am truly appalled by the radical-left's 'War on Police' - which has cost the lives of so many brave men and women in uniform and contributed to utter chaos in our most troubled communities.

A report by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund shows that the number of police officer deaths from shootings increased by 56 percent in 2016. Ambush killings of officers also increased by 167 percent in 2016, according to the National Association of Police Organizations.

This trend is unacceptable, and we cannot allow it to continue. This week I joined millions of Americans in prayer for our nation's fallen law enforcement officers, and I am so proud of our actions in Congress to protect and honor those who serve.

Perhaps most notably, I was proud to cast my vote in support of the H.R. 115 - the Thin Blue Line Act - which would trigger federal death penalty considerations for those that kill or attempt to kill a police officer, firefighter, or other first responder.

I also stood in strong support of H.R. 1428 - the Law Enforcement Heroes Act - which would ensure our nation's battlefield veterans

are given first preference to continue protecting and serving our communities once they come home.

We also passed H.R. 1892 - the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act - which changes the federal flag code to give governors and the D.C. mayor the authority to order flags lowered to half-staff when a first responder is killed in the line of duty.

These are not the only actions we took in recognition of National Police Week, but they are among the most notable... Rest assured that I will never let up in the fight to protect and honor our nation's brave men and women in law enforcement, who serve on the front lines protecting our families and communities.

Thank you, again, for your interest in our work in the 115th Congress, and for standing with me as I serve you and your family. Together, we will continue to get big things done to reform our broken government, restore law and order in our country, and renew America's promise.

Leader checks out social media

By Mary Doan

Dobie High School will provide bus transportation on Thursday, June 1, to NRG stadium for the graduation ceremony for parents and family of a graduating senior. For more information to reserve a spot for the district-provided transportation to the graduation ceremony, visit the *J. Frank Dobie High School* Facebook page.

The Thompson Cheer team will be hosting a fundraiser at El Pollo Loco, 2610 Pearland Pkwy., on Friday, May 26, from 2 to 9 p.m. with 50 percent of the purchased food to be donated to the Thompson Cheer Team. The flyer listing the fundraiser must be shown to the cashier for the 50 percent donation. To find an image of the flyer, visit *The Mont!!* Facebook page.

A meeting to join scouts will be held in the Frazier Elementary cafeteria, 10503 Hughes Road, on Thursday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. For additional information on joining cub scouts, visit beascout.org or call 281-627-1678.

Padadena Independent School District "A Little Free Library" is a take a book, return a book free book exchange. There are 32 Little Free Libraries in the Pasadena Independent School District at campuses including Meador Elementary, Stuchbery Elementary, Burnett Elementary and Moore Middle School. For more information and for a complete list of Little Free Library locations, visit the *Pasadena Independent School District* Facebook page.

A vehicle belonging to

a member of the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page was broken into Monday, May 22, around 8 p.m. The suspect allegedly stole a gun from the victim's car on Sagemeadow Lane closest to Hughes Road. For more information, visit the *People of Sagemont* Facebook page.

According to a member of the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page, a female mixed terrier was reported missing on Monday, May 22. The 10-year-old pet has sandy-brown hair and was wearing a pink collar with tags. She was last seen on Kirksage Drive in the Riverstone Ranch neighborhood.

For more information or photographs of the female mixed terrier, visit the *Pets of Southbelt* Facebook page.

A vehicle belonging to

Louis T. Chapa



Louis T. Chapa, husband, father, brother and grandfather, died on May 16, 2017. He was born in Victoria, Texas, on Nov. 18, 1936. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1961.

Chapa was preceded in death by his wife Hilda Chapa, who passed away in 2012. They were residents of South Belt for 51 years. Chapa is survived by two sons Thomas Chapa and wife Julie, and

Hurricane season begins

Continued from Page 1A. tions will continue to FM 1948 near Burton.

Contraflow operations on Highway 59 will begin just south of Kingwood Drive and continue to Nacogdoches.

County officials recommend each household assemble a disaster relief kit that includes key items such as flashlights, cell phones, extra batteries, battery chargers, a portable radio, a first aid kit, emergency water and food, medical supplies, a nonelectric can opener, a highway map and important documents, such as driver's licenses, passports, insurance policies and health cards.

Residents are urged to cover their windows with shielding materials and to secure or put up any loose items around their homes.

Evacuees should fill their vehicles with gasoline as early as possible and take only one automobile, as extra cars create traffic congestion.

Those leaving town are encouraged to bring extra cash in case banks are closed and ATMs are not working. Fleeing citizens are also urged to notify family and friends (especially those out of the area) of their plans and destinations.

Disabled individuals and seniors who require assistance leaving the area should call the state's help line at 211 or visit www.211.texas.org.

For additional information, visit www.hcoem.org.

Death

David Chapa and wife Charmarie; three grandchildren Nicholas, Dalton and Isabella Chapa; and many friends.

Visitation was held on Fri-

day, May 19, with a rosary recited at South Park Funeral Home. The funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, May 20, at St. Helen Catholic Church.

Bettencourt echoes Abbott's statement

At another bill signing on May 21, Gov. Greg Abbott said that the property tax measure the House passed Saturday was not strong enough, stating, "I want to see the rate rollback part of property taxes achieved."

The Texas House yesterday approved Senate Bill 669 by Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) as amended with public notice, transparency and tools for taxpayers to be able to protest their values. The amended bill included useful taxpayer tools and protections for appraisal processes; however, none of the rate rollback provisions or automatic election provisions that exist now for school districts were placed in the bill for cities, counties or special districts. In addition, the House Speaker and Parliamentarian ruled on a Point of Order that these provisions would not be germane to SB 669.

"Without Senate Bill 2 as passed by the Senate being considered by the full House, there will be no property tax relief coming out of the 85th Regular Session," said Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), the author of SB 2. "Many of the items that the House voted on yesterday like SB 669, the committee substitute for SB 2, HB 15, and many other bills already existed as

standalone bills in the Senate that have already been passed by the Texas Senate. While these are useful transparency and taxpayer tools, they are not property tax relief."

If the House is to consider SB 2 in the 85th General Session, the House Calendars Committee will have to set the bill for a vote no later than second reading.

"Senate Bill 2 was based upon 50 hours of public testimony from taxpayers around the state that show multiple years of double digit increases in property tax bills on homes and businesses, with another year coming of strong value increases in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and on the IH35 corridor and in other jurisdictions around the state of Texas," Bettencourt stated.

"If appraised values go up and tax rates don't come down, then homeowners and business owners continue to be put at risk of ever-rising tax bills. This problem is not going away," he added.

"We should get a vote on rollback and automatic election provisions in the 85th Regular Session as Texas taxpayers are hoping we are not done yet. The governor said we still have more work to do on property taxes. I concur with that!" concluded Bettencourt.

METRO offers free kids summer pass

METRO is taking students to all the fun this summer for free with the Student Summer of Fun Pass. It gives kindergarten through grade 12 students free rides on METRO-Rail, local buses and Park & Ride services June 1 through Sept. 1.

"This is such an exciting opportunity that will allow families to get out and explore our area this summer. They can go to a park, visit a library or catch a show," said METRO Board Chair Carrin Patman.

There are three ways to apply for the pass:

- Online at RideMETRO.org under the Summer of Fun Link.
- In person at the METRO RideStore located at 1900 Main or 1001 Travis St.
- By calling 713-635-4000 to request a mail-in application.

The fun continues even when students head back to class.

The Summer of Fun Pass becomes a Student Q-Card which allows them to ride for half price.

On June 3, METRO staff will distribute the cards and offer "How to Ride" workshops for students and parents at the Hire Houston Youth Job Fair. METRO is also partnering with area schools to help inform students about the summer pass. METRO reminds parents to speak to their children about rail safety.

Trains cannot stop easily or quickly even when moving slowly. One should "Stop, Look and Listen" whenever near a train. For additional information on the program, visit RideMETRO.org or call 713-739-4000.

Click It or Ticket campaign anniversary

The month of May marks the 15th anniversary of the "Click It or Ticket" campaign urging Texans to buckle up. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that since its inception 15 years ago, the life-saving campaign has resulted in 5,068 fewer traffic fatalities. However, from 2015 to 2016, deaths among people not wearing seat belts increased 9 percent.

"Wearing a seat belt is the single most important step you can take to protect yourself in a crash, and in Texas it's the law," said Texas Department of Transportation Executive Director James Bass. "People make a lot of excuses for not buckling up, but those excuses will not save your life or prevent you from getting a ticket. The fact is, it only takes a few seconds to buckle up and it could mean the difference between life and death."

According to NHTSA, since its inception 15 years ago, the Texas "Click It or Ticket" campaign has not only saved thousands of lives but also prevented more than 86,000 serious injuries and saved Texas more than \$19.3 billion in related economic costs. When the "Click It or

Ticket" campaign launched in 2002, only 76 percent of Texans used their seat belts. Today, nearly 92 percent buckle up, but 8 percent still don't and the number of people who don't buckle up doubles to 16 percent at night.

In 2016, 994 people died because they weren't wearing seat belts - an increase of 9 percent over the 908 unbelted fatalities recorded in 2015.

Wearing a seat belt helps keep occupants from being ejected in a crash and increases the chances of surviving by 45 percent in a car, and up to 60 percent in a truck. In Texas, the law requires every-

one in a vehicle to buckle up or face fines and court costs up to \$200. Children younger than 8 years must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they're taller than 4 feet 9 inches. If they aren't properly restrained, the driver faces fines up to \$250 plus court costs.

Along with TxDOT's annual "Click It or Ticket" campaign effort, police departments in Texas and across the nation stepped up enforcement efforts May 22 and will continue through June 4.

To learn more about "Click It or Ticket," visit texasclickitorticket.com.

The District E office has contacted the Houston Police Department's Clear Lake substation to ask that officers monitor the location and provide assistance with traffic control as needed.

For more information on the repairs on Bay Area Boulevard, contact Council Member Martin's office at 832-393-3008 or by email at districte@houstontx.gov.

Bay Area Boulevard repairs scheduled

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin has approved, through the use of his Council District Service Fund, panel replacement and curb repairs along Bay Area Boulevard.

The repairs began along Bay Area Boulevard on Monday, May 22. The scope of work includes removal and replacement of sections of roadway along Bay Area Boulevard from El Camino Real to University Drive, as well as repairing damaged curbing from El Camino Real to Middlebrook Drive. Construction is anticipated to be complete by the end of summer 2017.

The City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering Department (PWE) is scheduled to start panel replacements at the 1900 block of Bay Area Boulevard in the gutter and middle lanes traveling eastbound, then will move to the esplanade lane.

The curb repairs will begin simultaneously with the panel replacements. Curbs along the gutter and esplanade lanes will be replaced starting at the 1900 block of Bay Area Boulevard.

Once the eastbound lanes

are complete, crews will begin working in the westbound lanes. While multiple repairs will be occurring, one lane will remain open at all times to maintain the flow of traffic.

Although construction activities behind closed areas may occur from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., construction equipment movement in the driving lanes will be limited between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

in an effort to reduce congestion.

During the time of the repairs increased travel times through the construction area should be expected. There will be access to businesses and sidewalks along the roadway at all times.

To ensure driver and worker safety, traffic control measures including signage and an arrow board will be in place.

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Stem cell therapy bill headed to Senate

The Senate Health & Human Services Committee chaired by Senator Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) on Tuesday, May 23 voted unanimously 9-0 to approve House Bill 810, authored by Representative Tan Parker and sponsored by Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston). The legislation grants patients with terminal illnesses or severe chronic diseases access to adult stem cell treatments that often are their last hope of significantly improving their physical well-being or even saving their own lives.

"House Bill 810 is about giving chronically and terminally ill patients a better chance for potential treatment," Bettencourt said. "The stem cell is an amazing creation, the one cell in your body that has the ability to regenerate, repair, and adapt. Thanks to the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services for unanimously deciding to let adult stem cell therapies go to work in Texas!" he added.

Parker filed the adult stem cell bill in the Texas House to authorize doctors to prescribe adult stem cell treatment to patients suffering from the debilitating effects of severe chronic illness or terminal disease.

"Representative Parker's bill passed unanimously late in the session, and for a complex subject, it was great to see it pass committee on one of the last possible days," Bettencourt said.

HB 810 is very similar to House Bill 21 from the 84th Legislative Session. Bettencourt sponsored the Andrea Sloan "Right to Try" legislation, which authorized Phase I FDA approved drugs for terminally ill patients.

During HB 810's committee hearing, members heard from patients Tracey Thompson, who has battled multiple sclerosis for 18 years, and Jennifer Ziegler, who has battled it for 13 years. Thompson said, "If it wasn't for adult stem cell treatments, I wouldn't be here today." Jennifer echoed her support of the legislation, stating, "The science is there. Our cells are proven safe and effective." They were both present for the 9-0 vote.

CTE hosts appreciation breakfast

More than 100 Houston-area business representatives gathered recently at the Lewis Career and Technical High School for Pasadena ISD's third annual Career and Technical Education (CTE) partnership appreciation breakfast.

The event recognized donors, community partners and volunteers for contributing their time, energy and resources in support of students.

"As many of you have seen through our programs at CTHS and the comprehensive high schools, we can provide instruction, we can provide facilities; however, without industry support and expertise, we cannot get our students ready to go into the workplace successfully," said Dr. Troy McCarley, associate superintendent of communication.

The district works with roughly 300 local business partners who offer scholarship opportunities, on-site work experience, mentoring, job skills training and workshops for students.

"I believe you are the reason [Lewis] CTHS was built," said Ezequiel Garcia, CTE business partnership liaison. "This is a small token of appreciation for what you do for us. You are what legitimizes our programs."

"We've had many successes this year and I look forward to many more in the future."



Above, Ezequiel Garcia, CTE partnership liaison, addresses a large crowd of community sponsors at the CTE breakfast.



South Houston High School engineering and rocketry students Jerardo Sanchez and Ophelia Torres talk to school board secretary Kenny Fernandez about their rocket.



Pasadena Independent School District Board President Nelda Sullivan and Pasadena Chamber Chairman Kevin Jeter of Miles A/C Service Corporation chat about the CTE partnership breakfast. Photos by Reesha Brown



Above, South Houston High School CTE students present a project that has been in process for several months as part of their engineering pathway. Set to blast off, the students built a 30-pound rocket, capable of launch-



South Houston High School student Martin Garcia describes the Trojan Engineering and Rocketry project, in which the students worked together to build a rocket. Shown, listening to Garcia, is Brenda Ayala.



Enjoying the event are, left to right, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Christina Womack and Gilda Ramirez, senior director of small business and education outreach at the Port of Houston Authority.

HCAD mails property value notices

The Harris County Appraisal District has mailed property value notices to most residential property owners and is following with commercial and industrial value notices.

"We are seeing a greater number of properties in Harris County that are not increasing in value this year, however generally, both residential and commercial properties are still continuing to go up in value," said Roland Altinger, chief appraiser.

"This year is much like last year in that it's more of a mixed market that is spread throughout the county," Altinger said. "Many property owners, especially homeowners, will not see their value change much this year, although we are continuing to see some increases. Houston's energy industry was hard hit by the drop in oil prices, which then created a county-wide economic downturn. But that downturn has turned into a slow recovery, and we are seeing some job growth."

Altinger explained that the appraisal district is required by law to appraise all property at 100 percent of market value as of Jan. 1, so the appraisal district is basing the appraisal on the prices property sold for in 2016.

Specific information for the property types is included below, and market area maps are available on the HCAD website at www.hcad.org under "Resources" and then "2017 Reappraisal Values." Individual property values also are available at www.hcad.org.

Residential

The sales volume has increased slightly, and property values continue to increase. The sales volume for single family residential properties increased 3 percent to 76,449 homes in 2016 from 74,174 homes in 2015, according to the Houston Association of Realtors.

The value of residential property in the county continues to increase although at a slower rate than the past several years. Approximately 58 percent of the homes in the county increased in value since last year, while approximately 39 percent did not see any change in value.

The housing market remains strong although the inventory of available homes has increased slightly to an approximately 3.5 month supply. Last year, the supply of homes hovered at approximately a 3.2 month supply from March 2015 through March 2016. A six month supply is considered a balanced market.

Year-over-year, the median sales price of single-family homes — the figure at which half the homes sold for more and half for less — rose 6.5 percent to \$225,903 in 2016, compared with \$212,000 in 2015, according to the Houston Association of Realtors.

Homes in all price ranges saw value increases, but like last year, homes priced between \$80,000 and \$250,000 saw the biggest increase. Homes in that price range saw an approximately 6-8 percent increase while those homes above \$250,000 had

increases of approximately 4 percent, while homes valued below \$80,000 had an increase of approximately 6 percent. The highest volume of sales is continuing to occur on the east side of the county because of expansion projects related to the energy industry.

Another sign of the county's solid economy, despite some lingering problems in the energy sector, is that foreclosures recorded by the appraisal district have continued to fall. Foreclosures dropped to 1,198 in 2016, or 2.5 percent of residential sales, from 1,882 in 2015, or 4.4 percent of residential sales.

Exemptions can provide significant relief for qualifying taxpayers by reducing taxable value and tax levies. Residence homestead exemptions apply to most owner-occupied homes in Texas and are the most common type of exemption. Property owners should check their account online to make sure that all exemptions to which they are entitled are in place.

Commercial
Overall, approximately 57 percent of the commercial property accounts that

combined with a glut of available units delivered to the market, caused rents to remain relatively flat. Houston's booming economy in 2013 and 2014 created investments in new projects, which brought 19,940 units to the market in 2016, the most ever delivered in a single year.

The retail market appeared to be the strongest sector during 2016 because as oil prices declined and the price of gasoline fell, consumers gained more disposable income. Occupancy rates are holding at record high levels at 95 percent. Not only is the retail market experiencing growth in quantity of retail space, but it has adapted and evolved to include multi-story projects with ground floor retail in apartment/condominium complexes.

Warehouses are expected to continue to grow because of the explosion in e-commerce activity and Houston's position as a regional major distribution center. Rental rates increased just over 6 percent while occupancy rates remained high at 95 percent. The Houston industrial warehouse sector is expected

to see a moderate increase in value through 2017. The demand for vacant land has continued to slow. The strongest demand is concentrated in or near Midtown, Southeast Houston, East Downtown, Galleria, Northwest Houston and North Houston.

Industrial

The price of crude oil has begun to rebound. Specific Gulf Coast refining margins are mixed depending on refinery configurations, the types of crudes processed and the degree of the distillate production compared to gasoline. The chemicals industry is heavily dependent on auto manufacturing and home building and reflects increases in new vehicle sales and new home construction. Chemical-related inventory volumes should be near the levels they were in January 2016.

Property owners who receive their notices may begin the protest process immediately. While there is a protest form included in the packet, one of the fastest and easiest ways to do this is to use the district's online iFile program at www.hcad.org/iFile.

Interactive Theater performs at Frazier



The Interactive Theater Company gave a very engaging performance titled "The Story of the Lone Star State" for Frazier fourth-graders on Friday, May 12. Shown, left to right, students Dhailen Hopes and Jose Avila are all dressed up to act out a scene from the play with Joshua Kenny and Robb Brunson.



"The Story of the Lone Star State" provided an overview of more than 600 years of Texas history and included student participation with elements of acting, song and dance. Left to right, Joshua Kenny, Robb Brunson, Nina Walker, Lorenzo Betancourt and Zoey Lowery work together to act out the scene. Photos by Christine Roberts

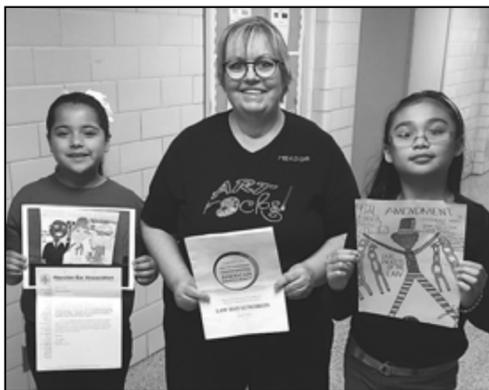
Meador students win Law Day competition

Meador Elementary had two winners in this year's Houston Law Day art competition on the 14th Amendment sponsored by the Houston Bar Association.

Second-grader Kayla Rosette won third place and received a \$50 check. Fourth-grader Yaeishya Ciudad won first place, received a \$200 check and was invited to attend the Law Day luncheon downtown at the Marriott Marquis on April 27.

Ciudad also won third place in the state competition and won an additional check for \$50, a medal and a trip to Austin for a tour.

Meador's art liaison Cecilia Stewart was also awarded a check for \$100 and attended the luncheon with Beverly Bolton (Meador principal), Tara Merida (counselor), Yaeishya Ciudad and her father John Ciudad.



Shown, left to right, are Kayla Rosette, second-grader; Cecilia Stewart, Meador art liaison; and Yaeishya Ciudad, fourth-grader. Photo by Tara Merida



Left: Three visitors from Meador check out the Marriott Marquis rooftop pool and downtown view. Left to right are Beverly Bolton (principal), fourth-grader Yaeishya Ciudad and Tara Merida (counselor). Photo by John Ciudad



Right: Erin Luceford (left), co-chair of the Houston Bar Association Law Week Committee and former judge of the 61st District Court of Texas, awards Yaeishya Ciudad at the Houston luncheon. Photo by Tara Merida

Meador's top teacher



Congratulations to fourth-grade bilingual teacher Miriam Reyna who was honored at a district luncheon as Meador's Teacher of the Year.
Photo by Tara Merida



Over The Back Fence by Alexis

HAPPY 71ST BIRTHDAY, LINDA
Wishes for a wonderful 71st birthday, Sunday, May 28, are sent to "Queen" Linda Heinrich from her husband Ted, son Carl and wife Martha Heinrich, daughter Piper and husband Anthony Sais; and all the grandkids Carl IV, Drayton, Meadaux, Easton Heinrich and Parker Sais, who say, "We love you, Nana, and we hope you have a fabulous birthday!"

BAYLEE TURNS 14!
Happy birthday hugs and kisses are sent to Baylee Espinosa who turns 14 years old on May 25, from mom Jenny Hayes, big brother Brayden Espinosa and little sister Olivia Moreno of Spring; grandparents Robert and Jannie Scarberry of South Belt; aunt Stacey (Hayes), uncle Stephen and cousins Kennedy, Owen and Evie Flowers of League City; uncle Joey Hayes of Portsmouth, Virginia; uncle Austin and aunt Tiffany Scarberry, and cousins Jade and Lilian of Maryland; and uncle Tyler Scarberry of South Belt.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LUIS!
Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Luis Escobar on Sunday, May 28, from his family and co-workers at the Leader.

SCHOOL DAZE
The following personnel and staff members of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays May 25 through May 31.

Atkinson Elementary
Special birthday wishes are sent May 27 to Karen Jernigan. Send a birthday greeting May 31 to Sandy Asbeck.

Burnett Elementary
Light the birthday candles for Althea Smith on May 30.

Bush Elementary
Light the birthday candles for Audra Smith on May 26. Debra Barrett and enjoys a birthday May 28. Give a birthday shout-out to Stephanie Miller on May 30.

Frazier Elementary
May 26 is the day for a birthday cake for Angie Oquin. Join in a birthday song May 27 for Sherril Poulis.

Meador Elementary
Blow out the birthday candles May 25 for Heather Cline.

Moore Elementary
The day for a birthday party for Brenda Durr is May 28.

South Belt Elementary
The day for a birthday present is May 29 for Diana Barron.

Stuchbery Elementary
Nola Garcia marks a birthday May 31.

Melillo Middle School
May 27 is the day for a cake for Griebing Collin. Enjoying a double birthday May 30 are Claire Murdoch and Judith Tamez.

Roberts Middle School
Send a happy birthday greeting May 28 to Cedric Lilly.

Beverly Hills Intermediate
Light the candles on a double-layer cake May 25 for Matthew Martinez and Summer Thompson. The day for a party for Ashley Collier is May 28.

Thompson Intermediate
Send happy birthday greetings May 25 to Erynn Foreman and Jillian Grindele. Teresa Garcia celebrates a special birthday May

26. Jennifer Darcy marks a birthday May 27. Sing a birthday song to Jessica Fitzmorris on May 28.

Dobie High
Blow out the candles May 29 on a double-layer birthday cake for Johanna Abedinzadeh and Flor Portillo De Mata. Celebrating a double birthday May 30 are Karol Baker and Kathy Eads.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

The Leader sends happy birthday wishes to its Facebook friends who celebrate a birthday this week:

Thursday, May 25: Felicia Gonzalez, Michelle Belvin, Herman Ortiz, Tammy Silva and Andrea Wheeler; Friday, May 26: Christine Maricle, Jeremy Carmona, Alberto Quiroga, Thomas Tillman Jr., Brian Brezina, Chris Ellis, and Randy Asbury; Saturday, May 27: Shelli Perseval, Jeffrey Short, Dan Lisbony and Jamie Nguyen; Sunday, May 28: Julie Rojas, Carl Potts and Jon Kidwell; Monday, May 29: Rauk Sanchez, Cheryl Wyatt, Diana Balinas, Jessica Casas and Amanda Nguyen; Tuesday, May 30: Misty Benefield, Albert Conger, Laura Stanford, Tanya Cole, Sandy Zeigler and Stacey Brewer; and Wednesday, May 31: Gabi Hernandez, Sharon Rushing and Eddie Carlton.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS
Email announcements to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line. Items must be submitted by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

PISD begins new chapter in Little Free Libraries

Pasadena Independent School District will begin restocking the shelves of its Little Free Libraries (LFL) at the end of the school year to kick-start the district's annual Slide into Summer Reading initiative, which encourages students to pick up a book during the break.

Little Free Libraries, small structures that hold books for people to take, allow community members to participate in an outdoor open book exchange without the traditional check-out process and presence of a librarian. Located at 32 district campuses, the books are available to the general public with the expectation that individuals who take a book, leave a book behind.

The program, which started last year in PISD at only 20 campuses, was established to create a literacy-friendly community and ultimately encourage students to read during the summer.

"The LFLs provide students with a source of reading material year-round," said Christine Van Hamsveld, director of Libraries and Instructional Materials. "This is especially important for students when school and public libraries are not open and transportation to a local library is unavailable."

The Libraries and Instructional Materials department is reaching out to the communi-

ty once again to ask book enthusiasts to share their love of reading by adding to the Little Free Library collections.

Community members can also drop off book or cash

donations at Libraries and Instructional Materials, located at 1832 E. Sam Houston Parkway South in Pasadena.

All donations will be accepted through May 31.

The local South Belt schools that will offer Little Free Libraries are Burnett Elementary, Meador Elementary, Moore Elementary, South Belt Elementary and Stuch-

bery Elementary. For a complete list of Little Free Library locations in the district, visit <http://pasadenaisd.libguides.com/c.php?g=623405&p=4324969>.

Welch celebrates 100th birthday

Continued from Page 1A

The couple moved to New Port Richey, Florida, where Welch was active in the senior community.

Welch became a widow again in September 1985. She began traveling with the seniors in her community and enjoyed cruises in Europe and to the Caribbean several times.

She also toured various cities throughout the United States with friends.

Welch moved to the Brookdale Assisted Living

Facility on Scarsdale in 2004 to be near her family in Texas.

Her current family includes her son and daughter-in-law, Martin and Alice Harris; grandchildren Stephen Harris and wife, Karen; Rodric Harris; and Samantha Harris.

Welch has enjoyed the many activities (especially the poker games) at Brookdale and continues to appreciate all of the assistance she receives from the staff.

SEEN-ABWA to meet

Join SEEN-ABWA for the monthly luncheon on Thursday, June 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbecue (private meeting room), 9005 Broadway (FM-518), Pearland. Twenty dollars covers the meal and meeting fee. RSVP by Tuesday, June 6, at <http://www.seen-abwa.org/>.

Guests will listen to the speakers who are ABWA-approved candidates for District II Vice President as they present, "An EXTRAordinary Board."

Meditation event set at Rothko Chapel

Many ancient traditions teach that the connection to earth is sacred.

"It is important to explore that ancient link between faith and nature, spirit and our conception of the planet," Rothko Chapel public programs and community engagement Ashley Clemmer said "This is a theme found in all religious and philosophical traditions."

The Rothko Chapel has planned a special Twilight Meditation titled "Connecting People to Nature," in honor of World Environment Day.

The event is slated for 6 p.m. on Monday, June 5 and will be led by Natasha Burrows, who will guide guests in meditation. The Rothko Chapel is located at 3900 Yupon in downtown Houston. The event is free and open to the public.

Burrows has more than 20 years of experience working in nonprofit, higher education, community-based and faith-based settings, serving in a variety of roles, including spiritual director, workshop leader, retreat facilitator, educator and writer.

She currently serves as the program director at the Earth & Spirit Center, located in Louisville, Kentucky. Since 2005, the organization has worked to create a world where humans live in harmony with one another, the natural world and within themselves.

Burrows sees spirituality playing an important role in helping people embrace the connection between humanity and the earth.

"I think one of the things that has happened in Western and industrialized countries is a disconnect from the environment," she said. "We see ourselves as separate, or we see ourselves having dominion over earth, rather than having a relationship that's based on mutuality. Spirituality can help us discover and remember that all of creation is sacred and that we are part of that creation as well."

Burrows' goal is for guests to leave the meditation feeling nourished and inspired to action toward environmental justice.

"My hope is that people can walk away with a sense of possibility, a renewed spirit and a sense of community," she said. "Along with an invitation to either continue the work that they're already doing or be inspired to start."

Clemmer said Burrows has a lot to offer the community.

"Natasha Burrows is dedicated to helping people find the intersection between their spirituality and social justice, which aligns perfectly with our mission at the Chapel," Clemmer said. "She's an ideal guide for the Twilight Meditation for World Environment Day — to help the community discover the connection between spirituality and environmental justice."

Observed since 1974, World Environment Day was designated on June 5 by the UN General Assembly, as a global platform to raise awareness and inspire action on urgent issues like marine pollution, global warming, sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

For more information, including a full calendar of upcoming programs, workshops and events, visit rothko.org or call 713-524-9839. For more information about Natasha Burrows, visit www.natashaburrows.com

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Burnett Elementary fourth-grader Chloe Robles returns a book at her school's Little Free Library.

Remember When

40 years ago (1977)

Mylene Kalhorn, a student at Thompson Intermediate won scholarships to attend classes in the Oakland Ballet Company, San Francisco Ballet and Houston Ballet Academy.

The J. Frank Dobie band won the highest award in the University Interscholastic League competition, when it was awarded the Sweepstakes trophy, for receiving a "1" in the annual contest.

35 years ago (1982)

An 11 percent pay increase for teachers and support personnel was approved by Clear Creek school trustees at their regular meeting.

Sagewood Shopping Center, with 70,000 square feet of retail space, was set to open at Beamer and Scarsdale Boulevard. The 8-acre site cost \$4 million to develop, and would contain a Minimax grocery store, a Walgreens and, roughly, 25 shops and restaurants.

Three men and two women were arrested in the parking lot of Alameda Square as the result of a drug sting. All five were charged with delivery of cocaine after more than \$100,000 worth of cocaine was seized.

Registration for the first summer session at San Jacinto College's South campus was 1,082, up 35 percent from the same period the year before.

30 years ago (1987)

Stephen Laymon and Nancy Teichelman replaced Bill McNabb and Roy Birkhead as principals of Meador Elementary and Stuchbery Elementary, respectively.

Randy Sawyer, a Dobie graduate, signed a major-league baseball contract with the Texas Rangers.

Dobie's Matt Wingo set a new school record of 58 feet 10 inches in the shot put.

25 years ago (1992)

The Pasadena school board voted 4 to 3 not to comply with state guide-

lines for the length of the school day for students in kindergarten through second grade.

Chieko Webb, owner of Chi's Florist and Gifts, received the Small Business of the Year award from the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce.

Thompson Intermediate student Alisha Broussard placed third in national gymnastics championships held in Boston. Broussard competed against 110 other girls.

The South Belt Sharks swim team named Mallory Parker, Jimmy Turner, Carli Rankin, Ashley Warnix and Travis Patterson as swimmers of the week.

20 years ago (1997)

Scott Carpenter and Michele Glosup were selected as Thompson Intermediate's recipients of the prestigious American Legion Award, which is given to an outstanding eighth-grade boy and girl.

The J. Frank Dobie band was selected Overall Grand Champion at Music Fest Orlando.

Dobie senior Anthony Carr earned a scholarship to play both football and baseball at Prairie View University.

15 years ago (2002)

South Belt Clear Creek Independent School District students attending the overcrowded Wedgewood were to be sent to Greene Elementary and Landolt Elementary until the new Weber was ready for occupancy.

The Pasadena Independent School District board of trustees named Patricia McLane-Granger, principal of Lakeland Elementary in Humble ISD, as the new principal for Moore Elementary.

5 years ago (2012)

The results from the May 29 primary were counted, with several local races headed to a July runoff. In the hotly contested race for Harris County Precinct 2 constable, two South Belt

residents fared well. Dobie graduate Chris McDonald clinched the Republican nomination, winning 60 percent of the vote. Tom Boone received 17 percent, Joe Alanis 12 percent and Edward Rios 11 percent. In the contest for the Democratic nomination, South Belt resident and local patrol sergeant, Zerick Guinn, headed to a runoff against Chris Diaz. Guinn received 33 percent of the vote to Diaz's 16 percent. Joe Martinez received 14 percent, Lee Hernandez 12 percent, Jeff Freeman 8 percent, Harry Zamora 7 percent, Danny Avalos 3 percent, Ruben Loreto 3 percent, Daniel Vela 2 percent and Victor Archer Sr. 2 percent.

Despite winning the most votes in Harris County, longtime state Sen. Mike Jackson narrowly lost the Republican bid to fill the U.S. representative seat in the newly created District 36. In the race to fill Jackson's former state District 11 Senate seat, Larry Taylor won the Republican nomination, handily defeating Dave Norman and Daniel McCool. Taylor advanced to face Democrat Jacqueline Acquisapace in November's general election.

While local City Council member Mike Sullivan was successful in his bid for the Republican nomination for Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector, local City Council member Wanda Adams was not successful in her run for the position of District 131 state representative.

Longtime state Rep. Robert Talton, who formerly represented the South Belt community, was successful in his bid for the Republican nomination for county attorney, receiving 64 percent of the vote to challenger Leslie Johnson's 36 percent. Talton went on to face Democrat Vince Ryan in the general election.

U.S. Rep. Pete Olson handily won the Republican

nomination to maintain his District 22 seat, receiving 76 percent of the vote over challenger Barbara Carlson's 24 percent. In November, Olson will run against Democrat Kesha Rogers, who narrowly defeated K.P. George, receiving 51 percent of the vote.

State Rep. John Davis maintained his District 129 seat, easily defeating challenger Mary Huls. Davis received 77 percent of the vote to Huls' 23 percent.

State Rep. Garnet Coleman easily won the Democratic nomination to maintain his District 147 seat, receiving 87 percent of the vote to challenger Ray Hill's 13 percent.

Coleman went on to face Republican John Faulk in the November election. Houston City Council voted 16-1 Wednesday, May 30, to approve the expansion of Hobby Airport to allow Southwest Airlines to operate international flights. The lone dissenting vote was cast by Council member Jerry Davis, whose district includes Bush Intercontinental Airport, and who has many constituents work for United and say they risk losing their jobs under the proposal.

Sagemont Church celebrated its 46th anniversary with the opening of its new worship center. In the works for several years, the new facility, along with the church's new education space, is approximately 115,000 square feet in size. The new sanctuary seats roughly 2,500. Expansion costs are estimated at \$31 million. As with all Sagemont projects, construction was done without incurring any debt.

1 year ago (2016)

In the May 24 primary runoff election for the Democratic nomination for Harris County Precinct 2 constable, incumbent Chris Diaz handily defeated challenger George Goffney Jr., receiving 73 percent of the vote to Goffney's 27 per-

cent. Diaz would go on to face Republican Daniel Vela in the November general election.

Former South Belt resident Jeremy Richardson was named principal of Pasadena Memorial High School. A 1995 Dobie graduate, Richardson began his educational career in 2002 at his alma mater, where he taught world geography and government and coached football, soccer and golf, before taking on the role of assistant principal at Memorial in 2009. Richardson filled the position left open by Memorial Principal Angela Stallings, who had been promoted to associate superintendent of campus development the previous week.

On Friday, May 20, the San Jacinto College Foundation presented the 2016 Lifetime Legacy Award to longtime South Belt residents Neil and Eloise West based on their contributions to student scholarships.

Neil West was one of the original members of the San Jacinto College Foundation Board of Directors.

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Mr., Miss Lutheran South



Lutheran South Academy student Marleen Guerrero was crowned Miss LSA 2017 and Justin Roy was crowned Mr. LSA 2017. This recognition is presented annually to the senior boy and girl who have demonstrated leadership and Christian character, influenced student attitudes and most exemplify Christian life in school and in the community.

San Jac College celebrates Week of the Young Child

Crazy socks, a school parade and a discussion on the outlook of childhood development in America were some of the activities that took place during The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) celebration at San Jacinto College.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). San Jacinto College featured WOYC theme days for children at the Laboratory Schools, where they wore their favorite dance and active wear for Music Monday, brought healthy snacks while donning crazy socks for Tasty Tuesday, and wore professional wear on Work Together Wednesday, art clothes for Artsy Thursday and classroom T-shirts for the school parade on Family Friday.

The week also featured a panel discussion around

the screening of "Raising of America." Panelists included Jo Carcedo with the Episcopal Health Foundation, Kim Kofron with the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, Dr. Quiana Moore with Rice University and Dr. Beth Van Horne with the Children's Learning Institute. "Raising of America" is a documentary series about early childhood development that goes beyond parenting to explore how social conditions, public policies and inequities impact children.

Moore said there is no substitute for one-on-one communication between an adult and a child, known as serve and return. "I grew up in a community and always had a sense of community and engagement," said Moore. "Now, we live in such an isolated society. I would say we are at a crossroad, where we have an opportunity to really make a turn in the right direction."

Both San Jacinto College Lab Schools at the North and Central campuses are accredited by the NAEYC and are licensed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Service. The schools are a part of the child development/early childhood studies program at the college.

"Every child care provider who goes to work every day is developing the future of our country," said Dr. Debbie Simpson-Smith, chair of child development, education and psychology at San Jacinto College.

"We want to let them see what we do here at the lab school and provide them with the resources to successfully make a positive impact on children."

For more information about the San Jacinto College Lab Schools, visit sanjac.edu/career/child-development/early-childhood-studies.

Pasadena ISD holds May Chess Championship

On Saturday, May 13, Pasadena Independent School District held its seventh Annual May Chess Championship at Beverly Hills Intermediate. A total of 268 students participated, which is the fourth highest number in the history of PISD. Among the 39 campuses represented were six high schools, eight intermediate schools, seven middle schools,

and 18 elementary schools. There were 33 schools competing from PISD; five schools participating from Deer Park ISD and one competing from a private school. In all divisions, each student played five games, receiving one point for each win and a half-point for each draw.

Top four photos by Susan Metcalfe, bottom two photos by Teresa Salinas



Shown above, left to right, are third-graders Hussai Arias, Meador; Noe Rocha, Golden Acres; Harold Funez, Genoa; Kaylanie Tran, Laura Bush; and Junier Paz Gomez, Young.



Above, left to right, fourth-grade winners included Vinh Nguyen, Genoa; Zaid Martinez, Genoa; Alberto Castellano, Young; Daniel Perez, Genoa; and Yeison Carbajal, Young.



Above, left to right, are fifth-graders Alejandro Lopez, Morris; Arath Dodin, Roberts; Adam Salas, De Zavala; and Austin Avalos, Kendrick. Not shown: Marissa Trevino, Shaw.



Shown, left to right, are sixth-graders Thang Tran, Morris; Aaron Pacheco, Bonnette; Joseph Vu, Melillo; and Dylan Campos, Melillo. Not pictured: Mario Montes, Milstead.



Showing trophies or medals are, left to right, Beverly Hills Intermediate students Hussiel Arias, Patrick Ortega, Tony Bui and Nicholas Ochoa and Bondy student Blake Danner.



Above, left to right, are winners Antonio Rodriguez, Deer Park HS; Tyler Dean, Deer Park HS; Isaac Villarreal, Pasadena HS; John Cruz, CTHS; and Timmy Phan, Dobie HS.

CCEF awards teachers grants



On May 18 the Clear Creek Education Foundation Sur-prize Patrol made their way around 27 CCISD campuses awarding more than \$125,000 in Teacher Innovative Grants to 53 outstanding teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. Above, left to right, Dr. Greg Smith, CCISD Superintendent; Molly Crow, McRee Ford (grant sponsor); Melissa Chavez, second grade teacher and grant winner; Kimberly Flemming, Maxim Group; and Cheryl Chaney, Weber Elementary School principal. Photo by Jill Reason

Defense Department honors children of military personnel

Since April came to a close and Memorial Day is on the horizon, the stories of military families and their children are given a special recognition by the U.S. Department of Defense which designated April as the Month of the Military Child.

Growing up in a military family, 19-year-old San Jacinto College student Mary Wilburn has a unique perspective in family dynamics. Both of her parents served in the U.S. Navy, and Wilburn says that they have always had a positive impact on her academic success.

"Having military parents made me work harder in school," she said. "For me it was more about showing them that I'm working hard and giving things my best effort at all times. I never wanted them to feel like I wasn't trying."

Curiosity often opens the door to conversation, even in grade school, so when her classmates would ask if her parents experienced PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), Wilburn saw it as an opportunity to educate them on the subject and talk about her own experiences with her parents. "When you grow up with military parents, you know more about them and things they've gone through, more so than civilian fami-

lies. I would explain how everyone copes with PTSD differently. It's as unique as the person who has it. As their child, you get accustomed to those intricate coping aspects, and eventually you don't even think about it. It's just a part of your family's functionality."

These experiences have helped her in her role as a federal work-study student in the San Jacinto College Central campus veteran center. "I can definitely read the room faster than others might. I can usually tell when someone is having a bad day or is stressed about something by their facial expression and their body language. This helps me know what to say and what not to say. I don't take offense if they do come in angry or frustrated because I understand that, and I just try to keep things as positive as possible."

Like Wilburn, 22-year-old Cauron Davis' father Shamez Davis served in the Navy. After Cauron enrolled to take courses at San Jacinto College, Shamez also chose to enroll in courses in the college's maritime program. Both father and son shared their experiences of what life is often like as a military family.

"It hurts when your parent has to be deployed, es-

pecially during wartime," said Cauron Davis. "I think the designation of Month of the Military Child opens up the subject for people to talk about their experiences, most importantly the families of military members. Being a military child is a unique experience all together."

Shamez Davis added that the military spouses and children serve right alongside the military member. "Kids and spouses are affected by deployments and the everyday aspects of military life just as much as the military member," he said.

"Kids have to leave the school they've been attending and go somewhere else and make new friends all over again. Spouses have to decide to either go along and find a new job or stay behind while their spouse moves to their next duty station. It's tough, and there's a lot of unseen sacrifices the children and spouses go through. It's great to have an observance like Month of Military Child to pay tribute to the sacrifices the children of military families make."

San Jacinto College has three Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success. For more information about the college's veteran and dependent services, visit sanjac.edu/veterans.

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Haley Tapia named DAR Cadet of the Year



The Jane Long chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently named Dobe student, Lt. Col. Haley Tapia (second from left), its DAR Cadet of the Year. Pictured above with Tapia are, left to right, Susan Hazelwood, Jane Long chapter regent; Tiffany Martinez, Tapia's mother; Ricardo Tapia, Tapia's father; and Sharon Boeger, DAR member and longtime Sageglenn resident. *Photo submitted*

Rebecca Shaffer named DAR Good Citizen



The Jane Long Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently named Rebecca Lynn Shaffer (center) its Dobe High School Good Citizen for 2017 at the senior awards assembly. The prestigious award is given to one senior from each high school. Pictured above with Shaffer are, left to right, parents, Christina and Terry Shaffer; DAR member, Sharon Boeger; and grandfather, Harold Shaffer. Christina Shaffer is also a Dobe graduate and a former student of Boeger. *Photo submitted*

Ellington celebrates 100th anniversary



A line of both vintage and modern war planes is shown above on display Saturday, May 20, as part of Ellington Airport's 100th anniversary Centennial Celebration. Originally opened in 1917, the military base now has the rare distinction of housing all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. See related story and additional photo on Page 1A. *Photo submitted*

Pasadena ISD names teachers of the year

South Shaver Elementary's Gloria Dimas and South Houston High School's Brenda Varvoutis will represent Pasadena Independent School District in the Regional Teacher of the Year competition in the elementary and secondary categories.

The two educators were honored recently as PISD's teachers of the year during a luncheon at the Lewis Career and Technical High School.

Dimas, a first grade bilingual teacher, was surprised and humbled to receive PISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year award.

"It is such an honor not only to represent South Shaver Elementary but all of Pasadena ISD," Dimas said.

Varvoutis, a choir teacher at South Houston High School, echoed Dimas's surprise when she learned she received the award for PISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year.

"It's so unusual for a fine arts teacher to be chosen," said Varvoutis. "I accept it on behalf of all the fine arts teachers in our district who work so hard and do so much for our students."

The Texas Teacher of the Year program annually honors teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in education.

This recognition is considered the highest honor the state can bestow upon a teacher.

Each of PISD's 67 campuses recognizes a campus teacher of the year and a committee selects the two teachers to represent the district at the regional level.

In addition, the district recognized Hallie Riley, Garfield Elementary; Jessica Sargent, Kendrick Middle School; Kimhong Nguyen, South Houston Intermediate and Casey Crews, Lewis Career and Technical High School as the district's New Teachers of the Year.

PISD honors So. Shaver's Dimas



South Shaver Elementary's Gloria Dimas (right) and South Houston High School's Brenda Varvoutis (left) have been recognized as Pasadena Independent School District's elementary and secondary teachers of the year. *Photo by Melissa Trevizo*

SJC sets calendar

San Jacinto has announced its upcoming events.

Summer Registration
Registration is open, and payment is due on day of registration by 7 p.m., for classes beginning on June 5 and July 10. Visit sanjac.edu/apply-register/overview/registration for more information on steps to register.

Summer Camp Registration
Summer camp registration is open. San Jacinto College is offering a variety of camp activities for children of all ages. For a complete list of summer camps and links to register, visit sanjac.edu/summer-camps.

Continuing Education summer courses

Registration is open for noncredit summer courses in the San Jacinto College Continuing and Professional Development division. Courses available include the areas of applied technologies and trades, business and professions, computer and advanced manufacturing, health occupations, maritime and lifelong learning. To register, visit sanjac.edu/continuing-professional-development/registration.

CE Center events

The San Jacinto College Community Education Center, located on the College's Central Campus in room C-1.108, will host the following May workshops that are free and open to the public. To register, email communityeducation@sjcd.edu.

May 26, Computer workshop for seniors, from 9 to 11 a.m.

May 26, Wellness: Stretching and relaxation session, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

May 29, English as a Second Language information session, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

May 31, Career Coaching, from 1 to 5 p.m.

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Turner, Diaz honor Ellington

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (left) and Aviation Director Mario Diaz were among the dignitaries attending the 100th anniversary of Ellington Airport at the Centennial Celebration held on Saturday, May 20. See related story and additional photo on Page 1A. *Photo submitted*

Vintage war birds soar

A fleet of vintage aircraft is shown above flying in formation Saturday, May 20, at the Centennial Celebration held in honor of Ellington Airport's 100th anniversary. See related story and additional photo on Page 1A. *Photo submitted*

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SECTION B SPORTS & CLASSIFIED

Lozano tabbed Player/Year

At right, Dobie senior captain and four-year starter Sabino Lozano (9) was named the All-Greater Houston Player of the Year after a remarkable season that saw Lozano lead the Longhorns' varsity boys' soccer team to its first-ever state tournament appearance, which included a Region III championship following a shootout win over Channelview. Dobie's season-long run ended in the state semifinals, but Lozano wound up with 16 goals and 15 assists this season. Over the span of his four years at Dobie, Lozano helped the Longhorns to the post-season each time, including a run of three consecutive District 22-6A championships and a 45-match lossless streak. Elsewhere among the All-Greater Houston boys' soccer picks, Alejandro Flores was a second-team honoree. For more on Lozano and his time at Dobie High School, see the June 1 graduation sports section.

Photo by John Bechtle



San Jacinto College did not win the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I championship, but sophomore pitcher Niki Gonzalez certainly established herself as one of the sport's greats during the 2016 and 2017 seasons. Gonzalez will now exit

the program as its all-time leader in career wins and strikeouts. Nationally, her 34 wins and 270 strikeouts in 2017 placed her second in both categories. As a team, San Jac went 2-2 at nationals to complete a 43-21 season.

Photo by Robert Hoppie

San Jacinto College goes 2-2 at nationals

A fifth trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I Championships ended without a title for the San Jac College program, nonetheless came up with a terrific season. The locals went 2-2 at the NJCAA tournament for the second straight season, falling short of that elusive first championship for the program.

Instead, Butler (Kansas) won its second consecutive crown, downing Salt Lake 11-7 in the final at the Canyons Complex in St. George, Utah.

San Jacinto defeated Chattanooga State and Tyler, but lost to Salt Lake and Florida SouthWestern State to go 2-2 in the event.

San Jacinto College was making back-to-back trips to nationals for the first time ever.

Niki Gonzalez, who started all four games in

the circle for SJC, saw her remarkable career end within the program.

Yet Gonzalez, a Baytown Sterling High School graduate, left her mark on the program's record books in numerous categories.

Gonzalez's 61 career wins leave her 10 better than the previous leader, current San Jacinto College assistant coach Kelsey McClain Walters.

Continued on Page 6B

Longhorns set to close out spring work

One more day, and then it is a wrap until August 14.

The Dobie Longhorns will take part in the Orange versus White spring football game Friday, May 26, at Veterans Stadium in Pasadena. The action begins at 4:30 p.m.

The game will provide the icing on the cake that has been a successful string of workouts this month as the Longhorns continued work toward the 2017 regular season.

With graduation caus-

Dobie Spring Football

Friday, May 26, 4:30 p.m.

Veterans Stadium, Pasadena

ing the loss of quite a bit of turnover on the varsity roster, the Longhorns will feature fresh faces at a variety of positions next season.

For 2017 at the varsity level, there will be first-time starters at quarterback and just about every

Senior spectacular upcoming

What was the sports story of the 2016-2017 school year in the South Belt area?

Well, that just might be an easy one to figure out (think Dobie boys' soccer, with apologies to Clear Brook football).

Who were some of the class of 2017 seniors that shone brightly in the spotlight during the year?

Now that high school graduation is here (June 1) just where do some of these graduates plan to continue their education

and playing careers?

What summer activities and camps will be available to students over the next few or several weeks? The answers to these fun questions and more will appear in the annual graduation spectacular of the *Leader*, due on the streets June 1.

And with the 2017-2018 school year closer than it seems, the *Leader* will provide details of events both soon and later in August aimed at keeping students and their

other position group on the field, including kicker and punter.

Following the spring game, the Longhorns will be involved in 7-on-7 action, and all athletes will have the chance to take part in voluntary strength and conditioning camps.

The June 1 issue of the *Leader* will feature a re-

cap of the spring game, and there will be details concerning other football-related activities as the Longhorns look ahead to the 2017 season opener against Summer Creek on the road.

families updated as best as possible.

The *Leader* staff would like to congratulate all of the students in Pasadena ISD and Clear Creek ISD on a terrific school year.

Be sure to see the June 1 issue as we take a look back at some of the events and students that helped make the school year memorable for so many.

6A Mixed Doubles Padilla, Herrera finalists at state

Kudos to the Region III and now Class 6A state championship mixed doubles team - Cypress Ranch's Melissa La Mette and Varun Thacial.

That said, Clear Brook's Maria Herrera and Andres Padilla came away from the state championships with a lifetime of memories, having advanced to the championship final.

La Mette and Thacial first defeated Herrera and Padilla 6-4, 6-4 in the Region III championship. Fast forward to

the state tournament May 18-19 at Texas A&M University in College Station, where La Mette and Thacial prevailed again, this time 6-3, 6-4 for the Class 6A state title and a gold medal.

Herrera and Padilla settled for silver medals after the runner-up finish, but the final outcome did little to diminish the outstanding play of the Clear Brook duo.

Winning a pair of three-set matches in the

Continued on Page 6B

Physicals at Morris M.S.

Current Morris Middle School sixth-grade boys' and girls' students who plan to compete in athletics at Beverly Hills Intermediate during the 2017-2018 school year may take care of their athletics physicals Tuesday, May

30, beginning at 2 p.m. at Morris. The cost is \$25. Any student planning to compete in athletics next school year must have a completed athletics physical on file prior to participation. There are no exceptions.

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Lajaunie Memorial tennis tournament welcomes 90 players

Ninety players encompassing all tennis skill levels and age groups turned out to play in the sixth annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament.

Players and spectators alike braved the windy conditions and enjoyed the tournament at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, the event's 2017 venue. It was a smashing success for everyone involved.

"The tournament annually honors the legacy of Lajaunie, a Dobie High School graduate and lifelong tennis player who died after battling melanoma in 2010.

"We'd like to thank the City of Pasadena for all their help and support for our event," said tournament founder and Darren Lajaunie's widow Camille

Lajaunie. "Also, a huge 'thank you' goes out to John Thomas, head Tennis Pro at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center, his family, staff, and lifeguards for their fantastic support. Without their help, we would not have been able to have a successful year! Thank you, also, to those out-of-town players for making the trip from Dallas and San Antonio."

While making final-weekend preparations, Camille Lajaunie also spotted a surprise visitor—her son, Andrew, who traveled from Orlando for the big event.

Andrew Lajaunie attends Texas Tech University in Lubbock, majoring in business management, and is presently enrolled in the Disney College Program until August.

2017 has been an exciting year for tournament organizers as more than \$11,000 in donations and sponsorships was raised, with final tournament totals to soon be determined.

This year, the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund awarded four camp scholarships and a college scholarship to deserving junior tennis players from the Harry Taylor Tennis Center during the opening night kickoff party.

In addition, three Dobie High School tennis team players were awarded complimentary entry fees to play in the tournament courtesy of HTTC and DLTSE.

Each scholarship category awarded one girl and one boy a scholarship. The ACE Camp schol-

arship is the tournament's designated financial need and merit scholarship.

This year, the ACE Camp Scholarships were awarded to Zafirah Cabrera and Joshua Torres. Cabrera is a first-grade student at Pearl Hall Elementary in Pasadena and is a natural tennis player.

Cabrera has strong grades and feels that her ability to focus and concentrate on her grades will carry over on to the courts as she trains to be a better player.

Torres is a freshman attending Pasadena Career & Technical High School and plays tennis at Sam Rayburn High School.

Passionate about his tennis career, Torres would one day like to be a professional player. He has disciplined himself to achieve good grades and

has seen that carry over on to the tennis court. For Torres, the first step is to play tennis collegiately.

The Baseline Camp Scholarship is for junior tennis players ages 7 to 10. For 2017, the Baseline Camp recipient was Davian Rodriguez, who is a third-grader from Parks Elementary.

Rodriguez has been playing tennis for a year and has done a wonderful job of balancing his impressive grades with his tennis schedule.

He would one day like to play tennis in the Olympics and follow in the footsteps of his favorite professional tennis player, Andy Murray.

The Center Court Camp Scholarship is for junior tennis players ages 11 to 18.

This year, sophomore

Jasmine Garcia from Pasadena Memorial High School is the Center Court female recipient.

Garcia has been playing tennis for nine years and has demonstrated hard work on and off the courts with her strong grades and dedication to the game of tennis.

She has spent many of her volunteering hours helping her teachers at school prepare and organize their classrooms and has volunteered at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, teaching younger junior tennis players.

Garcia's coach, John Thomas from the Harry Taylor Tennis Center, is the professional player that has inspired her the most.

According to Garcia, Thomas has helped her improve her game and

has raised her game level to become a more well-rounded player.

Garcia would love to play tennis in college and some day be a tennis coach.

The College Grand Slam Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors playing tennis at HTTC.

This year, Daniela Hernandez will receive a \$1500 college scholarship. She will be attending Sam Houston State University

in the fall, where she plans to study history and will play tennis at the club level at school.

Hernandez told tournament officials that playing tennis over the last four years has taught her perseverance, patience and new strategies within the game.

She is inspired by her favorite professional tennis player, Garbine Muguruza, from Spain because of Muguruza's dedication to the game and the hard

work ethic Muguruza displays.

Hernandez has spent time volunteering at HTTC, teaching junior tennis players and volunteering while helping with school fundraisers.

"This was our first year at HTTC, and we will be back for many more years to come," Lajaunie said.

"Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success. We appreciate it!"



Jasmine Garcia (center) of Pasadena Memorial High School was the Center Court Scholarship award winner at the Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament, as presented by Lajaunie's son, Andrew (left) and his widow, Camille Lajaunie (right).



Tournament founders and Darren Lajaunie family members, Lajaunie's son, Andrew (left) and his widow, Camille Lajaunie (right), presented the event's Baseline Scholarship to Davian Rodriguez, a Parks Elementary third-grade student.



This year, the ACE Camp Scholarships were awarded to Zafirah Cabrera (left) and Joshua Torres. Cabrera is a first-grade student at Pearl Hall Elementary, while Torres is a freshman attending the Pasadena Career & Technical High School who plays tennis at Sam Rayburn High School.

Six Dobie High School tennis players awarded scholarships

Six Dobie High School tennis team members received scholarships from the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund during Senior Awards Night at Dobie May 16.

Darren Lajaunie was a 1984 graduate and co-valedictorian, who played varsity tennis for Dobie.

The Scholarship Fund was set up in his memory in 2012 by his wife, Camille and son, Andrew, as a way to remember the contributions Darren made to the sport of tennis and the impact he made on the community.

Darren lost his battle

with Melanoma in May, 2011 and was an electrical engineer with Lockheed Martin at the Johnson Space Center for over 22 years.

Six tennis seniors applied for the Grand Slam College Scholarship and, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and donors at the Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament held at Strawberry Park, April 28-30, each senior received a scholarship.

The first recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship was awarded to Alice Phan, who has been playing tennis for seven years and is dedicated to her studies

and tennis.

Phan is a member of the National Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, the Chess Club and Key Club.

She has been a varsity tennis player all through high school, and believes it has taught her perseverance, dedication and a dislike for losing.

Phan has accumulated more than 85 volunteer hours, and that work has taught her selflessness and compassion. The 2017 graduate-to-be would someday like to create her own scholarship fund to help tennis players and those less fortunate.

Phan told tournament officials that she draws her inspiration from professional tennis player Serena Williams because of Williams' dedication to the sport and because Williams also has a foundation that awards student scholarships for college education.

After high school graduation, Phan plans to attend the University of Houston to study business beginning in the fall. Another recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship was awarded to Sean Le, who has been playing tennis for four years and said he gives 110 percent on the

court.

Le is a member of the National Honor Society, HOSA, the Dobie Chamber Orchestra, the Key Club and the Latin Club.

He has logged more than 55 volunteering hours with his church as a youth leader, and believes this has inspired him to become a better young man.

Le is inspired by his high school tennis coach, Manuel Moreno, Jr. He sees the daily dedication of coach Moreno as he travels from Galveston every day to be the Dobie tennis coach.

He says Moreno has

taught him to be a humble winner and an honorable loser. Le plans to attend the University of Houston to study biomedical engineering.

Four more Dobie High School Grand Slam scholarship recipients received \$1,000 scholarships for college.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship board of directors decided that each of these students displayed qualities that remind them of Darren, and thus voted to award them a scholarship.

One of those recipients was Dobie tennis senior Hellen Le, who has been playing tennis for six years and feels that her life wouldn't be complete without the game in her life.

Le said she has spent more than 50 hours of volunteering at her church and cleaning up beaches in Galveston.

Volunteering has taught her to prioritize her life decisions and help impact others with her hard work on and off the courts.

Academically, Le has clearly handled her advanced placement schedule by receiving Academic Excellence all four years at Dobie.

She has balanced her love of tennis, volunteering at church and extracurricular activities like Key Club, which have all made a huge impact in her life.

According to Le, the professional tennis player that has inspired her the most is Serena Williams because she sees that Williams does not back down from criticism and is not afraid to express herself on the courts.

Le plans to attend the University of Houston to major in biology and would like to attend medical school to one day become a nurse.

Another \$1,000 college scholarship was awarded

to Tin Pham, who has been a dedicated tennis player for six years and has taken on the task of helping younger players improve their tennis game at Dobie.

Pham said he enjoys his tennis family at Dobie because it has taught him to refine his skills on and off the court and be more efficient with time management.

Over his time at Dobie, Pham has logged 120 hours volunteering by helping at a Galveston beach clean up, volunteering at elementary schools, local fall festivals and assisting in decking out parade floats.

Pham is a violin playing member of the Dobie Orchestra and the Key Club.

The tennis figure that has inspired him the most is his Dobie tennis coach, Manuel Moreno Jr., because he "aspires everyone not to just play, but to strive to become the best individual in the sport as possible."

Pham plans to attend San Jacinto College, fo-

cusing on general studies before transferring to a four-year college to pursue a degree in pharmacy.

Another \$1,000 college scholarship was awarded to Steven Phan, who has been playing tennis for more than four years.

Phan is a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club. He has volunteered 50 hours in his community with the Galveston beach cleanup and at the Friendswood Flapjack Run.

He has been playing the violin in orchestra since the fifth grade and has continued playing with the Dobie Orchestra.

His most inspirational tennis figure is his coach, Manuel Moreno Jr., because of Moreno's love for tennis and his dedication for coaching at Dobie.

Phan plans to attend the University of Texas in Austin to begin his studies in biology and eventually go into nursing.

The fourth \$1,000 college scholarship was

awarded to Joseph Tran, who has been playing tennis for the last four years and will continue to play for fun in the future.

Tran is also an avid chess player and has been playing the game since junior high school. He says that playing chess has contributed to his intense concentration for also playing tennis.

The senior is a member of the National Honor Society and was invited to the National Congress of Future Medical Leaders in 2015.

Tran has logged 25 hours in the community as a Teen Symposium volunteer in addition to volunteering within the school theater.

The tennis player who has inspired Tran the most is professional tennis player, Roger Federer because, Tran says, Federer is a respected player in the sport and has a positive mindset on the court.

Tran plans to attend San Jacinto College, majoring in pharmacy.

Dobie tennis players awarded Lajaunie scholarships

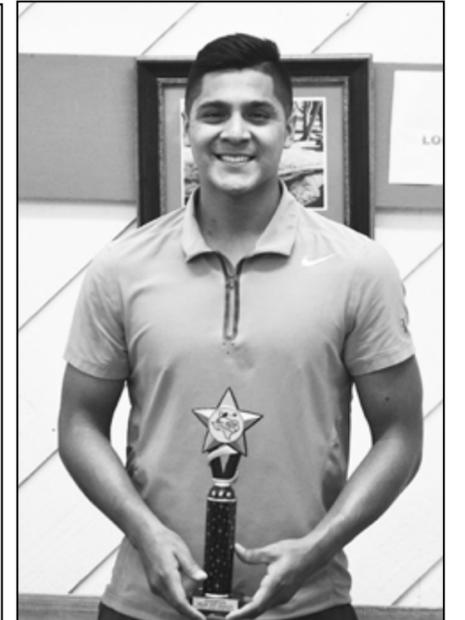


Dobie High School seniors and varsity tennis players, from left, Alice Phan, Sean Le, Hellen Le, Steven Phan, Tin Pham and Joseph Tran, were recipients of academic scholarships courtesy of the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship fund. The respective players were all heavily involved in the Dobie tennis program throughout their time in high school. Alice

Phan, Sean Le and Hellen Le plan to attend the University of Houston beginning this fall, while Pham plans to begin his education at San Jacinto College. The University of Texas is Steven Phan's intended destination, while Tran plans to attend San Jacinto College.

Photo by Camille Lajaunie

At right, 2015 Dobie High School graduate and four-year varsity tennis standout with the Longhorns, was a Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund recipient in 2015. He has since returned to compete in the tournament and was the men's 4.5 singles division champion this year. Vargas is currently a student at the University of Houston, where he is studying petroleum engineering.



San Jacinto baseball hopes 25th series trip nets national championship

By Amanda Fenwick
San Jac Athletics
 The San Jacinto College baseball team is headed back to the National Junior College Athletic Association JUCO World Series, thanks to a Region XIV tournament championship earlier this month. The trip to Grand Junction, Colorado, is the 25th overall appearance for San Jacinto College in the Alpine Bank Junior College World Series.

San Jac (43-16), ranked 15th in the country, will face Dyersburg State Community College (48-7), ranked second in the country, in JUCO opening round action on Saturday, May 27 at 8:30 p.m. CDT. Sophomore infielder Luke Watson (Concordia Lutheran High School/Hill College) leads San Jacinto with a .412 average in 148 plate appearances over 49 games. Sophomore outfielder/

1B Aaron Bond (South Bend, Indiana/Clay High School) is averaging .363, and Michael Smith is third on the team at .330. Smith, a sophomore outfielder from Magnolia High School/Kansas State University) also leads the team in doubles (14) and triples (5). Sophomore INF/RHP Nick Perez (Austin's Stephen F. Austin High School/Texas State University) is the team's hits

leader with 64, and Bond leads San Jacinto College in stolen bases at 23. On the mound, MacGregor Hines, Jacob Cantleberry and Caleb Roper lead the San Jac pitchers. Hines, a right-handed freshman from College Station (College Station High School/University of Florida), has pitched in 84.2 innings and owns a 3.40 earned run average. He is 10-3 on the sea-

son with a team-best 115 strikeouts. Greenwood, Indiana (Center Grove High School) native Cantleberry is 11-1 on the year with a 1.82 ERA in 74 innings pitched, and the right-handed Roper (Kenner, Louisiana/Archbishop Rummel High School / University of Arizona) is 8-3 with a 1.56 ERA in 75 innings pitched. As a team, San Jac owns a 2.48 ERA, second best in the country. San Jac is looking for its seventh national title, in-

cluding its first under head coach Tom Arrington. San Jac has appeared in 14 national title games, with five national titles. Last season San Jac was the national runner-up in Grand Junction. Information about the

Alpine Bank JUCO World Series, including brackets, pairings and live stats, can be found online at jucogj.org. The national tournament takes place May 27 - June 3 at Sam Suplizio Field in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The JUCO World Series national championship game will be broadcast live on MLB.com. For more information about San Jacinto College athletics, visit sanjacsports.com.

**National Junior College Athletic Association
 Division I World Series
 May 27 through June 3, Grand Junction, Colo.
 Opening Round Action
 San Jacinto College vs.
 Dyersburg State Community College
 Sat. May 27, 8:30 p.m.**

South Belt area sports, registration, news

Dobie voluntary conditioning sessions

Dobie's coaching staff will host a conditioning camp for incoming freshmen through incoming seniors as of the 2017-2018 school year.

The sessions will run Monday, June 12, through Thursday, July 20. There will be no Friday workouts. Cost for those who preregister is \$50 per student, and there is a sibling discount available. The preregistration deadline is June 10. Those who register on June 12 will pay \$60.

Payments may be made with cash, money order or credit cards. No checks will be accepted. The first session, designed for incoming sophomores through seniors, will run from 8 to 10 a.m., while the 10 a.m. to noon session is designed for incoming freshmen. All participants must have a current athletic physical on file at the school prior to taking part in any of the workouts. There are no exceptions.

In addition, Pasadena ISD does not provide medical insurance coverage for events of this type. Thus, parents will be required to provide this coverage for their children. For more information, direct email to Dobie varsity football head coach Mike Norman at MNorman@pasadenaisd.org or call 713-740-0370. Dobie will also host a headstart camp for incoming freshmen early in August, prior to the start of preseason football workouts. Details on those events will appear in future *Leader* editions.

Brook voluntary conditioning sessions

Clear Brook's coaching staff will host a conditioning camp for incoming seventh-grade students through incoming seniors as of the 2017-2018 school year.

The sessions will run Monday, June 12, through Thursday, Aug. 3. There will be no Friday workouts. Cost for those who preregister is \$70 per student, and there is a sibling discount available. The preregistration deadline is May 31. Those who register on June 12 will pay \$80. The preregistration deadline is May 31.

Payments may be made with cash or money order. No checks will be accepted. The daily schedule for incoming sophomore through senior boys includes weight room work at 7 a.m. and outdoor conditioning at 8 a.m. For all girls, there will be outdoor conditioning at 7 a.m. followed by weight room work at 8 a.m.

Incoming freshman boys will have outdoor conditioning at 8 a.m. followed by weight room work at 9 a.m. Seventh- and eighth-grade boys will have outdoor conditioning at 9 a.m., followed by weight room work at 10 a.m.

All participants must have a current athletic physical on file at the school prior to taking part in any of the workouts. There are no exceptions.

In addition, Clear Creek ISD does not provide medical insurance coverage for events of this type. Thus, parents will be required to provide this coverage for their children. For more information, direct email to Clear Brook varsity football head coach Mike Allison at mallison@ccisd.net or Jamie Scott at JaScott@ccisd.net.

Brook youth soccer camp

Clear Brook varsity boys' soccer coach Chris Stromeier will host the annual Wolverines' youth skills camp June 6-8, from 8 to 10 a.m., at Clear Brook High School. Students entering the first through the ninth grades as of the 2017-2018 school year are eligible to attend.

Registration fee is \$60 per student. Participants are required to bring their own water, cleats, shin guards and practice clothes. Families are also required to provide participants' medical insurance. For more information, direct email to cstromeier@ccisd.net.

Lady Wolverines' youth volleyball camp

The Clear Brook Lady Wolverine youth volleyball camp, hosted by Brook head coach Meredith Thompson and her staff, will be held July 24-27 at the school.

The camp is designed for incoming third- through ninth-grade students as of the 2017-2018 school year. Camp one is for third through fifth graders and will be from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Camp two is for sixth- through eighth graders and will be from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

Camp three is for advanced eighth graders and ninth graders and will be held from 10:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Early registration (before July 15) for camp one is \$80 and camps two and three are \$100 each. Registration after July 15 is \$100 for camp one and \$120 for camps two and three.

Families are required to provide participants' medical insurance. Forms are available at <http://clearbrook.ccisd.net>. Once there, click on the summer camps link. More information is available from Thompson at mthomps1@ccisd.net.



Freshman Herbert Iser (batting) and the San Jacinto College baseball team are headed back to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I JUCO World Series beginning

May 27, in Grand Junction, Colorado. San Jacinto, owner of a 43-16 record, reached the national championship game in 2016.

Photo by Andrea Vasquez

SBGSA 10-under all-stars second at Pearland Tune-Up



The South Belt Girls Softball Association's 10-under All-Star softball team won second place at the Pearland Girls Softball Association's All-Star Tune-Up Tournament. Members of the team are, left to right, (front row) Allyson Grayson, Liliana Sepulveda, Jackie Peralta, Andrea Garcia, Laila Jack, (middle

row) Aisha Lovett, Mya Stormer, Linda Moreno, Valeria Pena, Haley Yanez, Celeste DeLeon, (back row) assistant coach Julio Moreno, coach Richard Peralta, assistant coach Rolando DeLeon and assistant coach Danny Estrada.

CALENDAR

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THURSDAY, MAY 25

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

CrossRoads UMC - Invites everyone to the Thursday night service starting with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m., followed by praise, worship and prayer at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome. 6:30 p.m.

Kirkwood Civic Association meets at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd. For details, call Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

Well Spouse Support Group - meets the last Thursday at CrossRoads UMC, 10030 Scarsdale, with the spouse of a chronically ill/disabled person, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare is free. No meetings in Nov. or Dec. For details, contact Jennifer Miller at houstonwellspouse@gmail.com or 713-724-2360, or visit <http://www.wellspouse.org>.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

7 a.m.

AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in.

El Franco Lee Senior Day Bus Trip - to Froberg Farm in Alvin on Friday leaving the center (9400 Hall Road) at 10 a.m. There is no cost. Lunch is on your own at the Golden Corral.

El Franco Lee Center Zumba Class - at the center, 9400 Hall Road.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - West End Group, noon, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church, 12005 County Rd. 39, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

Bay Area Genealogical Society - Meets monthly, the last Friday, at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Dr., Clear Lake. Coffee and socializing prior to 7 p.m. meeting. No meeting in Nov. or Dec. For details, visit www.TxBayAreaGen.org.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. Call 713-856-1611.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Alcoholics Anonymous - "Breakfast with Bill",

Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787, or drop in.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For information, call 713-856-1611.

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, or drop in.

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

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

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

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Clear Lake Bridge Club - Open games Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details.

Grief Support Group - For adults who have lost a loved one. Meets Sundays, except Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas, 2 to 3:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena. For details, call 281-487-8787.

Celebrate Recovery - A faith-based 12-Step Program, Sundays, 5:30 p.m., in the Chapel at Life Church, 9900 Alameda Genoa. Call 713-419-2635 for details or to

RSVP for child care.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA meets Sundays, 7 p.m., 2245 N. Main St., Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

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

MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 29

Al-Anon Deer Park - Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Literature Study, In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

Overeaters Anonymous Deer Park - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Literature Study, In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through Fellowship Hall in back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details, or drop in.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For information, call 713-856-1611.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Saint Luke's Group, 12 Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Bldg., 11011 Hall Rd., 77089. For details, call Russell at 832-483-6715.

Continued on Page 4B

HELP WANTED

LEADER READERS

25 Words - \$8 for 1 week - 3 Weeks - \$21; Business: 25 Words - \$10 for 1 week • 3 Weeks - \$27

Clear Brook City MUD seeks Full-Time Cashier/Billing Clerk

Normal working hours are Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. During busy times of the month, overtime may be required. **The district offers paid holidays, paid vacation and sick time, fully-funded employee health insurance and profit sharing.**

Job Description:

- Handle cash transactions and heavy customer traffic on the phone and in person.
- Proficiently balance and post payment batches daily – both manually and electronically.
- Process and enter Customer Service agreements and disconnect requests.
- Process NSF's, ACH's, Recurring Credit Cards and daily Credit Cards.
- Follow up on returned statements, process daily mail and respond to customer complaints.
- Billing Imports.
- Filing.
- Prepare special reports and complete special projects as required.
- Run district errands.
- Cross-train with co-workers.

Job Requirements:

- **Able to handle "high" stress situations and days.**
- Work efficiently and be detailed oriented.
- Be self-motivated and have good organizational skills.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and capable of learning new billing software.
- Some accounting knowledge and understanding helpful.
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CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MAY 30

7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 9:30 a.m.
Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum – Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. For details, call 713-472-0565. 10 a.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. 11 a.m.

Ballroom Dance Lessons – at the El Franco Lee Senior Community Center, 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, 9500 Hall Road. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. Noon

Rotary Club of Pearland – Meets Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m., Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 Country Club Dr., Pearland. Lunch is \$15. Variety of interesting speakers. For information, call 281-900-7257 or visit nlix@texascitizensbank.com. 1:30 p.m.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) – #1530 meets at the Sagemont Park Community Center, 11507 Hughes Rd., 1:30 p.m. For information, call Jeanette Sumrall at 713-946-3713. 2 p.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club Lab Class – Tuesday, 2 p.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. For details or classes, contact Dr. Glandorf at drjglandorf@sbcglobal.net or call 281-488-6318. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611. Alcoholics Anonymous – Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 10 a.m.
Clear Lake Bridge Club – Open games Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 1 p.m.

Hometown Heroes Park – has free Hump Day Dance to practice ballroom dance, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1001 E. League City Pkwy. League City nonresidents must purchase activity card. Help is available to assist learning dance moves. For details, call Neva Schroder at 417-838-2204. 5:30 p.m.

StartSchoolLater.net (SSL) Houston Chapter - informational monthly meeting about the link of teen sleep deprivation to depression and low academic performance. Public is welcome, 5:30 p.m., on the last Wednesday, Parker Williams Library, Room F, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., 77089. For details, call 281-229-1409. 6:30 p.m.
ESL at CrossRoads UMC – Academic ESL classes

meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. No fee to attend. Call Cris at 832-724-4296 to register. 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Vigilance Group of NA, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church-youth bldg. For information, call 713-856-1611. Bay Area Turning Point Crisis Intervention – Call 281-286-2525 (24-hour crisis hotline) for confidential domestic violence/sexual abuse support group for women. Visit www.bayareaturningpoint.org for information. 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous – meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For information, call 281-484-9243. THURSDAY, JUNE 1

7 a.m.
AA Meeting – "Breakfast With Bill" Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 281-487-8787 for details, or drop in. 10 a.m.

Clear Lake Bridge Club – 299'er games Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., 16614 Sea Lark, 77062. Call the club at 281-480-1911 for details. Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) – Imperfect Nooners Group, noon, 2245 N. Main, Pearland. For details, call 713-856-1611. 6 - 8 p.m.

CrossRoads UMC – Invites everyone to the Thursday night service beginning with a light meal and fellowship at 6 p.m. followed by a praise, worship and prayer service at 7 p.m. at 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Afterward both pastors lead a Bible study in English and Spanish. Everyone is welcome. 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) – Women's Group, open meeting, 7 p.m., 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-856-1611. 7 p.m.

The Bay Area Writers League – Meets the first Thursday monthly, Barnes and Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd., 7 p.m. Newcomers welcome. Alcoholics Anonymous – Alcohol problems? Meets Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m., St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2217 Theta St. For details, call 713-306-4366 or 713-480-4166.

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At left, smiles were aplenty as the Clear Brook varsity tennis contingent celebrated Andres Padilla (second from left) and Maria Herrera (third from left) winning a silver medal at the University Interscholastic League's Class 6A Tennis Championships May 19, at Texas A&M University. At left in photo is Brook tennis coach Jarrett Smith, with Brook tennis coach Laura Atkins at right.

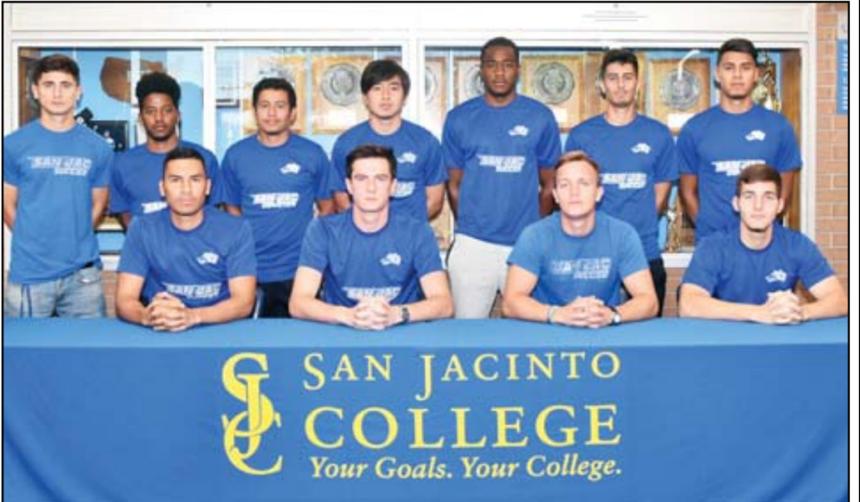
San Jac hoops to host tryouts June 10

The San Jacinto College men's basketball team will hold tryouts for the 2017-2018 season Saturday, June 10. Tryouts will take place at Anders Gymnasium on the San Jacinto College Central campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a \$25 processing fee for the tryouts, and participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Participants should plan to arrive no later than 10 a.m. Questions about the tryouts should be directed to the San Jacinto College men's basketball office at 281-476-1849. The men's basketball team made its 21st overall National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Championship appearance after earning the automatic bid with a Region XIV championship.

The team finished the season with a 33-2 overall record. Five San Jacinto College men's basketball players earned Region XIV postseason honors and head coach Scott Gernander was named the region's Coach of the Year.

San Jacinto College soccer players decide on 4-year colleges



Nearly half of the 2016 San Jacinto College soccer team signed national letters of intent to continue their educational and soccer careers at four-year institutions. Sophomores Jeffery Hernandez (defender) signed with St. Thomas University (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics); Luis Almeida (midfielder) and Ricardo Ramos (forward) signed with Wayland Baptist University (NAIA); Jorge Callejas (forward) signed with West Texas A&M University (National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II); Hikahurito Meike (forward) signed with Midwestern State University (NCAA Division II); Antone Jarvis (forward) signed with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (NCAA DI); and Braynan Gomez (defender) signed with West Florida University (NCAA Division II).

Freshmen Pablo Iles Cruz (defender) and Bruno Pagani (midfielder) signed with Azusa Pacific University (NCAA Division II); Paul Tyson (goalkeeper) signed with Georgia State University (NCAA Division I); and Rigas Rigopolous (defender) signed with California Polytechnic State University (NCAA Division I). San Jac forward Donald Benamna, who played during the 2015 season, joined the University of Central Arkansas (NCAA Division I) in January for their 2017 season. Above, the signees included, left to right, (seated) freshmen Cruz, Tyson, Pagani, Rigopolous, (standing) sophomores Hernandez, Almeida, Callejas, Meike, Jarvis, Ramos and Gomez. Not pictured is Benamna.

Photo by Andrea Vasquez.

CB duo lands silver

Continued from Page 1B quarterfinals and semifinals, Herrera and Padilla became the first Clear Brook players to medal at state in the spring season.

It all began at the start of 2017 as Clear Brook coach Jarrett Smith began to assemble singles and doubles combinations for the spring season.

Whereas in the fall team tennis season, players may compete in both singles and doubles, choices must be made in the spring because players may only play in one division per tournament.

Padilla admittedly prefers singles, but with Dawson's Kevin Zhu, the eventual state finalist in boys' singles, lurking in Region III, perhaps there were other options.

On a hunch, Smith paired Padilla with the freshman Herrera in mixed doubles.

The duo played fairly well in some spring events—particularly at Coppell—then wound up second at district, thus advancing to regionals.

Few were likely concerned about the Brook

pair at regionals, but yet the team reached the finals for a state berth.

Ditto at state. Little was expected externally from Padilla and Herrera, yet they played for the state title. What a season.

"Working with Andres and Maria has been something special," Smith said upon returning from state. "I knew that putting them together would form a strong team. I wanted to find a way to get Andres out of district since he has been so close every year (third as a freshman and sophomore, fourth as a junior).

"I didn't really imagine them making it all the way to the state finals." But they did, coach.

And why would Smith think that way. No Clear Brook player or players had advanced to state since the 1998 season. But then again, anything is possible.

"They were a great team," Smith said. "They had a great chemistry. They are both great all-around players, and they never gave up.

"We had a blast at the

State tournament. We knew how the draw looked and what was possible. We got down in every match and stormed back, playing like we had nothing to lose. Even in the finals, I think we played great, we just got beat by a better team."

Perhaps so. After all, Cypress Ranch's LaMette advanced to state last season as a freshman with a different mixed doubles partner. She's clearly a great one, too.

Now life goes on. Padilla will soon graduate and already is set to play collegiately at Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

Herrera, meanwhile, will be just a sophomore next school year and has what appears to be a terrific prep career in front of her.

Like LaMette did this season, Herrera will have to find a new playing partner next spring if she stays in the mixed doubles draw.

But Smith was sharp in putting this combo together, and perhaps his hunch will pay off again.

State Tennis Tournament

Quarterfinals – Maria Herrera/Andres Padilla (Clear Brook) def. Sarah Mabee/Andrew Shuvalov (Houston Memorial) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Semifinals – Maria Herrera/Andres Padilla (Clear Brook) def. Charli Delmonico/Zach Delmonico (Austin Vandergrift) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Finals – Melissa La Mette/Varun Thacial (Cypress Ranch) def. Maria Herrera/Andres Padilla (Clear Brook) 6-4, 6-3.



San Jacinto College will now lose sophomore Dani Damian to graduation after a solid two-year stay. She had a team-record 18 doubles as a freshman in 2016 and then hit .355 this season with 13 doubles, eight homers and 46 runs batted in.

Photo by Robert Hoppie

San Jac College softball falls shy

Continued from Page 1B As a freshman in 2016, Gonzalez set the school mark for single-season strikeouts at 302, and this year she added 270 to that, easily making her the college's career leader.

This season, Gonzalez's 34 wins and 270 strikeouts both left her second nationally. In short, Gonzalez just may have estab-

lished herself as the greatest pitcher to wear a San Jacinto College uniform.

From here, San Jacinto and head coach Kelly Saenz will turn an eye to 2018.

Replacing Gonzalez won't be easy but three pitchers are eligible to return, and 2017 Dobie High School graduate Michelle Kristoff will also be com-

ing on board.

The offense will also take its losses, but productive players such as Taylor McHenry, Mackenzie Kotrla and Natalie Hoyt are eligible to return along with others.

In addition, 2017 Dobie graduates Allison Bravo and Yasmine Saenz-Myers are slated to join the San Jacinto roster.

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